

# HE HAS HAD MANY CLOSE CALLS.

## District Chief Charles H. W. Pope for 34 Years a Fighter of Fires.

District Chief Charles H. W. Pope, who is in charge of district 2, which comprises Charlestown, is one of the best known of Boston's firemen. He has been actively engaged as a fire fighter for 34 years.

While fighting fires the chief has had many close calls. In 1839, at a fire in a building on Main st, Charlestown, he was removing a blazing oil stove from a blind attic, when it exploded in his hands, and his clothing was literally burned from his body. As a result of the burns the chief was confined in the hospital for four months and his life was despaired of. He pulled through, however, and the attending physicians stated that his recovery from such frightful burns was nothing short of wonderful.

In 1835 a fire broke out among casks of bleaching powder in the hold of a steamer at the Hoosac tunnel docks. The chief, with others, was overcome by the fumes from the burning casks, and it was necessary to call a physician.

Pope was among those buried with Chief Webber in the debris when the roof of the Chipman building fell in 1892. He was nailed to the floor by a spike in the falling timber passing through his hand.

The chief has been located in the Bunker Hill district during his entire career, and has the following companies under his charge: Engines 27, 32 and 36, ladder 9, chemical 9, combination ladder 5 and combination wagon 7. He is highly respected throughout the district, and has the confidence of all the citizens of the section.

In his pleasant quarters in the Main-st ladder house, he has entertained many visiting firemen who have come to participate in the Bunker Hill day celebrations.

His rooms are adorned with relics and tokens from active and veteran firemen's associations from all over New England. He is a member of the Charlestown volunteer firemen's association and the relief and charitable associations connected with the Boston department.

Charles H. W. Pope was born Dec 25, 1847. In his younger days he entered the catering business, and for many years was one of Charlestown's most prominent and prosperous business men.

He joined the volunteer fire department in Charlestown in 1869, and when the department was reorganized by the Charlestown city government in 1872, he was selected assistant foreman of Massachusetts hook and ladder company 1. April 3, 1877, he was made foreman of the company, and held the position until the annexation of Charlestown to Boston, when the name was changed to ladder 9. He was given the rank of captain as a reward for his efficient services on Dec 20, 1874.



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GREEN

DISTRICT CHIEF CHARLES H. W. POPE  
Of Charlestown.

On the retirement of District Chief Bartlett May 3, 1890, the board of commissioners promoted Pope to the rank of district chief, and he has since filled the position in a most capable manner. It has been said that there is no crook or turn in the highways and byways of the district that he does not thoroughly know.

The chief is driven to fires by his son, Charles II. Pope.