

RATTLESNAKES

Source: Crawfordsville Weekly Journal, 16 August 1895

Rattlesnake appear to be particularly numerous this year. Will Stephenson was bitten Monday near Linden, and so was Jacob Coyner, near Colfax. Mr. Coyner, who is 76 years old, had been at work at a fence nearly a mile from his home, and had just started home when became across a big bunch of burdock. He stooped over, knife in hand, to cut it down and being hard of hearing, did not hear the warning w-h-i-r-r of a huge rattlesnake concealed beneath the weed. Its stuck its fangs into his right hand, and before he could get away it had coiled up and bit him the second time on the same hand. he at once recognized the dangerous character of his injury, but could not resist the temptation to kill it, which he did with a fence rail. He then walked home. Like Stephenson, he swallowed a quart of whiskey, but is not yet out of danger, it is reported. -- thanks to Kim H for these

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Will Stephenson, Son of John Stephenson, the Victim of a Snake Monday Morning While Plowing. Last Monday Will Stephenson, aged about 22 years, the son of John Stephenson, of this city, started out to plow on the farm of Ed Coleman, several miles north of here. As the weather was warm and the land to be worked was soft loam Will concluded to go barefooted. He did this to his sorrow, he had hardly begun work before he plowed up an enormous rattlesnake and had stepped on it before aware of its presence. The angry reptile fastened its venomous fangs in his foot about the ankle and did not loose its hold until beaten off. Greatly terrified young Stephenson quickly unhitched his horse from the plow and mounting it went on the gallop for the nearest doctor at Linden, three miles away. He made the trip very quickly as was natural under the circumstances and arrived to find both doctors White and Laughlin out of town visiting patients. His leg was beginning to swell greatly and he was suffering pain. Mr. Coleman was in Linden and he and William Dunkle procured a quart of whisky from John Vise and poured it down young Stephenson's throat. They acted on the principle that poison counteracts the effect of poison and they acted well. Stephenson's leg continued to swell and he passed into a drowsy stupor. The doctors arrived in time and began to work on him For some time it was feared that he would die but at noon, when last heard from, his condition was considered more favorable.