

Soudan Mine Miners Memorial

The Soudan Mine Miners Memorial project documents the deaths of 143 known men killed as miners in or near the Soudan Underground Mine. The first to lose his life mining was William Brown – a man of unknown age, marital status, or nationality – who died in a cave-in at Breitung pit on July 7, 1884, about two years after the mine first opened. The final death was of Arthur James Gardner, a 41-year-old married man from Illinois who fell down an open chute on March 22, 1957. The mine closed five years later in 1962.

Information and details on the lives and deaths of these men comes from a variety of data sources, but details are mostly sparse – and often contradictory among the sources. But by summarizing and comparing different types of information, stories emerge.

Men killed in the mines came from at least 11 different countries. Information on 143 miners who died from accidents in or near the Soudan Underground Mine between 1884 and 1957 is now recorded and preserved in an archival binder.

This information includes the miner's name, age, country of birth, marital status, date of death, cause of accidental death, together with any available news articles, family history, or photos. Volunteers painstakingly researched and collected this information from death records, newspaper articles, cemetery records, mining records, and stories and photos collected from family and friends.

Until volunteers undertook this effort, most of these men's names were forgotten to us. Here they are collected in one place for the first time. We believe that through the Miners Memorial Project all together these men's lives and deaths help reveal an important, though sad, part of the story of this area's history.

But above all, we hope this project serves to honor their memories.

The First Step to Remembering Miners – An Initial List

Andy Larson, an interpretive guide for 27 years at the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park and former president of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society (TSHS) had a vision: to remember those men who had died of accidents at the Soudan Mine. He spent countless hours painstakingly going through available records to create the original list of these men, to recall their names for history. This project would not have been possible without his research.

The Next Step – Launching the Miners Memorial Project

In late 2019 Elaine (Sooger) McGillivray from the TSHS learned of Andy's effort and spearheaded what would become the Miners Memorial Project. Of note is that Elaine's

interest was stirred because her own great-grandfather had died in the mine on April 25, 1894. (See information for Matti Soderena/Sooger).

Elaine, Andy Larson, and TSHS then-president Doug Workman took an idea to James Pointer, Interpretive Supervisor at the Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine: Using Andy Larson's list of miners as a starting point, conduct further research and corroboration to find as much detail as possible on each miner. Then commemorate the miners with an exhibit or display at the State Park's Visitors Center. Information gathered would also be available at the Depot Museum of TSHS in Tower. The idea was well received. So, in early 2020, Elaine took the next step of forming a committee to begin the research in earnest.

Project Begins – Research and Documentation

We estimate that hundreds and hundreds of hours went into researching, documenting, and copying the information for these binders and future displays.

Between 2020 and 2024, the all-volunteer committee undertook their diligent work of finding and corroborating documents for each miner:

- Death record books, containing many of the original death records, were reviewed at Breitung Township offices in Soudan.
- Newspaper articles, mine inspector's books and death certificates were reviewed at the Iron Range Research Center in Chisholm, MN.
- Additional research was done at the Iron Range Historical Society in McKinley, MN.
- Online research was done on the Minnesota Historical Society website, Duluth Public Library/St. Louis County Death Certificate Index, Cemetery Records from Lakeview Cemetery, Find a Grave, Ancestry.com, and Familysearch.org.
- A special trove of information for some miners was collected from donated family history, letters, and photos.

When the research started there were no corroborating documents for any of the 143 men on the list. As of early 2025, there is now only one man out of 143 for whom there is no corroborating information: William H. Brown who died on July 7, 1884. Andy Larson's original list said Mr. Brown died in a cave-in, Breitung Pit. The committee is still searching for documentation for Mr. Brown.

All results of the research were logged into a spreadsheet by Mary Shedd. Compilation in a spreadsheet allowed us to conduct some basic analyses and summaries of facts. For example, we were able to identify the most common types of accidents, average ages, most common nationalities – and this collective picture of individual men then paints a bigger story of the mines. In early 2025 this information became available on the TSHS website (towersoudanhistory.com) both as a searchable document and a PDF that can be printed.

The Last Step (for now) – Making Information Available

Volunteers again came together to give their valuable time to make this information available to the public. Many hours of copying were spent to produce three sets of binders which contain the documents. One set is for the Visitors Center at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park with another set for their archives. A third set is for the Tower-Soudan Historical Society.

Each binder includes:

- This introductory document
- The project spreadsheet with information on all those who died in or near the Soudan Mine, (alphabetically) and a key to identify research sources used
- Brief summary of each category of information in the spreadsheet.
- One page or more for every miner with any information collected, from basic facts to any newspaper articles or family photos and stories. These are filed alphabetically.

