

Lola Henrietta Burnett 1872-1891

Allen Kennicott 1868-1892

IN A WATERY GRAVE

Miss Lola Burnett and Allen Kennicott Drowned on Thanksgiving Evening

Two well-known young people met a sudden and untimely death Thursday evening by drowning in a lake on Mr. Burnett's farm, about two and one half miles south of the city. The circumstances were peculiarly heartrending. The names of the two persons who met a watery grave were Mr. Allen Kennicott and Miss Lola Burnett. They were drowned while skating on the lake and no one witnessed the accident.

It seems that at 5:30 o'clock the young people had gotten ready to go to a party to be given at Mr. Michael Davis', some distance south east of Mr. Burnett's residence, but it being a little early to start they concluded to go down to the lake, a few rods distant, and enjoy skating, both being expert skaters and very fond of this sport. They left the house together and that was the last seen of them alive. Little did the mother think when they went out of the house chatting and laughing that it would be the last time she would ever hear their merry laughter and their cold and lifeless bodies would be returned to her in less than two short hours.

About half an hour afterwards Miss Burnett's brother, Louis, concluded that he would go over and join them on the ice. Going to the pond he was somewhat mystified in not finding them, and on looking around noticed two hats lying on the ice near two holes about ten feet from the bank. He at once recognized the hats as one worn by Mr. Kennicott and the other one worn by his sister when they left home. He at once gave the alarm. My John Overton and Capt O Butt heard his cries, hastened to the lake and taking in the situation at a glance at once began fishing for the bodies.

The holes in the ice were close together, a small strip of ice separating them and were each about two feet across, showing plainly that they were close together and after breaking through and going down they never came to the surface again. The surface of the ice was not broken save by these two holes which were just large enough to admit the bodies if they went down straight. It was plain that the young people were about to meet at this point on the ice, having come from opposite sides of the lake, and the ice had given way when they were about four feet apart and let them in. They must have both gone down at the same time and coming up under the ice were unable to break through and drowned without having a chance to struggle for life.

The ice at the place where they went down was thin, as there were several springs near, but there was no break in its surface to give warning to those who might venture out on its surface. The ice on the rest of the pond was thick enough to bear up anyone and had been skated over by a number of persons all day, among the number being the two unfortunate young people. The tracks over the ice showed plainly that the young people had been skating some little time before coming to the part of the lake where they broke through and were drowned.

A small boat was secured and the bodies were soon recovered, the first being that of Miss Burnett and then the body of Mr. Kennicott. The bodies were recovered almost directly under the holes in the ice.

The bodies were taken to the home of Mr. L.C. Burnett, which was near at hand, and there cared for by kind friends. The mother of Miss Burnett was alone at home when the news of her daughter was gently

broken to her, her husband being at Tecumseh. She bore the shock bravely and aided in comforting the mother of Mr. Kennicott when she arrived.

The young people were both highly respected, being members of the leading families of this county. They were highly educated and loved by all who knew them. It is understood that they were to have been married about Christmas.

Miss Lola Burnett was born at Mattoon, Ills, Sept 2 1872, and was brought to this state by her parents, Mr. & Mrs. L C Burnett, who moved to this city shortly afterwards. She was an unusually bright and lovable young lady and was one of the graduating class of the high school in this city who graduated last June and was the valedictorian. She was a most popular young lady and was a devout member of the Methodist church. She was the only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. L.C. Burnett and prior to her death had been teaching school at the Overton school house.

Mr. Allen Kennicott was born in Otoe county on the home place of the family south of this city May 20, 1868. He was an unusually bright and promising young man. He attended the college at Crete, Neb and afterwards went to Boston to complete his schooling in the higher branches. He was the son of Mr. & Mrs. William E Kennicott, old and well known settlers of this county.

The lake where the drowning occurred is situated on Mr. L.C. Burnett's farm two and one half miles south of the city. It is about three hundred feet long and sixty feet in width. Where the young people broke through the water was about nine feet deep and it was about ten feet from the shore. In fact, it was at about the deepest place on the lake where the accident occurred.

Mr. Burnett, who is a member of the well-known firm of McCulloch and Burnett, hide dealers, was at Johnson and was notified of the terrible accident this morning as he could not be found last night and he arrived home this afternoon. Harry, a brother of Mr. Kennicott, who is at Rochester, N.Y, was notified of the drowning and will arrive in the city Sunday.

Both young people were just beginning life in earnest and were full of future hopes and ambitions, and to be thus suddenly taken off is indeed a sad blow to their respective families as well as to their friends. **The News** tenders its heartfelt sympathy and feel that the families, who are all devout Christians, will receive the solace in their hour of bereavement that the All Wise Creator give to all who place their burden at His feet.

Coroner C N Karsten was sent for last evening as soon as the bodies were recovered, but on learning the circum- stances surrounding the sad death of the two young people concluded it was not necessary.

TWO LIVES BLOTTED OUT

Miss Lola Burnett and Allen Kennicott Find Watery Graves

DOUBLE DROWNING

A Most Distressing Accident That Signalized Thanksgiving Day. Drowned Within Sight Of Home, and all its Dear Memories

"Lulu and Al are drowned," were the startling words with which little Louis Burnett heralded his terrified mother at about 5:30 o'clock Thanksgiving afternoon. The little fellow's fears proved only too true. His sister, Miss Lola Burnett and her affianced husband, Mr. Allen Kennicott, had both drowned in a pond about which they had played most of their lives. The particulars of the sad affair are much as follows:

The two young people had spent much of the day together at Miss Burnett's home about two miles south; and as the afternoon waned they waited for a number of their young friends to arrive and accompany them to the residence of Mr. Michael Davis, where they were to attend a party. During the afternoon Miss Burnett had gone to the pond and pronounced the ice in a safe condition. To pass away an hour pleasantly at about 5 o'clock she suggested that they go to the pond and skate. The mother protested against the plan, as a careful woman will, but her warning was unheeded. Off the two young people skipped, full of the rush of youthful blood and totally unmindful of any misfortune.

