

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 Years Ago,
**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 23, 1926**

THE WEEK IN WALTON

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

ROCK RIFT ROAD OPENS

**Ran His Auto into Train-
One Girl Autoist Bumps
Another-Stedman Gets
Long Term in Jail**

The ticket sale for the high school and community lecture course will begin Monday, October 25. The adult tickets are \$2 and student tickets \$1.

Dr. A.L. Brown, veterinarian, will open his office Saturday, October 23, at 163 Delaware street. Dr. Brown has practiced at Deposit for several years. Walton has been without a veterinarian since the removal of Dr. Conlon.

Clark Beers ran his Oldsmobile roadster into the Mountain express at the crossing near the Beerston station Monday morning. The car had a broken radiator and a bent fender and axle. Mr. Beers states that the accident was caused by the road being so slippery that the brake would not hold the car.-Beerston correspondent.

The first killing frost of the season came Friday night. This was followed Monday morning by a slight snowfall which covered the ground with a white mantle and snow again fell Wednesday. The weather this month has been much warmer than the same month last year. It is unusual to have a killing frost delayed until October 15th.

One day the latter part of the week Everett Fitch stopped his truck near the Third brook schoolhouse when two sons of June Boice came down the road and in passing the truck got so near the other machine that the windshield of their automobile struck the corner of the truck. The windshield of the Boice car was broken but this was about the extent of the damage.

One day recently while Mrs. Harlow W. Parsons of Franklin was out motoring with her children the rear door of the car became unlatched and Donald, who had been leaning against the door, was thrown backward to the ground. He suffered a bad cut on the forehead and one arm was badly sprained. Douglas Parsons, an older brother of Donald, recently fractured an arm.

The plans have been completed for the athletic card to be given by members of Company F, 10th Infantry, at the armory on Monday night, October 25th. The program will start at 8 o'clock with contests in which the entire company will take part. This will be followed by five wrestling matches and six boxing bouts. A good live evening of athletics is planned and the public is cordially invited.

A Ford coupe driven by Miss Esther Culver was badly damaged on Monday when struck in the rear by a Dodge car operated by Miss Ada Salton of Hamden. The accident occurred when Miss Salton attempted to pass Miss Culver's car near the Standard Oil gas station on the Delhi road just outside the village. The rear wheel of the Culver machine was smashed and the rear axle broken. Miss Culver teaches school at Delancey and drives to and from that place.

The state road will be opened for travel on one strip of concrete tomorrow, Saturday, October 23rd. The full width will probably be opened the following Saturday, October 30. If pleasant weather prevails through the remaining half of autumn many autoists will enjoy this splendid concrete road and also the scenic beauty of this Delaware-Catskill highway. One of its characteristics is its varied scenery.

Only a rod or so ahead of one the contour of hills and river will change almost beyond recognition. The grandeur of the mountainous scenery will most certainly be an increasing source of joy.-Rock Rift correspondent.

The troubles of the families of Enock Stedman of Pines brook and John Ackley of Rock Rift were aired in Justice E.S. White's court this week and ended Tuesday with the sentence of Stedman to four months in the Delhi jail on the charge of endangering the morals of his children under the age of sixteen years. This is the third time Stedman has appeared in justice's court within three months. Ackley and Mrs. Stedman left their homes on Monday of last week and are alleged to have traveled about together in this vicinity in Ackley's car for nearly a week. A warrant charging abandonment was issued for him and when the couple were found in the car on Prospect avenue Monday evening Ackley was in an intoxicated condition. He was sent to jail for ten days on the latter charge and his operator's license was revoked. The action on the abandonment charge was postponed for a time as Ackley wished a reconciliation with his family. The papers in the case will be turned over to the district attorney for action should Ackley again fail to support his family. Three of the Stedman children have been placed with relatives and the youngest, a child of two, is with Mrs. Stedman, who is at the home of her sister, Mrs. Thomas Phoenix. Charges may be made against her should investigation by the county child welfare agent warrant the same.

ABSENT TREATMENT GIVEN DUTIES BY COUNTY OFFICERS

If a business man should hire a helper and his new employee should spend a large part of his time on other work he would be promptly fired.

This is what certain county officials in Delaware county are doing. They are servants of the county but have been spending much of their time on private business and politics.

There is William J. Howland of Andes, county superintendent of highways. He is paid \$3,000 a year by the county. Republican and Democrat supervisors alike voted for his appointment with the idea that he would conduct the office free from politics and devote his time to the duties of one of the most important offices in the county. During the last summer the office has had absent treatment. Mr. Howland has been busy with work for private individuals or seeking to round up votes against John D. Clarke. His salary has gone on just the same.

Then there is A.B. Shaw of Hamden, county treasurer. The late Henry S. Graham found no difficulty in attending to the office of county treasurer without clerical help and at the same time was able to spare time for his own hardware business. When Mr. Shaw was elected the supervisors were induced to give him an assistant and there is now talk of additional help for him. Work of the office has doubtless increased in the past six years, but an officeholder who is able to conduct a large farm and be at his office on the average only six hours a day is not suffering from overwork.

