

Gary Freeman (Freeman Resources, LLC) has provided photos of recent mineral finds at the Crooker mine. The Crooker is one of several granitic pegmatites on Plumbago Mountain, Newry, Oxford County, Maine, USA, that has produced rare minerals and gem crystals from cavities. Gary began mining the Crooker in the late fall of 2020, and since that time he has hit multiple pockets containing remarkable quantities of well formed amblygonite-montebbrasite crystals. The fluorine content of crystals from the nearby Spodumene Brook location put that material slightly on the montebrasite side of the solid solution, and the Crooker material is being referred to as montebrasite as well. The oxides pictured include cassiterite and a niobotantalate that is manganotantalite based on x-ray fluorescence analysis by Al Falster (Maine Mineral & Gem Museum). Some transparent blue-green tourmaline has also been recovered.

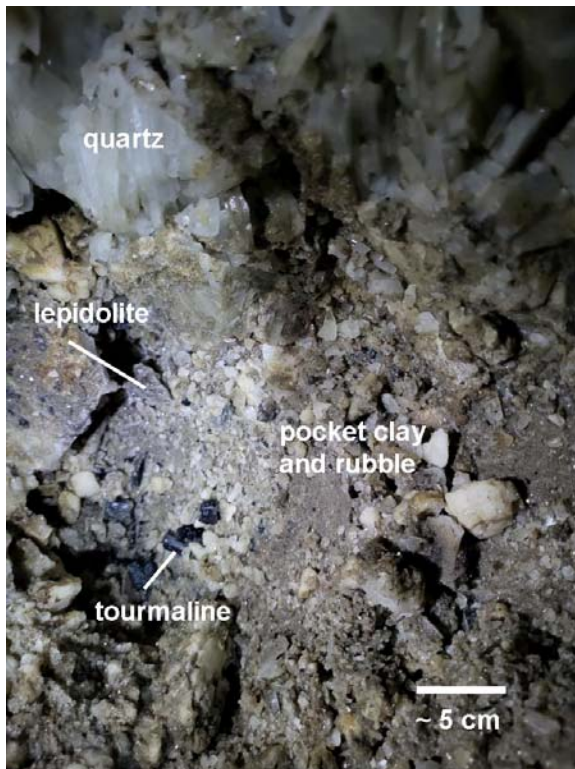


Figure 1. A pristine pocket at the Crooker mine. Gary Freeman photo.



Figure 2. A montebrasite crystal from the Crooker mine. Gary Freeman specimen and photo.



Figure 3. Manganotantalite from the Crooker mine. Gary Freeman specimen and photo.



Figure 4. Cassiterite from the Crooker mine. Gary Freeman specimen and photo.



Figure 5. Tourmaline from the Crooker mine. Gary Freeman specimen and photo.