

"God Bless  
America"



## THE STREAKPLATE

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE MINERAL CLUB  
North Adams, Massachusetts

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 4  
September 2011

Visit us on the web at <http://nbmclub.webs.com>

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### Meeting Place and Time

**DATE:** *Thursday, October 20, 2011*                      **TIME :**            **6:00PM**

**LOCATION:**    **North Adams Public Library**  
                  **74 Church Street, North Adams**

**PROGRAM:**    **Show and Tell night.** Bring in a specimen or two from your collection and tell the group about it!



Eurypterid

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### *The Daniel Clark Mineral Collection*

**By: Scott LaGreca**

Daniel Clark, whose specimens comprise the original nucleus of the Berkshire Museum's c. 3,500-specimen mineral collection, was a 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmer who lived in Tyringham, MA. A passionate collector who began picking up rocks "when four years old" (his words) and had rooms filled with rocks and minerals, Clark obtained remarkable examples of minerals from around the world by trading with other mineralogists. As he neared the end of his life, Clark refused to sell his collection, preferring it to stay in the Berkshires. In 1900, he presented half of his collection, numbering almost 2,000 specimens, to the Berkshire Athenaeum (Pittsfield Library). Clark died in 1902 at the age of 83.

In 1903 the Berkshire Museum opened its doors to the public, and in 1905 the Daniel Clark collection was relocated to the South Street institution, where the specimens were displayed in slant top oak cases and tall cherry wall cases made specifically for displaying the collection. These cases no longer exist; the majority of Clark's specimens are now housed in their original cases in the Museum's Object Storage Room (except for the particularly showy Clark specimens which are still on display in the Museum's Mineral Gallery).

According to the Berkshire Museum website, the other half of Clark's mineral collection was given to Lee High School. This assertion is probably based on a letter sent from Daniel Clark to "The Principal, Teachers and Students of Lee High School", dated May, 1898. In this letter, Clark describes a "little collection of minerals" he is donating to the school. In 2009, Thom Smith (former Curator of Natural Science at Berkshire Museum—my predecessor) and I visited Lee High School in search of this "little collection". One of the teachers brought out a small (c. 20 specimens) collection of unremarkable rocks. They had no labels of any kind—no provenance,

history or collection information was associated with them. We decided that they couldn't possibly be the specimens that Clark had donated. Lee High School has, according to one employee, changed buildings a number of times over the past century, so it is likely that Daniel Clark's gift of specimens may well have been tossed, stolen or otherwise lost.

The mystery of what happened to the other half of Daniel Clark's mineral collection, however, doesn't stop there. Later in 2009, I stumbled across a transcript of a talk entitled "History of the Museum's Mineral Collection" delivered to the Greylock Mineral

Club in 1968 by Miss Frances E. Palmer, former natural science Curator at the Museum. In this talk, Miss Palmer recounts once meeting Daniel Clark's great-grandson, who lived in Chicago, at the Museum. He told her that, after his great-grandfather died, the family selected the minerals they wanted to keep, and they gave the rest to the University of Illinois. After reading this, I inquired with the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, as well as the Illinois State Museum in Springfield and the Field Museum in Chicago. I also sent a general inquiry to the Natural History Collections (NHCOLL) listserver. Multiple chains of emails, over a series of weeks, chasing potential leads, left me empty-handed. Finally, Beckie Dyer, a museum technician at the Illinois State Museum, emailed me an interesting ad published in the November, 1917 issue of *The American Mineralogist* journal (Figure 1). From what I can surmise from this ad, the other half of Daniel Clark's mineral collection was probably disassembled and sold piecemeal to various collectors. In other words, the specimens have probably been integrated into other collections, or otherwise, unfortunately "lost". We may never know what exactly became of them.

**For Sale at a Bargain!**

**THE CLARK MINERAL COLLECTION**

Assembled by my grandfather, the late Daniel Clark of Massachusetts. Comprises over 3000 Specimens from all parts of the world, including many fine "old-timers." Correspondence solicited.

