

GLOBE EXTRA!

EIGHT LIVES LOST IN ALLSTON FIRE

Scores Trapped as the Flames Sweep Melvin Apartments.

Some Leap Into Nets--Others Slide to The Ground by Ropes Made of Sheets.

Two Women Killed by Jumping--May Be More Bodies in Ruins--Heroic Rescues.

THE KNOWN DEAD.

MRS ALICE SHACKFORD.
MRS EDITH BEMIS.
MR and MRS JAMES R. POWER
and one-year-old baby, fifth floor.
Fifteen or 16-year-old girl named
CLOUGH, fifth floor.

Eight lives are known to have been
lost in a fire that, discovered at 2
o'clock this morning, gutted the Mel-
vin, a big, new five-story brick apart-
ment house at 1215 Commonwealth av.,
Allston.

Two women were killed by jumping
from their windows, one on the third
and another on the fifth floor.

The body of an unknown man was
found on the fifth floor.

On the fourth floor two more bodies
were found.

Find Eight or More Bodies.
When about 3:30 Capt O'Lalor of En-
gine 23, acting deputy chief, forced his

way into the building, he reported he
discovered the charred remains of eight
or 10 bodies on the third floor. The heat
was so intense at that hour it was im-
possible to remove them.

At 3:45 a m the fire was dying
down and the firemen were beginning to
work their way into the building with
searchlights.

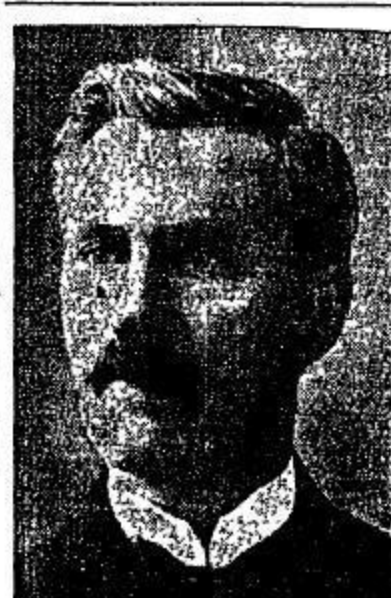
Medical Examiner Magrath completed
a hasty tour of the building at 4:45.

He reported having found, in addition
to the three bodies above mentioned, the
bodies of three adults and one child on
the top floor.

This makes the total number of dead
eight.

It is feared other bodies are in the
ruins. This will not be determined until
a careful search has been made of the
building.

The apartment is located on the sec-
tion between Harvard av and Allston
st.



EX-ALDERMAN JOSEPH I. STEWART,
An Occupant and Until Recently Owner of the
Melvin. His Wife Had a Narrow Escape
from Death in the Fire.

The identified dead are Mrs Edith Bemis,
wife of a travelling man, and Mrs Alice
Shackford, wife of C L Shackford.
Both were killed when, trapped in their
rooms, they jumped to the ground, the
former from the third floor and the lat-
ter from the fifth.

The fire spread so rapidly through the
whole building, with its 24 apartments,
that the first alarm was quickly fol-
lowed by a third, and that later by a
fourth. Assistance was also given by
the Brookline department.

Two Others Are Missing.

Of those who escaped, hardly one was
not more or less seriously burned, and
all the houses in the vicinity were
thrown into temporary hospitals for
their care and treatment. A general call
was sounded for physicians, and they
were rushed to the scene from all over
the district.

The fire, starting in the boiler room in
the rear of the basement, made great
headway before it was discovered, and
the flames not only cut off escape by
the front or rear stairs, but breaking
through the rear windows, rendered
some of the fire escapes useless.

By the time the first apparatus arrived,
the escapes were crowded by frenzied
men and women, and many more, unable
to reach any escape, were leaning from
the windows.

Leap Safely Into Nets.

The firemen stretched nets, and many
jumped safely into these. Others in the
front of the building, where there are
no escapes, were taken down on lad-
ders, and on the Long-av side the fire-
men lowered the iron ladder from the
second-floor fire escape, and rescued
the score or more who, unable to go
farther, were crowding the narrow bal-
cony.

