

L.C. BURNETT, JR, 1877-1903

He died 21 Feb 1903

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L.C. BURNETT, JR, INJURED
IN A HOTEL FIRE

Clifton Hotel at Cedar Rapids Burns Last Night

Mr. Burnett a Guest of the House

A telegram received by Mr. L.C. Burnett at 3:45 o'clock this morning informed him of the burning of the Clifton Hotel at Cedar Rapids, IA and that L.C. Burnett Jr., his son, who is traveling for a Chicago leather house, was a guest of the hotel at the time of the fire and was badly burned. No additional particulars were obtainable up to the hour of going to press, and the extent of Mr. Burnett's injuries could not be ascertained but from the contents of the telegram it is feared they are very serious. Mr. L.C. Burnett Sr. left on the first train for the scene of the disaster. Hundreds of the friends of the young man and his father's family will wait with much anxiety for definite news from his bedside, and will add most earnest wishes for his safety and recovery.

LOUIS BURNETT FATALLY INJURED

In A Hotel Fire at Cedar Rapids, Iowa-
His Father Gone to Him

From Friday's Daily

At an early hour this morning L.C. Burnett received a telegram announcing that his son, Louis C Burnett had been fatally injured in a hotel fire at Cedar Rapids, IA. He at once left for that place over the Missouri Pacific and hoped to be able to reach there this afternoon. The telegram contained none of the particulars and it is to be hoped that the injuries are not of a fatal nature.

Louis C Burnett is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. L C Burnett of this city. He was born here, was a graduate of the high school of this city and a very bright scholar. He traveled all over the world and the readers of "The News" will remember the letters from him that were published in "The News" at the time.

He was traveling for the firm of Elkin & Co of Chicago, a large hide firm, and was held in high esteem by his employers. He was here the fore part of the week on a visit with his parents and this news came rather as a shock to them.

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TERMINATED FATALLY

L.C. Burnett Jr. Succumbs to the Burns Received

From Saturday's Daily

"The News" Friday contained particulars of what was then considered the fatal burning of Louis C Burnett at Cedar Rapids, IA. The telegram stated that he was taken from the hotel to the hospital, where he lived until 5 o'clock this morning when death ended his suffering. The remains will be brought here for interment, the time of the funeral being announced later.

Louis C. Burnett Jr. was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Burnett, of this city, was some 25 or 26 years old, came to this city with his parents in 1879 and has since made his home here. He was an attendant of the high school for some time but did not graduate. At the breaking out of the war with Spain he went to San Francisco for the purpose of enlisting but on account of suffering from hernia he was unable to enlist. However he went on one of the transports, serving in the kitchen, and thus worked his way to Manila where he hoped he would be able to join the volunteers. He could not pass muster there, so he turned the journey into a pleasure trip and made a tour of the world. He gave the readers of "The News" a description of his travels, writing some very interesting and descriptive letters.

Some time ago he entered the employ of Elkins & Co, hide dealers, Chicago, and was working for them when he met with his fatal accident. The particulars of his death were not given further than that he had been fatally burned.

Louis was a young man of more than ordinary intelligence, bright, of genial disposition, and had a faculty of making friends wherever he went. He has a host of friends here who will deeply mourn his untimely death.

FUNERAL OF LOUIS C BURNETT, Jr.

Many Indications That He Gave Up
His Chances For Safety to Assist
Others to Safety

Beautiful Floral Tributes

The funeral services for Louis C Burnett, Jr. were held this afternoon from the First Methodist Episcopal church at 2 o'clock and were attended by hundreds who had known, loved and respected him during his lifetime. Mr. L.C. Burnett, father of the unfortunate young man, was able to reach his bedside at the Mercy Hospital, Cedar Rapids IA. before death claimed him and to give him a father's loving care during the last sad hours. From information received from various sources there is little doubt that Louis Burnett was an unassuming hero, that he sacrificed his life in a noble effort to assist others less able to care for themselves and that the delay resulting cut off his own chances of escape and made him one of the victims of the terrible disaster. His room was but sixteen feet above the street level, he was awakened among the first, and there is no doubt that an immediate effort to save himself would have resulted in his escape with at least but slight injury.

The exact facts will never be known for those he tried to aid are no doubt among the victims of the fire who today are cold in death. It seems that at the alarm he partially dressed in haste and placed the funds and valuable business papers of his firm in his inside pocket and passed into the hall toward the stairway. It is known that he encountered others in the hall, overcome by smoke and in all degrees of suffocation. From his good physical condition it is reasonable that he was not at once prostrated by the smoke and his courage and manhood prompted him to forget himself and attempt the rescue of the more unfortunate that surrounded him. Whatever he was able to accomplish will probably never be known, but it undoubtedly cost him his life. When finally forced to attempt his own escape the stairway was a blinding sheet of flame from top to bottom, glowing with the heat of a furnace. With the same inherent courage he dashed down the stairway through the blinding flames into the office, was confused, blinded, and missed the location of the office door, coming to the front at one of the large plate glass windows with which the office was enclosed. He dashed his entire weight against

the window, breaking it and falling out himself upon the sidewalk. He was immediately assisted by bystanders to whom he remarked the probable fatal character of his injuries and delivering to them the funds and papers of his employers for keeping, gave his father's address and requested that he be sent for. He was removed to Mercy Hospital, an institution conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, where everything that medical skill or tender nursing could accomplish was done for him, but without avail. He was badly burned about the head and arms and lower limbs, the extent of the injury being sufficient to preclude the possibility of recovery.