

# HEROIC RESCUES AT HOTEL FIRE.

## MAN FALLS TO DEATH AT WAVERLEY HOUSE



SCENE DURING FIRE AT WAVERLEY HOUSE.

## Meanwhile Few Firemen Battle With \$20,000 Fire in Province Ct.

### SCARE FOR 150 PERSONS.

### Frightened People Gathered at the Windows of the Hotel.

#### DEAD.

JOHN FLYNN, 40 years old. Killed by jumping or falling from window ledge on fifth floor to ground, a distance of 60 feet.

#### INJURED.

MRS MARGARET A. HARRIGAN, sister of the dead man. Overcome by smoke. Taken to the Relief hospital in a serious condition.

JOSEPHINE MUNROE, 32 years old, guest of the hotel. Overcome by

smoke and taken to the Relief hospital.

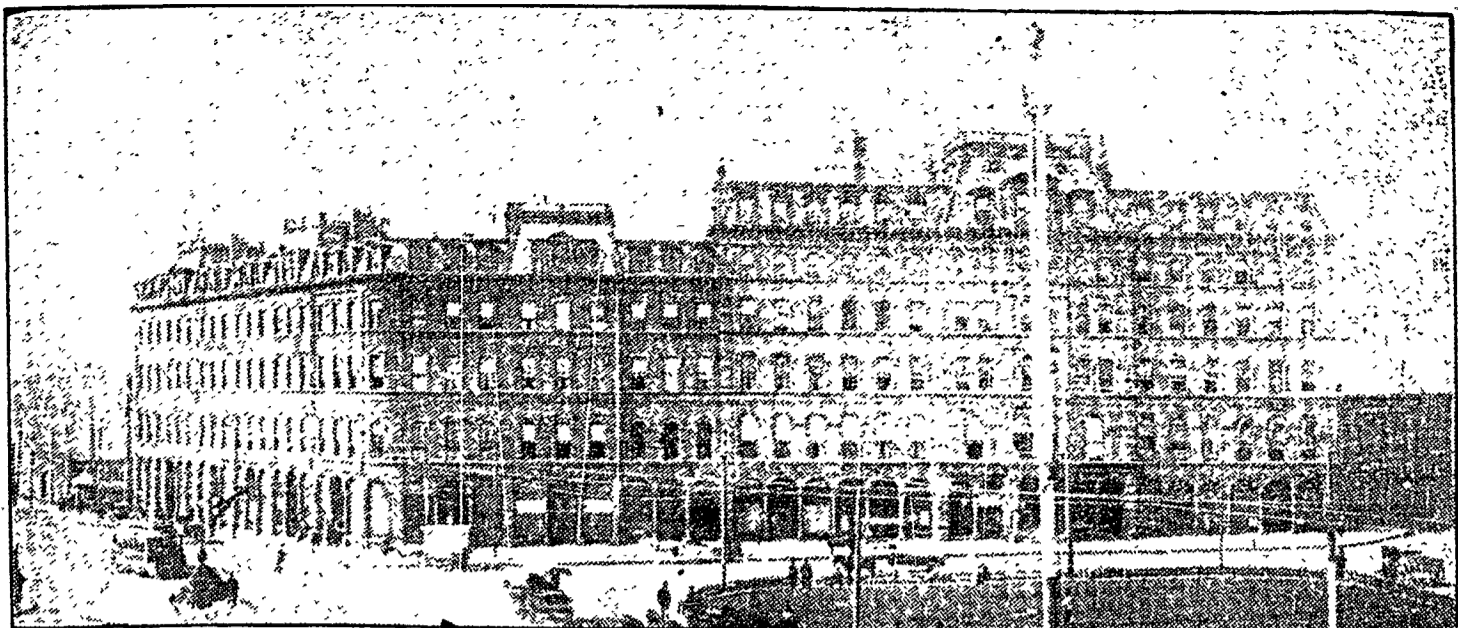
MAURICE BUCHANAN, member of engine company 26. Injured on right leg.

T. G. PITMAN, letter carrier attached to central office. A guest of the hotel. Wrist cut by broken glass.

One man was killed, several persons were overcome by smoke and more than 100 persons had narrow escapes for their lives in the fire that started in

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# WAVERLEY HOUSE, SCENE OF THE FATAL FIRE IN CHARLESTOWN



## SCARE FOR 150 PERSONS

Continued From the First Page.

the basement of the Waverley house City so Charlestown, about 9 o'clock last night.

