

## SOUTHAMPTON LEAD MINES

Along the northern end of Lead Mine Road, in the general vicinity where the boundaries of Easthampton, Westhampton, and Southampton meet, lead mines once operated.

Robert Lyman, a hunter, discovered the mines in 1679 when all the land belonged to Northampton. Boston interests and capital spurred the development after Northampton granted 100 acres to be worked. Capital waned and product was slight. The mine was abandoned.

In 1764, nearly seventy years later, New York interests re-opened the mines. The working crew included Ethan Allen of Revolutionary War fame. The richest veins of lead were found in the Southampton section. A stamping mill with six hammers and a smelting furnace were erected. Operations were at a height in 1770. The Revolution, however, forced abandonment of the mine.

Again Boston interests re-opened the mine in 1807. This time the mine was opened about thirteen years. Shafts ran as long as 726' laterally and as deep as 110'.

Sporadic interest from New York once again re-opened the mine in 1851. In 1863, 150 men, two powerful steam engines, and efficient stone crushing machines were located at the mines and machinists and blacksmith shops were erected. The final abandonment of the mines occurred in 1865.