

COLLIERY SCRAP BOOK

2

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS IN ST. HELENS COLLIERIES

COLLINS GREEN, CRONTON, CROP & DEEP, CROPPERS HILL,
ECCLESTON HALL, FRODSHAM , GLADE HILL, GERRARDS BRIDGE,
GILLERS GREEN, GIN LANE, GREEN LANE, GREENGATE, HALSNEAD,
HARDSHAW, HOLLIN HEY, LAFFACK, LAFFACK-GARSWOOD LEA
GREEN, MILL LANE, MOSS HOUSE, NUTGROVE, PARR STOCKS,
PEASLEY CROSS, PHOENIX, POCKET NOOK, PRESCOT, PRESCOTT
BROOK, THE RAINFORD COLLIERIES, VICTORIA, CRANK, VICTORIA,
MILL LANE, MOSS HOUSE, RAVENHEAD, RED GATE, ROYAL,
SANKEY BROOK, SHALEY BROW, SHERDLEY, SMITHY BROW, ST.
HELENS, STANLEY, STOCKS, SUTTON HEATH, SUTTON MANOR,
UNION, WINDLE.

Compiled by

IAN WINSTANLEY

These notes have been compiled from St. Helens, and Wigan Newspapers, magazine and periodical articles and official and unofficial sources.

They are 'notes' and any errors, inaccuracies and mistakes are mine.

Ian Winstanley, Jan. 2001.

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KEY

PR Prescott Reporter.
WO Wigan Observer
WE Wigan Examiner
St.HSTD St. Helens Standard
St.HN&A. St.Helens Newspaper and Advertiser.
WO Wigan Observer
CG Colliery Guardian
MIR Mines Inspectors Report

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COLLINS GREEN.

There were shafts on the site from an early date the colliery was owned by Mercer and Evans in 1855. There were shafts on the site from an early date and the colliery appeared in the Inspector's Reports in the 1870's under the ownership of the Collins Green colliery Company. By the 1880's the Company also worked the nearby Bold colliery.

The colliery closed in 1931 when it employed 256 people.

In 1878 the St. Helens Corporation wished to increase the water supply of drinking water to the town and pumping stations were made at the colliery to supply this need. drinking water for the town is still pumped from the disused shafts and the water is of excellent quality.

From the ROMANCE OF COAL it stated that the colliery was owned by Mercer and Evans in 1855 but it was sunk before this date.

1879 Collins Green St. Helens Junction Collins Green Colliery Co.

The manager is not certificated because the colliery employs less than 30 people. 01-01-1873 to 31-12-1878 there had been two deaths at the colliery and there were none in 1878.

1882 John Graham manager. Still 2 deaths

1894 Andrew Jackson cert. no 117 manager and of Bold as well

No.1 James Cunliffe undermanager cert. no 860 2nd class 409 under 84 surface.

No.2 William Jones undermanager cert. no 840 2nd class 296 under and 52 surface

23rd. November, 1875.

Matthew Hampson aged 45 years and James McDonald aged 27 years both sinkers were killed by bricks falling down the sinking shaft. (MIR).

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

27th. November, 1875.

Colliery Accident at Burtonwood.

A serious accident was reported at Messrs. Evans colliery at Collins Green, Burtonwood. At about 4.30 p.m. a large bucket of water was being wound up the shaft but the browman missed the trough and a large quantity of water went down the shaft carrying a considerable portion of loose bricks and stonework. All the men working in the shaft were injured by the falling debris and two so severely that they died the following day. Matthew Hampson died at 10.30 a.m. and James McDonald also died on Tuesday. Both men left families.

17th. April, 1885.

William Parr aged 61 years, collier was taken ill on the way home from the effects of what he said was inhaling powder smoke and died the following day. At the inquest the Coroner said the manager had not provided sufficient supervision over the ventilation. (MIR)

25th. May, 1885.

Robert Howarth aged 17 years, labourer was loading a winding rope with a pair of sheer legs when one of the guide ropes slipped and the leg fell on him. Died 8th. June. (MIR).

14th. November, 1885.

Henry Critchley aged 17 years, dataller was working with some men including the fireman had been putting a drum underground and had completed the work when a stone fell from the roof close to where he had fixed the supports for the drum. It fell on him as he was fastening a rail at the time and killed him. (MIR).

19th. April, 1886.

Joseph Owen aged 55 years, collier was working at his place when all the face fell capping the props. The roof was rotten and broken all round the prop. Bars should have been used with such a floor. (MIR)

22nd. March, 1887.

Ralph Summers aged 15 years, assistant hooker-on was passing over the sump on the bars contrary to the rules when he slipped and fell in and was drowned. It happened during the breakfast hour and he passed under the fence during the absence of the hooker-on. (MIR).

19th. January, 1888.

John Roberts aged 40 years, dataller who was injured 16th. August, 1887. He and another man were sent to get some roof down and pack it close by. They pulled out a prop and some chocks without taking proper safety precautions and went on building the pack when a stone fell on him. (MIR).

9th. February, 1888.

Matthew Bate aged 29 years, hooker-on when three ten foot bars were being sent down the pit when one slipped off the cage and rebounded from the walls of the shaft and struck him. The bars were not properly secured in the cage by the banksman. (MIR).

29th. January, 1891.

Joseph Rigby aged 41 years and Richard Booth aged 30 years, both timbermen were working at 4 p.m. in the first hour of the shift they were retimbering a man road with rising bars about two feet apart and had finished the whole length except 6 or 7 yards and they were pulling loose rubbish of the low bars when all the roof suddenly collapsed. They were found under the low roof and they should have kept under the newly timbered roof. (MIR).

22nd. July, 1891.

Daniel Yates aged 38 years dataller was killed when he was crushed by the props and tubs he was bringing out. The roadway at this point was narrow and not fit for persons to gang ride. (MIR).

21st. August, 1891.

Thomas Dowd aged 40 years, dataller was working at 2 a.m. in the 6th. hour of the shift as he was passing some overhanging coal which fell bringing with it a layer of metal and pushed him against a prop. Died 26th.

23rd. January, 1893.

John Wimbs aged 43 years, dataller was working at 5 p.m. in the second hour of the shift, when he and some other contractors were taking some side off the haulage road when some of the roof fell on him and killed him. They had taken down some props and were plucking the roof from loose stones without repairing the roof. (MIR).

28th. October, 1894.

John Heyes aged 15 years, packer was killed when a lowered wagon bumped against the wagon the boy was on and he was pushed against a screen. The boy was warned too late. (MIR).

8th. February, 1897.

Michael Mullam aged 57 years ostler was going down the pit and the banksman though on duty was not present and through some misunderstanding the cage was lowered before he was safe and was crushed by the descending cage and killed. (MIR).

18th. April, 1898.

COLLIERY FATALITY AT COLLINS GREEN.

Richard Cookson aged 44 years, collier was killed by a fall occurred at the face in his working place between two slips and running along the coal face. He was in the act of setting a prop the fireman having left instructions to set some.

The inquest was held at Chapel House Burtonwood of the body of Richard Cookson collier of Mercer street Burtonwood who was killed by a fall of roof at Collins Green Colliery on Monday. Elizabeth Anna Cookson deposed she was the wife and they lived at 55 Mercer Street. He was a collier aged 42 and left home at 5 a.m. on that morning and was in good health but was brought home dead later the same day. he had been working in the colliery for about three weeks. Alan Fouke said that the deceased and his wife lodged with him an he worked in No.1 Florida pit at the colliery, in a place called Platt's Level. Welsby was the drawer for both of them and at about 6.45 he told then to set props. At about 11 o'clock the witness and the drawer went away and had been away about a minute when he heard a voice shout, 'Alan'. He returned and found a fall of roof but could not find the deceased but they removed sufficient material to get him out with the help of some workers from the next face and he was quite dead. The fall was about 7 feet long and a yard wide at the bottom and about 2 feet thick. It had broken of the coalface. George Miller, fireman, knew the place where the accident happened and he had visited it prior to the accident the day before when the men were not working and left a mark.. Another foreman, Tom Meakin, also visited the place as he was the night fireman at Saturday night and Sunday morning at 5 a.m. Mr. Matthews the Deputy Inspector of Mines said that the inspected the place and found the there was a slip 11 feet long. He thought it was better to bar but there was not much room and they seemed to be dependent on props.

The Coroner told the jury they had to decide if it was accidental. There was plenty stuff there to bar or was it good enough to just prop? The fireman said that this was not practical. After a long discussion the jury found that death was accidental. The jury also said that deceased was well aware of the risk of a fall. (MIR, N&EG).

1st. February, 1899.

Robert Sanders aged 26 years, drawer was standing besides an empty tub which he had upset to let a drawer pass down with a full one when he was struck by a runaway tub. The drawer stated that he started to take one of the scotches out and the tub overcame him. (MIR).

2nd. June, 1899.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST BURTONWOOD MINERS.

At Warrington Petty Sessions Thomas Haverty was charged with having certain explosives in his possession in the No.1 Pit of the Collins Green Colliery Company in June. The defendant pleaded guilty. Mr. Browne prosecuted and said the on the day the defendant was searched and two packets of Carbonite were found in his pockets which was a very dangerous practice and they had to take these proceedings to protect them selves and also the miners. The quantity of explosive was sufficient to explode the whole mine. The defendant had no right to take loose Carbonite in his pocket but in canisters and was fined 20/- plus costs.

Nathan Taylor was similarly charged and the evidence showed that 1lb. of loose Carbonite was inside his jacket pocket. Fined 20/- plus coasts.

In the case of Murdoch Nicholson he did not appear and was thought to have absconded and he was fined 25/- plus costs in his absence for having a lucifer match in his pocket. (N&EG)

COLLINS GREEN COLLIERY.

The Lancashire Coalfield.

Colliery Guardian. 23rd. December, 1892.

The Collins Green Colliery is situated two an a half miles south- east of the town of St. Helens near to Collins Green Station on the London and North Western Railway. The colliery is situated about three quarters of a mile south east of the Bold colliery. Both collieries are placed on a group of properties within a ring fence the combined extent is about 1,700 statute acres.

The royalties are owned by the executors of the late Mr. P. Parr. Mr D Fairclough and others, from whom they are leased by the Collins Green Colliery Company, Limited, of Newton-le- Willows who are the proprietors of the collieries. The company also holds the freehold of the collieries. the chairman is Mr. John Mercer of Alston hall and the colliery manager is Mr. Andrew Jackson.

The whole of the minerals of the company's undertaking lie under the New Red Sandstone formation, the thickness of which, including the drift lying above it, is about 96 yards at Collins Green and a greater thickness at the Bold colliery. It is a noteworthy fact that the coal seams maintain their thickness as compared with the exposed part of the coalfield but the quantity of the mineral is said to have improved as the explorations have extended southwards. The dip of the measures in the bold colliery is 9 degrees or 1 in 6.3 at the shafts whereas the extremity of the south brow 1,100 yards from the shaft the dip is 8 degrees or 1 in 7 indicating a gradual diminution of the dip toward a synclinal axis, the gradient is remarkably uniform in this distance of 1,100 yards.

Two faults occur in this royalties, one of the Collins Green or east side, which is the throw west of 13 yards, while the other ranges about 400 yards west of the Bold shafts, and the downthrow west of 60 yards. The Collins Green coalfield otherwise is remarkably free of faults. The output of coal from a full days work is about 2,000 tons.

THE COLLINS GREEN COLLIERY.

Four shafts are sunk Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 about 40 yards apart ranging in a north-south line. No. 1 shaft is 16 feet in diameter and is a downcast 564 yard deep to the Lower Florida seam. No. 2 shaft is 14 feet in diameter an upcast shaft and the same depth as No.1. No.3 is 14¹/₂ feet in diameter and 96 yards deep and No.4 is 9 feet in diameter and at the same depth as No 3. Nos., 3 and 4 are used for pumping only.

In sinking Nos.1, 2 and 3 shafts through the New Red Sandstone water was encountered in considerable quantities. The maximum quantity of water was 800 gallons per minute when the three shafts were being sunk the feeders have now declined to 500 gallons per minute which is the quantity of water now raise in the No 3 shaft. The water is not only forced to the surface from 96 yards but 20 yards higher making a column 116 yards in height. The water is raised to

this height in order that it might gravitate to St. Helens where it supplies a large portion of the town water of the purest quality.

The water in No.1 shaft is tubbed back from a depth of 30 yards to 102 yards at which depth the wedging crib was laid on warrant or metal and the tubbing built up continuously for 72 yards,

The water in No.2 shaft is tubbed back from 30 yards to about 70 yards. it is probable that the tubbing in each shaft does not serve the purpose for which it is intended as the main feeders are tapped near No 1 shaft by a boring put upwards and the bottom of the tubbing each giving about 250 gallons per minute which is conducted to the lower lodge room at 70 yards depot which was designed originally as the permanent place for it but afterwards made lower.

WATER LIFTING.

The main pumping engine is placed at the top of the No 3 shaft. It has two horizontal cylinders of 26 ins in diameter and a 4¹/₂ foot stroke geared 1 to 4 to two horizontal rods of pitch pine, iron plated and two quadrants at the top of the shaft. from each quadrant, 9 inch rods of pine are suspended which work the forcing pumps at the bottom of each shaft. each pump had a self acting 20 in ram, a 5 foot stroke and both pumps deliver at the surface through one rising main. After allowing for leakage, each pump will deliver 62 gallons per stroke and the two pumps 124 gallons. At the speed of four revolutions per minute the quantity of water forced to the surface would be 496 gallons per minute.

A smaller engine is placed on the opposite side of the No 3 shaft which raise water from the upper lodge room at 70 yards deep and is only used at rare intervals when the main engine is temporally stopped. It has two horizontal cylinders 16 inches by 48 inches horizontal connecting rods to two quadrants. fro these two pitch pine rods 6 inches square descend into the pumps in the higher lodge room which is worked by two 14 inch rams with a 4 foot stroke two pumps delivering 50 gallons per stroke to the same rising main. It requires 10 revolutions of the engine to deliver 500 gallons per minute..

A new pumping engine constructed by Messrs. John Slee and Company of Earlestown is being placed in a chamber between Nos.3 and 4 shafts, the latter recently having been sunk for the purpose. The engine is placed about 9 yards above the lower lodge room and the suction pipe from the engine descends into it. The new engine has two horizontal cylinders 27 inches by 2 foot stroke working direct to two 12 inch double acting rams The two pumps deliver 36 gallons per revolution of the engine to give 540 gallons per minute. A side view of one of the double acting pumps without the motor is given below. When the ram is travelling I the direction indicated by the arrow the water is forced through the delivery valve at D and drawn through the suction valve E. When the ram goes in the opposite direction the suction is through the valve at G and delivered through the valve at C.

WINDING.

The winding engine at the No.1 shaft has two horizontal cylinders 32 inches by 72 inches with ordinary slide valves and a 17 foot cylindrical drum with a foot brake acting on each side of the drum and steam brake. It raise six tubs in each cage o two decks placed end to end, each tub carrying 7¹/₂ cwt .of coal.

There are three iron conducting wires to each cage kept in tension by screws at the top. Winding ropes of plough steel 1¹/₂ ins diameter and the pulleys are 13¹/₂ feet in diameter. The Upper and Lower Florida seam are worked and the put output from these mines is 700 tons per day.

The winding engine at the No.2 pit had two horizontal cylinders 32 inches by 66 inches with primary slide valves. There is 16 foot cylindrical drum with a foot brake acting on each side of the drum. The engine raise four tubs in cage with two decks each tub carrying 7¹/₂ cwt. There are three wire rope conductors to each cage. The Four Feet and Yard Coals are worked here the output being 500 tons per day. The sinking engine at the No.4 pit has two horizontal cylinders of 18 inches.

HAULAGE.

The No.1 haulage engine is placed at the bottom of the No.1 shaft and had two horizontal cylinders 16 inches by 30 inches geared 1 to 3 and works with one drum and a five eighties ins rope a down brow of 550 yards dipping 1 in 6. Ten laden tubs are hauled up by the engine the same number of empties running by gravity by the rope the gradient being 1 in 5.

The No.2 hauling engine had one horizontal cylinder 12 inches by 24 inches geared 1 to 4, one drum with a five eighties plough steel rope. It raises sixteen boxes up a slant dipping 1 in

10 in the Upper Florida Mine. The engine is placed in the Yard seam near the ventilating furnace and boilers of No.2 shaft.

No.3 hauling engine is in the Yard seam and had one horizontal cylinder 10 inches by 20 inches and geared 1 to 4 with two drums on each shaft which can be put in or out of gear by a intermediate clutch. It works two downbrows one on the east after the rope passes over two guiding pulleys, hauls up a plane of 260 yards, the one on the west also passes over a guide pulley and hauls up a 600 yard plane. While a set of laden tubs is being hauled up the empty tubs are run down on the gravity plane.

BOILERS.

A range of eight Lancashire boilers supply the steam for the engines on the surface. Five are 28 feet by 6¹/₂ feet and two are 30 feet by 7¹/₂ feet of steel made by Tetlow Brothers, Hollingwood and are fitted with Meldrum blowers, two in each flue. There is also one of 30 feet by 7¹/₂ feet made of steel by Messrs. Hough and Son of Wigan. The meldrum blower consists of jets of high pressure steam blown under the fire. Underground there are three vertical boilers 4 feet in diameter and 6¹/₂ feet high each fitted with sixty Field tubes the working pressure is 70lbs and the boilers are fed by water pressure from the shaft.

ROPE ATTACHMENT.

For each cage a plate is provided for the attachment of the winding rope at the top and bridal chains to three apertures at the lower part a side view of which is given below. The plate is made either of Low Moor iron one and three quarters in thick or of steel 1¹/₂ inches thick. There are six bridal chains each of which take part of the weight being attached in pairs to one of the three holes at A,B,C, 1 and five eighths in diameter to the hole at D 1 and three quarters in diameter the winding rope is connected.

The workable seams of coal that pass through the No.1 shaft at the Collins Green colliery are the following-

		Workable coal.		Dist. from surface yds.
		ft.	in.	
The Potato Delf or	{ Coal	3	6	473
Four Foot Seam	{ Shale	0	2 3 6	
	{ Coal	0	9	
Yard seam		3	6	522
Higher Florida or Pemberton Five feet		3	6	558
Lower Florida or Pemberton Four Feet.		4	8 5	64.

The workable seams that pass through the No.3 shaft at Bold colliery are as follows:-

	Workable coal.		Depth from surface.
	ft.	ins.	yds.
The Four Foot seam	3	6	509
Yard Seam	3	4	547
Higher Florida Seam	3	4	600
Lower Florida seam	4	6	605

Other valuable coals that are lying below the Florida seams which will eventually be reached are the Ravenhead or Wigan Five Foot seam, Ravenhead Delf or Wigan Four Foot, Roger Delf or Wigan Nine Feet, Rushy Park or Orrell Five Feet and the Little Delf.

4th. September, 1891.

Colliery Accident at St. Helens.

At the inquest into the death of Thomas Dowd of 45, Fleet Lane who dies in the Hospital, John James Mayer, the fireman said he examined the place five minutes before a fall and it appeared safe. He was about a yard from the deceased but managed to get out of the way. Mr. Stokes, the Assistant Government Inspector said he had inspected the place and he found the timbering satisfactory and there was plenty of timber near the place but he thought that a prop should have been sent at the weakest place. The Coroner commented that this was a matter

between the Inspector and the manager and that the fireman was in the place and was in considerable danger to himself if he thought the place unsafe. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death without giving effect to the Inspector's comments.

21st. October, 1891.

Fatal Accident at Collins Green.

Joseph Rigby and Richard Bath both of Burtonwood and daywagemen lost their lives at the No.2 Pit. They came down early in the afternoon when the fireman James Taylor heard there had been a fall and the men removed the debris. At the inquest Mr. Jackson, the manager said that about 150 tons of roof had fallen. Rigby was a married man with one adopted child and Booth was single.

17th. May, 1901.

PRESENTATION AT COLLINS GREEN.

A pleasing ceremony was held at the colder after the day's work about 30 men were assembled to do honour to Mr. Richard Hilton who for some time past had lived in Burtonwood village and had been an engineer at the colliery and has left to become a Boneface at Platt Bridge. The workers had decided to make Mr. Hilton a suitable gift of an illuminated address and Mr. Price the oldest workman made the presentation. Mr. Hilton thanked the workmen for the present and for the good feeling it promoted. (N&EG).

6th. September, 1901.

DROWNED IN THE RESERVOIR AT COLLINS GREEN.

James Daley aged 64 years, labourer was carrying a box of explosives to the pit from the magazine and instead of going along the roadway he went through a fence and along the edge of the reservoir and he probably slipped and fell in and was drowned. The explosives were found on the path.

At the inquest it appeared that he was carrying a box of explosive along a narrow footpath near the water and nothing further was heard of him and on looking for him they found him in the water dead. The box was on the footpath.

At the Pear Tree Inn, Collins Green, Maria Daley, his widow, gave evidence of identification of 11, Penny Lane, Burtonwood, said he was 59 last birthday. The Coroner in summing up said there was little evidence as to what had happened to him but he recommended that the path be blocked off and a small bottle was found containing some diluted spirit in it but not enough to make him intoxicated. An open verdict was returned.

1902.

WINDING ROPES BREAKING AT THE COLLIERY.

The rope broke in the downcast shaft at Collins Green No.2 that was wet. Corrosion of the wires 100 yards from the capping when starting with the loaded cage from the bottom of the shaft at a depth of 600 yards. Inspection of the piece that failed showed slight corrosion except at the point where it broke. Nor was rope of the highest quality crucible steel 1¹/₂ inches in diameter and had been used for 21 months and 12 days. There were no fatalities. The rope had been in use three months longer than usual. It had a mild steel core and no previous defects had been seen beyond 3 or 4 wires broken. There had been an inspection one month before the incident. Hemp cores will be used in future. (MIR).

11th. March, 1903.

Patrick Glinn aged 27 years and Patrick Lawlor aged 21 years, haulage hands had gone to assist the foreman and others put some boxes on the rails that had got off the self acting motion jig when the rope started again and one of the links in the chain broke and a set of 5 tubs rushed down upon him before he could get into the refuge (MIR). CHECK ONE DEAD OR TWO?

8th. February, 1904.

Thomas Massey aged 33 years, hooker-on was putting the catch up from getting the empties out of the cage at the pit bottom when the thimble of the cage which had ascended fell to the bottom of the shaft on him. A guide rod had been changed in the other shaft and the blocks had been secured by one nut and bolt instead of two as it should have been. (MIR).

3rd. June, 1904.

COMPENSATION CLAIM.

At St. Helens Court when a collier, Samuel Pate, of Sutton, sought compensation from the Collins Green Company when on the 15th. Feb. Pate fell into a hole in which the crank of a small engine revolved and his leg was so badly broken that it had to be amputated. Mr. Riley appeared for the claimant and the claim was settled on a payment and costs. (N&EG).

1st. December, 1905.

William Knockton aged 37 years, contractors man was killed when he and a mate were changing a bar and instead of a proper jack prop they put in a tram rail under the bar which afterwards rocked out when the roof fell on him and he was fatally injured. (MIR).

28th. April 1905.

PIT ACCIDENT AT COLLINS GREEN.

At the inquest at the Rainford Hotel St. Helens into the death of George Heyes, collier, of 109, Broadoak Rd. St. Helens who was killed on Wednesday morning. Mr. Brighthouse said that he had been employed five or six years at the colliery and he was working with his son to replace a box that had been de-railed. While he was lifting it he complained of pain in his back. He walked out of the pit and when he got home he told his wife that he had been hurt and he took to his bed and a doctor was called he remained in bed and was seen by another doctor who attended him daily up to his death. The Coroner said he had received a letter and he asked that anyone who wrote to him would give their name he would always treat them as confidential. The letter was signed '*A Friend*' of Parrstocks Road and was on behalf of Mrs. Heyes widow of George Heyes who was hurt on the 6th. at Collins Green. He died on the 19th. Dr Jackson gave him a certificate for one weeks sick pay and now he is dead they can not give him a certificate and he has died from the injury and heart failure therefore I implore you to help this poor woman in her distress as I assure you that she has not one penny laid by to lay the body at rest if the debar her Lancashire and Cheshire Permanent relief which she is entitled to. Hoping you will see this letter as she is left with two children hoping you will do your best for her. There was an adjournment until the following Wednesday when Dr. Unsworth said he had made a post mortem. The cause of death was heart failure as the result of pneumonia. Dr. Jackson gave corroborative evidence. Verdict death from pneumonia. (N&EG).

6th. September, 1905.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT COLLINS GREEN.

Henry Martin aged 36 years, timberman was fatally crushed in the roadway owing to the lashing chain getting loose from the haulage rope in the endless rope downbrow.

The inquest took place at the Griffin Inn on the 15th. into the death of Harry Martin of 8, Elmsbridge Road Sutton, who was injured on Wednesday by a runaway box of bricks at the Collins Green colliery No 1 pit. He was on night shift and commenced work at about 6pm at the brow of the Florida mine about 10.45 he and William Knockton were repairing a bar on the brow with a view to replacing it when a box containing bricks became unlashd from the haulage rope. The box came down the brow and caught the deceased and knocked him down. When picked up he was unconscious and found to have sustained severe injuries to the head and was taken to St. Helens Hospital but died on the way.. The tub was seen running down the brow with the chain attached to it but it was not known how it became unlashd.

Mary Elizabeth Martin identified the body as her husband. Knockton a dataller of 19, Terrace Street, said he was working with Martin when he was killed. He thought that he tried to get out of the way but the tub got him before he could do so. Richard Whittaker of Brunswick Road, St. Helens lashed the tub on turning the chain three times as was usual and he was certain that he did it correctly. Albert Talland of Copeland Street, St. Helens a fireman at the colliery said that when the box passed him the chain was on the floor and when it got to the pulley the chain flew off and the box continued on he went down the brow and found the deceased with his head between the metal and he was breathing heavily and there was a bar of timber across his neck. Mr. Mathews, the Inspector, had inspected the scene and found that two feet two inches was the distance between the two roads and there was a manhole two yards from the spot. The jury brought in a verdict of 'Accidental Death' and said that there should be four lashings in and not just three when the boxes were going down the brow under full weight. (MIR, N&EG).

6th. January, 1908.

Earlestown Collier Killed At Collins Green.

James Rush aged 23 years, ripper was killed when they had taken out a bar down brow and a shot had been fired where they were ripping down the roof and whilst he was engaged in clearing away the dirt and preparing to set a prop and bar the roof fell on him.

At the inquest into the death of James Rush aged 23 years of Brook Street, Earlestown who died in the hospital on Thursday evening a native of Rush Common Ireland and he had been in England about four months employed as a contractors man. On Monday the 6th. he was knocked down by a fall of stone and suffered server spinal injuries and his right leg. The deceased and other men were taking down the roof to increase the height of the roadway and in taking a prop and inserting another. Mr Matthews the Inspector said that it was a dangerous job and the men had to use their judgement in doing this work. A verdict of "Accidental Death was returned. (MIR, N&EG).

From 'THE NEWTON AND EARLESTOWN GUARDIAN'

14th May 1909.

Colliers compensation case.

At St. Helens Court before Judge Sands under the Compensation Act with respect to the death of John Dickson of Junction Lane, Sutton who was 43 years of age and was killed at Collins Green on the 16th. October last year when he fractured his let ankle and went to hospital and later a time went home and he did not mend he had compensation from February and then went to the pit and tried to work and on the advice of a doctor he went to the hospital and a n operation was commenced by Drs Casey and O'Keiff and he died under the anaesthetic. A verdict of 'Misadventure' was returned.

£209-9s.-9d. had been paid into court in settlement and he said that the money should be paid out at the rate of £4-4s.-9d. a month. He had six children and that the mother administer the money. Costs were awarded on grade B. (N&EG).

13th. August, 1909.

James Makin aged 15 years, haulage hand was killed when attempting to unlash a chain from the endless rope he got fatally crushed between the rope and the haulage pulley. (MIR).

11th. August, 1909.

William Cox aged 17 years, haulage hand was engaged at the bottom of the self acting endless rope haulage jig when he got fatally crushed through a lashing chain getting loose. (MIR).

1st. December, 1910.

James Daley aged 49 years, dataller was killed when engaged in getting dirt from the waste to make a pack wall behind the longwall face, a sudden weighting of the roof took place and a stone six feet by five feet by one foot six inches fell from the roof capping a bar and two props. (MIR).

14th. November, 1910.

Thomas Clarkson aged 49 years, collier, was engaged in preparing to set a prop when a stone fell from a slip where props were only three feet from the face. (MIR).

12th. March, 1911.

John Daley aged 37 years, ripper was walking down a brow he slipped on a rail and fell injuring his elbow which suddenly became deceased. He died on the 4th. October. (MIR).

29th. June, 1911.

John Owen aged 29 years, contractors man was using a sylvester in the main haulage brow a fall seven yards in length displaced three bars. The prop to which the drawer was attached gave way. (MIR).

9th. April, 1912.

Patrick Stone aged 30 years, Bernard McAdam aged 34 years, and Michael Grara aged 26 years, all contractors men were kille4d as they were clearing away a heavy fall and when getting to the end of the widework a further fall occurred thirty one feet by eleven feet by five

feet six inches. It brought down sprags four feet apart which had been placed to support the roof and they were killed on the spot. (MIR).

16th. August, 1912.

John Rattigan aged 39 years, haulage hand was working on the main haulage brow and had left two tubs on the rails to reach the signal wires to stop the rope. His foot slipped and he fell in front of the set and was crushed by the tubs. (MIR).

16th. August, 1912.

John Rattigan aged 39 years, a haulage hand was working on the main haulage brow was and noticed two full tubs off the rails. He attempted to reach the signal wire but his foot slipped and he fell in front of the set and was crushed to death by the tubs and received injuries from which he died, 19th. June, 1913. (MIR).

3rd. February, 1913.

Hugh Griffiths aged 16 years, haulage hand, was lowering two empty tubs down a short brow dipping in places 1 in 4 when it ran away and crushed him against a ventilation door. He had only one pair of wheels spragged and he had been in front of the tubs. (MIR).

3rd. February, 1913.

Hugh Griffiths aged 16 years, haulage hand was killed as he was lowering two empty tubs down a 1 in 4 when they ran away and crushed him against a ventilation door. Only one pair of wheels were spragged and he also went in front of the tubs. (MIR).

21st. April 1916.

TWO EARLESTOWN COLLIERS KILLED IN ACTION.

Mrs. J. T. Pitwell of 39, Burke Street, Earlestown received news last week that corporal Heidesforth B Company the Manchester Regiment that her husband had been killed. He worked at the Collins Green colliery and originally came from Wigan but had worked there. He was a reveries he died on August 26th. last year. He was a member of the Haydock Colliery band he leaves a widow and six young children. (N&EG).

2nd. March, 1917.

WARNING TO NEGLIGENT COLLIERS.

At Warrington County Sessions Ellis Marsh a discharged soldier living at Recreation Street St. Helens was charged with a breach of the Coal Mines act. The Company claimed £2-12s.-6d which was the sum that had been lost owing to the defendants slackness at work.

It was stated that the defendant who was employed as a lasher-on did not attend work regularly and gave various excuses. On 2nd January he did not come to work and the others could not work and had to be sent home and coal was lost. He said he had had five operations on his legs for varicose veins and was invalided out of the Army. He was ordered to pay 40/-. (N&EG).

12th. May 1914.

Richard Parry aged 15 years, haulage hand a tub had become derailed in the endless rope haulage and cause the pulled the pulley frame along with the timbers to which it was attached and a fall of roof buried the deceased. The pulley frame was fixed by a method it would not withstand a sudden strain of the ropes and the frame was also the roof support. (MIR).

26th. March, 1914.

Edward Owen aged 24 years, haulage hand slipped in some unknown way at the top of the Potato Delph and fell thirty six yards and died a few hours later. (MIR)

26th. October, 1917.

COLLIERY WORKER TO PAY DAMAGES.

At Warrington Petty Sessions the Company claimed £317-6s.-3d from George Collins of 302 Crow Lane West, Earlestown for failing to perform his contract. On 3rd September. He was engaged in a haulage line at the colliery and he did not turn up for work and as a result fifteen colliers had to go home and 37¹/₂ tons of coal were not raised. The Company claimed the sum as damages. It was said that he could earn sufficient wages in the early part of the week and he seemed to have a weakness for holidays thought remainder of the week. Since last May he had only made two full weeks. He had been frequently warned but without avail

and was quite true that he received an injury to his leg but this did not prevent him from playing football. He said the Doctor told him he could play football.

The Chairman said there was no doubt that the defendant had caused some material loss and assessed the damages at £5 which would be deducted from the defendant's wages at 5/- per week. (N&EG).

26th. March, 1923.

Edward Owen aged 24 years, haulage hand was killed as he stepped through some fencing in the Potato Delf workings and fell to the Yard workings thirty seven yards. He was found a few hours later. (MIR).

2nd. August 1923

James McGrail aged 34 years, drawer was getting coal at the face and was in the act of pulling down coal when a stone fell from the roof and killed him immediately. The stone fell from between two slips and the place was well timbered. (MIR).

Ghosts in the Colliery.

c.1925.

"The main haulage road there was a big dip brow with a big haulage engine at the top of the brow and this went down about 2,000 yards. he says to me (another pitman) he says, "Have you noticed anything about this motion?"

I says, "No, not that I know on."

Why, what are you talking about?"

He says, 'We're at twentieth landing, now just up there you can see up yonder neaw.'

I say, 'Yes'.

Rope was going boxes coming down.

He says, 'When I've been coming down there, I've seen a chap riding on the tubs when I've got to that tub there's nobody on it.'

The haulageman was not the only one to see the ghost at Collins Green.

"I come out with my tub one day, hangs my lamp on a prop on a nail and all at once I could see along this other gateway opposite there's four lamps coming along helter-skelter for all they are worth, these four chaps were coming.

'What's up wi yo'r lot?'

'As seen Joe?' He's the deputy..

I says 'Aye, he's just gone through our place t'top. Why. What's up wi yer?'

"We'er noy goin back in you,'

'Why?'

'There's a ghost, a ghost!. Yea there is, there's a ghost there.'

He says, 'we've seen Smithies ghost yon.'

(Smith was a young fellow who was killed in the place a week or so before.)

'Arr", I says, 'It's all your imagination.'

'Nay it's not,' he says 'tis is the third time we've seen 'im.'

'Wat's bound't do if thar sees a fog come up like that out o't gob?'

So any way they go back, it's later in the shift. So I comes out again with another tub. All at once same occurred, these lads belting along the drawing road.

'Aye we've seen ghost again.'

Anyway they'd seen a ghost, they couldn't get the chaps to go back. they stopped that place." (DD).

There was a beam engine at Collins Green which was used for pumping water.

"Collins Green had two shafts and a water shaft and the old beam pump and I used to love watching the engine going you know. The great beam, the great crank, and the wooden rods going down the shaft to the hose at the bottom and all the water was collected from the red sandstone. it gushed out white, foaming. Lovely water to drink."

(DD).

1930.

ABANDONMENT.

Reported that the Potato Delf Four Foot at the colliery was abandoned. (MIR).

From 'THE NEWTON AND EARLESTOWN GUARDIAN'.
4th. April 1930.

ENGINE OFF THE RAILS.

More sensation was caused at Collins Green on Monday morning when an engine left the metals and sank into the ground. The locomotive weighed 80 tons in the coal siding of Evans and Co. It was called to move down the line and without the slightest warning the rails bent outwards and the loco went into the ground. No one was injured. Breakdown gangs from the colliery decided to jack up the loco and not use cranes and the rails replaced. After a good eight hours work the locomotive was back on the track. The local population took a great deal on interest in the operations.

From 'THE NEWTON AND EARLESTOWN GUARDIAN'.
17th October 1930.

EARLESTOWN MINERS DEATH.

At Burtonwood this after noon Mr. F.A.Jones returned a verdict of 'Death by Misadventure' on Isaac Hill aged 44 of Coal lane who met with his death at Collins Green Colliery yesterday. The wife of the deceased gave the evidence of identification Bartholomew Kidd was a fireman at the No 2 West Side and found the deceased dead on the ground in a kneeling position. He had a 12 cwt. stone on his back. with assistance and the stone was removed and he was found to be quite dead.

Davies the Inspector of Mines said the had not inspected the pit that morning but it had been inspected the previous day by the fireman. The stone was safe then and it must have been dislodged when they were in the pack. Props had been used in stead of bars because they could not get near to the coalface.

Frank Naylor of School Lane Burtonwood said that at 11 on Thursday he went to work about 10 yards away and did not hear any fall of roof. At 8.15 he was told of the accident and helped to remove the stone. The body was taken to the ambulance room and the Doctor Lyle of Earlestown was called. The doctors opinion was that death was due to suffocation but there was a small wound on the left eye and his shoulders and back were badly bruised.

From 'THE NEWTON AND EARLESTOWN GUARDIAN'.
13th. March, 1931.

COLLINS GREEN COLLIERY.

Additional Claim Fails.

Judgement given in a Colliery Compensation case given in St. Helens Court on Wednesday by Judge Morris. John Houghton was injured at the colliery on the 22nd. March 1923 when the top fell on him and hurt his head severely. He was off work for several months and received compensation but he retired to the colliery on the 3rd. March 1925 when he was certified as suffering from miners mystagmus. From the time he had been employed on the surface and from March 1930 he was certified as fit for work. Proceedings had begun for the renewal of the compensation and three medical men certified that he was no longer suffering from the result of his injuries. The Judge said that he had consulted with a Medical referee and the certificate agreed with his own idea and he had to refuse the claim. The award was for the colliery company with costs.

18th. July, 1930.

COAL STEALING.

At Warrington Petty Session James Tinsley of 18 Waring Avenue St. Helens was charged with stealing coal from Collins Green Colliery weighing 80lbs and valued at 9d. Whilst Aaron Billings 35, Waring Avenue, was charged with stealing 82lbs. Superintendent Watkinson said that at 4.15 a.m. on the 1st. July he was on duty at Fleet Lane, Sutton he saw the men with bags of coal taken from the colliery yard. When he was stopped he said it was not coal the bags whether weighted. The defendant said he had the right to take coal and pleaded not guilty. Each was fined 10/-. (N&EG).

2nd. December 1931.

COAL STEALING.

Robert Haunch of Moorehouse, Broad Lane ,Burtonwood was at the St. Helens petty sessions last week for stealing 144lbs. belonging to the Collins Green Company. The case was dismissed on the undertaking of the defendant not to replete the offence. The defendant was ordered to pay 7/6d. costs. P.C.Weal said he saw the defendant take the coal from the tip of the colliery when he saw him he dropped his bag and ran away. Later the P.C. interviewed the defendant and he said it was the first time he had been on the tip and he would the men was single aged 24 years and an unemployed collier. He had last been employed in October and he had not previously been in trouble.

About fifteen minutes to nine on the morning of the 14th. February, 1940 seven men were working a turbine into a new position in the main level of the Collins Green Pit At Bold. Suddenly a section of roof, 12 feet long and nine feet wide, collapsed on them injuring two men and completely burying then other five.

Carl Schofield was the overman and was working nearby when the accident occurred and he rushed to the scene at once. He. he was aware that his father Charles, was one of the men who had been relocating the turbine and he was alarmed to learn that he was trapped beneath the debris. Rescue operation began at once, these had to be carried out in a very confined space and in conditions of extreme danger and difficulty owing to the risk of further fall. Mr. Thomas Jameson, the colliery agent, had been spending his forty second birthday at home, he receive an urgent message and immediately went to the pit to take charge. Working quickly but cautiously so as not to inure the men further, they found the first victim, Ernest Hayes, the pit fireman. His head was covered with shale and he was pitting dirt and in danger of suffocating. There was no room to use a shovel so Jameson and Schofield had to burrow with their hands to scrape the dust away from his face and allow him to breath. When they had done this he was able to tell the approximate position of the other men. After about an hour Hayes was liberated and was able to walk out without assistance.

Mr. Jameson skilfully directed the securing of the roof to prevent a further fall and as the men were working under it he carefully removed stone and dirt and saw through a conveyor chain and rail.

After prolonged efforts another man, Arthur Cunningham, was rescued at about two o'clock and an hour later John Tulley was brought out. Carl could see his father and another man but it had been six hours since the accident and both appeared to be dead. all hope of bringing them out alive faded when a further fall occurred which completely blocked the hole the rescue team had been using as a means of access. After more then thirty hours the bodies of Charles Schofield aged 62 and Richard Saw aged 40 were recovered. All the men involved in the accident came for, the St. Helens area.

The rescues were due to the coolness courage and skilful leadership of Thomas Jameson and to the assistance he received from Carl Schofield who displayed the greatest energy and courage. Both men were awarded the Edward Medal, gazetted on 8th. October, 1904.

CRONTON.

??-??-1918 MIR.

Explosion of firedamp Persons reported killed.

??-??-1927 MIR.

Collier killed by a slab of roof falling from between two unseen slips. The fireman had been round 15 mins before.

??-??- 1928 MIR.

A collier was injured in the head while sheltering from a shot at right angles 4 yds away. The projectile rebounded from a prop. Died 24th April.

23-07-1947 MIR.

A disastrous conveyor fire but no casualties. in the lower Florida seam an inspection found nothing wrong and at 5.05am the compressor was restarted for some surface work. During an inspection of the upcast shaft a bad smell was noticed and at 9.30 On investigation a fire was found at one of the gateways. The fire was caused by the malfunction of pulley which heated

and set fire to the coal dust . The whole district was sealed off. The valve control at the gateway had been left open and so were the main compressor valves.

-??-1963 MIR

Development work on non-inflammable hydraulic fluid for the heavy duty machinery.

??-??- MIR 1968

New loading machine introduced for 11 weeks and had advanced at an average of 68 yds per week. The coal was 14ft wide and 8' thick.

??-??-1971.

Development work reported

COLLIERY PROFILE. CRONTON COLLIERY.

Public Relation Department NCB April 1981.

Cronton colliery is situated near Prescot in the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley in Merseyside.

The coal winding shaft was sunk in 1914 and completed in 1916 to a depth of 520 yards and intersected the Plodder, Wigan Four Feet, Lower Florida, Pigeon House and Rushy Park Seams. In 1966 a new technique of mine was introduced at the colliery and this resulted in the colliery doubling it's production.

Under this system, of retreat mining which is widely used on the continent. roadways are driven in advance of the boundaries of the coal seam and the coal is extracted towards the shaft. It is thought that Cronton was the first colliery in the country to go on to full retreat mining.

The colliery employs 560 men mainly from a seven mile radius of Widnes. The principle markets for the coal which is produced from the London Delf seam is the CEBG and the general industry of the area. production is centred on the face by this method.

OUTPUT AND PRODUCTIVITY FIGURES.

OUTPUT.	OUTPUT PER MANSHIFT.	MANPOWER.
1970/71 355,913 tons	45.8 cwts.	653
1971/72 257,209	37.6	670
1972/73 225,234	32.0	625
1973/74 157,990	28.0	601
1974/75 229,994	36.7	616
1975/76 249,562	39.4	607
1976/77 240,038	39.1	584
1977/78 270,014	42.9	591
1978/79 256,721 tonnes	1.97 tonnes	583
1979/80 185,494	1.45	582
1980/81 298,500	2.35	572

MIR 1927.

Cronton.

A man was killed and others injured by a slab of blind roof which fell from between two invisible slips. The fireman was in the place at the time and had been there only 15 minutes before.

CROP & DEEP.

In the old records, there are references to the 'Deep Colliery' to 'Crop Colliery' and to 'Crop and Deep Colliery'. The confusion arises from the fact that the shafts were often named as a pit and the names 'pit' and 'colliery' can mean the same thing. For example there are references to 'Chain Pit' but it is known that this was a shaft at the Blackbrook colliery. Crop Pit could be a shaft at the Alexandra Colliery and Deep pit could be another colliery. Crop pit could also refer to any shaft sunk into an outcrop, or 'crop', of a coal seam. (See St. Helens colliery.)

10th. August 1861.

At the inquest at the Navigation Inn on James Morris who met his death when he was run over by tubs, the engineman Thomas Crouchley said that there were two tubs coupled together and he misunderstood a signal and lowered the killing Morris. The accident was put down to the negligence of the engineman. (St.L).

1902.

BREAKAGE OF THE WINDING ROPE.

The downcast shaft was dry and a n iron shackle coupling the cage to the rope broke. The shackle was made of Low Moor iron and it was not known how long it had been in use. No one was injured. (MIR).

