



# Newspaper Accounts

July 15th 1908

Williamstown Colliery

# EXPLOSION IN COAL MINE

Twelve Kill and Many More  
Badly Hurt.

Little Hope for Those Imprisoned  
in Gaseous Pit.

Those Saved Unable to Tell  
How Explosion Was Caused.

Building of Susquehanna Company  
Converted Into Morgue.

July 15, 1908  
(Associated Press Dispatch.)

POTTSVILLE, Pa., July 15.—One of the worst mine accidents, which has ever visited the lower section of the anthracite coal fields occurred this afternoon at Williamstown, in which twelve men are reported to have been killed and as many more badly injured. The accident is believed to have been caused by an explosion of gas, but those who have thus far been taken out have not been able to give a connected story of the accident. Six bodies have been taken out and six men are still in the mine.

The known dead: James Bowman, Charles Rickert, John Whittle, John Berely, —Stakum, Arthur Hawk. Ten others were removed from the mine badly burned and torn by the force of the explosion, and it is feared several of them will die. There is little hope of the six men still in the burning workings being rescued alive. They may have been killed instantly.

The Williamstown colliery is operated by the Susquehanna Coal company and the employes who were in the ill-fated workings were all residents of Williamstown and immediate vicinity. Almost all of them were Americans. They were at work in what is known as Shaft No. 1. When the explosion occurred steps were at once taken by the colliery officials to rescue the unfortunates. It was with the greatest difficulty, however, that they did finally gain entrance to the burning and gas-filled shaft. Two of the first eight men brought up were revived after being treated by physicians.