



### **Henry Oliver and Oliver Iron Mining Company (OIM)**

Pittsburgh industrialist Henry Oliver forms the Oliver Iron Mining Company (OIM) in 1890 to realize the potential of ore reserves on Minnesota's Iron Range. In 1892, OIM leases Mesabi Mountain ore formation. In 1894, OIM leases ore properties owned by John D. Rockefeller who acquired them from the financially-strapped Merritt Brothers. Other leased properties included the Hull-Rust Mine. In 1899, Henry Oliver looks into building his own railroad from his mines to Lake Superior, but was never built. Oliver felt Rockefeller's Duluth, Missabe & Northern railroad was overcharging his company for ore transportation. In 1901, OIM and the Rockefeller ore properties come under control of the giant new United States Steel Corporation.\*

**Henry W. Oliver** (February 25, 1840 – February 8, 1904) was an American [industrialist](#) born in Ireland in 1840. Two years later his family settled in [Pittsburgh](#). Oliver began working at the age of thirteen as a messenger boy for the National Telegraph Company in Pittsburgh. Oliver worked at various jobs until 1861 when he served in the [Civil War](#). In 1863, he formed a partnership with William J. Lewis and John Phillips to create the firm of Lewis, Oliver and Phillips to manufacture nuts and bolts on a small scale. By 1866, two of his brothers joined the firm and in 1880, they formed the firm, Oliver Brothers and Phillips. By this time, the company was one of the largest manufacturers of bar iron and iron specialties in the United States. In 1888, the company incorporated under the name of [Oliver Iron and Steel Company](#). Oliver was involved in working with the [Mesabi ore region](#) in Minnesota, spinning off the [Oliver Iron Mining Company](#) from his other interests in a venture with the [Carnegie Steel Company](#). He would become politically active with the [Republican Party](#) in Pittsburgh. He married Edith Cassidy in 1862. The Olivers had one daughter. Five years after his death, Oliver's brother [George T. Oliver](#) became a United States Senator.\*\*

\*<http://www.missabe.com/cms/about-oliver>

\*\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_W.\\_Oliver](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_W._Oliver)