The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
with
The American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers
and
The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration
and its Pennsylvania Anthracite Section
Welcome you to today’s dedication of an official Pennsylvania Historical Marker commemorating the founding of
The American Institute of Mining Engineers
May 16, 1871
Here in Wilkes-Barre at the Wyoming Valley Hotel, 16 South River Street
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING ENGINEERS

Organization founded in 1871 by 22 mining professionals to promote safety, education, economics, and technology in mining. One of the first national engineering societies in the US, the Institute and its 150,000+ members honor the group's legacy by providing education and upholding professional values. The founding meeting of AIME as well as that of the PA Anthracite Section of AIME were held here at the site of the former Wyoming Valley Hotel.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION 2014

pennsylvania
TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR

pennsylvania
HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION

ANDREW E. MASICH, CHAIRMAN
JAMES M. VAUGHN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

http://www.phmc.pa.gov
American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers
145th Anniversary Celebration
11:30 AM May 16, 2016
Westmoreland Club, Wilkes-Barre

Music:
Jay Smar, Folk Balladeer of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Welcome and Introductions:
Michael C. Korb, P.E., Past Chair, Penn Anthracite Section Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (PASME)

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:
Bishop Brian Traweek, P.E., Secretary-Treasurer, PASME

Greetings:
John Mack, P.E., Chair, PASME
Dr. Garry W. Warren, President, The American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers (AIME); Past President, The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society

Remarks:
Timothy D. Arnold. P.E., President, Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME)
James Robinson, Executive Director, The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society
L. Michele Lawrie-Munro, CAE. Executive Director AIME, for The Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST)
Robert Garland, Director Eastern North America Region, The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE)

Historic Overview:
Dr. George W. Luxbacher, P.E., Past President, AIME, Past President, SME

Champagne Toast:
Dr. Nikhil Trivedi, P.E., President Elect, AIME; Past President, SME

Closing:
Michael C. Korb
"American Institute of Mining Engineers"
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission Marker
Dedication Ceremony
3:00 PM May 16, 2016
16 South River Street, Wilkes-Barre

Music:
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- Dr. Garry W. Warren, President, P.E., American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers (AIME); Past President, The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society

Remarks:
- Dr. William V. Lewis, Commissioner, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)
- Mark Davis, Communications Director for Senator John Yudichak

Historic Overview:
- Dr. Bode Morin, Site Administrator, Eckley Miners Village

Unveiling:
- Dr. Nikhil Trivedi, P.E., President Elect, AIME, Past President, Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration
- John R. Ackerman, P.E., P.G., BCEE, F.NSPE, Chairman Elect PASME

Closing:
- Michael C. Korb

“We present herewith a tolerably complete account of the proceedings at the first meeting of the new American Institute of Mining Engineers (AIME), held at Wilkesbarre, Pa., May 16, 17 and 18, 1871.

“Wilkesbarre is an anthracite mining district located relatively close to New York City. R.P. Rothwell, a mining engineer working the anthracite district, was unanimously elected temporary chairman and Raymond was elected as the secretary. A committee was appointed to approve rules for the institute. While waiting for the committee report, the meeting listened to a paper from Raymond on the Geographical Distribution of Mining Districts.

“A committee report followed with a total of 22 rules or bylaws. The first stated the objective of the AIME “…to enable its members, comprising mining engineers and other person interested in mining and metallurgy, to meet together at fixed periods for the purpose of reading papers upon and discussion subjects which have for their aim the economical production of the useful minerals and metals, and the safety and welfare of those employed in these industries and to circulate among its members, by mean of publications, the information thus obtained.”

“Annual subscription was $10 ($200 today) and any member making a donation of $100 ($2,000 today) or more would have a lifetime membership. At the time, they had 70 members who hailed mostly from New York and the anthracite mining region of eastern Pennsylvania; 22 men attended the first meeting. They formed rules regarding honorary membership and governance.

“On the second day, the group visited various points of interest around Wilkesbarre including the Lehigh Valley Co. They marveled at the arrangement of new coal breakers. In the evening, they held another session at the Wyoming Valley Hotel. After business concluded, papers were presented on Waste in Coal Mining and A New System for Mine Ventilation. A vigorous discussion ensued and it is well documented in this edition of E&MJ”.

http://www.e-mj.com/features/5945-the-formative-years-for-e-mj.html#.VvCBxscUV1s

Engineering & Mining Journal February 2016
The American Institute of Mining Engineers was organized in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania by men who were primarily interested in anthracite.

