

# LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1922

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

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

## USE THE REST ROOMS

**New Year's Ball—  
Women Fall and Break  
Bones—Town Buys Road  
Machinery—More Mishaps.**

The annual New Year's ball of Company F will be held at the armory on Monday evening, Jan. 1st. Music will be furnished by the Elks' seven-piece orchestra from Binghamton.

One day recently Mrs. Ida Brown stumbled and fell over a box which had been left in a hallway at the Central house. Her left shoulder was broken by the fall. Dr. W. B. Morrow is the attending physician.

While William Burghardt and Lloyd Tremper were driving a truck to Loomis Thursday the machine skided and went over a bank. Burghardt was badly shaken up but no bones were broken. Tremper was not injured.

The following elective officers were chosen by Delaware Chapter No. 251, R. A. M., last Thursday evening: High priest, James M. Peake; king, Cyrus D. Leroy; scribe, Ernest Guild; treasurer, W. R. Reynolds, secretary, George M. Carpenter.

Mrs. Andrew More fell down the cellar stairs at her home on Liberty street Wednesday morning and fractured her right arm at the wrist. The accident was caused by Mrs. More catching her heel, causing her to fall. Dr. W. R. Gladstone reduced the fracture.

In Oneonta Saturday Omer J. Truesdell was granted a judgment by default in the amount of \$1,832.63 against O. A. Oles. A. B. Shaw was given a judgment against Mr. Oles for \$857.03. The cases were heard by Justice Kellogg.

Private Paul D. Beers of Company F Tenth Infantry, Walton, has been honored by being one of five enlisted men of the New York National Guard chosen by Governor Miller to take the regular entrance examinations to West Point academy under an act of Congress authorizing such appointments.

The rest rooms over the Fundas candy store on Delaware street will be open evenings during the week before Christmas, beginning Monday, December 18th. The suite of rooms has been attractively fitted up by the Home Bureau and the public is urged to make use of the convenience afforded.

A collision occurred Thursday morning at the corner of Howell and Delaware streets between Kingsbury Brothers' delivery car and the truck of L. M. Budine. Mrs. Ralph Baxter, who was riding with her brother, Mr. Sulger, was thrown against the windshield and painfully cut about the mouth. Both machines were damaged.

James Depuy has sold his house on Prospect avenue to George Tacy. Mr. Depuy may move to Binghamton. Edwin Hotchkiss has sold his house on Liberty street to Rev. V. G. Shaffer of Dundee, N. Y., a retired Baptist minister, who was formerly pastor of the Sidney Center church. Both sales were made through the agency of T. M. Galley.

Word was received in Walton Wednesday of the death in Washington, D. C., of Harold, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold LaQuay. Mrs. LaQuay is a daugh-

ter of Rev. John Cavanaugh, former pastor of the Free Methodist church, who is now stationed at White Haven, Pa. The child, who was about 19 months of age, had been ill with pneumonia.

The town board recently voted to purchase from George Edgecomb the crusher and auxiliary equipment including six dump wagons, which have been in use on the West brook highway construction. The purchase is to be made in large part on the rental system, the price being \$5,250 after an allowance of \$500 for the small crusher formerly used by the town. The crusher will be moved to a location on the East brook road, which is yet to be selected.

There is an old English custom which is still being practiced in many towns at Christmas time, namely, placing a lighted candle in a darkened window on Christmas Eve. At the last meeting of the She-Wanis club this question was brought up and it was decided to ask every family in this village to co-operate in carrying out this beautiful custom this year. Choruses from the different churches will sing Christmas carols as they walk through the streets. They are planning to serenade every invalid and shut-in in the village, and if possible will sing at every house where there is a lighted candle in the window.

On Friday afternoon, the 22nd, at 4 o'clock, the churches of Walton will give a community Christmas party at Walton Hall to the children and young people of the village and countryside. The program will be principally a five reel moving picture entitled, "The Fairy and the Waif"—a Christmas picture. Another feature of the program will be several numbers by the Geneva Glee club that comes to Walton for a concert in the evening. Adult ushers will be supplied from the various churches. Children and young people in high school or of high school age, will be admitted to the main floor; parents, who hesitate to permit the smaller children to come alone may occupy the balcony.

## SALARY AND FEES FOR TREASURER ILLEGAL

**Supervisors Should Put  
Office on Salary Basis**

## MAY GROW RICH ON FEES

**Attorney General Has Held  
Treasurers Cannot Have  
Salary and Keep Any Fees**

The board of supervisors at the November session adopted the report of the committee on salaries of county officers in which it was provided that "The salary of the county treasurer shall be fixed at the sum of \$1,400 per annum to be paid by the county, and he shall be allowed to retain for his own use such fees as are allowed by the law to county treasurers, which fees shall be considered as salary in addition to the above-named sum; that the county treasurer be authorized to engage the services of a clerk or assistant, and that he be allowed the sum of \$500 to pay for such services, to take effect January 1, 1923."