Future work

The committee has completed the research work – for now. However, it is unlikely that this project will ever be “final” since more information may come to light from friends or family that see this project. TSHS welcomes any future contributions.

In early 2025 stories were written with information gleaned from the documents.

Thank You’s and Acknowledgments

This project would not have been possible without the support and work of the following:

Presidents (and Boards) of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society (2019 to 2024)

Doug Workman
Nancy Larson

Lake Vermilion-Soudan Mine State Park

James Pointer, Interpretive Supervisor
Sarah Guy Levar, Interpretive Supervisor, also funded the supplies for the binders

Iron Range Research Center at the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm

Sue Godfrey, Research Specialist
Chris Welter, Archivist

Iron Range Historical Society, McKinley, MN

Michele Lammi, President
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Tim Tomsich and the Board for voting to allow us to copy the documents at the town hall and paid for the copying

Dianna Sundahl (she brought the death records out from the safe many times)

Jorgine Gornick

Amber Zak

Tower-Soudan Historical Society Research Volunteers

Leon Anderson

Barb Burgess

Linda Haugen

Andy Larson (original research)

Deb Setterberg

Mary Shedd (spreadsheets)

Elaine McGillivray

Paul Wannarka

Other Research Support

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Tower-Soudan Historical Society Copying Volunteers

Barb Burgess

Linda Haugen

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Elaine McGillivray

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Carol Norberg

Deb Setterberg

Tower-Soudan Historical Society Website Updates:

Nancy Larson

Mary Shedd

Tower-Soudan Historical Society, Publicity

Elaine McGillivray

Family Members

We also want to thank the many family members who sent emails, letters, photos, and stories of their family member who died in or near the mine. The research committee accepted all information from family members. Their information was not fact-checked or researched. They were accepted as important pieces of family history.

The Miners

Our last and most important thank you is to the miners. The documents in the binders are a memorial to those who died in the mine while trying to make a better life for

themselves and their families. They (and those who survived) were also doing a great service to our country in mining the ore to support the incredible steel industry of the late 1800's and early to mid-20th century on the Vermilion Iron Range.

Sincerely,

Elaine (Sooger) McGillivray, Chair
Soudan Mine Miners Memorial Committee
Tower-Soudan Historical Society
February 2025

Soudan Mine Miners Memorial

Miners Killed in Accidents in or near Soudan Mine

Edition: April 30, 2024

This project documents the deaths of 143 known men killed as miners in or near what is now known as the Soudan Underground Mine.

The first to lose his life mining was William Brown – a man of unknown age, marital status, or nationality – who died in a cave-in at Breitung pit on July 7, 1884, about two years after the mine first opened. The final death was of Arthur James Gardner, a 41-year old married man from Illinois who fell down an open chute on March 22, 1957. The mine closed five years later in 1962.

Information and details on the lives and deaths of these men comes from a variety of data sources (see workbook), but details are mostly sparse – and often contradictory among the sources. But by summarizing and comparing different types of information, stories emerge.

NATIONALITY

Men killed in mines came from at least 11 different countries. The data show Finns, Austrians, and Swedes died in the greatest number. What we do *not* know is what the overall nationalities of all miners was over time.

Country	#	%
Austria	34	34.0%
Canada (French)	1	1.0%
England	6	6.0%
Finland ¹	51	51.0%
Germany	1	1.0%
Ireland	1	1.0%
Italy ²	4	4.0%
Norway	2	2.0%
Scotland	1	1.0%
Sweden	24	24.0%
United States ³	13	13.0%
Unknown	5	5.0%
Total 11	143	

1. Charles Johnson 1987 nationality counted as Finland but his record is "Swede-Finlander"

2. South Tyrol counted here as Italy because in 1919 it became part of Italy. (Assumption it was S. Tyrol is based on Italian name of miner.)

One man from Tyrol: Turri

3. MN 6; MI 4; NY 1; IL 1, Unk 1

MARITAL STATUS

Newspaper accounts were the only sources that gave a clue to some of the impacts to the community from the deaths of miners. Women widowed, children left without a father, and sometimes fiancées left behind. Of men with known marital status, married men died at a slightly higher rate than single men.

Status	#	%
Married	65	44%
Single	57	39%
Unknown	20	14%
Widowed	1	1%
Total	143	

AGE

Men who died in the mine ranged in age from 16 to 64, with the largest percentage in the 20-29 year old range.

