

# JOSEPH H. BRAMWELL (1846-1894)

Not everyone has a town named after him, but several of the founders do. Joseph Herbert Bramwell was sent to the first meeting by his boss Edmund Cash Pechin.

Pechin and Bramwell were working at Dunbar Furnace in Fayette County PA in 1871, and a town near there is "Pechin." Bramwell was postmaster, a job many of the founders performed in some of the small towns they worked in, at a town in West Virginia that needed a name, and so the story goes, voilà! He called it "Bramwell." It soon came to be known as "the town of millionaires" because of the money that was made in in the Pocahontas-Flat Top Coalfield, where Bramwell was a pioneer.

Bramwell later became President of the Virginia Steel Company. Bramwell and Pechin also were early investors in the Norfolk & Western Railroad, the Flat Top Land Association, and the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company which developed mines and ironworks.



**Bramwell remained active in A.I.M.E. throughout his career. At Sterry Hunt's 1883 Roanoke Meeting, he was Chairman of a tour that included several companies that he was affiliated with - the Rorer Iron Company, Crozier Iron & Steel, Crozier Coal & Coke, Flat Top Land Company New River Division, and the mines and coke ovens of the Southwest Virginia Improvement Company. He also gave a paper on his investigation of the Pocahontas Mine Explosion at the Chicago 1884 meeting.**