

Henry Crowley

(- 30 Sep 1848)

The National Intelligencer, October 4, 1848

Dreadful Accident

We copy from the Baltimore Sun the following account of a fatal accident on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, by which a son of Mr. Patrick Crowley, well known as an old resident of this city, unfortunately lost his life:

"On last Saturday afternoon, between the hours of four and five o'clock, an explosion of powder, attended with loss of life, took place at a blacksmith's shop, located within a short distance from Woodbine, about thirty-eight miles from Baltimore, and near the line of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. A number of men employed in blasting rock in the stone quarry of Mr. Patrick Crowley, were returning from the scene of their labors, when, overtaken by a showers of rain, they entered a blacksmith shop a short distance from the quarry, also owned by Mr. Crowley. Whilst there some of the party commenced amusing themselves by placing heated coals upon the anvil and striking them with a sledge-hammer, which occasioning a communication of sparks to a quantity of powder contained in three or four kegs within a barrel, which had been placed there for safety, caused the whole to explode, instantly killing Alexander Moseetta, injuring others so severely that their lives are despaired of, and blowing the whole shop into atoms, some pieces of which were picked up nearly a mile from the spot. Patrick Waldran, of this city, one of the party, was picked up dead some distance from the scene of the accident by his brother, who could hardly recognize him in consequence of the mangled condition of the body, and the blackened appearance of his face.

"Mr. Henry Crowley, son of the proprietor, and Mr. James Morgan, from New Market, Frederick county, are also so seriously maimed and injured as to give no hopes of recovery. Thomas Newman, from Baltimore, was thrown some distance from the ruins, had his back and two ribs broken, and otherwise injured. Thomas McGivney, also from this city, received some injuries, but was enabled to walk a short distance to his house, and is doing well. Mr. Crowley's watch was driven two feet into the ground by some of the timbers. A number of horses were also in the shop at the time of the explosion, two of which were killed, and four wounded. The remains of Patrick Waldran were yesterday conveyed to the city in charge of his brother, and will be interred today. We learn that the unfortunate men were not aware that there was any powder in the shop, otherwise they would not have amused themselves in a manner fraught with so much danger, and which resulted in so terrible a catastrophe."

P.S. Since the above was in type we have received the following letter from Sykesville, by which it will be seen that the accident has proved fatal to four of the unfortunate men:

Sykesville, October 1, 1848

A most melancholy accident occurred on yesterday afternoon, about 4 o'clock. During a very heavy rain a number of men took shelter in the blacksmith shop of Patrick Crowley, contractor on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, near Woodbine, in which there was a half-barrel of powder; a spark from the fire caused an explosion, which caused instantaneous death to Alexander Moseetta; Patrick Waldran died this morning from wounds received; Henry C. Crowley, son of the contractor, and James Morgan, blacksmith, burnt very badly and died this morning; Thomas Newman and Thomas McGivney, very badly burnt. The attending physician, Dr. Gustavus Riggs, of Howard District, one of our most eminent physicians in the State, has hope of the last two. Two horses were killed on the spot.

In haste, very respectfully, etc., Henry H. Hunt.

(The remains of the son of Mr. Crowley having been brought to this city, the funeral will take place today, (Wednesday) at 10 o'clock, from the residence of Mr. J. Gideon, on Seventh street, which the friends of the family are invited to attend.)