

# LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1922

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About  
at the County Hub

### BUSH AUTO HITS WOMAN

Must Have Mail Boxes—No  
Fair Excursion Train—New  
Rest Room Location.

Three heifers owned by Gilbert Miner of Northfield were killed by lightning during a recent storm.

Lavern Reynolds of Trout Creek has purchased the star route between Rockroyal and Walton, from Nelson Storrer. Reynolds will assume control about Sept. 1st.

Joseph Davis, employed by R. S. Jones, while engaged in a friendly scuffle with another man Sunday, had his elbow dislocated. Dr. W. G. Smith attended him.

Invitations have been received by friends in Walton to the wedding of Miss Florence M. Emmons to Edgar J. Wheat, which will take place Sept. 7th at the home of her parents, Riverview Drive, Endicott.

W. B. Yeoman of Delhi purchased the old Garrison house on the Andrew Scobie farm some time ago and possession will be given September 1. Mr. Yeoman will sell his household goods and move here the latter part of September.

The trout season closed Thursday, August 31. The restocking of streams carried out by the Delaware Valley Fish and Game club, has resulted in keeping the brooks well supplied with trout fingerling and means a continuation of the excellent fishing for which the streams in this vicinity have always been well known.

The Ontario & Western railroad has refused the request of the Delaware Valley agricultural association for a special train to be run from Liberty and return on Friday, the big day of the fair. In refusing the request they state that it is impossible to provide a train owing to the unusual conditions prevailing at the present time.

Company F arrived home on the milk train from Sidney about 4:30 Sunday afternoon after two weeks in camp at Peekskill. The return was delayed by engine trouble near Albany as the guardsmen were expected to arrive on No. 6. The local unit was one of the largest outfits in camp and received commendation for their training and work on the rifle range, as Company T qualified the second highest in the Tenth regiment.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Thursday it was voted to remove the rest room from over the Boston store, corner of Delaware and North streets, to the rooms over Fundas' candy store in the building owned by H. W. Retz. The Home Bureau officers effected the moving the same day, so that the new rooms will be available during the fair. There are four rooms in the suite, and plans are being made to share them with other organizations.

Orders to stop delivery of mail to every dwelling house in the United States which is not provided with a slot or receptacle for mail at the front door within four months were issued Saturday by the Post Office department. The order supplements recent instructions not to deliver mail to new houses not equipped with boxes to receive mail. All resident patrons of the Walton post

office who receive mail by carriers, must comply with this order, otherwise their deliveries will be discontinued.

Under the state law, the owner or occupant of lands abutting upon the highway, shall, before the first day of September in each year, cut and remove all noxious weeds, briars and brush growing within the bounds of the highway fronting such premises. If the owner or occupant fails to perform this duty, the town superintendent is required to do the work and assess the cost as a tax against the property. T. P. Howland, town superintendent of highways, states that unless the cutting is done before September 15th, the work will be done by the town and the cost assessed as provided by law.

One front wheel of the Studebaker coupe, driven by Dr. E. O. Bush of Walton was dished Saturday morning when Dr. Bush ran his car up the bank on the hill east of Colchester station in an attempt to avoid hitting Mrs. Fred Bond. The side of the machine struck Mrs. Bond, cutting a bad gash in her head. Dr. Bush was returning from Delancey shortly after 8 o'clock that morning. Fred Shields was driving his Ford truck up the hill and Mrs. Bond was walking in the opposite direction toward the home of W. T. Ward. When Dr. Bush came over the brow of the hill he saw the truck coming toward him and the woman walking in the opposite direction near the side of the road. To avoid running her down he drove his machine out of the roadway so that the wheels on the upper side ran along the steep bank. When the car passed Mrs. Bond some part of the side struck her as it tipped on an angle, knocking her down. The Studebaker ran along the bank about fifty or sixty feet before tipping over on its side into the highway. One front wheel was broken and the radiator sprung. Dr. W. R. Gladstone was called to attend Mrs. Bond but found no bones broken, although she was suffering severely from shock and had a bad cut on her head.

## HUGE PINE TREE ON SEWELL PLACE IN THE PRIMEVAL FOREST

Dead is the magnificent pine tree which for generations has towered skyward on the property of Hon. Albert H. Sewell on North street. It is thought the tree may have been affected by the pine blight as during the past few months its needles have turned brown and dropped to the ground as life gradually ebbed from the spreading branches.

This pine and an oak on the Sewell property are the last of the trees in the primeval forest which once adorned the hills and valleys of this section. Tradition has it that when the North, Townsend, Pine and Furman families settled in Walton, in 1784, Mr. and Mrs. Robert North selected these two trees as ones which should not be felled.

