

CHESTER TIMES – July 7, 1904

DIGGING OUT GEMS AND OTHER PRODUCT – Bethel's Famous Garnet Mines May be Operated by Baer Company – The Lease Soon at an End

After digging in the bowels of the earth for the past twenty years, and taking from the hearth of Bethel Township many thousands of tons of garnet, the American Flint Glue Company of Boston, which had a lease on the place for this period, will give up business there on August 16. When the company took hold of the mine, which is owned by Herman Baer & Company of New York, it was for ten years, with the option of ten more. The first ten expired and the concern took advantage of their option, and the second ten will come to an end with the above date.

The American Flint Glue Company mines the garnet, which is ground into various sizes at their extensive works on the ground, and is then shipped to Boston, Mass., where it is made into sand and emery papers and sent all over the country. Thus Bethel Township has come into prominence in various parts of the United States as one of the best mineral producing sections.

This company does not expect, it is said, to get another lease on the plant from Baer & Company and for this reason they have been prospecting up about Ham, along the county's border, and have secured much of the product there. Should the mineralogists of the concern feel safe in assuring that there is a wealth of material in the new field, the American Flint Glue Company will move their whole works here and continue in business.

The mine in Bethel, which is close to Chelsea, has been tunneled through the sides until vast quantities have been taken from the fields surrounding the excavation. There is still great veins of the garnet which would last many, many years and it is said that Baer & Company proposes to operate this plant themselves. This is one of the two extensive mines at this place, one being within a stone's throw of the other, both owned by Baer & Company.

Some time ago, the other mine was closed and some litigation ensued through a former superintendent. It is said that Baer & Company cannot operate the larger place unless giving a royalty per ton as a result of the suit, but that they could take the garnet from the mine about to be abandoned by the Boston concern and grind the product in their older and closed works, and thus, by a technicality successfully restart the works without paying the royalty.

The matter is all speculation, however, and until after the Boston Company vacates, time only will tell what Baer & Company will do with either mine. Both are rich in deposits of the mineral, however.