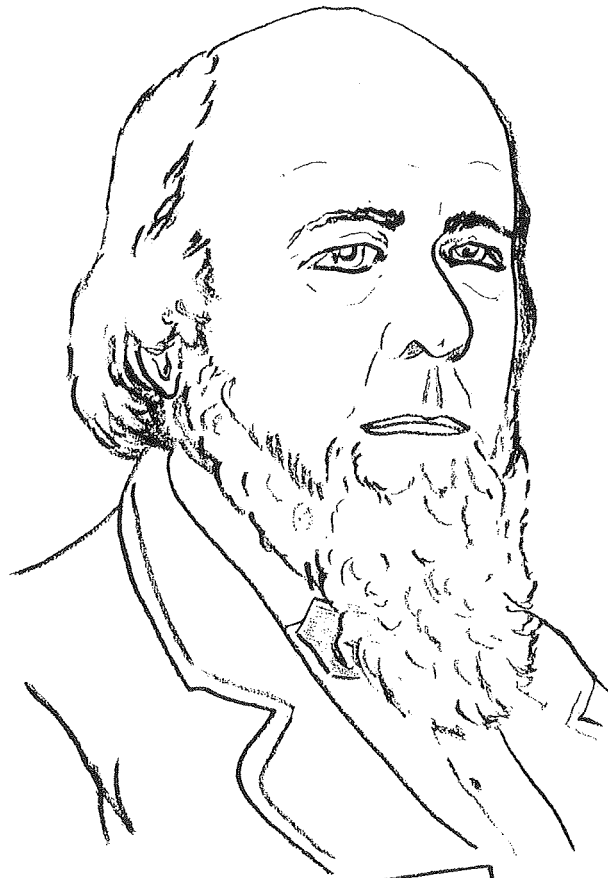


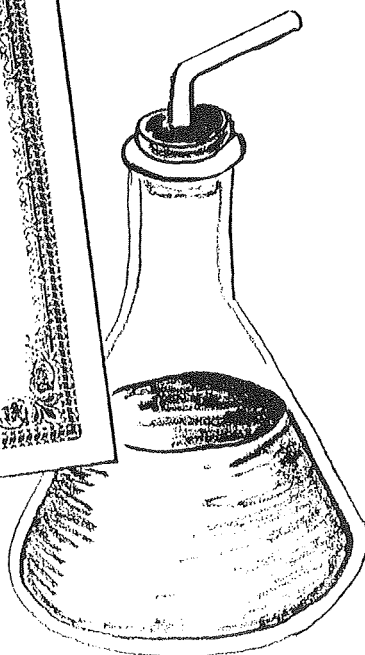
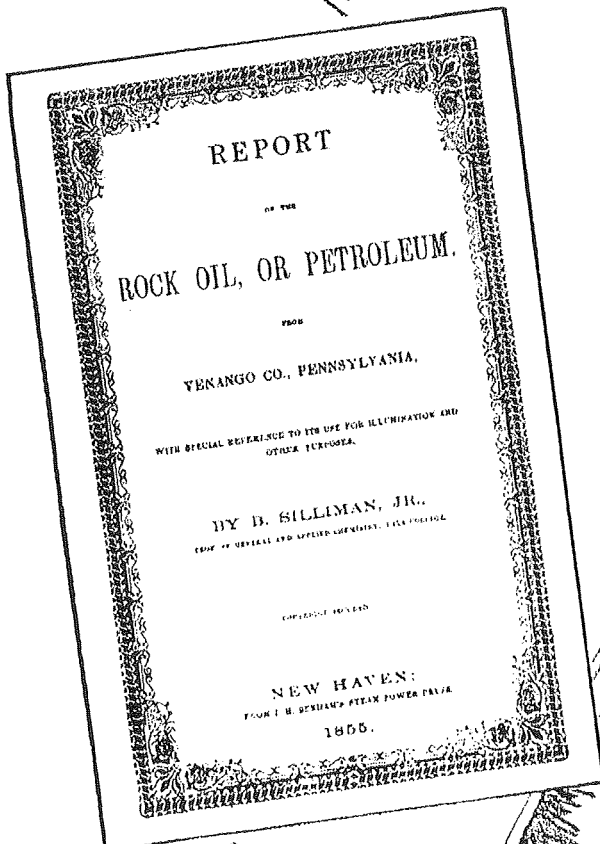
*Pioneering Petroleum...*

## **BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, JR.**



Benjamin Silliman, Jr. of Yale University in New Haven and Luther Atwood of Boston were commissioned by George Bissell and Jonathan Eveleth to do a thorough chemical and economic analysis of petroleum samples gathered from the Hibbard farm in Pennsylvania. Silliman was initially pessimistic about petroleum's use as an illuminant, but by May 1855 changed his professional opinion and concluded it would make a superior illuminating oil. Silliman chaired Yale's renowned and prestigious College of Chemistry which his father founded. The Silliman name was well known nationally and carried great weight among those who ostensibly had capital to invest in Bissell and Eveleth's fledgling stock enterprise to bore for oil. Silliman's endorsement and study cost Bissell and Eveleth \$1,200.

Encouraged by the Silliman Report, New Haven capitalists invested in the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Co. The Pennsylvania Rock Oil Co. owned the Hibbard farm property where the Drake well would be successfully drilled in 1859.



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