

# LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,  
SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1923

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About  
at the County Hub

## LOCAL BANK BUYS BONDS

## Died in Cuba — Claims Against Two Estates — Fairs Get State Money — Other Notes.

Leon Conklin of Beerston, employed by the acetate company at that place, had his foot painfully jammed while at work recently.

The regulation of the New York city board of health requiring milk houses on dairy farms shipping to New York will become effective on the first of June.

Harry Frisbee of the farm bureau force has purchased from the I. D. Smith estate the house on lower Townsend street adjoining the property of Mrs. Isabelle Marvin.

A brooder house owned by Fred Miller of Ogden street caught fire last Friday, probably from the brooder lamp, and was destroyed together with about fifty two-weeks old chicks.

The Walton high school team lost the first two ball games of the season. Friday the nine played in Binghamton and were defeated by the one-sided score of 24 to 4. Saturday at Johnson City the score was 6 to 3.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Roberts have bought the rights to the vaudeville act "Kat-Knaps" in which they appeared last year. The act requires three participants and Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have engaged Frank Teed to assist them. They have already started upon the vaudeville circuit.

Mrs. John G. More has purchased the Morris property on Mead street. Mrs. Clara B. Smith of Livingston Manor has bought Frank Smith's house on Benton avenue. Mr. Smith has gone to Hancock where he has a position with the Keery company. Both sales were made through the agency of H. M. Robinson.

At the meeting of delegates from the local branches of the Dairymen's League held in Delhi Tuesday, John D. Smith of Walton was renominated as director of the league for this district and as county president. The two offices are now combined in the interest of economy. Robert D. George of Walton was chosen as secretary of the sub-district. Twenty-four local branches were represented.

The Delaware Valley Agricultural society, the Walton fair association, will receive \$2,297.18 from the state as its share of the state aid extended to agricultural fair associations. The Delaware County Agricultural society of Delhi will receive \$1,618.64. Some amounts allotted to other fairs include the following: Norwich, \$3,749; Cortland, \$4,000; Middletown, \$3,340; Cooperstown, \$4,000; Oneonta, \$3,523; Cobleskill, \$3,303; Monticello, \$1,458; Afton, \$2,669.

Mrs. Emma Wilkins of Jeffersonville, district deputy grand matron, and E. O. Harkness of Delhi, assistant grand lecturer of the Delaware Sullivan district of the order of the Eastern Star made their official visit to Willowemoc chapter of Walton on Wednesday evening. At six o'clock a banquet was served to about 175 Stars in the lodge dining room, after which the degree work was exemplified. A number of out of town visitors were in attendance.

Bids for the \$12,000 of village bonds recently authorized for the purchase of a pump engine were opened by the village board Monday evening. The lowest bid was that of the First National bank of Walton which took the issue at par at a 4 1-2 per cent interest rate. The others bids were as follows: Clinton H. Brown Co., 100.13 at 4.75 per cent; Sherwood & Merrifield, 100.10 at 4.70 per cent interest; George B. Gibbons Co., 100.17 at 4.70 per cent interest; O'Brien, Potter & Co., 100.688 at 5 per cent interest; Union National, Cooperstown, 100.795 at 5 per cent interest.

Miss Maria Hoyt of Stockton avenue recently received word of the death of her brother, George Hoyt, at LaGloria, Cuba, last August. Miss Hoyt heard from her brother only once or twice a year. When one of her letters was returned to her as undeliverable an investigation was started through the federal government and recently word was received that Mr. Hoyt had died last August. He was about 80 years of age and his boyhood was spent at Northfield. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having served in the Third New York cavalry brigade. Mr. Hoyt was in business in New York for some years but about twenty years ago located in Cuba where he owned a fruit farm.

Judge A. J. McNaught while in Walton Tuesday heard the testimony in contested claims against two estates. One was the claim of Mrs. Lena Rock of Sidney Center against the estate of Charles J. Bailey. S. H. Fancher appeared for the claimant and Alexander Neish for the estate. By the terms of Mr. Bailey's will the contestant was given a house at Sidney Center. She also asks about \$850 in addition for the care of Mr. Bailey over a considerable period. A claim of \$205 against the estate of Mrs. Rachel Mudford of Sidney Center, presented by Jennie B. Roney, was rejected by the estate and a hearing was also held on this matter Tuesday A. E. Conner represents the claimant and H. B. Sewell the estate.

## ESTATE OF A MILLION LEFT BY MR. SHELDON

Antiques of Great Value from  
the Napoleonic Period in  
Delhi Man's Collection

(From Delhi correspondent.)

It is generally of more or less interest to compare the ancient and modern—the old and the new. So it may not be without interest to your readers to read a bit about the first will recorded in Delaware county in connection with the last will recorded to date.

The first will recorded in Delaware county was that of St. Aug. 8th, 1797. The record book, the first used in the surrogate's court of Delaware county, was about 8 by 11 inches and one inch thick in which was recorded the Cowley will. It was bound in sheepskin; the leaves would be considered very coarse paper today and the probable cost of the book was perhaps from \$2 to \$3. The record books now in use at the surrogate's office are about 11 by 18 inches and 4 inches thick and cost from \$60 to \$70 each. For many years from the time Delaware county was formed the office of county judge and surrogate were separate offices.

It is now nearly one hundred and twenty-six years since the will referred to was recorded and we doubt if there is a neater clerical piece of work to be found in all the records of the surrogate's office up to the present date and here we might say that the work in the Delaware county clerk's office and the surrogate's office has been neatly and admirably executed for all these many years. No will since discerningly recorded has been more or concisely phrased.

The recording of wills in this

early day was done by the surrogate himself and who at this time was Anthony Marvine. Relatively speaking Mr. Cowley was a millionaire of that day as he was possessed of much land, mills and considerable cash.

The last will recorded is that of a modern millionaire. Edwin B. Sheldon—it is of about the same length as the first will, Mr. Cowley's, and like it has one codicil. The executors of the Sheldon will are William Fitzhugh Whitehouse, a nephew of the deceased, John C. Stoddart, an attorney, and Hector S. Marvin, president of the Delaware National bank. All of a dozen or more household servants were remembered in the will in amounts of \$300 to \$10,000, as follows: Martha D. Carroll, \$10,000; to Anita Youmans, \$2,500; to Elizabeth George, \$1,000; to Alfred Groux, \$1,500; to Swan P. Swanson, \$1,000; to Franz Schorsch, \$1,000; to Katherine Burke, \$500; to Dr. M. O. Landon, \$500; to Allie Wilson, A. C. VanLoan and James Montague, each \$300. The executors as trustees are to divide the estate into eight equal shares of which a nephew, William F. Whitehouse, gets three shares and each of the other five nephews and nieces gets one share each. Among these nephews and nieces who are children of Mr. Sheldon's sister, Frances Sheldon Whitehouse, one is the American Consul General at Paris, another a baroness and still another married a Russian princess.

The trust fund of many millions left by the father of the deceased and which was the foundation of the son's fortune now passes to his sister, Frances Sheldon Whitehouse, of Paris, France. The most interesting part of the will in question is the disposition of certain pieces of household furniture with historic interest. Mr. Sheldon had a mania for the collection of antiques and especially those connected with the first French Empire and Napoleon Bonaparte. His estate at Delhi, "Longwood" was named from "Longwood" on the island of St. Helena, where Napoleon spent his six years of banishment. Mr. Sheldon's bedroom at his home at Delhi "Longwood" was furnished entirely with antiques collected from various quarters, but all connected with the Napoleonic period. His bed was the one on which Napoleon was supposed to have breathed his last on the island of St. Helena. When this bed was secured some fifty years ago it was only five feet long, which was long enough for Napoleon but too short for Mr. Sheldon, who had it lengthened two feet. The pictures and other furnishings of the room, many of them very valuable are all connected with this period.

Who shall say whether or no as the soul of Edwin B. Sheldon was struggling for departure with his body stretched on the cot of Napoleon whether he had visions of Marengo, Jena, Austerlitz, the wonderful march after Elba, from Cannes to Paris and the misery of Waterloo.

We quote a few paragraphs of the will referring to other pieces of furniture:

"I give and bequeath to the trustees or the proper officials of the 'Washington Headquarters,' located at Morristown, New Jersey, the large 'Round Table' now in my library, together with the three large silver pitchers and the silver center piece which goes with said table.

"I give and bequeath to my beloved nephew, William Fitzhugh Whitehouse, my 'Marshall Ney' set of furniture, consisting of one sofa and six arm chairs, all upholstered in light blue, also the blue rug which goes with said set of furniture. I also give and bequeath to my said nephew the 'Mahogany Cabinet' and the contents thereof, consisting of a 'Gold service' of twenty-eight pieces including eleven gold plates, also the Inlaid Card Table, called the 'Gamblers.' All of the above articles are now in the library of my residence. I also give and bequeath to my said nephew the following articles which

are now in the drawing room of my residence; the set of furniture (which came from a Palace in Rome), consisting of a sofa four arm chairs and four side chairs; also the rug which matches said set of furniture and the 'Portieres' for the two doors which enter the 'Drawing Room.' I also give and bequeath to my said nephew all other articles of furniture, cabinets, and their contents, pedestals, pictures, engravings, paintings, ornaments and all other articles of virtue as contained in said 'Drawing Room.'

"I give and bequeath to my beloved nephew, Henry J. Whitehouse, my set of furniture 'Ormolu Trimming,' upholstered with red damask consisting of a sofa, two arm chairs, four side chairs and the rug which matches and goes with said set.

"I give and bequeath to Mrs. Tamara Whitehouse, the wife of my beloved nephew, Norman O. Whitehouse, my set of furniture (Brass Swan Head Set) consisting of sofa two arm chairs, four side chairs, silver upholstery, I also give and bequeath to her the 'Inlaid Table,' the one now in the bay window of the library."

The "Round Table" referred to and which was willed to the officials of Washington's Headquarters, was once the property of Alexander Hamilton the silver pitchers are massive silver pieces, the center one over three feet high.

The "Marshall Ney" set is reported to have belonged to Napoleon 1's famous Marshall Ney.

Aside from the articles of furniture mentioned in the will the spacious mansion at "Longwood" is filled with valuable paintings and antiques gathered from all quarters of the globe. While the estimate of the estate puts it in excess of \$1,000 real and \$10,000 personal, it is stated that it approximates the million mark. From another source it is reported that the estate may be near the seven million dollar mark.

## EXPLOSION CAUSES FIRE

Creamery at Franklin Razed  
by Flames Monday

## TWO TRUCKS DESTROYED

Ayer & McKinney Plant  
Employed Forty Men and  
Received Milk From  
Wide Radius.

(From Franklin correspondent.)

An explosion Monday evening in the dry milk compartment of the Ayer & McKinney creamery at Franklin caused a property loss estimated at from \$150,000 to \$200,000.

The explosion occurred shortly after 6 o'clock and was heard and felt throughout the village of Franklin. The flames spread rapidly and within a very few minutes the entire plant was beyond all hope of saving.

The fire department was soon at the scene of the conflagration but all their efforts were needed to prevent a spread of the blaze. Mr. Isbell, manager of the plant, who was in Delhi at the time, was notified by telephone and was at the scene of the fire in a little more than thirty minutes.

The loss will reach nearly \$200,000. All the help had left but two at the time of the fire. Paul Worden had just come from the drying room

## BURNED OUT IN EARLY MORNING

Fire Destroys Home of  
Edward Ray at Cadosia.

(From Cadosia correspondent.)

Last Tuesday morning about six o'clock fire broke out in the home of Edward Ray at Cadosia. Mr. Ray awoke and smelled smoke and on investigating discovered that the kitchen was in flames. He awakened the children and they were compelled to leave the house without saving

anything. Neighbors were summoned, but were unable to render aid. The house and its contents was burned to the ground. The loss was partly covered with insurance.

## DOORS OF AUTO SHOW WILL OPEN TUESDAY

Thirty Cars of Various Makes  
and Models Displayed on  
Armory Floor

Thirty or more automobiles of various makes and models will be on display at the automobile show in the Walton armory next week, Tuesday to Saturday, May 15 to 19, inclusive.

The cars already entered include the Franklin, Studebaker, Star, Durant, Overland, Ford, Maxwell, Chalmera, Dodge, Buick, Jewett, Hudson and Essex, and it is expected that others will be listed before the doors are thrown open Tuesday evening. On that evening the Elks glee club of Oneonta will act as entertainers and will sing from the platform and in various parts of the armory.

In the basement will be located the booths for the display of accessories and for business men. A stand for the sale of refreshments will also be in the basement. Saturday afternoon will be children's day when a special program will be arranged for the youngsters. A charge of ten cents will be made for the children on this afternoon. The show will not be open any afternoon except Saturday but each evening from 7 o'clock on the large drill hall will resemble a bee hive. The general admission charge is thirty-five cents. Company F, 10th Infantry, and the Chamber of Commerce are co-operating in putting on the display.

## DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S LUNCHEON.

The Democratic women of Delaware county will hold a luncheon in Delhi on Wednesday noon, May 23, at which time Mrs. Alfred E. Smith, wife of the governor, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mrs. Daniel O'Day, representing the women's division of the Democratic state committee, will be guests of honor.

## THUMB AND FINGER TORN OFF

Hancock Boy's Hand Crushed  
under Stone Boat.

(From Hancock correspondent.)

The young son of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Van Loan of Hancock had the misfortune to lose the thumb and first finger of his right hand in an accident Saturday morning.

The boy was assisting in picking up field stones with a team and stone boat. The lad was in front of the stone boat and reached under the front end for some stones just as the horses started. His right hand was caught between the stone boat and the ground, tearing off the thumb and first finger.

He was rushed to the office of Dr. Woolsey, who dressed the injury.

## OBITUARY

Mrs. Frank S. Kneer.

Mrs. Frank S. Kneer died suddenly Saturday afternoon, May 5, at the family home near Harvard, aged 62 years. Death was caused by heart trouble. Mrs. Kneer is survived by her husband and three children: Two sons, Elmer and Everett, both Troy, N. Y.; and one daughter, Mrs. Albert M. Adams, at home. The funeral service was held Tuesday afternoon.