5th Interrogatory. Describe the strata of coal and impurities in the north end of said coal field; and state where such north is, as you speak of it, beginning at the bottom of the vein and going up to the roof rock.

Answer. In the Allegany mine there is about one foot of coal from the bottom — then there is a seam of slate about one quarter of an inch thick — then about fourteen or fifteen inches of coal — then another seam of slate about an inch thick — then about six inches of coal — another inch of slate — then about two feet four inches of coal. — then about six inches of slate, known as breast slate and then about fifteen or sixteen inches of coal upon top of that. Then it is all coal and slate mixed up to the rocks, as I recollect.

In the Eckhart mine it is about the same as the other; up to top of the breast slate; above that the coal is about two and a half feet to three feet thick up to the first slate, then there is about eight inches of slate and about eight or ten inches of coal above that; And it is mixed less or more from that up to the rock.

6th Interrogatory. How does this breast of slate affect the marketable value of the coal taken out of the mine where it exists? And is it found practicable, in mining, to seperate it entirely from the coal?

Answer. I do not know positively how it affects its marketable value; It is not found practicable to seperate it entirely.

What I mean to say is that you cannot get it altogether, there will still be a little in it.

7th Interrogatory. In your opinion does not the breast slate impure the value of the coal where it exists?

Answer. It does injure the value of the coal.

8th Interrogatory. As you proceed south in the vein does this breast slate disappear?

Answer. When you go south it does disappear?

9th Interrogatory. State about where, if you can its line of disappearance is?

Answer. Very near the line of the National road, that line to cross from the south west corner of the Old Washington mine by the Old Lutheran Church on the hill behind Prestons.

10th Interrogatory. Is there not in said big coal vein, a vein of impure matter, about the same height from the floor in the vein as the breast slate, which takes its place, for some distance south, after the disappearance of said breast of slate? And if so is it found impracticable in mining, to seperate such impure matter from the coal taken out?

Answer. There is such a vein of impure matter and it is very hard to get it out, I call this impure matter sulphur and iron mixed together.

11th Interrogatory. Does this breast slate or this vein of impure matter exist in the big coal vein, at the Hoffman mine?

Answer. To the best of my knowledge it does not exist in the Hoffman mine.

12th Interrogatory. Do you know the Astor Mine of Complainant and

have you ever been in it?

Answer. I do know the Astor Mine and have been in it.

13th Interrogatory. Have you lived near said Astor Mine for any length of time? And if so how long ago and what length of time?

Answer. I did live near Astor Mine. I moved there about December 25th 1857 and I left there March 15, 1860.

14th Interrogatory. Are you acquainted with the lines of the John Neff farm or the John Wenles Farm — or the Ross Farm or the Preston Farm or any of them? in that vicinity?

Answer. I know the farms generally but I do not know all the outlines.

15th Interrogatory. Do you know the property claimed in this cause by the Hoffman Steam Coal Company?

Answer. I do generally, but I do not know any of the lines particularly.

16th Interrogatory. What would be the most judicious mode for the complainant to excavate its coal from the Wenles Farm?

Answer. I can only give you my opinion and that would be, by a Slope from the mouth of the Astor Mine opening north sixty five degrees West.

17th Interrogatory. Are you not acquainted with the dip of the coal vein, south and west of and adjoining the Astor Mine from actually working on the same and near said Astor Mine opening?

Answer. I am acquainted with it.

The commissioner adjourned here, the taking of testimony until to morrow at 9 o'clock A. M. at the same place.

S. J. McKenney
Commissioner

1861 June 18th. Pursuant to adjournment the commissioner met at the time and place designated, and in the presence of the Solicitors of complainant and Respondents, proceeded to take the following testimony to wit:

{The examination of Alexander Sloan being here continued on part of Complainant}

18th Interrogatory. Do you know the Hoffman Mine? and if so, state how many openings there are for taking out coal?

Answer. I do know the Hoffman mine and there are three openings for taking out coal.

19th Interrogatory. Describe the chief galleries leading into the mine, from said openings.

Answer. There is the upper heading leading from the mouth of the upper mine into the mine. And there is the other heading going nearly parallel with that, to take out the coal above the water level. The upper heading takes out the coal above itself and east of it