

Elizabeth Dunn Barn Complex (Site)
HISTORY SHEET
General Information

Name of Structure: Elizabeth Dunn Estate Barn Complex

Address: 185 Geneva St
(opposite Elizabeth Dunn house at 180 Geneva St, Lyons, NY 14489)

Parcel ID: (542800) 71111-13-103274

Atlas: 1858, 1874: "Mrs Dunn"; 1904: unlabeled hatched bldgs

When Built / Mason: Unknown

When Razed: 10/6/1904

Why: Destroyed in fire

Original Owner: James and wife Mehitable Dunn

Subsequent owners: Alfred (son) and wife Elizabeth Dunn

Original Use: Barn

Subsequent Use: always until burned

Pictures: None known to exist

Description:

Design details: Unknown

Masonry details: Unknown

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References:

<http://fultonhistory.com/newspaper%202/Lyons%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Review/Lyons%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Review%201903-1905%20pdf/Lyons%20NY%20Wayne%20County%20Review%201903-1905%20-%2000345.pdf>

WAYNE COUNTY REVIEW, Thr 10/6/1904 "An Expensive Fire, Barns on the Dunn Farm Destroyed Tuesday Morning."

The group of barns on the farm of Mrs. Elizabeth Dunn, quarter of a mile south of the West Shore tracks on the Alloway road, took fire from some unknown cause at 3 o'clock Tuesday morning and ... the buildings, with their contents except for 12 head of stock were entirely destroyed.

The barns stood on the east side of the highway opposite the Dunn residence. The main building, which was the original, was built of cobblestone. To this had been added three frame structures, forming almost a hollow square. In the north of the buildings were the farm horses and in the other portions were the farming utensils, crops, and stock. The fire started in the north or cobblestone structure and worked rapidly south.

The farm is worked on shares for Mrs Dunn by Michael Baker, the well-known horseman of this village. Mr Baker lives at the foot of the hill some 100 yards north of the burned barns. At ~2AM Tuesday morning the Dunn household was aroused by the unusual barking of the dog... An hour later Mr Baker was awakened and saw at once that the north barn was burning. When he reached the scene the flames had gained much foothold that he had no time to lead out the two horses quartered in that part of the building. He had only time to go to the other portions of the barn and open the doors for the stock to come out. Nothing else of any sort was saved, so rapid was the work of the flames.

The loss will be a one severe for both Mrs Dunn and Mr Baker. Mrs Dunn valued the barns at between \$2500 and \$3000 being excellently equipped and supplied with a water system which, including a windmill, was also destroyed. In the barn were the farming implements, 50 tons of hay, over 100 bushels of oats, 50 bushels of wheat, and other valuable farm produce. Mrs Dunn carried a trifle less than \$1000 insurance on the buildings. Mr Baker figures that his loss on the horses, equipment, and his share of the crops will amount to nearly \$1000. He carried no insurance.

Newark Courier: <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn85026906/1904-10-06/ed-1/seq-4/>

Mrs Alfred Dunn's stone barn in South Lyons was burned early Tuesday morning, entailing a loss of \$1500, with light insurance. The contents, consisting of a team, crops and tools owned by Michael Barker, were burned without insurance. Loss \$2000. The fire is attributed to tramps sleeping in the barn.

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Verlyn Klahn, 1955 Hoffman Essay, *Cobblestone Structures of Wayne County*

Lawrence Riley, brother-in-law of Thomas E Dorsey, built the 80' x 30' cobblestone barn which burned in 1904. The barn stood just about across the road (Route 14) from the Masonic Temple.

NOTE: For Masonic Temple (1955): https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM42P1_Humanity_Lodge_406_Lyons_New_York

Resources:

http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/History_of_Wayne_County_1877.pdf pg 98

Short section on the pioneer Dorsey familial relationships, especially with respect to Thomas E Dorsey. Thomas E Dorsey's sister (Delia) did marry Tom Rooke. They were brothers-in-law.

Thomas E Dorsey's other sister (Elizabeth) married Lawrence Riley. They were brothers-in-law.

Repeated un-responded to requests — no information forthcoming from Wayne County HS or local Lyons HS.