

TABLE No. 4.—List of Fatal Accidents that Occurred in and about the Mines of the Second Anthracite District, for the Year ending December 31, 1897.

Date of accident.	Name of Person.	Occupation.	Age.	Widows.	No. of orphans.	Name of Colliery.	Location—County.	Nature and Cause of Accident.
Jan. 12,	John McHate, .....	Miner, .....	50	1	3	Capouse, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Instantly killed by fall of coal. Fatally injured by premature blast; died January 26th. He had prepared a blast in the usual way and upon igniting the squib the explosion took place before he had reached a place of safety.
	Richard Edwards, .....	Miner, .....	50	1	1	Bellevue Shaft, .....	Lackawanna, .....	
16,	Antone M' truzzi, .....	Laborer, .....	28	1	1	Spencer's Shaft, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Instantly killed by a fall of rock in face of chamber where extra precautions had been taken to secure the roof.
16,	Michael Ryan, .....	Miner, .....	36	1	6	Archbald, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by a fall of rock in face of chamber. He had fired a blast and had neglected to examine the roof thereafter. A slab fell on him. Died in Moses Taylor Hospital January 19th.
27,	David Thomas, .....	Runner, .....	18	.....	.....	Continental, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by cars. While unhitching a trip of cars his leg was severely injured between the bumpers of the cars. Died January 29th.
Feb. 29,	Victor M ieski, .....	Laborer, .....	23	.....	.....	Greenwood No. 2, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Instantly killed by a premature blast. Wale had left his door. In another part of the mine he met a trip of cars. He became confused and in endeavoring to pass he was squeezed between the cars and the rib and instantly killed.
	1,	Albert Wale, .....	Door boy, .....	16	.....	Diamond Drift, .....	Lackawanna, .....	
3,	Martin Nelson, .....	Miner, .....	36	.....	.....	Mount Pleasant, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by fall of top coal caused by excessive undermining and no props. He died in Lackawanna Hospital March 10, 1897.
6,	Jos ph Gravitz, .....	Laborer, .....	32	1	1	Austin Tunnel, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Killed by fall of rock in extension to slope. Upon investigation it was learned that the miner and laborer had examined the roof a few minutes before the accident and pronounced it safe.
6,	Thos. E. Williams, .....	Miner, .....	57	.....	6	Taylor Shaft, .....	Lackawanna, .....	While mining coal from the bottom bench after a shot a piece of the top bench fell, instantly killing him.

TABLE NO. 4.—Continued.

Date of Accident.	Name of Person.	Occupation.	Age.	Widows.	No. of orphans.	Name of Colliery.	Location—County.	Nature and Cause of Accident.
	18, Robert Jones, .....	Miner, .....	30	1	5	Cayuga, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by fall of rock in face of chamber; died in Moses Taylor Hospital at 9.30 P. M., same day.
Mar.	3, John R. Edwards, .....	Miner, .....	47	1	5	"William A.", .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally burned by explosion of fire damp. These men were engaged taking down top coal. They had seven yards of it down on the gangway. This confined the air passage. Gas accumulated, which was ignited by a naked light brought through mistake by the laborer. The former died March 11; the latter died March 27, 1897.
	3, Joseph Sobisky, .....	Laborer, .....	32	.....	.....	"William A.", .....	Lackawanna, .....	
	9, Patrick Iago, .....	Company man, .....	54	1	.....	Dickson, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally burned by explosion of fire damp. Died March 12.
	9, Patrick Banks, .....	Miner, .....	45	.....	.....	Nay Aug, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by fall of roof; died March 22 in Thompson's Hospital.
	9, Chas. Thomas, .....	Company man, .....	58	.....	6	Von Storch Shaft, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by cars inside as he was leaving the mine; died from his injuries the following day.
	25, Henry Moreland, .....	Miner, .....	40	1	5	Holden Mine, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by flying coal from blast. Died in the Moses Taylor Hospital two days later.
April	6, John W. Jones, .....	Miner, .....	32	1	3	Cayuga, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Killed by fall of rock. Instantly killed by cars inside.
	9, Jenkin Beyans, .....	Runner, .....	19	.....	.....	Bellevue Slope, .....	Lackawanna, .....	
May	1, John Watkins, .....	Driver's helper, .....	14	.....	.....	Jermyn No. 1, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Watkins was riding on a loaded trip of cars on a gravity road. He received injuries which terminated fatally at 8 P. M. the same day.
	7, Martin King, .....	Miner, .....	24	.....	.....	Archbald, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by flying coal from blast; died ten minutes later.
June	4, Patrick Hughes, .....	Miner, .....	35	1	3	Tripp Slope, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by premature blast; died 45 minutes later.
	8, John Beecham, .....	Laborer, .....	20	.....	.....	Pyne, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Killed by cars inside.
	19, Joseph Huddy, .....	Miner, .....	45	1	5	Holden, .....	Lackawanna, .....	
	21, Andrew Greiger, .....	Outside laborer, .....	20	.....	.....	Green Ridge Slope, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by cars outside. Died at 9 P. M. in the Lackawanna Hospital from loss of blood.
July	13, Frank Pedle, .....	Laborer, .....	22	.....	.....	Hampsher, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Killed by a fall of top coal.

