

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 5 to Page 3 Col. 3.

The Colliery Accident at Clay Cross.

The Adjourned Inquest.

The inquiry into the accident at the Black Shale No. 2 Pit, Clay Cross, recommenced on Thursday morning, when the following additional evidence was given: -

Elizabeth Hodgkinson, wife of Joseph Buxton, labourer, Clay Cross, identified the body of John Buxton, previously identified as William Wood. It will be remembered that one of the eleven bodies recovered on the 11th. of July was identified as William Wood, but the mistake was discovered about a week after. The witness was sister to the deceased, John Buxton, and fully identified the body which she saw on the 12th. of July.

Ann Slater, daughter of the deceased, John Buxton, also believed the body to be that of her father.

John Hudson, clerk, was present in the dead house when Elizabeth Hodgkinson identified the body, and the coffin plate was altered accordingly.

Dennis Gorman, inspector of police at Clay Cross, received the certificate for burial from the Coroner for the body to be buried as William Wood, but he afterwards heard it was John Buxton.

Robert Stephenson: I live at Chesterfield, and am a surveyor in the employ of the Clay Cross Company. I made the tracings of the No. 2 pit produced. I made the part of the No. 2 pit from actual survey, and the old workings I copied from an old plan. It is about 170 yards from the shaft to the stone heads. The stone heads go in about 500 yards. It is about 400 yards from the shaft to No. 1 incline on the north side, and 580 yards to No. 2 incline. It is 440 yards to where the four bodies were found - Wilbourne and his companions. The smoky incline is 590 yards long. Dan's incline is 400 yards from the shaft. The incline up to Dan's gate is 780 yards. It is 800 yards from the shaft to the straight-up incline. It is 600 yards from there to the putter's siding, and from that it is 380 yards to the dips. It is 270 yards from the far head to the siding. The return wind way 145 yards above the dip roads. It is eight yards distance between the two shafts. The slit doors are 20 yards from the bottom of the downcast shaft. The large doors are about 67 yards from the upcast shaft on the south side, and the second door is about 113. The map produced is an accurate survey of the No. 2 pit, but not of the old workings. I got my information of where the bodies were found from the overman of the pit, George Parker. The distance from the shaft to where Eli Forrester was found is 1720 yards. Thomas Brunt and Richard Siddon were about 1,500 yards from the shaft. The men working under Silkstone were 1640 yards from the shaft, and the men in the stone headings were about 670. Dawes' stall was 1360 yards from the shaft. The downcast shaft is 136 yards deep, and the upcast is 135 yards. The windways communicate with the different inclines and the smoky incline to the upcast shaft.

Edward Eardley: I live at Derby, and am a mineral surveyor. I have been engaged as a mineral surveyor for 22 years. I have checked over a portion of the No. 2 pit. From the No. 2 pit to the branch in Dawes' stall, I have compared it with Robert Stephenson's survey. I surveyed up the smoky incline, and along a return to Dawes' gate road. My survey agreed with Mr.

Stephenson's very well. There was not any difference between them. I found his survey, after I had checked it, to be very correct. I also checked the position of the pits on the surface, and there was a slight difference - two or three yards. My survey on the surface made it two yards further on the south level. That would make Dawes' stall two yards nearer the old workings than Stephenson's. The blue line on the map I produce shows the course I took from the shaft to Dawes' stall - the red is the course Stephenson took, and we both came exactly to the same point. I did not make my survey with the same instrument that Stephenson uses. It afterwards transpired that Mr. Stephenson did not make the plane of the surface, that he was not responsible for the slight difference of 3 yards in about 900 yards.

William Howe: I live at Clay Cross, and am engineer to the company. I heard of the accident as I was going home, at about a quarter past five. There had been a special messenger sent, but I heard of it by casual report. I went to the pit immediately, and at once began to prepare tubs for drawing water - tubs which were on the ground, and required a little alteration. I got there before all the men were up. As near as I can tell it would be about a quarter past six when the last was brought out. It would be about half past eight when we got the tubs ready for drawing. We got tubs in both shafts - the two would draw about 200 gallons each. During the night one of the spears in the upcast shaft broke below water, and left the tub in the bottom. There was then a difficulty in getting to work in that shaft. We could not put a tub in it. I prepared a tub the next day to hold 230 gallons to work in the downcast. The next day I made a tub to hold about 400 gallons. We found, on consultation, that the tub would be too heavy to get in the shaft, as the tub and water would have weighed about two tons and a half. There was a pump when the pit was in ordinary work 3 ft. 4 in. in stroke. It was working by the drawing engine. Whilst we were drawing water with the tubs the pump was at work until the 14th. - three days after the accident. At another consultation, on the 13th. it was decided to have an iron tub. Mr. Markham, of the Midland Railway Company, offered that company's services in making anything that was required. They made a tub to hold about 270 gallons. That tub was put in on the 15th. The rods in the upcast shaft being repaired, we got a tub to hold 250 gallons, and put it in that shaft on the night of the 17th. That worked until six o'clock on the morning of the 18th. when one of the stays and the brickwork gave way, and rendered that shaft useless. In the meantime the Midland Railway Company made a tub to hold 370 gallons. It was got to work on the 18th. about eight o'clock at night in the downcast shaft. The tub holding 250 gallons was of course then taken out. Until that night the water continued to rise. Up to that time about one and a half millions of water had been drawn out, exclusive of the pumps. On the 15th. a small engine was erected to work the pump, but it only worked a short time, as the pump was out of order below water, and it delivered very little. Being a plunger pump, we could not get it repaired until the water was down. We had, therefore, to rely on drawing the water with the tub. We could not have had two such tubs at work at one time - that is, one in each shaft. We could draw more water with the balance being on the upcast pit rope. The weight of the tub and water would be 2 ton 7 cwt., and the rope was a ton - making 3 ton 7 cwt. lift from the bottom. Our ordinary weight was 36 cwt., without the rope. It first began to lower on the night of the 18th. at that time it was 18 inches above the arch of the furnace drift. It lowered six inches that night from six o'clock on the 18th. to six o'clock on the 19th. We drew 572 tubs in that time, the tubs holding 341 gallons each. That would be nearly 200,000 gallons. Similar operations continued up to Saturday night, the 27th. From the 19th. to the 28th. an average of 400,000 gallons would be drawn daily. The water was then sufficiently lowered to get in to the furnace drift. It will be about 22 feet from the furnace drift to the bottom of the shaft - there would be 15 or 16 feet of water in the shaft. At that time we nearly ceased drawing for about three days, except keeping the feeder down. The No. 4 level was expected to be through every day. We again began to draw regular on the 5th. of July. At that time the exploring party went round and found the first four bodies. They were found on the morning of the 4th. After this we drew about 240,000 gallons daily. The water was down on the 9th. July, and they were in the pit on the morning of the 10th. On the 3rd. July we put steam jets in the upcast shaft for the purpose of ventilation, as

it would not be safe to light the furnace to bring off the gas in the mine. The jets were used until the 20th. when the furnace was lighted. Considering the circumstances in which we were placed, I do not think there was any readier mode of getting the water out. Our engine would work a 16 inch pump - throwing it into the Tupton pit - this would have a 5 ft. stroke, and have ten or twelve strokes a minute. We could not have put them up for a fortnight, if we had worked night and day - whilst the men were at work in the bottom of the pit, we could not have worked at the top. If we had done that the water drawing would have had to be suspended. On the 29th. we got low enough to get into the furnace drift, and we ceased drawing about four o'clock in the afternoon. The pump, working at the rate of eleven strokes per minute, drew out about 440 gallons per minute, or a little over 300,000 gallons in the twelve hours. I sent apparatus up to the No. 1 workings to draw water. There was a deal of work to do before we could begin to draw water there. It would be the 16th. of July before we began to get water out. I believe there was about 70 gallons per minute drawn - that would have run into No. 2 pit had it not been got out of No. 1. We had a large staff of hands at work night and day - we stationed about twelve at the pit bank every night, and, counting enginemmen, etc., it would be about 20. The 12 were mechanics, etc., to be in readiness in case of accident. We received very valuable assistance from the railway officials - Mr. Kertly, Mr. Markham, and Mr. Campbell especially, who was present night and day. A continual batting of the water tub on the buntings caused the brickwork to give way in the upcast. In case of emergency, the tackle was strong enough to have drawn the men up if a great crowd had got on. The whole of the time occupied in breakings, etc., from beginning to end, was 40 hours, and 14 hours was in consequence of the conductor breaking, and wedging the tub in the shaft. We drew out about 57 tubs an hour.

