

# LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter - Saturday, January 18, 1924

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

**What We Are Talking About at the County Hub**

## TWO WILLS CONTESTED

**Cemetery Improvement—Lady Dislocates Shoulder—Morrow Hose Has Turkey Supper.**

George S. Tacy recently bought the Thomas Ballantyne farm east of Colchester station, occupied by Raymond Wilcox.

The Company F basketball team easily defeated the Hancock Athletic association five on the armory court Wednesday evening by a score of 38 to 16. The guardsmen completely outplayed their opponents.

Engine Company No. 5 recently organized to man the new American LaFrance pump engine, has elected the following officers: Foreman, Fred Haverly; assistant foreman, J. C. Burrhus; secretary, Earl Hinman; treasurer, Robert Scott; steward, Dellen Combs.

Mrs. Bertha Miller of Union street caught her heel on a step while going down the cellar stairs Monday, causing her to lose her balance and fall down the stairs. Dr. W. R. Gladstone, who was called, found that Mrs. Miller's right shoulder was fractured.

The receiving vault of the Walton cemetery association has been completed and is now ready for use. The structure is located in the bank facing the Fancher avenue approach to the cemetery. The chapel, which is open to view, is built of Vermont granite, while the vault is of concrete construction. The vault proper is concealed in the bank. The chapel is 12 by 12 feet in dimensions, while the vault has space for the accommodation of fifty bodies. The vault was built at a cost of about \$5,000, F. D. Huyck of Walton being the contractor. It will fill a need greatly felt in the cold winter months and the cemetery association is to be commended on its enterprise in the matter. A charge of \$10 will be made for bodies of adults and \$7 for children.

Misfortunes never come singly. This is the experience of Clarence Epps, owner of the Public Service garage in Oneonta which was destroyed by fire last Friday morning. Sunday evening Mr. Epps, his sister-in-law, Miss Margaret Schlafer, of Delhi, principal of the Miller avenue school in Walton, and Albert Slawson, a friend of Mr. Epps, started from Oneonta for Delhi in a Ford truck in which were loaded two trunks and some other articles recovered from the ruins of the garage. On the state road between Oneonta and Davenport the truck locked wheels with a Ford coupe driven by William Hood of 234 Main street, Oneonta, a former Walton man. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hood were thrown through the top of the coupe and she suffered two fractured ribs. The accident occurred about 6:15 o'clock. Miss Schlafer states that the wheels on the right side of the truck were off the macadam. Statements of the parties were taken by a justice of the peace living nearby. Both cars were considerably damaged.

The members of Morrow Hose company and guests, including the village board and firemen's board, enjoyed a turkey dinner at Bruce's restaurant on Monday evening. At the business meeting the following officers were elected: Foreman, J. T. Sherwood; assistant foreman, Fred Biedekapp; secretary, Herbert J. Rogers; treasurer, George T. Johnston; steward, V. A. Wolf. Dr. Morrow, J. H. Townsend, Joseph Gannon, Albert Smith, A. J. Courtney and W. R. Reynolds were called upon for talks. Interesting reminiscences were given by Mr. Gannon, the oldest member of the Walton fire department in years

of service, and by Albert Smith. These two men were members of the Indiana Engine company, known as the "redshirts." When this company existed water for fire protection was pumped by hand from the river and brooks or from wells driven in convenient locations for this purpose. The Walton fire department now consists of five companies and has the most up-to-date apparatus including a motor driven pump engine.

Citations in two Walton will cases in which contests are expected were returnable before Judge McNaught in Delhi Monday. In the matter of the will of Newell Cable, late of Walton, adjournment was taken to February 12 in Walton when objections will doubtless be filed. John G. More appeared for the executors, himself and Mrs. Mary Cable; C. C. Flaesch of Unadilla appeared for the nephews and nieces and A. G. Patterson for the United Presbyterian church of Walton. Mr. Cable in his will left the bulk of his estate to be divided among six Walton churches. Objections were filed against the probate of the will of the late William Bushnell of Walton and January 29th in Walton was set as a tentative date for the trial. Judge McNaught has been holding court in the Bronx and for this reason the date may be changed. The contest is filed by Mrs. Bushnell, Vernon France, Mrs. Agnes Depuy and Mrs. May Rockwell. The will provides that Mrs. Bushnell shall have a life use of the property without the right to the use of the principal and upon her death the bulk of it goes to Harry France, who is named as executor. A prior will gave Mrs. Bushnell a life use with right to use the principal. A. D. Peake represents the contestants and S. H. Fancher the executor. The estate is estimated at about \$3,000.

