GOOD EARTH: EXPLORING MISSOURI’S OLD LEAD BELT

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ABSTRACT

Unstructured in-depth interviews were used to explore the lasting influences the lead mining industry and its legacy have had on community perceptions and identity within Missouri’s Old Lead Belt. The Old Lead Belt is a mining subdistrict within the Southeast Missouri Lead District containing the cities of Bonne Terre, Desloge, Leadington, Leadwood, and Park Hills in which large scale, industrial lead mining occurred between 1864 and 1972. Bourdieu’s theory of *habitus*, as outlined by Silviu Serban (2011) and others, was used as a theoretical foundation to guide the main research questions as well as the project’s methodology.

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS COMPONENT

A portfolio of photographs exploring the landscape and communities of the Old Lead Belt, forever altered by the 108-year history of lead mining in the area.