

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1866

Fire Brigades' under the Adelaide Fire Insurance Companies', as listed in the Town and Country Directory, and Guide to South Australia for 1866. Their locations and the Fireman in charge. By Josiah Boothby, ESQ. (Government Statist). Many private reels were also utilised around South Adelaide.

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.
(Office—Government Buildings, King William Street.)
Manager of Waterworks—B. Boothby, jun.
Clerk—Charles Fry.
Collectors of Water Rates—W. T. Cooper, J. Jowett, W. Delano.
Turncocks—Chas. Seymour, Valve-house, East Park Lands
Geo. Harris, Margaret-street, North Adelaide
S. Boddington, Chancery Lane, Wakefield Street.

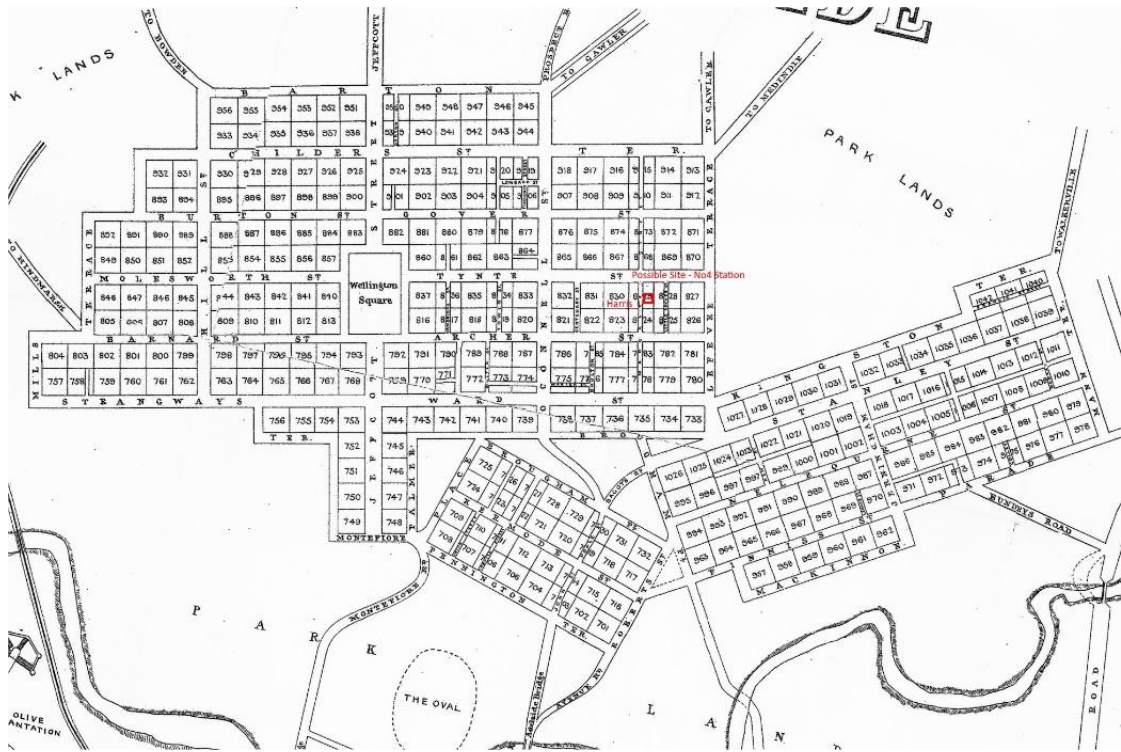
FIRE BRIGADE.
Superintendent of Fire Brigade—Arthur Jno. Baker, 2, Dorsetta Terrace, Flinders-street

FIRE ENGINE STATIONS.
(Each of which is supplied with a hose-reel, 200 feet of hose, together with standards, keys, ladders, &c.)
No. 1 Station, Rundle-street east. Foreman, Geo. Barlow.
“ 2 “ Blyth-street. Foreman, J. Carvosso.
“ 3 “ Waymouth-street. Foreman, Govt. Turncock.
“ 4 “ Margaret-street, N.A. Foreman, Govt. Turncock.

