

from 1868 until the year 1878 when he sold it to three southern gentlemen: James H. Carson, Robert M. Miller and John W. Wadsworth (figure 17).¹⁷⁷ Miller later helped found the Union National Bank of Charlotte which became the First Union National Bank of Charlotte.¹⁷⁸

With the end of Reconstruction, Southern gold mining surged. Mint records indicate that production more than doubled from 1876 to about 1882.¹⁷⁹ In 1879, Carson, Miller and Wadsworth sold the property to the Rudisill Gold Mining Company of Hartford, Connecticut. Miller became president of the firm while Carson and Wadsworth were shareholders.¹⁸⁰ During and perhaps beginning somewhat before the Carson-Miller-Wadsworth era, extensive enlargement of the Rudisill mine workings occurred. Mint records indicate that the mine workings extended to a little over 200 feet in 1880, 265 feet in 1881, and 300 feet in 1882. The company operated until late 1882 at which time, with Mr. Carson as agent, the property was sold at public auction (figure 18) to Eli B. Springs. Five days later Springs sold the property back to Carson, Miller, and Wadsworth and they resumed operations. By 1883 the workings had reached a depth of about 350 feet; 192 feet vertically and the remaining 158 feet on an incline (figure 19).

In January 1885 they leased the Rudisill mine to Thomas Dunn and Ed Howard. The terms of the lease included the conditions that a new shaft be sunk and that the company have insurance coverage. The lease was to be in force for 18 months, but in March 1886, Dunn, in cooperation with several others, formed the "Rudisill Mining Company" and was able, through an agreement with Miller, Carson, and Wadsworth to continue



Figure 17. An 1882 photograph of Robert M. Miller (right) and John W. Wadsworth, taken when they were operating the Rudisill mine. Courtesy of James H. Carson, Charlotte, N. C.