Accidents

Information courtesy of Durham Miners Museum & Group Archives.

Ainsley, Robert – 18 March 1914. Aged 14. Driver.
Deceased was found lying between the first full tub of his set of two tubs and the side. The pony stood quiet and the tubs were on the rails. He was dead when got out, the base of his skull being fractured. Doubtless he fell off the limbers and was crushed between the tubs and props at the road side.
Buried Ropery Lane Cemetery in HM63 and headstone reads:
In loving memory of THOMAS AINSLEY died 27th January 1950 aged 71 years
Also his dear wife CAROLINE BURNSIDE AINSLEY died 2nd June 1950 aged 68 years
And their son BOB AINSLEY died 18th March 1914 aged 14 years
Ainsley Robert 14y 22/03/1914 / Ainsley Thomas 71y 1/02/1950
Ainsley Caroline Burnside 68y 6/06/1950
Ainsley James Edward Thompson 61y 8/03/1985 14/03/1985.

Armstrong, Henry – 17 December 1883. Aged 14, Driver.
Run over by full tubs.
Place of burial not found.

Bates, Thomas – 15 May 1944. Aged 40, Puller up.
Buried in Pelton Cemetery in G156.
Killed by a fall of stones. Buried in Pelton cemetery.

Blews, George – 25 November 1863. Aged 11. Coupler.
Crushed by tubs in engine plane.
This could be Blue John Thomas aged 10 years and buried in Chester-le-Street Churchyard.

Bulmer, Henry. 17 February 1868. Aged 22. Hewer.
Fall of stone. The overman and deputy had shortly beforehand examined the stone.
Buried in Chester-le-Street churchyard.

Calvert, Joseph. 29 April 1926. Aged 22. Putter.
Killed by fall of stone. Buried in Pelton cemetery.
Buried in Pelton Cemetery in E288.

Carroll, John. 23 December 1918. Aged 37. Hewer.
He was filling a tub when a slip came away from the face and buried him; it took three-quarters of an hour to get him out, the stone weighed about 7 cwt.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in C251 but no Headstone.
Cemetery Records show:
Carroll Winifred 2½y 9/08/1915 / Carroll John 37y 19/12/1918
Carroll Winifred 19 months 17/01/1920, Donnelly Matthew Patrick 74y 1/11/1948

Chrisp, William. 11 January 1921, aged 42. Drawer.
Killed by a fall of stone.
Chester Chronicle 14/01/1921 and 21/01/1921 shows lived in Gateshead.

Clarke, Robert. 9 December 1928, aged 15 years.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery at H696 and headstone reads:
In loving memory of ROBERT beloved son of ROBERT and MARY ANN CLARKE who died through injuries received at South Pelaw colliery December 9th 1928 aged 15 years
Also CHARLES HARLE beloved husband of ELIZABETH CLARKE killed at sea September 11th 1940 aged 32 years - WW2 death

Coates, Thomas. 28 July 1915. Aged 41. Hewer.
Killed by a fall of stone.
Buried in Ropery Lane in H134 but no headstone.
Cemetery records show:
Coates Elizabeth 78y 26/04/1921 / Brown James William 68y 18/02/1946

Curtis, Thomas. 8 October 1863. Aged 14. Driver.
Killed by a fall of stone.
Place of burial not known.

Dowson, William. 12 September 1935. Aged 31. Hewer.
Killed by a fall of stone.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in E32 but without headstone.
Cemetery Records show:
Hancock Robert 3y 15/02/1914 / Dowson William 31y 16/09/1935
Henderson Sarah 61y 21/03/1957

Edwards, George. 21 May 1920. Aged 34. Hewer.
He and his brother Alfred were hewing when the roof suddenly gave way and he was struck on the head by a large stone and killed on the spot.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in F323
Cemetery Records show:
Edwards George 34y 24/05/1920
Edwards Jane Ann 71y 25/03/1922, Edwards John 76y 2/04/1928

Graham, Thomas. 6 July 1909, aged 42 years. Nightshift Banksman.
The Master Shifter shouted up the shaft to tell him to go and call the horse-keeper whom he had thought had overslept himself. He answered and then fell down the shaft. He was at the horse hole and had opened the gates to speak to the Master Shifter. There was no need to for him to have opened the gates, as he could easily talk to the Master Shifter, who was at the Mail coal level, without doing so. He had previously been warned about opening the gates.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in D717 but no headstone.
Cemetery Records show:
Graham Thomas 43y 10/07/1909 / Kelly Mary Jane 42y 15/06/1913 /

Groves, William Henry. 18 June 1922, (accident: 13 February 1922), aged 28, Deputy, killed by a fall of stone.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in H411 but no headstone.
Cemetery Records show:
Groves William Henry 28y 22/06/1922

