

ACCIDENT No. 10.—James Van Horn, laborer, aged thirty-one years, killed in Big Mountain colliery, October 23, 1885, by being crushed between top of loaded mine car and top rock. He left a wife. Deceased was employed driving and loading in straight vein drift. About between twelve and one o'clock p. m., he was taking out a trip of three cars, when at a point about two hundred and fifty yards inside of drift-mouth, in attempting to jump on the cars after spragging them, he was caught between top of second car and top rock, receiving injuries from which he died about twenty minutes after accident. In my investigation of this accident, I learned that deceased was cautioned not to attempt to get on the cars after spragging them to let the trip pass, and get on the hind end of last car.

ACCIDENT No. 11.—Dennis Donlon, laborer outside, aged sixty-four years, killed at Pennsylvania colliery, December 7, 1885, by being struck by dirt-car at bottom of dirt-plane. He left a wife and six children. Deceased, at time of accident, was employed at bottom of drift-plane. Between ten and eleven o'clock a. m., two empty dirt-cars were run over head of plane without the safety block being set in its place on rail or chain, and cable attached by the men on top of plane, the cars running down, one of them striking and killing deceased instantly.

#### Suffocated by Rush of Mud.

ACCIDENT No. 1.—James Ennis, miner, aged thirty-one years; Charles Dougherty, miner, aged . . . . . years; Michael Hede, laborer, aged thirty years; Martin McKeirns, driver, aged nineteen years. Suffocated by rush of mud, (mountain clay,) in Mammoth vein, east gangway, North Ashland colliery, May 13, 1885. Ennis left a wife and five children; Dougherty, a wife and four children; Hede, a wife; McKeirns was a single man.

Ennis and another miner, named Thomas Jones, had a contract to rob out the above-named gangway, and had Dougherty, Hede, McKeirns, with others employed.

Evidence taken at inquest held by Coroner Halberstadt.

GEORGE EDWARDS, *sworn*:

Am a miner, was working on day of accident timbering chute of breast No. 43, in east gangway, Mammoth vein. There was no rush of water came with the mud, neither did I, in cleaning up the mud, see any lodgments of water. I saw nothing unusual in robbing there more than in other collieries. I saw Charles Dougherty, James Ennis, and Michael Hede after they were found. I identified them by their features.

WILLIAM LOVELLE, *sworn*:

Previous to accident I was helping to rob out the Mammoth vein, west gangway of North Ashland colliery. On the fourth day after accident, I went to work in the Mammoth vein, east gagway, to clean up the mud. McKeirns was found in chute of breast No. 47: he was covered up with clay. The robbing is done there the same as at other collieries.

PATRICK F. HALEY, *sworn*:

I am a miner; I work in North Ashland colliery, helping to rob out the Mammoth vein, east gangway. I was working for Jones and Ennis. At time of accident, I was driving a cross-heading through pillar between Nos. 43 and 44 breasts. I heard a noise; I called out what is that; got no answer. I got down and ran out the gangway. There was no water came with the rush of mud. It came down the manway between Nos. 45 and 46 breasts. There was ice came down with the mud.

THOMAS SIMPSON, *sworn*:

I am a contractor robbing out the Mammoth vein, west gangway. I was helping to load or clean up the mud in the east gangway; I was there until we found Hede and Dougherty. The rule for robbing is to take all the coal that can be got with safety.

GEORGE MORRIS, *sworn*:

I am a chute starter. I went into east gangway in about half an hour after accident. I was there when Ennis was found in chute of breast No. 46. His body was covered with mud.

DAVID HUGHES, *sworn*:

I am a miner; am working in North Ashland colliery. I helped to recover McKeirns. I don't know anything about the accident. Am satisfied the timber that caught James Ennis was knocked out by the rush of clay. I helped to rob the Potts colliery, west gangway; we always took out all the coal we could with safety.

DAVID DAVIS, *sworn*:

Am a miner. I work at North Ashland colliery. Was not there on day of accident. I have been there since accident. I found McKeirns in chute of No. 47 breast on Saturday, June 6, about five and a half o'clock in the evening. The gangway seemed to be in good order.

MARTIN HEFFUN, *sworn*:

Am loader-boss at North Ashland colliery. When I got to the bottom of the slope on morning of accident, I met James Ennis. He said, "Martin, you and I will take a walk in to see if we can get the wagons on the turn-out." We found the gangway and turn-out in good condition. Ennis told me that Thomas told him that he (Jones) told him (Ennis) that there was a fall, and that he (Jones) heard the place working. Ennis said to me, "I guess we will get along all right." The first trip of four cars were loaded and hauled out. The second trip, which consisted of seven cars, were hauled in, four of them were left to be loaded outside of point where accident occurred. The other three were hauled in, one was left at forty-five chute, the other two were left at manway between forty-five and forty-six chute to be loaded. Ennis and Thomas Hede were standing on gangway alongside of car at manway between forty-five and forty-six. Michael

Hede was up in chute pushing coal down into car. I went out to forty-five chute where Charles Dougherty was starting the battery; I told him to take his time; there was only one car to be loaded at his chute. I told him I was going outside, and would be back in a short time, and help him to top off the car. While on my way out the gangway a concussion of air took place, which put out my light. I saw men running out the gangway; I called to them to come back; all hands were closed in. I saw Thomas Hede struggling in the mud; with the help of other men I pulled him out of it. There was no water came with the mud.

CHRISTIAN SCHAUM, *sworn* :

I am inside foreman at North Ashland colliery. On morning of accident when I came to the office outside near breaker, James Ennis (deceased) told me that forty-five pillar had run last night, that Thomas Jones had told him. I said, "all right." When I went down into the mine, I first went into the Buck Mountain vein to see about the brattice that I was having put in. After I had visited that part of the workings, I went in the East Mammoth gangway. When in as far as No. 43, I felt a concussion of air. I went in and saw Thomas Hede caught in the mud. I helped other men and pulled him out of it. The pillar that ran was between Nos. 45 and 46 breasts; it was left to keep the turnout strong. We drove holes from face of breasts up through chain pillar at different points to let off any water that might be on old water-level gangway.

MICHAEL HORAN, *sworn* :

I am repairman at North Ashland colliery. I worked on night previous to accident. I heard the fall and concussion of air. I went in along gangway and up manway between forty-five and forty-six breasts. The place was working. I said to Thomas Jones the place was not safe, let us get out of here. We went outside and made our shift timbering in gangway. We cut no coal that night.

JOHN HINKLE, *sworn* :

I am outside foreman at North Ashland colliery. There was no water in breach hole over where the rush of clay came from.

PATRICK McHALE, *sworn* :

I am a miner, and work in North Ashland colliery. Was working on night previous to accident. Heard the concussion of air. Jones said the gangway was closing. We went in. The coal was working. The rush was up in the breast. It did not do any damage to the gangway.

THOMAS JONES, *sworn* :

James Ennis and myself had the contract of robbing out the gangway. I was working by night that week. Was working on night previous to accident. I heard a racket about three o'clock in the morning; it lasted about eight or nine minutes. The cause of the racket was the wind.

which would first go one way or direction then in another. I told James Ennis (my partner) next morning of what I had heard and seen; I told him not to allow any person to load off the road that morning. The place was robbed like all other places.

JOHN VEITH, *sworn* :

I am mining superintendent. Was at North Ashland colliery on day of accident. Our rule is to put in sufficient timber to keep the working places safe, and allow no undue robbing.

[Attached to this report is a sketch showing where the victims of this disaster were found.]