

The Derbyshire Courier

January 2nd 1886

Boythorpe Colliery.

On Christmas Eve a sad and fatal accident to Mr. John Harrison secretary of the Boythorpe Colliery Company Ltd occurred. He was only appointed to the post about three months ago in succession to Mr. G. J. Wood who had left to take up residence in London.

It appears that the colliery has two shafts - one for the Blackshale and one for the Tupton seams. They are 200/300 yards apart and are connected on the surface by two lines of railway track, which cross the main road from Chesterfield to Matlock. For hauling the wagons about a small locomotive owned by the company is used and on Thursday evening this locomotive was at the Tupton pit at about 6.15 p.m. Mr. Harrison was proceeding to his residence at Whitecotes only a short distance from the crossing and just as he was passing over the crossing the engine which he had, apparently on account of the fog prevailing, not observed had been put in motion came up suddenly and struck him.

He was 42 years of age and leaves a widow and seven children.

The engine went across to the Tupton pit at 6.15 p.m. and it crossed the road in order to get a little speed to push the trucks up the incline to the coke ovens. Mr. William Blanche Hodgson, Boythorpe House, colliery manager, said his attention had never been called to the crossing in question nor had any complaint been made.