The youngest to die in the mine was 16 year old Hans Larson, one of 7 teenagers to die. He appears to be a first generation American from Soudan, the son of miner Johan (John) and Hilda Larson, who had to go to work to support the family when Johan drowned in Lake Vermilion. He died July 23, 1917 when a falling timber from a gin pole fell on him.

The two oldest to die were 64 year olds August John Jeranson and Henry Salmi. Salmi was a widowed Finlander who died crushed by falling ore on June 25, 1935. Jeranson, a married Swede, suffered a skull fracture, and died 13 years later of a paralytic stroke attributed to that injury on Dec 7, 1923.

Age of Death	#	%
16-19	7	5%
20-29	49	33%
30-39	39	27%
40-49	25	17%
50-59	9	6%
60-64	3	2%
Unknown	11	7%
	143	

Cause of Death

As of this edition, this summary represents a first draft only. Most deaths occurred in the mine (86%) and included deaths from falls, rock fall, dynamite blasts, and even one drowning. But 17% involved accidents on the surface at stockpiles, loading areas, railway and in the blacksmith shop. For the most part the data sources provided very little detail, though newspaper accounts often told the grim stories.

IN MINE	In Mine - unk	In Mine - Fall	In Mine- Crush	In Mine- Explosion	In Mine - Drowning	ON SURFACE	On Surface Dynamite Explosion	On Surface Fall	On Surface Crush	On Surface Train	Unk
123	41	23	39	19	1	17	3	3	7	4	3
86.0%	28.7%	16.1%	27.3%	13.3%	0.7%	11.9%	2.1%	2.1%	4.9%	2.8%	2.1%
	33.3%	18.7%	31.7%	15.4%	0.8%		17.6%	17.6%	41.2%	23.5%	

Soudan Mine Miners Memorial

Edition: April 30, 2024

Year	Date	Last Name	First Name	Marital Status	Age	Nationality	Cause	Source: A (Andy Larson); B (Book/Report); C (Cemetery); D (Death Records); E (Exhibit) F (fam/oral hist); G (Find-a-Grave); N (Newspaper)
1894	Jan 29	Anderson	Alex	Single	27	Finland	Falling ground in mine	D1, C
1898	Feb 23 (C); 28 (D & C)	Anderson	Chas (D) Carl (C)	Married	25	Sweden	Killed - Montana (A)	D1, C, A
1891	Aug 7	Anderson	William	Single	32	Sweden	Killed at #8 (J. Turk also killed #8 same day)	D1, C
1945	May 14	Avikainen	Matt	Married	55	Finland	Falling ore -barring	D1, N3, B11, F
1892	Jan	Bates	John	Married	?	?	Injured in fall 1891, died in operation in 1892	N1
1916	Jun 20	Beland	Treffle "Tom"	Married	58	Canada (French)	Fell 25' off trestle on head	D1, B2, B14, N2
1898	Feb 10	Belich	Joe	?	?	Austria	Accident	D1
1898	Mar 11	Berg	Chas.	Single	18	USA	Killed - Alaska	D1
1895	Jun 26	Berger	Mike	?	21	Austria	Killed in mine	C,G
1891	Mar 17 (D); 18 (C)	Bergquist	Gustaf	Married	54 (D) 50 (C)	Sweden	Killed in #6	D1, C
1940	Apr 16	Branwall	Swan Harold	Married	37	USA MN Breitung	Fell down Alaska Shaft, 12th level 50-foot raise	D1, N2, B9, F
1884	Jul 7	Brown	William H.	?	?	?	Cave-in Breitung pit (A)	A
1888	Dec 18	Brown	William J	Married	23	USA MI	Fell from air pipe	D1
1923	Nov 20	Carlson	Edward Gustaf	Married	37	Finland	Killed by blast	D1, B4, B14, N2
1897	Nov 28	Carlson	Frank	?	24	Finland	Fall of dirt Alaska shaft	C, N1
1891	Jun 26	Carlson	Oscar	Single	23	Finland	Runover - #8 stockpile	D1, C
1889	Mar 6	Corpi (D) Corpe (B)	Henry	Single	28	Finland	Fractured skull at #8	D1, B14
1888	Feb 27	Cox	Isaac	Married	26	England	Killed in mine	D1
1899	Jul 24	Derando (D) Vironda (C)	Joe (D) Joseph (C)	Single	?	Italy	Killed in #8 Shaft	D1, C
1901	Feb 18	Ellister (N) Helista (C)	Matt (N) Mat (C)	Married	23	Finland	Crushed in cave-in 8th level of Soudan mine.	C, N2