For more than 15 minutes hundreds of persons who gathered in the big open space in front of the big apartment hotel were horrified at the sight of men and women in the upper windows of the structure yelling wildly for help. The piercing shrieks of the women rang out high above the shouts of the men, and the crowd in the street was powerless to help. The firemen from the Charlestown district were on hand quickly, but they were handicapped, as there was heavy snow on the ground and the cold was so intense that it was with extreme difficulty that they worked.

At the same time there was so much work cut out for them that they could not attend to everything at once. However, they did the best they could, and while some of the firemen remained on the ground and with the assistance of citizens threw up ladders against the hotel, other firemen and policemen from the station in the square rushed into the house and did their utmost to assist the guests to escape.

### Raising of Ladders.

District Chief Pope ordered a third alarm rung as soon as he arrived, and then five minutes later Deputy Chief Grady sent out a fifth alarm, calling a large fighting force of men and apparatus.

Not a man nor woman who was penned up in the hotel, with perhaps one exception, but felt that the firemen were unusually slow in getting around to them, but this meant the raising of ladders to almost every window in the hotel front. However, as soon as the big aerial trucks from the city proper arrived they were run up, and did much to calm the fears of the people in the hotel.

Unfortunately, one man's life was sacrificed. He jumped from the coping at the fifth floor. As he plunged through the air his body struck one of the massive ladders, toppled once, and then his head struck on the heavy iron arm supporting an awning. He then dropped to the street. He was picked up and carried into station 15, where it was seen he was dying. Rev. Fr. Murray of St. Mary's church, Charlestown, was in the station, and administered the last rites of the Catholic church. The injured man was placed in an ambulance and hurried to the Relief hospital, but had died before the ambulance reached the institution. His skull was fractured and both legs were broken.

Why he jumped, if he did really jump, is not known, as he appeared from the street to be in no real danger. It is probable that he was overcome by fright, and either lost his balance or jumped. At the time there were firemen but a short distance from him, and he undoubtedly would have been rescued in short order had he clung to his position.

### His Sister Overcome.

The man's sister was on the fourth floor. She was taken out of the building unconscious from the smoke and sent to the city hospital relief station. She had run out into the hallway but found that her escape was cut off and before she could get back she fell in the hallway overcome by smoke.

It was the most exciting fire with which the Boston firemen have had to deal in years. Life nets were spread and manned by firemen and volunteers but no one jumped into them. It is perhaps fortunate that no one attempted to jump, for in the darkness with a heavy cloud in the air after the engines got to work and the network of ladders and heavy iron supports for the awnings over the stores on the street floor it is almost certain that many would have been injured or killed.

In addition to the life nets, scaling ladders were run up on the front, in the hope of bringing down some of the penned in guests, but they were not needed as nearly everyone had been gotten down by the fire escapes in the rear.

### Six Stories High.

The Waverley house in the main portion is six stories in height, with a south wing extending around onto Front st five stories high and on the northerly side and in the rear are two two-story L sections. On the northerly side is Rutherford av and in the rear is Jenner st.

On the first floor of the building are stores and the hotel proper is from the second floor up. The main office is reached by a broad staircase from the central portion and there is another entrance also on the front and a staircase in the rear, as well as fire escapes.

The building is two rooms deep with a main hallway running the entire length of the building and around through the south wing. There are about 200 rooms in the hotel and these are let in suites. At the time the fire broke out there were fully 150 persons in the hotel.

On the ground floor next north of the main entrance is the store of E. F. Hicks, caterer. It is said, but with no certainty, that the fire started in the basement directly beneath this store. Just what the cause was, no one knows. At any rate, it had gathered good force before it was discovered. It appears that several persons were aware that there was a fire almost at the same time, and in a minute or two the smoke and flames were making their way up along the freight elevator shaft in the rear of the house.

This shaft is at the northerly side of the hotel lobby, and the smoke poured forth in such volume that in short order the main staircase as an exit was put out of commission and the people upstairs were forced to use either the outer entrance on the south side or the one in the rear, together with the fire escapes.

### Woman Gives Alarm.

One of the first to discover the fire was Miss Iva L. Davis of 151 Broad st, Beachmont. She was visiting Miss Mahoney, who conducts the hotel restaurant, and as quickly as she could she ran to the hotel office and gave the alarm to the night clerk, John W. Ames. With him at the time was George W. Hubbard, the day clerk, and sitting in the lobby were half a dozen men.

