

ALL SEVEN ALIVE.

The Buried Miners Rescued at Last.

LIVING FOR FIVE DAYS ON MULE MEAT COOKED OVER LAMPS.—THE MEN WELL AND HEARTY, BUT CAREWORN BY THEIR LONG CONFINEMENT.—WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY.

Despatch to the Philadelphia Times.

WILKESBARRE, April 28.—To the delight and astonishment of almost the entire community the buried miners were found at 9 o'clock this morning, alive and well. They emerged from the pit and stood in the sunlight, grasping the hands of their friends and listening to congratulations at their deliverance. For five days and fifteen hours had these men been shut up in what everyone supposed was to be their tomb, and it speaks volumes for their fortitude, endurance and confidence. That they came forth at last pale and careworn it is true, but still full of life and animation. When the rescuing party reached them they were quietly eating breakfast. They had slaughtered a mule that was left in the mine and cooked the flesh in the lids of their cans held over three lamps. So fresh and strong were the released captives that, with the exception of Price and Hawkins, who lived two miles away, all walked to their homes; Kenney, in fact, ran to greet his old mother, leaping fences and never stopping, until he entered his house.

LIVING ON MULE FLESH.

Hawkins, one of the buried miners, states that they kept in excellent spirits. They first heard the working party on Thursday, and this gave them new life. On this day Kenney and one of the Greens killed the mule. Until then they had chewed birch bark to keep down their hunger. A fire was built on Thursday, after a thorough test had proved the air to be free from gas. The water was pure and the air good. He thinks they could have lived ten days longer in confinement, as they had eaten only one shoulder and a hind leg of the mule. They had prayers frequently. He and Price were Protestants and the rest Catholics. Hawkins now suffers from insomnia, but it is thought he will soon overcome that trouble. Benjamin Price is quite weak, having been sick when he went to work last Thursday. He says when the crash occurred on Wednesday morning the men rushed towards the slope, but Hawkins compelled them to return and thus undoubtedly saved their lives, as they would otherwise have been crushed by the subsequent falls of roof. They were in the gangway, seven hundred feet from the opening, but had been up to the very spot where the drill forced an entrance, but did not know it. They tried to work their way out in every conceivable way, but were finally compelled to rest and wait.

NO WARNING GIVEN THEM.

William Kenney said that no warning had been given them until the boy Clark came running to them, and then the fall had taken place. They had plenty of oil and kept lights burning. After Thursday they drank no oil, but lived on the mule meat. Barney Reilly states that he felt discouraged at first until the first blast was heard, when he took heart. The air began to get bad towards the last. He says the boy, John Clark, was despondent and frightened, but soon recovered his spirits. The noise made by the workmen was heard for two days. They were not troubled by the water. During the last fifteen hours he almost lost hope. They knocked with a hammer on every object that would convey sound, in the hope that it would reach the ears of the workmen outside. They did not sleep very soundly. All speak in strong terms of praise of the bravery and endurance of the boy, Clark. The rescued men are the lions of the hour, and their houses are filled with friends eager to grasp their hands and testify their joy. The miners who effected the work of deliverance are entitled to the strongest commendation for the intelligence, earnestness and persistence with which they worked in the face of appalling obstacles and the most depressing uncertainty. The cost of rescuing the men has been over ten thousand dollars. There is a universal expression of joy in this city and no other topic is talked of today. Probably not one man in fifty believed that the miners would be found alive.

WHEN THE FALL OCCURRED.

As stated in these dispatches to the *Times*, this mine has for some time been considered very dangerous. Away down in the bottom of the basin, 1,200 feet below the surface, the miners were engaged in making a new gangway so that new breasts might be opened up. An hour before midnight on Tuesday Kenney, Clark, Price, Hawkins and Reilly entered the mine to work out the night shift. With them was Kinney, the driver-boy. For days the mine had been "working heavy." On this particular evening creaking sounds were heard, and the pillars, always left to support the roof, cracked. On every side there were ominous sounds and warnings. Some of the miners noticed them and Richard Fall, the night-boss, was notified at midnight that everything foreboded danger. For two hours other miners, as they came out, spoke of the fact that pieces of coal were beginning to fall. That the boss was aware of the danger is shown by the fact that he had the mules removed to places of safety. Still he did not warn the five miners and the driver boy, who were pushing the new gangway three-quarters of a mile from the foot of the slope. About three o'clock four miners stumbled over a whole pile of coal, which had fallen directly in their path. John Clark, the driver-boy, was then sent to warn the workmen of their danger and to notify them to abandon their work. But it was too late. "Hardly had the boy started when there was a crash. A great fall of coal had occurred, and the five miners and two boys were imprisoned. The news spread like wild fire. In an hour hundreds of people from Wilkesbarre were on the spot. The friends of prisoners were wild with grief. The miners' torches flittered hither and thither, and in the midst of the confusion cries of grief from relatives and friends went up. The greatest excitement prevailed. The miners did not have to be urged to the work of rescue. They went at it with a will. As the days wore by hope almost failed them. They expected to reach the new gangway in a day, but their calculations were wrong, and then, too, the work was extremely dangerous and had to be pushed with great care.

RESCUED AT LAST.

It was supposed that the gangway was filled with water, and so the pumps were put to work. The roof was propped up as the men tunnelled further in, but soon coal began to fall and the workers were very much disheartened. Once the mine took fire, but the flames were extinguished. No tidings could be had of the imprisoned miners. How they could live so long no one could tell, for their condition was entirely unknown. On Sunday a mysterious tapping was heard. It might have been the noise produced by a hammer, but an experienced engineer gave it as his opinion that it was caused by falling water. Last night a drill was forced through the column of coal. There was a rush of air which put the lamps out. It was pure, good air, and the miners were encouraged to proceed. They worked with a will. Only a few more hours and the fate of the men would be known. All through the early morning hours the work was pushed with the greatest possible speed, and soon after daylight this morning the hole began to grow perceptibly in size. At 8 o'clock it was large enough to admit a man. Mine Superintendent Smith crawled through and stood in the gangway. He did not expect to find any one alive. As he advanced he saw a light, and in a minute more he came upon the party, all alive and well. Some of the men were cooking a piece of mule steak. Others were engaged in changing the direction of an air course. The greeting was a warm one, and when a little later the entire party emerged from the hole and the long tunnel which the rescuing party had made a great shout went up.

By direction of a stockholder of the Lehigh & Wilkesbarre Coal Company Charles Parrish this afternoon presented each of the rescued miners with one hundred dollars. A grand concert for the benefit of the men is to be given in Music Hall tomorrow night, at which Charles Hawkins will tell the story of their imprisonment. The miners will have the gross receipts, as all expenses are guaranteed.

The Rescue from the Mines.

The heart of every mother and wife will rejoice to-day with those of the seven miners near Wilkesbarre, Pa., who were yesterday almost miraculously rescued from the jaws of death. Six days ago the mine caved in, leaving them entombed in a distant shaft. There was a chance that they had not been crushed by the falling roof, and so their comrades pumped day and night that the mine should not fill with water, and a new opening into the mine was carved through the solid rock. None believed that the missing miners would be found alive, but, spurred on by the agonies of their bereaved families, they kept bravely at work, and yesterday were richly rewarded. They found the lost seven had supported life by eating the meat of a mule imprisoned with them and drinking the dregs of the coal. How happy must those seven families have been last night! And a day's delay might have been the cause of funerals where now there are festivities.

Harrisburg Daily Independent, April 29, 1879