

R **Valle Mining Company.**
1278 **Records, 1839-1972.**
 Forty-five volumes.

MICROFILM

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are account books, ledgers, cash books, and other business records of the Valle Mining Company at Valles Mines, Missouri. Most of the collection concerns mining on the Valle tract in Jefferson and Saint Francois counties and related general merchandizing at the company's store. There are various records showing the receipt and shipment of ores, names of individual miners, charges and credits to individual and company accounts, and shipments of mineral to the Carondelet Zinc Works at Carondelet, Missouri, and consignment houses in Saint Louis and New York.

The mining area and community known as Valles Mines (spelled without apostrophe) is about nine miles southeast of present-day DeSoto in Jefferson County. The boundary with Saint Francois County extends through the mining tract; mines existed on both sides of the present county line. The multi-thousand acre tract is named after Francois Valle, who came from Canada to Kaskaskia, Illinois in the 1740s and is believed to have established a trading post at Valles Mines in 1749. Later in the colonial period he lived at Sainte Genevieve, where he filled a number of civil offices and was the community's most prominent citizen. He engaged in a number of entrepreneurial enterprises, including mining, and is known to have had slaves working at Mine La Motte by 1757. His son, Jean Baptiste Valle, also operated mines in the area by the early 1800s.

Valles Mines is within the southeast mineral district in Jefferson, Madison, Saint Francois, and Washington counties commonly known as the Old Lead Belt. The highly mineralized area includes lead, zinc, barite, some iron ores, and fireclay. High grade deposits of nearly pure galena occurring in veins or clay attracted the first miners. Along with Mine La Motte in Madison County, and Old Mines and Mine a Breton in Washington County, the Valles Mines tract was among the earliest clusters of mines operated during the French colonial period. Mining was a seasonal occupation for residents of Kaskaskia and Sainte Genevieve working individually or in small partnerships. Many were engages, or hired laborers; many others were slaves. As at Valles Mines, which began as a trading post, on-site company stores were common on the mining tracts. Continuing an ancient manner of mining, land owners allowed independent miners to live on the land, advanced them mining supplies and groceries, and paid or credited them at company stores for minerals produced or labor provided. Many of the stores in such communities became post offices in the early statehood period of Missouri, as did Valles Mines in 1825.

The earliest mining methods were crude and labor intensive. Mines tended to be shallow pits thirty feet or so in depth. Smelting was accomplished on site in crude log furnaces, the lead formed into pigs, and the pigs moved by pack animals to Selma and other landings on the Mississippi River. The first shaft at Valles Mines is not thought to have been sunk before 1819, but a major discovery in 1823 known as the Big Lode or Mammoth Mine led to the sinking of other shafts, and development of a community on the site. Although the shafts were relatively shallow and the works crude by later standards, miners brought up thousands of pounds of mineral. Valles Mines became one of the most significant areas of lead production in the state, as well as one of the most long-lived.

The first Valle Mining Company is believed to have been organized at Missouri statehood in 1821. By then the Rozier surname had become associated with Valles Mines, a product of marriages of Valle women to male descendants of Ferdinand Rozier. A native of Nantes, France, Rozier came to Sainte Genevieve in 1811 via Kentucky, where he had been a partner with John Audubon in a mercantile business. He developed trade in furs and lead, entered into river boating, and began a successful business as a

commission agent for lead stored in warehouses at Sainte Genevieve. By the time of his death in 1864 the Rozier name was as prominent in Sainte Genevieve as Valle.

The present Valle Mining Company dates to 1869, when it was incorporated under Missouri statutes by Felix Valle, Francis C. Rozier, Firmin Rozier, and Felix Rozier, each with \$50,000 in shares. Louis J. Rozier, Felix Rozier's son, was superintendent. Valles Mines lies on line between Jefferson and Saint Francois County; the company's mines extended into both. Valle Mines proper included a company house occupied by various Valles and Roziers after 1837, a superintendent's house and office, and several stores, churches, and mills supporting the mining community. Villages including Avoca, Bisch Town, Halifax, and others grew up outside or on the edges of the tract. Because the lead ore was more pure, labor costs lower, and the operations less capital intensive, miners continued working at Valles Mines when other mines were idled.

