

Spring Edition - 1976

The Pennsylvania Bookshelf

Charles Moore Wheatley, Biography

Charles Moore Wheatley was born at Ongar, England, March 16th, 1822 and was baptized in the old parish church, his father's friend, General Sir Moore Disney, after whom he received his second name, standing godfather. While still in his early childhood he removed with his parents to New York and having very dim recollections of England, New York became to him henceforth a native city. His parents were educated and refined and from them, particularly from his mother, he inherited his love of books and all that is beautiful in art and nature; by them he was most carefully educated and trained in the strictest integrity and honor.

His home for some years was on Staten Island, for which he ever retained a warm affection. There he spent a most free and happy childhood, and there he first developed a love of nature, which flourished and grew by the seaside and woods, giving promise then of his tastes and pursuits in maturer years. He was wont to say that his mother made him a naturalist, for no matter how much rubbish he brought home, his mother never turned it out or complained.

But this happy life was only too short. His father's business was unfortunate, and in it had been invested the ample means he brought from England. All was swept away, and ere his boyhood was over, Charles Moore Wheatley was placed in business in New York. He entered upon a mercantile life in 1835, and subsequently entered the office of John M. Catlin, where he remained for several years, receiving a very thorough training in business, being trusted with great responsibilities, and having the whole charge in Mr. Catlin's absence. From there he entered the hardware business with J. B. Elliman, where he passed ten years of a very busy life, working all day with zeal and energy for the best interests of the firm, but giving every spare moment and a great part of his nights to the study of science.

In 1837 he became a member of the Mercantile Library, where he served as director, recording Secretary and on many committees, with great zeal and industry. In 1840 he was sent by his friend, John J. Palmer, to explore and report on the mineral resources of Laurence County, New York, then a wilderness. The trip was rough, but keenly enjoyed, and the report and examination made to the entire satisfaction of the owner, with whom Charles Moore Wheatley was a great favorite.

In 1846 his attention was drawn to mining, and he was induced to accept the position of Manager of the Bristol Mine in Connecticut. This step was bitterly opposed by many friends. Some few encouraged it, and to the latter he always felt very grateful, for he never regretted the change, and a deep interest in mining and a desire to see it carried on properly remained to him all his life. At Bristol he had many new experiences which the City-bred youth found very rough. He used to say he thought he knew a great deal of mining, but found he knew nothing practically. So he bravely put on the muddy mining clothes, and went underground, learning everything thoroughly from the beginning. A rebellion among the men was one of his many experiences, in which they had sworn to kill him and lay in wait to do so, but night and day he coolly went among them, even underground, attending to business as usual, until he finally overcame

Spring Edition - 1976

them, and the leaders became his warmest friends and most trusted men! Mr. Wheatley worked the Bristol Mine for two years, very profitably and to the satisfaction of the owners, some of whom were largely interested in the Perkiomen mines in Pennsylvania. At their earnest wish, Charles Moore Wheatley consented to take charge of them. These mines, under his able and energetic management, yielded large profits, and many thousand tons of copper ore were raised and sold while he worked them.

While living at Perkiomen he made many explorations of the country in search of ores, being an enthusiastic miner. In this way he discovered and opened the Wheatley Silver-lead mines in 1850. These mines, three miles south of Phoenixville, are justly celebrated for their beautiful minerals and rich, silvery ore, "the richest metallic salts ever obtained in lead mining, and thousands of tons of rich silver lead ore." They were owned by Mr. Wheatley, Mr. E. F. Sanderson, John J. Palmer and others, and Mr. Wheatley was General Manager. While working this mine, he opened and worked four other mines in the neighborhood, managing them himself with great energy and prudence. Unfortunately, the directors could not agree as to the working of the mines, and it ended in Mr. Wheatley's resigning his position, and the mines being closed. In 1864 they were sold through Mr. Wheatley to other parties, and superintended and worked by him, but in the course of a year or so closed again from the same cause. The history of the Wheatley mines has so far been connected closely with Charles Moore Wheatley, but the details would be out of place in a sketch like this.

Charles Moore Wheatley also mined in California, and for many years in different parts of Pennsylvania. He also established works for smelting copper ores at Phoenixville, about 1872. During the first year of their operation they produced 130,000 pounds of that metal, by the old Swansea process. The quality of the copper was equal to any made, but for many causes the works were not financially a success.

