

Title: Assorted Items on the Great Fire of Alliston 1891. Page 1/6

Creator:

Subject: Alliston, great fire, great calamity, homeless.

Description: A coverpage from a local Alliston paper shortly after the Alliston fire of 1891.

Publisher:

Contributor:

Date: 1891-05-14

Type: Artifact

Format: JPEG / PDF

Identifier: 0091

Source: Alliston Fire Vertical File - New Tecumseth Public Library: Alliston Memorial Branch

Language: En

Relation:

Coverage:

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ALLISTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1891.

True to the best interests of our Town, Loyal to our Queen and Country.

ALLISTON'S GREAT CALAMITY.

Upwards of \$500,000 consumed by Fire
with an Insurance thereon of only
about \$140,000.

83 Stores and Dwellings, a Foundry, and 18 Miscellaneous Buildings, with much of their Contents a mass of Charred Ruins.

THE AREA COVERED UPWARDS
OF 30 ACRES.

Two-thirds of One of the Prettiest and Most Lively
Main Streets of any Town in the Province laid
low within three hours, besides many
Residences on other streets.

Temporary Buildings are being Erected and Business will
be booming in a few days. All our business
men opening up again.

Permission could not be obtained for unrestricted inclusion of a digital image on the web site for the following:

"Alliston, A Simcoe County Town"
The Globe and Mail
May 29, 1894

The original item can be viewed in the original Local History archival collection.

Page: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)

Title: Assorted Items on the Great Fire of Alliston 1891. Page 2/5

Creator: The Saturday Globe.

Subject: Alliston, fire, Boyne River, town clock, Windsor Hotel, Victoria Street, Dominion Hotel, works, elevators, flour mills, woolen mills, W.G. Fisher, water works, John Stewart, Jas Jerrett, T.M. Brown, W.D. Clark, D.A. Lee, W.J. Clark, W. Hutchinson, W. Martindale, Geo McGirr, W.S. EllisD. McMullin, J.C. Hart, Mr. H. Mann, J. McMahon, The Hart Elevator.

Description: An 1894 Globe newspaper which recounts the great fire of 1891. The article then discusses various aspects of the town after the fire including businesses, town council, hotels, the opera house and churches.

Publisher: The Globe

Contributor:

Date: 1894-05-19

Type: Article

Format: JPEG

Identifier: 0091

Source: Alliston Fire Vertical File - New Tecumseth Public Library: Alliston Memorial Branch

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Page: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)

Title: Assorted Items on the Great Fire of Alliston 1891. Page 3/5

Creator:

Subject: Alliston, fire, Mr. Jerrett, The Kelly Block, Boyne River, Nottawasaga River, Adjala, Tosorontio, Essa, Tecumseth, Hutchinson's Block, Rev. Thos. Dunlop, Rev. J.R.S. Burnett, Rev. W.E. Carroll, Mr. J.F. Power, Miss Steckley, Miss Bell, Miss Gilroy, Miss McKenzie, Miss Shephard, Jas. Mullin, John Williams, Andrew Scott, John Moore, W.J. Fletcher, Sir John A. McDonald, Hon. John Haggart, Norton's Brick Yard.

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Publisher: The Globe

Contributor:

Date: 1894-05-19

Type: Article

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block, Alken &
block, Messrs.
bank of Ham-
one could then
career south-
and confined
property lay
swart at once
down for ar-
rived brigade
immediately left
their engine, but
in the wind had
on blowing west-
spread in three
and west. The
an block soon set
block on the east
etaler and Fisher
at hotel property
side of the street,
ag on the east, which
one the A-1 block
time scolded the glass
a Drury Clifton and
the fire and town hall,
eastward.

wing swept the ground
ing the street in Muller's
a's wooden buildings, Martin-
walled roof store houses, his
ply of coalwood and in the
dwelling houses. Here a most
rate effort was made to stop the
tance, for it was evident to all that
the only salvation for the west and
depended on checking its mad career.
Once into the house, nothing could
have saved the Messrs. office, the
Dominion house and stables and all
other buildings to the west and south.
Fully fifty strong and willing friends
fought with desperation and though
the building in places was cladded in
inders the heavy and continuous ex-
ertion of our friends, coupled with a
good supply of water saved the
Messrs. another and calamity, of
which it is indeed truly thankful.
The eastern wing continued its on-
ward course, building after building
filling one after another until about
8 p. m. when the special arrived
with the engine and brigade. It
was hurried to the south east end of
the town, where good service was done
in saving other buildings from igniting.

