

110-Year-Old Kettleby Mill Destroyed By Fire

Late Tuesday night of last week the 110-year-old Kettleby mill was completely destroyed by fire.

Although spotted almost as soon as it started, the blaze swept through the four-storey, frame building before Aurora firemen could pour water on it. Within 20 minutes the building collapsed.

The mill was a landmark and subject of many artists. A product of pioneering community spirit, it stood as a symbol of the thriving past to the 65 present residents of the village. Erected in 1840, it was built of heavy hand-hewn red pine.

Since 1896 trouble has seemed to dog the footsteps of each new owner. Then the mill was taken over by E. W. Love. A year later the mill dam was destroyed in a flood. Since then each new owner has lost heavily within a year of taking over the mill. The mill was purchased last April by its present owner, Roy H. Denne, of Newmarket.

During the previous 20 years the mill was operated by J. Frank Curtis of Kettleby. In 1934 he switched the mill to electricity when he lost a dam for the second time.

First to spot the blaze was Bill Max, Kettleby, who had just gone to bed.

"I happened to glance out the window and noticed the whole top of the mill ringed with fire," he said. "I put in a call to the Aurora fire brigade and went outside. By that time the whole building was in flames and the telephone wires were down."

The loss of the building and the machinery, much of which was replaced last spring, is estimated at close to \$20,000. It is thought a large amount of wheat was in storage in the mill.