

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1876

Locations of Fire Reels

300	GOVERNMENT
ADELAIDE & PORT ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE. Superintendent, Arthur John Baker, East terrace. Deputy Superintendent, Thomas Sanders, Waterworks Yard, Port Adelaide. ADELAIDE REEL STATIONS. No. 1. Horse Cart Reel, with 240 feet of hose and all necessary implements, Grenfell street east. Richard Spencer, foreman. No. 2. Horse Cart Reel, with 240 feet of hose and all necessary implements, Hindley street west. W. Benbow, foreman. No. 3. Hand Reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, King William street south. Job Morris, foreman. No. 4. Hand Reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, Archer street, North Adelaide. William Smith, foreman. No. 5. Government Hand Reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, at the rear of Post-Office, King William street.	No. 6. Government Hand Reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, at the rear of South Australian Institute, North terrace. No. 7. Hand Reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, Fisher place, off Rundle street, Wills & Co.'s. W. Hendry, foreman. No. 8. A spare Hand Reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, at Mr. A. J. Baker's, East terrace. Government Hand Reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, at Government House, North terrace, for private use in case of fire. A Government Hand Reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, at the Railway Station, North terrace. PORT ADELAIDE REEL STATIONS. No. 1. Hand Reel, complete, at the Waterworks Yard. W. Laphorn, foreman. No. 2. Hand Reel, complete, St. Anthony street. F. Appleby, foreman. No. 3. Hand Reel, complete, Port Railway Station. Railway Porters. No. 4. Hand Reel, complete, Mr. A. Hall's store, Levi's Wharf.

ENGINEERING DIVISION. (Office, Eagle Chambers.)
Engineer of Waterworks, Engineer-in-Chief. Draughtsman, A. R. Lungley. Clerk, Robert Tapscott. Superintendent Mains, &c., Charles Seymour. Reservoir Keeper, Charles Sanders. Foreman and Inspector of Services (Port Adelaide and Suburban), T. Sanders. Inspector of Services (Adelaide and Suburban), T. E. Smith. Turncocks—William Smith, Archer street, North Adelaide; D. McLean, Wakefield street, East Adelaide; T. Wright, corner Brown and Gouger streets, West Adelaide; B. Mander, Osmond terrace, Norwood; William Bonney, Unley road, Unley; Henry Smith, William street, near Sussex Arms, Walkerville; Richard Goodfellow, First street, Bowden; P. Scanlon, Spencer terrace, Glenelg; T. Peryman, Lipson street south, near Junction road, Port Adelaide; H. Knowles, Carlisle street, Glanville.

Boothby 1876

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Saturday 22 January 1876, page 3

FIRE IN PIRIE-STREET.

About midnight on Friday, January 21, a fire occurred on premises occupied by Mr. F. Fuchs, storekeeper and baker, at the corner of Pirie and Acland streets. The fire was first seen in the bakehouse, at the rear of the store, by a passer by, who aroused the family and

neighborhood. Information was at once forwarded to the Police Station, Police Barracks, and keepers of the fire-reels, and a crowd of persons soon assembled from all parts of the town, for the cry of "Fire" was raised, and the lurid smoke acted as a guide to the scene. Willing hands commenced carrying things out of the store and some of the houses adjoining, and a posse of foot police, under Sergeant Irvine, did all in their power to render assistance and to keep order. A body of 10 police-troopers with Chief Inspector Searcy were also present. No. 1 Reel was soon at the fire, followed closely by No. 7. Within about 25 minutes of the time the alarm was first given water was brought to play on the buildings, under the direction of Mr. A. J. Baker, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. From the first it was seen that the store was doomed, for the combustible nature of its contents made excellent food for the devouring element. But few articles were removed, and they were of trifling value. Two other reels also played on the fire, and it was soon brought under subjection, but not before it had seriously damaged two houses in Acland street, occupied by Mr. Kay and Mrs. Pearce, as well as injured the roof of a third dwelling. The furniture had previously been removed from these dwellings, so that the only injury done was that to the buildings. Mr. Fuchs, however, was not so fortunate, for the only things saved of value were some papers and some money which Miss Fuchs succeeded in obtaining by entering the shop window. The goods were not insured, and as the shop was large and well stocked, Mr. Fuchs will be a heavy loser. Nothing is known as to the origin of the fire, for the oven in the bakehouse had not been used that evening, and Miss Fuchs, who lives a few doors from the shop, says that everything was all right when she left it. Mr. Fuchs was asleep on the premises when the alarm was given. The shop and dwelling-houses damaged belong to Mr. Henry Daw, of St. Mary's, South-road. It is not known whether they are insured. If the weather had not been calm there is no telling what the result might have been, for there are a number of old buildings in the neighborhood which must have been burnt had there been a breeze. Messrs. Hill & Co.'s stables are immediately opposite, and also a large store occupied by Mr. J. N. Perry.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 22 January 1876, page 2

LATEST NEWS

FIRE IN PIRIE-STREET. —When the city was slumbering early on Saturday morning a fire occurred at the shops of Mr. Fuchs, in Pirie-street, at the corner of Ackland-street. The reports of bystanders varied as to the time of the flames breaking out, but according to the testimony of Messrs. Hill, Perry, and P.C. Owen, the blaze was first seen about two minutes past midnight. The premises consist of two grocer and baker's shops, with a room between them, and a bakehouse, with two backrooms near. In one of the backrooms the baker, Mr. Ernest Kandler, was sleeping, and he was awakened at midnight. He had before going to bed put out the lights, and states that the place was safe. P.C. Owen, whose beat was in Pirie-street, had, about 12 o'clock, his attention called to flames rising from the bakehouse, and he immediately ran for reels. Other persons then came and some goods were got out of the place. The conflagration soon spread, so help was rendered to get the furniture from the cottages in Ackland-street. which are attached to the shops. Mr. Kay and family were brought out of the first, a wooden dwelling, the roof and interior of which have been destroyed. The second was occupied by Mr. Fergusson and family, and they, with their household stuff, were compelled to abandon it, although the place has not sustained much damage, as it with the next one was of brick. The third cottage, tenanted by Mr. Fuchs's daughters, was also left empty. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade (Mr. A. J. Baker) was

soon on the spot, and in about 15 minutes No. 1 Reel, in charge of Mr. Spencer, arrived, and by 12.27 a.m. was fixed and began to play. Next came Hendry's (No. 7), Morris's (No. 3), and Benbow's (No. 4) Reels, which rendered material service. The flames in the shopfronts were first brought under subjection, then attention was directed to the roofs. Fortunately the wind was favourable, hence within an hour the fire was practically out, although it smouldered. The shops were of stone and iron, but the stocks were consumed. No reason can be assigned for the fire. It was first seen in the bakehouse, but no light was believed to have been left there, and the oven had not been used since Thursday evening. The premises belong to Mr. Daw, of South-road, upon whom a serious loss falls, as the property, it is said, was not insured. Mr. Fuchs also has no insurance policy. The amount of the damage cannot at present be estimated. A great number of people congregated and helped to extinguish the flames or save moveables. Many of the police force were in attendance to keep order, but the crowd were well behaved.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 14 February 1876, page 2

GENERAL NEWS

On Monday morning, February 14, the Superintendent called the Fire Brigade out in Hutt-street. Twelve men, with two horse-reels and two hand-reels, responded, and went through the usual practice. The horse-reels travelled 350 yards from the fire-plug, and ran off 500 feet of hose, completing the work in two minutes. The hand reels went 100 yards, and ran off 150 feet of hose, completing their work in 1¾ minutes. - The apparatus and everything connected with the Brigade appeared to be in good order.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 25 February 1876, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

On Thursday evening, February 24, shortly before 7 o'clock, a fire was discovered by a storeman, named John Rogers, in a cellar in the back premises of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, and Co., Gawler-place. Mr. Jas. Hendry, keeper of No. 7 Reel, was immediately communicated with, and in five minutes after the fire was first seen, water was brought into play. As the contents of the cellar consisted principally of rope and hardware, and the flames were speedily subdued, no great damage was done. The fire is supposed to have had its origin in a lantern being placed in a coil of rope, which, the candle burning down, ignited. It was fortunate that men were at work on the premises, and that the fire was soon discovered. The Superintendent of Fire Brigades (Mr. A. J. Baker, J.P.) was present ; and so were Reels Nos. 1 and 3, but the services of the Reels were not required.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Saturday 26 February 1876, page 2

THE FIRE AT HARRIS, SCARFE, AND CO.'S.

