

## Curty Lead Mine

David N. Curty said, "I am the owner of a lead mine. I do not work the mine. I leased the area on April 2, 1870 to Jacob Gantt and William H. June. The lease has never revoked or canceled. Subleases have been let by Gantt and June. I make a division of the proceeds from the sale of the ore at the furnace, and after taking my royalty, only watch."

William H. June subleased part of the mine to William Loveall and Alexander Graham. Then, on December 31, 1870, William Loveall and Alexander Graham agreed to grant William H. June the one third part of the lease granted by him to them for the consideration that June would grant Alexander Graham and James A. Simpson at one third part of the entire lease granted William H. June and Jacob Gantt by David N. Curty.

In 1875, the mine was in full swing. David N. Curty said, "I have known there were parties at work since the first of July. The reason why I know is I saw them engaged. I was at the mine. James A. Simpson and Alex graham was raising lead. Considerable lead was taken up about the middle of July, and to the best of my knowledge, William H. June did not assist in taking up this mineral. He had quit working about the 10th of June, removing his hands before that."

“I can describe the mine” David N. Curty said, “I have a map. The first shaft shown on it was sunk by Simpson and Graham. They took up much lead. This was after their contract. They had a contract with June and Lewis Todd, but June quit. The shaft is not on the Loveall sub lease. The shaft out of which this lead was gotten is situated from the south line about 80 or 90 yards, and is No. 6.

“There is another shaft immediately west, or No. 1. It is about 12 or 15 feet deep to the best of my knowledge. It was sunk by Simpson, Graham, and June working together. This shaft is in a sublease. They raised about 6,000 pounds of lead; about the same from No.2.”

“The third shaft,” Mr. Curty continued, “is known as the Jackson, Johnson, and Hines, and is about 40 years southwest from the first shaft. About 4,000 pounds of lead was taken out of it. I made a division of the lead between Jackson, Johnson, Hines, June and myself. I don’t believe William June done any labor on this shaft.”

“Shaft No.4 is situated about 25 or 30 feet west of the second shaft. June, Simpson, and Graham dug this shaft. It is about 22 or 23 feet deep, and considerable lead was taken from it,” Curty said.

“Situated west of shaft No.4,” Curty continued, “is shaft No. 5. It is 25 or 30 feet deep, and was sunk by Rogers under the direction o June in December, 1870. There was about 12,000 pound of lead raised at that time. Last April, Todd and June went into the Rogers’ shaft again, and took out about 8,000 pound of mineral. There was then a

controversy between the parties as to whom the mineral belonged. June and Todd claimed the lead, and the others disputed their right. Graham said Todd and June had no right to work without the consent of all parties. Graham claimed his third part, and they disputed it for some time, and finally, when they agreed to let Graham have his part, Graham agreed not to take it if there would be no future violation of the contract. All commenced working harmoniously according to agreement. Together, they took out about 6,000 pounds of mineral. I made a division of the proceeds of the money for which the lead was sold, to each a third part, after the royalty was taken out. Graham, Simpson, and June seemed happy together. The last time I seen them together, June was loading mineral, whistling and singing; and Simpson down in the shaft, every time he would holler up to him, Alec would dance a little jig before grabbing the windlass and chant a little song or verse something about another hog in the sty and calico in the woman's eye!"

"Directly after the sale of the mineral in contention from the Rogers' shaft," Curty said, "I was at the mine, and Simpson, Graham, June, and myself got to talking about the lease right held by June. Mr. June said he had transferred his 2/3 interest. If Jacob Gantt established his half of the right of the lease, then he would be transferring Gantt's half, and consequently he would have to defend what he had transferred. June said to exonerate myself from that liability I will transfer my right back to you, but he never did do that. They soon had some more difficulties, but they got it adjusted, then it flared again."

Alexander Graham, with James A. Simpson beside him, said, "by occupation we are miners engaged in raising lead ore or galena in Miller County, and had lying on the ground about 5,000 pounds of mineral, and William H. June hauled it away without our consent."

"I have been mining for the last twelve months," Graham continued. "I am in possession of the land for mineral purposes where the mineral was raised. James Simpson and myself raised the mineral and cleaned it and put it in two boxes and a hand barrow, with some lying on the ground. I was past there last week and saw the mineral. Afterward I saw part of it at the Pioneer furnace. Part of it was in the furnace, smelting."

