

# A FATAL MINE EXPLOSION.

Three Men Killed and Five  
Injured by an Acci-  
dent Saturday  
Night.

**Mount Carmel Shaft No. 5 at Chico-  
pee, Situated in The Southern Part  
of This County was the Scene of the  
horror.**

Saturday evening about seven o'clock some of our people had their attention attracted toward the south by a strange light that seemed to illuminate the heaven. They knew at once that something unusual had taken place. In a very short time the strange phenomena was explained when word came over the telephone, from Pittsburg, that a mine explosion had taken place at Chicopee. The first report stated that one hundred and fifty men worked in the mine and the inference drawn was that there were that many in the mine at the time of the explosion. This was horrible to contemplate. But fortunately the accident happened at a time when only seven men were in the mine. The day shift had come out and the night men had not gone down to work. However it is sad enough.

The dead are Anton Weinberger, Chas. Winters and John Possing, shot firers. Those injured are James Zimmerman, Ben Shirard, Robt Beyd, Joe Zeitter and John Taver-  
naro.

Immediately after the explosion hundreds and thousands of people from Pittsburg and the surrounding country began to gather at the scene of death and wreckage. The top of the main tower over the shaft had been blown off and loose timbers and corrugated iron were scattered in every direction. Also the fan in the air shaft had been damaged, which caused some delay in getting fresh air into the mine. But as soon as it was thought safe to venture into the shaft, rescuing parties went down to search for the dead and dieing.

Three bodies were found and taken out that night, but it was almost noon Sunday before the last one was found. And strange to say, Jim Zimmerman, the last one found was alive, after being buried beneath an avalanch of smoke and sulfuric fumes for fifteen hours.

All day Sunday people continued to come and go by the hundreds and thousands.

The cause of the explosion is not known, but most men who are capable of judging are of the opinion that it was caused by what is known among miners as a "windy shot." Others say the mine had gas in it. Some have one theory and some an others. The coroner impaneled a jury Sunday morning and held an inquest over the dead bodies. A number of witnesses were examined, but nothing definite could be learned as to who was responsible for the disaster.

“The verdict of the jury in the coroner’s investigation was returned Monday and the evidence of a number of witnesses was taken. Among those who testified were J. C. Fletcher Superintendent of the Mt. Carmel Coal companies mines at Chicopee and Frontenac; James Zimmerman, the man who lived in the mine for fifteen hours after the explosion and escaped alive; Tom Flynn, who was among the rescuing party; State Mine Inspector McGrath and many others. The testimony being all in, the jury returned the following verdict: We the jury find that the dead bodies are those of John Possing, Charles Winters and Anton Weinbarger, all shot-firers at No. 5 of the Mt. Carmel Coal Company; that the said John Possing, Charles Winters and Anton Weinbarger came to their death by

an explosion caused by gas generated from two windy shots supposed to have been fired by said John Possing, that the cause of said Possing’s death was the result of burns received from the flame of said shots; that the cause of the death of Charles Winters and Anton Weinbarger was asphyxia resulting from the effects of said shots fired by said Possing. We further find that the said explosion was intensified by dust gathered in the rooms where the said Possing had fired previous shots in rapid succession.

*The Independent News*  
Girard, Kansas  
January 13, 1898

GIRARD, KANSAS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1898.

### A FATAL MINE EXPLOSION.

Three Men Killed and Five Injured by an Accident at the Mine.

Heart Cared that No, yet Chicago, Kansas, Thursday, January 13, 1898.

Three men were killed and five injured by an explosion at the mine at Girard, Kansas, on Wednesday night. The explosion occurred at about 10 o'clock and was the result of a gas explosion. The mine is owned by the Girard Coal and Iron Co. and is operated by the Girard Coal and Iron Co. The mine is situated about one mile from the city of Girard, Kansas. The explosion occurred in the lower part of the mine, and the result was the death of three men and the injury of five others. The names of the men who were killed are John P. Smith, James H. White, and John D. Green. The names of the men who were injured are John A. Brown, John C. Black, and John E. Gray. The explosion was the result of a gas explosion, and the cause of the explosion is not yet known. The mine is one of the largest in the state, and it is operated by the Girard Coal and Iron Co. The mine is situated about one mile from the city of Girard, Kansas. The explosion occurred in the lower part of the mine, and the result was the death of three men and the injury of five others. The names of the men who were killed are John P. Smith, James H. White, and John D. Green. The names of the men who were injured are John A. Brown, John C. Black, and John E. Gray. The explosion was the result of a gas explosion, and the cause of the explosion is not yet known.

# 1898 Mt Carmel mine explosion and rescue



Clipped By: **usmra\_rob**  
Sun, Feb 12, 2023

THREE SHOT-FIRERS MEET DEATH

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE OF FIVE OTHERS WHO WERE IN THE MINE AT THE TIME OF THE EXPLOSION. JAS. ZIMMERMAN IS RESCUED AFTER 15 HOURS IMPRISONMENT.

LARGE CROWDS VISIT THE SCENE OF THE DISASTER

THE DEAD. Anton Weinberger, married. Chas. Winters, single. Jas. Posing, married. YOUNG WHO ESCAPED. James Zimmerman, shot-free. Ben Blauack, shot-free. Bob Dept, minor. Joe Peiter, shot-free. Joe Karschner, minor.

On last Saturday at 6:42 o'clock a.m. shaft No. 5 of the Mt. Carmel Coal Company, located at Chambers, exploded with terrific force. The mines were densely packed in this city and the report was heard not only here but for a radius of 25 miles. Mines were shaken and ditches were pulled in the south part of the city as if an earthquake.

Thousands of people visited the scene of the disaster Friday and Saturday. The line to the company will be anywhere in the neighborhood of 80,000 while it said the mine has to work long days with no day.

Not since the Prometheus disaster nine years ago has such an accident occurred in this state. Forty men lost their lives in that explosion and had not yet been favored the Chicago night shift perhaps the set of dead would have numbered thirty instead of three. Had the explosion occurred one half hour later thirty more would have been in the mine as a large number of miners worked on the entire each night but they had not gone to work.

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1898 James Zimmerman rescued after 15 hrs



Clipped By: usmra\_rob Wed, Feb 8, 2023