

CRACK 'N CAB



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
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209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza), Unit 15, Liverpool, NY

Will GemWorld 2020 Be a "No Show"?

Oh, No! Say It Ain't So!

(See more info. below)



President's (no, not that one) Message: See Page 2

Also: Trade the novel Coronavirus for old-time Gold Fever

See Pages 2 and 5 & 6

President's Message

Cheryl Brown



It has been a tough year. We're wearing masks and social distancing and now we feel that **we must cancel our annual GemWorld show!** The Governor has

closed the Fairgrounds to all events in June and we are expecting him to close the Fairgrounds in July as well. Other considerations entered into our decision, too, mainly the safety of our members, vendors and customers. **Next year we will be hosting the EFMLS Convention.** We are looking forward to a great show!

Because we are not supposed to meet in groups yet, **the May general meeting has been canceled.** I wish I had better news. Please stay tuned for information regarding the June meeting.

We still need to have elections in June. At the moment, there is only one candidate per office. If you are interested in putting your name in for consideration, please let me know.

We are still in need of a Treasurer. Linda is planning to step down in September. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are able to fill this position.

Stay safe, Everyone!

Editor's Note: This late report replaces **two** previous versions, which were also past the deadline. Cheryl's violation will cause her to serve time in a rock quarry breaking rocks with her bare hands.

Secretary's Report

Cathy Patterson

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

The GMSS Board *normally* meets the first Tuesday of the month at the clubhouse in Ponderosa Plaza 7:00 PM GMSS members are welcome to attend – *when that's allowed again.*

Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse Monthly Board Meeting May 12, 2020

Tonight's meeting was via ZOOM 7:00 PM. Five Board members were present for the meeting.

Show 2020

The main topic of corona virus pandemic, the show will be canceled this year. Next year's show will hopefully be held. Dealers are being notified and contract checks are being refunded.

Club House and Meetings

We continue to cancel monthly meetings for health safety. There will be no meeting in May and possibly in June either. It has not yet been decided if our annual August club picnic at Canal Park in Camillus will be held. We will ask to have our space reserved in case travel and meeting restrictions are relaxed. Stay tuned for more details.

We continue to pay our rent on the club house despite no one using the space due to the pandemic. It cannot be helped. We will sign a new lease for another 3 years at this location.

Voting Slate of New Officers

Normally at the June meeting we vote in our new and returning officers for the coming 2020-2021 year. This will be held off until perhaps September if the June meeting is canceled.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Patterson Secretary

Editor's Note: Cathy was also late with her report, so she will be serving her time with Cheryl on the rock pile.

Geo Lexis (Puzzle) By Anne Fitzgerald

“Mayflower Musings”

According to Ancestry.com, about 10 years after the Mayflower arrived, my Mom's relatives arrived in Massachusetts from Holland. Some of the relatives moved to New York State and then moved on to Kentucky in the mid to late 1700's. I could not find a reason why they would move so far away, and so the reason was left to my imagination.

What would make someone move to new grounds when travel was difficult, and the land was uncertain? Could it be the search for gold? My brother found the documentation to prove a much less dramatic reason: The land was a gift from the government. Plus, I found out Kentucky was not a great place for finding gold. However, we'll never know, so I can only muse that my distant relatives were out in a river some fine day in May prospecting and hoping to find gold when everyone else said there was none. And here is what I learned along the way: Besides North Carolina and California, several of other states had gold rushes.

Unscramble the following for states with past gold rushes.

Capital letters and spacing are eliminated.

Kentucky did not make the list.

The solution is on another page of this newsletter.

aggreoi

doarlooc

wogyimm

aktoadthous

aktoadronth

hadoi

anatnom

kasala

Upcoming Events

Nothing to see here.
Better luck next month!

Birthstone of the Month

The History of Birthstones

The first century A.D. Jewish historian Josephus believed there was a connection between the 12 gemstones in the breastplate of Aaron, the first High Priest (Exodus 28:15 – 21) that represented the 12 tribes of Israel, the 12 months of the year and the 12 signs of the zodiac. There is also a list of 12 Foundation Stones of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:19 – 20.