Nothing to-day stands on thirty acres
of land but dilapidated walls or partly
burned timbers, and the sad picture is
almost unendurable. Not a grocery,
dry goods, boot and shoe, clothing,
furniture store, bank, jewellery store,
or barber shop escaped the fiery ele-
ment, leaving scores of families home-
less, and in many cases penniless.

The members of our council acted
nobly in attending to the wants of the
poor until a meeting of our citizens
was called, which took place on Satur-
day afternoon at the Dominion House,
when resolutions were passed solicit-
ing aid from outside municipalities,
and also asking that the Dominion
and Provincial governments be men-
tioned by the council for a reason-
able grant, and was also asked upon
by the council immediately thereafter.
Many former friends drove into the
town and took loads of unfortunate
people to their comfortable abodes for
a few days, until similar could be pro-
vided. Such acts of kindness as these
will long be remembered.

Relief committees have also been
formed and all these generous hearted
enough to assist the sufferers, may
leave some with Mr. John Blaw it
mayor. Almost every household or
store-keeper who were fortunate in
escaping disaster shared with their
neighbors, which soothed somewhat

sion. A room is also being provided
for all unclaimed goods, and in
the meantime parties having such in
their possession will kindly identify
same and notify the mayor.

The following is the list of sufferers
together with the insurance thereon
as far as can be ascertained, for the
present:—

VICTORIA STREET, NORTH.

Queen's hotel and stables, frame,
owned by M. McKeown, loss \$4,000;
insurance \$2,750. John McKeown, lessee
of same, insured for \$1,200.
Thos. McMillan two brick stores and
furniture shop, loss \$4,700, insured
for \$2,940.
W. A. Roper, barber shop loss
\$150, with no insurance.
W. MacIntyre brick store loss \$2,
500, insurance \$1,500. G. Gaudin,
occupier of same as furniture store
\$300, with no insurance.
Mrs. A. Mitchell, brick store and
dwelling, loss \$2,500, insurance \$1,000.
H. Longway, a set of groceries,
loss \$5,000, insured for \$1,100.
T. Marvyn, brick hotel and con-
tents, stables, etc., loss \$6,000, insured
for \$3,000.

The O.M.B. 22' lodge loss \$600,
insurance \$400.

Wilson brick block of four stores,
owned by W. O. Fisher, loss \$6,500,
insurance \$4,000, and comprised the
following tenements:—M. J. Doyle,
butcher, loss \$100, no insurance. R.
McFarlane's, harness shop, \$1,500,
insurance \$500. H. P. Mann's private
room was also consumed, loss \$250
with no insurance. C. Donnelly,
liquor store, loss \$2,000, insurance
\$400. K. McCrae, tailor, loss \$700,
insurance \$300. The 30th Batt.
Barracks, loss \$300, no insurance. The
C.M.B.A., I.O.F., Home Circle and
Septennial Societies all lost heavily.
Aiken & Sons, foundry, loss \$2,
000, with \$400 insurance. Also
skating rink, the property of the
above with no insurance, also house
and contents.

J. C. Hart, block of four stores,
also a stock of dry-goods, groceries,
boots and shoes, etc., loss \$25,000, in-
surance \$0,000. The following also
occupied stores in the block:—G. S.
Edmonds, jewellery stock and con-
tents of dwelling, loss \$2,000, insurance
\$600. The Messrs. Graham,
loss \$500, no insurance. J. J. Arm-
strong's stock of harness \$1,000, in-
surance \$800.

P. D. Kelly & Son, two frame stores
and house occupied by two tenants,
also stock of hardware, telegraph and
express office, loss about \$12,000,
insurance \$6,200. O. McHugh and
Messrs. Agar, contents of dwellings de-
stroyed, the former loss \$520, in-
surance \$300, and the latter \$200, with
no insurance.

J. C. Hart also loses a large
frame house occupied by Mrs. Car-
michael, and barn and a large stock
of shingles on the lot opposite.

Mrs. Carmichael's loss on furniture
\$275, no insurance.

