

OLD ROAD HOUSE BURNED

PLACE ON CICERO PLANKS FORMERLY RUN BY BRADY

FIRE CAUGHT FROM EXPLODING LAMP – LOSS WAS SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND INSURANCE WAS OF THE SAME AMOUNT – BLAZE ALSO AT CURTIS ANDREW’S FARM

The Syracuse Evening Herald, Syracuse, New York, Saturday, February 25, 1899.

Lizzie Gannon’s road house on the Cicero plank road was destroyed by fire between 7:30 and 8:30 o’clock last night. The house was one of the most notorious in this section of the State, having been frequented for many years by people of sporting inclination. It was one of the most conspicuous on the road, being a 3-story structure, with a large veranda in front and on the north side. The grounds were always kept up in first-rate condition.

About 7:30 o’clock last night a kerosene oil lamp in the kitchen was overturned and as it fell to the floor it was broken. The oil quickly caught fire and in a few minutes the entire room was ablaze and the house filled with smoke. Mrs. Gannon and others in the house quickly ran out and word was sent to neighbors to come to their assistance. In a short time a large number of men had gathered, but by this time the entire building was a mass of flames and the fire threatened to destroy the barns, which were a short distance away. The men formed a bucket brigade, and while some covered the roof of the barns with wet blankets others carried water to them. It was a hard fight, but eventually the barns were saved, although the house was burned to the ground.

The house was built a number of years ago by Benjamin Baum, who made considerable money in the oil fields and was reputed to be

quite wealthy. He fitted it out in elegant style. It was sold twelve years ago to Alfred (Alfretta – a woman) R. Kelly, and she converted it into a hotel. He ran the place for five years, when he sold it to “Tom” Brady for \$11,000, subject to a mortgage of \$4,000, held by the Skaneateles Savings bank. Mr. Kelly [Brady] was there seven years, and last March he was forced to sell it for the benefit of his creditors. Mrs. Gannon bought it, the consideration being \$7,000 subject to a mortgage held by the Skaneateles Savings bank, and a mortgage of \$1,650, held by George Zett. Mrs. Gannon estimates her loss at \$7,000. There was \$3,000 insurance on the house, \$1,000 on the barn and \$3,000 on furniture and fixtures. It was placed by Bowen & Perry and Jones & Baker.

At the same hour as the roadhouse was burning, a large barn on the Curtis Andrew’s farm four miles from there, was burned. A farm hand was throwing hay from the loft to the lower floor when he knocked over a lantern. The hay caught fire. The stock, consisting of cattle and horses, were in the barn. They were moved safely, but all of the hay and feed was destroyed. Mr. Andrew’s loss is said to be about \$3,000. He was insured for full amount in the Farmers’ Mutual.