

Mt Lebanon Gold

By Lawrence Conant

Note:

The properties described herein are private property. No entry should be attempted without the owner's permission.

The Beginning of the Trail

The Library of Congress has a map of Greenville County from 1882. A closeup of that map is shown in Figure 1. This is the area near where Mount Lebanon Church Road crosses from Greenville County into Spartanburg County. Note in the lower right-hand corner the identification of "Carson's Gold Mine". This document begins the search. It should be noted that the 1882 Greenville map is known to not be geometrically or geographically accurate.

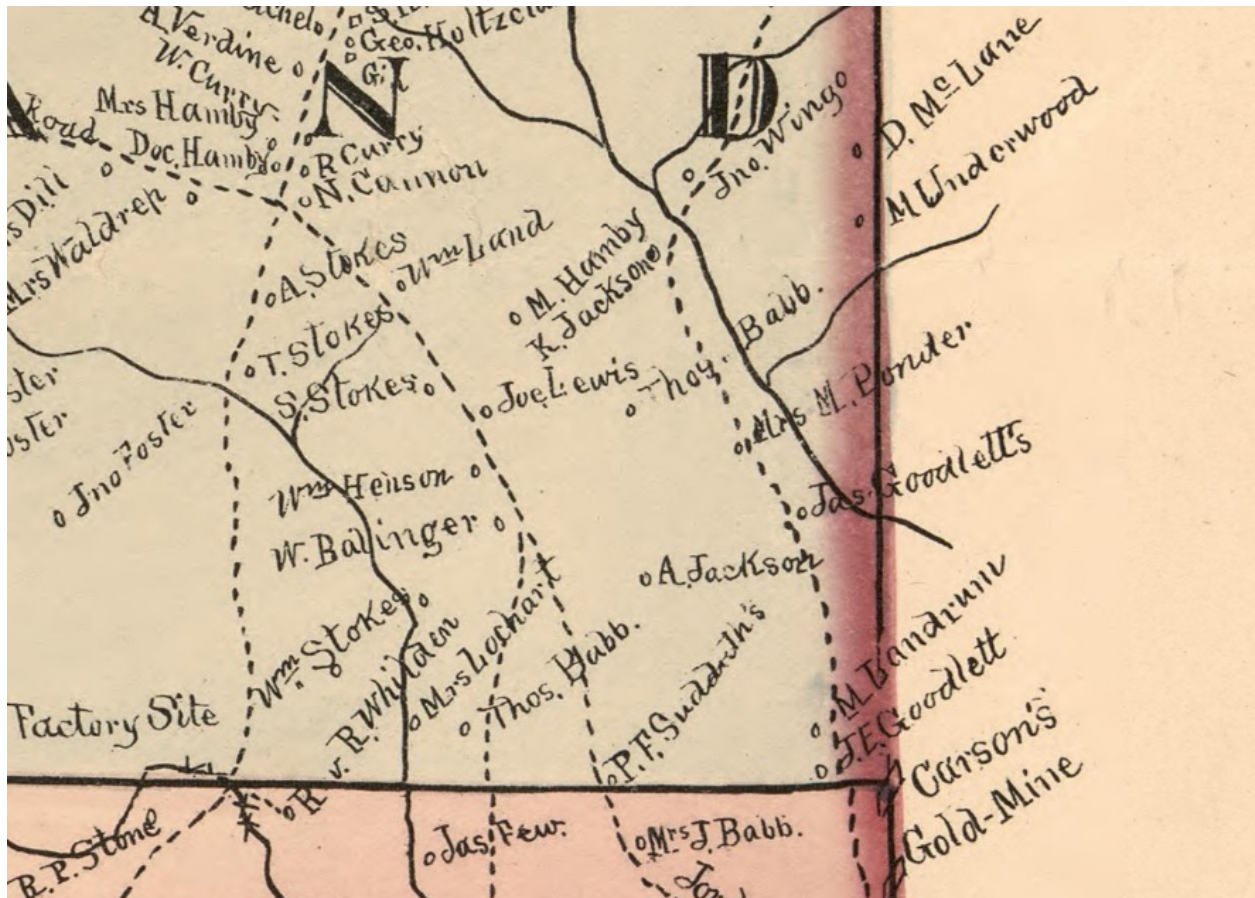


Figure 1: Closeup of the 1882 Map of Greenville County

Early Ownership in the Area

Table 1 shows several overlapping deeds important to the area.

