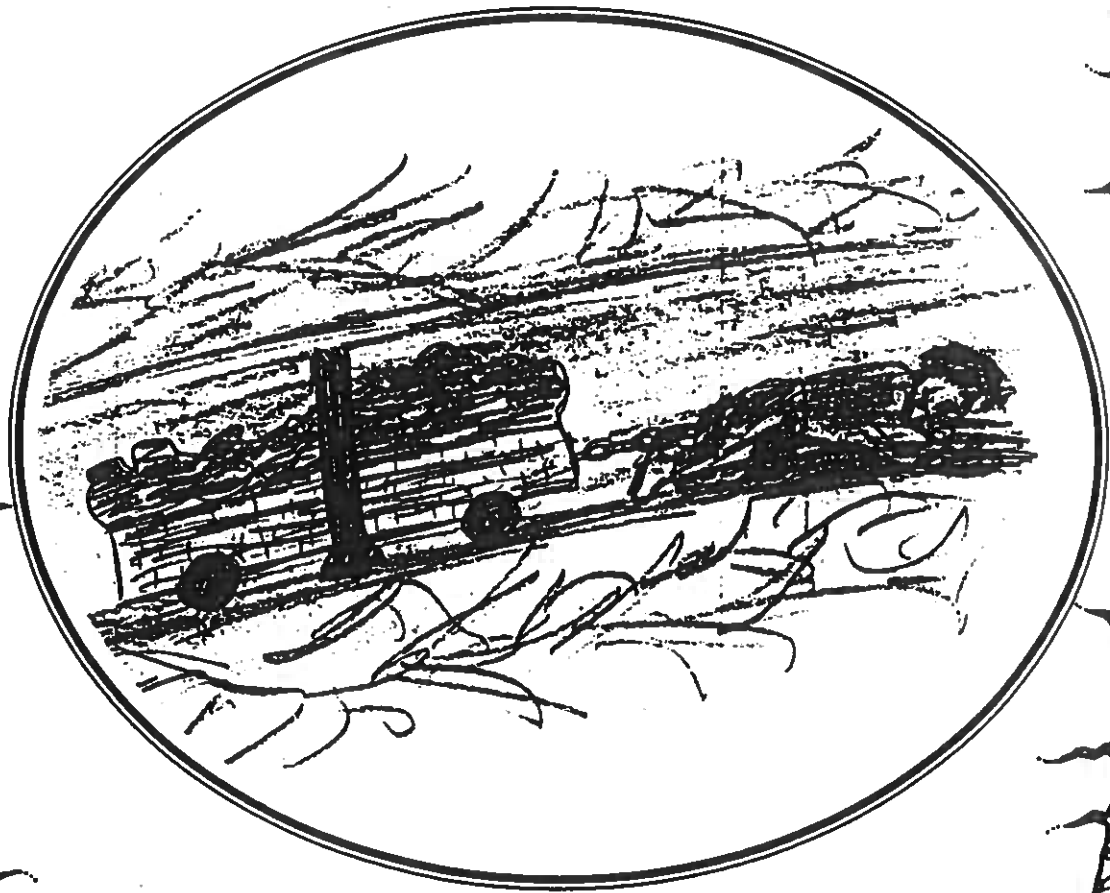


# Trapper Boys

*Children who opened and shut the doors in the tunnels of the coal mines were called trappers. They sat alone in the dark damp tunnel beside a wooden trap door for twelve hours a day. Their ages ranged from six to eight.*



# Child Miners

*Small children were used to mine coal in tunnels only eighteen inches high. They usually worked twelve to fourteen hours a day.*



# Accident Report

**NAME:** *Graham Smith*

**AGE:** *6*

**OCCUPATION:** *Trapper Boy*

**CAUSE OF DEATH:** *Graham Smith fell asleep while he was working the evening shift. He fell on the coal tracks and his body was crushed by one of the heavy coal trucks.*

**Michael Brock, M.D.**

*Michael Brock*

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Day, Month, Year)

*Children's Employment  
Commission Report  
(1842)*

*“Children are taken into these mines to work as early as four years of age, sometimes at five, often between six and seven. The ordinary age at which employment in these mines begins is eight to nine years of age. In several districts, female children begin to work in these mines at the same early age as their mates.”*

# *Report of The Coal Commission of 1842*



*Children coal workers had been denied food and rest for as long as 39 hours while they rotated the wheels.*

# Coal Bearers

*Coal bearers were children, usually young girls, who carried loads of coal on their backs in big baskets.*

*"My father takes me down in the mine at 2 in the morning, and I came up at 1 or 2 next afternoon. I have I go to bed at 6 at night to be ready for work the next morning. My job is to carry 4 to 5 baskets of coal and it takes me 20 trips to fill one basket. To get to the bottom of the pit I have to climb 4 ladders."*

*Ellie Jackson  
Coal bearer  
Age 11*



# Death Certificate

**NAME:** *Jesse Blake*

**BIRTH:** *April 10, 1812*

**DEATH:** *June 22, 1824*

**AGE:** *12 years of age*

**OCCUPATION:** *Coal Bearer*

**CAUSE OF DEATH:** *Lung Failure*

**David Harper, M.D.**

*David Harper*  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Day, Month, Year)

# *The Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1842*

*It shall not be lawful for any owner of a mine to employ any female person within the mine, other than those who were employed before the passing of this act.*

*It shall not be lawful for any owner of any mine to employ any male person under the age of ten years.*

*Inspectors will be provided by the government to enforce the regulations.*



# *The Ten Hours Act of 1847*

- 1. Work for children under 18 and all females shall be limited to 10 hours a day.*
- 2. Inspectors will be provided by the government to ensure that the employers carry out the laws in the Act.*