The most remarkable escape was that
of Mr and Mrs C. A. Rogers and Mrs
Robert Adams, Mrs Rogers' sister, occu-
pants of a rear fourth-floor apart-
ment house, and Dr Loretta J. Cummins
examined them there. Dr Cummins said
the two women probably died instantly
from the fracture of their skulls.

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EIGHT LIVES LOST IN ALLSTON FIRE

Continued From the First Page.

the floor above them, and, after first
trying to dissuade, vainly attempted to
catch her as she dropped past them.

They made their own escape by lower-
ing a knotted rope of sheets and de-
scending by it, hand under hand, one
after another, to the second floor, where
they climbed in an open window. They
lowered the rope again, and, repeating
the performance, reached the ground
safely.

The loss of life was in the rear apart-
ments on the three upper floors, where
all escape was cut off.

Not only were the firemen kept busy
at saving the occupants of the Melvin
and in flooding water into the big build-
ing, which was blazing from back to
front and from basement to roof, but
they had a hard fight to prevent the
spread of the flames to the apartment
house at 1209 Commonwealth av., a sim-
ilar building, though somewhat smaller.

There is an areaway between the Mel-
vin and the building at 1209 Common-
wealth av, and the occupants of that
house got out their fire hose manned by
volunteers and played upon their own
house. Occupants of all the neighbor-
ing houses were prepared to move out
in haste in case the flames spread to
their houses.

All the houses in the neighborhood
were opened to the victims. More than
a score were suffering from burns and
slight injuries.

Rush Doctors to Scene.

The first alarm was given by patrol-
man Frank Shaughnessy of the Bright-
on station. Some one had been to the
box before him, but had only opened it,
supposing that gave the alarm.

The first was at 2 o'clock; the third,
jumping the second, at 2:04, and the
fourth at 2:23.

The need of physicians was at once
apparent, and Matthew C. Brush, vice
president of the Boston Elevated, pass-
ing on his way home in his automobile,
put the car at the disposal of the police
to bring doctors from every quarter.

In addition, the police called on the
city hospitals and on the various sta-
tions to send as many doctors as they
were able.

The house was a new one, having been
completed last September, and it was
purchased only recently by Ex-Alderman
Stewart. Mrs Stewart was in the
building at the time of the discovery
of the fire and she had a narrow es-
cape.

Late this morning it was said that
Ex-Alderman Stewart sold the apart-
ment house property the first of this
month to a corporation.

Many Narrow Escapes.

The bodies of Mrs Edith Bemis and
Mrs Alice Shackford were removed to
the home of M. A. McBride, 117 Gren-
ville av, in the rear of the burned apart-
ment house, and Dr Loretta J. Cummins
examined them there. Dr Cummins said
the two women probably died instantly
from the fracture of their skulls.

Mrs Shackford was the daughter of
Dwight L. Bridgman of West Hampden,
Me.

Matthew C. Brush, vice president of
the Boston Elevated, came along in his
big automobile just as the fire was
reaching its fury and he gave the serv-
ices of his car and his chauffeur to the
police who raced about the district in it
seeking physicians to attend the in-
jured. The victims of the fire were
carried in the car to homes of friends
to be made comfortable.

All the physicians in Brighton and
Allston were called to help in the work
and the police called their ambulances
and all the hospital ambulances and
physicians available and all hastened to
the scene.

Mr and Mrs J. R. Powers and their
infant and a Miss Nelson were impris-
oned in their apartments on the fifth
floor by the flames. Mr and Mrs Pow-
ers managed to escape with their child
but an unknown man fought his way
through the smoke and flames to the
fifth floor and finding Miss Nelson al-
most overcome in her room picked her
up and carried her in safety to the
street.

Miss Helen G. Hartford was similarly
caught by the flames on the fourth floor
and Miss Marlon Brown was also in
great danger on the third floor, but
they managed to make their way in
safety to the street.

Frank C. Kelley, Mrs M. E. Johnson
and Miss Ida Wallamore had an excit-
ing time on the fourth floor, but they
managed to make their way to the
street, where they found they had suf-
fered severe burns in rushing through
the flames.

Escape With Sheet-Rope.

