

# HAS HAD THRILLING EXPERIENCES

## Joseph M. Garritty One of the Youngest District Chiefs and One of the Best.

The fire department career of District Chief Joseph M. Garritty of the third district has been full of thrilling incidents, and his many escapes from serious injury and death have been little less than miraculous.



DISTRICT CHIEF JOSEPH M. GARRITTY.  
In the Fire Department 17 Years.

Garritty is one of the youngest district chiefs in the department, and is classed among the best. He has seen nearly 17 years of service, and during his department career has made a great many friends.

At the Merrimac-st fire of Feb 5, 1893, Garritty had the closest call of his life.

He was working with his men on the fourth floor of the building when the floor fell, killing six firemen and severely injuring Garritty and others. He received a scalp wound and bruises, and was overcome by smoke. He remained in the hospital some days.

On assuming command of steamer 7 he continued to carry out the speedy system of responding to alarms originated by his predecessor, Capt Martin.

On March 23, 1898, the members of engine company 7 presented him with a roll-top desk. The presentation speech was made by Capt James J. O'Conner. He took command of the third district on April 26, 1898, and was given a royal welcome by the firemen in the district. The companies under Chief Garritty's charge are engines 8 and 25, ladders 8 and 14, and the fireboat.

The chief is connected with the Knights of Columbus, the firemen's relief and charitable associations and other fraternal organizations.

Joseph M. Garritty was born in Roxbury Jan 29, 1862, and attended the Comins school. He was employed as a house painter before entering the fire department, which he joined in 1886 as a call man, and was placed on duty at ladder 12, Tremont st, Roxbury. June 18, 1887, he was given permanent appointment and was transferred to ladder 3, Harrison av.. On his own request he was shifted to engine 26, Mason st, on June 25, 1887, and continued to serve there nearly three years, when on June 1, 1889, the board of commissioners promoted him to the grade of lieutenant, shifting him to engine 7, East st.

He remained junior officer of steamer 7 until June 6, 1890, when he was returned to the Mason-st steamer. As an officer he proved a great success and remained on duty on Mason st until Feb 10, 1893, when again his ability as an officer won recognition and he was returned to "Tiger 7" as captain.

His term at engine 7 lasted five years. District Chief Egan was killed while on duty at the Merrimac-st fire, and Capt Garritty was seriously injured. Commissioner Russell announced a few days after the fire the selection of Capt Garritty for promotion to district chief, and the order pleased the entire department. The chief was placed in charge of district 3, with headquarters in the house of ladder company 8, Fort Hill sq.