A Sad Death
Child 3 Years Old Dies From the Bite of a Rattlesnake.

Monday evening about 7 o’clock one of those unexpected and peculiar misfortunes occurred, which shock communities and grieve parents.

It seems from the meager details we have been able to glean that a bright little lad 8-years-old of Mr. and Mrs. James Bartholomew of Moorehead, while playing in the door yard at his parent’s home apparently in excellent health and feeling in the best of spirits, attracted the attention of his mother by loud screams.

Mrs. Bartholomew hastened to the side of her child, who told her a slyer was in his foot and she took him in her arms intending to carry him to the house with the view of examining his foot. Imagine the poor mother’s anguish when the child died before she reached the house, although only a short distance away.

An examination revealed the fact that he was bitten by a rattlesnake; the child dying in fifteen minutes after the hideous reptile had inserted its poisonous fangs in his delicate little foot. In their grief and anguish they have the condolence of a large number of friends and The Reporter sincerely sympathizes with them.

Dying in 15 minutes seemed way to quick of a death so I asked a toxologist who has treated a number of snake bites. I wondered if such a quick death could be possible if the fang hit a blood vessel or if there were an allergic reaction to the venom. The toxologist agreed that this seemed too quick a death. He thought a death could be this quick only if there were some underlying physical condition, like a heart problem. He did agree that an allergic reaction could kill this quickly but that would be unlikely. A quick look at the internet would suggest that allergic responses are more common among folks who handle snakes (exposed to dry venom) or have had snake bites before.

Another possibility is that the time period was actually longer. Perhaps mother was in an inner room and did not hear the child right away. This is also a case in which the snake was not
sighted but the bite was based on the medical examination. I assume they doctors would be able to tell from the fang marks that it was a snake and I don’t know what else it could be.