James Adee Timpson (1820-1907) was involved in financial services in New York and was a director of several companies including Columbia Fire Insurance. After serving in the civil war, he went to Wilkes-Barre, recognizing the future of anthracite and opportunity of investing in it. He and others purchased the Hartford Mine in Ashley and formed the Lehigh & Susquehanna Coal Company, as a sub of the Lehigh & Susquehanna RR and the Lehigh Coal and Navigation.
In 1871, he was the recently retired President of Lehigh & Susquehanna Coal. The coal company had been leased to the Lehigh & Wilkes Barre Coal Co. and the railroad to the Central RR of NJ. Timpson lived the rest of his life - 36 years - being a “coal pioneer” celebrity, representing the company in “events,” and living in the Glen Summit Hotel (in summers) or the Wyoming Valley Hotel (during the rest of the year).

He wasn’t an engineer, but he was living in the Wyoming Valley House where the meeting was, and one of the “responsibilities” he had as a Lehigh and Susquehanna “coal pioneer” was to host the Thursday May 18 A.I.M.E. tour, so he went to the May 16th meeting to give the folks there a review of the tour route.