Over the centuries, and in different cultures, the list of birthstones changes.



Emerald from North Carolina



Emerald cut Emerald

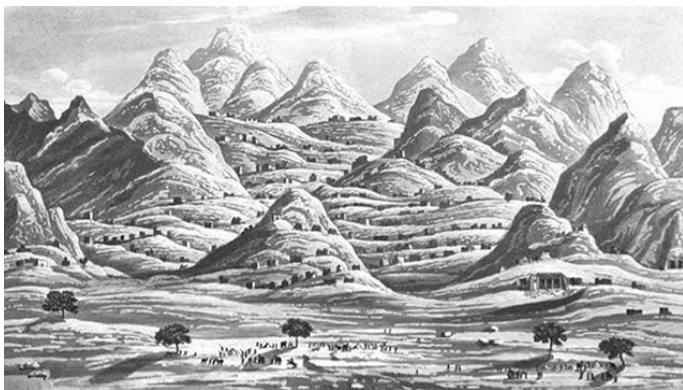
May: Emerald

Liz Taylor may have loved wearing diamonds, but the famous Egyptian queen, Cleopatra preferred her emeralds. She claimed ownership of all emerald mines in Egypt to use the gemstones on her royal adornments. The mining of emeralds in Egypt may date as far back as 1650 BC. Ancient Egyptian

mummies were often buried wearing an emerald carved with the symbol of verdure (condition of health and vigor), or “flourishing greenness” on their necks to symbolize eternal youth.

The Romans associated the emerald with the goddess Venus, the Roman god of love, representing fertility, beauty and goodness. The ancient Greeks used the gemstone to honor Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty, love and fertility. Other cultures that used emeralds as sacred stones include Aztecs, Incas and the Muzo Indians of Columbia. It was the looting of their mines by the Spanish conquistadors that identified South America as a source of high-quality emeralds. These emeralds were traded throughout the world for use on royal and high-end jewelry pieces for the status symbols of the wealthy.

The word “emerald” is derived from the Middle English *emeraude* and the Old French *esmeraude* which came from the Vulgar Latin *esmaraldal/esmaraldus*, a variant of the Latin *smaragdus* which was derived from the Ancient Greek *smaragdos*, which not surprisingly means “green gem”! In ancient Egypt emeralds were mined at locations on Mount Smaragdus – surprise!



This illustration from the 1817 expedition report of Frederic Cailliaud shows the ancient emerald mining area near Wade Sikait in Egypt, which the Romans referred to as “Mons Smaragdus” (Emerald mountains).

Those mines were exploited on an industrial scale by the Roman and Byzantine empires, and later by Islamic conquerors. Their mining ended with the discovery of the Columbian deposits.

Columbia is the world’s largest producer of emeralds, with Zambia coming in second. Emeralds are found all over the world including Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada (in the Yukon), China, Europe, India, Russia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. In the United States they have been found in Connecticut, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Some emerald myths and legends include the belief that they were able to give people the ability to see the future when the stone was placed under their tongue (*Maybe some of our leaders should have done that! – Editor*). Also, it was believed they held special powers to protect the wearer from evil spells, they could help detect whether a lover’s oath was true or false, and they would give the wearer the power of eloquent speech.