After the Civil War, zinc became a valuable mineral and spelter (zinc ore) became as important as lead at Valles Mines. The company owned a zinc smelter in Carondelet, Missouri, and much of the product from Valles Mines including both raw and calcined ore, was sent there. The company also marketed through consignment agents in Saint Louis and New York. The last major development of the Valles Mines tract occurred in 1890 when the Mississippi River & Bonne Terre Railway put in a branch to Valles Mines via a tunnel at Tunnel Town. Mining in that sector of the tract lasted another decade. Lead and zinc mining largely ceased at Valles Mines in the 1920s, but some mining of barite continued into World War Two.

Currently the Valle Mining Company maintains the former mining tract as a nature preserve and private park. The historic general store and paymaster's office still exist, as does the superintendent's house, now home of the Lost History Museum: <http://www.vallesmines.com/default.aspx>

The historical records of the Valle Mining Company are available through the Lost History Museum at Valles Mines. The records consist of multiple journals, daybooks, and ledgers showing the amounts of lead and zinc received by the company; its expenses in various categories; and charges and credits through the Valles Mines store involving hundreds of individual miners and small partnerships; and records of storage of raw and prepared ores at Sainte Genevieve; and shipments of mineral to Carondelet, Saint Louis, New York, and other metal markets. Nearly all of the volumes are individual volumes from larger records series that are no longer extant. The collection was accessioned in three installments and has been arranged generally in chronological sequence. Some of the ledgers and account books have indexes in the front; they are so noted in the inventory.

The earliest records are thirteen volumes beginning in 1839 and ending in 1862. They reflect the inter-related business operations of the Valle Mining Company, Francis Claude Rozier and Rozier family members at Sainte Genevieve, and the Carondelet Zinc Works near St. Louis.

Volume 1 is a journal beginning 1 September 1839 and continuing through 4 March 1843. The entries for March 1842—March 1843 are in French. The entries record daily expense at Valles Mines involving cash and mining supplies credited to miners for "mineral," expenses for the blacksmith shop and the "Negroe" and "Leon" shafts, and pigs of lead sent to the Sainte Genevieve warehouse. Among the individuals and firms frequently noted are: Menard & Valle, Delassus & Company, S. Beard, Joseph Carron, John Drury, John Fletcher, John Graham, C. B. Harris, Toussaint Lahai, Tom Tarpley, and William Terry. Among the names of individual miners, many "Old French" surnames appear, including among many others, Aubuchon, Bequette, Laporte, Pernod, Renaud, and Vivian. The volume is unindexed.

Volume 2 is an account book inscribed "Francis Claude Rozier, Ste. Genevieve, Mo., 12 April 1842." The volume contains accounts for cash, furs and pelts, merchandise, plank, and wheat, but most are individual accounts. They show charges and credits on accounts for shoes, clothing, hardware (including panes of glass), groceries, and sundries. Various individuals and firms are represented, including Sainte

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Genevieve residents William Adams, Zacharie Bolduc, John Boverie, Gabriel Boyer, M. Concannon, Francois Durand, B. Durocher, Reverend Gandolpho, Omer Gibourd, Joseph Hertick, James Hoffman, Lewis F. Linn, Bernard Pratte, P. K. Robbins, Ferdinand Rozier, Sr., Ferdinand Roy, Auguste and Raphael St. Gemme, John Scott, Benjamin Shaw, Antoine and Charles Thomure, Francois B. Valle, and Antoine Ricolet (“black man—free”), and “Mary Black woman formerly owned by Ferd. Rozier, Senior”. The volume also contains accounts for the convent and school corporation at Sainte Genevieve, the County of Sainte Genevieve, St. Mary’s Seminary in Perry County, Ferdinand Rozier & Company at Perryville, and the Iron Mountain Company.

