

**Bureau of Mines Bulletin 616:
Historical Documentation of
Major Coal Mine Disasters in
The United States
Not Classified As
Explosions of Gas or Dust,
1846-1962**

August 10, 1870; Heins & Glassmire Colliery,
Middleport, Pa.; 9 Killed

*(From Reports of the Inspectors of Coal Mines of the
Anthracite Coal Regions of Pennsylvania, 1870,
p. 127)*

A driving-wheel on a hoisting engine broke while 12 men were being transported on a cage in the 300-foot-deep shaft. The drum having no brake, yielded to the combined weight of the rope, cage, and men, and the force of the descent was so great that the building was shattered and the machinery removed. The cage, which broke through the sump cover, carrying with it the 12 men, was instantly covered with water and held down by the coils of the hoisting rope. Nine of the men on the cage were killed and three were injured.

THE JANESVILLE GAZETTE

Janesville, Wisconsin
Saturday August 13, 1870

At Pottsville, Pa. on the afternoon of the 10th, a cage in the shaft of the Glassmier & Hines, near Middleport, containing twelve miners, was precipitated to the bottom, two hundred feet by the giving way of the hoisting machine. Six men were killed, six terribly and two slightly wounded.

THE ELYRIA DEMOCRAT

Wednesday, August 17, 1870

Terrible Accident

From Pottsville, Pa., August 10.

At four o'clock this afternoon, the cage in the shaft of Glasemer and Hines, near Middleport, containing twelve miners, was precipitated to the bottom, two hundred feet, the giving way of the hoisting machinery. The following were killed:

Thomas Quigley

George Stouch

John Boper

Jacob Kline

David Jones

John McGurnley

E. Mahuels

Hugh McAurley

Albert Koch

And William Mathews and Patrick Day, hurt.

Several hours elapsed before the bodies were brought out. A temporary cage had to be constructed to hoist the dead and mangled bodies to the surface.