Mr. J. M. Solomon, J.P., held an inquest at the Hotel Europe on Friday, February 25, into the circumstances attending the late fire at Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co.'s premises, in Gawler-place. Mr. James Hill was chosen foreman of the Jury. John Rogers, storeman to Harris, Scarfe, and Co., said—I was the first to see the fire. I saw a lot of smoke going through the archway between the front and the back yards. I at first thought it was dust. This was between 6.30 and a quarter to 7 last night. On approaching the north-eastern window of the cellar I saw a flame coming through it. I ran and fixed the fire hose on to the standpipe, and directed it to the window, but found it was not long enough to reach there, so I let it play

through the next windows, through which smoke was coming, I also got all the men I could with buckets of water. I had previously sent for the fire-reels, and the first reel arrived about 10 minutes to 7. By the time it arrived the flames had ceased coming out of the windows, but there was still a great deal of smoke. A man named Bennett had been in the cellar at half-past 5 getting out rope from that part where the fire started. He had a lighted candle inside a lantern. The regulations of the establishment prohibit the use of a naked light in any part of the premises. By the Jury—We always use candles. If we used oil lamps the mischief would, I think, not have occurred. The candle had been left burning and had burnt down to the socket and melted it, and then the grease caught fire. William Bennett, laborer at Harris, Scarfe, and Co.'s, said—My principal work is in the cellar getting out orders. I left the cellar where the fire took place between half-past 5 and 20 minutes to 6. I was getting out some rope at the back part of the cellar, and had a lighted candle in a lantern. I was at work in the cellar about 15 minutes. While I was getting the rope I first placed the lantern on the ground, and on removing some of the coils I cannot say whether I removed the lantern on to one of them. I must have gone away and left the lantern. I was a little excited and hurried in getting out the order. I cannot say how I came to leave the light, except that it was an act of forgetfulness. I have been in the cellar as often as twenty and thirty times a day with lanterns, but have never left one alight before. The lanterns are lit with a lucifer at the foot of the cellar stairs, and it is not possible that this could have been caused by a burning match being thrown on to a coil of rope. I believe that the fire was caused by the lantern being left burning. I had left the premises when the fire broke out, and did not hear of it until I came to work this morning. As soon as I was told that the lantern had been found in the cellar it struck me that I had left it there. I cannot recollect bringing it away. I was perfectly sober at the time, and am always so. By the Jury—The cellar was not locked up when I left, and it was possible for some one else to have access to it. John Fisher, laborer at Harris, Scarfe, and Co.'s., said—I locked up the cellars last night at about 10 minutes past 6. I did not look inside nor did I see any light. There was no smoke or smell of fire. I saw the fire about a quarter to 7. No one could have had access to the cellar from the time I locked it until then. Bennett was quite sober. He is a sober man. By the Jury—I saw no smoking. It is hardly possible that a lighted lucifer could have been thrown through the window on to the coils of rope. William Bennett, re-called, said—There was about an inch and a half of candle in the bottom of the lantern when I was using it, and there was some grease in the bottom of it. I feel sure that the fire was caused by my neglect in leaving the candle alight, There was no cotton waste in the cellar. Nothing but rope and fibre is kept there.

The Jury were unanimously of opinion "That the fire was caused inadvertently by the carelessness of William Bennett—to which he has frankly owned—in leaving a lighted candle probably upon a heap of tarred yarn." As a rider they suggested to Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, and Co. the adoption of a safer mode of lighting the cellar when access is required to it.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 26 February 1876, page 6

FIRE IN GAWLER-PLACE.

A narrow escape from what at one time seemed likely to be a very serious conflagration occurred on Thursday evening, February 24, when the premises of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co., wholesale ironmongers, in the crowded thoroughfare of Gawler-place, were found to be on fire. The place had been closed at the usual hour, 6 o'clock, and between that hour and half-past nearly all the employes had gone home. Fortunately, on this occasion four of the

