

the First National, Dewey's, and the Bank of Charlotte - were doing business. Johnson C. Smith University had its origin in 1867 due to the efforts of Rev. S. C. Alexander and Rev. W. G. Miller,¹⁷⁰ and the Daily Carolina Observer, later to become the Charlotte Observer, was established in 1869.¹⁷¹

At the end of the Civil War the Rudisell Gold Mining Company of Baltimore City planned to further enlarge the mining operations by sinking new shafts. They felt that by sinking a new engine shaft to the west of the old engine shaft they would be able to intersect the gold veins at a point below the previous workings. They also planned to expand the milling works, now located on the Rudisill property, to handle the greater volume of ore which would be taken from the mine.¹⁷²

Whether or not they were successful in their attempts is not certain. The change in the location of the corporate office from Baltimore to Charlotte (figure 16) may have been an attempt to maintain better control of the mining operations. They retained possession of the mine until 1868, when the property was sold at public auction to the highest bidder, a Mr. Thomas Wilson.¹⁷³

At the time Federal troops left Charlotte in 1872,¹⁷⁴ remains of Bissel's Mill on Irwin Creek were still standing. Reconstruction ended when president Rutherford B. Hayes withdrew the last federal troops from the South in 1877.¹⁷⁶

SOUTHERN INITIATIVE

The Rudisill mine was operated on a small scale by Thomas Wilson

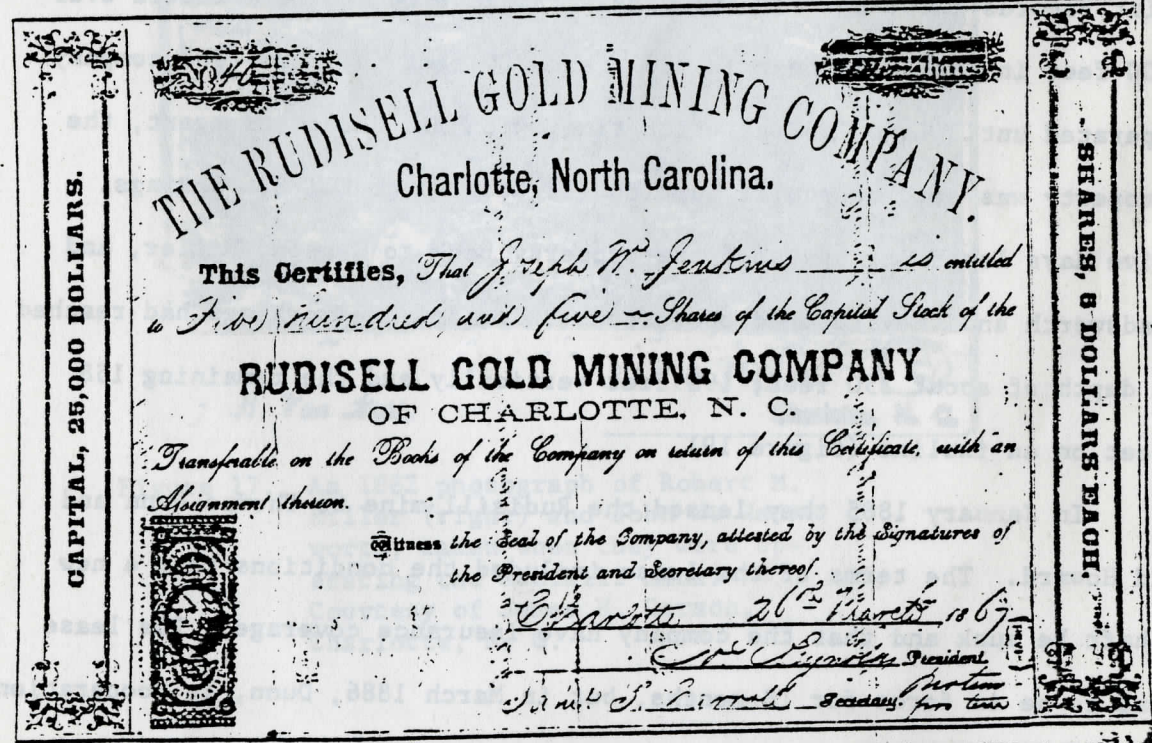
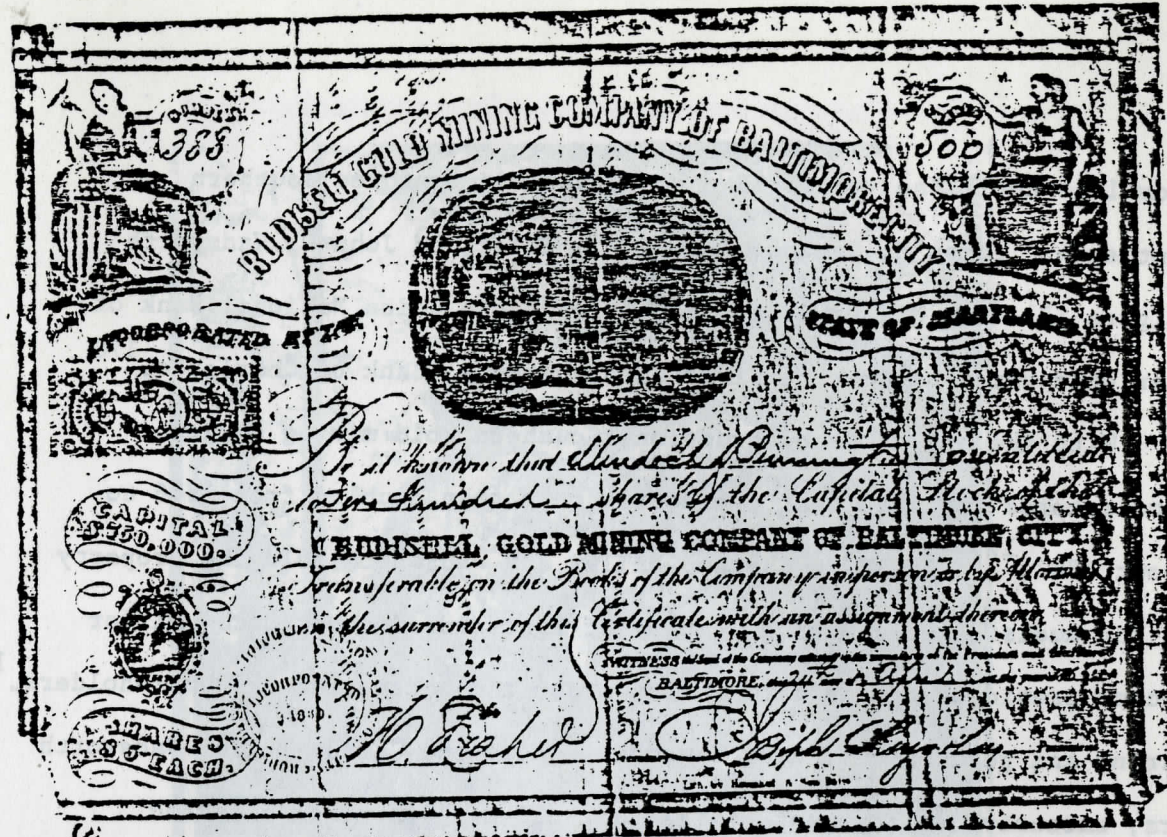


Figure 16. Stock certificates of the Rudisell Gold Mining Company for 1865 (top) and 1867 (bottom). Courtesy of Mr. James H. Carson, Charlotte, N. C.