County Clerk Whitaker is another officeholder who is not overworked. He spent days riding the county to get votes for Tolley and is away from his office a large part of the time. Additional help has been given the county clerk and he now does little, if any, of the real work of that important office. In the neighboring county of Sullivan Roy Johnston, the Democratic county clerk, visits various towns about the county at the period of the distribution of the automobile license plates to facilitate this work. He also makes out the renewal blanks and sends them to the license holders of the past year. Such an accommodation of the public has apparently never oc-

curred to the county clerk of Delaware county. There has been no change in the usual Saturday afternoon closing of the clerk's office during the rush period for automobile licenses. Men who have traveled long distances to Delhi to get their licenses or plates have gone home without them and been forced to make a second trip.

When the voters of Delaware county take an accounting of the service some of their public officials are rendering they will demand a change.

CITY SEEKS WATER IN HUDSON STREAMS

**Will Develop Reservoirs in
River's Tributaries**

NOT TO USE DELAWARE

**Report of New York
Commission Should End
Rumors of Flooding
Vicinity Territory**

New York city will find its next source of water supply in Dutchess, Putnam and Rensselaer counties if plans and maps presented last Thursday to the New York city board of estimate and apportionment by the board of water supply are carried out. The plans call for an expenditure of \$347,934,000 extending over 15 years.

This action puts to an end, for the time at least, the recurring rumors that the city would next come to the Delaware river or some of its tributaries to secure additional water.

Immediate action is urged by the board of water supply which points out that at the present increasing rate of consumption the water supply will be taxes beyond its capacity by 1935. The board estimates that water from the new source cannot be brought to the city within ten years.

The following streams will be developed if the recommendations are followed: Fishkill creek and tributaries, Wappinger creek and tributaries, Roeliff Jansen Kill, Taghkanic creek, Claverack creek, Kinderhook creek and tributaries. These streams will increase the city's supply by 412,000,000 gallons daily. The present supply is, in normal conditions, 1,100,000,000 gallons daily.

The commission points out that the Rondout and Catskill creeks could be tapped for about 280,000,000 gallons and the lower watershed of Schoharie creek would yield about 360,000,000 gallons. It would be necessary, however, to bring water from this source across the Hudson and the commission found that the total cost would not compare favorably with the cost of developing the streams on the east side of the Hudson. The Adirondack watersheds are too far away, the commission decided.

The commission concedes that provisions of the general municipal law may preclude the city from taking the waters of Dutchess county. In this event, the commission declares, it may be necessary to construct an aqueduct cross the Hudson river to tap the Rondout and Catskill creeks at a considerable increase in cost. It will also be necessary to obtain amendments to existing laws at the next session of the legislature to make available the waters of Putnam, Dutchess, Columbia and Rensselaer.

The board of water supply recommended this distant source of water as the most available after carefully canvassing all other possible supplies, including further development of the Catskill watersheds, the Housatonic and Delaware rivers, the ground waters of Suffolk county, the lower watershed of Schoharie creek and the Adirondacks.

The commission gave very careful consideration to the development of the Delaware, but pointed out that there has already been great delay in arriving at an agreement with Pennsylvania and New Jersey as to the rights of the three states in this boundary river. On this point the report states:

"Our studies of all available sources have brought out in clear

relief the possibility of the development of the Delaware watershed and its advantages, but problems, readily observable, and continuing delay, easily conceivable, in adjusting questions of importance to other sovereignties do not justify neglect of the needs of the city of New York, whose interests are paramount, and we have concluded that it is inadvisable to wait further the presentation on a plan which will meet the city's requirements and be a complete, permanent and economical unit in our water supply system, furnishing a pure and wholesome water."

The need for immediate action and the danger of waiting further on New Jersey and Pennsylvania is indicated by the commission when it points out that the present water supply of the city will be taxed beyond its capacity by 1935. The board estimates that the first gallon of water from the new source cannot be brought to the city within the next ten years. Immediate action is therefore necessary, it is pointed out.

Only recently it was reported that the city would construct a huge reservoir in the Mamakating valley in Sullivan county which would flood Wurtsboro, Cuddebackville and other villages in that valley. Similar reports have from time to time gone forth regarding a reservoir near Margaretville. The recent visit to Arkville of four surveyors from the state highway department caused considerable excitement in that section until it was ascertained that their work was to survey the Arkville railroad crossing with a view to its elimination.

The acquisition of certain water power rights along the Delaware river in the vicinity of Cannonsville, Granton and further below are said to have been based on the assumption that the city of New York would eventually require water from the Delaware and the owners of these water powers would then be recompensed for the land taken for this purpose on the basis of their holding valuable power sites.