Book R Page 29	Book Q Page 195	Book R Page 126	Book R Page 127	Book T Page 54
Mar 24, 1827	Mar 28, 1829	Feb 8, 1830	Nov. 24, 1831	Sept. 6, 1834
From: Crayton & Sloan by Sheriff	From: Street Thurston	From: Westley Gilreath	From: George H. Gilreath	From: Daniel Pike
To: Street Thurston	To: Westley Gilreath	To: George H. Gilreath	To: Daniel Pike	To: Simon Lister
886 Acres	886 Acres	786 Acres	780 Acres	660 Acres
N 60 E 33.5 Ch	N 60 E 33.5 Ch	N 60 E 33.5 Ch	N 60 E 33.5 Ch	N 60 E 33.5 Ch
N 0 E 8.2 Ch	N 0 E 8.2 Ch	N 0 E 8.2 Ch	N 0 E 8.2 Ch	N 0 E 8.2 Ch
N 35 W 22.5 Ch	N 35 W 22.5 Ch	N 35 W 22.5 Ch	N 35 W 22.5 Ch	N 35 W 22.5 Ch
N 61 E 18 Ch	N 61 E 18 Ch	N 61 E 18 Ch	N 61 E 18 Ch	N 61 E 18 Ch
N 0 E 7Ch	N 0 E 7 Ch	N 0 E 7 Ch	N 0 E 7 Ch	N 0 E 7 Ch
S 69 W 24 Ch	S 69 W 24 Ch	S 69 W 24 Ch	S 69 W 24 Ch	S 69 W 24 Ch
N 45 W 31 Ch	N 45 W 31 Ch	N 45 W 31 Ch	N 45 W 31 Ch	N 45 W 31 Ch
N 42 E 26 Ch	N 42 E 26 Ch	N 42 E 26 Ch	N 42 E 26 Ch	N 42 E 9.5 Ch
N 8 E 20.5 Ch	N 8 E 20.5 Ch	N 8 E 20 Ch	N 8 E 20 Ch	N 40 W 25 Ch
S 70 W 29.5 Ch	S 70 W 29.5 Ch	S 70 W 29.5 Ch	S 70 W 29.5 Ch	N 21 W 24.5 Ch
N 21 W 24.5 Ch	N 21 W 24.5 Ch	N 21 W 24 Ch	N 21 W 24 Ch	S 25 W 92 Ch
S 25 W 92 Ch	S 25 W 92 Ch	S 25 W 92 Ch	S 25 W 92 Ch	S 86 W 34 Ch
S 90 W 50 Ch	S 90 W 5 Ch	S 90 W to Jordain Rd	S 90 W to Jordain Rd	S 28 E 48 Ch
S 30 E 49.25 Ch	S 30 E 49.25 Ch	Along road to beginning	Along road to beginning	S 90 E 48 Ch
S 90 E 90 Ch	S 90 E 90 Ch	S 90 E	S 90 E	

Table 1: Area of interest, Early Deeds

The location of these deeds is shown in Figure 2. Note the location of Rosin (now Resin Creek) which flows into what was then called McCool's or Thompson's Beaver Dam Creek. This creek is considered part of Rosin Creek today. Note the orange parcel west of Jordan Road is the difference between the 886 acres and 786 acres shown in Table 1. The blue parcel in the northeast corner is the difference between the 780 acres and the 660 acres.



Figure 2: Location of Early Deeds.

Contracts

A search of the Greenville County Registry of Deeds identified several contracts related to gold mining in this area. An early contract can be found in Greenville Book U Pages 504 & 505 from Samuel Loftis to James C. Randolph. This deed is dated June 13, 1834. This was transferred from Randolph to Vardry McBee as recorded in Greenville Book U Page 505 to 506. No acreage is given, but it is identified as being in both Greenville and Spartanburg counties. This was later sold by McBee to Finch Carson as recorded in Book W Page 254. Here the acreage is given as 1916 acres and known as the Randolph Mine. This deed is dated February 16, 1843. No subsequent deeds for this property have been identified. There are two deeds of interest. The first is recorded in Greenville Book W Pages 288-289 from Finch C. Carson to Vardry McBee for 1500 acres situated in both Greenville and Spartanburg counties. This is dated March 1, 1852. The second deed is from Vardry McBee to Finch Carson for 1500 acres of the same description in both Greenville and Spartanburg Counties. This deed is dated June 1, 1852. There is a third deed recorded in Greenville Book W Page 254 from Vardry McBee to Finch Carson for a half interest in the

lands lying and being in the districts of Greenville and Spartanburg being on both sides of the Middle Tyger River known as the Randolph Gold Mine tract adjoining lands of William Few, Underwood, James Smith, Simon Lister. The tract totals 1916 acres. This deed is dated February 16, 1843. These deeds possibly refer to the Carson's Gold Mine shown in the lower right corner of Figure 1. The Simon Lister property abutting this contract could be the property shown in Figure 2 listed in the right-hand column as belonging to Simon Lister.

Another early contract can be found in the Greenville Registry of Deeds in Book OO Pages 149 – 150. This contract is between Milton Underwood & his wife Hannah, William Underwood, Joberry Underwood, Nancy Narcissa Jackson, Mary Howell, Elizabeth Watson, Melinda Carmen, and Margaret Wolf to W. H. Charles, David Jackson, T J Cureton. The consideration for the contract was \$1. The contract further states that the lands are reported to contain valuable deposits of minerals. The purpose of the contract is to permit searching for minerals and fossil substances and permits the carrying on and mining, quarrying and manufacturing operations. The parties are allowed to dig and excavate shafts and to carry away any and all minerals and fossils found. They are also allowed to operate, erect and remove any buildings and machinery required. They may construct any road or carriage way required. They may also use whatever timber and lumber, and waterways. They are required to maintain records of the minerals and fossils removed and on the first of January and July of each year pay one tenth of the gold found. They may also purchase the parcel within the first two years for \$10,000. This contract is dated March 7, 1883 and is valid for 30 years. There are no other recordings to W. H. Charles for additional lands.

This is followed by a deed recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Greenville in Book WW Pages 758 to 759. This contract from W. H. Charles to James P. Mosely for one third of the minerals contained in several parcels of property in both Greenville and Spartanburg counties. The original lease included besides Charles, David Jackson and T Y Cureton for the term of thirty years. There are no metes and bounds for the properties. The consideration for the contract was \$10. There were six tracts.

The first tract is described as two hundred acres more or less belonging to Milton Underwood and situated on the Middle Tyger River in both Greenville and Spartanburg counties. This parcel adjoins property of James Goodlett (deceased), Daniel McClain (deceased), James Ponder and others.

The second tract belongs to J. J. Underwood and is 44 acres. This parcel adjoins property of James Goodlett (deceased), heirs of J. W. Jackson, W. T. Underwood, Milton Underwood and others.

