

The Craven Herald

Saturday 19th June 1875

Accident at Ingleton Colliery.

On Saturday last, a rather serious accident happened at Ingleton Colliery to an old man named James Miller. For upwards of a week the men had been engaged in lowering the large pumps in the coal shafts. In consequence of this, the ponies employed in the workings had been drawn out. Miller, who has on all occasions had the management of the ponies either in taking them down or conducting them out of the pit, was on Saturday last engaged in taking them down the pit, and had succeeded in landing them alright at the bottom. After which he was ascending the shaft, and instead of waiting while the cage was attached to the rope, the poor fellow appeared determined, contrary to the wishes of his fellow workers, to ascend in a rope loop with a piece of wood fixed across the bottom in which a man may sit. About 20 yards up the shaft, where the 4 Foot coal seam has been worked, the slides in which the cages run are cut off for about four feet. The men at the bottom called out for him to look out for the end of the slide. At the same moment it is thought that he was looking out for it, when he was hit on the forehead, which caused a fearful bounce. The men at the bottom saw him dangling in the shaft, and at once signalled to the engine man to reverse the engine, which was done as quick as time would allow. The most singular thing is how the poor fellow had maintained his hold of the rope until he was lowered to the bottom. On examination it was found, that beside the fearful wound on the head, that he had several ribs broken, and his right thigh was also broken.

He was conveyed home and has been attended by Dr Griffiths of Ingleton. We understand that at the time of writing the poor fellow is in a very precarious state. Miller, who is in his 70th year has been head engine man at these collieries for nearly 40 years.