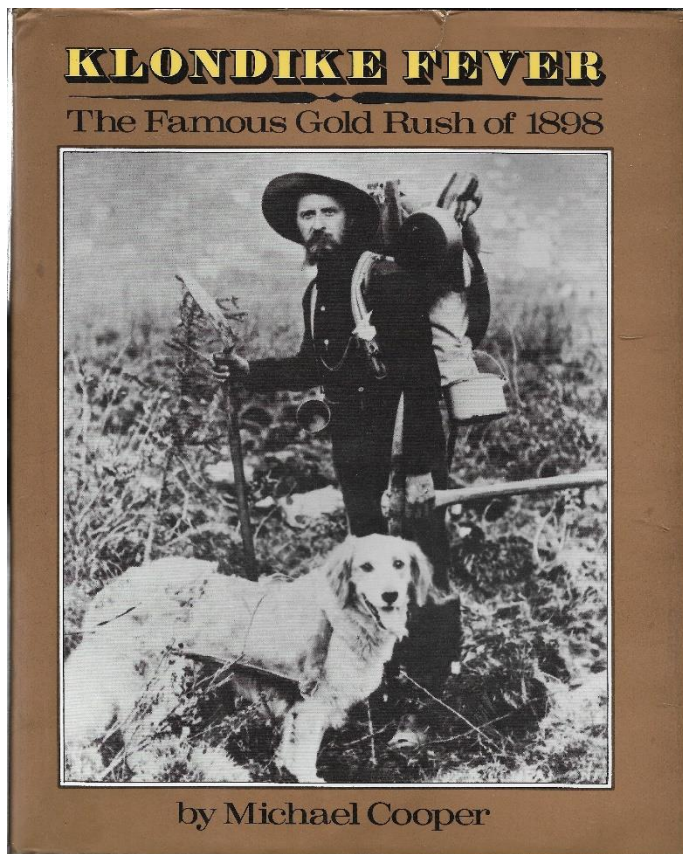
Emerald is a variety of the mineral beryl. It is in the silicate group. Beryl forms in pegmatites and granites and in some regionally metamorphosed rocks. The green color of emeralds comes from trace amounts of chromium and sometimes vanadium. Beryl has a hardness of 7.5 – 8.0 on the Mohs Hardness Scale. Beryl crystals belong to the hexagonal system and are usually prismatic with flat terminations. Emeralds tend to have a number of inclusions and surface-breaking fissures. Stones without fissures are very rare, so almost all emeralds are treated (“oiled”) to enhance their clarity. The oiling is part of the post-lapidary process, to fill the surface-reaching cracks so their clarity and stability are improved. The use of oil is traditionally accepted by the gem trade, but oil-treated emeralds are worth much less than untreated ones of similar quality. Imperfections are unique for each emerald and can be used to identify particular stones. Because of the relative non-uniformity of clarity, many of the gems are cut in cabochon form instead of faceted shapes. Faceted emeralds are commonly given an oval cut, or the signature “emerald cut,” which is a rectangular cut with facets around the top edge.

Answers to Geo Lexis

aggreoi	Georgia
doarlooc	Colorado
wogyimn	Wyoming
aktoadthous	South Dakota
aktoadronth	North Dakota
hadoi	Idaho
anatnom	Montana
kasala	Alaska

Sources: www.timetoast.com
www.ancestry.com

A "Gem" from the Public Library



Copyright 1989, photo from the National Archives of Canada

Klondike Fever by Michael Cooper is published by Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Co. and is geared to the younger set. It traces the history of the Klondike gold rush of the late 1890s, describes the men responsible for the initial discovery, the trail to the Klondike gold fields, and the explosive growth and rapid demise of the gold rush town of Dawson.

From the end leaf:

"In the summer of 1896, a rumor arose that gold had been found near the Klondike River in Canada. By 1898, what had begun as a trickle of prospectors into the region became a torrent, a rush – one of the biggest gold rushes in North American history. It lured tens of thousands of people and yielded millions of dollars in gold.

"Most of the prospectors came from the United States. They were ordinary men and women who had read about shipments of Klondike gold arriving in Seattle and San Francisco and been smitten with 'Klondike fever.' Leaving their homes and jobs, they joined people from all over the world in making the expensive, arduous journey through the Canadian wilderness to the bustling gold rush city of Dawson.

"Michael Cooper has documented this dramatic slice of history with photographs from the period that gives us a glimpse of those hopeful and daring individuals – some who found their fortunes and some who never did."