Town and Country Directory, and Guide to South Australia for 1866.



South Adelaide



North Adelaide

NOTICE. — FIRE. FIRE. — NOTICE.

The Adelaide Fire Insurance Companies' Fire Brigades are stationed as under, viz. :—

No. 1. Horse-Cart Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of George Barlow and Firemen, Rundle-street east.

No. 2. Hand-Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of J. Coulls and Firemen, Blyth-street.

No. 3. Hand-Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of Samuel Boddington, Government-Turncock, and Firemen, Chancery-lane.

No. 4. Hand-Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of George Harris, Government Turncock, and Firemen, Margaret-street, North Adelaide.

Whenever a fire occurs in the City of Adelaide, and damage is done to any insured property, and the assured intends to make a claim on the Company, immediate notice of such fire must be made to the Superintendent of Fire Brigades.

Owners of property are particularly requested not to open the windows or doors of buildings on fire.

The Police will assist to prevent all persons from interfering, except the actual owners, until the arrival of the Superintendent of Fire Brigades or his Firemen.

A Reward of 10s. 6d. will be paid to the person who gives the first notice of fire to the Superintendent at his residence.

There will also be given three other rewards, viz., to the first person giving notice of a fire at either of the undermentioned Fire Brigade Stations, under the following regulations :—

1st. Reward of 5s. to the person who gives the first notice of any fire to the Brigade that arrives first at the fire.

2nd. Reward of 3s. to the person giving the notice of any fire to the Brigade that arrives second at the fire.

3rd. Reward of 2s. to the person giving the notice of any fire to the Brigade that arrives third at the fire.

The rate of wages for labor engaged by the Superintendent at any Fire will be—

	Men.	Boys.	
Labor (1st hour ...	2s. 6d.	1s. 3d.	} Day
at (2nd do. ...	1s. 6d.	1s. 0d.	
Fires. (3rd do. ...	1s. 0d.	0s. 9d.	

Total for 3 hours 5s. 0d. 3s. 0d.
Men 1s., Boys 6d. per hour for each succeeding hour, Day or Night.

Boys not to be engaged, if avoidable.

By order,
ARTHUR JNO. BAKER,
wfm6 Superintendent of Fire Brigades.

Town and Country Directory, and Guide to South Australia for 1866.

Adelaide Express (SA : 1863 - 1866), Saturday 3 March 1866, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

A fire broke out about 1 o'clock this morning on the premises of Mr. Goldsack, confectioner, Rundle-street. The fire bell was rung, and the brigade were called out, being on the spot in less than 10 minutes from receiving information. The fire was extinguished in a few minutes. In the Advertiser this morning, it is stated that the fire was put out before the arrival of the brigade, but the information was incorrect on that point.

Adelaide Express (SA : 1863 - 1866), Monday 5 March 1866, page 3

THE FIRE IN RUNDLE-STREET.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

An inquest was held by Thomas Ward, J.P., at the Sir John Barleycorn Hotel, on Saturday afternoon, March 3, to enquire into the circumstances which caused the fire on the premises of Mr. S. Goldsack, confectioner, Rundle-street, on that morning. A Jury of fifteen was sworn in, of which Mr. Wm. Paxton was chosen Foreman. The Jury having viewed the premises the following evidence was taken :—

Martin Doherty, police-constable, stated about a quarter past 1 o'clock that morning one of Mr. Goldsack's men named Smith came running up Rundle-street. Asked him what was the matter, and he said Mr. Goldsack's place was on fire. Went then direct to Mr. Baker, and in about seven minutes after Mr. Baker and witness came down. On top of the oven was a very strong body of fire. He (witness) was employed afterwards in keeping the crowd back until the fire was put out. He left about 2 o'clock. Should think the fire was extinguished in about ten minutes after Mr. Baker's arrival. Had no reason to think that any foul play had taken place. Noticed some wooden cases on fire on top of the oven when Mr. Baker arrived.

By the Foreman—Did not consider that it was right to put wooden boxes on a heated oven such as that was.

By the Coroner—The roof over the oven is of galvanized iron. The day previous was a very hot one, but the night of the fire was a pleasant one.