Charles Binns: I am manager of the Clay Cross works. I remember the day of the accident. I was returning home from a visit to my father-in-law, in Hampshire, and heard of it at Derby, from Mr. Hedley, about eight o'clock. We came up together, the train stopping at Clay Cross to let us off. After we had been to the No. 2 pit we went to the office for the purpose of having a consultation. The first thing we decided to telegraph to Mr. Woodhouse, and also to Mr. Jackson, the managing proprietor of these works. I am afraid my recollection of what occurred that night is very imperfect. We were on the bank at two o'clock in the morning when the tub broke. We decided to make a dam in the No. 1 pit to intercept the water going to No. 2, and that was commenced on the following day. The dam would not work, and George Parker was ordered to clean out the shaft of No. 1, and draw out as much water as they could. Mr. Jeffcock came early of Wednesday morning, and without knowing our views about it, decided on the same thing. It was the first thing that struck him. Our object was to get along the old workings to get into No. 2 on the north side. If we could have got on about 300 yards through the old levels on the north side, there was a solid pillar of coal, of about 30 yards, which we could soon have got through, and should consequently have got into the pit at a very early date. The strata in the No. 1 pit was so bad, and the black damp was so bad that after working 12 days we made no progress. The material fell down as fast as they went on, and it was dangerous for men to work there. We decided that no further good could be done there. On Wednesday evening Mr. Woodhouse came - he came direct from London as soon as he got my telegram. Mr. Woodhouse, Mr. Jeffcock, Mr. Hedley, and myself then had a consultation about it. Mr. Woodhouse said we were doing all we could do, excepting that he requested a heading should be driven from No. 4 into the north side of No. 2. That drift was sent on with extraordinary despatch - I never heard of such heading in my life - they drove about ten yards every 24 hours. The men headed so fast there was a difficulty in getting the stuff away from them. It was six feet wide, and with the roof coming down made it six feet high. By means of that heading the north side was ventilated, and the first men got out. The mechanical arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Howe, who was assisted by many friends. Mr. Hedley had general charge of the operations, and Mr. Jeffcock was here nearly night and day, scarcely going to bed, and his assistance was most valuable. In the mechanical department Mr. Kertly and Mr. Markham, of the Midland Railway Company, also rendered assistance; I think I may almost say the whole county came to our aid. I have heard

Mr. Howe's evidence, and I approved of his operation. The plan shows that there was about 43 yards of coal from the stall to where the breach took place. The plans of No. 2 by Mr. Stevenson have been checked in so many places that they may be said to be perfectly correct. The plan of the old No. 1 workings were made by several of us. I don't think that any one made any plans of the deep workings beside myself. I should say the commencement of the deep working would be late in 1838. The headings were driven to the deep and the coal got back to the rise. The headings were driven before the coal was commenced to be got. I surveyed it, and the old plan is not in existence. During the time we removed from the other office, about nine years ago, there was a deal of the destruction of the papers. Mr. Woodhouse had a plan with the deep workings copied on exactly as they were in the original. Those deep workings were intended to form a lodge for water from the rise workings. The last head, to the best of my recollection, was driven down to the boundary. The boundary was in the deep of the main level, about 100 yards distance. The No. 1 pits were finished sinking in about October 1838. At that time I was engaged with the late Mr. George Stevenson (?). I was frequently engaged with him away from the works. The responsible part of the pit would be in the hands of the overman, who was Thomas Martin. He would receive instructions for carrying on the works from me and Mr. Stephenson. Mr. Stephenson laid out the deep works. I instructed Martin the extent which he had to go. Martin knew nothing of plans. The far head was driven out to prevent them going near the boundary. I have no doubt I gave Martin instructions how far to go, but I can't recollect, as it is so long a time since. I was not aware that anything had been done beyond that. I feel confident I have got the limits of those workings marked on the plan, or I should not go within 40 yards of them. I was aware that there was water in those old workings. We had periodical dialings every six months regarding such places, and if we found a bad place we had a consultation with the underviewer. We had several other bad places. When we began to approach those old workings I had an entirely new survey of the whole estate. When that was complete I had an entirely new survey made of the No. 2 workings. I satisfied myself after that that I had accurate plans. As we were approaching the old workings I consulted with Mr. Parker, the overman, and we decided that a barrier of about 15 yards would be sufficient against a head of 12 or 13 yards. We left twice that barrier, and in some places nearly three times as much. That was effective, and left no trace of water coming through. I never heard of any. I considered 30 yards was a safe approach to dispense with boring. If I had a system of boring I should have reduced the barrier. I did it to avoid boring. It was much most costly to us than boring, as it would have wasted a very much larger quantity of coal. I never considered the boring in a monetary point of view at all. Round the deep workings where the pressure was greater I resolved on a barrier of 40 yards, and that has been left. Nathaniel Dawes' stall had about three yards to go before it came to that distance. I cannot at all account for this breach. I cannot account for those workings going further than what is named on the plan. I can't recollect about the position of the workings. It is evident the breach has occurred through workings going further than the limit shown on the plan - about 40 yards too far. I presume that has been done under Martin's direction. He is not alive now. That extended working should have been shown on the plan. He had no authority to extend workings beyond the limits I assigned to him. I saw the breach on the 27th. of July. The tinkers and the dirt had been washed out, and a hole was made about 18 inches by 12 in size. Mr. Hedley then directed John Parker to make a road through. We went a second time about three days after when the hole was made. We could get into the old workings on the rib side not a great distance. On getting through the trench immediately on the right hand side we found a rib of solid coal apparently running in the same direction as in the old deep level on No. 2 marked on the plan. It did not appear like a stall where the breach is. It did not appear to be worked in the ordinary way, but came down to quite a sharp point. It did not look like as though it had been nicely worked with a pick, but regularly blown out. Assuming that we had been boring, I should have put the bore on the rise side in the dip coal. It would not have passed the old workings, but would have been a little to the left in the solid coal. I should have bored in the stall before dawes' and carried the hole about 20 yards in advance, and then it would have been in solid coal. If we had touched in Dawes' stall the breach would have occurred. It is a usual practice to have

shafts as ours are. In our new pits we have two shafts to the deep and one to the rise. It has only been lately done, and it is a very good plan. The probability is that the No. 1 shaft will now be used as a ventilating shaft, and so afford means of egress from the rise in case of accident.

By the Jury: We had that old coal in large stalls of 40 yards each, and I should think we worked three yards to the rise every week. The proprietors of the old No. 1 are not the same as No. 2. I know two of the present proprietors are not the same. No doubt the men's lives would have been saved had there been a bassett shaft. If the colliers of the neighbouring district went to Parliament about bassett shafts, I have no doubt the colliery proprietors would oppose it.

Mr. Hedley: I think that was not included in the bill.

Mr. Jackson: I have been a member 15 years, and never heard of it. Being about coal I should have watched.

Witness: Never heard of any men being afraid of working in the pit. Martin died in the company's service. John Parker succeeded Martin in that pit. Martin was put in a smaller pit.

Mr. Woodhouse: I have heard the evidence of Mr. Binns relative to the size of the barrier, and it was entirely safe to go on without boring with a barrier of thirty yards against a twelve yard head of water. I consider it was perfectly safe having a forty yard barrier against twenty four yards of water. If I had decided to bore I should have bored into the forty yards, but should not have bored through - not above twenty yards. If it had been bored I should have begun from the gate end as there is more room, and had it been done so it would have entirely missed the old workings. If they had bored it would have been very difficult to have any idea of the state of the old works. I look upon it, from the fact of setting such thick ribs, that it is a proof he was not aware that the work was as it is. The whole thing is, something has been done which is not recorded on the plans, and none were aware of it which has caused the accident. Ten yards would have held that water back easily. It depends on the pressure on the roof - if it is not much, a very thin barrier will do.

William Bean: I live at the Portland Colliery. I am a mining engineer, and have practised for about forty years, and have been connected with the principal coal-fields in England during that time. I have heard the evidence of Mr. Binns respecting the barriers, and I consider he left ample barriers. I consider it judicious to approach that distance without boring - where there are barriers of either twenty-five, thirty or forty yards. I should prefer the larger barriers to boring. I have read the Coal Mine Inspection Act, and I do not consider a distance of forty yards approaching to old working within the meaning of the Act. Am of opinion the steps taken to rescue the men were the best that could be done under the circumstances. had there been a boring from dawes' stall it would not have touched the works.

By the Jury: Sometimes it is customary to have bassett shafts in large pits - not always.

Richard George Coke: I have been engaged as a mining engineer for the last 17 years, chiefly in the Midland Counties. Have heard the evidence of Mr. Binns relative to the barriers, and I think that 25 yards was ample for that body of water. In leaving barriers you have to think more of the pressure of the roof than the water. A barrier like the one left by Mr. Binns for the pressure of water there was, was largely in excess - without boring. According to the plan, I should have carried on the work as they have done, - however, I should have gone further up than they had done, and then began boring, and proved it. I visited the pit at the time, and after the first two days I think everything was done that could be done - there was a little time lost with the small tubs on the first and second days.

Parkin Jeffcock; I live at Duffield, and am a mining engineer. I came to Clay Cross on the morning following the accident. Received a message at 2.30 in the morning. When I came I looked over the plans with Mr. Binns, John Parker, George Parker, and Mr. Markham, to make myself acquainted with the locality, and I first thought it would be best to intercept the water, and endeavour to get at the men through the old workings of No. 1. The old levels and roof were so bad that we found it impossible to get in by these means. We consulted, and determined to confine all the operations at No. 1 to water drawing. I am acquainted with the various mechanical arrangements at no. 2 to get the water out, and think the most efficient means were used to get that water out. I frequently visited the drift from No. 4 to No. 2 and I think the utmost expedition was used in driving that - the average of ten yards per day could not have been exceeded. When the water was got below the furnace drift I was one of the first to go down in company with Mr. Hedley. An attempt was made to get through into the smoky incline, and after several efforts that was abandoned, owing to the great accumulation of black damp. Mr. Campbell got as much of black damp as he could bear. From a conference we decided to let any further attempt be, until the drift from No. 4 was got through. On Wednesday afternoon, July 3rd. a passage was got through, and when the steam jets were started, they were enabled to get through on the north side of No. 2. I was called away, and could not go with that exploring party, but I went on the south side, to the breach in Dawes' stall. I was with Mr. Binns, Mr. Hedley, John Parker, G. Parker, Mr. Coke and R. Stephenson. There was a heavy fall of "bind" and we were not able to get up to the breach. I consider the barriers left by Mr. Binns, assuming the plans for the old workings were correct, were ample. Assuming there had been borings, it is a great difficulty to plug them, and they might corrode, and at some future time be forced out. I should not consider that 25 yards an approach to old workings in the meaning of the Act when such other precautions had been taken.

