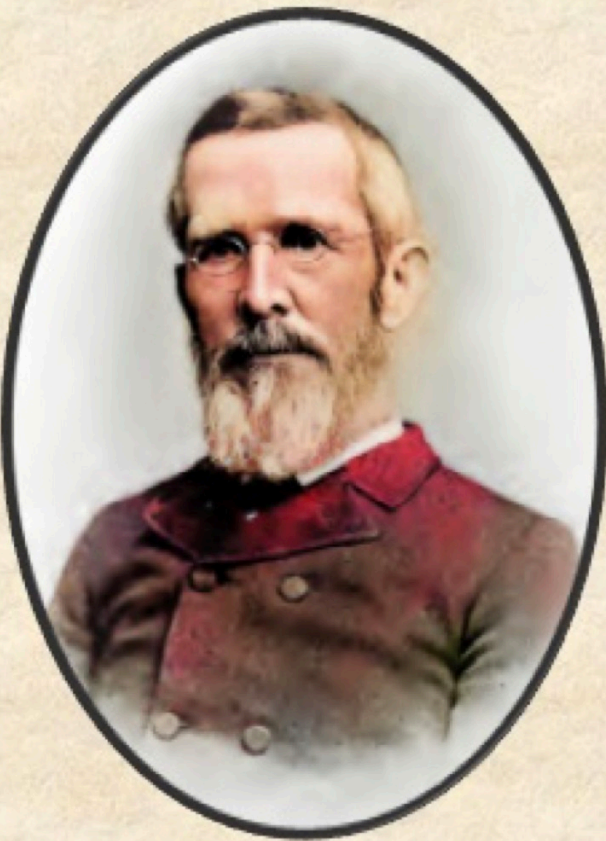


Samuel Thomas (1827-1906), son of David Thomas, spent 4 years working in the blacksmith and machine shops of the Lehigh Crane Iron Works to learn the business and took an active role in its management. At the age of 21, he helped erect and startup an anthracite iron furnace at the Boonton (NJ) Iron Co.



He became superintendent of the Thomas Iron Co in Hokendauqua in 1854, then President in 1864. He also organized the Lock Ridge Iron Co in Alburtis before it was acquired by the Thomas Iron Co. and developed mining properties for Lehigh Crane Iron Co.

In 1887, Samuel and his son Edwin purchased mineral lands and built a blast furnace near Birmingham, Alabama under the name of Pioneer Mining and Manufacturing Co. This plant was sold in 1899 to the Republic Iron Co. when Samuel's retired.

