

Here are several newspaper accounts from 16 June to 19 June, 1925, of the Hackettstown Train Disaster. Newspapers included are:

- *The Daily Gazette* (Sterling and Rock Falls, Illinois)
- *Dallas Morning News* (Texas)
- *The Gettysburg Times* (Pennsylvania)
- *New Castle News* (Pennsylvania)
- *St. Petersburg Time* (Florida)
- *Schenectady Gazette* (New York)

This is a sample of what can be found on the Internet; it's enough to get a feel for the sensationalism often used in newspaper accounts during the early 20th Century. If you read these accounts carefully, you'll also notice that what is presented as fact was not necessarily so, especially if one reads the official Interstate Commerce Commission report. Also, the spelling of names of the injured and killed certainly contains spelling errors; errors by the newspapers (often the same paper presents the names differently on subsequent days) and by Kas Dumroese, the transcriber for all of these accounts except the one from the *Dallas Morning New*, because the available scans can be difficult to read. As evidence, Caroline (Dumroese) Mroch can be found as Mrs. Caroline Moach (*The Daily Gazette*), Mrs. Caroline M. Rock (*New Castle News*), and Mrs. Caroline Mroch (*St. Petersburg Time*).

Prepared 27 Feb 2012.

Anything in brackets [] is commentary from Kas. [sic] means that's the way it was originally presented.

The (Sterling and Rock Falls, Illinois) Daily Gazette

Tuesday, 16 June 1925, front page headline (price five cents)

(accessed 22 Feb 2012 at <http://sterlingpl.newspaperarchive.com>)

BIG TOLL TAKEN IN A NEW JERSEY WRECK

Latest Report Shows at Least 27 Were Killed Thunderstorms Clogged a Switch With Sand Causing a Derailment

Hackettstown, N.J. June 16—(United Press)—At least 27 persons had died up to 2:30 p.m. today as a result of the worst accident on an American railway in recent months. The wreck occurred near Hackettstown when an excursion train from Chicago, carrying a party of Germans from the middlewest [sic] to new York, where they were to embark today for Germany, plunged into a switch which had been clogged with debris during last night's rain and electrical storm. Three cars and the engine rolled over while steam pipes burst and sprayed with live steam dozens of passengers. Six dead were taken from the wreckage; 16 others died in a hospital at Easton, Pa.; one died en-route to a hospital; and four died in a hospital at Dover, N.J.; all from injuries and most of them from burns.

Approximately fifty persons were injured while a score of others received first aid treatment on the scene. The accident occurred during a heavy thunderstorm that had clogged a switch with sand and other debris. The engine plunged down an embankment and was buried beneath three cars. Coming from the west, the train was crowded with emigrants who were to take a boat at New York for Germany today. The injured were taken in ambulances and private automobiles to the Easton, Pa., hospital.

Train Crew Killed

The engineer, fireman, and a brakeman were among those reported killed. The scene of the wreck is in an isolated section. Farmers living in the neighborhood heard the crashing of the cars above the noise of the storm. Investigating, they found men, women and children, many painfully injured, vainly trying to extricate relatives or friends from the tangled, smouldering [sic] wreckage. Several bodies were removed after daylight from the wreckage of the first coach. Scores of volunteers arrived and assisted in the search for victims who have been imprisoned as the cars tumbled in a heap. The switch at which the wreck occurred was broken and a portion of it was bent and stood straight up. After it was derailed, the engine bumped along the ties for 20 feet and then dived over the embankment, dragging three cars after it.

More Apt to Die

One doctor said the death list would be greatly augmented as many of those scalded could not possibly recover. Those persons were in the first three cars, which filled with steam from broken pipes on the wrecked engine which lay a smoking mass of twisted steel at the bottom of the heap of wreckage. Nearing its destination, the train was forging ahead at a fast pace through the blinding storm when the accident occurred. His vision hampered by the pouring rain, the engineer was leaning far out of his seat to keep an eye on the gleaming rails ahead. Lightning flashed with stage-like frequency to an accompaniment of booming thunder. Suddenly the cars swerved as the wheels dropped from the slippery rails on to the ties. Men, women and children were hurled from their seats. The engine plunged nose first into the rocky border of the roadbed. Three cars piled up on top of it. Broken pipes of the engine spurted scalding steam on helpless victims as they struggled vainly to extricate themselves from the tangled metal. Women and children were trampled in the mad stampede for safety. Passengers broke through windows, jagged with shattered glass.

At daylight, steam still poured from the broken pipes of the engine, but the wreckage had not taken fire. Railroad workers and volunteers searched the debris, removed six bodies and fifty other victims, some of the latter so seriously injured or scalded that they may die. A score of others were given first aid treatment.