Aug.	19,	Michael Nealon, .....	Miner, .....	40	1	3	Old Forge No. 2, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Killed by fall of rock.
	23,	William Seibert, .....	Laborer, .....	29	.....	.....	Gr'wood No. 1, old shaft,	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by a fall of roof; taken to the Lackawanna Hospital in the company's ambulance, where he died a few minutes later.
CC	31,	John McFale, .....	Miner, .....	30	1	2	Cayuga, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by a fall of rock; died in a few hours.
Sept.	1,	Alfonso Baldo, .....	Miner, .....	35	1	.....	William A., .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by fall of roof; died in the Lackawanna Hospital a few hours later.
	18,	Martin Millar, .....	Laborer, .....	38	.....	.....	Von Storch Slope, .....	Lackawanna, .....	While loading a car a bell shaped rock fell, slightly injuring his back. He was taken to the Lackawanna Hospital, other complications set in from which he died on December 14.
	24,	Salvatore Vennango, ....	Laborer, .....	24	1	2	Spencer, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Instantly killed by fall of roof.
	28,	Isaac Watkins, .....	Fire boss, .....	55	1	1	Jermyn No. 1, .....	Lackawanna, ....	Fire boss Isaac Watkins, while making his morning examination of the workings of the middle vein, Jermyn No. 1 mine, discovered a fire in a chamber known as Apple's, off Davies' old airway on the morning of September 21. Mining was suspended in that section of the colliery and every energy directed towards extinguishing the fire. The fire originated from an ignited blower having been left burning at quitting time the previous day, and this in a short time communicated fire to the gob. A line of water pipes was immediately laid and properly connected to a pump, and work was commenced with the air current flowing in its usual direction, shown by black arrows on tracing. As the work progressed from cross-cut A towards cross-cut B it was discovered that the location of the fire was nearer to cross-cut B than to cross-cut A. The fire had caused the roof to fall in considerable quantities, and as this had to be loaded out and the place securely timbered, it was decided by the mine officials, after a consultation, to change the direction of the current and reach the location of the fire with the view of quenching it, and so reduce the heat and smoke, so that the work of loading the debris would be facilitated. The current was consequently changed on 28th September, about two o'clock, Mine Foreman Johns being in charge of the work. The direction of the currents after the change is shown by red arrows on tracing. Some time later Mine Foreman Johns and Fire Boss Watkins having found that
	28,	John Gallagher, .....	Company man, ...	37	1	7	Jermyn No. 1, .....	Lackawanna, ....	
	28,	Wm. Frankland, .....	Miner, .....	30	.....	.....	Jermyn No. 1, .....	Lackawanna, ....	
	28,	Wm. Tompkins, .....	Company man, ...	24	.....	.....	Jermyn No. 1, .....	Lackawanna, ....	
	28,	Joseph Smith, .....	Company man, ...	38	1	7	Jermyn No. 1, .....	Lackawanna, ....	