Harbottle, Matthew. 14 April 1899, aged 16, Greaser, when following his occupation on the engine plane he was caught by a full set and killed. Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery, Chester-le-Street.
Buried at Ropery Lane Cemetery in A169 and headstone reads:
In affectionate remembrance of MATTHEW the beloved son of JOHN & ELIZABETH HARBOTTLE of Chester-le-Street who was accidently killed at South Pelaw Colliery April 14th 1899 aged 16 years
Also MARY JANE sister of the above died April 30th 1900 aged 7 weeks
Also ELIZABETH HARBOTTLE mother of the above who died July 8th 1936 aged 75 years
Also JOHN father of the above who died --------1937 aged --- years
Cemetery Records show:
Harbottle Matthew 16y 16/04/1899, Harbottle Elizabeth 75y 11/07/1936, Harbottle John 78y 7/08/1937

Harris, David. 16 December 1899, (Accident 20 December 1899), aged 42, Shifter. By some means the timber at the bottom of the downcast shaft got on fire, and deceased, who was working in the workings at the time, was so affected by the fumes that he died on the 26th from inflammation on the lungs and failure of the heart's action.
Buried at Ropery Lane Cemetery in B404 but no headstone
Cemetery Records show:
Harris David 42y 28/12/1899,
Long Esther 86y 14/07/1941

Hudson, Charles. 01 September 1860, crushed by a set of coal tubs.
Place of burial not known.

Hurworth, Edward, 25 May 1864, aged 10, Switch-keeper, crushed by tubs in inline plain.
Buried in Chester-le-Street Churchyard.

Jackson, John. 16 August1924, (accident 02 July 1924) aged 25, Hewer, of 4 Menceforth Cottages, Chester-le-Street. Death Certificate: "Secondary Haemorrhage consequent upon fracture of the malor? Bone with rupture of the right internal Maxillary Artery caused by his having been struck by a fall of coal".
Died in Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in H259 but no headstone.
Cemetery Records show:
Jackson William Wilson 66y 8/09/1921
Jackson Sarah 64y 20/06/1927

Laidler, Taylor. 13 September 1913, aged 33, Shifter, deceased and another man (who was injured) were engaged in making height in a roadway; they had drawn four balks, and dropped some stone, which they were engaged in filling away, when a piece of overhanging roof stone fell, killing Laidler and injuring his companion; the stone had just been examined, but was of such weight and size that the men failed to detect its true character.
Place of burial not known but Chester Chronicle 19/09/1913 states he lived at Birtley.

Leathard, Mark. 04 April 1868, aged 45, Brakesman. Death caused by boiler explosion.
Buried in Chester-le-Street churchyard.

Lock, Thomas. 10 May 1948, aged 61, Overman, killed by a fall of stone.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in J115 and headstone reads:
Treasured memories of my dear husband THOMAS LOCK died May 10th 1948 aged 61 years
Also his beloved wife JANE A. LOCK died August 12th 1953 aged 73 years
At peace
Cemetery Records show:
Lock Thomas 61y 13/05/1948
Lock Jane Armin 74y 15/08/1953

Manning, William. 01 February 1865, aged 19, Hewer, killed by stones on underground engine plane.
Place of Burial Not Found although Newcastle Chronicle 11/02/1865, Shields Gazette 06/02/1865 and Teesdale Mercury 15/02/1865 all report inquest.

Morrison, Joseph. 14 March 1874, aged 59, Rapper man, run over by engine set.
Buried in Chester-le-Street churchyard.
Morrison, Robert. 1918, aged 56, Hewer.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in C382 but no headstone.
Cemetery Records show:
C382 Morrison Robert 57y 3/04/1918
C382 Morrison Alice E. 71y 9/06/1937

Murphy, John. 11 May 1927, (accident: 19 May 1925), aged 41, Deputy, died from injuries.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in D274 and headstone reads:
In loving memory of
JOHN beloved husband of MARGARET MURPHY died 11th May 1927 aged 43 years
MARGARET beloved wife of JOHN MURPHY died 18th April 1968 aged 83 years
Cemetery Records show:
Stobbs Georgina 8m 7/07/1904
Murphy John 43y 14/05/1927 / Murphy Margaret 83y 22/04/1968

Neave, John (Jack). 25 January 1911, aged 31, Deputy, he was drawing a jud in company with two other deputies and when almost finished the whole roof from which they had removed the timber fell, and deceased was caught; the stone was sandstone; some chocks had been drawn and no additional props had been set; the men had a "pout" or appliance for drawing timber but has not used it at all. Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery, Chester-le-Street, D302 and headstone reads:
In loving memory of JOHN the beloved husband of EDITH ALICE NEAVE who was killed at South Pelaw Colliery January 25th 1911 aged 31 years
Also HANNAH daughter of the above who died September 10th 1904 aged 13 months.
Cemetery Records show:
Neave Hannah 13 months 12/09/1904
Neave John 31y 29/01/1911
Nethercote Edith Alice 44y 2/02/1927

Nicholson, Arthur. 08 September 1892, (accident 06 August 1892), aged 17, Putter, injury to spine by a strain, while lifting a tub onto the way.
Buried in Chester-le-Street churchyard.

