

CHESTER TIMES – September 7, 1907

COUNTY HOTEL DESTROYED BY FIRE – Old Hostelry at Concordville a Heap of Ruins and Smoldering Ashes – CAUSED BY DEFECIVE FLUE

The Concordville Hotel at Concordville was destroyed by fire late yesterday afternoon, entailing a loss of about \$15,000, partly covered by insurance. The flames were discovered in the rear bedroom on the second floor and in a short time, the fire had gained considerable headway, getting beyond the control of the bucket brigade, which was hurriedly formed by the inmates of the hotel and neighbors, who succeeded in preventing the flames from reaching the stables and other nearby buildings.

The hotel and residence, which was owned by J. Scott Kaufman, were burned to the ground. While the structure was being wiped away by the seething flames neighbors removed considerable furniture and other articles from the building. The stock of liquors in the barroom was also removed to a place of safety.

It is believed that the fire was caused by a defective flue and it is thought that the fire smoldered from sometime in the partition before it reached the rafters. The main portion of the hotel, which was built nearly a century ago, was constructed of stone. A number of improvements had been made to the hostelry, which was purchased by Mr. Kaufman about four years ago. Negotiations were on foot for the sale of the hotel to Philadelphia parties and Mr. Kaufman, expected to close the deal this week.

Being rendered homeless by the flames. Mr. Kaufman and his wife and child were immediately given shelter at the home of Postmaster Isaac Cornog of Concordville. After the insurance is adjusted Mr. Kaufman may decide to rebuild the hotel.

The large number of men and youths who lent their efforts towards saving the household goods and contents of the hotel in general and also fought the flames for several hours, succeeded by their efforts in confining the fire to the hotel building. They saturated blankets with water and spread them on the roof of the stable to prevent the flying sparks from setting fire to the building.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION