

Berlin, Vermont Structure Fires Index

Last updated 10/12/21

This index is for the large binder of structure fire newspaper clippings at the Berlin Historical Society. It is not a comprehensive listing of fires, but an ongoing effort to gather information. If you're aware of additional events, please contact the Berlin Historical Society historicalsocietyberlinvt@gmail.com (108 Shed Road, Berlin, VT 05602) and provide as many details as possible. We'd like to include photographs in the binder of the structure (home/barn/business) before the fire took place and would appreciate assistance with this.

"Inst." - abbreviation for instante mense, meaning a date of the current month, such as "the 5th inst."

"Ult." Previous Month. Ult. is short for ultimo, meaning "of or occurring in the month preceding the present." Like inst., we can only know what month it's referring to if we know what the "present" month is

- **April 1, 1823** – William Crane's house consumed by fire.
- **April, 1828** – a paper mill owned by Goss & Reed, of Montpelier, situated at the falls on the Berlin side of the river, was burned; loss about \$4,000.
- **September 28, 1828** – house of Alanson Wright consumed by fire.
- **March 26, 1829** – house and out buildings of John Taplin consumed by fire.
- **July 29, 1829** – two story brick house owned and occupied by Capt. Chester Smith consumed by fire.
- **1834** – the oil mill and saw mill, in the former of which was W. Sprague's machine shop, standing also on the Berlin side of the river, but mostly owned and worked by Montpelier med, were both wholly burned.
- **February 26, 1838** – Meeting house at the top of Turner Hill on Crosstown Road burned. The building was never rebuilt. A granite marker was erected on the site in the 1920's. The Congregational Church at Berlin Corner was built to replace it. ([Beers map – District 3 – Near #21](#))
- **May 5, 1839** – Dwelling house of Mr. Hovey was entirely destroyed with most all contents.
- **December 22, 1848** – Fire at Bosworth's Hoe Factory at Berlin Corner on what is today known as Bosworth Road.
- **October 8, 1852** – dwelling house, barns known as the "Nye place", owned by Rhoda Dutton & C. F. Crane were consumed by fire.
- **October 11, 1855** – Oliver Clark dwelling entirely destroyed by fire.
- **March 12, 1858** – Almon Poor's dwelling house, located on Paine Turnpike South past the head of the pond, caught fire from a stove pipe and was consumed.
- **May 10, 1862** – Fire at the Eben Brown home on the Berlin side of the Winooski River caused slight damage.
- **May 12, 1862** – Fire at Berlin Corners totally consumed the saw and grist mill owned by L & M Strong.
- **February 22, 1863** – Dwelling house of Emerson Hill burned with most of contents.
- **February 7, 1866** – Dwelling house of Mr. Lyman Davenport destroyed by fire.
- **June 15, 1868** – Dwelling house of Joseph Slattery on Berlin St. caught fire in the roof near the chimney.
- **October 2, 1868** – house, barn, and shed of Marlin Hill consumed by fire up on West Hill. Likely started by lantern in barn. Kids sick with measles. Horses and wagon saved as well as furniture, provisions, etc.

