

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1922

THE WEEK IN WALTON

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

ARBOR DAY ON APRIL 21

**Broke Leg at Thigh - River
Farms Sold - Co. I to Camp
July 9-23 - Frost Heaves Roads.**

Frank L. Oles recently sent a trio of his prize winning white leghorn hens to New York to be shipped to France.

Mrs. Lucien Bonnefond, who lives at the Oxbow, fell Tuesday when she went out to drive in a cow and broke both bones of one leg below the knee. Dr. J. A. Holley reduced the fracture.

State and town macadam roads have heaved in many places as the frost has left the ground, reports state. Experienced road men say that in most cases the highways will return to their normal level when the frost is gone.

J. G. Rensma has sold the William Close and George Jennings farms on the Delhi state road, near Walton, to A. H. Hodge and James Brace. Mr. Rensma only recently bought the properties. The house on the Jennings farm was recently destroyed by fire.

Captain Charles T. O'Neill of Company I has been notified that the local company, together with all companies of the 19th infantry of the New York guard, will go into summer camp at Peekskill July 9 to 23 for a fortnight of instruction and training.

Austin & Wilson will build a blacksmith shop on their land in the rear of the former James Munn house, Delaware street, which will be leased after April first by A. M. Elwood, who now conducts the Riverside shop. J. L. Ackerly and Bert Babcock will run the Riverside shop after April first.

H. V. Farrell, auditor of the state income tax bureau, will be at Walton hall from March 31 to April 4 to assist in the making out of state income tax blanks, which must be filed by April 15th. Mr. Farrell will be at the municipal building, Sidney, from March 20 to 22; Delhi, court house, March 24 and 25; village hall, Hancock, March 27 and 28; First National bank, Deposit, March 29 and 30.

With the approach of April the thoughts of the trout fishermen now turn to his favorite trout stream. The law makes the opening day of the trout season the first Saturday in April, this year taking the law off on Saturday of next week, Apr. 1. The brooks in this vicinity have been well stocked the last few years. This fact and the comparatively mild winter should bring good luck to anglers who venture forth the first day of the season.

Announcement is made by the Rev. Dr. Joseph Clark, superintendent of the New York state Sunday School association, that on April 1 the Rev. T. Basil Young of Boston, director of religious education for the Methodist Episcopal church, will succeed Prof. Isaac B. Burgess as educational superintendent of the State Sunday School association. Prof. Burgess retires because of ill health. Rev. T. B. Young is a former pastor of the M. E. church in Walton.

Commissioner of Education Frank P. Graves has set the date for the observance of Arbor day in various sections of the state. The date for the region including Delaware, Ulster and Greene counties is Friday, April 21. Sullivan, Broome, Otsego, Chenango and other up-state counties not in the Catskills and Adirondack regions will observe Arbor Day on Friday, April

27. If the dates set are unfavorable for the planting of trees the exercises may be postponed one week. The Commissioner has also designated April 7 as Bird Day.

Charles Constable of High street had his right leg broke at the thigh Sunday morning about 11 o'clock when he fell while repacking a joint on a steam pipe in the boiler room of the novelty works. He had set up a stepladder and placed a board between the ladder and the top of the boiler and was working upon this temporary scaffolding when it gave way. He fell about five or six feet, striking his thigh upon the stone floor. He managed to attract attention by his cries and was carried to his home where the injury was dressed. Dr. W. B. Morrow is the attending physician.

The Willys-Knight touring car owned by S. B. Wade of 315 Delaware avenue, Albany, was stolen from in front of the Elks' club in that city on Tuesday night of last week. The thieves ran the machine to a sheltered spot on the Guilderland-Schenectady highway where the car was stripped of its accessories, wheels and axles and then destroyed by fire. The wrecked machine was found the following day by a police sergeant. The automobile was damaged in a collision about two months ago and Mr. Wade had just taken it out of a garage on the day of the theft. The machine was insured against theft and the New York Automobile Insurance Underwriters association is co-operating with the police in an endeavor to find the thieves. The Wade car was the third machine stolen in Albany within a week and then burned after being stripped of everything valuable. S. B. Wade is a brother of Alfred Wade of Walton and formerly lived here.

KILLS HIS WIFE WITH REVOLVER ENDS OWN LIFE WITH RAZOR

**Benjamin Cole of Delhi
Shoots Woman as She Flees
From House**

**Then Rushes Back to Kitchen
and Slashes Throat - Had
Quarreled Bitterly for Months
- Jealously Behind Double
Tragedy at County Seat on
Tuesday Evening**

(From Delhi correspondent.)

The village of Delhi was the scene of a double tragedy Tuesday evening when Benjamin F. Cole, an O. & W. section hand, shot and killed his wife and then ended his own life by cutting this throat with a razor.

At about 8:45 Tuesday evening Benjamin F. Cole followed his wife, Alice May Cole, out of their home on upper High street in Delhi village. She had rushed from the house a few rods in advance of her husband and after running about twenty rods and when he was within two or three rods he shot her, causing instant death. He had used a .38 calibre Iver Johnson revolver and while pursuing her had fired at least three shots before the fatal one.