The third tract belongs to Hannah Pruitt and her son J. G. Pruitt and is 46 acres. This property adjoins J. E. Daivs, Jackson Gains, J. G. Stone, and others.

The fourth tract belongs to M. D. Breshires and is 52 acres. This property adjoins Hiram Clayton, Isaac Clayton and others.

The fifth tract belongs to V. Tinsley and is 30 acres. This property adjoins Jason Tinsley, Isaac Clayton, and on the Goodgin Road near Carnk Springs.

The sixth tract belongs to J. E. Hannon and is 630 acres and is on the North Tyger River. This property adjoins T. Tinsley, Sampson Babbs, Foster Hins and others.

The contract is dated August 8, 1885.

James P. Mosely transferred his interest to Mary L. J. Cromer in a deed recorded in Greenville Book UU Pages 430 dated July 21, 1888. The deed identifies the property as belonging to Milton Underwood, J. J. Underwood, Hannah Pruett, V. Tinsley, J. E. Hannon, and D. M. Bresher. Mary transferred her interest to John A. and Peter A. Cureton in a deed recorded in Greenville in Book DDD Pages 608 to 610 dated June 28, 1899.

There is a third lease dated January 5, 1946. J. W. M^cKinney is identified in the deed recorded in Book QQQ Pages 48-50 from T. J. Cureton, Peter F. Cureton, and John A. Cureton to James W. M^cKinney of Philadelphia. This deed has two tracts, the second is identified as being part of the Milton Underwood place. While abutters are given as bordered by H. C. Moore on the south, J. B. Underwood on the east and Elizabeth Watson, deceased on the north and the Middle Tyger River on the west". Both tracts "supposed to contain valuable deposits of valuable minerals". The contract allows for entry "onto the property to dig, excavate and sink shafts thereon and mine remove carry away and dispose of any and all minerals and fossil substances found..." "They may also erect thereupon operate, alter and remove any and all such buildings and machinery as they deem necessary and expedient, they may also construct thereon and use any plan of road foot and carriage way wherever and whenever deemed expedient, and they may also fell, use and consume all such lumber and firewood and timber as may be required in actively carrying on said mining and manufacturing operations, they may also freely use conduct and utilize any waters, streams and water power upon or coursing through said premises (provided that no unnecessary damage shall be done to said land or water power): they may also remove from said land any and all buildings and machinery which they may have erected on said land or used in the mining operations herein set forth at the expiration of this lease." The lease further states to pay "on or before the 20th day of October 1906 and the twentieth day of April 1907 a stipend or royalty of twenty five percent of the net proceeds of said minerals and fossil substances." The contract is dated April 9th, 1906 and covers 42 acres. This contains 25 acres purchased from A. G. Howell by Peter F. Cureton as recorded in Greenville Book OOO Page 318 dated March 30, 1915. The contracts recorded in Book QQQ Pages 49 and 50 are similar, but deal with properties not in the study area.

[Location, Location, Location](#)

The early deeds from the mid to late 1800's in Greenville frequently lack metes and bounds. This omission makes it difficult to identify where these mines were located. There are at least two references that help. The first is shown in Figure 3¹.



Figure 3: Known Gold Mine Locations North of Greer

We also have a second source shown in Figure 4².



Figure 3: Additional Gold mine Identifications.

Both of these map sources identify the area north of Greer where the Middle Tyger River crosses from Greenville County into Spartanburg County in the vicinity of Mt. Lebanon Road.

Unfortunately, the historic deeds for properties in this area frequently lack metes and bounds or in many cases were never recorded. A technique that has been used successfully in other research is to work backwards from the present day. At some point in the distant past, a deed could have been recorded that provides the details of the title not recorded in the Greenville Registry of Deeds.

The M^cBee- Briggs Connection

Following the Loftis-Randolph contract, Figure 1 shows the Carlson Gold mine in the lower right corner being where the Middle Tyger River crosses into Spartanburg County as discussed in the contracts section.

There is a plat shown in Figure 5 from the Greenville Registry of Deeds as recorded in Book YY Page 39. While the plat is undated, the accompanying deed also recorded in the same book and page from M. P. Landrum and Rosa B. McBee to Lula M. Briggs. The property is identified as lying in both Greenville and Spartanburg Counties being on both the Middle Tyger River and Gold Mine Branch. The property is from the estate of Vardry M^cBee. The deed is dated October 12, 1891. The total acreage is not provided, but is believed to be about 1600 acres. This connection to Briggs also suggests that this is the site of the two Briggs prospects shown in Figures 3 & 4.

