

Further details from the Middlefield fire Monday night show that the town hall, as well as the church, was burned, and that the other surrounding buildings were saved. The story of the fire is as follows: During the very heavy shower of rain Monday evening about 5 o'clock the spire of the Congregational church was struck by lightning, and soon after fire was discovered at the top of the woodwork of the spire. The bell was rung and the alarm given. The fire was beyond the reach of any means at hand for extinguishing it, and gradually worked down the spire. By the time it came within reaching distance, it had made such headway that with the small supply of water, scarcity of help and inadequate means of getting water upon the flames, it was evident the church building was doomed. Everything movable was removed from the inside of the building, and attempts were made to save the town hall standing next to the church, less than 50 feet distant. The intense heat from the burning church building rendered

all means of saving the hall unavailing. This building contained school-rooms and public library on the lower floor and a hall above. The books from the library and most of the school-books and supplies were removed before the fire reached the lower rooms of this building. The chapel stood next to the town hall, with about 50 or 60 feet between the buildings. The larger force of men, the better organized means of securing water, and the better means of applying it to the building proved sufficient to save this chapel from burning.

The long line of sheds and Mr Cody's barn in the rear of the burning buildings and within 25 feet of them were also saved from burning. The steeple was discovered on fire soon after 5 o'clock, and at 8.30 o'clock the church and hall were burned to their foundation. The safe, containing all the records of the town, was in the library-room, and it is not known in what condition these records are. There is an insurance on the hall of \$2500 and on the church for about the same sum. This church building has been struck by lightning twice before. The loss is wholly a public one. The whole community worshiped in this church building, and the town hall building contained the only hall and school building in the center of the town.