

Thomas Morgan Williams (1835-1904), when he was seven years old, worked with his stepfather in the Welsh coal mines, using pick and shovel, and working hard for six years. In 1848, with his mother and her child, his half-sister, he embarked at Liverpool for America, and after a voyage of 36 days landed at Philadelphia.



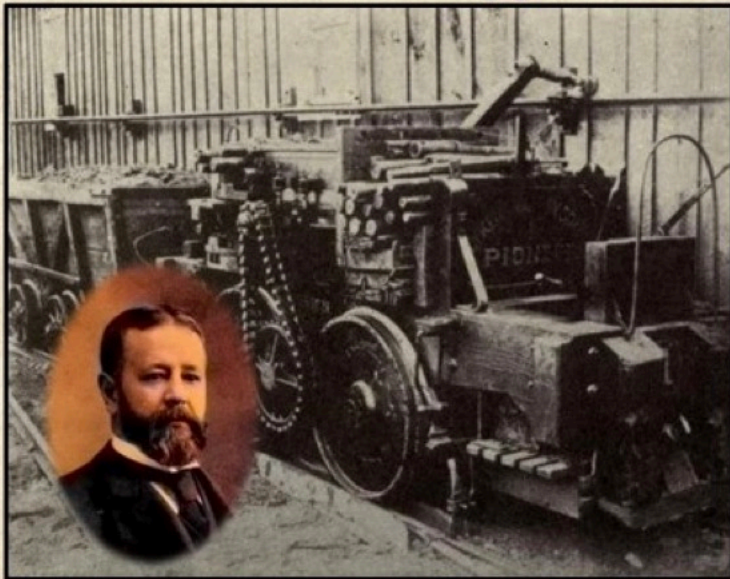
Here he also worked in the mines, first in Minersville, then one year at Mt. Savage, Md. where he got twelve days schooling. He then returned to Minersville until 1853, and began working for himself, and for three months attended a day and night school.

After serving in the civil war, he worked in the mines as fire boss; he was then appointed boss of the mines, working for Charles Parrish in his Wilkes-Barre mines until 1869.





Williams was the first Inspector of Mines in the Wyoming region, an officer of the Workingmen's Benevolent Association, and manager of the Anthracite Monitor, a newspaper published in Tamaqua in the interest of the laborers and miners who were involved in a strike after Avondale. He had been a vocal activist for passage of the Mine Law. His being a Welshman, union connections, activism for the strike and the Law, and past work in Charles Parrish's mines were all remarked upon in "discussions" about his appointment. He was also involved at the Knight Shaft fire.



After 10 years as Inspector of Mines, he worked as superintendent of the Lykens Valley and Summit Valley Coal Company, where he and Irving Stearns, the Lykens Valley Manager, introduced the first underground electric locomotive in the US in 1887. (now at the Henry Ford)