- **November 1869** – Dwelling house of J. & H.B. Ayres was destroyed with its contents. We have an 1896 photo of that house after it was rebuilt.
- **February 10, 1871** – Dwelling house of Mr. John Herrick was consumed by fire.
- **May 1, 1872** – roof fire at S. G. Stewart’s house.
- **October ~7th, 1873** – The house, barns, horse barn and sheds of Lafayette Doton, were burned. Hay and grain were lost which included India wheat that had just been threshed. Goods in the house were saved.
- **January 12, 1876** – The barns of Stephen P. Black on the Perley place, near Berlin pond were burned.
- **September 2, 1876** – The house, a new barn, etc., belonging to widow of Benjamin Smith burned.
- **May 3, 1877** – B. F. Norton house destroyed by fire.
- **April 8, 1879** – T. W. Wood tenement house on Berlin side was damaged a few hundred dollar’s worth; insured.
- **September 24, 1879** – Mary Hurley house fire, next day barn burned.
- **August 15, 1880** – Wheelock’s barn in Berlinside area of Berlin.
- **August 26, 1880** – Cairra Nicholas barns on Berlin side. Barns were destroyed and the “L” part of the house damaged. Main part of house uninjured. Horse and several tons of hay burned.
- **December 28, 1880** – Cab shop on Berlin side slight fire
- **October 21, 1881** – Emerson Hill’s barn burned.
- **October 24 1881** – Central Vermont woodshed near Montpelier Junction burned with four hundred and thirty cords of wood.
- **March 5, 1883** – George Durfey house fire. Near Pioneer Mill. Not much damage.
- **June 22, 1883** – Slight fire in Mary Ann Hazzard’s house on Berlin side.
- **October 24, 1883** – Central Vermont Railroad woodshed, Montpelier Junction, burned with four hundred and thirty cords of wood. Trains delayed.
- **June 29, 1885** – E. E. Andrews 100 foot long barn struck by lightning and burned to the ground in under an hour along with a shed. Twenty tons of hay, farm wagon, cart, wheelbarrow, scales and various farming tools were lost. Corn barn and house were saved.
- **August 15, 1890** – J. Henry Carter’s house and barn burned. Occupied by Lewis Hill and family with several boarders.
- **February 16, 1891** – Fire at the plating works of Johnson & Colton on Berlin side.
- **1892** – Brassawy cottage partly burned. Wife later died.
- **February 8, 1893** – The George W. Pratt house, barn and outbuildings on the west side of Berlin Pond burned to the ground. Bill Nye, a brother of Sarah Pratt, died in this fire. Article in the Nye #1 folder in the Adirondack Magazine that tells about the life of Bill Nye. (Beers map – District 3 - #26)
- **June 24, 1894** – A two-story dwelling house on Berlin side burned. Owned by Bradshaw estate and occupied by George Wilson. Fire caused by a girl building a fire with kerosene and the oil in the can ignited. Another house near caught, but was not burned.
- **August 19, 1894** – Mr. Irving Slocum’s barn located about ½ mile from Berlin Corner was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.
- **July 3, 1897** – The old “Wade Mansion” on Belin side was burned to the ground. The authorities took this way to get rid of it.

- **February 4, 1898** – Tenement house owned by Consolidated Lighting at pioneer works destroyed Friday night. M. Braggi was living there. (Feb 4 was Friday so fire may have been Jan 28)
- **April 9, 1898** – Sparks from a locomotive set fire to the roof of the Central Vermont engine house on Berlin side. No locomotives were in the building so the loss was small.
- **October 26, 1898** – Fire at the Gas Works on Berlin side. Quickly put under control.
- **February 5, 1899** – A toolshop belonging to David Boles on the edge of Berlin was burned.
- **March 18, 1899** – “The store of H. (Hiram) B. Ayres at West Berlin, in which was located the post office, was burned between one and two o’clock Saturday morning. The mail and contents of the post office were mostly saved, but with the exception of one show case, everything in the store was burned. The fire caught in an unoccupied chamber in which there was no fire, stove nor stove pipe. It is thought to be if incendiary origin.” (Vermont Watchman – March 22, 1899)
- **June 15, 1899** – Sam Smith’s farm burned. Located on the old fair grounds, it was struck by lightning. (Reference to this fact is given in Jennie Scott Stewart’s diary, now have article to go with it)
- **November 7, 1899** – The barns with contents on the Cilley farm were destroyed by fire. The farm was operated by Charles Recor.
- **October 18, 1900** – James Lawless barn was totally destroyed by fire in the early morning. Mr. Lawless was able to save his stock. This farm was located about a mile and a half from the village (it is assumed that the village is Berlin Corners).
- **April 10, 1901** – The buildings on the Clark D. Perrin farm were burned except for one small outbuilding.
- **August 29, 1901** – Fire completely destroyed the old creamery building owned by Davis Bros. We have photos in the West Berlin folder of the creamery building dated in 1896 and 2014. The present building looks very much like the one that burned. So my guess is that the photos we have are of the same creamery and after it burned it was rebuilt to approximately the same design.
- **September 9, 1901** – The Station at Montpelier Junction was entirely destroyed.
- **November 18 1902** – G. B B. Denny – lost barn to fire.
- **November 18, 1902** – Barn of the Dewey milk farm burned.
- **April 1903** – Farm buildings including large story and a half house, ell and woodshed, horse barn, two bay sheds and a large barn destroyed by fire. Known as the Almon Poor farm, half mile south of Berlin Pond, currently owned by B. B. Cook and wife as summer home.
- **September 4, 1903** – The house and the horse barn of Henry Brassaw, about a mile south of Berlin pond, were destroyed by fire when struck by lightning. This included hay and machinery.
- **October 22, 1903** – Juan De Collaines barn on Berlin Hill burned.
- **December 24, 1903** – A small building and the machinery inside on the farm of Clarence Stewart was burned to the ground.
- **December 28, 1903** – The Central Vermont RR Station at Montpelier Junction burned.
- **March 6, 1904** – Congregational Parsonage on Crosstown Road at Berlin Corners burned to the ground. Through the efforts of Will Turner a new parsonage was