Year	Date	Last Name	First Name	Marital Status	Age	Nationality	Cause	Source: A (Andy Larson); B (Book/Report); C (Cemetery); D (Death Records); E (Exhibit) F (fam/oral hist); G (Find-a-Grave); N (Newspaper)
1887	Mar 10	Erickson	William	Single	20	Finland	Killed at Stuntz (M. Mattson also killed same day.)	D1
1893	Aug 7	Fabish	Frank	Married	?	Austria	Killed - stockpile	D1, C
1893	May 15	Ferduber (C) Ferdebec (N)	Peter	?	21	Austria	Killed by loaded tram car while standing on trestle	C, N1
1892	Jun 20	Francis	John	Single	30	Sweden	Killed in mine	D1
1885	Nov 14	Freeberg (D3)	Charles	Single	23	Sweden	Killed on D & IRR railroad while coupling cars	D1, D3
1957	Mar 22	Gardner	Arthur James	Married	41	USA IL	Fell in open chute - 19th level	D2, D3, N3, B13, G
1889	Apr 12	Gerzein	Matt	Single	18	Austria	Fell in #3 shaft	D1
1900	Jun 7	Gornick	Balthazar	Single	48	Austria	Fell 53' to death in chute trying to get away from blast (after working only 1 week in mine, "inexperience")	C, N2
1893	Jan 5	Gougal	Art	?	28	Austria	Killed in mine	C, G
1892	Jun 2	Grahek	Feit (D) Art (C)	Single	34	Austria	Killed in #3 Pit	D1, C
1897	Dec 13	Grahek	John	?	30	Austria	Killed in #8*	C, G
1887	Nov 1	Ham	William	Married	43	England	Killed by blast (Charles Rinn also killed)	D1
1891	Feb 8	Hanson Hansen* (C, G)	Herman	Married	35	Norway	Killed in #1; blood loss from a blast	D1, C, G, F (*Photo of headstone clearly shows "Hanson")
1920	Jul 7	Hegler	Charles	Married	35	Austria	Crushed by heavy timber - fractured vertebrae (back)	D1, N2
1892	Apr 8	Hendrickson	Eric	Married	37	Sweden	Killed in mine	D1
1891	Jan 1	Hendrickson	Gustaf (D) Gust (C)	Single	28	Sweden	Killed in Montana (fell down shaft)	D1, C, N1

Year	Date	Last Name	First Name	Marital Status	Age	Nationality	Cause	Source: A (Andy Larson); B (Book/Report); C (Cemetery); D (Death Records); E (Exhibit) F (fam/oral hist); G (Find-a-Grave); N (Newspaper)
1954	Oct 14	Hendrickson	Hugo Richard	Married	62	?	Crushed - ore chute	D2, C (Diff date), N3, B12, B14, F?
1897	Apr 14	Hendrickson	John	?	35	Finland	Killed in mine with broken back	C, G
1891	Feb 8 (D); Feb 9 (C)	Hendrickson	Leander	Married	31 (D) 32 (C)	Sweden	Killed in #8	D1, C
1889	Jun 1	Hendrickson	Nels	Single	36	Sweden	Killed at #5 shaft in fall of rock	D1, N1, B14
1942	Feb 6	Hill	Arvo John "Jim"	Married	40	USA MN Soudan	Thrown out of cage	D1, N2, B10, B14, F
1907	Jul 13	Hill	John F	Married	36	Finland	Dynamite explosion, 13th level of Shaft 8 (Also Otto Makela died & 4 others badly injured)	C, B14, N2, G
1896	Jun 16	Hill	Matt	?	30	Finland	Killed in #8	C, G
1888	Mar 17	Hillila	Charles	Single	28	Finland	Killed in mine	D1
1890	Feb 28	Horvat	Mike	Married	50	Austria	Crushed by a descending skip at #6 shaft	D1
1892	Nov 29	Huhtalla (D) Houtahla (C, G, N)	Elias	Married	35	Finland	Killed in rockfall	D1, C, G, N1
1892	Feb 29	Jacobson	John	Single	23	Sweden	Killed in blast in mine	D1, C
1892	Mar 29	Jacobson	Joseph	Single	28	Finland	Killed in mine	D1
1891	Apr 15	Jeffery	William Oates	Married	43	England	Killed by fumes of powder smoke	D1, N1, F, C
1923	Dec 7	Jeranson	August John	Married	64	Sweden	Accident (skull fracture) happened 13 yr prior, led to paralytic stroke & death	D1, N2
1886	Feb 17	Job	John	Married	40	England	Blast at Lee Mine	D1
1899	Nov 11	Johnson	Arthur	Single	31	?	Killed in mine	D1, C