Charles Moore Wheatley was an ardent student of geology, mineralogy, conchology and paleontology. He gradually collected an admirable library on these and other subjects, of which Wynne in his "Private Libraries of New York" questions "whether the collection does not place within the hands of the geological student a more complete apparatus for investigation than any of the great libraries of New York accessible to the public."

He also collected one of the most complete mineralogical cabinets in the country, of over six thousand specimens, some of them of great beauty and rarity, and also a large quantity of beautiful and rare shells. These collections were valued by Professor J. D. Whitney at \$25,000. They were purchased in 1858 by E. C. Delavan for \$10,000, and presented by him to Union College, Schenectady, New York, to be kept as the "Wheatley Cabinet, forever," subject to the control of the University of New York.

After his removal to Pennsylvania in the spring of 1858, some trifling circumstance led him to begin the collection of fresh-water shells saying there was so much to do in them, but only as an amusement for his leisure hours and with no intention of forming another Cabinet. But it was always impossible for him to do anything by halves, and he was soon seeking shells all over the world, with his untiring industry and energy. In the course of a few years, he gathered together what has been pronounced by competent judges the finest collection of fresh-water shells in the world.

Spring Edition - 1976

In addition to this work in Conchology, he discovered many Mesozoic fossils from the Tunnel at Phoenixville which he determined to explore. He did so, and found, as he expected, a "bone bed" distinctly marked, from which they had been taken. Of this he wrote a description published in the American Journal of Science and Arts, July, 1861. Some years after, his attention was called to a cave at Port Kennedy, which on exploring he found to abound with fossils of a more recent date. Only a devoted lover of Science would have undertaken all the labor and trouble and expense necessary to obtain these fossils. Both fossils and shells are now owned by Professor Cope, who described the former, and says of the cave fossils, in a paper read before the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, April 7th, 1871, --"One Species Megalonym Wheatley"--: "This species is dedicated to Charles M. Wheatley, of Phoenixville, to whom Natural Science in the United States is under many obligations. The expense and much labor requisite for the proper recovery and elucidation of the remains contained in the cave, are entirely due to his liberality and exertions. Similar devotion to Science has preserved to us the finest series of fossils of the Triassic Period of the Northern States in existence--and the finest collection of fresh-water shells in America."

Charles Moore Wheatley was elected a member of the Lyceum of New York in 1840, when he was almost a boy, and Treasurer of the same from 1847 to 1858; Corresponding member of the National Institute in 1843; honorary member of the Troy Lyceum of New Hampshire in 1843; member of the Association of Naturalists and Geologists in 1846; member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1848; member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, in 1850; member of the Geographical and Statistical Society of New York in 1856; and corresponding member of the Elliot Society of Natural History of Charleston, South Carolina. Yale College conferred on him the "honorarium" of A. M. on June 29th, 1858. He also was a member of the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, and of many other Societies both at home and abroad. From the latter he received many diplomas. He published a catalogue of the shells of the United States in 1842-43, the only one of this description ever published. He received one of the two silver medals given at the Exhibition of 1855 in New York, for specimens shown from the Wheatley mines, the jury, in their report, speaking in the highest terms of the "superior excellence of the specimens, prepared materials, the fulness and exactness of the plans of the mining operations, drawings and machinery, and especially noticing that the exhibition was the result of mining operations due entirely to the labor and skill of the exhibiter, and constituting a positive addition to the previous knowledge of the resources of the country."

In this brief record it is impossible to do justice to Charles Moore Wheatley's labors for Science, as both knowledge and labor were freely given to assist his friends, and his discoveries handed over with unselfish generosity to others to describe, partly because he was so much occupied with business as to leave him little time, and partly as he modestly said others would do better. He was too true a lover of Science to consider himself, and the learning and discoveries of others gave him as much pleasure as his own. His valuable information and experience in mining he freely gave to those about him, and many have profited largely by his teachings. His liberality and generosity were uncommonly large, few, if any, ever visiting him without carrying away choice specimens, and in many instances large boxes of shells and minerals.

Spring Edition - 1976

The disasters of the Fall of 1873, so widespread, affected very materially Charles Moore Wheatley's business, but he managed to continue it a few years more, when it was suddenly brought to a close by very trying circumstances over which he had no control. Very kind and generous friends came forward with offers of assistance, and his family, who were under heavy obligations to him, aided him in their turn to their utmost extent. All this assistance he felt fully justified in accepting, as he had then a large insurance on his life. His spirit was always bright and hopeful, and he went to work again, confident of success. But his health was giving way; the overworked brain, exposure, business and anxiety were telling on his naturally strong constitution; and his failure was a trial from which his sensitive and independent spirit could not recover. One disappointment followed another with sickness and suffering till the great change came, and he entered into that rest and peace for which he so earnestly longed.

