

# LOOKING BACK

*100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter*

100 YEARS AGO,  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1922

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

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

## CO. F TO GO TO ALBANY

**Begin East Brook Road—Rev. MacEwan's Promotion—Child Breaks Arm—Claim \$2,400 for Services.**

C. W. Beers picked several large red strawberries from his strawberry bed on election day, Nov. 7.

George Ruff of Readburn killed a 160-lb. buck Monday. This is the only buck killed in that vicinity this season.

Company F, the Walton unit of the Tenth Regiment, N. Y. N. G., will parade at Albany on Armistice day with the other detachments of the regiment. The guardsmen will be conveyed to and from Albany by special train.

Chester M. Sanford, who played baseball in Walton last summer, was injured so badly in the football game between Lehigh and Colgate in Binghamton Saturday that he will probably be prevented from playing football for the rest of the year.

The play "Sonya" which is to be given in Walton hall this, Friday, is reputed to be one of the best that has visited Walton in recent years. The company has been playing only the cities upstate and the engagement for Walton was booked only through a confusion of dates in Elmira.

The first voters in the five election districts in Walton village Tuesday were as follows: District 1, George A. Peck; district 2, A. F. Hoyt; District 3, Will Stevens; District 4, Champion W. Hawk; District 5, James M. Knapp. Mr. Peck has voted the first ballot in District 1 for fifteen years, or ever since he has lived in the district.

Charles R. DuMond has sold the Chronicle printery to Olan Misner of Oneonta, with possession given Nov. 13th. The sale includes the business only and not the building. Mr. DuMond plans to go west. Ned Stevens has bought the Frank Slosser house, Prospect avenue and Mr. Slosser has purchased the Cliver house, Howell street. All three sales were made through the agency of H. M. Robinson,

The Walton high school football team was defeated by the Union Endicott high school Saturday morning by a score of 33-0. The local boys played a good game but lacked the polish of the U-E boys, who made all their points on fumbles by the local eleven. In the fourth period the Walton team opened up an attack which carried them within ten yards of their opponents' goal but again lost the ball on a fumble.

Theris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Courtney, fractured her arm in two places in a fall from a see-saw Friday on the Stockton avenue play grounds. Theris and another girl were on the see-saw and the other girl got off letting Theris suddenly to the ground and hurting her arm. On Saturday the arm began to swell and to turn blue and Sunday she was taken to Dr. J. A. Holley, who had an X-ray taken which disclosed one of the bones in the left arm was broken in two places.

The steam shovel was moved this week from the Westbrook highway to the lower East brook road where grading has been started from the corporation line. It is planned to build as far as the bridge on the farm of T. P. Howland, a distance of about three miles. Including the October pay

roll the cost of construction of the West brook highway during 1922 had been \$54,902 in addition to about \$7,500 expended last fall on grading. This does not include cost of machinery or superintendent's salary and there are some additional bills to be paid.

Before H. C. Stratton of Oxford as referee a hearing was held last Thursday in the matter of the claim of Charles Owens and wife against the estate of James Howland. The claim amounts to about \$2,400 and is for board and services during Mr. Howland's illness of a year or more. The claimants testified that Mr. Howland had agreed to pay for such services but failed to do so and died without leaving a will. Owing to Mr. Howland's failure to make a will his estate under the law will be divided among brothers and sisters who dispute the claim. Decision was reserved. C. C. Flaesch of Unadilla is attorney for the estate and S. H. Fancher represents Mr. Owens with E. E. Conlon of Downsville as counsel.

Rev. S. R. MacEwan, for several years rector of Christ Episcopal church in Walton, has tendered his resignation to the vestry of St. John's Episcopal church in Oneida to accept the position of canon missioner of the diocese of Easton, Maryland. Mr. MacEwan received his promotion through Rt. Rev. George W. Davenport, bishop of the Easton diocese, who is a brother of Mrs. A. W. North. The Oneida Dispatch says of Mr. MacEwan's work there: "The new parish house has been built and opened through his efforts and both the Sunday school and church have prospered and grown under his devoted ministrations. St. Andrew's chapel at Durhamville has also gained through his labors, and the new church and parish at Sherrill is another fruit of his work."

## EAST BRANCH WIDOW GETS \$10,000 PENSION

**Carnegie Fund Recognizes Heroic Act of J. C. Nutt**

## DROWNED IN SAVING LIFE

**Judge Howard M. Read Secures Award For Widow and Four Small Children.**

Through the efforts of Judge Howard M. Read of Hancock, Mrs. James C. Nutt and four small children of East Branch have been awarded a pension approximating \$10,000 by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. Last summer Nutt lost his life in the East Branch of the Delaware river when he plunged into the water fully clothed in an effort to rescue Miss Gertrude M. Yager from drowning.

