

## FORTY YEARS AGO.

Just forty years ago last Thursday Edgerton was visited by one of the most disastrous fires in her history. We were a small village at that time and the fire wiped out a big portion of the business district. Edgerton had no newspaper either to chronicle the event, but the Janesville Gazette gave the following account of the disaster:

"A fire broke out in Edgerton Thursday evening, February 21, 1867, starting in Root & Bowerman's store on Front street, and spread so rapidly that nearly one-half the business portion of the place was destroyed before the progress of the flames could be stayed. There is no fire company or engine in the village, but a hook and ladder company was extemporized and two of the buildings in the row were soon torn down and by the use of buckets and wet carpets the fire was stayed in its rapid and all devouring march, after having razed eight buildings to the ground and turned eighteen business men and four families into the street. The losses as nearly as can be ascertained are as follows: Root & Bowerman, furniture store, loss \$3,500; insured \$2,500; D. R. Wheeler, mechanic, loss \$200; Dr. Crandall, loss \$415; no insurance; Mrs. Bowerman, loss \$100; Dr. Lord, loss \$100; Dr. Landers, loss \$1,000, no insurance; Son & Clark, loss \$100, covered by insurance; Williams & Sherman, loss \$1,200; insured \$600. M. G. Pond, loss \$1,500; insured \$1,000; B. B. Sherman, loss \$1,000; insured \$500; Jas. Clark, loss \$1,000; insured \$300; H. Roberts, loss \$800; no insurance. W. Ellis, loss \$150; no insurance; E. H. Smith, loss \$100; no insurance; Dan Edwards, loss \$150, no insurance."

Judge Smith is the only survivor now living in this city that were mentioned as being in business and suffering loss from the fire.