By the Foreman—The rafters are of wood, apparently stringy bark.

Stephen Goldsack, confectioner and baker, Rundle-street, said about ten minute, past one that morning he was awakened by a knocking at the back door. Jumped out of bed with a view to ascertain the cause of the knocking, and from his bedroom window, which commands a view of the bakehouse, he saw a great deal of smoke issuing from all parts of the bakehouse. Dressed and ran down stairs to the bakehouse door, where he found Mr. Wright, his foreman, carrying water into the bakehouse in buckets, and several other persons assisting. Saw a fire over the northern oven. There are two ovens in the bake-house, one at each end. Was last using the oven about two o'clock the previous afternoon, when the fire was allowed to die away into ashes. When he saw the fire he immediately turned the water tap on to its full power and filled the buckets with water and passed them on to the men as fast as possible. Continued to do so until the arrival of the Fire Brigade under Mr. Baker. Previous to the arrival of the brigade Mr. Wright told him to turn the water off. Had since learned that the premises were insured by his land-lord, The property which he had

lost was not insured, assisted to place the cases over the oven himself. Some of them are tin, and some wooden. They were not on the crown, but at the back of the oven. Considered that the wooden cases were perfectly safe on the top of the oven, as there were tin cases underneath.

By the Foreman—The thickness of the top of the oven is about two or three feet. Considered that the great heat of the oven, together with the heat of the weather, had caused the tin cases to collapse and throw the wooden cases over on to the oven. The oven was perfectly sound in every part. Supposed the cases fell over from the scattered position in which he found them afterwards. Had no interest in the insurance whatever, as the premises were insured by his landlord.

Thomas Wright, foreman to Mr. Goldsack, deposed that about 1 o'clock that morning he was sleeping on the floor in the bakehouse of Mr. Goldsack, 98, Rundle-street. Was awakened by a cracking noise. Looked up and saw a fire on the top of the oven, at the north end of the bakehouse. Went across the yard and awakened two of his fellow servants—Samuel Beaumont and North Smith. Then came back and woke up Mr. Goldsack. By that time the other two servants had come out into the yard, and he sent Smith to the Police Station to fetch the Fire Brigade. He and Beaumont then threw water on to the fire. Mr. Goldsack came very soon after he was called, and filled the buckets with water until the fire became so fierce that they could not stand it, and then he told Mr. Goldsack to turn the water off. The Fire Brigade arrived, and soon put the fire out. Did not consider the wooden cases were unsafe under the circumstances in which they were placed.

By the Foreman—Did smoke sometimes, but had never had occasion to go on to the top of the oven for the last fortnight. The boxes were placed on the oven about a fortnight ago. That particular oven had not been heated for the last 12 months till last Monday fortnight, when they commenced to bake the passover cakes.

By a Juror—Did not have charge of the oven himself, but started it himself.

By the Coroner—Removed everything which they considered inflammable from the top of the oven previous to heating it. Had no idea of the origin of the fire, unless it was through the heat of the oven and the heat of the weather having made the iron roof so hot.

Arthur John Baker, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, said about 20 minutes past 1 o'clock he was aroused by the policeman. He said there was a fire a Goldsack's. Went with him to the premises. On his arrival he saw some of Mr. Goldsack's men engaged in throwing water on the fire. Asked for Mr. Goldsack, who was assisting. Formed the men into a line and told them to continue throwing water on until the Fire Brigade arrived. Nos. 1 and 2 reels were soon on the ground, and the hose connected. He went back to see how the fire was progressing, and one of the firemen named Dillon, said he could stand the heat no longer, and could not get near enough to throw the water on. About five minutes after his arrival the water was turned on. About a quarter of an hour elapsed from the time of his arrival to the extinguishing of the fire. He considered it very unsafe to have the wooden cases there. As Surveyor for the Insurance Companies he should have forbidden them being there before passing the risk for insurance. He believed that the hole in the roof over the oven was made by a man with the idea of pouring water through it on to the fire. Considered if the hole had not been made the flames would never have been seen through the roof. Thought the cause of the fire was the igniting of the boxes near the oven. Having laid there so long

the boxes were as dry as tinder. He thought also that a spark might have come out of the mouth of the oven and blown up on to the boxes.