16 More Have Died

Easton, Pa. June 16—(United Press)—Sixteen of the 38 persons injured in the train wreck at Rockport, N.J. have died since admittance to the Easton hospital this morning, physicians reported at noon. They are:

Mary Zink, 28. Helen Wagner, 9. Martin Heinig, Jr. 10. Phillip Schuster, 13. An unidentified girl, 3 years old, and an unidentified woman. All are from Chicago.

Both of Heinig's parents are in the hospital. Edwin Brunner. Martin Heinig, Sr., father of Martin Heinig, Jr. who died this morning. Louise Trokie. Antonio Ernst. Mrs. Brundici. Mrs. Elizabeth Wungelmein. Two unidentified women. One unidentified man aged about 40. One unidentified boy.

The following died in the Dover, N.J. hospital: George Tauler, address unknown. Mrs. Augusta Isinan, Chicago. Mrs. Augusta Bernhardt, Chicago. Mrs. Barbara Fahrner, Chicago.

In addition to those dead in the Easton hospital, the following were among the six bodies taken from the wreckage of the train [text not legible]

[top of next column and perhaps the sixth person]

Frederick Loomis, engineer, of Scranton, Pa.

The Injured

W.L. Kenney, Buffalo, N.Y. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Brunner and their three children. Mrs. Elizabeth Wungelmein. Irene Wungelmein, 9, daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sayer. Mrs. Antonio Ernest. Mrs. Elsie Hlinig. Oscar J. David. Reinhold Telschke. Mrs. Josephine Schmidt. Helen Kerling. Mrs. Jeannette Ferguson. Henry Steffins. Joseph La Forge. Rudolph Totche. Mr. and Mrs. Grunder. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bernhardt. Charles Stock. Clara Nestleberger. Mrs. Hulda Staehnke. Philip Shuster. William Muenchennen. Mrs. Gunda Roterman. John Heigel. Mrs. Sophia Finnenger. Martin Heinig.

At Hospitals, Morristown, N.J.

Miss Barbara Farner, severe burns. Miss F. Breichner, scalded severely. Mrs. Ana Meyers, badly scalded.

At Warren Hospital, Phillipsburg

Mrs. Caroline Howe. John Hansen. Mrs. Louise Kauffman. Clemons Schmidt. Mike Gettner. John Neimann. Mrs. Catherine Wyat. John Irich.

The following injured are in the Dover, N.J. hospital

Mrs. A. Bernhardt, So. Highland, Chicago. Mrs. Katherine Harling, Chicago. Carl Gantz, Chicago. Hans Foske, Chicago. John Ernicekitz, address unknown. Katherine Wilgermein, Chicago. Henry Karling. Joseph Sauer. Mr. Totzke. Joseph Winter. Mrs. Theodore Juergensen. Clara Bernhardt. Rudolph Troske. Mrs. Emma Roderning. John Heigel. Mrs. Wagner. Joseph Schmidt. One unidentified woman. All are from Chicago.

Chicago Germans

Chicago, Ill. June 16—(United Press)—Passengers on the Lackawanna train that was wrecked near Rockport, N.J. early today were members of an excursion party of Chicago Germans, according to the Neumanns shipping agents in charge of the tour. The party was made up of individuals and small family groups, Neumanns' officials said.

Dallas (Texas) Morning News

Tuesday, 16 June 1925

(accessed 22 Feb 2012 at

<http://www3.gendisasters.com/new-jersey/16696/rockport-nj-train-disaster-jun-1925-list-injured-survivor-stories>)

36 DIE; 71 HURT AS TRAIN WRECKS

Victims Are Tortured by Steam Scald
Coach Piles on Coach in Fatal Heap on Lackawanna
Was Special Train
Prosperous Former Immigrants, En Route Abroad, Victims

By the Associated Press.

Hackettstown, N.J., June 16.-Thirty-six are dead, thirty-six in a critical condition and at least thirty-five more are suffering from injuries received early Tuesday, when four cars and the engine of a seven-car special train on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad were derailed and piled upon one another at Rockport, two miles west of here. One hundred and eighty-two passengers, emigrants of a former day, who had become prosperous in the great corn belt and were on their way to visit homelands across the sea, were hurled into the maelstrom of death and injury as coach pounded upon coach and scalding steam from the bursting engine tortured the victims.

The train left Buffalo, N.Y., Monday at 6 p.m. The train's entry into New Jersey was heralded by a violent thunderstorm, a storm that weighed a gavel over the tracks at the Rockport crossing, into which the train plunged as it gained momentum for the rise ahead.

Engine is Derailed.

The engine plowed over the ties for 150 yards before it struck a switch and left the tracks. Two day coaches and a Pullman were piled on top the engine as it toppled over. One other Pullman car was derailed and three remained upright. By automobile, special train and ambulance the injured were taken to Easton (Pa.) General Hospital the Warren County Hospital at Phillipsburg, Morristown Memorial Hospital at Morristown and Dover General Hospital at Dover. Eighteen of those taken to Easton are dead. Morristown reported two deaths. Dover five and seven bodies are in the morgue at Hackettstown.