Prescot Reporter

29th. May, 1880.

Fatal Accident at a Colliery

Thomas Haughton aged 21 years of 41, Tontine Street, St. Helens died from injuries received on the 12th. at the Sutton colliery belonging to Messrs. Pilkington. On the afternoon in question he was employed in the Deep pit at Sutton as an engine tender and was winding boxes when one of them got off the rails. He went to put it on again and when it was wound up by a boy in the pit who threw the brake out of gear too soon and the boxes ran over the deceased and broke his back. He was removed to his home and Dr. Gaskell was called and attended him until his death. John Hewitt was pony driver aged 17 years and happened to be standing near when the boxes got off the rails. The deceased told him to look after the engine while he righted the boxes. He called to the lad to start the engine and as they came up he thought they would reach the level and turned off the air to the engine. The boxes went back. He tried the brake. Hewitt had never worked the engine before. Mr. Hall the Inspector said that this was Hewitt's first day in the mine and he knew nothing of the engine. He asked the lad if he thought the accident was caused by his mistake and he stated that he thought it was the fault of the deceased. The coroner was also of this opinion and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Prescot Reporter

19th. June 1880.

Colliery Accident.

A collier named Charles Barnes aged 38 years of 19. College Street, Windle was working in Pilkingtons Deep pit at Sutton when he was severely injured by a fall. he died about half an hour after. Joseph Pilkington heard a fall of roof and called to the deceased but got no answer so he went to see. he found that a portion of the roof had fallen on him. He got help at once and the man was removed alive and taken home. He was attended by Dr. Brown but he died later. His widow Mary gave evidence of identification. Pilkington stated they knew there were slips in the roof and the fireman had visited the place. The coroner said that the man obviously thought it was safe as he had not set timber, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Prescot Reporter

8th. July, 1882.

Wilful Cruelty to a Pony in a St. Helens Colliery.

At the Police Court a collier, William Fletcher was charged with cruelly beating, ill-treating and torturing a pony. He worked at the St. Helens Colliery Company at the Deep pit Sutton. It was alleged that h struck one of the pony ponies with the sharp end of his pick making a hole in its side between the sixth and seventh rib, puncturing its lungs. On the 3rd. June, the prisoner was working down the pit with several other men. The pony was used for drawing boxes from one shunt to another and the driver was a lad names Sheppard. The pony had taken two empty boxes to one place where a man name Parr was working and returned with them full and stopped opposite the place where the prisoner was working. Fletcher shouted and at the same time struck a violent blow with his pick. The lad heard this but did not know that the blow was serious and led the pony up the hill where there was no strain on it but as time went on he heard the horse sneezing and breathing very heavily. When he started the animal up the incline the driver heard a noise like the blowing of a pair of bellows and the pony stopped. He went to it and found a hole in its right side. There was a deep puncture wound with air coming out of it with considerable force. He shouted out that the pony had burst and when the men came the pony was taken to the stables and the vet was set for. he examined the wound and

came to the conclusion that the animal should be put down. This was not done but it was now unfit for work and instead of being worth £10 or £12 it was worthless and not able to do heavy work again. The prisoner had run away and was not caught until few days later when he was apprehended in Rainford. He said he knew nothing about it and he did not do it. Mr. William Garton Dixon, the veterinary surgeon, said the pony was now out of the pit and on grass and the wound was the result of a blow from a sharp implement like a pick. The prisoner had nothing to say and was sent to jail for a months hard labour.

CROP AND DEEP 22-03-1883

BROWN Henry 28 fireman

He was assisting to put some full tubs into the shunt at the bottom of an incline by which a journey was being drawn up by the engine when the tub at the end of the coupling chain broke the trailer and the tubs ran back and struck him. The incline was provided with the necessary refuge places

CROP AND DEEP 09-10-1886

BIRMINGHAM John 23 gangrider

He was working on the down brow and ran the gang in front of the tubs. While coming up some of the tubs got off the road and he was jerked off and some of the tubs got him

CROP & DEEP 01-05-1888

BRADY Thomas 35 Collier

He was engage with another man clearing up in the brow when a bar and some dirt fell from the roof. The roof was bad and uneven but it was barred 3' apart

CROP & DEEP 30-01-1889

JAMESON Thomas 47 Waggoner

He was lowering a waggon and apparently still had the brake on when a passing waggon on the adjoining line and he was crushed. The latter waggon he had placed there himself. He had worked at the job for 15 yr..

CROP & DEEP 10-06-1892

TOPLAS John 28 pusher-on

At 8ma. in the 3rd hour of the shift he was trying to get a tub on the road when the jig started and he was crushed by the tub that was coupled to two others

CROP & DEEP 04-08-1894

HUTCHINSON Robert 32 Collier

At noon in the 6th hour of the shift he was bringing out a tub of coal that got off the rails and struck a prop which had not enough clearance causing a bar to come down with some large stones

CROP & DEEP 18-06-1895

SWIFT John 63 collier

At 9am in the 3rd hour of the shift he was wedging coal down across the face when the roof fell from a slip on the head of coal he was working which could not have been detected. The place was fairly well timbered

CROP & DEEP 04-11-1895

LLOYD James 18 dataller

He was pushing dirt near the face of a roadway which had been standing for some time when a fall occurred capping a prop and a bar. The place had been inspected by the officials who considered the place safe

CROP & DEEP 10-06-1898

MURRAY Martin 37 Drawer

He was bringing a full tub along the drawing road when a fall fell from a slip capping a bar and crushing him. Several bars had been capped and jack-propped in the roadway

CROP & DEEP 10-10-1899

WINDERS WILLIAM 61 Collier

He was getting coal on the lower side of his road when a fall occurred between two slips capping two props and burying him

CROP & DEEP 28-08-1891

PENNINGTON James 45 dataller

At 11.45am in the 6th hour of the shift he was cleaning up a return airway when he disturbed the packing on the high side which allowed the roof to fall and bury him. The place was examined by the fireman 5mins before the accident

CROP & DEEP 19-11-1892

REECE John 26 drawer

At 2.30am in the 9th hour of the shift The main haulage rope broke in the engine brow and ran back crushing him. He had followed it up the shunt. If the trailer had been attached by the person in charge this would not have happened

CROP & DEEP 30-08-1897

CONWELL Henry 37 haulage hand

He signalled for the journey to be set off out of the shunt and while in the act of guiding them round a bend he was crushed by them as some of them got off the rails

CROP & DEEP 20-12-1900

GORMLEY James 27 Metalman

A contractor was repairing an airway and was trying to pull some loose down with an iron bar. More came than he was expecting and he was crushed

CROP & DEEP 20-04-1901

WOODWARD George 27 carpenter

They were putting a new rope on the main pulley in the engine house using a capstan engine when the coupling of the rope caught hold of the pulley shaft and before the men could shout the engine pulled it off the wheel and it fell on him

CROP & DEEP no2 25-02-1903

MURPHY Thomas 20 hooker-on

He had been the hooker-on for 24 years and stepped into a scaffold in the shaft when the cage was running and something (probably a piece of coal) struck him on the head. He ought to have signalled the cage to stand while he was at the bottom

CROP & DEEP 09-02-1903

UNSWORTH Thomas 37 metalman

He was attempting to take out a prop at the end of a bar supporting the roof which he was intending to replace with another prop when the bar and the top covering of dirt fell on him. Died 28th may 1903

CROP & DEEP 22-01-1903

PIGOT Ralph 34 Collier

He was getting bottom coal and had set one sprag under the roof coal which eventually fell on him

CROP & DEEP 15-08-1904

WILKINSON Joseph 32 Pony driver

He appears to have missed putting in scotches in the wheels at a point in the level and got run over in a steep portion of the roadway

CROP & DEEP 24-06-1904

HUGHES Thomas 30 collier

He was getting coal from the face to the step when he knocked out a sprag and more coal came down than expected. Died 26th

CROP & DEEP No2 05-03-1908

READ Joseph 52 Collier

Fall of roof took place on him from a slip at the face

CROP & DEEP 28-02-1908

HILL James 44 Collier

A road endway in the down brow had fallen and had been retimbered by him and two other men when a week later a fall took place at the same place knocking out the new bars and killing him

CROP & DEEP 09-11-1909

BURNS John 42 Collier

When getting coal at the face a fall occurred between two slips

CROP & DEEP 23-10-1909

GRUNDY Edward 55 contractor

He was widening a roadway when a portion of the side fell knocking out a prop and causing the roof to fall

CROP & DEEP 28-06-1911

BRISCOE Thomas 60 Collier

When lifting a tub onto the rails in the main haulage road and the journey started and caught him between the tubs. The engineman stated that a signal had been given but the haulage hands denied this

CROP & DEEP 31-03-1911

WILLIAMS Richard 50 collier

When at the face a stone 8'x4'10"x2'4" fell from slips in the roof displacing three props and killing him. The place seems to have been secured in accordance with the propping rules

CROP & DEEP 26-07-1911

WILLS William 45 Collier

When getting coal in the a waste near a longwall face he open up a cross slip. this along with a known slip running almost at right angles caused a fall 13'x9'6"x5'. The rules required props to be set no farther than 5' from the face. In this case they had been set within 6'3" of the face but these and three other props proved insufficient

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT".

14th October 1913

Miscellaneous accidents underground.

St Helens Colliery Co St Helens Deep.

John Jackson collier deceased was engaged in ripping down the lane in front of the drawing road about 13 feet to the coalface when a large stone 6 ft by 3 ft by 2 ft between two slips in the roof fell and pinned him to the floor he received injuries from which he died the same day.

CROP & DEEP 14-10-1913

JACKSON John 53 Collier

He was engaged in ripping down a brow 13' from the wallface when a large stone 6'x3'x2' fell from between two parallel slips in the roof and pinned him to the floor. He died the same day

CROP & DEEP 10-11-1914

RHODES Reuben 38 collier

He was taking a full tub along a drawing road and the tub stuck on the lower side causing a large stone to fall from the side which buried him. 20 mins after being released he died

CROP & DEEP 02-11 1914

WHITTAKER William 31 Haulage hand

He was attempting to pull the rope from a drum of a small haulage engine and to do this he stood on top of a full tub. He was hauled forward and crushed between a bar. Died 15th Nov. There was no reason for him getting on top of the tub

1918 St. Helens Deep MIR.

A colliery fireman lost his life through suffocation by foolishly entering a brow in which there was an accumulation of firedamp. He left his safety lamp at the bottom of the brow and proceeded up to the face with the intention of knocking through to a level which was nearly

holed. After giving two knocks on the coal, the workmen heard groaning and on going into the brow found the man's lamp hanging on a prop. Several persons made repeated efforts to get him out but his legs became fastened on the other side of the prop. Eventually a holing was made from the other side and the gas cleared out. he should not have gone in knowing there was gas present.

CROP & DEEP 14-03-1923

ASPINALL John 56 Collier

At 1.30am in the third hour of the shift he was injured by a fall of roof on the 11th. He was filling a tub with coal at the face when there was a sudden fall. It was well timbered and the fireman had been there half an hour before

CROP & DEEP 19-09-1924

SPENCER Richard 20 haulage hand

At 2.10pm in the 7th hour of the shift. SEE REPORT

MIR

3rd November 1924

Crop and Deep.

Thomas Green The deceased received injuries from which he died five days later. A set consisting of 18 tubs had been haled out of the electric haulage and the rope disconnected but the set did not run as far as usual. and the fireman pushed the set a few yards and the former to support himself placed his hand on a iron shut and the fence rail The sheet slipped and the rail canted and came in contact with the roof the impact pinned the deceased against the engine house. Injuries were not considered serious at the time but after it was found that his pelvis was fractured and he died of pneumonia accelerated by the accident.

CROP & DEEP 03-11-1924

GREEN Thomas 50 haulage hand

At 2am, in the 2nd hour of the shift 18 tubs were being hauled and did not run as far as usual. He pushed them a few yards and placed his foot on an iron sheet on the fence rail and he slipped and a tub came into contact with him. He was pinned against the engine house wall and thought that his injuries were not serious but he had a fractured pelvis and died of pneumonia 18th

MIR 14th March 1923

Crop and Deep.

John Aspinall aged 56 collier was killed by a fall of roof and died on the 11th. He was getting coal at the face when a stone suddenly fell The place was timbered according to the rules and the night fireman had examined the work about half an hour before the accident.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT".

2nd November 1914,

Crop and Deep.

William Wicker aged 31 he was trying to pull the rope off the drum of a small haulage engine which was on a staging on the tub road. He stood on the top of a full tub and it was hauled forwards and he was crushed between the top of the tub and the side of the staging and he died Nov. 15th. There was no necessity for him to get on top of the tub and he had no right to do so.

From "THE INSPECTORS REPORT".

10th November 1914

Crop and Deep.

Reuben Rhodes aged 38 years collier was pushing a full tub along a drawing road and it slewed clear and caught a prop on the other side of the road which cause a large stone to fall from the side and partly bury the deceased. It took 20 mins to release him.

CROPPERS HILL

This was situated on Enfield Street. The colliery was first mentioned in the 'Hardshaw Colliery Letter Book' for 1805, and in 1845 it was owned by Bromilow, Brown and Jones. In the 1850's it was bought by James Radley, who made it a great success of. The production of coal in the 1860's was given as 40,000 tons per year and was transported, by canal, to Liverpool ??or sold land sale??. For a time, in it's history ,it was known as 'Starvation Colliery', due to its unprofitability.

31st. August 1855.

Henry Ashall, a collier, was killed by falling fifteen yards down the shaft. They were in the habit of sliding down a plank which was steadied by chains and he was the last to come down and slipped off due to the chain being slack. The jury brought in a verdict of accidental death. (WE).

22nd. November 1855.

S. Hutton was injured in an explosion of firedamp along with two others who recovered. He died on the 26th. November.(MIR).

8th. September 1856.

William Oxendale was killed when he fell down the pit. (MIR).

20th. November 1857.

James Burrows, a collier, was killed by igniting powder. (MIR).

5th. May 1859.

Joseph Johnson aged 62 years, a collier was killed by a fall of roof in the Rushy Park Mine. (MIR).

23rd. January 1861.

George Pennington aged 11 years, a waggoner, was killed when he fell 100 yards down the pit. It appeared he had just ascended and lost his balance. His body was a horrible spectacle when it was recovered. (MI, CG).

14th. May 1862.

John Kay aged 20 years, a collier was killed in an explosion of gas. (MIR).

14-05-1862 MIR.

The fireman went down the pit at 2am and examined the two upbrows in which a quantity of gas was found at about 6am. He found a little gas and put up a signal at the entrance of one but not at the other. The openings were about six yards apart. He was going out of the mine when the men were going to work and he gave them instructions but said nothing about the gas. When the deceased arrived at the bottom of the jig brow his father was sitting there with a lighted candle. This was a violation of one of the rules of the pit. Due to his inexperience it might be thought that the father would have prevented him going in instead of just telling him to be careful, the fireman was charged with neglect of his duty and indicted at the coroners court on a charge of manslaughter and was committed to prison and brought to trial when the counsel argued that there was no evidence to prove that he had not complied with the rules as the gas might have accumulated after his examination and that there was no case to answer. The jury was of the same opinion and the case was dismissed

24-05-1862 ST.H N .

John Kay aged 17 years was killed at the colliery in an explosion three weeks ago and there was evidence at the inquest that Stringfellow, the fireman had not put up a notice of the gas as demanded by the Rules of the Colliery. James Cunningham a dataller on the night shift said that he saw a board fixed to the brattice cloth. Sylvanus Holland also gave evidence but said that he could not read and James Rigby said that Stringfellow gave no instructions. Stringfellow and man of about 60 years was committed to Kirkdale Sessions on a charge on manslaughter.

20-08-1863

FRYER Elizabeth 26 labourer on the pit bank

Breaking of a winding rope which struck the deceased as she stood on the pit bank

29-08-1863 WO.

The wheel that hit her weighed 1cwt. Elizabeth was to have been married on Monday.

29-08-1863 ST.H N.

The inquest into the death of Elizabeth Fryer was held at Eccleston and Mary Lavin said that they were both in a hut when they heard a noise and Elizabeth went outside to see what it was. Mary was pulled back into the hut by one of the workmen/ verdict accidental Death

22-08-1863 CG

ACCIDENT AT THE COLLIERY.

An accident on Thursday last resulted in the death of one and a near escape for another. It appears that the cage was being wound up the engine pit and by some means stuck fast in the shaft and the rope broke and smashed the pulley wheels. the deceased Elizabeth Fryer was on the pit bank at the time and the wheel fell on her scattering her brains. A horse was also killed and the lad that was driving it had a miraculous escape.

02-01-1864

MARSH John 51 Collier

Explosion of gas

02-01-1864 STH N.

At the inquest into the death of John Marsh aged 51 years collier Evidence was given by the widow Martha that he went to work at 5am and was brought home about 8.15 burnt and in a fearful state. Dr, Nicholl looked after him but he died on the 15th.

He was five yards from the top coal at the end of the brow and was putting his candle on a prop when the explosion occurred. James Marsh a collier and no relation to the deceased had worked with him for two years and they had seen no gas in this time and they always used candles. The fireman Bate was at the jigger place when the explosion occurred and he inspected the place and found it all right. He and a waggoner George Lowe got them out of the pit. The explosion brought down two pillars and Mr Hopton the overlooker also gave evidence at the inquest. Verdict, accidental death.

21-11-?1863 ST.H N.

There was strike at the colliery but the offer was accepted and the workforce went back to work on Thursday morning.

20-08-1865

ANDERS Peter 55 collier.

22-08-1865 ST.H N.

Fall of roof in the Rushy Park Mine

At the inquest on Monday on the body of Peter Anders his father John Anders identified the body and said that he was brought home crushed to the lower part of his body and said he was dying. A collier named Fairclough found him. It was stated that he was a careful collier and steady but it was found that he had not set enough sprags. Verdict. Accidental Death.

17-02-1866 ST H STD.

COAL STEALING

Bridget Glynn, Katherine Hallighan and Katherine Lynch were charged with stealing coal from the colliery owned by James Radley at croppers Hill on Wednesday 17th February. Mr Swift appeared for the prosecution and Mr Atkinson for the prisoner Lynch. It appeared from the evidence that for some time complaints had been received about large quantities of coal had been disappearing from the colliery while the flats were being loaded at the canal bank to such an extent that three tons of coal had been stolen out of a flat containing 70 tons.

P.C. Routledge had received instructions on the 3rd Feb. to watch the flats. Proceeding to the place about three o'clock he saw a cart of coal loaded from the flats and had just left and saw Bridget Glynn a girl of about 10 years of age attempt to knock a large piece of coal from the back of the cart with a stick. After several attempts she succeeded and she immediately picked up the coal and ran away with it when she was apprehended by the police. On being taken into custody it was found that the coal weighed 17 lbs. Between 6 and 7 the same day the police

saw the two other prisoners going to the pace and picking up several pieces of coal and putting them into their aprons. After being taken into custody one had 47 lbs of coal and the other 42 lbs. On the recommendation of Mr Atkinson the magistrates agreed that the cases should be heard separately and the magistrates found them all guilty and sentenced Lynch and Hallighan to one month in prison. In the case of the prisoner Glynn was believed that her mother had out her up to it and she was sent to prison for 7 days.

ECCLESTON HALL COLLIERY.

The colliery was situated on the Eccleston Hall Estate. Coal had been mined on the estate during the eighteenth century by the local squire and various lessees. A colliery is also mentioned in this area in the 1894 Inspector's Report, when it was owned by the Worsley Mesnes Colliery Co. The colliery employed about 300. The 'Colliery Guardian' referred to several shafts already sunk on the estate by former lessees of the minerals. Two of the shafts were used by the Company to form part of their colliery. The colliery closed about 1910.

The opening of a new colliery was a great event in the district since it brought prospect of new employment. The opening could be the re-opening of the old Gillers Green Colliery which closed in the 1880's

A detailed description of the colliery and the engine appeared in the 'COLLIERY GUARDIAN' 30th. December 1892.

14th. August, 1891.

Colliery Strike.

Five weeks ago the Company gave notice to eighty men that they would receive a reduction in wages fro, 4/- to 2/6d. per ton. The men opposed this and the Miners' Agent, Thomas Glover was talking to the masters on their behalf but there was no progress and the men stopped work with no prospect of a settlement.

28th. August, 1891.

The strike continues with no prospect of a settlement and no steps taken to resolve the situation.

ECCLESTON HALL COLLIERY.

This colliery is situated 1.5 miles west of the town of St. Helens and 1.5 NE of Prescott. It is an old colliery now being reopened by the Worsley Menses Colliery co. of Wigan. The minerals are leased from Samuel Taylor whose estate adjoins the Knowsley Park estate the property of the Earl of Derby.

GEOLOGICAL.

The geological features are interesting the outcrop of the New Red Sandstone lying about half a mile to the south of the shafts which are sunk entirely through the coal measures.

The Bunter series of New Red Sandstone comprises, Upper Mottled sandstone, the Pebble beds, Lower Mottled Sandstone. The Pebble beds are estimated to be 600 ft thick and are largely developed in this locality the sandstone with it's peculiar quartz pebbles being used much for building.

Several shaft appear to have been sunk on the Eccleston Hall estate by former lessees of the minerals. Two of these shafts have been sunk to the Main Delf have been utilised by the resent Company who on commencing their operations found them full of water to the surface. They subsequently found out after a n immense volume of water had been lifted to the surface that water in the old working of the Flaggy Delf and main Delf mines had been dealt with. besides the ordinary feeders issuing from fissured sandstone in various parts of the two shafts which are running at the resent time the water lifting operations had in fact drained all the workings to the rise of the water levels in the main delf.

The north shaft or No 1 was 9 ft in diameter to the Main Delf and 84 yards deep and has been sunk 137 yards further, the same size to the Arley or Little Delf mine. The No 2 shaft is 60 yd south of No 1 and was sunk by the former lessees 84 yd and 10 ft in diameter to the

same delf. The resent Company have sunk this 137 yards further and 13 ft in diameter leaving the upper part stripped and relined at a future time.

WATER LIFTING.

The main task of clearing the water form the shafts was done by the No 2 winding engine of 70 hp by means of wrought iron barrels of 600 gallons capacity the other on No 1 shaft of 500 gallons capacity. The situation was well adopted to give the best results by this method one barrel being raised in one shaft while the other descended in the other. It is stated that in two months or more the quantity of water raised was 550 gallons per minute one barrel being raised and discharged every minute. This was supplemented afterwards by an engine and pump of the Tangy type placed on temporary bearings in each shaft being moved down in stages as the water was lowered.

The no 1 pump had one 14 in cylinder 2 ft stroke and 8 in double acting plunger. The No 2 had a 16 in cylinder 2 ft stroke and 7 in double acting plunger.

In deepening the shafts the main delf feeders were encountered but the principle rush of water came off when the Rushy Park old workings were reached which had been driven from a pair of shafts some distance away and sunk about sixty years ago. These workings being much less extensive that those named above were soon cleared of water. No feeders were found below the Rushy Park Mine. At the resent time No2 pump is placed in a lodge room in the Rushy Park mine and forces a small quantity of water 80 yd up to the lodge room in the Mine Delf where No 1 pump is placed permanently which forces water to the surface 80 yd through 6 in rising mains. this engine is driven at a speed of 45 rev per min delivering about 360 gallons per minute. These engines presently raise all the water that is now encountered.

The accompanying sketch shows a side view of a tank or barrel of 500 gallons capacity for raising water. the barrel being filled automatically and the lever E. When the barrel is lowered upon the running jiddy valve, A is forced upwards by the rod D. The valves are about 20 in in diameter.

The coal seams sunk through at the Eccleston shafts are as follows:-

	Thickness of coal Ft ins	Depth from the surface. yd.
Sir John Delf, coal	2 0	
Flaggy delf	Ft in.	
Coal	2 2	
Shale	1 2.	
Coal	2 2.	
	----- 4 4	

Main Delf:-

Coal	2 6.	
Clod	1 0.	
Coal with 9" poor in the middle	5 6	8 0
		84
Rushy Park Good house coal now being worked		4 6
		164
Arley Mine All intact	2 6	221.

WINDING.

The winding engines at the north of No 1 shaft has two horizontal cylinders 25 in by 38 in slide valves and an 11 ft cylindrical drum. the south or No 2 engine has two horizontal cylinders 25 in by 54 in slide valve run on rollers and there is a 11 ft drum. The engine house is placed between the shafts and serves both engines. Owing to a depth of 3 or 4 yd of drift the excavation for the foundations was heavy and the masonry of considerable depth consisted of bricks set in ordinary mortar and cement. The side walls of the house are of 14 in brickwork

HAULING.

An engine placed on the surface has been adapted for underground haulage. It has two horizontal cylinders 24 in in diameter and a 2 ft stroke. The reversing gear is moved by means of a large hand wheel and a pair of cog wheels.

BOILERS.

Two Lancashire boilers 30 ft by 7½ ft supply the steam at a pressure of 70 lbs to all the engines including the pumping engines of the shaft. There are four cross tubes in each flue the boilers are fed with an injector with live steam.

The headgear of the No 2 shaft is 60½ ft above the ground and the pit bank is 22 ft above the surface which gives ample height for the screening arrangements/

SCREENS.

The accompanying diagrams show the views of the screens at the colliery Fig 1 shows a which is a large coal screen fixed with steel bars the coal falls on a travelling steel band B 30 ft long and 4 ft wide the plates are 6 ft wide upon this band the coal is cleared of impurities and is delivered to a second screen separating the nuts which then fall into a hopper at N. At D a rising and falling shoot is provided. The slack hopper is at H. There is a door or stop at a which passes the coal through in regulated quantities. It is often seen that the coal falls on the travelling bands in heaps in which form it is impossible to clear out foreign matter properly. Fig 2 The large coal is treated on the jiggging screen J made of a wire network 40 sq. ft in area vibrated lengthways it is then delivered to the steel travelling band 30 ft by 40 ft from whence it passes through the shoot s into the trucks. this shoot had a movable end. The small coal then goes through the screen J drops on the plate P which conveys it to the head of another jiggging screen K with a reverse inclination. The area of the wirework is 24 sq. ft. the nuts pass over the screen in to the trucks at T and the slack which passes thorough fall into a hopper upon the conveyor G which carries to the trucks on separate line of rails .

FRODSHAM COLLIERY.

This was a small colliery in the St. Helens area that was mentioned in the 1894 Report as being under the ownership of the Liverpool and St. Helens Brick and Coal Co. with a workforce of 70 people.

GLADE HILL.

The colliery was situated at the bottom of Islands Brow. A colliery at Glade Hill was mentioned in the 1790's, and was worked by James Orrell of Blackbrook up to the 1820's. It next appeared in the 'Inspector's Reports' for 1850 and 1855, but not later than the 1870's. At that time it was owned by John and Thomas Johnson, who later became soap manufacturers.

GLADE HILL 18-03-1859
LLOYD George 59 furnaceman
Found dead in the return way

GLADE HILL 06-03-1858
HAUGHTON John 55 Fireman
Fall of stone from the roof of the mine

GLADE HILL 12-02-1857
ASHCROFT Thomas
In the jig-brow by a waggon running against him

GLADE HILL 19-04-1856
SWIFT Richard
Fall of roof

GLADE HILL 25-03-1854
GILROY B a boy
Crushed by trams in the level

GLADE HILL 07-07-1854
NAYLOR G
Crushed by a tram box on the jig brow

GLADE HILL 15-08-1853
MOLYNEAUX a boy
Breakage of the down brow rope in the Rushy Park pit

GLADE HILL 22-09-1853
TAYLOR Alice 21
Breakage of a wire rope working a small coal apparatus on the surface

GLADE HILL 18-11-1853
MANCHESTER J 41
Fall of coal

GLADE HILL 25-03-1854
GILROY B. a boy
Crushed by trams in the level

GLADE HILL 07-07-1854
NAYLOR G.
crushed by a box tram on the jig brow

GLADE HILL 19-04-1856
SWIFT Richard
Fall of roof

19-04-1856 MIR.

A collier neglected to get down the stratum which lies between the Higher Delf mine and the roof according to instructions which had been specially given him by the underlooker was on the day killed in consequence to get down the parting statum which must be removed immediately after the coal. in order to remedy this evil the description of the labour should be paid for separate from working the coal, as colliers are in the habit of allowing it to stand sometimes on props but frequently without any support till the daywage men in order to make the largest amount of wages. the labour had however to be performed during the following fortnight but this they do not consider.

GLADE HILL 12-02-1857
ASHCROFT Thomas
In the jig brow by a waggon running against him
12-02-1857 MIR.

The accident was caused by a waggon of coal being run off a table on the top of the jighbrow without a chain being attached. He was employed to remove waggons from the bottom of the first jighbrow and lower then to the second. Where coal has to be lowered from the rise workings to the pit eye by jighbrows or inclined planes one should not be in line with or immediately above or below the other

21-02-1857 ST.H I

John Ashcroft was moving waggons at the colliery when the brake would not work and he was dashed against the wall and killed.

GLADE HILL 06-03-1858
HAUGHTON John 55 fireman
Fall of stone from the roof of the mine

06-03-1858 CG.
John Houlton 55 furnaceman

ST.H I 31-03-1858.

John Houlton 55 furnaceman at the colliery was found dead in the workings at 4 pm on Saturday. A large piece of stone had fallen on him and he must have been killed going to work for the furnace was out. The inquest was at the Black Horse Verdict Accidental Death.

GLADE HILL 18-03-1859

LLOYD George 59 furnace tenter
Found dead in the return way

ST.H I 26-03-1859.

At the inquest into the death of George Lloyd 59 furnaceman who was found dead the previous night he had suffocated from fire damp while near the furnace

19-02-1870 ST.H STD.

Margaret Ryan a middle aged Irish women was charged with stealing 24 lbs of coal from groves colliery at Sutton, Joseph Heyes the overlooker at the pit said that at 8.15 he saw her on a coal waggon taking coal .She ran away but he caught her. She told him it was a very small piece of coal. She said to the Bench that her husband had been out of work since Christmas and she took the coal to make the children warm. There was nothing against the woman's character and the bench sent her to goal for 7 days

GERRARDS BRIDGE

The colliery was situated at the side of College Street near the canal. This colliery appeared in 1805 as 'Gerrotts Bridge', and again in 1829 in connection with the railways. In the late 1830's the colliery was owned by Speakman Caldwell and Co. The 1860's must have been quite profitable for the colliery, when it was raising 50,000 tons of coal per year, all transported by railway. The colliery closed in the 1870's. It last appeared in the Inspector's Report for 1873, when it was owned by William Middlehurst.

02-1845 Gerrards Bridge (MJ)

J. Briers was killed when the roof fell in at the colliery owned by Messrs Speakman Caldwells and Company.

12th. April, 1845. (MJ).

H. Kay was killed in an explosion of firedamp.

GERARDS BRIDGE. St. Helens, Lancashire. 2nd. June, 1847.

The colliery was the property of Messrs, Speakman, Caldwell and Company. On a Wednesday at about 4 a.m., the pit was working with men and boys below ground and boys and thirteen ponies . At 7 a.m., the explosion took place. All those in the pit escaped with the exception of eight men and boys who were working 1,000 yards from the shaft and they were suffocated along with three ponies. The coal caught fire and on Thursday was reported to '*be burning with great fury*'. No firedamp had been know in the pit prior to the explosion and it was reported that event though the mine was well ventilated, the men were provided with safety lamps but they did not use them, preferring to use candles.

Thos who died were;-

John Matthew aged 45 years, collier.

Peter Matthew aged 22 years, collier.

John Mathew aged 17 years, drawer.

David Matthew aged 15 years, drawer.

Joseph Matthew aged 12 years, drawer.

John Lee aged 17 years, drawer.

John Forest aged 12 years, drawer.

All sons of John who left a wife and several young children.

Joseph Worrall aged 50 years, collier who left a wife and five children.

The jury brought in a verdict of 'Accidental Death' caused by gas which came from the combustion of the coal and caused the explosion.

8th. June, 1851

T. Cartwright was killed falling out of a tub while ascending the shaft.

9th. October, 1851

P. Bridge was killed by a fall of roof.

11-05-1852

JOHNSON R. 20

Explosion of firedamp.

29th. May, 1852. Gerrards Bridge (MJ).

J. Anders was killed by an explosion.

05-07-1853

MARSH Thomas

Explosion of firedamp. Died 18th

02-08-1854

HASELDEN Edward

Died from and explosion of firedamp on 12th June. Burned

11-08-1854 WE.

At the Nelson Inn there was an inquest on the body of Edward Hazeldene aged 17 years who died as a result of an explosion at the pit. verdict Accidental death due to the use of a naked candle.

15-09-1854 WE

On Wednesday the Sir John Mine at the colliery Thomas Pickavance was injured.

25-11-1854

FILLINGHAM A.

Fall of roof

19-12-1855

JOHNSON Joseph

Fall of roof

21-07-1856

TWIST John

Explosion of firedamp

21-07-1856 MIR

A collier went to a working place containing firedamp day after day knowing all the time that his lamp was defective. On the morning of the accident a large quantity of gas was present which fired at his lamp and burned him so severely that he died soon afterwards.

02-08-1856 ST.H I.

The inquest into the death of John Twist was held. Mr Higson attended Verdict accidental death.

9ST.H I 13 -09-1856

Robert McGill the underlooker pleaded guilty to not providing correct ventilation in the mine at the Magistrates Court He pleaded guilty and was fined £2 plus 19/2d costs

17-07-1857

NO NAME

Drawn over the pulley

02-09-1857

BALSHAW Ellis Collier

Fall of roof

05-09-1857. ST.HI.

At the inquest into the Queens Arms Parr into the death of Ellis Balshaw Verdict accidental death

18-11-1857

JONES Thomas Fireman
Explosion of firedamp.

17-04-1858 CG.

BREACH OF THE RULES.

At St. Helens Petty Sessions on Tuesday last John Fegan a waggoner at the Gerards Bridge colliery was charged with a breach of the Special rule No. 9 smoking in the pit and pleaded guilty. Alexander Allen the overlooker was called and stated that the men and been told of the rules and a copy given to him. Richard Low the fireman in the mine smelt tobacco and saw sparks drop out of the pipe. he was found guilty and committed to Kirkdale for three months hard labour

29-05-1858 CG.

SMOKING IN THE PIT.

At St. Helens Petty Sessions on Tuesday last Thomas Cunliffe a drawer at the pit was charged with a breach of the Special Rule No. 9 smoking in the Rushy Park pit on the 13th inst.. Lamps were exclusively used in the ,mine and he had unlocked his. He was sentenced to six weeks imprisonment at Kirkdale Prison.

08-06-1858

JAFFAN Patrick 22 Waggoner
Between railway trucks on the surface

10-11-1858

DERBYSHIRE Thomas 37 Dataller
Fall of roof while he was preparing to support with timber

13-11-1858 CG.

ACCIDENT AT THE COLLIERY.

On Wednesday last Thomas Derbyshire was killed at the colliery belonging to Caldwell McCormack by a fall of roof. He was removing rubbish from a fall in the Sir John mine and another fall occurred crushing him fearfully. He must have died instantaneously.

06-11-1858 ST.H I.

Thomas Derbyshire was killed by a fall of roof in the Sir John mine aged 40 years Verdict accidental death.

20-12-1858

HAYES Edward 11 Drawer
Fall of roof which brought down the timber in the road

From "THE ST.HELENS INTELLEGENCER".

7th.December 1858.

Ralph Hunt the undermanager at the colliery was charged with smoking in the pit but there was insufficient evidence and the case was dismissed.

5th. February 1859.

At the inquest on William Bradshaw, aged 30 years, who was found dead in the Rushy Park Mine and had been suffocated by choke damp. At the inquest at the Nelson Arms Inn, the jury found a verdict of accidental death. (St.HI).

16th. November 1860.

Peter Taylor and Edward Frodsham were charged with a breach of the Special Rules in neglecting to give the underlooker notice of a days absence. They pleaded guilty but Taylor said he was ill and Frodsham said that he had overslept. The proprietor of the mine did not press the matter and the bench inflicted a penalty of 40/- plus costs. (WO).

2nd. February 1861.

Thomas Bradbury was charge with stealing coal valued at one farthing. He was seen walking along the footpath at the side of the colliery and James Turner saw him pick up some coal and told him he was trespassing. He said he had used the path for twenty years. He was sent for trial to the Sessions. (PR).

28th. December 1858.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

A little boy aged 10 years, Edward Hade, was reported to have been killed in the Rushy Park Mine by a fall of roof. He was a drawer and the inquest was at the Nelson Inn verdict accidental death.(St.HI).

07-12-1858 ST.H I

Ralph Hunt the undermanager at the colliery was charged with smoking in the mine but the case was dismissed due to lack of evidence.

01-02-1859

BRADSHAW WILLIAM 31 Fireman
Suffocated in foul air

05-02-1859 ST.HI

At the inquest into the death of William Bradshaw aged 30 years at the Nelson Arms Inn it was stated that he was found dead the Rushy Park Mine and had been suffocated by choke damp. verdict Accidental death

16-08-1859

HAZELDON James 58 banksman
Falling down the shaft

29-10-1859

ATHERTON John 64 collier
Falling from the holing in the main coal

25-02-1860 PR.

COLLIERS MARCH.

It is reported that the colliers do not know what to do in the strike. the masters will not give way and many men are at work. On Thursday morning there was a meeting from which tow to three hundred marched to Haydock to seek the support of the colliers there. It was resolved that the strike would continue.

10-02-1860 PR

It was reported that the strike was terminated.

03-03-1860 PR.

The colliers strike continues at Radleys colliery where they claim that they are being paid 1854 wages. early on Saturday chain pit was working and the colliers turned back.

16-11-1860 WO

Peter Taylor and Edward Frodsham were charged with a breach of the special rules at the colliery in neglecting to give the underlooker notice of a days absence. they pleaded guilty but Taylor said he was ill and Frodsham said that he overslept. The proprietor of the mine did not press the matter and the bench inflicted the highest penalty of 40/- plus costs

02-020-1861 PR.

Thomas Bradbury was charged with stealing coal valued at one farthing. He was seen walking along the side of the colliery and James Turner saw him pick up some coal and said

he was trespassing. he said that there had been a path there for twenty years. He was sent for trial to the sessions

12-04-1861

FINCH Cornelius 28 Sinker

Falling out of the hoppet while ascending

20-04-1861 CG.

ACCIDENT AT THE COLLIERY.

A collier named Finch residing at Thrvers Street St. Helens was killed last week by falling from the cage as it was ascending the shaft

31-05-1862 MIR.

The night watchman Thomas Roberts accidentally fell to his death down the pit three hundred yard deep whilst rendering assistance to one of the pit men who was about to descend. there was a fence to prevent accidents but this was temporally out of use at the time.

31-05-1862

McLEAN James 32 Nightwatchman

Falling in the shaft from the surface

06-06-1862 WO.

At the inquest held into the death of James McClean at the White Horse Inn it was stated that of Friday night he was standing close to the shaft holding alight when he stepped backwards and fell 303 yd and was fearfully mangled. Verdict accidental Death he was a married man aged 33 years and had two children.

04-06-1862 ST.H .

James Mc Clean was holding a lamp while a ox was being loaded into the cage

11-10-1862 ST.H N.

Some boys said that they'd seen a youth fall down an old coal pit near Gerrards Bridge. every effort was made and a winding was placed over the shaft and a man went down 38 yards and found a hungry dog that had lived for a number of days on the carcasses of it's more unfortunate friends that had fallen down the shaft. The children were severely admonished by the police

02-10-1863

APPLETON Thomas 45 Sinker

He fell from the scaffold while repairing the shaft

10-10-1863 CG.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

On Friday last the deceased an engineman named Thomas Appleton aged 48 years was engaged with another man named Rawson in repairing the shaft of the pumping engine. They were standing on a swinging scaffold suspended from ropes at the top of the shaft. there was a also another rope that lowered a hoppet down the shaft. The hoppet was filled with bricks and when it was wound up it caught the ropes of the scaffold and upset it. Appleton fell to the bottom some eighty yards and the other clung on and was saved. verdict Accidental death

10-10-1863 WO.

At the inquest last Monday in to the death of Thomas Appleton at the Royal Arms in Parr it was stated that he fell down the shaft. Verdict accidental Death.

21-11-1863 ST.H N.

A temporary strike was reported at the colliery

03-07-1864

PARR William 46 Collier

Fall of top coal

08-07-1865 WO.

At the inquest into the death of William Parr at the Royal Inn Westfield Street it was stated that he died from injuries received when the coal fell on him. He was 45 years old.

MIR 1865.

ABANDONMENT OF GERARDS BRIDGE COLLIERY.

Late in the autumn of 1864 Old Gerards Bridge Colliery at St. Helens was abandoned and water began to accumulate in the old workings and waste which had been made and gradually filled the shafts. The Gerards Bridge mines are continually worked by Ravenhead and Croppers Hill collieries.

A sufficient barrier appears to have been left in the Rushy Park Mine alongside the Gerards Bridge boundary to prevent the influx of water in that direction but the pits which are sunk through the old workings of the Ravenhead mines are bordered by only with a nine inch brick wall. If therefore the Ravenhead mines were inundated it would will the St Helens mines also. In the plans of the Ravenhead mines it shows that for some distance a barrier of 20 yards thick has been left whilst on the workings next to Gerards Bridge but not the whole length and persons who have worked there declare that the barrier had been cut through.

The owners of the Croppers Hill Colliery admitted that his workings had penetrated the goaf at Gerards Bridge years previously and that there was a barrier but such as would be formed by the subsidence of the strata after the coal had been taken away. Unless the barrier had been set out by carefully surveyed plans it could scarcely be depended on. The surveyor could not always see the level to which it had been drowned. In many cases extending over a period of years he would have to take the information from the overlookers which was not always correct. Under the circumstances therefore I have no confidence in the safety of the workpeople employed in the St. Helens, Ravenhead and Croppers Hill mines. It was manifestly attended with all serious doubts the information available to me was not fully reliable and risk to life was immense. I therefore believe it to be an imperative duty on my part to serve the owner of each colliery with a notice under the 17th Section of the Act 23drd. and 24th Vict chapter 151 which the enquiry was referee to arbitration of Mr. John George Blackburn of Oldham who was appointed as the sole arbitrator to inquire into and decide all the matters in this dispute. the defendants pleaded that the danger was not on their own premises or of their own making but in the property of other people, they were not liable to remove it and on the other hand it was contended that they were justified in continuing their work so long as the danger existed. the motives were also objected to as not being in accordance with the Act for the Inspector of Mines.

On these questions being raised, the arbitrator adjourned the inquiry to give me an opportunity of obtaining legal opinion from the Officers of the Crown. the opinion not only fully established the legality of the notices. the arbitrator decided that the barriers were sufficient protection and that there was no risk to life by continuing the work of the said collieries with the water hanging over them but there was a cause for inquiry.

REPERCUSSIONS OF CLOSING THE GERARDS BRIDGE COLLIERY.

MIR 1865

Copy of the notice sent to a James Radley Esq.

MANCHESTER 12th May 1865.

Sir,

As Inspector of coal mines for the district which comprises the Croppers Hill Colliery near St. Helens in the County of Lancaster, of which you are the owner, I beg to give you notice in pursuance of the 17th Section of the act for the Regulation and Inspection of Mines, 23rd and 2th Vict, Chap 151, that I have found, on inspection, examination and inquiry, that the said Croppers Hill Colliery is in great danger of suddenly being flooded by water now accumulating in pats and shafts of the Old Gerards bridge Colliery thereto adjoining, the workings of which have recently been suspended and that the said Croppers Hill colliery, otherwise than as provided against by any express provision of the said act, or the general or special rules, therein is dangerous or defective so as, in my opinion, to threaten or tend to

threaten to the bodily injury of some person. And I beg to give notice that the grounds of my said opinion are as follows :

That there is no satisfactory proof of there having been a proper, substantial and well defined barrier, portion or pillar of coal left in each mine unworked, intact and capable of securely holding back the water now accumulating in the workings, pits etc. of the Gerards Bridge Colliery, as it acquires additional pressure, which is constantly accruing and that in the event of the said accumulation of water suddenly liberating itself, it will most certainly inundate the workings of the mines of the Croppers Hill Colliery belonging to yourself and partners and thereby imperil the lives of the persons employed there

Your attention is particularly called to the 17th section of the Act which section is attached to this notice,

I am &c

PETER HIGSON Inspector of Mines.

