

CAPT. GALLAGHER LOST HIS LIFE FIGHTING THE FIRE FIEND

Many Firemen Injured by the Falling Walls of Rosen's Junk Warehouse. How the Accident Occurred.

The burning of Henry Rosen's junk warehouse, corner of Vance and Third streets last night, gave the fire department the hardest fight of the year, and resulted in a property loss variously estimated at from \$4,000 to \$15,000, while one brave fireman lost his life, and many others were seriously injured.

The Dead.

Capt. John Gallagher, of No. 3 hook and ladder truck, caught under falling wall and chest crushed, died at St. Vincent's hospital.

The Injured.

Chief William Mayo, two or three ribs broken, and cut about the face and head.

David Manley, hoseman, No. 7 company; back, chest and side injured; serious.

Byron Fordyce, pipeman, No. 8 company, contusion of right knee and spine injured; not serious.

Capt. John Mathews, No. 11 house, contusion of right leg.

Capt. Edward Skelly, No. 8 house, contusion of left arm, and left foot injured.

Ralph H. Westfall, pipeman, No. 8 company, spine injured, lower part of body paralyzed; serious.

Thomas Higgins, pipeman, No. 8 hose, slightly injured.

Ned Haughton, driver, No. 8 hose, slightly injured.

Paul J. Horan, No. 2 chemical, head cut, shoulder sprained and bruised.

Capt. James McMonagle, No. 2 house, badly bruised.

Harry W. Yearick, reporter on the News, badly cut and bruised about the head and back.

How the fire started is not known, but it was probably caused by the crossing of electric wires. It was discovered by Watchman Zlost, and the fire alarm was quickly on the spot and had lines of hose laid, but the blaze was not considered serious.

The building was a wooden structure, 50 by 50 feet and three stories high, with a newly-constructed basement. Parts of the walls were covered with sheet iron.

pressed him down, crushing his chest. Chief Mayor and Reporter Yearick were caught, but Chief Elling barely escaped. Chief Mayo managed to crawl out from under the heap. His head and face were covered with blood, and he suffered great pain from the broken ribs. He drove to a physician's office and then to the No. 3 house where he remained some time, anxious to learn the fate of his men.

Yearick was unconscious and was dragged from under the ruins, by a number of C. H. & D. men, among them being F. Wakefield, C. Skelly and C. A. Sutherland. He was taken to Sutherland's home, where he regained consciousness, and later was removed in McGlynn's ambulance to his home, 851 Colfax street.

As soon as the walls fell, firemen and scores of others rushed to the assistance of the imprisoned men. Calls were sent in for McGlynn's and Parks' ambulances and as fast as two or three injured men were taken they were removed to St. Vincent's hospital.

Captain Gallagher, Captain Mathews and David Manley were at the northwest corner of the building, Mathews and Manley dragged themselves out, but Mathews had to be assisted, and was taken to the residence of Harriet De Gray, 214 Vance street. Manley was suffering more, his spine being injured. Gallagher was in great agony, and was also taken to the De Gray residence. The ambulance soon removed the three men to St. Vincent's, and Gallagher died a few minutes after his arrival there.

Others who were caught under the wall and injured were: Ralph H. Westfall, whose spine was injured and who was partially paralyzed, and who was taken to St. Vincent's; Byron Fordyce, spine injured, and removed to St. Vincent's; Ned Haughton, slightly injured and Capt. James McMonagle, badly bruised.

Some of the men were later taken to their homes. Fordyce is not seriously hurt, and Capt. Skelly was on hand this morning, walking on crutches. Few of the men are able to report for duty. Reports from the hospital say that all of the injured men passed a good night, and are doing well. Chief Mayo had a bad neck. He is very restless and his side and stomach cause him much trouble. He is confined to his bed at his home.

Firemen worked almost all night, and it was 6 o'clock this morning when the last of the apparatus turned in.

Chief Mayo estimates the loss at \$4,000, but Mr. Rosen says it will reach \$15,000. He says he has \$3,200 insurance. Recently, he raised the building.

At 8:22, Capt. Gallagher, who was to meet death a few minutes later, turned in a second alarm, and a few minutes afterward, special calls were sent in for more hose wagons. The fire spread rapidly, and soon reached the front of the building on the Vance street side.

The wildcat whistle caused thousands of people to turn out, and there was a crowd that packed the streets. The police force was entirely too small, and the only wonder is that a hundred people were not caught under the falling walls. Rugs, rubber and other articles with which the warehouse was filled, burned rapidly, and water had no apparent effect on the flames.

The first accident occurred when all the walls except the north, or Vance street wall, fell with a crash, carrying the roof with them. The Thirteenth street wall, though leaning in at the top, fell outward into the street. There was a cry that someone had been caught, and firemen, policemen and citizens dug into the debris, but found no one. The crowd had pressed back, and every one escaped.

