

Clara Butts

(- 21 Mar 1851)

The National Intelligencer, March 22, 1851

Afflicting Circumstance

On Thursday morning, after Mr. Jesse S. Butts, living on G, between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets, an employee of the Post Office Department, had left home to attend to his business, his wife departed, (it is said in search of a servant) intending to return in a short time, previously cautioning the eldest child, Clara, aged six or seven years, to avoid approaching the stove, the front of which was closed. There were three other smaller children in the room. Clara, however, it is reasonably supposed, forgot the injunction; for by some means her clothes took fire, and, the carpet leading to the lower story being burnt in several places, the child must have run in the direction of the yard, and then retraced her steps. The mother, when she returned discovered the girl lying on her face in the upper room--life was extinct. The body was horribly burnt, believed to the heart.--Republic.