

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT IN HAVERSTRAW

**Thirteen Houses Topple Into a
Pit Sixty Feet Deep.**

SEVENTEEN LIVES ARE LOST.

**None of Them Are Believed to Have Escaped
Death--The Accident Caused by the
Undermining of the Street by
Diggers for Clay.**

Haverstraw, N. Y., Jan. 9.—To-night seventeen persons are missing and are believed to have gone to their death when thirteen houses on Rockland street in Haverstraw toppled over last night into a pit sixty 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; five were among the rescuers who went to the aid of neighbors after the first house fell and were carried down when the twelve other houses were crashing over the precipice. The wreckage quickly caught fire and those who were in the mass were either crushed or burned to death.

To-night there is grave fear of another cave-in along the same street and the occupants of seven or eight houses have moved. Others are keeping an all-night vigil, ready to alarm their neighbors in case of impending danger. The missing to-night, 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. Pravitch and daughter. Abraham Dias.

In the rescuing party: Joseph Albert, John McMurray, Bartley McGovern, Mrs. Joseph Dailey, Rev. Mr. Alden, a Jewish rabbi.

The landslide which carried away the thirteen houses was caused by the falling in of the bank under 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 breakage occurred in the long line of land which formed the ragged edge of Rockland street, one house toppled over into the pit 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 twelve more houses went down, carrying with them not only the families who occupied them, but also several of those who had gone to their assistance. Overturned stoves set fire to the buildings and firemen came from miles around, but when the landslide occurred it broke the 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 the 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. Her leg was broken in the fall, but she suffered no other injury.