

**Buffalo Mining Company Retaining Dam Collapse**  
**Division of the Pittston Company**  
**No. 5 Preparation Plant**

Saunders, Logan County, West Virginia

February 26, 1972

No. Killed - 125

Here is a list of victims that lost their lives in the Buffalo Creek Flood that ravaged 17 communities:

Amherstdale: James Bailey, Jr., 16; Diana L. McCoy 18; Kimberly McCoy, 3 and Margie M. Prince, 42.

Crites: Angela J. Hopson, 2; Andrew Johnston, 73 and Richard Wiley, 78.

Easley, S.C.: Grace Kennedy, 71 (visiting relatives).

Godby: Albert O. Hedinger, 34.

Kistler: James Brunty, 82.

Latrobe: Mary B. Marcum, 44; Otis Ramey, 49; Mattie Ramey, 45; Virgie A. Ramey, age unknown; Thomas Vernatter, 65; Ethel B. Vernatter, 65 and Dora Wiley, 60.

Lorado: David B. Adkins, 27; David B. Adkins, Jr., 4; Steven Albright, 17; Sylvia Albright, 39; Edith Blankenship, 61; Willie Dempsey, 42; Aletha V. Dempsey, 38; James Dillon, 32; Thelma Dillon, 36; Curtis Dillon, 10; Sharon Dillon, 13; Darla Dillon, 5; Howard Dillion, 8; Jesse Messer, 35; Macie Queen, 54; Goldie Sipple, 38; Florencio Sosa, 65; Mary M. Sosa, 46; Betty Francis Vernatter, 4 and Frank Lee Workman, 69.

Lundale: Brookie Mae Adkins, 31; Lonnie Lee Adkins 7; MaryJane Adkins 5; John H. Bailey, 58; Eleanor Bailey, 44; Milton Baker, 71; Effie Baker, 68; Joyce Bartram, 40; Betty Lee Black, 51; Rebecca Broady, 15; Donna Sue Browning, 21; Norman B. Browning, 3; Dessie Butcher, 57; Leonard Butcher, 66; Ballard Carter, 36; Janice H. Carter, 29; Matthew Carter, 6; Lillian S. Carter, 3; Berma Jo Dickerson, 20; Steven T. Dickerson, 18; Ruth Ann Elkins, 29; Judy Ferguson, 27; Connie S. Ferguson, 18 months; Etta P. Hatfield, 60; Layton O. Hatfield, 50; Ruth B.

Hatfield, 53; Steven Hatfield, 16; Margaret Y. Jarrell, 42; Karen Jarrell, 16; Patrick Jarrell, 24; William L. Jarrell, 50; Lottie May Jarrell, 45; Gary M. King, 24; Robert Murray, 71; Wandall Osborne, 37; Jeanette Osborne, 35; Regina Osborne, 12; Carolyn Osborne, 20 months; Geneva Osborne, 11; Wandell Osborne, Jr., 15; Henrietta Owens, 22; Thomas Owens, 3; Marvel R. Scarberry, 73; Anita Smith, 17; Gladys Staton, 25; Kevin Staton, 1; Roby L. Waugh, 45; James L. Waugh, 11; Grady M. Waugh, 18; Donald Waugh, 20; Larry K. Wauch, 5 and April E. White, 11.

Pardee: Augusta Miller, 69; Herbert Peters, 71; Martha Peters, 71 and Callis Perry, 81.

Robinette: Martha E. Gunnells, 21; David Gunnells, 3 and Jessie Gunnells, 1.

Saunders: Janice Bailey, 32; Kimberly K. Bailey, 6; Jason Bailey, Jr., 11; Rhonda Rene Bailey, 8; Clara J. Bailey, 18 months; Sharon A. Lester, 24; Denise Lester, 3; Norman Lester, 24; Dennatta Lester, 5-to-7; Opal Lester, 45; Barry K. Lester, 15; Rita J. Lester, 16; Della Trent, 69; Johnny Trent, 32; Gene Trent, 26; Henry Trent, 49 and Wanda Trent, 39.

