

The Coal Glen Mining Disaster

Farmville, Chatham County, N.C.

May 27, 1925

Material compiled by Paul Wilson.



Photo by Ben Dixon McNeill of the *Raleigh News and Observer* (Courtesy of the North Carolina Collection, Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

The Coal Glen-Farmville Mine Disaster was the worst industrial accident in North Carolina history. Though more recent incidents such as the flash fire at the Imperial Food Products Plant in Hamlet on September 3, 1991, which killed 25, and the spectacular explosion at West Pharmaceuticals in Kinston on January 29, 2003, are more in the public consciousness, the Coal Glen Disaster killed 53 men, made 38 women widows, left 79 children fatherless, made Farmville a ghost town, and virtually put an end to coal mining in North Carolina.

Click on the icons for further information.



Report published in the ***Chatham Record*** (Pittsboro), June 4, 1925.



Article by Lamar Bland on "clackers", tokens used at the company stores associated with the Egypt and Coal Glen Mines.



Historical Timeline of Mining on The Deep River Coal Bed



"The Coal Demon of Deep River" by Michael Hetzer, an article published in the June 1987 issue of ***The State*** Magazine



Report published in the ***Durham Morning Herald*** May 28, 1925.



"The Egypt Coal Mine Jinx," article from ***The State*** magazine, February 1981



Report published in the **Raleigh News & Observer** May 28, 1925.



Maps of the Deep River Coal Fields.



Photographs taken by **Raleigh News & Observer** reporter Ben Dixon McNeill.



Data from Chatham County Death Certificates



Photos of the site as it is today.



Interview with Margaret Wicker, Eyewitness.



"Mine Explosion Victims Remembered," article from the **Fayetteville Observer**, May 26, 2000, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the disaster.



1926 Report of the North Carolina Department of Labor.



"Area Still Filled With Coal As Well As Legend," article from the **Fayetteville Observer**, May 26, 2000, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the disaster.



An article from the Boise State University website on the Monongah Mining Disaster, Monongah, West Virginia, December 6, 1907 -- the worst mining disaster in U.S. history.



A chapter on Mine Gases from a modern (1981) Miner's Manual; contains definitions of terms like "blackdamp" and "afterdamp" as well as descriptions of the effects of various toxic gases found in mines.

Material compiled by Paul F. Wilson
Email me at pwilson3@nc.rr.com.
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