

# IN THE JAWS OF DEATH.

## FORTY MEN IN MOST PERILOUS POSITIONS.

### FULL DETAILS OF THE TERRIBLE ACCIDENT AT THE BARN RAISING IN LOYAL OAK.

#### LIST OF THE WOUNDED, ONE OF WHOM WILL DIE WHILE TWO OTHERS ARE VERY SERIOUSLY INJURED.

From Wednesday's Little Democrat.

A terrible shocking and probable fatal accident occurred near Loyal Oak, seven miles west of Quincy, about 3:30 o'clock this forenoon. From 25 to 30 men were very seriously hurt and it feared that several will die if death has not overtaken them already. The disastrous affair occurred while the heavy frame work for a large barn was being raised. The accident occurred about noon, being some time before the frame work is lifted up and the heavy side posts are to be set into the mortises in the walls. Several great provisions in taking but frequent accidents result as there is much danger of the side posts slipping and when that does happen the great timbers fall upon the men who are lifting them up and shocking results follow. Such was the case in this.

The new barn was being erected on a farm, owned by Mr. Jacob Kurts, who lives just north of Loyal Oak, whence the farm is located about a fourth of a mile north of the village and is worked by Moore, his son, Lavine Kurts, one of the owners of the land. As is usual on such occasions the other neighboring farms out to give a laborer a helping hand and the successful raising of a barn is always celebrated with a great feast and the usual hearty congratulations.

The today's work from 10 to 120 men had responded to the invitation and besides the many wives and young folks, had also given to the play for some in preparing a big dinner. The usual provisions against accidents were practiced there is no doubt for experienced carpenters were in charge and men, who had always done this dangerous work, filled the most important places. Several sections of the great beams were put up without a mishap, but finally when a great beam was being raised the side post slipped past the protecting bar held firmly at the mortise in the side and down went the heavy log upon the heads of fifty or more men who were lifting it with long pine poles.

The crash came with striking effect and the noise and confusion that followed soon brought the women to the scene, with a sad and most exciting time followed. The groans of the injured and the pools of blood flowing from forehead and limbs, turned away of the women to look. They had to be carried away and attended. Everything possible was at once done to relieve the injured ones, some of whom were placed down by the heavy timbers while others lay unconscious on the ground, the blood flowing in streams from ugly wounds on various parts of the body.

One of the men who was hurt was Mr. Frank Kirck, a resident of Loyal Oak, a man of powerful muscular development and wonderful nerve. The falling beams had passed over his head and under him, but he was held in such position that no very serious injury resulted. In the excitement and the hurry to release him the entire weight of the great timber was thrown upon him and his chest was terribly crushed, inflicting very serious internal injuries.

Jacob Kurts, of Neese Center, was also very seriously injured internally and it was feared at first that he would not survive long. Milton Scoville, proprietor of the corner of the farm on which the accident happened, was also badly injured internally.

Joseph Bauer, the son of William and Mr. Chas. Bauer, a brother of Joseph, was also badly cut and bruised, the former having the right arm terribly cut up and one of his legs badly lacerated, while William received an ugly cut on the head. Besides the fully a dozen other men were injured to such an extent that they will suffer a long time, and many had late-arriving scrapes from splinters down.

Messages were at once dispatched for doctors at Johnson's Crossing, Caprey and Whitefork, Dr. Woods, of Loyal Oak, being away from home on the road. The affair has had a deep gloom over the entire neighborhood and has created an excitement such as has never before been experienced in that part of the country it being the most disastrous affair of the kind on record for that section.

From Thursday's Little Democrat.

