The Imaginary Gold Mines of Kansas

By Dan Plazak

"Smoky Hill can now send greetings to the outside world as the greatest source of mineral wealth in this country." —*Hays* [Kansas] *Republican*, 28 September 1901

There are no gold mines on the Kansas plains. But the very idea of gold is so powerful that educated and intelligent men imagined giant gold deposits in Kansas. They persisted in self-delusion for years against all evidence, even as the Kansas and U.S. geological surveys tried to bring them back to reality. This is a study of the power that gold has on the imagination.

In Search of Golden Quivira

Gold fever is burned deeply into Kansas history. In 1541, an Indian in New Mexico told would-be conquistador Francisco Vasquez de Coronado that fabled Quivira, where gold was used for household utensils, lay eastward on the plains. But instead of golden cities, Coronado found stick-and-mud villages and Indians innocent of precious metals. The Indian admitted that he made up the lie, and Coronado ordered him strangled. The first of many to deceive the greedy and gullible with tales of gold in Kansas, he is the only one over the years to suffer any punishment for his fraud.[1]

Time and distance lend credence to even the most discredited treasure tale. Fifty years after Coronado, the Quivira legend lured Francisco Leyva de Bonilla to lead a disastrous expedition to the plains in 1593. Again in 1601, Juan de Oñate searched fruitlessly for Quivira on the Kansas plains.

Short-Lived Kansas Rushes

Kansas ceased to inspire golden dreams for a couple of centuries. Then in 1858 another wave of would-be conquistadors, English speakers this time, rushed to Kansas to wash gold from the sands of the South Platte River. The South Platte diggings at Denver City proved to be a bust, but gold discoveries in the mountains to the west in 1859 assured the region's future as a gold-mining province. The new gold mining region was originally part of Kansas Territory, but in 1861 Congress reorganized it into Colorado Territory, leaving Kansas once again without any gold mines.

That did not stop the dreamers, however. The Gold Ore Mining Company of Kansas organized to mine a fabulous gold vein near the town of El Dorado, Kansas, in 1879. The company advertised that it had no samples assaying less than two thousand dollars in gold per ton, yet it quickly faded away. Gold fever struck again in 1896, when gold was reported near Hollenberg, Kansas. Reported silver strikes in Woodson, Chase, and Sumner counties likewise provided excitement but no metal.[2]

Cyrus Holliday and His Treasure Map Start a Zinc Boom, 1895-97

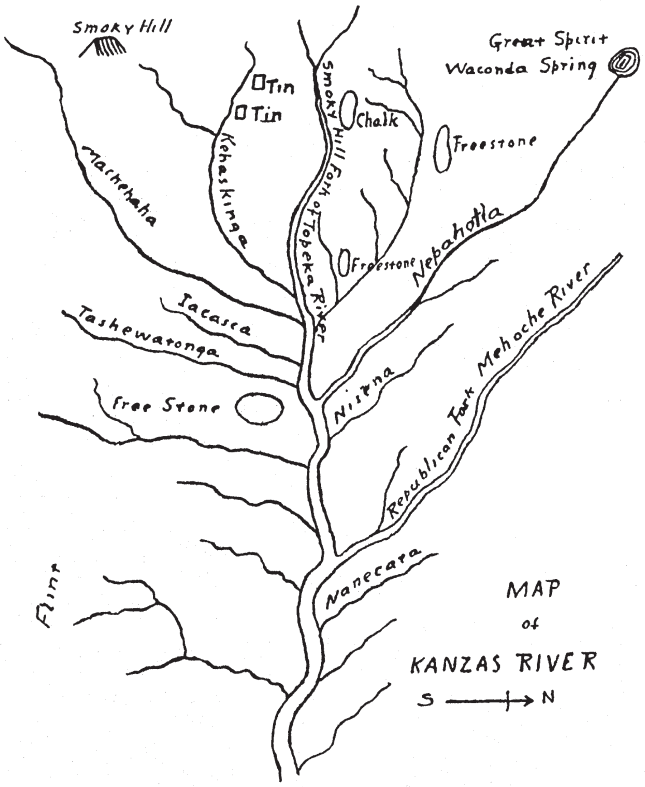
This treasure tale starts with an old map. Henry Schoolcraft's 1851 report on Indian tribes included a map of a supposed tin mine along the Smoky Hill River in Kansas. It was just a hoax by the Indians, but in 1884, railroad builder Cyrus Holliday sent two prospectors to find the

tin mine.[3]

The prospectors didn't find the tin mine, but they showed the area to H. H. Artz, a former adjutant general of Kansas, who by 1895 was himself prospecting for tin along the bluffs of the Smoky Hill River in Trego County. He sent samples of shale to state geologist Erasmus Haworth, who tested them and found nothing of value. Artz was unconvinced, and sent specimens to a smelter in Missouri that told Artz that his shale contained 19 to 34 percent zinc. Artz thereupon dug a test shaft. Businessmen from Topeka and Kansas City formed the Smoky River Mining Company to back Artz, bought more than eight thousand acres of land, and leased thousands of acres more.[4]

