

M/NM FATAL

1898 - 0005

REPORT OF A FIRE AT MAFFETT SLOPE
WILKES-BARRE (MIDVALE), PENNSYLVANIA
OCTOBER 1, 1898 - 5 KILLED

(Transcript taken from microfilm record of "Sunday Morning Leader," October 2, 1898, courtesy of the Wyoming Historical & Geological Society, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania)

Four men were smothered to death in the Kidney vein of the New Maffett slope, adjoining the Prospect shaft yesterday, by smoke emanating from fire in a set of timbers in the gangway leading to their chambers. The men were smothered to death by smoke from the burning timbers, and when found lay face downward in the ditch along the gangway where they had fallen exhausted. Origin of fire unknown.

About 9 o'clock a Slavish woman appeared in the crowd at the top of the slope and stated that she believed her husband had lost his life in the mine as he had not returned from work. She was not certain as to his place of employment, but believed he worked in Maffett. The searching party succeeded in passing the fire and scrutinized every nook and corner in the vicinity, examined the old workings carefully but could find no other body. The search was continued during the night. The fire was extinguished before night.

(The following excerpt was taken from the annual publication, "Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs, Part V, Report of Bureau of Mines, 1898" page 76)

The other two accidents, one at the Midvale slope on October 1, whereby five men lost their lives by suffocation caused by the timber in the intake airway taking fire.

NOTE: THIS IS ONLY RECORD THAT COULD BE FOUND OF THE DEATH OF THE FIFTH PERSON.