yardmen who were detained at some work in No. 2 Yard noticed at about twenty minutes or a quarter to 7 what they at first thought was dust, but almost immediately afterwards discovered to be smoke, rising through the windows of the cellar under the new east wing. An alarm was given, and in a few minutes No. 7 Reel from Wills & Co.'s was on the ground, followed by No. 3 Reel. With the assistance of several neighbours a copious stream of water was poured down the openings, and as soon as possible an entrance was effected. In the first instance the man who tried to descend was forced to retire in consequence of the dense volumes of smoke which rushed out of the door. When the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade arrived a lantern was procured, and the smoke having then abated the exact position of the danger was ascertained. The stock in the cellar consists hugely of stacks and coils of tarred and other rope, and it was amongst this, near the eastern end, that the fire was smouldering. At the western end there were, we understand, a few cases of kerosine, but they were never in danger after the alarm had been given. From first to last no blaze was seen, and it is exceedingly fortunate that the men discovered the mischief, as in five minutes the great warehouses, which are amongst the largest in the city, would have been entirely deserted, and the place where the smoke escaped being enclosed by high buildings and walls nothing would probably have been known of what had occurred till the flames had obtained a mastery over the building. On an examination of the spot where the fire had burned the cause of the affair was discovered to have been the carelessness of one of the men employed, who having some business in the cellar at about half-past 5 o'clock, left the candle-lantern which he had carried with him, and which was still alight, on a coil of tarred rope, and then forgot it. Probably some sperm had collected in the bottom, and when the candle burned down this was ignited and ran out on to the inflammable covering of the rope, which then smouldered till the smoke attracted attention.

The Inquest.

Mr. J. M. Solomon, J. P., held an inquest at the Hotel Europe on Friday, February 25, to ascertain the cause of the fire which occurred in the warehouse of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, and Co., Gawler-place. Mr. James Hill was the Foreman.

John Rogers, a storeman for Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co., said he was the first who saw the fire. His attention was drawn to it by a lot of smoke going through the archway between the front to the back yard. He thought at first that it was dust. That was between half-past 6 and a quarter to 7 on Thursday. He and others had been at work in the back yard, and were coming round to the front. As soon as they got through the archway they found what they thought was dust to be smoke. On approaching the eastern window of the cellar witness saw flames coming through it, and he ran and fixed a hose on to the stand-pipe, directing it towards the north-east window. The hose was not long enough to reach the spot, but it reached the middle window. Water was played into the cellar through the first and middle windows, through both of which smoke was coming. He got all hands he could to throw water from buckets in through the furthest window. Before putting on the hose witness sent for a fire reel. The first reel arrived, as near as he could recollect, at about 10 minutes to 7. No blaze could then be seen. Dense masses of smoke were still, however, coming from the cellar. He was down no further than the first part of the cellar at 5.30 p.m., when a man named Bennett was getting out rope. He was getting the rope from the part from which the fire took place. He had a lighted sperm-candle lantern with him. Witness did not see him leave the cellar. Sometimes witness went down with a light into the cellar. There was a regulation in the establishment that a lantern only should be used in the cellar or in any part

of the establishment. They always used candle lanterns. If it had been an oil lamp in this case he thought the mischief could not have occurred. He saw the place soon after the fire had been put out. The fire was caused by the lantern having been melted owing to the candle having burnt down in the socket. The grease then ran out at the bottom.

William Bennett, living at Norwood, a labourer employed by the firm, said that he had been employed by them about 13 months. His duty was to get out goods from the cellar, He generally left off work at 6p.m.; some times a little later. He left the place last night at that hour, but the last time he was in that portion of the cellar in which the fire took place was about 20 minutes to 6. He had been getting out some rope for an order from the back part of the cellar. He had a lighted candle-lantern. He had been at work there about a quarter of an hour. At first he placed the lantern on the earth. In removing some of the coils he might have placed it on one of the coils, but he was not certain as to whether he took it off the earth. It appeared that he must have forgotten the lantern.

He was bustled over the order and got excited. The leaving of the lantern there was an act of forgetfulness. Generally he was twenty or thirty times a day in the cellar with a lantern. He had never left it alight in the cellar before. They had a way of bringing the lanterns all to the front and blowing them out as they used them. They lit the lanterns in the cellar in which the fire took place by a lucifer match. The match was blown out or rubbed in the hand. The lamps were lit in going down stairs, so it was not possible that the match could have been flung down on to a coil of rope. He had left the premises when the fire took place. He heard of the fire when he came to work next morning. When he heard that a lantern had been found it rushed to his memory that he must have left it there, as he could not recollect taking it away. He was perfectly sober when he left work. He was always sober. He could not say who locked the cellar that evening. It was usual for some one to go round. The cellar was dark in the day time. The lamp he used was produced.

