

# LOOKING BACK

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

100 YEARS AGO,  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1923

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

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

## BUDINE WAS TOO YOUNG

**Married 60 Years—  
Russell Archibald Co.  
Moves to Walton—Farmers’  
Dairy Co. Prospering.**

Next week on Friday night in Walton hall the feature number of the high school and community course, a play, “The Rainbow,” will be given by the White Dramatic Players.

One hundred forty-six signs bearing street designations which were bought by the Civic club were put up at the different street corners this week by Commissioner J. A. Robinson. Most of the old signs had been destroyed and others were unreadable.

Joseph Guerra, a former Walton man was until two weeks ago a patient in ward 36 of the Manhattan state hospital for the insane at Ward’s Island, New York city, fire in which early Monday caused the loss of twenty-seven lives. Mr. Guerra was transferred from this ward to the institution hospital for examination and thus escaped the horrors of the fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. St. John quietly celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary at their home on Mead street last Thursday, February 15th. A family dinner party was enjoyed. Mr. St. John is 82 years of age and his wife 79. In spite of their advanced years they still enjoy good health and are more active than many persons much younger. Friends unite in hoping that they may celebrate many more anniversaries together.

Stockholders of the Middletown Rubber company, Inc., now bankrupt, cannot hope to recover a penny of the dwindled assets, according to Trustee Charles E. Taylor at an examination last Thursday before Walter C. Anthony, referee in bankruptcy, in Newburgh. Mr. Taylor stated that the assets are not sufficient to cover the liabilities and therefore the stockholders will suffer an entire loss of their money. Considerable of the stock of the company was sold about Walton.

The Russell Archibald Co., Inc., of Delhi, has recently moved to Walton, bringing a portion of the office staff, and will carry on the wholesale business from the Walton plant instead of Delhi. They have been successful in securing the services of E. L. Lathan of Walton, who will have charge of the retail sales for the Archibald company. The Russell Archibald company has the contract to distribute Durant and Star cars in Delaware and Sullivan counties and has placed orders with the factory for February shipments consisting of sixteen carloads, seventy-seven cars of various makes and models. Mr. Archibald expects to move his family to Walton about April 1st, or earlier if he is successful in procuring a residence.

Lawrence, the four-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Logan Gould, was so badly cut about the face Tuesday when he ran into a barbed wire fence while coasting that it required twenty-five stitches to close the wounds. With Douglas Tweedie, a lad of about the same age, little Lawrence had gone to the hill back of the Gould farmhouse on the river road, formerly the Frank Dann place. He was coasting down the hill when the sled ran into the barbed wire fence along the railroad right of way. Jagged cuts were torn across the forehead on each side of the nose and the nose itself was badly lacerated. It is not thought the sight is injured. Dr. W. R. Gladstone assisted Dr. E.

Ray Gladstone, the family physician, in dressing the wounds.

At the annual meeting of the Walton Farmers’ Dairy company in Walton hall Tuesday afternoon, George Budine was re-elected a director. The directors met later and re-elected the former officers as follows: President, Edson Dann; vice president, George Budine; secretary, L. D. McClenon; treasurer, Herman Henderson. The treasurer’s report showed a balance from last year of \$811.15 and rents received from Breakstone Brothers of \$1,597.20, a total of \$2,408.35. Disbursements were \$440.38 for taxes, \$32.65 for insurance, \$6.98 for printing, \$477.10 for painting the creamery, leaving a balance of \$1,451.24. The creamery building now operated by Breakstone Brothers is free from debt and it is expected that with the increase in surplus a return may be made within a year or two to the stockholders.

Before Justice Kellogg in Oneonta Saturday was argued the motion for a new trial in the case of Irene E. Lent of Cornwall against Lawrence Budine of Walton, in which a jury at the October term of supreme court in Delhi returned a verdict of \$1,750 for the plaintiff. The question of fact submitted to the jury in particular was as to the age of defendant when he entered into the alleged engagement with Miss Lent. Mr. Budine set up the affirmative defense that at that time he was only 19 years of age and therefore incapable as a matter of law of entering into such contract. Later in the day a second motion in the case, somewhat similar to the first, was made for a new trial on the ground of newly discovered evidence. Decision on both motions was reserved. Henry Hunter of Newburgh appeared for the plaintiff, Miss Lent, and Peake Peake of Walton with A. L. O’Connor of Hobart as counsel, represent Mr. Budine.

## SEEK TO SET ASIDE DEED

**Sidney Real Estate  
Involved in Court Action.**

Justice Kellogg at chambers in Oneonta on Saturday, heard evidence in an important action involving the title of certain real estate in Sidney, valued at about \$10,000. The proceedings are brought by Theresa Cox against her son, Arthur L. Cox, et al., seeking to set aside deeds transferring the property in question from Mrs. Cox to the son and others, who claim to be holders for value without notice.