We seldom meet with one man who unites business talents of the highest order with an appreciation of the Fine Arts, Science, and intellectual tastes, as did Mr. Wheatley. In such very early life as he began business, he knew and was esteemed by some of the oldest and best men of business in New York. One very wealthy friend, with whom he was interested in mines, gave him a "power of attorney" which he desired his lawyer to make as strong as possible. It gave Charles Moore Wheatley absolute control of his large property. The trust was never abused and the power never legally revoked, even when all business relations were over between them.

In very early life the care of his family rested on him, and many claims were made on his generous nature. He was so joyous and sanguine that these cares never depressed him, and if anyone was inconvenienced, it was always himself. Throughout his life he was too free a giver to amass wealth. Many have benefited by his open-handed liberality. He was largely instrumental in building a church for his men at the Wheatley Mines, which he almost entirely supported for many years. The numerous calls during the Civil War were always promptly and liberally answered.

His extensive information and interest on every subject was remarkable, when his very busy life is considered, his industry and very retentive memory enabling him to store up knowledge which always seemed to be ready for use. In early manhood he was proud to number among his friends many of the oldest and most eminent men of Science of the country, beside a large correspondence all over the world. On one occasion a distinguished man of Science from France called, with whom he had corresponded, and after looking hesitatingly at his youthful face and figure, said: "Oh! It's your Father I called to see!"

In his home life he was loving and unselfish, a true, pure, Christian man, and the only censure that was ever passed on him was-- that he was too sanguine.

--Author Unknown--

Friends of Mineralogy, Pennsylvania

Spring Edition - 1976

Membership Dues, 1976

Dues for 1976 are due and should be mailed directly to National F/M Treasurer -

Robert J. Trimmingham
5319 Charlotte Way
Livermore, California 94550

Send check in the amount of \$5.00 payable to Friends of Mineralogy

Regional Membership List : (SPRING ROUNDUP-1976)

We need to check and update our membership list. Please send card indicating, name, address, City, State and Zip code. Your prompt reply to this request will be greatly appreciated, mail to the newsletter editor D. Schmerling, 1780 Prescott Rd. York, Pa. 17403. A new membership list will be published in the next newsletter.

Welcome to new Members;

Jeffery G. Hoffman
Box 138
Zieglersville, Pa. 19492

Daniel White
Box 87
Westtown, Pa. 19395

John C. Ewing, M.D.
410 Sulgrave Road
Chatham Village
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15214

Haylande White
Box 87
Westtown, Pa. 19395

Louis Privoznik
228 Aronimink Dr.
Newtown Square, Pa. 19073

Geraldine Privoznik
228 Aronimink Dr.
Newtown Square, Pa. 19073

Address Change;

Mary Keelan
Brian Keelan
Sunnywood Manor
RD # 1, Box 568
Chincoteague, Va. 23336

Allen Snyder
Julia Snyder
2411 Hillock Ct.
Lansdale, Pa. 19446

Dates to Remember;

(SPRING ROUNDUP - 1976)

Friends of Mineralogy-Pennsylvania - Spring Roundup
Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa.
May 7,8,9, 1976

York Rock & Mineral Club - 7th annual show April 3,4, 1976 at the
Alert Fire Company Hall, Manchester Township, Emigsville, Pa.

Delaware Mineralogical Society, 13th annual show, April 3,4,1976
New Brandywine Terrace, 3416 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, Delaware

Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, 7th annual show, April 24,25,1976
379 Pennsylvania Ave., South Waverly, Pa.

Berks Mineralogical Society, 8th annual swap, June 12,13,1976
Mountain Spring Campgrounds, Shartlesville, Pa.

Friends of Mineralogy, Pennsylvania

Spring Edition- 1976

Spring Roundup-1976

Plans for the F/M Spring Roundup to be held at the Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa. are now complete. The program will include mineral swapping, social hours, tours, speakers, mineral auction, field trip and most important a general meeting for the F/M members of this region. This will be a very important meeting for the F/M membership because it will review the changes in regional structure that were made at the National F/M meeting in Tucson Feb. 14, 1976. We need to discuss the future plans for our region and how we will continue to preserve and expand the Goals of F/M. We wish to encourage all F/M members to be present at the Spring Roundup. This will be an open meeting and anyone interested in our activity will be welcome. We ask that everyone who plans to attend, please fill out the advance registration form (last page of newsletter) so we can prepare enough refreshments. There will be no registration fees for this meeting but we do solicit and ask for a donation of a mineral specimen that will be auctioned Saturday afternoon. The proceeds will be placed into the publication fund. The mineral donation can be left at the registration desk, Saturday morning.

