

Rutland Historical Society

Quarterly Vol. 34, No.1, 2004

Bates House Fire - 1906

The “Bates House” Fire of 1906 was written by Kendall Wild, a Rutland Herald Editor for 15 years. His extensive review examines the entire story of the devastating fire that engulfed downtown Rutland on 16 February of that year.

The fire started in the Ripley Block, spread toward Willow Street, ignited the rear of the Tuttle Block, proceeded to the Mead Building, engulfing all in flames, concluding with the collapse of most of the burning structures.

The story of the fire is explored in great detail, including various personal experiences, as well as an analysis of the incompetent handling by fire fighters that ultimately led to the dismissal of the Fire Chief.

Illustrating this disaster with its financial losses of property and goods are numerous photographs of the fire, and its devastating results. An excellent, well researched article.