

Historical Question:

This year's Butlerville Days historical display will focus on the mining history of this area. What was one of the oldest, largest, and richest mines in Big Cottonwood Canyon?

Historical Answer:

The Maxfield Mine. In 1872, John Maxfield and his brother Robert (father of R. D. Maxfield, Jr.) were bringing logs out of Mill A Gulch to the sawmill they had built at its mouth when they uncovered a vein of ore. They filed for and staked claims on what later came to be known as the Maxfield Mine.

The Maxfields were primarily lumbermen, so they traded their claims for a wagon, a team of mules, and \$80 cash. The buyer, a Mr. Price, sold the claim once more in 1879, and the Maxfield Mining Company was incorporated. The Maxfield Mine became the only regularly producing mine in the canyon. At one time, the company was shipping an average of two carloads of ore every month with a workforce of twenty men. By 1906, more than \$1 million in high-grade silver-lead ore had been taken from the mine.

Had the Maxfields been able to foresee this, it might have convinced them to change their occupation.