By the Jury: Had Dawes immediately reported it when he saw the water, no means could have been taken to stop the water with that pressure behind. had he reported it properly when he first found it out, no doubt ample means could have been taken to get all the men out.

John Parker re-called: I had charge of the No. 1 workings some time ago. I took charge of the pit about when the dips were finished. Thos. Martin had it before me. I had charge of it until it was closed. Had no responsibility when I first went to the pit. Had to get all the information to see the best mode of working the coal. The first three dips were in full work. The fifth dip was driving when I went there. Have repeatedly heard instructions given to Martin. Did not hear anything as to the exact distance the dips had to go - they all had to go down to a level. After the dips had been dialled - Mr. Binns dialled them - they were laid on the plan. I was in the offices as usual. I had been in the company's employ three or four months. Mr. Binns said they were to go no further, as the whole size of the standards had been headed round. I had nothing to do with them then. Out of curiosity I went down the fourth dip, and on the bottom level to the fifth dip. I saw it was properly cut through ready for starting. There was one man working in the low corner of the dip. The man that was holing was doing it in a very careless sort of way, and it was what we call cut at both ends. I told him to put a sprag to it, or he would be lamed or killed, but he said it was quite safe. It was very strong coal. There was no other heading. I left the man and went to my own department on the other part of the pit, and I had not been away an hour before they told me the man was killed. That circumstance makes me . The angular piece of coal was on the south side of the dip, and on the south side of the No. 2 pit. I did not go into the dip for four or five months when I took charge of it. The first three were down, and the others did not go above a day or two, - in fact, I never had a thorough charge of the dips. I knew how deep the water was in No. 1, but I do not know what quantity there would be when it was tapped.

Mr. Howe: The total quantity of water got out of the pit would be about 7,000,000 gallons.

Witness, examined by the jury: Had dawes reported about the water as soon as he saw it, in a proper manner, the men would have been saved. He knew that was his rules, and we never turned a deaf ear to any alarm.

John Walters: I am an engine wright, and live at Clay Cross. I worked in the old workings 20 years since. I occasionally went through the south dip as a roadman. I was in when the furthest dip was worked five or six yards from the level, and at that time there was a little bank on the south side. What makes me know more is a man named Frank Cowper had been killed a few days previous. I had been working with his brother. I was in the pit on a Sunday night, and the pit was going to begin to work at three o'clock in the morning, and my father showed me where the man was killed. I only went to Nos. 4 and 5 dips. I believe John Watts and John Bonsall worked in the same pit. My father was the deputy in the night over the roads. I was confined to the dip roads; we did not go in the stalls at all. The dip heading was generally considered to be 100 yards.

William Bacon: I live at Clay Cross, and am a collier and miner. I did not work in the dips, but I have been in them often enough. I had worked in No. 2 eight or nine years all over the pit, and I knew of the great body of water, and I was afraid of it, and I left because of that. we talked to one another many a time in the pit. Mr. Hudson came to me and asked me why I left, and I told him I was afraid of the water - only for that I should stop in. He came for the key of the house for one thing. I have never said Mr. Binns sent Mr. Hudson to me.

John Watts: I worked in the 5th. dip in No. 2 pit on the near side to the shaft. There was a little short stall on the other side. John Beadsley and a man of the name of Coupe worked there, but they have gone away. Beadsley lives near Sheffield now. I worked in that bank two or three months. It was worked up a piece before I went in. I was there when a man was killed. I know nothing of any heading being driven out there.

James Bonsall: I live at Tupton, and am a collier. I worked in the 5th. dip of the No. 1 working. I worked in the same bank as Watts on the south side nearest the bottom. There was something done on the south side of the dip, but I can't say what was done.

William Walter: I live at No. 29, Tunnel Row, Clay Cross, and am a miner. I worked on the road in No. 1 pit, but 20 years is a long time to remember much about it. No. 5 dip was worked down to the bottom when I went there. I was there when the banks began to open. there was a bank on both sides, but I can't recollect what length it was. I very well remember the man getting killed.

James Cooke: I live at Clay Cross, and am a miner. i worked in No. 1 on the dips. I headed on the levels to the 2nd. dips. I was one of the first men that opened the first and second dips. I never worked in No. 5 dip. i did not know anybody that worked there only the man that was killed there.

The inquest was adjourned at this stage of the proceedings until Friday.

Clay Cross, Friday.

At nine 'clock this morning the inquest was resumed. Mr. Hedley, the Government Inspector, described at great length the nature of the operations from the commencement of the accident; but from the late hour at which the inquest was finished, we have resolved to leave our detailed account of his remarks and the Coroner's summing up until next week.

Mr. Hedley said the Company had done every possible thing to recover the bodies, and he could place every confidence in the judgment and care of Mr. Binns in the management of the works. There was no colliery in his district where more money had been spent to provide for the safety of the workmen.

Elizabeth Bruff said she had heard Dawes say he saw the water coming in at eleven o'clock in the morning. He told the gaffer, who said if he went out of the pit he should fine him. John Boden, John Bradbury, and Natty dawes were then called, and they swore the water was not observed until three o'clock. The boy Bradbury said he met Dawes between three and four o'clock, and he did not tell him of the water nor did he tell him to go out of the pit.

The evidence having been exhausted.

The Coroner summed up the evidence at very great length, going minutely into all the details of the case. He said that no blame amounting to criminality could be attached to Dawes for not informing the corporal of the breach earlier, nor could any criminality be attached to any of the men. Silkstone and Britton had not taken the best means of saving the men, but the excitement which influenced them at the time was such as not to render them criminally responsible, neither could any blame be attached to the company.

Mr. Abbott (a juryman): Are not the company responsible for the negligence of the workmen?

The Coroner: Not criminally.

The jury were left to themselves at 4.45, and at 7.10 they returned the following verdict:

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We find that the deaths of Francis Bradley and others took place from the water accumulating in No. 1 workings, it having broken into No. 117 stall, worked by Nathaniel Dawes at No. 2 pit, and that there was not a sufficient barrier to keep back such water, in consequence of the coal in the deep of the level of No. 1 pit having been worked for a distance of 42 yards beyond the south-eastern boundary, shown in the working plan, but there is no evidence to show by whom, or under what circumstances, such coal was worked off beyond such boundary. The jury recommend that in all cases where workings are approaching to a distance where a barrier is proposed to be left, notice should be given by the owner of the collieries to the inspector, with a view to provide for the safety of the men, and they consider it desirable in all cases for coal owners to drain the old workings on the property they are working. The jury are of opinion that several of the workmen, viz., Nathaniel Dawes, Murray, Britton, George Silkstone, Benjamin Wright, and James Booth are blameable for neglecting their duty under the colliery rules, and they recommend that in the absence of any ordinary deputy a well-qualified person shall be appointed to fulfil the duties of such deputy.

The jury consider there is great praise due to Alfred Smith for his exertions in rescuing the men under his charge. The jury then said the whole of the deceaseds had met with their deaths accidentally.

On the delivery of the verdict, W. Jackson, Esq., M.P., rose with tears in his eyes, and, addressing the jury, said: On behalf of the Clay Cross Company, I cannot allow this meeting to separate without expressing my deep regret, and of every one concerned, for the lamentable loss that has taken place. I can assure you that each and all of us have felt most severely. We feel that your verdict has rendered us in public opinion blameless. We do feel for the loss of life, and for the families, for the great loss they have sustained, and we only hope such a circumstance

may never occur again. (Hear, hear). It was our pride to think that these works had been conducted in such a manner as to cause scarcely any loss of life, and we have congratulated ourselves that under the management of Mr. Binns we had less loss of life than any colliery in the kingdom, considering the magnitude of the works. It has ever been our wish to make the men in our employ comfortable, and ensure their safety. We cannot repay our friends and neighbours for the great interest they have taken in this lamentable affair - for the kindly offers of our neighbours, and for the attention you, gentlemen, have paid to the case, and for the great amount of time you have lost over it. We must express our deep sense of gratitude to you, and I hope that steps may be taken to ameliorate the extent of the sufferings of those families who have suffered in consequence. I am sure it shall not be our fault - I can scarcely express myself - I look to the widows, and I feel for the children. Again I thank you, and express my heartfelt thanks for the trouble and time you have occupied, and I hope it will be the last time you will ever be assembled under such circumstances. - (During the delivery of these remarks, Mr. Jackson was repeatedly moved to tears, and could scarcely express his deep sense of regret at the unfortunate occurrence).

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Advert - Sale by Mr. Bucknell.

Colliery and Brick-Making Plant, Steam Engine and Boiler (complete), Clay Crusher, etc., etc.

Mr. Bucknell will sell by Public Auction.

Upon the Ground, Newbold Road, near Chesterfield, on Tuesday, the 20th. of August, at half past two o'clock prompt: -

The whole of the Plant, Buildings, etc., belonging to the Newbold Colliery and Brick Works; comprising one four horse steam engine and boiler (complete), one double clay crusher (by Parsons), brick presses (by ditto), tile machine (by Williams), one sack weighing machine, two brick kilns, one 21 X 9 X 10½ft., one 24 X 8 X 12, engine house and chimney; two large drying sheds, one 64 X 15, one 40 X 16 feet; roofing tiles on ditto; 10 lots of roofing tiles, a large quantity of bricks, lot of timber and post and rail fences, sleepers and other forming road, a lot of iron rails, head gearing, and rails round pit, signal wire, posts and pullies; one useful draught horse; five good working donkeys, used to pit work; etc., etc.