**FRANK D. CLARK, 5315 Glenwood Ave., Chicago, Ill.**

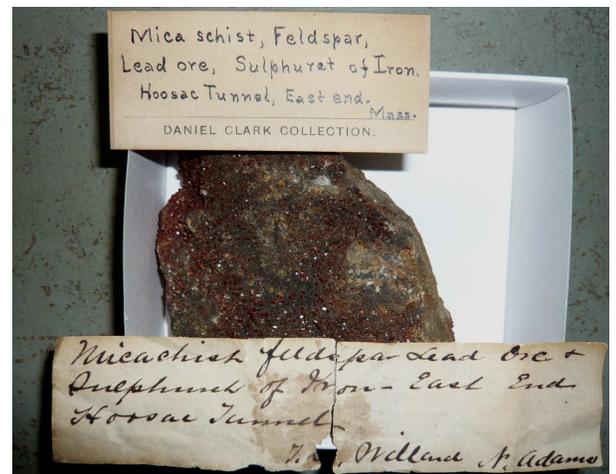
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Daniel Clark's minerals are notable in the breadth of specimens he gathered from around the world, and also for the amazing diversity of species he found in Berkshire County alone! One of the rarest minerals he had were locally-collected black garnets, of which he was rumored to have a barrel full! Apparently, he refused to sell them, despite generous offers (\$50, by one collector), preferring to exchange them with other, like-minded mineralogists. These specimens were from a site in Russell, MA and by all accounts are the finest example of black garnets to be found anywhere (there is a photograph of one specimen from the Berkshire Museum collection on the Museum's website).

Knowledge of the Clark's black garnet site in Russell was lost for a long time. It was rediscovered in the 1990's, (I believe that somebody once told me that it was a roadcut along the Mass Turnpike?); however, by that time, the supply of black garnets had been spent by previous, overzealous collectors.

Another interesting discovery from the Daniel Clark mineral collection was recently made by NBMC member Bob Michaels. While browsing the Berkshire Museum's mineral collection in our Object Storage Room, Bob found a specimen collected during the excavation of the Hoosac Tunnel with a label that read "Mica-schist / Feldspar / Lead Ore" (Figure 2). Upon further examination, Bob realized the sample was vanadinite—an identification confirmed by Marian Lupulescu, the Curator of Mineralogy at the NY State Museum in Albany. The red color and hexagonal crystals (Figure 3) are diagnostic for this mineral species. According to Lupulescu, this specimen is the first and only record of vanadinite in northeastern North America! All



other known vanadinite specimens are from much more arid sites—for example, the American Southwest. The entire Berkshire Museum mineral collection is currently being databased into the Museum's computer database. Who knows what other interesting specimens may be brought to light? Meanwhile, NBMC members are welcome to use this fantastic resource—any and all identifications and annotations by you can only improve their scientific value. If you would like to schedule a visit, please contact Leanne Hayden at 443-7171, extension 12.

## ~The Wulfenite Stone Dream~

By: Everley St. Peter

One night in December of 2009 I had a dream that my hubby and I were rock-hounding at a rock mine somewhere in the western part of the US, and the rocks I was pulling out of the ground looked like bright orange translucent glass cubes, and they were fist-sized which seemed huge to me in the dream. We needed to board our plane soon, but I just couldn't leave, I had to mine some more of these incredible orange stones. I was filling my rolling suitcase with them and the rocks didn't seem to weigh a lot so I kept going~ I was having fun digging them up and packing them inside the suitcase, I remember being filled with bliss to be digging and finding them.

We missed our plane. My husband got us tickets for the next flight so we could mine some more~ which made me very happy. So then I stopped for a few moments and I held an orange rock in my hand and stopped and really studied it, and I noticed there were tiny yellow striations in swirling micro-mini stripes in the middle of the stone. I kept asking the owner the name of the mine, and he said Red Cloud mine, and I kept saying, "what, these stones are transparent it can't be Red Clay mine. He kept saying, "No, its Red Cloud mine", whenever I asked again. I remember I asked a few times and it just didn't make any sense to me whenever he said the name.