soon erected on the site. The pastor was Rev. John W. Goffin. (Beers map – Berlin Corner - #13)

- **September 8, 1909** – Central Vermont railroad bridged consumed by fire. Montpelier and Wells River structure saved. Crosses the Winooski River and is known as Bridge No. 6, located by Tabor place.
- **August 20, 1911** – The old toll house which was about 100 years old and was located on the road to Berlin Pond burned. It was owned by E. C. Gitchell and occupied by Emmanuel Lascre.
- **September 7, 1911** – Farm house on the Freeman R Hayden farm on the Berlin pond road, owned and occupied by Clarence Dodge was burned to the ground.
- **March, 1912** – Kinney & Hubbard Gristmill burned. Located on US Route 2 where Kubota business currently is.
- **April 10, 1913** – The house of Mr. & Mrs. John Comi at West Berlin was totally destroyed by fire. Thought to be caused by overheated chimney. Barn saved.
- **April 22, 1915** – 25 acres grass fire at Berlin pond reservoir, destroyed pine seedlings planted two years ago by the city.
- **April 28, 1915** – The Lombard farm at Montpelier Junction burned with loss of many animals.
- **April 2, 1916** – George Glogston’s two-story dwelling house on Barre road was destroyed by fire. Discovered by engineer of train, tracks run close to the house.
- **July 21, 1916 – Two Berlin fires:** Cummings farm on Berlin road from Intercity park, a barn owned by Clayton Caustic was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Also, lightning struck the barn on the Dodge farm, so called, on the Berlin pond road, and burned to the ground, including 15 tons of hay, farm machinery and the silo. Buildings were at the time owned by Clayton Caustic of the Northfield road. The house on the farm was burned about six years ago (see 1911, Hayden / Dodge fire).
- **August 31, 1916** – Aldrich farm halfway between Barre and Montpelier and near Intercity Park burned.
- **January 12, 1917** – The Davis Bros. store which was originally the old White Church located on the cemetery grounds in West Berlin, burned. The fire spread to a box car located on the RR siding and then consumed the CV Railway Station.
- **April 18, 1917** – Lawrence buildings burned (see “A Place to Pass Through” page 92). The Lawrence place was near Berlin Pond somewhere on Paine Turnpike South (I believe).
- **June 17, 1917** – Hosea N. Brown’s home and barns on the west hill in West Berlin were destroyed by fire. A lightning strike on the barn started the fire. The lightning strike hit the water pipe destroying the only means by which an effort might have been made to save the buildings. House furnishings were saved. Mr. Brown was gone with the horses and the cattle were in the pasture.
- **August 20, 1917** – F. H. Warren barn was struck by lightning and burned.
- **January 4, 1919** – Orrin Kimball home burned. Son Gerry work them 2 o’clock in the morning on Saturday. Horse barn also burned with four hogs, 250 bushels of oats, potatoes, and many other valuables.
- **December 28, 1919** – henhouse on Berlin hill street burned. Owned by John Sarkis and being used by C. Canales. (note: in 1945 C. Canales farm barn & contents destroyed, not sure of location or further details)