This concluded the evidence, and the Coroner having briefly summed up, The Jury, after a short consultation, returned the following verdict:—"That the fire originated accidentally, and they strongly recommend Mr. Goldsack not to place any combustible matter on the top of the oven for the future." The Coroner informed Mr. Goldsack of the recommendation of the Jury, and the enquiry closed.

Mr. Baker suggested, for the information of bakers generally, that it would be of great benefit to have the top of the oven covered with a layer of sand, as in case of any crack appearing the sand would fall through and act as a damper of the fire.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 31 March 1866, page 6

At 3 o'clock on Monday morning the firebell gave warning of a fire having occurred in the city. It was found to be in the cellar of Mr. Anderson, boot-maker, Hindley-street. The reel was on the spot in an almost incredibly short space of time, and succeeded in arresting the progress of the flames, which, had it not been for the promptitude displayed, would in all probability have caused a serious conflagration.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 31 March 1866, page 1

Between 6 and 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening the chimney flue of one of a row of houses known as Peacock's buildings, on East-terrace, became ignited. The flames rose to the height of five or six feet, causing some alarm, as the house was one of a long row, and the roofs are all of shingle. Reel No. 1 (Mr. Barlow's) was promptly on the spot, and extinguished the flames before they had extended beyond the chimney in which the fire originated. If the fire had not been thus promptly extinguished a serious conflagration might have taken place, as the habitations are rather crowded just about the neighborhood in question.

Adelaide Express (SA : 1863 - 1866), Friday 6 April 1866, page 1

NOTICE. — FIRE. FIRE. — NOTICE.

The Adelaide Fire Insurance Companies' Fire Brigades are stationed as under, viz. :—

No. 1. Horse-Cart Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of George Barlow and Firemen, Rundle-street east.

No. 2. Hand-Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of J. Coulls and Firemen, Blyth-street.

No. 3. Hand-Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of Samuel Boddington, Government-Turncock, and Firemen, Chancery-lane.

No. 4. Hand-Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of George Harris, Government Turncock, and Firemen, Margaret-street, North Adelaide.

Whenever a fire occurs in the City of Adelaide, and damage is done to any insured property, and the assured intends to make a claim on the Company, immediate notice of such fire must be made to the Superintendent of Fire Brigades.

Owners of property are particularly requested not to open the windows or doors of buildings on fire.

The Police will assist to prevent all persons from interfering, except the actual owners, until the arrival of the Superintendent of Fire Brigades or his Firemen.

A Reward of 10s. 6d. will be paid to the person who gives the first notice of fire to the Superintendent at his residence.

There will also be given three other rewards, viz., to the first person giving notice of a fire at either of the undermentioned Fire Brigade Stations, under the following regulations :—

1st. Reward of 5s. to the person who gives the first notice of any fire to the Brigade that arrives first at the fire.

2nd. Reward of 3s. to the person giving the notice of any fire to the Brigade that arrives second at the fire.

3rd. Reward of 2s. to the person giving the notice of any fire to the Brigade that arrives third at the fire.

The rate of wages for labor engaged by the Superintendent at any Fire will be—

	Men.	Boys.	
Labor { 1st hour ...	2s. 6d.	1s. 3d.	} Day or } Night.
at 2nd do. ...	1s. 6d.	1s. 0d.	
Fires. { 3rd do. ...	1s. 0d.	0s. 9d.	

Total for 3 hours 5s. 0d. 3s. 0d.

Men 1s., Boys 6d. per hour for each succeeding hour, Day or Night.

Boys not to be engaged, if avoidable.

By order,

ARTHUR JNO. BAKER,

Superintendent of Fire Brigades.

wfm6

NOTICE. — FIRE. FIRE. — NOTICE.

The Adelaide Fire Insurance Companies' Fire Brigades are stationed as under, viz. :—

No. 1. Horse-Cart Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of George Barlow and Firemen, Rundle-street east.

