

Fort Wayne Sentinel May 7 1879

Frightful Disaster in a Coal Mine at Wilkesbarre.

DISASTER,

Wilkesbarre, Pa., May 7.—At 11 o'clock last night an explosion of gas in Stanton shaft Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company, severely burned Martin Kerrigan. At midnight while the men were employed in brushing out the accumulations of gas in the lower vein came in contact with a blower, causing a terrific explosion. A large force of men were sweeping the tunnel at the time, and eight of them were badly burned, a majority of them is thought fatally. The mine was set on fire, and soon 600 feet solid coal was burning furiously. To extinguish the flames the mine had to be flooded.

Chester Daily Times Chester, PA. Thursday, May 8, 1879

On Tuesday night, a slight explosion of gas occurred in the Stanton Shaft of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company, at Wilkesbarre, severely burning Martin Kerrigan. An hour afterwards, while the men were "brushing out" accumulated gas in the lower vein, a terrific explosion occurred, seriously burning eight men, named William Smith, Levi Gibbons, Sam. Lloyd, John A. Davis, Richard Froull, John Richards, David Morgan, and William Watkins. Smith and Davis died of their injuries last evening, and most of the others were in a precarious condition. The mine caught fire from the explosion and 600 feet of solid coal burned furiously, compelling the flooding of the mine.