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1889	Jun 10	Johnson	Charles	Single	20	Sweden	Killed at #5 shaft	D1, B14, N1 but cut out of newspaper!
1897	Mar 27 (C); Mar 29 (G)	Johnson	Charles	Single	28	Finland ("Swede-Finlander")	Killed in #1 Shaft - Falling down and buried under mass of debris	C, G, N1
1892	Sep 13	Johnson	Gus	Single	30 (D), 16/17 (G)	Sweden	Killed in mine	D1, G
1931	Jul 17	Johnson	John B.	Married	56	Sweden	Fractured skull and ribs in speeder collision on railroad	D1, N2
1892	Feb 9	Johnson	Louis	Single	27	Sweden	Fell 200' down shaft at Minnesota	D1, N1
1896	Apr 28	Johnson	Matt (C,G) Mat (N)	?	40	Finland	Cave-in - #5 Pit	C, G, N4
1935	Jun 25	Johnson	Sakris Jalmer (D, G) Jalmer (N, B)	Single	28	USA MN Breitung	Crushed by falling ore (125 ton slab) from back of stope in 20th level	D1, G, N2, B7, B14
1901	Sep 18	Kajanus	Henry	Married	33	Finland	Fall of rock, Minnesota mine, Montana shaft	D1, C, F, G N2 (N2 "Kakili")
1891	Nov 19	Kangas (D) Hill (C, G)	Gust (D), Vest? (C, G)	Married	45	Finland	Killed at #6	D1, C, G
1894	Apr 24	Keveski (D) Kavisto (N) Kievesta (C)	Mat (D) Matt (N) Matti (C)	Married	30	Finland	Drowning in flash flood from water accumulated in a raise when it was loosed.	D1, C, N1
1897	Jul 23	Knuuti	Isak	?	22	Finland	Killed by blast in mine	C, G

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1892	Feb 26	Kochevar (D) Hochivar (N)	Andrew	Single	23	Austria	Fell down shaft in MN #8 because of holding onto a car that went into shaft because cage wasn't there.	D1, N1
1893	Apr 18	Kochevar (D) Koshaver (N)	Jacob	Single	?	Austria	Dynamite explosion in blacksmith shop (C. Nelson and J. Nettle also killed and many others injured)	D1, N1
1897	Oct 26	Konte	Victor	?	27	Finland	Killed in #8 by falling rock	C, G
1897	Dec 17	Kosky	Victor	?	24	Finland	Killed in #8	C, G
1895	Jan 28	Kreen (D) Hren (N, C)	Anton (D) Art (C)	Married	33 (D) 26 (N, C)	Austria	Crushed while loading coal from under coal trestle	D1, N1, C
1906	Mar 16	Kukkola (D) Hukkola (N, B)	Edward	Single	30	Finland	Killed by fall of ground 10th level, Montana (M. Yernatich and A. Williams also killed.)	D3, N2, B14, E, G
1898	Jul 15	Larsantz	Nick	Married	40	Austria	Accident	D1
1890	May 28	Larsents	Frank	Married	40	Austria	Falling rock in mine	D1
1917	Jul 23	Larson	Hans	Single	16	USA MN Soudan	Falling timber (from gin pole falling)	D1, N2, B1, B14,
1909	Jan 15	Launanen (D) Laumoney (B, N)	Bernhart "Ben"	Married	46	Finland	Crushed by falling rock in mine after blast	D1, B14, N2
1925	Mar 25	Leinonen	Joseph (N) Johan (D2, D3)	Married	40	USA MI	Crushed by gin pole falling on him	D2, D3, N2
1936	Nov 24	Loughren (D) Laughren (N)	Ray	Married	32	USA MN Duluth	Crushed by falling log from truck being unloaded.	D1, N2
1902	Jan 16	Lukacic	John	Single	22	Austria	Crushing Injury	D1, C