Gives the Alarm.

August Fox was the first man on his feet after the wreck, followed by Henry Steffens, 60; Carl Engle and Reinhart Tscheke, all of Chicago, and all more or less injured. They labored heroically until help arrived from Hackettstown, pulling dead and injured from the twisted steel cars. Riding above the rumble and thunder and lashing of the storm the crash of the wreck awakened Mrs. Duncan Dunn, who lives at the State game farm, about 500 yards distant. She communicated with Hackettstown over badly crippled wires, arousing physicians, who in turn sent emergency calls to surrounding hospitals. All the dead and injured, with the exception of the train crew are from Chicago and vicinity.

Death List.

The dead include: George Taule, Chicago. Mrs. Augusta Isiman, Chicago. Jacob Scanlon, trainman of Easton. Fred Loomis, engineer, Scranton, Pa. Carl Haen, fireman, Scranton, Pa. A young girl and two unidentified women. Helen Wagner, 9. Martin Henig Jr., 12. Frank Bendich, 50. Mary Cink, 40. Mrs. Antonio Bernhardt. Mrs. Barbara Sahrner. Mrs. Barbara Farmer. Mrs. George Breckner. Mrs. Anthony Ernst. Mrs. Louis Trike. Martin Henig Sr. Edwin Brunner Jr. Mrs. Wilgeminer. Philip Shuster.

Among the seriously injured all from Chicago and Elkton, Ill., in the Easton, Pa., hospital are Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Brunner and their three children, Mrs. Elizabeth Wungelmeindt and 9-year-old daughter. Irene; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sauer, Antonio Ernst, Mrs. Elsie Henig, Oscar L. David, Reinhold Teskhe, Mrs. Josephine Schmidt, Helen Kerling, Mrs. Janette Ferguson, Henry Steffins, Joseph Laforge, Rudolph Totche, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bernhardt, Mrs. Mary Zink, Charles Stock, Mrs. Theodore Ernst, Clara Nestleberger, Mrs. Hilda Staehnke, Phillip Schuster, William Muenckenhen, Mrs. Gun Rotterman, John Niegel, Mrs. Sophie Finninger and Martin Heineg.

Injured at Morristown included: Mrs. Barbara Farmer, Mrs. F. Beechneer and Mrs. Annie Myers, all of Chicago.

The critically injured at Dover General Hospital include: Catherine Wilgermein, Mrs. Catherine Kerling, Carl Gantz and Hans Toske.

SURVIVORS SET SAIL

By The Associate Press.

New York, June 16.-Eager to see their homeland again but shaken and saddened by the train wreck which claimed fifty-seven of their companions in dead and injured, 125 Germans from the west sailed Tuesday on the U.S. liner Republic from Hoboken. Rescued from the horror which ensued when their special train from Chicago was wrecked before dawn near Rock Port, N.J., survivors of the homeward bound party were rushed to Hoboken in another special. All had graphic tales to tell of their experiences while the liner waited for possible late additions to the fortunate saved.

To Mrs. E.B. Haaker of Park Ridge, Ill., a trained nurse who was on the train, many owe their lives. With her first aid kit Mrs. Haaker set up an impromptu hospital in the observation car. Mrs. Lackin R. Deue and Mrs. Freda Metzger of Chicago assisted her.

Trained Nurse Heroine.

Mrs. Haaker was traveling with her husband and a friend. Frederick Oberheid of Chicago. All three were awakened by the crash and by the screams of a member of the train crew who ran through the rear cars with terribly scalded hands, screaming, "For God's sake, somebody help me!"

Still in her night clothing Mrs. Haaker dressed the man's hands while her husband and Oberheid hurried ahead, improvised stretchers and brought many of the injured to the observation car. Sheets were torn up for use as bandages and the emergency hospital force worked for hours to relieve the agony of the scalded.

"I could hear, it seemed, a thousand people screaming," said Mr. Haaker in describing the crash, "and, through their voices, the roar of the escaping steam.

"When we came near the engine the sight was overwhelming. The first two day coaches had been telescoped and were ground together in a mass of wood and steel, and some passengers in the first coach had been thrown bodily into the coal tender. The third coach had ridden up over these two and was lying squarely on top of the engine. The engine's steam pipes had broken and a fog of steam was pouring into the car perched on top.

"We could see hands waving and then falling back into the car. Those in the tender who were unable to get out because of the car on top of them were lying close against the coal in the hope of avoiding the blistering steam. We could do very little until the flow of steam slackened. When we pulled them out those who were still conscious screamed with the pain. I saw at least twelve dead and twenty-five of those treated were so badly scalded that they will probably die."

Wanted Hand Cut.