An alarm was sounded from a box outside the hotel, and then the cry of fire rang out through the hotel. The smoke and flames came upon the guests so quickly that many were powerless to act, especially those who were in bed,

and there were many of these despite the early hour.

When the first piece of apparatus arrived Hubbard ran down into the basement with the firemen and directed them to the fire, but they were soon beaten off and were forced to retreat. In the meantime exciting scenes were being enacted outside. The fire was beyond the control of the small detachment of men that responded on the first alarm and District Chief Pope sounded a third alarm without waiting to send out a second.

The people in the upper part of the house were already panic-stricken and but for the heroism and coolness on the part of the men there, and some of the women, too, many lives would have been sacrificed. One man led a party of 25 to safety by forming an endless chain and taking them down through the blinding smoke of the rear stairway, only to find their exit cut off by a locked door. He pounded on the door until it was chopped down by a fireman, and then the women, nearly exhausted from fright and half suffocated by smoke, tumbled out into the cold night air.

### Saves Aged Paralytic.

But for the heroism of one woman a veteran of the Grand Army, an aged paralytic unable to use either of his legs, would undoubtedly have been suffocated or burned to death. This woman did everything in her power to save him from suffocation by closing the transom over his door and opening the front window until she could get aid. She was between two duties, that of seeing that her daughter, sick in bed in a room on the fifth floor, was gotten out safely and looking after the welfare of the old veteran.

The first thought of Deputy Chief Grady, who arrived on the third alarm, was to get the people out of the house, and to this end he turned in a fifth alarm so as to get all the available men he could in case of an emergency. At the same time he raised aerial ladders and big 60-foot ladders on the front of the hotel as rapidly as possible and as quickly as they went up men were at the top in an effort to assist the imprisoned ones.

It was impossible to get to everyone immediately and so to rescue those who might jump before ladders or firemen could reach them, the life nets of ladder companies 1, 3, and 15 were quickly spread out and what firemen could be spared manned them with the aid of citizens.

### Woman's Face at Window.

While the fire was at its height a woman's face appeared at a window on the fourth floor and she screamed for help. A ladder was raised, but when the firemen mounted it she had gone and later was found in the hallway. She was Mrs. Margaret A. Harrigan, a guest of the hotel. She was placed in an ambulance and before going to the hospital was given the last rites of the church by Fr. Murray. She was taken to the Relief hospital, where she was found to be suffering severely from smoke inhalation.

Then further up on the fifth story was the form of a man through the blinding smoke. First his head appeared at the window and then he crawled out on the window ledge and hesitated. A ladder was being sent up to bring him down when suddenly to the horror of the hundreds of spectators, the man toppled and fell to the pavement. He was picked up unconscious and taken into station 15, where he was found on him to indicate who he was, but later he was identified as John Flynn, a brother of the woman who had just been taken out. He was sent to the hospital, but died on the way.

Maurice Buchanan of engine company 25 was slightly injured on the left leg and was sent to the Relief hospital.

T. G. Pitman, a letter carrier attached to the central office, was in his room on the fourth floor. His room quickly filled with smoke and in an effort to escape he smashed a window. He got a lacerated wound of the wrist, which was dressed at the station.

### Carried Man on Back.

One of the best pieces of work at the fire was that of District Chief Fox, who carried down on his back from the third floor William H. Poole, 65 years old, who was in his room and unable to help himself. Mr. Poole is paralyzed in both legs and is able to get around only slightly with the aid of crutches, but had become overcome by the smoke and was in a fair way to be suffocated when Chief Fox reached him.

Poole, who is a past commander of Abraham Lincoln post of Charlestown, lived alone on the third floor. When the fire broke out Mrs. Edward Lamkin, who also lived on the third floor, ran into his room with her skirt over her head to keep the smoke out of her eyes and closed the transom over Poole's door. She then ran out yelling for help. Chief Fox rushed into the room and placing the unfortunate man on his back made his way down two flights of stairs through heavy smoke and then never dropped his burden until he left it in station 15, across the street.