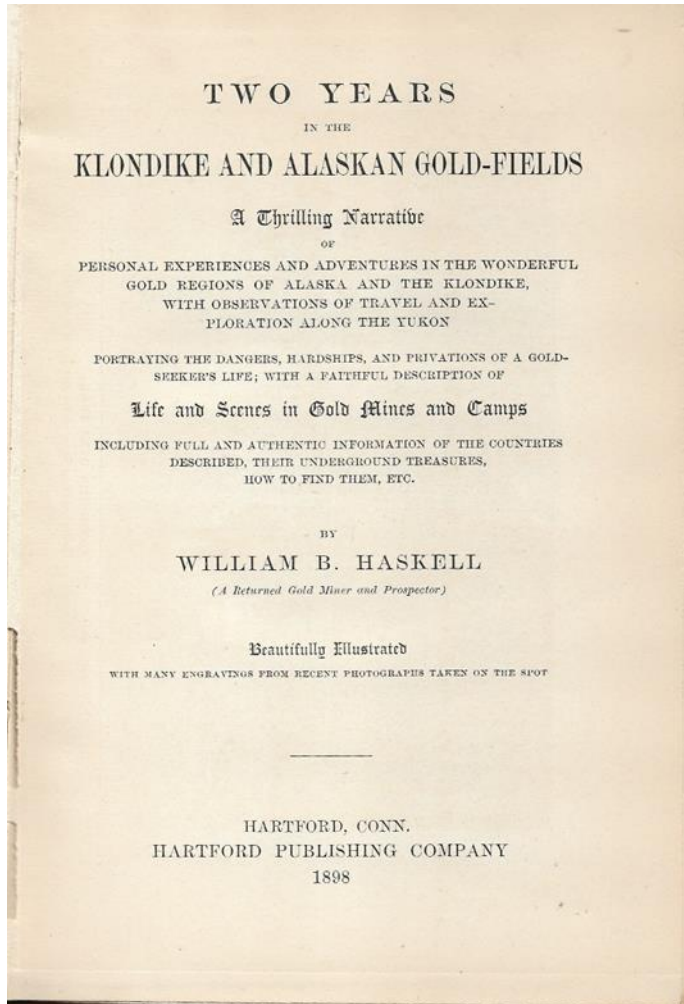
The author, **Michael Cooper**, is a freelance writer born in Kentucky, now living in New York City. His first book was also about adventure in the Far North – *Racing Sled Dogs: An Original North American Sport* (Clarion, 1988).

As background research for the text of this book, the author read Royal Canadian Mounted Police reports from the period, as well as the colorful writings of Klondike authors and journalists who rushed to the goldfields of the Far North in 1898.

To collect photographs for the book, the author traveled to historical archives in Canada and the United States. A number of the photographs selected have rarely appeared in print before.

When the Onondaga County Public Library system eventually opens, one of the libraries has this book. It can be found at J 971.91 COO.

And speaking of “the colorful writings of Klondike authors,” the following book is from one of them.



The title page of the original 1898 book.

Two Years in the Klondike and Alaskan Gold Fields 1896 – 1898 is a memoir by William B. Haskell, published by The Hartford Publishing Company in 1898.

He writes: *“This is the plain story of one who began his life in a little township of Vermont about thirty-two years ago, and who, several times during the past two years, has been dangerously near losing it in a search for gold along the glacier-bound coasts of Alaska, in the frozen regions of the Yukon, and in the rich gulches of the Klondike.”*

Haskell, an “aimless adventurer,” started with thirty dollars in his pocket as he set off to find his

fortune out West. He tells a thrilling, and frequently humorous, narrative of his personal experiences and adventures in the wonderful gold regions of Alaska and the Klondike, with observations of travel and exploration along the Yukon. He portrays the dangers, hardships, and difficulties of a gold-seeker’s life, and gives detailed insights, practical advice and accurate description of life and scenes in the gold mines and camps.

Haskell is a keen observer of human nature, and his witty comments on conditions in the Yukon Valley provides delightful reading. His gritty and realistic account of life in the north on the eve of the Klondike rush details the enormous changes that took place once the flood prospectors arrived.

The book is over 550 pages but is quite readable. It includes 25 “illustrations” that it says were “from special photographs made expressly for this work, and not published elsewhere.” One of those is included below.



TESTING A STREAM FOR GOLD.
A gold-seeker panning for gold in a small creek in the Klondike Gold Regions.

