

THIRTY-FIVE BURNED

In a Mine Explosion at Huntington, Ark.

One Dead and Several Others Will Probably Die—Excitement Ran High.

Huntington, Ark., March 5.—Mine 44 of the Kansas and Texas Coal Co., of this place, exploded last evening, burning thirty-five men, all of them seriously and some fatally.

BUD HANLEY is dead and the list of injured is as follows:

JOE HUBBARD (colored), badly burned; will probably die.

WILLIAM HANLEY (colored), badly burned; will probably die.

F. FRICKER, burned on arms, head and face.

T. STUSENER, badly burned; may not recover.

ENNIS CABLE (colored), probably fatally burned.

MARSHALL HATCH, burned severely on head and face.

W. N. HILE, track layer; severely burned.

JOHN HARRIS (colored), hands, face and head burned.

JOHN PATTERSON, (colored), badly burned, thought to be injured internally.

DOC HUFFAKER, (colored), burned on head, shoulders and arms.

J. ELLIS, (colored), hands and head burned.

WILLIAM MORRIS, badly burned on face, head and arms.

WILLIAM S. CARLETT, severely burned and cut on head; in serious condition.

WILLIAM MAXWELL, very badly burned.

WILLIAM GARTENSHIRE, burned on face, neck and head.

ANDREW FOX, badly burned.

Mine 44 is situated about a quarter of a mile north of the main part of the town. It was a shaft sunk six years ago but abandoned for about two years. This summer a slope was driven to the old working and it again commenced to produce coal. Over one hundred men, half of them negroes, were employed in the mine.

About 4:30 o'clock a muffled roar startled the people and they turned their heads toward the mine. A column of smoke and debris shot up high from the air shaft at the mine. Over the open ground and net-work of railroad tracks rushed men and women. Many of the latter had husbands and the other members of their families in the mine. In a few minutes after the explosion the men commenced to appear. Some were not burned at all, while others appeared with their skins hanging upon their faces and hands or hanging in ribbons. The work of looking for those unable to walk up the slope was at once begun, Superintendent Vail, of the Kansas and Texas mine directing the work. One by one the injured were brought out and taken to their homes. How many of them are burned internally the doctors cannot say as their efforts are employed solely in dressing the wounds.

Different theories are advanced for the cause of the explosion. Superintendent Vail says he believes that a keg of powder was exploded by carelessness, but the general opinion among the miners appears to be that it was caused by windy shot firing the gas and powder smoke. They say that the mine was very dry and dusty and that the furnace was not sufficiently strong to create sufficient draft to carry the dust out of the rooms and entries. There is very little gas in the mines here and none are of the opinion that it had any part in the blow-up. State Mine Inspector McMullen has been notified and will investigate.