Mrs. Edward Lamkin, an excellent experience. It was she who told Poole of her danger. Her daughter, Mrs. Crooker, who lives in a suite on the floor above, had retired early owing to a sick headache, and was in bed when the fire broke out. Mrs. Lamkin not only made certain of the safety of her daughter, but that of the old veteran as well. She said she was almost stifled after her running up and down the smoke-filled stairway, and she feared for a time that she would have some difficulty in getting out. She said two policemen who got up the back way led her out to the fire escape and then she made her way to the ground. Her daughter left in her night clothing.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis F. Muart and their 9-months-old babe had an exciting time. The Muarts live on the third floor. Mrs. Muart had retired for the night and the little baby was sound asleep at the first cry of danger. Mrs. Muart did not wait to dress, out in her night clothing she tried to get out. The Muarts' next door neighbor, John E. Connor, rushed in to be of any assistance if it was needed and carried the child to safety. It was taken to station 15 and later the father took it to the hotel office, where he remained with it while the firemen worked above.

### Lund Leads Party Out.

But for the daring work of R. H. Lund, 55 years old, a guest of the hotel and a former member of the Boston fire department, a number of women might have been suffocated, as they were panic-stricken. He started at the top of the house and getting together fully 25 women and men led them through the smoke and down a rear staircase. Mr. Lund says that when he reached the foot of the stairs he found his progress barred by a locked door. They pounded on it and finally a fireman broke it in from the outside.

Lieut. Daniel Cadigan and members of ladder company 22 of Charlestown performed good work when they went up on the north side of the building and took down five persons.

Hoseman Hoar of engine company 27 rescued Mrs. Dr. Purdy from one of the rear rooms on the third floor. Hoar went up a ladder from the rear and climbed up until he got into the room and brought Mrs. Purdy down to the street.

Mrs. Catherine Melvin, Mrs. J. E.

Fletcher and Mrs. J. Ryder were on the third floor at the time Mrs. Melvin rushed down the southerly staircase and the other two women got down the fire escapes.

As fast as the guests were taken out of the burning building they were rushed over to station 15, across the street. Some of the women brought in were suffering intensely from the cold, as they were but thinly clad, and then others were more or less affected by the smoke.

All the clergymen from St. Mary's church were at the fire and everyone was eager to help in every way possible.

### Loss About \$35,000.

The hotel was conducted by L. F. Cutter, and his loss will be about \$35,000. Mr. Cutter was seen last evening, and said he had always insisted on the strictest enforcement of the fire rules for the house, and was at a loss to know how the fire started. He seemed to be inclined to ask for an investigation.

George W. Hubbard, the day clerk, who lives at 189 Main st, was about the hotel during the fire. He said the fire started in a closet near the freight elevator in the basement. What the cause could have been he could not say. When asked what was in the closet he couldn't tell, as he said he had never looked into it and had no idea what was there. His business, he said, never called him to the basement.

While the firemen were hard at work an alarm from box 41 in the city proper was rung, and this being followed later by a second alarm, several of the in-town companies were made up and went to the other blaze.

The unfortunates who lost everything in the fire were cared for at the station house until late at night. Many of them had friends call who took them in carriages to their homes.

### Street Car Traffic Blocked.

The fire apparatus interfered with the street car service, and at 9 o'clock it was impossible to send any cars in either direction over the old bridge. A few were run over the new bridge, but at 9:25, the tracks there were blocked so that no surface cars entered or left Charlestown for some time.

The fire did not interfere with the elevated and a temporary service was arranged by the officials of the elevated company. Cars were run from Sullivan sq to Thompson sq or the elevated and transfers were issued to passengers at that point. Surface cars were also run from Sullivan sq over Bunker Hill st to City sq and passengers were transferred to the elevated at that point. At 9:55 the tracks were cleared sufficiently to permit the running of surface cars over Bunker Hill st and then into town over the old bridge, and shortly after that hour, the traffic was restored to its normal routes.

### Guests of the Hotel.

The following is a complete list of the guests of the hotel:

