

The Spartansburg

VOLUME XIV.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1893.

THE FLAMES AGAIN.

This Time It Nearly Cleans the Town.

A SORE BLOW TO LIVELY SPARTANSBURG.

The Main Portion of the Business Part of the Village Destroyed by Fire Early Monday Morning.

The business heart of Spartansburg was totally destroyed by one of the most terrible conflagrations in the history of the town at an early hour Monday morning, June 13th, when seventeen business houses were reduced to ashes and nine families rendered homeless.

It was a few minutes past one o'clock when Leonard Silvers, who resided with his mother in the town over Mrs. Force's millinery store, was awakened by a peculiar noise at the rear of the building. He went to the window of his room and to his horror discovered flames issuing from the wood shed of the W. N. Beese Co. drug store. He hastened to the street and gave the alarm but several minutes elapsed before many people were on the scene and by the time that a crowd had gathered the flames had made such headway that it was useless to attempt to contain them and escape was the only alternative.

A general alarm was sounded by ringing the bells of the different churches and in half an hour after the fire was discovered there were perhaps two hundred and fifty people on hand to battle with the flames. While part of the crowd was assisting in removing goods

included, besides the drug store where the fire originated, Mr. Force's millinery store, A. V. Winans, hardware store, Thomas Goodgrass, dry goods store, and the building occupied by the postoffice. From these buildings not many goods were saved.

The fire did not travel very rapidly toward the west end of the row and from the buildings on that end a large portion of the goods from the different stores were removed. Considering the combustible nature of the buildings they burned very slowly and it was nearly five hours from the time the fire was discovered before the roof of the last building destroyed fell in. The destruction of the entire row was complete hardly a vestige of timber remains of the once prosperous business street.

Before daylight had made its appearance every possible place for storing goods or opening a store had been scoured by the volunteers, and as soon as the fire was known to be under control work was begun by the different ones to remove the rescued goods from the street and yards and before noon nearly everything of a perishable nature had been placed in safe keeping.

The fire was contained and a stream was set pouring on the building occupied by John M. Webb. The water supply was however too short and Mr. Silvers was obliged to burn their attention to saving the Sewell House and the town house. It was about this time that Chief McKenzie, of the Titusville fire department, with seven of his men arrived. After receiving the commandment of the engine they with several other Titusville individuals had started the night train and stopped upon the scene.

After the fire had somewhat subsided at the east end of Main street the attention of the fire-fighters was directed to the other end of the street. The fire, altogether or force pump was taken from the creek and placed close to the wall at the front of the Sewell House. The engine hose was connected and a stream was set pouring on the building occupied by John M. Webb. The water supply was however too short and Mr. Silvers was obliged to burn their attention to saving the Sewell House and the town house. It was about this time that Chief McKenzie, of the Titusville fire department, with seven of his men arrived. After receiving the commandment of the engine they with several other Titusville individuals had started the night train and stopped upon the scene.

The following were located in the burned district:

- Thos. Goodgrass, dry goods and clothing and residence.
- A. V. Winans, hardware.
- Mrs. M. A. Force, millinery and residence.
- Mrs. H. M. Silvers, residence.
- W. N. Beese Company, drugs.
- Lamb's Bargain House, variety store and residence.
- J. D. Bitter, residence.
- J. Goldstein, dry goods and clothing.
- J. Hamill, residence and shop.
- S. A. Winans, meat market.
- J. E. Winans, barber shop.

- Chas. and Edw. King, residence.
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Spartansburg Sentinel.

JUNE 14, 1893.

NUMBER 17.

- C. L. Messenger, stock, loss \$1,000.
- Household goods, loss \$500.
- A. R. M. Mason, building, loss \$1,500.
- Stock, loss \$1,500.
- J. M. Webb, building, loss \$2,000.
- Stock, loss \$2,000.
- E. A. Adorf, tinmer's tools, etc., no insurance.
- Margot, loss \$800, insurance \$400.
- Marshall, loss \$50, no insurance.
- Old House, loss \$400, insurance \$400.
- Jr. O. F. A. M., loss \$125, no insurance.
- Geo. I. Smith & Co., stock, loss \$1,000, insurance \$2,500.
- E. F. Fisher, building, loss \$2,000.
- Insurance \$1,000. Stock, loss \$2,500.
- Mrs. I. Stover, household goods, loss \$100, no insurance.
- E. A. Hakeslee, barn, loss \$1,100, insurance \$400.
- J. M. Hamblin, loss \$400, no insurance.
- Loss \$50, no insurance.
- G. E. Eldred, stored sleds, etc., loss \$25, no insurance.
- W. E. Burlington, farm machinery, loss \$100, no insurance.