I woke up and had to find the stone in my stone book. It's a large 425 page book called the Book of Stones, by Robert Simmons & Naisha Ahsian. I leafed through the whole book and my husband, who I had told the dream to by this time, kept asking if I found it yet. When I was almost at the end, 6 pages from the end in fact, I found it! It was called Wulfenite! Simmons says the key words for Wulfenite are creativity, manifestation, determination, sexuality, alchemy, earth connection. Wow!

Then I went online on eBay to see if there was wulfenite for sale and to see how big it is. The specimens I saw were quite small, so I bought a small one anyway and made it into a pendant to wear.

The best part? When I clicked on a wulfenite specimen I liked on the eBay page I looked ½ way down the page and saw the name of the mine~ it was Red Cloud mine! I was stunned, and called my husband over to look at the screen, and we were totally shocked that I had been shown this stone I had never seen before or even heard of in a dream!

I read more about the stone~ Simmons says of wulfenite, "In addition to self-creation, Wulfenite can assist in artistic creation. It stimulates both inspiration and persistence, assisting one in carrying even the most ambitious projects through to completion. Wulfenite is a stone of originality, bringing new ideas and visions of painting, music, poetry, and other art forms. It can even help one imagine entirely new forms of art."

The other author in the book the Book of Stones, Naisha Ashian, says of the spiritual side of wulfenite, "The key phrase for Wulfenite is Divine Creation. Its energy assists one in fulfilling the role of co-creator with the Divine." All the info was really resonating with me, I always felt since I was seven and declared I was an artist

that spirit was working through me, and now I had a stone I could wear while I did artwork that would amp it up, cool! I love earth school!

Then I had to look it up in my other favorite book on stones, a book called *The Crystal Bible*, by Judy Hall, and she says, “ At a spiritual level, Wulfenite facilitates moving easily and quickly from the physical level to the psychic, intuitive, or spiritual levels. Is is said to access the past, present, and future and to aid communication with those states. It facilitates contact and communication with the spiritual world, opening a channel to bring spiritual vibrations down to earth.”

I love that I had a dream, and that in that dream I was shown an incredible stone, and told the name of the mine it came from, and when I woke up I remembered the dream to look up the stone so I could be amazed at how the universe works~ may we all have many of these such dreams~

I have since discovered that the Red Clay mine, which is in Arizona, is closed to the public, so I will never be able to mine there~ but I did in my dreams~

**President:**

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**Vice-President:**

*Position is open*

**Treasurer:**

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**Secretary:**

*Position is open*

**COMMITTEES**

**Programs:**

**Annual Show Committee:**  
*Cheryl Gasperetti and Larry Michon*

**Field Trips:**

*Position is open*

**Streakplate Editor:**

*Larry Michon, 413-663-8430*  
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“The Club” was founded in 1959. The purpose of the club is to develop and educate students, the community, and our members in the field of mineralogy, including the formation of rocks and minerals, the collection of minerals, their identification and display, and in the lapidary art of cutting, polishing and faceting; and to serve the educational needs of the communities in which club members live.

...from the Constitution of The Northern Berkshire Mineral Club

**Regional Gem Shows:**

Oct 15-16 – BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT: 39th Annual Gem and Mineral Show hosted by the Bristol Gem and Mineral Club. The show will feature 17-20 dealers. Admissions are \$5 at the Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Avenue, Bristol, Connecticut.

Oct 15-16 – JOHNSTOWN, NEW YORK: Annual show sponsored by the Fulton County Mineral Club. Moose Lodge, Rte 30A. Admission is \$3

Oct 22-23—WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND: Show and sale; Rhode Island Mineral Hunters; CCRI Knight Campus, 400 East Ave. Rte. 113; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, seniors and children under 10 \$5

Oct 29-30—FREEPORT, NEW YORK: Show and sale; Freeport Recreation Center, 130 E. Merrick Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5.50 (50 cents off with this ad), children 12 and under free with adult

Nov 5-6—GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT: Annual show; Stamford Mineralogical Society; Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd.; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-4:30



Special thanks to Cheryl Gasperetti, show committee co-chairperson for all her hard work.

