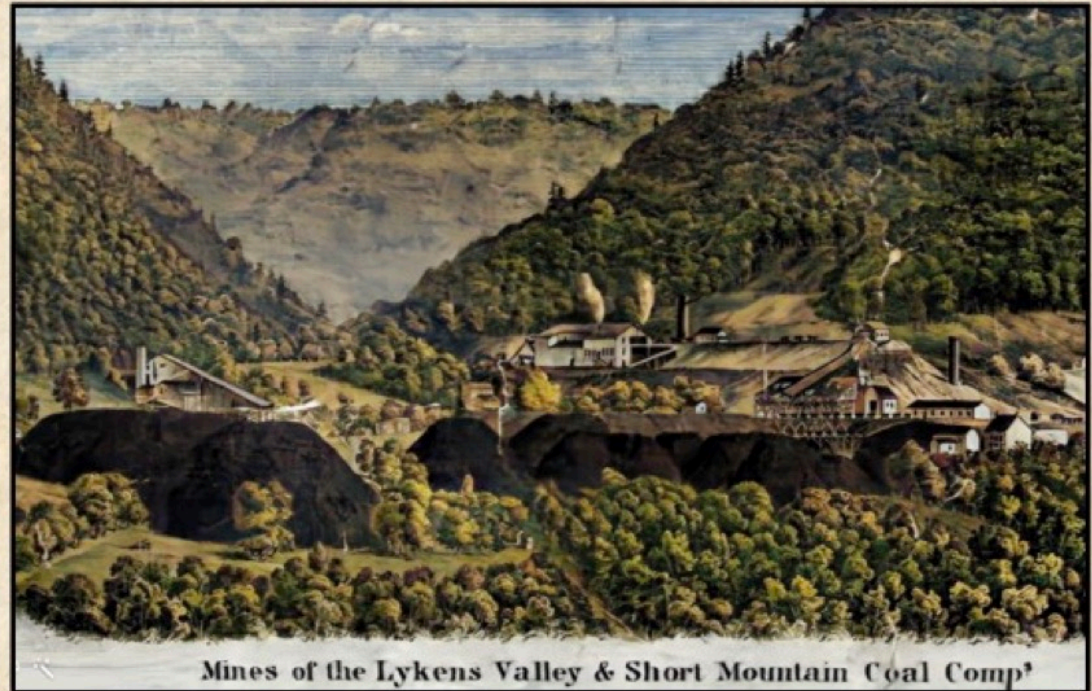


Daniel Hoffman (1823-1905)

was a prominent character in the early days of Lykens PA. He laid out the lots of town in 1848, was the publisher of *The Farmers' and Miners' Journal* [Lykenstown] in a 1858-1859 and was the engineer for the Lykens Valley Coal and Short Mountain coal companies and Summit Branch RR Company.

He went to Pottsville in the 1860s and opened a mining, civil and topographical engineering business he operated until 1872, when he moved to Philadelphia and continued that business. He spent his retirement prospecting coal properties in the central parts of Pennsylvania. Daniel was the father of another founder, John Rittenhouse Hoffman.

In 1878 he invented a celebrated surveying transit and level.





National Museum of American History
NMAH-AHB2017q051532 Transit

Heller & Brightly advertised this as an "Improved Complete Combined Transit and Leveling Instrument For Civil Engineers and Surveyors." This example is marked "Heller & Brightly Makers 5740 Philadelphia." The serial number indicates that it was made around 1884. New, the basic transit cost \$220. The tripod head of this transit allows the instrument to be leveled, and also to be adjusted horizontally in order to be brought over a fixed point on the ground. Daniel Hoffman obtained a patent (#197,369) on this design in 1877 and assigned the rights to Heller & Brightly in exchange for \$5 for each unit sold.

John H^y. Harden revised the design of the head.