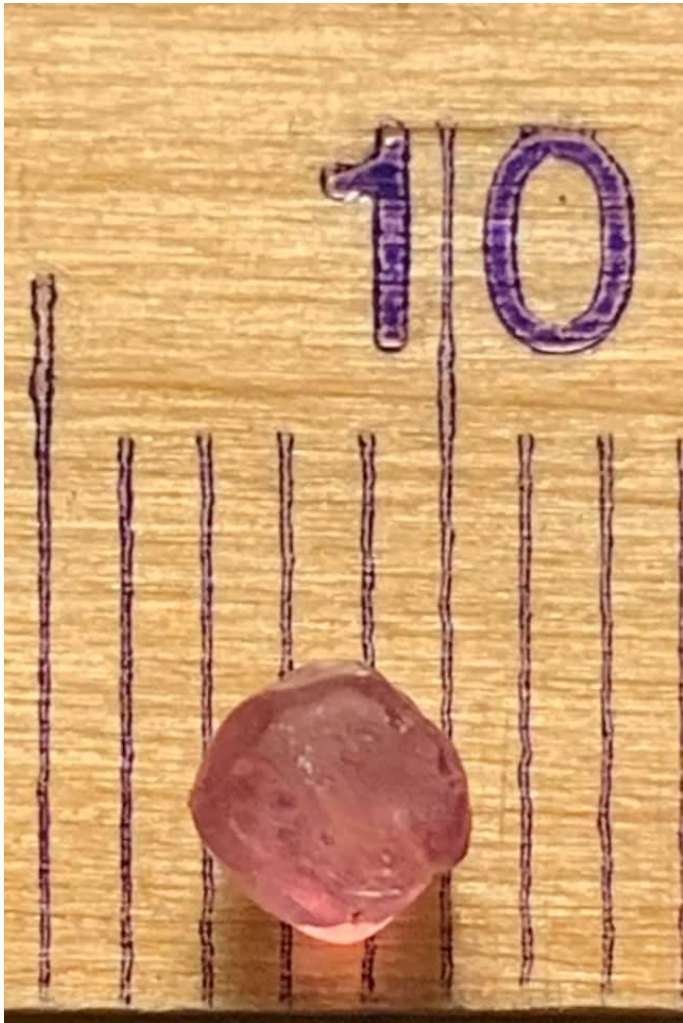
Two Years in the Klondike and Alaskan Gold Fields 1896 – 1898 formed the basis of the Discovery Channel’s miniseries *Klondike* which was directed by Simon Cellan Jones and produced by Ridley Scott. William B. Haskell was played Richard Madden.

If this original book were to be found in the library, it would be listed as 998 H. There are paperback versions available through Amazon.

A special “Thank you” to my neighbor, Ross, who provided these two books for my review.

"As Seen on Facebook"

Check out and "like" our Facebook page, Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, for more information and regular updates



I bought 25 pounds of sapphire gravel from Gem Mountain in Montana. Well worth every penny! – Shannon Phillips

When you can not go to the mine, have the mine come to you. Shannon is one of our club members, she at one time headed up the Junior Rockhounds.



Crystal Grove Diamond Mine & Campground

"Mining Kits" are now available! Our mining kit includes everything you need to find your own minerals while having to stay at home 💎💎 They are an excellent activity for your children during this lull in school activities and education! 🔍

We have three options available, Herkimer

Diamond, Fossils or an Emerald Kits!