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| S Almsworth          | Mrs Graham          |
| James Allen          | James Gerry         |
| J W Ames             | L L Gould           |
| Mr C J Auer          | Mrs Harrigan        |
| Miss L D Anderson    | J B Hathaway        |
| Miss C Bowers        | F Herrick           |
| N A Burkett          | Mr & Mrs W Hadley   |
| Mr & Mrs A Blanchard | Miss M Jones        |
| Mrs Blanchard        | Miss Jenkins        |
| Miss E Baker         | Mrs Annie Jacobs    |
| L F Cutter           | John Kilton         |
| J Cutter             | Mrs C Loring        |
| James Clarke         | Mrs Alice Lamont    |
| Mr & Mrs G Connor    | Miss S Lane         |
| Mrs Child            | William Lynch       |
| Mr & Mrs J E Connor  | Mr & Mrs Edw Lamkin |
| Mrs Jennie Crooker   | Richard Lund        |
| F V Conery           | J H McGarrigle      |
| Mr L M Dunn          | Theodore Melvin     |
| L F Dunnells         | Mrs Marchington     |
| Miss M G Davis       | Mrs Susanna Mace    |
| Daniel Deachorn      | R A Munroe          |
| Mr J Gardner         | Miss Murphy         |
| A J Davis            | Miss O'Connor       |
| Miss Liza Donovan    | Miss & Miss Oliver  |
| Charles Elliot       | Charles Phelan      |
| Edward Faulkner      | Mrs E N Perkins     |
| Mrs Emma Fish        | Miss Perkins        |
| Mrs G J Fisher       | R G Pitman          |
| Mrs J Fletcher       | Miss Alice Park     |
| Mrs Formiloe and son | William Poole       |
| John Flynn           | Mrs Ellen Pierce    |
| Miss Addie Ripley    | Dr & Mrs H D Peley  |
| Mrs E J Reed         | Miss Ellen Percy    |
| Mrs Sullivan         | Mrs S J Ryder       |
| Harry Tanton         | Mrs Richardson      |
| Charles Tebbetts     | Miss Grace Sears    |
| Miss Weed            | T Smith             |
| D E Walker           | Miss I A Smith      |
| Florence McDonald    | E Wing              |
| Mr & Mrs M Nourse    | Miss Annie White    |
| Miss Nourse          | Miss Ellen Walker   |
| Louis Newert         |                     |

### GUESTS BADLY CONFUSED.

### Many Got Out of Burning Waverley House Only with Great Difficulty During Fire.

Many of the guests in the Waverley house, especially women, were badly confused by the smoke and the excitement during the fire and got out of the hotel only with great difficulty.

Miss Frances Conery, who was on the third floor, got out by way of the fire escape. On the way down she met Mrs. Mary Jenkins and her daughter, Miss Mae Jenkins, who had fought their way through the smoke from their room on the second floor. They went to the station house. Miss E. J. Perkins was in her room on the fourth floor when the smoke and cries of fire rose. She groped her way through the entry to the main stairway, and by clinging to the balustrade found her way to the street.

S. A. Almsworth was in his room on the second floor, and was taken out by a fireman. Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Tebbetts had retired to their apartments on the third floor before the fire, and when the rush for safety came Mr. Tebbetts took his wife to the fire escape and both got out. Miss Alice M. Park, whose room was on the second floor, was driven from it by the smoke, but knowing the direction of the fire escape got to it and then to the street and was taken to the police station.

Miss T. A. Sullivan was taken from the fourth floor by a fireman and carried down a ladder. Miss Alice C. Lamont, who also lived on the fourth floor, ran to her window when she found the smoke coming into her room, and was taken down a ladder by firemen.

R. A. Munroe and his wife, Josephine, were entertaining some friends in their apartments on the third floor when the alarm was given. They started to go down by the stairs, but Mrs. Munroe was overcome by smoke, and carried down by a fireman, while a policeman escorted the husband. Mrs. Munroe was taken to the City hospital relief station, where she soon recovered and returned to Charlestown, and found refuge in the police station.

Mrs. F. A. Gardner was in her room on the fourth floor, and ran at once to the rear fire escape and down to the street. When she had got down she thought of some valuables she had left, and went back to her room by the fire escape after them, and having secured them she started back, but found the fire escape filled with people, and reached the street by groping her way down the main stairs.

Mrs. Philip Marchington got from her room on the second floor as soon as she had collected some wraps, and left the building by the main stairs. Merrill Nodre and his wife and daughter, Margaret, got out of their apartments on the third floor and were helped to the street. Mrs. E. J. Ryder was almost choked with smoke in her room on the third

floor, but was assisted to the street by a fireman and a policeman. Mrs. Margaret Fletcher also got out of her room to the street with assistance.

