

THREE HOPKINS COUNTY MINERS KILLED IN ZEIGLER MINE EXPLOSION

EARLINGTON AND MADISONVILLE
MEN VICTIMS WHEN LETTER
MINE BLOWS UP.

EXPLOSION NOT EXPECTED

By Experienced Miners.—Twenty-
Five Bodies Removed From
the Shaft.

Three colored men from Hopkins county, formerly employed in the Western Kentucky coal field, lost their lives in the mine explosion which occurred at Zeigler, Ill., Saturday night, when twenty-five men were instantly killed while clearing away debris caused by the recent fire in the Letter mines.

Among the victims are James Phillips, formerly of Earlington; Gilbert Jones, formerly of Nortonville, and Frank Norweather, of Madisonville. Their deaths are admitted, and it is reported that two sons of W. C. Parish, colored, were also killed, but this report was not verified at press hour, although every effort was made to do so.

The remains of Phillips will be shipped to Earlington if possible for burial and it is thought that the body of Norweather will also be shipped if it is not too badly mangled.

An investigation proved that Chas. Smothers had not lived in Hopkins county and was a native of Illinois. He was one of the victims of the explosion.

Experienced miners, who worked at Zeigler until the fire occurred, say that Joe Letter, proprietor of the mine, disregarded the advice of men who have practically worked underground all their lives and opened the mine while the fire was raging, in violation of the state law, which required the mine shaft to remain sealed for a certain period.

According to the statements of men formerly employed at Zeigler, the explosion is no ta surprise to them, and they have expected it before this because of the methods of the management in fighting the fire.

Bodies Taken Out.

Duquoin, Ill., Jan. 11.—With the discovery of additional bodies during the night it is believed that all the victims of the Sunday explosion at the Letter coal mine at Zeigler have been accounted for. Most of the corpses are so mutilated that identification is difficult. Four of the victims are negroes, four are Americans and fifteen are foreigners.

Efforts to establish the cause of the disaster are being made, but thus far few of the theorists agree. The men killed yesterday were cleaning up the last of the debris left by the fire fighters and it had been expected that coal would be hoisted today.

The most widely accepted theory regards the explosion as the result of fire-damp leaking from the sealed portion of the mine and coming in contact with a spark from an electric trolley. There was but little damage to the workings and it is likely that operations will be resumed as planned at an early date.

AGED WOMAN DIES AT BARNSELY SUNDAY

Mrs. Susan Baker Passes Away At
78 Years of Infirmities Incident to Old Age.

The death of Mrs. Susan Baker, aged 78 years, of St. Charles, occurred at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Mary Cline, at Barnsley Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, after a lingering illness of the infirmities due to old age. The end had been expected for some time and did not greatly surprise her friends, who were aware of her critical condition. She is survived by two daughters.

The remains were laid to rest at St. Charles Monday in the presence of a large number of friends and relatives.

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DR. M'NARY UNDERGOES

1909 Zeigler Mine disaster NEWS8

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