The Great Fire Of Jarvis May 24, 1873 the business part and most of the village was burnt down. Probably trees had saved the proches and burnt down. Probably trees had saved the Doughty for a new home. The proches and burnt for a new home. The proches and burnt form today the form today to the fire. What an outlook? The front of the house John Brock got to build up for a new home. The day to the fire.

written by the late Selina Rodgers

24th of May, my mother's birthday, also Queen Victoria's, a holiday in Canada. Mr. Jones lent his woods' clearings to all the Church Sunday Schools was a smouldering ruin. to have a Union picnic No home, nothing saved, on the back part of his all gone. place. (The present home of Mrs. George Reynolds, Talbot St. E.) All the women and children and a few men went to this picnic.

Most all the men from Jarvis went to Simcoe to hear the Marquis of Lorne speak. He was the new Governor General. I was small, but big enough to walk a mile and a half (from the Brick Yard (The present J. W. Parsons home) and allowed to go with the other children and my aunts. Mother said she would be alright with Kate Searight, a trusty girl who had lived with mother as a helper for years. I guess they thought me better at the picnic as Kate had little John to look after.

We called on our way to Jarvis for Minnie and Aunt Margaret Rodgers. We went down Mr. Jones' lane to the woods.

I remeber it well. We were seated to eat dinner. Someone said "Fire", then "Jarvis is on fire." What an alarm and confusion, dinner was left untouched, everyone frightened. All made for home on the back road out at Shannon's (now Leonard Church's) on to the Snyder place (Bruce Robinson's). I can see it yet, the heavy smoke, the red glare up in the and we children afraid to go near the village.

How it happened -Mr. Armour, it seems, was the only man to stay at home in his store. At the side of the store was a small building for oil tubs and pails and other things kept away from his drygoods and grocery, a millinery shop upstairs in the front overhead, his home at the back and rooms overhead sleeping. These two buildings were about one half foot apart, a door cut thro' and covered passage to go into the little building. From the street, this half foot space got filled up with paper and other trash and it was supposed that someone had thrown a match end or stub of cigar or perhaps a fire-

Mr. Armour said he did not discover the fire until noon. It had started in the wall and had made its way upward to the shop above. With no water and alone, except Mrs. Smith in her hotel, they could do nothing to prevent it spreading so

An eye witness account written in 1946.

It was in 1873 on the gathered had hindered air above, then it broke into flames. When the

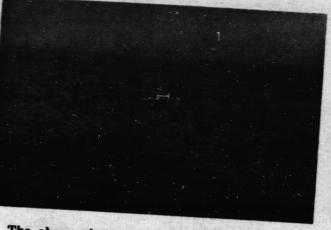
the fire from breaking out until it got to the not many homes built - hotel was saved. He save the Billy Phibbs home where there was men from Simcoe got a home, it was opened home (no telephone) all to the needy. Father was a smouldering ruin. gave Mr. Jones the make their homes in (at that time by the

Presbyterian manse and the upper and back saved the Yocums and built a new front on it.

his tenant house and the side of Talbot from the

school were not damaged by the fire. The Anglican and Methodist kitchen and bedroom of Jarvis. All the south school) were saved by the open space surroun-

This calamity, which it was feared would be the end of Jarvis, was really a benefit as it caused the erection of a better class of buildings. The "Atlas" of 1871 states that very few villages of its size contained so many handsome brick buildings as



The above picture contributed by Bill Fess shows Main St., at Norm Graham's corner after the great May 24th fire in Jarvis.



The above picture, contributed by Bill Fess, shows the Presbyterian Church and manse after the May 24th fire in Jarvis.



matches

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