

# The Legacy of Joseph Kuhn

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**Lesson 3:** In the last lesson students should have noted a change from wood to brick structures as Champaign grew. Fires were a serious problem which impacted many families often more than once. Students will be investigating how fire challenged Joseph Kuhn as he attempted to establish his business.

**Duration:** This lesson will take one class period.

**Analysis of Local Primary Sources:** Students will be using Joseph Kuhn's obituary.

**Ties to National Primary Source:** There is no national source in this lesson.

## List of Materials and Attachments:

- Worksheet 3: Fire
- Page 4 from Jos. Kuhn & Co., a record of the establishment of Joseph Kuhn's clothing store, found at the Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana Free Library, 210 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois. The date of publication and the author are unknown.
- Obituary of Joseph Kuhn printed in the December 28, 1915 issue of the Champaign Daily Gazette and found in the Kuhn Family Vertical File at the Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana Free Library, 210 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois.

## Procedure:

- Distribute page 4 of Jos. Kuhn & Co. and have students get out their copies of Joseph Kuhn's obituary and pages 1 and 2 of Jos. Kuhn & Co. Divide students so that everyone is working with at least one partner.
- Give each group one piece of white or yellow construction paper. The students' first task is to trace references to fire in the materials they have. The first date on their timeline should be 1860 followed by 1865. Once they have located the stories connecting Joseph Kuhn and fire for these dates, project or distribute worksheet 3.
- Students should add the information from worksheet 3 to their time lines then check the Joseph Kuhn obituary for information linking the store and fire in 1871. This fire is also mentioned on page 4 of Jos. Kuhn & Co.