

The Bender Family.

THE *Independence Tribune* of May 14th, gives a long and interesting account of the horrible discoveries made at the Bender farm, Kansas, from which we cull the following:

"The family were Germans, kept a few groceries for sale, and as it was about five hours drive from the Mission, scores of persons stopped there to feed and get their dinners, or lunch. They were of the lowest class; the old man and woman spoke broken English. Katie Bender was a Spiritualist, claiming unlimited power over disease—that the devil would grant her money, power, or anything she desired,—her hair was coarse and yellow, and her eye most vicious. Her manner indicated a fiendish character, and she is known to have had complete control over the whole family.

"The house was a frame structure 16 x 24 feet, facing the north, without lath or plaster, and divided by studding into two rooms. In the front room to the right was a counter, to the left was a corn pile. Persons sitting down necessarily occupied the center of the room or leaned back towards a curtain which hung against the studding. The opening in the curtain into the back room was to the left. In the back room near the door was the stove and to the right was the bed, and between the bed and the stove was a trap door, and below was an irregular hole in the ground about five feet in diameter and about the same depth, with a passage out under the south-east corner of the house in which were a few loose stone steps. To the south of the house about a hundred yards is a patch of about three-fourths of an acre, plowed for a garden, in which are several rows of apple trees.

"It is supposed that when they decided to kill a person they would give him a seat where he would naturally lean back against the curtain. There a person concealed could, with the large hammer, deal a fatal blow upon the cerebellum, when other members, with the other hammers, could finish up the job. It is supposed that the next step was to cut their victim's throat over the trap door, and tumble him down into the hole, and at night to strip and bury him in the garden.

"The graves were very narrow, about four feet deep, and were dug each near an apple tree as if to mark them. The soil and the subsoil had been kept separate, and the surplus carried away. Early this Spring the ground had been plowed. All of the bodies had been stripped, excepting of shirts, all of their throats cut, and skulls broken.

"Last winter a lady stopped there to pass the night, and being tired, pulled off her shoes and lay down upon the bed while Bender's wife got supper. Soon supper was announced, and the lady looked on the table, and saw there nothing except several pistols and three or four large knives. One of these, the she-devil, Bender, was feeling on the edge and casting side glances at the lady on the bed, when she announced "supper ready." They then told her that they were going to call up the spirits, who would tell them if she should be killed or not. The table tipped, and they said they should have to kill her.

"The lady maintained her self control and stepped out of the house and hurried off to a neighbor's, where she remained all night, but observed the Benders looking from the door, as if awaiting her return. Next morning the neighbor went over and got the lady's shoes and shawl, and they said she had bewitched Kate's coffee, and denied the knife and pistol story. This was told in *Independence* last winter, but was considered too improbable a story to be believed."

A newspaper entitled the *American Herald* has been established in Liverpool.

A diplomatist who gives great dinners at Paris, it is said, always surrounds each guest at the place where he sits at the table with flowers that belong to the country of which he is a native.

Mr. Marsh Phillips, a country magistrate and eighty-two years old, plunged into the sea, at Torquay, England, to rescue a child from drowning. He became exhausted, and himself and the child were rescued by a younger man.

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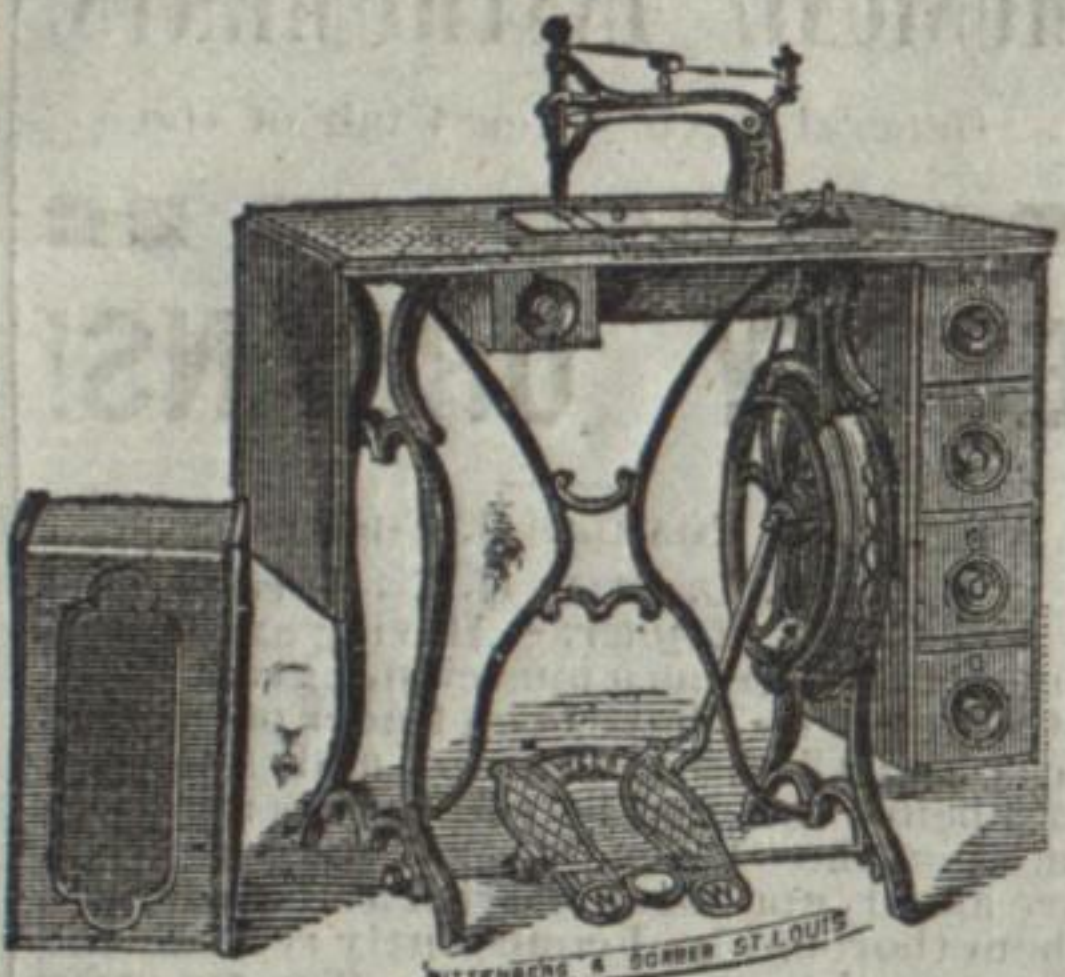
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