

Ferdinand Koerner (1830-1900) came to America from Prussia as a teenager in 1849. He married Sarah Anhaeuser, the daughter of a wealthy Wilkes-Barre tavern-keeper in about 1851 and became known as a pioneer in the coal industry, a coal prospector, and civil engineer. In 1859 he won applause, finding the first coal at depth in the Wyoming Valley, passing through sixteen veins of coal to an 11-foot-thick seam while sinking the Dundee Shaft to 800' deep. Previous efforts by others had been unsuccessful.



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ing Company,

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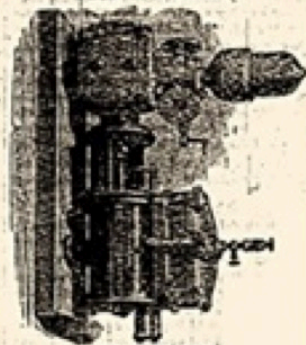
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F. KOERNER, Sec'y.
April 24, 1887-8

Koerner was involved in installing equipment at an early coal breaker, the Hunter/Preston #4 Colliery near Girardville. He, William L. Stewart, and others founded the Wyoming Valley Manufacturing Company in 1867, to make and sell heavy and light machinery for mining and coal breakers; including steam engines, pumps, screens, and coal cars. They built the first locomotive in NE PA in 1873 and became known for that business. They sold to Vulcan in 1888.



Koerner opened the Sibley Colliery in Old Forge. He was part owner, engineer, and Superintendent. The colliery was first owned by Elliott, Koerner & Co. in 1872 when the first shaft was sunk. The Sibley breaker was built in 1873.

