

March 22, 1870
Diamond Slope Colliery
G. H. Potts Company
Minersville PA
Explosion of Boiler
5 Victims

No. 10.—*Inspected April 27, 1870.*

Description.—G. H. Potts & Co.'s Diamond Slope colliery, situate near Minersville, in Wolf Creek, is now 37 years in operation, on the estate of J. P. Brock, Brother, Cummings and others. The colliery is now included within the Third district, and will be enumerated in tile report of that district hereafter. This visit was occasioned by the disaster which originated by the explosion of a boiler at the breaker on the morning of the 22d which resulted in the death of John Kelly, (a boy,) William Keach, Richard Hennesy, (boy,) John H. Koelle. (boy,) and Mr. Given - 5 persons; and the injuring of John Combs, John Sheaffer, Christian Weaver, Thomas Campbell, Jacob Friler, Jacob Molley, Bernard Mohan, Alexander Leybach and John Sheaffer-5 boys and 4 men. This fatal occurrence was supposed to be occasioned by a scarcity of water in the boilers and an incompetent engineer. The statements of witnesses and verdict of the coroner's jury in the above case are on file in the office of tile district clerk.

Gangways - I find 5 lifts sunk on this slope and 10 gangways open, their aggregate length being 9,500 yards, all of which appear to be in ordinary condition. 17 breasts are now working, and mining operation in this mine is considered safe.

Ventilation. - The steam is in use and a considerable quantum of air cir-culates in the mine, but its great distance from the down-cast through the various districts and onto the fan is such that much of it is lost on its course, and heavily loaded with noxious air on its return at the out-cast. The air was found by measurement to be 5-i times slow.

Remarks - I desired to double the doors on the Reese Davis gangway, and head all the pillars at the breast-heads for the air to traverse through on its outward course, each breast to have 2 schutes. Miners should keep a Davy lamp suspended at the top of the gangway to warn them of fire-damp, as a large portion of gas is evolved. The lamp must be cleaned and examined daily to insure safety. Mr. Baddow is charged with the management of mines, lamps and miners, and his duties in these premises are prescribed to him. I think him a competent and careful man, and one who is much needed.

TABLE No. 2.

Names of persons killed in and about the mines in the mining district of Schuylkill, for the year ending Dec. 31, A. D. 1870.

DATE.	Names of persons killed.	Locations of the collieries.	Wife.....	Children...	Causes of death, remarks, &c.
January 24...	John Reese.....	Lost Creek	1	4	Killed by a fall of coal in the mines.
29...	John Elliott.....	Norton.....	.....	.....	Killed by a wagon run over him in the mines.
February 6...	John George.....	Wiggan & Co.'s.....	1	1	Killed by a fall of coal in the mines.
7...	John Early.....	Colorado	1	3	Killed by fall of coal in the counter gangway.
8...	Isaac Reynolds.....	Sherman.....	1	.....	Killed by fall in the slope, while oiling.
10...	John Hilton	Thomas.....	1	.....	Died from injuries—lost both legs.
11...	George Lee.....	Norwegian.....	1	1	Killed by explosion of gas in the mine.
12...	John Schell.....	Lorberry.....	1	7	Died from injuries from a breast.
17...	John Walsh, (boy)...	East Pine Knot.....	1	10	Orphans—killed by a fall of rocks in the mines.
21...	James Ormes.....	Glendower West.....	1	5	Killed by the breaking of slope rope in the mines.
22...	Henry Wesner.....	Boston Run.....	.....	.....	Crushed to death by cars and chute.
	11 men.				
March 2...	Michael M'Grath....	Snyder's shaft.....	.....	.....	Killed by premature explosion of a blast in the mines.
9...	Chas. Burchhill.....	Glen Carbon .....	.....	.....	.....do.....do.....do.....do.
12...	Wm. Jamison	New Mines.....	1	3	Killed by being thrown down the slope by a discharge of water.
14...	Isaias News.....	Maple Dale	1	4	Killed by fall of coal in the gangway.
14...	John O'Neil.....	Wiggans & Co.'s	1	1	do do do
22...	John Kelly, (boy)...	Potts' mine.....	.....	.....	} Killed by the explosion of the breaker boilers at 7 o'clock A. M., while preparing for to go to work, destroying the building and machinery, and injuring ten others—Wolf Creek disaster.
22...	Wm. Keoch, ".....	.....do.....	.....	.....
22...	R. Hennesy, ".....	.....do.....	.....	.....
22...	J. H. Koello, ".....	.....do.....	.....	.....
22...	M. Gavan.....	.....do.....	1	6	
22...	T. Walsh, (boy)...	Shamokin .....	.....	.....	Killed by being crushed by the pump-bob.
29...	Edward Evans	Koh-i-noor.....	.....	.....	} Killed by being upset from the bucket in the shaft and instantly killed—Shenandoah City disaster.
29...	Henry Campion	Koh-i-noor shaft.....	.....	.....
29...	Wm. Zimmerman.....	.....do	1	4	
29...	Abel Ebb.....	.....do	1	2	
	15 men.				
April 1...	James Gauntlett.....	Saylors'	1	.....	Killed by a fall of coal in the mines.
4...	Peter Marrah.....	St. Nicholas.....	1	5	Died from injuries received in the mines.
10...	Wm. Maley.....	Glendower.....	1	3	Died from lock-jaw from injuries received in the mines.
21...	Wm. Prichard	Turkey Run.....	1	4	Killed by an explosion of blast.

