

## SEVENTEEN PEOPLE MISSING

### And Thirteen Houses Toppled Into Haverstraw's Clay Pit Death Trap.

HAYERSTRAW, N. Y., Jan. 9.—To-night 17 persons are missing and are believed to have gone to their death when 13 houses along Rockland street in this village toppled over last night into a pit 60 feet deep which had been cut by clay diggers in connection with the brick making industry here. Twelve of the persons missing were occupants of the fallen houses and five were among the rescuers who went to the aid of neighbors after the first house fell, and were carried down when the 12 houses went crashing over the precipice. The wreckage fell on them and those who were in the mass were either crushed or burned to death.

Tonight there is grave fear of another cave-in along Rockland street and the occupants of seven or eight houses have moved away. Others are keeping an all night vigil ready to flee themselves and to alarm their neighbors in case of impending danger. The missing tonight, all of whom are believed to be dead, are as follows:—

Occupants of houses—Harris Nelson, a merchant; Benjamin Nelson, his son; Mrs. Silverman and young son; Charles Cohen and wife; P. Mannin and wife; John B. Beauchamp; A. Provitch and daughter; Abraham Dias.

Of the rescuing party:—Joseph Albeet; John McMurray; Bartley McGovern; Mrs. Joseph Dally; Rev. Mr. Alden, Jewish rabbi.

The landslide which carried away the 13 houses was caused by the falling in of the bank in which the excavators of the brick manufacturers had been working for a number of years. The ground began cracking and showing seams at noon yesterday and some of the occupants of houses along the brink took warning and left. Others believed that nothing serious would happen and remained.

When the break occurred in the long line of land which formed the ragged edge of Rockland street, one house toppled over and went down sixty feet to the pit below with all who were living within its walls. The other occupants of the houses prepared to leave their homes in the face of a blinding snow storm. A number of people who lived nearby rushed to their aid and were assisting them in getting out when 12 more houses toppled over into the pit, carrying with them not only the families who occupied them, but also several of those who had gone to their assistance. The scene of terror was added to, when flames burst from the wreckage of the houses, overturned stoves having set fire to the buildings. Firemen came from miles around to aid in extinguishing the fire, but when the landslide occurred it broke the large water main, thus cutting off the entire supply.

To-night relatives and friends of those buried beneath the ruins are still watching, as they have been all day, for the bodies of the dead to be brought out.

James Sammie, who lived along the edge of the pit, did not get out of his house until it had settled eight feet. All the rest of his family escaped but his wife, and she went down with the building. Mr. Sammie obtained ropes and went down after his wife, bringing her up with the aid of two men. One of her legs was broken in the fall, but she suffered no other injury.