Edward H. Hill said, "I am deputy clerk at the Pioneer furnaces. The mineral received from William H. June was placed in the mineral house, where all other ore is put at the furnace. June told me to tell Major Bohn not to pay anyone for that lead, but himself, or upon his order."

Elias Simpson said, "I have been mining for the last three months at the Curty diggings most of the time. James A. Simpson and Alec Graham were raising mineral. William H. June's boy, Eli, and myself, helped sink a shaft about ten feet from the one the mineral was taken from. I guess he helped go down about twenty feet. It was about four feet deep when he came to work. Only one person can work in a shaft of that depth, or any other depth, as holes are dug in this country. This shaft was about 8 ½ feet in diameter, and we commenced raising lead at about twelve feet. This shaft was not in the lease, but June claimed his part."

“I have never placed anyone in possession of the land where shaft no.6 sinks,” David Curty said, “and I have no lease other than between myself, Jacob Gantt and William H. June. Much ore has been raised from the surrounding area, including shaft No. 6, for which my royalty is the same.”

William H. June claimed an interest in the lead from shaft No. 6, because his boy, Eli worked there. Eli said, “I went to work over there in June. Mr. Graham said I would have to show my right. I told him I had as much right there as he did, because my father had sent me. I can’t remember what month it was, May or June, but the leaves on the trees were a little larger than a squirrel’s ear. Graham refused to let me work. I went and took hold of the windlass and Graham took it away from me. I was not prohibited from working on the ground so helped Elias Simpson nearby.”

“Eli June came to where we were at work, and hung about,” Alexander Graham said. “I was tending the windlass. My partner, James A. Simpson, hollered up to hoist. June was standing between men and the handle. He took hold of the handle when my partner hollered to hoist, and I took hold and commenced drawing out. June went of muttering something. My partner Simpson is the only one who worked in the shaft. Mr. Simpson can sink by himself more than two of the gooderest men in the country. He can sink 12 to 15 feet a day in fair soil, and 10 feet in hardpack. When he digs I hists as fast as I can. When we left here to tend crops, we had 5,000 pound out.”

M.V. Wemple said, "I am a teamster at the Pioneer furnaces. On last Saturday, I went and got a load of mineral from what is called the Curty mines by direction of the company. I helped to weigh two loads of mineral, and was assisted by June, Niesley, and Todd. It is the rule to weigh the mineral and keep tally and turn it over to the clerk. William H. June delivered the mineral to me as his own, or I believe I remember he said he took it to secure his portion, until they had a settlement. There was no other person present at the time claiming the mineral. The mineral weighed 4,525 pound. Mr. June ordered that there should not be anything paid on it until it was settled."

David Neisley continued, "I am also a teamster at the Pioneer furnaces. Last Saturday I hauled mineral from the Curty mines. I was accompanied by William H. June, Lewis Todd, M.V. Wemple, and William K. Todd. We went up there and weighed up forty three hundred and twenty five pounds. Mr. June came down to the furnace with us, and told the clerk not to pay anyone any money on the mineral until the whole thing was settled."

Deputy Clerk Edward H. Hill said, "June came down here to the furnaces after the teams. The teams were taken from the company's stables. The mineral was hauled by the company's wagons and teams, accompanied by William H. June. I never heard June say where the mineral come from, but from my own knowledge of ore in the country, I know where the mineral came from. The mineral is generally weighed by the teamsters and the returns made to the person in charge by M.V. Wemple. The records show there

were 4,325 pounds of lead, and the price was thirty five dollars per thousand. June told me to tell Major Bohn not to pay anyone but himself for that lead, or upon his order.”

There were many, many disputes over mining leases, rights, and interests during the decade of the '70's. The mining boom would subside and give way to the railroad cross tie industry. The ringing of the tie hacker's broad axes were already being heard in the woods.

In 1876, Randolph Abbett was making railroad cross ties in the vicinity of Tuscumbia, banking them on the Osage River, and rafting to the Missouri Pacific bridge at Osage City.

On December 10, 1878, John Andrews agreed all ties by him, or through him, made and banked at or near the mouth of Bear Creek, would be under the full control and possession of Augusta P. Folsom at Tuscumbia, to sell and receive the proceeds and after paying his indebtedness to her, give him the remainder, Augusta furnishing him and his men goods and provisions from her store in Tuscumbia to an amount not exceeding \$250 a month. This procedure would be followed by tie hackers past the turn of the century.