Eckley Brinton Coxe (1839-1895) graduated from Penn in 1858, and later studied at the École des Mines de Paris, and the mining academy at Freiberg, Saxony; and spent time studying mining techniques in Great Britain and Europe.

After returning to the U.S. in 1865 Coxe became president of Coxe Brothers and Company, and in 1871 was one of the Founders of A.I.M.E. at the age of 32.

Eckley Coxe employed thousands of miners.

He was a State Senator; a humanitarian, establishing a miners’ hospital in 1883 and a miners’ fund to care for sick and injured miners, widows, and orphans; a philanthropist, creating a technical school for miners, supporting Lehigh University and his wife Sofia’s many charities; and a fun-loving intellectual.

Coxe was President of A.I.M.E. in 1878–1879 and is a member of the National Mining Hall of Fame.
Coxe was also a noted surveyor and designed a “plummet lamp” combining a light and plumb bob. Anthracite mines’ size and complexity, their steep slopes made measuring with a “chain” difficult, and he invented the first surveyor’s tape wound on a reel. 

Surveys of mines at Drifton were described as “the most accurate of the extended surveys in America.”

Coxe held more than 100 other patents and is a member of the National Inventors’ Hall of Fame for his traveling-grate furnace.