

January 15, 1878
Potts Colliery
Explosion
5 Victims

Victims -

Henry Jones, miner, Age 45

Hugh Wilson, miner, Age 50

Williams Basket, miner, Age 45

George Shivelhood, miner, Age 30

Jacob Guir, driver boy, Age 18

January 15. Henry Jones, miner, aged forty-five years; Hugh Wilson, miner, aged fifty years; William Basket, miner, aged forty-five years; George Shivelhood, miner, aged thirty years; and Jacob Guir, driver boy, aged eighteen years, were killed at Potts' colliery by explosion of carbureted hydrogen gas. Jones, Basket, and Shivelhood, were working in the west gangway, and, according to ante-mortem testimony of Shivelhood, there came a rush of gas upon them in the gangway, they ran, taking their safety-lamps with them, which were burning, full of sulphur. That he, Shivelhood, smothered the flame in his lamp, but that he saw his partner, Basket, blow in his, and that the explosion occurred immediately after. Shivelhood died very shortly after giving his testimony. Hugh Wilson was working in the upper monkey or air course at the time of the accident. After the explosion he was found in the cross-hole lying on his back, without any marks of violence, the evidence leading to the presumption that in retreating outward after the explosion he was overcome by the after-damp, which caused his death. The driver boy, Guir, was found about two hundred yards from face of gangway. From all the evidence, and the condition of gangway on examination after the explosion, the conclusion arrived at in his case was that he was struck by some of the debris that was strewn about the gangway by the force of the explosion. Seven batteries and five doors were blown down. The mule he was driving was also killed at same time.

Daily Gazette and Bulletin

WILLIAMSPORT, PENNA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1878.

EVENING EDITION.

FOUR O'CLOCK P. M.

A MINE EXPLOSION.

FATAL FIRE DAMP ACCIDENT
LAST NIGHT.

Four Men Killed, One Fatally and
Others Seriously Injured—Names of
the Victims—How the Accident
Was Caused

About eight o'clock last evening a quantity of sulphur gas in Potts' colliery, two miles north of Ashland, was accidentally fired, resulting in an explosion. Four men are known to have been killed. Their names are Henry Jones, Hugh Wilson, Walter Cosgrove and a man named Greyer. George Schuebelhut was severely and two slightly injured. Considerable excitement prevailed at Ashland and Locust Dale last night the mine where the accident occurred being midway between those places.

Inter Particulars--The Names of the Killed and Wounded in Full How the Accident Happened.

SHENANDOAH, Jan. 16 By the explosion last night at Potts' colliery, of the Philadelphia and Reading coal and iron company, near Ashland, four men were killed outright, one fatally injured, and a boy slightly bruised. The killed were Harry Jones, miner, Hugh Wilson, miner, Jacob Geiger, driver, and William Boskett, laborer. Geo. Shivelhood, a laborer, was fatally injured, and when found resembled a mass of raw flesh. In his agony he had torn all his clothing from his body excepting his drawers. Joseph Kinney, a dear boy, escaped with a few slight bruises and managed to crawl out and notify men working in the slope, of the explosion. When the explosion took place, Geiger was going in with a wagon, he was sitting in the front of it, and the boy, Kinney, on the back, closing the doors as they went up. Geiger was killed, the wagon smashed up, the mule killed, but Kinney escaped. It is supposed the explosion was caused by one of the men trying to blow his safety lamp out.

The colliery was considered one of the best ventilated in the possession of the company. It was idle, but this gang of six men and boys were repairing a gangway.

A MINE EXPLOSION FATAL FIRE DAMP ACCIDENT LAST NIGHT

Four Men Killed - One fatally and Others Seriously Injured - Names of the Victims - How the Accident Was Caused

About eight o'clock last evening a quantity of sulphur gas in Potts Colliery two miles north of Ashland, was accidentally ignited and an explosion followed. Four men are known to have been killed. Their names are Henry Jones, Hugh Wilosn, Walter Cosgrove, and a man named Greyer. George Sebuebelbut was severely and two others slightly injured. Considerable excitement prevailed at Ashland and Locust Dale last night, the mine where the accident occurred being midway between those places.

Later Particulars - The Names of the Killed and Wounded in Full - How the Accident Happened.

SHENANDOAH, Jan, 16 - By the explosion last night at Potts Colliery of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company, near Ashland, four men were killed outright, one fatally injured, and a boy slightly burned. The killed were: Harry Jones, miner; Hugh Wilson, miner; Jacob Geiger, driver; and William Bosket, laborer. George Shivelhood, a laborer, was fatally injured, and when found resembled a mass of raw flesh. In his agony, he had torn all his clothing from his body excepting his drawers. Joseph Kinnery, a door boy, escaped with a few slight bruises and managed to crawl out and notify men working in the slope of the explosion. When the explosion took place, Geiger was going in with a wagon. He was sitting on the front of it, and the boy, Kinney, on the back, closing the doors as they went up. Geiger was killed, the wagon smashed up, the mule killed, but Kinney escaped. It is supposed the explosioing was caused by one of the men trying to blow his safety lamp out.

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