- **July 28, 1920** – F. E. Gray lost two barns and the hen house with the cause being spontaneous combustion of hay. Mr. Gray bought the farm from Mr. Bean who had purchased it from Mrs. Fannie Erhardt.
- **May 27, 1922** – Jennie Cavanna property destroyed on Barre-Montpelier Road. John Benjamin home only 30 feet away was saved. “The household furnishings destroyed included two talking machines. There was little value in the barn. The buildings were among the most substantially built of any on the Barre-Montpelier.”
- **November 12, 1922** – The house of Lucius Herring was a total loss. Cause was overheated chimney.
- **August 13, 1925** – Frank Martini farm buildings and house wiped out by fire.
- **December 24, 1925** – Barn destroyed belonging to Clinton E. Benjamin.
- **1924 or 1925** – covered highway bridge in West Berlin burned.
- **Sunday, May 1, 1927** – farm house off Northfield road former city poorhouse completely destroyed by fire. Owned and occupied by George McGinley. Barn and some animals also lost.
- **Friday, October 5, 1928** – buildings owned by Paul Gibbons near the Dodge bridge on the Barre-Montpelier road were completely razed by fire.
- **1929 – Airport Fires** – See Virginia Brown’s account – this folder.
 - o **June 14, 1929** – hay & cow barn recently purchased where the Airport was going to be located was struck by lightning. Nearby horsebarn was saved. Waco 9 belonging to Charles Arnholm burned.
 - o **June 17, 1929** – remaining horse barn revealed a fire in a partition filled with straw. Neighbors got the fire out. Then noticed smoke in Minna Everett’s house opposite. Hole was burned in the floor and in a door. Fire was extinguished.
 - o **July 21, 1929** – fourth fire found in brush pile near a sawmill run by Horton Smith. Fire did little damage.
 - o **July 22, 1929** – at midnight the horse barn which had been rescued a month before, burned. No animals but 13 tons of hay and farm tools were destroyed. Irving Slocum was the caretaker.
 - o **August 13, 1929** – Slocum and St. John sold land to the Airport Commission. Irving Slocum was living in the house on his former land and Almon St. John had purchased in May a new farm to the north and right at the top of the hill that leads down to the present hospital. Haybarn was full of new hay, 19 cows, poultry, and machinery – all was destroyed. Loss was about \$13,000.
 - o **October 7, 1929** – Irving Slocum watched both his barn and house burn.
- **January 8, 1930** – C. O. Paine residence at Berlin Corners totally destroyed. Loss less than \$5,000. Ninth mysterious fire to occur in this vicinity in less than a year.
- **January 29, 1930** – The Paye house across from the school building at Berlin Corner burned to the ground. (Beers map – Berlin Corner – 21)
- **January 1930** – Clifton Paye fire at Berlin Corners – Vernita Law’s accounting of fire in this folder.
- **November 11, 1932** – “Davis Granite Plant At Riverton Laid Waste by Big Fire / Provost Shed Also Suffers Heavy Damage – Total Loss Is Estimated at \$100,000”

35-foot Davis shed damage \$75,000 – \$80,000, nothing was left standing. Flames spread to the Provost Company only a few feet in the rear with the valuable machinery lost damage was estimated at \$20,000. Fred, Robert, & Daniel Davis bought the plant at West Berlin from Berlin Granite Company in 1895, improved the water power equipment and increased the cutting shed to 300 by 35 feet. In 1909 they again increased their power plant, procuring a total of 256 horsepower from the water fall and in addition, installed an auxiliary steam plant, developing an additional 385 horsepower. (At the height of their business, 200 people were employed by the Davis Brothers, Daniel Davis died in 1931) Provost Granite was establish about 30 years earlier.

July 8, 1933 – Brigham Farm at Berlin Corners – Struck by lightning. Barn and house all burned to the ground. The Buildings were never rebuilt but Adrian and Mary Granger moved a small barn onto the property and lived there for many years. LaGue bought the property and burned the barn in 2000. It was originally built by Bosworth and later owned by Chatfield. (Beers map – Berlin Corner - #24)