John Rogers, recalled, stated that a man named Fisher locked the cellar. John Fisher, labourer, deposed that he had worked for Harris, Scarfe, & Co. seven months, and had locked the cellar on the last two or three nights. Did not examine the place before he locked the door. He did not observe any light there. That was about five or 10 minutes past 6. He smelt nothing like fire. He was on the premises three-quarters of an hour after-wards. He saw the fire breakout at about a quarter-past 7. No one could have had access to the cellar between the time he locked the door and that at which the fire was observed. When he saw the fire he was helping to load up some wood. He was not smoking. When he saw Bennett the latter was sober. They never used lucifers in the yard, so one could not have dropped through the window. Smoking in the yard was prohibited.

William Bennett, recalled, stated that the candle in the lantern was about an inch and a half long, and there was some grease in the bottom. There was no cotton waste in the cellar.

The Coroner said he felt satisfied from the way in which Bennett had given his evidence that he would be a man very loth to do a mischievous act of any sort. He had honestly and straightforwardly admitted his fault, and no criminality was attached to errors of judgment, to some of which every Juryman and himself would have to plead guilty of having committed in the course of their lives.

The Jury, after a very brief consultation, returned the following verdict:—"We are of opinion that the fire was caused inadvertently by the carelessness of William Bennett, to which he

has frankly owned, in leaving a lighted candle probably on a heap of tarred yarn. In a rider the Jury suggested that a safer mode of lighting the cellar might be adopted.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 26 April 1876, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

A fire was discovered about a quarter to 5 o'clock on Wednesday morning, April 26, at the West-terrace Mill, the property of Messrs. Giles & Smith, by a lad named Thomas O'Halloran, who at once communicated with Mr. Inglis, the foreman of the mill, and Mr. J. Brady, a miller, and Mr. W. Anderson, a bystander, entered the premises, and commenced to fill the doors of the mill with bags of flour, thus preventing the fire from extending to that part of the building, which the flames had not at that time reached. About 20 minutes after the fire was discovered No. 2 Reel made its appearance, but much confusion was caused at first by the failure of the firemen to find the plug. The fire, which was first seen in the top of the old windmill, destroyed all the machinery in that part of the building, besides a small quantity of flour. The damage done was confined to the old mill through the exertions of several persons who effectually stopped the progress of the flames by piling damp bags of flour in the doorways. The wind was blowing from the south-east at the time, and a piece of burning timber fell from the burning building on to the house of Mr. Todd, C.M.G. The origin of the fire is not known. The stoker, who was the last person in the building previous to the fire, found everything right when he made his usual round at 9 o'clock on Tuesday evening. The fire was witnessed by between 500 and 600 people, who congregated near the spot, although the hour was so early. Mr. J. M. Solomon will hold an inquest at the West terrace Hotel, at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 29 April 1876, page 20

THE FIRE AT THE OLD WEST-TERRACE STEAM FLOUR MILLS.

A fire broke out in the premises generally known as the Old West-terrace Windmill, once the property of Messrs. W. Elliott & Co., but now owned by Messrs. Giles & Smith, on the morning of Wednesday, the 26th instant. Flames were first seen in the fourth story of the tower of the mill, about half-past 4, by a lad named O'Halloran, who was coming from Grattan-street. The fire was then in the south window, and burned downwards. An alarm being given, at 5 o'clock Reel No. 2, under Fireman Benbow, began playing on it. This was quickly followed by No. 3, Morris's, and 7, Hendry's, and 1, Spencer's. Lance-corporal Freeman and about 12 constables were on the spot and kept good order. The crowd present was very large. At half-past 5 the flames were got under; but at 6 o'clock they rose again, this time, how-ever, only for a brief period. An hour later the fire was practically out, there only being a smouldering left. Good service in arresting the progress of the fire was rendered by employés and neighbours, who put bags of flour in the openings connecting the house and store. The damage done cannot at present be exactly estimated. The tower roof, composed of zinc and lead, melted and fell in, as did the floors. The whole of the machinery inside the structure was rendered useless. The tower, which was 35 years old, has been much cracked. The engine and boiler, store buildings, and the stock therein are uninjured except by the action of water. No cause for the conflagration has been assigned, save a hypothesis by the Coroner at the inquest that the mice might have scratched some loose lucifers. This was not accepted, however, by the Jury. There were four men working on Tuesday in the mill tower, and one of them, Brady, came down at a quarter to 6 the previous

evening, reporting all safe. In the fourth story, where the flames were first seen, there were only bags kept, and the place was very rarely visited. The other parts of the tower of course contained the machinery. The insurance is stated to be in the Queen and Adelaide Marine offices, on the building for £700, and there is a policy for £1,500 on the stock in the store and mill. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigades was on the ground from about half-past 5 a.m.