When P. S. Walker left his room to seek safety he started for the main stairs, and was fortunate enough to get out without difficulty. Mrs. Stephen Connor, who lived on the third floor, was not so fortunate. She found herself dazed by the smoke, and half choked for air when she reached the corridor. Here she met a fireman, who took her down the ladder to the street. Mrs. Warren Hadley got down the fire escape from her room on the fourth floor to the roof of Abbotsford hall, and got into that part of the building and down the stairs there.

Mrs. E. F. Fish was found trying to grope her way from her room on the second floor by a fireman and a policeman, and was helped by them to the street and the police station. Mr. and Mrs. William Grace got out of their room on the second floor immediately they heard the alarm, and found the main stairway clear to the street. Miss Isabel Smith, a teacher in the Harvard school, was on the first floor, and being accustomed to fire drills put her knowledge to use, and got out, assisting some of the other tenants. Mrs. A. E. Childs' room on the third floor was near the main stairs and she got out by that way feeling her way down by the banisters. Dr. and Mrs. Perley got from their rooms on the fourth floor by the fire escape. Dr. Perley assisting his wife. At the station house he gave medical attention to several of the people brought in. Mrs. Annie Jacobs and Mrs. L. F. Newell, who had rooms on the fourth floor, got down by way of the fire escape.

While the fire was at its height a brother of Frank and Linn Dannels went through the crowd looking for them. The young men had a room on the fifth floor of the building, and nothing could be learned of them, but it was afterward ascertained that the young men were not in the building when the fire broke out.

Miss Eliza Donovan, who roomed on the fourth floor of the hotel, came over from the city during the fire. Miss Donovan is an aged woman and wanted to get into her rooms to get her valuables. She was persuaded to go to the stationhouse, where the other tenants who knew her had some difficulty in keeping her from going over to the hotel again.

### HOTEL OPENED IN 1865.

### Built by Moses A. Dow, Out of Profits of Formerly Famous Waverley Magazine.

The Waverley house has been the biggest "Jonah" in a hotel way that was ever known in the city of Boston. It was built, however, before Charlestown was annexed to Boston, by Moses A. Dow, at enormous expense, out of the profits of the Waverley magazine, a weekly story paper which in its early days was one of the most successful journalistic ventures in the United States.

Moses A. Dow was a visionary. When success came his way through his paper there was scarcely anything he touched in a business way that wasn't successful. This Waverley house, however, came mighty near ruining him.

In its day it was the biggest hotel in New England and one of the largest in the United States. It was opened in 1855 with great eclat, the city government of Charlestown being present and Mr. Dow being given a reception and banquet. Prior to this he had invested heavily in real estate in the same locality, along Harvard st., where he had built for himself a \$25,000 residence. In fact, he changed the entire locality from what had been a somewhat undesirable spot to a rather select neighborhood and presented the city of Charlestown with a fountain something like the Brewster fountain on Boston Common, which stood on the square for a number of years.

After the Boston & Maine station, the Fitchburg, the Eastern and the Lowell stations had been built across the river in Boston, Moses A. Dow thought he saw a great opportunity for a big hotel near these stations in Charlestown and incidentally he believed Charlestown was destined to become a great city, especially a residential city. He was strong willed, had plenty of money and he couldn't see wherein his project could possibly be a failure. His career had been remarkable.

The Waverley house cost Moses A. Dow \$500,000 for a starter, and it was said that it cost him several hundred thousand more, for additions and losses in the next seven years. It was built on the site of a colonial hotel which had been erected by the old deacon whose horse Paul Revere borrowed when he took his famous ride to Lexington and Concord.

When the Waverley house was opened in 1855 Mr. Dow gave free rides on the horse cars to and from his hostelry to the railroad stations at the North End. He believed that this alone would be a great inducement to people coming to Boston over the railroads, but apparently the people who came temporarily to Boston in those days didn't care to seek hotel accommodations in Charlestown. The hotel was up-to-date in every respect, but it was all of no avail. It proved unprofitable from the start, and in a few years it was converted into a sort of family hotel and genteel lodging house.

The printing office of Moses A. Dow was located on Exchange pl. and it was consumed in the great Boston fire of 1872. Mr. Dow at once transferred his printing office to a part of the Waverley house, where it has remained ever since. He also fitted up the street floor of the hotel into stores. The property never did much more than pay expenses, it is understood. There was considerable of a fire in the hotel about 20 years ago.

The main portion of the hotel was six stories in height, the southern wing was five stories and the wing on the north to the rear was two stories. There were about 200 rooms in the house. Mr. Dow died June 22, 1886.