List of Injured - 3/21/1870

March	3.....	A miner.....	J. Wood's.....	.....	Injured by suffocation of gas in mines.
	4.....	Wm. Reese.....	Eagle Hill.....	.....	Injured—two fingers crushed by a log.
	4.....	Wm. Magrath.....	Snyder's shaft.....	.....	Injured badly by premature explosion of blast.
	4.....	Thomas Magrath.....	.....do.....	.....	Injured by the above cause.
	4.....	John Marlow.....	.....do.....	.....	.....do.....do.
	5.....	John Edmonds.....	Glendower.....	.....	Maimed—eyes and legs—by explosion of blast.
	5.....	Wm. D. Branan.....	.....do.....	.....	Maimed—hands badly—by explosion of blast.
	5.....	Patrick Mullin.....	Reevesdale.....	.....	Maimed—leg broken by fall of coal in mines.
	5.....	J. Moyer.....	Tamaqua shaft.....	.....	Injured by being dragged under a wagon.
	16.....	Wm. Major.....	Middleport.....	.....	Injured by falling under loaded railroad car in motion.
	21.....	Sam. Klinger.....	Tower City.....	.....	Injured—leg and arm broken by gangway wagon.
	21.....	John Combes.....	Pott's.....	.....	Injured by boiler explosion at breaker, at 7 o'clock A. M., while preparing for work. The engineer appeared to be incompetent for such duty, and is blamed for the accident, by which five more lives were lost.
	21.....	John Sheaffer.....	Pott's, Wolf Creek.....	.....
	21.....	Crist. Weaver.....	Pott's.....	.....
	21.....	Thos. Campbell.....	.....do.....	.....
	21.....	Jacob Friler.....	.....do.....	.....
	21.....	Jacob Molley.....	.....do.....	.....
	21.....	Bernard Mohan.....	.....do.....	.....	Seriously injured—died shortly after.
	21.....	Alex. Leybach.....	.....do.....	.....
April	22.....	Isaiah News.....	Mapledale.....	.....	Seriously injured by a fall of coal.
	28.....	Wm. Warning.....	Boyle's.....	.....	.....do.....do.
	28.....	Julius Toste.....	Coply.....	.....	Seriously injured by a fall of coal—leg broken in two places.
	28.....	George Shoen.....	Coply.....	.....	Seriously injured by explosion of blast—died April 26.
	28.....	Henry White.....	Greenwood.....	.....	Seriously injured by fall of coal—died April 27.
	30.....	M. O'Hara.....	Hill & Harris.....	1 9	.....
	28 men.		.....	.....	.....
	2.....	Thomas O'Neil.....	Wm. Morgan's.....	.....	Seriously injured by explosion of gas and fall of coal.
	2.....	Robt. O'Neil, (boy,).....	.....do.....	.....	Very badly burned and poor circumstances.
	2.....	Wm. Maley.....	Glen Carbon.....	1 4	Injured very badly by a wagon and died of lock-jaw.
	8.....	Thos. H. Branan.....	Shulenberger's.....	1 6	Slightly burned by explosion of gas.
	12.....	Thomas Cole.....	Llewellyn slope, No. 2.....	.....	Severely burned by explosion of gas.
	12.....	Henry Mason.....	Wadesville.....	.....	Severely injured by a fall of top coal
	12.....	Thos. Jackson.....	Silliman's.....	.....	Severely burned by an explosion of gas.
	12.....	August Fleel.....	.....do.....	.....	.....do.....do.
	12.....	Frank Quinn.....	.....do.....	.....	.....do.....do.
	26.....	Wm. Shaverberry.....	St. Nicholas.....	.....	Severely injured—leg crushed in the mines.
May	10 men.		.....	.....	.....
	19.....	George Hehler.....	Hien & Glasmire.....	.....	Severely injured by explosion of gas—died May 28.
	19.....	Conrad Sealbach.....	.....do.....	.....	Severely injured—his clothes nearly burnt off—lives.
	26.....	James Larkin.....	Swatara.....	.....	Collar bone broken by the slope rope.
June	3 persons.		.....	.....	.....
	2.....	Martin Whalen, Jr.....	Silver Creek.....	.....	Badly crushed by wagons in mine.
	12.....	A miner.....	Eschelman's.....	.....	Badly crushed by a fall of coal.

Bureau of Mines Bulletin 616:
Historical Documentation of Major Coal Mine Disasters in the
United States Not Classified as Explosions of Gas or Dust,
1846-1962

March 22, 1870: Potts Colliery; Locustdale Pa.; 5 killed.

*(From a state report on persons killed in the mining district of
Schuylkill for year ending Dec. 13, 1870)*

Killed by an explosion of the breaker boilers at 7 o'clock a.m., while preparing to go to work, destroying the building and machinery, and injuring ten others.

Daily Gazette Davenport, Iowa - March 23, 1870

**Terrible Boiler Explosion -- Several Men Killed -
Another Explosion, Disastrous Results.**

Philadelphia, March 22

- A terrible explosion occurred last night at the colliery of W. G. Andenried in the Schuylkil county mining region. A large boiler attached to the mine blew up killing several men and badly wounding a number of others. The engine house was blown to atoms

Pittsburg, March 22

- This morning the boiler of a coal breaker near Minersville exploded. The building was demolished; the boiler carried 100 yards; 5 boys killed; 10 men and boys injured, several seriously. The cause is unknown. the boiler had been in good condition previously.

Bangor Daily Whig and Courier - March 23, 1870

Terrible Explosion - Philadelphia, March 22

A special dispatch from Minersville, Penn., says that a terrible explosion occurred last night at the colliery of W. G. Andenried in the Schuylkill County Mining region. A large boiler attached to the mine blew up, killing several and badly wounding a number of others. The engine house was blown to atoms. Up to this time, the names of the killed and wounded have not been learned. The cause of the explosion was also unknown. Further particulars are expected soon.