Other accounts are Allen & Hall, Bank of Missouri, P. A. Benoist and William Twombly & Brothers of St. Louis; Reverend Francis Celleni of Fredericktown; Firmin Desloge at Potosi; Ignatius Boarman, John Coffman, William Cousins, and Dennis Seigle of New Tennessee, Nathaniel Bridgeman and Baptist Vitale of New Bourbon; Antoine Barbeau of Prairie du Rocher; Joseph Livreau and Francois B. Obuchon of Little Canada; Willard & Robbins at Little Rock; Small & McGill of New Orleans, William H. Brown, Price Newlin & Company, Hoskin & Company, and Siter-Price & Company in Philadelphia; and Anthony Beelen at Pittsburg.

Volumes 3-5 are ledgers covering 1860-1868. They record the Valle Mining Company’s expenses at the blacksmith shop and stables, and for blasting powder, candles, mining equipment, and wagons. The personal accounts of miners show groceries and mining equipment credited by mineral or labor. Each volume contains an alphabetical index in the front of the volume. Many African American miners are represented among the hundreds of miners and laborers associated with operations around Valles Mines. Volume 3 exhibits water damage and parts are barely legible. The accounts mostly concern transactions in 1860 and early 1861, but some settlements were made in 1862. Other than a few accounts that seem to have been unresolved and one in 1861 (for Charlie Daggs) marked “gone,” the entries do not reflect the Civil War period. Volumes 4-5 record operations in the immediate postwar period, 1866-1868.

Volume 6 is a Valley Mining Company record book, ca. 1862-1907. Tipped-in on inside cover pages of the volume are undated clippings and a fragment of “Pig Lead Circular” by Ferdinand F. Rozier & Company. Also included are handwritten historical memoranda on the various properties within the mining tract and the incorporation of Valley Mining Company in 1869. There are summaries of assays of lead and zinc ores at Valles Mines (1878); summaries of lead sales (1862-1874); copy of a contract with Mississippi River & Bonne Terre Railway concerning a branch line to the mines (1888); and a list of shareholders of the Valle Mining Company (1901). Pages 1-9 include a summary of production at Perry’s Mines (1839-1859); a list of the Valle Mining Company’s real estate holdings (5,244 acres); and plats of the various mines and shafts at Valles Mines and the zinc furnace property in Carondelet, Missouri. Other records in the volume show lead and zinc sales (1862-1872); reports and statements of the president (1873-1907); diagrams and notes on mineral lands, in French; an undated letter by geologist J. Van Cleve Phillips regarding a survey of Valles Mines; and undated plats showing Vinegar Hill and Valle Mining Company tracts.

Volume 7 is an account book recording “Sundries to Stock,” consisting various charges and expenses to the Valle Mining Company. There is no index.

Volume 8 is the “Mineral book of Valle Mining Company,” 1869-1874. Francis C. Rozier is shown as president and Robert J. Boas as agent. The entries show both lead and zinc production and shipments to Martindale & Eddy, Ferdinand Rozier & Co., and the Carondelet Zinc Works.

Volume 9 is a Valle Mining Company cash book, 1872-1883. The entries record hundreds of transactions and a daily record of cash paid out at Valles Mines for ore, labor, and incidental expense. There is no index.

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Volume 10 is a record of letters sent by the Carondelet Zinc Works, 19 July 1873-16 June 1875. It is a press copy book, parts of which are barely legible. An alphabetical index in front of volume is blank. Most entries appear to concern consignments of zinc spelter to firms in New York and Pittsburg.

Volumes 11-13 are Valle Mining Company account books, 1874-1884, showing zinc received from the Valle Mining Company, the Granby Mining & Smelting Company, Joseph Degendorf at Hopewell, Missouri, and St. Louis & San Francisco Railway. The records also show shipments to the Carondelet Zinc Works, George Hesselmeyer and Long & McPheeters in Saint Louis, and Behr & Steiner in New York. Other records include expenses incurred by miners, miscellaneous accounts, and a summary of fire clay received.

