



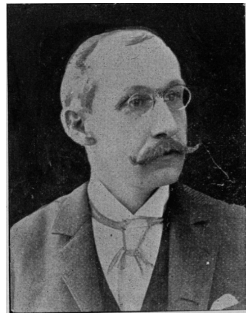
## FROM THE ARCHIVES March 2024

The subtopic of fire touching and sometimes destroying buildings kept reappearing in my recent presentation on [James DeGarmo of the DeGarmo Institute](#) (late 19th and early 20th century). Within a few days, I visited the [Rhinebeck Historical Society's digital archives](#) and immediately opened Frank Asher's photo of [William M. Sleight 2nd Assistant Chief](#), member of Relief Hook and Ladder

Company, No. 1, above. Our Frank Asher Collection offers photos, "mugshots" of people living and working in and around Rhinebeck. Asher was also an insurance salesman; photos of car crashes are included.

Since I wanted to learn more about Sleight's Relief Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1, I read the article "The Fire Department" included in *Illustrated Rhinebeck* dated October 13, 1896.

The article begins, "If there is any one thing of which Rhinebeck is proud, and justly too, it is her fire department." Founded in 1871, Relief Hook and Ladder had forty six members in 1896.

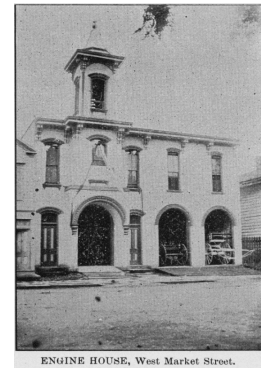


DR. FRANK LATSON,  
Captain Relief Hook and Ladder  
Company, No. 1.

Dr. Frank Latson was the Captain of Relief Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1, and his [residence was on Livingston street](#). The Engine House, pictured, was on West Market Street just west of the Beekman Arms. It housed necessary equipment and had a pool table for members.

Images of fire insurance policies, Sanborn fire insurance maps, fire equipment and more details about the history of Relief Hook and Ladder

Company, No. 1 can be found in the [Rhinebeck Historical Society's digital archives](#). In 1963, the current Rhinebeck Fire Department was formed from the merging of Relief Hook and Ladder Company with H. S. Kipp Hose.



ENGINE HOUSE, West Market Street.

From the Archives,  
Bonnie Wood  
March 2024