

# MORGAN, THOMAS REES (1834 - 1897), mechanical engineer and manufacturer, and inventor

**Name:** Thomas Rees Morgan  
**Date of birth:** 1834  
**Date of death:** 1897  
**Spouse:** Elizabeth Nicholas Morgan  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** mechanical engineer and manufacturer, and inventor  
**Area of activity:** Business and Industry; Engineering, Construction, Naval Architecture and Surveying  
**Author:** Robert (Bob) Owen

Born 31 March 1834 at Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorganshire. He worked in the mines until he had an accident, at the age of ten, which resulted in the loss of the left leg below the knee. After the accident he attended schools taught by [John Thomas](#) (Ieuan Ddu), [Owen Evans](#), and [Taliesin Williams](#) (Taliesin ab Iolo). He developed, under the tuition of [Taliesin Williams](#), a special fondness for mathematics and engineering; he afterwards worked as mechanic in local iron-works. Emigrating to the U.S.A. in 1865, Morgan settled at Pittston, Pa., and worked in the shops of the Lackawanna and Bloomsbury railway. He afterwards worked in the Cambria Iron Works at Johnstown, as a foreman in the Atlas Works at Pittsburgh, etc. In 1868 he started business on his own account, under the name of Marchand and Morgan, the firm making steam hammers; from this humble beginning came the large works of the Morgan Engineering Company, besides other companies. Nearly all the large travelling cranes used in the Carnegie Steel Works and at other rolling mills at Pittsburgh were designed by Morgan, who was also the first to construct electric cranes. Government contracts, including many for the U.S.A. navy, followed. It was he who solved the problem of 'shaping' armour plate for U.S.A. battleships. He took out numerous patents for designs and inventions. He died 6 September 1897, at Alliance, Ohio.

## Author

Robert (Bob) Owen, (1885 - 1962)

## Sources

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