After waiting for the young people about a half hour, Mrs. Burnett became anxious and at her suggestion a son, Louis, went to the pond, taking his skates, with the expectation of joining in the sport for a short time and then accompany his sister home. One can hardly imagine the feelings of the little fellow when he arrived at the pond. Not seeing or hearing either of the young people, he set out to cross the pond, and even stepped into one of the holes in the ice. He rescued himself and then saw the hats of both of those whom he sought laying on the ice. This solved the matter in his young mind. He ran back to the house and informed the mother, who was alone, Mr. Burnett being absent in Johnson at the time. The neighbors were aroused, and Mr. John Overton soon arrived. Two holes in the ice about a foot apart and the abandoned hats on the ice told him the terrible tale.

The pond is only two hundred feet long and half as wide, and the holes were about fifteen feet from the shore. Mr. Overton set at work at once to recover the bodies, and with the aid of a garden rake succeeded in rescuing the body of Miss Burnett. By that time Mr. O Butts and Mr. Albert Harmon arrived, and with the aid of a boat they obtained the body of Mr. Kennicott.

The circumstances surrounding the drowning were most peculiar. Apparently the happy couple had been skating along together hand in hand. Elated by the pleasure in the invigorating sport they forgot for a moment that a spring existed at that point. The warmer water of the spring tended to melt the ice there and like a shot they must have fallen to the bottom, never to rise again. The holes were only large enough to admit the passage of their bodies, and had any warning been given of the danger they doubtless could have saved themselves by throwing out their arms. But the rotten ice over the spring gave way like a trap door, and the heavier layer of ice all around precluded the possibility of rising to the surface. The bodies were found almost directly under the holes which had yawned beneath them.

The bodies were taken to the house at once and Coroner Karstens summonsed but after hearing the circumstances of the accident concluded there was no need for an inquest. Yesterday Mr. Kennicott's remains were taken to his father's home about a mile distant. The funerals will probably be held tomorrow at 2PM from the Methodist Church. Both will be buried together.

Both of the young people were most highly respected by all who ever knew them. Miss Burnett was the daughter of Mr. L.C. Burnett of the well-known firm of McCulloch and Burnett of this city. She was born at Mattoon, Ill. September 2 1872, and came to this city with her parents when but a child. She was a most talented young lady, graduating with the honors of her class at the high school in the city last June. She was shortly afterwards appointed substitute teacher in the public school. A young lady with the highest devotion to truth, her valedictory oration upon graduating was one of the most sterling merit.

Mr. Kennicott was the son of Mr. William E Kennicott, one of the best known farmers of the county. He had secured a thorough education, having graduated at Crete with honors, and afterwards studying at Boston. He was a gentleman with high aspirations and of the most noble purposes.

The two young people had but recently plighted their vows to unite their lives. Christmas was set as their wedding day, and then they were to move to Indianola, Red Wing county, to begin life in earnest. There Mr. Kennicott had purchased a farm, and the two young and ambitious people were to make for themselves a home.

Sad News For The Father

Mr. L.C. Burnett returned home Friday afternoon, having driven overland from Johnson, where a telegram sent by Thos. McCulloch stating that he "had sad news for him, come home." He little dreamed how sad indeed that the news would be to him, for his daughter was his idol. He was met about two miles from home by kind friends and the sad news broken to him as gently as possible. He broke down completely and refused to be comforted. He takes the death of his daughter much harder to heart than did his brave little wife who has borne up bravely under the heavy blow.

The remains of Allen Kennicott, the young man who was drowned with Miss Burnett, was Friday afternoon taken from Mr. Burnett's residence to his parent's home where they will be kept until the brother, who is at Rochester, N.Y, and who has been telegraphed the news, reaches this city. The funeral was arranged for Sunday afternoon at the Eleventh St. M.E. church. These two who had pledged their lives to each other and were not separated in death will occupy the same grave. The services will be conducted by Rev. G.H. Moulton assisted by Rev. Dr. Green.

The Last Sad Rites

A large concourse of sorrowing friends paid their last sad rites Sunday afternoon to all that was mortal of the late Miss Lola Burnett and Allen Kennicott, the two young people who were drowned Thanksgiving evening. The services were held at the Eleventh street M.E. church, and that edifice was not large enough to accommodate one third of those who desired to gain admittance. The caskets were covered with lovely flowers, the class of 1892 contributing a large handsome wreath. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev G H Moulton, he referring particularly to the pure lives led by the young couple, how they had united with the church when young, and the good influence they had exerted upon those with whom they came in contact. His text was, "I go to prepare you a mansion." Rev Dr Green also made a short address. At the conclusion of the services an opportunity was given the friends to take a farewell view of the remains, and then the large cortege slowly wended its way to Wyuka where the two caskets were placed side by side in one grave.

The pallbearers for Miss Burnett were Misses Mabel Gilmore, Maggie Koontz, Mabel Stafford, Nora Thorp, Mary Thompson and Minnie Gilman, all members of the graduating class of 1892. The pallbearers of Mr. Kennicott were W. S. Hyer, Frank Field, Sanford Overton, John, Albert and Walter Cassel.