Emerald kit: Over 10 ounces of gemstones with an arrowhead, quartz Crystal, pyrite, emeralds and more! Also included in the kit is an identification brochure, a magnifying box, a velvet pouch for safe keeping of their favorite find, a Crystal Grove sticker, a Crystal Grove bracelet, and a Miners Club Card! 💎

Herkimer Diamond Kit: 10 ounces of gemstones with an arrowhead, quartz crystal, pyrite, Herkimer Diamonds and more! Also included in the kit is an identification brochure, a magnifying box, a velvet pouch for safe keeping of their favorite find, a Crystal Grove sticker, a Crystal Grove bracelet, and a Miners Club Card! 💎

Fossil Kit: At least 15 fossils, including shark teeth from around the world! Also included in the kit is an identification brochure, a magnifying box, a velvet pouch for safe keeping of their favorite find, a Crystal Grove sticker, a Crystal Grove bracelet, and a Miners Club Card! 💎

Each kit is \$14, with local, no contact pick-up available. Shipping is available if you'd like, at a flat rate of \$12 (sorry, they're heavy!), and we can fit up to 4 kits in a box. We suggest any kitchen or beach sand sifter for your fun! We do have them available for an additional \$2.

Please message or email crystalgrovecampground@gmail.com for pickup or purchase information or to place an order.

Junior Rockhounds News

Since the cancellations of in-person activities means we can't physically meet, members of the Junior Rockhounds group should contact Rick Moore (kidsrock@gmss.us) to explore online options. The hope is that we can create a safe environment to continue our learning and sharing activities.

Junior Rockhounds can get a head start on using the internet to research information about minerals and fossils with "A Beginner's Guide to Surfing for Collectors : Minerals, Fossils and the Internet."

@ <https://drive.google.com/.../0B36vTY3SZHRIN2FzZ3IQZ3I5d1U/edit>



An introduction to minerals including what they are and what criteria must be met in order for a substance to be considered a mineral.

Hey there! My name is Mike Sammartano. I'm an educator, instructional designer, and technologist. I spent 15 years teaching astronomy, oceanography, geology, environmental science and meteorology to students in middle and high school. On my channel, you will mostly find videos which explore these topics, along with a handful of instructional technology tutorials. Thanks for watching, and please feel free to connect with me with any suggestions for new videos, comments, or just to say hi! Subscribe to my channel now to be notified of new videos right when they come out -

<https://www.youtube.com/mikesammartano>

Check out additional videos and resources for teaching and learning geology, astronomy, and meteorology - Science.MikeSammartano.com

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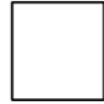
Letter to the Editor

Dear Gmss,

This is Harry Stewart owner of The Treasure Hut (I think it owned me). I haven't had time to make things for years because I am always fixing things. With the Covid crisis I have had the time to make things again because everyone is staying home. I used to love making Native American jewelry. (I am a member of the wild Scott-Irish tribe) Anyway, I decided to start cutting stones and doing the old Zuni channel inlay work I used to love to do. I started to sell on E bay and Etsy and am having a ball. I call it my Covid Crisis Therapy. I wonder how many other members are making a mess and doing what they love. Regards, Harry



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse
PO Box 2801
Syracuse, New York 13220
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www.amfed.org www.amfed.org/efmls [Future Rockhounds](#)

Eight people organized the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse in 1951. Since that time it has grown in membership to include adults, families, and young folk. The Society was incorporated in 1969 under the same name.

The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Member interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals, gems, fossils. Members share and develop their artistic skills in jewelry design and creation.

Our monthly meetings provide social and educational experiences. Field trips give collectors chances to find specimens and enjoy the out of doors, exercise and time with old and new friends.

Meetings - 3rd Monday of the month
Future Rockhounds @ 6:30 - General Meeting @ 7:30
(NO Meetings Jul, Aug, Dec)
209 Oswego St (Ponderosa Plaza) Unit 14 & 15, Liverpool, NY
Visitors are ALWAYS welcome!

See online Newsletter <http://gmss.us/resources/newsletter>
 You can also visit our facebook and flickr pages

Annual member dues
Adult \$10 • Family/Couple \$15 • Junior \$5 • Life \$5

If you would like to join or renew membership download the application form (PDF), see <http://gmss.us/about/membershipform.pdf> You can get a form at a meeting or send requests to **GMSS, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY 13220** We will mail an application/renewal form to you.

2019 – 2020 GMSS Officers/Contacts

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-Secretary: Cathy Patterson secretary@gmss.us

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-Hospitality Chair: Mary Davis 315-885-4416
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-GemWorld Show Chair:

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