Cole immediately retraced his steps to the house and securing a razor from the bureau drawer, went into the kitchen and evidently standing before the mirror, cut his throat at one gash nearly from ear to ear, severing the jugular vein. He fell face down on the kitchen floor where the body was found later.

Nearby neighbors heard the shots and one heard the woman scream, "Don't shoot, Benny." The only eyewitness to the shooting was Mrs. Watson, who lived nearly across the road from the Cole home. She had a small child on each arm at the time and was so terrified that she did not give the alarm. A small colored boy going to his home stumbled over the body of Mrs. Cole and ran to a nearby house, giving the alarm. Sheriff Arbuckle was called on the 'phone and with Undersheriff L. J. Stewart was soon at the scene of the tragedy. It was something of an ordeal, no doubt, for the sheriff to enter the house where he might ex-

pect to meet a crazed man with a revolver. Marshall proved equal to the occasion and was the first to enter the house, followed immediately by the undersheriff. The neighbors who had begun to collect remained at a respectful distance for the time being. Dr. Silliman, the coroner, reached the scene of action at about the same time as the sheriff and his deputy and after a hasty examination ordered the bodies taken to the undertaking establishment of Jackson & Mason.

Cole was employed as a section man on the Delhi branch of the O. & W. railroad and had returned from his work at the usual time in the afternoon. It is thought that no one had entered the house after his return and as they had no family the husband and wife were there alone.

The suicide was born in Ulster county near Pine Hill but was brought to Delhi when a small child and had lived with relatives until he was a man grown. It is not known certainly whether his father or mother are living, all trace of them seeming to be lost. A few years since Cole went to Oneida county to work in the lumber woods and while there was married. Soon after this marriage he was drafted and was sent to Camp Devens at Ayer, Mass. and while there his wife died of pneumonia. He returned to Camp Devens and some months afterwards married Alice May Wood a French Canadian girl, and the victim of his bullet last Tuesday evening.

Very little is known about Mrs. Cole's relatives; a letter was found among her effects that would indicate that two years ago she had a sister at Providence, Rhode Island, but her address was not given and nothing is known of her present whereabouts. About two years ago Mr. Cole attempted to take his life with a dose of Paris green which was not successful. This act was said to have been prompted by being jealous of his wife. Rumor has it that the green-eyed monster was the cause of the present fearful occurrence. However, it must be stated that there is no evidence of any affair near the time of the tragedy that should have caused him to be jealous of his wife.

Gossip has connected the name of a farmer boy residing a short distance from Delhi with the family affairs of this couple but the night before the crime this young man and Mr. and Mrs. Cole attended a party in Delhi village as well as the father and mother of the young man in question and the now dead couple, both husband and wife, and the young man seemed to be the best of friends. It is true that for some time past this young man had spent a good deal of time at the home of the Coles but he was there when the husband was home as well as when he was absent.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Cole were hard working people and among the effects of the dead woman found an account book showing that in the last year she had earned \$584 picking berries and taking in washings. Cole was supposed to be something less than 30 years of age and his wife perhaps four years older. Not long since they had purchased a little home on contract for \$1,200 and it is understood that it was about half paid for.

Wednesday evening Dr. G. H. Silliman of Delhi, coroner, held an examination of witnesses at the grand jury room in the court house. It was thought unnecessary under the circumstances to summon a coroner's jury. Several witnesses were called, most of them nearby neighbors of the victims of the gun and razor. No new light was shed upon the affair or as to the probable cause of the shooting unless it might be the testimony of one witness who testified that in the afternoon preceding the tragedy in the evening, he was talking with Mrs. Cole on the street and she remarked that when Bennie came from work she would give him "cold hell" as at the party the night before he had come into the kitchen with the woman at whose house the party was given and had shut the door and that she knew he was not there for any good. There is no question but this couple now and then had vigorous quarrels

and on the night in question over some matter their tempers had got the best of them and the very sad occurrence resulted. At the close of the examination on the part of the coroner he rendered the following verdict:

"That Mrs. May Cole came to her death at about 8:45 p.m. in the village of Delhi, N. Y., Mar. 21, 1922, and that death was caused by a gunshot wound of the head, inflicted by her husband, Benjamin F. Cole.

"That Benjamin F. Cole came to his death at about 9 p.m. at his home in the village of Delhi, Mar. 21, and that death was caused by a self-inflicted wound of the throat, a razor being the weapon used."

This brief verdict really tells about the whole tale.

SCHOOL HOUSE BURNED

**Four Room Building at
Cadosia Totally Destroyed**

**CLOSED FOR WEEK
END**

**Fire Broke Out at 3:30
O'clock Friday-Overheated
Furnace Pipe Probable Cause.**

(From Hancock correspondent.)

