

clearing this fall. They worked with safety lamps at the fall and knew that there was a body of gas along the roof from the cavity of the fall in towards the face. Outside of the brattice door they had naked lights. Just after eating their dinner, the driver being with them, having brought a car in with timber on, two of the men with naked lights on their hats stepped on the bumpers of the car, one at each end, to roll the timber off, and the gas tailing back above the collars to that point ignited from one of the naked lamps. All were severely burned and all died. A fire boss had been with them all morning, but at this time he had gone back to the bottom of the slope to eat his dinner and escaped uninjured.

A **Fatal Explosion of Gas in the Lance No. 11 Colliery**, of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company, at Plymouth.

The accident occurred at 2 p. m., Thursday, September 21, and the following persons lost their lives: Joshua Golightly, assistant foreman; Owen P. Jones, mason; John Flanagan, mason; David M. Jones, contractor, and William Jones, miner, lived a short time. Two others were severely injured, viz: Thomas Williams, miner, and Owen L. Evans, blacksmith.

They were making preparations to make a change in one of the air splits. Two parallel breasts had been driven from one lift to another on the Cooper seam, but only one was driven all the way through and this was temporarily closed with boards, having a slide door to enable persons to pass through.

A shaft was driven up through the rock from the Bennett seam connecting to the side of one of the breasts mentioned in the Cooper seam. This was to be used for an air passage. David M. Jones, the contractor, and his men, William Jones, Thomas Williams and Owen L. Evans, were at the bottom of this shaft about to finish cleaning it out. The masons, Owen B. Jones, John Flanagan and Joseph Cummings, were building a wall across the lower end of each of the two breasts in the Cooper seam. The wall had been completed across one and they had nearly finished the other. They were on the lower side while John Flanagan, Jr., and another young man, were on the upper side.

This was the situation when the assistant foreman, Joshua Golightly, approached the slide door and perhaps passed through with a naked light at the upper end of the breasts, where, evidently unexpected by him, gas had accumulated and it ignited from his lamp. The concussion forced the wall down upon the three masons, killing two instantly and injuring the other fatally. The two above the wall escaped unhurt. Two of the four at the bottom of the air shaft were instantly killed by the concussion, and the other two severely injured.

Mr. Golightly's body was found severely burned near the place where the explosion took place. His safety lamp was in his pocket, and his naked lamp close by his body. These circumstances show that the gas accumulated somewhere close to the temporary stopping in which the slide door was placed, and Mr. Golightly had been seen carrying his naked lamp in going down towards this slide door about two minutes before the explosion took place.