- **June 3, 1938** – chimney fire at the store of Charles Bean and two tenements in Riverton. No damage.
- **November 10 1938** – landmark of a colonial structure “Woodbury House” near Williamstown line destroyed by fire. 17 room brick building owned by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rock. Ell with four rooms saved along with connecting barns.
- **February 18, 1939** – Fred Jewett home in Riverton near Northfield line was damaged when it caught fire from a chicken brooder.
- **April 9, 1940** – The henhouse of Joseph Fish was destroyed and 105 chicken roasted alive in Riverton.
- **November 11, 1942** – Demars house and large barn (the old Levi Bailey farm) on Paine Turnpike North burned. It was rebuilt and lived in by the Bergengrens until their deaths. It is now (2001) owned by Kathy Pelletier. (Beers map – District 6 - #18)
- **February 13, 1943** – Hiram Turner house on Crosstown Road burned to the ground. It was rebuilt and lived in by Hiram and his wife Georgia. Their daughter Dorothy and son-in-law Cyrus Beaupre also lived in it and ran the farm. (Beers map - #23)
- **January 17, 1944** – Curtis farmhouse destroyed by fire. Located off US Rte 2 near the Montpelier gun club.
- **March 5, 1944** – Fire destroys repair shop at airport. Three army-owned planes lost along with valuable equipment, machinery, and parts. This shop was completed about two months ago and contained a heating plant.
- **January 1, 1945** – Will O. Comstock home including apartment over garage, a barn, and two silos were completely razed. Oil-fired water heater exploded in the cellar. Their son Elwin and family lived in apartment agove the garage. Son-in-law Chester Blow.
- **January 16, 1945** – Robert Pierce property completely razed, house and one barn attached. Property purchased last year from Bernard Neil was located on back road to Berlin pond from Berlin Corner. Neighbor’s home, E.N. Shepard.
- **April 15, 1945** – Clement Rock, farmhouse back wall of house was charred.
- **April 23, 1945** – Mr. & Mrs. Alfred McCarty’s house they had just bought two weeks previous from Mrs. Hazel Niles was razed. The house was on Comstock

Road. In addition to furniture and household goods they lost war bonds and a coin collection. Hazel Smith Niles Somers and her brother Horton Smith lived there as children. Joe Parry lived in the barn until his death. The barn was razed in 2000. (There was no house here in 1873 when the Beers map was printed – The house that burned was located next to Nye Brook on the southwest corner of the intersection of Nye Brook with Comstock Road)

- **April 26, 1945** – The brooder house of Amos Hall was destroyed by fire and 400 chicken lost on the Barre-Montpelier Road.
- **October 15, 1945** – C. Canales property destroyed, farm barn and contents. Thought to have been spontaneous combustion.
- **April 6, 1945** – Dwelling owned by Mrs. Julia Lawrence in Riverton completely destroyed. Fire started on second floor on the end facing the post office but were able to stop the fire from spreading to the other buildings.
- **August 17, 1948** – Riverton Postoffice building, records destroyed in fire. Twelve-room building housing two apartments is burned to the ground. Postmaster and owner of building is Mrs. W. K. Coonrod. Portable oil stove exploded.
- **December 24, 1948** – Raymond LaCourse house on Stewart Road burned to the ground. The three youngest of their four little girls died in the fire. (Beers map - District 3 – Near #6)
- **January 18, 1950** – The Guy Folsom home on a back road in Riverton was completely destroyed by fire. Children were home sick and when a sibling was summoned to come home early, the home was discovered ablaze from the chimney being blown over by high wind. All the children were safely rescued.
- **December 9, 1950** – Riverton home of Guy Gray family badly damaged.
- **November 19, 1950** – Harold Muzzy home fire, contained blaze before major damage to upper stories.
- **January 25, 1952** – Box plant near Riverton Village destroyed. “Industrial Plant Service, Inc. Plant manager, Robert Chaddock of the Barre Hotel. Currently working on Government contract. Sawmill, where the wood for the wooden boxes was milled stood about 25 feet from structure destroyed and was saved.
- **March 12, 1954** – Sports Center on Barre-Montpelier Road burned to ground. Owner Burnham Jones planned to enlarge the two-year old sports palace to include more bowling alleys and a swimming pool. Loss estimated at \$100,000.
- **June 11, 1954** – “Woodbury Barn Near Airport Burns To Ground”, due to electrical storm. The farm building and land had been purchased last year from Barre-Montpelier, nearby occupied home is still owned by both cities as part of the airport property. Telephone lines were down and there was a lack of water with water being hauled by milk cans and trucks from springs.
- **June 15, 1955** – Cuffy’s Steak House and Tilo Roofing on US Route 302 (Barre-Montpelier Road) burned to the ground. Nelson “Cuffy” Joyal owned the restaurant, Henry LaGue owned the building. It was in December 1954 the announcement for the opening of this dine and dance restaurant was made.
- **February 15, 1957** – Hooker’s & Bi-Rite Stores In Barre-Montpelier highway completely leveled by fire. Two of largest stores in this area.
- **December 21, 1957** – Barn of Edward Partlow including 60 hens and 20-30 tons of hay were destroyed.
- **March 20, 1958** – Riverton home, “the old schoolhouse” recently purchased and occupied by the Robert Partlow family was wrecked by fire.