Miss Yager, 23, a telephone operator of Utica, was at the time visiting relatives at East Branch. She had gone in bathing with several young friends, girls and boys, in the Delaware river near the James S. Hubbell sawmill at the deep eddy in the bend of the river near where the state road crosses the river at Beaverkill Point, between the two branches of the river. She had ventured too far and had gone down the second time in about eight or ten feet of water. Frantic calls were made for help. Mr. Nutt, fully dressed, rushed down from the mill and plunged in, diving to the bottom. He got hold of the girl and lifted her to the surface, where Lionel Wood, 16, one of the swimming party, held her up until William Capach, 22, the Ontario & Western railroad telegraph operator, could bring her to shore. She soon recovered, but in the excitement all thought of Nutt was lost for the time being. Presently, it dawned on one of the members of the party that Nutt had not come out of the river. They fearfully put out in a boat to search for him. Ray Moshier, 38, let himself down after poking

around and locating the body, brought it up. Nutt's body had got caught between two sunken logs or snags on the bottom, so Moshier found, under about eight feet of water.

Dr. A. D. Johnston of East Branch was called hurriedly, so also was a Dr. Foster of Flushing, Long Island, a summer boarder who was fishing in a boat right across the river at the cove just above the Francisco flats. All attempts to revive Nutt after incessant work for over an hour availed nothing.

The tragedy was thoroughly investigated the next day by Justice Howard M. Read, acting as coroner. Mr. Read after learning all the details decided that it was a case that should be taken up with the Carnegie Hero Fund commission, one of the officers of which is a personal friend of Mr. Read's. Mr. Read's account of the tragedy interested the commission and a few weeks ago they sent a representative to East Branch and Hancock, going from there to Utica to interview Miss Yager.

A letter from the Carnegie Hero Fund commission dated Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 3, 1922, addressed to Howard M. Read, Hancock, reads: "In acknowledgment of your courtesy in calling to the attention of the Carnegie Hero Fund commission the case of James C. Nutt, I beg leave to enclose your herewith a copy of my letter of this date, addressed to Mrs. Jessie Nutt, in care of Balsam Lake club, Hardenburg, N. Y., relative to the action taken by the commission upon her husband's case." Signed, F. M. Wilmot, manager.

The letter to Mrs. Nutt reads in part: "I have much pleasure in informing you that in recognition of your husband's heroism on that occasion the commission awarded you a bronze medal and death benefits until further notice at the rate of \$60 a month with \$5 a month additional on account of each of your children under 16 while the child is dependent upon you and not more than 16, no benefits to extend, however, beyond a period of eleven years or the date of your remarriage."

The bronze medal will be presented to Mrs. Nutt by Judge Read at a community event in East Branch, Wednesday, November 29th.

## TWO TRAINS WRECKED

**Arkville Scene of Two Derailments on Ulster & Delaware**

## CAR THROWN INTO RIVER

**Flange Broken at Phoenicia Causes Accident at Arkville—Milk Cars Pile Up.**

(From Halcottville correspondent)

Saturday morning the west-bound milk train, No. 27, on the Ulster & Delaware piled up in a heap about one and one-half miles east of this village. The train consisted of 10 milk cars and four freight cars, one of which was loaded with cement consigned to Grand Gorge. The wheel on the car of cement lost a flange and left the rails. This was the fourth car from the engine. The fifth and sixth cars followed, the former shinningy over the right-hand bank into the Delaware river, and the latter becoming derailed and ploughing into the turf to the left. The cement car was turned crossways of the track, the roof torn off and the remainder fell to the track bottom side up, completely demolishing it and scattering cement for a radius of several feet in all directions. The two milk cars were Delaware and Northern cars and the freight was a N. Y., N. H. & H. car.

The dragging of the broken wheel along the ties was noticeable for eight car lengths and over one hundred ties were splintered into tiny bits. The

car that was forced into the river was quite badly demolished, there being not a wheel left on it; and the same could be said of the other derailed cars. No rails were broken and no one was injured.

It was reported during the day that a fifteen inch piece of a flange supposedly from the car of cement was found near Phoenicia. It is a mystery how the car could have run so far before derailing. It was the worst demolished wreck that has occurred on this road in a good many months and the fact that no one was injured makes it a very fortunate one. The wreckers arrived from Kingston as soon as possible and about 6:15 p. m. the tracks were cleared and traffic was resumed.