A peculiarity of the Trego County zinc was that some assayers found large percentages, but others found none at all. By April 1897, the Artz shaft was down 180 feet. He dismissed the pessimistic assayers and trusted the ones who reported 30 to 40 percent zinc.[5]

Zinc fever spread down the Smoky Hill River to Ellsworth County, where optimists dug a shaft down sixty feet. Denver men bought options on farmland, formed zinc mining corporations, and sold shares in Topeka and Kansas City. Promoters told a Russell County farmer that the very soil on which his crops grew contained 50 percent zinc. Erasmus Haworth of the Kansas Geological Survey tried to kill the zinc boom when he declared that the ore contained no zinc. The believers paid little attention: they claimed that the zinc was in a form not detectable by standard tests.[6]



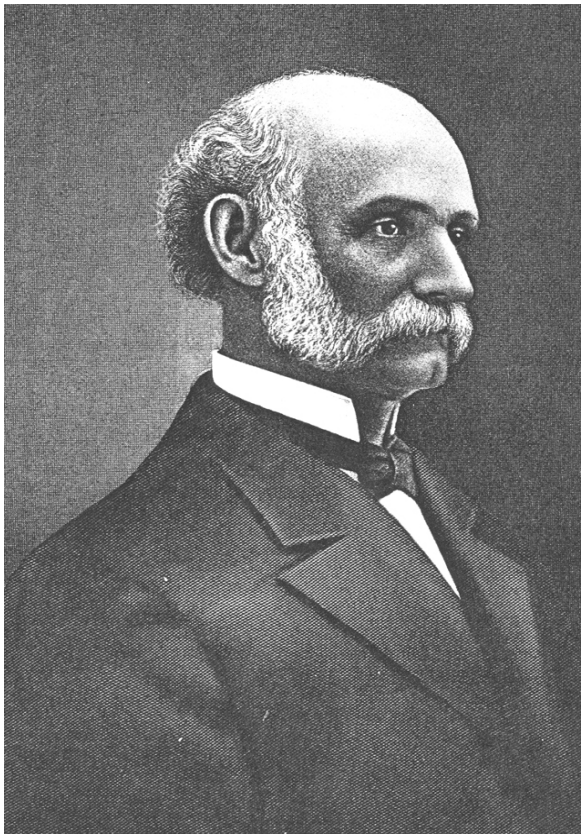
The map that started it all. This old map, showing purported tin mines, led to the discovery of phony gold mines. (Henry Schoolcraft, Historical and Statistical Information Respecting the History, Condition, and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States*, v. 1 (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Granbo, 1851).)*

Gold Along the Smoky Hill River

"We believe that Kansas has the best paying gold fields in the world." —Walter Oakley, secretary, Smoky River Mining Company

In March 1897, Artz announced that his mine had not only zinc, but gold and silver as well. The excitement led people to recall or invent tales of lost gold discoveries in Kansas. A rancher found what he thought was an Indian smelting furnace along the Saline River. Artz deepened his shaft to two hundred feet, but in April 1897 he was injured in a blasting accident and returned to Topeka. Another shaft was being sunk nearby in Ellis County.[7]

Legitimate assayers could find no gold in the shale, but there were many assayers who could. One was "Professor" Aron Beam, the notorious Denver fraud who could find gold anywhere. Beam's assays confirmed Smoky River Mining Company's managers' belief that they owned twenty-two thousand acres of a huge ore deposit—up to one hundred feet thick, three miles wide, and sixteen miles in length—along the



*Kansas railroad builder Cyrus K. Holliday inadvertently started the gold rush when he sent prospectors to search the Smoky Hill Valley for a fictitious tin mine. (*Kansas *(Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912).)*

Smoky Hill River. They insisted that the zinc and gold were real, needing only the Beam process to extract them.[8]

The First Boom Crashes

The boom collapsed after geologists from the Kansas Geological Survey noticed that specimens of supposed Trego County zinc ore contained fossils not found in the rocks along the Smoky Hill River, but common in the genuine zinc ores of southeastern Kansas. The geologists called it a "gigantic attempt at fraud or else a stupendous display of ignorance." Artz and company director Burleigh Johnson rejected the Kansas Geological Survey's report, but others saw that they had been fooled and deserted the test shafts. Inventor Thomas Edison investigated the Kansas shale in 1898. The gold shale promoters swapped rumors that Edison had found large values of gold, but Edison wrote to state geologist Erasmus Haworth that he had found no gold whatever in the shales.[9]

The Return of the Smoky Hill Gold Rush, 1899

Topeka investors still believed the assays showing gold in the shale, and in January 1899 they made plans for an ore mill. The excitement now centered on a test shaft in Ellis County. Ranch land that previously could not bring two dollars per acre sold at ten dollars. Investors came from as far as Scotland to investigate. "Professor" Caldon pronounced the Kansas gold shales to be the result of submarine volcanoes, and said that the shale was very similar to the best South African gold ore.[10]

Charles Holliday, son of Cyrus Holliday, sent samples of west Kansas shale to a chemist and received word that it contained more than 30 percent zinc. He also sent shale to Professor Joseph Lovewell of Washburn College in Topeka. When Lovewell confirmed the value of the shale, Holliday began buying shale land, and established the town of Smoky Hill to serve the mines.[11]