Volumes 14-26 consist of ledgers, accounts books and cash books representing the late nineteenth century operations of the Valle Mining Company. They show the dominance of zinc ores over lead at Valles Mines after the Civil War, and cover the period of development at Tunnel Town, the last major discovery on the tract. The cashbooks and account ledgers for this period continue to show the reliance on individual laborers and small partnerships mining the Valle tract. Volumes 17-18 contain the accounts of those miners and workers trading at the company's general store.

Volume 24-26 contain record of raw and calcined zinc ores received, 1882-1897. The records show the names of teamsters hauling raw zinc to the collection point, and annual summaries of tonnage received. Volume 26 also includes summaries of zinc received and show shipments by rail.

Volumes 27-45 show a continuation of development of Valles Mines during the last major phase lasting into the early twentieth century. Most of these records document mining on the property, but also (Volumes 42-43) show general merchandising conducted at the company's store and supplies kept on hand for miners use (Volume 45).

For as long as the deposits lasted, zinc continued to be the most profitable mineral. The records show the company's shipments of both raw and calcined ores to processors and a continuing relationship with zinc works in Carondelet (Volumes 29 and 43). The records reflect the gradual decline of zinc production after World War One. Some of the shortfall in mineral revenue was taken up with sales of barite or tiff (Volumes 39 and 40), and tie and timber sales (Volume 44). The company's post-mining activities are documented in Volume 37.

<i>r1498</i>	<i>20 September 2010</i>	<i>Valle Mining Company</i>	<i>Loaned for microfilming</i>
<i>r1514</i>	<i>20 December 2010</i>	<i>Valle Mining Company</i>	<i>Loaned for microfilming</i>
<i>r1548</i>	<i>10 November 2011</i>	<i>Valle Mining Company</i>	<i>Loaned for microfilming</i>

Inventory

Volume 01: Valles Mines, journal, 1 September 1839-4 March 1843
(479 pp.; entries March 1842—March 1843 are in French)

Volume 02: Francis Claude Rozier, account book, 12 April 1842-25 September 1845
(343 pp.)

Wholesale merchandise accounts with various individuals and firms in Sainte Genevieve, Saint Louis, Fredericktown, New Tennessee, New Bourbon, Little Rock, Philadelphia, and Pittsburg. [Dried flowers removed and placed in manila envelope.]

Volume 03: Ledger "C," January 1860-ca. July 1862
(561 pp.; alphabetical index in front)

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Volume 04: Ledger, January 1866-March 1867
(296 pp.; alphabetical index in front)

Volume 05: Ledger, March 1867- May 1868
(460 pp.; alphabetical index in front)

Volume 06: Valley Mining Company, record book, ca. 1862-1907
(212 pp.)

Undated clippings and fragment of "pig Lead Circular" by Ferdinand F. Rozier & Company tipped-in on inside cover pages of volume, along with handwritten notes on the history of the property and incorporation of Valley Mining Company (1869). Stockholders were: Felix Valle, Francis C. Rozier, Firmin Rozier, and Felix Rozier, each with \$50,000 in shares. There are also summaries of assays of lead and zinc ores at Valles Mines (1878); summaries of lead sales (1862-1874); copy of a contract with Mississippi River & Bonne Terre Railway for a branch line (1888); and a list of shareholders of the Valle Mining Company (1901). Pages 1-9 include a summary of production at Perry's Mines (1839-1859); a list of the Valle Mining Company's real estate holdings (5,244 acres), and plats of the various mines and shafts at Valles Mines and the zinc furnace property in Carondelet, Missouri.

(10-34) Accounts of lead and zinc sales, 1862-1872

(35-150) Reports and statements of the president, 1873-1907

(196-205) Diagrams and notes on mineral lands [in French]

(206) Undated letter to G. W. Edgerton by J. Van Cleve Phillips, geologist, regarding survey of Valles Mines

Inside rear cover bears a plat showing Vinegar Hill and Valle Mining Company tracts, n.d.

Volume 07: Valles Mines, account book, 11 March 1867-28 January 1868
(267 pp.)

"Stock account to Sundries"

Volume 08: "Mineral book of Valle Mining Co.," 23 September 1869-1 January 1874
(216 pp.)