## ORNAMENTAL LIGHTS ON DELAWARE STREET

**Chamber of Commerce Also Acts on Question of Rest Room Location.**

The matter of rest room and the question of ornamental street lighting on Delaware street were among the subjects discussed at a special meeting of the Walton Chamber of Commerce in Walton hall Tuesday evening.

The rest room committee has been notified by Peter Pappas, owner of the building in which the rest rooms are located, that he will need the rooms himself after Feb. 1. A number of other places have been investigated by the committee but no definite selection has been made. It was voted that a committee of the Chamber of Commerce be appointed to act with the rest room committee, such committee-to aid in the selection of rooms and report back with a budget. The Chamber of Commerce will then be in a position to vote a definite sum to aid the project. Ten dollars a month has been contributed for the past year. President Courtney appointed H. E. Kelley, A. J. Holmes, H. F. Marvin, Harlan Wood, Fred R. Lyon and George S. Fitch as such committee.

Otto J. Hoos, Walter J. More and F. C. Darling were appointed on a committee to investigate the proposition to have ornamental street lighting on Delaware street between East and West brooks. They will investigate the cost and report at a later meeting. Liberty has had such a project under consideration and it was found there that the cost would be about \$1.25 for each foot of frontage. The lights would be placed 150 feet apart on each side of the street, and would alternate so that there would be a light each 75 feet. While no expression of opinion was called for there are many business men who feel that such lighting is needed on Delaware street and if the cost is not found excessive within a few months Walton may have its own "white way." The cost would be borne by the property owners along the street.

The question of securing sum-

## DELANCEY MAN FINED ON ASSAULT CHARGE

**Justice Assesses Frank Stewart \$25 After Jury Declares Him Guilty**

The town hall at Hamden was filled Wednesday by an interested crowd which gathered to hear the trial of Frank Stewart of Delancey before Justice C. S. Hymers and a jury. Mr. Stewart was charged with assault in the third degree upon Audrey James, a Delancey school boy, and after hearing the evidence and deliberating thereon the jury returned a verdict of guilty. Justice Hymers imposed a fine of \$25 and a sentence of thirty days in the Delhi jail which was suspended during good behavior.

Mr. Stewart's arrest grew out of a fracas with some school children on December 18th. The Stewart residence adjoins the Delancey schoolhouse and while evidence on that point was barred it is understood that the relations between Mr. Stewart and the pupils were not of the best and the affair which resulted in his arrest was the climax to a series of irritations caused by the children calling the man names and otherwise pestering him.

The trial took most of the day. The evidence was to the effect that on December 18 the James boy and some other lads started

mer boarders was also brought up at the meeting. After some discussion W. J. More, C. B. Lincoln and C. G. Robinson were appointed a committee to investigate and secure the names of any who wish to take boarders.

Play ground equipment for the Liberty street side of the high school grounds came in for some discussion but the matter was laid on the table. David More and J. J. Farrell were appointed a nominating committee to name officers for the ensuing year. The date for the annual banquet has not yet been fixed.

## LIBRARY FOR STAMFORD

**Plans For Use of \$25,000 Fund Left by Dr. Churchill.**

(From Stamford correspondent.) Plans are maturing for the launching of the project of erecting the Churchill village library for which Dr. S. E. Churchill Willed \$25,000 and which sum has been placed in the Stamford bank. If the money is not used for the purpose within ten years it reverts to the heirs of the Churchill estate. Stamford village voted at a special election sometime ago to acquire lands for a park and for a site for the building in the park fronting on Main street. The \$25,000 gift is to Stamford school district and before the building project is launched the voters of the school district will have a vote on the proposition. The proposed building is to contain a library, an auditorium for public meetings, rest rooms, gymnasium, etc.—to be a community building.

If the opera house is sold by the village some taxpayers are in favor of contributing the money received from the sale to the building fund of the library, while others believe it best to use it towards paying for the construction of the new sewer plant instead of issuing all of the twenty thousand dollars of bonds which have been voted for the purpose.

## BARN BURNER PLAYS HAVOC AT KORTRIGHT

**Arrest Main in Kingston on Suspicion of Crime**

## 118 COWS DIE IN FLAMES

**Residents Link Mysterious Fires of Wednesday Night With Stronigan Murder—Loss About \$40,000.**

(From Delhi correspondent.) Developments of a startling nature are taking place as to the ori-

gin of the mysterious fires which took place in the town of Kortright Wednesday night when the house, barn and garage on the farm owned by one, Romanetta, an Italian, was destroyed by flames. Forty-nine cows and four horses were burned as well as all other contents of the buildings.

