

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

Worksheet 3  
Fire!

Read the following passage from page 42 of Celebrating Champaign-Urbana History Second Edition by Alice B. McGinty published in 2006 by Quasar Strategies, Inc. Champaign, IL.

“ While the University grew, Champaign and Urbana changed too. There were big fires in both cities. Around 2 a.m. on July 4, 1868, a big fire began in downtown Champaign. Citizens helped the fire department. They made bucket lines and wet down buildings to keep the fire from spreading. Still, when the fire was over, 26 buildings had been destroyed.”

This fire was mentioned on July 10, 1868 in an article found in the Fire Vertical File at the Champaign County Archives when headlines in the Illinois Democrat announced:

An Awful  
CONFLAGRATION!!  
At CHAMPAIGN  
Nearly  
\$100,000 Loss  
INSURANCE  
Below \$45,000.  
Thirty-Seven Buildings Burned  
Two Business Blocks Gone!

In the explanation that followed, Joseph Kuhn, clothier, was listed as one of the individuals who reported losses from the fire.

**Directions:** Add the above information to your timeline 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.

Once your timeline is complete answer the following question: What have you learned about Joseph Kuhn as a businessman after researching the way fires impacted the growth of his store?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What generalizations can you make about the impact of fires on the development of Champaign?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus:** Students might find the picture of the fire department found at the AHTC website helpful: <http://www.usd116.org/ProfDev/AHTC/images/Turn-Century-CU/images/champfiredept.jpg>