

## TWO MEN CREMATED

ED. POSEY'S BARN NINE MILES NORTH OF TOWN WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE ON SATURDAY NIGHT TOGETHER WITH TWELVE HORSES AND FOUR COLTS. ADAM HEMERLY AND BARNEY BARNES ARE ALSO BURNED TO DEATH. THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE IS UNKNOWN.

One of the most disastrous and saddening fires that has occurred in this section of the country for some time occurred on Saturday night when Ed. Posey's barn was destroyed together with twelve valuable horse and four colts that were in the building at the time the fire occurred. The fire was disastrous from a property standpoint but the saddest part of matter was the fact that two men were cremated, the loss of human life in this manner being one of the saddest occurrences that we meet along the pathway of life. The unfortunate victims of the flames were Adam Hemerly and Barney Barnes, two men who had been working for Mr. Posey on his threshing machine. They were the only members of the crew who were sleeping in the barn that was burned, the balance of them being in another barn only a few rods away. There are some very peculiar circumstances connected with the death of these two men. It is thought that they had not gone to sleep when the fire broke out and their bed was situated in the northwest corner of the barn and within three feet of an open door on the north side of the barn leading outside and only about eight feet above the ground. Notwithstanding this fact, when the remains of the bodies were found that of Mr. Barnes was just inside the south door of the barn, there being every indication that while he was trying to get out he had been kicked by a horse and knocked down. He was lying face downward with his feet nearest the door and one of his hands was shoved into the manure. His arm was entirely burned off but the hand that was under the manure was not touched by the fire.

The remains of Adam Hemerly were found in the northwest corner of the barn almost directly under where their bed was located on the second floor. It would appear that he had not made any effort to escape and had fallen down among the horses, as he was lying on top of a horse when found. Several articles which he carried in his pockets were found, including some silver money.

The loss to Mr. Posey at this time is a severe blow. Just a day or two previous he had selected the best of his horses for plowing and had put them in this barn and the others that he was using for threshing purposes he had in the barn that was not burned. The twelve horses that were burned were probably worth in the neighborhood of \$2,400 and besides there were four yearling colts and several sets of harness and the barn, the total loss being nearly \$4,000. We understand there was no insurance on any of the property.

There many theories in regard to the origin of the fire but no one will ever know just where or how it started. To our mind the most feasible theory seems to be that the fire started in the bottom

ces that would make it possible for this theory to be correct. Just a short time before the fire was discovered one of Mr. Posey's men had returned from town with a team and put them in this barn and went to the house to eat his supper and it was while he was eating that he heard the horses making a noise and when he looked out he discovered that the barn was on fire. There were hay shoots in front of the horses and the theory is that perhaps this man in some way set fire to the hay in the manger and the doors being open the fire shot up the hay shoot and made it appear as though it might have originated in the hay above. From the time the fire was discovered it was only about ten or fifteen minutes until the building fell, it being one of the most rapid fires that was ever seen by those who witnessed it. It went so rapidly that there was absolutely no chance for the balance of the crew to assist the unfortunate men as by the time they were aware of the fire the building was entirely enveloped in flames.

### Funeral of Adam Hemerly.

The funeral of Adam Hemerly took place from the Presbyterian church on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Rev. M. S. Riddle officiating. Mr. Riddle spoke from the 14th. verse of the 14th. chapter of Job. "If a man die, shall he live again?" He said this was a profound question, men in all ages of the world have been asking this question. He said the infidel, the atheist and the materialist all answered it in the negative, and their answer cast a dark shadow over the present and future life. But nature and the Bible, two of God's revelations, answered the question in the affirmative. Nature teaches that if a man die, he shall live again. We see this in the death of the flowers in the cold chilly winters, and in the sweet spring time, when they revive and live again. The Bible also teaches that "If a man die" he "shall live again." After the exercises at the church, all that remained of Adam Hemerly was laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery south of the town. He was born in Utica, Wisconsin, in June of 1869, died September 23 1905, aged 36 years and three months. His father and mother died some years ago. His only near relatives living are three brothers and three sisters. One brother, from Wisconsin, was present at the funeral. There is a strange coincidence in the tragical death of Mr. Hemerly, and that is this: A few years ago he was engaged to a beautiful young lady, but shortly before the event was to take place, she met her death by being burned, and last Saturday Mr. Hemerly met the same fate. How mysterious are the ways of life!

Mr. Hemerly was well known to several of the people of Courtenay, he having been employed by Dave Anderson in the blacksmith shop for a while last summer. He also ran Mr. Oxenrider's engine for a short time and he was running an engine for Mr. Posey this fall.

The remains of Mr. Barnes were taken to Kensal for burial and the funeral took place on Tuesday at ten o'clock. Mr. Barnes was at one time a farmer about five miles south of McHenry and is well known around Courtenay as he transacted considerable business at this point. His mother and a brother are living on claims near Williston but we understand they did not get to the