The whole will be sold without the least reserve.

Conditions at Sale.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Advert - Clay Cross Colliery Accident.

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Chesterfield and the Neighbourhood, held at the Municipal Hall, in Chesterfield, on the 9th. of August, 1861, for the purpose of giving expression to the sympathy felt for the Sufferers by the late calamitous Inundation at the Clay Cross Colliery, and to make arrangements for a Public Subscription in their behalf,

The Mayor of Chesterfield in the Chair,

It was proposed by the Venerable Archdeacon Hill, seconded by Mr. Barrow, and Resolved: -

"That this Meeting desire to express its sympathy with the sufferers by the late calamitous accident at the Clay Cross Colliery, and recognizes the duty and obligation of contributing by means of a public subscription to a fund to be raised in aid of the widows, orphans, and families of those whose lives have been lost."

Proposed by Mr. Busby, seconded by the Rev. A. Poole, and Resolved:-

"That a Committee be formed for the purpose of Raising and Collecting Subscriptions, consisting of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number: - The Mayor of Chesterfield, Mr. Barrow, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Carrington, Mr. R. Coke, Mr. Markham, Mr. Binns, Mr. Turbutt, the Ven. Archdeacon Hill, Mr. Cottingham, Mr. Busby, the Rev. Geo. Butt, the Rev. Jos. Oldham, the Rev. A. Poole, the Rev. R.C. Willey, Mr. John Ward, Mr. Woodhouse, Mr. Jeffcock, Mr. Irving, Mr. Bingham, Mr. W. Goodwin, and Mr. S. Denham.

"That a Subscription List be at once opened and left with the several Bankers in Chesterfield and Derby, who shall be requested to receive Subscriptions; and that Mr. George Barrow be requested to act as Honorary Secretary of the Committee."

It was proposed by the Rev. George Butt, seconded by Mr. Markham, and Resolved: -

"That Mr. Shipton (Mayor of Chesterfield), Mr. Jackson, Mr. Turbutt, and Mr. Barrow be Trustees of the Fund."

It was proposed by the Rev. John Boyer, seconded by Mr. Irving, and Resolved: -

"That the distribution and appropriation of the funds collected shall be entrusted to Mr. Turbutt, Mr. Milnes, Mr. Binns, Mr. R. Coke, the Rector of North Wingfield, and the Rev. Joseph Oldham."

Proposed by Mr. Carrington, seconded by Mr. Bingham, and Resolved: -

"That these Resolutions be advertised in the Derby and Chesterfield newspapers."

Joseph Shipton, Mayor, Chairman.

The Venerable Archdeacon Hill proposed, and Mr. Barrow seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The following Subscriptions were announced at the Meeting: -

The Clay Cross Colliery	500 - 0 - 0
Charles Binns, Esq.	50 - 0 - 0
George Vaughan, Esq., Snibstone	25 - 0 - 0
Dunston and Barlow Company	25 - 0 - 0
Dr. Packman	20 - 0 - 0
Richard Barrow, Esq.	50 - 0 - 0
Wingerworth Iron Company	25 - 0 - 0
Archdeacon Hill	25 - 0 - 0
Rev. J. Boyer	10 - 0 - 0
Mr. Irving	10 - 10 - 0
Mr. Josiah Elliott	1 - 1 - 0
Charles Markham, Esq.	10 - 0 - 0
Richard G. Coke, Esq.	10 - 0 - 0
Rev. G. Butt	5 - 0 - 0
The Mayor of Chesterfield	5 - 0 - 0
C.S.B. Busby, Esq.	5 - 0 - 0
Rev. J. Nodder	10 - 0 - 0
Wm. Bingham	10 - 0 - 0
Rev. A.T. Blythe	8 - 8 - 0

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Advert - Notice to the Miners of Chesterfield and Neighbourhood.

There is a General Meeting of the Miners' Association to be held at the Three Tuns Inn, Chesterfield, on Monday, the 19th. inst., at Seven o'clock.

All the members of the said Association are respectfully invited.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

Inquest.

On Tuesday, 30th. ult, an inquest was held at the Old Harrow Inn, Ilkeston, before Mr. Whiston, coroner, on the body of a youth, named Amos Beardsley, which was exhumed from the churchyard for the occasion. It appeared from the evidence that deceased had hurt himself internally in a coalpit, probably from lifting weights above his strength, from which injuries he died on the previous Tuesday, notwithstanding that medical assistance was procured, and was buried the following Thursday. This enquiry was instituted on account of some rumours that the medical attendant had not administered proper treatment. After a careful examination the Jury returned a verdict quite exculpating Messrs. Eaton and Grant.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. August 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

The Iron and Coal Trades of Yorkshire and Derbyshire - August 1st.

The causes which have led to the depression of the Iron Trade still continue, and considering the position of commercial affairs generally there is no immediate prospects of any improvement. The approaching harvest is likely to be abundantly fruitful, and the money market is becoming easier, but the demand for all descriptions of iron is very limited. The coal trade is duller than it was a fortnight ago, and prices are generally lower, except for those kinds adopted for locomotive and marine purposes. There is nothing worthy of note this week with respect to the Derbyshire lead mines. The depressed condition of trade, owing to the American crisis, is operating against speculation, particularly in Sheffield, from which town most of the capital employed in progressive mining has been furnished. On Saturday, as a fall of coal was being blown down at East Gawber Colliery, near Barnsley, a feeder of gas ignited, and the coal took fire. The steward and the fireman immediately commenced building stoppings, when a second explosion took place, and seriously burnt them both about the hands and face. The managers and stewards of North Gawber and New Gawber promptly rendered advice and assistance, but when the brick walls were nearly completed another explosion blew them all out, severely injuring three or four men who were engaged in the work. The horses were then got out, and the shafts closed. Several explosions have since occurred, and the colliery is, of course, temporarily suspended. The injured men are progressing favourably.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. August 1861.

Page 3 Col. 2.

Subscription in behalf of the Widows and Children of the Men who were killed at Clay Cross.

Public Meeting at Chesterfield.

Yesterday (Friday) a public meeting, convened by the Mayor, was held in the Municipal Hall, to take steps to start a subscription for the above object. Amongst those present were, J. Shipton, Esq. (Mayor), - Markham, Esq. (Midland Railway), Rev. G. Butt, Vicar, Archdeacon Hill, Rev. Joseph Nodder, Rev. A. Poole, Rev. J. Boyer, R. Barrow, Esq., - Coke, Esq., G. Barrow, Esq., T. Carrington, Esq., W. Clayton, Esq., Messrs. T. Irving, W. Bingham, J. Prince, J. Gladwin, S. Denham, W. Goodwin, Etc.

The Mayor said he had invited them to meet him for the purpose of giving expression of feeling for the sufferings of the widows and orphans of the poor men who had lost their lives at the late calamity at Clay Cross. He trusted he was not assuming too much in calling the meeting in a matter which had occurred out of his own jurisdiction. He had been requested to do so by some who had taken a deep interest in the unfortunate affair, and the reason it had not been called earlier was that it was thought better to let it stand over until the termination of the coroner's inquiry. He should not keep them long with a detail of the occurrence, it was fresh in their memory, but it was the most serious calamity that had occurred in the Midland District in memory. Twenty-three fellow creatures had lost their lives, ten of whom were married. Seven had left widows, and in all 24 children. Consider what an amount of suffering must take place. The Company was alive to the responsibility that had fallen upon them, and they had met the case in a very handsome way, but something more was required. They were all bound to do as much as they could to ameliorate the distress. In Chesterfield they were much dependant on the mineral interests of the district, and the inhabitants should therefore take their share in the matter, and show their sympathy with the colliers of the neighbourhood. Some sympathy was also due to the proprietors of the colliery - the town derived a deal from Clay Cross, and he hoped his fellow townsmen would come forward liberally and make handsome contributions towards the fund they were about to raise. He then read a letter from Mr. Binns, who thought his presence was not desirable at the meeting, but he would be glad to undertake any duties that might be allotted to him. He gave in a donation of £50, and £500 from the Company.

The Ven. Archdeacon Hill rose to propose the first resolution. (For copy of resolution, see our advertising columns). He felt a great honour in proposing the first resolution, and he could only say that, in expressing his sentiments, they were under great obligation to the worthy Mayor for going beyond his limits and calling the present meeting, which showed his desire to forward the cause of charity and benevolence. (Hear, hear). He hoped the resolution would commend itself to the hearts and understandings of all of them. The Mayor had given them an account of the grievous calamity, and the circumstances were too well known to require any comment from him. It behoved them from the principle of common humanity to do their best. When so many persons were snatched away, they could not help but give for their suffering families. They were all interested in the trade in which the poor fellows had lost their lives. They were all more or less affected by the working of the minerals in the county - besides that, he must, as a minister of the Gospel, call their attention to the Holy Book in which God had been pleased to characterize himself as a Father to the fatherless - this was described in the Old Testament, and in the New Testament, one of the most affecting miracles was wrought on behalf of a woman who had lost her only son. The sufferers at Clay Cross had great claim upon them, and he hoped, as

Christians, they would remember the golden rule, "Do unto others as ye would wish others should do unto you." If any of them were summoned into another world, they would have a wish that somebody would take care of their widows and children. (Hear, hear). He then proposed the resolution.

R. Barrow, Esq., briefly seconded the resolution.

Mr. Busby proposed the second resolution, and instanced the various acts of bravery by the men underground, who endeavoured to save the lives of their fellow creatures.