H. H. Artz returned to Trego County, but found that he had been replaced by others with more financial resources. He moved to Missouri, where he reentered politics as a Populist candidate for Congress in 1902.[12]

A syndicate headed by Topeka businessman Simon Ott was impressed with the ability of William Jackson and "Professor" Alvin Phillips to find zinc and gold in the shale, and hired them to build a test mill in Denver. Ott shipped four carloads of shale to Denver in August 1899. The mill then began having mechanical problems, as swindlers Jackson and Phillips delayed the revelation of their fraud.[13]

Ott spent most of November and December in Denver trying to solve the milling problems. Rumor said that the mill was recovering great quantities of zinc and gold, but Ott refused to comment. The Ott syndicate offered California businessmen a half interest for five million dollars, but the Californians required that the mill recover at least ten dollars per ton in metal by July 1900, and the deal fell through.[14]

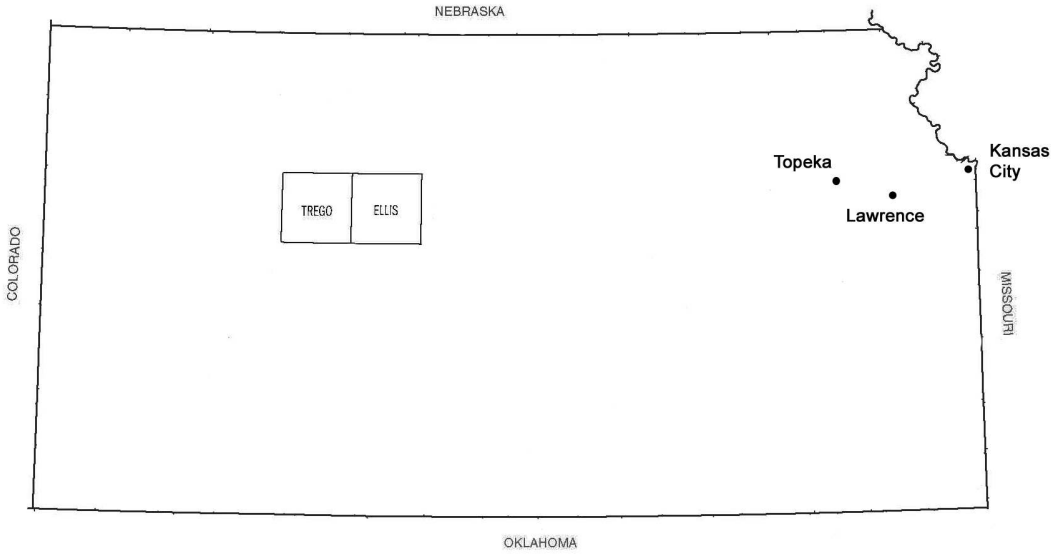
Burleigh Johnson, president of the King Solomon Mines Company, remembered the high assays by Aron Beam and brought a load of shale to the Beam plant in Denver in March 1898. Johnson was impressed with the results, for Beam had never seen a rock from which he could not extract gold—at least in his own demonstration plant.[15]

The following year, Charles Holliday and Burleigh Johnson sent a wagon-load of shale to Beam's smelter at Florence, Colorado. Aron Beam was regularly denounced by reputable mining magazines, but he mesmerized unsophisticated investors. Beam's involvement was enough to convince the *Engineering & Mining Journal* that the Kansas gold shale boom was a "fake excitement." Predictably, Beam found that the shale contained fifteen dollars in gold and three dollars in silver per ton, as well as 20 percent zinc. He sent Charles Holliday a three-quarter ounce piece of gold, supposedly extracted from a ton of the shale. Holliday carried the gold around in his pocket to show to skeptics.[16]

In May 1899, Holliday and Johnson invited dignitaries to a ceremony opening the new mine at "Camp Burleigh." Mrs. Johnson swung a pick at the shale to begin mining, then the county superintendent and others took ceremonial swings, after which workmen began excavating shale to ship to the Beam smelter in Colorado.[17]

Charles Holliday and Colonel Fred Close went to Denver in August 1899 to buy machinery for a one-hundred-ton per day, Beam-process mill to be built along the Smoky Hill River. Their syndicate owned more than twelve square miles of gold shale. Holliday and Close bought the Kansas rights to the Beam process, and Beam was expected to arrive at Smoky Hill City to supervise construction.[18]

Rancher Frank Meserve saw no reason why outsiders should do all the mining, and began



The supposed gold-bearing shale was in Ellis and Trego counties, but most of the investors were from larger cities, such as Topeka and Kansas City. (Map modified from the U.S. Census Bureau.)

mining his own land. The Ellis *Review-Headlight* called his rock "some of the best-looking ore we have seen," an odd description for rock that shows no sign of mineralization.[19]

In the summer and autumn of 1899, more car loads of shale were shipped to Colorado smelters for testing. Investors from Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Nebraska bought thousands of acres in the gold shale belt. Mining fever again ran across the plains like a grass fire, and nearby Russell County reported a copper vein.[20]