Its first meeting, at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in the Northern Anthracite field, on May 16, 1871, resulted from a call sent out by three outstanding men of the anthracite industry: Eckley B. Coxe, R. P. Rothwell, and Martin Coryell.

The best known of these was Eckley B. Coxe, who was the manager of large holdings operated by him and his family, and who is remembered as the inventor of a special grate for burning very fine anthracite, known as the Coxe traveling grate, which is still very widely used. R. P. Rothwell was a well-known consulting engineer of the region, as was Martin Coryell, who was associated with another well-known anthracite family, the Pardees.

There is no record of the discussions that resulted in this initial meeting, but it is safe to assume that the formation of the Institute was largely influenced, through appreciation by the founders, of the necessity for a free exchange of information covering the whole of the mining industry.

One of the rules adopted at the first meeting was:

The objects . . . are to enable its members . . . to meet together at fixed periods for the purpose of reading papers upon and discussing subjects which have for their aim the economical production of the useful minerals and metals, and the safety and welfare of those employed in these industries, and to circulate among its members, by means of its publications, the information thus obtained.

It is probable that this movement, which included the promotion of the "safety and welfare of those employed in these industries," was influenced by the increased complexity of the industry, and the influence that this complexity had upon the injury and death rate. As the mines had been gradually extended to greater depth, and to territories where explosive gases were given off freely, the danger increased and the necessity for adequate means of preventing disaster became more and more apparent. Before the formation of the Institute there had been a number of such incidents, and the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania had only a short time previously (on March 3, 1870) passed an Act known as "Anthracite Mining Laws." The stated purpose of the Laws was:

To provide for the health and safety of persons employed in and about the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania and for the protection and preservation of property connected therewith.

A few years earlier, an Act having to do with only a part of the anthracite region had been passed, but this Act of 1870 covered the whole of the region, and it is possibly the first instance in the United States of a State having set up a compulsory safety code applying to mining operations. Before its enactment several of the large mining companies had been operating under their own printed safety rules, but the rules differed as between companies, and the action of the State, indicating the necessity for uniformity, undoubtedly influenced the minds of those who formed our Institute.
Looking into the reasons behind the formation of the Institute, we must remember the development of like institutions in other lands, particularly in Great Britain, where the South Wales Institute of Engineers, in part composed of anthracite miners, had been established in 1857. Its activities were undoubtedly known to our founders.

They were influenced, too, no doubt, by the spread of technical education in this country. The first engineering school, the U. S. Military Academy, had its beginning at West Point in 1802. It was followed by several specialized institutions, and by scientific departments in the older universities. The spread of specialized technical education began, however, only a few years prior to the formation of our Institute, when, in the period 1860 to 1872, nine institutions that specialized in technical education were founded: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1861; School of Mines, Columbia University, 1864; Lehigh University, 1865; Cornell University, 1865; University of Illinois, 1867; Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1868; Stevens Institute of Technology, 1870; Alabama Polytechnic Institute, 1872; Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1872.

As a result of the call for the meeting on May 16, 1871, a sizable group of men, largely from Wilkes-Barre, met in the clubroom of the Wyoming Valley Hotel at Wilkes-Barre with R. P. Rothwell, of Wilkes-Barre, as Provisional Chairman, and R. W. Raymond, of New York, as Secretary. They appointed committees to attend to the formalities of - the formation of the proposed Institute. At this meeting R. W. Raymond read an interesting paper on The Geological Distribution of the Mining Districts of the United States. On the following day, May 17, 1871, the formal organization was perfected, with David Thomas, an ironmaster of Catawauqua, Pa., as President, six Vice Presidents and eight Managers (four of whom were from the anthracite region), and with Martin Coryell, of Wilkes-Barre, as Secretary, and J. Pryor Williamson, of Wilkes-Barre, as Treasurer.


The great development of the mines and metallurgical works of this country during the
last few years, accompanied as it has been by the investment of enormous sums of money
in purchasing lands, and in the erection of improvements, requires that advantage should
be taken of the accumulated knowledge of engineers, superintendents, and others, in
mastering the problems which are constantly presenting themselves for our action.
Among those may be mentioned the consideration of more economical systems of mining
in our coal and metalliferous mines, improved methods of transportation above and
below ground, unwatering and ventilating mines, the mechanical preparation of coal and
other minerals, the various metallurgical processes, and, in fact, every question tending to
the attainment of two great objects:
1st. The more economical production of the useful minerals and metals.
2d. The greater safety and welfare of those employed in these industries.

