

Imperial Mine  
Comstock Company  
July 1, 1879  
Reno, Nevada  
3 Victims

**Victims:**

John Crocker  
William Perry  
D. O'Donahue

**THE COMSTOCK FIRE.**

The 2000 Foot Level of the Imperial  
Mine in Flames Three Men Missing

About 8 o'clock last evening a rumor became current on the streets that a great fire was raging in the lower levels of the Comstock. One report had it that 150 men were penned up in the burning mine; another reduced the number to 40, which finally decreased to seven. The following particulars of the fire are clipped from the *Enterprise* of this morning:

Last night about 7:30 o'clock a fire broke out in the bottom of an old unused winze which goes down from the 2000 to the 2135 level of the Imperial mine. The fire was discovered about the hour named by two pump men, who started to go down to the 1900 level of the mine. They encountered the smoke and beat a retreat. When they reached the surface they fell fainting to the ground, but were soon able to give the alarm. The smell of the smoke and gas soon spread the alarm below, and the men working in the several mines at once betook themselves by drifts leading in the direction of the Crown Point and Jacket.

It was soon ascertained where the fire was, and there being an air pipe running down through the winze, a large stream of water was sent down through it. The draft was up through the winze to the 2000 level, thence northward along a drift leading out to the 2150 station of the Bullion, and thence up the Bullion incline and shaft. The draft being very strong in this direction, men were cabled to construct a bulkhead to the south of the burning winze, in the 2000 drift, and another on the 2135 level drift to the southward. Thus the gas and smoke were forced northward along the drift on the 2000 level, which goes out the Bullion incline.

About 50 feet up the incline of the Bullion from the 1850 station three men were at work at the time the fire occurred and when the rush of gas came. These men had not been heard from at last accounts. Their names are John Crocker, William Perry and D. O'Donahue. The two men first named are married.

In the several mines—Imperial, Alpha, Bullion and Eschequer—there were at work at the time of the fire some seventy-five men, but there were so many avenues of escape that all saved themselves without any difficulty except the three mentioned above.

At 9:30 last night the fire was hemmed in by bulkheads on one side and bare rocks on the other, and all danger was considered over.

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A SPECIAL FROM VIRGINIA

to the GAZETTE, dated at 3 o'clock P. M. says the three men have not yet been rescued from the mine. They have probably fallen victims to the smoke and gas.