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FELDSPAR MINE IN UPPER CHICHESTER – Place Owned by John B. Boudwin Rich in Minerals – Precious Stones, Too

When John B. Boudwin of Upper Chichester was a farmer's chore boy, many years ago, he picked up a piece of rock from the place on which he lives and carried it to a nearby house where resided a miner, experienced in digging excavations in the far west.

"I knew," said Boudwin the other day, "that it was a piece of feldspar and I was convinced there was plenty of it on the farm where I found it. The miner offered me a good sized sum of money if I would tell him where I discovered it, but I refused."

"Well," said the miner, "relates Mr. Boudwin, if you know where you got it, keep your eye on the place. If you can buy it, your fortune is made. That is a bit of the finest dental feldspar used in making china and false teeth."

Mr. Boudwin says that from that moment he made up his mind that someday he would own the place. Several years ago he went to the owner, the father of Charles A. Broomall, the tax collector of Upper Chichester, who wanted thirteen thousand dollars for the sixty-five acres. A few years later, the younger Broomall sold the place to Boudwin for \$6500. Two weeks ago, after experts from several parts of the country made an examination of the deposits on the farm, the owner was offered \$65,000 in cash, but he let the representative of a corporation return to New York without a sale. He had asked \$10,000 more.

Mr. Boudwin says he has just cause for holding his farm at such a figure. He has turned up the finest grades of white and pink feldspar, which have been essayed as such. He has found huge quantities of columbite, the finest grade of iron in the world. There are yellow beryl, garnet, flint and immense quantities of building stone. The finding of amethysts is not uncommon, while there are signs of deposits of copper ore.

There have been scores of chemists from various parts of the country who have gone to the farm simply to make tests and wanted to lease or buy. Several years ago a firm in Trenton, N.J. had a dozen men for four months, making tests in every part of the place and their unanimous opinion was that the whole farm is a labyrinth of spar veins that hundreds of years of continual work would only result in finding to what great depths the deposits sink. There is one vein particularly that experts have declared goes down into the earth at least 200 feet.

Former owners have not been aware of the rich find that lies imbedded in the earth there, though they have farmed the surface ever since the granting of the place by William Penn. A ton of the kind of feldspar on the Boudwin place is worth from thirty to forty dollars. It is ground, mixed with flint and mica and made into dishes, while much of it finds its way into the mouths of the people of the world in the shape of false molars.