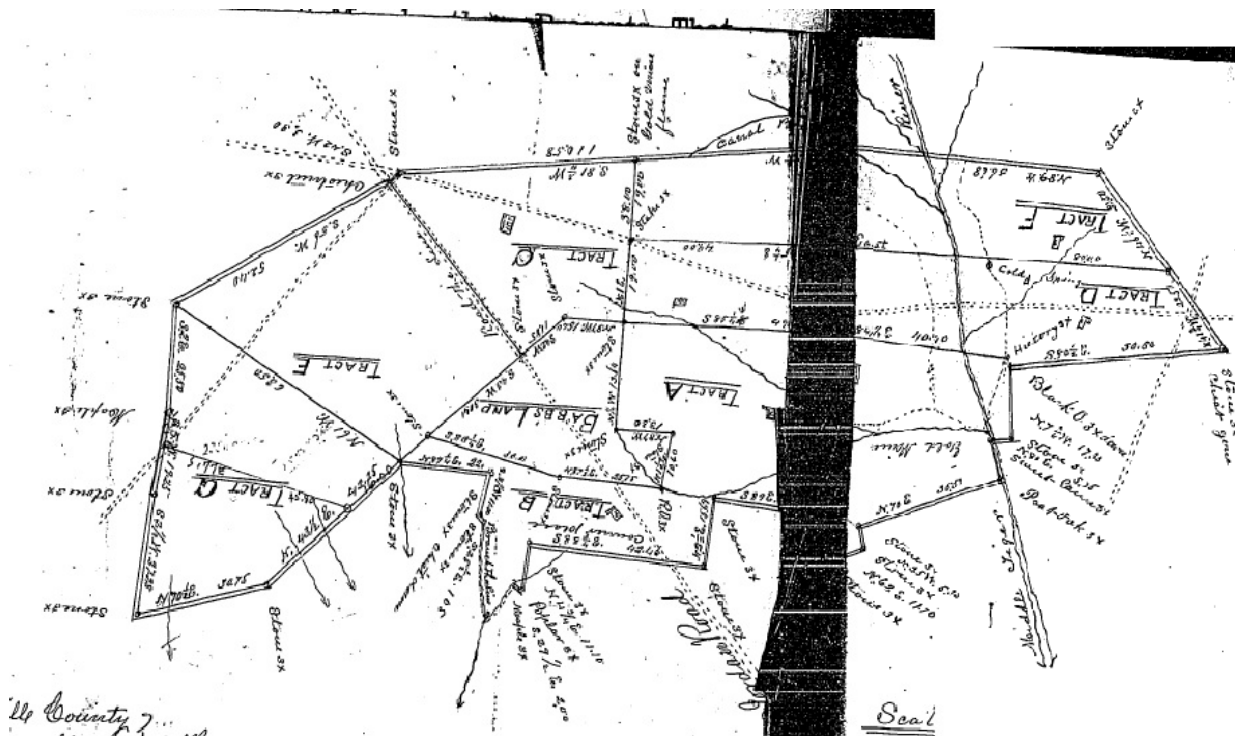


Figure 5: Estate of Vardry M^cBee

Figure 6 shows the location of the Vardry M^cBee property on a Google Earth Map. Note that it is south of the Mt. Lebanon Church Rd. It is on both sides of Jordan Rd, Jug Factory Rd and both sides of Middle Tyger River. The Greenville-Spartanburg County line runs nearly due North-South crossing through the top point of the orange triangle.

In addition to the McBee property shown in Figure 5, two other lots are shown in Figure 6. In orange is the property represented in the deed recorded in Book 149 Page 408 Tract #3. This deed is dated August

14, 1930 from the Court of Common Pleas to Annie May Fisher. The importance of this tract is that the southern boundary is identified as “the Tyger Mining Company”.

Also shown in Figure 6 in green is property transferred in Book 276 Page 206 from Clinton P. Williams to Fred W. Lister. The property is in both Greenville and Spartanburg counties. The property is identified as being part of property conveyed to Clinton Williams by J. W. M^cKinney. The deed is dated January 5, 1946. J. W. M^cKinney is identified in the deed recorded in Book QQQ Pages 48-50 from T. J. Cureton, Peter F. Cureton, and John A. Cureton to James W. M^cKinney of Philadelphia. This deed has two tracts, the second is identified as being part of the Milton Underwood place. While abutters are given as bordered by H. C. Moore on the south, J. B. Underwood on the east and Elizabeth Watson, deceased on the north and the Middle Tyger River on the west”. Both tracts are “supposed to contain valuable deposits of valuable minerals”. These leases refer to the Milton Underwood lease recorded in Book OO Pages 149-150 mentioned in the Contracts Section.

