

Chief Kendall, Sterling Fire Dept.
Telegram [Worcester] Aug. 24, 1900
[Transcribed by: CJ Bagley]

The Sterling company and the Sterling Junction company intend to arrange a contest.

STERLING – Aug. 24 – A fire alarm last evening at 8:17 called out the Sterling fire department in short order. Seven men of the hook and ladder company responded and 25 men from the engine company.

The fire was three fourths of mile from the center on the Lancaster road. When the men reached the scene of action they found it was a sham fire, arranged by Chief Kendall of the fire department and W. R. Mitchell of Mitchell and Sawyer for practice work. A large quantity of boxes, crates, and boards had been piled up on land of J. Buchannon Smith, and Chief Kendall started the fire.

It was just 7 ½ minutes after the bells rang when the first stream of water was thrown on the fire.

Those in the secret kept quiet about it and the firemen thought they were going to a genuine fire, and did not know they were being deceived until the run had been made; but they worked with a will and soon had the fire out.

The length of the hose used was 200 feet, and the stream thrown was 143 feet.

The firemen express themselves pleased that the practice was arranged unknown to them, and Chief Kendall is satisfied with the time made.