

William H. Roberts (abt. 1821-1895) came to America from Wales as a teenager and worked as a machinist in PA, IL and IN before setting in Mauch Chunk PA working for Salkeld & Co., maker of much of the mine and breaker machinery for the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. While there he patented a Steam Pumping Engine and other equipment in 1870, making enough money to purchase the Lancaster (PA) Locomotive Works in 1877, repurposing it as the Pennsylvania Rolling Mill Manufacturing to make his steam pump &c. Unfortunately, a nationwide strike occurred just before he opened the business and it failed. He sold to Penn Iron, moved to Philadelphia and went back to being a machinist and inventor.