

# DAY TUNNEL

## A SIGNIFICANT ADDITION TO NEW ALMADEN'S RICH MINING OPERATION

Toxic gases and underground water posed perils and problems for miners in search of valuable cinnabar ore. Under Sherman Day's suggestion, the "New Tunnel" was dug at the 800 foot level to help ventilate and drain the vast catacombs of underground tunnels and shafts. Later re-named the "Day Tunnel", this new passage into some of the mountain's hardest rock proved to be quite profitable. For much of the 1870s miners hauled nearly all of the company's cinnabar out through this one opening.

It was also Sherman Day who suggested building a new road (now known as the Randol Trail) for easier access to the mine and tunnel. Although the Day Tunnel entrance and planilla are not visible today, evidence of the tons of rock that passed through them can be seen along and below the trail.



left: Tunnel entrance, ca 1860

below: Day Tunnel Planilla (ore sorting shed), ca late 1800s



Sherman Day, an accomplished engineer and graduate of Yale's Sheffield School of Engineering, was hired as Superintendent and Surveyor of New Almaden's Quicksilver Mines in 1857. He conceived several ideas that added to the success of mining operations.



Squirrel

Lizard



SANTA CLARA  
COUNTY PARKS