

Summit County

Montezuma District

In Vanderwilt (1947), the mineralized area that comprises the Montezuma District extends two to five miles from the town of Montezuma east to the Continental Divide. With prospectors concentrating on gold deposits, silver was not thought of until the first silver lode in Colorado was discovered in 1864. A prospector named Coley came down Georgia Pass from South Park, headed up the North Fork of the Swan River (in present day Summit County) to Glacier Peak and there made his silver discovery. More prospectors followed on the news and silver was discovered here and in the Argentine District. The Gus Belmont was the first recorded lode in Colorado (Lovering, 1935).

Not much occurred in the Summit County area until 1879 when the villages of Chihuahua and Decatur arose in the valley of Peru Creek northeast of Montezuma. Montezuma itself had been settled in 1865 and has been there ever since. While the area was first worked in the early 1860s, it was always inhibited by its severe climate (at 10,000 feet) and difficult access.

Patton (1909) found the mineralization consisted of two vein systems. While lead, zinc, and some copper is present, most of the value was always in gold and silver. Silver was mainly in the form of *ruby silver* (proustite - Ag_3AsS_3 or pyrargyrite - Ag_3SbS_3), *brittle silver* (stephanite - Ag_5SbS_4) and native *wire silver* (simply metallic native silver). Other silver minerals in the district are listed below.

Eberhart (1969) and Gilliland (2006) provide interesting stories and anecdotes about the town of Montezuma and other towns and camps within the district. Additional references are Goddard (1947) and Lovering and Goddard (1950).

Mines listed in this district (mindat.org and Lovering, 1935) include:

- [Adrian Shaft](#)
- Adder*
- [Aladdin](#)
- Altoona*
- American Eagle (Eliza Jane)*
- [Aorta No. 1](#)
- [Arapaho](#)
- [Atlantic \(Sarisfield; Sarsfield; Bullion and Yellow Jacket; Mozart\)](#)
- Baker*
- Baltic and Revenue*
- [Bell \(California; Meteor; Wing\)](#)
- Belmont (Gus Belmont; Johnson)* - first recorded lode in Colorado
- Blanche*
- [Braganza](#)
- Brittle Silver*
- Buda*
- Buena Vista*
- Bullion*
- Buster*
- [Bullton Extension Occurrence](#)
- Cable*
- [California Bell Mine](#)
- Carrie*
- [Cashier Mine \(Champion\)](#)
- Chataugue*
- Chrysolite*
- Clarion*
- [Climax Mine \(Climax Lode\)](#)
- Coley*
- [Collier Mountain](#)

- Commonwealth*
- Congress*
- Copeland; Garrett; Tangle Lodes
- Copenhagen*
- Daisy G. Pooley
- Delaware*
- Don Pedro*
- Elise Mine
- Equity Mine
- Erickson*
- Fisherman*
- Florence Mine
- Fred & Will Mine
- Glendale (Grand Trunk, Treasure Vault, Israel Williams)*
- Gold Belt and Hamill*
- Hancock*
- Hannibal
- Harold Roberts tunnel
- Harrison*
- Herman*
- Hi Ho Mine
- Hunkidori*
- Ida Belle*
- Independence*
- Iowa*
- Jerry*, Equity*, Denver*, Celtic*
- Jones Gulch Claims
- Josephine*
- Jumbo*
- Kelso*
- Kistler Mine
- Kitty Owsley*
- Lancaster*
- Lower Chataqua Mine
- Lucky Baldwin; Blanche
- Maid of Orleans; Jumbo (Little Jumbo)
- Mark Twait and St Elmo*
- Marlin; More Work (Roberta; Martin Mine)
- Missouri*
- Modoc Mine
- Mohawk*
- Montezuma
- Morgan (Morgen Manganese Prospect)
- New York and Aladdin's Lamp*
- Old Settler; Toledo Tunnel; Fisherman (Old Settler and Waterloo; Colorado and Toledo Tunnel)*
- Old Timer*
- Orphan Boy*
- Paymaster*
- Pennsylvania*
- Peruvian and Shoe Basin*
- Pilot
- Pinnacle Occurrence
- Poor Boy Mine
- Potosi*
- Preston Tunnel
- Quail*
- Queen of the West*
- Radical
- Rainbow*
- Rainbow Occurrence
- Red Jacket* (Star of the West; Star of the West No. 2; Mohawk; Iowa)
- Roberta*
- Rochester Queen* (Arrestra Queen)
- Rothschild (Minerou)*
- Royal Tiger*
- Saints John Mine (Florado; Saint John Mine)
- Saints Johns Cirque
- Santiago-commonwealth-Centennial*
- Sarsefield*
- Silver Cord Mine (Rainbow)*
- Silver King*
- Silver Wave*
- Snake River
 - Burke Martin Mine (Silver Wing)
 - Chatauqua Mine
 - General Teller Lode
 - Slide No. 1 & 2 Claims
 - Uauneita Mine
- Snake River Bog Iron (Iron King)
- St Elmo
- Star of the West No. 2*
- Stevens*
- Teller Mountain
 - Montague claim
 - Star of the West Mine*
 - Unnamed vein
- Tiger, Tiger Extension, St Cloud and Windsor*
- Tip Top Mine

- Toledo*
- [Upper Chatauqua Mine](#)
- Vidler*
- Waldorf, Paymaster and Commonwealth*
- Washington*
- [Waterloo Mine](#)
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- Waukegan*
- Whale*
- White Swan*
- [Wild Irishman; Altoona; Herman Occurrence](#)
- [Wombat Mine](#)
- Yorkshire*

(Note: * indicates mine with a detailed description in Lovering (1935).

Minerals listed in this district include:

Acanthite	Galena	Proustite
Anglesite	Galenobismutite	Pyrargyrite
Anhydrite	Geocronite ?	Pyrite
Ankerite	Goethite	Pyromorphite
Arsenopyrite	Gold	Quartz
Baryte	Gypsum	Rhodochrosite
Beudantite	Jalpaite	'Schirmerite'
Bismuthinite	Jarosite	Semseyite
Bornite	Jordanite	Siderite var: Manganoan
Boulangerite	Lillianite	Siderite
Bournonite	'Limonite'	Silver
Bromargyrite	Marcasite	Sphalerite
Chalcanthite	Matildite	Stephanite
Chalcopyrite	Molybdenite	Stromeyerite
Chlorargyrite	Opal	Tennantite
Dolomite	Ourayite	Tetrahedrite
Eskimoite	Pavonite	'Turgite'
Fizélyite ?	Pearceite	
Freibergite	Polybasite	

References:

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