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FATAL ACCIDENT AT HAMSTEAD COLLIERY. A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE.

Coincidence has seldom been more curiously illustrated than in the case at Hamstead. On Thursday (October 31st), John Peckover, aged 33, the husband of Louisa Peckover, of 104, Hamstead Cottages, was killed by a fall of coal at the mine. Curiously enough, this accident occurred on the eleventh anniversary, to the very day, of the death of Mrs. Peckover's first husband, who was accidentally killed on the railway near Great Barr Station.

These facts transpired at, an inquest held on Saturday morning, at the Beaufort arms, by Mr. H. A. Pearson. Coroner for South Staffordshire,

At 5.15. on Thursday afternoon deceased was at work in No. 11 stall, in company with John Wright and Joseph Davis, stallmen. An hour previously the day shift men had been conducting some blasting operations, which had brought down a quantity of coal. Wright, assisted by Peckover, endeavoured with a pick to bring down part of the coal remaining, They were not successful, and Wright who was in charge, instructed Peckover to join Davis, who was filling a tub close by. For some unexplained reason it is conjectured that the unfortunate man went for a drink of tea - Peckover, instead of taking a safe road to Davis, passed under the overhanging coals. The stall-man shouted out a warning, but it was too late. A bump occurred at that moment, and deceased was buried in an avalanche of coal and slack. His body, terribly mutilated, was recovered a few minutes later-

Mr. Pickering (Inspector of Mines), who had investigated the case, was of the opinion that there had been no breach, of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and the Coroner remarked that this was the third case of the kind he had had to inquire into during the past three days. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".