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MIDDLETOWN, DE -- A pair of Clydesdales charged uncontrolled down the town's 150th anniversary parade route Saturday, dragging an antique carriage and its two drivers perilously close to onlookers.

The horses were pulling a 19th century antique hearse with Lewis Douglas and Frank Mayer on board.

As the horses approached the intersection of Broad and West Main streets, they were "spooked" about 12:15 p.m. and began barreling directly toward about 100 people gathered in the intersection where the parade route turned right onto Main Street, Douglas said.

"They were coming right at us," said Tina Finch, a Middletown resident watching the parade with her two daughters. "I didn't know what to do. We were definitely scared."

As the 2,000-pound horses charged toward the frightened onlookers, Douglas tried reining them in, but his controls became caught in a buckle securing the horses, leaving him unable to slow down, he said.

"It was the scariest thing I have ever seen," said Kathryn Meredith, who found herself in the path of the charging horses with her two sons.

Douglas was able to steer the horses onto Main Street to avoid the onlookers, but the horses continued to gather speed and narrowly missed multiple onlookers.

With the carriage's brakes fully applied, the horses dragged the swerving and screeching hearse into a parked car, sending Douglas and Mayer flying and ending the scare.

Douglas and the horses were not injured.

Mayer was bloodied from a gash to the side of his head, but declined medical treatment.

Middletown police said there were no other injuries from the incident.

"[Douglas] looked scared, but I give him a lot of credit for being able to steer away from all these people," Finch said.