The Reporter two weeks ago editorially called attention to the fact that the board of supervisors in adopting year after year a resolution similar to the above, giving the treasurer both a salary and fees, has apparently never sought to find out what such fees amounted to nor has it been aware that such combination of salary and fees has been held illegal by the attorney general of New York state.

The office of county treasurer has until very recently been considered a part-time position. The incumbents for years prior to the election of Treasurer Shaw were Delhi men who in addition to attending to the duties of county

treasurer were engaged in business. The late Henry Graham, who held the office for twelve years, had the active management of a large hardware business in Delhi.

A. B. Shaw was elected county treasurer in 1920. Previously the county treasurer had personally done all the work of the office as well as attending to his own private business. At the session of the supervisors last year it was voted for the first time to allow the county treasurer \$500 for clerk hire. A similar amount has been allowed for 1923. Mr. Shaw has retained his residence in the town of Hamden and commutes between there and Delhi. Much of the work of the office is now cared for by Miss Louise Gleason, whom Mr. Shaw retained as his clerk or assistant. The work actually done by the treasurer is certainly not as much as that handled by his predecessor without assistance.

Editor Wyer in the Delaware Express seeks to create the impression that the public has knowledge of the fees received by the treasurer, but neglects to mention some of the largest paid. The fee of one per cent upon the amount of state tax paid by the county amounted to over \$1,100 for the 1920 tax levied in the spring of 1921; the 1921 direct tax was \$72,156 upon which the treasurer's fee was \$721; and the tax for 1922 to be collected next month is \$63,736 with a fee of \$637. The treasurer receives five per cent of the transfer or inheritance tax, a fee for handling court funds, one per cent on the bank tax, as well as other fees which only the treasurer and Editor Wyer know of. For the first year in office it is estimated that Treasurer Shaw received well in excess of \$3,000. When a Democrat was elected county clerk the office was immediately put upon a salary of \$2,500 and all fees cut off. The same was done with the sheriff's office when J. J. Farrell was elected. The office of county treasurer is on a par with these two offices and the board of supervisors should at once proceed to place it upon a salary basis. In Broome county Walker F. Sherwood, the Republican county treasurer, is paid a salary of \$2,500 and each year turns thousands of dollars of fees back to the county. A fair salary for the treasurer of Broome county is more than a fair salary for the same office in Delaware county where the work is less.

The late H. S. Graham in his last year in office, 1920, received one fee of approximately \$6,000 on a transfer tax, an amount nearly equivalent to the combined annual salaries of the county clerk, sheriff and district attorney. This tax was on the Gerry estate and was paid before Mr. Shaw entered office.

The state comptroller's office gives the following as the amount of transfer tax paid into the state treasury from Delaware county during each of the last five fiscal years, that is the year ending June 30:

1918	\$3,499.12
1919	\$7,896.80
1920	\$5,016.65
1921	\$394,295.35
1922	\$20,985.55

The fee is five per cent on the first \$50,000 and one per cent on the amount in excess of that sum. The fees retained by the county treasurer on the fiscal year ending June 30, last approximate \$1,100. This with the \$1,400 straight salary, \$725 on state tax, \$175 on bank tax, amount to \$3,400 without counting in other fees.

The system of having the county treasurer on both a salary and fee basis has been held illegal by Attorney General Carmody in 1912, and again by Attorney General Newton in 1919, the latter opinion being written by the late George A. Fisher of Delhi, then a deputy attorney general. In Mr. Fisher's opinion it is stated that there are no fees which the county treasurer is entitled to retain in addition to his salary. The previous opinion was given by Attorney General Carmody in construing a resolution which fixed the sala-

ry of a county treasurer at \$1,500 in addition to the fees allowed by law, the same wording as the Delaware county resolution. The opinion held that when a salary is given the treasurer he must account to the county for all fees received by him and is not entitled to retain them for his own use.

## FOUR FIRES WITHIN DAY

**Walton Firemen Called to  
Same Building Twice**

## RAN PIPE INTO OPEN FLUE

**Supposed Chimney in Breen  
House Ended Under Floor  
Beams—Cameron Farm  
House Damaged.**

Four fires occurred this week in the village and town of Walton within twenty-four hours. The first alarm on Sunday during the morning church hour called the fire department to the home of John Breen, St. John street. That evening two fires broke out in the Harby building, Delaware street, and Monday shortly before noon the farm residence of Leslie Cameron on the Third brook road was damaged by fire.