An inquest was held by Mr. J. M. Solomon, J.P., on Wednesday evening, at the West-terrace Hotel, Waymouth-street. Mr. Bagshaw was Foreman.

William Harry Roberts, of Norwood, miller, and one of the firm of Messrs. Giles & Smith, stated that he managed the business, and was in daily attendance. On Tuesday evening he left the mill about a quarter before 6 o'clock, at which time it was in work. He left instructions to finish grinding some oats and barley that night if possible, and not to touch the wheat until morning. One pair of stones was at work on the wheat and one pair on the barley. The quantity of stuff the men had to finish would keep them until 8 o'clock, and when done it would be the duty of the stoker, Welsh, to bank the fires up and let off the steam. Although no person was told off to close the place, it was the duty of the man who last left the premises to see everything safe. The key was then put in a certain spot, which was only known to the workmen. The stonedresser dressed one stone in the day, and one sometimes at midnight to prepare for the next day. The oats were not finished on Tuesday night. The stonedresser was not there that night. Candles were used on three upper floors; and gas on the remaining three. Castor oil was used for the machinery. Old branbags were used for wiping, and cotton waste was not used to avoid risk. When he left on Tuesday night the man on the upper floor had no candle. There were bags stored in the upper floor against the sides of the mill. Having examined the interior of the mill, he was certain that no fire had been communicated from the engine-room to the upper floor, but the fire must have originated in the mill. By the Foreman—The matches used by the man, if any, would have been Tandstickors. There were no matches to his knowledge kept in the mill. By the Jury—Greater pressure of steam was necessary for grinding oats. The stones hung a little on Tuesday, but that was remedied; the feed was altered. The stones were working properly when he got on the floor, and were dressed three days before. By the Coroner— The shortest time that any of the millers had been in the firm's employ was six years. They were sober attentive men.

Samuel Inglis, of Rundle-street, foreman at the mill, said he had been employed there twelve years. On Tuesday he was engaged on the second floor only, and James Brady on the upper floor, till a quarter before 6 in the evening, when Brady ceased hoisting, and went below. A naked candle was used on the upper floor when a light became necessary, and it was carried up alight. He had known the man to return to re-light it when blown out by draught. He had made a rule to this effect, and believed it had been always followed. There was no light in the mill on Tuesday. He would not swear that he had never dropped any lucifer matches. It was the duty of David Davy to lock up the mill, which he did on Tuesday night, about 20 minutes past 6 o'clock. He was called to the fire about a quarter to 5 that morning, when he with Brady saved the books. The fire was then from the fourth floor upwards. By the Foreman—Brady was not a smoker. By a Juryman —They had been crushing at the rate of about twenty-five bushels an hour. The stones are four feet wide. He did not think that the quantity was excessive for dull stones. By the Jury— The spindle was not heated, or he would have smelt it. He was sure the fire did not originate in the floor

where the stones were. By the Coroner—He had been a practical working miller for 27 years. By the Foreman—The bags used to wipe up oil were always burned in the furnace.

William Welsh, foreman, living on the premises, stated that he was not engaged in the mill. The engine-house and machinery outside the mill were undamaged by the fire. Left at 6.10 o'clock on Tuesday night, after having banked up the fire, let the steam down, and made all safe. Saw no light inside the mill then. First knew of the fire by an alarm at a quarter before 5 that morning. Ran across, and went up to the stone floor, which was the third one. Fire was dropping from the fourth floor through the hatches. The reels had not then arrived. Could not form any idea as to the origin of the fire. By the Coroner—The mill choked on Tuesday, and he went upon the third floor to get it remedied.

Thomas O'Halloran, a boy, said he was leaving his home in Grattan street, to go to work at the Advertiser Printing Office about half-past 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning when he saw smoke and a glare at the southern window of the mill. He went and woke up Mr. Inglis, the foreman. While knocking at his door the flames came out of the window upon the roof. He reported it to a policeman on duty in Light-square.

