

FATAL EXPLOSION IN A COAL MINE.

TWO MEN WERE KILLED AND FOUR OTHERS FATALLY INJURED.

POTTSVILLE, March 24.—Two men were killed and four badly, if not fatally, injured by an explosion of gas at Oak Hill Colliery, near Minersville, this morning. When the men came to work, as is customary, they received their orders from the fire boss, who informed them that the mine was clear of gas. The men went to work in different parts of the mine, and within half an hour after the whistle blew a terrific explosion occurred, which was felt in every part of the mine, and even on the surface a severe shock was felt.

Down below, rock, coal, and timbers were hurled in all directions. The explosion occurred in the east gangway, on the lower drift. A miner entered an old breast, when his lamp ignited a body of gas which had accumulated there unknown to the bosses, with the result stated.

KILLED.

WILLIAM PURCELL.

An unknown man.

INJURED

JOHN MORGANS, badly burned and bruised; not expected to recover.

WILLIAM JAMES, arms and legs broken and injured internally; will die.

DAVID DAVIS, Jr., probably fatally injured.

Part of the workings belong to an old operation abandoned thirty-odd years ago and reopened by the present owners a few years ago.

Oak Hill Colliery is situated near Mine Hill Gap, about six miles from Pottsville, and is owned by Lelsenring & Co. of Mauch Chunk.

Valuable Records Destroyed.

NEWTON, Kan., March 24.—Last night the vault in the Register of Deeds office was broken open and the county's records destroyed. A hole was made through a two-foot brick wall into the vault with a pick. The records were piled on the floor, saturated with kerosene, and set on fire. There is no clue to the perpetrators. The loss cannot be made good for less than \$100,000.