Richard Pennefather Rothwell (1836-1901) was a Canadian-American mechanical, civil, and mining engineer. He was educated at Trinity College, Toronto, the Rensselaer Institute at Troy, NY, the École des Mines, and at Freiberg. He worked for a wire rope manufacturer in London.

In 1864 he began work in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania at Eckley, Drifton and Wilkes-Barre, where he opened an office, his headquarters until 1873. For several years Rothwell was engineer of the Hazard Manufacturing Co., laying out and designing much of the machinery in the Wilkes-Barre Plant.
Mr. Rothwell was the engineer for several collieries and designed and built a number of anthracite coal breakers, in which he introduced important improvements. He advised the Lehigh Coal and Navigation to employ the first underground locomotives in the anthracite region.

In his most valuable work must be included the making of many topographical and railroad-surveys, and the preparation of several important maps. The most famous of these was the contour-map of the highly folded anthracite basin of Panther Creek, made by him in 1869 for the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. The remarkable accuracy of this map was shown during important litigation twenty-five years later. According to W. D. Zehner, the LCN superintendent for 25 years, the map was still standard authority, and was frequently used nearly 40 years later.
In 1873, Mr. Rothwell’s consulting engineering practice, probably the largest of any in his profession in America, had so increased that he moved it to New York. Shortly afterward he acquired an interest in the Engineering and Mining Journal, of which he was editor and general manager. He was President of AIME in 1882.

He founded and began publishing The Mineral Industry, an annual update of worldwide mining and metallurgical progress, in 1893. International recognition of this publication came to him in 1898 with a gold medal of the Société d’Encouragement pour l’Industrie National de France.
Richard Pennefather Rothwell (1836-1901)
Richard P. Rothwell gave one of the papers, on mapping the coal seams in the Panther Valley.