

Milford Times-July 2, 1898

Destroyed Several Buildings Early Tuesday Morning

Our Fine Water System, Capably Used by the Fire Department. Prevented an Awful Conflagration

Last Tuesday morning fire destroyed the Central hotel barn, Slaughter's livery barn, Henry Moore's barn on Union street, and the rearward projecting portion of the Central hotel. The roof and upper story of the north end of the hotel was also practically destroyed. The hotel barn was not much used and the loss is on the building only. H.E. Hadden, who occupied Slaughter's barn, saved his six horses, carriages and the bulk of his stock. He lost about \$100 on cutters, tools and _____. Mr. Moore lost the entire contents of his barn, which included one horse, two buggies, two harnesses, and a large variety of tools and other goods. He estimates his loss at about \$500 or \$600, besides the barn which was an ordinary building worth probably \$200 more. The loss on the Central House is hard to estimate. The fire was in the old part and something less than \$1000 will put it in as good shape as it was before. Landlord Gleeson lost about \$500 on furniture and saloon stock; M. Loew about \$50 on saloon stock and building and Wirt Bradley about \$75 on his barn. No insurance was carried on any of the buildings except Bradley's. The fire was first seen about three o'clock by Flossie Loew, who happened to be up on account of illness. It was well started and burning fiercely in the shed connected with the north side of the Central House barn. It spread rapidly in the old wooden buildings which were close together and those burned were a mass of flames before the firemen were able to get to work. Hadden's horses had a close call and had help arrived a couple of minutes later it would have been impossible to get them out. Myron Holly, who roomed over the livery barn, got down the stairs just in time to avoid having to escape by the front windows. He lost his clothing, except the suit he wore, and saved only his guitar and banjo. The furniture and saloon goods were hustled out of the Central House and Loew's saloon, as there was every expectation that these would burn. Mr. Moore was one of the first to get out but when he opened his stable door in hopes of saving his horse the flames burst out and the animal was already down in the stall.

The efficiency of the water works and the excellent work of the firemen can be appreciated by one who takes a look at the surroundings. The hotel was thoroughly afire, the rear of Loew's saloon was several times afire, being within a few feet of a shed that burned, one end of Bradley's ten cent barn was within four or five feet of Slaughter's barn on one side and the rear of Welch's grocery was within a few feet on the other, and Moore's house was badly scorched; yet the firemen were able to arrest the flames while confining them to nearly where they were when the water was turned on. Four lines of hose and plenty of pressure did the business.

Theories as to the cause of the fire are conflicting. Some people living near by affirm that a party of men filled with too much "booze" were in a shed back of the Central House at a late hour and if so they may have inadvertently started the fire from smoking. The possibility of this theory is denied by others who think the fire may be due to fireworks which were set off in the vicinity during the evening.

MILFORD'S 1898 FIRE

Milford Times, July 2, 1898

Milford's fire: Central Hotel barn, Slaughter's livery barn, Henry Moore's barn on Union, and the rearward projecting portion of the Central hotel [burned].

Not many of the Times readers are aware that the rear portion of the Slaughter barn was used for several years as a Baptist church before the present structure was erected. The building originally stood on the corner now occupied by T.O. Bennett & Co., where it was used as a store. It was afterwards moved

across the street to about where D.C. Ellis' bicycle shop now stands, and after being occupied by two or three firms, was utilized as a church by the Baptist organization. Many of the older residents will recall the revival meetings held there in the winter of 1843. Another incident is called to mind by Lewis Austin [father of the Austin brothers] in connection with the burned building. On one occasion, while ordination services were being held therein, lightning struck the house, rendering unconscious several of the congregation, including the candidate for ordination.