

(Unidentified Newspaper Article)

WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH; MOTHER TERRIBLY INJURED

Gasoline Stove Causes Deplorable Tragedy in the West End

MRS. BARBARA SOMMERS DIED AFTER THREE HOURS.

Mother Made Effort to Save Her, but Was Too Feeble to Extinguish Flames.

RECALLS ANOTHER TRAGEDY

Mrs. Barbara Sommers, fifty years of age, died at her home, 2209 Twenty-six street, at 9:30 o'clock last night, in terrible agony from burns suffered three hours previous. Mrs. Anna Gump, aged seventy-two years, Mrs. Sommers' mother is in a dangerous condition from being burned about the hands, arms and face in a futile effort to save her daughter. The accident, which resulted in the death of Mrs. Sommers and the probable fatal injury of her mother, occurred at 5:30 o'clock last evening. While preparing the evening meal on a gasoline stove, Mrs. Sommers failed to notice that a thin stream of the gasoline was pouring on the floor from a leak in the tank of the stove. Before she realized her danger, the fumes were ignited and the flame caught the bottom of her dress. Dumbfounded by her predicament, she stood still while the flames rapidly ate their way up her light cambrie skirt.

AGED MOTHER'S HEROIC EFFORT

Mrs. Gump, her aged mother, was sitting in the back yard at the time, and attracted by her daughter's screams, she rushed into the kitchen and attempted to beat out the flames with her hands. Her mother's feeble efforts were of no avail. Mrs. Sommers rushed into the yard and tried to extinguish the flames by rolling in the grass. Arthur Reccius, the fifteen-year-old son of John Reccius, was playing in the yard of his home, which is immediately in back of the Sommers residence, when he saw Mrs Sommers in flames. He rushed into his home and procuring a blanket, went to her rescue. With the blanket, he succeeded in smothering the flames.

SON FINDS MOTHER DYING

Meantime, Antone Sommers had come home from work and went to the kitchen to kiss his mother, as was his custom. He found his grandmother lying on the floor writhing in pain, and glancing toward the back yard, saw his mother lying there. He rushed to her side, and gathering her in his arms, carried her into the house. After he had placed her on a bed, he ran for a physician. Dr. T. E. Gosnell and Dr. J. P. Ferguson were summoned, but could only ease the dying woman's pain. Every portion of Mrs. Sommers' body except her face was burned, and in some places the flesh was seared to the bone. Just before passing away she said she knew she must die, and begged that her pain be eased.

MOTHER DOES NOT KNOW OF DAUGHTER'S DEATH

Because of the shock of the burns, accentuated by her extreme age, Mrs. Gump's condition is regarded as critical. She has not been informed of her daughter's death, and despite her own suffering her concern seems to be for her daughter. Mrs. Sommers was one of the best-known residents of the West End, where she had resided for many years. She is survived by ten children, whose ages range from seven to twenty-four years. They are Charles, Antone, Katherine, Rudy, Annie, Julia, Carrie, John, Frank Sommers and Mrs. Charles Catelmaier.

The Louisville Courier-Journal - June 3. 1905

MOTHER DEAD,

GRANDMOTHER IN CRITICAL
CONDITION FROM BURN.

Leaking Gasoline Stove Cause of Ac-
cident—Boy's Prompt
Service.

Her flesh burned to a crisp by flames from a leaking gasoline stove, Mrs. Barbara Sommers, fifty years old, died late Thursday night at her home, 2209 Twenty-sixth street. Her mother, Mrs. Anna Gump, seventy-two years old, is in a critical condition from the shock and burns received in attempting to rescue her daughter.

The accident happened about 8:30 o'clock Thursday evening, while Mrs. Sommers was preparing supper. When she lighted the jet on the stove she did not notice a pool of gasoline on the floor, where a thin stream was pouring from a leak in the tank, and as she applied the match the fumes ignited and in a moment she was enveloped in the flame, that ran up the skirt of her dress.

Mrs. Gump was sitting in the yard when she heard her daughter's screams and rushed into the kitchen. She attempted to beat out the blaze with her hands, and in doing so received terrible burns about the hands, arms and face. Tearing herself from her mother, Mrs. Sommers ran into the yard and rolled in the grass in an effort to save herself.

Arthur Reclus, fifteen years old, was playing in the yard of his home at the time. He saw Mrs. Sommers in flames and ran to his home and procured a blanket, in which he wrapped Mrs. Sommers and smothered the flames.

Anthony Sommers, returning from work, went into the kitchen. There he found his grandmother writhing on the floor, and, glancing through the door, discovered the form of his mother lying in the grass. He rushed to her and carried her into the house, after which he summoned Drs. T. E. Gosnell and J. P. Ferguson. Mrs. Sommers was dying then, and the physicians directed their efforts to easing her pain. Every portion of her body was burned except her face. She was comatose to the end and called repeatedly for those about her to assuage her suffering.

The funeral will be held this morning at 9 o'clock from Holy Cross church. The interment will be in St. Louis cemetery. Mrs. Sommers is survived by ten children, whose ages range from seven to twenty-four years, as follows: Charles, Anthony, Katherine, Judy, Annie, Julia, Carrie, John and Rudolph Sommers and Mrs. Charles Cetelmaier. Her husband died two years ago in the Frankfort penitentiary at Frankfort, where he was sent for the attempted murder of Mrs. Sommers four years ago. One day, crazed with liquor, he entered the house and stabbed Mrs. Sommers with a butcher knife. He then plunged the weapon into his own breast, but both recovered. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, but his constitution was undermined by excessive drinking, and he died in prison.

Louisville Times - June 2, 1905

FATALLY

BURNED BY GASOLINE

**Mrs. Barbara Summers Victim
of Accident in Kitchen.**

WAS PREPARING SUPPER

Mrs. Barbara Summers, aged fifty-one years, who was burned while preparing supper on a gasoline stove at 5:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon at her residence at 2209 Twenty-sixth street, died at 9:15 o'clock last night.

Mrs. Summers was engaged in filling the gasoline stove and did not notice the pool of oil which had been spilled upon the floor. Her skirts subsequently became saturated, and when she applied the match to the stove she was immediately enveloped in a sheet of flames.

In answer to her cries for help her mother, Mrs. Annie Gump, rushed to her rescue, and was also severely burned about the arms.

Mrs. Summers was the widow of the late R. Summers, who was employed at the Conrad Tannery at the time of his death, which occurred five years ago. Mrs. Summers was a native of Germany and leaves a sister, Miss Annie Gump, there. The surviving children are: Katie, Annie, Judy, Antony, Charles, Rudolph, Frank and John, all of whom live at the family residence, and Treasie Summers, of Chicago, who was immediately telegraphed of her mother's condition. The funeral services will be held at Father Cunningham's church, at Thirty-second and Broadway, at 2:30 Saturday afternoon. The burial will be in St. Louis cemetery.