Mrs. Annie Jollie, 55 years old, of Chicago, told how she was hurled from her berth amid a shower of glass. Mrs. Dorothy Joy, in the berth opposite, helped her toward the door of the car.

"I saw a poor woman running toward me distracted," said Mrs. Jollie. "Her hand, held high, was nearly severed just above the wrist. 'Get scissors and take this off,' she gasped. Instead I tore my skirt and with a piece of wreckage made a first aid tourniquet, stanching the flow of blood and led her to a country doctor who was doing fine service.

"I saw women dig a child out of the wreckage and I helped farmer boys dig out a woman with our bare hands. My memory got hazy then and I don't remember much more."

Miss Ruth Zitzewitz of Chicago was thrown from her seat but escaped serious injury. She told of seeing the mangled body of a baby taken from the debris. John Kwohl, 61 years old, and his wife, although shaken up, helped in the rescue work. Otto Bauer of Chicago said he slept through it all until his wife awakened him.

The Gettysburg (Pennsylvania) Times

Tuesday, 16 June 1925, front page

(accessed 22 Feb 2012 at <http://Ancestry.com>)

25 IMMIGRANTS ARE KILLED ON WAY 'OLD HOME'

Train is Wrecked in Thunderstorm
Victims were Foreigners on Way Home

(By Associated Press) Hackettstown, New Jersey, June 16—Twenty-five persons are known to have lost their lives in the wreck of a Lackawanna special train two miles west of here early today. Fifty-two injured are in hospitals and many of them are in critical conditions. Hundreds of rescue workers arrived by daylight and two relief trains received the injured. Scalds and burns caused the most serious injuries. Steam was issuing from the wreckage three hours after the crash.

Bundled in blankets bodies of the victims were laid side by side on the grass. Passengers in the last two cars which did not leave the rails escaped injury. The train was filled with immigrants who had become prosperous in the middle west [sic] and were returning for a visit to their native lands accompanied by children and grand-children.

Back to Old County

The cars were decorated with banners reading: "See the old country again."

The train had been re-routed at Portland, Pennsylvania, over the old Lackawanna main line that was replaced by a cut-off twelve years ago. The tragedy occurred in what is known as the Rock Port sag where the rails dip into a hollow and then rise. Those who reached the wreck first could see the body of Fred Loomis, the engineer, his hand on the throttle together with his firemen. On the plowed-up road bed beneath the locomotive lay the twisted body of a little girl in a flimsy night-gown. The accident occurred in a terrific thunderstorm. The exact cause has not yet been ascertained. Early reports said that a bolt of lightning had struck the rails immediately in front of the locomotive.

The (Sterling and Rock Falls, Illinois) Daily Gazette

Wednesday, 17 June 1925, front page headline (price five cents)

(accessed 22 Feb 2012 at <http://sterlingpl.newspaperarchive.com>)

WRECK DEAD MOUNTS TO OVER FORTY

Most of Deaths Resulted From Scalding Steam
Eye Witnesses Tell of the Terrible Scene Which Followed the Wreck

The List of Dead (By United Press) The list of dead in yesterday's wreck of a special train at Hackettstown, N.J., today was as follows:

Nathan J. Banker, conductor, Scranton, Pa. Mrs. Antonio Bernhardt, Chicago. Paul Bernhardt, Chicago. Mrs. George Brechner, Chicago. Edwin Brunner, Chicago. Edwin F. Brunner, Jr., Chicago. Robert Brunner, Chicago. Mary Cimak, Chicago. Oscar Daniels, Chicago. Nicholas Gettner, Chicago. Mrs. Antonio Ernst, Chicago. Mrs. Barbara Fahrner, Chicago. Sophie Feininger, Chicago. Carl Gantz, Chicago. Elizabeth Grundie, Chicago. Carl Haehn, Scranton, Pa. Elsie Heinig, Chicago. Martin Heinig, Chicago. Martin Heinig, Jr., Chicago. Mrs. Augusta Isimann, Chicago. John Irion, Chicago. Mrs. Katherine Karling, Chicago. Mrs. Harmine Karmans, Chicago. Frederick Loomis, Scranton, Pa. Mrs. Lillian La Forge, address unknown. Gustave La Forge, address unknown. Mrs. Anna Meyers, Chicago. **Mrs. Caroline Moach**, Chicago. George Paula, address unknown. James Scanlan, Scranton, Pa. Philip Schuster, Chicago. Rudolph Troike, Chicago. Louise Troike, Chicago. Karoline Weinert, Chicago. Mrs. Elizabeth Wilgermein, Chicago. Helen Wagner, address unknown. Helen Bruner, aged 5, Chicago. Two unidentified men. One unidentified girl, aged about eight. One unidentified woman. Hans Foske, Chicago.