James Brady, labourer at the mill for 10 years, said he was the last man on the top floor before the fire. Was hoisting there up till twenty minutes to 6 on Tuesday night. Had no light there. Did not smoke nor use matches. There were no bags and only a thin layer of dust. There was a gaslight on the second floor on which scales were put. Mr. Davey used to lock the door and put out the gas. The gas meter was outside the mill Left the premises with Davy. Saw mice on the top floor in bags, and there were some of the latter left over night on Tuesday. Never used matches there, but had taken a candle up. Never knew the draught to blow one out.

David Davy, of Wright-street, miller, said he had to see that the stones were ground properly, and had always locked up the place while in the firm's employ. Had not to visit each floor of the building. Never turned off the gas at the meter, which was inside the building. He only put out the burners on the floor he was engaged, and the ground one also. If he saw another light burning he would put it out. He thought that Mr. Roberts believed that he saw to the safety of the mill before it was closed. Did not consider that when he was engaged at the mill his duties were defined to make it incumbent upon him to see everything safe.

The Coroner remarked that one of the witnesses having admitted throwing used lucifers into the corner, coupled with the improbability that the men returned from the top story to light a candle when they might save themselves the trouble by lighting a match, he thought it was likely that unused lucifers had been dropped in the upper story. If this were so, the mice might have scratched them, and hence the fire.

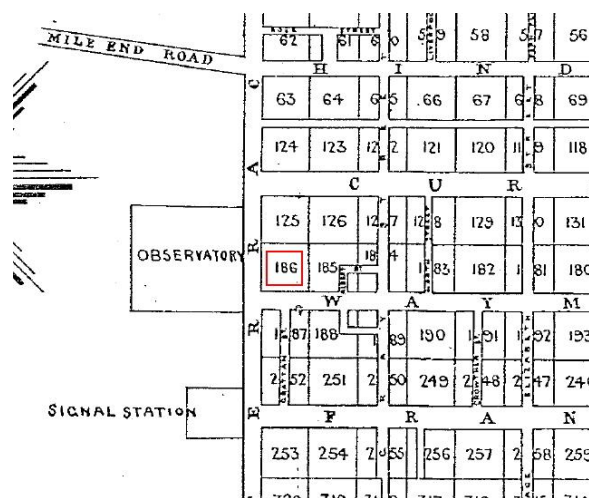
After half an hour's consultation the Jury decided there was no evidence to show the cause of the fire. As the Coroner had occasion to reprimand the witnesses Inglis, Brady, and Davy, the Jury appended a rider expressing their dissatisfaction at the manner in which some of the witnesses gave their evidence.

After the Coroner had asked the Jury whether the above was their verdict, and two or three of them had signed it, Mr. Inglis, a Juryman, said he did not agree with the verdict, and would not sign it. The Coroner said Mr. Inglis was in a peculiar position. Since he had not made known his dissension when the verdict was read over he would have to sign it. Mr.

Inglis—I will not. The Coroner—I will have to make you. Mr. Inglis—I am quite satisfied with the evidence, and if I sign it it will be against my will. The Coroner—Do not sign it against your will. The Coroner then read the verdict and the signatures, and called upon Mr. Inglis for his signature, which the latter added, at the same time saying that it was against his will that he gave it.



State Library of South Australia - West Terrace, Adelaide [B 9172]. [General description] The two storey stone house on the left with balcony is one of the residences along West Terrace which has several new street trees protected by wooden guards. The West Terrace flour mill, owned at this time by Giles & Smith is seen on the right. It has recently been badly damaged by fire, with the roof, being tin and lead melting and falling in. (From the Register, 27th April, 1876, p. 7). [On back of photograph] Acres 125, 186 / West Terrace, east side / 1872-77 / The near side of the house on the left abuts Currie Street / Waymouth Street corner is situated further along the street near the two storey building in the distance (right side of the photograph). Approximately 1876, Samuel White Sweet, Part of Acre 125 Collection.



Location of the West Terrace Mill described in SLSA B-9172

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The Late Inquest.— With reference to our report of the inquest on the fire at the West-terrace Mill, Mr. D. Davy, one of the witnesses, writes to us, admitting that he might have gone a little roundabout in giving his evidence, but excusing himself on account of his age, the hard work on which he had been engaged, and the excitement inseparable from the circumstances. He assures us that he was really anxious to give all the information in his power.