- W. N. Y. & F. depot, \$50. Insured.
- R. R. Armour, building, \$50. Insured.
- Mrs. E. Jones, buildings, \$50. Insured.
- Millinery and household goods, \$50, no insurance.
- Dr. M. L. Cowles, building, \$50. Insured.
- C. Thurston, building, \$50. Insured.
- J. M. Berliner, household goods, \$50, no insurance.
- Frank King, household goods, \$50, no insurance.
- W. Binney, building, \$50. Insured.
- W. Tryon, buildings, \$100. Insured.
- Household goods, \$100. Insured.
- House, building, \$25. Insured.

In addition to the above, there were numerous minor losses that cannot be estimated.

Twenty Years Ago
This brings to mind, especially to many of the older residents, the disastrous conflagration that took place upon the morning of March 1, 1873, which reduced to ashes in a few hours all the buildings on both sides

There was "a hot time in the old town" all right.
Heroic work, only, saved the south side of Main street.
The farmers are not the only ones that can clear land.
Wescott's loss was a chicken coop and a Banta rooster.
Beaux were handy for once. Sunday night, you know.
The Titusville boys have credit for saving the town house.
It will go down in Spartansburg history as "the big fire of 1893."
Smoked ham was plentiful at the meat markets Monday morning.
Some of the ladies had their curlers already heated for them.
J. Goldstein, G. Schmeiser and C. R. Binney went through both fires.
Churches, barns and deserted shops are good enough for stores now.
The G. A. R.'s and Royal Arcanums saved about everything from the hall.
Menu: Baked pork and beans hot coffee, eggs in all styles, toast, fried ham, etc.
Look the barn now the horse is stolen. We refer to the water works question.
Call at the drug store for burnt alum, hot soda, boiled oil, burnt amber and roasted peanuts.
The distance from the Sewell House to the depot looks to be about twice as far as before the fire.
Tom Fisher erected the first building on the burnt district Monday afternoon—a covering for his ice.
It is said that among other funny occurrences one man carried a hanging lamp for several rods and then threw it on a stock pile.

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Twenty years ago it was set on fire in L. Jacobs' dry goods store, this time it started in the rear of the W. N. Beese Co. drug store, origin unknown.
The other fire burned very rapidly, a little over two hours being the time of consuming both rows; this one spread slowly, about four hours passing before the last building fell.

Dying Embers.
Nice Monday.
A clean sweep.
"I told you so."
It was a scorcher.
Insurance, \$30,000.
Were you insured?
The 'burg in ruins.
And it came at last.
How did it originate?
Wanted, water works.
It reminds one of 1873.
An unwelcome visitor.
The depot still stands.
All worked like heroes.
\$85,000 in smoke and ashes.
Relic seekers are numerous.
We've caught it with the rest.
Well, it might have been worse.
Was it spontaneous combustion?
The Chicago fire of '73 wasn't in it.
"Jule" Campbell scorched his back.
We've expected it for a score of years.
And then each one told his experience.
What time did you get up Monday morning?
The hot coffee was greatly appreciated.
The night could not have been more favorable.

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June Sales

burned to the street and gave them but several minutes elapsed before many people were on the street and by the time that a crowd had gathered the fire had made such headway that it was useless to attempt to contain it and the firemen were called upon to demolish the buildings.

A general alarm was sounded by ringing the bells of the different churches and in half an hour after the fire was discovered there were gathered two hundred and fifty men on hand to battle with the flames. While part of the crowd were assisting in removing goods from the doomed buildings the rest were working desperately to save the buildings on the opposite side of the street. The large force pump and extinguisher was brought into play and although badly out of repair did some excellent work. It was placed in the creek below the depot and for upwards of an hour a score of men worked in water to their waists pumping the machine and sending a large stream of water on to the New Central where another gang of men were working heroically in the face of the flames which every minute seemed would sweep them from their posts, but they stood their ground bravely and their efforts were rewarded by saving the entire south side of Main street from destruction.