Stowe: Margaret L. Davis, 35 and Maryjane Davis, 6.

Three unidentified babies

Missing: Dorina L. Adkins, 3 months, of Lorado; Samuel Carter, 20 months, of Lundale; Roscoe Clay, 74, of Lorado; James N. Davis, 2, of Stowe; Nancy Hopson, 1, of Crites; Donald McCoy, Jr., 18 months, of Amherstdale, and Kathy Waugh, 8 months, of Lundale.

Source: [https://www.loganbanner.com/news/survivors-remember-1972-buffalo-creek-flood/article\\_232c2dc6-639c-52f6-a892-f8fd58f17e82.html](https://www.loganbanner.com/news/survivors-remember-1972-buffalo-creek-flood/article_232c2dc6-639c-52f6-a892-f8fd58f17e82.html)

The Governor's Ad Hoc Commission of Inquiry of 1973 respectfully incorporates into its report the names of those men, women and children who lost their lives in the flood.

Adkins, Brookie Mae, Female, 31 - Mother  
Adkins, Lonnie Lee, Female, 7 months - Daughter  
Adkins, Mary Jane, Female, 5 years - Daughter (all of Lundale, W.Va.)  
Adkins, David Brooks, Male, 27 - Father - electrician Buffalo Mining Company  
Adkins, David, Jr., Male, 4 years - Son  
Adkins, Dorinda Lynn, Female, 3 months - Daughter - listed as missing (all of Lorado, W. Va.)  
Albright, Sylvia, Female, 39 - Mother  
Albright, Steven, Male, 17 - Son (both of Lorado, W. Va.)  
Bailey, Janice Juanita Osborne, Female, 32 - Mother  
Bailey, Kimberly Kay, Female, 6 years - Daughter  
Bailey, Jason, Jr., Male, 11 years - Son  
Bailey, Rhoda Rene, Female, 8 years - Daughter  
Bailey, Carla Jeannene, Female, 1-1/2 years - Daughter (all of Saunders, W. Va.)  
Bailey, James, Jr., Male, 16 - Brother of Mrs. Diana McCoy, 18, whose daughter Kimberly, 3 years, perished. Son, Donald McCoy, 1½ years, is listed as missing (all of Amherstdale, W. Va.)  
Bailey, John H., Male, 58 - Husband - disabled miner  
Bailey, Eleanor, Female, 44 - Wife  
White, April Ellen, Female, 11 - Daughter of Eleanor by previous marriage (all of Lundale, W. Va.)  
Baker, Milton, Male, 71 - Husband  
Baker, Effie, Female, 68 - Wife  
Bartram, Mrs. Joyce, 40 - Daughter - Payroll Office of Amherst Coal Company (all of Lundale, W. Va.)  
Black, Betty Lee, Female, 51 - Lundale, W. Va.  
Blankenship, Edith, Female, 61 - Lorado, W. Va.  
Broady, Rebecca, Female, 15 - Daughter of Ruth Broady Hatfield by a previous marriage - Lundale, W. Va.  
Browning, Donna Sue Lauderback, Female, 21 - Mother  
Browning, Norman Bruce, Male, 3 years - Lundale, W. Va.  
Brunty, James, Male, 82 - Kistler, W. Va.  
Butcher, Leonard, Male, 66 - Husband  
Butcher, Dessie, Female, 57 - Wife - Lundale, W. Va.  
Carter, Ballard, Male, 36 - Husband - coal miner, Buffalo Mining Company, 8-C mine  
Carter, Janice Hatfield, Female, 29 - Wife  
Carter, Matthew, Male, 6 years - Son  
Carter, Lillian Sara, Female, 3 years - Daughter  
Carter, Samuel, Male, 20 months - Son - listed as missing (all of Lundale, W. Va.)  
Davis, Margaret Levanna, Female, 35 - Mother  
Davis, Mary Jane, Female, 8 years - Daughter  
Davis, James Nevada, Male, 2 years - Son - listed as missing (all of Stowe, W. Va.)  
Dempsey, Willie, Male, 42 - Husband - Motorman, No. 5 mine, Buffalo Mining Company  
Dempsey, Aletha V., Female, 38 - Wife (adopted daughter Betty Frances Vernatter, Female, 4 years. Willie Dempsey was a brother of Mrs. Thelma Dillon) - all of Lorado, W. Va.  
Dickerson, Berma Jo, Female, 20 - Mother  
Dickerson, Steven Todd, Male, 18 months - Son  
Smith, Anita, Female, 17 - Sister (all of Lundale, W. Va.)  
Dillon, James, Male, 32 - Husband - Shuttle car operator. No. 5 mine, Buffalo Mining Company  
Dillon, Thelma, Female, 36 - Wife (sister of Willie Dempsey)  
Dillon, Curtis, Male, 10 - Son  
Dillon, Sharon, Female, 13 - Daughter  
Dillon, Daria, Female, 5 - Daughter  
Dillon, Howard, Male, 8 - Son (all of Lorado, W. Va.)  
Elkins, Ruth Ann, Female, 29 - Lundale, W. Va.  
Ferguson, Judy, Female, 27 - Mother  
Ferguson, Connie Sue, Female, 18 months - Daughter  
(daughter and granddaughter of Etta Pearl Hatfield) - all of Lundale, W. Va.  
Gunnells, Martha Elkins, Female, 21 - Mother

