

THE POORHOUSE QUARRY, CHESTER COUNTY, PA.

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About the middle of the last century, Dana gave the name chesterlite to a newly-reported mineral from the limestone quarry of the Chester County Home, near Embreeville, Chester County, Pa. The quarry, which is still worked intermittently, has furnished fine specimens of this and other minerals, a large number of which came into the collection of the late Charles H. Pennypacker of West Chester.

The locality is of historic interest because of the prolonged discussion that waged thru the literature of the time, as to the identity of chesterlite. It had the composition and appearance of orthoclase, but was an enigma because it gave indication of being triclinic in crystallization. In 1853, Smith and Brush¹ wrote: "If it shall be proved that the form is triclinic it will be a potash albite and as such an interesting species." Finally Descloizeaux,² in 1876, used chesterlite as one of his types in establishing microcline as the triclinic potash feldspar.

The crystals of chesterlite show the adularia habit, that is, the side pinacoid (010) is lacking and the two prism faces meet at an acute angle. This produces a form which at first glance suggests a rhombohedron rather than the familiar symmetry of a feldspar.

The quarry is located along the West Chester-Embreeville road, one kilometer east of the Chester County Home (coördinate location, according to the Kemp system, West Chester Quadrangle 1821). It may be reached from either Embreeville or Glen Hall Station on the Philadelphia and Reading Railway or from Sugar's Bridge on the West Chester-Coatesville trolley line.

The rock is a white, highly crystalline magnesian limestone of a formation which occupies a narrow valley about 6 km. (4 miles) long between a ridge of Wissahickon mica gneiss on the south and a biotite gneiss, with local development of hornblende, on the north.

In the limestone are numerous gash-like crevices which are lined with crystals of chesterlite, calcite, dolomite and clear to milky quartz.

¹ *Am. J. Sci.* [2], 16, 42, 1853.

² *Ann. Chem. Phys.* [5], 9, 433-499, 1876.

The crystals are frequently coated with a thin film of limonite, which gives a bronze-like to iridescent luster to their surfaces. In this respect, as well as in general appearance of specimens, there is a remarkable resemblance to the limestone minerals from Lime Rock, R. I.

The locality is a fascinating one for collecting, as much depends on the mineralogist's skill with a chisel—fine chesterlites being prone to display their perfect cleavage at inconvenient moments.

Following is an alphabetical list of minerals reported from the locality, with references:

Amphibole, var. mountain leather	Rand, 1867
var. tremolite	Benge and Wherry, 1908
Calcite	Dana, 1850
Colorless scalenohedra.	
Chlorite	Benge and Wherry, 1908
Dolomite. Crystals [Simple unit rhombohedron]	Dana, 1850
Muscovite. (margarodite? damourite? talc?)	Dana, 1850
Yellow, minute tuft-like aggregates	Smith and Brush, 1853
Microcline, var. chesterlite	Dana, 1850
White to flesh-colored crystals on dolomite. "Rosettes" up to 5 cm. in diameter.	
Phlogopite	Rogers, 1858
Flakes in limestone.	
Pyrite	Carpenter, 1828
Truncated cubes and cubo-octahedra.	
Quartz	Carpenter, 1828
Crystals 10×4 cm. in diameter.	
Rutile	Carpenter, 1828
Brilliant, dark ruby red, occasionally transparent, striated and terminated prisms, 2.5 cm. ×3 mm.	
Zoisite, on quartz	Dana, 1850

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

Wagner Free Institute of Science, April 8, 1920

A stated meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society was held on the above date with the vice-president, Mr. Trudell, in the chair. Fifteen members and three visitors were present.

Mr. J. Harlan Johnson addressed the society on "Some Black Hills Minerals and Mineral Localities." The most important source of the minerals of the district are the pegmatites, which are remarkable for their coarse texture, and the perfect regularity of the enormous crystals of spodumene, beryl, tourmaline, and columbite found in them. Scott's rose quartz mine lies 4 miles south of Custer, the rose quartz forming a vein about 30 feet in width. A vote of thanks was tendered to the speaker for his interesting communication and exhibition of Black Hills minerals.

Mr. Charles W. Hoadley described a number of recent trips to Robeson, Birdsboro, Jones mine, Falls of French Creek, and Frankford. He reported