

## A MINE EXPLOSION.

Six Men Lose Their Lives in the No. 3 Shaft at Wilkes-Barre.

TWO BRAVE HEROES SUCCUMB.

**William Jones and Joseph Joseph Meet Death in Attempting to Rescue Their Stricken Comrades-- Great Excitement.**

Another dreadful mine horror occurred in the No. 3 shaft of the Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal Company at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon at Wilkes-Barre.

The dead, all of whom have been brought to the surface, are:

Wm. R. Jones, fire boss, married, with a family.

John Joseph, assistant mine foreman residing at 59 Parrish street, leaves a wife, three sons and two daughters.

Thomas Owens, miner, of No. 3 Collins street, married and leaves a family.

Wm. Lacey, rock miner, married, and a family living at 29 Black street.

James Herron, laborer, married, and a family living on Poplar street.

Joseph Worth, fire boss, married, and a family living at 57 Parrish street.

The injured so far as known are:

David Williams, overcome by black damp, and injured on the back and side.

John Davis, overcome by black damp.

The disaster was caused by a terrible explosion of gas in a rock tunnel about a mile from the foot of the shaft. The mines was idle for the day and only a small number of men were at work at the time. A number of the company hands and mine bosses were at work inside making a change in the air currents.

Thos. Owens, Wm. Lacey, James Herron and James Worth were inside at work in the rock tunnel. The place was very gaseous and the men worked with safety lamps. It was in this tunnel where the explosion occurred, the exact cause of which is not known, but it is believed the gas was ignited by a blast.

David Williams, the driver boss, was at the head of the slope 500 feet away when the explosion occurred, and was hurled some distance and injured. He was the only one in that vicinity who escaped alive.

The explosion was so severe that it was plainly felt at the mouth of the shaft, and the roof of the fan house was blown off and all the air ways and brattices inside wrecked and blown away.

Instantly the alarm was given and hundreds of men, women and children rushed to the head of the shaft, many of the women crying and the usual touching scenes at the shaft were witnessed.

The miners organized rescuing parties, the first being led by fire boss Wm. R. Jones and Assistant Mine Foreman John Joseph and John Davis, three brave heroes who sacrificed their lives in their endeavor to save a fellow miner. All were overcome by the dread after damp but not until they had found Driver Boss David Williams.

All except Joseph, succeeded in reaching the foot of the shaft and were removed to the surface, but the old fire boss, Wm. R. Jones, succumbed to the deadly fire damp and died in a half an hour after being brought out. John Joseph, the other hero, became separated from the first party and the second rescuing party found his body and removed it to the surface at 2:20 o'clock.

1896 Shaft No. 3 Explosion

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Aug 22, 2024