Volume 09: Cash book, 26 October 1872-24 August 1883
(400 pp.; 304-401 blank)

Volume 10: Carondelet Zinc Works, letters sent (copy press), 19 July 1873-16 June 1875
(299 pp.; alphabetical index in front of volume is blank)

Volume 11: Account book, 1874-1884
(145 pp.)

Volume 12: Account book, 1877
(238 pp.)

Volume 13: Account book, 1877-1879
(208 pp.; 164-208 blank)

Volume 14: Check register, 1 August 1874—12 November 1879
(131 pp.; water-damaged, front cover detached)

Checks written for expenses and charged to various accounts including ore, fuel, labor, pottery, and sundries.

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- Volume 15: Ledger, 12 January 1874—12 November 1879
(326 pp.; alphabetical index in front; water-damaged)
- Volume 16: Ledger, 4 December 1890—2 December 1909
(169 pp.; covers missing)
The volume includes records of ores, lumber, and charcoal received at Valles Mines.
- Volume 17: Account book, 12 August 1891—2 March 1903
(268 pp.; alphabetical index is blank)
The volume contains accounts from the general store at Valles Mines. It bears the inscription “Louis J. Rozier” on the front cover.
- Volume 18: Account book, 14 April 1898—18 May 1905
(400 pp.; alphabetical index in front)
The volume contains accounts from the general store Valles Mines.
- Volume 19: Journal, 1 January 1875—1 January 1883
(591 pp.)
- Volume 20: Journal, 27 March 1885—17 November 1886
(480 pp.)
- Volume 21: Cash book, 1 January 1875—31 December 1877
(340 pp.)
- Volume 22: Cash book, 1 January 1878—27 December 1882
(383 pp.)
- Volume 23: Daybook, 2 February 1892—31 July 1893
(399 pp.; alphabetical index blank)
- Volume 24: Raw Zinc Ore Received, 10 August 1882—December 1883
(224 pp.)
- Volume 25: Raw Zinc Ore Received, 13 January 1885—July 1887
(240 pp.)
- Volume 26: Zinc ores received and shipped, 1 August 1887—August 1897
(252 pp.)
- Volume 27: Raw Zinc Ores received, 22 February 1875—December 1876
(240 pp.; unnumbered sections tipped-in at page 200 and page 236)
- Volume 28: Raw Zinc Ores received/Calcined Zinc Ores shipped, 1903--1905
(299 pp.)
- Volume 29: Zinc Screenings to Glendale Zinc Works, Carondelet, 1909—1911;
Baryte ore received and shipped, 1923-1941
(approx. 250 pp.)
- Volume 30: Tiff account book, 1904—1915
(400 pp.)

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- Volume 31: Ledger, 21 April 1888--1889
(484 pp.; index in front)
- Volume 32: Ledger, 1 January 1888—9 August 1897
(460 pp.; index in front)
- Volume 33: Ledger, 1 August 1888--1 October 1908
(518 pp.; index in front)
- Volume 34: Ledger, 1 October 1908—1 January 1916
(approx. 500 pp.)
- Volume 35: Journal, 8 August 1895—30 September 1913
(560 pp.)
- Volume 36: Journal, 2 January 1921—31 December 1948
(54 pp.)
- Volume 37: Journal, 1952-1972
(122 pp.)
- Volume 38: Cash book, 7 January 1889—5 July 1892
(approx. 182 pp.)
- Volume 39: Cash book, 1 January 1918—30 November 1923
(75 pp.)
- Volume 40: Account book (cash payments to miners), 1 August—31 October 1886
(96 pp.)
- Volume 41: Day book, Valles Mines store, 2 July 1885—12 November 1889
(480 pp.)
- Volume 42: Account book, Valles Mines store, 4 November 1889—26 May 1890
(approx. 480 pp.)
- Volume 43: Time book, Carondelet Zinc Works, September—November 1886
(137 . pp.)
- Volume 44: Tie and timber account book, 1918—1922
(37 pp.)
- Volume 45: "Supply" book, 31 August 1911—1 January 1916
(approx. 272 pp.)

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