A false chimney or air chamber which ended under the sills of a second floor bedroom caused the blaze in the Breen home, formerly the residence of Mrs. James Brazee. On one side of a fireplace in the living room is the kitchen chimney and on the other side there was also apparently a chimney. Mr. Breen on Friday had a hole cut into this chimney and a stove set up to help in heating the house. A fire was started in the stove for the first time, about 8 or 9 o'clock Sunday morning. The family kept noticing the smell of burning wood and shortly before the noon hour Mr. Breen on investigating upstairs found smoke coming from under the baseboard in his daughter's bedroom. An alarm was sent in and the fire apparatus was soon on the scene. It was found necessary to cut through the flooring and aside from this the principal damage was by smoke. It was found that the chimney into which Mr. Breen had run his stovepipe was really only an air chamber and ended under the sills of the second floor. The marvel is that the woodwork did not burst into flames and gain a start which would have caused the destruction of the house; as it was the wood was only blackened. The loss has been adjusted at \$61 by the H. S. Ogden agency with whom the insurance was carried.

The first fire in the Harby block was in the tailor shop of E. M. Stern. Sunday afternoon Mr. Stern had visited the shop and fixed the fire in the stove for the night. A live coal probably dropped out on the floor and was unnoticed by Mr. Stern. About 6 o'clock Clarence Snyder, who occupies rooms on the third floor, smelled smoke and accompanied by Millard Conklin, another occupant of rooms on that floor, went down to investigate. The hall was filled with smoke which was coming from the tailor shop. On the stairway from the first floor to the sidewalk there are a couple of holes in the wall through which one can look into the tailor shop. Snyder peeked through and saw the flames about the shop. He ran downstairs and sent in an alarm while Conklin went back after an axe and water.

The room was broken into and the stove overturned so that the firemen could get at the flames in the partition beneath and in a short time the blaze had been put out. The damage to the building is estimated at about \$150, that to Mr. Stern at the same sum and to Lindgren's pool room on the first floor, about \$200. Insurance on the building was carried with S. H. Pond and H. S. Ogden, by Mr. Stern with Mr. Ogden and on the Lindgren pool room by Mr. Pond and H. M. Robinson.

After 9 o'clock the same evening the attention of Snyder was

again attracted by smoke coming up to the third floor rooms. The blaze was located in a room on the second floor at the rear of the building where an old mattress had been thrown into a corner. The back stairway passes close by and probably someone going up or downstairs at the time of the first fire threw away a lighted match or cigarette stub which started the flames. The damage was small.

The chimney in the farm house of Leslie Cameron, Third brook, burned out about 9 o'clock Monday morning and shortly before noon the roof of the house was found to be on fire by Mr. Cameron. The neighbors were notified by telephone and a call for help was sent to Walton to which Alert Hose No. 2 responded with the chemical truck. The fire on the roof was practically put out before the firemen arrived but the chemicals were used to reach the flames which had worked into the partitions. The damage is estimated at \$200 covered by insurance with the town cooperative company.

## WAR SAVINGS STAMPS PAID JANUARY FIRST

**Thousands of Dollars of  
Victory Bonds and Stamps  
Are Held in Walton**

Holders of war savings stamps of the series of 1918, may take them to any post office or bank for redemption or exchange for treasury certificates before Jan. 1. Registered stamps can only be redeemed at the post office where issued.

Postmaster F. F. Dickerson states that there are over \$100,000 of the stamps outstanding in Walton. Payment will be made January 1 or as soon thereafter as possible, to those who present the stamps now. Holders may convert the stamps into the new interest bearing treasury certificates when desired.

Owners of stamps which have been registered elsewhere should send them to the post office of registration with request for exchange or redemption as desired. Application forms for this purpose may be obtained at the local post office.

Holders of about \$250,000,000 of Victory notes in the New York Federal Reserve district, of the \$1,000,000,000 of government obligations, falling due Friday, Dec. 15, have not yet presented them for redemption or exchange for other forms of government obligations, the Federal Reserve bank in New York, has announced. The bank made the following suggestions:

1. Examine the Victory notes in your possession to see if they bear the distinguishing letters A, B, C, D, E or F. These have been called for redemption on Dec. 15 and interest will cease on that date.

Send them at once to your bank, which will handle the redemption for you. Or, if you prefer, send them direct to the Federal Reserve bank of New York.

3. Coupon notes should have the May 20, 1923, coupons attached. The Dec. 15, 1922, coupons should be detached and collected as usual.

4. If your notes are registered—that is, if you have been receiving interest checks each six months direct from the treasury—special treasury regulations apply, which you may learn from your bank or from the Federal Reserve bank.

5. If your Victory notes bear the distinguishing letters G, H, I, J, K or L they will mature on May 20, 1923. If you desire you may present them now for immediate payment in full with interest up to the date of presentation.

6. The Victory notes maturing on December 15 may be exchanged for any of the new government obligations now being offered; if redeemed, the money may be reinvested in Liberty Loan bonds or other outstanding treasury obligations. As to this, you should consult your bank.