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1906	Jan 29	Lukkarila (N) Lakkanen (B) Lucrella (B) Lukkarela (B)	Matt J.	Married	32	Finland	Fall of ground/crushed in cave-in at Montana Shaft	B14, N2
1912	Jul 18	Luota (D1) "aka Charles Laine" (D1); Luoto (N, B); Luola (D3)	Einar (D1,D3) Chas (B, N)	Single	25	Finland	Fell, broke neck	D1, D3, B1, N2
1907	Jul 13	Makela (B,N) Mikkala (C)	Otto	Married	28	Finland	Dynamite explosion, 13th level of Shaft 8 (Also John F Hill killed & 4 others badly injured)	B14, N2, C
1895	Jan 23	Maki (D) Macki (C)	Val (D) Victor (C)	Married	36 (D) 34 (C)	Finland	Mine accident	D1, C
1890	Jul 24	Mallench	Mat	Married	27	Austria	Falling in shaft	D1
1891	Apr 14	Mallisich (D) Malinsek (C)	Anton	Single	18	Austria	Killed in #3	D1, C
1890	Oct 31	Mangussen (D) Mangnason (C)	Martin	Single	36	Sweden	Suffocated in blast	D1, C
1890	Jul 10	Mantilla	Jacob	Single	28	Finland	Falling rock	D1
1909	May 31	Marnn (D) Marm (B, N)	Charles	Single	23	Austria	Crushed 15th level No. 8 shaft - Cave-in of ore after blast (Also killed K. Nukala and J. Ross)	D1, B14, N2
1895	Nov 14	Martinio	Joe	Single	25	Italy	Crushed - #8 Shaft, buried by earthslide	D1, N1
1907	Sep 27	Masnik	John	Married	35	Austria (Slovenia)	Crushed by falling rock in mine after blast	F, C
1887	Mar 10	Mattson	Matt	Married	34	Finland	Killed at Stuntz Mine (W. Erickson also killed same day.)	D1

Year	Date	Last Name	First Name	Marital Status	Age	Nationality	Cause	Source: A (Andy Larson); B (Book/Report); C (Cemetery); D (Death Records); E (Exhibit) F (fam/oral hist); G (Find-a-Grave); N (Newspaper)
1914	Jan 16	McKenna	Frank	Single	46	USA NY	Hit by railroad Engine, internal injuries	D1
1892	Oct 24	Meade	John	Single	31	Ireland	Railroad accident trauma (leg severed) (Died on same day as G.Rossia in separate accident)	D1, C
1890	Oct 17	Michlancich	John	Single	33	Austria	Falling in shaft	D1
1889	Jul 27 (D); Jul 30 (B)	Mishmash (N, D) Mismas (B)	Frank (D, B) Franz (N)	Married	35 (N)	Austria	Killed at #6 shaft - large piece of ore struck his head	D1, N1, B14
1895	Apr 9	Molek	Marko	Single	23	Austria	Crushed by falling rock in mine	D1, N1
1889	Nov 18	Myerle	Stephen	Married	55	Austria	Killed at #7 shaft	D1
1893	Apr 18	Nelson	Charles	Married	?	Sweden	Dynamite explosion in blacksmith shop (J. Kochevar and J. Nettle also killed and many others injured)	D1, N1
1894	Feb 10	Nelson	John	Single	40	Sweden	Falling ground in mine	D1, C
1893	Apr 18	Nettle	James P.	Married	?	USA MI	Dynamite explosion in blacksmith shop (J. Kochevar and C. Nelson also killed and many others injured)	D1, N1
1891	Dec 22 (D); Dec 17 (C)	Norberg	Andrew	Single	19 (D) 21 (C)	Sweden	Killed at #5	D1, C
1909	May 31	Nukala (D, N) Niikala (B)	Kaappo (D, N) Gabriel (B)	Single	23	Finland	Crushed 15th level No. 8 shaft - Cave-in of ore after blast (Also killed C. Marnn and J. Ross)	D1, N2, B14
1893	Jul 6	Nysford (D) Nilsfolk (C)	Erik (D) Ulrik (C)	Married	28	Finland	Killed in mine	D1, C, G
1898	Feb 28 (D); Feb 23 (C)	Oija	Gust	Married	19	?	Killed in #8	D1, C

Year	Date	Last Name	First Name	Marital Status	Age	Nationality	Cause	Source: A (Andy Larson); B (Book/Report); C (Cemetery); D (Death Records); E (Exhibit) F (fam/oral hist); G (Find-a-Grave); N (Newspaper)
1893	Aug 23 (D); Aug 21 (C)	Oija	Sakris	Single	?	Finland	Killed - stockpile	D1, C (Cemetery record combined in error with father Sakris [D]- named Sacus Oija Hunango in this C record - who died Oct 17th)
1893	Oct 17 (D)	Oija	Sakris	Married	48	Finland	Accident	D1, C (Cemetery record combined in error with son Sakris [D]- named Sacus Oija Hunango in this C record - who died August 21st)
1889	Feb 1	Olson	Stephan	Married	35	Sweden	Fractured skull - Lee Mine	D1
1929	Dec 6	Paylio (D, B) Polio (N)	Henry	Married	53	Finland	Crushed -barring	D1, B5, N2
1910	Feb 16	Pelto	Abram	Single	47	Finland	Fell 8-10' in a chute, dislodging a huge rock, breaking back and ribs	D1, B14, N2
1896	Jul 9	Perkins	Alexander	?	24 (C) 21-22 (G)	Finland	Killed in Alaska Shaft 12th level	C, G
1890	May 23	Quick	James	Married	28	England	Crushed by a descending cage	D1
1942	Dec 17	Rasanen	Andrew	Married	49	Finland	Tripped on rock, broke spine, barring	D1 (Injured Nov 9), N2, F, B10
1887	Nov 1	Rinn	Charles	Married	43	Germany	Killed by blast (Wm Ham also killed)	D1