The school house at Cadosia was destroyed by fire Friday afternoon. The fire broke out about 3:30 o'clock and the four-room two-story building was burned to the ground.

School was dismissed early that day and everyone had left the building before 3:30 o'clock. The fire was seen first from the O. & W. yards and the alarm was given by an engineer blowing the whistle on his locomotive. The entire community was soon on the scene, but were practically helpless as Cadosia has no fire protection system. A bucket brigade was formed and word for help was sent to Hancock and a number of persons went from there to help save the nearby buildings.

It is not known how the fire started, although the flames are believed to have caught from the heating plant. The building was a structure of two stories with basement and would accommodate about 100 pupils. The plant was valued at about \$10,000. Insurance of \$5,000 on building and contents was carried with S. H. Pond of Walton.

The problem at present is to care for the pupils until a new building can be erected. Z. L. Myers, the district superintendent, was at Cadosia Wednesday and went over the situation. It is probable that accommodations for part of the school may be found in the church, while others may go to Hancock.

FLEISCHMANN'S HAS 30 STORES

**Summer Resort Looks
Forward to Busy Season.**

(From Fleischmanns correspondent.)

We expect this to be a banner year for Fleischmanns. The village is having a real boom. There are now about 30 stores in the village, six butcher shops, five clothing stores. Practically all the available cottages have been rented for the coming summer. Nathan Engleman has rented seven stores to other parties and Mr. Kaufman has five stores leased.

FROZEN FINGERS AMPUTATED

**Hancock Man's Hands Frost
Bitten During Ice Harvest.**

(From Hancock correspondent.)

Daniel Guinan of Hancock had two fingers of his right hand amputated by Dr. Davidson last week. While engaged in the ice harvest during one of the coldest days in January Mr. Guinan had both hands frozen. He had been at work in the morning and on quitting for the lunch hour his hands gave him such pain that he consulted Dr. Davidson, who found them frozen. The right hand was seriously frost bitten and from the first the physician gave little hope that the fingers could be saved.

Have 1,500 Trees Tapped.

(From Rock Rift correspondent.)

The Risley company have 1,500 maple trees tapped in their sap bush on the Howland place. Six men were employed last week in caring for the sap. There was a very fine run and the quality of the syrup is unusually fine in flavor. It is said 50 gallons will be sold here but most of it will be shipped in drums to the headquarters of the Maple association from which it will be put on the market as needed.

COUNTY PAYS \$65,560 FOR BLOOMVILLE ROAD

**The Total Estimated Cost
Is \$238,000 for Seven
Miles of Highway**

The board of supervisors in special session in Delhi Monday evening made the necessary appropriations to cover the county's share of the cost of constructing the Hobart-Bloomville road, 7.7 miles. The total sum appropriated as the county's share was \$65,560.

This highway is to be built in two sections. One section is 1.1 miles in length and is to be constructed as a county highway. The state's share of the cost is to be covered by the small amount still remaining available from the last bond issue from the sum allotted to Delaware county for county roads. The estimated cost of this section is \$36,500 of which the state pays 86 per cent or \$31,390, and the county 14 per cent or \$5,110.

The other section of 6.6 miles will be built as a county highway with federal aid. The estimated cost of this piece is \$201,500 of which the government and the state each pay 35 per cent or \$70,725 and the county 30 per cent or \$60,450.

On motion of Supervisor Bruce of Andes a committee of three was appointed to have repairs made to the walls of the court room on the second floor of the court house. Chairman Moore appointed Supervisors Marvin, Bruce and Gilbert as such committee. A bill of H. S. Graham & Sons of \$429.68 was audited.

BURNS PROVE FATAL TO DEPOSIT WOMAN

**Mrs. Vaughn's Clothes Catch
Fire From Stove**

**ALONE IN HOME AT
TIME**

**Ran From House With Dress
a Mass of Flames-Lived Only
Three Hours.**

Mrs. Katherine Vaughn of Deposit was fatally burned Sunday morning when her clothing caught fire while she was working over a stove in her home. She died at 2 o'clock that afternoon three hours after the accident.

Mrs. Vaughn was alone in the house at the time as her daughter, Mrs. Nellie Cullen, had left for church only a few minutes before. The attention of neighbors was attracted about 11 o'clock when Mrs. Vaughn ran screaming from the house with her clothing all in flames. The air currents as she rushed from the house fanned the flames into greater fury and her clothing was nearly burned from her body before the flames were put out when it was found that the aged woman was terribly burned. Her dress had caught fire as she was working over a stove in the house.

Dr. R. K. Palmerton was called and did everything possible to relieve the woman's suffering but she passed away about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Mrs. Vaughn is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Cullen, Mrs. Stewart Watrous of McClure, and Mrs. Marguerite Stiles, No. 8 Frederick street, Binghamton; and two sons, Timothy Vaughn of Long Eddy and John Vaughn of Stevens Point, Pa.

The funeral was held at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning in the home, and at 9:30 o'clock in the Catholic church. Burial was made in the Catholic cemetery.