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			Widows.			
						<p>the current was working successfully in the new direction, decided to go in with the new intake to the location of the fire. This they did and found the vicinity of the fire clear of gases, and concluded that it would be safe for the shift to go in and commence work from that end. Isaac Watkins, the fire boss, had charge of this shift, consisting of John Gallagher, Wm. Frankland, Wm. Tompkins and Joseph Smith. About 3.30 P. M. they went in, after making arrangements with the other men to bring T iron rails later. At 5.10 P. M. Geo. Shriver, Al. Whyte, Thos. Curley and John Conway were back at the door marked D on the plan, with the rails on a truck. This door they found closed when they arrived. They discovered the body of Tompkins at the point shown on the plan, and the bodies of Frankland, Smith and Gallagher some distance inside, as shown on the plan also. Later in the day Fire Boss Watkins' body was recovered from a point near the location of the fire. During the investigation and inquest which followed, it was shown that the air current from D around the location of the fire was intact beyond a doubt, with no possible way by which it could reach the return, except by way of the fire. All doors, brattices and walls were undisturbed and the fan running at its usual speed. The coroner of the county, assisted by the mine inspector held an inquest over the remains of Isaac Watkins and the others October 4, 1897, at Rendham, at which all the available evidence was submitted. The jury</p>

Oct.	4,	Casper Ott, .....	Headman, .....	39	1	1	Pyne Breaker, .....	Lackawanna, .....
	9,	John Kipacash, .....	Laborer, .....	45	1	.....	Taylor Shaft, .....	Lackawanna, .....
	7,	William Fitzhenry, .....	Laborer, .....	23	.....	.....	Taylor Shaft, .....	Lackawanna, .....
	18,	Patrick Lynn, .....	Miner, .....	47	1	9	Brisbin, .....	Lackawanna, .....
	30,	Thomas Hill, .....	Collerman, .....	43	1	4	Von Storch Slope, .....	Lackawanna, .....
	30,	John Farrell, .....	Water bailer, .....	60	.....	.....	Von Storch Slope, .....	Lackawanna, .....
	30,	John McDonnell, .....	Water bailer, .....	27	.....	.....	Von Storch Slope, .....	Lackawanna, .....
	30,	Thomas Padden, .....	Water bailer, .....	24	.....	.....	Von Storch Slope, .....	Lackawanna, .....
	30,	John Walsh, .....	Water bailer, .....	22	.....	.....	Von Storch Slope, .....	Lackawanna, .....
	20,	John Moran, .....	Driver, .....	21	.....	.....	Von Storch Slope, .....	Lackawanna, .....

returned the following verdict: "We, the undersigned jurors, find after hearing the evidence submitted, that the said Isaac Watkins and others, for some causes unknown, retreated to the bad air current and met death as the result of breathing sulphurous gases. We further find that no blame can be attached to Isaac Watkins nor the other officials, R. Willis Reese, E. D. Owen, T. P. Cosgrove, F. Cosgrove, J. Nicholls and Wm. Monroe.

Instantly killed by falling down main shaft.

Fatally injured by a fall of rock; died some days later.

Fatally injured while riding on cars inside after being requested not to do so; died shortly after.

Fatally injured by flying coal from blast; died some hours later.

A fire was discovered in the Von Storch Slope about midnight, October 29. This slope crosses the measures and intersects the Diamond, Rock and Fourteen "Foot" veins. At the Diamond vein the empty cars are run off on what is known as the light bridge. Some distance below this on the slope there are two pump rooms. One is known as the Diamond pump and the other the Fourteen Foot vein pump. On the night in question Edward Simpson, 26 years of age, was engaged in looking after these pumps. At 12.40 he smelled smoke. After ascertaining the pump rooms to be safe, he started up the slope to locate the fire. He found the light bridge enveloped in smoke; he could also hear the roof rock falling. He made an attempt to reach the section of the mine known as the New Diamond workings by way of the rock vein heading, but was prevented from doing so by smoke. He knew the water boilers were in that part of the mine. He then went out of the mine through the second opening shaft, to give the alarm and to notify the company's officials. The fire companies were soon on the ground, but were unable to do effective work for some time, as the dense smoke prevented them from reaching the location of the fire. The mine officials made brave attempts to reach the men by all available avenues from the second shaft, but were cut off by