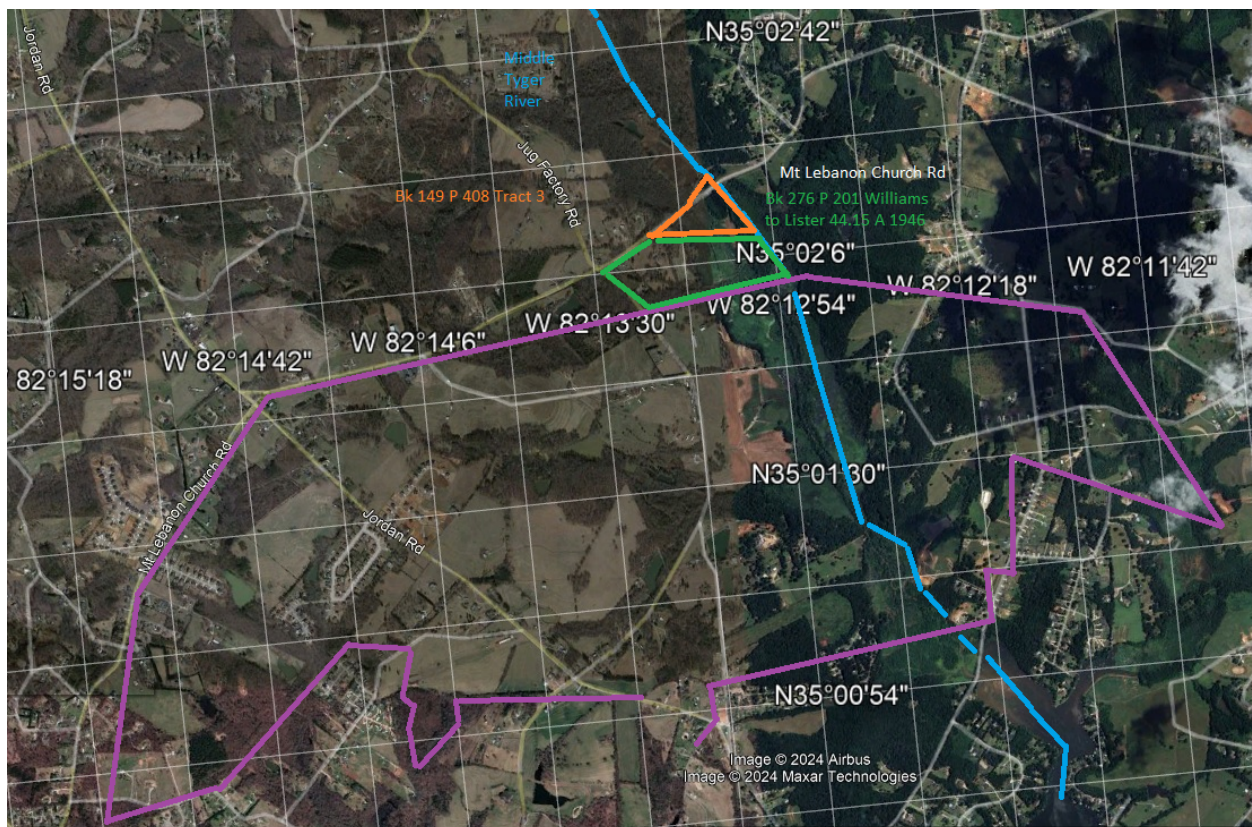


Figure 6: Location of Vardry M^cBee Property.

The area East of the bridge and South of Mt. Lebanon Church Road is identified as the Wolf and Tyger Mining Company property in Spartanburg County deeds as recorded in Book 58 pages 89 & 90 as shown in Figure 7.

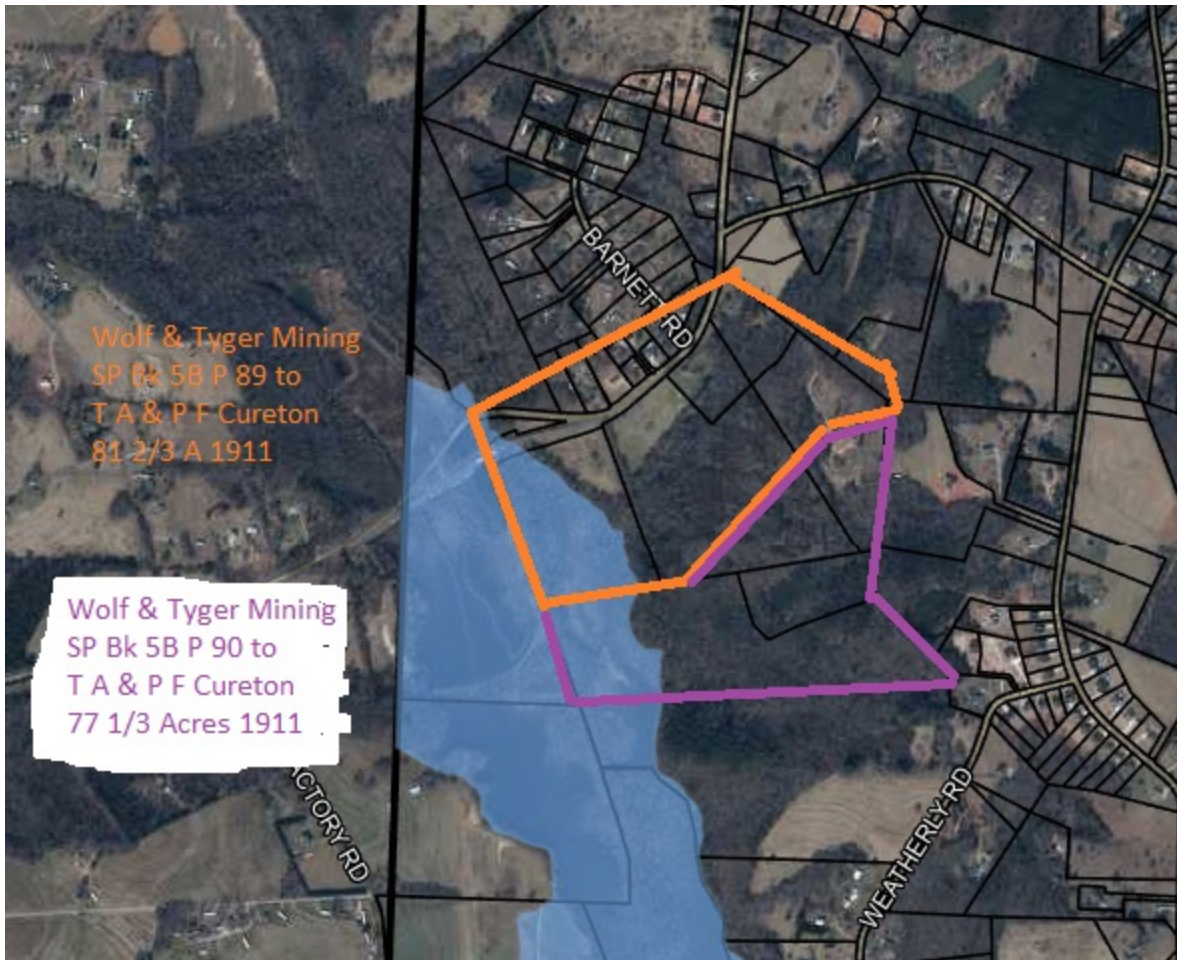


Figure 7: Wolf & Tyger Mining Company

These area is believed to be the original Randolph Gold Mine.

