

NEWS LETTER DISK

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FIRE DESTROYS HOTEL

December 1, 1921: The Averill Park hotel, formerly the site of the Sand Lake Collegiate Institute, and an old landmark Rensselaer county, was destroyed by fire early this morning. The strutter has a history that xdates back almost a century

The family was asleep in an other part of the building and the fire is said to have made considerable progress before either Mr. or Mrs. Boarer or their daughter discovered the flams. The alarm was spread immediately and members of the volunteer fire department turned out to man the village apparatus. The engine, which is of the gasoline motor type and which throws an unuaually strong stream, was given water supply from a pond recently made when the Faith Knitting Company constructed a dam. There was no scarcity of water and the fireman as well as residences of the villages of sand Lake and Glass Lake, who were also summond out for aid, did everything possible to save the building.

The building was situated at the junction of the state road, leading to Troy by way of West Sand Lake and Snyders Lake, and the road leading down to the Averill Park Troy and New England railway Station.

Years ago the tavern was known as the Sand Lake Hotel. Almost eighty five years ago the hotel was built. It was first operated by Theodorus Gregory. a few years after the structure was badly damaged by fire, but was rebuilt and soon after sold to Franklin Shaw the later disposed of it to Daniel M Gregory, whose son Ellias conducted the hotel for more than five years. Several other proprietors followed Mr. Gregory, and in 1852 the building was converted into the Sand Lake Collegiat Institute.. This school was conducted for more than 20 years by William H. Scram.

The Institute was in its prime during the '50s and '60s, having been started in 1852. It was established by W H Scram, A. M. who was principle and who previously had established the Scram Academy in the same village. Mr. Scram taught natural science, rhetoric, book keeping and elocution. Charles H Peck, broth of Arthur M Peck, of Sand Lake, taught ancient and modern languages. Professor peck later became state botanist and won a wide reputation in this work. The other faculty members were W J Donaly brother of Mrs. Schram, who taught mathamatics and composition. The object of the institution was to prepare young men for collage and university

The Institute was a boarding school but the academy was a day school for the convenience of the students of the vicinity, of which there many.

Emma Willard, whoes efforts in behalf of education, will always be history in Troy, was intrested in the institute, while Russell Sage was interested in the academy.

After the death of principal Scram the building was again converted into a hotel with William Grggs as proprietor. The latter sold the property tp Horatio F and James K. Averill, who in the early eighties dormed the Averill Park Land Company, giving the village of Averill Park the name by which it is known to-day.. The Averills conducted the

tavern for a number of years and after their death he estate continued to lease the property for hotel purposes.. It was about twelve years ago that the late William H. Hike purchased the property and continued the hostelry until it was purchased by the present owner.

In February 1920 A. S. Boarder lat of the Van Schaick Island Country Club, havinh bought the Averoll Park Hotel of the late William Hilke, will open for buissens on or about April 1st. Former pattns and families will receive a good welcomee. Rooms and board all teay round.

Albert S Board, was in the building when the fire started Mr Boarder has been in ill health for some time and the discovery if the fire resulted in his collapse. Only the promte arrival of neighbors saved his life

A. S BOARDER - 1862-1922

SAND LAKE UNION CEM