Percival, George. 14 December 1923, (accident 29 Mar 1923) aged 28, Hewer, killed by a fall of stone.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in H335 but no headstone.
Cemetery Records show:
H335 Percival George 28y 18/12/1923
H335 Davison John 79y 13/07/1959

Pigg, Robert. 29 April 1926, aged 20, Putter, killed by a fall of stone.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery, Chester-le-Street at B556 and B557 and headstone reads:
In loving memory of ROBERT dearly beloved son of CHARLES & EMILY PIGG accidently killed at South Pelaw Colliery 29th April 1926 aged 20 years
Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God
Also CHARLES the dear husband of EMILY PIGG died 21st June 1941 aged 58 years
Also MARY BARRAS dear mother of the above EMILY died 18th February 1944 aged 82 years
Also the above EMILY died 26th May 1967 aged 82 years.
Comment
Stone mason Smith Newcastle Bank Chester-le-Street
Cemetery Records show:
Laverick Andrew 11 weeks 13/10/1901
Pigg Robert 20y 3/05/1926
Barrass Mary 81y 22/02/1944 / Roper Gladys Hilda 8m 21/03/1906
Pigg Charles 58y 25/06/1941 / Pigg Emily 82y 30/05/1967

Richardson, John. 13 April 1894, (accident: 12 April 1894) aged 17, Putter, side severely crushed between tub and prop. Died on the 13th.
Buried in Chester-le-Street churchyard.

Sanderson, Robert A. 26 November 1946, (accident 25 November 1946) aged 32, Waggonway Man, crushed by tubs.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in DM23 and headstone reads:
In loving memory of ROBERT ALEXANDER dearly beloved husband of JANE ANN SANDERSON died 26th November 1946 aged 32 years.
Always in my thoughts
Flower block –Beautiful memories of my darling son BOBBIE died 26th November 1946 aged 32 years
Treasured memories of my daddy.
Separate small plaque – In loving memory of JANE ANN 'JEAN' died 26th March 2006 aged 85 years
Loved and remembered always.
Cemetery Records show:
Sanderson Robert Alexander 32y 30/11/1946
Gilder Jane Ann 85y 26/03/2006 4/04/2006 – cremated remains.

Straughan, James O. 05 October 1943, aged 29, Filler, killed by a fall of stone.
Buried in Pelton Cemetery in B239.

Tindale, Thomas. 26 March 1928, aged 59, Hewer, killed by a fall of stone.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in D193 but no headstone.
Cemetery Records show:
Dunn Thomas 75y 4/08/1903
Tindale Thomas 59y 29/03/1928
Miller Annie 50y 2/08/1943.
Watson, Joseph. 16 January 1940, aged 18, Haulage, struck by tubs.
Place of burial not known.
Newcastle Journal 19/01/1940 says he was a winch boy and lived at Grange Street Pelton.

Waugh, Joseph Heslop. 02 June 1905, aged 36, Deputy, while drawing timber in a jud a fall of roof came away at a slip and buried him; the place was apparently safe.
Buried: Ropery Lane Cemetery, Chester-le-Street in D528 and headstone reads:
In loving memory of JOSEPH dearly beloved husband of JANE ANN WAUGH who was accidentally killed at South Pelaw Colliery June 2nd 1905 aged 36 years
JOSEPH HESLOP son of the above died September 14th 1898 aged 9 months
In the midst of life we are in death
Comment
Joseph in B214
Cemetery Records show:
Waugh Joseph Heslop 36y 5/06/1905
West Mark 62y 12/04/1932.

Weatherley, Frederick. 14 Jan 1930, aged 39, Shifter, killed by a fall of stone.
Buried in Pelton Cemetery in E164.

Wilson, John Robert. 04 November 1937, aged 55, Filler, killed by a fall of stone.
Place of burial not known.
Wilson, Robert. 19 January 1928, aged 46, Filler, killed by a fall of stone.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in CM39 and grave marker reads:
In loving memory of ROBERT B. WILSON died 1928
Also a dear wife of above MARY A. WILSON died 1972
Cemetery Records show:
Wilson Robert Bolam 46y 21/01/1928
Wilson Deborah 3m 3/02/1971
Wilson Mary Annie 88y 10/05/1972.

Young, John William. 30 December 1912. Aged 27, Assistant Banksman, some broken tubs had been sent down to the surface level from the heapstead and it appears that deceased's water bottle had gone with them; deceased put his head over the shaft gate to look down, regardless of the fact that the banksman had shouted to the engineman to raise the cage again, with the result that the ascending cage lifted the gate and crushed his head against a cross piece of the pulley framing.
Buried in Ropery Lane Cemetery in A483 but no headstone:
Cemetery Records show:
Young George 67y 30/11/1905
Young John Wm. 27y 25/12/1912
Young Mary 67y 18/11/1917