

THE TORCH AND ITS WORK

SOME FEW OF THE INCENDIARY FIRES IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

From the Columbia Register ; Vol. II . Columbia, S. C.

Sunday Morning, Dec. 24, 1876

Note: These events occurred during the hotly contested fight for the Governorship of South Carolina between Daniel H. Chamberlain and Wade Hampton in 1876.

- January 1. The corn crop and fodder house of Mr. Gray, in the fork of Orangeburg County.
- January 16. The residence of General M. C. Butler, at Currytown, Edgefield County. Loss \$ 8,000
- January 12. The stables and barn of Mrs. Cornwell, York County, 6,500 bundles of fodder, cotton seed, & c.
- January 26. Barn of General John Bratton, Fairfield County.
- February 10. The residence of F. B. Grier, Sumter County, destroyed by fire.
- February 11. The barn of Frank Witherspoon, colored, Mount Cleo township, Sumter County. 100 bushels of corn, two stacks of fodder, rice straw, & c.
- March 1. Barn and stable and all the live stock and provisions of Mr. D. E. Gilchrist, Marion County.
- March 3. Residence of S. Marco, in Darlington County.
- March 18. Two churches belonging to colored people, near Knights Hill, Kershaw County.
- March 23. The gin house of John Lorick. Lexington County. Nine bales of cotton burned and two stolen.
- March 24. Residence of J. P. McElhaney, near Ellington, in Barnwell, County,
- April 20. Store burned at ninety-six by William Pressley, ex-school commissioner, colored
- April 22. Gin house of W. T. Smith in Laurens County.
- April 23. Kitchen of William DuBose burned at Timmons ville.
- April 28. Mills of O. O. Barr, near Edgefield court house, destroyed by fire. All the machinery lost
- April 30. The residence of Captain J. Thomas Lowry, near Yorkville. Furniture nearly all destroyed.
- May 14. Great fire in Darlington. Loss, \$70,000. Supposed to be Incendiary.
- May 15. Fences of J. P. Mounzon, in Williamsburg County , Destroyed
- May 19. Wheat and corn mill of John Moors, in York County. Loss, \$2,500

- May 20. Gin house of Wills Rowell, in Marion County.
- May 20. Fences of J. P. Monzon, Williamsburg, a number of Panels destroyed.
- May 22. Turpentine distillery of Mc Kay, Mc Neil & Horton, near Cheraw, with twenty barrels rosin and spirits.
- May 26. Wagon shop W. A. Gaines, in Chester. Loss \$700.
- June 2. Barn and stables of P. M. Carson, near Fort Motte. Loss, corn, fodder, two horses, four mules; also cotton house and one negro house.
- June 3. Residence of Dr. H. M. Steuart, in Beaufort. Loss, \$600
- June 24. Mill buildings, railroad platform and track in the town of Winnsboro, S. C. loss \$6,000.
- June 26. Six stores and dwellings in the town of Orangeburg Loss, about \$10,000.
- June 26. Tank and pump at Mount Holly, Northeastern Railroad.
- July 4. In manning one block destroyed. Loss, \$30,000.
- July 20. The store of James B. McGary at Clinton . Loss, \$3,500.
- July 21. House of John Carlos, Jr., (colored,) in Camden.
- July 28. Residence and storeroom of a. P. Lindsey, at Lowrysville, and stock of goods belonging to Williams & Lindsey. Loss \$2,000.
- August 17. Two fires in Lexington. Loss \$2,300.
- August 24. Offices of Messrs. R. Aldrich and James M. Ryan, in Barnwell.
- August 31. Fire at Shoe Heel. Loss , \$5,000 to \$6,000.
- September 1. The Darlington Fair Company's building consumed by fire.
- September 8. An attempt to fire the dwelling of Mr. Isaac Alexander, Georgetown.
- September 9. The residence of C. D. Brown, near Grahams.
- September 11. Clines workshops in Greenville. Loss, \$8,000.
- September 18. The store of Mr. E. T. Roberts, Genesis Cross Roads, Beaufort.
- September 20. The gin houses of Messrs. H. B. Barker and David Legetto, a lot of cotton lost.
- September 21. N. B. Farr, colored tailor, of Union, burned out.
- September 26. Mr. Turner Osborn, of Anderson, burned out, saved nothing.
- October 2. An attempt to burn the town of Darlington. Discovered by the young men on guard.
- October 2. The store of Mr. Theodore Kaplan, near Dove's Depot in Darlington. Loss \$2,000.
- October 2. The store owned by Mr. G. Richards, at Mechanicsville. None of the contents saved.
- October 6. The store of E. J. Moody, near Marion. Loss \$1,300.
- October 7. The residence of Mr. J. H. Oppenheim, on Sullivan's Island. Loss \$1000.

