

SPECIAL EDITION
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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS.

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SPECIAL NUMBER

HORRIBLE ACCIDENT!

A Lehigh and New England Railroad Train Crashed Into an Omnibus Loaded With 29 People at Benninger's Crossing, 2 Miles From Town--13 Killed, 16 Injured--The Conveyance Was Cut in Half--The Party Was Returning From a Funeral at the Indianland Church--Most of the Victims Were Related to Each Other by Blood or Marriage--List of the Dead.

Thirteen Killed 16 Wounded.

A horrible accident occurred on Sunday afternoon about 5 p. m., which stirred the citizens of town and Walnutport into the highest pitch of excitement and grief. Eleven were instantly killed, two died of injuries and sixteen are injured.

On Sunday, the funeral of Mrs. James Shafer, who resided with her son-in-law, Lewis Blöse, of Walnutport, took place at her late residence, the services were held at St. Paul's church, Indianland, and a large number of friends of the deceased, mostly women, left Walnutport in Henry Bittner's omnibus drawn by Fred Horlacher's four horses. The services were concluded about 4.30 and the party started on their journey home.

When they reached Benninger's crossing where the road, at a small grade, crosses the Lehigh & New England Railroad, which runs through a cut making it impossible to see an approaching train until one is almost upon the track. A carriage occupied by Artie Queen and several others a short distance in front of the omnibus passed over the railroad and the occupants motioned to the driver of the bus to keep back; but owing to very few trains being run on this road, and not until recently have trains ever been known to run over it on Sunday, both drivers and passengers did not exercise the caution

necessary in crossing tracks, and the driver of the bus not comprehending the meaning of the motioning nor did any of the unfortunate ever dream of a train, when the 4.50 p. m. train from town, drawn by Engine 15, bound for Portland, hove in sight just as the vehicle was on the tracks. The driver it appears was powerless to avoid what followed, for the next moment the engine ploughed through the centre of the bus, hurling death and desolation in all directions.

There was an ominous roar, which was heard by the occupants of the cab ahead and by the people in carriages in the rear. Shortly Messrs. Queen, Miller, Beck and Ranck and their party saw three of the four coach horses running past them. They ran on about a quarter of a mile and therestopped and began nibbling grass.

The bodies were strewn along both sides of the track a distance of 450 feet and the rear part of the bus was carried off a distance of 1200 feet by the engine.

The train was stopped as soon as possible and train hands returned to the scene and immediately started in to give what assistance was at their command.

KILLED:

Mrs. Lovina Souerwine, widow, of town, aged 51 years, 1 month and 3

days. Funeral will be held on Thursday at 2 p. m. Services will be held in Trinity United Evangelical church. Rev. J. W. Wochrle will officiate.

Mrs. William Kane, of Lockport, 51 years. Funeral will take place at 1.30 p. m., Wednesday. Services will be held in the Reformed church. Rev. N. F. Peters will officiate.

Mrs. James Minnich and son, George, of Walnutport, aged 38 years and 7 years respectively. Funeral of both will be held on Wednesday, at 9 a. m. Services will be held at St. Paul's church, Cherryville. Interment will be made in the cemetery adjoining the church.

Miss Carrie Smith, of Newhartport, near Walnutport, aged about 28 years. Funeral will take place on Wednesday at 9 a. m. Services at the house and continued in St. Paul's church, Cherryville. Interment made in the cemetery adjoining the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mumme, of Walnutport, aged about 65 years. Funeral will be held on Wednesday, at 2 p. m. Services in St. Paul's church, Cherryville. Interment made in the cemetery adjoining the church.

Miss Maggie Jones, of Walnutport, aged 13 years, died about 10.30 of the hospital Sunday night. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R.

Jones. Funeral will be held at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. Services will be held in the Welsh Presbyterian church. Rev. John O. Jones will officiate.

Mr. and Mrs. Elias Remaly, of town, the former is 60 years, 6 months and 23 days and the latter 62 years, 7 months and 20 days. Funeral will be held on Thursday at 9.30 a. m. Services in St. John's Reformed church. Rev. N. F. Peters will officiate.

Mrs. James Kern, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elias Remaly, aged 24 years, 4 months and 3 days. Funeral will be held on Thursday at 9.30 a. m. at the house and continued at St. John's Reformed church.

Mrs. Tilghman Kuntz, of Walnutport, aged 65 years. Funeral on Thursday at 9.30 a. m. Services at St. Paul's church, Cherryville.

Miss Susan Bachman, aged 82 yrs. of town. Funeral on Wednesday at 9.30 at the house and continued in St. John's Reformed church. Rev. N. F. Peters will officiate.

INJURED:

Alice Nagle, not expected to recover; Hattie Nagle, Mrs. Alvina Rasch, Harry Minnich, Nellie Jones, James Peter, driver; Charlie Reinert, David Kern, John Lynn, Jennie Lynn, Estella Lynn, Barney Walp, Lewis Kuntz, Minnie Williams and Annie

Distler. Several of the above were only slightly injured.

The piteous cries of the injured filled the air, while the groans of the dying growing fainter and fainter, were sad in the extreme.

Driver Peters narrowly escaped drowning. He was hurled with one of the horses down the embankment into a creek, which ran parallel with the railroad, where he fell under the horse and was pinned down in the water for some time. Finally the horse got up and released him. Mr. Peters, just came to town several weeks ago from Pittston and secured employment with Fred. Horlacher, he received a scalp wound and was otherwise bruised about the body.

Engineer Stunck was naturally upset by the accident. He claims to have given the usual warning signals for the crossing with whistle and bell. Messrs. Queen, Miller and others say they did not hear the whistle but that they did hear the bell ring.

An alarm was sent to town summoning assistance, which arrived in a comparatively short time and the injured were brought on the train to town, from which point three were taken to St. Luke's hospital, where one died in a short time, the rest were removed to their homes.

The following physicians were summoned and immediately responded:

M. J. Holben, R. W. Young, David Williams, A. J. Kern, N. F. Hallman and George F. Beck. The first named was the only one who went to the scene of the accident, while the others remained at the L. V. station to await the arrival of the injured. Dr. Williams accompanied Misses Jones and Nagle and Mrs. Rasch to the hospital.

This is the most horrible accident that has ever occurred in this vicinity. The station was crowded with grief-stricken people when the injured were brought to town.

The dead were taken in charge by Undertakers Berkemeyer and Heintzleman, of town; Newhart, of Cherryville, and Oplinger, of Danielville.

A peculiar coincidence was that the horses escaped uninjured.

The Coroner empanelled the following jury, who viewed the bodies and the scene of the accident yesterday, they will meet to-day at 9 a. m.:

Peter Prevo.
Granville Hahn.
A. P. Andrews.
F. H. Bittner.
B. W. Roth.
Phaon P. Klotz.

Small groups of people could be seen throughout town yesterday discussing the situation. Public opinion is divided as to where to lay the blame.

The laws of Pennsylvania require people who are about to cross a railroad to stop, look and listen. Mr. Peters did not stop for the crossing. He could not look with any regard for safety because of the creamery which is situated at the end of the embankment. As to the listening part he did not hear the signal or failed to heed it if it was given.

It is certain that someone is to be blamed for the accident; however, we cannot accuse anyone until the jury meets.

The accident recalls the awful oil explosion which occurred in the spring of 1878, at the Lehigh Valley station, when seven people were killed and fifty injured.

Between one and two thousand people visited the scene of the accident since Sunday.

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