Hackettstown, N.J., June 17—(United Press).—The "German excursion" wreck of the Lackawanna railroad here today had claimed a toll that marks it as one of the worst railroad disasters in years. A recheck at the hospitals early today placed the dead at 43 men, women and children, with many more suffering terrible burns from which they may die. The cauldron of steam which engulfed over 100 passengers when the Lackawanna excursion train plunged into a sand-clogged switch near here early yesterday morning, buckling up day coaches and pullmans, brought the fatality rate to its gruesome figure. Most of the deaths resulted from steam burns which left the victims helpless and in agony. Though only seven bodies were found in the wreckage after the accident occurred, the death toll mounted rapidly throughout the day and last night as victims succumbed to burns and injuries in five New Jersey and Pennsylvania hospitals.

More Deaths Likely

Many of those still in hospitals are reported on the verge of death today and it is believed the final toll may draw close to fifty. The accident, which occurred on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, was due to a sand-clogged switch, resulting from the severe storm, according to the company's official report. Deadly steam that came hissing like a geyser from the broken pipes of the engine was responsible for three-quarters of the fatalities. Investigations of the accident have been started by the public utilities board, the interstate commerce commission, coroner's county detectives and the railroad. One fact already disclosed by the inquiries is that a coal train was wrecked recently at the same spot because of sand and gravel clogging the tracks.

Joseph Snyder, who lives near the scene of the tragedy, was the first to reach the smouldering [sic] mass of wreckage. In describing the scene, Snyder said: "It was like nothing I ever thought I'd see. There were men and women and kids all around everywhere, screaming worse than I ever heard. There was one fat woman who wasn't hurt a bit who was caught by the leg in a window and was hanging head down. We got her out. It was 15 minutes before the others came with the lanterns and we couldn't see anything. All we could do was to go toward the screams and they came from everywhere.

There was one big fellow, the biggest of the lot. He wanted me to shoot him. 'I'll pay you to shoot me,' he said, but of course, I couldn't even if I would. I had no gun."

Flagman Was Hero

A hero of the wreck was Barney Judge of Scranton, Pa., flagman of the ill-fated train and sole survivor of the crew. Though only semiconscious, he extracted himself from the wreckage, seized his red lantern, flares and torpedoes and crawled back to protect what was left of the train from a rear end collision. After placing flares and torpedoes [see "Torpedoes—What are those?" below] Judge reached a telephone and notified a train dispatcher of the tragedy. Then he returned to the scene and remained on duty until relieved. A tale of miraculous escape was told by Mr. and Mrs. John Pfiefer, elderly residents of Holy Cross, Iowa. Though riding in one of the forward cars they escaped with minor injuries when their coach [the text is no longer legible at the bottom of the column] [beginning at the top of the next column] "Are you hurt?" "Where are we?" "A poor woman ran distractedly toward me. Her hand, held high, was nearly severed above the wrist. 'Get scissors and take this off,' she gasped. I tore my skirt and with a piece of wood from the wreckage made a tourniquet, stanching the flow of blood and led her to a country doctor who was doing yeoman service. I heard a child groan with other women went to dig her out. Then we found another woman and with the aid of farmer boys managed to dig her out with our bare hands and took her where the doctor could get to her. My memory got fuzzy then and I don't remember much more."

[Torpedoes—What are those?] A torpedo is one of the oldest devices used by railroads in emergencies. It is a small dynamite charge that can be attached to a rail. As an engine rolls over the torpedo, its weight detonates the charge and the resulting boom alerts the engineer to approaching danger. In this case, Barney Judge probably walked backwards far enough so that any approaching train would detonate the torpedoes and have sufficient time to come to an emergency stop.]

New Castle (Pennsylvania) News

Wednesday, 17 June 1925, front page headline (first story)

(accessed 22 Feb 2012 at <http://Ancestry.com>)

WRECK DEATH TOLL NEARS 50

List of Dead in New Jersey Wreck

(International News Service) Hackettstown, N.J., June 17—Following is a revised list of the dead and injured in the disastrous [sic] train wreck at Rockport, N.J.

THE DEAD

At Easton, Pa.

Mrs. Antonia Ernst, 47, Chicago. Mrs. Louise Troike, 24, Cicero, Ill. Rudolph Troike, 29, husband. Philip Schuster, Chicago. Austin Daniels, 27, negro porter, Chicago. Mrs. Elizabeth Wengelmeim, Chicago. Edwin Brunner, 38, Chicago. Mrs. Anon Brunner, 37, wife. Edwin Brunner, Jr., 5, son. Robert Brunner, 6, son. Kathryn Brunner, 3, daughter. Martin Heinig, 37, Chicago. Mrs. Elsie Heinig, wife. Martin Heinig, 14, son. Nathan Banker, Jr., 1195? Lafayette avenue, Scranton, Pa. Gustav Laforge, 38?, Chicago. Mrs. Ella LaForge, wife. Mrs. Elizabeth Grunbel, Chicago. Otto Grunbel, husband. Helen Wagner, 7, Chicago. Mary Zink, 30, Chicago. Sophie Finninger, Chicago. Paul Benrhardt, Chicago.