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- October 9. A building in the city of Charleston, owned by the South Carolina Railroad Company, and occupied by the Great Southern Fire Kindler Company, with it's contents burned.
- October 11. The residence of L. B. Lewis, twenty-four miles from Aiken. Inmates barely escaped with their lives. Loss \$1,200.
- October 14. Gin house and mill of Mr. Emanuel White, near Batesburg.
- October 14. Cotton house of Mr. J. C. Wright, of Chester County; Also a considerable amount of cotton.
- October 16. The residence of Mr. John Baker, on Sullivan's Island. Loss \$1,700.
- October 16. A house belonging to Mr. Cannon, in Lexington.
- October 20. An outhouse containing 2,000 pounds seed cotton, provisions, & c., owned by S. Corley, in Lexington.
- October 20. Gin house of captain W. J. Davis , in Marion County. Loss, \$1,000.
- October 20. The gin house of Mr. John Phillips, near Sumter, with all it's contents.
- October 26. Sheriff Berry's gin house in Marion . Loss \$1,200.
- October 27. Mr. F. S. Ream's gin house, near Bishopville, Sumter County, containing twenty-five bales of cotton and a quantity of bagging and ties.
- October 27. An attempt to fire the residence of Dr. W. E. Aiken, In Camden.
- November 3. Gin house of W. J. Netties, in Williamsburg County. Loss \$1,200.
- November 3. Flour and grist mill and gin house of Captain D. S. Hair, six miles from Blackville. Loss \$2, 000.
- November 3. Dwellings and outbuildings of T. W. Dawson, railroad agent at Gadsden.
- November 4. A second attempt to fire the town of Darlington.
- November 13. The corn crib and smoke house of Mr. R. H. Earle, in Greenville. Loss \$1,000.
- November 13. The cotton and gin house of Israel Sullivan, colored, near Pine House.
- November 16. The storehouse and stock of goods belonging to W. A. Ancrum, near Camden.
- November 17. An attempt to burn the gin and cotton house of L.J. Moody, in Marion.
- November 17. Gin house of Mr. P. S. Wilds, with five bales of cotton. Loss \$800.
- November 17. A small building of W. T. Hill, in the suburbs of Timmons ville.
- November 17. The store of W. A. Ancrum, on swift creek. Loss \$2,000.
- November 17. The house of Mr. Charles Folk , on Broad River. Mr. Folk's wife and their child barely escaped with their lives.
- November 17. While Captain R . Z. Harllee was at court his dwelling and kitchen were set on fire. He was shot at twice when attempting to put out the flames.