MIR 1865.

A COPY OF THE AWARD OF THE ARBITRATOR.

To all those present shall come I, John George Blackburn of Oldham in the County of Lancaster, mining engineer, send greetings.

Whereas Peter Higson, and Inspector of coal and ironstone Mines for the said district which comprises the Croppers Hill Colliery near St. Helens in the said County of Lancaster, did, by writing under his had, dated 12 th May 1865, give notice to James Radley the owner of the said Colliery in pursuance of the 17th Section of the Act for the Regulation of Coalmines, 23 and 24 Victoria, chap. 151, that the said Peter Higson had found, on inspection, examination and y inquiry, that the said Croppers Hill colliery was in great danger of being suddenly flooded by water accumulating in the workings and shafts of the Old Gerards Bridge there unto adjoining, the working of which colliery had been frequently suspended, that the said Croppers Hill colliery was otherwise than as provided against by any express provision of the said Act of the General or Special Rules thereunder, dangerous or defective so as, in the opinion of the said inspector, to threaten or tend to threaten to the bodily injury of some person and he gave to the said James Radley further notice that the grounds for his opinion were as follows:

That there was no satisfactory proof that there had been a proper, substantial and well defined barrier or portion of coal left in each mine unworked intact and capable of securely holding back the water accumulating in the workings and the pit of the Old Gerards Bridge colliery, as it acquired additional pressure which was constantly accruing, and that, in the event of the said accumulated water suddenly liberating itself it would certainly inundate the workings of the Croppers Hill Colliery belonging to the said James Radley and thereby imperil the lives of the persons working there.

And whereas the said James Radley did, within the twenty days after the receipt by him of the hearing cited notice, give notice in writing, dated 1st June 1865, to the said Peter Higson and also to the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Baronet, one of Her Majesty's Principle secretaries of State, of his objections to the remedy of the danger mentioned in the said herein before recited notice and ground thereof, and therein nominated as arbitrators in the matter, Thomas Livesley Esq, me the said John George Blackburn, Isiah Booth, Jacob Higson and George Gilroy being practical mining engineers not interested or employed in the management of the said colliery and whereas to the said Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Baronet did by writing under his had dated 23rd day of June 1865 appoint me and the said five persons nominated to the arbitrator to determine in the matter of difference.

Now therefore the said John George Blackburn, having taken it upon himself the said reference and having before the said parties thereto and having heard, weighed and considered the several allegations and statements and pursued and examined plans submitted to me for the mines and the workings of the said Croppers Hill colliery and of the mines adjoining workings near thereto, the correctness of the plans so produced to me being established and as far as practicable to my satisfaction, do find, order and determine that, although there was on the part of the said Inspector probable cause to suspect the dangers apprehended and particularly mentioned in his notice, the works of the said James Radley were not dangerous or defective, that the lives of the persons employed in the said Croppers Hill colliery are not imperilled nor is there any danger of bodily injury to them the said persons by any sudden liberation of water accumulating in the Gerards Bride colliery for the reasons following, that is to say:- First, that before any water so accumulated can reach the workings of the said James Radley it must rise

considerably higher in th level that it stands now. Second, that when it attains such a level as to flow into the mines and works of the said James Radley. It will approach in a regular steam or overflow from the aid accumulation of water, and lastly that the approach of such a stream will be easy in detection. The pits in which the said water is accumulating being open and admitting daily measurement to show it's height in the said pits and consequently it's level as affecting the pit and works of the said James Radley.

In Witness whereof I, John George Blackburn have hereunto set my hand on 20th day of August 1865.

JOHN G. BLACKBURN

Signed in the presence of:-

CHAS. ED BLACKBURN, Clerk.

With JNO. PONSENBY, Solicitor, Oldham.

MIR 1865.

COPY OF THE NOTICE SENT TO JAMES HADDOCK ESQ.

Manchester 12th July 1865

Sir, As Inspector of Coalmines and Ironstone mines for the district which comprises the Ravenhead Colliery near St. Helens in the County of Lancaster, for which you are the managing partner, I beg to give you notice in pursuance of the 17th Section of the Act for the Regulation of Coalmines 13th Section 14th Vict Chap 151 that I have found on inspection examination and inquiry that the Ravenhead mines are in great danger of suddenly being flooded by water now accumulating in the pits and shafts of the Old Gerards Bridge colliery there unto adjoining the workings of the colliery which had recently been suspended and the said Ravenhead colliery otherwise than as provided against by any express provision under the Act the General or Special rules thereunder, dangerous or defective, so as in my opinion to threaten or ten to threaten to the bodily injury of some person. And I beg to give you further notice that on the grounds of my said opinion are as follows:-

That there is no satisfactory proof of there having been a proper, substantial and well defined barrier, portion or pillar of coal left in such mine unworked, intact and capable of securely holding back the water now accumulating in the workings of the Old Gerards Bridge colliery and as it acquires additional pressure, which is constantly accruing, and that in the event of the water suddenly liberating itself it will most certainly inundate the mines of th Ravenhead colliery belonging to yourself and your partners and thereby imperil the lives of persons employed there. Your attention is particularly drawn to the 17th section of the Act which section is attached to this notice.

I am &c.

PETER HIGSON.

GILLERS GREEN.

The colliery was situated on Burrows Lane, opposite Gillers Lane. There was a colliery in that area between 1753 and 1765, worked by the local squire, Mr. B.T. Eccleston. Another colliery is recorded in that area in the 1840's and 1850's and this colliery had links with the railways. The 'Inspector's Reports' of 1873 show a colliery being sunk there, but records show it was closed in 1883.

13-02-1875 ST.H STD.

There was a serious accident at the colliery on Monday morning when John Alexander Brophy 23 lost his life. He and his brother were being drawn up the shaft and came to 20 yd from the top when it was suddenly checked which caused the cage to be knocked against the side of the shaft and he was thrown out and fell 45 yd down the shaft. He died half an hour later.

09-02-1875.

BROPHY John 23 collier.

Falling put of the hoppet while ascending the shaft.

15-07-1875

BIBBY Thomas 22 engineman

Found drowned at the bottom of the sinking pit.

Colliery owned by The Gillers Green Colliery Co in 1875.

12-08-1877 MIR.

In the Main Delf Mine a little firedamp was met in a cutting and was fenced according to the General Rule 9. The injured man left the work he was engaged in and wandered to this part of the mine carrying a candle and appears to have passed the fence to satisfy his curiosity when the gas exploded. He after admitted to the inspector that this was the cause. Cause naked lights.

9th. February 1975.

John Brophy aged 23 years, a collier was killed when he fell from the hoppet while ascending the pit. (MIR).

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

15th July 1875.

Fatal Accident at Colliery.

An accident occurred at the new sinking at Gillers Green colliery. Thomas Bibby, an engineman aged 22 years of age of 5, Chapel Street, Prescott, He went to work about 5.30 on Wednesday afternoon. About 10 p.m. he was lowered down the shaft to oil the engine at the bottom. About two minutes later he was drawn up again and nothing more was heard of him until 6 a.m. the following morning when the sinkers went down to work and found him dead floating in the water at the bottom and the engine still working. It was supposed that after being drawn up he had accidentally fallen down the shaft overnight which was 22 yards deep. The body was conveyed to the Stanley Arms.

27th. November 1875.

Fatality in Pit Shaft.

At the sinking pit, water was being drawn up in buckets when at 4.30 some water spilled out and James MacDonald, aged 27 years, a sinker of Eccleston was killed and Matthew Hampson aged 30 years of Rainford Street, received head injuries.(St.HStd).

PRESCOT REPORTER

9th. February, 1878.

Colliers Leaving Work Without Notice.

John Berry and James Berry were charged with leaving the Lancashire Fireclay Colliery without notice and had a claim of £2 damages against him. John Cross, Manager of Gillers Green colliery stated that on the 23rd. January, the defendant and John and James Berry and William Forshaw asked him for work. He took them on the brow to drive it down at 7/- a yard and 1/6d. a ton for twenty yards and when they got on the level they could go on the same rate or cease work altogether. When they had worked a few hours they stopped and took up their tools. Witnesses were called and the case was withdrawn.

GIN LANE COLLIERY.

It was referred to in the 1850 Report to be under the ownership of David Bromilow and Co. and was in Parr, St. Helens.

GREEN LANE COLLIERY.

This colliery was situated at the side of Dentons Green Lane near Duke Street. The colliery was opened in 1845, being sunk by Robert Whyte, but only worked for a few years, closing in 1848.

GREENGATE COLLIERY.

The colliery was situated by Elephant Lane. This colliery was first mentioned in 1869, when coal was being sold by W. Walmesley and Co. In the Inspector's Report of 1873, the colliery had four pits, all drifts, and were worked by John Cross and Co. Ltd. He was the partner of W.J. Menzies of Greenbank Alkali Works. The colliery later appeared in the ownership of the Greengate Brick and Tile Co, when there were only eighteen men working there. The colliery closed in 1915. This colliery was owned by the Greengate Alkali Company and had a close connection with the chemical industry in the town.

From 'THE REPORT OF THE MINES INSPECTOR'.
10th. January 1873.

Michael McDermott aged 16 years, a labourer, was killed by an explosion of powder left by sinkers in a hut.

10th. January, 1873

Michael McDermott aged 16 years, a labourer was killed by an explosion of powder left by sinkers in a hut. (MIR)

15th. January, 1877.

Robert Ashcroft aged 22 years, a collier died after being injured in a fall of roof 9th. May. (MIR)

22nd. July, 1877.

William Wilson aged 31 years, collier was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR)

19th. March, 1879.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

5th. December, 1874.

Breaches of Colliery Rules.

Joseph Dingsdale was charged with contravening Special Rule 4 at Greengate colliery. He pleaded guilty and was fined with costs.

PRESCOT REPORTER

25th. September, 1874.

Fatal Accident at Thatto Heath.

Peter Lucas aged 58 years was killed in Greengate colliery. He and others were clearing an obstruction caused by a fall of roof. They had just about completed the work when a stone fell from the roof weighing about half a ton and killed him instantly.

PRESCOT REPORTER

9th. June, 1877.

Serious accident at a St. Helens Colliery.

On Monday after noon a serious accident took place to a young man name Henry M'Caulish who was employed as a waggoner in the No.3 pit better known at 'Jockey Brown' it belonging to Messrs. Menzies. A quantity of stone fell on him seriously injuring his head. He was sent home in a semi conscious state and attended by Dr. Griffiths who ordered his removal to the Cottage Hospital fearing that he had have had internal injuries.

PRESCOT REPORTER

28th. July, 1877.

Fatal Colliery Accident in St. Helens.

The accident was in the No.3 pit better known at 'Jockey Brown' it belonging to Messrs. Menzies at Thatto Heath when William Wilson, a collier was getting coal, when he heard John Grundy who was working with others, call for help. A number of men went to the spot and found that about three tons of stone and rubbish had fallen upon Wilson. He was released as soon as possible but it was found that Wilson was quite dead and Grundy had his thigh broken in several places. Wilson was taken to his home in Havelock Street and Grundy to Smithy Brow and Dr. Griffiths called. Wilson was 31 years of age and left a wife but no children.

PRESCOT REPORTER

9th. June, 1877.

Serious accident at a St. Helens Colliery.

On Monday after noon a serious accident took place to a young man name Henry M'Caulish who was employed as a waggoner in the No.3 pit better known at 'Jockey Brown' it belonging to Messrs. Menzies . A quantity of stone fell on him seriously injuring his head. He was sent home in a semi conscious state and attended by Dr. Griffiths who ordered his removal to the Cottage Hospital fearing that he had have had internal injuries.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

9th. June, 1877.

Serious Accident at Greengate Colliery.

Henry McCormack met with an accident on Monday morning at the Jockey Brow pit where he was employed as a waggoner. He was following his employment when a quantity of loose stone fell from the roof on him seriously injuring him. He was taken home in a semi-conscious state and seen by Dr. Griffiths who ordered his removal to the Cottage Hospital. Fortunately no bones were broken and he is expected to make a full recovery.

George Greenough aged 36 years, fireman was crushed to death by a loaded tub as he passed the bottom of the balance brow owing to the chain breaking. (MIR)

PRESCOT REPORTER

13th. December, 1879.

Mysterious Death at a St. Helens Colliery.

John Twist, 39 years of age was found dead at the No.1 level of the Jockey Brow colliery. he went to work and 3 a.m. and nothing more was heard of him until twelve when a friend went to the colliery and asked the underlooker where he was. The underlooker and the foreman went down and made a search and found him dead and partly dressed at the place where he had been working. There were no marks on him. he was removed home and the inquest was held at the Golden Lion. It was thought he had died from apoplexy or disease. A witness said there was a twelve to fifteen percent of gas in the atmosphere and if he had died from damp then his relatives would be entitled to some money. A post mortem was directed. Elijah West who worked on the same level said he thought he had ad found a little damp. John Wynn the assistant foreman said that there was no gas when he examined. Thomas Barton, the underlooker of the mine said he had never had a complaint of damp. Dr Griffiths made the examination and came to the conclusion that the man had died from suffocation which indicated poisoning by gas. The Inspector said that when he inspected the colliery he had found the ventilation weak and the colliers did not always complain to the officials even though they often felt unwell. The jury retired to consider their verdict and after a quarter of an hour when they agreed that he had met his death from suffocation and censured the officials for bad management. They also suggested that someone be appointed to see that all the men left after the day shift before the night shift men started work

06-12-1879

TWIST John 40 Collier

Found dead at his working place. Supposed to have been suffocated by carbonic gas

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER

15th. February, 1881.

Petty Sessions.

Mary Callighan and John Keefe were charged with wilful damage to a railway embankment at Greenbank by picking and hauling coal from it. The prosecution said that people were in habit of going to embankment to pick through the waste for small coal and pulled the bank to pieces. The two defendants had been caught by a constable stationed at Greenbank colliery. He said he saw prisoners 'rooting' in the embankment and remove small quantities of coal. Keefe had a bag half full of coal which he dropped as he ran off. The defendants were each fined 2/6d. with 7/6d. costs.

PRESCOT REPORTER

28th January, 1882.

Closing of Greengate Colliery.

The Greengate Colliery Brick and Tile Co. at Thatto Heath is failing and the proprietors have decided to give notice to the workforce which recently expired and only a few men are now engaged in putting things in order. The colliery was opened about twelve years ago by John Cross and worked by Mr. Menzies and recently by the company of which he is a director.

HALSNEAD COLLIERY.

The colliery was in Whiston and appears in the Inspector's Reports in 1850 as being owned by Richard Willis. In 1855 it was owned by Lee, Williams and Pugh. The colliery then disappeared from the Reports for a number of years but it appeared again in 1888 under the name of the Halsnead Colliery Co., Whiston, Prescot. It was reported as closing in 1895.

From THE ST. HELENS STANDARD.

20th March 1869

Colliery explosion at Whiston.

On Tuesday week an explosion took place at the Bye pit at the Halsnead colliery by which three miners were burnt to the body. It was about two months since water got into the pit and it had been cleared only a few days ago. Three men John Cross a fireman Samuel Briscoe, miner and Turbeck William Swift of Whiston went to fill a hollow in the roof when a quantity of gas that had accumulated burnt the men about the head and hands Naked lights were used.

4th. May, 1867. (PR).

Explosion at Halsnead.

On Monday morning almost as soon as the men had gone down the pit, there was an explosion in No.1 pit at the colliery belonging to Messrs. Lea, Williams and Pugh of Whiston. Early in the morning a fireman went down to make his examination and he reported that all was right but almost immediately as the men got into the mine there was an explosion. Two men named Thomas and Henry Lunt were severely burnt about the head face and upper parts of the body and Thomas Swift was slightly burnt and a young man named Berryll was slightly burnt on his legs.

13th. March. 1869 (PR)

Explosion At Whiston

An explosion occurred at Bye Pit, Halsnead colliery, by which three miners were burnt about their body. Water had got into the pit which had been cleared only a few days before. The water had caused a portion of the roof to cave in. On Thursday morning with John Cross, fireman, and miners Samuel Briscoe and William Simm were preparing to fill up the hollow in the roof when a quantity of gas which had accumulated in the hollow ignited. The men were using naked lights.

PRESCOT REPORTER

12th. December, 1874.

Fatal Accident at Whiston.

On Wednesday about 2 o'clock, a collier, William Mason aged 70 years was working in the Halsnead colliery, Whiston when a portion of the roof fell and crushed him to death. Several others were working nearby and escaped injury. The unfortunate man lived in Whiston and had worked in the colliery for a great number of years. The inquest was held at the Railway Hotel, Whiston.

Prescot Reporter

12th. June 1880.

Fire at Whiston Colliery.

A fire was reported at Halsnead colliery which was attended to without loss of life or limb. There are four pits known as Nos. 1 and 2, Bye and Engine pit. The latter was the pumping pit. The fire broke out in the no.2 pit when the men had gone home and bricklayers were engaged in strengthening the shafts and they were using paraffin lamps. It is believed that one of these lamps was dropped and the timber caught fire. There was also a suspicion that an escape of gas had occurred. Work was going on to control the fire but it was reported that

the efforts were unavailing. It is hoped that the pits will be opened in a day or two. On the 17th. July, 1880 it was reported that it was thought the fire had been extinguished but it seems to have gained ground and various experiments have been tried and proved futile. A violent explosion of gas took place at the No.2 pit while operations were being carried on but no one was injured. The explosion caused great consternation in the district with many rushing to the pit fearing a calamity. The pit has again been closed.

PRESCOT REPORTER

28th January, 1882.

Colliery Accident at Whiston

John Banyon, a miner at Halshead colliery when a quantity of coal fell and crushed his foot. he is now doing well.

PRESCOT REPORTER

28th January, 1882.

Colliery Accident at Whiston

James Cooper was driving a road at the Halshead colliery when a fall of roof took place and he was injured in the chest. He was attended to by Dr. Brindle and is now well.

Prescot Reporter

10th. June, 1882.

Colliery Accident at Whiston.

A young man named George Roscoe, collier at Halshead colliery was moving his tools when a side fell in on him and he was severely crushed. He was attended to at home by Dr. Brindle when it was ascertained that his back was injured and there was internal damage. He was in a critical condition but later reports said that he was improving.

PRESCOT REPORTER

30th. June, 1883.

Accident at Whiston Colliery.

On Tuesday afternoon at Halshead colliery five men were employed pulling down an old engine house when the wall suddenly fell and a large portion fell on the back of James Derbyshire and Charles Galloway of Church Lane was struck on the foot. Both men were attended to by Dr. Brindle and were not found to be seriously injured and it was expected that they would soon resume work.

PRESCOT REPORTER

18th. August, 1883.

Colliery Accident at Whiston.

George Travis, a young man, who was employed at Leigh's colliery, Whiston on the pit bank. He was coupling some wagons when one of his hands accidentally got caught between two buffers and several fingers were crushed off. he was taken home and attended to by Dr. Brindle and was reported to be progressing favourably.

PRESCOT REPORTER

15th. September, 1883.

What Might Have Been A Fatal Accident.

At Halshead colliery property of Messrs. Leighs a middle aged man, William Turner who lived in Stank Lane, was engaged as a miner when a large stone fell from the roof. fellow workmen plucked Turner away just in time to prevent the stone falling on him. The stone bruised his thigh and he was taken home and attended to by the Doctor and was reported to be doing well.

PRESCOT REPORTER

29th. September, 1883.

Narrow Escape at Whiston Colliery.

Samuel Briscoe, collier, an elderly man was working at Halshead colliery when about a ton of roof gave way and fell on him. William Mason and eight other colliers managed to get him out. This took about an hour and he was found to be alive. His right arm was broken and

he was severely crushed and shaken. he was taken home and attended to by the doctor who reported him to be in a dangerous condition.

PRESCOT REPORTER

29th. September, 1883.

Narrow Escape at Whiston Colliery.

John Hampson, collier, met with an accident at the Wigan and Whiston colliery and was reported to be progressing favourably.

St. H Reporter.

26th. July, 1889.

Fall of Roof at Whiston (Halshead).

John Henry Lawrenson of Whiston while he was engaged in getting coal when a portion of the roof fell in on him. He was badly bruised and the Dr. saw him and said he was progressing favourably.

25th. September, 1891.

Closing of Halshead Colliery.

HARDSHAW COLLIERY.

Coal had been mined in the Hardshaw district since the eightieth century and the area was covered with small collieries at this time. There were several owners, Reverend Baldwin, W. Cotham and West and Co. In the nineteenth century the business of the colliery was documented in the 'Hardshaw Colliery Letter Book' (1805-1815.) It was owned by the Greenall family, the local brewers, and Joseph Churton, a local doctor. The colliery was mentioned in the 1855 'Inspector's Report' when John Middlehurst is recorded as the owner. It produced about 9,000 tons of coal a year, which was sold locally. The colliery closed in 1867.

From 'THE REPORT OF THE MINES INSPECTOR'.

26th. June 1862.

Bennett Carter aged 31 years, a collier, was killed by a fall of roof.

There are many deaths of colliers, drawers and datallers that are recorded in the Inspectors Reports by these simple words.

HARDSHAW 26-06-1862

CARTER Bennett 31 collier

Fall of roof.

HOLLIN HEY COLLIERY.

This colliery was situated at the side of Old Garswood Road. Little is known of this colliery only that it was owned by James Gerner & Sons, its manpower was 19, and it closed in 1934.

LAFFACK.

The colliery was situated in Newlyn and Bodmin Groves. The Legh Family of Lyme were mining in that area in the 1760's, when it was sometimes referred to as 'Laffog'. In the

1840's, John and Thomas Johnson were the owners of Laffak, with the colliery appearing in the 1850 and 1855 Inspector's Reports but not in any Report later than the 1870's. Production was reported to be 60,000 tons per year in 1862.

Location SJ 528973

First reference in 1769 Baker and Harris. Still working 1875.

Mines Inspector Report.

27th. December, 1850.

The engine tender, who was not named was reported to have been killed by falling down the shaft.

Mining Journal.

13th. February, 1851.

It was reported that a 15 year old boy was run over by a tram and seriously injured. He was not brought out of the pit for four hours even though his father was working in the pit.

Mines Inspector Report.

18th. September, 1851.

J. Hornsey was reported to have been killed at the colliery.

Mines Inspector Report.

16th. October, 1851.

A 20 year old man names McGuire was killed by 'falling from a strip which he had laid hold of after work'.

Mines Inspector Report.

31st. July, 1852.

J. Thomas, a boy was killed when he was crushed against the roof while riding on a tram.

Mines Inspector Report.

4th. April, 1853.

Two colliers were reported to have been killed by a fall of roof while drawing props. There is no record of their names.

Mines Inspector Report.

20th. July, 1853.

James Twist was killed by a fall of coal.

Mines Inspector Report.

18th. January, 1854

Three persons, whose names were not recorded, were killed in an explosion of firedamp. The Inspector commented that the men died from burns from an explosion at the edge of the goaf. He commented, "the lighting of the gas was traced to the opening of a lamp. Discipline with regard to lamps seems to be lax in the colliery".

27th. January, 1854, "The Wigan Observer' reports an inquest on the previous Friday at the Talbot Inn, before Mr. Driffield, the County Coroner held an inquest on the body of a boy named James Marsh who was killed in an explosion of firedamp at the colliery. The inquest was adjourned so that the Government Inspector could make an inspection of the pit. The verdict was 'he died from an explosion of firedamp'. This could be one of the three men involved in the explosion.

The Wigan Examiner.

3rd. May, 1854.

It was reported that two men, William Tinstall and John Purves were slightly injured in an explosion of firedamp. They were engaged in putting a cap on the roof when a fall let some gas escape and it fired at the candle. Purves had burns to his hands and face.

The Wigan Examiner.

3rd. November, 1854.

In inquest in to the death of John Connah aged 20 years who was killed on Wednesday by hitting his head on a rod when descending the pit when he looked over the side of the cage. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

The Mines Inspectors Report.
28th. February, 1855.

J. Fairclough, a boy was reported to have been killed by falling down one of the pits. There is no record that he worked at the pit.

'The Wigan Examiner' of the 16th. March, 1855, gives more information on the accident. John Fairclough took the hoppet down the pit and signalled to descend when he fell out and was killed. The inquest was held at the Royal Arms at Parr which was attended by the Government Inspector when a verdict of 'accidental death' was returned.

The Mines Inspectors Report.
11th. March, 1855.

It was reported that the horsekeeper drowned in the water tank at the bottom of the pit. His name was not recorded.

The Mines Inspectors Report.
27th. March, 1855.

T. Traverse died after being injured by a fall of roof 28th. April 1854.

The Mines Inspectors Report.

1st. November, 1855.

J. Fyldes was killed by a fall of roof.

The Wigan Examiner.

9th. November, 1855.

The inquest into the death of Moses Brough who was killed by a fall of roof while blasting at the colliery was reported.

The Mines Inspectors Report.

7th. April, 1856.

Richard Foster was killed by a fall of roof.

The Mines Inspectors Report.

7th. April, 1856.

A boy, whose name is not recorded was recorded, as having broken his leg in a fall of roof subsequently died of typhus fever.

The Mines Inspectors Report.

29th. March, 1856.

George Manchester was killed by a fall of coal at the face while he was holing without first setting sprags. The Inspector commented. "this necessary process should never be neglected and firemen and underlookers should in all cases compel it to be done."

The 'Wigan Examiner', 4th. April, 1856, reported that the inquest was held at the Seven Stars Inn at Eccleston when he was crushed by eight hundredweight falling on him the previous evening. A verdict of 'accidental death' was recorded.

The Mines Inspectors Report.

19th. April, 1856.

Peter Welding was reported to have been killed by a fall of roof.

The St. Helens Intellegencer.

10th. May, 1856.

William Cooper was reported to have been involved in an accident when he was hit by the fly-wheel of the engine when jumping from the engine-house. His leg was broken and later amputated.

The Mines Inspectors Report.

26th. July, 1856.

Two men, John Sefton and Joseph Salton were killed in an overwinding accident. Sefton was drawn over the pulley at the top of the headgear and Salton jumped out and fell down the pit.

The 'St. Helens Intellegencer' reported that the inquest was held at the Wellington Hotel. Several other men were injured and the inquest was adjourned until the bolts that held the cage could be produced and resumed on the 7th.

Following this accident the Inspector saw that there had been a breach of the rules and the 'St. Helens Intellegencer', 13th. August, 1856, reported that Thomas and Johnson the proprietors of the colliery were summoned by the Government Inspector, Mr. Higson, for not observing the Rules 18 and 19 Vict. which concerned the brake on the engine when two men lost their lives. The charge was withdrawn against the proprietors when Greenough, the underlooker at the colliery, pleaded guilty and was fined £2 with 12/4d. costs.

The St. Helens Intellegencer.
6th. August, 1856.

William Woodhead aged 30 years, of Windle was reported to have been severely burnt on the body in the Little Delf Mine by taking the top off his lamp. At the inquest, blame was put on the underlooker for not seeing that the man obeyed the Rules of the Colliery and a verdict of 'accidental death' was returned.

The Inspectors Report states that Woodhead died from an explosion of firedamp.

The Mines Inspectors Report.

23rd. October, 1856.

John Holland was reported to have been killed while attempting to fire a shot with a German which exploded before he could get away.

The Mines Inspectors Report.

20th. May, -1857.

Henry Winlow, fireman and John Heaton. Labourer were killed by an explosion of firedamp. The 'Wigan Observer' stated that cause of the explosion was a mystery and that John Heaton left a wife and five or six children.

The Inspector thought the accident was caused by gas being bottled up in a tunnel by a stopping and Winlow, the fireman, went to see if it was tight when the gas exploded at his lamp. The Inspector stated that the tunnel should have been ventilated as it was giving off a great deal of gas and it much better to ventilate these places than let the gas accumulate.

The 'St. Helens Intellegencer recorded that the inquest was held at the Ship Inn on the bodies of Henry Winlow aged 60 years, who was the deputy underlooker at the colliery and John Heaton aged 32 years, a collier, who were killed in the Rushy Park Mine. Winrow had gone down at about 6 a.m. to inspect the state of the mine. Their bodies were found in the tunnel leading to the Garswood mines. They were crushed and burnt and the bottom of the lamp was found not far off and an explosion had taken place

The Mines Inspectors Report.

17th. August, 1857.

Luke Ramsey, a labourer was killed by falling off a waggon on the brow.

The Wigan Observer.

15th. January, 1858.

On Friday a number of men were employed during the night to repair some roadways that had been deranged. They were widening the tramway and without the least warning the roof fell on William Clayton. The poor fellow is a stranger who has been in the pit for only a few days and now lies in a precarious state.

'The Colliery Guardian', 16th. January, 1858, reported, "A serious accident occurred at the pit last Friday evening when a man was seriously injured. They were engaged in repairing the roads at the bottom of the shaft and propping roofs when a portion of the roof fell burying William Clayton. The debris was quickly removed and he was taken to the surface where medical attention was quickly obtained. Although he was severely crushed there is reason to hope that he has no permanent injury."

The Mines Inspectors Report.

24rd. March, 1858.

William Nightingale, a collier aged 30 years was killed by an explosion of firedamp. The 'Colliery Guardian' of the 27th, March, reported, "On Wednesday last a collier, William Nightingale aged 30 years died as the result of being burnt by an explosion of firedamp in the Rushy Park mine. He carelessly took the top off his lamp and was burnt about the head and chest. He left a wife and three children.'

1860 Laffack

The Prescott Reporter.
14th. January, 1860.
Reported that the colliery was on strike along with the colliers at the Glade Hill colliery.

The Inspectors Report.
22nd. February, 1861.
William Baxendale, under-fireman aged 36 years was killed by a fall of stone. The 'Wigan Observer', 1st. March, reported on the inquest which was held at the Finger Post Hotel. A verdict was 'accidental death' was recorded.

The Inspectors Report.
2nd. April, 1861.
Daniel Calderbank, collier aged 21 years was killed when he was thrown out of the cage while ascending the pit.

The 'Colliery Guardian', 6th, April, reported:-
FATAL ACCIDENT.
On Thursday morning three workmen were descending the shaft at the colliery owned by Messrs Johnson and Co. at Parr when the cage jerked and threw them off. Daniel Calderbank went to the bottom of the shaft and was killed but the two others managed to hold on but had severe bruising.

Prescot Reporter.
14th. August, 1861.
John Horsley and Joseph Making, both colliers were summoned for taking the tops off their lamps and fined 20/- and 5/6d. costs for the former and 25/- and 5/- costs for the latter.

The Inspectors Report.
19th. December, 1861.
George Manchester aged 16 years, a drawer was killed when he was run over on the inclined plane.

The St. Helens Newspaper and Advertiser, 12st, December reported:-
On Wednesday a hooker-on, George Manchester was killed by a waggon when it ran down an inclined plane and overpowered him crushing his head and chest.

St. Helens Newspaper and Advertiser.
15th. October, 1861.
At the inquest into the death of John Picton aged 60 years a collier at the No. 1 pit at the York Hotel, Parr it was stated that William Smith was taking down props and they were sitting down smoking when they heard a loud crack. Smith jumped out of the way but a large stone fell and he being an older man could not get out of the way. The stone had to be dug under to get him out.

The Inspectors Report.
10th. October, 1862.
John Painter, a collier was killed by a fall of roof.

The Inspectors Report.
5th. December, 1862.

William Prescott, a labourer, was killed riding on the engine plane.

Wigan Observer.
31st. August, 1863.

Peter Johnson a fireman at the colliery was passing down a brow when a chain broke on the waggons and he was killed.

Mines Inspector Report.
12th. February, 1863.

Thomas Wadsworth aged 28 years, a collier was killed by a fall of roof.

St. Helens Newspaper.
30th. March, 1863.

At 12.15am the nightwatchman saw a fire in the barn and tried to put it out. Three hoses from the Fire Brigade arrived at 1.30. but the fire destroyed hay that was used for the horses at the colliery to the value of £10. It was thought that someone had been sleeping in the barn and smoking a pipe.

St. Helens Newspaper.
1st. June, 1863.

Aaron Livesley was brought before the Petty Sessions charged with stealing a quantity of timber from the colliery. P.C. Rowlands stated that he went to his house in Parr and found the timber there when he apprehended him and took him to the station.

St. Helens Newspaper.
11th. July, 1863.

John Atherton, the underlooker at the colliery pleaded guilty to assaulting James Whittle on the 13th. June at the colliery. The defendant said something about 'beating the whole lot of the Atherton family' and was grabbed by the hair with a threat to pull it all out. He was told not to take the law into his own hands and fined 19/- plus costs.

Mines Inspector Report.
25th. July, 1863.

James Anders aged 56 years, a fireman was killed when a rope broke on the inclined plane.

St. Helens Newspaper, 1st. September, 1863.

James Anders the fireman at the colliery was at work mending a piece of brattice cloth in the waggon road where boxes passed. A journey went by and the engine stopped. He thought that they had come off the rails and went off with his task when the rope started and broke as the tubs came off the rails. He was struck on the head but two men did escape.

The inquest was held at Peel Arms on Monday. There was a notice not to go into the brow when the rope was in motion. The deceased wife had been married before and had a grown-up family and lost her first husband at the colliery. Her son had recently lost a little girl and was ill herself.

St. Helens Newspaper.
28th. November, 1863.

A strike was reported during the week for a ten percent rise in wages but the men went back on Monday.

Mines Inspectors Report.
15th. June, 1864.

William Foster aged 28 years, a gangrider was killed falling off a train of tubs in the engine plane.

Mines Inspectors Report.
8th. September, 1864.

John Cook, underlooker, was killed when he fell into the mouthing of the pit

Mines Inspectors Report.

18th. October, 1864.

Robert Barrow aged 25 years, a collier, was killed by an explosion of gas.

Mines Inspectors Report.

8th. July, 1865.

Thomas Webster aged 27 years, a collier was killed by a fall of roof in the Rushy Park Mine.

The Colliery Guardian, 15th. July.

Thomas Webster was killed at a colliery in Parr that had a shaft in Ashton which the workmen ascend and descend to the Little Delf Mine. At 3.30 he left to get a bow for his brother and returned to find him under a rock about a ton in weight. The inquest returned a verdict of 'accidental death'.

Further details were recorded in the Wigan Examiner, 14th. July:-

Thomas Webster was working in the mine with his brother from the township of Ashton. His brother was his drawer and went to fetch a box and when he returned he found that stone had fallen on his brother and killed him. The deceased was a married man with a child and lived at Billinge, Chapel End. The inquest was held at the George and Dragon at Billinge.

St. Helens Newspaper.

4th. November, 865.

A strike was reported for a five per cent advance of wages to all waggoners, balancers and datallers. The miners agent, Mr. Davidson, persuaded them to go back and talk to the employers.

Prescot Reporter.

25th. February, 1865.

On Saturday Joseph Smith of Parr died from firing a shot and the explosion burnt him. Dr. Gaskell attended him but he died later.

St. Helens Standard.

26th. April, 1866.

Two girls Elizabeth Holmes and Jane Pilkington were charged at the Police Court on Wednesday before William Pilkington charged with stealing twenty pounds of coal from the colliery at Blackbrook. The prosecution stated that in consequence of numerous complaints about coal disappearing from the colliery and stolen by children. One of the constables was directed to dress in plain clothes and observe the pit. PC 475 went to the colliery on the 24th and on the railway lines leading to the colliery he saw the two prisoners picking coal and putting it into sacks. The girls ran a way when they saw him although he was in plain clothes but he was able to catch one and took her to the Police Station. The other girl was apprehended the following morning. The magistrates dismissed the girls with a strong admonition.

Mines Inspectors Report.

3rd. November, 1866.

Thomas Leyland a 14 years old horsedriver was killed when he was run over on the waggon road.

9th. November, the Wigan Observer:-

Thomas Leyland aged 12 years the son of John of Moorflat was a pony driver and at 6 a.m. was found on the floor with the pony's foot on him. He was released but died ten minutes later. There were no external injuries and no one saw what happened. A verdict of 'accidental death' was returned.

19th. October, 1867. (PR, St.H N&A).).

Fatal Accident At Laffack Garswood Colliery.

At the inquest at the Angel Inn into the death of a boy named John Davies aged 14 years, son of Peter. The accident occurred on the 5th, when he was waggoning a tub up the Little Delf mine when it overpowered him and dove him about 30 yards down the brow pinning him against the side and crushing him. He was immediately assisted by two colliers but he died about 20 minutes later. At the inquest a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was returned.

St. Helens Newspaper and Advertiser.
24th. August, 1867.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT LAFFACK COLLIERY.

On Tuesday an accident occurred at the colliery in which a young man about 24 years of age named William Pearce had his shoulder dislocated. He was working in the mine when a portion of the roof fell on him. Another account of the matter is that, contrary to the Rules, he was riding on one of the boxes that was passing down the brow and by some means caught his shoulder against the roof. Assistance of some men was had and he was brought out of the pit and placed in cart and taken home to Gerards Bridge. Services of Dr. Gaskell were obtained and he is now recovering.

Mines Inspectors Report.
18th. January, 1868.

Joseph Taylor aged 22 years, an engine tender was killed when he fell down the pit from the surface.

25th. January, 1868, Prescott Reporter.

Shocking Fatality At Laffack Garswood.

A man named Joseph Taylor aged 22 was employed as an underground engineer at the colliery. he was working on Friday morning and went up after his work. On reaching the top of the pit he went to the cabin and finding that his relief had not arrived he said that he would work his mate's shift. Taylor went to the pit brow thinking the cage was there but it was at the landing above and he stepped into the shaft. He fell two hundred and fifty yards and was killed. He was the only means of support for his aged parents.

St. Helens Newspaper and Advertiser.
25th. January, 1868.

Stealing Coal.

Bridget Connah was charged with stealing a quantity of coal from Laffack and Garswood Railway. A P.C. said that on Thursday night he was near Laffack coal pit, hidden in a hedge when he saw six females coming along the line. One got onto a wagon and threw down some coal which the others picked up and placed in a head ten yards away. When he came out of the hedge they ran away and he caught the accused. Prisoner pleaded guilty and told the court that she had met a girl the previous day coming him with coal who told her that she could go and pick it up along the line and that there was no danger. She was sent to prison for a week.

St. Helens Standard.
15th. January, 1869.

STRIKE OF DATALLERS FOR INCREASED WAGES.

Jimmy Cunliffe, Ralph Taylor, John Ashall, Thomas Manfred, Thomas Gregson, Pat Carey, George Holland and James Carey were charged with absenting themselves from the colliery without notice. The defendants said that they were employed as datallers and on fourteen days notice. Sometime ago there had been a meeting of the Colliery Proprietors at which it was agreed to raise the wages of colliers. This agreement was for coal getters and had no legal obligation

The datallers demanded alike increase and were told that they would be treated the same as the datallers in other collieries. The men said that they would not work and the prosecuting solicitor Mr swift said that they had no right to take matters in their own hands. The management said that there was a great deal of waste due to their absence and put a value of £33 on the work that they did not do and they did not feel this excessive. It had cost the colliers £108 for they could not get coal without the datallers. John Molyneau deposed that some of the men had signed an agreement. the manager of the pit had been down to see a deputation at the bottom and they pointed out that other pits had had the increase. It was found that they had no right to stop work and were each fined £1 and costs or six weeks in goal.

2nd. May, 1868. (St.HN&A)
Stealing Coal.

Mary Ann Hall was charged with stealing coal for the second time for removing 45lbs. from a wagon on Laffack Garswood railway. P.C. Martin had seen the prisoner steal the coal and he seized her as she was putting it in a bag. She was identified by John Mort who was employed on the line. She was sent to prison for seven days.

21st. August, 1869. (PR).

Coal Stealing.

Margaret Sumner, a middle aged woman, was charged with stealing coal from Laffack and Garswood colliery. P.C. 404 said that he found the woman with the coal and she begged him to let her off but the officer charged her and she was found guilty and sent to prison for a week but late, through the intercession of the prosecutor, she was let off.

St. Helens Standard.

6th. November, 1869.

Sarah Simpson was placed in the dock on a charge of stealing fifty pounds of coal from the colliery and sent to goal for one month.

11th. January, 1870.

Strike At Laffack.

The daywageman have struck as a result of being excluded from the advance paid by the masters to only those who were hewing the coal in the mine. When the datallers astonished by the fact, demanded it for themselves they were told that when it was given to their class in other collieries, it would be looked at again. The men struck work to a great extent and a number of them were summoned and fined. Henry Cunliffe, Ralph Taylor, John Ashall, Jerimiah Winstanley, George Holland, James Grey, Thomas Gregson and Patrick Gregson were charged at the Magistrates Court with leaving work without notice. (St. HN&A).

LAFFACK-GARSWOOD COLLIERY.

The colliery is mentioned in the Inspector's Reports for 1869 and 1873 as being owned by Bromilow and Co. It was situated in Parr.

11th. January, 1870.

Strike At Laffack.

The daywageman have struck as a result of being excluded from the advance paid by the masters to only those who were hewing the coal in the mine. When the datallers astonished by the fact, demanded it for themselves they were told that when it was given to their class in other collieries, it would be looked at again. The men struck work to a great extent and a number of them were summoned and fined. Henry Cunliffe, Ralph Taylor, John Ashall, Jerimiah Winstanley, George Holland, James Grey, Thomas Gregson and Patrick Gregson were charged at the Magistrates Court with leaving work without notice. (St. HN&A).

20-12-1880

CRITCHLEY William 17 Drawer

Down as Laffack Garswood. A fall of coal over the sprags which had been set properly to their commencing holing

LEA GREEN COLLIERY.

The colliery was situated on Lowefield Lane and was probably sunk in the 1870's by James Radley. The history of the colliery is in two parts, the colliery is mentioned in the 1888 Inspector's Report, as being owned by Mrs. F.P. Radley, the widow of James Radley. The 1894 Report shows the colliery under the ownership of the Sutton Heath and Lea Green Collieries Ltd., employing about 450 workpeople. The Report also shows Lea Green new pits,

employing approximately 100 men. It is possible that this colliery was just being sunk. The colliery was profitable this century and had a reputation for high quality coal. It closed in August 1964. In that year produced 200,000 tons of coal and employed 600 men.

PRESCOT REPORTER

18th. February, 1882.

Coal Strike at Lea Green.

Forty to fifty men at the colliery gave notice when the owners gave notice that they would take of the extra that the men were getting at the pit. A meeting of miners took place and resolved to accept a shilling a yard reduction on the south side but would not agree to a reduction on the north side where the coal was much harder. A compromise was effected and the men resumed work.

PRESCOT REPORTER

26th. September 1885.

Accident at a Colliery at Lea Green.

At the inquest into the death of James Bibby who was working at Lea Green colliery when the roof fell on him. When he was extricated it was found that he had broken several ribs but paralysis set in and there were no hopes that he would recover.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

23rd. February, 1886.

Michael Burn, banksman was killed by falling into the pit from the surface.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

5th. January, 1886.

George Parr aged 45 years, hooker-on was killed. It was stated at the inquest that the deceased had been struck on the head by a bolt falling down the shaft but the doctor said that this had nothing to do with his death

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

29th. September, 1886.

Robert Leyland aged 50 years, a collier was killed he was drawing timber from under the tops to allow them to fall. He was knocking out the furthest prop, when the whole roof fell suddenly capping all the props.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

17th. January, 1887.

William Lunt aged 53 years, a stone man was killed. He was very deaf and after lighting a shot and going to a safe place. He appeared to have heard the shot and returned to the place just as the shot went off and he was struck by stones from the blast.

PRESCOT REPORTER

22nd. January, 1887.

Shocking Colliery Fatality near St. Helens.

At Lea Green colliery William Lunt contractor and tunneller was killed. At 11.30 a.m. on the day of the accident he was in the company of Henry Haskayne and were engaged in making a tunnel at the bottom of the downbrow. Slag had to be removed from the bottom of the brow. The deceased drilled a hole in the slag and charge it for blasting and then lit the fuse, telling his assistant that he was going to fire a shot. After lighting it the deceased ran down the brow and the assistant ran in another direction. After the shot had been fired the assistant went back and found the deceased laid on the ground quite dead with his head blown to pieces and his left arm blown out of its socket. It is supposed that the deceased who was deaf thought the shot had fired and had gone forward too early. The inquest was held in Thatto Heath and a verdict of Accidental Death returned.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

4th. May, 1888.