Erasmus Haworth, state geologist and professor at the University of Kansas, had seen gold excitements come and go in the state. In each of his annual reports from 1897 to 1902, Haworth emphasized that assayers at the state geological survey had never found more than negligible gold or silver in any samples from Kansas.[21]

The Second Boom Crashes

In 1899, Topeka businessmen hired chemistry professor J. T. Lovewell to analyze the shale. Lovewell's first assays of samples provided by the shale promoters showed gold, but when he ran tests on samples carefully collected and guarded from salting, the gold seemed to disappear.[22]

Professor C. E. Franklin of Kansas State College also found gold in samples supplied by promoters, but could not find gold in shale samples he collected himself. The *Leavenworth Times* noted: "There is good reason to believe that the Trego-Ellis gold fields constitute one of the most colossal fakes of the age." The gold shale men still insisted that there was zinc and gold, but admitted having trouble getting it out. Even Beam, who found wonderful values in his laboratory, was canny enough to find insufficient gold to pay for shipping the ore to his mills in Colorado. All but a handful of true believers saw that the Beam and Jackson processes were fakes, and little was done to develop the supposed gold mines in 1900.[23]

The Third Boom, 1901-1903

The shale men were still convinced there was gold in their shale, and searched for a process to extract it. One group offered one hundred thousand dollars to anyone able to successfully treat the Smoky Hill shale. In mid 1900, Colonel Fred Close of Topeka discovered W. F. Miller, who assured him that he could extract the gold. Close and two others built a mill to Miller's specifications on the banks of the Smoky Hill River.[24]

Workers finished the mill in the spring of 1901. A reporter described it as a shed with "some oak vats, several large water tanks, and a lot of piping and an electrical dynamo." Miller had said all along that his only pay was to be the first week's output of gold, but he left suddenly, saying that his wife in New York had taken ill. He offered to sell his interest for only $2,500, which his backers quickly paid. Miller never returned, and without him the mill could not produce gold. Colonel Close insisted that Miller had been kidnaped by Denver mining interests, but the others recognized that Miller had swindled them and fled.[25]

After Miller fleeced them, Colonel Close and his partners promptly fell for another fraud, "Professor" Charles Gage. A reporter likened his disheveled appearance to that of "the night clerk at a $1 per night hotel." Although Gage drew praise because he did not "blow his own horn," he somehow managed to let slip that he had extensive experience in the U.S. and Australia, and was a graduate of Purdue, with postgraduate study at Cornell (in fact he attended neither school) and in Germany.[26]

Gage arrived at Smoky Hill in June 1901, and began testing the shale in his Topeka laboratory. The investors hired Professor Joseph Lovewell of Washburn College to evaluate the Gage process. Lovewell enthused: "The gold is there. The problem is getting it out of the shale and we are rapidly solving that." Close and his partners formed the Benton Shale Mining Co. to use the

Gage process. The firm built the Gage mill in 1901 on the south side of Smoky Hill River near the failed Miller mill.[27]

The New South Africa on the Kansas Plains

"Who then can gainsay the claims of the Kansas gold find. Though spurned by her professors, within her borders may be developed another Witwatersrand." —Frederick Harris, mining engineer

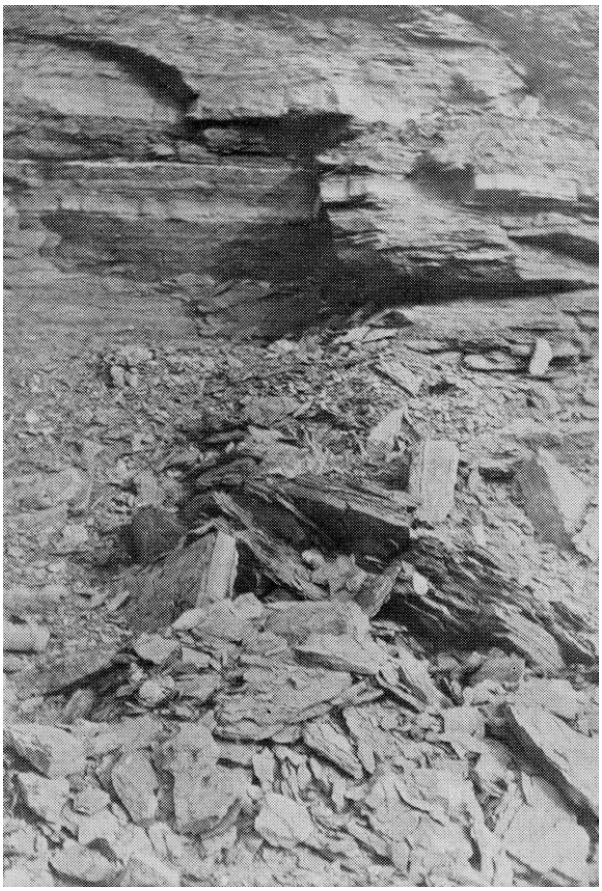
"This will likely make the Kansas shale field the richest and most extensive gold mining camp in the world." —Professor Ernst Fahrig

