

three taverns (and 849 persons)¹²⁰ and it is likely that Penman and Penworthy frequented one or more of the three. The popularity of taverns in those days depended to a large extent on the nature of the tavern host. Alexander describes the ideal host as "a natural 'wag' and---well suited to play 'mine host'",¹²¹ possibly referring to the fact that persons engaged in mining or mine-related businesses were frequent visitors to the Charlotte area taverns. Coincidentally, in that same year 15 gold mines were operating in Mecklenburg; there was also a like number of distilleries in the county.¹²²

In 1840, a disagreement between Penman and his partners led to a sale of the property, but Penman soon regained possession and resumed work. Penman records that "thousands of dollars had been washed out" of the mine at the surface and that good ore was to be obtained "from the various shafts sunk" (the shafts at Brush Hill were 15 to 35 feet deep) (figure 14). The gold found was worth \$0.96 to \$1.00 a pennyweight, (its fineness being from 960 to 1000), meaning it was almost pure.¹²³

With regard to the actual mining operations, Penman "drove a level from the hollow to the mine, about one hundred and fifty feet on the course of (the) lode in (the) west vein. A cross-cut was opened east from the level, and, upon reaching the main (or east) vein, cut into it four feet, and drove on it, each way taking out ore, the vein keeping four feet wide. On the North end, he followed on until the surface was nearly reached, then (he) sunk a shaft on (the) west side of (the) vein down to water, and worked out ore on (the) back of (the) lode. At the south end, he drove on Chevalier's old workings, which had been

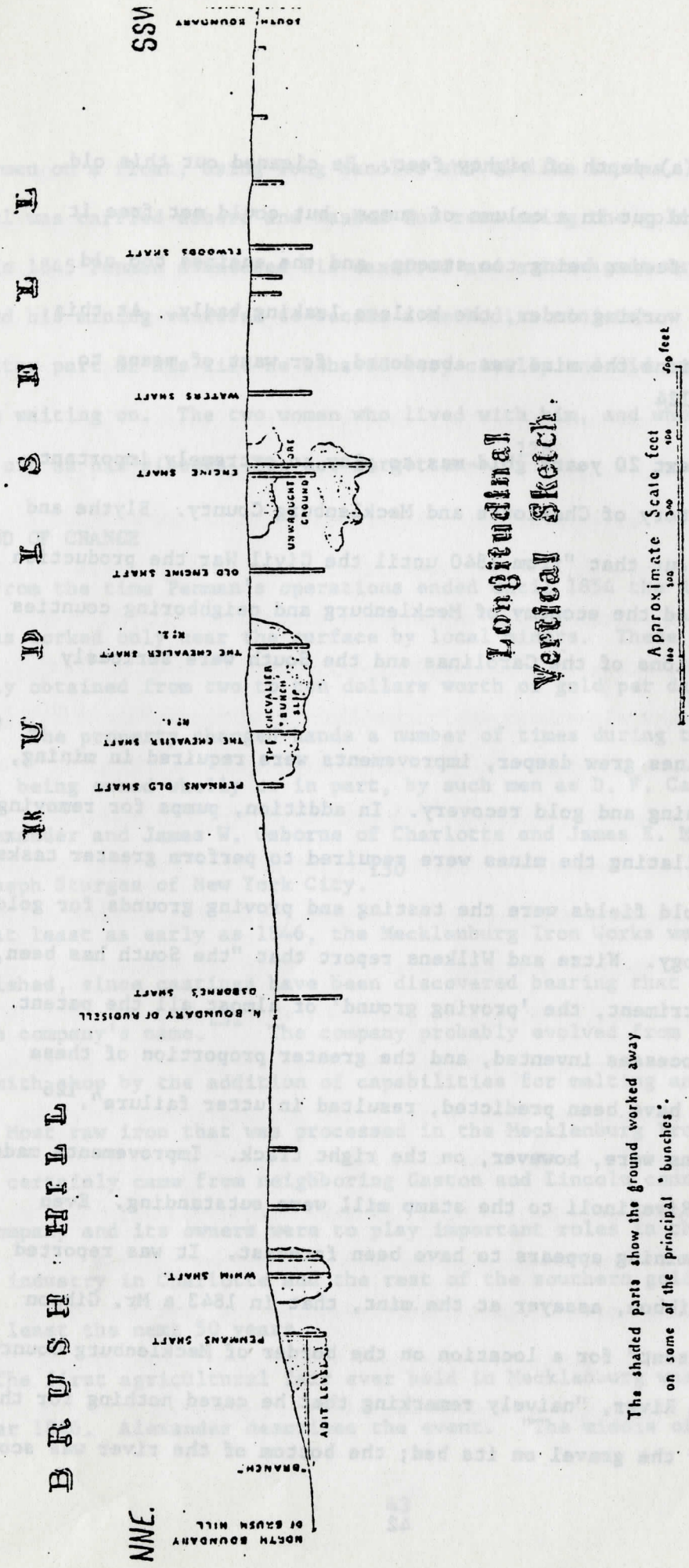


Figure 14. A longitudinal vertical section showing underground workings of the Brush Hill and Rudisill mines in 1860. Prospectus of the Rudisill Gold Mining Company of Baltimore City (Baltimore, MD.: John D. Toy Publisher, 1860).