Underwood Connection

Note that Figure 3 and 4 show the Cureton Gold Mine on the east side of a crook in the Middle Tyger River. In the Contracts section of this study, Milton Underwood was the property owner in the mining contract identified in Greenville Book OO Pages 149-150. Also, the portion of the 1882 map of Greenville shown in Figure 1 has M. Underwood owning property to the east of Middle Tyger River and west of the Spartanburg County line. Also in the contract section of this study is the contract recorded in Book QQQ Page 48 for property part of the Milton Underwood place. Unfortunately, the metes and bounds description does not allow for an accurate placement of this property.

There is an early deed recorded in Book V Pages 566-567 from Caleb Bullington to Milton Underwood for 125 acres dated October 27, 1841. The metes and bounds are somewhat vague but it starts at a red oak on the banks of the Tyger River, then heads east 19 chains to a post oak on the county line. It then continues to Simpson's Creek, thence up the meanders of the creek. The bounds then head North 39 W to a red oak, thence West to a cross fence. Then it runs West with the cross fence to the river. This could be between what is now Nodine Road and the Middle Tyger River.

One abutter to the property described in the contract in Book QQQ Page 48 is A. O. Howell. There are several transfers to and from A. O. Howell or A. G. Howell of interest. There is a deed recorded in Book GGG Page 784 from A. L. Jackson and Mattie A. Atkins to A. G. Howell. The deed states "All our right title and interest in a certain piece or parcel of land lying and being in Greenville County and in the state of South Carolina it being a piece of land willed to our brother Harrison Jackson deceased by Milton Underwood deceased it being a part of Milton Underwood's estate and bounded by lands of H. N. Fisher, J. B. Underwood, and lying on waters of Middle Tyger River containing sixteen acres more or less." The deed is dated March 6, 1901.

There is a deed recorded in Greenville Book SSS Page 169 from Mrs. Mary E. Howell (maiden name Underwood, daughter of Milton Underwood) of Spartanburg County to A. G. Howell (Austin Gibbs Howell, son of Mary E. and John Howell) of Spartanburg County. The description is "all that certain piece or tract of land and being in the county of Spartanburg and Greenville and on the waters of Middle Tyger River being part of my father Milton Underwood Decs. Estate and bounded by lands of H. P. Moore, on South, J. B. Underwood on East, Elizabeth Watson Decs on North, Middle Tyger River on West containing forty two acres more or less." The deed is dated November 19, 1901.

The deed filed in the previous page; Book SSS Page 168 is from A. G. Howell to Peter F. Cureton. The description of the property is: "all that certain piece or tract of land and being in the county of Spartanburg and Greenville and on the waters of Middle Tyger River the same being part of the Milton Underwood Place and bounded by lands of H. P. Moore, on south, J. B. Underwood on East, Elizabeth Watson Decs on North, Middle Tyger River on West containing forty two acres more or less." This deed is dated October 30, 1903. This is clearly the same property transferred in the deed recorded in Book SSS Page 169. The description is exactly the same as found in the above-mentioned deed recorded in Book QQQ Page 48.

The complication of the Underwood properties is that the Underwood Contract was dated March 7, 1883 for 30 years. Milton Underwood died in June 12, 1882³. His wife, Harriet died on July 21, 1893⁴. Therefore, how could Milton have signed the contract? There is a deed recorded in Greenville Book 38 Page 297 from S. M. and B. B. Underwood to Israel Davis dated December 4, 1915. This deed references part of the property was transferred by the will of Milton Underwood April 12, 1884. There are two deeds referenced for the title of this property: Book WW P 409 from Jas. F. Goodlett to J. B. Underwood and Book EEE P 512 from J. J. and O. M. Underwood to J. B. Underwood. Unfortunately, both of these deed references are incorrect.

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History have no plats associated with Milton Underwood either in Spartanburg or Greenville Counties⁵. We can use the description of abutters to help locate the Underwood property. As stated in the contracts section of this document the first tract is described as two hundred acres more or less belonging to Milton Underwood and situated on the Middle Tyger River in both Greenville and Spartanburg counties. This parcel adjoins property of James Goodlett (deceased), Daniel McClain (deceased), James Ponder and others. Figure 8 shows the suspected area.

