

VICTIMS OF COAL DUST

An Explosion Kills Seven West Virginia Miners.

Heartrending Scenes at the Blanche
Coal Mine Near Colliers—Awful
Power of the Gas Generated by
the Disaster—Anniversary of a
Similar Accident.

Steubenville, O., Nov. 21.—By an explosion of coal dust in the Blanche coal mines, near Colliers, W. Va., seven miles east of Steubenville, on the Pan Handle railroad, seven men were killed and four badly injured. Those killed were:

Michael Roney, Thomas Jordan, Thomas Tucker, David Rowlands, John Donnelly, Antio Sattie, Muzzle Gesideo.

The injured are: Raphael Neckie, Jasper Lawrence and Thomas Morris. Tucker, Donnelly and the Italians are married.

The disaster occurred in No. 9 entry, 1,000 yards from the mouth, and was caused by a new Italian hand firing an overcharge blast, which ignited the coal dust. There were forty-eight men in the mine at the time. After the explosion a terrific whirl of wind followed. Donnelly and Roney were going toward the entrance. The force of the explosion blew them nearly 100 yards out of the mouth of the mine and landed Roney on the track, killing him, and Donnelly landed in a gully, striking shortly after the accident and took his brains all over it. His wife was the first to find him and she swooned away and may die from the shock.

Hundreds crowded about the mouth of the mine, where some tragic and sorrowful scenes were enacted. A rescue party consisting of George Benbow, Nick Kemis, Arthur Ward, John Muter, John Stewart and William Davis volunteered and went in after the bodies and brought them out.

Prosecuting Attorney Cotton and Wilkinshaw, of Wellaburg, arrived shortly after the accident and took charge of the bodies. They will conduct a rigid investigation, as this is the second accident of the kind that has occurred at his mine, the other on Nov. 21, 1892, when three men were killed and seven burned and injured. The state mine inspector is on the ground and his report will show where the blame is to be attached.

William Davis was in the mine entry, 150 feet from the entrance. When he heard the explosion he lay down near the rib of the mine and the whirlwind carrying rocks, fire, air and death passed over him. An empty car standing at the entrance was blown 200 yards.

The mine is owned by W. E. Smith of Wellsville and L. O. Smith of New Cumberland. Rowlands was a former resident of Bridgeport, and Morris is the only colored man in the crowd. The miners blame the accident on the inexperienced Italian miners and declare they will not work with them any more.

Fifty Barely Escaped.

Westville, N. S., Nov. 21.—The Acadia mine was discovered to be on fire about 8 o'clock last evening. All the buildings around the pit with the exception of the blacksmith shop were totally destroyed. About fifty men were working in the mine at the time and the telephone connections not being in order at the time the men had to be sent down the slope to notify the miners who were about four thousand feet from the surface. The men all got out of the pit about 9 o'clock in an exhausted condition. Two men who went into the pit to assist the miners in their ascent were injured by the cage running away, caused by the fire burning the rope.