The trial was commenced and the evidence of several witnesses taken, after which the hearing was adjourned for two weeks or to date to be agreed upon by the parties.

Harry H. Simonson of Hancock was granted a divorce decree from his wife, Mary Priscilla Simonson, under the new statute which authorizes such divorce in the discretion of the court after five years absence.

## TRAINMAN SEVERLY BURNED BY GASOLINE

**William Vandervort’s Clothes  
Ignited by Explosion**

## ROLLED ABOUT IN SNOW

**Presence of Mind in Putting  
Out Flames Doubtless Saved  
Life of Walton Railroad Man.**

William Vandervort of Walton, Ontario & Western trainman, was seriously burned about the face and hands Saturday morning by the explosion of a can of gasoline in the section shanty a short distance north of the East street crossing.

Mr. Vandervort is a member of the yard crew and on the morning of the accident had gone out to guard the switch engine against the approach of southbound trains. He states

that he started a fire in the stove to warm the place and then went out to empty the ash pan. A can of gasoline was sitting near the stove and as he returned to the shack he found this in flames. He grabbed the can and started to throw it outdoors when the gasoline exploded, throwing the blazing liquid on his clothing.

With presence of mind he rolled over and over in the snow until the flames on his clothing were extinguished, but not before he had been terribly burned about the face and hands. He managed to walk to the Williams home at the East street crossing, from where Dr. Morrow, the railroad surgeon, was notified.

After dressing the burns Dr. Morrow removed Mr. Vandervort to his own home on Burton street. Although suffering severely from the burns, it is believed that unless complications develop Mr. Vandervort will recover, although it will be some time before he will be able to get out.

## OVERCOME BY COAL GAS

**Chimney in Kent Home Was  
Plugged With Soot**

## SAVED BY OPEN WINDOW

**Only One Member of  
Family Able to Reach  
Phone and Call for Help.**

Carbon monoxide gas which filled the home of Mrs. James Kent, Griswold street, Sunday night when the chimney became plugged, came near resulting fatally to members of the family. Had not a window been left open in one of the upstairs bedrooms the three members of the family would have been killed by the gas.

The pipe from the furnace into the chimney had been shoved in too far, leaving a narrow opening between the pipe and the side of the flue. Little by little this became filled with soot and finally completely stopped up Sunday night, throwing the gas back into the house.

Mrs. Kent occupied a bedroom near that of her sons, Amos and Ralph, and when Ralph came home and retired that night he opened a window in his bedroom several inches. The door into the hall was also open and fortunately Mrs. Kent also left her bedroom door ajar.

About five o’clock Monday morning Mrs. Kent awoke to find herself deathly sick. She did not realize what the trouble was and waited nearly an hour before calling to her sons. Ralph Kent was the least affected by the gas of the three and he managed to make his way downstairs and telephone Dr. J. A. Holley. His brother, Amos, also attempted to arise, but was so overpowered by the poison gas that he was unable to do so.

Fresh air and medical aid helped to revive the sick ones, but Mrs. Kent was confined to bed two days and Amos was unable to get out until Tuesday. Dr. Holley stated that in another hour the gas might have resulted in Mrs. Kent’s death and only the fact that Ralph was able to reach the telephone to call the physician saved his mother’s life.

## SIDNEY SEIZES COAL TO RELIEVE SHORTAGE

**Discontent Caused by Seeing  
Coal Cars on Sidings**

## SITUATION WAS ACUTE

**Villagers Shivered in Fuelless  
Homes While D. & H. Failed  
to Move Anthracite.**

(From Sidney corr.)

For weeks past the coal situation in Sidney has been acute, far more so than was generally known. Despite repeated demands the Delaware and Hudson has failed to supply the local dealers and the climax was reached on Tuesday morning of this week when a group of citizens seized a portion of a car

of anthracite consigned to Lawrence, Mass. Immediately after the seizure the town was in an uproar and a mass meeting was called for eight o’clock in the evening at the town hall.

Captain Fox of Troop C took prompt action in communicating with the D. & H. officials and was informed that two cars of anthracite would be diverted to Sidney at once. These cars, one consigned to Albany and one to Bloomingdale, arrived in the afternoon and one other car in the evening. Meanwhile a census was being taken to learn the amount of coal on hand and it was found that over sixty families, many with sickness, had less than a day’s supply.