No. 2. Hand-Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of J. Coulls and Firemen, Blyth-street.

No. 3. Hand-Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of Samuel Boddington, Government-Turncock, and Firemen, Chancery-lane.

No. 4. Hand-Reel, Hose, Implements, &c., in charge of George Harris, Government Turncock, and Firemen, Margaret-street, North Adelaide.

Whenever a fire occurs in the City of Adelaide, and damage is done to any insured property, and the assured intends to make a claim on the Company, immediate notice of such fire must be made to the Superintendent of Fire Brigades.

Owners of property are particularly requested not to open the windows or doors of buildings on fire.

The Police will assist to prevent all persons from interfering, except the actual owners, until the arrival of the Superintendent of Fire Brigades or his Firemen.

A Reward of 10s. 6d. will be paid to the person who gives the first notice of fire to the Superintendent at his residence.

There will also be given three other rewards, viz., to the first person giving notice of a fire at either of the undermentioned Fire Brigade Stations, under the following regulations :—

1st. Reward of 5s. to the person who gives the first notice of any fire to the Brigade that arrives first at the fire.

2nd. Reward of 3s. to the person giving the notice of any fire to the Brigade that arrives second at the fire.

3rd. Reward of 2s. to the person giving the notice of any fire to the Brigade that arrives third at the fire.

The rate of wages for labor engaged by the Superintendent at any Fire will be—

Men. Boys.

Labor (1st hour ... 2s. 6d. 1s. 3d) Day

at (2nd do. ... 1s. 6d. 1s. 0d.) or

Fires, (3rd do. ... 1s. 0d. 0s. 9d.) Night.

Total for 3 hours 5s. 0d. 3s. 0d.

Men 1s., Boys 6d. per hour for each succeeding hour, Day or Night.

Boys not to be engaged, if avoidable.

By order,

ARTHUR JNO. BAKER,

wfm6 Superintendent of Fire Brigades.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 28 April 1866, page 3

FIRE BRIGADE DINNER.

Mr. A. J. Baker, Superintendent of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, gave a dinner on Monday evening, April 23, at 7 o'clock, at the London Inn, Flinders-street, to the members of the Brigade and a number of invited guests. After the usual loyal toasts had been drunk, Mr. Townsend, Mayor of Adelaide, proposed the ' Fire Insurance Companies ' in a practical and amusing speech, in which he animadverted upon the Government for not insuring buildings, and urged that those who did not insure took advantage of the capital and prudence of those who did. He hoped that all would insure, and so reduce the rates. Mr. Wright responded, and regretted that neither the Government nor the Corporation should give Insurance Companies any assistance or encouragement.

