

Elizabeth (Milliken) Hall, (Feb 1803 – 30 Nov 1891), The Mansfield Weekly News, Thursday, December 3, 1891

A Shocking Accident - The Venerable Mrs. Elizabeth Hall Burned to Death
Her Clothing Takes Fire from the Kitchen Stove and she is so Badly Burned that Death Occurs
Nine Hours Later--Particulars of the Sad Event

Death came in terrible form to **Mrs. Elizabeth Hall**, the venerable mother of Dr. **H.L. Hall**, at the residence of the latter, 41 North Mulberry street, shortly after 11 o'clock Sunday morning. She and her son, the doctor, were at home during the forenoon, the doctor's wife being at church.

About 11 o'clock **Dr. Hall**, who had been at the stable to water the horse, came in and remarked to his mother that it was after 11 o'clock and nearing the dinner hour, at the same time placing upon the kitchen stove some articles of food which were already for cooking.

The doctor passed on into his office which is located in the front part of his house, his mother remaining in the kitchen by the stove, a favorite place with her. The doctor states that he certainly could not have been in the office more than five minutes, and it seems less to him than that, when he heard his mother scream. He rushed into the adjacent room and was horrified to see his mother enveloped in flames, her clothing being ablaze and the flames reaching the ceiling. The doctor immediately attempted to smother the flames by pulling the lower portion of her clothing over the upper and burning portion and also by enveloping her in bed clothing, but his efforts were unavailing. The flames had probably done fatal injury before he reached his mother and her clothing must have been afire some little time before she discovered it. She was terribly burned over her entire body, the flesh coming away from the bones in many places. M. D. Ward and other neighbors seeing the smoke came to the rescue, the doctor in the meantime unsuccessfully fighting the flames and himself being severely burned about the hands and head. The injuries sustained by the aged lady were necessarily fatal. She lingered during the day in an unconscious condition and died at 8 o'clock Sunday evening.

There is one tenable theory as to how the terrible accident was caused. In leaning over the kitchen stove, a cape or some article worn by Mrs. Hall must have taken fire. Her extreme age--she would have been 89 had she lived until next February--had impaired her mental faculties to such extent that it is probable that she would pay no attention to her burning clothing until feeling the pain it caused. Owing to her enfeebled condition the family never left the old lady alone for more than a few minutes at a time.

The deceased was the last of a family of ten children none of who died under the age of 70 years. Physically she was well preserved for her years and at the last county fair she was awarded the rocking chair which was to be given to the oldest lady in attendance.

Funeral from the family residence, Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 1, at 2 o'clock.