Abstract:

Reports of silver in various early Colorado gold deposits (16.75 oz/t in an assay from the Gregory Lode in Central City, August, 1859, Rocky Mountain News) established an early awareness of its presence. The Belmont Silver Mine on McClellan Mtn. near present day Georgetown was profitably worked from 1865 to 1870. But the 1869 discovery of silver deposits at Caribou in Boulder County initiated the first substantial silver mining operation in the territory.

The Caribou Mine and several adjacent claims (No Name, Poorman, Native Silver, and others) are estimated to have produced $2.5 million (value at time mined) before 1883 (Lovering & Goddard, USGS PP 223). The story of silver production at Caribou is largely the story of the Caribou Mine. All of the elements of civilization, from economics to science and technology to politics, have had a profound influence on the operations of the Caribou Mine. In addition, the story has been highlighted by the efforts of several entrepreneurs. This presentation will cover the geology, mineralogy, and mining history of Caribou.

Bio:

Ed is a geologist, mineralogist, and mining historian. He is the Curator for the Colorado School of Mines Museum of Earth Science. He is a past president of both the Mining History Association and the Colorado Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy. He has written numerous papers on the geology, mineralogy, and mining history of many Colorado mining districts, several of which have received special awards from Friends of Mineralogy. In 2009, his book Historic Photos of Colorado Mining was published by Turner Publishing. In 2019, received the Rodman Paul Award for Outstanding Contributions to Mining History.