Dead at Phillipsburg, N.J.

Mike Gettner, 41, Chicago. John Irion, 60, Chicago.

Dead at Morristown, N.J.

Mrs. Anna Meyers, 60, Chicago. William Meyers, husband. Mrs. George Brechner, 55, Chicago. Mrs. Barbara Farner, Chicago.

Dead at Dover, N.J.

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LIST OF DEAD IN NEW JERSEY WRECK

(Continued From Page One)

Mrs. Antonio Bernhardt, Chicago. Mrs. Barbara Fahrner, 65, Chicago. George Paule, Chicago. Mrs. Augusta Eiseman, Chicago.

Mrs. Caroline M. Rock, 63, Chicago.

The Dead at Hackettstown

Fred "Nigger" Loomis, engineer, Scranton, Pa. Carl Haen, fireman, Scranton. James Scanlon, flagman, Scranton. Barney Judge, trainman, Scranton, Pa. Unidentified girl, aged 8. Two unidentified women.

THE INJURED.

At Easton:

Critical:--

Joseph Brunner, 74, Chicago. William Muechenheim, 75, Elgin, Ill. Alfred Ernest, 16?, Chicago. Henry Karling, Chicago. Charles Heigel, Chicago. Joseph Sauer, Chicago. Rheinart Teschke, 56, Chicago. Mrs. Jeanne Jurgenson, Chicago. Theodora Jurgenson, 57, Chicago. Mrs. Clara Nestleberger, 46, Chicago. Mrs. William Rouermond, 51, Maywood, Ill. Irene Wengelmeim, 7, Chicago.

Seriously:--

Wilhelmina Lehman, 77, Chicago. Carl Engel, Chicago. William Kenney, 30, Chy? Passenger Agent D.L.W., Buffalo. Hulda Stanke, 53, Forest Park, Ill. Josephine Schmidt. Chicago. Charles Sauer, 56, Chicago. Elizabeth Sauer, 50, wife. Joseph Sauer, 45, Chicago. Charles Stock, 59?, Chicago. Henry Steffens, 55, Chicago. August Fox, 38, Chicago.

CRITICALLY INJURED

Phillipsburg Hospital:

Clemens Sch?d, 47, Chicago. Mrs. Catherine West, 74, Chicago. John Niemann, 70, Evanston, Ill. John Hausen, 72?, Chicago. Mrs. Louise Kauffmann, 43, Chicago.

Dover Hospital:

John Kimicektz, 48, Chicago. A. Loske, 60, Chicago. Kathryn Wengelmeim, 16, Chicago.

New Castle (Pennsylvania) News

Wednesday, 17 June 1925, front page headline (second story)
(accessed 22 Feb 2012 at <http://Ancestry.com>)

WRECK DEATH TOLL NEARS 50

Official Probe Into Disaster Gets Under Way
Investigators Start Probe Along Three Separate Lines—Death Toll May Reach Fifty
QUESTION OVER BODIES ARISES
Vanguard of Relatives of Fatal Wreck Reach Hackettstown—Victims Were Tourists

(Bulletin) (International News Service) Hackettstown, N.J., June 17.—The death toll in the Lackawanna train wreck mounted slowly upward today as three investigations got underway to fix responsibility for the catastrophe. A rechecking of the casualties listed in half a dozen hospitals this morning fixed the dead at 43 and the injured at 31, with the probability existing that the dead my [sic] total 50 before nightfall. Some of those injured cannot survive, according to physicians.

Dead From Chicago.

Aside from the members of the train crew, most of whom came from Scranton, Penna., all of the dead and injured were from Chicago. They had left their homes Sunday on the special D.L. and W. train, bound for Hoboken where they expected to sail on Thursday for a long-awaited holiday in Germany. For some of the excursionists, the trip represented the saving and dream of a lifetime. All were of German descent and many of them came to the years ago as immigrants.

Aboard the United States liner Republic are 143? of the approximately 250 tourists, many of whom were treated aboard ship by surgeons for injuries received in the crash and burns from clouds of steam which enveloped the wreckage. The Republic sailed yesterday, after waiting two hours for a special train to bring the survivors and slightly injured from Rockport.

Investigations Start.

Three separate investigations are being conducted by James Maybury, Jr., chief of the bureau of railroads of the board of public utility commissioners of New Jersey; Coroner Fisher of Warren County, and E.M. Rine?, vice president and general manager of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad. A question of authority developed today over disposition of the bodies. Coroner Walter J. Cathrail? of Northampton county, Pa., issued an order that no bodies be removed from Easton until he had conducted an inquest. On receipt of this order, Dr. Paul Correll, chief surgeon of the Easton hospital, said he would ask for a court order to permit relatives to claim the bodies. Coroner Fisher of Warren county, N.J., who is to hold an inquest at the scene of the wreck said he favored an immediate burial of all bodies.