The Rev. A. Poole seconded the proposition.

The Rev. G. Butt rose to express his satisfaction in the remarks that had been made, and proposed the third resolution.

Mr. Markham seconded the proposition. He had himself been frequently at the scene of the accident, and he was sure it must have been a source of great tribulation to witness the horrible sufferings under which the men died. Their features were so distorted that their bodies could not be identified, and were sometimes owned by wrong friends. It was the greatest accident that had occurred in the Midland Counties, and he hoped the inhabitants of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire would do their best to alleviate the sufferings of the widows and orphans.

The Rev. J. Boyer proposed the fourth resolution, and pledged his support to the movement.

Mr. T. Irving seconded the proposition, and in reply to his inquiries and also Mr. Bingham, it was stated that the funds would be appropriated in a similar manner to those at Sandhill - to make a permanent allowance to the bereaved families.

Mr. T. Carrington proposed the fifth resolution, and he hoped the inhabitants of Chesterfield would respond to the call as he had always found them to do on similar occasions.

Mr. W. Bingham seconded the proposition.

Archdeacon Hill proposed and Mr. Barrow seconded a vote of thanks to the Mayor, and the meeting separated.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. August 1861.

Page 4 Col. 1-3.

The Colliery Accident at Clay Cross.

As promised in our last, we publish a more lengthy report of Mr. Hedley's evidence and the Coroner's summing up.

The inquiry was again opened on Friday, at nine o'clock, before Mr. Busby, the coroner. The first witness was Mr. Hedley, who said: I am Government Inspector of Mines in the Midland District. I was informed of this accident by a telegram which I received on my return from Warwickshire. I met Mr. Binns at Derby station and told him. I arrived here at a quarter past eight, and, after ascertaining the means that were being used for getting down the water, we went to the office to consult as to the best course to be adopted, and decided to intercept the water at the No. 1 pit, and also endeavour to get to the No. 2 workings from the No. 1, by clearing out the levels on the north side, and driving through 30 yards of coal. From the rotten nature of the roof it was impossible to clear it out before other communications could be made. After working at it eight or ten days it was abandoned, and operations at No. 1 confined to water drawing only. Mr. Jeffcock came on the following morning, and, without any communication with us, had come to the conclusion that such operations were desirable at No. 1. I may say that, early on the Wednesday morning, Mr. Binns desired me to take the entire charge of the operations, which I did, placing at my disposal the whole of the staff at Clay Cross, and the purse of the company. Whatever was done with a view of getting into the mine was with my sanction, and with the whole of the arrangements I have been perfectly satisfied. For more than three weeks I was in constant attendance here, with Mr. Jeffcock, and several others. With respect to the mechanical arrangements, I must not omit the name of Mr. Campbell, who laboured incessantly to forward the work. Mr. Howe and his son George are deserving of every praise for their continued exertions. The operations in the mine, from No. 4 to join No. 2, were also continually visited by myself or Mr. Jeffcock; and very great praise is due to John Brown, the overman of No. 4, and the men who drove the heading. I never heard of the same amount of work being done in the time. The whole of the officials of the company have exerted themselves to the utmost in every department. The operations that were done were the best adapted to the purpose that could possibly be for opening a communication with the pit in the shortest possible time. On the 29th. of June, which was the first opportunity, as the water was six or seven feet below the mouth of the furnace-drift, and just leaving room to walk in the lower part of the drift, I determined to endeavour to attempt to get into the No. 2 workings. Mr. Jeffcock, John Brown, and John Parker, accompanied me. After several attempts, I found that it was impossible to proceed, owing to the vast accumulation of black damp, and from other circumstances; our means of ventilation were not sufficient to drive the body of gas out. Up to this time I had acted on the supposition that there was life in the mine, and had made arrangements for conveying fresh air to those parts of the pit where the men were likely to be found. It was the opinion of all parties that they would be found near the rise workings, where there was fresh water, and out of the reach of the damp in the low parts of the mine. From the appearance of the No. 1 pit, when Mr. Jeffcock and I first went down on Friday the 14th. of June, the pit was quite clear, although the water had risen in all 16 yards. There was no gas or damp. Finding the No. 1 so clear of black damp, I had hoped that there was very little in the old workings at all, and also thought the men in No. 2 workings were sealed up with fresh air, and that the only black damp that would be fatal to them would be the result of their own breathing; but the exploration of the 29th. convinced me of the presence of a large body of black damp in those workings. Being more than double the weight of atmospheric air, it would go by its own gravity to the lowest point of No. 2.

I can form no idea of the quantity of black damp, nor how long after it would follow the water. Some would follow with it. I do not know how long after the water coming in the gas would be in such quantities as to destroy life. I do not believe that the No. 2 workings themselves would generate black damp. I have never seen a trace of it there at any time. With a fall of the barometer, the damp would come out with much greater force. The barometer was low during that week, which would be against the men continuing alive. In the early part of the week it stood high, and fell during the week. Knowing that the state of the atmosphere affected the flow of the gas, I carefully observed the barometer. At the time we tried to get in, the heading from No. 4 was nearly complete, and I had it pushed forward with all speed, and on Wednesday the 3rd. July we got a communication and ventilation of the north side of No. 2 through the No. 4 pit. By that means the first four bodies were recovered. By means of steam jets in the No. 2 upcast, the ventilation was established. After those men were recovered I ordered the communication to be stopped, and the water drawn out of No. 2, and the steam jets continued in the No. 2 shaft. Ventilation then took place in the No. 2 workings by means of the downcast and upcast. By means of this arrangement of ventilation, the whole of the south side was explored, and the other bodies got out. About three years ago, Mr. Binns told me he would shortly be coming towards the old No. 1 workings, against which he intended to leave a barrier. He thought of leaving a 15 yard barrier against the 13 yards pressure, and 20 yards barrier against the deep workings, where there was 24 yards pressure. He also thought of having a series of bore-holes towards the old workings to ascertain their position. The other idea he had was, to leave double the strength of barriers and not bore. He said before getting near the workings he would have the plans carefully tested over, which was done. I remember referring to those old workings, to the effect that I asked him whether he thought the outlines of those old workings, especially the dips, were correctly laid down upon the plan. Mr. Binns said he was satisfied the plan was correct, as he had dialled the deep workings himself. 500 or 600 yards had been got off along the old workings, leaving the large barrier as decided upon by Mr. Binns. I have been to the north side of the barrier in No. 2 about two years ago, and it was quite dry. About twelve months ago I was in the workings of Dan's incline. they were then more than a hundred yards from the old workings. I consider that the larger barrier, without boring, was better than the smaller with boring, but either of them amply sufficient. The reason I should prefer the larger to the smaller is this: Underground managers sometimes go beyond the instructions of their superiors, and will drive holes for putting in dirt and refuse, without giving information of it, and then there was a greater fear of coming in contact with works of that sort with a small barrier and boring, than by the larger barrier without boring. If they had bored in the usual way in this stall, I feel sure the borer would not have touched this water, but have gone on one side of it. Although it is only about five feet, the coal would have had the tendency to carry the borer from the old workings. If you were approaching old workings, and the water percolated through the coal, it would have been a warning that they were nearer the coal than they thought or the coal was open. I do not think that the state of the stall before three o'clock was such as to require any warning being given. According to Dawes' evidence, there was no reason, from the appearance of the stall before three o'clock, to apprehend nearness of water. Except in cases of apparent danger, I should not consider that the distance of 40 yards was an approach, especially when the workings are on the plan as in this case, apparently accurate. I did not think it necessary that boring should be established here. I do not think it desirable that old workings adjoining a going pit, and belonging to the same owner, should be kept free from water. The Act does not apply to those cases. It is a mechanical question whether these No. 1 pits could have been kept free from water. The feeder in the No. 2 pit varies very much in summer and winter. There is no colliery in my district where more care has been taken, or more money spent, to provide for the safety of the men, and I could place every confidence in the judgement and care of Mr. Binns. There is one matter I should also like to speak on, that all parties should give me notice when they are approaching the barrier they intend to leave. If the stalls were approaching old workings on the rise the danger would be from gas, if on the dip from water. I cannot speak too highly of the

conduct of the Midland Railway during this affair, in rendering us every assistance in their power, as well as of Mr. Kirtly and Mr. Markham, their officials.

By Mr. Hadfield: I do not know the reason the water was left in those old workings, as the Act does not apply to it. The accumulation of water in old workings is one of the greatest dangers to be met with in mining.

By the Jury: I am quite satisfied had Dawes given information at three o'clock to the corporal of the district, I have no doubt the men would have been rescued, as I think the corporal would have been impressed with impending danger, and cleared the pit. Had the coal come in a square piece, I do not think any of the men would have got out. I can't say whether Dawes knew it was his duty, when he saw danger, to give information. I can't tell how he studied his rules, but the twenty-second rule is one pretty generally known. I know they attend to complaints very well here, and I should like every man in the district to tell me if his complaints were not attended to.

Elizabeth Bruff: I am a widow and live in Church Lane, North Wingfield. I heard Dawes say that he perceived the water coming in at eleven o'clock in the morning, and he told the gaffer, and the gaffer told Dawes if he went up the pit he should fine him. I did not stop to here any more. I did not hear who the gaffer was. Dawes went on with some men.

A Juryman: That is very straightforward evidence.

Inspector Gorman said he met Butterfield yesterday, and he said the putter to Dawes ought to be examined, as he knew something very important about the water coming in at an earlier time of the day.

John Parker recalled and examined: If a corporal was away he was liable to be fined.

Mr. Hedley: No person in trust shall absent himself without the knowledge of his superior in office.