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								<p>smoke. Finding it was impossible to reach the men they manipulated doors so as to carry the bulk of the smoke away from the imprisoned men, and after doing so directed their attention to the slope which, on account of the heat from the fire, together with the contraction of the air passage owing to falls, was upsetting and thus keeping the fire companies from working. At about 7 o'clock on the morning of October 30, the smoke abated and in a few hours the fire was well under control. At 9 P. M. a rescuing party reached the New Diamond workings and there found Joseph Yankoskie alive. He informed them that all the other men were dead. Yankoskie, together with notes left by other members of the party, testify that they were all alive at 11.30 A. M., October 30. They had become discouraged and determined to make one final attempt to reach the Four "Foot" vein along a rock plane connecting the two veins. At about 11.30 they all started through the thick smoke up the plane. Yankoskie, who was leading the way up the plane, heard his companions saying "good-bye," decided to beat a hasty retreat. In the course of some time he reached the dip chambers, and there, with two mules, he remained until rescued. The bodies of Hill, Farrell, McDonnell, Padden, Walsh and Moran were found by the rescuers as told by Yankoskie, at or near the foot of the plane. Had the men, or even one of the number been acquainted with the current in that section of the mine, or had they</p>

Nov.	4.	Andrew Nelson, .....	Miner, .....	27	.....	Hyde Park, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by fall of roof.
	4.	Peter Solektra, .....	Miner, .....	35	.....	William A., .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by fall of top coal; died in Pittston at 10 A. M., November 5.
	10.	John McTernan, .....	Miner, .....	50	1 20	Hampton, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by fall of roof; he was taken to Moses Taylor Hospital where he died November 23.
	12.	Joseph Theobald, .....	Door boy, .....	15	.....	Hyde Park, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Killed by cars inside.
	13.	Mike Kinka, .....	Laborer, .....	27	.....	Dodge, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Instantly killed by fall of roof.
Dec.	2.	Patrick Schofield, .....	Miner, .....	36	1 4	Dickson, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Killed by flying coal from blast.
	2.	Thomas Lydon, .....	Miner, .....	45	1 7	Lawrence Shaft, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally injured by fall of roof from which he died the following day.
	8.	Jesse Goodman, .....	Laborer, .....	25	.....	Austin Tunnel, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Killed by fall of rock.
	11.	John Coyne, .....	Miner, .....	45	1 1	Greenwood No. 12 Drift, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Killed by fall of roof.
	14.	John Malla, .....	Miner, .....	34	.....	Capouse, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Killed by fall of roof.
	27.	Alex. Ajlinskie, .....	Laborer, .....	21	.....	Bellevue Shaft, .....	Lackawanna, .....	Fatally burned by explosion of gas; died from the effects January, 1898, in Moses Taylor Hospital.

known the use of the several doors, they could have done more to save themselves by the manipulation of the same than it was possible for the mine officials and others to do in that direction at the time and under the circumstances. Had any one of them possessed that knowledge he failed to turn it to good account at the critical time. It is further demonstrated had they remained in the dip chambers they would have survived. At the inquest which was held in the Lackawanna county court house, Scranton, November 5th and 6th, voluminous evidence was submitted by men and boys who had passed up the slope at various times on the night of October 29 up to 12.30, all stating under oath that no smoke was noticeable at the location of the light bridge when they passed that spot. Evidence was also submitted to show that no stove was in use at that point, neither did any steam pipes come in contact or in close proximity to the bridge. The following verdict was rendered: We, the undersigned, find that Thomas Hill and others came to their death by suffocation due to a fire in the Von Storch Slope, the origin of which is to us unknown, but after listening to testimony introduced we believe it to be of incendiary origin. We further believe that the Delaware and Hudson Company did everything in its power to save the men and subdue the flames after they were discovered. John D. Keator, Robert M. Courtwright, Ed. Barrett, Wm. J. Jones, Joseph F. Bausch, Patrick Cusick.