



the **Prairie Tales** podcast

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SOURCE ARTICLES

1882-21 – Keep The Home Fires Buring (Without Losing Your Dress)

OUTSIDE THE HOME

FATAL ACCIDENT - Last Thursday afternoon R. D. Lender's little daughter was burned so severely that she died the same evening. It seems that Mr. Lender had been burning some rubbish on his lot, and the child while playing ran thro' the cinders, when her dress caught fire and before it could be extinguished her clothes were nearly burnt off. The child lived 3 or 4 hours, when death relieved her of the terrible suffering. It is a sad affair, reminding parents that they cannot be too careful with fire. *The Fort Scott Weekly Monitor, Fort Scott, Kansas. Wednesday, March 25, 1868. Page 5.*

UNNAMED VAGRANT - Yesterday morning, about 10 o'clock, one of the vagrant women who, with others, plies her nefarious calling on the Government Reserve, was almost burnt to death by her clothes catching fire. She and some of her companions had kindled a fire in the brush, at a point between the Government corral and the river, and through carelessness, her dress caught fire, and before assistance reached her, she was almost burned to death. A negro at last succeeded in tearing the burning clothes from her person, though in doing so he had his hands badly burned. We could not ascertain what the city physician thought of her case, but it was the opinion of those who saw her that she could not live. *The Leavenworth Daily Tribune, Lawrence, Kansas. Wednesday, October 28, 1868. Page 2.*

WILSON COUNTY KS - We are pained to learn of a most distressing accident that happened to an old citizen of Johnson County. As our readers will remember, some months ago Dr. James moved with his family to Wilson County, Kansas. It seems that a few weeks ago, Mrs. James, in order to protect their residence from the ravages of prairie fires, set out fires in the immediate vicinity of their house. In attempting to control the flames her dress caught fire, and before assistance could be rendered her clothes were completely burned off. At the time our informant left Mrs. James was not dead, but hope of her recovery was given up by her friends. *The Olathe Mirror.*

Reprinted by the Leavenworth Daily Times, Leavenworth, Kansas. Sunday, November 27, 1870. Page 2.

We are pained to learn of the accidental burning of Mr. James Buckminster's youngest daughter. The little girl was playing about the edges of a fire which had been kindled for the kindling of the cleaning out of sand burs and her dress caught fire. Her left side was burned from the hip to the arm so that the skin fell off. The accident occurred at Mr. Buckminster's home, on the hills, west of town. *The Republican Daily Journal, Leavenworth, Kansas. Friday, August 18, 1876. Page 4.*

At a dramatic performance given by the Fort Scott Egotistical Club, Miss Ella Terry's dress caught fire from a gas jet in the dressing room, and she was badly burned about the neck and shoulders before the flames could be extinguished. *The Junction City Union, Junction City, Kansas. Saturday, October 18, 1873. Page 2.*

INSIDE THE HOME

KOLB ACCIDENT - A little girl by the name of Kolb, of Garnett, aged about 9 years old, while attending to some cooking about the stove one day last week, her dress caught fire, and she was so badly burned that her life is despaired of. *The Daily Atchison Patriot, Atchison, Kansas. Friday, October 7, 1870. Page 4.*

CHERRYVALE - A little daughter of Edwin Carter, living near Cherryvale, Kansas, was burned to death on January 31, her mother who had occasion to go on an errand to a neighbor's house leaving her children at home. During her absence the little girl, aged about 6 years, undertook to stir the soup, when her dress caught fire. There being no water at the house, she tried to smother the flames by getting into bed, but was unable to do so, and then ran out into the yard and screamed for help. Before help arrived, however, she was burned to a crisp and only lived about 3 hours. *The Wichita Weekly Beacon, Wichita, Kansas. Wednesday, February 4, 1874. Page 4.*

CHILD BURNED - A little girl, daughter of Joseph Vincent, a farmer living in Iola township, Cherokee county, across the river a few miles east of Oswego, was dangerously if not fatally burned on the 2nd inst. She was frying doughnuts and by some means, either by the blaze of burning grease or in drawing the stove lid, her dress caught fire and burnt clear off her, save a small strip about the neck. The child still survives but suffers untold agonies. *The Independent, Oswego, Kansas. Saturday, July 4, 1874. Page 3.*

A GOOD EXAMPLE - Mrs. George Alfred Townsend recently displayed a presence of mind which ladies about to set themselves on fire would do well to imitate. Her dress having caught fire from the parlor grate she threw herself on the floor, rolling over and over into the next room, and having thus partially smothered the flames, tore off her burning dress without sustaining

much injury, except for her hands. *The Daily Atchison Patriot, Atchison, Kansas. Saturday, December 19, 1874. Page 1.*

ATCHISON - A colored woman was burned to death in this city yesterday. A coal of fire fell on her clothing from a pipe that she was smoking. Her dress caught fire, and before it could be extinguished she was so badly burned that she died. *The Republican Daily Journal, Lawrence, Kansas. Friday, January 28, 1876. Page 2.*

HOLT CO, MO - Woman burned to death. On Sunday evening, January 30th, the wife of Alphens Level, living in the lower Tarkio Bottom, in Holt County, Missouri, was attending to a sick child, standing with her back to the fire, when her dress caught fire, and before aid could reach her, she was so badly burned that she died in a few hours. *The Kansas Chief, Troy, Kansas. Thursday, February 10, 1876. Page 3.*

ALBA, IOWA - A five-year-old daughter of Judson Kerr, residing near Alba, Iowa, was burned to death a few days ago. It is supposed that, during the temporary absence of her mother, she attempted to stir the fire with a hot poker, from which her dress caught fire, as when discovered her clothes were all in flames. *The Neosho County Record, Erie, Kansas. Saturday, January 20, 1877. Page 2.*

WAMEGO, KANSAS - A 9-year-old Russian girl was burned so badly at Wamego week before last that she died next day. Her dress caught fire while she was emptying cow chips into the stove. *The Jewell County Monitor Jewell Centre, Kansas. Thursday, May 30, 1878. Page 2.*

HAYS CITY, KS - Last Monday, about noon, Mrs. F. Patterson, who resides 35 miles southeast of this city, was burned to death. She was cooking at her stove when her dress caught fire and in an instant the flames enveloped her person. She dashed a bucket of water over herself, then rushed out of doors, rolled upon the ground, and succeeded in extinguishing the flames, but not until everything but her belt, corset, and shoes was burned entirely off. She lingered until 7 o'clock and died in the greatest agony. *The Hays City Sentinel, Hays City, Kansas. Saturday, October 5, 1878. Page 3.*

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