THE
HAILE GOLD MINE
A TIMELINE

1827 Gold is discovered on the property of Captain Benjamin Haile in Lancaster County, South Carolina.

1827–1862 The mine produces about $1 million in gold.

1865 During the Civil War, mineral deposits are mined to support war efforts. In the final days of the conflict, Sherman’s Troops wreck the mining operation on their march north.

1880–1910 Haile is now the largest gold mine east of the Mississippi River.

1887 Dr. Carl Adolf Thies is hired to manage the Haile operations. Dr. Thies, educated in mining in his native Germany, develops a revolutionary process of extracting gold from the ore, called the “barrel chlorination process” or “Thies Process.” Production skyrocket.

1904 Dr. Thies retires and his son, Ernst, better known around the mine as “Captain”, takes over management.

1908 Tragedy strikes: a boiler explosion occurs in the stamp mill, killing “Captain” Thies, injuring Mid Truesdale and others, and destroying the main operating mill.

1911–1921 Haile is purchased at mortgage sale. Kershaw industrialist John T. Stevens and others mine pyrite.


2007–2015 Romarco Minerals purchases the Haile property, led by CEO Diane Garrett and General Manager David Thomas. They usher in an extensive exploration project and acquire permits to mine for gold with a modern operation.

2015 OceanaGold, a global mining company, merges with Romarco Minerals and assumes operation of the modern-day Haile Gold Mine.

What does the future hold?
The Haile Operation will continue to operate for many years, providing great economic benefit to the local region and state. When mining is complete, the Kershaw Community will be able to enjoy beautifully reclaimed land for generations to come.

www.hailegoldmine.com