William Lawrence Stewart (1818-1893) had recently completed machinist training at Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1848 when he was the master mechanic on the construction of the first coal breaker in the Northern Anthracite Field, the Baltimore #1. He worked for several years as a mechanic for the gravity railroad of the Pennsylvania Coal Company in Hawley and then went to Wilkes-Barre in about 1866 and worked for Dickson Manufacturing.
Stewart then joined the Dana & Co. Valley Iron Works, which became a part of Wyoming Valley Manufacturing, with Stewart as partner and superintendent. Ferdinand Koerner was a partner.

New brick buildings were erected on lands purchased from the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co., next to the railroad. These buildings still exist in Wilkes Barre. They made light and heavy machinery: steam engines, pumps, mills and castings. They began building locomotives in 1873 and in 1888 Vulcan Iron Works purchased them for the locomotives.

Stewart became a partner in Gen. Oliver’s powder business and was their salesman in anthracite collieries.