In European countries, where the arts of mining and metallurgy have long been the
subject of the most careful study, no means have been found so effectual in attaining the
end above proposed as the free interchange of experience among those actually engaged
in these industries, and this object has been accomplished, mainly, through the medium of
institutes, associations or societies, composed of those engaged in these occupations, and
by the periodical publication of essays or papers, communicated to such societies by their
members. It must be evident to all practical men that the interchange of the varied
experience of those engaged in such occupations in this country could not fail to advance
very materially the desired objects; it is, therefore, proposed to establish an American
Institute of Mining Engineers, which will hold its meetings periodically in the great
mining and metallurgical centres, where works of interest, such as mines, machine shops,
furnaces, and other metallurgical works, can be inspected, and the members exchange
their views, and consult for mutual advantage upon the difficulties encountered by each;
these transactions or proceedings, when published, would form a most valuable and
greatly-needed addition to our professional literature. It is proposed that a meeting of
those sympathizing with the object above mentioned shall be called for the purpose of
organizing such an association, the place and time of meeting being Wilkes-Barre, Pa.,
and the month of April or May.

Communications indicating the opinion and wishes of all, both as to these points, and
also as to the organization and objects of the Institute, will be gladly received by any of
the undersigned, and a notice of the date of meeting, which will be arranged to suit the
greater number, will be duly communicated. Anyone who may have devoted himself to a
particular subject connected either with mining or metallurgy, and who may be possessed
of new facts in reference to it, would greatly aid in furthering the objects of the proposed
association by preparing a paper giving the result of his experience, to be communicated
at the first meeting. It is expected that the desire for the advancement of professional
knowledge, combined with the attractions of a visit to the most beautiful of our coal
fields, the Wyoming Valley, will insure a large attendance from all parts of the country.

Signed,        ECKLEY B. COXE, Drifton, Pa.
               R. P. ROTHWELL Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
               MARTIN CORYELL, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
WILKES-BARRE, PA., May, 1871

The foregoing circular having been extensively circulated by mail, and also by publication in the leading engineering papers, the following named gentlemen assembled in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., May 16th, 1871, and organized the

American Institute of Mining Engineers.

Haight, Ogden, .......... New York.
Hick, W. B., .......... Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
Jones, Lewis S., .......... Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
McNair, Thomas S., .......... Hazleton, Pa.
Mercur, Fred., .......... Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
Thomas, James, .......... Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
Williams, T. M., .......... Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Mr. R. P. Rothwell was elected temporary Chairman, and Mr. R. W. Raymond temporary Secretary.
Wyoming Valley Hotel, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
circa 1871

Wyoming Valley Hotel (1866-1909) 16 South River Street
Site of the First Meeting of A.I.M.E.

engraving courtesy of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia

Located at 16 South River Street, this building has been the headquarters for Guard Insurance Group since the 1980's. It was originally built in 1909. It was first used for the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company's office.

Site of First Meeting of Penn-Anthracite Section A.I.M.E./SME
Our support for this dedication is in recognition of the efforts of the Reading Anthracite employees who have served as officers and board members of the Society for Mining Metallurgy and Exploration, and its other men and women who have faithfully served our Pennsylvania Anthracite Industry since 1871.

The Rich Family of Companies

http://readinganthracite.com/rich-family-companies/

Kenneth J. Levitz
Reclamation Services
kleitz@ptd.net

MIKEKORB EC CONSULTING
570-233-2191 | mikekorbblc@gmail.com

Thanks to others that helped, including:

JUDD AND SUSAN SHOVAL

MINICHI

ISABELLA RESTAURANT AND BAR

ENDEAVOR

Lightstreet Laser and Barrelworks

Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies

Westmoreland Club

Anthony T.P. Brooks

RIYAD BARKAWI

THE ANTHRACITE TEAM
Blaschak Coal Corp.
a producer of quality anthracite coal since 1937, congratulates the Pennsylvania Anthracite Section of the Society for Mining Engineers on their successful effort to win approval of a Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission historical marker commemorating the founding of the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

We extend our thanks to A.I.M.E. for its 145 years of service to the Anthracite industry, and its efforts to promote safety, economics, education and technology in mining.
American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, Inc.

FOUNDED 1871

Member Societies:
The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME)
The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society (TMS)
The Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST)
The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE)

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