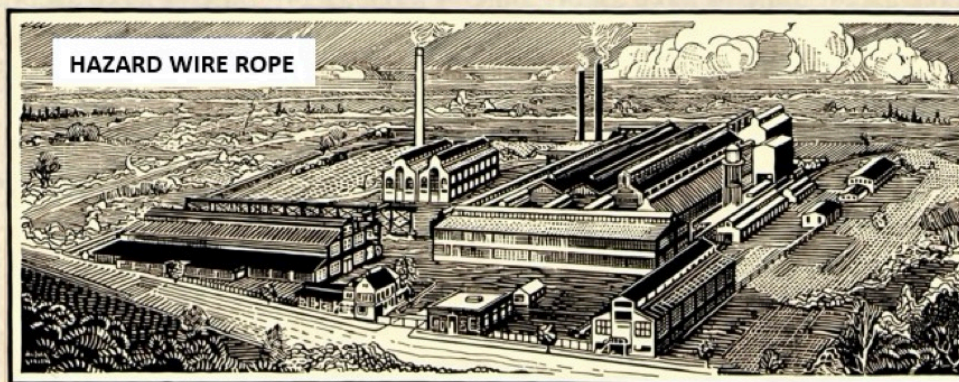


Charles Parrish (1826-1896) was, at the age of 15, apprenticed to a hardware merchant as a clerk, and became a partner until 1856, when he began operation collieries and speculating in coal land. It was said that he made Wilkes-Barre a "laboring man's metropolis to which people from all parts of the world have come to seek their fortunes." Parrish put together combinations of companies, collieries, railroads and canals which he owned, controlled, or influenced that built the Wyoming Valley and other far-flung mining interests.

He was President of Hazard Wire and the First National Bank of Wilkes-Barre, a Director of the North and West Branch Railroad, and was a Director of the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company for 20 years.





He owned the Parrish Coal Company and the Wilkes-Barre Coal and Iron Co., which combined with the Honey Brook Coal Co. IN 1874 to form the Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal Company, which he owned for twenty years. The LWB leased the lands of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation and operated those properties for years and combined with the LCN's Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad and its successor, the Central Railroad of New Jersey

More than a dozen of the Founders worked for Parrish's firms.