The Hugh K. McLaury barn with sixty-nine fine Holstein cows, four horses and a large amount of fodder, feed and machinery was destroyed the same night and nearly the same hour, midnight. When A. Brooks, a large farmer, who resides at the head of Betty's brook, went to his barn to do his chores Thursday morning he found a lot of rags in his engine room which is a small but tightly sealed room, which had been saturated with oil and set on fire, but for some reason the fire had gone out.

These three farms are all located on a road leading from Betty's brook road over the hill to Kortright Center and perhaps about a mile apart.

Sheriff Arbuckle was called about 3 a. m. Thursday morning and with Undersheriff Stewart was soon at the scene of the fires. Tracks of a man evidently wearing new rubbers were discovered about each of the three buildings. These tracks could not be traced on the harder ground of the fields. About daylight Thursday morning a Mr. Jones, who lives a short distance from Kortright station saw a man coming across the fields toward the highway. He had a small brook to cross but at a point within hearing of Mr. Jones. He seemed to be puttering around and Jones called, to him to come, that he wanted to talk with him. The man came on to where Mr. Jones was standing and was told that suspicious fires had taken place the previous night in the neighborhood and that he, Jones, was looking over strangers pretty carefully. At this the man gave Jones his name as Antonio Castaebelle and passed on up the highway toward the railroad station at Kortright.

Before the morning train left on the U. & D. a man bearing this description of the one interviewed by Jones bought a ticket for New York. Foot prints about the soft ground, near the brook he crossed, were made by someone wearing new rubbers and were the same measurements as those discovered about the buildings burned.

The sheriff telephoned police headquarters in Kingston to arrest a man on the U. & D. bearing this description. The police succeeded in making the arrest and are now, Thursday, at 5 p. m., on their way to Delhi with the prisoner.

Much excitement prevails about that section of the town of Kortright as most of the people in the neighborhood are inclined to connect the fires of Wednesday night and others that have taken place in this neighborhood in some way with the Stronigan murder, a mysterious tragedy which occurred some few years since in the same locality.

Mr. McLaury was awakened about 12 o'clock Wednesday night by a light in his face. At first he thought he had overslept and jumped out of bed. but looking out of the window found his large barn, one of the finest in the town of Kortright, in flames. Besides the stock mentioned, a large quantity of farm implements and a tractor were destroyed. Mr. McLaury places his loss at \$30,000 with \$10,000 insurance.

The fire on the Romanetta farm occurred at nearly the same time. The loss here, while not as large as that of Mr. McLaury's, will be over \$10,000, with some insurance. One hundred eighteen cows and eight horses perished in the two fires.

On Thursday, Jan. 3, thirty-eight cows and four horses were burned in a fire which destroyed the barn of Angelo Latara in the same vicinity.

## BLEW OFF TIN ROOF

**Wind Storm at Hobart Does Considerable Damage.**

A part of the tin roof on the Sethman building in Hobart was torn off by the high wind last Thursday night. The wind also blew down the smoke stack of Cohen's creamery, about two miles east of Hobart. The smoke stack, which fell at about 4:30, fell directly across the main lines of the West Branch Light and Power company, breaking all three of them and putting the electric lights in Hobart out of commission for several hours.

## FALLING DOOR SMASHES TOES

**Supervisor Shaver Struck by Trap Dropped by Boy.**

(From Meridale correspondent.) Amasa Shaver of Meridale, supervisor of the town of Meridale, was quite painfully injured in a peculiar manner Saturday. Several boys were playing overhead in the cow barn and one of them attempted to lift a heavy trap door which was not on hinges and let it drop. The door went down through to the cow stable. Mr. Shaver was just coming through the barn and happened to be directly under the opening. The door struck him on the side of the head and glancing hit him on the foot knocking him down. He was bruised about the head considerably and two toes were smashed. Mr. Shaver was fortunate that the door didn't strike him on the top of his head for no doubt it would have killed him.

## STAMFORD BANK'S GROWTH

(From Stamford correspondent.) At a meeting of the directors of the National bank of Stamford held at the bank January 12th the present officers were re-elected as follows: President, Charles L. Andrus; vice president, Dr. E. W. Gallup; cashier, S. C. Robinson; assistant cashiers, A. S. Chambers and N. W. Baird. This well managed institution shows continued progress as a comparison of the government reports of December, 1922 and 1923 shows an increase of over \$2,960,000 in deposits and over \$317,000 in resources.

## MERIDALE WOMAN BREAKS ARM

**Mrs. Abram DuMond Falls While Shopping at East Meridale.**

(From Meridale correspondent.) While shopping in East Meridale one day last week, Mrs. Abram DuMond of Meridale slipped on the ice and fell, breaking her arm next to the shoulder. She is being cared for at the home of her sister, Mrs. A. J. Benedict, at Jackson Hill.