W. Jenkins' frame store and stock
of groceries, loss \$2,800, insurance
\$1,280.

I. McCreaney, dwelling house and
contents, loss \$1,100, insurance \$500.
The following who were boarding were
also losers:—Messrs. Clark Bros.
\$400, Miss Treverrow \$200, Miss
Irwin \$200 and Miss Dellelle \$80.

J. G. Sutherland, brick building
used as dwelling and dentist office,
together with tools, etc., loss \$8,000,
insurance \$1,000.

Bank of Commerce frame building
small insurance, W. Badger, occupier
of same, all household furniture and
clothing, loss \$1,500 with no insur-

ment, with a boot and
a set of tools, having just
out, most of his house-
hold effects were also consumed, with
insurance thereon. The post-
office being in the same block, was
also destroyed with considerable mail
matter.

Geo. Upton, woolen goods in same
block, loss \$3,000, insurance \$2,000.
O. McHugh, barber shop, loss \$250,
insurance \$150. Mr. Hood's division
court office was also on second flat.

He loses \$100 with no insurance.
Geo. Fletcher's brick block, con-
taining five large stores was also con-
sumed. Loss for \$12,000 to \$14,000,
insured for \$0,000. This block con-
tained H. P. Mann's bookstore,
stationary stock and telephone office,
loss \$3,000, insurance \$1,500.

McCarthy, Papay & McCarthy, law
office, loss \$1,000, no insurance. C.
G. Lee & Co.'s dry-goods stock, loss
\$7,000, insurance \$2,000. Mrs.
Crawford, confectionary, loss \$1,700,
insurance \$500. Mrs. Hunt, general
store, loss \$6,000, insurance \$3,000.

W. Badger, general stock, loss \$16,
000, insurance \$5,000. A. Vanoy,
photographer, loss \$600, insurance
\$200.

John Fisher's block containing
three stores, loss \$4,000, insurance
\$3,000. The property was occupied by
T. Evans, jeweller, and also as a
dwelling, loss \$2,000, insurance \$1,
000. Part of Graham's warehouse, loss
\$100, no insurance. J. Fisher's
dwelling, loss \$100, no insurance. R.
Bell, contents law office, loss \$100,
fully insured. W. L. (Mrs. Fisher's
house) contents lost \$500, no insurance.
McMahon, drugstore and stillinger, loss
\$2,000, insurance \$1,800.

John O'Brien's frame hotel and
contents, also stables and sheds, loss
7,500, insurance \$3,483.

Mrs. Drury brick store, loss \$2,100,
insurance \$1,400.

Messrs. Hutchings & Sons, also
occupied the above, general merchandise,
loss \$18,000, with \$10,000 insurance.

W. H. Clifton's, brick store and
stock stores, loss \$3,000, insurance
\$1,400.

H. W. Wright, brick store and
stock of groceries, and household fur-
niture, loss \$3,500, insurance \$2,200.

Store and frame house owned by
W. A. Bell and occupied by Dr. Bell
as a surgery and residence. This
building was valued at \$1,400 and
was insured for \$800. The loss is
about \$1,500, with \$2,000 insurance.

A. Kinsey's furniture store and con-
tents, loss \$3,000, insurance \$1,000.

W. J. Fletcher, frame building,
loss \$2,000, insurance about \$500.

T. Hayes occupied the above pre-
mises as a boot and shoe shop together
with dwelling, loss about \$3,200, in-
surance \$1,200.

R. P. Young loses store and stock,
loss about \$1,500, with \$500 insurance.

Jan. Allen, brick blacksmith shop
and frame dwelling and contents, loss
\$3,000, insurance \$600.

W. Elliott, brick store, loss \$1,200,
insurance \$600. T. L. Clifton who
occupied the above as a grocery store
and selling house, loss \$1,200 with
no insurance.

J. Bryce, contents of bake shop,
\$100 with no insurance.

Two vacant stores belonging to Jas.
McDonald & Co. of Toronto, loss
\$500, insurance unknown.

A well-known commercial hotel
the Bevere house, also fell a victim to
the devouring element. Loss about
\$7,000 with an insurance of \$5,000.
Mr. W. H. McDougall, losses every-
thing in the house, and unfortunately
had no insurance.

John Henderson, Lewis' shoe and
dwelling, loss \$1,400, insurance \$650.
The large brick block owned by T.
McKeown was uninsured and con-

sumed, with a boot and
a set of tools, having just
out, most of his house-
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