Special Notice

A special request is made to all Newsletter Editors--we need your help and ask that you publish the following request in your Newsletter. Thank you.

Friends of Mineralogy, Pennsylvania is updating "The Mineralogy of Pennsylvania 1965 - 1975" with a new book that will be published in the near future. Since Dr. Montgomery's "The Mineralogy of Pennsylvania 1922 - 1965" approximately 50 new species have been recorded for the state. The new mineralogy will include pictures of collecting areas, collectors and minerals. We need additional pictures of old time collecting areas, collectors and minerals. The donor will be given credit for any picture used and all pictures will be returned. Pictures should be sent to Martin L. Anne', 509 Maple St., Wrightsville, Pa. 17368.

The new mineralogy will update the Pennsylvania list. The following minerals have been placed on the doubtful list: niter, nitrocalcite, botryogen, euxenite, manganite, mirabilite, rhodochrosite, romanechite, samarskite, chalcantite, kalinite, repidolite, and glauberite. We would appreciate your help in making these Pennsylvania minerals available for examination or information that would help us to locate the minerals in question.

Mineral Notes & News

Sheredanite and penninite have been given variety status (variety of clinochlore).

Friends of Mineralogy, Pennsylvania

Spring Edition-1976

Spring Roundup

May 7, 8, 9, 1976

The Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania
Dike Building, Room 17

Program

Friday, May 7 Reception 7:30 p.m., Dike Building, room 17
Mineral exchange and social hour

Saturday, May 8 Registration 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Dike bldg..
8:30 to 9:45 a.m. tour - mineral museum
9:50 a.m. Welcome
Dr. Deane Smith, Penn. State University
10:00 a.m. Dr. David Gold, Penn. State University
E.R.T.S. (Earth Resource Technology Satellite)
Imagery, remote sensing and recognition of potential
mineral areas of central Pennsylvania
10:30 a.m. questions and answers
10:45 a.m. Dr. Arthur Rose, Penn. State University
Metal anomalies in central Pennsylvania
11:15 a.m. questions and answers
11:30 a.m. Lunch - University cafeteria
1:30 p.m. Delbert Oswald - Carnegie Museum
Carnegie Museum future plans
2:15 questions and answers
2:30 p.m. Friends of Mineralogy business meeting, field trip
announcement and mineral auction

Sunday field trip, local collecting areas guided by
David Snell

Mineral auction - member donations and minerals from
the Arthur Montgomery collection as follows--

rhodizite	lepidocrocite	sphene
wolframite	columbite	phenakite
gummite	epidote	corundum
spangolite	apophyllite	quartz
muscovite & phenakite	rubellite	lepidolite
gordonite	calcite & epidote	
including miscellaneous cutting material from the Harding mine, New Mexico		
5:30 p.m.	dinner - University cafeteria	
7:30 p.m.	Social hour and exchange of mineral specimens	

Sunday, May 9, Field trip

Please note this is most important:

NO PARKING

The two parking areas directly behind the Mineral Industries
Building will be closed to parking and not available to us during our
meeting. So please, do not use the parking areas indicated, all other
unassigned parking areas will be available for parking.

F/M Friends of Mineralogy
Pennsylvania

Officers

Martin Anne'Chairman
509 Maple Ave.
Wrightsville, Pa. 17368

Thomas O'Neil, Treasurer
1000 Tule St.
Montoursville, Pa. 17754

Catherine Muretic, Secretary
619 N. 2nd St.
Steelton, Pa. 17113

D. Schmerling, Editor
1780 Prescott Rd.
York, Pa. 17403

Committee Chairmen

Education
Dr. John Way

Membership
Vince Matula

Museum
Delbert Oswald

Historian-Photographer
Col. Thomas Myers

Publications
Bryon Brookmyer
Jay Lininger

Locality Registration
Edward Carper

Dealer List
Pen Ambler

Special Projects
Karl Jones

Friends of Mineralogy
1780 Prescott Rd.
York, Pa. 17403

First Class
Mial