

**Mrs. Pursley Burned Alive**

Rekindled Stove fire with Petroleum from oil can.

Woman a Living Torch

Son and Daughter Made Heroic Effort to Save Their Mother  
and Were Themselves Severely Burned.

Mrs. Alice Pursley, wife of J. W. Pursley, aged 52 years, was so severely burned Sunday morning at her home, No. 662 East Fifteenth street, that death resulted six hours later.

Mr. Pursley, who is the proprietor of the Pregge hotel dining room and lunch counter, arose about 5 o'clock Sunday morning and built a fire in the heating stove in his sleeping apartments. Mrs. Pursley arose about an hour later, dressed herself and, after a short conversation with her husband before he started for his place of business, she went to the kitchen and started a fire in the range.

Mrs. Pursley returned to her room where she remained until about 7 o'clock, when she returned to the kitchen and ascertained that the fire in the range was burning very slowly. She got an oil can, which Mr. Pursley says did not contain more than half a pint of oil, and poured a portion of the inflammable fluid into the stove. The oil and gas in the can ignited, exploded and burning oil was thrown all over Mrs. Pursley's clothing, which was instantly set on fire.

The screams of the burning woman brought her son, Jesse Pursley, aged 23 years, and her daughter, Miss Pearl Pursley, aged 17 years, to her aid. When the children reached the kitchen their mother was so enveloped in flames that they could barely see the outline of her body. A neighbor who heard Mrs. Pursley's cries for help and joined the children in their efforts to save the woman's life, says Mrs. Pursley appeared to him to be a living torch, with flames wrapped around her from her feet to the top of her head.

Bed clothing and a feather bed were thrown over and around Mrs. Pursley and the flames, which had consumed all of the woman's clothing, were quickly smothered and extinguished. The unfortunate woman was so severely burned that Dr. S. G. Crawford, who had been called to attend her, pronounced her injuries fatal and beyond the aid of medical skill. The burns were so severe and deep that the flesh fell off, exposing the bones. Death came to the relief of the suffering woman at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Jesse and Pearl Pursley, in extinguishing the flames which were burning their mother to death, had their hands and arms severely burned. The son's injuries were more severe than those of his sister. Drs. H. B. Cole and E. A. Wood attended them and dressed their injuries.

The funeral of Mrs. Pursley was held at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon from Miller's chapel, three miles east of Longwood, the services being conducted by Rev. Reed, a Baptist clergyman. The burial was in the cemetery adjoining the chapel.