### Scenes from the 2011 Gem Show



Betty Kelley sells raffle tickets.



A volunteer pulls the winning ticket.



Darlene Bruzzi, grand prize winner!



Kids enjoying the apples Rob LaPorte donated from his orchard.

### **2011 Gem Show Results**

The 48<sup>th</sup> annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show was held at the American Legion in Pownal, Vt on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We had a nice increase in paid admissions this year and the vendors I spoke with were happy with the traffic and sales.

Paid admissions this year totaled 216 breaking down to 121 on Saturday and 95 on Sunday, an 11% increase over last year. This year the Legion did not want to run the food concession so we offered grilled burgers and hotdogs outside on the lawn. We also did a grand prize raffle of an amethyst geode tower. Both of these ended up almost exactly break even.

#### **Revenues**

Admissions	\$ 837
Vendor Fees	<u>1,540</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 2,377

#### **Expenses**

Advertising	557
Rack Cards	200
Hall Rental	<u>1,000</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,757</u>

#### **Excess of Revenues**

<b>Over Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 620</u>
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One comment I heard from both vendors and people attending is that we need to have at least one activity for the children if not more. They are the future rockhounds and its important to get them excited about our hobby. Your comments and suggestions for show improvements are appreciated.

### **Eurypterus remipes Eurypterid Sea Scorpion Fossil**



Description: While Eurypterids (“Sea Scorpions”) are uncommon fossils worldwide, New York state is one of the few places where conditions for preservation have been ideal. They were large arthropod predators during the Silurian and Devonian, reaching a maximum length of 2 meters. The Eurypterid colonies of New York are distinctly localized, with two being found above and two below the salt beds of what was termed the Salina Series. These colonies are presumed to be breeding pools of brackish to partly open basins. They are the Otisville Basin (Colony O), the Pittsford Pool (Colony P), the Herkimer Pool (Colony P), and the Buffalo Pool (Colony P). These last two are the most famous of them, yielding numerous fantastic specimens. Eurypterus remipes was a

small example of the Merostomata, with specimens having been found ranging from 8 mm to 280 mm in length.

Eurypterids are believed to have crawled along the seafloor, using grasping pincers to seize trilobites and other prey. This fine example is an adult, and has the swimming paddles and a walking leg preserved. Notice the compound eyes and detail to the prosoma. Much of the exoskeleton is preserved, the segmentation of the meso- and metasoma is well detailed, and the specimen is well-centered on the large dolostone matrix. Eurypterus remipes was designated the New York State Fossil by then Governor Mario Cuomo in 1984.

Contact Larry Michon if you would like to help organize a club field trip to hunt for eurypterid fossils or if you know of locations open for collecting to the public.

### **2012 Dues Notice**

Attached to the October Streakplate is the 2012 member dues form. Please fill it out and return it with your payment payable to the Northern Berkshire Mineral Club to Larry Michon, P.O. Box 297, North Adams, MA 01247 or just bring it to the next meeting. Dues are \$10 for a single membership and \$12 for a family.

### **Crystal Healing Corner**

*By Darlene Bruzzi*



**Obsidian** - one of the main gemstones for Scorpio as it loosens rigidities, eases psychological problems and relaxes knots in the neck & shoulder area that stem from Scorpio's "iron will", which does not allow him to let go and let his mind go free. Also, one of the main gemstones for Sagittarius to help him pursue his goals; helps in his journey of self-discovery; protects him from doubts and negative influences that can possibly constrict his talents; helps in overcoming blockages and in healthy vibrations and restore his natural optimism.

Obsidian is formed as volcanic glass and comes in a variety of colors; black, brown, green, red/black, mahogany, black with rainbow patterns/colors, silver or gold sheen, black and white snowflake patterns, blue, purple, and translucent black and brown nodules called Apache Tears. Each variety has its own healing properties.

**BLACK OBSIDIAN**, root chakra, good for protection, creativity, male qualities, intuition, IBS { irritable bowel syndrome }, digestion and survival instincts, grounding, divination, and shamanic healing.

**SHEEN OBSIDIAN**, root and solar plexus chakras, good for patience, change, delays in your life plan, tackles the source of disease.

**APACHE TEARS**; good for change, moving forward in life, forgiveness, spontaneity, combats self-limiting beliefs, good for knees, helps vitamin C & D deficiencies, muscle spasms, snake bite, aids detoxing, good for emotions/emotional balance { helps you to shed tears }, helps behavior change, forgiveness, negativity and grief.

**SNOWFLAKE OBSIDIAN**; root/ brow chakras, brings peace of mind, encourages purity in all senses, good for the stomach and sinuses by unblocking the meridian linking these two areas, good for veins, bones eyes/eyesight, and skin. Helps acalulia { a difficulty in performing mathematical calculations }, aids detoxing, good for meditation, helps anger, resentment, unhelpful behavior patterns and loneliness.

**MAHOGANY OBSIDIAN**; root/abdominal chakras, good for promoting logical thought, protects against anxiety, creates inner equilibrium, has anti-bacterial properties, protects against inflammation, reduces allergies and infections while improving blood circulation. It should also be used on the hand and ankle chakras and is particularly recommended for all Scorpios.

**RAINBOW OBSIDIAN**: root chakra, good for recovery from emotional wounds. When one is doing a meditation journey inside oneself to heal old wounds, the journey can be very hard and painful to clear. Rainbow obsidian helps by making the journey speedier and brings the soul closer to conscious awareness, thus bringing them into the Light. In dim lighting rainbow obsidian appears black, but held up to a strong light source the rainbow inside appears, just as it is when one comes out of the darkness and into the Rainbow Light of Enlightenment.

**PEACOCK OBSIDIAN**; root/brow chakras, is black until exposed to a strong light source, but the colors are swirled rather than rainbow patterned. Peacock obsidian opens the third eye to your inner world, opening up visionary awareness. It is excellent for lucid dreaming, breath work, guided meditation and other forms of consciousness expansion. It can open one up to the Light, by assisting one in entering the nearby planes of astral, subtle and causal worlds; a tool for shamans and others who 'walk between the worlds'. It is an ally for protection and clear-seeing, useful in rituals, calling the worlds together for celebration and calling the ancestors, guides and helping spirits.

Obsidian should be discharged once-a-month under warm running water and then recharged in the sun or among rock crystals { quartz crystals }. They can be worn as jewelry, placed directly on the skin, carried in pockets or medicine bags etc, and held during meditation as well as placed in a circle around the body with other crystals that work well with them during meditations.

**SOURCES**: Healing Crystals And Gemstones, by Dr. Flora Peschek-Bohmer & Gisela Schreiber, p 77, 210-211. The Crystal Healer by Philip Permutt, p. 93-94 The Book Of Stones, by Robert Simmons & Naisha Ahsian, p. 280-286

**GARNET**- one of the main gemstones for Aries as it increases self-confidence, supports positive undertakings, and prevents loss of perspective. For Scorpio, garnet allows transformation of emotional strength and sexual desire into true love. Its red rays bring him into harmony with the heart of the beloved. Garnet strengthens Leo with power and endurance, balances sexual energy to allow the deepest joys of love to shine thru. Garnet brings Leo a positive influence in his working life. For Pisces the deep red fiery color of garnet endows the Pisces with will power, physical energy, success and good luck. It helps Pisces to stop daydreaming and to make his dreams a reality.