The action of the New York authorities in seeking additional water in the sheds of the streams lying between the Hudson river and the Connecticut and Massachusetts state lines from a point near Poughkeepsie to the vicinity of Albany and Troy if carried into effect, as seems probable, will put an end for fifteen years or more to plans for the use of the Delaware. Eventually the city may turn to that river, but not now.

DAUGHTER GETS HALF OF SANDERSON ESTATE

**Walton Church Loses Part
of \$7,500 Legacy**

LAW AND FACTS CLEAR

**Statute Forbids Persons to
Will More Than Half of
Estate to Church While
Children are Living**

The Reformed Presbyterian church of Walton will receive only half of the estate of the late Gibson R. Sanderson of Walton, instead of the entire estate, except for a \$200 bequest, under the terms of a decree made by Judge A.J. McNaught Monday.

The will of Mr. Sanderson came before Judge McNaught in surrogate's court in Delhi Monday on the petition of Mrs. Ethel Beers, an adopted daughter, for a construction of the document.

The will was made in 1912 and provided that after payment of a legacy of \$200 to Ethel Beers the residue should go to the Reformed Presbyterian church of Walton. Mr. Sanderson died early in 1926 leaving an estate valued at about \$7,600.

The will was admitted to probate in April. The adopted daughter claimed that under the decedent estate law that no more than one-half of the property could be willed to a religious corporation where there was a wife, child, or grandchildren surviving. She further alleged that as to one-half of his estate Mr. Sanderson died intestate, in other words in the same condi-

tion as if he had made no will, and that the adopted daughter being the only heir at law was entitled to one-half of the net estate, it being the law of New York state that an adopted child inherits the same as a natural child.

The matter came before Judge McNaught Monday with Attorney A.E. Conner appearing for the petitioner, Mrs. Beers, and John G. More the executor. Rev. Boyd A. White, pastor of the church, William T. Gag and Charles Watrous, deacons, appeared for the church.

It appeared from the evidence presented that Mrs. Ethel Beers was legally adopted by Gibson R. Sanderson and his wife on Sept. 18, 1894; that prior to her adoption Mrs. Beers was Ethel Gross. The law in the case being clear and the facts undisputed as the question of adoption was a matter of record, Judge McNaught made a decree holding that as to one-half of the estate be paid to Mrs. Beers and one-half to the Reformed Presbyterian church of Walton. After payment of debts, administration expenses and costs the church and Mrs. Beers will each receive about \$3,300, it is expected.

FARM TRANSFER VOID IN GREGORY CASE

**Referee Baker Finds Walton
Man Deeded Farm to Wife
To Escape His Creditors**

Filing a petition in bankruptcy will not relieve Daniel J. Gregory of Walton for paying a judgement of \$2,700 secured by Dr. A.W. Selleck of Roscoe, under a decision rendered last week by Elmer Baker of Sidney referee in bankruptcy, in the action brought by Vincent N. Elwood as trustee of the bankrupt estate of Daniel J. Gregory against Mr. Gregory and his wife. The First National bank of Walton and the Citizen's bank of Binghamton, in which certain moneys were deposited to the credit of Mrs. Gregory were for this reason also named as defendants in the matter.

One Sunday in November, 1914, Daniel Gregory and his family were traveling by auto from their home near Walton to visit the father-in-law, who lived near Liberty. Dr. A.W. Selleck, of Roscoe, had been called to visit a sick patient at Rockland. Just opposite Dr. Miller's corner, where the road turns towards Cooks Falls, the two cars came in collision. Dr. Selleck got a broken nose, several broken ribs and other injuries which laid him up for a considerable time. The physician sued Gregory and his son, John, in the Sullivan county supreme court and recovered a judgment of \$2,700. Appeal was taken to Albany where the judgment was affirmed. Very soon after that Dan Gregory and his son filed petitions in bankruptcy at Utica through their attorney, A.D. Peake, of Walton.

Upon their examination before the referee at Sidney it was found that a few days after the accident Gregory gave his father-in-law a mortgage on his farm for \$6,000 and a chattel mortgage on his stock for \$3,000 and then deeded all the interest he had left in the farm to his wife. In August, 1925, his barn burned and he collected over \$13,000 insurance, which his wife deposited in various banks in Binghamton and Walton in her own name, nothing being paid to the father-in-law, it being claimed he presented his interest to the daughter. About two thousand dollars was collected later for cattle condemned by the state and that was also deposited to the credit of the wife. Dr. Selleck then began a judgment-creditor's suit in the state court, but Mr. Peake got a stay from Federal Judge Cooper. Finally on the suggestion of Judge Cooper it was agreed that the state court action be transferred to the federal court and tried before Referee Baker. Mr. Baker's opinion covers 22 closely typewritten pages and goes thoroughly into the fact as well as the law of fraudulent conveyances and the rights of creditors. The case will probably be settled soon. J.D. Lyons of Monticello was Dr. Selleck's lawyer in the case.