

# Another Big Fire in Houlton!

## A Whole Square in Ashes!

Loss estimated at \$124,000. Insurance, \$61,000!

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“Our town is again visited by a destructive fire. On Sunday night, last (December 14, 1884), at about half-past eleven o’clock, fire broke out in the rear of Tenney’s block, and was making rapid progress before the alarm was given. The owners and occupants of the stores as well as those of the adjoining blocks, immediately set at work to remove their stock of goods. The hand engine and the steamer fire companies were promptly on hand and

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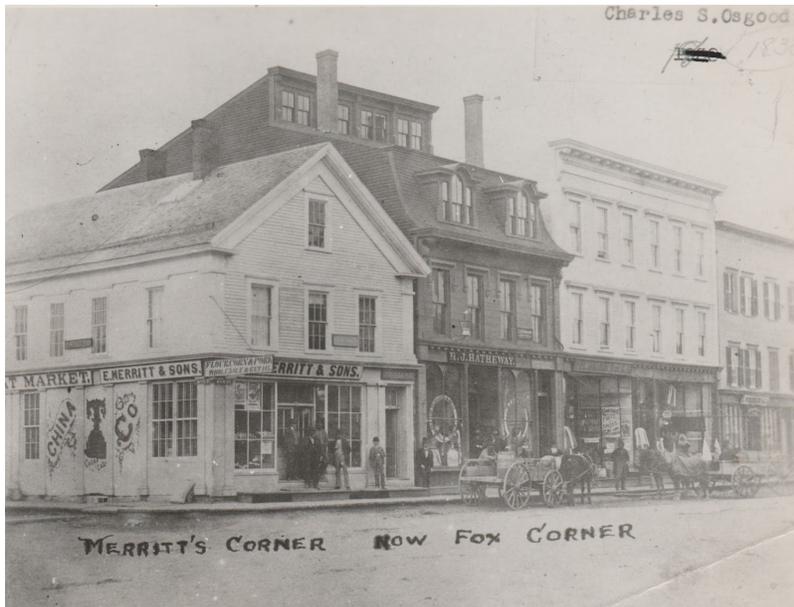
rendered valuable assistance, but the fire could not be stayed in its destructive course until an entire square was burned over. The fire extended on Main Street from A.H. Fogg and Co's to Merritt's corner, on Water Street to T.S. Estabrook's residence, thence east to Anson Taber's blacksmith shop and thence on Mechanic Street to Main Street.

The fire was prevented from extending across Main Street, by a southerly wind and the active efforts of the firemen in throwing streams of water from the engines upon the fronts and roofs of the exposed buildings. This prevented the fire from spreading in that direction, and thus was saved from destruction of many large stores and other buildings with their valuable contents.

The glass in the fronts of Union block, Nickerson's block and J.E. Burnham's building was nearly all broken out by the intense heat and the sudden cooling by water being thrown on. Goods were packed and partially removed in many of the stores and tenements on the south side of Main Street, in the immediate vicinity of the fire.



We give below a list of the the principal losers and their losses, as obtained for estimates made by the parties themselves, as follows.



- E. Merritt and Sons, grocery and produce dealers, buildings and stock, \$8,000, insured for \$6,000. Dr. T.J. Fitzmaurice, office over Merritt and Son's store, loss \$200, insurance \$100. Ira G. Hersey, law office, loss \$100, no insurance.

- Brown & Watson, hardware store, stock etc., loss \$20,000, insurance \$10,000. Lyman S. Strickland, law office in same building, loss \$50, no insurance. John Burnham, law office, loss unknown. S.L. Tabor law office, \$50, no insurance. G.B. Page, loss unknown. B.L. Staples, \$200. T.S. Estabrooks photographer, \$1,500, no insurance. Henry Nadeau, room furniture and money, \$225, no insurance.
- Chas. P. Tenney, block and dry goods stock, etc., loss \$30,000, insurance \$17,000. S. Friedman, clothing and stock, \$12,000, insurance \$5,000. Singer Sewing Machine Agency stock removed. Robert Darrah, household goods, total loss. Miss Oliver, dressmaker, \$50, no insurance. J.W. Perry, household goods, etc., \$500, no insurance.

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- Henry J. Hatheway, loss, building, drug stock, furniture, etc., \$19,500, insurance \$9,500. M. Schmuckler, clothing and furnishing goods, \$15,000, insurance \$5,000.



- O.F. French, loss, buildings and drug stock, \$4,000, no insurance. John Boyle, tailor, \$500, no insurance.

- Gillen Brothers, grocers, stock, \$5,000, insurance \$1,500.

- Smith Brothers, tinware and stoves, loss, \$1,000, insurance \$500.
- Walter Mansur, buildings, loss, \$2000, probably insured. F.H. Collins, marble works, loss \$400, insurance \$600. Mrs. B. Estes, household goods, no insurance.
- A.O. Burgess, paint shop, loss \$2,000, insurance \$600.
- E. Woodbury, Express stable and contents, \$3000, insurance, \$1,500.

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- Melzer Howe, clover seed, stored with Brown & Watson, \$200, no insurance.

The following persons are losers by breakage of glass and damage to the fronts of their buildings, removal of goods, etc.

- J.A. Browne, \$100, insured. S.A. Gray, \$350, insured. J.K. Osgood, \$300, no insurance. Nickerson Bros \$550, insured. J.E. Burnham, \$400, insured. Odd Fellows Hall, \$50.
- A.H. Fogg & Co's, block was saved by the strenuous efforts of men throwing water upon the building with pails.
- Mrs. R. Mansur's dwelling, corner of Market Square and Water Street was saved from taking fire by the engines throwing streams of water upon it. The whole business part of the town narrowly escaped entire destruction.
- It is hoped and believed that the owners of the land fronting on Main Street will erect a continuous line of brick buildings, the coming season, on the sites of those destroyed which will ensure permanency and better protection against fire.

E. Merritt & Sons have opened in Spooner's store, west end of Market Square. Ira G. Hersey, office over Page's dry goods store. S. Friedman stock removed to Pioneer block, Court Street. C.P. Tenney to Fuller's clothing store, Main Street. H.J. Hatheway in Times block, Court Street. M. Schmuckler in

Kinney's store near the bridge. O.F. French at corner Main and Court Street. Gillen Bros with Rideout near West's livery stable. Smith Bros. in Page's building, near Snell House. Dr. T.J. Fitzmaurice, office over Stevens' boot and shoe store. "

--- From The Aroostook Times, December 17, 1884

Sources: *Aroostook Times, December 17, 1884* and "*The Story of Houlton*" by Francis Barnes.