Arkville seems to be the site for wrecks, for the time being anyway, for on Monday morning before train 9, westbound, left, three cars of milk tipped over on the Ulster & Delaware main line just west of Arkville station on bridge 50. Again no one was injured. The cars were but slightly damaged but train service was interrupted for about three hours, No. 9 not leaving until 1 p. m., when traffic was again resumed.

## CHILDREN'S COURT FUNCTIONS

**Judge McNaught Will Act Under Provisions of New Law.**

On Nov. 1 a children's court was established in Delaware county in charge of County Judge A. J. McNaught. The court has already held one session in Walton when a matter of juvenile delinquency was investigated.

The court has original jurisdiction of persons under 16 years of age in all cases which, in an adult, would be crimes punishable by any penalty except life imprisonment or death. The children's court has charge of the hearing, trial, parole, remand or commitment of all children actually or apparently under the age of 16 years of age.

The idea of the law is to keep children away from the influence of the police court and criminals and as a furtherance of this idea it is provided that no child shall be placed in any jail or other place where the child can come in contact in any manner with any adult convicted of or charged with any crime, but if necessary be boarded out to some responsible private family.

## CONFESSES TWO MURDERS

**Youth Arrested for One Killing Admits Another.**

Lester Gerstenberg, 18, of Albany, has confessed to two murders, according to District Attorney H. M. Curtis of Cossackie.

Gerstenberg, the district attorney says, has admitted that he killed "Mike" Guerrieri of Albany, whose body was found in the woods near Catskill last Sunday night and that he killed his father, Emil Gerstenberg, four years ago.

District Attorney Curtis also announced that Mrs. Gerstenberg would be held in connection with the two alleged murders.

In his confession the authorities says, young Gerstenberg implicated his mother in both alleged murders.

Guerrieri had been a boarder at the Gerstenberg home in Albany for two years. Last Sunday Guerrieri and Gerstenberg came to Catskill to hunt. Subsequently Guerrieri's body was found in the woods with the head partly blown off by gunshot.

## Killed by Husband's Gun.

Mrs. Kenneth Blackwell, 28, of Endicott was shot in the back and almost instantly killed while hunting small game with her husband three miles outside of Mount Pleasant, Pa., at 11 o'clock Satur-

day morning, when a twig circled about the trigger of Mr. Blackwell's double-barrel shotgun, causing it to be discharged. The fatality was the first in that section since the deer season opened.

## Thrown Against Steering Wheel.

John E. Dean, a farmer of Treadwell, was slightly injured about the chest when his Ford truck and the Larrabee truck owned by A. M. Butts and driven by George Robinson came together at the corner of Main street and Ford avenue shortly before 6 o'clock Wednesday evening. Dean was thrown against the steering wheel, bruising his chest.

## HOGS BURN WITH BARN

**Building on Farm Near Davenport Center Destroyed.**

Friday night, shortly after midnight, the large overshot barn, 76 by 40 feet, on the farm of John Losi in Pumpkin hollow near Davenport Center, was found to be on fire. The barn, which was entirely consumed, contained 250 bushels of oats, and most of the farm implements. Two hogs which were in the barn were also burned and a shop containing about \$300 worth of tools. There was only a small insurance and the loss is a severe one to Mr. Losi, whose many friends sympathize with him in his loss. The origin of the fire is unknown.

## Car Turns Completely Over.

(From Meridale correspondent.)

While the family of George Curry of Mundale was on its way home from Meredith square Friday night their car, containing six persons, completely overturned. The accident occurred at a little bridge below the Bernice Huftaling place. Mr. and Mrs. Curry were slightly injured about the arms, but none of the children suffered injury.

## Death of Franklin Girl.

(From Franklin correspondent.)

Marguerite Hunt, only child of Mrs. Clara Hunt of Franklin, died Thursday morning, Nov. 9, of pneumonia following scarlet fever. She would have been 12 years of age on January 6, 1923. The father, William B. Hunt, died from pneumonia three years ago.

## Will Connect Power Plants.

Work has been practically completed by the New York State Gas and Electric company on a 45-mile electric line to connect the power plants in Oneonta, Sidney and Norwich. This will mean better electric service in all of the villages along the line now supplied by the company for in case of breakdown at any of the plants, power will be obtained from the other plants. Fifteen hundred cedar poles and 150 miles of copper wire have been used in the construction of the line.

## Many Enter Real Estate Game.

It looks as though just about everybody under the sun is dabbling more or less in real estate these days. Out of a total of 1,424 companies of all sorts and descriptions, that incorporated last month, 332 state their intentions of going into the real estate business.

Compared with September, the past month shows better than 200 more companies incorporating and a gain of more than 300 over the same months a year ago.