

## Phoebe Pacha

( - 8 Mar 1907)

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### **Receives Fatal Burns**

#### **Horrible Death of Mrs. Phoebe Pacha**

By the overturning of a lamp in the kitchen of the home of Dr. W. Lee White, on Minnesota avenue, last night, Mrs. Phoebe Pacha, fifty years old, a domestic in the house, was fatally burned. Following the accident she was removed to the Casualty Hospital, where she lingered between life and death until about 6 o'clock this morning, when she died. Coroner Nevitt will make an investigation this afternoon.

As Mrs. Pacha was the only one in the room when the accident occurred the details will never be known. John A Dalton, stable man for Dr. White, was asleep in the room adjoining the kitchen. When he retired to bed, shortly after 8 o'clock, he left Mrs. Pacha in the kitchen with a lighted lamp on the table. Between 10 and 11 o'clock he was awakened by a scream uttered by Mrs. Pacha. The cries were repeated in rapid succession and he hurriedly entered the kitchen.

Standing in the doorway leading from the kitchen to the outside air was Mrs. Pacha wrapped in flames. All her clothing was ablaze and she was screaming in agony. Dalton ran back to his room, pulled the bed clothing from his bed and wrapped it about her. That smothered the flames and Mrs. Pacha fell to the floor. Dalton then set to work to remove her clothing.

William White, son of Dr. White, attracted by Mrs. Pacha's cries, had meanwhile arrived and found the kitchen table in flames.

On its top was the overturned lamp and the oil from it was burning. Mr. White threw the lamp from the window and quickly extinguished the flames. Then he turned to give aid to Mrs. Pacha. Mrs. White, mother of the young man, also came to her assistance. When it was seen that she was severely injured he ran to a patrol box and notified the Anacostia police. They summoned the ambulance from the Casualty Hospital, and in the shortest possible time the vehicle reached the house and Mrs. Pacha was conveyed to that institution.

It was at once seen that her condition was serious and little hope was felt for her recovery.

There is only conjecture as to the cause of the accident. It is believed that Mrs. Pacha, tired from her day's household duties, sat down by the kitchen table and went to sleep. She possibly stirred while asleep and overturned the lamp. As her head and face were most severely burned, it is believed they came in contact with the lamp when it turned over.

Mrs. Pacha had been employed as a domestic by Dr. White for about two years. Her home was in Philadelphia, where she was well connected, it is said, but has no near relatives.