

the field continued to decline. Although a handful of wells continued to produce in the Gringo area into the 1990s, the field is now basically abandoned, despite having one of the highest estimated reserve values in the state.

It has been speculated by many that the decline of both fields, occurring within a few years of their discoveries, resulted from overproduction at both ends of the same reservoir. At the level of the Hundred-Foot sand, the New Sheffield field is structurally up-dip from Shannopin field, and the existence of oily gas at the southeastern edge of New Sheffield suggests a porosity/permeability connection with the Shannopin reservoir. On the one hand, wild drilling and commercial overproduction of gas from the higher New Sheffield field probably helped drain Shannopin of its natural gas drive. On the other hand, production of oil by natural gas drive probably helped exhaust the New Sheffield field ahead of its time, resulting in a sad case of mutually assured depletion.

DO M. J. TRUMBLE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES COMPARE WITH CHARACTERS FROM ATLAS SHRUGGED?

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POSTER AND ORAL PRESENTATION

AMERICA AS RAND'S SETTING

Had Ayn Rand not used America as her setting to portray creative industrialists in 'Atlas Shrugged,' there would be no question as to how she could have missed key cultural underpinnings stabilizing and propelling U.S. visionaries.

After a quarter century in this country observing American business, Rand developed her understanding to form a narrative of how builders of industry modeled their lives. Rand was not in America to see their start-up efforts. She did not witness details to know why mavericks made certain decisions amid government efforts to address vast changes after the American Civil War and World War I. The templates Rand used to outline her ideal titans of industry in 'Atlas Shrugged' partly match the achievers who journeyed through real American history.

Rand's work carries global impact as her novel remains a world bestseller 57 years after its first publishing, second to the Bible. This essay explores where Rand missed key values and practices maintained among American industrialists. She also hit certain marks with historical accuracy exploring their ideals in her fictional narrative.

At the University of Texas at Austin, the Walter Geology Library offers a Pinterest webpage with recommended reading under GEOFICTION. Listed among books is OIL! by novelist and journalist, Upton Sinclair. This fiction novel was published thirty years before Ayn Rand's novel. Twenty-three years prior to Sinclair's bestselling novel came Ida Tarbell's journalism profiling Standard Oil. Fiction and journalism have delivered permanent impacts to public perceptions of industry. Impacts include shaping policies in petroleum and industrial history.

Historians peel back layers exploring tangible dated artifacts, documents, images and narratives from vintage times to develop objective views of the past. Comparison of fiction, legend and fact is part of cumulative historical evidence explored.

Using a decade of research covering thirty years of U.S. industrialists and the life of U.S. inventor, Milton J. Trumble, it is possible to highlight defined characteristics common among individuals and families who built American industry prior to 1925 when novelist Ayn Rand first visited and then moved to America.

SAMUEL DOWNER AND THE DOWNER KEROSENE OIL COMPANY

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Samuel Downer was a quintessential, mid-nineteenth century American capitalist. Not averse to risking his entire personal fortune, he boldly seized one of the great entrepreneurial opportunities of his day, coal oil and petroleum refining, and made the most of it. In doing so, Downer realized the full promise of the new industry. He led the spectacular commercial growth of the coal oil refining industry and the eventual full-scale transition from coal oil to petroleum-based refining. The refined products from his enterprises changed the way people in North America lived their daily lives and contributed materially and directly to the industrial growth of North America and Europe. By 1860, the Downer Kerosene Oil Co. was the largest manufacturer of kerosene