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1893	Jul 22	Roseman (D) Rosmund (N) Rosman (C)	Nick	Single	?	Austria	Killed - lost balance and fell between moving cars at stockpile at Minnesota	D1, N1, C
1897	Jan 7	Ross	Jon	?	22	Finland	Doing repairs on top of cage and fell 600' down Alaska shaft	C, G, N1
1892	Oct 24	Rossia (D) Rossa (C)	Guisseppi (D) John/Giuseppe (C)	Married	31	Italy	Crushed - Montana (A). (Died same day as J. Meade in unrelated accident.)	D1, C, A
1894	May 9	Ruha	Alex	Married	46	Finland	Fell down chute from 6th to 7th level at Minnesota	D1, N1, C
1909	Jun 3	Russ	John	Married	28	Austria	Crushed 15th level No. 8 shaft - Cave-in of ore after blast on May 31st (Also killed C. Marnn and K. Nukala.)	D1, N2, B14
1899	Apr 14	Saari	Jno	Single	29	Finland	Fractured base of skull	D1
1900	May 31	Sackrison (C, G)	Charles	?	?	Finland	Killed in mine	C, G
1899	Apr 13	Sader (D) Sordoer (C)	Dominic (D) Domonic (C)	?	31 (D) 28 (C)	Austria	Fractured base of skull (D) Killed in blast*(A)	D1, A
1935	Jun 25	Salmi	Henry	Widowed	64	Finland	Crushed - falling ore	D1, B7, B14, N2
1890	May 1	Samuelson	Andrew	Single	30	Sweden	Falling rock	D1
1888	Feb 12	Solberg	Ole	Single	35	Norway	Killed by blast in mine	D1
1894	Apr 25	Soderena/Sooger (F); Sookran (N); Sercos (D); Sooknan (C);	Matti A (F); Mat (D); Matt (N); Mati (C)	Married	44	Finland	Mine accident: Fell 200' down mine shaft because of holding on to a car because cage wasn't there	D1 (name known to be incorrect) N1, F, C

Year	Date	Last Name	First Name	Marital Status	Age	Nationality	Cause	Source: A (Andy Larson); B (Book/Report); C (Cemetery); D (Death Records); E (Exhibit) F (fam/oral hist); G (Find-a-Grave); N (Newspaper)
1939	Mar 6	Spolar, Jr. (D) Spollar, Jr. (N, B8, B14)	Frank	Single	31	USA MN Soudan	Fell down 100' Raise from 12th level, crushed brain/skull fracture	D1, B8, B14, N2
1886	Sep 7	Stevens	Alexander	Married	55	Scotland	Fractured skull - flying stone from blast	D1
1885	Jan 19	Swanson	A.	Single	26	Sweden	Fall of rock	D1
1888	Apr 23	Swanson	Nels	Married	56	Sweden	Killed in mine	D1
1895	Jun 28 (D), Jun 29 (C)	Swanson	Saluu (D) Salem (C)	Single	21	USA MI	Mine accident	D1, C
1895	Feb 12 (D,N); Feb 11 (C)	Trahja (D) Tahja (N, C)	Henry	Single	22	Finland	Crushed by fall of rock at Minnesota #5 Mine	D1, N1, C
1896	May 13	Taittonen	John	?	40	Finland	Killed - #7 Pit	C, G
1905	Jul 26	Tomenc (D); Tomatz (B); Tomence (N)	Joseph	Married	40 (D) 45 (B)	Austria	Falling Rock (struck on head) - 13th level, #8	D1, B14, N2
1891	Aug 7	Turk	John	Married	26 (D) 29 (C)	Austria	Killed at #8 (W. Anderson also killed #8 same day)	D1, C, G
1891	Jul 19 (D); Jul 18 (C, G)	Turri (D) Turi (C,G)	Ferdinando (D, C, G)	Married	38 (D) 43 (C, G)	Italy (G) Tyrol (D1)	Killed at #7	D1, G, C
1890	Oct 4 (D); Oct 14 (G, C)	Vernichka (D) Verviscar (C)	Anton	Married	45	Austria	Falling in shaft	D1, C, G
1887	Sep 17	Videtitch	John	Single	24	Austria	Killed at Stuntz Mine	D1
1893	Mar 16	Vuksousrich (N) Housonovich (C)	John	?	25	Austria	Fell down 150 foot raise at Minnesota	C, N1