- **March 30, 1958** – Erik Velander’s house in Berlin Corner. A major portion of the house was destroyed.
- **June 18, 1958** – Former Dodge Farm on US Route 302 destroyed by blaze. Currently owned by Rufus Walker of Walker Motors. Eight & ten year old playing with matches in the garage is what started the fire. The municipal water system was just being completed as firemen sped to the fire.
- **October 5, 1958** – Twin City Motel, owned by Michael Wobby of Barre, fire swept 10 unit motel, damages estimated \$25,000. (see also: 1971)
- **January 1, 1959** – Will Comstock farm on Airport Road burned to the ground. The fire started in the house and with a limited supply of water in a tanker it couldn’t be contained. The fire continued through a connecting building that contained an apartment and then consumed the large barn. (Beers map – District 6 - #32)
- **May 8, 1959** – Gagnon house on East Road burned. This house was located just to the south of Scott Hill Road. It had been the Crandall home since 1880 and was sold to the Gagnons in the 1940s. (Beers map – District 1 - #10)
- **August 31, 1960** – The old administration building at the Barre- Montpelier Airport was in the midst of demolition when it caught fire.

- *Note: the Chenette fire was the first was fought by the Berlin Volunteer Fire Dept. as we know it today. Prior to that there had been a Civil Defense group but it was the Montpelier, Barre, or Northfield Departments that were responding.*

- **December 13, 1961** – Chenette farmhouse on East Road burned. It was owned by John Goller and Arthur Newhouse of Hookers Furniture store on the Barre-Montpelier Road at the time it burned. It has since been restored and is owned by Dr. Holm. (Beers map – District 1 - #16)
- **February 20, 1962** – Eastman house on Paine Turnpike North at Berlin Corner burned. (Beers map – Berlin Corner – Nest place north of 16)
- **September 9, 1962** – Central Tire Company on US Route 302 had extensive damage. Owned by Wilfred & Florence Langevin of Barre.
- **November 3, 1962** – Carroll Stewart’s small fram house in Riverton burned.
- **June 2, 1963** – Three story barn off Vermont Route 12 burned to the ground. Owned by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fiddock.
- **September 25, 1963** – A raging fire destroyed the home of a Berlin farmer, Leslie Buck, and his 89-year old mother. Mrs. Buck is the widow of Arthur Buck. (Beers map – District 2 - #17)
- **January 20, 1964** – Francis Herring barn on the Northfield Road was leveled.
- August 3, 1964 – Unoccupied house on N_____ Hill was destroyed. Owner, Lloyd Grearson of Barre had used it occasionally for camp but mostly unoccupied for several years.
- **August 20, 1967** – Verne Kennison house in Riverton, fire confined to bathroom with considerable smoke damage throughout the house.
- **Mid 1960’s (1966? 1973?)** – The Cottage at the top of Erhardt Hill was burned in a controlled burn by the fire department.
- June 1, 1967 – Mobile Home belonging to Mr & Mrs Louis Chouinard destroyed by fire. Located on US Route 2. Ginger also had Ginger’s Hut there on Route 2.
- **March 11, 1971** – The Barteau house on the Northfield Road burned.