- November 18. Gin house, seven bales of cotton and a large lot of seed, belonging to Mr. J. A. Rosborough, in Chester County.
- November 18. The barn and stables of Mr. J. W. Spence, Chester.
- November 20. The gin house of Dr. Thomas J. Dubose, in Sumter County.
- November 20. The barn of Mr. Richard Lewis. He was a candidate elect for probate judge in Oconee County.
- November 22. Mr. Alexander Roseborough's gin house at Lewis Turnout. Loss \$1,100.
- November 24. Jim Stuckey and John Anderson, two colored Democrats, living southeast of Camden, burned out.
- November 24. Attempt to burn gin house of W. J. Tedder, four miles north of Timmons ville.
- November 27. Cotton gin, saw and flouring mill belonging to Messrs. James and William Johnson, in Union County, with fifteen bales of cotton. Loss \$1,000.
- December 1. Gin house and contents of Mr. N. P. Devlin, near Abbeville. Loss, \$ 1,000.
- December 2. Gin house of Mr. James W. Hill, near Society Hill.
- December 4. Barn and stables of E. M. Wells, in Cheraw, burned. Loss \$ 1,000.
- December 4. Barn of C. H. Wilcox near Lawtonville. About three weeks before the gin house and contents were burned.
- December 4. Barn belonging to Miss Anne L. Gomillion, in Edgefield, with seven bales cotton, 200 bushels wheat and other produce.
- December 4. Mr. Westley Hawkins' gin house, in Edgefield, Destroyed by fire.
- December 6. J. I. Trantham, flat rock, Kershaw County, barn and Stables. Loss, \$ 600.
- December 7. Gin house and stables of Mr. Richard Singleton, at Acton.
- December 7. The fodder house of Mr. J. R. May, near Mechanicsville, burned.
- December 7. Gin house of Dr. W. W. Smith, at Williston, burned. Loss \$ 1,000.
- December 8. Gin house of Augustus Covin, in Abbeville County. Total loss.
- December 6. Mr. James Harper's turpentine sheds with contents. Loss \$ 1,500.
- December 11. Gin house of W. W. Miller, at Saluda old town with twenty- five bales cotton. Loss \$2,000.
- December 11. Gin house, three bales of cotton and forty tons of seed, of A. E. Gregg, of Darlington.
- December 12. Fifteen stacks of fodder of a. F. Edwards, of Darlington.
- December 12. Gin house and three bales cotton, of John Parrot, of Darlington.
- December 12. Steam mill and fixtures of Mr. D. M. Bradham. Loss \$2,500.

- December 12. Richard Humphries, (a colored democrat at Batesburg,) cotton house burned.
- December 14. Steam mill of Mr. D.M. Brabham, at Manning, destroyed by fire. Loss 2,000.
- December 14. Gin house of Daniel White, in Darlington, with a lot of cotton seed and farming utensils.
- December 15. A large portion of the town of Blackville laid in ashes. Loss, \$40,000.
- December 15. Disastrous fire in Florence. Loss, \$10,000.
- December 15. Attempt to burn the store of J. P. Clements, in Darlington County. Incendiary.
- December 15. Gin house, saw, wheat and flour mill of George Anderson, of Williamston. Supposed to be accidental.
- December 15. Cherry Hotel, at Pendleton.
- December 15. Gin house, three bales of cotton and large quality of cotton seed, of Mrs. James Hatcher, pine house, Edgefield.
- December 15. W. P. Cullum's gin house near Batesburg, in Lexington, with twelve bales of cotton.
- December 15. Cotton house, warehouse and stable of J. J. Dale, of Beaufort
- December 16. Barn belonging to Joseph E Glover, of Walterboro, with contents, corn, rice and other produce.
- December 16. Gin house of O.W. D. Russell, in Chester, with fourteen bales of cotton.
- December 16. Gin house of Mr. Blewet Worthy, in Chester, with eight bales of cotton and 800 bushels of cotton seed.
- December 16. House near F. M. Gibson's mill, destroyed by fire. Loss, \$1,050.
- December 17. Store of J. & D. McCullough, and store of W. J. Brock, at Honea Path, Anderson County.
- December 17. Barn, stables and a horse and a mule of Asa Godbold, five miles north of Marion.
- December 17. Gin house of E. J. Rembert, of Sumter, together with twenty-five bales of cotton and 2,000 bushels of cotton seed. Two weeks previous he lost his mill and gin by incendiarism.
- December 19. The gin house of Mr. J. M. McCall containing seed, cotton and cotton seed.

Copied by Gene Osburn