

Rees J. Lumley came to his death by an explosion of gas in the mine of Primero, in said county and State, 23rd day of January, A. D. 1907. Cause of said explosion unknown to this jury and the body found is the body of Rees J. Lumley beyond a doubt.

CHAS. TREW.

FRANCH STAGNER.

SUIS STANTSTAVIN, (X, his mark).

CHARLES THOMAS.

JESSE SHAW.

HENRY BROWN.

JOHN R. GUILFOIL,

Coroner.

On May 19th, 1907, five men, whose names are given below, lost their lives in the Engleville mine by suffocation from inhaling noxious gases generated by fires that had existed in the mine and had necessitated the closing down of its largest producing district for a year.

Name of Victim	Nationality	Occupation	Age	Married or Single
Alex Jacobs .....	Scotch-Irish	Superintendent	43	Married
Joe Rizzi.....	Italian	Laborer	38	Married
Frank Ferraro.....	Italian	Laborer	25	Single
Carl Fulchiero.....	Italian	Laborer	26	Single
Guiseppi Battu.....	Italian	Laborer	23	Single

The fire which caused the disaster was started in a cross-cut between the main entry and its parallel air course in the vicinity of the 17th east, May 23rd, 1906, and it was believed at that time to have been of incendiary origin. Immediately after the employes were withdrawn from the workings inside an effort was made to extinguish the fire by means of water and removing the burning coal and debris, but the attack was of no avail, as the fire had gained too much headway and the men were forced to retreat and build sealed stoppings on both entry and air course at a convenient point further out to check its progress. Since that time the fire has been fought almost continuously. Thousands of cubic feet of manufactured carbonic acid gas was periodically inserted into the isolated area through pipes and each insertion had a decided effect upon the fire. When the gas process was not in use the fire was fought with water. When this accident occurred the fire had receded and the entries had been reopened to a point beyond the 19th west, which is about 600 feet inside of where it first started. The fan was forcing and the air entered along the air course and returned through the main entry. The 19th and 20th west entries and their tributary workings, which had long since been worked out and abandoned, were broken into the Starkville mine, and some of the air current was escaping through

these places and finding an outlet through the old workings of Starkville. When these entries were reached, which was several weeks before the accident took place, some fire was found a short distance inside of their entrances, and the extinguishing forces worked at it until they thought it was all out. A short distance inside of the 20th the air course was sealed with a stone stopping for the purpose of isolating a fire that was still burning at a point between there and the 21st entry. Here the air current was carried through a cross-cut into the main entry, then forward along the main for about 300 feet, where it was again conducted through a diagonal cross-cut back into the air course at a point nearly opposite the 21st entry and at which location the five men were working on the fatal shaft. From here the air traveled inward for some distance through the air course, then crossed over the main into the 21st east, back through the old east workings and returning into the main at the 19th east. They were working three shifts. Four of the deceased men entered the mine at 3 p. m. on the 19th inst. and later in the evening Superintendent Jacobs went in to see how the men were progressing. The 11 o'clock shift laid off that night. It was nearly 7 o'clock in the morning of the 20th when the news was received that the men, although supposed to be out at 11 the night before, were still in the mine.

Robert McAllister, foreman of the morning shift, and some of his men hastened into the mine to find what had occurred to the missing shift and to render the men assistance if necessary. Upon their arrival at the mouth of the 19th west entry, which I have heretofore mentioned as the point where the air was leaking into the Starkville mine, they discovered that volumes of smoke were issuing from the said 19th west and the same was being carried in by the air to the place where the men had been working. The men now well realized what had happened to the other shift, and Mr. McAllister and some of his men started at once to rescue the bodies. The smoke, being of lighter specific gravity than the air, was thickest along the roof and the rescuers, led by McAllister, at the risk of their lives, crawled on hands and knees under the deadly smoke and when in about half the distance between the 20th and 21st east, on the main entry, they found the body of Superintendent Jacobs and one other lying together. The other three bodies were found about 50 feet further in, all lying on the floor of the entry, where they had fallen while retreating about 100 and 150 feet back from the face. Death was caused from suffocation by breathing the deadly fumes given off by the fire in the 19th west, which they thought they had completely extinguished, but which was afterwards rekindled and the reversing of the current which had up to this time escaped through the old workings of Starkville forced the fumes upon them. The position in which Superintendent Jacobs was found indicated strongly that he made an effort to carry the deceased, who was

found lying with him, out to save his life, but unfortunately he fell in the attempt before reaching fresh air.

JOHN D. JONES.

Denver, Colo., May 25th, 1907.

VERDICT OF THE JURY.

That John Rizzi, Frank Ferraro, Guissippi Battie, Carlo Fulchiero and Alex. Jacobs came to their deaths by inhaling carbon monoxide or white damp while working in the Engleville mine, May 19th, 1907, and that said miners had worked where the said gases existed previous to this date and since the progress of the fire had been checked and were aware of the danger existing, thereby taking their own risk.

F. E. COLE, Foreman.

C. H. GILLEN,

S. T. BURKHART,

R. J. KNIGHT,

W. S. HULETT,

G. R. STODDARD,

Jurors.

JOHN R. GUILFOIL,

Coroner Las Animas County.