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IPL Question #4

Needed by: 11/2/2009

Question:

I wrote question above. Just wondered how this journal got in my attic

location: Boonton NJ

area: Other

reason: Just curious of hoaw this ledger that says "Journal of the Quintero Mining Co" dated New York June 1882 to April 1884was found in my attic. It was all hand written. Perhaps one on my relations Henry Pascal or his father or George Stalter or his father worked there.

school: No

sources_consulted: I have journal, hand written

Greetings from the IPL! I was interested in your question about your original ledger from the Quintero Mining Company, and I hope that the information I found is useful to you.

I decided to approach this search by first investigating the company itself, and then to see if I could find further information which could identify any links with your relatives. I first searched Google, looking for background information to get an idea of what the Quintero Mining Company was, and where they were based. Google can be found here:

<http://www.google.com/>

I entered the key words "Quintero Mining Co" OR "Quintero Mining Company" (including the quotes). This gave me a couple of interesting facts about the company. It was an exhibitor at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, occupying booth 219, as noted in this official catalogue to the exposition:

http://books.google.com/books?id=2A8LAAAIAAJ&pg=PT738&lpg=PT738&dq=%22Quintero+Mining+Co%22+OR+%22Quintero+Mining+Company%22&source=bl&ots=HYKS6UyBoQ&sig=wKPtY-29c0ZDxuo9DPxMZIwh34&hl=en&ei=B_3pStbhDoXcsgOcl4zVCA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CA0Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Quintero%20Mining%20Co%22%20OR%20%22Quintero%20Mining%20Company%22&f=false

This link is extremely long, and may break. Here is a shortened version for your convenience:

<http://tinyurl.com/yfmbzs4>

This version of the catalogue was digitized by Google books, and may not be complete. This listing suggests that the company was based in Alamos, Sonora, Mexico. The next listing provided by Google provides confirmation of the location of the company, as well as some data about their furnaces and industrial processes. It is the full digitized text of "Data referring to Mexican mining: prepared in view of the participation of Mexico in the Universal exposition of Paris in 1900." This indicates that the company also participated in this famous exposition as well.

http://www.archive.org/stream/datareferringtom00sellrich/datareferringtom00sellrich_djvu.txt

This link is very long and may break. Here is a shortened version for your convenience:

<http://tinyurl.com/yk54jul>

Both of these documents are versions of very old print publications, recently digitized by online providers. They can certainly be accepted as reliable sources, and it may be possible to find physical copies through your local library's interlibrary loan program.

Next I searched WorldCat for books or archival resources about this company. WorldCat is a combined online catalog identifying books which are available through many public and academic libraries, and can be found here:

<http://www.worldcat.org/>

I searched first for the name "quintero mining" (without the quotes), and came up with nothing. Next, I tried more general keywords: "history of mining Mexico Sonora" (without the quotes). This came up with some useful listings. First, there is a thesis written in 1955 by Norman R Steward, called "Alamos, Sonora: the rise and decline of a mining community in northwest Mexico". This very probably contains

information on the Quintero Mining Company, and is available through the University of Arizona. The catalog record for the thesis is available here:

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/55610837>

It would probably be possible to get a copy of this through your local library's interlibrary loan program. Academic theses usually contain well supported information, and also useful references to other resources. Another source listed by WorldCat is the archival papers of Fred Ludwig Morris. The listing can be found here:

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/80971491>

These papers are located at the University of California, Berkeley, and copies might be accessible through interlibrary loan. These fairly extensive papers include information concerning "Concerning mines and mining operations in Calif., Alaska, British Columbia, Mexico and Central and South America. Files include papers of some mining companies as well as Morris' own correspondence." Given the time frame of the collection, it is likely that they would include at least some information about the Quintero Mining Company. There are more archival collections listed, including those of Julius Morgan Clements, who was an American Trade Commissioner. The WorldCat catalog record is here:

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/31876920>

This shows that the records are also located at the University of Arizona, and include maps, photographs, financial records, and reports. I would hope that some of this information would relate to the Quintero Mining Company, as it was apparently active in this area at that time.

Archival sources such as the previous two I listed can take time and effort to get hold of and search through, but can provide great, authoritative resources if you can find actual records from the time that allow you to link the company to your relatives in some way.

If you have not already done so, take a look through the ledger itself and see if there are any references to your relatives as employees, creditors, regulating officials, customers, or anything else. 19th century

handwriting can either be beautiful, and a joy to read, or very challenging. I hope it is clear and legible, and that it contains information that allows you to identify the connection.

I was unable to find any information directly concerning your relatives, or any links they might have had to the Quintero Mining Company. I hope that further research in the resources I turned up will allow you to find the connection with your family. In any case, I hope that this find enables you to learn something new about your family's background! If you need further assistance, on this or on another topic, please email us again!