This is a mining lease dated 4 October 1873 between Edward Dugal and his wife Melissa Dugal, and B. William Kennedy, Augustus Lotz, and Adolphus Lotz on a tract of land in north-eastern Reynolds County, Missouri.

Edward Dugal and his wife, Melissa, owned land in Sections 28 and 33 in Township 33 North, Range 2 East, in Reynolds County, Missouri, on the East Fork of the Black River between Johnson’s Shut-Ins and the village of Lesterville. B. William Kennedy, Augustus Lotz, and Adolphus Lotz, all residents of neighboring Iron County, Missouri, executed this lease with the Lotzes, giving the three men mining and processing privileges on the land “forever,” so long as they continued operations at the site. In exchange, the Lotzes received $150 in cash and one-quarter of the ore or metal produced after six months of operation. The lease was filed for record in Reynolds County on 21 October 1873. Today (2007) the property appears to be largely under the Lower Reservoir of the Taum Sauk Pumped Storage hydroelectric generating facility.

Little is known about the principals involved. An Edward Dugal’s petition to join the Masonic lodge at Iron Mountain, Missouri, was rejected in 1874, while the petition on demit from a Jacob Lotz, of Ohio, had been accepted in 1866 (See WHMC-Rolla Collection R446, volume 11 and folder 25.). Fannie D. Baker (1858-1933) married a Theo. J. Lotz in Iron County in 1880 (See WHMC-Rolla Collection R125, folder 79.).