At 1:20 a. m. W. C. Hilliard, operator at the depot, sent a message to Mayor Benedict, at Titusville, asking that assistance be sent from the fire department at that place. The mayor wired back immediately that they would respond with an engine and hose. Shortly after, Sheriff Thurston went to the depot and in the name of L. W. Day, Mayor, countermanded the order for the engine from Titusville. Mr. Thurston's action in countermanding the order was severely criticized and it is now seems to understand why it was done as the flames with the engine would have been able to have saved considerable property. Mr. Thurston claims that Mr. Day countermanded him to countermand the order, while on the contrary Mr. Day says he positively did not authorize anyone to send such a message. Anyhow it was a bad piece of business and we hope that the insurance will serve as a lesson to those who may be called upon to pass through another such

arrival. After the engine they countermanded for the engine they with several others Titusville in the vicinity had boarded the night train and arrived upon the scene at 1:30 and immediately set his men to work to tear down the dancing pavilion located next to the town house and several residences from destruction. As it was the town house was saved only by the heroic work of two of the Titusville firemen who in almost perilous feat held the nozzle of the hose on the building for over half an hour and thus stayed the progress of the devastating element.

It was nearly five o'clock in the morning before the fire was under control. It had made a clean sweep of everything from the W. N. Y. & P. depot west to the Hewell House and north from Main street to the town house.

The heat was so intense that the glass in nearly all the windows on the opposite side of the street from the fire were broken or cracked. The front of Armour's hotel was so badly scorched that it will be necessary to replace it. The large windows in Binney's grocery are ruined. The large plate glass windows in The Sentinel office were badly cracked from the heat.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. It started, as stated before, in the wood shed connected with the Reno drug store. This shed was remote from the store and was used but little, being piled full with wood, empty boxes, etc. There had been no fire in the building for a long time and no one had been in the rear part of the building with a lamp or lantern for days. The probabilities are that it was the work of an incendiary, but what object any person would have in doing such a diabolical deed is beyond our comprehension.

The total loss as near as can be ascertained is eighty-five thousand dollars and the total amount of insurance is thirty thousand dollars, leaving a net loss of fifty-five thousand dollars to the victims of the fire.

From the time the fire was discovered it was only a few minutes until the whole east end of the row of buildings were in flames. This

clothing.
J. Hamilton, residence and shop, loss \$1,000, no insurance.
S. A. Winans, meat market, loss \$1,000, no insurance.
J. E. Winans, barber shop, loss \$1,000, no insurance.
G. Schmelzer, building, loss \$1,000, no insurance.
Armstrong & Belding, meat market.
Bert Belding, residence.
C. L. Messenger, racket store and residence.
A. E. Merton, furniture and undertaking.
J. M. Webb, hardware.
All lodges.
Geo. L. Smith & Co., dry goods.
T. F. Fisher, groceries.
Mrs. L. Hoover, residence.

Losses and Insurance.
N. H. Heath, Corry, building, loss \$3,000, insurance \$2,000.
John H. Wright, postmaster, loss \$400, insurance \$500.
Thos. Szodgrass, loss \$3,000, no insurance.
A. V. Winans, buildings, loss \$1,300, insurance \$400. Stock, loss \$5,000, insurance \$2,000.
Mrs. M. A. Force, building, loss \$4,000, insurance \$700. Stock and household goods, loss \$1,200, no insurance.

Mrs. H. M. Stives, household goods, loss \$200, no insurance.
Dr. A. P. Waid, Buffalo, building, loss \$2,000, insurance \$900.

W. N. Reno Company, loss \$5,000, insurance \$4,500. John Peterson, clerk; bicycle, college books and other minor affairs that a clerk would naturally have in a store, loss \$45, no insurance.

S. W. Thompson, Jamestown, building, loss \$3,000, no insurance.
Lamb's Bargain House, stock, loss \$2,500, insurance \$500. Household goods, loss \$800, no insurance.
J. D. and Miss Ida Sitter, household goods and carpenter's tools, loss \$350, no insurance.

J. Goldstein, building, loss \$4,000, insurance \$1,400. Stock, loss \$27,000, insurance \$5,000.

M. G. Webb, building, loss \$1,200, no insurance.
S. A. Winans, stock and fixtures, loss \$300, no insurance.
J. E. Winans, tools, loss \$15, no insurance.

