

A MINING HORROR.

Eight Men Suffocated While Attempting to Flood a Burning Mine.

Death Added to Disaster at the Buckridge Colliery, Near Wilkesbarre, Pa.—A Narrow Escape.

Weeping Wives and Children at the Mouth of the Dark Pit of Death.

WILKESBARRE, PA., August 22.—The excitement over the fire at Buckridge Colliery was increased to-day by the suffocation of eight men who were engaged in the vain attempt to drive a hole from the Greenback Colliery into the burning mine, through which to run the creek. District Superintendents Williams and Booth, having immediate supervision of the men, constantly remained with them until about five this morning, when they came out to look at the fire. While they were absent Peter Welker went down the Greenback slope to feed the mules. In descending he felt the wagon in which he was riding jar. He jumped out and discovered the body of a man lying on the track. Before he could see where the man was the fire damp extinguished his light and, almost exhausted, he managed to get into the car, grasped the bell wire and

SIGNALLED TO BE HOISTED.

A few minutes later the wagon reached the surface with Welker lying in it insensible. This was the first intimation the officials had of anything wrong inside. Frank Wardrop and Valentine Depner volunteered to go down and reach the miners inside, but the attempt almost cost them their lives, and they were hoisted out more dead than alive. Both the Greenback and Buckridge mines soon filled up with gas and every one working about the place was forced to the surface. The men who were driving the hole and fifteen mules were still inside, and all of course perished. The mining engineers examined the slope as far as they could with safety, and give it as their opinion that the gas forced its way from the old workings down upon the miners, smothering the eight men engaged in driving the hole.

1884 Greenback colliery deaths NEWS3

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THEIR NAMES ARE:

William Carl, Patrick Haley, William B. Clark, William Shankweiler, William Taylor, George Beck, Robert White and William Fox. The news of the accident soon reached Shamokin and neighboring patches, creating intense excitement. Men, women and children rushed to the scene, and in less than an hour over 1,000 people pressed closely up to the mouth of the mines. The coal and iron engineers and experts examined closely the condition of the mine, and knew it would be certain death for any one to attempt to go down the Greenback slope. It was then decided to open the bottom vein slope at the Buckridge mine, which would change the current of air at the Greenback, and force it back to Buckridge by means of a fan to be erected, and if nothing happens to delay the work the bodies may be reached to-morrow. The

WIVES OF THE VICTIMS

sat together in tears near the slope, anxiously awaiting for the recovery of the bodies of their husbands, while the little children, bitterly crying, clung to them. Carl was thirty-six years of age and had a wife and two children. Haley was forty years old, leaves a widow and five children. Clark was thirty-nine, had a wife and four children. Shankweiler was forty-two, with wife and six children. Taylor was thirty-eight, wife and one child. Beck, thirty-seven years, wife and three children. Fox, forty-three years, wife and four children. Robert White was the son of Inside Superintendent White, and was only sixteen years of age. Nothing will be left undone nor expense spared to recover the bodies. The loss to the Coal and Iron Company will probaby reach \$100,000, besides the long term of idleness that will be forced upon the employes by the disaster.