Rowland Hazard was a member of the Hazard family of Rhode Island, who were prominent for years as manufacturers of woolens. He became associated with Mine La Motte in 1868, forming the Mine La Motte Company in partnership with Radcliffe B. Lockwood and William A. Scott. The surface plant at the mine had been destroyed during the Civil War, and the new company replaced the buildings and installed new machinery. However, the associates soon disagreed, and the partnership was dissolved in 1870, leaving Hazard in sole control. He began a systematic geological investigation of Mine La Motte, the first undertaken in the area, and the mine was developed subsequently in light of this study. He continued to improve the plant and methods at the mine, which became a model of its kind. Among the improvements was a modern mill for dressing ore from the mine, an illustrated description of which has been cataloged as the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Rolla’s collection number R028. Hazard owned the mine for nearly thirty years, managing it successfully through on-site superintendents. He sold the property in 1897 to Samuel H. Leath of St. Louis.

The memorial service for Rowland Hazard includes testimonials by the president of the University of Michigan; by Ernest Solvay, who was Hazard's business partner in the manufacture of carbonates of soda; and by Mary R. Sanders, whose father was for many years Hazard’s superintendent at Mine La Motte. Miss Sanders’s remarks note the beneficial impact of Hazard’s ownership upon the mine and community.