

TRUXTON BADLY SCORCHED

School Building, Hotel, Store and Dwelling Burned

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Truxton, May 4 – As a result of the conflagration which visited our little village last Friday morning [April 29th], Truxton is minus her High school building, a hotel, one general store, a dwelling house and hotel barn.

The fire which was the largest the town has ever had, originated in the rear of the school building, which stood just north of the M. E. church on South Main-st., and was communicated in turn to the hotel and barn, the store which was in the hotel building and then to the dwelling house.

It was discovered about 1:30 a.m. by Mrs. David Wallace, who was caring for her mother-in-law in her illness, and appeared like a lighted lamp in the rear of the building until it suddenly became brighter and she then realized it must be fire, so she awoke Mr. Wallace, who dressed and started out.

In the mean time I. F. Woodward, who lives across the corner awoke and seeing a light got up to “have a look.” He saw at a glance the fact of the case and hurried on his clothes and rushed over to the school building, intending to ring the bell for an alarm. He burst in the door and started up the stairs, but was forced to abandon the idea on account of the smoke which was stifling. He then started out yelling “fire” and went to the hotel next door and aroused Landlord O’Connor, and from there up town waking people on the way.

Crowds of people gathered in a short time, and it was feared the hotel would burn, some started in to remove the contents while others kept the side of the building wet. The school house burned very rapidly and in spite of the efforts the fire caught on the south side of the hotel and it was soon a mass of flames. Fortunately what little wind was blowing came from the east and the fire burning toward it did not make the headway it would had been in the opposite direction.

It was soon through the hotel building, which was an old frame structure built about seventy years ago and very dry and next went to the dwelling house owned by Jno. O’Connor and occupied by E. L. Applegate.

While this had been taking place there had been “something doing” in the other direction; the fire had attacked and consumed the hotel barn which stood back of the school building, and the church sheds had taken fire, but after a stubborn fight they were put out by the bucket brigade. The church was badly scorched and on fire several times, but each time it was extinguished.

At the M. E. parsonage, which stood next east of the house occupied by Applegate a determined stand was made. Wet carpets were hung from the eaves and gable and the men with their buckets kept them thoroughly drenched until the danger was past.

Soon after the fire started help was summoned from Cortland, but when the steamer arrived on the Lehigh Valley special train the fire was completely under control and their apparatus was not unloaded or anything did by the firemen.

The manner in which the fire originated is and probably always will be a complete mystery. It is stated by Prof. H. B. Dickenson that he is positive all fires were out in the stoves before the school was let out the night before.

The loss is estimated at about \$15,200 and the insurance at \$7200 divided as follows: High school on building, apparatus, books, etc., loss \$4500, with \$2000 insurance; John O'Connor on hotel, fixtures, barn and contents, \$6,000, with \$3,000 insurance; Jerry O'Connor on stock of merchandise \$4,000, with \$2,200 insurance; John O'Connor on dwelling house \$500, with no insurance; E. L. Applegate on furniture, etc., \$200 with no insurance.

A large per cent of the goods that were saved were more or less damaged owing to

the host and excitement which prevailed during the removal.

The guests which were in the hotel when the fire broke out were aroused and all had ample time to take their departure.

Captain Jas. L. Goddard, however, did not get up when he was called, thinking it was a practical joke and the fire was nearly to him when he was pulled out of bed and hustled to a place of safety.

Herb Lewis succumbed to the effects of heat and exhaustion from overwork but he was soon revived and suffered no serious effects.

The heat was so great that paint on F. L. Hilton's residence across the road was badly blistered and windows in J. C. Wiegand's drug store were broken.

The fire was a bad blow to the town yet had other circumstances prevailed it might have assumed serious proportions before the arrival of help and devastated the greater portion of the village.