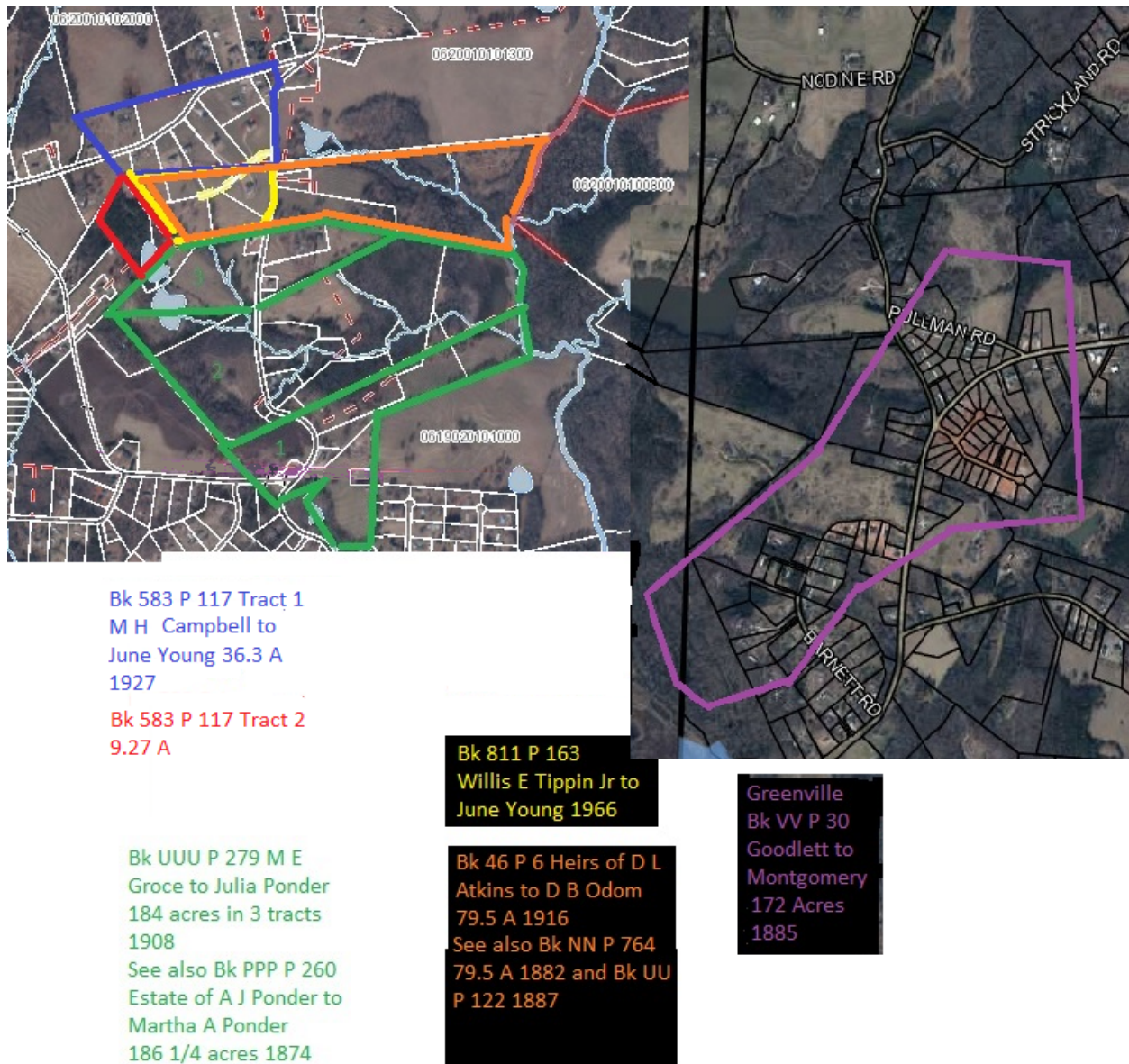


Figure 8 Parcels Surrounding the Underwood Property

The parcel shown in Orange in Figure 8 is identified in several deeds, the most important being Book NN Page 764. This deed is from S. J. Dauthit, Master of Greenville County Court of Common Pleas where the property of D. T. McClain and others was sold at the request of R. N. McClain and D. O. McClain to the highest bidder, Robert Dickson on December 4, 1882.

The parcel shown in Green in Figure 7 is identified as belonging to the estate of A. J. Ponder as recorded in Greenville Book PPP Page 260 in 1874. The parcel in Figure 8 shown in Purple is sold by S. J. Douthit, Master of Greenville Court of Common Pleas, in a complaint against Lula Goodlett, Sallie Goodlett, Eva Goodlett and Susan B. McGee by Sallie A. Goodlett, Administratrix of the estate of James F. Goodlett for 172 acres. This parcel was sold to M. M. Montgomery on December 7, 1885.

Therefore, considering these three lots (orange, green and purple) establishes the probable West, South and Eastern boundaries of the Milton Underwood Property. This is consistent with the location of the Cureton Mine shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Atkins & Underwood

The Underwood contract cited in this document was signed in 1883 and had a term of 30 years if the land was not purchased in the first two years. This 30 years brings us to 1913. As mentioned earlier both Milton and Hannah had died much earlier than the end of this contract. The deaths of the other Underwood signatories to this contract died as shown in Tabel 2. Margaret Wolf has an unknown relationship to the Underwood family.

Name	Death Date	Family Search Reference
William Underwood	1886	K4FV-N8X
Joseph Berry (Joberry) Underwood	1913	MVV6-NSX
Nancy Narcissa Underwood (Jackson)	?	LWY2-2H2
Mary Howell	1903	LQ51-PNY
Elizabeth Watson	?	MFRL-6MX
(Nancy) Melinda Carmel	?	G39Q-D4G
Margaret Wolf	?	?

Table 2: Underwood Contract Signatories

This research went forward in time to identify the land owners of the suspected Underwood property.

Figure 9 shows the identified owners of the suspected Underwood Parcels. The parcel outlined in purple is Book 309 Page 25 bounded by J. J. Fisher on the North and East, I. P. Davis on the Southeast, I. P. Davis and W. I. Howell on the Southwest and the Middle Tyger River on the Northwest. There are no deeds recorded to or from a J. J. Fisher in Greenville County.

The I. P. Davis property is shown in orange in Figure 9. This was sold as recorded in Book 38 Page 297 from S. M. and B. B. Underwood to Israel Davis in 1915 and is mentioned as being part of the will of Milton Underwood April 12, 1884. S. M. Underwood is probably Smiley Milton Underwood¹¹, the son of Joseph Berry Underwood. B. B. Underwood is probably Boyd Baxter Underwood ¹², another son of Joseph Berry Underwood.

The Howell property referenced in Book 309 Page 25 is shown in Figure 9 in light blue. This is from J. H. Atkins to W. I. Howell and is dated October 8, 1945. This is the same parcel referenced in Book 74 Page 124 from M. I. Howell to J. H. Atkins and it indicates that M. I. Howell acquired this parcel through his father's (John Howell) will. The deed is dated October 10, 1921. As mentioned earlier, John Howell married Mary E. Underwood, the daughter of Milton Underwood.