The account in last evening's Herald of the terrible accident at a barn raising on Mr. Jacob Kurts's farm, just north of Loyal Oak, caused a widespread stir in this city as all who were mentioned as among the injured ones are well known here, and, in fact, are the great majority of people living in that part of the county. Men being their location just out from home, in fact, frequently being the destination of many people of this city, when a few money diggers, or a generally social time is the cause, outside of the business of the city. This association being so close the affair became one of much local as well as general interest, and though The Herald gave all the chief details yesterday, yet lots of its reporters last evening visited the scene of the accident and defiled with several of the men who so narrowly escaped with their lives. An inspection of the great beams of the new barn, that was being put up, and a full explanation of how fully

FORTY MEN WERE PERILOUSLY

by the narrow timbers, many being disabled up like jackboots, only to come out to find that more important parts was carried over from some, but for whom timbers and wonderful display of strength, the heavy men could have been expected to shrivel in terror and many more could undoubtedly have been rescued by life. But with all that was so fortunate serious results came and at least a dozen men will suffer for a long time and there may join their lives through ropes as a result of the accident.

The barn that was raised is three feet in diameter and stands on a heavy base wall about 12 feet high, the building being designed for what is known as a butt barn though the ground on which it is erected is almost level. The height from the floor to the top is 25 feet. The main timbers are eight inches square with cross pieces half inches. This makes

A TERRIBLE FRAMEWORK

which was put up in eight sections. Fully 120 men had gathered to do the work, of which Mr. John Watt, of Whitefork, in charge. The first section was raised in position in the foundation framework and the men took hold with a will. The lower ends of the posts were put in place so that the mortises in the walls could be easily made. It would have been with scores of men pushing and tugging away at every inch of the timber, the men in charge. When the section was up to an angle of about 45 degrees and when the posts pressed against the outer edges of the side on the mortised places the wood gave way, the wall splitting and the men at those points who guided the posts so that they would slip into the mortises were powerless. As the posts slipped the great labor work stopped and the men who, with pine poles were lifting it, could no longer hold it in balance and it fell.

WAS CRASHED TO THE BARN FLOOR

beneath the set work of timbers which weigh many tons. Mr. Chas. Bauer was skinned at one of the posts and when the walls came

he was struck on the right leg by the post while the men had, which he held in his left hand, was hoisted against the beam with terrific force, the two heavy timbers striking him from the wall fully 20 feet and down over the foundation 20 feet below. In some manner his right hand was also badly lacerated. He was very seriously hurt and last night was suffering much pain especially in his hand.

Next to him was Mr. Jacob Kurts. He was struck by the falling timbers and was in some manner knocked through the temporary bars four striking on his head. He was picked up by the men and carried into Mr. L. B. Scoville's house, which is on the farm on which the barn was being put up.

Next behind Mr. Kurts was Mr. Frank Kirck. He was caught under the lower end and was pinned to the sill below. Near him

#### A TERRIBLE SCENE

In which, it is estimated, that fully 40 men figured in most dangerous manner and whose escape from a terrible death is miraculous, for like Mr. Kirck, they were all pinned fast under the falling masses of the barn frame, the temporary floor preventing their falling through to the ground below. The floor is falling, had most fortunately struck the heaviest only on one side but was only prevented from coming down on the other side by four men on whose muscles depended

THEY WERE NOT KILLED

who were fast under it and who miraculously did escape their doom, who are like Kirck, Wm. Caplanberger, J. McDonald, J. Condit, stand up under the enormous weight that was pressing down upon the timbers that held in their hands. They retained the terrible position they were in and also the certain death that threatened their neighbors and their friends and they cried for help which, though the shock had fairly created them to the ground, was quickly responded to and powerful men, most with three times their ordinary strength, lifted up the great framework while those beneath it were pulled out, many badly injured and almost as badly disabled by that they were certain that their lives were in danger. But in that work of rescue the timbers that held Mr. Kirck down, had to bear a greater weight and he was

#### TERRIBLY CRUSHED NEARLY TO

He was after taken by Mr. Scoville's crew as when a half dozen more and the remainder was sent to hospital for the treatment. As the men were taken out they were found to be injured in many ways and their groans and cries were terrible to hear. A large number of women, as was stated in yesterday's Herald, were also present, and should be noted as being a long distance. Mr. Kurts was so covered with blood, that it could not be recognized, while others were also terribly bloody, and serious wounds were almost everywhere while others lay at the scene. While probably

#### WAS NOT WOUNDED

only the following named, with those whose names were omitted here: Milton Scoville, one of the owners of the farm, had his right shoulder blade dislocated and was very seriously hurt internally. It will take some time to decide his case.