A Juryman: Freeman absented himself, and 14 of his men have lost their lives.

Parker: Britton was very active, but I think he was too young. Samuel Wood was not a responsible corporal. Benjamin Wright was scarcely responsible for the men in the stone heading. No one has control over them but me.

Juryman: But the overmen go out by 12 o'clock. Wright's own evidence says he forgot the 4 men, and went into more danger to inform others.

Parker: Had his mind not been so excited I believe he would have told them. You know it was like a sea; you could see nothing but water.

Wm. Boden: I am a loader. I loaded in Natty Dawes' stall. I was working there with him on Tuesday, 11th. June. I went between five and six in the morning, and continued until about four o'clock. I left with Dawes, and I went with Dawes from the stall to the pit bottom. I observed water coming in about three. We did not observe any before three. We guessed at it about three. I am sure we did not observe any before noon at any time. Bradbury was putting from us all day whilst we stopped. We left a bit before four. We filled a skip after we saw it. Dawes said there was something amiss with it, and we must come out and see somebody about it. Bradbury had been in the stall before I left. There was nothing said to him as I know of. The first boy we saw was Bradbury, and next it was Timothy Smith. We told Bradbury we would not

work any longer, as there was something amiss with the stall. We met Timothy Smith on the top of the incline. Natty told him to go and tell his father there was some water coming, and we did not think it was right. I forgot what he said in reply, but something to the effect he would tell his father. We met four or five men coming out from the dip side, and we told them there was something amiss with our stall. I had cut a nick across the bottom, and it formed into a little stream about as big as my three fingers. We heard a rumbling noise about three o'clock. Dawes did not call my attention to it about eleven o'clock in the morning.

John Bradbury: I live at Tunnel Row, Clay Cross, and am 19 years old. I put for Natty dawes and Boden. I first heard of the water between three and four o'clock. Natty did not say anything to me then. He did not say anything when I went for the last skip. It was draining out of the floor about three or four o'clock, but I did not think anything of it, as it had always been damp. I thought there was no harm. Natty Dawes was in the stall, and Boden too. They did not say anything to me about the water. I fetched two skips after they went out. I brought none out of Dawes' stall when they went out. I met Dawes half way up the putting road, and they said the water was coming about the thickness of three fingers. I ungeared my pony and went out. Dawes went out before me. There was no water when I got out. I saw Timothy Smith on the top of the stall, and I said there was a sup of water in Natty's stall. I asked him if it was the top Black Shale water, as if it was there might be something very much amiss.

By the Jury: Dawes never told me to make haste out of the pit.

Natty Dawes recalled: Did not remember seeing Elizabeth Bruff the Thursday after the accident. I never told her or anybody else that I saw the water at eleven o'clock, and told the gaffer, and he said if I went up he would fine me. I never said that, nor nothing to that effect. George Parker is the gaffer, and he was through at eleven o'clock, and there was no water then.

By the Jury: I met the boy Bradbury, but did not tell him to go out. I did not think it was so dangerous. I said I stopped him whilst I dare not stay any longer.

Mr. Hadfield: If you were afraid to stay, the boy must be in as much danger as you.

This concluded the evidence.

The Coroner then proceeded to sum up the evidence at very considerable length, - indeed his speech was a complete and able digest of all the evidence which had been adduced, and a minute narrative of all the material circumstances connected with the accident. He said that everything had been cleared up about the identity of the bodies. There appeared to have been some question about the identity of three of the men, which had now been satisfactorily cleared up, and he put the question to them (the jury) whether in their opinion they were satisfied of the identify, and the reply had been in the affirmative. They had sat in the aggregate eight days, and had examined 73 witnesses, and he had availed himself of the opportunity afforded between the adjournment to carefully sift the statement of each witness, and to put the statements together in a connected form. the evidence adduced had been - first to show the discipline of the pit previous to the accident, and secondly, the measures that were taken to reduce the water. After going through the non-scientific evidence, he proceeded to refer to the arrangements made after the water was got out. The first evidence they had relating to the colliery plan was that given by Stevenson (sic), which was fully corroborated by Eardley. As to the accuracy of the old plan Mr. Stevenson was not answerable for that in any way. The evidence of Mr. Howe showed what were the mechanical arrangements for reducing the water, and there was the evidence of Mr. Binns, relating to the old pit and the plans, and also the barriers were believed to have been left. It was stated the works had been done during the time the pit was under Martin's charge, and when orders had been given him as to the boundary by his superior

officer. If the work had been done during Mr. Parker's management of the pit, they would have been enabled to have had some evidence of how, or under what circumstances, the coal had been got beyond the boundary; but Mr. Parker had told them that the heading had been driven to the deep on the side of the furthest heading, and that after that time he was never in the direction of the pit. It showed that these workings were done before Mr. Parker had charge of the pit, and that there had been no record of what had been done in Martin's time, which would lead to the supposition that what had been done was without the authority of his superiors. The Coroner then read the evidence of George Parker, and he proceeded to say that he attached no importance to the evidence of Mrs. Bruff. The next point for them to consider would be that part of their duty which they were called upon to determine, which was, by what means these poor fellows came to their death - whether that death was from purely accidental causes, or whether from the acts or negligence of any person or persons who were responsible for their lives. There were many branches of evidence relating to the case, but the main facts were very similar indeed in their bearing upon the cause of the accident. Had there been negligence, it would have arisen from one of two causes - either from the negligence of the proprietors approaching this barrier, or from the negligence of those in charge of the working of the pit in not giving information of the existing danger, which they were bound to do, and that in consequence of that neglect any of those poor men lost their lives. The next point was whether prompt and efficient measures were taken to reserve the men, and was there any negligence on the part of the proprietors in approaching so near those old works. Upon that part of the accident the evidence was so strongly in favour of the company from witnesses of the highest class, that it appeared to him scarcely worth while to refer to it. The engineers were so fully satisfied that the boundaries proposed were more than sufficient to keep back the water, providing the plans had been correct. After reading a portion of the evidence of Mr. Binns, he said whatever was done beyond the boundary by Martin was in excess of the authority given him, and Mr. Binns spoke positively of the authority given to him (Martin) who had not shown the work on the plans. Unless it could be shown that there was any negligence in the dialling, no one could be responsible but Martin himself. The part, then, which suggested itself was this - that some twenty years ago somebody did extend the boundary, and it was not surveyed and put upon the plans. The proprietors had the pit surveyed, and trusted to the accuracy of the plans, which were approved, and there was no pretence for saying there could be any responsibility to those who acted on the faith of those plans. Then came the other question, was anybody criminally or civilly responsible for tapping the water in Natty Dawes' stall? As regarded this question the evidence showed there was not. Dawes said he did not know he was working near the dip water. It seemed to be popularly known that there was a great quantity of water in the other works, but when Dawes saw the water at three o'clock he did not think there was immediate danger, otherwise he would not have remained at work. But they must bear in mind that when men in his station of life talked of danger, they did not generally think as clearly as others. The men who saw the stream coming thought there was danger, but not immediate danger. How then could they say there was any responsibility on the part of Natty Dawes or Bamford. They did not believe the danger was so immediate as it really was. Alfred Smith was not there at the time, and he did not think there was any imputation upon him. He told everybody whom he met of the water, but Wright forgot his own men; and, however lamentable that might be, he could not be held criminally responsible. Did they think the act of forgetfulness was such as to render him criminally responsible, particularly in a moment of excitement like that which prevailed on the discovery of the accident. The case against Silkstone appeared to him (the Coroner) to have been more serious than against any of the other corporals, because he knew of the accident, but did not give warning to the other men. On hearing of the accident he ought to have warned his men, and have gone round and satisfied himself that they were all out. After referring to the evidence of Britton, the Coroner said in his opinion there was no responsibility, either civil or criminal, resting upon anyone.

To make the report more complete, we again publish the verdict -

We find that the deaths of Francis Bradley and others took place from the water accumulating in No. 1 workings, it having broken into No. 117 stall, worked by Nathaniel Dawes at No. 2 pit, and that there was not a sufficient barrier to keep back such water, in consequence of the coal in the deep of the level of No. 1 pit having been worked for a distance of 42 yards beyond the south-eastern boundary, shown in the working plan, but there is no evidence to show by whom, or under what circumstances, such coal was worked off beyond such boundary. The jury recommend that in all cases where workings are approaching to a distance where a barrier is proposed to be left, notice should be given by the owner of the collieries to the inspector, with a view to provide for the safety of the men, and they consider it desirable in all cases for coal owners to drain the old workings on the property they are working. The jury are of opinion that several of the workmen, viz., Nathaniel Dawes, Murray, Britton, George Silkstone, Benjamin Wright, and James Booth are blameable for neglecting their duty under the colliery rules, and they recommend that in the absence of any ordinary deputy a well-qualified person shall be appointed to fulfil the duties of such deputy.

The jury consider there is great praise due to Alfred Smith for his exertions in rescuing the men under his charge. The jury then said the whole of the deceaseds had met with their deaths accidentally.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Advert - Clay Cross Colliery Accident.

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Chesterfield and the Neighbourhood, held at the Municipal Hall, in Chesterfield, on the 9th. of August, 1861, for the purpose of giving expression to the sympathy felt for the Sufferers by the late calamitous Inundation at the Clay Cross Colliery, and to make arrangements for a Public Subscription in their behalf,

The Mayor of Chesterfield
in the Chair,

It was proposed by the Venerable Archdeacon Hill, seconded by Mr. Barrow, and Resolved: -

"That this Meeting desire to express its sympathy with the sufferers by the late calamitous accident at the Clay Cross Colliery, and recognizes the duty and obligation of contributing by means of a public subscription to a fund to be raised in aid of the widows, orphans, and families of those whose lives have been lost."

