

**May 3, 1880**  
**Short Mountain/ Lykens Valley Slope**  
**Explosion**  
**5 Victims**

On May 3d an explosion occurred in Short Mountain slope, lower east gangway causing the death of five persons, two in Short Mountain slope workings by being burned and the other three in east gangway, lower level of Lykens Valley slope, by concussion of air.

This was the most disastrously fatal occurrence that has taken place in the district, and is directly attributable to the reckless system of mining pursued.

The two men who were burned were engaged skipping pillars.

The chain pillar that was between them and Lykens Valley slope workings—there being a cross-heading at face of breast in which they were employed—commenced to run, a result they should have looked forward to or been prepared for, as it had started to run some two weeks prior to this, and at that time the water from Lykens Valley slope workings came down into Short Mountain slope workings.

The run of chain pillar brought down the accumulated gas upon the exposed lights of these men, igniting it, and causing the explosion.

The concussion of air caused by the explosion of gas ignited by these two men in Short Mountain slope workings with naked lights, caused the death of the three others who were working in Lykens Valley slope above. (See accompanying sketch.)

The practice of skipping or robbing pillars under other workings where men are employed, or where drivers and workmen are passing to and fro is of such dangerous character, especially where the angle of dip is more than from  $15^{\circ}$  to  $20^{\circ}$ , that it cannot be too severely condemned, and when discovered or brought to our attention, we demand that every precaution be taken to prevent accident.

In this connection I quote from that part of the first section of the ventilation act which applies to robbing of pillars, viz: " When any level thereof is being finished with a view and for the purpose of being abandoned, or when any of the pillars therein are to be removed, the owner or agent of such coal mine or colliery shall have the map or plan thereof furnished as herein before provided, or such portions thereof as the case may require, carefully verified ; and notice shall be given to the inspector of the coal mines and collieries for the district, in writing, of the purpose to abandon or remove the pillars, as the case may be."

# REFERENCE

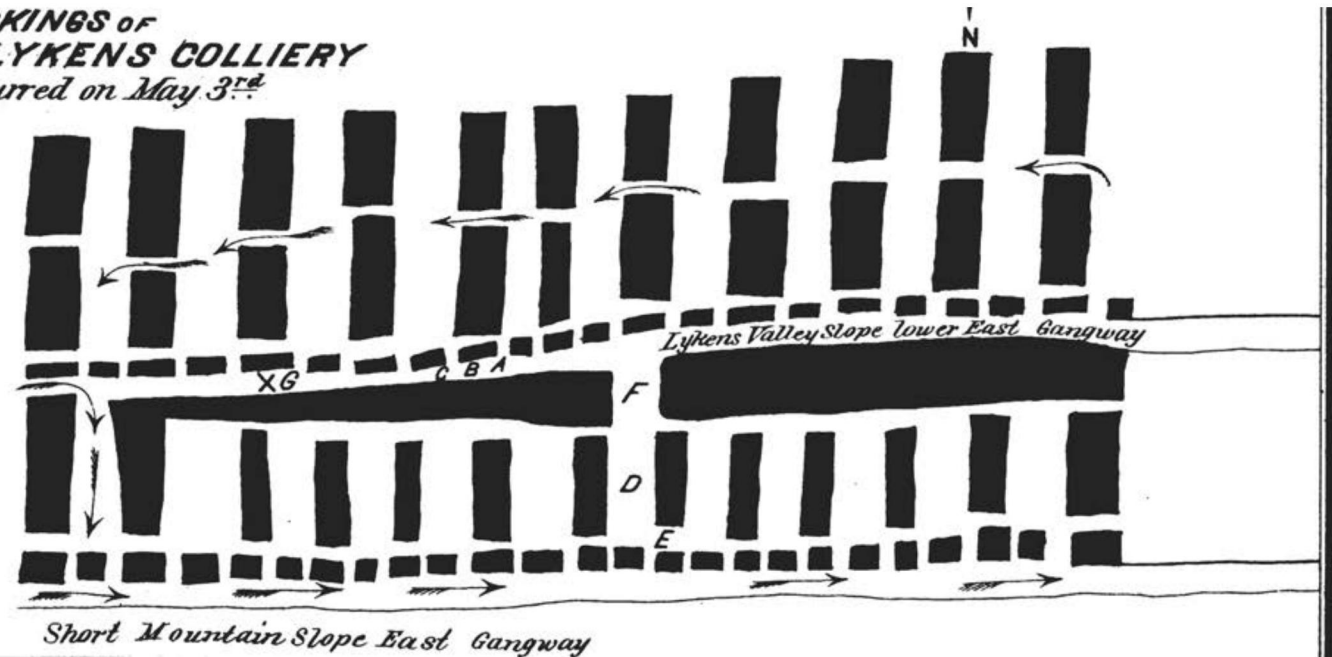
- A Where Douglas was found after Explosion
- B " Kinley " " " "
- C " West " " " "
- D " Evans was at time of Explosion
- E " Williams and Morgan were at time of Explosion
- F Where Chain Pillar ran
- G Door on gangway East of where Douglas Kinley & West were found

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## PLAN OF WORKINGS OF SHORT MOUNTAIN AND LYKENS COLLIERY

Where Explosion occurred on May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
1880

James Ryan Inspector



Scale 150 Feet to an Inch

# REGISTER OF FATAL CASUALTIES.

76

REPORTS OF THE INSPECTORS OF MINES.

