

CHESTER TIMES – August 1, 1912

**ROSE TREE HOTEL BARN IS BURNED – Bolt of Lightning Sets Building on Fire – Loss is about \$9,000**

Lightning struck the barn at the Rose Tree Hotel near Media last night, and the resulting fire totally destroyed the structure, the loss amounting to nearly \$9,000. The barn was struck at about midnight, and in a few minutes the hay in the loft was ablaze and sending a glow in the sky which quickly brought to the scene a crowd of several hundred people.

An employee of the hotel sleeps in the barn and the crash awakened him. He immediately saw the danger and succeeded in getting out two valuable horses. In the barn were a farm wagon, a Dearborn wagon, a road cart, a quantity of harness and several tons of hay. None of these were saved, the flames spreading so rapidly that the employees barely succeeded in getting out the second horse.

The barn was of stone, stable high, and frame to the roof, and blazing embers were carried to adjacent buildings by the wind. The crowd of men gathered at the scene formed a bucket brigade, and, aided by the fact that the buildings were wet from the storm, succeeded in preventing the spread of the flames to the hotel and other buildings. The Media Fire Company also assisted with their chemical engine upon their arrival.

The strength of the wind may be gauged by the fact that windows in a double house owned by Charles Worrilow were broken by flying embers from the barn. The fire entirely destroyed the barn, there being nothing remaining this morning but the blackened walls of the stable, and a pile of ashes. The barn was a comparatively new structure and was valued at \$8,000.

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COLLECTION