Shale men said that the land with the least vegetation had the most gold. Prices for previously spurned land rose to ten dollars per acre, and one tract sold for over fifteen dollars per acre. The Union Pacific Railroad had been offering its land for two dollars per acre, but in 1901 the railroad took fifty thousand acres in Ellis and Trego counties off the market. The gold shale companies had previously been privately held, but now promoters incorporated and sold shares on monthly installments.[28]

While the Gage mill neared completion, gold excitement once more spread across the region. Gold was discovered in shale in nearby Ness, and in distant Rawlins and Cowley counties. One would-be multimillionaire worried that Kansas overproduction would lower the price of gold. And if gold were possible, what was not? Locals reported discoveries of diamonds in Ellis County running—in true agricultural fashion—two bushels to the ton. More diamonds were reported in Ness County.[29]

One Gage Mill Fails

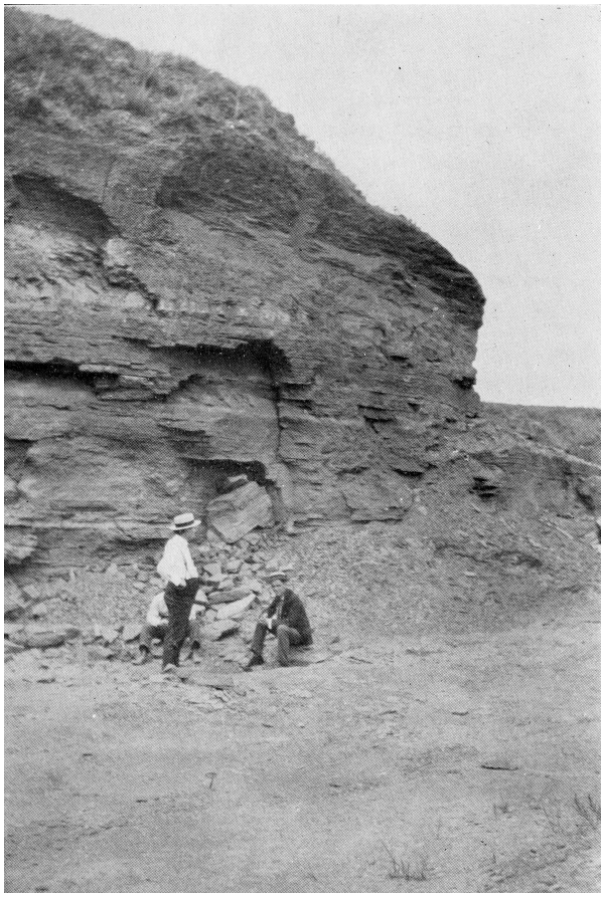
The Gage mill of the Benton Shale Mining Co. started operating at sunrise on 28 September 1901



Did this ordinary-looking shale contain the world's largest gold deposit? (Transactions, Kansas Academy of Science *18, 1903.)*

and was immediately pronounced a great success. After a week of ballyhooed operation, the mill suspended operations, pending the arrival of a new crusher and additional leaching tanks.

Meanwhile, the outspoken anti-shale opinion of Erasmus Haworth threatened his position at the University of Kansas. In October 1901, after a week's run of the Gage mill, Fred Close walked around Topeka with a five-ounce bar of gold and two small bars of silver in his pocket. Close announced that he would ask the next meeting of the University trustees to fire Professor Haworth. Close apparently reconsidered, for Board of Trustees minutes mention no such request. However, the shale men were dissatisfied with the



*Assayers and promoters argued for years over whether or not the Smoky Hill shales hid economic concentrations of gold. (*Transactions, Kansas Academy of Science *18, 1903.)*

state school at Lawrence, and being generous with their illusory wealth, they offered to donate $50 million—in gold-shale company shares—to build a bigger and better university in Topeka, one "to eclipse Yale, Harvard and Leland Stanford."[30]

"Professor" Gage knew that he could not long afford to salt a gold mill in full production, and demanded his ten thousand dollars. The owners, remembering Miller, told Gage that he would be paid only after he demonstrated that the process would work without his presence. Gage then shut down the mill, saying that the company was trying to cheat him.[31]

Colonel Close again showed himself foremost among the gullible when he sided with Gage and accused his Topeka partners of trying to cheat both himself and Gage. The owners reopened the Gage mill in December 1901 to let Professor Lovewell test run three tons of shale. Lovewell was surprised to recover only 22.5 cents in gold after he had extracted twelve dollars per ton when Gage hovered around the operation. Charles Holliday admitted that the result "proves the Gage process to be absolutely worthless." Holliday refused to be discouraged, however, and was already negotiating with his next swindler, Professor Ernest Fahrig.[32]

Another Gage Mill Fails

Gage had already latched onto his next sucker. Texas oil man D. R. Beatty, "the Beaumont oil king," arrived in Smoky Hill in September 1901. Beatty was booming his oil promotions in large display ads in Saint Louis newspapers, and realized that gold shale could also attract money. He bought the old mill and property of the Imperial Gold Company, and hired Professor Lovewell to investigate Gage's process, with an eye to building a sixty-ton per day mill.[33]

Gage gave Lovewell the run of his Benton Shale company mill, which had just started operation, and Lovewell found that he could recover twelve dollars per ton in gold and silver in the mill. Outside the mill, but using the Gage process, Lovewell found $6.80 in gold and silver per ton of shale. Lovewell supervised the excavation of a half a ton of shale, which he took back to his Topeka laboratory and kept under guard while he tested it. He told Beatty that this shale contained three dollars per ton in gold, enough for profitable operation.[34]

Beatty hired Gage to build another mill to turn shale into gold. The Beatty mill was ready in March 1902, and Beatty bragged that there was more gold in Kansas shale than in the Klondike. Beatty's advertisement for his Kansas Pioneer Gold Shale Company, in the *Saint Louis Globe-Democrat* in April 1902, blared: "ACRES OF GOLD,"

and called this "the greatest gold discovery of the age." Being "extremely conservative," the ad calculated that each acre of shale ground held over $5 million in gold. The Kansas Pioneer company was offering shares for one cent, but warned investors to hurry, for the price would double on 1 May. After much foot-dragging by Gage, the mill started operating in May 1902.[35]

The mill produced three hundred dollars worth of gold in the first week, and Gage demanded payment. The Pioneer company, like the Benton company, refused to pay until Gage could prove that the mill could continue to produce gold. Gage left in a huff, and the Pioneer Gold Shale Company found that, without Gage, the mill was unable to recover gold. D. R. Beatty went back to his oil promotions, which earned him an arrest for mail fraud in 1904. But the failure of the Gage process could not extinguish the optimism, which now fastened on Professor Ernst Fahrig.[36]

"Professor" Ernst Fahrig of Philadelphia claimed that his secret compound, "bauxogen," could extract gold from shale.

"Professor" Ernst Fahrig Builds a Mill

"Professor" Ernst Fahrig was a distinguished-looking man, with a neat beard and a chest full of medals, employed at the Philadelphia Commercial Museum. He allowed himself to be persuaded to investigate the shale, after he let it be known that he had his own secret process to suck gold out of shale. Professor Lovewell and the shale men echoed Fahrig's false press-agentry when they called him one of the leading metallurgists in the United States. Fahrig's gold-leaching process was based on a secret chemical he called "bauxogen." Fahrig claimed that the formula was not patentable, and therefore had to be kept secret. Fahrig built a pilot mill in Topeka. "I do not believe in secret processes for extracting minerals," he told a reporter as he promoted his own secret process.[37]

Fahrig reported complete success for his pilot mill, and persuaded the usual gang of Topeka suckers to form the Fahrig Mining and Milling Company, and to build yet another mill along the Smoky Hill River. The company began constructing Fahrig's one-hundred-ton mill in June 1902. It was slated to start operation in July, then August, but was delayed again by the need for new equipment. Fahrig then scheduled his mill to start processing in January 1903, but it did not. At the end of February, Fahrig was still waiting for more equipment.[38]

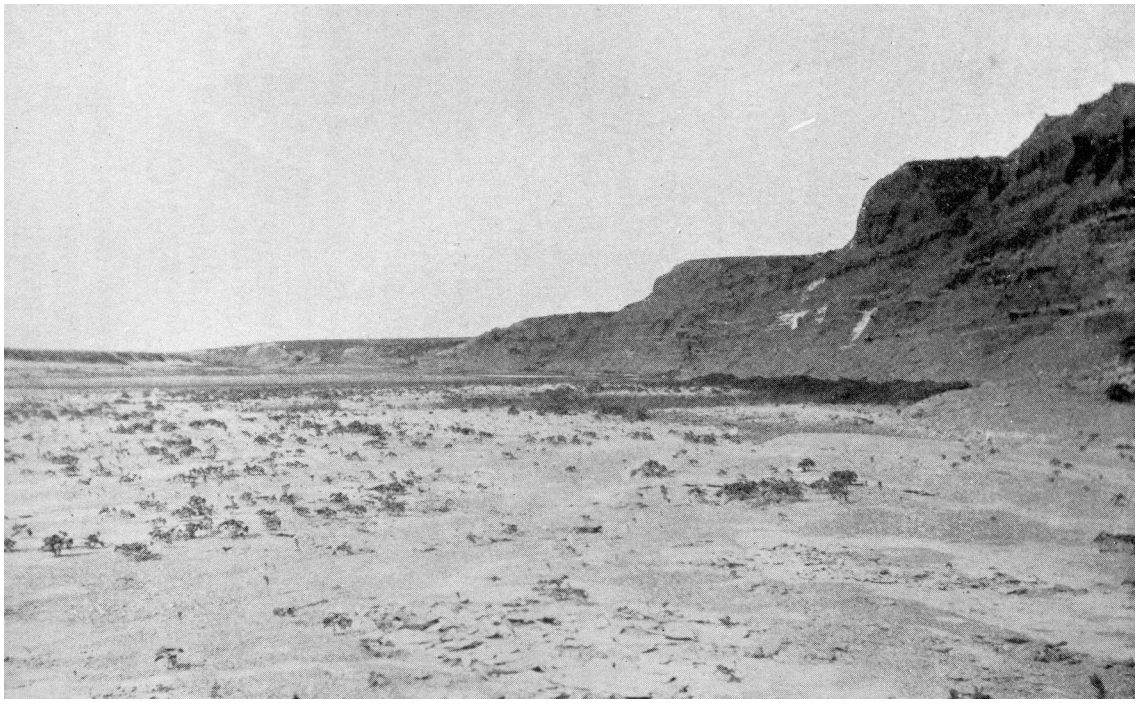
Skeptic Erasmus Haworth criticized Fahrig's refusal to allow scientists to observe his secret process, but the gold shale men attacked Haworth as an out-of-date academic. Shale booster George Veale called Haworth a windy idler who stayed in the classroom rather than investigate the gold fields himself. "Dr. Fahrig," Veale wrote to the *Topeka Capital*, "will take pleasure in showing the people of Kansas that this Prof. Haworth, whom