When one of the large branches of the oak broke down a few years ago, a count showed that the rings indicating the age of the tree numbered nearly 140. The pine that has just died towers to a height of over 100 feet and has a circumference of some 14 feet. In other words, one could cut boards over four feet in width from it.

Years ago the pine forest which gave its name to Pine hill fell victim to the woodsman's axe and the giant logs were rafted to Philadelphia, the lumber merchants of the Quaker city often mentioned the splendid timber the trees were converted into when talking with the raftsmen from old Delaware. Gone now are the primeval forests and soon, too, the tales of the raftsmen who until recent years braved the dangers of the river to market their timber will be but a memory.

## SMITH PAYS PENALTY FOR NINEVEH MURDER

Electrocuted in Sing Sing  
Thursday Night After He Is  
Refused Clemency

Appeals for clemency in the case of Herbert W. Smith of Hancock, convicted of the murder of Lewis H. Johnson of Nineveh Junction, Chenango county, were refused Monday by Governor Miller, who decided there was no ground for appeal. Smith was electrocuted in Sing Sing prison Thursday night, August 31, in accordance with the sentence of the court.

Smith's attorney, David F. Lee of Norwich, at a hearing before the governor the latter part of the week argued for a commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment.

Mr. Lee indulged in much the same argument that he did on the appeal to the highest court, urging that the question of the crime being committed while the accused was in the act of committing a felony was not properly presented to the jury and neither was it properly considered by them. He based the first part of his argument upon the legal question involved.

Governor Miller, after a time, stated that the legal phases of the conviction were not proper subjects for him to consider as these had all been passed upon by the appellate courts and the conviction affirmed. He said that the only proposition upon which his interference should be asked pertained to the possibility of there being circumstances connected with the crime or conditions surrounding the accused which might indicate that an executive should exercise his discretion or in other words grounds for showing mercy to the convicted man.

Mr. Lee cited testimony as to the record of the accused and his standing in the community of his home and asked the governor to exercise clemency and reduce the sentence to life imprisonment.

District Attorney Ward N. Truesdall of Sherburne was heard in behalf of the people and urged the governor to refrain from interfering in the case, calling attention to the fact that the accused was found in the act of robbing a store in the darkness of midnight and that after he had been apprehended and handcuffed he seized the gun of Johnson, which momentarily had been left within his reach, and shot Johnson fatally at the first shot. He said that it was a crime that aroused the citizens of Chenango county and that it would be an error to change the sentence of the court. He appealed to Governor Miller to sustain the court and assist in checking crime by refusing to interfere.

## WIFE DENIES MURDER CHARGE

Mrs. Ivy Giberson Pleads Not  
Guilty to Charge.

Mrs. Ivy Giberson, charged with the murder of her husband, William Giberson, at Lakehurst, entered a plea of not guilty before Justice Joseph B. Willets at Toms River, N. J., Thursday, August 24.

Wilfred H. Jayne, prosecutor, asked that the hearing be continued until Tuesday, the date set for the coroner's inquest. William H. Jeffrey, Mrs. Giberson's attorney, consented. Mrs. Giberson spent her girlhood at Sidney, where she will be remembered as Ivy Richmond. She was at one time a dining room girl in the Edgerton House, Delhi.

## FAIR OLD HOME WEEK FOR DELAWARE COUNTY

Plans Perfected for Annual  
Exhibition on Walton Grounds  
Next Week

Delaware county's Old Home Week, the great Walton fair, comes next week, September 5, 6, 7 and 8. These are the days when the folks of old Delaware and hundreds

of former residents lay aside their cares for a day or two and come to Walton to renew old friendships and to enjoy an outing at the fairgrounds.

The management promises to have some fast racing daily, the schedule of which will be found elsewhere. The agricultural exhibits promise also to be of a high standard with the bumper crops of the harvest season. The amusements along the midway have not been neglected and in addition to the usual side shows various riding devices will afford fun to both young and old. The booking for the platform attractions are with the Frank Melville company of New York.

The inability of the O. & W. railroad to furnish a special train on one day will be a source of disappointment to many, but in these days of automobiles this should not interfere materially with the attendance. Certain it is that many look forward each year for the approach of the fair dates, which this year are September 5, 6, 7 and 8.

## BREAK IN GAS STOVE CAUSES MARKET FIRE

Blaze in Rear Rooms of L. M.  
Budine's Meat Market Does  
Little Damage

A broken feeder pipe in a three-burner gasoline stove caused a fire in L. M. Budine's market on Gardiner Place, Walton, Thursday morning about 9:30 o'clock.

