

# NAMES ADDED TO DEATH LIST; MORE WILL DIE.

Twelve Known Victims of Ferguson Mine Explosion—Four Others Cannot Recover.

NOT ONE IN THE MINE  
ESCAPED BAD INJURIES.

Still Believed Caused by Fire  
Breaking Through From Ad-  
joining Mine.

## STORY OF PITT BOSS M'GURK.

SPECIAL TO THE PITTSBURG POST.

**C**ONNELLSVILLE, Pa., Nov. 22.—This has been a sad day in the little mining settlement of Ferguson, nestled in the hills a mile and a half above Dunbar. When the books of the company were consulted to-day to determine the identity of the dead and injured it was found there were 21 men in the mine at the time of the explosion; ten bodies were taken from the mine last night; six injured sent to the hospital; four taken to their homes and one man is missing.

### THE DEAD.

**JAMES M'GURK**, 22 years old, son of Pitt Boss John McGurk.  
**WHEATLEY FOSTER**, 21 years old and single.  
**MIKE SAMANDRE**, married; wife and family in the old country.  
**JAMES OCKLAN**, 27 years old and single.  
**PETER SEKORA**, 32 years old and married; wife and three children.  
**JOHN SEDRAVIA**, 39 years old; has wife and family in the old country.  
**JOHN VERA**, 42 years old; has wife and family in the old country.  
**MIKE SEKORA**, 23 old and single.  
**ANDY KOOTSVAR**, 38 years old, and married; leaves wife and three children.  
**MIKE HAVERSJACK**, 34 years old; leaves wife and family in the old country.  
**HJACK BALASLAF**, died at the Cottage State hospital this afternoon; 28 years old and single.

### MISSING.

**MIKE BENNA**, 22 years old, body not yet recovered from the mine; thought to have been covered by a fall of slate.

### THE INJURED.

**JOHN M'GURK**, 39 years old, wife and five children; thought to have been fatally burned; cannot recover.  
**WILLIAM FOSTER**, 45 years old, seriously burned about the face and body.  
**JOHN FOSTER**, 19 years old; serious burns about the body and face; in a dangerous condition; will not recover.  
**ADAM LINKA**, fatal burns; cannot recover.  
**JOSEPH DOVLAC**, seriously burned about the body and face; condition considered serious.  
**JOHN PATRICH**, badly burned; will recover.  
**JOHN MARCHICH**, driver, burned about body and face.  
**JOHN KORCHUSCH**, seriously burned.  
**FRED LONGDEN**, slightly burned.

#### Crowds of the Curious.

All day long the trolley cars have been packed to the doors with curious people going to and from the scene of the disaster. Hundreds have stood for hours around the little blacksmith shop, which was turned into a morgue last night, where the bodies of the unfortunate miners were prepared for burial Sunday morning.

So annoying did the multitude become that it was necessary for the undertaker to paste paper over the windows in order to continue his work. A special order for coffins was telegraphed to Pittsburg, and shortly after noon they arrived. Coroner Arthur F. Hagan, of Uniontown, went to Ferguson early this morning and viewed the bodies as they lay in the blacksmith shop and summoned a jury of inquest, which viewed the bodies. Coroner Hagan has not determined the time for holding the inquest.

Strange to say, only one of the bodies at the morgue was disfigured. It was that of Wheatley Foster. His skull was crushed in and his face badly cut. All the other bodies were in good condition, and scarcely a scratch could be found upon them indicating that death was due to suffocation.

#### Search for Victims.

The officials and rescuers, led by Mine Foreman Robert Nelson and Superintendent S. G. Valentine, have been endeavoring to rescue the body of Mike Benney, which they believe is covered in the mine by a fall of slate. They are sure that Benney was in the mine at the time of the disaster, as Pit Boss John McGurk says positively that he saw him. The officials declare that no fire exists in the mine, but this is not established.

Pit Boss McGurk is the only one who can give any definite details of the disaster and the scenes that followed it. He said to-day:

"I think the explosion was caused by the flames from the old Hill farm mine breaking through the wall that had been erected when the Ferguson slope was opened. The Ferguson mine is practically the old Hill farm mine. Several years ago the Dunbar Furnace Company was compelled to close the Hill farm mine on account of its being so dangerous since the explosion there in 1890. Much good coal was left, and in order to save it the opening of Ferguson on the other side of the hill was necessary."

The company is extending all possible help to the families of the unfortunates and will bear all funeral expenses.

#### Inspector on the Scene.

Mine Inspector Bernard J. Callagan, of the Ninth bituminous district, went to the mine immediately upon being notified of the explosion, and as soon as practicable made an inspection of it. He concluded his work to-day and when asked his opinion regarding the cause of the disaster said:

"The explosion in the Ferguson mines was little less than a freak of nature and was caused by a fall in the old stoppings between the Hill farm mines and the Ferguson mines. The miners were pulling the pillars for the stoppings, and instead of the fall filling in completely and shutting off any future danger of fire from Hill farm mine, which has been burning since the explosion there in 1890, a band

or tunnel was left between the roof and the fall.

"The solid cemented stoppings were crushed and the gas that accumulated in this bend was ignited by the fire from the old working. The explosion, however, was not of considerable force. The concussion caused the death of the miners. On June 4, 1903, the mine was inspected and reported to be in a very dangerous condition. Gas was bad and there was considerable danger from the old mine fire in the Hill farm mine.

"Work was ceased in the mines and again on June 5 another inspection was made by myself, Inspectors I. G. Robey, W. J. Morrison and C. B. Ross. The mine was then declared dangerous from explosion of gas and mine fires. Walls were ordered built shutting off the opening with the Hill farm mine. These were well built and upon another inspection, made on June 9, the mine was considered safe to work. Again on July 10 I inspected the mine and the conditions were greatly improved. The last inspection, made on October 2, showed 91,000 cubic feet of air per minute at the fans and 36,000 cubic feet per minute at the bottom of the slope, a supply that I considered ample and above the average.

"At the time of the explosion there was absolutely no sign of gas and there was positively no danger, and little concern was felt by the men employed in the mine. No blame can possibly be attached to the employes of the mine nor the mine inspectors, as every precaution had been taken to avoid an accident."