they pay an exorbitant salary [of two thousand dollars per year], is a pettifogger in his profession who deals only in words, words, words." Veale predicted that a flood of shale gold would soon force Haworth to resign.[39]

Haworth had the support of the mining press, but few in Kansas read the *Engineering and Mining Journal*. The U.S. Geological Survey sent Waldemar Lindgren, a renowned expert in mineral deposits, to collect his own samples and have them assayed in government laboratories. Lindgren found only negligible gold and silver values, but the shale optimists ignored Lindgren as they had Haworth. Professor Joseph Lovewell criticized those, like Lindgren, who relied on fire assays. Lovewell insisted that the shale contained much more gold than reported by the U.S. Geological Survey or the Kansas Geological Survey.[40]

Simon Motz, former mayor of Hays, Kansas, knew where he could get honest and expert advice: his brother Emmanuel Motz was a metallurgist extracting gold from low-grade ore in South Carolina. The Pioneer Gold Shale Company, which now boasted a large tract of shale and a useless Gage mill, hired Emmanuel Motz to install a real gold ore mill. Motz arrived in Hays and began testing the shale, but evidently satisfied himself that the shale held no gold, for he returned without fanfare to South Carolina.[41]

Fahrig had spent nearly two years testing the gold shales, but in the spring of 1903 his mill on the Smoky Hill River remained idle. He said that his bauxogen could extract the gold, but then claimed that not enough bauxogen was available. Fahrig left Kansas in April 1903, supposedly with "a good many pounds" of gold and silver bullion from the Topeka test mill, to separate the metals in his Philadelphia laboratory. While he was away, C. W. Potter, a chemist and son-in-law of one of the investors, took charge of the mill. Potter analyzed the secret bauxogen and found that it was a simple aluminum compound. His findings split the investors, some of whom thought that Potter was slandering Fahrig to promote his own



*Shale outcropping along the Smoky Hill River. (*Transactions, Kansas Academy of Science *18, 1903).*

gold-recovery process.[42]

From Philadelphia, Fahrig defended his process, and extolled the useless test mill in Topeka as a "thing of beauty." He blamed the shale men for their impatience, and insisted that gold was in the shale, but that it would take many years of work to perfect commercial extraction. But the golden dream died with Fahrig's exit. His impressive demeanor had sustained hopes, but once Fahrig said that commercial gold recovery was years away, even his defenders gave up. In June 1904 the *Topeka Journal* declared the gold boom a bust, and the *Topeka Capital* asked: "Was Fahrig a Gold Brick?"[43]