**Almandine Garnet**, such as is found at the Green's Farm in South Roxbury, CT., works primarily with the Root {1} Chakra but also works well with the Sacral {2} Chakra. Its energies are very earth connected and can vibrationally enhance one's vitality and endurance. Ancient people, who worked very closely with nature and had much more physically demanding lives, knew this stone very well. It activates and strengthens the root chakra, our portal of connection to the physical world. A stone of tangible truth, garnet helps one to manifest realistic dreams here on earth. Even if the manifested dreams are not as grand as we had imagined them, at least they are genuine.

Garnet can also help arouse the energies of the Kundalini, the profound spiritual power said to lie dormant at the base of our spine. Please note that if you are not trained in working with the Kundalini energy, **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ON YOUR OWN, SEEK PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE FROM A CERTIFIED KUNDALINI ENERGY WORKER.** Kundalini energy can become overpowering and physically/emotionally damaging if not done slowly and with expert advice. It is not something to 'play around with'.

Almandine Garnet is also used in psychic protection. It has a relatively dense energy which keeps one strongly connected to the body, which makes it more difficult for negative energies or entities to attach themselves. If one wishes stronger protection and grounding, combine Almandine Garnet with Black Andradite Garnet.

Almandine Garnet helps cultivate a sense of physical security, safety and abundance; helps to alleviate worry, panic and fear. Anyone subject to depression should always carry a tumbled garnet with them. It encourages feelings of joy, willpower, and hope. The fiery red color drives away tiredness and stimulates the imagination.

Almandine Garnet has deep roots in many ancient civilizations, therefore it can be very useful in re-connecting with past-lives, learning from the ancients by stimulating cellular memory. It can also be very useful in working out alternate-life influences on current issues, around abundance, love relationships and physical diseases. Physically Almandine Garnet helps the body connect with the revitalizing energy of the earth, supporting recuperation after injury as well as health of the ovaries and testes, bones, heart, lungs, sex-drive, arthritis, rheumatism, underactive thyroid, vitamin and mineral deficiencies such as Iodine, calcium, magnesium, Vit. A, D, E, and the spine and spinal fluid.

**APPLICATION AND CARE**- Direct contact with the skin is important. When the little garnet beads moves as part of a necklace, the effect is multiplied several times. Garnets should be cleansed under running hand-hot water every month. Place garnets in the sun to recharge them.

**AFFIRMATION:** I am grounded and secure in my physical body and I draw from deep wells of strength and vitality.

**SOURCES:** The Book of Stones by Robert Simmons and Naisha Ahsian p. 169-170 Healing Crystals and Gemstones by Dr. Flora Peschek-Bohmer and Gisela Schreiber p. 152-153 Crystal Chakra Healing by Philip Permutt p. 85-86

## Poster Contest

For those of you who did not have the privilege of knowing Alice Stevens, she was the founder of The Northern Berkshire Mineral Club and it is time that our club honored her.

She was 'gung-ho' about sharing our knowledge of minerals with everyone who showed an interest in any form of mineralogy and would be very proud to have this contest named in her honor.

For those of you who may have misplaced the rules for entering the Alice Stevens Poster Contest for 2012, here they are:

This contest is open to every member, including children. Your design may be made by hand, paste up, or on a computer. Information which should be included in your design is:

1. 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewelry, Gem and Mineral Show
2. Date\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Hours\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday Hours\_\_\_\_\_
3. American Legion Post #90, Rt 7, Pownal, VT
4. Sponsored by The Northern Berkshire Mineral Club, North Adams, MA

Entries must be received by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Send your designs to me at:

Betty Kelley  
PO Box 54  
North Adams, MA 01247

Each and every entry will be judged by club members attending our October 2011 meeting. Your reward will be the knowledge that your design will be seen by many people in many places as a representation of our club and its yearly show. The contest winner will also receive a \$25 Visa gift card which has been donated to the club for this contest. Now is the time to get busy with your artwork and poster making skills, it is your moment to shine. If this is a success it will be a yearly contest, so if you're not a winner this year, you can compete again next year.