

### EXPLOSION AT WILLIAMSTOWN COLLIERY

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On July 15 an explosion of powder and gas occurred at the Williamstown Colliery and as the result six men lost their lives. The persons killed were James T. Bowman, Arthur Hawk, Michael Stakem, Charles Rickert, John W. Reilly and John J. Whittle, all miners. The men were employed in No. 1 shaft counter in No. 11 or Primrose vein east. Bowman was in breast No. 5, Reilly and Whittle in breast No. 6, Rickert in breast No. 7 and Stakem and Hawk were driving chutes and headings. Hawk was driving a manway to the heading between breasts Nos. 8 and 9 and had come down out of the chute to tell the fan boy to start the fan as the place was filling with gas. He spoke to the gangway men and then started to go back to the chute again, but before he reached the door an explosion occurred, and he was killed by a flying plank from the door. Stakem's body was found close to the remnants of two tin powder kegs; Rickert's body was found west of his breast in the main heading; Reilly's and Whittle's bodies were found in the second breast heading east; Bowman's body was found in the main heading west of No. 5 breast, and it is supposed that he died from the shock. When the explosion occurred it blew out the tail brattice of Reilly's and Whittle's breast, thus cutting off the supply of air. They crawled down from the face to the blind heading to allow the smoke and fumes to pass them, but were overcome and died before they were rescued. Bowman was down nearly to the gangway, but died from exhaustion. The verdict of the Coroner's Jury was to the effect that the men came to their death as a result of an explosion of powder and probably a little gas.

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### CONDITION OF COLLIERIES

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#### PHILADELPHIA AND READING COAL AND IRON COMPANY

Lincoln Colliery.—General condition good; ventilation and drainage good. Condition as to safety good.

Brookside Colliery.—General condition good; ventilation and drainage good. Condition as to safety, good.

Good Spring Colliery.—General condition good; ventilation and drainage good. Condition as to safety, good.

#### LEHIGH VALLEY COAL COMPANY

Blackwood Colliery.—General condition good; ventilation good; drainage fair. Condition as to safety, good.

#### SUMMIT BRANCH MINING COMPANY

Short Mountain Colliery.—General condition good; ventilation and drainage fair. Condition as to safety, good.

Williamstown Colliery.—General condition good; ventilation and drainage fair. Condition as to safety, good.