

Cooper's Falls Widow is Fatally Burned At Home

Mrs. Robert Laidlaw Is Found In Kitchen By Her Son. Died About Two and A Half Hours Later

When her clothing caught fire at her home last Saturday evening, Mrs. Robert Laidlaw, a Cooper's Falls widow, was fatally burned, and died about two and a half hours later.

Mrs. Laidlaw lived with her son, Reginald, at their home about a half mile from the store at Cooper's Falls. Reginald Laidlaw had come in to Orillia on Saturday afternoon to do some shopping and his mother, who was partially crippled, was alone in the house.

When Reginald returned home about 7 o'clock on Saturday evening he found his mother lying in front of the kitchen stove in a mass of flames. Her clothing had been burned off, and feathers from a pillow were scattered about her and were burning. Dr. William Lovegrove, of Washago, was called, but he was unable to do very much for Mrs. Laidlaw other than relieve her pain and suffering. She died at 9.35 o'clock on Saturday night.

Provincial Constable William Andrews, of Beaverton, was called, and Dr. Norman McQuade, of Brechin, the coroner, accompanied him. They met Mrs. Laidlaw's body at Washago as it was being brought to Orillia by Mundell's funeral service.

Constable Andrews believes that Mrs. Laidlaw tried to put a stick of wood in the stove, as a partly burnt piece of wood was found half in the stove. When she put the wood in the stove, her clothing caught fire and she was unable to beat it out. Mrs. Laidlaw apparently seized a cushion, which was on a couch near by, and attempted to smother the flames with that, but the cushion split open, scattering the feathers about.

When her son returned home he threw his overcoat over his mother and extinguished the flames, and then called the doctor. Mrs. Laidlaw was too badly burned to be able to save her life, but her pain was eased to some extent. During the two and a half hours between the time she was found, and the time of her death, she was conscious, but unable to hear what was being said, but unable to speak.

Mrs. Laidlaw was 74 years of age. Her husband died several years ago and she has been living with her son since that time.

Had not her son returned home when he did, it is very likely that the house would have been destroyed by the fire. It was decided that an inquest would not be held.

Mrs. Laidlaw is survived by two sons, Reginald and Albert Steen of Cooper's Falls, one daughter, Mrs. Frank O. Crich, of Toronto, and two sisters, Mrs. Robert De Hart, of Oro Township, and Mrs. Nicholson, of Sebright.

MISS MARY BUCHANAN APPOINTED TO HOSPITAL

The appointment of Miss Mary A. Buchanan as superintendent of the Soldiers' Memorial hospital was announced this week. Miss Buchanan will succeed Miss G. Kilpatrick, who is retiring early in May.

Miss Buchanan has been superintendent of the Niagara Falls General hospital for the past five or six years and, before that, was assistant there. She has had a wide experience in hospital work as a nurse and instructress.

Miss Buchanan will take over her duties on May 4. Miss Kilpatrick tendered her resignation earlier this year, and it will take effect following the annual nurses' graduation exercises, which will be held early in May. The annual graduation dance will be held at Harmony Lodge late in April.

Fire Fills House With Smoke on Wednesday Aft.

Fire, which broke out in the kitchen of a house owned and occupied by Mrs. A. Murray, 85 Victoria street, caused about \$200 damage on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Murray, an invalid, was in bed in a room next to the kitchen, and her room filled with smoke. She managed to lean out of an open window and escaped the worst effects of the fire.

The fire started from an overheated stove in the kitchen, and did damage to the wall and to the paint of the room. Mrs. Arnold Thornton resides in the front part of the same house.

Firemen put out the flames with a pump can and a small hose, which was attached to the kitchen tap. The call was received about 4 o'clock.

THE WEATHER.

	Date	Max.	Min.
Thursday,	Mar. 13	41	12
Friday,	Mar. 14	40	24
Saturday,	Mar. 15	35	20
Sunday,	Mar. 16	22	20
Monday,	Mar. 17	31	4
Tuesday,	Mar. 18	27	5
Wednesday,	Mar. 19	39	4

Rainfall for the week 3 inches.
Snowfall for the week 1½ inches.

Red Cross Headquarters

The headquarters of the Orillia Branch, Canadian Red Cross, which has a canvass of the town underway for \$7,000, is located at the office of W. C. George, Peter-street, South telephone 7000.