William Bauer, received a terrible pain on the back part of the neck and head.

Joseph Bauer was disabled up and received serious injury to his spine.

George Hoffmann had a big badly hurt.

David Snyder was hurt internally.

Rogers Wm had a hand cut and was burned.

James Burt was badly twisted on various parts of the body.

A. Kirck, son of Frank Kirck, had one arm terribly bruised.

David Handberger was fearfully burned up.

Andrew Lutz had a leg cut and lacerated.

Joseph Bauer was badly hurt in the back.

Dr. DeWitt, of Johnson's Crossing, about four miles north and Dr. Chapman, of Caprey, about the same distance north, were quickly summoned and treated the wounds, the injured being taken to their respective homes as soon as possible. After the excitement had somewhat subsided it was decided to postpone the raising of the barn until next Friday and dinner was announced and while it was a feast that ordinarily would have been greatly enjoyed, as it was prepared on a large elaborate scale, the men and women could not eat with much relish, in fact, could not take food being so preoccupied from the excitement of the situation.

#### WHAT MR. SCOVILLE SAID

In conversation with Mr. L. B. Scoville, who had charge of the raising in general, the gentleman said to The Herald:

"I was getting up horses for sale when the accident happened. I stepped out of the old barn door and saw a man lying on the ground dead, so I got up and had all the others get under the beams. Something went through me as though a bullet had been shot into my back and I cannot tell how I felt. I, however, ran to the man and we picked him up and carried him to the house." Mr. Scoville then spoke of the other wounded ones and his voice and manner showed how deeply he felt concerned in all who had been injured while doing such an act of kindness for the father and himself. He explained that during the afternoon they had been again approached by an invitation, it being decided to put up the framework, which was accordingly done. Mr. Scoville also spoke of Mr. Kurts, saying that he was a fine man with a wife and seven children to support, but, and he, "we will not see him again." Mr. Kirck, who, with his son, was also so terribly hurt, it was the father of a large family, and if he, with his boy, should be disabled for any length of time, would seriously feel the loss. While the accident was a shocking one and had caused widespread sympathy and deep concern, yet with it goes a feeling of great thankfulness that so many escaped with their lives when, for a time, they were held fast in the very jaws of death.

Reports from Loyal Oak, today, are to the effect that Mr. Kurts will die from his injuries.

#### "O. K. W." OR "OBSERVER" ON FIRE INSURANCE.

##### By the Editorial Staff.

I was somewhat surprised at the announcement of "Observer" in short time since. It takes some correspondence to look for something a word in favor of restricting immigration. According to the affidavit he is in favor of unrestricted immigration. Voters of Springfield will please note that in their last Unconvinced immigration waves hitting even the food gates and affecting the crops, as well as the better element of Europe and Asia to come to and disturb in America's workshops what shall be the price of their labor and the only argument in advance in defense of his position is that it would give a little better market for farmers. Will it pay in the end? I have already seen a tabulated report giving the per cent of foreign and American classes in our prisons and insane asylums and it plainly shows that the former preponderate. He doesn't stop to think that the increased taxes to take care of such an element more than offsets the increased market, but if "Observer" can sell a few more guesses this will not do. Remember I do not say unrestricted immigration but I do say restrict it so that the better class only will find advantage. This is only one phase of this great question and perhaps a very poor preliminary of it but I am satisfied that a few years will demonstrate I am right. Let our watchword be "the greatest good to the greatest number."

Labor unions are beginning to take up the question and it is well for the question is not that concerns them directly. In conclusion, "Observer" as you have taken a stand on the question let us hear from you again and please give us an argument that will not be an anticipation for our interest.

E. R. W.