



# FLAMES LICK UP TEN BUILDINGS IN THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN DIXON HISTORY!

The most destructive fire in the history of the town of Dixon occurred on August 6, 1913! As accounted in the Dixon Pilot August 9th, 1913, flames destroyed half a dozen landmarks leaving half a block in ruins. Of the ten buildings that burned, only one was insured.

Origin of the fire was reported to be from the explosion of a lamp that was being used to test eggs in Clarence Dunbar's Produce House, known as the old bakery building. The fire spread so rapidly that Dunbar was not able to even save the cash from his cash register.

Rugg's Restaurant, about eight feet west were so quickly in the teeth of the flames that Mr. Rugg was not able to save anything of value.

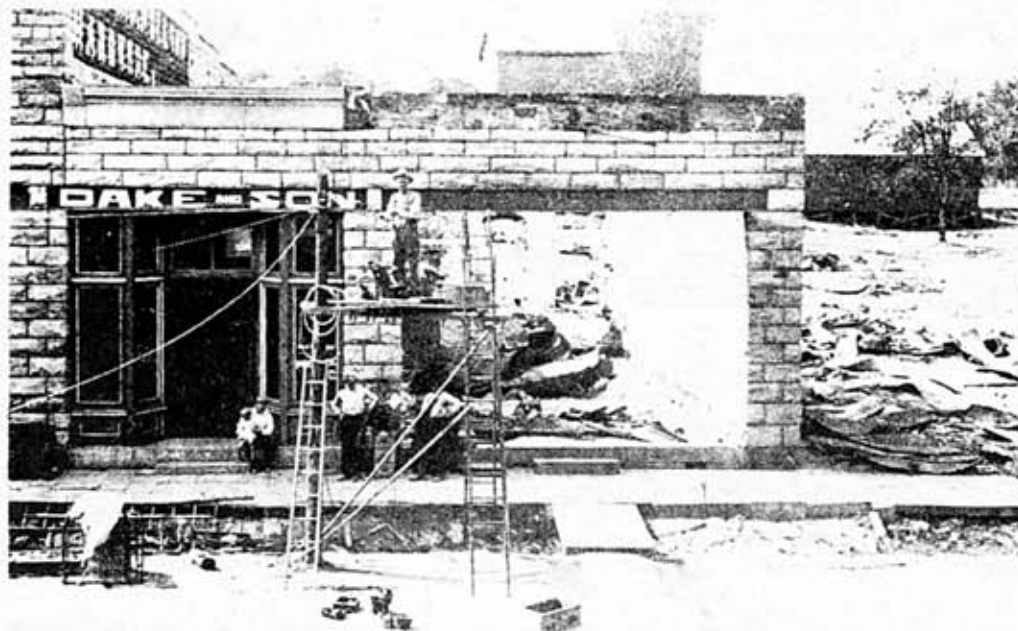
General Merchandise from James McGregor's store was carried out and roughly dumped into the street. As the McGregor building adjoined the Rugg building, it was also quickly in the grasp of the fire.

Most everything was saved from the building occupied by Elkin's Barber Shop, the next in the line of the fire. The flames subsided as they beat against the concrete wall of the Modern Mercantile building, giving an opportunity to remove most all the goods. Fire in or under the roof slowly smoldering was gaining a foothold and soon developed into flames.

While these buildings were burning, the Stone Hotel building and a two story residence known as the "Soldier's Home," near the grain elevator, occupied by the J.H. Shackelford family, were also completely destroyed, with very little furnishings saved. The old pool building at the rear of the Rugg building was also taken by the wild flames.



Dixon's biggest fire occurred on August 6th, 1913, and burned buildings from the Legion Hall to the corner. (Photo courtesy of the Dixon Advancement Association)



A fire wall save the Dake and Sons building and the Legion Hall during Dixon's worst fire on August 6th, 1913. (Photo courtesy of The Dixon Advancement Association)

The last building was H.G. Gilbert's Meat Market next to and east of the building in which the fire originated. After the hotel and Modern Mercantile buildings were reduced to ashes against the side and end of the large two story brick building occupied by the Peoples Bank, Masonic Hall and Pilot Shop, the roof of this building required the strenuous attention of a large bucket brigade for about a quarter of an hour.

All the buildings were burned on the west half of the block except the Peoples Bank building.

The stone buildings checking the fire in the middle of the block prevented the destruction of S. Scheiders' Blacksmith Shop, Dick Miller's Grocery, the Dixon Lumber Company's immense stock, and Grandma McGirr's residence on the east end of the block.

Doc McGirr, who was keeping a tab on the situation on the southeast corner of the block, reported that at one time his mother's residence had caught fire in two places as breezes carried hot remnants aloft.

The Houk Canning Factory, located about a block from the fire scene, sustained only slight damage before fire there was extinguished. Prompt work also saved the salt house, pickle plant, and Frisco Pump House.

Loss of property and buildings was estimated to be at least \$15,000, a large sum in 1915!