William Lunt aged 26 years, a collier was killed by an explosion of gas which occurred in the Potato Delf mine. He was killed, another died later and five were injured. Some gas was given off after a heavy fall in the waste and it was carried by the air to the candles of some men who were waiting for the roof to settle. It was stated that no gas had been seen on this side of the workings before and that naked lights were used. Safety lamps have now been introduced at the colliery and the cause of the explosion was 'Naked Lights'.

PRESCOT REPORTER

13th. July, 1888.

Colliery Mishap in St. Helens.

On Friday a young man, Thomas Platt of Thatto Heath was injured by a fall at Lea Green. He was seen by the doctor who said he was progressing favourably.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

18th. February, 1889.

Christopher Tharratt aged 49 years, a collier, died from injuries in an explosion which occurred on 4th. May.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

27th. March, 1889.

Matthew Mercer, a collier died for the effects and injuries in an explosion 4th May 1888.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

4th. September, 1890.

Thomas Hitchen aged 14 years, a pony driver was killed at 7.15 a.m. in the second hour of the shift as he was working in front of a full gang of tubs and on reaching the shaft siding, he lent down to unhook the pony but before he could get up, he was jammed against some tubs in front and killed. The accident was due to the excessive speed at which the ponies were driven.

St. H Reporter.

16th. May, 1889.

Terrible Death at Sutton Heath.

At the inquest of ?? Smith aged 40 years of Nutgrove was killed by a large fall of stone. James Foster the underlooker said he had been a fireman for one and half years. he had just left the downbrow and moments later heard a fall. James Burrows the fireman.

12th. September, 1890.

Death of Lad at Lea Green.

At the inquest at the Mare's Head on the death of Farrah the jury heard that he was in the habit of driving his pony very quickly. He had been warned and might have been saved if he had asked others for help. The Inspector of Mines, Mr. Hall said that many accidents were caused by boys going too quickly. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

7th. April, 1892.

James Rennie aged 26 years, a balancer was killed at 10 a.m. in the fifth hour of the shift. He was packing, when a stone fell from a hole in the roadway injuring his back. He died on the 14th.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

9th. June, 1893.

James Roscoe aged 36 years, a shunt minder was killed at 10.30 a.m. in the fifth hour of the shift. He was sending a journey out of the shunt when a portion of rock which was spragged to one side fell. There was no sign of it giving way before the accident.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

14th. October, 1893.

Evan Jones aged 23 years, a sinker was killed at 4 a.m. in the sixth hour of the shift he and seven others were working in the pit when an explosion took place. He died on the 20th.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

5th. February, 1894.

Robert Hill aged 48 years, a collier was killed as he was getting down the top coal which was over hanging the face of his workplace when it suddenly fell, knocking him down as he stood on it.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

14th. October, 1895.

Peter Malone aged 40 years, a collier was killed at 3.30 a.m. in the eighth hour of the shift. The fireman light a fuse without sufficiently examining the place which caused the gas at the face to explode causing injury to him and the deceased who died 20th. The brattice at the time was six feet from the face and the gas collected at the bottom of the face. The Inspector commented, "This fatal accident was caused by firing a shot in the coal using a tape fuse. The heading was wet and Ammonite was used. The instant it fired the collier was burnt and the shotlighter eventually died".

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

12th. March, 1896.

Jones William Jones aged 19 years, a timber drawer was assisting another man to draw timber and after they had drawn a number of props they appeared to have tested the roof. On drawing another prop, the roof fell on him and he was killed.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

8th. May, 1896.

William Jones aged 25 years, a collier was in the act of lifting a box onto the rails and he slipped backwards, his hand coming into contact with the rails. He died a week later from inflammation of the heart set up by ruptured muscles in his arm. The jury followed the medical evidence.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

10th. December, 1896.

Sydney Burrows aged 40 years, metalman was killed. A fireman from another district went to borrow a battery and it appears, to have assisted in firing a shot. He fired the shot before the deceased had left the working place. He said that he did not know anyone else was there except the fireman who had gone to connect the wires and on seeing him return he fired the shot with out asking if there was anyone else there. The jury found both firemen guilty of great negligence.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

28th. January, 1898.

Jesse Dingsdale aged 24 years, a collier was killed as he was engaged in driving a tunnel from the fan pit to the downcast pit. He was attempting to hook a hoppet at the mouthing and he accidentally fell ninety yards down the shaft to the King mine below. The Inspector commented, "there should have been some protection at the mouthing".

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

10th. May, 1898.

Charles Atwell, aged 19 years, a weigh clerk was killed. A North Western railway shunter shunted some waggons into the colliery yard with great speed without whistling. It ran into some waggons and he was crushed below the screens.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

12th. August, 1900.

William Lea aged 14 years, a block minder, was killed when the empty journey got off the rails and caused a small curved pulley on the floor to give way This caused the rope to spring across, striking him as he was standing at the top of the jig. He died as a result of his injuries on the 16th.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

7th. January, 1901.

Edward Lawrenson aged 31 years, a collier was killed. He had set sprags under a length of coal which he had holed and the coal did not fall. He then appears to have holed further without setting sprags and the coal fell on him.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

9th. May, 1901.

John Eden aged 45 years, a collier was killed by a fall of roof occurred six feet from the face of the upbrow which gave way from a slip running in the side and capped three props which fell on him. He died on the 10th.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

18th. November, 1901.

Thomas Cook aged 13 years, a pony driver was killed. A jigger was lowering a tub from a brake at the top of the jig when he failed to place a sprag wooden in front of the tub which rushed down the jig and crushed the deceased who was passing at the bottom. It was recommended that a stop block be placed at the top of the jig.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

2nd. December, 1901.

James Cavanagh aged 30 years, a dataller was killed when a stone fell from the upper side of the level from between two stretchers when he was in the act of lifting a tub onto the rails.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

7th. May, 1902.

James Stephens aged 40 years, a stoker was killed when the blow off pipe in front of the boiler burst causing steam to escape and he was scalded to death. He died on the 14th. The water put on to cool the washers appeared to have had a bad effect on the blow-out valve and loosened it when it was corroded. The Inspector commented, "An inspection should have found this".

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

14th. November, 1902.

Harold Foster aged 14 years, a lasher-on was injured stepping off the stage by the haulage wheels at the bottom of the pit when he injured his back by falling down the steps. He died on the 24th December.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

25th. November, 1903.

Joseph Blackburn aged 17 years, a pony driver was killed as he was drawing a set of tubs along and was in the act of hooking on the pony when he appeared to have not noticed that others were at rest and he was crushed between the tubs.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

4th. June, 1904.

Edward Ashton aged 18 years, a drawer was killed as he was working a narrow strip of coal that had been left in the waste when the roof fell on him. He died the following day

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

14th. September, 1905.

James Preston aged 18 years, a pony driver was killed by being run over in the haulage brow by a coupling breaking when lowering the tubs. The manholes were twelve feet apart.

THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

16th. January, 1906.

William Okell aged 31 years, a collier was killed while getting coal when a portion of the roof which had been weighting and broken and over face of the coal. He appeared to have put up sufficient supports when the fall occurred and killed him.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

19th. June, 1907.

James Heyes aged 16 years, a pony driver was at the bottom of the jig to take empty tubs away. He apparently went to sleep on the full side of the road and tubs were lowered on top of him. A boy who shouted but there was no reply.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

21st. March, 1906.

Thomas Fagin aged 16 years, a taker-off at the King pit was killed as he drove another boy's pony which was taking off full tubs and in unhooking the chain he got in front of the tub and was crushed to death.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

14th February, 1908.

John Roberts aged 40 years, a tunneler at the Queen pit was killed when driving a tunnel near a fault and a stone fell from the face on him.

From THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT, 1908.

An explosion took place at the colliery and was caused by a lamp being in bad condition and coming into contact with a small quantity of gas. Although no one was injured the gas continued to burn heating up the surrounding coal and it was only with great difficulty and considerable risk that the fire was put out. The Inspector commented that the accident showed care should be taken to make sure that lamps were in good condition and secure before the workmen handled them. It was clear that the fault should have been detected in the lamp room.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

30th. October, 1908.

Henry Brown aged 31 years, a drawer at the Queen pit was killed when a collier was pulling a stone off the top of the coal he was holding a light. When the stone fell it knocked put a prop and struck his head killing him.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

19th March, 1910.

John Lawton aged 54 years, a fireman was engaged in clearing a fall in the jig when a stone fell from the roof and killed him

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

22nd. November, 1910.

Edward Tudor aged 34 years, a daywageman at the Old pit was killed when he and others had discovered a hole in the roof They were repairing it when a stone from the side on the cavity It displaced the timber and he was crushed to death.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT

2nd. June, 1911.

Peter Robinson aged 22 years, a drawer was killed when going down the roadway in the Queen pit on his way to work a large piece of rock fell on him. The roof consisted wholly of rock and was supposed to be safe.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT

17th. June, 1911.

John Duffy, aged 42 years, Joseph Armstrong aged 36 years and Stephen Kelley aged 55 years, all labourers at the Queen pit were killed in peculiar circumstances. They entered a wooden cabin at the pit top to take their dinner when the cabin toppled over and fell about fifteen feet. A plank on which it was resting had been sawn through during structural alterations. The cabin was about eight feet square.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT

3rd. August, 1911.

Thomas Broadbent aged 53 years, a collier in the King pit, was killed as he was at the coalface of an upbrow when a fall occurred between two slips. The fall brought down three bars which had been made by splitting a bar in two.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT

8th. December, 1911.

Richard Houghton aged 32 years, a timber drawer in the King pit was killed as he was drawing props and bars in the waste near a collier's working place. As he loosed a prop under a bar, a fall occurred between slips. His hammer was found under the fall. The gablock and chain were a few yards away.

THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT

15th. September, 1911.

Andrew Hunt aged 56 years dataller went into a slant to do his work when he was overtaken and killed by a gang of three tubs of dirt. He had travelled only one hundred and twelve yards down the slant and it was said in evidence at the inquest that he had entered the slant twenty minutes before the gang went down. What delayed him was unknown.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

2ne. June, 1911.

Peter Robinson aged 22 years a drawer was killed while going down the roadway on his way to work when a large piece of rock fell on him from the roof which consisted of rock and was supposed to be quite safe.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

9th. December, 1912.

Thomas Regan aged 29 years, a contractor at the Queen pit was killed as he and others were taking out bars to make the road higher. They were told to set timber supports before loosening the others.. They knocked out a prop then attempted to withdraw a bar with a sylvester. Failing to do this, he picked up a pick to loosen the end of the bar when the roof fell on him. No temporary supports had been set.

8th. March, 1912. Lea Green, King Pit. (CG).

Richard Houghton aged 30 years, timber drawer was killed at the colliery by a fall of roof 6 yards long and 10 feet wide. At the inquest into his death Henry Webster, collier said the deceased was working 7 to 8 yards away from a collier pulling props with a gablock and chain but had been using a hammer on a prop which came down and cause the fall. It was asked why a man had been sent to draw timber when a collier was so near. The Inspector said that a man drawing props should not do so on his own but with another so that there would be assistance. It was dangerous work in a quiet place. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death' and recommended that props should not be drawn when men were working in the place.

From MIR 1923.

Lea Green.

A fatality which resulted from an apparently good roof indicates that the results of soundings can not always be relied on. The fireman and he were ripping down stones in a caunch using a bar for the purpose and a stone above him fell and killed him. It gave a way at a slip which coincided with the edge of the bar. both he and the fireman had tested beneath the stone and found it strong and safe. The roof was a rock roof and men must not put too much reliance in the soundings.

MINES INSPECTORS REPORT.

1919

Three day persons were suffocated by gas in the King pit. The telephone was not working.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1925

Lea Green.

Killed by runaway tubs at a 1 in 15 when he failed to use the tail that was provided.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1919.

Lea Green King Pit.

A fireman was suffocated in a rising brow 1 in 4. Gas had been reported three days before and it had been intended to strengthen the brattice cloth to carry the air forward to disperse the gas

by degrees. He was told to take plenty of time over the job but he was found overcome by the firedamp.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1926

Lea Green.

Proceedings against the manager and undermanager referred to 27th January.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1926.

Lea Green.

A man was reported to have had his head caught in the haulage rope which fractured his skull.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1931/.

Lea Green.

Gas developing in water which caught fire and burnt him when it caught at his lamp. Lamp not extinguished.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1951

Lea Green.

Man reported killed.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1957

Lea Green.

Two descant scald???

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 09-10-1913.

Lea Green.

Thomas Green aged 39 years, collier was travelling on the man haulage brow in contravention of the rules when, 24 yards from the top a taker-on heard about and found him under two full tubs. His cap came up in a tub which was taken as an indication that he had been riding on the top and had been knocked off and run over when he was trying to get up.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 11-05-1923

Lea Green

Pat Morley See report killed in the 2nd. hour of the shift at 11.15 p.m.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 29-08-1924.

Lea Green.

Thomas Platt aged 51 years a dataller was killed in the third hour of the shift at 8.45 a.m. when he was repairing the roof in the main airway. He had removed a broken bar and had placed a jack prop while putting dirt into a tub when the jack prop fell killing him and injuring his mate.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1937.

Lea Green King Pit.

A bar cutting machine was being swung out of the undercut to change the picks. As the face was rising, the bar had to be tilted uphill and the brass sleeve bearing had been starved of oil but when the bar swung level the oil began to flow through the bearing and as it emerged into the open air caught fire. Fortunately the practice had been adopted of carrying a bag of stone dust on the machine and this was immediately available to extinguish the fire. Tests by the Lancashire and Cheshire Coal Research Association found that the flash point of the new oil was 840 degrees F and the colour of the bearing indicated that the temperature was between 750 and 930 degrees it was clear the fire was due to overheating. When a machine is inclined steeply upwards care should be taken to see that there is an ample supply of oil in the banjo

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1937.

Lea Green.

Two fires caused by overheated bitumen compound for sealing cable ends. In each case the heat conserving wrappings were ignited but were soon extinguished.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1923

Lea Green.

There was fatality when pulling down a stone with bar. The fireman was resent and had tested it and said it was safe. The roof was of frock.

17th. September, 1909. (CG).

The inquest into the death of Robert Edwards aged 48 years, contractor who died in St. Helens Hospital from injuries received at Lea Green colliery was conducted by Coroner Brighthouse. Thomas Pullen of 37, Claughton Street said he was working with the deceased. The roof was three feet six inches high and they put two shot holes in and drew props with a hammer so that when the shots were fired, the roof would fall. The props came out and Edwards went under the roof to get them when a stone pinned his back. They said they never used a gablock and chain and had never seen one. John Derbyshire, collier, told the court that he had told the deceased to be careful when he was getting the props down as the roof was in a dangerous state. John Foster, the fireman had also warned Edwards. Mr. Hall, the Inspector said that there was a rule that they had to use a gablock and chain when there was danger. There were many similar cases and he believed that the men should have no option but to use one and stop using a hammer to remove props. Mr. Robinson, the manager said that this would be the case in the future. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1911

Lea Green.

King Pit.

There was a detaching hook in the headgear and a visor for controlling the speed of the engineers, 24 persons being wound when the cage was overwound but the detaching hooks did their work and no one was injured.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1911

Lea Green

Queen Pit.

The men were engaged on a Saturday afternoon concreting the top of the pit where a new air loch was being constructed and two were entering a small cabin for their dinner 8 feet 6 inches by six feet three inches. The cabin was resting on a plank floor of the elevated scaffold when it toppled over and fell 15 feet 6 inches. Both men received fatal injuries and a third man died when it landed on him. The planks on which it rested had been swan through by joiners to facilitate the structural alterations and the accident occurred when they were at the stores 100 yards away to procure nails and wedges with which to secure the planks. It did not occur to them that the cabin might be used while they were away. At the inquest it was said it was pure accident and no one was to blame.

1916 Lea Green MIR.

At King Pit a fireman was suffocated by working or passing into a brow rising 1 in 4 in which there was an accumulation of gas. The gas had been reported on the three previous days and the deceased had been instructed to strengthen all the brattice cloths in the district and also to carry additional brattice up the intake brow and so remove the gas by degrees. He was also instructed to take plenty of time over the job and not to hurry as the working places were not immediately wanted. He was seen by several persons during the shift but at 6 a.m. some of the men working near him became alarmed at his prolonged absence and went to search for him. His lamp and hammer were found hanging on a prop just outside the fence to which the gas extended. Several ineffectual attempts were made to rescue the deceased but his body was ultimately recovered just as the rescue apparatus arrived at the scene. An unfortunate delay occurred in obtaining the rescue apparatus as there was a severe thunderstorm and the telephone was out of order.

MIR 1926

Lea Green

Proceedings against the manager and under-manager at the colliery were work was postponed until the 27th January and is in the list of prosecutions.

MIR

29th August 1924.

Lea Green

Thomas Platt while tinbering the roof in the main airway broken bars had been secured with jack props while fresh bars were being set. While putting dirt into a tub the deceased had probably disturbed one of the jack props and a fall canted the bar which brought down three bars before it could be repaired and the fall killed him and injured his mate.

MILL LANE COLLIERY.

This was one of the Rainford collieries and referred to in the 1879 and 1888 Inspector's Reports. It was owned by the Mill Lane Mining Co. and did not produce coal but high quality fire clay.

MOSS HOUSE COLLIERY.

This was at Rainford and referred to in the Inspector's reports of 1873 and 1888 as being owned by Thomas Baird and Co. There is no mention of the colliery after the 1890's.

24th. February 1866.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

At an inquest into the death of a 12 year old girl, Ellen Hampson, who was killed at the Moss House Colliery, it was stated that she came from a large family and got a job at the pit to assist three other girls that were levelling slack as it was screened. They had to remove the trucks they were filling and replace them with empties. She had been working for about an hour on the first morning. She went to an empty waggon and lifted the brake to allow it to run to the screen. As it approached the place where she wanted it, she tried to put on the brake but she was not strong enough and the buffer struck her in the chest and crushed her against a stationary waggon. She was conveyed home, but lingered until Thursday. She had worked at the pit two years before her age and the Inspector, Mr. Higson thought it reckless conduct to set a girl to do this work. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death' and said that they regretted that such a young girl should be allowed to do such work. (St.HSTD)

NUTGROVE COLLIERY.

The colliery was situated at the end of Radley Street. This colliery appeared in the 'Inspector's Report' for 1873, being owned by James Radley, hence the name Radley Street. In the 1888 Report it was owned by his widow Mrs. F.P. Radley. It was reputed to have closed about that time.

28th. March 1866.

A man named Fenny, a stoker at the colliery was killed when he fell into the winding gear of the engine. (MIR).

2nd. November 1868.

Three men lost their lives at the colliery. William Naylor, aged 54 years, an underlooker, John Campbell aged 21 years, a surveyor and William Foster aged 42 years a waggoner were suffocated from various vapours from the mine being on fire. (MIR).

18th. July 1875.

Samuel Hilton, aged 22 years, a collier was killed by a fall of coal. (MIR).

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

27th. October, 1875.

Accident at Nut Grove.

This was another case of overwinding. Two sinkers, John Eden and James Daniels were engaged in sinking the shaft at the No.2 Pit belonging to James Radley. They were lowered down the shaft for about sixty yards to install a piece of piping when they found that the length that they had taken did not fit. They knocked and the engine forgot that they were only part way down and set the engine at full speed and the two men were drawn into the headgear jacknapes. Eden fell out of the hoppet and landed between the headgear and the engine house. He was severely injured about the spine. Daniels managed to keep his hold until the hoppet struck the jacknapes when he was thrown out and the large iron bucket came down narrowly missing him as he lay on the ground. Both men were taken home and attended by Dr. Gaskell. The two men were brothers-in-law.

9th. February 1876.

John Mavin aged 29 years, a labourer was killed by a breakage of the engine flywheel part of which struck the deceased. (MIR).

PRESCOT REPORTER

3rd September, 1887.

Accident at Nut Grove

A boy about ten years of age named Lyon. The lad was taking his father's breakfast to the colliery when he went to the pumping house and by some means his feet became entangled between two rollers and were severely crushed. He was taken home and the doctor attended him where it was reported to be progressing favourably.

PARKSIDE COLLIERY.

Parkside colliery is the most recent colliery to start production in the area. It was built in the nineteen fifties and is one of the two surviving mines in production in 1990.

The Colliery was officially opened on 28th. May 1957.

??-??-1958 MIR.

The shaft 2200 ft deep was completed in Jan. 1959

1958

Parkside.

The shaft has reached 2200 feet and completed in January 1959/ 186 feet South African construction (MIR).

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1959.

Parkside.

Insets at three levels at Parkside and work in making connections between the No.2 shaft and No.1 with winding. (MIR).

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1963

Parkside.

Underground level tunnels and surface buildings completed.(MIR).

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1969

Parkside

Power with an unusual induction expected in SOMETHING a get when fluid down. (MIR).

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1968

Parkside.

Self resuscitator used by all underground.(MIR).

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1970.

Parkside

Modification in underground transport reported. (MIR).

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT". 1971.

Parkside.

Development of the Six Foot seam reported. Lifts to Higher Florida. (MIR).

PARR DAM AND PARR MILL COLLIERIES.

These collieries were situated near Parr Greyhound Stadium. Both these collieries operated in the 1820's and 1830's. Parr Dam colliery was owned by Nicholas Ashton and later worked by Charles Orrell from the nearby Parr Mill colliery. Records show they were closed in 1840.

PARR STOCKS COLLIERY.

The colliery was situated at the St. Helens end of Fleet Lane. This colliery first appeared in the records in 1832, when a Joseph Greenough was working it. The 'Inspector's Reports' for 1850 and 1855 show the colliery being owned by Johnson, Weninck and Co. A report in the 'St. Helens Intelligencer' of the 1st May, 1858, states that the colliery was for sale.

10th. June 1853.

J. Fillington aged 16 years was killed by a fall of coal. (MIR).

17th. July 1854.

Thomas Hill, a boy, was killed by fall of coal from the face. (MIR).

24th. February 1866.

PARR MINERS LODGE.

It was reported that the Parr Lodge was started at Chethams lodge. (St.Std).

PEASLEY CROSS.

In 1855 the colliery was known as Peasley House Colliery and was owned by Bournes Robinson.

1st. March 1858.

On Tuesday last at the new colliery owned by Bournes Robinson and Company, Aaron Wedgewood and George Twist were engaged in sinking the pit. They had prepared two shots for blasting and having lit the fuses they ascended the shaft when one of the charges exploded but the other. They descended and found the second shot covered with stones and debris and when they were examining it it exploded throwing stones in all directions. One hit Wedgewood in the forehead inflicting a sever fracture of the temporal bone. He died shortly after and Twist escaped with a few slight bruises. (CG).

29th. March 1859.

William Davenport, a collier was killed by a fall of coal. (MIR).

15th July 1859.

Fatal accident.

John Goode, a collier, fractured his thigh and was seriously injured by a loaded waggon which ran over him. He was just going through a air-door when the tub came down the brow and knocked him down. (WO).

22nd. October 1859.

As some men were descending the shaft the engineer revved the steam engine and the cage went over the headgear. A 'Knowles Patent Descent Apparatus' saved the men in the cage and the rope was set free. There was no damage to life or property. (St.HI).

18th. October 1860

Charles McKenny, aged 17 years, a drawer was killed by a fall of roof as he was filling boxes. (MIR, St.H&A).

1st June 1860.

John Davies, a waggoner, of Sutton had his thigh dislocated when he was crushed by waggons. (WO).

15th December 1860.

On Thursday morning, Joshua Lee, a fireman at the colliery was killed when two hundredweight of coal fell on him. He was carried home and given surgical assistance. He was crushed about the loins and is not expected to recover. (PR, St.HN&A).

July 1861.

Richard Foster aged 25 years, a collier was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

3rd. August 1861.

Fatality.

At the inquest into the death of Richard Foster, another collier, Eckersley, who was working with him felling dirt, said he was getting coal about 11 am. and he took the coal and left the chitter over it which fell on his back. He was got out with assistance but he was compressed. A box was destroyed and the side knocked out He was 20 years of age and lived in Thomas Street where he was taken after the accident. He lived until the Sunday and the accident occurred on Friday. No blame was apportioned at the inquest and the verdict was 'Accidental Death'. (St.HN&A, CG).

11th. May 1863.

Peter Bates, aged 30 years, a collier was killed by a fall of roof. He was returning from his work to the pit eye when the roof fell on him fracturing his spinal bone. Dr. Twyford was in attendance but he is in a precarious state. He lives in Parr and has a wife and several children. (MIR, St.HN&A).

15th. May 1863.

Peter Johnson of 41, Upper Parr Street, died when a large stone fell on him in the Potato Delf Mine. At the inquest the jury brought in a verdict of 'Accidental Death'. (WO).

10th. October 1864.

Thomas McKann aged 16 years, a drawer, was killed when he was crushed between trams below ground. He was taking a waggon downbrow and had not scotched the wheels. The tub passed over him and jammed him against the wall. The inquest into his death was held at the Griffin Inn, Sutton and the jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.(MIR, WO, WE).

14th. October 1864.

Fatal Accident At The Colliery.

John McDermott, a drawer was killed on Monday. (WE.)

13th. January 1865.

Thomas Gardiner aged 38 years, a labourer who lived in Ormskirk Street was killed by railway tucks above ground. Thomas Gardiner who was a P.C. until November and stationed at Peasley Cross. He was a labourer removing waggons from under the riddle. He was found crushed between waggons. (ST.H N, MIR).

18th. March 1865.

John Molyneaux aged 25 years, a collier was killed in an explosion of gas. He lived in Park Road Parr, and was working in a place that was opened eight months before the accident. A man and his brother-in-law were working in the Potato Delf Mine. The fireman had been into both places before they arrived and left a signal for fire at the entrance. The men ignored this and went to work and found gas in one place which exploded and caused their deaths. There was an explosion and his drawer also suffered burns but was reported to be recovering. He lived at the same address. Jane, his widow, said that he left for work at four in the morning and was brought home badly burnt at 6 a.m. His back and front were affected and Dr. Twyford attended him. The burns were getting better but he had been blown against a tub and his right side was inflamed. Richard Marsh and his brother Alfred were in the Potato Delf Mine when they heard the explosion and found him and his drawer, James Murray, and brought them up the pit. William Molyneaux, of Newton, his brother, was ten yards away and there was no brattice. They said that the fireman had chalked 'Fire' on a spade and he had found gas in his lamp. Samuel Thompson the fireman said that he had found gas at 3 a.m. Joseph Fairhurst, the underlooker, stated that the gas had ignited at a candle. The coroner said that the fireman should have prevented naked lights. Cause of death, 'going in with a naked light although he had a safety lamp'. (MIR, St.HN&A).

15th. October, 1866.

Boy Killed At Colliery.

At the inquest into the death of John McGann aged 16 years, a drawer. It appeared that he was taking a wagon down the brow and he had not scotched the wheels. The tub jammed against him killing him instantly. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'. (PR).

9th. January 1867.

Martin Rouain, a labourer, was run over by a coal truck. At the inquest into his death, at the Finger Post Inn at Parr, it appeared that he was engaged as a labourer and at 9.30 he was shunting some waggons. He was in the act of putting on the brake and fell under the wheels of the waggons. Drs. Twyford and Jameson attended the injured man but he dies at 1.15 the same day. The verdict was 'Accidental death. (MIR, St.HSTD).

31st. December 1867.

Thomas Hilton, a carpenter at the colliery, accidentally fell from a scaffold only sixteen feet from the bottom of the pit while he was in the act of striking a hammer. The scaffold was a little wet and he lost his footing. He died the same night. (MIR).

12th. August 1868.

Richard Cottam aged 36 years, a collier was struck by a tub on the inclined plane and killed. (MIR).

20th. January 1869.

John Brookfield aged 15 years, a drawer was killed by falling out of the cage while ascending the pit. (MIR).

20th. March 1869.

Coal Stealing.

Ann Callagan a little girl was charged with stealing coal. PC.367 said that on Tuesday 9th. he saw her going with a bag on her head which she threw down and ran away. She was apprehended with sixty pounds of coal and said she was carrying it for another girl. She was found guilty and had a previous conviction and sentenced to one month in jail and afterwards to be sent to a Roman Catholic Reformatory for five years. (St.HSTD).

23rd. May, 1869. (PR).

Another Accident At A St. Helens Colliery.

A man named John Hodgson, of Peasley Cross Lane, was seriously crushed at Bournes Robinsons colliery. He was between two wagons linking them when, by some means, he was caught between the buffers. Several of his ribs were broken causing emphysema and one penetrated his lungs. It was doubted that he would recover.

3rd. July 1869.

Joseph Cooks, a dataller of Coal Pit Lane, Parr, was killed by a fall of roof. He was working with another man named Rigby, and went into the pit about 9 p.m. Rigby left the place and when he returned he found Cooks quite dead with a large rock on his back which had fallen from the roof. Verdict, 'Accidental Death'. (MIR, St.HSTD).

24th. August 1869.

John Hodson aged 30 years the banksman was killed when he was crushed between railway trucks on the surface. (MIR).

9th. September 1869.

Patrick Kelly aged 34 years, a collier, was killed by fall of coal in a place four yards wide. (MIR).

2nd. October, 1869. (PR).

Accident At Peasley Cross.

The accident took place at eight o'clock. a waggoner, Alfred Sparks, of Waterloo Street, received considerable injury. It appears he went down when a stone fell from the roof and caught his side. He was considerable bruised and had lacerations as well. He was taken from the mien and taken home where he received immediate medical attendance. His injuries, though severe were not dangerous.

20th. November 1869.

STEALING COAL.

Peter Tabener was charged with stealing twelve pounds of coal. Sergeant Bee said at 6.30 a.m. stopped him at Peasley Cross with a piece of coal under his coat. He said he had got from under a waggon. He worked at the colliery in the Main Delf Coal. He was found guilty and had previous convictions and was sentenced to prison for fourteen days. (St.HSTD).

23rd. January 1869.

KILLED BY FALLING DOWN THE PIT.

John Brookfield, aged 15 years, the son of William of Oakfield Street, Windle, was a pony driver at the colliery. He ascended the pit with a boy named Pickavance and reached the brow a with another boy named William Rigby. They stayed for about half an hour. His companions said that they wanted him to go home with them. They upset a fire grate and a hot ember got into the boy's clog. W workman heard screaming and went to the pit bank but the boys ran away and Brookfield fell down the pit. He was found in a fearfully mangled condition and was brought to the surface and conveyed home. (St.HSTD).

16th. March 1870.

R. Knowles aged 57 years, a collier was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

7th. April 1870.

James Evans aged 26 yeas, a collier was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR)

July 1869.

Henry Stark aged 55 years, a labourer fell off the pit brow. He died on the 5th. August 1870. (MIR).

6th. May, 1871.(St.HN&A)

Coal Stealing.

Mary Ellen Roberts was charged with stealing 16lbs. of coal from Bournes Robinsons. Evidence was given by Thomas Aspinall, a watchman at the Peasley Cross colliery who saw the accused at the end of the heap carrying away coal. The magistrates discharged her with a caution.

10th. August 1871.

Aaron Woods aged 15 years, a pony driver was killed when he was crushed between tubs. (MIR).

17th. October 1871.

ACCIDENT AT THE COLLIERY.

James Burrows a collier aged 46 years, was suffocated by chokedamp when he was sent into a working to see if there was gas in a cavity. He did not return and when his father, whose name was not recorded, went in after him. Both were found dead and removed with difficulty due to the gas which was supposed to have come from the town's sewers. (MIR, CG).

19th February 1872.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO COLLIER.

William Heaton, a collier, aged 34 years of Merton Bank was badly burnt in an explosion of gas. He was at work with another man named Thomas Foster at 1.30 p.m., a quantity of gas escaped from the coal and exploded and burnt him about the breast and arms. Foster was behind him and threw himself to the ground and escaped with slight burns to his back. Heaton was attended by Dr. James up to the time of his death. (MIR, St.HSTD).

30th. February, 1872. (St.HN&A)

Fatal Colliery Explosion.

The incident took place at Bournes Robinsons Peasley Cross colliery which led to the death of William Heaton of Murton Bank. He went to work accompanied by a collier named Thomas Forester when some gas escaped from a crack in the rock and exploded burning him about the breast and face in a dreadful manner. The other man was standing behind and when he saw the flash he dropped to the ground and escaped serious injury. The deceased managed to walk home but despite medical attendance the burns proved to be of a fatal character and he died the following Saturday morning.

25th. April 1872.

John Chadwick, a collier died from burns which he received from a burst shot. (MIR).

25th. April.1872

Robert Taylor, a labourer, was killed on the railway. (MIR).

27th. July, 1872. (St.HN&A)

Cricket.

Peasley Cross colliery beat Bickershaw colliery on a cricket match.

13th. December 1872.

Thomas Thompson aged 30 years, a collier was killed by a fall of coal. (MIR).

11th. April 1873.

Henry Cunliffe aged 67 years, a roadsman was killed in the engine plane by the rope breaking and the tubs running back. (MIR).

22nd. August 1873.

William Banks aged 31 years a collier was suffocated by the stables taking fire in the No.2 pit. (MIR).

PRESCOT REPORTER.

27th. September, 1873.

Dishonesty.

A collier named Robert Aspinall was brought to court to face a charge of stealing money by false representation. from the cashier at the Peasley Cross colliery. The cashier told the court that it was common practice for colliers to ask for an get the wages of other colliers. This had been done three times. He got away with it so many times as the colliery employed a large number of man. On one occasion he asked for the wages of a man who was identified and he was at once taken into custody and remanded.

18th. May 1874.

Joseph Wareing aged 30 years, a collier of Parr Stocks Road, was burnt by an explosion of gas in the Burton Head seam through removing the top of the lamp. He died 25th. May. He was

working with another man with lamps without their tops when the working place suddenly caught fire and he was seriously burnt about the face and side. (MIR, St.HSTD).

17th. November 1875.

Edward Cartwright aged 59 years, a collier was crushed between loaded tubs at the pit bottom. (MIR).

2nd. December 1875.

Thomas Roughley aged 60 years, a dataller was killed when he was run over by tubs on the engine plane. (MIR).

PRESCOT REPORTER.

4th. December, 1875.

Fatal Colliery Accident.

Thomas Wilson aged 61 years was accidentally killed at colliery at Peasley Cross. The deceased was leaving work at 3.30 p.m. and was going down the jig-brow when his candle went out and he fell over some boxes which came down on him and broken his leg and an arm. He was taken home and seen by Dr. Twyford but died later that day.

19th. January 1877.

There was an explosion in the Potato Delf which injured one man, who was not named in the Report. The gas was ignited by a shot which the man lighted himself. Gas had not been reported in the mine for three months. The cause was put down to 'blasting with gunpowder'. (MIR).

In 1879, the certificated manager was William Lee who was also the manager at the Sherdley Colliery. It was reported that between January 1873 and December 1878 there were five deaths at the colliery and no deaths in 1879.

15th. October, 1866.

Boy Killed At Colliery.

At the inquest into the death of John McGann aged 16 years, a drawer. It appeared that he was taking a wagon down the brown and he had not scotched the wheels. The tub jammed against him killing him instantly. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'. (PR).

PRESCOT REPORTER

1st. November, 1879.

Fatal Colliery Accident.

Peter Greenough was killed at Mr. Radley's colliery at Sutton. He was the son of a miner working in the same colliery. The lad was a pony driver and he caught his foot and fell in front of the journey and three wagons passed over him, crushing one of his arms. he was taken home in a cart and attended to by Dr. Gaskell.

PRESCOT REPORTER

23rd. August, 1879.

Accident in St. Helens Colliery.

James Dagnall was killed at Peasley Cross colliery. While he was standing at the bottom of the shaft waiting to be taken to the surface a number of laden boxes of coal came down an incline and before he could get out of the way, crushed him against a pillar. His body was crushed and his head seriously injured. it required the efforts of thirteen men to remove the boxes and he was taken home unconscious and attended to Mr. Ogden. It was reported that although his injuries were serious was expected that he would recover.

23rd. October, 1891.

Accident at Peasley Cross.

Two men James Davies and Peter Maddocks of Peasley Cross Lane were working at Whitecross Peasley Cross Colliery when a fall of roof occurred and Davis sustained a fractured thigh and was severely bruised. Maddocks sustained deep scalp wounds and both were attended by Dr. Mason.

PRESCOT REPORTER

15th. December, 1883.

Fatality at a St. Helens Colliery

At the inquest held at Peasley Cross on Thomas File??? who died at the Cottage Hospital from injuries received at the St, Helens collieries the day previous when he was knocked down by a wagon. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

PRESCOT REPORTER

23rd. June, 1887.

Peasley Cross Excursion.

The annual excursion of the work people went to Southport setting off about 8.30 and visited the Botanical Gardens and got back to St. Helens about 9.30. A good time as had by all

St. H Reporter.

19th. April, 1889.

Accident at Whitecross Colliery.

At the inquest before Mr. Brighthouse at the Town Hall on the death of a collier, James Rigby, it was heard that a stone and a large quantity of earth had fallen on him underground and killed him at once. Alice Rigby, his widow said that had worked at the colliery all his life. William Price, drawer said he had been working with him in a place two feet high and there was plenty of timber and he thought the place quite safe. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

20th. March, 1891

Alleged Smoking at a Colliery.

William Kitto of Parr Stocks was charged at the Police Court. Mr. Swift appeared for the Peasley Cross Company. It was alleged that on the 20th. March in the London Mine, Thomas Clegg the firemen went down to examine the safety lamps and lock them and went in the direction of Kitto's place he was working with two men. At a distance he smelt tobacco smoke and saw smoke coming out of Kitto's mouth. He drew his hand across his face and took the pipe out of his mouth. Kitto totally denied the charge. After hearing the evidence the bench dismissed the case.

25th. March 1881.

William Club aged 20 years, a collier was killed when he had a fit and fell in front of an engine which could not be stopped in time. (MIR).

In 1882, the manager was Robert Turner who also managed the Sherdley colliery. It was reported that there were six deaths from 1872 to 1881

1st. November 1881.

BREACHES OF RULES AT THE COLLIERY.

James Norby was charged with smoking in the pit and having the top off his lamp. He was sentenced to two months in prison. Peter Webster was charged with having a lamp key in his possession. The case was dismissed. (MIR).

25th. March 1881.

There was an explosion of firedamp in the Main Delf which injured one man. A place had been driven twenty yards from the main intake to a fault. The place was not bratticed and naked lights were used and on the interval of a man going in and another going out, a little gas had collected which fired at the candle of the second man. The place was examined two hours previously by the fireman. Cause 'naked lights'. (MIR).

29th. August 1887.

Joseph Leigh aged 72 years, a hooker-on was killed as he was going up the engine plane to the shaft when he was struck by the rope which had caught under a sleeper and then sprung up. (MIR).

8th. December 1891.

John Ashcroft aged 27 years, a collier, was killed at 3.30 p.m. in the 9th. hour of the shift he and two others were running down the jig brow when the trams were started and he was caught and crushed at the entrance to a refuge place. He was apparently aware that he was breaking the rules. (MIR).

28th. September 1892.

Ralph Houghton aged 66 years, an engineman was killed at 10.20 a.m. in the 6th. hour of the shift when a tub got loose from the journey in a jig brow and slant and ran past him as he was in a refuge hole. He then went to signal to stop when the journey itself, which he had forgotten, ran over him. (MIR).

In 1894, the colliery was Owned by the Whitecross Company Limited, Warrington. The manager was Robert Turner whose certificate number was 709. The undermanagers were Mr. R. Armstrong, certificate No. 2436, 2nd, class, Mr. J. French, certificate No. 1312 2nd. class and Mr. J. Harrison, certificate number 1313 2nd class. It was reported that the colliery employed 185 underground and 80 on the surface.

14th. December 1894.

James Harrison aged 35 years, a repairer was killed at 11 p.m. in the 3rd. hour of the shift he was repairing bars on the main road and had a jack prop supporting bars to get out but in loosening it a heavy fall occurred taking all the timber with it. (MIR).

1st. February 1895.

John Whitfield aged 30 years, the surface foreman was killed at 11.30 p.m. in the 11th. hour of the shift as he went between waggons to uncouple them when the wheel passed over his ankle. He was acting as temporarily instead of the brakes man. He did not use a coupling pole which was on the locomotive and he died of blood poisoning 7th. February. (MIR).

PHOENIX COLLIERY.

The colliery was situated on Burtonhead Road. This colliery was opened by Benjamin B. Glover in 1873, when the 'Inspector's Report' showed that one pit was in the process of being sunk. The 'Colliery Guardian' for 1893, records two pits 85 and 90 yards in depth, with an advanced arrangement of winding, ventilating and haulage machinery. The output was given as 300 tons per day from the Lower Pigeon House Seam, which was only 2 ft. thick. The colliery employed 211 men. The colliery reputedly closed in 1895.

From 'THE REPORT OF THE MINES INSPECTOR'.

16th. February 1882.

There was an explosion of gas in the Pigeon House seam at the colliery when one man was killed. The barometer read 30.32 in and was rising. a little gas had collected during the night on the higher side of some widework face which the fireman did not discover in the morning and accordingly reported it safe. The collier went in with an open candle in his hand and worked for an hour before the gas exploded. Case open light In future the mine will be worked only with lamps

Prescot Reporter

4th March, 1882.

Fatal Result of Colliery Explosion.

At the inquest at the Kings Head, Kirkham Street on the body of John Carswell who died on Sunday after an explosion at the Phoenix colliery, Sutton on the 16th. February. Alice Jackson said that she had nursed the deceased at 69, Hope Street. He was a collier and was 32 years of age.. Ralph Hays, collier who had been working with the deceased when the explosion occurred. They had been working on the high side of the ribbing in the No.1 pit. The witness said that he was at the place first and saw the fireman's mark on a spade and saw the fireman. They were working with naked lights as there had been n gas encountered in the mine for about four years. The explosion took place about 6.30 a.m. and Carswell was badly burnt. Hays went for the fireman who tested for gas but could not find any. There had been a

fall during the night not far from where the men were working. He as taken home where he later died. At the inquest, Rebecca Carswell, his wife, gave the evidence of identification. Thomas Topping, the fireman said that the mine was worked with lamps and candles. Edward Schofield, the manager said the place where the explosion took place was two hundred yards from the surface and he considered it perfectly safe to work with candles but since the explosion safety lamps were used. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

PRESCOT REPORTER

16th. December, 1882.

Colliery Accident at St. Helens.

At the inquest into the death of John Glynn who was killed at the Phoenix colliery on the 23rd. John Halpin said he worked at the bottom if the balance brown on the morning of the accident when two boxes came down. There were shouts for the deceased to get out of the way but he failed to do so. John Wildman, the balancer said the that balance was about sixty yards long and the wagons were worked up and down on a wheel. When the wagons were going down the brow there was a jerk as though there was small amount of dirt on the rails. He gave a jerk and found that the rope had come off the wagons. Evidence was given that the couplings were not of a very safe nature and a verdict of accidental death was returned.

PRESCOT REPORTER

5th. July, 1884.

Wilful Miner in St. Helens.

At the Police Court James Grimes was charged with a breach of the Coal Mines Regulation Act while going up the shaft of the Phoenix colliery contrary to the directions of the hooker-on. He was also summoned for threatening the manager at the same time. On the day in question he went down as usual but after some time came to the shaft and demanded to go up as he aid it was dangerous in the pit. The manager stated that the fireman had examined the place an found it perfectly safe but he persisted in ascending the shaft after using abusive language to the manager and threatened to cut off his head and put him in the canal. He was fined £1 and costs for the breach of the regulations. and the other summons were dismissed.

21-06-1884 MIR.

At St. Helens Court James Graves was charged with disobeying the orders of the hooker-on and fined £1 and costs

27-10-1885

TIERNEY Thomas 31 Drawer

He was running out a full tub contrary to the rules and neglected to get off it when it came to a low place and he was crushed against a bar. The officials do not appear at have enforced the rules of riding on the tubs

02-11-1885 MIR.

John Thomas Wolfenden was charged with having a tobacco pipe down the pit at St. Helens Court and fined 5/- and costs.

16-11-1885 MIR.

At St. Helens Court Robert Fairhurst was charged of having a lamp key down the pit and fined 1/- and costs and Joseph Pickavance was charged with the same offence and also fined 1/- and costs

01-02-1877

JOHNSON Benjamin B. Thomas 14 Punt Driver

Fell under loaded tram. Died 18th.

16-02-1882

GARDWELL John 23 Collier

Explosion of gas.