Relatives Arrive.

The vanguard of relatives and friends of the dead and injured were expected to arrive here and at
(Continued On Page Two)

OFFICIAL PROBE INTO DISASTER GETS UNDER WAY

(Continued From Page One)

Easton today, many of them having left Chicago yesterday. In the various towns where the injured are being treated and bodies in morgues, local citizens had formed committees of sorrow to assist in the matter of hotel and other accommodations for those who were coming. Offers of financial assistance were being made by a number of prominent business men.

That the death list would total 50 shortly was the prediction of doctors. Of the injured in the Easton hospital nearly all were suffering from first degree burns caused by steam of the wrecked engine. In Warren hospital, in Phillipsburg, six of the injured were in a critical condition, two of the eight removed there having died during the night.

In Critical Condition.

Of the nine victims taken to the hospital at Dover, N.J., six died and the three remaining were in such a critical condition that surgeons held out no hopes for them. Three victims in the Memorial hospital at Morristown, N.J. died before 8 o'clock last night. The morgue of C.W. Cochrane, here, held six bodies, the seventh, that of Jacob Scanlon, having been sent to Scranton. Of the six bodies Cochrane said scalding steam had made possible identification remote.

The (Sterling and Rock Falls, Illinois) Daily Gazette

Thursday, 18 June 1925, front page headline (below the crease)

(accessed 22 Feb 2012 at <http://sterlingpl.newspaperarchive.com>)

DEATH TOLL IN TRAIN WRECK IS INCREASED TO 45

Hackettstown, N.J. June 18—(United Press)—The death toll of the Lackawanna train wreck Tuesday at Rockport, near here today stood at 45. Miss Irene Wilgemin and Clemons Schmidt, both of Chicago, are the latest victims who have died. Twelve of the 24 injured passengers still in hospitals are reported in critical condition and fatalities may reach 50. Meanwhile six separate investigations of the tragedy are underway. Bodies of many of the victims will be taken to Chicago today on a special train. The bodies of two men, a woman and a child, have yet to be identified.

The injured are: William Muckenheim, Elgin, Ill., seriously. Clara Neatleberger, Chicago, Improved. Mrs. Gertrude Rotermund, Maywood, Ill., improved. Mrs. Hilde Stanke, Forest Park, Chicago, improved. Joseph Brunner, Chicago, serious. Alfred Ernest, Chicago, serious.

The following, all from Chicago: Chas. Heigel. Henry Carling. Joseph Bauer. Reinhart Teschke. Mrs. Jeannette Jurgenson, serious. Mrs. Theodoro Jurgenson. Wilhelmian Lehman. Josephine Schmidt. Charles Sauer. Charles Stock. Irene Wilgermein, very serious. August Fox. Henry Steffens. Karl Engel. Mrs. Louise Kaufman, very serious. John H. Hanson, serious. Mrs. Catherine Weise. O. Clemons Schmidt, very serious burned, but good chance for recovery. John Niemann ??????? serious. William ???????????.

COMING OUR WAY

[The last 8 lines of the column are not legible.]

St. Petersburg (Florida) Time

Thursday, 18 June 1925, front page

(accessed 29 Feb 2012 by searching "archives" at <http://news.google.com>)

DEATH TOLL REACHES 44 IN DISASTER

Funeral Train From East Will Take Bodies to Illinois

NO NEGLIGENCE FOUND

Most of Victims From Chicago in Hackettstown Train Wreck

Hackettstown, N.J., June 17.—(A.P.)—The death toll of the wreck of the special immigrant train of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad at Rockport Sag yesterday, was definitely tonight at 44 by officials of the railroad.

Score Are Injured

The official list placed 23 bodies at Easton, Pa.; eight at Hackettstown; seven at Dover; three at Morristown and three at Phillipsburg. At least a score are still suffering injuries in hospitals, several being in a serious condition from scalds and burns. Prosecutor S.C. Smith, jr., of Phillipsburg [sic] who had investigators at work all day, expressed the opinion that the wreck was caused by the locomotive striking a switch covered with sand and dirt washed down by a violent storm. So far, he said, he had discovered nothing to indicate negligence by the railroad company. Two coroner's [sic] inquests were adjourned to permit witnesses to testify later.

Only eight of the victims were killed outright, the remaining 36 dying in hospitals. Most of them came from Chicago and were members of an annual excursion to Germany. Eighty of them who escaped injury sailed yesterday on the Republic. Five members of the family of Edwin Brunner of Chicago, including three young children, were listed among the dead. Seven of the victims in a hospital at Easton, Pa., and five remaining at Phillipsburg are in critical condition and their recovery is regarded as doubtful.