Proposed by Mr. Busby, seconded by the Rev. A. Poole, and Resolved:-

"That a Committee be formed for the purpose of Raising and Collecting Subscriptions, consisting of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number: - The Mayor of Chesterfield, Mr. Barrow, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Carrington, Mr. R. Coke, Mr. Markham, Mr. Binns, Mr. Turbutt, the Ven. Archdeacon Hill, Mr. Cottingham, Mr. Busby, the Rev. Geo. Butt, the Rev. Jos. Oldham, the Rev. A. Poole, the Rev. R.C. Willey, Mr. John Ward, Mr. Woodhouse, Mr. Jeffcock, Mr. Irving, Mr. Bingham, Mr. W. Goodwin, and Mr. S. Denham.

"That a Subscription List be at once opened and left with the several Bankers in Chesterfield and Derby, who shall be requested to receive Subscriptions; and that Mr. George Barrow be requested to act as Honorary Secretary of the Committee."

It was proposed by the Rev. George Butt, seconded by Mr. Markham, and Resolved: -

"That Mr. Shipton (Mayor of Chesterfield), Mr. Jackson, Mr. Turbutt, and Mr. Barrow be Trustees of the Fund."

It was proposed by the Rev. John Boyer, seconded by Mr. Irving, and Resolved: -

"That the distribution and appropriation of the funds collected shall be entrusted to Mr. Turbutt, Mr. Milnes, Mr. Binns, Mr. R. Coke, the Rector of North Wingfield, and the Rev. Joseph Oldham."

Proposed by Mr. Carrington, seconded by Mr. Bingham, and Resolved: -

"That these Resolutions be advertised in the Derby and Chesterfield newspapers."

Joseph Shipton, Mayor, Chairman.

The Venerable Archdeacon Hill proposed, and Mr. Barrow seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The following Subscriptions were announced at the Meeting: -

The Clay Cross Colliery	500 - 0 - 0
Charles Binns, Esq.	50 - 0 - 0
George Vaughan, Esq., Snibstone	25 - 0 - 0
Dunston and Barlow Company	25 - 0 - 0
Dr. Packman	20 - 0 - 0
Richard Barrow, Esq.	50 - 0 - 0
Wingerworth Iron Company	25 - 0 - 0
Archdeacon Hill	25 - 0 - 0
Rev. J. Boyer	10 - 0 - 0
Mr. Irving	10 - 10 - 0
Mr. Josiah Elliott	1 - 1 - 0
Charles Markham, Esq.	10 - 0 - 0
Richard G. Coke, Esq.	10 - 0 - 0
Rev. G. Butt	5 - 0 - 0
The Mayor of Chesterfield	5 - 0 - 0
C.S.B. Busby, Esq.	5 - 0 - 0
Rev. J. Nodder	10 - 0 - 0
Wm. Bingham	10 - 0 - 0
Rev. A.T. Blythe	8 - 8 - 0

Additional Subscriptions.

The High Sheriff and Mayor	5 - 0 - 0
Godfrey Heathcote, Esq.	2 - 0 - 0
Mrs. Turner, White Lodge	1 - 0 - 0
Bucknell and Castle	1 - 1 - 0
Margaret Ellis	1 - 0 - 0
Anna Storrs	2 - 0 - 0
W.P. Thornhill, Esq., M.P.	20 - 0 - 0
Rev. J. Oldham	5 - 0 - 0
Mrs. E. Walker	0 - 5 - 0
J. and G. Robinson	20 - 0 - 0
James McLean	50 - 0 - 0
W. Rooth	5 - 0 - 0
W. Milnes, Esq.	5 - 0 - 0
W. Milnes, Esq., jun.	5 - 0 - 0
Rev. A. Poole	1 - 1 - 0
Gladwin Turbutt, Esq.	30 - 0 - 0
Crompton, Newton, and Company	10 - 0 - 0
R.B. Barrow, Esq.	10 - 10 - 0
The Misses Booker	1 - 0 - 0
Charles North	0 - 10 - 0
The Snibstone Colliery Company (per G. Vaughan, Esq.)	50 - 0 - 0
John Bromley, Esq.	5 - 0 - 0
Hewitt and Heane	2 - 2 - 0

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Leader - Help for the Distressed.

Whatever we may think or say about the cause of the Clay Cross calamity, who was to blame, or who was not to blame, we can all agree on one important point. The widows and orphans who are brought to that helpless state by the sudden death of those dearest and most necessary to them, need all the practical sympathy that can be afforded them. We threw out this hint several weeks ago. But it needed not the aid of our advocacy to elicit that demonstration of noble feeling exhibited in the advertisement we publish in another column. We point to it as a gratifying instance of true benevolence, and we earnestly trust that, ere long, the subscription list will be augmented by a much larger list of names, representing a much larger amount.

At all times the widow, the orphan, and the fatherless are objects which demand our sympathy. When they are poor, they demand more of our charity. "Pure religion and undefiled before God", sayeth the Scriptures, "is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction". This at least should prompt professing Christians to give proof of their religion in their assistance to the suffering women and children and old men of Clay Cross. But, unfortunately, it is not always the professors of religion who are great in charity on these occasions, or we should have more pure religion than we have. But to all classes of the poor we commend the cause of our poor fellow creatures at Clay Cross. Many of who, a week or two ago, had comparatively happy and comfortable homes, and have now lost the light and life of their households, and can exclaim, in the words of Lamentations, "We are orphans and fatherless; our mothers are widows".

We write thus seriously because the subject warrants it. Without warning, not having the advantages of either temporal or spiritual preparation for death, 23 man and boys, in the course of a few brief hours, were hurled into eternity, leaving behind them wives, mothers, sisters, brothers, and perhaps aged fathers, who, in addition to the shock to their affections, are left comparatively destitute. For these we ask ?????????? charity.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. August 1861.

Page 3 Col. 2.

Accident from Blasting Rock.

Mr. William Higginbotham, silk throwster, Albion Street, Derby, was on Thursday, August the 8th., on his way through Buxton onto Manchester, but hearing that Mrs. Abell, of Derby, his mother-in-law, was coming to Buxton, he determined to walk a short distance on the road to meet her. Having proceeded some way on the turnpike road, near the new railway (Buxton and Ambergate), he was alarmed by the crack of an explosion, and turning round, saw a multitude of various sized projectiles in the air; he started off in the hopes of escaping, but the next moment he was felled to the ground by a large piece of rock about a foot long, which struck him on the back of his leg, injuring him severely, and making his leg bleed profusely. Help was immediately obtained, but at that moment Mrs. Abell came up in a carriage, and after recovering from her surprise and alarm in finding her son-in-law disabled on the road conveyed him back to Buxton, where Mr. Skipton, the local surgeon, rendered every assistance. Mr. Higginbotham was brought to his home in Derby on Saturday night, and is under Mr. Gisborne's care. He is still unable to leave his bed, but going well, but his sufferings have been great.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Advert - Clearance of Stock.

To Builders, Contractors, and Owners of Property.

To be sold, cheap, by Private Contract, at James Street's Fire Clay Works, Eckington, near Chesterfield, upwards of 1,000 of Seconds Quality of Fire Clay Ornamental Chimney Pots, consisting of Round, Winguards, Square, Octagonal; also a large quantity of 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 12 inch socket sanitary Drainage Piping, Bends, Junctions, Elbows, etc., together with a lot of 9 and 12 inch Chimney Linings and Vases, with Pedestals, complete for Gardens.

N.B. The above stock is now ready to be disposed of at the above named works.

Eckington, August 17th., 1861.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Advert - Clay Cross Colliery Accident Relief Fund.

The following are additional Subscriptions towards the Fund in aid of the Sufferers by the late calamitous Accident:-

The Clay Cross Workmen, including small Subscriptions collected in the neighbourhood

	180 - 0 - 0
Mr. Holdsworth, Clay Cross	10 - 0 - 0
Mr. Robinson, Clay Cross	5 - 0 - 0
Messrs. Woodhouse and Jeffcock, Derby	21 - 0 - 0
The Duke of Devonshire	50 - 0 - 0
J.G. Cottingham, Esq., Edensor	5 - 0 - 0
A Friend	1 - 1 - 0
Mr. G. Binns, Clay Cross	5 - 5 - 0
Mrs. Johnson, Somersall	2 - 0 - 0
Mr. John Gothard, Chesterfield	1 - 1 - 0
The Proprietors of the "Colliery Guardian"	1 - 10 - 0
Mr. W. Hawkins, Belper	10 - 10 - 0
W.J. Wilson, Esq., Clay Cross	5 - 0 - 0
Mr. Denton, Clay Cross	1 - 0 - 0
Messrs. Hawkins and Soulby, London	1 - 1 - 0
Messrs. Stanley and Company, Sheffield	5 - 0 - 0
Messrs. Rickett, Smith, and Company, London	21 - 0 - 0
Mr. H. Ashmore, Clay Cross	5 - 0 - 0
G.N. Browne, Esq., Derby	5 - 0 - 0
James Allport, Esq., Derby	5 - 0 - 0
M. Kirtley, Esq., Derby	5 - 0 - 0
S. Swarbrick, Esq., Derby	3 - 0 - 0
Mr. Pettifor, Nottingham	1 - 0 - 0
Mr. Roberts, Chesterfield	1 - 1 - 0
Fred. Swanwick, Esq., Whittington	20 - 0 - 0
Miss Croft, Chesterfield	10 - 0 - 0
Rev. J. Bateman	2 - 0 - 0
The Grassmoor Colliery Company	15 - 0 - 0
C. Oliver, Esq.	5 - 0 - 0

George Barrow, Hon. Secretary.