23-11-1882

GLYNN John 20 Drawer

He was passing the bottom of the brow when two tubs broke loose from the coupling rope and ran back and caught him before he could get into the refuge hole. A suggestion was made as to the couplings in the future that would prevent this.

14-08-1884

BURROWS John 25 Drawer

A small fall of coal in the drawing road as he was filling a tub. The roof appeared to be fairly good so bars had not been used although the road was propped. a recommendation was made that the place should be visited more frequently by the officials

22-11-1886 MIR

At St. Helens Court the following of the colliery were all charged with having a pipe down the mine and fined 7/6d plus costs William Greenall, William Wilderman, George Bibby, Thomas Bramlow, William Henshall, Richard Pye and Joseph Cubbins. Patrick Tierney was fined 2/6d plus costs for the same offence Peter Roosey was fined 2/6d and costs for having matches in the mine

20th. October, 1891.

Prosecution of Coal Manager.

The manager was summoned for a breach of the 7th. Rule which stated that road should be in good condition and high enough to allow horses to pass. Mr. Hall, the Government Inspector found two places that where the horses where rubbing themselves against a bars. The defence said that there were 2000 yards of tunnels and these were the only two place where this was occurring. The Bench said that the Act had been breached and the manager was fined £2 on each count.

21-11-1892

PLATT John 22 gangrider

At 6.30am in the 1st hour of the shift he was in charge of the engine gang and was among the tubs putting some on the rails which had been thrown off when the certificated manager shouted to him to keep clear but getting no answer he signalled the engine and he was crushed between the tubs. The road was very low at this point

PRESCOT REPORTER

8th. February, 1889.

Stealing Wood and Coal.

At St. Helens Police Court, James Mullen aged 14 years and Kathleen Murphy aged 13 years were charged with stealing 2d. worth of coal from Phoenix colliery. George Thomas Lilley aged 13 years and Helen Skerrett were charged with stealing 28lbs. coal and Patrick Hardman, a lad was charged with stealing firechips. All were found guilty and fined.

POCKET NOOK COLLIERY.

From 'THE COLLIERY GUARDIAN'.

July 1858.

There was an accident at the colliery belonging to Mr. R. Walker which caused the death of William Whittle the hooker-on. The inquest was at the Queens Arms at Parr on Thursday and Mr Higson the Inspector heard that a large quantity of stones fell from the side of the shaft onto him. Verdict accidental death

05-12-1860

HIGGINGTON John 28 Collier

HOWARD John Underlooker

An explosion of gas that took place on the 4th

05-12-1860 MIR

An accident occurred in the Potato Delf seam at the colliery belonging to Andrew Walker hat caused the death of John Howard the underlooker at the colliery and a collier, John Higgleton. The circumstances attending to this accident caused the Inspector to comment "I doubt the capacity of persons securely engaged when accidents in mines under supervision occur. But that would infer prejudiced decision as many have deservedly earned the confidence of their employers and a position in the colliery in which they stand". The machinery at the colliery having become damaged, alteration and repairs were necessary and imperative as the coal was being drawn at the upcast shaft and the down cast was used only to provide ventilation without the requisite appliances for raising an lowering persons which for some time had unavoidably suspended. In the interval a quantity of explosive gas had accumulated in the workings which Higgington discovered and made known to the underlooker, John Howard who entered therein with a naked light, Howard following with a safety lamp in his hand. Then, while trying for gas it ignited at the candle. Howard was killed on the spot but Higgington survived for two days. If all the men were employed in the mine at the same time it is probable that they all would have been killed instead I have to record the deaths of these two men who paid the price for their mistake. It was stated at the inquest that Howard had not attained sufficient experience in the management of collieries to enable him to foresee the danger that confronted him. If that be so I have no facts before me to disprove it. He either voluntarily undertook a serious responsibility for which he was unfitted or those who sent him in must surely have done so in utter ignorance of his inexperience. But these were questions that witnesses were loath to answer and I van only infer from conversations that the investigation was unsatisfactory. I shall however observe that the colliery is a very small one such as an ordinary person might manage with safety and in addition to Howard another fireman was employed by the owner and I must give credit to him for at all times showing a desire to provide all things necessary for safety.

01-01-1862

ASHTON Joseph 23 Collier
fall of roof

04-01-1862 S.T.H.N.

On Tuesday morning Joseph Ashton the fireman in the Potato Delf one of the rails on the waggon way got displaced. The deceased was in work with a man named Michael Cullin when to repair the tramway which was nine feet across. The roof was not supported by any timber and he knelt down to nail the rail and three cwt of rock and earth fell on him crushing his head. Cullin called for assistance which arrived in a few minutes. He was released alive an taken home where he died at midnight. The inquest was at the Fleece Hotel and thought that the management was not satisfactory as the underlooker and the management. The deceased was aged 23 yeas and lived in Duke Street□.

PRESCOT COLLIERY.

28th. April, 1856.

George Baldwin was killed when a brick fell out of the side of the pit as he was getting into a tub to ascend. (MIR)

PRESCOTT BROOK COLLIERY.

12th. February, 1855

T. Yond was killed when one of the conducting chains breaking as he was descending the pit with others.

Prescot Reporter

15th. April, 1882.

Colliery Accident at Whiston.

Charles Jeffreys, a lad of Paradise Lane was working as a timber lad at Prescott colliery was putting up props and was preparing to leave work when a quantity of roof fell on him. He was

got out quickly and on examination it was found that his leg was broken. He was taken to Liverpool Infirmary where he was reported to be doing nicely.

PRESCOT REPORTER

21st. June, 1884.

Robbing Prescott Colliers Of Picks.

At Prescott Police Court a rough looking fellow names Henry Ashall was charged with stealing six collier's picks belonging Thomas Swift aged 50 years, James Fields and William Walne both colliers. Superintendent Baker explained to the bench said that the picks went missing between the 12th, and the 16th. and so deprived the owners of the picks their means of employment which had proved a great hardship to the men who could not afford to loose a day's wages. The prisoner was sent to jail for two months.

PRESCOT REPORTER

25th. December, 1886.

Colliery Accident at Windle.

A collier, James Roberts of Dragon Lane Windle was following his duties at Prescott Colliery a portion of the roof fell on him and damaged his back and thigh. He was attended by the doctor.

PRESCOT REPORTER

25th. December, 1886.

Colliery Accident at Windle.

A dataller John Kelly knocked his lamp against one of the props at the Prescott Colliery and a quantity of dirt fell on him almost burying him. He was attended by the doctor but is not badly injured.

4th. July, 1890

Accident at Prescott Colliery.

On Sunday a blacksmith., William Burns met with an accident when workmen were removing a boiler to be replaced by a new one. A plank slipped and he was crushed by about the stomach by a piece of timber. He was taken home and attended to by a Doctor who reported he was progressing favourably.

THE RAINFORD COLLIERIES.

There have been many collieries in the Rainford area. The Rainford Colliery was situated one mile south of Rainford Junction and is mentioned in the Victorian Inspector's Reports. In 1894 it employed 580 people and had two groups of collieries Nos. 1 and 2 and Nos. 3 and 4. For many years the colliery was owned by the Rainford Coal Co. but when it closed in 1928 it was under the ownership of Bromilow Foster and Co.

19th. May 1860.

Henry Evans collier was caught in fall of roof at the Moss Hall Coal Co. and is in a precarious state. (PR).

12th. April 1862.

BREECH OF THE RULES.

Two brothers John and Joseph Jones at the Rainford pit of Hardy and Company were charged with a breech of Special Rule blasting with powder in a dangerous place. They blamed the fireman for not displaying a danger notice but they were found guilty and sentenced to fourteen days in jail. (WO).

11th. December 1863.

There was a fatal accident at the Victoria Colliery when Peter Robinson was descending the shaft in the hoppet when the chain broke thirty yards from the top and he fell down the shaft. (WO).

29th. April 1865.

On Saturday at the colliery owned by Harding and Co. Henry Cotton aged 42 years a collier was working with his son Peter in the No 7 pit when a large quantity of coal fell on them. The inquest was held on Monday at the Rainford Junction Hotel when a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was reached. (WO).

14th. July 1865.

On Saturday morning an accident occurred at the colliery owned by Thomas Wallays to a boy named Charles Birch aged 13 years the son of James Birch a brickmaker of Dentons Green. He was a drawer in the Rushy Park Mine and was working when a portion of the roof fell on him. On removing the debris it was found that he was quite dead. The inquest was held at the house of Mr. Littler in Dentons Green on Monday and returned a verdict of accidental death.(ST.HSTD).

1st. August 1865.

Stealing Colliers Picks.

At the Police Court on Monday Mr. James Leadbetter, a collier in the employ of Messrs. Harding at Rainford was brought into custody charged with stealing a pick, the property of Richard Rothwell and another charge of stealing a pick belonging to Henry Kenyon. Mr. Marsh defended and in the first case it was said that he worked in the No.8 pit and was engaged about three weeks ago when he lost a pick. He left in the usual place and found it in the possession of the defendant. The pick in court was identified as the property of the Rothwell. On being charge the defendant said that it was a mistake. The second charge was them taken and Henry Kenyon said that he missed the pick from here it was usually left. It was found along with other picks in the engineroom. Mr. Marsh examined the prisoner at some length. The underlooker was called and he said that the prisoner identified all the picks in the engineroom as his. P.C. Shaw charged Kenyon theft of the picks and he was committed for trial at the sessions and released on bail. (ST.HSTD).

24th. February 1866.

Employment Of Children.

At an inquest if the death of a 12 year old girl Ellen Hampson who was killed at the Moss House Colliery it was stated that she came from a large family and got a job at the pit to assist three other girls that were levelling slack as it was screened. They had to remove the trucks they were filling and replace them with empties. She had been working for about an hour o the first morning and she went to an empty waggon and lifted the brake to allow it to run to the screen. As it approached the place where she wanted it she tried to put on the brake but she was not strong enough and the buffer struck her in the chest and crushed her against a stationary waggon. She was conveyed home but lingered until Thursday. She had worked at the pit two years before her age and the inspector Mr. Higson thought it reckless conduct to set a girl to do this work. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and said that they regretted that such a young girl should be allowed to do such work. (ST.HSTD).

5th. January 1867.

Fatal Accident.

The accident occurred at the White Moss Colliery Rainford on Wednesday. It appears that two men Ellis Pye and Thomas Jones both colliers were engaged at the shaft and had a trellis for the purpose of hoisting pipes to the surface. Two lengths had already been taken to the top and they were in the act of raising the third when the clamp slipped and the third pipe fell. They were knocked off the platform by a tub which the falling pipes had cause to swing and they fell to the bottom of the shaft. Ellis Pye was a married man and was dead when they got him to the surface Jones was severely injured to the head a sides and is in a very precarious state.(St.HN&A).

6th. February 1867.

At eleven am on Thursday Robert Charlesworth a collier of Ormskirk Road Rainford was in the act of picking out dirt from a box when a fall of roof injured his head and chest at the No.5 pit in the Seven Foot mine. The roof is supposed to have been loosened by a shot which he fired a little time before. Verdict accidental death. (ST.HSTD.)

30-01-1869. ST.H STD.

THE RAINFORD COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

On Saturday the fire was extinguished and the bodies of Whalley and Burrows were found and brought to the surface. It seems strange to say that they were in a good state of preservation. Burrows was black and there was debris on him but he was little disfigured.

01-01-1869 ST.H STD.

Joseph Heaton who worked at the Victoria colliery at Rainford was charged under the master and Servants Act of leaving work without notice. He was fined 40/- with costs or if he could not pay, six months in jail.

03-04-1875 ST.H STD.

DRUNKEN FATE OF COLLIER.

James Lackland went to the home of another collier in Skelmesdale when he was drunk, James Howard had four children and could not light the fire. Lackland having three pounds of gunpowder with him threw a handful onto the fire which wrecked the house and severely burnt all that were in. Lackland was taken into custody.

29--05-1869 ST.H STD.

An inquest was held at the Wheatsheaf Inn in Rainford into the death of William Lee aged 55 years who was a waggon greaser at the Rainford Coal Co.. He was seen on Friday leaning against a waggon and he was later found between the buffers and it is supposed that the poor fellow was unable to get out of the way in time. Verdict accidental death.

29th. July 1871. (PR)

Case Of Rainford Colliers Leaving Their Work.

James Winstanley, William Tabener, James Heyes were charged with leaving their work at the Victoria colliery without giving notice. Heyes gave evidence that the colliery had lost money by their action. A man had been killed and the men said that the place was not safe and they would not work there. William Heyes said it was not a place for men to work in. A verdict was given against Heyes of £4. 10s., Tabener £3. 10s. and Winstanley £3 10s. and costs or 12 months in jail.

30th. March, 1872. (St.HN&A)

Shocking Death In Coal Pit.

On Wednesday a man named Edward Ablett, collier employed at White Moss, Skelmesdale, near Ormskirk was killed while he was moving a number of trucks when suddenly several tons of roof gave way and he was buried by the debris. When he was extricated the body provided a most horrible spectacle. The body was taken to the Fox and Goose to await the inquest. He had worked at the colliery for only a few months.

PRESCOT REPORTER.

19th. April, 1873.

Assault in Coal Pit.

Israel Taylor which did not appear was charged with assaulting James Chadwick at a colliery at Rainford. Taylor was ejected was ejected from the colliery by the complainant when Taylor struck him. Taylor was fined £1 with costs in his absence.

PRESCOT REPORTER

29th. November, 1879.

Victoria Colliery Company, Rainford.

It was reported that work at the colliery had just been completed sinking from the Rushy Park mine to the Arley at the No.4 pit, a distance of sixty one and half yards. Much of the work went through stone and rock and was completed in six weeks and three days. The coal opened out is of superior quality and useful for shipping or house fires. It is thought that a pit in the neighbourhood had never been sunk so quickly through good machinery and tackle and the number of men employed.

VICTORIA COLLIERY.

This was situated in Rainford and was first mentioned in the Inspector's Report in 1855. In 1879 it was owned by the Victoria Colliery Co. and was still working in 1888.

From 'THE WIGAN OBSERVER.'
11th. December 1863.

There was a fatal accident at the Victoria Colliery, Rainford, when Peter Robinson was killed descending the shaft in the hoppet. The chain broke thirty yards from the top and he fell down the shaft.

From 'THE ST.HELENS STANDARD'.
1st. January 1869.

Joseph Heaton, who worked at the Victoria Colliery at Rainford was charged under 'The Master and Servants Act' of leaving work without notice. He was fined 40/- with costs or if he could not pay, six months in jail.

1855 Victoria Rainford No name (1855)
1879 Owned by the Victoria Colliery Co. William Wardle certifacted manager. 1873 to 1878
3 deaths and none in 1879.

PRESCOT REPORTER
3rd. October, 1885.

Caution to Colliers.

At St. Helens Police Court Richard Thompson and Thomas Duxbury, colliers for the Rainford Coal Company were summoned for a breach of the Mines Regulation Act for interfering with the ventilation. On the morning of the 10th. underlooker Pedder discovered that the defendants had interfered with the brattice work. Mr. Swift, prosecuting, said that the offence was serious as it endangered the lives of others in the pit and if the Inspector had discovered it the colliery management would have been summoned. The bench imposed a heavy fine of £1 and costs of 8s. each.

PRESCOT REPORTER
5th. February, 1887.

Colliery Fatality at Rainford

The inquest was held at Rainford on the body of James Roden aged 44 years who was killed in the Rushy Park Mines, Victoria Colliery. He went to work as usual but did not return in the afternoon and his wife went to the colliery to inquire about him. A search was made of his working place and it was found that a stone weighing half a ton had fallen and killed him. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

PRESCOT REPORTER
19th. November, 1887.

Breach of Rules at Rainford.

At St. Helens Police Court a colliery Peter Hayes who worked for the Rainford Coal Company had neglected to prop his working place. The fireman had inspected the roof and found it dangerous and liable to fall. There were sufficient props near at hand. The defendant had worked some years in the pit and had been a very careful workman and the Company took these proceedings to serve as warning to others. He was fined 7/6d. with 7/6d. costs.

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10th. August, 1890.

Colliery Fatality at Rainford.

At the inquest at the Eagle and Child on the body of William Seddon aged 21 years who was injured at the Rainford No.4 Colliery. At 1 a.m., his drawer, Henry Allen was filling the tubs and there was a fall as he was setting props. Allen heard it coming and managed to get out of the way. There was no sound from the deceased. Allen met William Beckett and John Jennings who had heard the fall and they started to remove the stuff. They shouted, "What's up Will?" and Seddon said, "Oh, my poor head. Get me out." It till three quarters of an hour to remove him but he was dead when he was recovered. The jury heard that he had severe injuries to his head and upper body and returned a verdict of accidental death.

5th. December 1905.

An accident was reported at the White Moss Colliery in which Henry Ashurst aged 49 years, a collier was fatally injured. He was setting his drill and trying to shorten the stand. He hit it and it shattered crushing his finger. Blood poisoning set in and he died on the 19th. (MIR).

22nd. May 1913.

The haulage rope in the tunnel, stopped at 2 p.m.. The tunnel dipped 1 in 4 and he and another man travelled up at the end of the shift. the rope was re-started by the men at top in order to remove some empty tubs that were at the top. The chain lashed and three full tubs broke loose, ran down the brow and crushed Thomas Rutter aged 23 years, a collier, (MIR).

19th. March 1914.

James Sharrock aged 49 years a dataller, was clearing debris from a caunch with some mates when there was a all of roof. A stone fell from two slips and killed him. The fireman had instructed that additional props be set but this had not been done. (MIR).

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT".

19th March 1914.

Rainford (Bromilow and Foster).

James Sharratt aged 42 dataller. he and his mate were clearing away debris when a fall of roof occurred and he was caught at the edge of the fall. The stone came away from two slips that were not visible before the accident. The place had been visited by the fireman and on his instructions two extra props had been set under the stone but the stone was heavier at one side than the other and this caused the fall.

From "THE INSPECTORS REPORT".

22nd May 1913.

Rainford.

At the colliery belonging to Bromilow and Foster Thomas Rutter aged 23 years collier a haulage rope in the in a tunnel dipping 1 in 4 at 2 pm was stopped and 4 men started to ravel up the tunnel. Shortly after the rope was re-started by the man at the top of the tunnel in order to move some empty tubs from an unsafe position. The movement of the rope against the lashing chain cause three full tubs to go back and hit the deceased causing injuries from which he died the same day.

From "THE INSPECTORS REPORT".

9th October 1913.

Rainford?

Thomas Green aged 39 collier he was apparently in the main haulage brow when the haulage was in motion which was against orders set out on several notice boards. When about 24 yards from the top the lasher-on heard a shout and the deceased was found under two full tubs when the rope was stopped. His cap had come off on the top of a tub which suggested that he was riding on a full tub and had been knocked off and getting to his feet he was knocked down by the proceeding tubs.

CRANK COLLIERY.

This was in Rainford and mentioned in the Inspector's Reports in the 1860's and 70's as being owned by John Johnson and the Crank Colliery Co.

VICTORIA COLLIERY.

This was situated in Rainford and was first mentioned in the Inspector's Report in 1855. In 1879 it was owned by the Victoria Colliery Co. and was still working in 1888.

From 'THE WIGAN OBSERVER.'
11th. December 1863.

There was a fatal accident at the Victoria Colliery, Rainford, when Peter Robinson was killed descending the shaft in the hoppet. The chain broke thirty yards from the top and he fell down the shaft.

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Joseph Heaton, who worked at the Victoria Colliery at Rainford was charged under 'The Master and Servants Act' of leaving work without notice. He was fined 40/- with costs or if he could not pay, six months in jail.

1855 Victoria Rainford No name (1855)
1879 Owned by the Victoria Colliery Co. William Wardle certifacted manager. 1873 to 1878
3 deaths and none in 1879.

MILL LANE COLLIERY.

This was one of the Rainford collieries and referred to in the 1879 and 1888 Inspector's Reports. It was owned by the Mill Lane Mining Co. and did not produce coal but high quality fire clay.

MOSS HOUSE COLLIERY.

This was at Rainford and referred to in the Inspector's reports of 1873 and 1888 as being owned by Thomas Baird and Co. There is no mention of the colliery after the 1890's.

24th. February 1866.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

At an inquest into the death of a 12 year old girl, Ellen Hampson, who was killed at the Moss House Colliery, it was stated that she came from a large family and got a job at the pit to assist three other girls that were levelling slack as it was screened. They had to remove the trucks they were filling and replace them with empties. She had been working for about an hour on the first morning. She went to an empty waggon and lifted the brake to allow it to run to the screen. As it approached the place where she wanted it, she tried to put on the brake but she was not strong enough and the buffer struck her in the chest and crushed her against a stationary waggon. She was conveyed home, but lingered until Thursday. She had worked at the pit two years before her age and the Inspector, Mr. Higson thought it reckless conduct to

set a girl to do this work. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death' and said that they regretted that such a young girl should be allowed to do such work. (St.HSTD)

RAVENHEAD COLLIERY.

The colliery was situated on Burtonhead Road, opposite the Phoenix Colliery. There has been coal mines in the Ravenhead area since the 1760's when John Mackay, the Scottish industrialist, started mining operations. He owned collieries in Thatto Heath, Parr, Ravenhead and was one of the men who greatly influenced the development of St. Helens. A series of seams were named after the Ravenhead area, where they outcropped. In the nineteenth century the area was mined by Messrs. Bromilow and Haddock, with a production in the 1860's of 150,000 tons of coal per year.

The modern colliery was sunk to a depth of 540 yards in 1866 and in 1876, the colliery merged with the St. Helens Colliery to form the St. Helens Colliery Company Limited. At the turn of the century the manpower was in the region of 700 men.

After Nationalisation, the colliery was producing 260,000 tons of coal per year with a workforce of about 1,000 men. Ravenhead Colliery closed in October, 1968, when it was producing 207,000 tons of coal with a workforce of 500 men.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD - NORTH WESTERN AREA.

RAVENHEAD COLLIERY.

GENERAL HISTORY.

Ravenhead Colliery has been in existence for over 100 years. The shafts now in operation, which are Nos. 10 and 11 were sunk in the years 1866-7. At this time there were several other small collieries working in the vicinity.

Prior to 1876 the colliery was owned by the Ravenhead Colliery Co. Ltd., and at that time adjacent collieries known as Deep, Crop and Alexandra pits were being worked by Pilkington Brothers for supplying coal to their glass works. In 1876 these two groups of collieries were amalgamated as the St. Helens Collieries Limited, but eventually the concern passed into the hands of Pilkington Brothers who had been directors of the firm.

The Deep and Crop Pits were on land near to the glass works and in 1922 the surface area which they occupied was required for extension of the glass works. At that time Nos. 10 and 11 pits were winding from the Wigan series of seams and Crop and Deep were winding the Rushy Park and Little Delf. In order to free the surface of Crop and Deep Pits, No.10 Pit was deepened to the Rushy Park seam and underground connections were made so that Crop and Deep coal could be wound at this shaft.

Between the years 1922 and 1925 all the surface equipment at Ravenhead was reconstructed and in 1927 a new washery was erected. Alexandra Colliery ceased to wind coal in 1925 and has since been used for pumping purposes only. Prior to nationalisation, Ravenhead Colliery was operated mainly for the purposes of Pilkington's Glass Works which took 75% of the colliery output. This was since anything other than large coal. The Arley seam was particularly suitable for glass making purposes.

COLLIERY TAKE.

The original colliery take covers an area of approximately 1.5 miles square under the centre of the town of St. Helens. This take is bounded on the west by seam outcrops, on the east by a large fault (the Ashtons Green Fault with a 300 yard upthrow) and on the north and south by other colliery workings. In view of the existence of large industrial concerns and various public works and buildings within the colliery take, it has been necessary at various times to leave substantial pillars of support for protection of surface interests. This to some extent limited the amount of reserves.

On the 1st. January, 1947, when the mines were nationalised, the colliery take was rapidly becoming exhausted and it was decided to extend its life by allocating an area of coal in the lower seams subjacent to seams which were being worked by Sutton Manor Colliery. The bulk of the output of the colliery is at present being drawn from this area which had extended its life by more than ten years. The general inclination of the measures across the area is 1 in 6 in a south easterly direction.

SEAMS AND RESERVES.

Within the colliery area there are 12 workable seams of gas and house coals, varying in thickness between 3 feet and 7 feet.

The upper group of seams was worked and exhausted prior to nationalisation mainly at Sherdley and Peasley Cross Collieries. The latter is now non-existent but Sherdley shafts are still connected to Ravenhead Colliery workings for purposes of ventilation and water drainage.

The lower group had been worked consistently by Ravenhead Colliery throughout its life and remaining reserves are contained in the Wigan Four Foot Seam.

OUTPUT.

During the years prior to nationalisation, the output of the colliery varied between 280,000 to 350,000 saleable tons per annum. The current output with the restricted area now available is planned at 250,000 tons per annum which is expected to be maintained for the life of the colliery.

The present output of 1,200 tons per day is produced from only one face, the Wigan Four Feet R.1.

SHAFTS AND WINDING ARRANGEMENTS.

Nos. 10 and 11 shafts are both 15 feet in diameter, brick lined and are used for the winding of coal men and materials.

No.10 shaft, the upcast is 1,630 feet deep and winds from an inset at a depth of 1,585 feet. The shaft is equipped with flexible rope guides and a two 2-deck cages, each deck capable of holding 2- 10cwt capacity tubs, giving an pay-load of 2 tons per wind and a shaft capacity of 75 tons per hour. This shaft is now only used for manriding.

No.11 shaft, the downcast, had a total depth of 1,008 feet and winds from a depth of 986 feet. It is also equipped with flexible rope guides and had two 3-deck cages with two 10cwt tubs per deck giving a pay load of 3 tons per wind and a shaft capacity of 110 tins per hour. Consecutive decking is in operation and cages are loaded by pneumatic rams, both on the surface and underground. The winding engines at both shafts are electrically driven.

VENTILATION.

Until recently, the ventilation of the underground workings was provided by a Davidson radial flow fan newly installed in March, 1958, providing 256,000 cubic feet per minute at a water gauge of 12.9 inches. In addition to the surface fan, an underground booster fan was required in the No.11 Pit to ventilate the extended workings in this section. Due top concentration of production in one face, adequate ventilation in now afforded by the surface standby fan providing 135,000 c.f.m. at 6 inch water gauge. Methane drainage had been practised in the No.11 Pit for several years.

COAL TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS.

Coal is transported from the face to the loading point, a distance of 2,500 yards by means of five 36 inch belt conveyors, transferred into 10cwt tubs and hauled to the shaft bottom, a distance of 800 yards, by endless rope haulage.

MANRIDING.

The No.11 Pit is served by two rope hauled manriding systems of 630 and 960 yards respectively. Travelling outbye is further supplemented by 1,200 yards belt conveyor manriding.

COAL PREPARATION.

A 120 tons per hour Baum washery equipped with Acco shale discharge gear is used to clean all four inch product.

POWER SUPPLY.

Prior to nationalisation the power supply of the colliery was provided by seven Lancashire boilers each between 40 and 50 years old and a 400Kw generator operated by low pressure steam from the old No.11 pit winder, together with a small supply purchased from MANWEB.

In 1952 an electrification scheme involving the whole of the surface plant was completed and the power supply is now taken wholly from MANWEB at 6,600 volts transformed down to 2,200 volts. Two Lancashire boilers were retained to provide heating for the pithead baths, offices and workshops.

WIGAN FOUR FEET R.1 RETREAT FACE.

Revenant information.

Face length.	270 yards.
Seam section	8 feet.
Seam extracted	74 inches
Seam gradient	1 in 5.6
Gradient on face line	1 in 6 in favour.
Gradient on roadways	1 in 20 against.

Equipment.

Face loader 27 inch web.	125 h.p. Anderson Boyes Ranging Drum Shearer 48 inch drum,
Stable loader	100 h.p., B.J.D. orthodox shearer, 60 inch drum, 27 inch web.
Face conveyor	24 inch bottom plated line pans Bottom drive 2 x 65 h.p. (169 ft./min.). Top drive 1 x 65 h.p. low type gear head.
Stage loader.	30 inch bottom plated line pans 1 x 65 h.p. drive (212 ft. /min.).
Face support with 5	9 feet Groetschel K.80 bars at 3 ft 6 in centres on machine run Dowty Duke props per pair of bars.
Stable support	14 ft Groetschel K.80 bars and Dowty Duke props.
Waste edge supports	Gullick four leg hydraulic chocks at alternate bar spacing.
Packs	5 yards long.
Wastes	length variable according to conditions.
Gate Roads	14ft x 10 ft arches with steel lagging.
Sluice road	7 ft channels supported on 7 ft x 4 ft 4 in RSJ's.

STRATA.

Roof	mainly overlain with sandstone.
Floor	Soft Warrant.

GENERAL

The district was developed by driving access roads in the Wigan Four Feet and Five Feet seams by means of pulsed infusion shotfiring off the solid loading out with M.C.3 gathering arm loaders onto belt conveyors via stage loaders. Weekly advances averaged 30 yards in each roadway and the face commenced production in March 1966. Initial roof difficulties were experienced in the Peacock workings below and to prop penetration of the floor. These difficulties were solved by:-

- a). intensive packing across the section affected by the pillars
- b). leaving 12 inches of coal as floor to prevent prop penetration.

The seam had a previous history of spontaneous heating hence the decision to resort to retreat mining. Although the are expected to be relatively free from methane due to extensive drainage of the intervening strata by the Peacock workings 29 yards below, it was decided that a dummy return be maintained at the return ends of the face to minimise flushing of the gas from the adjoining waste. This system proved successful and air samples are maintained well within limitations. The dummy return and Main return levels are sealed off at approximately 70 yard intervals and new connections established. Methane drainage by means of 100 ft long up-holes at 45 degrees and at 15 yards intervals, is maintained in the Main return roadway. Down-holes are not required. Extraction rates of 60 cu. ft. / min. at 50% purity have been normal but currently these have reduced at 15 cu ft. / min. at 50 % purity.

Face performance is affected by shaft capacity which restricts output performance per machine shift to 650 tons. production is on a two shift basis with supplemental production on the third shift restricted to 3 hours due to shaft examinations, material winding etc.

PERFORMANCE.

In the six weeks prior to March 30th. 1968 the following results were achieved:-

	Average	Best
Weekly R&W tons	5,026	7,322
Weekly saleable tons	4,759	5,668
Face O.M.S. cwt	217.8	249.7
Overall O.M.S. saleable.	11/4	11/11
Overall O.M.S. cwt	46.7	55.4
Machine running time/shift (mins)	177	250.
Working time at face (mins)	330	330.

FACE MANNING.

Job Description	1st shift	2nd. shift	3rd. shift.
A.B. Ranger operator	1	1	1
Cable attendant	1	1	1
Bottom stable preparation	1	1	
Top stable machine	2	2	
Supports)			
Sacking)	24	24	14
Drawing off)			
Pushing off)			
Ripping and packing dummy return	2	2	
Main Gate arch removal			3
Graders	1	1	1
Team Total	32	32	20
Fitter	1	1	1
Electrician	1	1	1
Chock maintenance	2	2	
Shotfirer/linesman	1	1	1
Total	37	37	23

COLLIERY PROFILE (Shorter version).

RAVENHEAD COLLIERY.

Public Relations Department NCB. Date?

Ravenhead colliery was sunk in 1866 to a depth of 540 yards. Prior to nationalisation the colliery was owned by the St. Helens Collieries Co, Ltd.

On nationalisation the colliery became part of the St. Helens area and at that time produced approximately 260,000 tons with a manpower of 1,042.

In 1963 the number of men producing 850 tons of saleable tons per day at an output per manshift of 22.6 cwt had fallen to 824.

By April 1968 however the colliery was producing 900 tons per day at 44 cwt per man shift and a manpower of 477 men. This improvement was achieved by using the reorganisation of the underground transport system and concentrating on the 'retreat' working of the Wigan Four Foot Seam.

The colliery ceased production in October 1968 due to the exhaustion of the workable reserves and most of the 420 men were transferred to neighbouring pits.

The name Ravenhead however will be remembered in mining history for it was here that the widely used power loader was introduced in Britain. The Anderton Shearer Loader named after its inventor James Anderton formerly chairman of the North West Division is now responsible for producing over half on the nations coal.

1846 November. Eccleston Ravenhead Colliery. (Galloway).
Two men were reported killed.

28th. October, 1848 Ravenhead. (Galloway).
One man was reported to have been killed.

St. Helens (MJ). Feb 1847.
T. Parr aged 11 years was killed in an explosion of firedamp.

13th. July, 1852.
John Houghton was reported to have been killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

10th. March, 1853
T. Litherland was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

25th. January 1854.
James Rigby, a stoker, was crushed to death by the parallel motion of one of the engines. At the inquest into his death, it was stated that he was struck on the head as he was oiling the machines. (MIR, WE, WO).

18th. February, 1854.
T. Large was killed by a fall of roof in the Higher Delf Mine. (MIR).

22nd. September, 1855.

PROSECUTIONS.

Nathaniel Mills, Peter Fyldes, Edward Gerard and Philip Masterson were brought before the magistrates charged with stealing a large quantity of brass from Bromilow's foundry. John Cartwright, the store keeper, said that he purchased 23lbs. of brass from the prisoners and found later it was stolen. It had come from the Ravenhead Colliery and was part of a much larger quantity stolen on the morning of the 27th. when the store was broken into. They were all committed for trial at the next Kirkdale Sessions. (WO).

27th. July, 1856.
John Borrows, a collier, was killed by a fall of roof. The inquest into his death was held at the Navigation Inn when William Holden, the fireman and James Bradbury gave evidence. The place was in good order and they were ripping away the end where there was a fault in the roof. John Pennington and William Bibby were also slightly hurt. Borrows was found with a pick in his end and he left a wife and five children the eldest of which was 13 years and the youngest seven weeks.. (St.H Std, MIR).

24th. July, 1856.
Thomas Boardman was killed by falling down the pit. At 9 a.m. on a Wednesday, he was the browman and was taking tubs to the pit eye and he fell 210 yards down the shaft and was badly mutilated. The inquest was at the Gerard Arms at Windle. (WE, MIR).

6th. April, 1857.
Michael Weir, a drawer, was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

30th. January, 1858.
William German was crushed about the head and body when a large stone fell on him while he was at work. It was reported that there were hopes for his recovery. His name does not appear in the Inspectors Report so it may be assumed that he did so. (St.H I).

11th. February, 1858.
Ralph Mercer aged 20 years, a drawer was killed by falling out of the cage while ascending the pit. On Thursday four colliers were being wound up the No.9 Pit when, near the top, Mercer fell out. His brother tried to grab him but he fell 160 yards and was killed. He was found mutilated with nearly all his bones broken. (CG, St. H I, MIR).

20th. August, 1859.
John Parr aged 13 years, a drawer was killed by a fall of coal. The accident happened on Tuesday at 8 a.m. He lived in Dixons Road, Sutton. (MIR, St. H. I).

20th. August, 1859.

It was reported that William Friar was also killed at the colliery. (St. H I).

29th. December, 1860.

There was an explosion of firedamp reported at the colliery in which Edward Lawrenson and John Appleton were severely burnt, the former about the head and the latter about the face. Lawrenson was paid an extra 2s. 6d. for acting as fireman. He died on the 21st. December. John Parr and John Pointer were also injured in the explosion. The inquest was held in December 1861 at the Navigation Inn in Sutton. On the morning of the explosion he examined the mine and a short time afterwards, he went in with a naked light with Jonathan Platt to measure a wall. Some gas had accumulated in a nook and the explosion took place when it fired at his naked light. The incident took place in the St. Sebastian Mine and the Inspector of Mines deprecated the management of the colliery for allowing colliers to act as firemen. (CG, WO, St. H N&A, PR, MIR).

19th. January, 1861.

Henry Parr aged 13 years, a wagoner, was killed by a fall of roof in the Four Foot Mine. At the inquest, held by Mr. Drifffield, Coroner, at the Queens Hotel it was heard that a large stone fell on him. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death.'
(MIR, St. H N&A).

4th. May, 1861.

Samuel Doncaster aged 21 years, a collier was killed while falling out of the cage while ascending the pit. The inquest was held at the house of Charles Whittle of Victoria Gardens, Sutton when it was heard that when the cage was at the top, he overbalanced by some means and fell down the shaft. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death., (CG, MIR, WO, St. H N&A.)

21st. August, 1861.

STEALING COALS.

A little girl was charged with stealing coal from the colliery. She was asked by a Police Constable what she was doing and she said that she would take it home and sell it. The parents were in court and wanted the girl sent away but she was given a severe reprimand and fined 5/- with costs. (St. H N&A).

12th. February, 1862.

William Roughley, a drawer was killed in an explosion of gas. The deceased was away from his workplace without permission and gas had not previously been seen in the workings. (MIR).

21st. March, 1862.

There was an accident at the pit causing the death of an underground worker Jonathan Platt aged 48 years, a dataller, in a blind or drop pit as he descended from the upper pit to the lower mine. The drop pit was used exclusively for lowering coal as an increased facility to take it to the surface. As he was halfway down, the rope broke and he fell 10 yards to the bottom and died soon afterwards. At the inquest which was held at the Victoria Hotel Thatto Heath, it was heard that the Inspector examined the rope after the accident and although it was a new rope it was found to be weak. It had not been fully inspected as it was used only to lower coal. The deceased had broken the rules and the Inspector urged the owners and management to enforce stronger rules. (St.H Std., MIR).

22nd. December, 1862.

At St. Helens Police Court, Elizabeth Holcroft wife of a smith at Sutton sheds, was charged with stealing eight pounds of coal. She promised not to do it again and was reprimanded and discharged. (St.H Std.)

22nd. May, 1862.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT GROVES COLLIERY.

James Pennington, a collier aged 59 years of Walter Street, was injured when the cage came down and crushed him at the pit eye. Dr. Gaskell was sent for but the back and ribs of the men

were injured and it was reported that 'he lies in a precarious state' He died as a result of his injuries. (St. H N&A.)

18th. October, 1862.

John Barrow aged 26 years, a taker-off, was run over and killed at the foot of an incline underground. (MIR).

8th. November, 1862.

Thomas Rigby aged 16 years, a drawer, was killed by a fall of roof. The inquest into his death was held at the Navigation Inn, Sutton when it was stated that he drew for his father, Edward. At the time of the accident he and others were removing a quantity of rubbish from the workings which had not been used since the previous September. The underlooker stated that he gave orders to replace old and rotting timber and set new ones before work began. This they neglected to do and the roof fell. Thomas was smothered and his brother partly buried but was got out alive with assistance. a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was returned by the jury and the underlooker was severely admonished for not seeing that the work was done properly. (CG, MIR, St. H N&A).

28th. October, 1862.

There were reports of a stroke and a colliers meeting in the town. (St. H N&A).

1st. October, 1863.

George Billange aged 20 years, a drawer, was killed when a boiler burst at the colliery causing damage to property when the boiler was blown to pieces and thrown across the road. Another piece was embedded into a shed. Henry Henshall, the engineer was also injured. Billange had come to work and found that his collier had not arrived so he had gone into the boiler house to sleep. He was a single man. At the inquest at the George and Dragon at Greenbank before Mr Driffield, it was stated that the boiler had been in use for a number of years and was not in good order. It was one of three boilers at the colliery and was haycock in shape. It had been in use for over a quarter of a century. It had been repaired and reported fit for work but the plates at the bottom were found by the Inspector to not exceed the thickness of a shilling. The jury returned a verdict that the accident was attributed to the managers but it was not culpable negligence. (CG. MIR, WO).

19th. December, 1862.

COAL STEALING.

Three young girls, Margaret, Houghton, Mary Lomax and Jane Boon were charged with stealing coal from the colliery. They appeared before the magistrates who thought the parents should have been charged and should be severely punished. (St. HN&A).

13th. November, 1863.

A considerable amount of damage was done by overwinding the engine and the cage came into contact with the headgear but there was no loss of life nor injury to any person but the cost of the damage was put at £200. (CG, WO).

12th. April, 1865.

There was what was described as a 'partial strike' at the colliery when the men were resisting a reduction in their wages from 3s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. a yard. The men on strike were connected with the Miner's Association of St. Helens. (St. HN&A).

From '*The Wigan Observer*' 2nd. September, 1865.
discovery.

A man named John Elliot working in the Ravenhead Cannel found a large mass of fools gold. He hit it with his pick and took it home and someone in St. Helens offered him £10 10s. for it.

12th. September, 1865.

Griffith Wynne aged 30 years, son of John Wynne, beer-seller of Thatto Heath, was killed as he was filling boxes and the roof fell on him. (MIR, WO).

19th. May, 1865.

George Leather aged 27 years, sinker was killed and a man named Green was seriously injured when a shot was fired and they could not get out of the way. (St. HN&A, MIR.).

27th. June, 1865.

Henry Henshall, engine tender was killed at the colliery was killed when fell from the scaffold in the enginehouse while he was packing the piston of the pumping engine. (MIR).

15th. July, 1865.

James Houghton aged 9 years, went to the pit with his mother who worked on the boxes and was caught by a chain that worked the riddle. He was drawn into the wheels and crushed against the riddles. (WO).

5th. January, 1866.

William Whittaker aged 70 years, blacksmith was killed when he was caught in the gearing that drives the screens. He lived in Liverpool Street. At the No.7 Pit, where he worked, there were three riddles worked by steam power and every Sunday it was his duty to clean the engines which could be done only when the engine was not working. he was well acquainted by the work and had done it for a great number of years for which he was paid a little extra. On the morning of the accident he met John Harrison and Thomas Howard as he was going to the pit brow who told him that they were going to repair a wheel but they did not tell him exactly when they were going to commence work. He was told by the underlooker, Joseph Heyes, that he had better clean the pedestal of the No.10 riddle as soon as the workmen had made the repairs. Sometime after the men started the job and in the course of the work, it became necessary to take the chain off one of the pulleys. In order to do so, Harrison called to the lad who was in charge of the engine to start it which he did. It had been going for a minute when it was stopped again so that the men could continue with the repairs. The deceased, after finishing the No.10 riddle, went on to Nos.7 and 8 and it is supposed he was standing near the chain which was put into motion and his clothes caught in the machinery and was dragged into the wheel and jammed against a post where his mangled body was found. He died instantly. About half an hour later, two colliers found the body and raised the alarm. The inquest was held at the George and Dragon in Liverpool Street when a verdict of 'Accidental Death;' was returned. (MIR, St. HStd.).

17th. January, 1866.

John Hardman, aged 25 years, collier, was killed by a fall of roof. He was rescued alive and taken home but even after he had been treated by Dr. Gaskell, he died the following day. His back was broken and he was severely bruised. Ann Hardman his widow said that he had been a wagoner at the pit and had worked as a collier for only two months. John Baines of Peasley Cross said he went towards home when he saw his light go out. He thought he had been holing and there was a sprag nearby but he did not think it had been used. William Ashton, the underlooker brought him home. The jury brought in a verdict of 'Accidental Death'. due to neglecting to set a sprag. (St. H N&A, WO, MIR).

9th. February, 1866.

Thomas Ratcliffe aged 67 years, blacksmith, of Waterloo Street was killed when he was hit by a capstan handle. He had not been at the colliery for long and had taken the job after he had been out of work for a long time. On the day of the accident he was making alterations in the headgear in the course of which it was necessary to take a rope round a capstan and to a height of 40 feet on a set of sheaves and then pull it down the other side. Two men named Handley and Gillibrand were working with him and the rope became so stiff that they could not move it. Handley got the idea of attaching the rope to the beam of the steam engine which was raising and falling 8 feet. They thought that they could get the engine to do what they could not. On telling Gillibrand, the first attempt to fix the rope, failed but on the second attempt he was more successful. The rope was instantly pulled down 8 feet and the capstan handle whirled round, knocking the men off the top. the men took Ratcliffe to the carpenters shop and then assisted him to walk home where it was found that he had injured various parts of his body and was complaining of a pain in his neck. He took to bed and became dangerously ill and expired of the following Tuesday. At the inquest at the Angel Inn in Barrow Street owned by Mr. Leyland, a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was returned. (MIR, WO, St.HStd.).

24th. February, 1866.

An accident was reported at the colliery to a collier named William Wills who was working when a large mass of top coal fell on him seriously injuring him. He was carried home to Colliery Row and Dr. Gaskell was sent for and found he had broken bones in his neck and jaw bone. Every effort was being made for his recovery which must have been successful as he does not appear in the Inspectors Report. (St. H Std.).

21st. March, 1866.

Ellis Grayson aged 26 years, fireman when he fell into the gearing of an engine. The accident happened about 5 p.m. It appeared that there was a pumping engine at the pit which worked continuously except when it was being oiled. The engineman, John Caldwell, started the engine and did not notice the deceased who took hold of the fly wheel as it started and he either fell or was knocked into the drive wheel. His clothing became entangled in the small cog wheels so that his arm was drawn in and other parts of his body were severely injured. The engine was stopped and he was released as soon as possible. He was carried to his house in Pilkington's Row and medical assistance sent for but he died a few hours later. At the inquest at the Navigation Inn, a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was recorded. (MIR).

12th. June, 1866.

Thomas Partington aged 18 years, a drawer of Parr Street, was killed in the Black Delph Mine when a portion of the roof fell on him. The inquest was held at the Nags Head Hotel in Smithy Brow and a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was returned. (MIR, WO, St. HStd.).

16th. June, 1866.

Early on Saturday morning Thomas Lewis aged 23 years, drawer of Hells Bess Brow, Sutton was last seen alive after midnight in a state of intoxication at the colliery gates by John Crompton. Lewis had to pass the colliery on his way home and it supposed that he went to the pit brow to sleep in a cabin. To get there he would have had to go over the fence and in doing so fell down the No. 10 Pit down which he fell; a distance of 210 yards. John Swift, the furnaceman at the bottom of the pit found the body about 4 a.m. on Sunday morning and thought he heard something come down about 2 a.m. but he thought it was a prop. The body was removed to the Navigation Tavern. At the inquest Swift said that John Crompton and John Fishwick helped him to get the body to the surface. William Wild, the engineman, did not know how Lewis got into the pit as there was a rail round the top of the self acting gates. John Marsh, who lived near the pit and as a miner who was out of work, said that Lewis lodged with him and he had lived there for about four years. On the day in question Lewis was seen going to a race at the Dog and Rabbit in Parr. he had been paid his wages and was sober when he left. The verdict said, 'He fell down the pit while under the influence of intoxicating drink.' (St. HStd.).

3rd. September, 1866.

EXTRA ORDINARY DISCOVERY.

A man named John Elliott, a miner at Ravehead colliery was at his usual employment getting cannel and he struck through a large mass and found a fine piece about nine inches square. he stated that he turned round to make a remark about the piece of coal to a comrade and at the same time struck it with his pick and to his surprise found that the coal was hollow. He took the cannel with him and ascended the pit and examined it. He found firmly embedded in the hole with just enough room for it to move in but not sufficiently large for it to turn round, a large toad which seemed quite lively. The hole which was about four inches deep and narrower at the mouth must be impossible to get the toad out. many flocked to his house to see this strange sight and he was offered ten guineas for it. (St. H N&A).

23rd October, 1866.

Thomas Burrows, banksman, aged 40 years, was killed when he fell from the stage at the pit top. At the inquest at the Navigation Inn, Sutton it was stated that he died on the 15th. November from the injuries he received while he was on the tipping brow and some wagons fell of the stage. His ribs were bruised and he had other injuries. A verdict of 'Accidental Death' was recorded. (MIR, St., HStd.).

9th. February, 1867.

STEALING COAL.

Sarah Henderson was at the colliery before noon and was seen by Police Constable picking up coal with several others from the waste heap. as soon as she saw him, she put it down. He arrested her. In court she said that she had no money to pay for the coal. The officer said that her father was a glass blower at Pilkingtons. She did not think she was doing any harm. Joseph Robinson, the bookkeeper at the colliery, said that the coal was worth about one farthing. The magistrates dismissed the case and warned the prisoner that she had brought disgrace on herself that would not easily be removed. (St. HStd.).

20th. May, 1867.

Robert Luther aged 64 years, labourer was killed when he fell off the pit bank at the surface. At the inquest at the George and Dragon, Greenbank, Sutton it was learned that he was tipping waste from trucks that ran to the edge of the waste to and were raised and lowered by a lever. It appeared that the truck was to near the edge of the tip and fell over taking him with it. His neck was broken and he was crushed by the Wagon. verdict, 'Accidental Death'.

14th. June, 1867.

Samuel Kay, collier aged 31 years was killed by a fall of roof in the upbrow of the Pigeon House seam that was about eleven feet high. (MIR).

14th. September, 1867.

Peter Potter aged 15 years, drawer, was burned in an explosion of gas in the Ravenhead Main Delph Mine and later died. early in the morning the fireman found a little gas in the place. Potter had not yet arrived for work. The fireman had other work to do and he put up the usual notice at the entrance to the working place beyond which no one should have passed. Having completed his morning inspection he was waiting for the men who worked in the places where the gas had not been removed. In a short time a collier and the deceased came up on train of empty wagons. The fireman told them about the gas and that they must not go in without a safety lamp and that he would come back with some brattice with which to clear the gas. The deceased started to abuse him with foul language and while cursing and swearing dreadfully, he followed the collier up the brow with a naked light which caused the explosion which caused his death and injury to several others. Mr. Rhymer, the Miners' Agent, instituted proceedings for compensation under Lord Campbell's Act and obtained legal advice that under the circumstances the action should be dropped. (MIR).

24th. September, 1867.

An inquest took place at the Feathers Inn, Westfield Street before Mr. Driffield on Thomas Miller who lost his life in an explosion of firedamp on the 12th and died from the injuries he received. The jury returned a verdict that 'he died from an explosion of firedamp.' (St.N&A.).

8th. November, 1867.

William Marsh aged 13 years, drawer was killed by a fall of roof in the Pigeon House seam while he was working with his father in the upbrow fourteen yards above the wagon road. The place was thirteen feet wide and he was killed by fall of dirt that was lying at the top of the mine and was nine inches thick. The roof had been examined that day by the underlooker and the manager and thought to be safe. The soft layers of dirt were known by the colliers as 'clod' and the Inspector recommend that it should be removed in every case or securely propped as soon as the coal had been taken from under it. (MIR).

19th. October, 1867

A man named Brown aged 18 years, a taker-off was killed when a jig chain broke. (MIR).

23rd. February, 1868.

John Johnson, aged 58 years, furnaceman was killed when he fell out of the cage as it was ascending. (MIR).

29th. August, 1868. (St.HN&A)

Stealing Coal.

Bridget M'Grath for stealing fifty pounds of coal from Groves colliery was sent to prison for fourteen days

3rd. November, 1868. (St.HN&A)

Accident At Radleys Colliery. Three Men Suffocated.

The colliery was discovered to be on fire the week before when a chain had broken on the brazier that was suspended in the upcast shaft for the purpose of ventilation and live coals had set fire to the coal at the shaft bottom. Work was suspended. A few days later the underlooker and some others decided to go down the shaft and make an investigation of the workings to try to discover the cause and locality of the fire. It was assumed that they would pass several hours below going from one place to another but as time went on and they had not returned, others became uneasy and decided to try to find out what had happened. The explorers soon became aware that the atmosphere in the pit was noxious and dangerous. Some became weak and were sent to the pit brow as soon as possible. John Campbell, the son of the cashier at the colliery, Naylor, the underlooker and William Foster a miner of Thatto Heath. Some men in the first exploring party said that they had heard someone calling out that they had been suffocated by sulphur and were lost. Several volunteers went down with the hope of locating the bodies but they were unsuccessful and it was not until the day after that they were brought to the surface.

8th. May, 1869.

Bridget Doleman and Sarah Simpson, two girls were charged with coal stealing and sentenced to seven days in jail. (STt. H Std.).

1st. August, 1869.

Nathan Mills, the horsekeeper at the top of the pit was injured while getting into the cage. It was supposed that he had suffered from the heat and smoke in the pit as he was a delicate man but the Inspector found conditions quite bearable. (MIR).

12th. December, 1869.

Mary Connah was accused of stealing coal worth 2d. Her mother told the court that her father was sick in bed and she had sent her coal picking. The case was dismissed. (St. H Std.).

10th October, 1868. (St.HN&A)

Coal Stealing.

Mary Callaghan was charged with stealing coal from Ravenhead colliery. She had been caught in the cat carrying away 28lbs. in a sack. Some months previously she had two or three children let off with a fine for the same offence and she was then cautioned, this time she was sent to prison for a fortnight.

7th. November, 1868. (St.HN&A)

Late Fatal Accident At Radleys.

The bodies of the three men at the inquest at the Victoria Inn Before Mr. Driffield. No blame could be attached to any one and a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was recorded.

19th. February, 1870. (PR)

Coal Stealing.

Mary Ryan was charged with stealing 24lbs. of coal from Groves colliery. Joseph Hayes, the underlooker, said that on Saturday morning he saw the accused picking coal from boxes. When she saw him she ran away but he caught her and took her into custody. She said that she needed the fire to warm her children. Her husband was out of work and there was great destitution. She was sent to jail for seven days.

16th. July, 1870.

Eliza Burrows was charged with stealing fifty six pounds. of coal from the colliery. She was apprehended by P.C. 461 Darmondy and pleaded guilty. She was sent to jail for seven days. At the same session, Katherine Maskell was charged with the same offence. P.C. Darmondy said that she had 5lbs. of coal when caught and the case was dismissed. (St. HStd.).

16th. January, 1871.

Joseph Ellis aged 51 years, carpenter was killed when he fell down the pit from the surface. (MIR).

3rd. June 1871. (St.HN&A)

Coal Stealing

Mary Buckley, a married woman was charged with stealing 50lbs. coal from Messrs. Bromilow and Haddock. Thomas Meredith timekeeper at Groves colliery said on Thursday at 5.45 p.m. he was standing on the No. 6 Pit brow and he saw the prisoner and a number of others putting coal in a bag. As soon as she saw him she threw the bag away and turned to escape but he caught her and took her into custody. He was determined to hole her but she fought, kicked, bit, cursed and scratched him. She called to others women who were near that there were plenty of stones about and he was pelted with stones. At court she appealed for the sake of her family but she was sent to prison for six weeks with a recommendation that she be kept busy with hard labour. Sarah Ann Simpson, Ann Buckley and M. Woodwood, three girls twelve to fourteen years old assaulted Mr. Meredith. The prosecution said they were Mrs. Buckley's daughters and they were sent to prison for fourteen days.

29th. July, 1873.

An explosion of gas took place in the Bastians Mine of the No.7 Pit which resulted in the death of James Brownhill, collier aged 41 years. he and others were working out a range of pillars next to an old goaf and the workmen were allowed to use their lamps or candles at their own discretion. The lamps that were used were not locked. The fireman stated at the inquest that he told the deceased to use a lamp that morning although he had inspected the place and found it free from gas. The last time he visited the place he found the deceased had a lamp but it was not locked. He was in the riding brow when the explosion took place and was the first to reach the deceased whom he found badly scorched with a lighted candle besides him. The underlooker, who held a certificate, stated that he went to the place immediately after the explosion and the deceased told him that he had used a candle contrary to the instructions of the fireman and that he thought the gas came from the old goaf. The underlooker had given no orders for the exclusive use of lamps even though gas had been found before the explosion.

A few days after the accident the Inspector examined the place and found no gas. He commented;-

“ That I found it most incautious of the management to allow men to work with naked lights and I think that nothing but lamps should be allowed in the district with a locking system that was used in well regulated collieries.”

3rd. January 1874.

A fire was discovered at the colliery in the workings of the No.7 Pit. The Fire Brigade was soon on the spot and gave every possible assistance. There was no damage to any property and it was supposed the fire had very narrow limits. (St. H Std.).

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER AND ADVERTISER.

12th. July, 1873.

Fatal Accident at Ravenhead.

On a Monday morning about 7.30, Archibald Wilson of 11, Water Street was killed at the colliery while he was removing props. The deceased and another labourer John Heffernan were taking some props to enlarge the road when a piece of roof became detached and fell on Wilson burying him to some depth. The other man was unhurt and gave the alarm. Every effort was made to get him out but it was two hours before they got to him and they found that life was extinct.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

3rd. January, 1874.

Fire At Groves Colliery.

Men working at the colliery discovered that coal was on fire in Main Delph over the stables for about fifty yards deep and about one hundred and fifty yards from the shaft. As soon as the fire was discovered various measures were taken to tackle the blaze as it did not seem to be serious, but after some time it seemed that they would be successful. After some time it was realised that they were having no effect and the natural ventilation in the mine had been reversed and it was deemed necessary to summon the Fire Brigade who got water from the lodge near the pit head. Mr. Clarke, the manager took charge below and water was directed onto the burning coal. there was some trouble in the morning with the fire engine but after that a steady stream of water was played on the coal. After continuous pumping for twenty four hours, little progress had been made. It was then that plans were drawn up to isolate the fire

from the rest of the mine. This had been done successfully once before and it is the remains of this previous fire that is thought to have been responsible for this one.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

19th. August, 1874.

Fatal Colliery Accident.

At the Ravenhead colliery on Saturday morning a collier named John Pennington lost his life while at work in the No.10 pit. He was pushing wagons on the road when he accidentally slipped and fell on the rails. Two loaded tubs passed over him inflicting fearful injuries to his head and the upper portion of his body. He was taken up immediately to his father's house but died an hour later.

22nd. August, 1874.

John Pennington aged 13 years, pony driver, was killed when he was run over by tubs in the Main Delf No.10 Pit. He was walking along the levels when he tripped and fell in front of two wagons which were being drawn along at moderate speed. before he could recover, he was run over and crushed. He lived for a few hours after the accident. The jury brought in a verdict of 'Accidental Death.' (MIR, CG).

The Report recorded the death of William Pennington aged 26 years, collier, was killed by a fall of coal on the 20th. March, 1875.

30th. March, 1875.

Fatal Accident at Ravenhead.

The accident occurred on a Saturday morning about 9.30 when William Pennington aged 37 years (according to the local paper) was killed at the colliery. The deceased was engaged in clearing a roadway when a quantity of the roof fell upon him and completely buried him. Peter Aspinall and George Lidy who was working nearby heard his moans. They got him out but found him to be dead. (St.HN&A, MIR).

1st. May, 1876.

James Ratchford aged 17 years. pony driver, was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

8th. June, 1876.

Joseph Robinson aged 17 years, dataller, was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

29th. December, 1877.

Fire at Ravenhead.

At about 7.30 a.m. on Saturday a boy named Elite Blain discovered a fire that had broken out in a cabin on the stage of No.7 pit. he went to report it to the Police Station and the fire brigade arrived in about thirty five minutes to discover that the flames had spread considerably and covered the whole of the headgear and about twenty yards of staging was also completely destroyed. Owing to a plentiful supply of water being available from the Corporation mains the fire was put out. The estimated damage was about £120 which was not covered by insurance. The cause of the fire was a mystery as the heating was done by steam pipes.

21st. January, 1879.

There was an explosion in the Main Delf Mines when one person was injured. A little gas had collected in the roof of an air road after a fall. The gas was fired by a man's light as he examined it. (MIR).

PRESCOT REPORTER

1st. July, 1879.

Fatal Accident at Ravenhead Colliery.

At an inquest at the George Inn on body of Thomas Fairhurst aged 28 years of Brook Street, who died from injuries received in an accident at colliery. William, his brother said that they were working together holing before blasting. William suggested the placing of a sprag to prevent the coal falling but he refused to do it. About half an hour after a quantity of coal and dirt fell from roof and completely covered him. the debris was cleared and he was put in coal box and taken to surface and all the time he was conscious and able to speak saying,

“Oh my,” all time he said nothing about accident to the time he died. William Fairhurst told the Inspector that Thomas knew it was his duty to set sprags and he had not done so. The management was very strict about spragging and there were materials everywhere. The jury said the accident had been caused by the deceased neglecting his precautions and returned a verdict of accidental death.

PRESCOT REPORTER

19th. November, 1879.

Fatal Accident at Ravenhead.

Early in the morning Henry Fowles brakesman about 20 years of age died at the Cottage Hospital from injuries received in an accident at the colliery on the 20th. inst. He was a brakesman and fireman and had worked at the colliery for about three months. On the morning of the 19th. an engine and wagons were being shunted into the colliery and on reaching the sidings. He had uncoupled three wagons and had gone to the points to send them into a siding but they did not get clear of the main line and accordingly he called the engine driver at the rear of the train to come up slowly and push the stationary wagons. While this was being done he was standing holding a prop against a buffer when the prop slipped and he fell and was caught between the buffers. His chest was crushed and was taken to the Cottage Hospital and carefully attended to but he died on Thursday morning. The inquest was held on Thursday and a verdict of accidental death returned.

Prescot Reporter

9th. August, 1880.

Colliery Fatality at St. Helens

Thomas Ryan or Lyon, collier aged 22 years of Eldem Street who was employed at the Ravehead colliery went to his work and while working in the St. Helens Delph three tons of coal and dirt fell from the roof burying him and breaking his back and injuring him about the head and shoulders. He was taken home and attended to by Dr. Gaskell until his death the same day

1st January, 1881.

Joseph Eblyn aged 56 years, labourer was found dead in the mortar mill where he was employed. (MIR).

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER

19th. February, 1881.

Thefts of Coal.

Richard Fallon aged 13 years, Frederick Thomason aged 14 years, Elizabeth Riley aged 14 years, and a woman named Eliza Jane Mannion alias Thomason appeared before the bench charged with stealing coal from Groves Colliery. The case was adjourned when the defendants promised good behaviour until they appeared in court again.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER

26th. March, 1881.

Fatal Colliery Accident.

At the Navigation Inn, Bridgwater Street an inquest was held on John Finch aged 13 years who met his death at the No.10 St. Helens Colliery where he was a pony driver and apparently in good health. On returning home from work he told his mother that he felt very sore and lay down on the sofa. On the following morning he got up to go to work but was too ill to do so. He remained in bed all day and the next day he was no better. He told his mother that he had been jammed against the boxes when he was working on the journey. delirium set in and Dr. Gaskell summoned and found that his back and loins were very much bruised. He died the following afternoon. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and expressed the opinion that if medical attention had been sought sooner, his life may have been saved. His mother described the lad as being very ‘close -minded’.

1st. July, 1881.

Daniel Harrison aged 34 years, pitman was killed when he and his brother were doing some repairs in the shaft. He went to examine a portion of the roof of the cage when he suddenly fell off. His brother could not give an explanation but it was supposed that he was struck by a falling stone off the side of the unwallled shaft and was in a dangerous state. Attention to it had been drawn to the danger the previous week. (MIR).

16th., March 1881.

John Finch, a 13 years old pony driver was crushed between tubs he was staking out and killed. There was no evidence to show how the accident happened. (MIR).

19th. September, 1882.

An explosion took place in the Higher Delf Mines when the barometer was falling. A little gas was forced from a crack in the roof and when it stealed it came into contact with a naked candle. The collier was slightly burned on his arm. Gas was seldom seen in the mine. (MIR).

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

28th. February, 1882.

A Colliery Accident.

At the inquest into the death of Peter Harrison aged 27 years, who lost his life at a colliery of the St. Helens Colliery Company and lived with his mother at 43, York Street. He was a taker-off at Ravenhead colliery. About three years before he had suffered from a swelling of glands in his neck and became very weak and spent some weeks in hospital in Southport. On the 11th. January whilst at work he pulled a signal rope and a prop fell on him knocking him down and he fell on his side on a stone. He continued to work and said nothing about the accident but the following morning he did not go to work and fellow workmen said that he had been hurt. He was attended to at home by Dr. Gaskell until the 28th., February when he died. Several jurymen asked for the guidance of Dr. Gaskell as such a small accident would not have affected a strong man. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death as the doctor. was of the opinion that the accident accelerated his death.

PRESCOT REPORTER

28th. September, 1882.

Fatal Colliery Accident.

At No.9 pit Ravenhead A fettler named Thomas Eddleston was killed was working with John York and Joseph Eddleston.

21st. October, 1882.

Thomas Eddleston aged 55 years, pitman was skilled as he was riding on the edge of the sinking hoppet and was thrown off as it caught the side of the shaft. (MIR).

St. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

24th. October, 1882.

Fatal Accident at Ravenhead.

At the No.9 pit Thomas Edleston aged 690 years who lived in Graces Row, Sutton. He and two other men John York and Joseph Edleston were descending the shaft when about two thirds of the way down the hoppet struck the side. The rope continued to descend and then the hoppet freed and fell about ten feet with a jerk. The deceased was thrown out and fell to the bottom of the shaft about 110 yards while his companions managed to hold on. The two men were drawn to the surface and afterwards Francis Molyneau went down and recovered the body which was brought up wrapped in a sheet.

St. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

21st. November, 1882.

Fatal Accident at Groves Colliery.

At the inquest at the Navigation Tavern, Bridgwater Street on John Finch a pit fettler aged 65 years who was killed on Monday morning at the No.7 pit. He and Edward Kay had been plucking and repairing the shaft and were going to the surface. About forty yards from the bottom of the pit when a stone weighing five or six pounds fell down the shaft and struck the

deceased on the head, knocking him to the bottom of the shaft where it was found he was dead. Mr Hall condemned the bad state of the shaft and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death adding that we recommend that the shaft should be lined from top to bottom with brickwork or otherwise to the satisfaction of the inspector.

Prescot Reporter
4th. March, 1882.

Accident at Ravenhead.

At the inquest on the body of Peter Harrison aged 21 years who lived with his mother at 43, York Street who was employed as a taker-off at Ravenhead. On the 13th. January he came home from work complaining that he had been hurt at the pit by a prop falling on him which knocked him down on his side and rendered him insensible for a few minutes. She saw that he had a black mark on his leg and thought he would be able to return to work in a few days but he got worse and Dr. Gaskell was called and attended him to the time of his death on the 23rd. February. Dr. Gaskell examined him and found that he had sustained several internal injuries and issued certificates so he could get sick pay from the Miner's Society to which he belonged. He had been in convalescent home in Southport three years ago and was not a strong man but he had enjoyed good health for the past twelve months. Just before the accident he had a lung complaint and something wrong with his kidneys and the accident had accelerated his death. Thomas Forrest who worked at the colliery said that Harrison told him that a prop had fallen on him. Hugh Topping the underlooker at the colliery appraised the accident the following day and was of the opinion that the injury the man had received was slight. The jury hesitated before bringing in a verdict of accidental death.

20th. November, 1882.

John Finch aged 65, years, pitman was killed. He had finished the inspection of the shaft which he considered safe and was attending to a siphon pipe, 50 yards from the bottom when something fell from the shaft and struck him. A great part of the shaft was unlined and representation had been made to the owners to line the shaft. (MIR).

15th. September, 1884.

The mine makes little gas and naked lights were sanctioned. A fall took place close to the widework face and a little gas collected in a hole which was ignited by a candle. Lamps are to be used in future. The incident took place on the Ravenhead Main Delf Mine. One man was inured. (MIR).

1st. January, 1885.

William Hill aged 57 years, fireman, fell down some steps leading from the pit bank and landed on his head. He was killed instantly. (MIR).

3rd. September, 1885.

Thomas Woollar aged 60 years, collier was killed on the main road by a fall of roof as he sat smoking his pipe. The road seemed rather rough and there were places that required making more secure. (MIR).

PRESCOT REPORTER

12th. September 1885.

Fatal Colliery Accident at Ravenhead.

Thomas Bullen was identified by his widow, Margaret at the inquest at the White Lion in Gerards Bridge. He was brought home in the morning and died shortly afterwards. James Holmes who said that on the day of the accident he went down the No.10 pit with the deceased and were dropping the road when a portion of the roof fell on the him as he was kneeling. The roof had been tried by the fireman. It was stated the he had been at the pit for a week only and had never worked in a pit before. Michael Foolin was working with the deceased and stated that he was smoking and had knelt down to knock out his pipe when the stone fell. Thomas Finch, fireman said that he had inspected the roof before the men came down and while they were working and it knocked sound. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and suggested that there should be better supervision of the main roads by the proprietors.

PRESCOT REPORTER

13th. February, 1886.

Terrible Accident at St. Helens Colliery

At the Feathers Inn, St. Helens an inquest was held on the death of Edward Spence aged 27 years who worked at the No.11 pit, Ravenhead colliery and was killed on the 11th. inst. He was working with John Webster who was also badly injured and doubtful of he would survive. The inquiry was adjourned. A week later, Webster was still gravely ill. Locock had been discharged from the colliery and had been warned to attend but had not done so. George Mashall collier said the deceased drew for him and on the day of the accident. The deceased went to a box of coal and the roadway which he had to pass along was timbered and barred. The witness went to the roadway and saw there was a fall in the tunnel. He obtained assistance and Webster and the deceased were under the fall. An inspection had been made and Mr. Hall recommended that the inspection should be made nearer the time the men commenced work. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

5th. February, 1886.

Edward Spence aged 73 years, drawer was killed by a fall of roof. The roadway had suddenly fallen. It was barred four feet six inches apart with close running bars. The cause was probably a side crush as it fell on him as he was passing. (MIR).

23rd. February, 1887.

Joseph Marsh aged 72 years, dataller was sent with another man to put up some beams at a point marked by the fireman. He began to get down some side against the wishes of his mate and the roof fell on him. (MIR).

13th. January, 1888.

William Hulme aged 65 years, a pusher-on, was killed by a fall caused by the timber being knocked out by a tub. There was not enough space between the tubs and the bar. He died on the 14th. April. (MIR).

19th. April, 1888.

Edward Hilton aged 65 years, a dataller was killed as he was breaking stone in the roof that had compressed pipes. When the piece came down the pipes were sprung and a piece of the joint fell on him. he was not much injured but he did not recover and died on the 18th. October. (MIR).

PRESCOT REPORTER

14th, September, 1888.

Sudden Death of a Colliery at St. Helens.

Thomas Downall of Loch Street, St. Helens was working at the Ravenhead colliery with two men moving a box of timber when the deceased stated that he had hurt his back. He went home and complained he was not well and took to his bed where he died on Sunday. John Picket said he was working with him when they were timbering. They got a box of timber onto the landing but could not turn it without unloading. It was at this time that he said he had hurt himself. James Davies, manager of the Ravenhead colliery said he saw him on the pit brow after he had hurt himself. The jury said he was accidentally hurt and that death was accelerated by the injury.

4th. November, 1890.

An explosion took place in the Bastians Mine which killed one man. He went into a place where some gas had been reported in the morning and passed some men who were working with safety lamps. He had a naked light and the gas exploded at his candle. The name of the deceased is not given and the Inspector went on to say that the accident would not have happened if the man had a safety lamp. (MIR).

7th. December, 1891.

Thomas Marsh aged 16 years, drawer was working in a place six feet wide and there was no timber within twelve inches of the face. The fireman said that he told the collier to set props but did not wait to see if they had started to do it. The man never set them and the roof fell on his son. It was considered a breach of the rules by the fireman. (MIR).

28th. December, 1891.

John Marsh aged 28 years, collier was killed at 2 p.m. in the ninth hour of the shift. He was working and had his bars within twenty inches of the face when some roof coal fell on him. He died on the 27th. January. (MIR).

10th. February 1892.

Radleys Colliery.

Bridget Glyn, Katherine Hallighan and Catherine Lynch were charged with stealing coal from the colliery. Lynch and Hallighan were sent for trial to the Sessions when Lynch received a one month sentence and Hallighan was set to Kirkdale for seven days. (St.HN&A).

4th. October, 1895.

Charles Lilley aged 22 years, collier. He was supposed to have been riding on a tub against orders and was crushed against the roof. He died the following day. (MIR).

8th. September, 1895.

Thomas Lucas aged 18 years, drawer was in the act of taking down his tubs down the road when one got off the rails. Another drawer came up with a tub and he was crushed to death. (MIR).

7th. March, 1896.

Peter Pickavance aged 62 years, a furnaceman was going to the furnace when the banksman was not there. He had always gone to the engine winder first who sent the boiler tender to assist the as banksman for him but on this occasion he went straight to the pit brow and signalled to go down but before it was raised he went straight into the pit probably thinking the cage was at the bank. It was believed he was drunk at the time. The fence and gate were in a satisfactory condition. (MIR).

1st. September, 1896

Nathan Mills aged 60 years, horsekeeper died from injuries received at the top of the shaft. (MIR).

7th. October, 1897.

Peter Clark a 52 years old labourer was greasing wagons when North Western locomotive came to take them put and he did not see him. He was crushed to death between the buffers. (MIR).

11th. November, 1899.

Peter Garvey aged 22 years, brakesman was riding on the buffers of a coal train and was putting his foot on the brake lever to apply the brake. He slipped off and fell in front of the wheels and was run over. (MIR).

12th. December, 1901.

John Thompson aged 29 years, a labourer was walking along the railway when some wagons and a locomotive approached from behind. The driver whistled and he tried to get up on a slack heap at the side of the tracks but he slipped and fell under the wagons. The brakesman was on the wagon next to the locomotive. (MIR).

18th. February, 1904.

John W. Platt aged 24 years, and Thomas Grundy aged 23 years both datallers were ripping down the roof in a roadway. They had advanced about six feet from the last bar to a slip when the roof gave way capping two bars and three stretchers and killing them. There should have been better supervision. (MIR).

14th. November, 1904.

Joseph Dixon aged 34 years, drawer was killed as two tubs were being drawn along a steep brow and got fast against the timber. The chain connecting the tubs broke. he had gone to see what was wrong and was crushed. The road was three feet three inches high and should have been higher in the haulage road. (MIR).

11th. November, 1909.

John Wilson aged 33 years, collier, was working at the coal face when a fall occurred from a slip which copped at least two props. The fall was fifteen feet three inches by four feet seven inches by four feet six inches and it killed him. (MIR).

6th. August, 1909.

Pit Cage Accident the Colliery.

On a Tuesday morning seven daywagemen had an alarming experience and a remarkable escape. The drum was being repaired at the No.11 Pit and they descended to No.10 Pit to repair the roadways. It was 7.15 a.m. when they were lowered down the shaft and for some undefined reason it was travelling faster than usual. Next moment the cage collided with the landing and the men were dashed against the side of the cage. The men who had descended in the previous cage gave their help to the injured. The men suffered shock. They were Thomas Woosey aged 52 of 20, Croppers Hill, James Burrows aged 35 of 3, Highfield Street, Sutton, James Lane aged 52 of 7, Romford Street, Parr, William Gores aged 18 of 64, Morley Street, John Henry Johnson aged 25 of 17, North John Street, and Henry Johnson aged 36 of 32, Volunteer Street. The injured men were taken up the shaft and to their homes where they were attending by Dr. Latham but there were no bones injured and they were reported to be making good progress. (N&EG).

1st. September 1909.

John Chesworth aged 37 years, labourer was attempting to lever the blade of ventilating fan which was worked by a single engine which had stopped in the centre. When pulling back, the plank he had used, started the engine and the plank injured him in the stomach so seriously that he later died. In future a barring arrangement will be placed in the main shaft of the engine to start it in future. (MIR).

11th. October, 1909.

John Wilson aged 33 years, colliery was killed while working at the coal face when a fall occurred from a slip. The fall copped at least two props and measured fifteen feet three inches by four feet seven inches by four feet six inches. (MIR).

30th May, 1911.

Thomas Adamson aged 16 years, an engine boy was in the act of lifting five stationary tubs onto the rails when gang of ten empty tubs was drawn up by the engine and jammed him against the machinery and the stationary tubs killing him. (MIR).

15th. September, 1911.

Michael Mee, contractors man aged 46 years was working with others ripping down the roof and packing from the side of the roadway, six feet from the face when a fall occurred from the ripping between a slip and killed him. A prop was displaced by the fall (MIR).

19th. January, 1912.

William Waring aged 44 years, collier was clearing dirt from a face with a piece of clod overhanging the coal. This fell over the top of a sprag and killed him. The roof was said to have taken a sudden gulch and the fireman had visited the place five minutes before and judged it safe. (MIR).

4th. July, 1912.

Richard Naylor aged 20 years, drawer was filling a tub at the face opposite a roadway when a sudden weighting of the roof took place. This was immediately followed by a fall of stammel or top dirt which displaced a prop set immediately under it. Richard died from his injuries during the night. The jury recommended that care should be taken in spragging the stammel in future. (MIR).

8th. July, 1912.

Henry Langley, aged 57 years, collier was at the face when a fall occurred which displaced two props and killed him. There were several slips in the roof. (MIR).

20th. September, 1919.

John O'Brien, collier aged 25 years was getting coal down from the face when a sudden weighting of the roof took place which caused a piece of coal to fall from a slip which killed him. (MIR).

1919

It was reported that an old shaft was being widened from 10 to 15 feet and to a depth 58 yards and bricked throughout its length. At a point 49 yards further down the shaft, there was a second scaffold suspended by the contractors and the centre portion had a circular hole to allow the hoppet to pass through. One of the segments of this scaffold had been removed and drawn to the surface and lowered back so that the rope might be attached to another hook. When it was again lowered to within 8 to 10 feet of the scaffold one of the sinkers stepped back into the open space and fell 253 yards. The scaffold was well lighted with electric lamps and a temporary fence that had been erected during the operations should have been replaced. (MIR).

1920

There had been shots fired as the roof was being taken forward. Two men were killed by a fall of stone. A bar let into the side would have prevented the accident. (MIR).

1923.

A fireman fired a shot in the Four Feet Seam which consisted of 10ozs. of Amintite with a battery and a No.7 detonator near the face of the brow. He had examined the place and found no sign of firedamp. About three quarters of an hour later a contractor had occasion to go up the brow and noticed a peculiar smell. On further investigation he found that the coal was on fire and the fire was extinguished by water in a few minutes. (MIR).

1923.

A fireman was killed and two other persons injured by a shot that was fired at the face. The fireman was in the act of coupling up the cable to two shots when a stone weighing about two tons fell and killed him instantly. It fell away from pot hole and was probably loosened by the shot. The deceased had sounded all the stone with a pick and it looked all right but too much weight had been placed on this sounding. (MIR).

31st. May 1923.

Richard Egerton aged 61 years, a fireman was killed in the 4th. hour of the shift by a fall of roof at the face. (MIR).

26th. April 1924.

Edward Brown aged 60 years, an onsetter, was killed by a bolt six inches long and just over an inch in diameter which fell down the shaft from the surface, a distance of 350 yards. He had just placed two full tubs on the top deck of the cage and was struck in the eye. The bolt had come from a connecting rod and fell past the bonnet of the cage. the connecting rod had been inspected 12 hours before and found to be safe. (MIR).

24th. January, 1930.

A verdict of misadventure was returned on David Owen Williams aged 32 years of Taylor Street, Sutton who was killed in the mine. Henry Pheasant of Sandy Lane, Skelmesdale said he was working three yards away from Williams when a piece of coal on which they were working suddenly fell out of the roof pushing Pheasant to one side and came to rest on the deceased pressing his throat and chest. (N&EG).

1936.

Shots were fired underground which set fire to the brattice, (MIR).

1940

The colliery won the Ambulace Cup,

1951

Arches had to be made safe after a shot had been fired. (MIR).

1968.

The colliery closed

RED GATE COLLIERY.

The colliery was situated halfway to Boardman's Lane. There was a colliery mentioned in this area in the 'Inspector's Report' for 1873, when George Molyneux worked it. It was sold in 1883 and reputedly closed in 1884.

Prescot Reporter
2nd. October, 1880.

Petty Sessions.

John Molyneux was summoned for neglect in the Redgate mine but the case was dismissed.

From 'THE REPORT ON THE INSPECTOR OF MINES.
6th. November 1891.

James Doolan aged 40 years, a sinker, was killed at 2 am. in the 4th. hour of the shift when a piece of band fell from the side of the pit and hit him on the head. The bricking was 10 yards from the bottom and the place had been reported safe.

ROYAL COLLIERY.

ROYAL 1. (Bird in'th Hand), which was situated at the corner of Prescot Road and Grosvenor Road, close to the Toll Bar, where David Bromilow & Co. mined the Rushy Park Seam in the 1830's. The colliery was closed in about 1861.

ROYAL 2, which was situated on French Street. The workings of this colliery were reopened by John Cross in 1875, probably by a different shaft. It closed in 1879.

From 'THE ST. HELENS STANDARD'.
CHECK ON THE DATE.

Fatal accident.

A labourer John Dine? aged 35 years at the Pilkingtons Royal colliery was killed when he was crushed between the buffers of waggons. He was taken to the cottage hospital and had his arm amputated but he died 10.30 am on Tuesday.

From 'THE REPORT OF THE MINES INSPECTOR.
ROYAL 06-02-1851
TURTON John
Falling down the shaft

From "THE WIGAN EXAMINER".
28th June 1854

on Wednesday a fall of roof killed a drawer Thomas Turton. He was severely injured and died later.

From "THE WIGAN EXAMINER".
26th May 1854.

John Ashton aged 14 was killed at the Royal pit when he was crushed to death by a tub of coals along the brow.

ROYAL 03-03-1858
TOPPING Thomas 55 fireman
Fall of stone from the roof of the mine

From "THE COLLIERY GUARDIAN".

At the Royal colliery belonging to David Bromilow and man was killed by fall of roof. The fireman Thomas Topping aged 60 years was going to work when the roof fell doubling him up and crushing him to death.

ROYAL 19-07-1859
WOODS Thomas 39 collier
Fall of roof

From "THE ST. HELENS INTELLIGENCE".
2nd April 1859.

Serious accident.

Joseph Naylor aged 37 a sinker at Pilkingtons colliery was ascending the pit after finishing work in a bucket which caught the hempstead and upended. he fell 20 yards and died. Verdict accidental death.

From "THE ST. HELENS INTELLEGENCER".
2nd. April 1859.

Fall of roof.

At the inquest into the death of Queens Arms at Parr William Davenport a collier of St. Helens was killed by a fall of roof by not propping properly Verdict accidental death.

From "THE WIGAN OBSERVER".
22nd July 1859

Fatal accident.

Thomas Woods aged 37 a collier was crushed to death by the roof falling on him the colliery was at Eccleston and belonged to David Bromilow.

From "THE ST. HELENS INTELLEGENCER".
23rd July 1859.

On Tuesday between 8 and 9 am Thomas Woods a collier aged 37 years was killed at the pit at Eccleston. the inquest was at the Angel Inn when he was in the act of removing a prop and the roof fell on him. verdict accidental death.

From "THE WIGAN OBSERVER".
25th November 1859

Accident at Royal colliery.

On Friday Peter Finney was crushed about the head and body by a fall of roof while engaged in setting sprags.

ROYAL 16-10-1860
WYNNE Griffith 74 Furnace man
Falling down the pit

From "THE WIGAN OBSERVER".
19th October 1860.

Accident.

A furnaceman was killed y falling down the pit Griffiths Wynne. The inquest was held at the Bird In 'th Hand

From "THE St. HELENS NEWSPAPER."
20th October 1860.

On Tuesday morning at the Royal colliery and old man of 78 years 'OLD GRIF' was let to go down to do an odd job and when he came up he stumbled and fell down the pit. someone tried to grab him but only got hold of his cup and aid 'That's done for old Griff' h fell 174 yards Charles Wille of Thatto Heath tried to grab him Verdict accidental death

From "THE WIGAN OBSERVER".
19th October 1860.

Accident.

John Platt aged above 70 years was ascending the pit when from a mouthing when he fell out of the cage and was killed verdict accidental death

From "THE PRESCOT REPORTER".
26th October 1861.

Coal stealing.

Mary Twy was charged with stealing 45 lbs. of coal from Bromilows colliery. The case was proved and she was fined 9/- plus costs.

From "THE PRESCOT REPORTER".
26th October 1861.

Sarah Pennington of Sutton was charged with stealing 3 lbs of coal from Pilkingtons colliery at Sutton. The case was proved and since they had previous convictions that were sent for trial at the Kirkdale Assizes.

From "THE WIGAN OBSERVER".
9th August 1861.

Pilkingtons colliery.

Early on Tuesday morning at the new colliery at Sutton entering the property with two deep shafts with one timbered. There was negligence of the engineer Thomas Goulding. The engine started and there was no steam and the cage went into the did hole as the rope was wound the wrong way. The body was recovered and the cage smashed. At the inquest at the Navigation Inn the verdict was that the death was due to the negligence of the engineer who faced a manslaughter charge.

From "THE WIGAN OBSERVER".
1st June 1861.

On Wednesday last at the Victoria Sutton the inquest into the death of Joseph Clever aged 16 years. he was sitting on some straw when a hook caught his leg and he fell onto some wood and died. verdict accidental death.

From "THE ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER".
10th October 1862.

Pilkingtons colliery.

Three men were killed in the shaft while they were repairing the side of the pit with a scaffold 200 yards from the bottom of the pit. On the scaffold there were James Briscoe, Edward Aspinall and a man named Cartwright. When the cage was going down the scaffold broke and the men went to the bottom of the pit into the dib hole with the water and the debris. The pump was damaged and early on Tuesday the pump was stered and the flooding to the pit and the men had to be got out. The shaft had to be made safe. Briscoe let a pregnant wife and 2 children, Aspinall a wife plus 6 children and Cartwright a wife plus 5 children. The wife of the latter was inconsolable and still awaits with his dinner for him to come home.

From "THE ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER."
14th February 1863.

Fatal accident at Pilkingtons colliery.

Miles Baratt aged 22 was the foreman and was winding girls up Ester Benson let a waggon slip and it crushed him Died 4th He lived at 38 Groves Road Sutton and left a wife and 2 children. The inquest was at the Navigation Inn Sutton Verdict accidental death.

From "THE ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER".
23rd December 1863.

Intimidation.

Clever and Mulligan were summoned on a charge on unlawfully threatening Martin Wynne a labourer at Pilkingtons colliery. John Twist a timberman was engaged on the 18th and Wynn was sent down the pt and told to take prop. Cleaver got hold of his hair and said he would

'raddle' him and some of his hair came put Mulligan was acquitted but Clever was given a three month prison sentence.

From "THE ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER".
13th August 1864.

Pilkingtons colliery.

At 12.30 on Saturday David Whilton was killed by a fall of roof. The inquest was held at the red Lion Verdict accidental death.

From "THE ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER".
4th Match 1865.

Stealing candles.

Thomas Taylor a banksman was charged with stealing candles and a spade and a spade from John Wainwright. he gave him 14 instead of 16 candles. There were no previous convictions and he was sentenced to 1 day in prison and a caution serer.

From "THE WIGAN OBSERVER".
2nd February 1866.

A colliers wages.

At St Helens County Court before Mr Blow John McGarry a Pilkingtons collier claimed #1-4-4d for a shortage of wages Mr Marsh for the defendant said he had been paid for four yards of coal and not 6 yards and for nine hours at 3/-. the top coal was usually 6d and had been paid 1/- in 18 months. He was award cost and day wages.

From "THE WIGAN OBSERVER".
16th March 1866.

Fatal accident.

Henry Marsh a collier of Parr died o the 6th when he had been crushed by a fall of roof Verdict accidental death.

From "THE ST. HELENS STANDARD".
12th June 1869

Coal stealing at Pilkingtons colliery.

Mary Callaghan an old woman who had been previously convicted of coal stealing was charged with stealing coal from the colliery

From "THE ST. HELENS STANDARD".
14th May 1870.

Accident at Pilkingtons colliery.

On Tuesday a boy named Michael Sause lost his life in a mysterious manner. it appears he was a pony driver and was at work when he was killed. He was moving a waggon of coal with a boy named J. Harrison and was found at the end of the shunt lying doubled up under a waggon. The inquest was held Friday 14th May.

From "THE ST. HELENS STANDARD".
25th May 1871.

Falling down the pit.

Richard Sinking aged 26 years fell down the shaft on Sunday. He lived in Parr Stocks and was found at the bottom of the Engine pit at 2 am. He left home on 6 am on Saturday and was seen very drunk 1.30 on Sunday. he was near the mouth of the pit and shortly after a man went to the cage and when it came up there was a piece of shirt and a portion of a mans body inside. The underlooker was sent for and went down and brought up the remains which were taken to the Navigation Inn and the verdict was. "Found killed at the bottom of the shaft while in a state of intoxication".

From "THE ST. HELENS STANDARD".
9th March 1872.

Accident in a pit.

On Saturday William Mather aged 17 of Liverpool Street St. Helens a balance at the Pilkingtons colliery was killed at 2 pm. by being run over y a balance waggon in the No.2

brow. He was at work and by some means a balance waggon broke and ran back killing him at the bottom of the roadway killing him instantly.

ROYAL 17-06-1875
NAYLOR John 32 sinker
Suffocated by foul gas

From "THE INSPECTORS REPORT".
Prosecutions for disobeying Special Rules.
1875.

Proceedings have been instated against the manger if the colliery for omitting to appoint a competent person to examine the pit in the course of it being sunk previous to the sinkers commencing work as required in General Rule No.3. he was fined £10 and costs and the contractor engaged in the work was fined the same amount.

ROYAL 08-06-1884
SWEENEY John
PRICE Edward

The two were playing with other children about the pit top which was covered with planks when by some means unexplained the planks were removed and the lads fell down

SANKEY BROOK COLLIERY.

This was situated on Redgate Drive and was already established by the 1840's. It was mentioned in the Inspector's Reports for 1850 and 1855, as being owned by the Sankey Brook Colliery Co. In 1862, the recorded production was 100,000 tons of coal per year. It was later merged with the Ashton Green Colliery to form the Sankey Coal Co. Ltd., but this concern was not successful, and folded in 1869. The last reference to the colliery is in 1873, when it was owned by Henry Bramall & Company, of St. Helens. The colliery probably closed around 1876.

February, 1847.
J. Highcock was killed in the mine. (MJ)

February, 1848.
Sankey Brook Colliery in Parr.
Owned by Messrs. Johnson, Worthington and Company. Three were killed and four severely injured when gas from old workings ignited at a candle. According to the Mining Almanac for 1849 seven were killed and two injured. (Galloway)

5th. December 1850.
Thomas Briscoe was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

12th. July 1851.
J. Ashcroft was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

28th. June 1852.
J. Swift was killed by an explosion of firedamp. (MIR).

21st. October 1852.
T. Wayne, a putter was killed by a fall of coal. (MIR).

21st. January 1854.
Mary Yates was killed when she was run over by a railway waggon. (MIR).

11th. August 1854.
At the Black Horse Inn there was an inquest into the death of James Lowe a collier, who was killed by fall of roof at the colliery. (WE).
12th. May 1854.

John Morris, a boy of ten years of age, a driver at the colliery had his thigh broken by a waggon of coal which hit him and knocked him down. (WE).

9th. September 1854.

William Buras was killed when he fell out of a bucket in the sinking shaft by the chains of the bucket on which they were working being caught by the winding bucket and lifted off the hook. (MIR).

3rd. May 1854.

It was reported that the Sankey Brook colliers went back to work on Friday. Sixteen men had been out for three weeks with pay for two weeks when production fell and it was agreed that in future the work should be measured every three weeks. (WE).

14th. December 1855.

On Monday a death was reported at the colliery on the steam riddle at that sorted large and small coal. Susannah Norcross aged 16 years had to clear the riddles and got her dress caught in a cog and was dragged in by the leg and crushed. Her clothes were torn off and her legs and arm mangled and she was a terrible spectacle but she died very quickly. (WE).

6th. July 1855.

On Tuesday at the inquest at the house of Peter Millington at Parr on James Twist aged 18 years who was killed by a fall of roof, it was reported that he had had two brothers killed in the same colliery. (WE).

12th. January 1855.

Ten ponies were lost at the colliery out of the twenty that were in the pit. There was fire in the pit and they were suffocated by the smoke. They were seen all right and stabled at 10 p.m. but when they were seen at 4 a.m. ten or eleven of them were dead and the remainder were running about the pit. No one could say how the fire started but it was thought that drunkenness was the culprit. (WE).

21st. October 1855.

W. Dunne aged 11 years was killed by falling into the sump at the bottom of the pit. (MIR).

20th. December 1855.

Joseph Goulding was scalded by bursting of the boiler on the 11th. December. (MIR).

28th. October 1856.

A tub of coal was being wound up a brow when the rope broke and the tub ran back and smashed into another tub. Fortunately there was no one hurt. (St.HI).

12th. February 1857.

William Harrison aged 32 years was killed by a fall of roof when a large stone fell on him. . (MIR, St.HI).

1st. August 1857.

A sinker, Henry Widowes, was severely hurt when he was repairing the shaft and a stone fell from the side eighty one yards and penetrated his right kidney. He is reported to be recovering from his injuries. (St.HI).

11th. June 1857.

Six persons, five boys and one man, were killed in descending the shaft to the Rushy Park mine at the colliery in a waggon suspended from four corners which caught the side of the pit causing two of the hooks to be detached and the men fell 200 yards to the bottom. The Inspector had previously visited the pit but commented that the manager who was not an engineer did not comprehend what he should do and he recommended him to appoint a viewer to who he would point out the defects. The Inspector Mr. Peter Higson had arranged to visit the colliery and do this on the day the accident occurred. The pit which was 360 yards deep was out of the perpendicular and irregularly and badly walled and without guides. The Inspector commented;-

“I believe that the waggon caught one of the rings which it nearly did when I was descending. Sadly this is enough to convince the colliery proprietors that the services of a colliery viewer competent is indispensable as are guides and conductors in deep shafts where two ropes are used in one shaft” (MIR).

3rd. July 1857.

Accident.

On Sunday about 5.30 a.m. a portion of the brickwork surrounding the pit fell down the shaft and filled it up for seven yards. A number of workmen were about to descend the pit to examine and repair the shaft but fortunately there was no one down the pit at the time. It was in this shaft a short time ago five men were killed and Mr. Peter Higson, the Inspector, had suspended the shaft and workings. (WO).

3rd. September 1857.

James Burrows, a collier, was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

8th. December 1857.

Mary Fisher was killed when she was crushed between trucks on the surface. (MIR).

6th May 1858.

John Swift aged 23 years, a hooker-on was killed when a waggon rail which a collier had placed near the mouth of the pit fell on him while he was taking an empty tub out of the cage. (MIR).

8th. May 1858.

Accident at the Colliery.

At the colliery on Wednesday last, a banksman, Peter Fenny, was filling a tub with iron rails about two yards long when one was dropped down the shaft and alighted on the arm of John Swift the hooker on fracturing it in such a dreadful manner that amputation at the shoulder was necessary. Dr. Gaskell performed the operation but the poor fellow died a few hours later when a great haemorrhage took pace. (CG).

6th. February 1858.

On Wednesday there was an inquest into the death of John Holland at Johnson's colliery who was killed when a large portion of roof fell on him. He was taken home in a cart. At the inquiry it was stated that the roof was badly supported. (St.HI).

3rd. May 1859.

Accident.

John Barrows aged 51 years a furnaceman was killed when he had signalled the engineer to wind up the cage before he got into it and it started. He had severely broken ribs when he was getting into the cage and was crushed against a guide rod. The engineman had started the engine while he was getting in. He was removed home but he died. The inquest was held at the Bulls Head on Friday and a verdict of 'Accidental death' was returned. (MIR, St.HI).

17th. December 1859.

Coal Stealing At The Colliery.

Joseph Higginson was given seven days in Kirkdale goal for stealing coal from waggons at Wickers Doss siding, and Martha Hough and Mary Hankinson were charged with the same offence and given a caution because there were extenuating circumstance. (PR).

17th. March 1860.

Thomas Swift aged 10 years, a drawer in the Chain pit was crushed and killed by a large fall of roof. (PR).

16th. April 1861.

George Knox, a labourer broke his leg by the engine crank the effects from which he died. (MIR).

30th. August 1861.

Accident At The Colliery.

Samuel Leigh aged 19 years, a collier was killed when he was run over in an incline underground. At the inquest into the death of Samuel Leigh, drawer, at the Bulls Head, Parr and from the evidence it appears that he was riding on some laden tubs that were being drawn up the engine brow when he fell off and was run over and killed instantly. The jury brought in a verdict of 'Accidental death'. (MIR,WO,PR,CG).

26th. December 1861.

James Wilkinson a collier, was killed when he fell out of the tub while ascending the pit. (MIR).

3rd. January 1863.

Colliery Engineer Committed For Manslaughter.

The engineer was drunk and caused a man named Littler to fall to his death down the pit. At the inquest into the death of Littler the engineer Thomas Carter was questioned and it was learned that as the men got into the cage Carter drew the cage up. He was drunk at the time. a man named Foster jumped out of the cage but Little had his leg cut off by the cage as it was drawn into the headgears. Carter was indicted for manslaughter at Kirkdale Sessions.(St.HN, WO).

1st. January 1864.

Fatal Accident.

On Thursday a carter in the employ of Robert Fairclough named Peter Lawless, aged 50 years, went to the colliery for coal and was bringing the cart onto the weighing machine when the horse became restless and crushed him against a post. He fell and the wheel went over him and he was killed. (WO, WE).

5th. February 1864.

Strike.

A meeting was held at the colliery by Mr. Davidson, the Miners' Agent when he exhorted the men to join the Union. Balancers and waggoners were on strike and the miners were in support. (WO).

12th. February 1864.

Strike.

The strike was over after the men had been out for two weeks and they got a 10% increase and resolved to work 9 hours a day. The men would go back to work at the colliery on Monday. (WO).

16th. May 1864.

Coal Stealing.

Three girls were jailed for one month after being found guilty of stealing coal from the colliery. (St.HN).

7th. May, 1864. (PR)

Intimidating Colliers.

Thomas Topping, John Johnson, Matthew Swift and William Jackson were each sent to jail for twenty one days for intimidating a workman named William Wilson at the Sankeybrook colliery. who was set upon because he would not leave his work.

22nd. February 1865.

Misprint.

Joseph Smith, a miner who died from injuries he received from a firedamp explosion. This was originally printed as Laffack colliery but an apology for the mistake was printed 28th. February. The inquest into the death of Joseph Smith was held at the Lord Nelson Parr. He was 28 years old and left a wife and five children. He died as a result of an explosion in the Little Delf Mine. Margaret, his wife, said he was brought home, walking, about 11.30 a.m.

and was burnt in the middle of his head and back and could not open his eyes. Dr. Gaskell was sent for and asked him what had happened and he said he was drilling and before he matched the shot and got to an opening about eighteen yards away. There was no flame in the pit but there was gas and he had placed his cap on the lamp at the time. David Straight and John Saxon gave evidence that he worked at the pit bottom. Harrison, the fireman examined the place on Wednesday and found little gas. (St.HN).

6th. May 1865.

Intimidation.

Four colliers, Thomas Topping, John Johnson, Matthew Swift, William Johnson, John Chadwick and Jonathan Johnson were committed to jail for using threats against William Rowlinson, a collier. (WO).

5th. July 1865.

Ann Highcock aged 19 years, a coal drawer was killed by falling from one stage to another along with some coal boxes she was pushing. She fell about seven feet. (MIR).

14th. September 1865.

James Kay aged 17 years, a drawer was killed by a fall of roof in the Little Delf Mine. The inquest was held on the following Saturday at the Grey Horse, Parr. William Bradley was a witness and the deceased was his drawer. He was loading coal when a fall of stuff fell on him while kneeling. He was carried home in the arms of Bradley. It was found that there was a slip four feet from the face in the side and the fall came from that. Verdict, accidental death. (CG,WO,WE,MIR).

19th. February 1860.

Henry Parr aged 17 years, a waggoner was killed as he was getting into the cage when the engine started injuring him so that he died soon afterwards. (MIR).

28th. July 1860.

Richard Frodsham aged 44 years, a collier was killed by a fall of top coal which the deceased had neglected to prop. (MIR).

2nd. January 1860.

Robert Littler aged 32 years a collier was killed in an overwinding accident. (MIR).

1st. January 1863.

The engine tender in the Rushy Park Mine at midnight had to attend to lower two men down the pit. He was so tipsy at the time as he was unable to discharge his duties properly and wound them off the pulley. The deceased fell from the top of the headgear down the pit and the other fell onto the pit bank and received slight injuries. The engine tender was indicted for manslaughter at Liverpool assizes. The pit was off work at the time and neither of the two men saw the tender before they got into the cage. The banksman saw him apparently lying on the floor asleep and did not know or perceive that he was unfit for duty and work. (MIR).

13th. February 1864.

Strike At The Colliery.

The waggon balancers got their demands and the strike has finished. The men will restrict their hours of labour and they will decide by lot at which pit they will do it first. It is hoped that their demands will be granted in order to prevent the results of a strike. (CG).

19th. February 1865.

Joseph Smith, a collier was killed in an explosion of gas. He was burnt in an explosion of gas in the Little Delf Mine and died from the injuries that he received. He had left the place in which he had been ordered to work and unknown to the manager and the overlooker. He went up a brow that had been suspended and begun to work there although there was a danger signal. In a few minutes the explosion took place. (MIR).

20th. April 1866.

Fatal Accident.

On Tuesday a boy named William Kelsall aged 12 years, son of Ann Kelsall of Peasley Cross, a beer seller, was accident killed at the Sankey Brook Colliery whilst engaged in the cleaning a portion of the machinery connected to the engine. His head was nearly severed from his body. It appeared that he was employed as a errand boy and on the day in question he was engaged in cleaning the engine and carrying oil to the engineers who were engaged in the same work. He had gone to the upper storey of the engine house and the engineers attention was attracted by a wheel falling into the room. The engineer went to see what it was and found William had been caught in the machinery. He was stuck fast in the wheels connected to the winding indicator. The machinery was immediately stopped and assistance sought and the boy got out but he had his head almost severed from his body. The inquest was at the Mrs. Helsby's House in Peasley Cross and the verdict was 'Died through his own incaution'. (WO,WE,St.HSTD)

13th. July 1866.

John Maddon, aged 30 years, a labourer was killed. John Colgrave of Parr said the deceased lodged with him and he was moving a barrow of bricks when he stated vomiting blood. Dr. Ricketts said Madden progressed and had a perforation of the stomach. Three months ago he had fallen down and injured his side and death was due to internal haemorrhage. Verdict, 'Death was due to the effort of lifting the barrow of bricks'. (WO).

8th. February 1867.

James Leyland, a pit man and Peter Thompson also a pit man were killed when the rope on which they were going down the pit got out of the pulley and broke when it fell on the axle. At an inquest before Mr. Driffield at Mr. Johnson's, The Bulls Head in Parr on Monday afternoon the bodies of two men James Leyland and Peter Thompson aged 37 and 53 years respectively who came to their deaths on the 8th instant at the colliery. Mr Higson, the Government Inspector, was present and Mr. Thomas appeared for the Company and Mr. Roberts for The Miners' Association. James Bulmer, who lived in Pennington Road, Parr, ran the engine about three in the afternoon when he was winding water. The pump had broken down the day before and they were winding water in a tank. It was the duty of the two deceased to take precautions for winding the water and then they had to go down the pit to see if the tank tipped into the water. The witness asked if they were ready and they gave the signal to lower. The engineman said they got to the brow and carried a light plank that was laid over the top of the tank. The rope broke when they were fifteen yards down the pit and the witness lay down at the pit edge and looked down but he could see nothing. Thomas Mercer and he were looking and they could see that the rope was broken. The engine was stopped and he and Mercer went into the pit and saw the body of Thompson in the cage and he was brought up. The men had worked at the pit about nine years and were experienced and well thought of by the Company. At a directors meeting a little time before, money was made available to make the pit as safe as possible. A verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury. (MIR, St.HSTD).

The Mines Inspector commented in his report on the accident;-

“Two experienced men employed at the colliery with the sole purpose of keeping the ropes, machinery pipes and tackle in a safe order had been making some improvements in the one of the pits at the colliery. When they had got down only a few feet the rope broke and they fell to the bottom both were dreadfully mangled and quite dead.

The cage was previously standing on the pit bank some distance out of the direct line of the groove of the pulley and was drawn into the pit by the engine and as the rope was a round one and in good condition it must have got on the side of the flange of the pulley as the cage was first being hauled into the pit and when it began to be lowered that rope slipped off the axle and was broken by a sudden jerk. By several experiments I have found that it was of average strength.

The deceased had the full authority to discontinue the use of the rope which was doubtful in appearance. As round ropes were liable to get put of the pulley unless they were properly adjusted it should be put in a direct line of the pulley and the last or the top coil on the drum should on all cases be at the right angle to the axle pulley”. (MIR).

30th. March 1867.

Children Stealing Coal.

Mary and Catherine Kelly, two little children whose parents appeared in court were charged with stealing 20lbs. of coal and they pleaded guilty. The directors of the pit were

troubled with coal stealing and wished to put an end to it. Mr. Thomas was the solicitor for the owners and said that in the 8th. March the children were seen stealing coal valued at 1d. and the case was dismissed with costs.

John Clubb and John Birchall both children were charged with stealing coal on the 7th. March. The manager gave evidence and the case was dismissed with costs. At the court the case of Mrs. O'Brien an old woman was charged with stealing coal 50lbs. Thomas Eabes the browman said that he had seen O'Brien take coal from the pit brow. There were question as to the amount of coal taken and it was said that it was about 1cwt. She said that she could not lift that quantity. There was laughter in the court. The case was dismissed as being rather suspicious. (St.HSTD).

12th. March 1867.

Accident At Sankey Brook.

Meeting of miners was held on Saturday afternoon at Parr Stocks. Present were Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Leyland whose husbands were killed at the colliery on the 8th February and they were presented worth memorial cards by Mr. Rymer who made a short but touching address. At the conclusion of the address the widows thanked the meeting and left the room. It was the proposed that a public subscription should be opened for the widows and orphans by Mr. Rymer and another meeting would be held at Parr Stocks on Wednesday next to take the matter in to consideration when Mr. Rymer and others will address the meeting. (St.HN&A).

30th. June 1867.

Accident.

Matthew Barnes, aged 32 years, Robert Halliday, Thomas Whitehead and Robert Thornton aged 16, Thomas Hullet aged 12, years Thomas Jason aged 12 years were descending the pit at the colliery which was 367 yards deep and 11 feet wide on a single rope to a box with no guide rods and the rope twisted and the box was attached by four hooks. John Myres the banksman stopped at 140 yards to clear the water table said it was not worth while making two windings so they would all go together and stop at the water table. There was the call to lower and those on the surface saw the rope vibrate and the engine was stopped. It was lowered at a signal from the bottom and then was raise and found to contain two lad's caps that were blood stained and two hooks had broken off. Michael Richie the fireman at the bottom heard screams and he signalled the banksman There were 60 yards on the drum. William Rigby collier said that the rope was in a bad state. Mr. Higson was at the colliery and saw what happened. He thought the colliery was badly managed and he expressed a pit of that depth should have guide rods. Higson said that no coal should be wound until the pit had been made safe. (St.HI).

15th. July, 1867. (PR).

Fire At Local Colliery.

Early on Friday morning a fire was discovered at the new coal pit at Sutton, property of the Sankey Brook Coal Company. The fire was confined to sheds and the structures over the pit mouth which was made to direct the coal boxes into railway wagons as they came to the surface. About four o'clock the whole of the structure was destroyed despite the efforts of the local fire brigade. No one was injured and the Company was fully insured. The colliers have been thrown out of work for some time.

16th. February 1867.

Accident At Sankey Brook Colliery.

There was an accident resulting in the death of two men at Messrs Johnsons colliery at Parr on the afternoon of the 8th. It appears that two daywageman Peter Thomas, aged 43 years and James Leyland aged 37 years of Parr Stocks whose duty it was to look after the safety of the gearing were at the mine engaged in testing a new rope which was used for lowering and raising materials up and down the pit. On this occasion the mode in which this was done was at the most unwise and at least fool hardy. In stead of trying it safely with dead weight alone they stepped into the cage and before it got 12 yards from the surface the rope broke. The men were precipitated 180 yards to their deaths. Death was instantaneous and the bodies were shockingly mutilated. Both men were married and left families. Inquest was held on Monday before Mr. Driffield and a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was returned. (St.HN&A).

8th. January 1869.

David Wilson a dataller was killed by a fall of the roof. (MIR).

27th. February 1869.

Coal Stealing.

John Holligan was the defendant and PC.365 said he had information that the defendant was stealing coal. The defendant said that the coal came out of the water and was sent to jail for 14 days.

Martin Murphy, aged 15 years, was sent to jail for the same offence.

Patrick Churchill, aged 13 years, was sent to jail for one week and sentenced to one stroke of the birch for stealing 56lbs. of coal.

Margaret Davies, an old woman, was sent to goal for 14 days for stealing 64lbs. of coal the property of Amelia Wallace of Duke Street. PC.395 saw the woman coming from the yard with the coal on Thursday at 3.30 a.m. (St.HSTD).

3rd. December 1869.

Liquidation Of The Sankey Brook Coal Company.

From an advert in the 'Colliery Guardian';-

"To be sold by private treaties. Particulars from Mr. Isiah Booth of Holingworth Manchester or from Maskell William Pearce, solicitor of St. Helens."

10th. December 1869.

The Sankey Brook Coal Company.

Before Vice Chancellor James and Mr. Kay Q.C., a partition was presented to wind up the Company's debts which amounted to #70,000 of which £50,00 was due to share holders. The creditors were the Alliance Bank and the Company was unable to pay. The case was adjourned for one week. (CG).

22nd. February, 1870.

Sankey Brook Coal Company.

A summons was heard with a view to the winding up on the company. (St. HN&A).

28th. April 1870.

Man Killed In Coal Pit.

Joseph Hindley aged 19 years, a drawer was killed by a fall of roof in the High Delf Mine. He was working with his father in the same place. The mine was nearly finished and much crushing and weighting was brought on by the goaf. The dirt was very soft and dangerous. They had worked under the that day before it was supported by props. The layer was about fourteen inches and should have been got down as the coal was removed. His father called his son's attention to it and the young man saw the danger and told his father to get out first. He went but the fall caught his son crushed his head and killed him. (MIR, St.HSTD).

16th. May 1870.

George Swift aged 44 years, a fireman was suffocation in the pit. (MIR).

21st. May, 1870. (PR)

Fatal Accident In Coal Pit.

George Swift, a fireman at the Sankeybrook colliery, was passing a part of the road where the roof was unsafe when a quantity of coal fell on him. He was killed immediately and his body conveyed home.

20th. August 1870.

Mary Connelly was charged with stealing coal from the colliery and sent to jail for 7 days. (St.HSTD).

30th. July 1870.

Coal Stealing.

B. Callaghan and Johanna Donnelly were charged with frequenting a road at Sutton with the purpose of stealing coal. They were seen in possession of coal which they dropped and the

overlooker said he had frequently chased them away. Callaghan had been previously convicted. There was some doubt and the bench dismissed the case. (St.STD).

26th. February 1870

The winding up of the colliery is reported in the St. Helens Standard.

5th. February 1870.

Stealing Coal..

Two girls, Catherine Donovan and Mary McGowen, about 16 years old were charged with stealing coal. Joseph Heyes, the overlooker, saw the latter on the top of a railway waggon and she was throwing coal down to the other who was putting it in a bag. The coal was worth 1/- and they were committed to jail for 14 days. (St.HSTD).

30th. May 1871.

Joseph Parr aged 32 years, a collier was killed by a fall of roof. (MIR).

23rd. August 1871.

Fatal Accident.

Robert Margeson aged 20 years, a collier, of Marshalls Cross Sutton was killed by a fall of roof. He was engaged in fixing a bar to the curling and a great quantity of dirt fell on him breaking his back. He was conveyed home and died on the 22nd. (MIR, St.HSTD).

2nd. October 1871.

Henry Millington aged 26 years, a sinker was killed when the rope got out of the pulley and he fell down the pit. (MIR).

22nd. November 1872.

Flooding Of The Colliery.

On Friday last a torrent of water broke into the mine at the Rushy Park shaft. There were 250 men in the mine at the time and it broke through the shaft about 50 yards from the bottom. It is supposed to have come from old workings. It caused a great deal of alarm and men rushed to the pit eye. The cages were in constant use for about an hour. All the men were got out and the water reversed the ventilation. There was no working at the pit until Tuesday when the water was removed by pumping. (CG).

23rd. November, 1872. (St.HN&A)

Alarm of flooding at Sankey Brook.

A totally unexpected inrush of water into the Rushy Park shaft at teh Sankey Brook colliery took place on Friday causing a great amount of alarm. The shaft was about 180 yards deep and teh Rushy Park seam was worked near the bottom from about 100 yards downwards

27th. November, 1872. (St.HN&A)

Alarm at Flooding of Sankey Brook.

A totally unexpected rush of water took place into the Rushy Park shaft at the colliery and caused a great deal of alarm. The shaft was about 380 yards deep and the Rushy Park seam was worked near the bottom. About 100 yards down were old and disused workings in the Roger mine which had been built up for a considerable time. A large volume of water had accumulated in this mine which pressed against the wall which gave way sending the water down the shaft into the dib hole. The men working in the mine were drawn to the surface through the falling water and they got wet through. As soon as a way was cleared the pumping engines were set to work. By Saturday it was found that the outflow had decreased to a trickle. A search was made for the ponies left below and it was found that they were safe.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

15th. February, 1876.

St. Helens Petty Sessions.

Robert Chisnall and Aaron Greenough were summoned for wrongfully absenting themselves from the Sankey Brook colliery for which the sum of £2 was claimed by the owners for compensation. The magistrates considered the case and thought that the men knew the rule and of the reduction in wages. They also commented on the fact that the offence was committed on the 5th. February the summons did not occur until the 9th and awarded the damages at £1 each with costs.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

9th. June, 1877.

Fatal Fall at St. Helens

At the inquest at the Victoria vaults on the body of Richard Heyes aged 57 years who came to his death at the Sankey Brook colliery when on Wednesday evening he was engaged with other men in pulling down an old engine. They were working on the second storey of the enginehouse and in the course of the work the deceased fell off. He stepped back to cut some tobacco and over balanced and fell nine feet into the room below breaking his back from the effects of which he died at about 7.15 the following day. The jury returned a verdict of 'accidental death.'

St. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

11th. March, 1882.

Petty Sessions.

John Johnson, John Norbury Alfred Johnson, William Griffth and John Jones were charged with having braced the Mines Regulation Act at Sankeybrook colliery as they did unlawfully have tobacco pipes and tobacco for smoking in the pit. All the defendants pleaded guilty and some said that they had taken the pipe down because they had forgotten to hide it at the surface which was their usual practice. Each were fined 2.6d. with costs of 7/6d.

SHALEY BROW COLLIERY.

From 'THE REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF MINES'.

22nd. October 1852.

John Clarkson was killed when a tub of coal was being loaded and fell down the pit on him as he was preparing to ascend.

SHERDLEY COLLIERY

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

17th. January, 1874.

Fatal Accident.

Last night a fatal accident occurred at Sherdley colliery, property of Bornes Robinson. It seems that a new road was being opened in the No.3 Pit through to the St. Helens Main Delph. On Friday evening, just as work was about to commence, Mr. Fairhurst, the underground manager, passed a spot when the wall of the mine gave way and a great mass of coal fell down. John Glynn of Pottery Street aged 24 years was thrown down and about atone of debris fell on him and Thomas Greenall was also struck by flying debris. This occurred about four hundred yards from the pit eye and someone immediately went for Mr. Fairhurst who supervised operations while the coal was cleared away but Glynn was found to be quite dead. It was obvious that he had sustained severe head injuries which would account for his death.

PRESCOT REPORTER

18th. January, 1879.

Shocking Colliery Accident.

At the inquest onto the death of Robert Davies aged 32 years who was killed at the No.3 Sherdley colliery when he was crushed between two full wagons of coal. It had been the rumour that the accident was the fault of another collier named Strongfellow who had left his full box at the top of the brow which subsequently fell down own crushing the deceased

between two wagons. Joseph Worrall was a balancer at the pit and knew the deceased and was present at the time of the accident Strongfellow went to get a prop to hold the box while the chain was attached and while he was away the deceased took his box off the landing and immediately the full box ran back catching him between the two boxes. He shouted out and Worrall put his back to the box and the injured man was taken up. he was quite conscious. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and admonished Strongfellow from all blame. It was not his fault.

Prescot Reporter
31st. January, 1880.

Accident at Shedley Hall Colliery.

John Scott was getting coal when a large quantity coal and dirt fell on him inflicting serious injuries on him.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER

14th. June, 1881.

Fatal Colliery Accident.

At the York Hotel the inquest was held into the death of Thomas Gornall of 3, York Street who was killed at Sherdley Hall colliery by a fall of coal. Mr. Turner, manager of the colliery attended and Ann Gornall, his wife gave evidence of identification. Richard Gornall son of the deceased stated that he was his father's drawer and on the day of the accident they were working until about three o'clock in the afternoon in getting coal when Richard went out with a full box leaving Thomas standing in the workings. As he went away he heard a great noise and when he returned he found that the top coal had fallen on the deceased. He shouted for further assistance and the coal that came down would have filled about seventy boxes and the working pace as about eleven feet by eight feet. There were about seven or eight props and they had asked for more props on the previous day but could not get them. Hugh Looney the day manager helped to get the man out and stated that there was enough timber. Ralph Talbot, dattaler said that on et day of the accident he was acting as fireman and he had never heard that the deceased was short of props. The foreman of the jury said that some blame must be attached to the management of the colliery if there was an insufficient supply of timber and after consideration found that the deceased met his death from a fall of coal but whether from the deceased drawing a prop or otherwise had not been shown.

Prescot Reporter
6th. May, 1882.

Accident at the Sherdley Colliery

A rather serious accident was reported as may be fatal occurred to William Frodsham, collier. The man was working when there was a fall of coal. He was recovered and taken to the Cottage Hospital where it was found that he had sustained a compound dislocation of the ankle joint. He was reported to be in a critical condition.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

28th. February, 1882.

Charges Against Collier.

At St. Helens Petty Sessions Robert Hunter, a miner at Sherdley pit was charged with having a defective safety lamp. his defence was that the lamp was in the same condition as it had been given to him. The bench dismissed the case.

PRESCOT REPORTER

31st. March, 1883.

Fatal accident at Sherdley.

The inquest was held at Peasley Cross Inn on James Raberly aged 66 years. he died form injuries received o the 13th. when he was working in the Potato Delph when the cage came down the shaft and men went to the cage and the gate as the deceased came running up and attempted to jump in the cage and was crushed and broke his thigh and other injuries. He was taken to the Cottage Hospital where he died. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

PRESCOT REPORTER

31st. March, 1883.

Fatal Accident at Sherdley Colliery.

At the inquest into the death of Lambert Anders aged 18 years, son of Joseph. In the morning of the day of the accident the deceased was run over by one of the balance boxes in the shaft. he was caught by the neck and crushed against the roof and he was dead when his body was recovered. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

PRESCOT REPORTER

6th. October, 1883.

Fatal Colliery Accident at St. Helens.

At the inquest at Finger Post in Parr on Thomas Thompson who lost his life in Sherdley colliery when he was clearing away a fall when another took place killing him on the spot. The coroner adjourned the proceedings for a week until et Government Inspector could be present. At the resumed inquest it was found that the men were doing their work correctly and no blame could be attached on anyone. The returned a verdict of accidental death.

PRESCOT REPORTER

26th. May, 1884.

Careless Miner Before Magistrates.

At the Police Court James Anders was charged with a breach of the Mining Acts at Sherdley colliery where he unrammed a charge of powder. On the 23rd. he was blowing down roof coal and the coal in the roof was about two inches thick. It was intended that a hole was drilled into the rock behind the coal about a quarter of an inch but he drilled into the rock about an inch and a quarter and the charge misfired. The regulations stated that another hole should be drilled but he would have lost his gunpowder so he unrammed the original charge with a pricker which came into contact with hard rock and a premature explosion occurred and his face was severely burned. The bench though this was already some punishment for what he had done. He appeared to be sorry and a the incident would serve as a lesson to other in the mine. He was fined 10/- and costs.

PRESCOT REPORTER

11th. December, 1886.

Collier at fault

On Monday at the St. Helens Police Court Isaac Davies of 35, Cooper Street was charged that of the 25th November he committed an offence under the Miners Regulation Act by not making the roof of his place safe contrary to the General Rules. J. O. Swift prosecuted for Messrs. Bournes Robinson of Sherdley Collieries. It was stated that the defendant was a man who had worked the collieries for thirty years and the case was brought forward in the interest of the men themselves and they company was sorry to have prosecuted the man who had conducted himself up to this point very well. he was working with a man named Holland and the fireman inspected the place and it was found unsafe. The fireman put up a notice but the two men went to the working place with the result that a portion of the roof fell on Holland who was badly hurt. The defendant escaped by jumping aside. He was fined 20/- with 6/6d. costs.

PRESCOT REPORTER

23rd. June, 1887.

Sherdley Excursion.

The annual excursion of the workpeople went to Southport setting off about 8.30 and visited the Botanic Gardens and got back to St. Helens about 9.30. A good time as had by all

PRESCOT REPORTER

3rd September, 1887.

Fatal Accident at Sherdley.

At 3 am Joshua Lea underlooker at the Sherdley Colliery died at home from injuries he received at work on the 28th. July. On that day a young man named James Brough was drawing some wagons when the rope with which he was drawing caught fast. He unhooked the rope and failed to fasten it again so the rope came into contact with the deceased who was found without his lamp and lying on his face and unconscious. He was taken to the pitbrow as

quickly as possible but he died on the date stated. Joshua Leigh stated age as 70 years at the inquest and a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was returned.

PRESCOT REPORTER

22nd. November, 1888.

Accident at Sherdley.

At Sherdley colliery owned by the Whitecross Colliery Company, four men were working in the Potato Delph including a drawer about half a mile from the shaft when the roof gave way and a large quantity of stone fell on John Butterworth. He was completely buried and John Swift of Bishops Street had his leg injured. A gang of twelve men were at once on the scene to rescue the men and great difficulty was encountered in getting off the stones. Thomas Brakeley was slightly injured in the operation when a stone fell on his leg. George Finch had a narrow escape. Butterworth's body was brought out at 8pm on Wednesday and he was crushed in a frightful manner. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

St. H Reporter

19th. July, 1889.

Sherdley Colliery Excursion.

The Peasley Cross collier went on their annual excursion to Blackpool. More than eight hundred took part and the trip was a great success.

7th. November, 1890.

Colliery Underlooker Killed

At the inquest held by Mr. Brighouse on the body of John Leigh who had died from injuries inflicted at the colliery two weeks before when a stone fell on him. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

9th. October, 1891.

Another Accident at St. Helens.

Two men James Connolley and Ralph Talbot both narrowly escaped death when they were roofing at about 4 a.m. when a quantity of dust and stone fell. It took two hours before colliers heard their groans and it took an hour to get them out. Connolley was taken to the Hospital and attended by Drs. Twyford and Reed when it was found that no bones were broken. Talbot's leg and body were badly crushed.

CG 19th. April, 1901.

Sherdley.

At the inquest into the death of Joseph Whitcroft aged 19 years who was killed at the pit. Mr. Mathews, the Inspector told the Coroner, Mr. Brighouse, that the deceased was being taught to lash on by an experienced man when the chain broke and the tub went 30 yards and jammed Whitcroft against a box killing him instantly. The broken chain was produced in court by Mr. Pattison the manager. Mr. Mathews asked if the chains were inspected and the manager said that the men sent them up when they needed attention. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death' and recommended that the chains should be examined by a competent person as hookers-on might not be able to judge a chain properly. Mr. Pattison said that a man would be appointed to do this.

1911 Sherdley MIR.

A serious fatality occurred at the colliery when two men were about to ascend on the completion of their shift. The regular onsetter was off duty, and another man was appointed to act in his place. The cages consisted of two decks, and the cage at the bottom was lowered in response of a signal so that the bottom deck was in position for men to get in. When in this position the onsetter received a signal '3' from the surface and returned the signal '3'. He then proceeded to load the bottom deck with men, but after a boy had got into the cage and another person was in the act of getting in, the cage was suddenly lowered and caused his death. According to the onsetter no action signal was given, only the cautionary signal, '3' that men were to ascend. The Inspector commented that this was probably correct as it was hardly likely that the onsetter would give a signal to lower the cage while the men were in the act of

entering it. In addition to this the shaft bottom was very wet, and the onsetter usually held the gate up by means of a pole which necessitated the use of both hands. The enginewinder said he received a signal to lower the cage. A breach of the General Regulation 39 was committed by the manager in allowing the bottom deck to be loaded first, and General Regulation 92 was also contravened as the complete code of signals was not observed when men were ascending and descending at the same time. The manager was charged with the contraventions and convictions were obtained.

25th. March 1927.

Electrocuted in Mine'

A Misadventure verdict was recorded at St. Helens on Ben Green aged 42 years who was an engineer at the Sherdley Colliery. He was electrocuted on Thursday and live in Marshalls Cross Road, St. Helens. Fred Bennet said that the current went off at the No.2 switch. He telephoned to Mr. Green who came down the pit to inspect. Green went up a short ladder with an electric torch and seconds after there was a flash and he collapsed on top of two men who were at the bottom of the ladder. There was 6,500 volts at the switch and Green's right arm was badly burnt. Mr. MacBride, the Inspector of Mines said that the moral of the incident was obvious as he had touched something live with his right hand and he arm then touched the framework and he received the full shock. (N&EG).

MIR 1927,

Sherdley

A fireman was about to enter the bottom deck of a three foot cage. One person was already on the top deck and the cage was signalled to the second deck and there was no one to ride in this deck and it was signalled to the bottom deck. The fireman got into and the deceased was following two or three yards behind and the cage was raised and he was fatally crushed.

SMITHY BROW COLLIERY.

From 'THE REPORT OF THE MINES INSPECTOR'.

6th. June 1858.

William Whittle aged 14 years, the hooker-on, was killed by being struck by a stone that fell down the pit.

SMITHY BROW 06-06-1858

WHITTLE William 14 hooker on

Being struck by a stone falling down the pit.

ST. HELENS COLLIERY

PRESCOT REPORTER.

19th. April, 1873.

Neglect of Work By Colliers.

James Hill, John Roby, William White, Richard and John Southward and William Platt were charged with absenting themselves from Pilkington Brothers colliery. All the defendants pleaded guilty with the exception of Hill who said he had fallen and hurt himself and was unable to return to work. The colliery manager prosecuted the case and alleged that damage had been sustained by the employers to £3 in Southwards case, ten shillings in the case of each of the others. When asked why they had down it the men did not reply and the prosecution alleged that they wanted to go drinking. The men were told to pay the costs of the court. and the case was dismissed.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

6th. May, 1876.

Man Killed in Pilkington's Colliery.

John Bradbury was killed on Thursday by a fall of coal and roof. At about 9 a.m. he was getting coal and after cutting under a mass of coal when it gave way. He called out but most fell on his head killing him instantly. His father and brother were working in the same pit and were at once called. the body was recovered and taken to his home in College Street. The deceased was 25 years of age who left a wife and two children. His father and brother who got him out had started work that morning after both being injured in a previous accident at the pit.

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ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

23rd. June, 1877.

Law Report.

In the Chancery Division on behalf of the St. Helens Collieries there was an injunction to restrain James Radley from, pumping water from his collieries and running into a brook and causing the plaintiffs reservoir to be damaged and also his engines and boilers. It appeared that in 11875 the defendants pit caught fire and was flooded. Pumping started in April last. The water was impregnated with sulphate of iron and ruined the plaintiffs boilers. The defendant contended that the water did little or no damage. The Chancellor granted the injunction.

PRESCOT REPORTER

22nd. November, 1879.

Fatal Accident at St. Helens Colliery.

George Boolwater aged 70 years was killed. He was a weighman and had to label wagons going too and from the colliery. During shunting operations he was knocked down by some wagons which passed over his legs completely cutting them off. He was conveyed home and Dr. Gaskell sent for but he died before the gentleman arrived. A verdict of accidental death was returned at the inquest.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER

15th. February, 1881.

Thefts of Coal.

Jane Morrison and Elizabeth Cartwright were charged with stealing a small quantity of coal from St. Helens Colliery Company. They had been remanded on bail for a similar offence and had now been caught stealing a hundredweight of coal from near the railway bridge at colliery. The charges were withdrawn when they promised not re-offend and they were discharged.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

28th. February, 1882.

Charges Against Collier.

At St. Helens Petty Sessions Robert Briers who worked at St. Helens colliery was charged with neglecting props at his work and the orders of the fireman. Mr. Swift, prosecuting called Bradbury, the fireman who said the place was not properly supported and told Briers to put up another support and left with the impression that this would be done but he had neglected to do so and a portion of the roof fell and the defendant's drawer was injured and taken to hospital where he remained at the time of the case. The bench fined him 10/- with costs on the first charge and the second charge was withdrawn.

PRESCOT REPORTER

27th. October, 1883.

Alarming Accident at a St. Helens Colliery.

At No.9 pit. St. Helens collieries. During the day pumping operations had been going on but just as a tank full of water weighing about four tons was going up the shaft a portion of the slide valve of the engine broke and the tank went down the pit rapidly. The empty tank was also half way down the shaft. This was carried to the top and over the pulley and fell through the roof of the enginehouse. The engine driver escaped by jumping through the window and two or three youngsters who were looking in at the engine, fortunately escaped serious injury. The enginehouse was a complete wreck. The accident did not interfere with the working of the colliery.

PRESCOT REPORTER

2nd. June, 1883.

Colliery Accident at St. Helens. Fall down a pit.

A man named Abbott was employed at the St. Helens Colliery Company pit when there was a large fall of roof almost burying the man. He was taken home to Haydock Street where he was attended to by Dr. Hay who found severe bruising to the legs and back and was taken to the Cottage Hospital.

PRESCOT REPORTER

5th. April, 1884.

Collier Killed in St. Helens.

The inquest into the death of John Foster, collier aged 50 years who met his death at the St. Helens Company colliery was held at the Exchange Vaults, College Street. James Foster, collier aged 31 years was employed stated that he and his cousin were widening a road and had done about three yards without propping when part of the roof came in although they had previously knocked it as solid. They got the rock off him. John Cross the Miner's Agent asked the coroner if he could question the witness in the absence of the inspector. The coroner refused and stated, "You shut the miner's mouths. I refuse to hear you Mr. Cross." Mr. James Lowcock, underlooker gave said that he had visited the deceased and his cousin once a day. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

PRESCOT REPORTER

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PRESCOT REPORTER

14th. June, 1884.

Shocking Colliery Accident at St. Helens.

Two children were killed and at the inquest at the Running Horses on the death of John Patrick Sweeney aged 8 years and Edward Price aged 6 years who died at the colliery of the Victoria and Coal and Fireclay Company on Saturday. Sweeney's father and John Price, the fathers of the children identified their bodies. James Banks a collier stated that on the day of the accident he was passing the colliery on Sunday night he saw a boy fall down the pit from planks over the top of the pit and there were several boys playing about the pit mouth at the time. he had his companions rushed to the place and found the headgear uncovered with a

winding wheel attached, a wire rope with a chain at the end of it. which was fastened round a tub which ran down the incline from the surface. He and Alfred Sherrat when down the pit but they were thrown off the chain and he was unconscious for a time. They found two children down the pit. Sherrat went to the surface and another man descended. Banks brought Price up and the other man carried Sweeney. He felt that the children had been trespassing at the colliery. John Helm of Peasley Cross said that he was with Sherrat and Magarry when they were coming home from the direction of the waterworks when he heard that a boy had fallen down the shaft. John Peebles who lived at Jockey Brown and was a miner at the colliery stated that he heard that a child had fallen and went to the colliery. When he got there, the man Sherrat was being brought up and he had a broken leg and was taken to some nearby cottages. He went down the pit and found Banks and the two children. Banks and Price went out first and he brought up the dead boy. John Cross, the proprietor of the colliery stated that the pit was left safe on Saturday night by putting planks over it and taking up some rails. The coroner pointed out that the children were trespassing and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death and stated that there was no negligence attributed to anyone but they suggested that in future a watchman should be engaged.

PRESCOT REPORTER

5th. February, 1887.

Colliery Fatality at St. Helens.

Mr. Brighouse, Coroner held the inquest on the bodies of Charles Austin of 52 Park Road and William Rigby 22, Morley Street who were killed at Messrs Pilkingtons Colliery. Mr. France, Manager stated Austin was with his son John and about one thousand yards from the shaft working on the pack when a stone slipped between two bars and killed him. If the pack had been finished it would have supported the stone which fell. The place was properly timbered. It emerged at the inquest that the men could not go for timber when they liked. Mr. Hall thought it was simply an accident and commented on the supply of timber in this part of Lancashire was most unsatisfactory. Rigby fell down hole onto some rails and was killed. The Company agreed to the Inspectors recommendation to fix a rail round the hole.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned in both cases.

PRESCOT REPORTER

12th. March, 1887.

Colliery Fatality at St. Helens.

At the inquest before Coroner Brighouse on Joseph Marsh who received injuries in the No.10 p St. Helens Colliery Company from which he died. William Anders, a fireman said he had noticed a place fifteen yards from the shaft which required timbering and put chalk marks indicating that four bars should be set and told Seddon, the night fireman, to see that the bars were put up. Anders did not think that the deceased had gone about his work right. He started by pulling stones where there was plenty of room to set timber. Seddon said he had given the man instructions to do the work and he returned to the place a little later after doing his rounds when he heard that there had been a fall. he found about three and a half boxes had fallen from, the lower side and that Marsh had been injured. William Pigott who was working with Marsh said he told him there was no need to pull the rock but he did so and the fall resulted. The jury considered that Marsh had brought on his death himself and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

PRESCOT REPORTER

19th. March, 1887.

Inquest at St. Helens.

At the inquest into the death of George Bate, collier aged 56 years of Glover Street. About five months previously he had crushed his foot at St. Helens No.10 colliery property of Messrs. Pilkington and was incapable to follow his employment. He was attended by Dr. Gaskell when death was due to paralysis. The doctor stated that the accident had not accelerated his death and a verdict of 'Death from Natural Causes' was returned.

PRESCOT REPORTER

13th. July, 1888.

Colliery Mishap in St. Helens.

On Saturday Thomas Highcock was cleaning A working place at Pilkingtons St. Helens Colliery when a large stone fell on him and rolled against his leg. He shouted and was released with difficulty. Dr. O'Brian found the leg was broken.

PRESCOT REPORTER

26th. October, 1888.

Accident at St. Helens Colliery.

Mr. Brighthouse, the Coroner held the inquest on the body of Edward Hilton, a drawer at the St. Helens Colliery who died on the 18th. from injuries received on the 13th. April when he and others were working. Some props pressed against him and inflicted his injuries. He had not worked since he was injured and the jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

PRESCOT REPORTER

8th. February, 1889.

Colliery Fatality.

Thomas Jameson aged 18 years was skilled at the St. Helens colliery. At the inquest into his death it was stated he had placed a coal wagon near another as a slack wagon was brought own and he was crushed between them. The surface manager, Thomas Cummings, thought he had miscalculated the distance between the wagons. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

St. H Reporter

29th. March, 1889

Fire at Messrs. Pilkington's Colliery.

A spectacular fire occurred at the colliery. It broke out in the headgear and the blaze could be seen from a considerable distance and attracted a large crowd. The fire started about 11 p.m. and was spotted by Peter Johnson and Thomas Greenall the browmen. when the scaffold to the winding house was ablaze. They gave the alarm and the Fire Brigade arrived and the manager was soon o the scene. A full compliment of firemen with an engine and hoses were soon at work. The Chief Constable and eight men were also present. On the arrival of the Fire Brigade, the fire had made great progress and was affecting the repair shop and the women's cabin. The fire will not affect the employment on the brow to any extent.

28th. November, 1890.

Colliery Explosion at St. Helens Colliery.

The inquest at the Griffin Inn before Mr. Brighthouse on the body of James Cross aged 26 years who died in an explosion of gas in the Ravenhead Mines, there was an argument that Mr. Swift the manager of the colliery objected to the Mr. Hall, the Inspector of Mines giving evidence. There was some discussion with the Coroner and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death and said that the man should have been more cautious.

16th. January, 1891.

Colliery Fatality at St. Helens.

James Harrison aged 18 years of 49, Gerrard Street dies in the Cottage Hospital from injuries received in the Little Delph Mine of Pilkingtons Colliery. He was a drawer for a collier named Henry Blundell and on the afternoon of the accident Blundell heard sound which told him the roof was unsafe. He managed to get out of the way of the fall but the deceased was caught on the head by a stone and rubbish that fell. He died 20 minutes after being admitted to the Hospital. At the inquest it was heard that the foreman had inspected the place in the morning and had knocked the stone that came down. The fireman thought the place safe and a prop was set four feet six inches from the place. Mr. Hall, the Government Inspector, said it was set at one end of the stone and more timber should have been set. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death and expressed the opinion that there should have been more timber set.

27th. February, 1891.

Colliery Fatality at St. Helens.

At the inquest into the death of Daniel Greer who met with an accident at the No.11 Colliery it was heard the he was working with William Jessop in repairing the roof. They had too take down two bars and were replacing them when a stone fell on the deceased. It was impossible to replace the bar without taking the old one out. Dr. Johnson said Greer's ankle

was diseased and the accident was the primary cause of death. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

17th. July, 1891.

St. Helens Colliery Excursion.

It was reported that the St. Helens Colliery Annual Excursion went to Blackpool. Two trains sent off from the town, one at 6.30 and the other at 7.30. Eight hundred were on the trip and there was a lunch at an hotel in Blackpool. A grand time was had by all.

4th. September, 1891.

Fatal Colliery Accident.

James Pennington, a collier of Back Bath Street was killed at the colliery. With him was Robert Campbell and they were engaged in repairing the roof when a quantity of stone and dirt fell. Pennington was killed and Campbell was severely crushed. At the inquest at the Town Hall, the Inspector thought every precaution had been taken and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

30th. October, 1891.

Accident at the St. Helens Colliery.

Peter Bridgeman, engine tender at the colliery, received serious injuries by the bursting of an oil lamp which badly burnt his head and face. He was taken to his home in Eccleston Street and attended to by Dr. Cottom.

STANLEY COLLIERY

15th. March 1856.

ACCIDENT AT PARR.

There was an explosion of firedamp at Stanley Colliery in which William Leyland was severely burnt while he was working with a naked light against the colliery rules. He was working in front of a partition which fell down allowing some gas at the back to come into contact with his naked light and explode. (WO).

STOCKS COLLIERY.

This was situated off Church Road, Haydock near the border with Ashton-in-Makerfield. It was worked by the Legh family in the eighteenth century, the coal being sold mostly as land sale.

SUTTON HEATH COLLIERY

The colliery was situated at the corner of Sutton Heath Road and Eltonhead Road. It was mentioned in the Inspectors Reports from 1873 when it was shown as having two pits. At that time it was owned by James Radley. The 1880 Report shows that it passed to his widow Mrs. F.P. Radley. In the 1890's it was part of the Sutton Heath and Lea Green Colliery Company Limited when the manpower was about 140. For many years during this century it was used as a pumping pit.

30th. January, 1858.

A collier William German was crushed about his head and chest when a large stone fell on him. He was reported to be progressing favourably under medical assistance. (CG).

19th January, 1867.

At 10 p.m. on a Tuesday a 9 year old child, Ann Kearney, daughter of Patrick of Sutton was killed on the railway line at Gerrards Lane, Sutton when she was knocked down by an engine driven by John Fairclough as she was returning home from the Catholic Chapel. There was no signal at the crossing at night. The inquest was held at Clockface and a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was recorded. (St.HStd.).

9th. February, 1867.

A man, who is not named, contracted to serve James Radley for 3/- per day. He absented himself from the colliery without notice where he was employed as an engineer. He was charged with violating the 23rd and 24th. Chapter of the Coal Mine Act by wilfully drinking intoxicating liquor at work. Mr. Woods, the manager, deposed that the rules had been issued to all employees and to the man when he entered the Company's service. Mr. Houghton., the fireman was engaged in the enginehouse at the time when two men came to see the engineer and some drink passed between them and the engineer who then let the man down the pit. The accused said an official named Burrows allowed him to have a drink but he paid attention to his work. Burrows contradicted this and the accused was fined £1 with costs of 10/6d. (St.HStd).

27th. July, 1867.

John Lee aged 26 years, collier, was killed by a fall of roof as he passed under a place where there was small fault and a slip visible in the roof which was not sufficiently propped. (MIR).

30th. March, 1871.

James Dunn, a sinker, was killed when he fell from a tub that was descending the shaft. (MIR).

22nd. January, 1872.

Henry Lunn, wagoner, aged 18 years was crushed to death by a balance box when chain broke. (MIR).

26th. July, 1872.

1890.

27th. July 1872. (St.HN&A)

SERIOUS BREACH OF COLLIERY RULES.

Thomas Pennington, John Bate, Frederick Long and Thomas Whitfield, all colliers, were charged with breaches of the rules at the colliery. Long and Whitfield knocked down a brattice cloth on the 20th. April which they did not replace. There was build up of gas and an explosion at which Long was injured. Whitfield and Long were fined 10/- plus costs . Pennington and Bate had taken down the brattice and offered no defence. They were find £1 plus costs. (CG).

26th. July, 1872. (St.HN&A)

Serious Breach Of Colliery Rules.

Thomas Pennington, John Bate, Frederick Long and John Whitfield, colliers were charged with a breach of the Special Rules at Sutton Heath colliery. Long and Whitfield were charged with separate offences. They went to work on the morning of the 20th. and knocked down a brattice cloth. William Hopton, manager of the pit, said that an explosion took place in which long was severely burned and it was caused by knocking down the brattice. William Martindale, a lad, who suffered by the explosion, said that when a shot had been fired Long had been waving his cap in a current of air. William Hitchen, fireman said that he had gone into the place after the explosion and found the brattice cloth down and Long buried by coal. Whitfield pleaded guilty. The had no defence and were fined 20s. plus costs.

26th. July, 1872. (St.HN&A)

Serious Breach Of Colliery Rules.

Thomas Pennington, John Bate, Frederick Long and John Whitfield, colliers were charged with a breach of the Special Rules at Sutton Heath colliery. Long and Whitfield were charged with separate offences. They went to work on the morning of the 20th. and knocked down a brattice cloth. William Hopton, manager of the pit, said that an explosion took place in which

long was severely burned and it was caused by knocking down the brattice. William Martindale, a lad, who suffered by the explosion, said that when a shot had been fired Long had been waving his cap in a current of air. William Hitchen, fireman said that he had gone into the place after the explosion and found the brattice cloth down and Long buried by coal. Whitfield pleaded guilty. The had no defence and were fined 20s. plus costs.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER AND ADVERTISER.

18th. October, 1873.

Strike At Sutton Heath.

Wage negotiations between Mr. Radley and the men had broken down and the men have withdrawn their labour.

14th. March, 1874.

Thomas Callon and Peter Callon were charged with a breach of contract with Mr. Radley on the 17th, February which caused a loss of 334. 10s. 0d. Mr. Jackson appeared for the defendants and said that Thomas was employed as a collier and Peter as a drawer and they had to give 14 days notice. This they did not do and absented themselves from work on the 14th. The loss was £1 for each but only 10/- was claimed. Thomas Hopps, the underlooker, said they left work without complaint. Jackson said it could not be proved that they had been employed by Radley but by a colliery as drawers and on that understanding they could leave to better themselves. The Chairman of the bench said that recent legislation had altered the employment of colliers and that they had been employed by a collier, Charles Lidday and as he did not come out they were not paid. Thomas was fined 10/- plus costs and Peter was discharged. (St.HStd.)

4th. July, 1874.

Charles Prescott was charged with unramming a shot which was against the General Rules of the colliery. Mr. Smith prosecuted and the defendant pleaded that he could not read and write and had not read the rules. The management said that rules had been read to him. He was fined 5/- plus costs. (St.HStd.)

10th. December, 1874.

John Dickenson aged 20 years, collier, was killed by fall of top coal. (MIR).

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

5th. December, 1874.

Breaches of Colliery Rules.

George Rothwell was charged with breaking Special Rule 4 at Sutton Heath colliery. He was a fireman had admitted not inspecting places before the men went down. He was fined five shillings and costs.

14th. January, 1875.

David Appleton, collier, aged 44 years, was killed by a fall of coal. He lived in Thatto Heath and died from the injuries he received when a stone fell on him while he was getting coal. Dr. Gaskell had to amputate his leg. (MIR, St.HStd.)

31st. July, 1875.

At St. Helens Petty Sessions a contractor, John Cross was charged with unlawfully allowing John Naylor to enter the shaft which was an offence under the Colliery Act, 1872. Naylor was killed on the 10th June and fell out of the hoppet down the shaft. Cross was fined £10. (St.HStd.).

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

27th. July, 1875.

Prosecution of Colliery Owner.

John Cross was summoned for a breach on the mining Regulations over the death of John Naylor. He was fined £10 with costs and gave notice of appeal.

PRESCOT REPORTER.

4th. December, 1875.

Colliery on Fire near St. Helens.

At Sutton Heath colliery belonging to Mr. James Radley it was reported that there was a fire underground and the men were sent up. The following day the ponies were brought out and everything else that could be removed was taken up as it was sure that the fire was spreading. Plans were made to flood the colliery but a few days later it was found that the ring of fire had diminished and it was decided to watch and wait for further developments.

4th. September, 1879.

There was an explosion at the colliery in the Ravehead Main Delph when one person was injured. There was a little gas from a break in the roof after a shot had been fired which ignited at a man's lamp when he entered the place with the lamp open. (MIR).

23rd. January, 1880.

William Wilson aged 25 years, drawer, was killed by a fall of roof by him not setting timber. (MIR).

Prescot Reporter

17th. April, 1880.

Fatal Accident at St. Helens Colliery.

At St. Helens Collieries in Sutton belonging to Messrs. Pilkingtons, a man name Thomas Leyland was killed as he was working the Rushy Park mine when about three tons of dirt fell on him from the roof as he was following his usual employment. Another man, Kilshaw who had been working with him and had been away about ten minutes to empty a box. When he returned he saw that the roof had fallen. He called and got no answer. When Leyland was got out he was found to be dead and he was taken to his home at 74, Claughton Street. He left a widow and children.

10th. December, 1880.

Henry Renson aged 50 years, collier was working at a pillar when there was a heavy fall capping all the timber. The roof had begun to weight previously and he sent his drawer out of the place intending to follow him but he delayed too long and was killed by the fall. (MIR).

24th. February, 1881.

William Molyneaux aged 24 years, collier was killed when a piece of stone fell from between two slips. The fall knocked out a supporting prop and the fall killed him. (MIR).

The Inspectors Report listed several breached of the rules in May, 1881.

James Ashton was fined £1 plus costs on the 16th. May for working without a lamp. William Ashton was fined 10/- plus costs for the same offence.

Richard Felton was fined 10/- plus costs for neglecting to set sprags as was William Houghton for the same offence.

28th. December, 1881.

Hugh Platt aged 30 years, collier was killed by an explosion of gas in the Main Delph and another man was injured. In the morning, the fireman found a little gas in a working place and neglected to clear it or put up a warning notice. The workmen went in with a candle. Proceedings were taken against the fireman for a breach of the rules but the Inspectors failed to get a conviction. (MIR).

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

17th. January, 1882.

Fatal Colliery Accident.

Hugh Platt of Thatto Heath died of burns he received three weeks before in an explosion at Sutton Heath colliery. He was with another, James Finney and they were getting coal when some gas ignited. It was reported that Finney was recovering.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

21st. January, 1882.

Fatal Colliery Explosion at Sutton Heath.

At the inquest into the explosion at the Sutton Heath colliery on the 26th. December, Emma Platt widow of the deceased said he lived in Nut Grove and her husband Hugh was 29 years of age. When he was brought home he was badly burnt about the face body and arms Patrick Alfred Eden, collier said that on the morning of the disaster he was working near the deceased in No.4 Level in No. 3 pit and about six o'clock he heard an explosion when the deceased was working about twelve yards away. he and others went and found James Fenney and Platt crawling on their hand and knees and someone asked why they had gone to the place with a naked light. James Fenney, collier said was with the deceased and the fireman had locked their lamps but had said nothing about gas. he had seen a barrier with something written on it but he could not read. Thomas Jackson, the overlooker said that he had not been down the pit for several days before and when he went down after the explosion he found a new candle. The jury said that the deceased Hugh Platt met by an explosion in the No. 3 Pit but there was not sufficient evidence to say how the gas was ignited. The place should have been bratticed and in their opinion the accident would not have occurred if this had been done.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

28th. February, 1882.

Charges Against Collier.

At St. Helens Petty Sessions John Feaney was charged with having a defective safety lamp at Sutton Heath colliery and the magistrates imposed a nominal fine and cost of 4/-.

16th. March, 1882.

Mark Flitcroft aged 37 years, metalman was building a pack when the roof fell capping three props and killing him. The place was reported to have been well timbered. (MIR).

St. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

25th. March, 1882.

Fatal Accident at Sutton Heath.

At the inquest that was held at the Boar's Head on Mark Flitcroft aged 26 years, who had been working in the No.3 pit. Thomas Sanders, collier, stated that on Thursday morning the deceased was building a pack when a stone fell from the roof on to him. The roof had been sounded by the fireman and all seemed safe but a slip was noticed and four props and chock were placed under it. Thomas Williams who worked close to the deceased corroborated the evinced and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

St. HELENS NEWSPAPER.

28th. February, 1882.

Colliery Explosion. Charge Against Manager.

William Hopton manager of Radley's colliery at Sutton Heath was charged with breaking the First General Rule by the Inspector of Mines, Mr. Henry Hall. The rule stated that adequate ventilation should be provided. The Inspector examined the place and found gas at a fault. Several witness gave evidence and after hearing all the evidence the magistrates dismissed the case.

Prescot Reporter

12th March, 1882.

Recent Colliery Explosion.

At St. Helens Petty sessions the manager of the Sutton Heath colliery, Mr. Hopton, was summoned for a breach on the colliery Act in the explosion when Platt and Fenny died. He had been the manager for thirty seven years. After hearing all the evidence the magistrates dismissed the charges.

Prescot Reporter

25th March, 1882.

Colliery Accident.

At the inquest into the death of Mark Flitcroft aged 32 years, at the Boars head who met his death at the Sutton Heath colliery. Hannah Maria Flitcroft, his wife, gave evidence of identification. Thomas Anders, collier said he was working near the deceased who was building a pack when the roof fell upon him. The fireman had been through about half an hour before and thought the roof safe. Thomas Williams who was working nearby saw props and chocks set and stated that there was plenty of timber about. he was got out as soon as possible and it was found that his leg was broken in several places and there was a wound on his head. Charles Johnson, the fireman who had examined the place, and he and Thomas Johnson, the underlooker both considered the place safe. The coroner summed up and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

17th. July, 1883.

James Sibbering aged 59 years, collier was killed by a fall of roof of over 100 tons carrying a chock and several props before it. It was caused by a parting in the roof with a slip passing in front. the Inspectors commented that the fall could not have been foreseen. (MIR).

PRESCOT REPORTER

27th. October, 1883.

Fatality to a Colliery at Sutton Heath.

At an inquest at the Boars Head on the death of James Sebbering aged 55 years, a collier of Elephant Lane who was killed when he was working with James Hilton when Hilton heard a noise in the no.4 Shunt. Hilton rushed to the shaft with several of the men fearing and explosion. Sebbering was missed and they found him lying under a quantity of rock and when he was recovered he was found to be dead, his right arm and leg and side being fearfully crushed. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

25th. February, 1884.

William Borrows aged 55 years, dataller was killed by a sudden and unexpected fall of roof which was caused by a weighting in the roof behind the longwall faces. (MIR).

PRESCOT REPORTER

8th March, 1884.

Collier Killed at Sutton Heath.

William Burrows of College Street was killed at the colliery. Mr. Hopton, the manager was present at the inquest. The deceased was a roadman aged 53 years. He was carrying out his normal work when there was a fall of stone and dirt. James Pickering was working nearby and found him under a great weight of stone. He was got out but died before he got to the top of the pit. The roof had been examined that morning by the fireman and he found no flaws. The stone was about five or six tons in weight had been propped up. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

2nd. April, 1885.

Daniel Tilley aged 31 years collier was killed by an explosion of gas in the Main Delph . There were two men using safety lamps and candles. The deceased went to his working place with a lamp to examine the place and returned for the candle which ignited some gas as soon as he returned. The other man was injured. The gas was supposed to have come from old workings. The owners were strongly urged by the Inspectors for the men to use locked lamps at all times. It was reported that the system of examination was improved after this accident. (MIR).

20th. September, 1887.

Thomas Farrelley aged 31 years, labourer was lowering a wagon near the screen and after lifting the brake a he was trying to pass in front of it when he was crushed against another wagon and killed. (MIR).

13th. June, 1887.

Joseph Pennington aged 34 years, collier was cutting a step and timbering when he went in front of the bars that he had set. The roof fell and killed him. (MIR).

26th. November, 1887.

Two men were injured by an explosion in the Higher Delf seam. The ventilation of a small district was unexpectedly interrupted As an opening was cut through. Gas backed up at the staple and fired at an open torch of a man who was passing the staple. (MIR).

22nd. march, 1888.

John McLean aged 34 years, collier was working in a wide place. There was six inches of stone on the coal and part of this was within one foot of the face and this fell on him. No holing had been down but the roof had weighted during the night. He appeared not to have sounded it before he began to fill. (MIR).

PRESCOT REPORTER

31st. March, 1888.

Colliery Fatality at St. Helens.

At the inquest before Mr. Brighthouse into the death of John M Lesor who was killed at Sutton Heath colliery, Mr. Pennington, the manager of the colliery gave evidence. Joseph Liversedge a dattaler said he went down the pit with the deceased and saw him about seven o'clock in the Delph mine. He was in his usual place which was about a yard high and eight to nine yards wide. He was working along as both getter and drawer as a workman had failed to arrive and he was getting out the coal he had got the previous day. Liversedge heard a fall and went to that the coal had fallen on the deceased. Thomas Burrows, the night fireman had examined the place at 3.30am and found it quite safe. The jury thought it was a simple accident in a safe place and returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

8th. May, 1890.

Thomas Smith aged 40 years, fireman was working at 10 a.m. In the 5th. hour of the shift when he told the underlooker that he was going to take some loose stone from the side. Immediately After, there was a fall and he was found under a large stone which had come from a slip which had been unexpectedly barred by the men. (MIR).

20th. October, 1891.

William Gee aged 19 years, drawer was killed at 5 p.m. in the 11th. hour of the shift. He had stayed to do some overtime with seven other men to clean the main haulage brow when he appeared to have disturbed the foot of a prop which was supporting a large stone which fell between two slips and killed him. (MIR).

13th. November, 1891.

Daniel Brownhill aged 38 years, drawer was working at 10.30 a.m. in the 5th. hour of the shift. He was waggoning with three others down a dip road when the first tub got off the rails. The second man ran to him and slowed the tubs. because of the stoppage in front, the fourth was bringing our three tubs which over came him and he did not know the four tubs were uncoupled. The deceased was run over and crushed by the tubes and killed. (MIR).

3rd. June, 1892.

George Williams aged 45 years, collier was killed at 2.40 p.n. in the 9th. hour of the shift. He was working in a drift with pack on one side and the coal on the other when the roof fell capping three props and crushing him to death. (MIR).

12th. September, 1892.

Peter Brownhill aged 63 years, a door minder did not allow himself enough time to open the door when a journey was going down the engine plane and he was crushed against the door. The accident took place at 12.45 a.m. in the 7th. hour of the shift. He had worked at the pit for about 6 years. (MIR).

8th. December, 1892.

William Jackson aged 35 years, collier was killed by a fall on the landing plate of the drawing road which capped three bars and killed him as he was filling a tub. (MIR).

15th. June, 1898.

Mark Naylor aged 39 years, collier was killed by a fall of roof. A fall of rock had covered the drawing road from between two slips. There were six sprags set between the slips in the roof

but they did not appear to have been let in the ends which were only wedged. A crush or weight of the roof capped them. (MIR).

28th. June, 1900

Edward Houghton 37 years, dataller, was taking a portion off the side of the shunt and some of the side road when some rock fell from above him from old breaks and cracks. The Inspector commented that he ought to have put up some props while taking the support pack away. (MIR).

5th. April, 1905.

Peter Johnson aged 26 years, balancer was killed when an old bar appeared to have rolled from the side of the road and was caught by a moving balance box which caught the leg of a bar which it forced out causing a fall of roof. (MIR).

9th September, 1905.

William Burrows aged 50 years was setting two bars in a brow when taking out an old bar a large fall of roof occurred capping two bars and burying him. (MIR).

19th. October, 1906.

St. Helens Colliery Troubles.

There is a great deal of unrest in the St. Helens district from the miners to get better terms. At several of the coal pits it has been announced that the dispute had been settled with a revised price list but this appears not to have been the case and for the past two months the men have been trying to get a revised price list. At Sutton Heath and Lea Green Collieries nearly 2,000 men are affected. Mr. T. Glover, M.P., is conducting the negotiations but the owners have shown no sign of giving way. (N&EG).

6th. January, 1908.

Collier's Terrible Death.

On Monday the scene was one of those sad accidents that unfortunately attend the miner's calling. One man was killed and another injured by a fall of roof but escaped after an hour practically unhurt. John McGaunty aged 35 of 7, Gertrude Street, Thatto Heath was the man who was killed. He left at 5 a.m. to go to work and about half past he was engaged with his father-in-law, Robert Wiseman, winding boxes up the brow and emptying the dirt to be put back into the pack. Without any warning two running bars collapsed bringing down the roof. James Lunt, another collier, was near by and heard the fall and rushed to the place. The work of getting the men out began at once. After half an hour Wiseman was recovered little the worse for his terrible experience and was told to go home. Shortly after McGaunty's lifeless body was discovered. He was married with three children. (N&EG, MIR).

31st. September, 1908.

Robert Edwards aged 45 years, contractors man had been pulling down props in order to get the roof down when the roof fell on him and killed him. (MIR).

DATE? 1909

At the No.2 pit, two sinkers, Hugh L. Jones aged 30 years and John L. Jones aged 45 years were killed when the scaffold which was supported by two ropes in the shaft, which they were widening. They had three plugs let into the side of the shaft but it tilted and the two fell 60 yards to the bottom of the shaft. At the inquiry it was recommended that the capstan ropes should be fitted. (MIR).

30th. September, 1909.

Richard Ashcroft aged 18 years, labourer was acting as brakesman and was putting an empty tub into the cage. The enginewinder started the cage, apparently without a proper signal and the deceased and the tub fell out of the cage down the shaft. (MIR).

28th. September, 1910.

Ambrose Dauber aged 24 years, drawer was winding a tub up a roadway 12 yards long in the No.3 pit with a jack bar when he missed his hold and it struck his head. The drag on the trailer had not been attached to the tub. (MIR).

24th. February, 1911.

Samuel Pritchard aged 41 years, collier working in the No.3 pit was shovelling down dirt which he had taken from the face when a fall occurred from the overhanging dirt fatally injuring him. He died on the 27th. (MIR).

21st. June, 1911. (CG).

There was a serious accident on the pit brow at Queen Pit, Sutton Heath and Lea Green Collieries. Some men were reconstructing the pit head when at about 12.30 p.m. when they were in the cabin at the pit head, 20 feet about the ground to get their meal, the cabin collapsed. Four men were seriously injured and John Duffy was killed outright.

29th. May, 1912.

Thomas Hogetts aged 26 years, collier was found buried near a fall of top coal and dirt which measured sixteen feet six inches by three feet four inches which occurred in a narrow place six feet wide leading to a pillar. The fall displaced nine props. (MIR).

3rd. April, 1913.

Michael Keeny aged 35 years, a contractor at the King Pit was dressing down the side and the roof in the main haulage level after two shots had been fired and a heavy fall buried him. He received injuries from which he died on the 24th.. The fall came from between two large slips parting from a roof break parallel to the face. (MIR).

7th. November, 1913.

Nicholas Ashton aged 28 years, drawer at the King Pit was killed as he was taking a full tub to the gate road seventy feet away and 1 in 5 to 1 in 7. Two scotches were found in the tub in breach of General Rule 26. He was found beneath the tub and had gone in front of it. (MIR).

It was reported during the years that the Ravenhead and the Yard seams were abandoned. (MIR).

16th. August, 1923.

There was minor explosion which took place in a tunnel which was being driven in the main mine through a fault. The road had been driven 10 yards when a charge was fired electrically at the face of the cross holing and there was an ignition of gas which singed a contractor's man who was a few yards from the corner of the main tunnel. The shotfirer said he had examined both tunnels from a distance of 30 yards before firing the shot. The inspector thought an inspection could not have been made before firing the shot. (MIR).

26th. June, 1924.

Gerald Winstanley aged 27 contractors man was working at 1.10 p.m. in the 7th. hour of the shift when he was fatally injured by a fall of stones from the side of an old goaf which being driven through to form an airway. He had pilled down some loose stone and was preparing to prop before drilling a shot hole when the fall occurred. He died the next day. (MIR).

15th. July, 1924.

Thomas Towey aged 27 years, a contractors man was killed at 7.45 a.m. in the 7th. hour of the shift he was involved in drilling a shot hole in order to relieve a shot that had missed. The shot exploded and killed him. He had probably holed into the detonator. (MIR).

1925.

The only accident due to electricity where a St. Helens Corporation meter inspector received a slight shock from line while tracing out a circuit. he was standing on a transformer when his hand came into contact with a slightly defective joint. (MIR).

1926.

Accidents from riding on tubs were numerous but an accident occurred at the colliery when a haulage lad was found dead in between a tub and a bar. (MIR).

SUTTON MANOR COLLIERY.

Colliery Profile NCB
Public Relation Department.
June 1980.

The colliery is situated near the village of Sutton Manor on the southern fringe of St. Helens and is near to Widnes and Warrington and Liverpool.

The sinking of the No 1 shaft 18 feet in diameter started in May 1906 and was completed in December 1909 to a depth of 1,823 ft to just below the Wigan series of seams.

The No.2 shaft was begun in July 1906 and is 22 feet in diameter. The Wigan seams were reached in December 1910. Sinking was resumed in April 1912 and the shaft was deepened at 18 feet in diameter to a total depth on 2,343 ft to just below the Arley seam.

An underground staple shaft 13 feet in diameter between Nos.1 and 2 shaft levels was completed in 1912.

A third shaft was started in 1914 but due to the first World War sinking was suspended at a depth of 180 feet. This shaft was subsequently filled in.

The colliery reorganised in the period 1952-7 during which time the No 1 shaft was deepened by 683 feet to provide the downcast ventilation to the lower level and eliminate the staple shaft. during the same period the No 2 shaft was deepened by 183 feet to permit the installation of new shaft winding equipment.

In the spring of 1968 there was another reorganisation when the coal production ceased in the No.1 pit and all the work was concentrated in the economic faces in the No.2 pit. The scheme meant a reduction of 400 men in the workforce. The No.1 shaft is still used for the essential ventilation and winding operations.

In April 1973, a £200,000 development scheme was announced to open up further reserves in the Barrows Green area of the colliery in the Wigan Four Feet, Higher Florida, and Trencherbone seams. The scheme involved the driving of two 1,150 yard underground roadways through a major geological fault, together with associated improvements to underground manriding, conveying and control systems, and will extend the life of the colliery.

Production is obtained from two faces in the Wigan Four Feet Seam. The colliery employs over 850 men and the coal is marketed locally to power stations, general industry and the domestic market. Methane gas is piped form the coal faces and used in the steam generating plant on the surface.

RECENT OUTPUT AND PRODUCTION FIGURES.

OUTPUT.	OUTPUT PER MANSHIFT.	MANPOWER.
1970/71	367,377 tons	34.5 cwts 946
1971/72	252,312	26.4 972
1972/73	349,170	33.0 940
1973/74	311,733	43.4 949
1974/75	306,989	29.9 975
1975/76	221,321	22.6 949
1976/77	262,020	27.4 914
1977/78	273,762	29.3 881
1978/79	313,877 tonnes	1.65 tonnes 868
1979/80	364,668	1.89 855.

The colliery is situated on Jubits Lane. This is a modern colliery, that was only sunk this century, and is the only colliery still in production near to St. Helens town centre. The two shafts comprising Sutton Manor Colliery, were sunk between 1906 and 1912. A third shaft was started, but was subsequently filled in. In 1968, the colliery was reorganised, when coal production ceased in No.1 Pit and all work was concentrated in the more economic seams in No.2 Pit. The winding arrangements were changed in the 1980's, with new skip winding

equipment being installed. The colliery is quite unique in having one of the newest winding engines in the country and also one of the oldest, still retaining the steam winder for men and materials.

26th. August, 1910 (CG).

At the inquest into the death of Peter Callaghan in the Florida mine at the Sutton Manor colliery, James Murphy said he was working with the deceased in the mouthing of the Florida mine when three boxes were put on the top deck of the cage and he knocked to put three on the bottom deck but a box on the top had gone too far. He tried to get the box in and it fell on him. The enginewinder said he had heard the signal but there were indications that his attention was attracted away. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

MIR

13th. December, 1913.

At the sinking of the shaft at the colliery a shot was fired in the coal seam and ignited some firedamp that was given off setting fire to some boards that were around the shaft. Water had to be put down the shaft to put out the fire.

MIR

1913

Miscellaneous accidents underground.

Fatal accident.

One person was killed and another was injured. An unsuccessful attempt had been made to fire a charge of Swaleite at the south of the tunnel in stone with a no.7 detonator and H.T. battery. The shotfirer disconnected that cable and examined and again attempted to fire the charge but with the same result. He then disconnected the cable from the battery and went to the face accompanied by the contractor with his battery with him with the intention of testing the cable. This was not accomplished as the shot went off almost immediately and the contractor was killed and the fireman injured. The battery was found 12 yards from the face of the tunnel and the cable and battery were not in good order.

From "THE INSPECTORS REPORT".

27th November 1913.

Sutton Manor.

Michael King 33 was killed by being struck by stones being projected by a shot.

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT".

9th April 1914.

Sutton Manor.

John Hughes aged 41 years coal cutter machine man. He had stopped the cutter to allow a shotlighter to pass and also to examine some coal that had bulged out and to which his mate had drawn his attention. As he was coming round the machine a large fall of roof without any warning came and buried him. He was suffocated and found in a kneeling position and was only slightly injured. The fall had been caused by it giving away under a bar.

Mines Inspectors Report 20-07-1908

TIPLADY Frederick 34 erector

He was engaged by a contractor to erect a new headgear when the chain they were using broke and he was fatally injured by a falling girder which they were trying to get into position

Mines Inspectors Report 24-09-1908

FINNIFAN Michael 21 daywagman

A stone fell on him in the roadway when they had trusted the roof without bars

From 'THE NEWTON AND EARLESTOWN GUARDIAN'

2nd October 1908.

Fatal accident to collier.

Brighthouse at the inquest at Cockface into the death of Michael Finnegan dataller 18 Canal Street who was killed by a fall of roof and was 21 years of age, William Murray of 222 Robins Lane and James Brodege 76, Mill Lane said a large stone fell from the roof he shouted, "Get me out Jim" and he got a jack to lift the stone but he was dead when they got him pout. There was not the slightest warning when the stone fell. verdict Accidental Death.

Mines Inspectors Report.
3rd. May, 1908.

Samuel Lloyd aged 37 years, a collier was setting brattice cloth in a roadway a stone fell from the slips at the fault.

Mines Inspectors Report.
25th. March, 1909.

Henry Jackson aged 33 years, was acting as hooker-on in two mouthings in the new shaft and appeared to have got on top of the cage to descend when he appeared to have slipped off and fallen twenty eight yards to the bottom.

Mines Inspectors Report.
03-08-1910

CALLAGAN Peter 22 hooker-on

When properly securing a tub in the cage at the pit bottom the engineman according to three witnesses started without receiving a signal with the result that the tub fell out of the cage fatally injuring him.

Mines Inspectors Report 1 05-03-1912

SAUNDERS James 28 carpenter

When working at the top of the scaffold fixing a girder a fitter working in the mouthing above accidentally knocked his lamp over and it fell on him killing him.

MIR 1913.

One man was killed an another inured when a unsuccessful attempt had been made to fir a 12 oz, a charge of Swalite in a stone face by an electric detonator. There was no result and the wires were disconnected and they went to the face to see what had happened with the intention of testing the cable and the shot fired and he was just putting the battery to the cable when it fired. (Could en Michael Kay Nov. 27th).

Mines Inspectors Report 08-03-1913

HURST Thomas 50 collier

he was working near a previous fall when a sudden weighting of the roof took place. as he rushed to the roadway he was caught at the edge of the fall by a rock which displaced 4 bars and two props. Died 16th Apr 1913

Mines Inspectors Report 22-09-1913

OWEN Peter 36 contractors man

He was filling dirt with another when part of the side gave way. the stone was supported by a sprag let into the floor and it was possible that something disturbed this

Mines Inspectors Report 27-11-1913

KING Michael 33 tunnel man

Killed by stones from a shot. SEE REPORT

Mines Inspectors Report 09-04-1914

HUGHES John 41 cutter machinist

He had stopped the cutter to allow a shot lighter to pass and look at the coal which had bulged out and as he was making his way round a large fall of roof occurred without warning. He was bowed over and suffocated. Bars had been set in the coal which had given way

Mines Inspectors Report 18-03-1914

LOWTON John 15 haulage hand

He and another haulage hand were in a refuge hole when some runaways came down a 1 in 9A. He came out and was caught by the full tubs. The chain had become unhooked by some means

From "THE MINES INSPECTORS REPORT".

18th March 1914.

Sutton Manor.

John Lawton aged 15 the decease and another haulage hand were in a refuge hole part way close to the return way of the endless rope haulage and a tub ran back along a 1 in 9 gradient. Without any apparent reason they came out of the hole and he was caught by the full tubs. The chain had by some means become unhooked.

MIR 1923

Sutton Manor.

A haulage hand was killed wen two runaway trucks on a gradient of 1 in 5 and three firemen in the district were summarily dealt with for neglecting the was switch which was not replaced.

Another fatality at the colliery when a haulage had was riding on a set of tubs and the chain was not securely attached to the last tub and ran amock and the deceased was at the end of the set and he was found injured among the overturned tubs a stop box and a runaway switch were both provided but were not used.

Mines Inspectors Report 12-04-1923

GEE William 18 haulage hand

Mines Inspectors Report 10-07-1923

JACKSON Horace 16 haulage hand

At 1.30pm in the 7th hour of the shift. SEE REPORT

Mines Inspectors Report 25-04-1924

ATHERTON Thomas 49 collier

At 4am in the 5th hour of the shift he was killed by amass of coal falling from the face. He was working at the bottom portion of the seam and the overlying coal fall and caught him. It displaced two sprags set 56 apart and they were let into the floor but there was a break that went up an loosened the sprags

MIR 1925.

A haulage lad was killed by the rope and the inspection said that the deputies had duties that were not down by specified persons and he was too young for the work he was called to do

MIR 1928.

A coal cutter Coulson compressed air workman injured by the wheel it had just stared to act when he got under the wheel.

Mir 1920.

Man killed by moving a waggon with another waggon and was crushed between the two of them

MIR 1923.

Riding illegally on the haulage and the tub ran back 80 yards blocks and scotches wee not used.

MIR 1923.

Damage resulted in ramming a shot an not replacing the charge

MIR

25th April 1924.

Sutton manor.

Thomas Atherton aged 40 years collier was killed by a mass of coals falling when he was working at the bottom part of the seam and the top coal fell on him. The fall displaced two sprags set 5 feet apart. He had worked at a break that worked upwards thorough the coal. The sprags simply levered out.

From 'THE NEWTON AND EARLESTOWN GUARDIAN'

26th December 1924.

Workman dies in pit. Sutton Manor.

John Cartland aged 20 of 5, Waine Street Parr died at the pit and the body was removed to Whiston Institution.

From 'THE NEWTON AND EARLESTOWN GUARDIAN'

1st May 1925.

Colliery Managers Funeral (Sutton Manor).

The funeral was at the parish church of James Edward Lomax managing director of the Sutton Heath and Lee Green collieries who lived at Fearn Hill Hiton.

From 'THE NEWTON AND EARLESTOWN GUARDIAN'

5th September 1924.

St. Helens Colliery Mishap. (Sutton Manor)

As a result of a mishap at Stafford pit at Sutton manor on Tuesday which resulted in several hundred men were idle while winding operations were being carried out the cage crashed into the headgear and the descending cage was driven into the staging at the bottom. The catches at the top cut the rope hand held the cage and no body was injured and the pt referred to in more than a quarter of a mile deep and the men were lowered down another pit and then to their working places.

Mir 1935.

The cutters picks sparked on some pyrites and ignited some firedamp which was put out by stone dust.

MIR 1935

Floor coal let in at 14 inches thick

MIR 1954.

Dangerous occurrences.

A conveyor fire occurred at the colliery towards the end of a shift during which it is said that the conveyor ran for only 15 minutes though it had run for two hours during a previous shift. A few men had been sent to work at the face to square out a corner that was hinging back due to the presence of a number of small faults. There was no intention of running the conveyor until the deputy found that so much material had accumulated at the face that it would have to be cleared so men were detailed to man the four transfer points and the boarding station. The four roadway conveyors in series were eventually started but ran only a very short time before the belt delivering into the tubs broke. It took about 2.5 hours to repair. Soon after it was resumed the belt attendant at the transfer point between the two outbye conveyors when examining the driving gears head found that dirt on the floor next to the diving drum was warm and soon afterwards the gearhead was engulfed in flames. The man on the outbye side acted promptly and coupled up hoses to a nearby hydrant but after producing a good jet for 10 minutes the water diminished to a trickle and it was an hour and three quarters until a pressure came back in the water. The trickle was directed into the catchment under the transfer point from which it was transferred into buckets and the fire was put in two hours. It is tribute to the fire-fighters that they stuck to their task. Meanwhile the men at the face had been alerted by the smell of burning rubber and under the a deputy who was to be congratulated on his quick thinking made their way along the return which was already filling with deadly fumes to a short connection with the intake air outbye of the fire. Before they reached safety a display of bravery was displayed by a workmen who went onto the fumes to assist three others who might not have escaped and the bravery of this man and the deputy who was affected by the fumes was eventually recognised. But the cannot escape the thought

that for the traditional bravery and determination of the miners in time of emergency. The fire was the result of a faulty bearing which overheated.

MIR 1954.

There was another fire at the same colliery which originated in the gearhead of a scraper chain conveyor installed as a feed between the conveyor face and the permanent belt conveyor which originated at a combined flexible and sheer pin coupling the high speed shaft of the reduction gear to the air drive turbine. A deputy passing the gearing noticed the smell of burning and at one called for it to be stopped. Helpers coupled a hose and the deputy scrapped under the couplings and almost immediately there was smoke water was applied for five minutes and then stopped. On removing the guard for a close inspection flames rode to a height of 18 inches which was quenched with the water. Friction ignited the leather washers and so caused the fire.

MIR 1961.

Mechanical press use water to take booster and methane drainage for steam making at the colliery.

MIR 1962.

Trains that cannot be derailed and extended to trepanner points to maximum.

MIR.

23rd July 1968.

Firefighting at Haydock Park Sutton Manor and Ravenhead came third.

UNION COLLIERY.

There are references to two collieries of this name in the town.

UNION 1 was situated near Boundary Road and Knowsley Road. This colliery appeared in the 'Inspector's Reports' for 1850 and 1855, when it was in the ownership of James Radley. It does not appear any later than the early 1870's.

UNION COLLIERY 2. This was situated at the corner of Parr Street and Corporation Street. This colliery is recorded in 1823, when it was managed by Richard Johnson. It was reported as having closed in the 1840's, due to the coal recession of that year.

From 'THE REPORT OF THE MINES INSPECTOR'

13th. May 1876.

John Topping, the banksman, aged 46 years was killed when he fell down the pit.

From 'THE REPORT OF THE MINES INSPECTOR'

13th. February 1851.

T. Hayes was killed by a fall of roof in the No 7 pit. Two others injured.

UNION 13-05-1876

TOPPING John 46 banksman

Fell down the pit

UNION 13-02-1851

HAYES T.

WINDLE COLLIERY

1879 Windle St. Helens John Middlehurst Windle.

Certificated manager Robert McGill. no deaths up to 1878 1 in 1879.

From THE COLLIERY GUARDIAN.

15th July 1865

Accident at Whalleys colliery

On Saturday a youth named Charles Birch the son of James a brickmaker was killed in the Rushy Park Mine. He was a drawer and a portion of the roof gave way and crushed him.

ST. HELENS NEWSPAPER & ADVERTISER.

28th. February, 1874.

St. Helens Colliery Winders Strike.

At a meeting held in St. Helens on the question of wages where it appeared that this class of men employed in St. Helens district, including Haydock, were not paid as much as those occupied in Wigan by three shillings a week. It appeared that some of the masters were willing to give an advance and the men are waiting to see what the employers will do until then they have given their notice.

PRESCOT REPORTER

30th. September, 1879

Colliery Accident.

Joseph Mather of Bleak Hill, Breckles Lane, underlooker at the Windlehurst colliery died from injuries he received from a fall of stone while he was working in the colliery on the 14th. July last. At the inquest into the his death it was heard that a large stone fell on him and since the accident he had been in the care of Dr. Donnellan. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

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