

Rene Claude Ernest Gaujot, superintendent of Canadian Consolidated Gold Mining Co. (Deloro)

Submitted by Mike Korb (via Facebook)

Rene Claude Ernest Gaujot

(A.K.A. "Ernest R." and sometimes misspelled GaNjot),

- a French-born mining engineer, emigrated to the US in 1867, moving to Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, where he met and married Susan Ellen "Nellie" McGuigan, the daughter of the postmistress in May of 1870. They may have lived at the corner of Centre and Foundry Streets in



EARNEST GAUJOT 1877

courtesy Samantha Riggan, Virginia Tech

Tamaqua. In Tamaqua, Gaujot worked for the Little Schuylkill Navigation Railroad, Rabbe & Co., and Gaujot & Co. While working with the Little Schuylkill Coal and Navigation Company, Gaujot made an unsuccessful attempt to manufacture "coal bricks" in 1867.

Gaujot was one of the founding members of A.I.M.E. in Wilkes Barre in 1871. He presented a paper, "THE USE AND ADVANTAGES OF THE PROP SCREW-JACK" (for roof support) at the 1871 Bethlehem Meeting, which was published in Vol.1 of Transactions.

The family relocated to the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan in 1874, Gaujot perhaps working as general manager of Calumet & Hecla in Eagle Harbor MI where one of his projects was preparing the Michigan Mineral Exhibit for the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. They may have lived in Keweenaw Point and Delaware Mine.

Ernest Gaujot traveled to Japan in 1879/1880 to serve as general superintendent of mines at Yezo. He worked on some significant problems in the Poronai coal mines

while in Japan, for which the Mikado reportedly conferred on him the honorary title of "Lord and General." Thereafter he was known as "General Gaujot."

The family relocated to Ontario in 1881. They lived for a while near Belleville and Marmora Ontario, some 100 miles east of Toronto and about 50 west of Kingston along Lake Ontario. Gaujot was Superintendent of the Canada Consolidated Gold Mining Company as reported by Rothwell and involved in the gold mines in the county of Hastings. Two of the mines of interest were the Gatling and Tuttle mines. Later he became the manager of the Philadelphia and Canada Phosphate Company.

In an 1884 testimony for the Canadian Select Committee of Geological Surveys, he described one of the mines in the Marmora area as being ... "one of the largest veins I have ever seen." And reported that he would note that about 200 miners worked the mines and some had shafts dug 200 feet deep, some even with lines running out a similar length, far below the surface. One gold mine was said to have a vein of from 8 to 24 feet and running over 10 miles in length. Others with iron deposits running northward some 80 miles. Brown & Ganjot operated the Nugent Mine and Gaujot & Co. operated a quarry at Madoc. Gaujot had consulting offices in Belleville and Buckingham Quebec.

Perhaps moved to Lynchburg, Virginia.

In 1894, the family moved to Williamson WV, in what the following year would become Mingo County, at a time of rapid expansion of coal mining operations in the region. Ernest Gaujot was resident engineer for the Kountze Brothers of New York City, whose mineral holdings in Mingo County were consolidated under the name United Thacker Coal Company. Gaujot died in May, 1909 in West Virginia and is buried in Tamaqua.

Ernest and Nellie had eight children. Their sons Julien Edmund and Antoine August are numbered among the EIGHT sets of brothers to have received the U.S. Medal of Honor, for their services during the Mexican border dispute and the Philippines' civil insurrection. One of the brothers' sons shot and killed the other brother. Antoine and another of Ernest's sons, also Ernest, were involved as "mine guards" in the WV Mine Wars that led up to Matawan.