He was happy to say that since Mr. Baker had the superintendence of the Brigade, they had not seen a single fire of importance. He hoped all would learn to insure, and not increase the expense and earn the benefit of other people's insuring, or run the risk of being called upon to pay expenses of putting out their own fires. The Hon. J. Morphett proposed 'The Police of South Australia.' He had seen the Force called into existence twenty-seven years ago. and knew how much the colonists were indebted to them, but particularly on that occasion he would point out what cordial and valuable assistance they rendered to the Fire Brigade. He proposed 'The Police Force,' coupled with the name of Major Warburton. Major Warburton responded for the Police. He regretted the absence of an officer so much longer known to them than himself — George Hamilton. The Police Force was like the Army, a necessary evil, but he believed they gave the police, with their officers, credit for doing their duty. He thought it, however, an unwise thing to make good policemen into bad firemen. The firemen should follow their vocation, and the police preserve order. There had been differences among the officers, but their good sense and good feeling had prevented him from seeing it, and dissension had never ripened into difference. He had heard of the police before he arrived in the colony, and heard of them favorably. The conduct of the police compared favorably with that of any equal number of men in the army or navy, for the policeman performed his duty unwatched, and was exposed to many temptations. Then look at the country guarded by the police. There was one policeman to every thousand miles of occupied country, and a great part of Adelaide was unprotected and good order was owing to the character of the community. The citizens assisted the police with horses, and in other ways. The endeavor of the police had been to do their duty without fear or favor. Mr. Von der Heyde proposed 'The Superintendent and Firemen of the Fire Brigade.' He had heard a remark to this effect — 'What would happen if a fire broke out to-night?' and he appreciated the feeling that prompted the question. (Laughter.) But he thought that was the best evening in which a fire could happen, for the firemen were all together, with those who would be affected by fires. He could tell them of a recent occasion in which their worthy host, the Superintendent was seen, not in his present costume, but fresh from a ball — all tails and shirtcollar — perched on a housetop. (Laughter, and cheering.) The Superintendent (Mr. A. J. Baker), responded They were always ready for wine or water, and if they were called to a fire they would be there. He said the Fire Brigade would be nothing without the Police to keep back the crowd who obstructed operations, and watch those who wished not to put out a fire but increase it from motives of their own. He was sorry to see so few representatives of Companies present, but the gaiety of the last week accounted for that. He thought they would always be ready to do their duty, and he felt almost dissatisfied to see all their uniforms so un-soiled. He felt grateful to the members of Parliament, who passed the Brigade Act. They should be paid when they were called out at night to save the property of citizens. The Rev. Mr. Wood proposed 'The Land we Live in.' He was not accustomed to proposing toasts, but the one placed in his hands was suggestive. As the thermometer went up, his enthusiasm for the country he lived in went down. In his travels to Moonta and other places, he wondered where all the grass they had heard so much of had gone to. But they should not judge South Australia by their present season, any more than they should judge Ireland at the time of the potato blight. He thought they had to be grateful for the amount of liberty they enjoyed, and whatever faults as a people they might have, they had evidence of the existence of the virtue of hospitality. Mr. J. H. Clark responded. Only 30 years had passed, since the white man placed his foot on those shores, and they had institutions suitable only to advanced states of civilization, and amongst those

institutions he would mention the Fire Brigade. They had not, however, arrived at the pitch of civilization that gave Fire Brigades ample employment. South Australia was a land in which he hoped to live and die, and in which he hoped his children would grow up, therefore it was with sincerity and earnestness he responded to the toast. Mr. Sydney Clark proposed 'Lady Daly, and the ladies of South Australia,' and Mr. Rymill responded. Mr. English proposed 'The Press,' in an eloquent and eulogistic speech, and Mr. J. Stow, of the Advertiser, responded. The proceedings were enlivened by a number of excellent songs, comic and sentimental, and the meeting broke up with cheers for the worthy host of the occasion, after a festive and delightful evening had been spent.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 13 September 1866, page 2

Fire in the Town Hall Buildings.—Shortly after 6 o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, September 12, Mr. Cobbin, Keeper of the Police and Local Courts, on entering the Town Hall buildings to perform his usual work observed a strong smell of gas. Proceeding along the corridor to the wing near the Government Offices, he found that the gasalier near the City Surveyor's room had fallen, and that the jet of gas issuing from the pipe had become ignited, and, flaming upwards, burned a hole through the ceiling. He immediately gave the alarm to the police, who were then leaving duty on the streets, and with two or three others hastened to apply water to the flames, which speedily subdued them. At the same time Mr Henry Taylor attached the Government hose in charge of Mr. Milton to the fire-plug in the Government Yard, and brought it to bear upon the fire. Shortly afterwards the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, with No. 2 reel, arrived, and that hose was substituted for the other, which was not of sufficient length. By the application of a comparatively small amount of water the flames were soon got under. This unfortunate accident is believed to have been caused in the following way. Mr. Adams, in setting the kitchen-range adjoining the refreshment-room, had stopped the aperture left for sweeping the flue, and made a hole in the side of the chimney close by the door frame. On Tuesday afternoon, between 3 and 4 o'clock, the messenger had burned some paper in the fireplace below, and it is supposed that it must have when lighted gone up the chimney, and fallen through the newly-made hole on to the floor, and smouldered there, eventually kindling the boards, and causing the joint in the rod to which the gasalier was attached to melt off. The total extent of the damage will be something under £100, being confined to the destruction of the dividing door, several yards of the flooring, and of the gaspipe.