

FIRE IN PELHAM DOES HEAVY DAMAGE

Residence of B. F. Cutter and the Hillman Carriage Factory Re- duced to Ashes.

Pelham, N. H., Aug. 10.—The mill and blacksmith shop owned by Frank H. Hillman at Cutter's Corner, Mammoth road, near the state line, and the residence of Benjamin F. Cutter, nearby, were totally destroyed by fire this afternoon. The fire originated in shavings in the basement of the mill, and was discovered by a boy in the employ of Norman Peavy of Dracut, who was loading shavings at the time. The boy called to a painter employed in the shop, that the mill was on fire, and he in turn warned Mr. Hillman, at work at the saw bench, but the whole structure actually burst into a mass of flames before either could do a thing to retard the fire's course. They rushed from the building, unable even to save a thing in the mill, the fire raged with such fierceness. The blacksmith shop, within a few feet, soon caught fire and burned, only a few heavy carts being saved. The wind carried the flames directly towards the B. F. Cutter residence, which was next to go. Much of the furniture in the lower story was saved from the Cutter home.

Many volunteers gathered and protected the Susan M. Cutter homestead across the highway, which was seriously threatened. The triple combination fire truck from the Palmer street engine house, Lowell, was called by Mrs. Cutter, and its efficiency was satisfactorily demonstrated. The loss to Mr. Hillman must have been about \$5000, with no insurance whatever on either buildings or contents.

It was a fully equipped carriage manufactory, with much stock on hand and conducted under the firm name of R. B. Hillman & Son, Mr. Hillman succeeding to the business at the time of his father's death about five years ago. Besides the valuable machinery, tools and stock destroyed, there was \$200 worth of vinegar, a 1915 Reo automobile and all the finish for the Harry Jack residence which had just been prepared by Mr. Hillman and awaited delivery.

The B. F. Cutter place, so-called, is owned by his mother, Mrs. Susan M. Cutter, and was insured for \$1000 in the Granite State Fire Insurance Co. Mr. Cutter's furniture was insured for \$200, and his vehicles and equipment in the barn connected were insured for \$100. There was \$200 insurance on the piano, which was saved. The origin of the fire is unknown.