

Thomas Morgan Williams (1835-1904)



The first Inspector of Mines in the Wyoming region was Thomas Williams, an ex-miner, officer of the Workingmen's Benevolent Association, and manager of the Anthracite Monitor, a newspaper published in Tamaqua in the interest of the laborers and miners who were involved in a strike after Avondale. He had been a vocal activist for passage of the law. His union connections, activism for the strike and the Law, and past work in Charles Parrish's (one of the "other") mines were all remarked upon in writings about his appointment.

Williams had started working in the mines with his stepfather in Wales when he was seven. After coming to America at 13, he worked at various jobs in the mines until advancing to boss of the mines for Parrish after his service in the Civil War.

After 10 years as Inspector of Mines, he worked as superintendent of the Lykens Valley and Summit Valley Coal Company, where he and the Lykens Valley Manager, Irving Ariel Stearns (another founder of AIME) introduced the first underground electric locomotive in the US in 1887.