- **June 26, 1971** – Slight damage at Twin City Motel on US Route 302, fire in laundry room and damaged one unit. Proprietor, Oseas Gagnon. (See also: 1958)
- **December 4, 1971** – Mobile home destroyed but three children rescued. Owned by Shirley Holcomb in the Roland Trailer Park off the Barre-Montpelier Road / Route 302.
- **January 26, 1972** – Twin City Lanes damaged by fire, owned by Philip Kratky. 24 bowling lanes were saved from flames. Garry Daniels manager.
- **February 23, 1972** – State highway garage went up in flames along with equipment it housed. Later determined it was caused by a faulty electric outlet.
- **June 26, 1972** – Sears Roebuck and Co along with Spero's General Restaurant Supply on US Route 302 suffered extensive damage. Building is less than two years old and Sears moved to this location just this spring.
- **November 10, 1972** – Wyman's Inc on Vermont Route 12 (Northfield Road) was damaged by fire. The building houses a tank truck and gasoline pump repair and maintenance firm.
- **November 19, 1973** – The shed and meats destroyed at Erik Velanders when a tank blew.
- **November 1, 1975** – barn destroyed off Airport Road, owned by Elwin Comstock. Had antique farm equipment stored in it.
- **1975 or 1976** house on other side of Boyers burned
- **May 10, 1977** – The Peter Glenn store on the Barre-Montpelier Road burned.
- **June 29, 1977** – State Highway Garage on US Route 302 was damaged by fire.
- **October 1978** – Fire damaged apartment next to A*W on US Route 302 (Barre-Montpelier Road). Didn't spread to realty office & electronics shop in building.
- **May 17, 1980** – Riverton home gutted by fire Saturday. The empty house was scheduled to be burned in a drill Sunday (May 18th), but firefighters said negotiations with the owner fell through less than two hours before the fire broke out. **(Have photo with caption but not article from Times Argus 5/18/80 on p. 6)**
- **November 17, 1980** – Residence of Brian Swift on Turner Hill burned to the ground. May have started in chimney. Was away on honeymoon as had been married on Sunday, November 16th.
- **March 19, 1981** – Thomas Everett's barn was razed by fire on the Northfield Road. The barns contents included four snow machines, a pickup truck, carpentry and mechanic tools.
- **October 25, 1981** - Twin City Memorials on US Route 302 (Barre-Montpelier Road) had considerable heat and smoke damage. Owner is Arthur Parry who does business out of his home.
- **November 11, 1985** – The Capitol Motor Court on US 2 was burned in a fire drill.
- **March 24, 1987** – The Whole Donut at a shopping center on US Route 302 (Barre-Montpelier Road) was extensively damaged.
- **October 6, 1994** – Ranch style house was damaged on Vine Street when a fire started at the home of Kay Kuzmik and Robin Stevens started in the kitchen when grease being used for cooking caught fire.
- **October 16, 1994** – Ames store off US Route 302 damaged in fire.
- **January 20, 2004** – Dawn Fournier's home at 5231 VT Route 12 (across from M's RV) was destroyed by a fire which started in the attached shed.
- **October 15, 2004** – A Monica Kulp's 20x50 foot horse barn on Colby Road burned which held about 600 bales of hay but no horses were injured.

- **February 3, 2005** – Hilltop Apartments fire kills man and woman. Police officer relayed that if they had stayed low, they likely would have lived.
- **May 24, 2010** – Richard (“Tate”) and Cindy Tetreault’s historic two-story brick farmhouse on Junction Road was damaged by fire. An upstairs bedroom was gutted.
- **November 28, 2011** – Clifton and Phyllis Markham’s home on VT Route 12 in West Berlin had a fire, the result of the woodstove. The barn was also damaged.
- **March 01, 2012** – Berlin family on Chandler Road was forced from their home by a grease fire.
- **April 29, 2012** – Gardner home on Ayers Road in West Berlin was burned to the ground.
- **December 26, 2012** - Fire fighters from across central Vermont converged on a 150 year old family farm located at 532 Three Mile Bridge Road in Berlin to battle a massive house fire Wednesday night, December 26th.
 The 150 year old Towne-Ayr Farm, owned by Brad and Rita Towne, has been in Brad's family for 4 generations. The farm was originally purchased by Towne's grandfather in the 1920's and was operated as a dairy farm. The home and attached barn were completely destroyed, being reduced to charred rubble.
 Fire investigators confirmed the blaze was started when a skid steer sparked the flames which quickly spread through the dry wood structure within minutes completely engulfing the barn and spreading into the house. The Berlin Vermont farm, originally a dairy operation, has evolved over the years into a horse farm with a dozen horses living in an adjacent barn. None of the horses or any members of the Towne family were injured in the fast moving blaze.
 Insurance will cover losses, but can never replace the 4 generations of family memories, photos and mementos lost in Wednesday evening's fire.
 (Beers map – District 11 - #3)
- **January 11, 2013** – Herring family barn burned on the road between Montpelier and Riverton. The barn was a Quonset hut style structure.
- **April 14, 2013** - Controlled burn by firefighters.
- **October 29, 2015** – An 1880s farmhouse on the back side of Berlin Pond owned by Amy Lynn Farr had the front third of the two-story home gutted by fire.