The yellow outlined property shown in Figure 9 is from Book 34 Page 333 From P. F. Cureton to A. L. Thompson dated January 3, 1919. While the acreage is not given, it is estimated to be 65 acres. The void area in between the orange, yellow and light blue parcels is not recorded in Greenville County. Spartanburg County has it recorded in Book 43 N Page 349 from A. C. Allen to Joe Howell dated February 13, 1976. This deed references Spartanburg Book 25 R Page 341 and a plat plan made in Plat Book 20 Page 328 made by J. H. Atkins October 20, 1937. This parcel is 27.06 acres.

A definite relationship between J. H. Atkins and Milton Underwood has not been established. J. H. Atkins wife is Mattie Atkins. There is a Martha Ella Jackson⁶ who married Leland R. Fack Atkins⁷. Martha is the daughter of Andrew Woodson Jackson⁸ and Narcissa Underwood, daughter of Milton Underwood. Martha and Leland Jackson had a daughter Montie M Atkins⁹ who married W. I. Howell¹⁰. Therefore, there is a possible Underwood connection to the Atkins family.

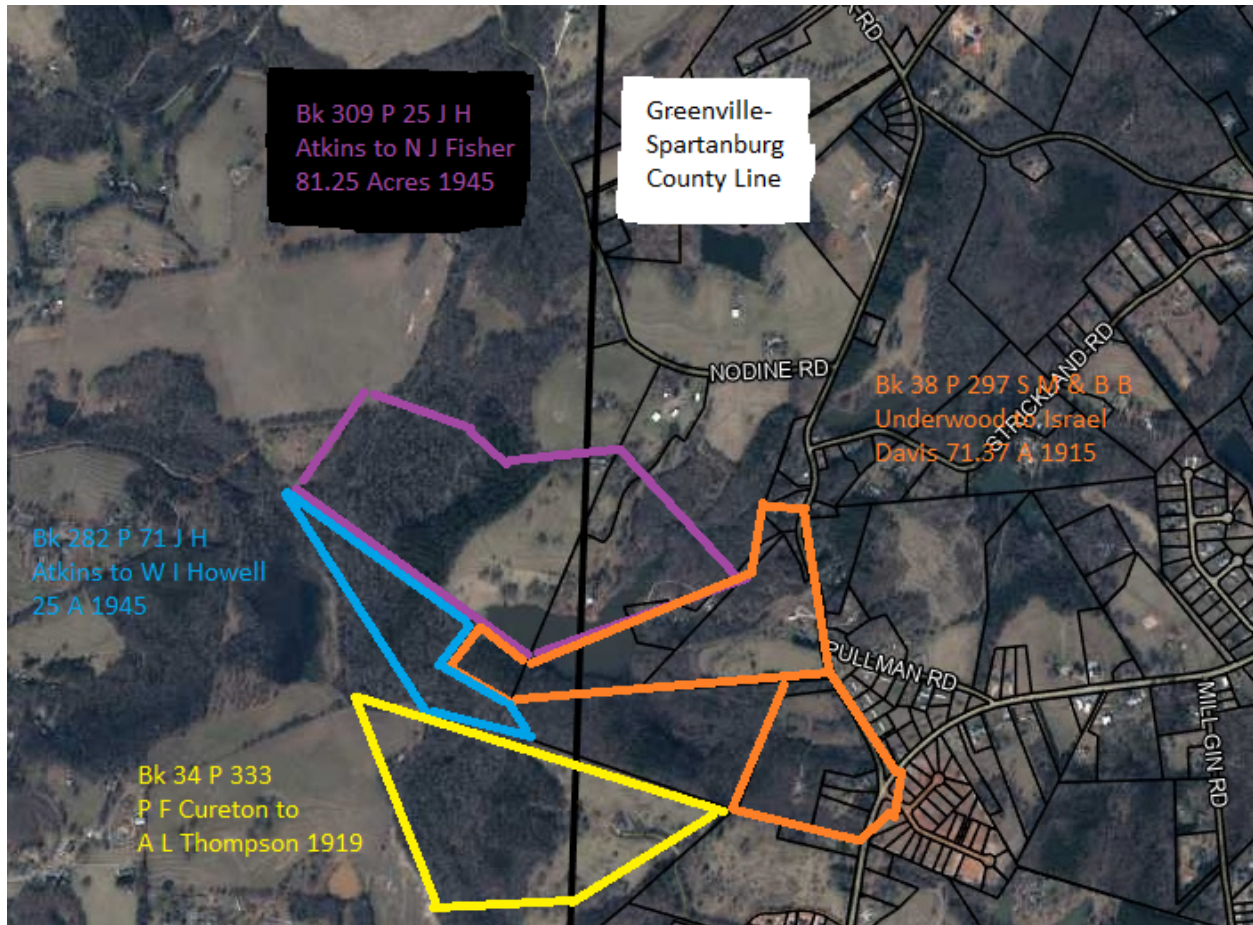


Figure 9: Identified Owners of Suspected Underwood Parcels

Conclusion:

The area north and south of where Mt. Lebanon Church Road crosses the Middle Tyger River has a long history of gold mining activity. This activity involved the Underwood, Cureton and McBee families from as early as 1834 until 1913 and possibly longer. The deeds identifying the exact areas are vague. This research has identified the locations and historic transfers associated with this area.

References:

1. <https://thediggings.com/usa/south-carolina/greenville-sc045/map>
2. <http://www.us-mining.com/south-carolina/greenville-county/gold-mines>
3. Family Search LWW2-29H
4. Family Search LWW2-2WP
5. Personal communication March 13, 2024
6. Family Search 93JW-X95
7. Family Search 93JW-X93
8. Family Search LWW2-KPS
9. Family Search KZT7-FM6
10. Family Search KHX3-B13
11. Family Search L1K9-1FG
12. Family Search LTCJ-YLG