Mrs Reed and Mrs Macey and her
son, Charles Macey, had a narrow es-
cape from their apartments on the third
floor.

Janitor Angus McIver and his wife
and their daughter Elizabeth were sleep-
ing in their apartment in the basement
across the way from the paper chute
where the fire is believed to have start-
ed and then quickly made its way up
through the house, mushrooming in the
upper floors.

Mrs McIver was awakened by the
flames and called her husband. They
opened their door and were met by the
flames which drove them back, but in
another moment McIver rushed out
carrying his wife and child with him
and all three escaped with painful but
not serious burns.

Patrolman Gallagher of Station 14,
who travels the route, rushed into the
house when he arrived and made his
way to the second floor and carried out
a woman who was overcome there.

Mr and Mrs C. A. Rogers, who were
on the fourth floor, had a thrilling es-
cape, making a rope out of the sheets
from their bed and climbing down over
it in the rear of the building.

Mrs Bemis, who was killed by jump-
ing, was directly over them on the fifth
floor. They saw that she was going to
jump and cried to her not to. When
she did jump Mr Rogers and his wife
reached out of their window and at-
tempted to catch her as she swept past,
but her clothing, which they grasped,
tore through their hands.

Mr and Mrs Rogers got Mrs Robert
Adams into their room and after they
had made the rope of sheets they made
it fast to their window and then
climbed down to the ground and escaped.
All were severely burned about the
head, face, neck and hands. They were
given medical treatment and taken in by
neighbors.

Miss Helen G. Hartford, who was on
the third floor, said she was in the big
fire in 1910 which swept Hot Springs,
and that experience made her cautious
this morning. She heard people making
loud outcries and imagined they were
returning from a ball and she went to
sleep again.

She was soon awakened by the crack-
ling of the flames and she dressed and
waited for the firemen to put up a lad-
der. She saw people escaping by the
rear by the use of ropes made from
sheets tied together and she heard
women screaming and moaning. When
the firemen erected a ladder and took
her down she landed on the street and
then calmly thanked them for her res-
cue.

Miss Hartford said she thought at
first that she was the last to leave the
third floor, but later she was satisfied
that others were overcome by the smoke
in their rooms and were burned possibly.

Mrs McBride of 117 Grenville av, in
the rear of the Melvin, said she saw
some one throw a baby out of a win-
dow early in the fire and saw the child
caught in a life net.

Heroic Rescues Made.

Lieut Cadigan of auto ladder truck 31
from Oak sq said he saw the glare of
the flames when he left his house. The
truck made record time in reaching the
fire. Immediately they erected a 40-foot
Bangor ladder and laddermen began
climbing to the upper story windows
and taking out the occupants who
crowded at the windows. In this man-
ner many were saved. The rescued wore
only their night clothing which, in
some cases, was in flames. These were
severely burned.

Ladderman McKenney of Ladder 31
and Hoseman Stickler of Engine 34 took
scaling ladders from Ladder 11 and
scaled the side of the building, climbing
to the fourth floor at the risk of their
own lives, for flames were belching from
all the windows and the smoke was roll-
ing out in dense clouds.

They took a woman out of a fourth-
floor window and brought her in safety
to the street. Her night dress was flam-
ing and she was screaming from pain
and fright. The two brave firemen then
climbed back again to the fifth floor
and rescued another woman in the
same way. Her clothing was on fire
when she was being taken out.

OCCUPANTS OF APARTMENTS.

The occupants of the apartments were
as follows:

First Floor--Ex-Alderman Joseph I.
Stewart, his wife and niece, Miss Lillian
J. Platt; George R. Emerson and family,
Dr Herbert E. Dennett.

Second Floor--Dr W. H. Briard, Mrs
M. E. Johnson, Albert Hayes, Mrs Bloom-
field, Mrs R. K. Jones.

Third Floor--Mrs Frances Hartwell
and daughter, Harriett; Miss Helen G.
Hartford, Miss Josie Medley.

Fourth Floor--The Shackford family,
Robert Macey.

Fifth Floor--J. R. Power, wife and
baby and Miss Nelson; Clough family,
Miss Minnie L. Reed, H. E. Bemis and
family, Rudolph Motley.