Bodies To Chicago

Officials of the Lackawanna company and the United States Steamship lines today made arrangements for a special train to take the bodies to Chicago. Tentative plans for the funeral train provided for its departure late tomorrow. Special cars will receive the bodies here in Morristown, Dover, Easton and Phillipsburg during the afternoon and they will be attached to a train that is due in Chicago Friday at 9:20 p.m. The list of dead follows are [sic] from Chicago unless otherwise specified:

EASTON

Mrs. Antonio Ernest, Philip Schuster, Oscar Daniels (porter), Mrs. Elizabeth Wilgermein, Irene Wilgermein, 15; Martin Heinig, sr., Gustave Lafarge, Mrs. Ella Lafarge, Mrs. Mary Zinc, Mrs. So-

(continued on Page 2, Sec. 1)

DEATH TOLL REACHES 44 IN DISASTER—Funeral Train From East Will Take Bodies to Illinois (continued From Page One)

phie Finniger, Mr. Louis Troke, Cicero, Ill.; Rudolph Troike, Mrs. Elsie Heinig, jr., Edwin Brunner, sr., Mrs. Anna Brunner, Edwin Brunner, jr., 5; Robert Brunner, 6; Anna Brunner, 3; Mrs. Elizabeth Grundie, Helen Wagner, Nathan Baker, jr., Scranton, Pa.; Paul Bernhardt.

PHILLIPSBURG

John Irion, **Mrs. Caroline Mroch**, Nicholas Naertner.

HACKETTSTOWN

Fred Loomis, engineer, Scranton; Carl Haen, fireman, Scranton; James Scanlon, trainman, Stroudsburg; Mrs. Herminie Karman; Mrs. Caroline Weinert, two unidentified men, an unidentified child about 3.

DOVER

George Taule, Mrs. Augusta Eiseman, Mrs. Antonie Berghardt, Mrs. Francis Karling, Mrs. Paul Fahrner, Carl Ganeom.

MORRISTOWN

Mrs. Anna Meirs, Barbara Fahrner, Mrs. S. Brechner.

Schenectady (New York) Gazette

Thursday, 18 June 1925, front page

(accessed 29 Feb 2012 by searching "archives" at <http://news.google.com>)

DEATH TOLL 44 IN FINAL CHECK OF D., L. AND W.

Score Still in Hospitals at Easton, Phillipsburg and Dover, Some Scalded
THREE INVESTIGATIONS OF TRAIN WRECK NOW ON
Five Dead Reported in One Family
Relatives Brought on by Road

HACKETTSTOWN, N.J., June 17 (AP) The death toll of the wreck of the special immigrant train of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad at Rockport Sag yesterday, which had fluctuated today because of confusion in identification, tonight was definitely set at 44 by officials of the railroad. At least a score of persons are still in hospitals at Easton, Phillipsburg and Dover, several of them seriously burned and scalded.

Warren county officials today were conducting three separate investigations. Prosecutor Smith of Phillipsburg, who had investigators at work all day, tonight said that so far he had discovered nothing to indicate negligence by the railroad company. Two coroner's inquests were held, one under Justice of the Peace Wildrick of Hackettstown, and the other under County Physician Cummings of Belvidere. Both inquests were adjourned to permit witnesses to testify later. Coroner Fischer of Phillipsburg also empaneled [sic] a coroner's jury. The public utilities commission directed investigation of the disaster, but is not expected to make public its report for several days.

Few Instant Deaths.

Only eight of the victims were killed outright, the remaining 36 dying in hospitals. Among the unidentified dead at Hackettstown was the body of a man found when a wrecking crew lifted the shattered [sic] locomotive from the bottom of an embankment. It was thought he might be a railroad worker riding from Scranton to New York.

Railroad men denied that the locomotive boiler had exploded, asserting that if it had it would have meant death for many more persons. The live steam was said to have escaped through broken pipes.

It was announced today that the railroad will offer accommodations for relatives of the victims to come from Chicago to care for the bodies. In several cases more than one member of the same family, enroute to a holiday trip, were killed. Five members of the family of Edwin Brunner of Chicago, including three young children, were listed among the dead.

The (Sterling and Rock Falls, Illinois) Daily Gazette

Friday, 19 June 1925, page 2

(accessed 22 Feb 2012 at <http://sterlingpl.newspaperarchive.com>)

[A photo appeared with this caption] WHERE MANY WERE TRAPPED WHILE ASLEEP—In one of the worst railroad wrecks in many months 43 were killed and scores seriously injured when a train derailed near Hackettstown, N.J. Most of the victims were German excursionists from Chicago, Ill., on their way to sail from New York to Berlin. Here is a comprehensive view of the wreck. Note the garments of passengers and the bandages of rescue workers in the foreground.