Gunnells, David, Male, 3 years - Son  
Gunnells, Jessie, Female, 1 year - Daughter (all of Robinette, W. Va.)  
Hatfield, Etta Pearl, Female, 60 (daughter is Judy Ferguson and granddaughter is Connie Sue Ferguson) - Lundale, W. Va.  
Hatfield, Layton Oscar, Male, 50 - Husband - miner, Amherst Coal Company  
Hatfield, Ruth Broady, Female, 53 - Wife  
Hatfield, Steven, Male, 16 - Son  
Broady, Rebecca, Female, 15 - Daughter of Ruth by previous marriage (all of Lundale, W. Va.)  
Hedinger, Albert O., Male, 34 - Preparation Engineer on tipple at Buffalo Mining Company, Godby, W. Va. - killed at Saunders  
Hopson, Angela Jean, Female, 2 years  
Hopson, Nancy, Female, 1 year - listed as missing (both of Crites, W. Va.)  
Jarrell, Margaret Yanco, Female, 42 - Mother  
Jarrell, Karen, Female, 16 - Daughter  
Jarrell, Patrick, Male, 24 - Son - miner, Amherst Coal Company (all of Lundale, W. Va.)  
Jarrell, William Lee, Male, 50 - Husband - miner, Amherst Coal Company  
Jarrell, Lottie May, Female, 45 - Wife (both of Lundale, W. Va.)  
Johnston, Andrew, Male, 73 - Crites, W. Va.  
Kennedy, Mrs. Grace, Female, 71 - Easley, South Carolina (visiting sister-in-law, Macie Queen)  
King, Gary Mike, Male, 24 - miner, Amherst Coal Company - Lundale, W. Va.  
Lester, Norman, Male, 24 - Husband - miner  
Lester, Sharon Ann, Female, 25 - wife  
Lester, Denise, Female, 3 years - Daughter  
Lester, Dennatta, Female, 5 to 7 years - Daughter  
Lester, Opal, Female, 45 - Mother of Sharon Ann Lester  
Lester, Barry Keith, Male, 15 - Son of Opal Lester  
Lester, Rita Joann, Female, 16 - Daughter of Opal Lester (all of Saunders, W. Va.)  
Marcum, Mary Bowman, Female, 44 - Latrobe, W. Va.  
McCoy, Diana Lynn, Female, 18 - Mother  
McCoy, Kimberly, Female, 3 years - Daughter  
McCoy, Donald, Jr., Male, 1½ years - listed as missing (all of Amherstdale, W. Va.)  
Messer, Jesse, Male, 35 - Lorado, W. Va.  
Miller, Augusta, Female, 69 - Pardee, W. Va.  
Murray, Robert, Male, 71 - retired miner - Lundale, W. Va.  
Osborne, Wandell, Male, 37 - Husband - disabled miner  
Osborne, Jeannette, Female, 35 - Wife  
Osborne, Regina, Female, 12 - Daughter  
Osborne, Carolyn, Female, 20 months - Daughter  
Osborne, Geneva, Female, 11 - Daughter  
Osborne, Wandell, Jr., Male, 15 - Son (all of Lundale, W. Va.)  
Owens, Henrietta, Female, 22 - Mother  
Owens, Thomas, Male, 3 years - Son (both of Lundale, W. Va.)  
Peters, Herbert, Male, 71 - Husband  
Peters, Martha, Female, 71 - Wife (both of Pardee, W. Va.)  
Perry, Callis, Female, 81 - Pardee, W. Va.  
Prince, Margie Marie, Female, 42 - Amherstdale, W. Va.  
Queen, Macie, Female, 54 - Lorado, W. Va.  
Ramey, Otis, Male, 49 - Husband  
Ramey, Mattie, Female, 45 - Wife  
Ramey, Virgie Albright, Female - Mother of Otis (all of Latrobe, W. Va.)  
Scarberry, Mrs. Marvel Rosie, Female, 73 - Lundale, W. Va.  
Sipple, Goldie, Female, about 38 - Lorado, W. Va.  
Smith, Anita, Female, about 17 - sister of Berma Jo Dickerson - Lundale, W. Va.  
Sosa, Florencio, Male, 65 - Husband  
Sosa, Magdalene, Female, 46 - Wife - Lorado, W. Va.  
Staton, Gladys, Female, 25 - Mother  
Staton, Kevin, Male, 1 year - Son - Lundale, W. Va.  
Trent, Delia, Female, 69 - Mother