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1920	Jul 13	Wainio	Charles	Married	47	Finland	Crushed - falling ore from barring loosening chunks, 15th level, #8	D1, N2, B3, G
1906	Mar 16	Wiljamaa (F, C) Williams (B, C, D)	Andrew	Single	18	Finland	Killed by fall of ground 10th level, Montana (M. Yernatich and E. Kukkola also killed.)	D3, C, N2, B14, E, F, G
1892	Mar 4	Williams (D, C, G) Williamson (N)	Charles (D, C, G) Henry (N)	Single ? (N)	24 (D) 18 (C) 17-18 (G) ? (N)	Sweden (D) Finland (G) ? (N)	Killed in Mines Falling ore in #1 at MN (N1)	D1, C, G (Williams) N1 (Wmson)
1888	Nov 1	Williams	John H.	Single	25	England	Killed in mine - falling rock, crushed ribs	D1, N1
1889	Apr 27 (D); May 6 (B)	Wilson	Matt	Single	31	Finland	Killed at #1 shaft, Tower	D1, B14
1906	Mar 16	Yernatich (D, G) Yermatch (N) Yernatich/Yermatch (B)	Matt	Married	41	Austria	Killed by fall of ground 10th level, Montana (E. Kukkola and A. Williams also killed.)	D2, C, N2, B14, G, E
1888	Jan 31	Youkkala	Erick	Single	32	Finland	Killed in mine	D1
1891	Sep 8 (D); Sep 9 (G, C)	Yunk (D) Yank (G, C)	Oscar (D) Frank (C)	Single	26	Finland	Killed at #6	D1, C, G
There are 143 men on this list. Further research may reveal additional men.								

Key	Source of Information ¹
A	Andy Larson/Soudan Mine tour Interpreter (guide) for 27 years
B	Book/publication - Available at Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm, MN
B1	Report of Mine Accidents, St Louis County, Minnesota, Beginning July 1st 1911 to June 30th 1919 by Ed Smith, Mine Inspector, Eveleth, MN
B2	Inspector of Mines Annual Report, St. Louis County, Minnesota Year Ending June 30th: 1912-1919
B3	Statement of Fatal Accidents, Mines of St Louis County, Minnesota, 1921
B4	The Annual Report of the Mine Inspector, St Louis County, Minnesota, Year 1923 by Ed Smith, Mine Inspector, Eveleth, MN
B5	The Annual Report of Mine Inspector, St. Louis County, Minnesota, Year 1929
B6	Inspector of Mines, Annual Report, St. Louis County, 1929-1931
B7	Inspector of Mines Annual Report, St. Louis County, 1933-1936
B8	Inspector of Mines Annual Report, St. Louis County, 1937-39
B9	Statement of Fatal Accidents, Mines of St Louis County, Minnesota, Year 1940
B10	The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines, St. Louis County, Minnesota, 1942
B11	The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines, St. Louis County, Minnesota, 1945
B12	Statement of Fatal Accidents, Mines of St Louis County, Minnesota, 1954
B13	Statement of Fatal Accidents, Mines of St Louis County 1957
B14	Minnesota's mining accidents, 1900 - 1920, and mining deaths, 1889-1990, compiled by Stina B.Green, Park Genealogical Books, 1995
C	Cemetery Records from LakeVermilion.net
D	Death Records
D1	Breitung Township: Original death records found at Breitung Township townhall.
D2	Minnesota Historical Society (MHS): all Death records from 1905-1957 are from MN Historical Society. Death records 1904-2001 found at MHS MN People Records Search (mnhs.org/search/people)
D3	St Louis County death certificate index, death records from 1870-2000 (duluthlibrary.org/genealogy/st-louis-county-death-certificate-index)
E	Exhibit at MN Discovery Center, Chisholm, MN: Names listed in museum exhibit of deaths in mines across the Iron Range in 1905-1906.
F	Family/oral history, photos
G	Find A Grave (Ancestry.com) submitted by Vicki Luoma
N	Newspaper - Available at Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm, MN
N1	Vermilion Iron Journal (1887-1900). Weekly.
N2	The Tower News (June 4, 1900-May 31, 1946). Weekly.
N3	The Tower News (June 1946-present.) Weekly