

1911

# Views of Bangor's Big Fire, April 30, 1911

Leyland Whipple

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## STORY OF THE FIRE.

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**T**HE Bangor Fire started in a hay shed on Broad Street, at 4.10 P. M., Sunday, April 30, 1911. High wind carried burning brands diagonally across Kenduskeag Stream and ignited a shed in the rear of The Fairbanks Company, on Exchange Street, and almost at the same time one of the steeples of the Universalist Church on Center Street. In a few minutes the wooden buildings in the rear of Exchange Street were a furnace, the intense heat and flames from which, swept onward by the wind, fairly melted everything before them, leaping from one large block to another with great rapidity.

From the business section the flames spread into the residence district on Center Street Hill.

Until early morning the fire spread before it was under control. Many

houses were dynamited, but the wind carried brands across and the fire continued unabated.

Here and there a wooden house, by some prank of the fire fiend, was left intact, while all around was in ruins.

The edge of the fire was lined with spectators, many assisting in the removal of household goods. There was no panic, disorder, or looting,—a rather remarkable circumstance, which speaks well for the people of Bangor.

Firemen and apparatus came from Brewer, Oldtown, Waterville, Lewiston and Portland to assist in fighting the flames.

Two lives were lost, George Abbot, a fireman of the Brewer Fire Department, and John Scribner.

The burned district covered fifty-five acres, involving a loss of about \$3,000,000.

One hundred business blocks and two hundred and eighty-five dwellings were destroyed. At least two hundred and fifty persons were rendered destitute.



HAY SHED ON BROAD STREET. START OF THE FIRE

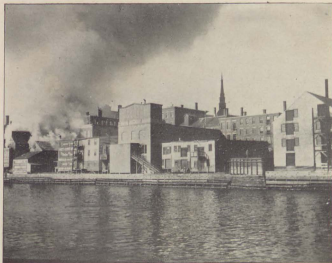


VIEW OF HAY SHED AS THE WALLS FELL



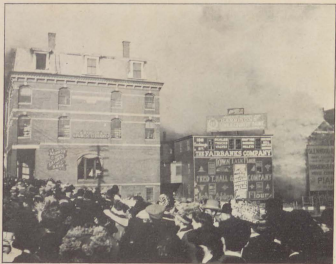
START OF FIRE, VIEW FROM M. C. R. R. BRIDGE





WHERE FIRE JUMPED ACROSS THE STREAM





FIRE STARTING ON TOP OF PUBLIC LIBRARY



PUBLIC LIBRARY, BURNING OF \$300,000 WORTH OF BOOKS,  
FLAMES LEAPING CLEAR ACROSS STATE STREET



RUINS OF BAPTIST CHURCH, HARLOW STREET



RUINS OF THE MORSE OLIVER BUILDING. SHOWING  
VAULTS ON THE RIGHT



RUINS OF FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ON STATE STREET



UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, ONE OF THE FIRST  
PLACES TO CATCH FIRE





RESIDENCE OF CHAS. STEARNS, ON BROADWAY, SHOWING ONE OF THE  
PRANKS OF THE FIRE, LEAVING THIS HOUSE UNTOUCHED  
BUT BURNING ALL AROUND IT



FRANKLIN STREET, THE ONLY MEANS OF PASSAGE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTS  
OF THE CITY AFTER THE FIRE



RUINS OF THE POST OFFICE, VIEW FROM CENTRAL STREET. THE MASS OF TWISTED IRON IN THE RIGHT FOREGROUND IS THE RUINS OF THE BANGOR STEAM LAUNDRY



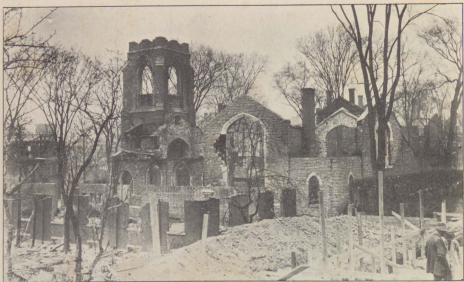
VIEW FROM STATE STREET. RUINS OF MORSE OLIVER BUILDING IN CENTER  
RUINS OF STEARNS BUILDING ON RIGHT



GRAHAM BUILDING, HOME OF THE ODD FELLOWS, KNIGHTS OF MALTA AND THE NIGREL THEATRE



VIEW FROM KENDUSKEAG BRIDGE, SHOWING UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN BACKGROUND



RUINS OF CENTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, THE FINEST SPECIMEN OF GOTHIC  
ARCHITECTURE IN NEW ENGLAND