Trent, Johnny, Male, 32 - Son - miner Guyan Mine No. 1, Island Creek Coal Company  
Trent, Gene, Male, 26 - Son - truck driver for Buffalo Mining Company  
Trent, Henry, Male, 49 - Son - shuttle car operator for Buffalo Mining Company  
Trent, Wanda, Female, 39 - Daughter (all of Saunders, W. Va.)  
Vernatter, Betty Frances, Female, 4 years (adopted daughter of Aletha V. Dempsey) - Lorado, W. Va.  
Vernatter, Thomas, Male, 65 - Husband  
Vernatter, Ethel Black, Female, 65 - Wife (both of Latrobe, W. Va.)  
Waugh, Roby Leslie, Male, 45 - Father - miner, Powellton  
Waugh, James Lewis, Male, 11 - Son  
Waugh, Grady Michael, Male, 18 - Son  
Waugh, Donald, Male, 20 - Son  
Waugh, Larry Keith, Male, 5 years - Son (all of Lundale, W. Va.)  
White, April Ellen, Female, 11 - daughter of Eleanor Bailey by previous marriage - Lundale, W. Va.  
Wiley, Mrs. Dora, Female, 60 - Latrobe, W. Va.  
Wiley, Richard Dick, Male, 78 - Crites, W. Va.  
Workman, Frank Lee, Male, 69 - Lorado, W. Va.

#### Missing

Adkins, Dorinda, Female, 3 months - Lorado, W. Va.  
Carter, Samuel, Male, 20 months - Lundale, W. Va.  
Clay, Roscoe, Male, 74 - Lorado, W. Va.  
Davis, James, Male, 2 years - Stowe, W. Va.  
Hopson, Nancy, Female, 1 year - Crites, W. Va.  
McCoy, Donald, Jr., Male, 1½ years - Amherstdale, W. Va.  
Waugh, Kathy, Female, 8 months - Lundale, W. Va.

#### Unidentified

Two white males, ages 18 months to 3 years  
One white female, age approximately 3 years

The Buffalo Creek Valley communities and the number of persons who lost their lives in those communities are listed below in order of their location downstream from Middle Fork:

Saunders, 18; Pardee, 4; Lorado, 21; Lundale, 52; Stowe, 2; Crites, 3; Latrobe, 7; Robinette, 3; Amherstdale, 4; Kistler, 1.

Source: <http://129.71.204.160/history/disasters/buffcreekgovreport.html>