[No. 10,

DATES.	Names of Persons Injured fatally.	Occupation.	Names of the Col- lieries.	Age.	Married or Single.	Children.	REMARKS.
Jan. 29	Michael Hines, . .	Miner, . . . . .	North Ashland, . .	42	Married, . .	7	Starting coal that was blocked at head of chute in breast No. 17. It carried him into and down the chute about fifteen yards, killing him instantly.
Feb. 6	Patrick Dougherty,	Door-tender, . . . .	Bast, . . . . .	17	Married, . .	2	Struck his head against man way platform, and thrown under wagons.
16	Michael Sheboskie,	Laborer, . . . . .	Short Mountain, . .	60	Married, . .	2	Fall of top rock, while engaged timbering in gangway.
April 2	Peter Ditzler,	Laborer, . . . . .	Cameron, . . . . .	27	Married, . .	2	Fall of coal. Died from injuries following day.
8	Christopher Conrad	Laborer, . . . . .	Preston, No. 2, . . .	20	Single, . . .	1	Explosion of gas. Died from injuries on 23d instant.
9	Henry Messner,	Miner, . . . . .	Williamstown, . . .	38	Married, . .	6	Fall of slate. Instantly killed.
9	Emanuel Smith, . .	Miner, . . . . .	Williamstown, . . .	42	Married, . .	3	Fall of slate. Died from injuries on 13th.
20	John Maroose, . .	Miner, . . . . .	Burnside, . . . . .	33	Married, . .	5	Coal flying from shot. A piece struck him on head, which accelerated his death, as at the time he was nervous and weak from lung disease.
28	Henry H. Lentz,	Laborer, . . . . .	Williamstown, . . .	43	Married, . .	3	Fall of top slate in gangway.
May 3	George West,	Repairsman, . . . .	Lykens Val. slope, .	63	Married, . .	1	Explosion of gas. Killed by concussion of air.
3	Simon Kuley,	Asst. inside boss, . .	Lykens Val. slope, .	31	Married, . .	6	Explosion of gas. Killed by concussion of air.
3	Mich. C. Douglass,	Driver, . . . . .	Lykens Val. slope, .	20	Married, . .	1	Explosion of gas. Killed by concussion of air.
3	Robert Williams,	Miner, . . . . .	Lykens Val. slope, .	53	Married, . .	1	Explosion of gas. Burned—died on 6th.
3	Thomas H. Evans,	Miner, . . . . .	Lykens Val. slope, .	33	Married, . .	2	Explosion of gas. Burned—died on 9th.
3	David Robinson, . .	Miner, . . . . .	Henry Clay shaft, . .	49	Married, . .	6	Explosion of gas. Burned—died on 14th.
June 3	William Reynolds,	Miner, . . . . .	Henry Clay shaft, . .	25	Single, . . .	1	Fall of top slate.
15	William H. Price,	Slate picker boss, . .	Hazel Dell, . . . .	44	Married, . .	6	Caught in breaker rolls.
16	Richard McNamara,	Miner, . . . . .	Williamstown, . . .	52	Married, . .	4	Fall of top rock. Died on 18th instant.
Aug. 20	Henry Volmer,	Miner, . . . . .	Preston, No. 3, . . .	39	Married, . .	1	Fall of top coal.
25	Patrick H. White,	Miner, . . . . .	Tunnel, . . . . .	41	Married, . .	4	Fell into gunboat pit while taking out timber near bottom of slope. Died from injuries September 25th.
Sept. 1	William H. Wolfe,	Driver, . . . . .	Big Mountain, . . .	18	Single, . . .	1	Run over by loaded mine wagon.
9	John Shult,	Miner, . . . . .	Mt. Carmel shaft, . .	39	Married, . .	4	Lifting a lump of coal into wagon, was injured internally, causing death (on 19th.
10	John Rash,	Miner, . . . . .	Cameron, . . . . .	39	Married, . .	4	Fall of top coal.
13	John Higgins,	Laborer, . . . . .	Lykens Valley, . . .	19	Single, . . .	1	Caught by lump of coal against coal battery. Died from injuries follow- (lug day.
23	William H. Evans,	Miner, . . . . .	Bast, . . . . .	38	Married, . .	4	Fall of top coal.
Oct. 28	Isaac E. Morris,	Miner, . . . . .	Henry Clay shaft, . .	32	Single, . . .	1	Fall of top slate.
Nov. 12	Mich. McNamara, . .	Miner, . . . . .	Bast, . . . . .	34	Married, . .	2	Fall of coal.
15	Patrick Finnegan,	Driver, . . . . .	Preston, No. 2, . . .	21	Single, . . .	1	Run over by loaded mine cars. Died following day.
22	Samuel Brodinnus,	Miner, . . . . .	Excelsior, . . . . .	27	Single, . . .	1	Fall of top coal. Went under top coal known at time to be unsafe, and killed through his own recklessness.
23	Daniel E. Leibey, . .	Driver, . . . . .	Peerless, . . . . .	17	Single, . . .	1	Caught between loaded mine cars and gangway timber at mouth of drift.
26	Daniel Kennedy,	Driver, . . . . .	Luke Fidler, . . . .	15	Single, . . .	1	Caught between loaded mine cars, and crushed to death.
26	Jonathan Lower,	Laborer, . . . . .	Big Lick, . . . . .	20	Married, . .	1	Fall of coal.
6	Henry J. Kuhus,	Laborer, . . . . .	West Brookside, . .	27	Single, . . .	1	Fall of top slate.
27	William H. Lott,	Miner, . . . . .	Cameron, . . . . .	34	Married, . .	2	Explosion of gas. Severely burned and blown down manway by force of explosion, inflicting such injuries as to cause death on 29th.