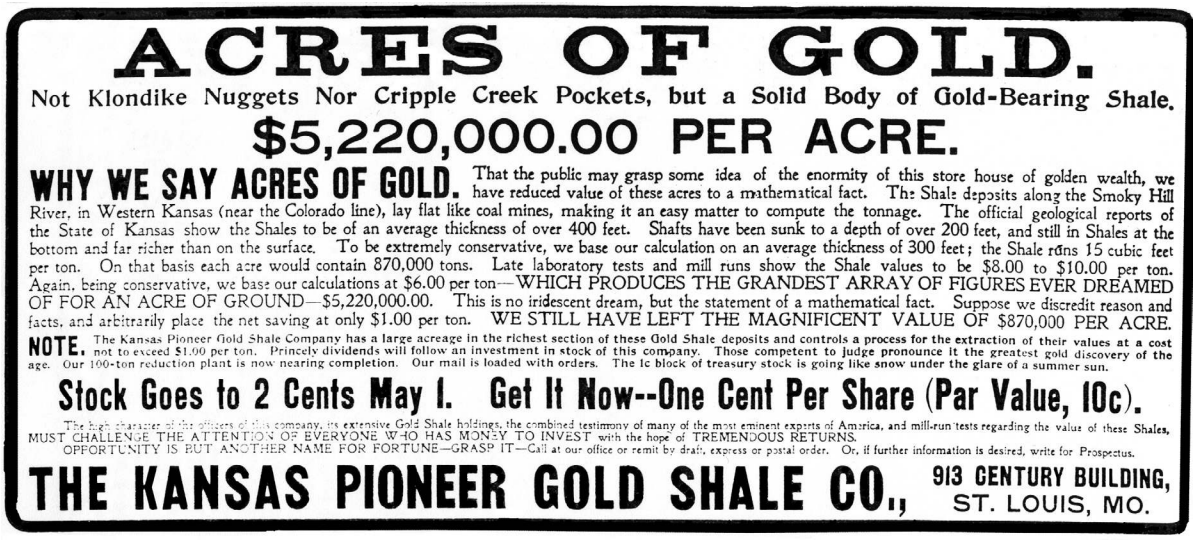
The Persistent Belief in Kansas Gold

Shale gold resurfaced in 1929, when two Denver men leased mineral rights along the Smoky Hill River. They displayed a piece of gold supposedly extracted from the shale by a secret process. "I can assure you," one said, "there is unlimited capital at our disposal." Nothing more was heard from them.[44]

Historian William Unrau blamed the Kansas shale gold excitement on difficult times in farm country, but the main participants were city people. The main cause seems not to have been bad farm economics, but gold fever ignited by mining booms in South Africa, Cripple Creek, Colorado, and the Klondike. Folklorist Frank Dobie noted that genuine gold rushes prompt sympathetic behavior in distant locations. In the 1890s, other false gold excitements flared up in Nebraska, Indiana, and Ohio.[45]

Reports of gold still come in every few years from here and there in Kansas, but knowledge of the gold shale swindles has inoculated Kansas newspapers against gold fever, and they view the discoveries skeptically. However, the Ellis County gold rush left behind enough confusion that some people still believe that there is gold in the shale. The legend of Kansas gold that began with Coronado still lives.

Dan Plazak is the author of A Hole in the Ground with a Liar At the Top *(University of Utah Press, 2006), but has not quit his day job as a geologist and engineer in Denver. His mining history website is www.miningswindles.com, and he welcomes e-mail on the subject of mining swindles.*



ACRES OF GOLD.

Not Klondike Nuggets Nor Cripple Creek Pockets, but a Solid Body of Gold-Bearing Shale.

$5,220,000.00 PER ACRE.

WHY WE SAY ACRES OF GOLD. That the public may grasp some idea of the enormity of this store house of golden wealth, we have reduced value of these acres to a mathematical fact. The Shale deposits along the Smoky Hill River, in Western Kansas (near the Colorado line), lay flat like coal mines, making it an easy matter to compute the tonnage. The official geological reports of the State of Kansas show the Shales to be of an average thickness of over 400 feet. Shafts have been sunk to a depth of over 200 feet, and still in Shales at the bottom and far richer than on the surface. To be extremely conservative, we base our calculation on an average thickness of 300 feet; the Shale runs 15 cubic feet per ton. On that basis each acre would contain 870,000 tons. Late laboratory tests and mill runs show the Shale values to be $8.00 to $10.00 per ton. Again, being conservative, we base our calculations at $6.00 per ton—WHICH PRODUCES THE GRANDEST ARRAY OF FIGURES EVER DREAMED OF FOR AN ACRE OF GROUND—$5,220,000.00. This is no iridescent dream, but the statement of a mathematical fact. Suppose we discredit reason and facts, and arbitrarily place the net saving at only $1.00 per ton. WE STILL HAVE LEFT THE MAGNIFICENT VALUE OF $870,000 PER ACRE.

NOTE. The Kansas Pioneer Gold Shale Company has a large acreage in the richest section of these Gold Shale deposits and controls a process for the extraction of their values at a cost not to exceed $1.00 per ton. Princely dividends will follow an investment in stock of this company. Those competent to judge pronounce it the greatest gold discovery of the age. Our 100-ton reduction plant is now nearing completion. Our mail is loaded with orders. The 1c block of treasury stock is going like snow under the glare of a summer sun.

Stock Goes to 2 Cents May 1. Get It Now--One Cent Per Share (Par Value, 10c).

The high character of the officers of this company, its extensive Gold Shale holdings, the combined testimony of many of the most eminent experts of America, and mill-run tests regarding the value of these Shales, MUST CHALLENGE THE ATTENTION OF EVERYONE WHO HAS MONEY TO INVEST with the hope of TREMENDOUS RETURNS.
OPPORTUNITY IS BUT ANOTHER NAME FOR FORTUNE—GRASP IT—Call at our office or remit by draft, express or postal order. Or, if further information is desired, write for Prospectus.

THE KANSAS PIONEER GOLD SHALE CO., 913 CENTURY BUILDING, ST. LOUIS, MO.

Texas oil promoter D. R. Beatty bought land along the Smoky Hill River and sold shares with this advertisement in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 27 April 1902.*

Notes

[1] J. F. Bannon, *The Spanish Borderlands Frontier, 1513-1821* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1974).

[2] *Engineering and Mining Journal*, 5 Apr. 1879, 242; 25 Mar. 1882, 159; 13 Nov. 1886, 353. *Topeka Commonwealth*, 28 June 1879, 3. B. F. Mudge, "Metamorphic Deposit in Woodson County" *Transactions, Kansas Academy of Science* 7 (1880): 11-3.

[3] *Topeka State Journal*, 29 June 1903, 5.

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