The mass meeting was well attended, Village President Bedell presiding. Walter Fox of the D. & H. detective force, stated that coal now sidetracked in Sidney yards was being guarded and urged against further attempts at seizure. The resolution was passed that the village board and board of health be empowered to seize coal passing through Sidney if they failed to receive coal enough to take care of the local population. D. & H. officials have promised to send additional cars without delay and take care of future wants. One cause of discontent here is that several cars of coal consigned outside the state have been allowed to stand on D. & H. sidings for several weeks while there was actual want in the village and vicinity. Business places, churches and schools may be forced to temporarily close unless the situation improves within the next few weeks.

## HAVERLY RESIGNS

**Superintendent of New York  
Power Co. Quits the Management.**

Fred Haverly has tendered his resignation as manager to the Southern New York Power company, which furnishes power and light to a large number of towns in this vicinity besides operating the Cooperstown-Oneonta trolley line. The resignation is to take effect March 1. Mr. Haverly became manager of the Walton plants of the Southern New York Power company thirteen years ago. At that time the company was a very small concern, furnishing light for about 150 houses in the village of Walton from 6 o’clock until midnight. Under his management the company’s business has grown until now practically every house in Walton is electrically lighted and all the manufacturing plants with one exception are electrically driven. When Mr. Haverly took charge of the power plant here about 100 horse power was generated and now it is well over 1,000. In addition to this the power transmission line linking the Walton and Stilesville plants was built under his direction. His work in this section was done so efficiently that some time ago he was promoted to the position of manager of the Southern New York Power company for this section with general offices at Oneonta, from which position he has now resigned. Mr. Haverly has been prompted to resign on account of other business opportunities.

## DEER SEEK FOOD IN VILLAGE

**Deep Snow Drives Animals  
Out From Woods.**

(From Long Eddy corr.)

No less than three deer were seen in the village of Long Eddy at different times last week. They were so thin that their ribs were easily discernible. One feels that we are not the only sufferers from the severe winter, though these cold mornings with no coal and little wood one is not warmly cheerful.

## Two Old Fashioned Families.

A son, Robert VanAkin, was born Thursday, February 15th, to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Constable of Third brook. This is the sixteenth child of Mr. and Mrs. Constable, fourteen of whom are living. The birth of a son on Wednesday, Feb-

ruary 14, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Brady of Roxbury, makes a family of twelve children.

## Sidney Has New Restaurant.

(From Sidney corr.)

Walter H. Sherwood will shortly open a new restaurant in the building in Sidney formerly occupied by the community stores. Mr. Sherwood has had considerable experience in the restaurant business and plans to conduct an up-to-date eating place. Twenty-four hour service will be maintained.

## SAW THE FIRST ROBIN

**Kortright Man Reports Seeing  
Feathered Visitor.**

(North Kortright corr.)

The first robin reported here was seen Saturday morning, Feb. 17th, by William R. Turnbull, who scattered small grains and tied bits of suet in a tree nearby. The bird flew at his approach but returned later and no doubt had several square meals.

## ILL HEALTH LEADS TO SUICIDE OF DR. BELL

**Member of Prominent Delhi  
Family Ends Life With  
Revolver Bullet**

(From Delhi corr.)

Dr. Howard Bell, residing on the Little Delaware road about four miles from Delhi, committed suicide early Saturday morning by shooting himself through the heart with a revolver. No particular reason seems to account for his rash act except that he was not able to get help and was in poor health.

Dr. Bell was a member of a well known and prominent Delhi family and in his early life practiced medicine here in his native village. He was a son of Calvin H. Bell and Frances Lear Roberts. His father was a well known lawyer, banker and a large land owner at one time and a lifelong resident of Delhi. The Bells were Yankee pioneers from Connecticut and settled in the town of Harpersfield originally.

Dr. Bell belonged to the Masonic fraternity, being a member of Delhi lodge, No. 439, F. & A. M. and a member of Knights Templar, Norwich Commandery No. 46. He was 68 years of age. He leaves a brother, Walter Langdon Bell, of Downsville, and a widow, who before her marriage was Libbie Latham.

The funeral, which was private, was held from the late home on Monday afternoon with Rev. W. Courtland Robinson officiating. The remains were placed in the vault in Woodland cemetery.

## INJURED IN THE WOODS

**Hancock Men Meet  
Accidents While Cutting  
Timber.**

(From Hancock correspondent.) William Cooper cut his head with an axe while working in the woods near his home at French Woods one day last week.

He attempted to cut a small limb above his head that was in his way as he chopped and as he reached up to cut the limb his foot broke through the crust of snow. This caused him to lose his balance and the axe came down on his head cutting a gash on the right side of his head. He was brought to Hancock where medical aid was rendered and now he is getting along fine. It took three stitches to close the wound.

Frank Tompkins of Hancock narrowly escaped badly cutting his right foot last week with an axe while cutting mine timber. As he was chopping on a stick in some manner he missed his intended blow with the axe and it just grazed the top of his right foot cutting his heavy rubber and sock but did not break the skin.