C. A. Lamb, household goods, loss \$35, no insurance.
Earl Lamb, household goods, loss \$100, no insurance.

C. B. Binney, building, loss \$1,000, insurance \$500.
G. Schmelzer, stock, loss \$600, insurance \$600.

J. G. Tins, building, loss \$500, insurance \$500. Contents, loss \$190, insurance \$100.
Armstrong & Belding, loss \$500, insurance \$500.

Bert Belding, household goods, loss \$300, insurance \$100.
B. F. Webb, building, loss \$300, insurance \$300.

Town ward.
In addition to the above, there were numerous minor losses that cannot be estimated.
Twenty Team Ago
This brings to mind, especially to many of the older residents, the disastrous conflagration that took place here on the morning of March 7, 1878, which reduced to ashes in a few hours all the buildings on both sides of Main street between the Hewell House and the railroad, what had taken a great number of years to erect. This calamity did not however prove a death blow, for the inhabitants were largely the descendants of those who had transformed a wilderness into a town and the work of rebuilding was commenced while the rains were yet unmeltingly a picture which might have been taken last Sunday would have shown the result of their continued efforts.

The following were among those who suffered losses at that time:
NORTH SIDE.
Henry D. Kinsey, groceries.
Abner Alsdorf, groceries and hardware.
Wash Lyons, dwelling and millinery store.
G. Schmelzer, shoe shop.
C. B. Binney, harness shop.
J. G. Berlingham, druggist.
J. Goldstein, dry goods.
Shakespeare Bros., (Balden and Crow) hardware.
E. E. Down, druggist.
Dr. S. Wood, postoffice and dwelling.
Mrs. John Showerman, hotel.
Railroad depot.

SOUTH SIDE.
Crowford Thurston, dwelling and meat market.
Jep. Fuller, hair, dwelling.
Ward Elderkin, tin shop.
Paul Blackmer, boots and shoes.
L. Jacobs, dry goods.
C. W. Kinsey, groceries.
A. L. Green, racket store and feeding room.
THE TWO FIRMS COMPARED.
Numerous business places were destroyed each time.
The first fire left twenty families homeless, this one six.
Both times the damage was done between midnight and morning.
In 1878, both sides of the street were swept clean; this time, but one side.
It is estimated by those who ought to know that the value of property destroyed this time will equal if not exceed that of twenty years ago.

Crawford Thurston, dwelling and meat market.
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Ward I.
Paul B.
L. Jaco.
C. W. B.
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Frank King, hardware and insurance.
Binney, building.
Eyes, buildings, \$200.
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What time did you get up this morning?
The hot coffee was greatly appreciated.
The night would not have been so restful.

Put on the date in your strap, Feb. 15, 1908.
Let us all be thankful that no lives were lost.
Several washings were delayed until Tuesday.

The following were among those who suffered losses at that time:
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It is said that among other funny confessions one man carried a hanging lamp for several rods and then threw it on a street pile.

The two young men from Spring Creek were right in line at an early moment and rendered valuable assistance. Of course the girls excused them.

June Sales

—AT—

ULLMAN'S.

Hot weather goods are wanted. Ullman has a good supply, rather more than we want. In order to reduce stock, we will make a deep cut. Our special sales last week attracted every lady in town. This week's prices will be still more attractive.

Fifty pieces Pink and Blue Zephyr, never sold for less than 25c; this week our price is 15c, yes, 15 cents.	Another lot of those Lined Duck Suits, skirt and jacket, at \$1.50.
Fifteen pieces White Walt P. K. at 25 and 30c, never sold for less than 40 and 50c.	Twenty White Duck Suits at \$2.50. Complete suits at that.

Sixteen Ladies' Broadcloth Suits, all wool, new blue shades. They must be closed out this week. Price will hardly be an object. We will sell you the complete suit for what the broadcloth cost, making you a present of lining, trimming and making. Not much profit for us in the transaction, still the wheels must move.

Another lot Short End Ribbon from the Horn Silk Mills, 4 to 6 inches wide, at 17 cents per yard.

Still another lot of Rayadere Strip and Fancy Plaid Ribbon at 25 cents a yard. At any other store the price would be 50c.

Did you ever see our 25 cent Corset Covers? They are just as handsome as a 50 cent article.

Gauze Underwear for ladies and children. Price nominal.

—AT—

ULLMAN'S,

TITUSVILLE, PENN'A.
TELEPHONE 131.