Back of the market proper are two large store rooms and in the second of these the stove had been placed on a table near the door and lighted to heat some water. Lawrence Budine had stepped out to the garage for a moment and his wife was in the other store room doing some sewing when she discovered the fire. Realizing that she could not put out the blaze alone, she called for help, and her husband and Al. Hatton, who works in Walsh's tinning shop adjoining, were quickly on hand. Mr. Hatton managed to throw the stove outdoors, and the flames were extinguished with chemicals before the arrival of the firemen, who had been summoned.

The contents of the two store rooms were badly damaged. The sewing machine was nearly ruined, as well as five quilts and three dresses upon which Mrs. Budine was working. Mrs. Budine had left her glasses on a table near the machine and these were also ruined as were two inner tubes for an auto hanging on the wall above. Several rolls of wrapping paper were also spoiled. The damage in the rear room was chiefly to the building. The loss to the Budines will probably be \$100 with no insurance. There was insurance on the building.

The broken feeder pipe to the first burner allowed the gasoline to drip down and catch fire. No damage was done in the market proper.

## SAVED ONLY A TEDDER FROM BURNING BARN

Building of Edgar Couse Near  
Masonville Destroyed

## LIGHTNING TAKES TOLL

Structures in Stamford  
Township and at Hartwick Also  
Struck and Burned to Ground.

(Cannonsville-Masonville cors.)

During the hard thunder storm of last Friday night lightning struck the large barn of Edgar Couse at upper Barbourville, between Deposit and Masonville and it was burned to the ground. Shortly after the bolt struck, the whole structure seemed to burst into flames and in an hour it was entirely consumed. On account of the rapidity with which the fire spread throughout the structure, it was impossible to save anything in the barn except a hay tedder. All the other farming machinery, including a new milking machine and an electric light plant, were

burned. Two calves also were burned to death. The barn was filled to capacity with the season's hay crop. Mr. Couse carried insurance on the property, but that will only partially cover his loss.

The large barn on the farm now owned by Antonio Cosenza in Stamford was struck by lightning and entirely destroyed during the storm on Wednesday night, August 23. The barn contained about 150 tons of hay, besides a quantity of farm machinery and wagons, which it was impossible to save. Two horses which were in the barn were saved. The farm is known as the Frank T. Silliman place. The barn was built to house 60 head of cattle and was in good repair.

The barn on what is known as the Moses L. Field farm, about two miles east of Hartwick, was struck by lightning and burned during the heavy rain of Friday evening, August 25. The building was struck at about 10:30 o'clock and almost immediately burst into flames, both front and rear, so that it was impossible to remove any of the contents or to save the building itself. The family of the owner, Charles Stoddart, was away from home at the time, attending the Cortland fair.

## LIGHTNING KILLS 14 COWS

Kortright and Delhi Farmers  
Suffer Heavy Loss.

During the terrific thunder storm Friday night H. K. MacLaury, a Kortright breeder of Holstein-Friesian cattle, had seven cows killed by lightning, one a registered animal. They were insured, we believe, in the Kortright Town Insurance Co.

During the same storm lightning killed nine cows belonging to William Cobbe, a farmer of West Platner brook, Delhi.

## Club Workers at the Fair.

Through the generosity of the state school, boys and girls' club workers will have a tent 18 x 30 at both Delhi and Walton fairs and all club workers are urged to make your exhibit at one of them. No entry need be made nor fee paid for bringing exhibits. Feed and coops will be furnished for poultry. Calves will be cared for, but feed not furnished.

## 12,000 Use Swimming Pool.

(From Stamford correspondent.)

The swimming pool at the Rexmere at Stamford has been well patronized this season, over 12,000 people having enjoyed a plunge in the pool so far this season.

## Bones Had Grown Together.

An unusual development in the bone growth of a hen was found by Mrs. Herbert L. Griffin of Delaware street, Walton, in a fowl purchased one day this week. When Mrs. Griffin came to dress the hen, she discovered that the breast bone and the wish bone had grown together. Mrs. Griffin saved the bones as a curiosity.

## ELIMINATE SIDNEY CROSSING

Work Begun on Miller  
Crossing North of Village.

Surveyors representing the O. & W. railroad have been at work on the Miller crossing preparing for the state road crossing over that railroad which will replace the present dugout dirt road which has been a source of so much annoyance to automobilists for the past dozen years. It is expected that a large gang of men will be at work on this short piece of road within two weeks, and that the much discussed state road link at that point will be pushed to a speedy completion.