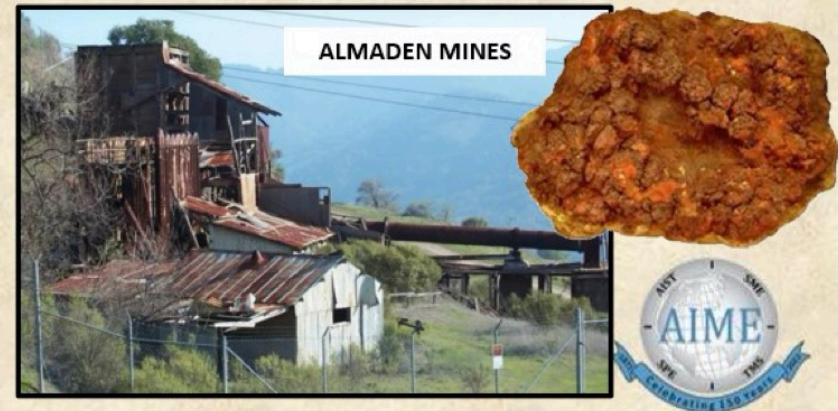
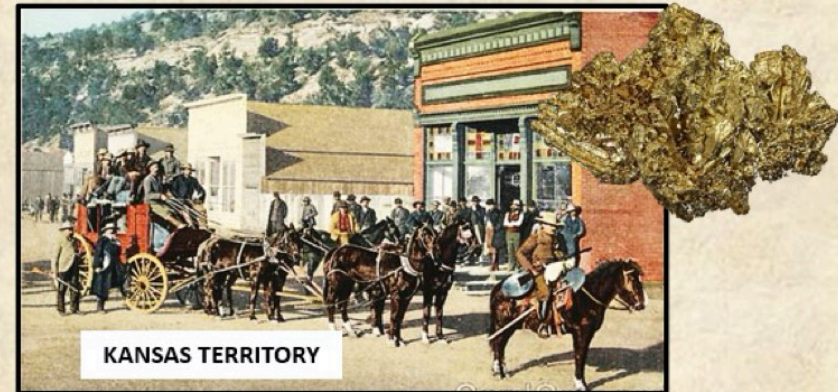


Christopher Eldridge Hawley (1833-1911) was a mining and civil engineer educated at College Hill, Poughkeepsie. He first worked on the PA and NY railroads.

The Pike's Peak Gold Rush was a boom in the Pike's Peak country of western Kansas Territory 1858-1861. About 100,000 gold seekers took part in one of the great gold rushes in North American history. Hawley was one of them but wasn't really lucky.



Hawley's uncle, Charles Eldridge, was a mining engineer working at the mercury mines in California and Hawley joined him in the early 1860s, later having charge of the Enriqueta and Almaden Mines. After work on an irrigation job in Spain, he came back to Wilkes Barre in 1871.



Hawley had married well in 1861, Mary was a daughter of Congressman Hendrick Bradley Wright, a lawyer and coal landowner; and Hawley's success in the west had allowed him to return to participate in Wright's coal land dealings, and for he and Mary to go to Washington to manage his staff. Besides being part of the social circle in Wilkes-Barre and D.C., Christopher got caught up in the late 1870s Bicycle Craze. The first bicycle that appeared in Wilkes Barre in about 1879 was owned by him and made by his plans at a shop in Bethlehem. Hawley was also the first President of the Washington DC "Capital Bicycle Club" and an honorary member of the Wilkes Barre Bicycle Club.

He became a noted bicycle inventor and bicycle track designer, working with the Pope and Newell companies. Hawley wrote articles touting bicycles and was an early advocate of the safety bicycle.



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