At the time the walls fell, two ladders were raised against the Vance street wall. At the corner was a ladder, on which were firemen Horan and Pinaskavitz, and Capt. McDonough, of the No. 2 house. They slid and jumped. Capt. McDonough and Pinaskavitz were uninjured, but Horan had his hand cut, and Pinaskavitz fell on his shoulder, spraining it and throwing him to the ground. Horan was removed to have his hand being attended to.

The second ladder was raised to the third story, and a line of hose was being raised. Capt. Edward Skelly, of No. 8 company, was at the top, and below him, in the order named, were firemen Fordyce, Wittmann and Higgins. When the noise of the falling walls was heard, Capt. Skelly shouted to the men to jump, as it was impossible to slide down the extension ladder. All of them jumped in a heap. Capt. Skelly, who dropped about 25 feet, had his left arm and left foot injured. Fordyce was bruised, Higgins was slightly hurt, and Wittmann escaped untouched. Skelly and Higgins retired, and Wittmann was sent back to the No. 3 house with the chemical, which was no longer needed.

An electric wire had been cut from a pole, and the line end fell in a pool of water, near heaps of iron, just as the men jumped from the ladder. There was a blinding flash, and all of the men were shocked to some extent.

Even when these walls had fallen, the firemen were not alarmed. The Vance street wall was leaning in, and it was not thought that it would fall. The roof and debris were piled high against it, and there was a fierce fire. Many of the firemen were working close to this wall. There were piles of iron in the street and these caused the death of Capt. Gallagher, but saved the lives of the others.

Chief Mayo and Chief Elling were directing the operations on this side, but as there seemed to be no danger, Chief Mayo went to his buggy and started to drive away. He was stopped by Harry Yearick, the News reporter, who asked him a question, and Mayo then left his carriage, and, with Yearick, started to go to Chief Elling, who was standing with his back toward them. They had almost reached him when there was a fearful crash and clouds of smoke had enveloped the men. The wall was falling, and was falling in, as was expected, but it broke about 25 feet above the ground, the upper falling toppling into the interior, and forcing the lower portion out. All of the men along the wall were caught, and cries of pain and fear could be heard. There was no escape, and all that saved the lives of the men was that the heaps of iron held the heavy wall a few feet above the ground. Poor Gallagher was knocked by a pile of iron, and the heavy wall

put in a basement, and made other improvements, but he had not increased his insurance as he employed a watchman. He will rebuild the warehouse.

There is a disposition to criticize someone or something, for the accident, Chief McDonough said:

"I have no criticism to make except of the faulty construction of the building. It was a shack, and there are many others like it, and it is a wonder that more were not killed. I was not on the Vance street side, but from what I saw I had no fear of an accident. It was unavoidable."

Chief Elling said: "It was unfortunate, but many of the men were lucky to have escaped. The fire was a bad one, hard to get at, and treacherous. The building was very faulty."

There is mourning in the department to-day. Every house is crippled by the lack of men, and some of them have brave fellows in the hospital. Those who feel the loss most keenly are Nos. 3 and 7. Captain Gallagher was a popular man, and he was brave. For years, he was at No. 7 house, and he had the warmest regard of all his men. On Aug. 1, at the time Chief Wall resigned, Gallagher was detailed to No. 3 house, as captain of the hook and ladder truck. While he has been there less than two months, he was well liked, and the men shed tears this morning, as they talked of their sad bereavement.

Captain John Gallagher was born April 20, 1860. He was appointed to a position in the department on Feb. 9, 1885, and rapidly advanced to the rank of captain, being stationed at No. 7 house, until Aug. 1. He lived at 2256 Franklin avenue, and leaves a widow and five children.

The funeral of Capt. Gallagher will be held Saturday morning at 8 o'clock from St. Francis de Sales church. Mrs. Gallagher is prostrated.

The Underwriters' association has already taken steps to call a meeting and will send a floral design to the stricken family.

There is little change in the condition of the men this afternoon, and all are doing as well as could be expected. Ralph Wesfall, the pipeman, whose spine is injured and who is partially paralyzed, is in a serious condition and may die.

Yearick, the reporter, is not dangerously injured. He suffered a contusion of the spine which will keep him in bed for some time, and his face and head were badly bruised.

The following telegram was received by the fire commissioners this noon:

Cincinnati, Sept. 20.
I desire to express my heartfelt sympathy in sad misfortune to your chief and members of your department.
J. A. ARCHIBALD,
Fire Marshal.

TOLEDO MAN MADE PRESIDENT 125TH O. V. I.

Columbus, O., Sept. 20.—Veterans of the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Ohio volunteer infantry began their annual reunion yesterday morning at No. 190 Seneca street. The regiment was recruited in this city, but the majority of members are from Trumbull, Warren and Knox counties. The reunion is being held on the anniversary day of the battle of Chickamauga, the first hard-fought battle of the regiment. During the second day's fighting one-third of the regiment was lost.

The following officers were elected: