Prof. Raphael Pumpelly (1837-1923) was an American geologist and explorer. Against his parent's objections, Pumpelly decided not to attend Yale, but chose to study and travel in Europe, and graduated from the Royal School of Mines in Freiburg in 1859. Upon his return to America, he developed silver mines in southern Arizona.

In 1861, he and William Phipps Blake accepted appointments as geologists for the Japanese government. Forced to leave Japan, he made an expedition up the Yangtze to study coal deposits, and traveled overland through China, Mongolia, Siberia to St. Petersburg in 1865.
Raphael Pumpelly’s life was full of adventure. On a morning in October 1871, “the same day that Mrs. O’Leary’s cow kicked over the lantern that destroyed Chicago,” Pumpelly checked out some of the rocks around him and picked up a yellow spotted rock. As an afterthought, he took the rock to an assayer, and what he found would be the start of the Gogebic iron ore boom. He bought about two miles of property on the Gogebic Range where the Newport and Geneva mines were built several years later.
Pumpelly's life as a geologist and explorer illustrates the growth of geology during what has been called Geology's Heroic age. And here's something for the young, young-at-heart, young-at-mind, or mining engineer wantabe...

A CHILDREN'S BOOK BY A FOUNDER OF A.I.M.E.

The Travels and Adventures of Raphael Pumpelly
Mining Engineer, Geologist, Archaeologist and Explorer.