William Kelly Encyclopedia Article

William Kelly

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William Kelly

1811-1888

America inventor and metallurgist who developed improved methods of making steel. Kelly was the first to force air through molten cast iron, a process that removed much of the carbon and produced a less brittle and more widely useable metal. Unfortunately, Henry Bessemer received a U.S. patent for a similar process before Kelly could build more than seven of his converters, prohibiting Kelly from capitalizing on his invention.