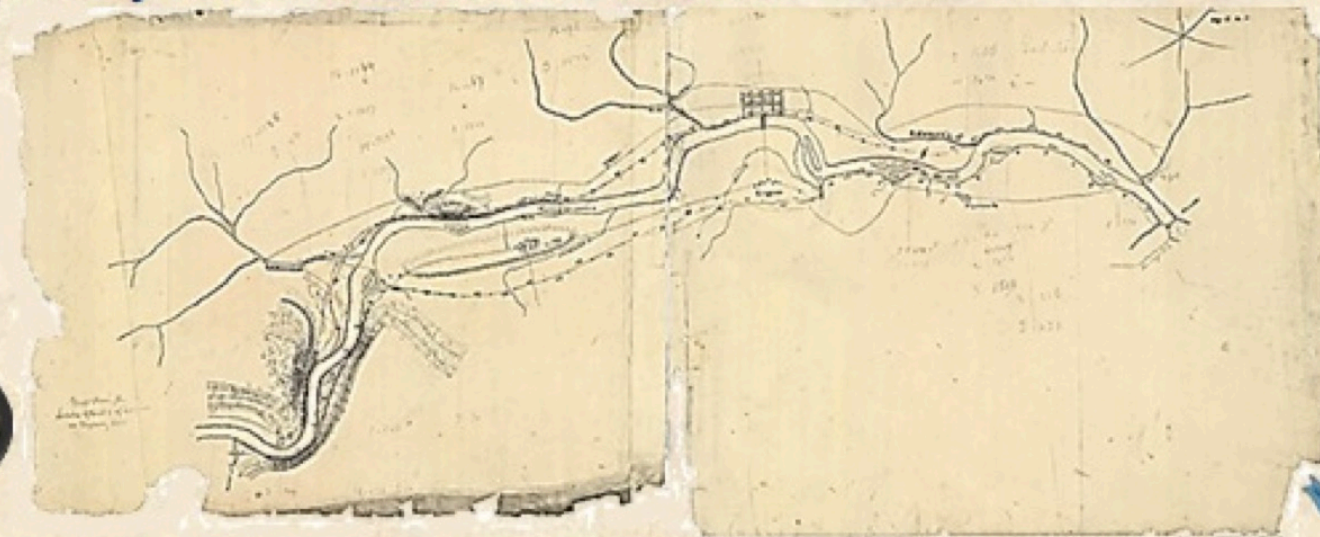


John Henry Swoyer (1832-1888) came to Wilkes-Barre in about 1859 to get into the coal business. He became involved with the privatization of the Wyoming Canal. The North Branch Canal Co. had acquired a canal along the Susquehanna River that had been built and run by Pennsylvania. A portion of the canal was sold to the Wyoming Canal Company, and the rest reorganized as the Pennsylvania and New York Canal and Rail Road Co., a subsidiary of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co. Swoyer was a Director of both.





After his service in the Wilkes Barre militia in the Civil War, he aggressively entered the coal business and made a success of it at once. He was an independent miner, operating four collieries, the Enterprise, Wyoming, Harry E, and Forty Fort. His obituary casted him as a "courageous...whole-souled, generous man, true to his friends and forgiving to his enemies. As an employer, he was a favorite always."