Subscriptions will be received by the Mayor of Chesterfield, the Derby and Chesterfield Banks, and by the Hon. Secretary.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

Metals and Mining in this District.

The commercial prospects of the country are not very satisfactory, though the prospects of an abundant harvest is a subject for much gratification, and will, have a beneficial effect on trade generally. During the past week the reports of the state of the iron trade are singularly confirmatory of the general inactivity which prevails throughout all the branches of the trade. The coal trade is comparatively in a much more satisfactory position than the iron trade, though the depression in manufacturers generally must have seriously lessened the consumption. The most noticeable feature connected with the trade is the largely increased supply of hard coal for steam purposes. Production in Derbyshire of late years has been more than doubled, and notwithstanding this increase, the demand is not quite equal to the supply. In Lancashire and Yorkshire the trade is very dull, and there are few orders in hand. The late dry weather has been most favourable to the miners of the Peak, and a steady progress in being made in the district. At present there is nothing of material importance to write about. The North Derbyshire Mining Company are pushing forward with the new shaft to get to the vein; the Mill Town are not yet under the toadstone; and the Mill Dam are getting a tolerable quantity of ore. Some of the shareholders have been surprised at being called upon for further capital, but as we are not in the secret of all the details of the management, we are not in a position to give an explanation. The other mines are much in the same position as last noticed, and nothing doing in shares.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. August 1861.

Page 3 Col. 4.

No Headline.

Silas Hardy, of Chesterfield, collier, was charged by Charles Hufton, agent for the Wingerworth Coal Company, with leaving his service at Wingerworth, on the 15th. instant. Seven days imprisonment, with hard labour.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 2.

Advert - Hady Hill Colliery Plant.

Mr. Martin will sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, upon the Ground, at Hady Hill, near Chesterfield, on FRIDAY, September 13th., at Half-past Two o'clock, the whole of the Plant, Buildings. Etc., belonging to Henson and Short, comprising, -

One six-horse power high pressure steam engine complete, one drum engine, house, and bricks round the boiler, chimney, etc.; box in engine-house, five spanners, oil can, one stone of screw bolts, small ladder, shovel, poker, boiler out of use, iron pump, nine yards of two-inch iron piping, about 300 yards of three-eighth inch pit chain, 84 yards of hemp rope, one pulley, 4 feet 9 in. in diameter, one side pulley, 22 guiders, frames, and posts, complete; signal wire, saw and axe, bellows and anvil, small watertub, 54 feet of landing planks, about six tons of 4 foot metal rails, pit frame, 80 feet of oak pit timber, 11 pit waggons, five tons weighing machine in good repair, complete machine house and store room, two desks, stool, and form; two riddles, lot of old iron, old hemp rope, 15 waggons, sides, four boards, one wheelbarrow, one cross cut saw, two carts and gearing for two horses, lot of old timber, and a great quantity of workmen's tools, in lots.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Advert - Clay Cross Colliery Accident Relief Fund.

The following are additional Subscriptions towards the Fund in aid of the Sufferers by the late calamitous Accident: -

J.S. Crossley, Esq., Derby	5 - 0 - 0
Mr. Tyndal	1 - 0 - 0
G.R. Stephenson, Esq., London	25 - 0 - 0
Peter Huggie, Esq., Gateshead	10 - 10 - 0
Mr. F.E. Martin, Sen., Chesterfield	2 - 2 - 0
Mr. Britt, Chesterfield	1 - 1 - 0
The Butterley Company, Alfreton	50 - 0 - 0
Charrington, Sells, and Company, London	15 - 0 - 0
Mr. Thomas Evans, Nottingham	1 - 0 - 0
Rev. R.C. Willey, Clay Cross	1 - 0 - 0
Mrs. E. Smith, Chesterfield	1 - 0 - 0
Calow Independent Sunday School	0 - 15 - 0
Mr. Robert Howe, Clay Cross	0 - 10 - 6
Mrs. E. Smith, Chesterfield (additional)	5 - 0 - 0
Dr. Bright, Overton Hall, Ashover	10 - 0 - 0
Mr. J.B. White, Chesterfield	1 - 1 - 0
Mr. William Davenport	1 - 0 - 0

Subscriptions will be received by the Mayor of Chesterfield, the Derby and Chesterfield Banks, and by the Hon. Secretary.

George Barrow,
Hon. Secretary.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

No Headline.

There are 205 collieries under Mr. Hedley's inspection. Derbyshire has 153, Nottinghamshire 21, Leicestershire 14 and Warwickshire 7.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. August 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

Shocking Accident.

On Monday last an adjourned inquest was held at the house of Mr. Bower, the Barley Mow, Wingerworth, before Dr. Walker, deputy coroner, on the body of Aaron Higginbotham, an ironstone miner, aged 15 years, who was killed on Wednesday, the 21st. instant, at one of the ironstone mines belonging to the Wingerworth Iron Company. William Lee, of Derby Lane, said he was a banksman, and worked at the Wingerworth Ironstone Pits. On Wednesday, the 21st. instant, he was at work as banksman at one of the pits. The deceased came to the pit looking for work. He went down into the pit on the chair without leave, and was down about a quarter of an hour, when a piece of rock fell off the side of the shaft and dropped on his head as he was coming up the shaft in the chair. He heard the deceased whistling as he was coming up. Deceased was knocked out of the chair when he was about five yards from the bottom of the shaft. The deceased was laid quite dead at the bottom of the shaft, the piece of rock having broken his skull, and left a large hole from which blood was issuing. The stone fell about twenty yards before it struck the deceased. Jebez Moorhouse, of Derby Lane, Hasland, said he was the contractor for the pit in which the accident occurred. He was talking to the deceased a short time before the accident. On the Saturday afterwards he and another man were directed by John Kershaw, the underviewer, to examine the shaft of the pit, and remove any loose portion of rock. They did so, and found many pieces as large and larger than those which killed the deceased. He did not consider the shaft was in a safe state to work. They removed about two tons of loose bind on Saturday, and a great portion of it was so loose that it might have fallen at any time. About six yards from the bottom and about two or three yards from the top the shaft was bricked, but the middle was not bricked. There were slips in the shaft which would hold barrows full of stuff, and pieces often fell from the roof of these slips. He thought it was one of these pieces which had fallen on the head of the deceased. He never felt uneasy about his own safety until after the accident. John Kershaw, of Chesterfield, the bailiff of the works, said he had the management of the pit in which the accident occurred. The pit was 64 yards deep, and was worked as ironstone pits are usually worked. It was possible for any person to go down the pit without the knowledge of the banksman. The shaft was seven feet wide, and it was his duty to see that both the shaft and the pit were in safe working. He considered the shaft quite safe for working. Samuel Fidler, of Wingerworth, said he worked the pit for eight or nine months before it was let to Moorhouse. He gave it up because he could not work it for the damp. He did not consider the shaft safe to go up or down until the loose stuff had been removed. He often found loose pieces at the bottom of the shaft in the morning which had fallen in the night. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. August 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Ashover.

Derbyshire bids fair to rival Staffordshire in the manufacture of ornamental tiles for floors. The manufacture is being commenced by Messrs. Fletcher and Cheetham, Alton Collieries, near Ashover, and though at present conducted on a small scale, it will in the course of a short time become extensive. It has been found that a very handsome and durable tile can be made at cheap rate, and we feel confident that these tiles will, for all practical purposes, prove equal to Minton's, whilst they will be materially cheaper in cost.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. August 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Metals and Mining in this District.

The position of the Derbyshire Lead Mines is somewhat duller and less hopeful than was the case a short time ago. The Mill Town Company have abandoned the old shaft, and are sinking a new one. The North Derbyshire Company have temporarily ceased sinking of the shaft; the Cawdor Mining Company, of Matlock, have set down the mine, and are taking up the plant. There appears to be a paucity of mineral enterprise in trade, particularly in the trade of Sheffield, from which town Derbyshire lead mining has received great support. The Mill Dam Company, on the 9th. instant, measured 73 loads of ore, which would weight from 17 to 18 tons, the produce of 6 weeks, their previous measure having been made on June the 28th. Although the weather during the last six weeks has been very favourable for mining in the Peak, and there are from 60 to 70 men and boys employed at the mine, the quantity of ore got scarcely averages 3 tons per week. Some of the shareholders continue to express their surprise at the last call of 5-0d. per share having been necessary, but if they will only calculate the amount required to meet the wages of so large a body of workmen, in addition to the bills for costs, powder, timber, and other charges in the reparation, and renewal of the machinery and tools, they must see they have no reason to be surprised, considering the small quantity of ore the mine yields, which is also subject to the payment of royalty and mineral dues. There is more reason for the comments made upon the inaccuracy of the quotations in the share list published in the local papers, where the paid up capital and the shares in this company continue to be stated at 55-0d. per share overly, although the call of 5-0d. per share ordered to be paid in June last raised it to £3 per share. The new coal company, which was alluded to a short time ago has been formed at Sheepbridge, is not making much progress in the public way, whatever may be doing privately. We hope it will not share the fate of its predecessor, "The Whittington Coal Company", for which a large amount of capital was subscribed, but it fell through, owing to some misunderstanding amongst its promoters. We heard it said that the shafts were too numerous, and they battled about the prey, in the midst of which the great prospectus was swallowed, and the company came to a mysterious end.

Mining Journal.