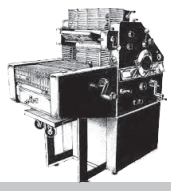
LOOKING BACK



100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 Years Ago,

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1926

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Major Webb Not Looking for Snow--Co. F Organizes Basketball Team-Pumper Called to Northfield

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Foreman, who were recently married, have purchased the farm of John Middlemist, West brook.

Joseph Forrest of Park street shot a buck Saturday at Wakeman brook, near Rock Rift. The animal was an eight pointer, weighing 180 pounds.

O.W. Mills has started a freight and express service between Walton and Binghamton, operating under the franchise granted M.E. Atkinson of Deposit.

Earl Wilsey of Elk Creek, near Schenevus, Otsego county, who was killed in an automobile accident last week, was a grandson of Mrs. Jane Hall of Unadilla, formerly of Loomis.

An addition 16 by 36 feet in dimensions has been built onto his storehouse at West End by E.R. Howland. The additional space will be used for storing lime and other materials handled.

Members of the faculty of the Walton union school have been attending the sessions of the Southern Tier district meeting of the New York State Teachers' association in Binghamton. The meeting began Thursday morning.

The open season for trapping skunk, raccoon and mink began on Nov. 10. The muskrat season commences Dec. 1 and lasts until Mar. 31. The mink season closes Mar. 15 and the season for skunk and raccoon on Feb. 10.

The annual union Thanksgiving service of the Protestant churches in Walton will be held this year in Christ Episcopal church. The program of the service next Thursday, which begins at 10 o'clock, will be found on page six.

Major J.I. Webb, Walton's weather prophet, had this to say of the weather, when interviewed Tuesday: "This year of 1926 has given us the greatest number of dark, dismal, cloudy and sunless days of my remembrance. These warm day and night rains are keeping us from deep snows. I am not looking for much snow, if any, for the next month to come."

Rev. S.R. MacEwan, former rector of Christ Episcopal church in Walton, has resigned as rector of St. John's church in Oneida and has taken a parish in Easton, Maryland. The change is made largely on account of Mr. MacEwan's health, which has not been good. Friends in Walton unite in the wish that the change of climate may prove beneficial.

Company F is to have a basketball team this season. This will be good news to local fans. Many of the old players will be back in the line-up this season. D.E. Towne, physical director in the Walton schools, has been engaged as coach and the first game will be played in the armory on Thanksgiving night with Barnes All-Stars from Binghamton as the guardsmen's opponents.

Automobiles driven by Walter Coulter of Walton and Robert T. Kinch of Delhi collided on North street, near Walton Hall during the storm Tuesday evening. Mr. Coulter was driving from Gardiner Place to North street through the alley on the south side of Walton Hall. He states that the front of his car was partly out in North street when he saw the other car coming northerly along North street and had stopped his car when the collision occurred. Miss Olive Hasbrouck, who was with Mr. Kinch, was thrown forward and it is thought her face struck against a mirror. Her nose was painfully cut and she received medical attention at the home of Dr. J.A. Holley nearby. The fenders of both cars were jammed.

On Thursday evening of last week this community was quite thoroughly stirred up by fire in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Seely. At about two o'clock in the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Seely found that their chimney was burning out and also that it was getting pretty hot. After they had worked at it for some time they decided they had it under control, and went about their work, keeping close watch of their chimney in the meantime. At about 5:30 it started up again and seemed to be burning harder than before. With the help of Mr. and Mrs. Webb Seely they again thought it was all right, but on going upstairs somewhat later in the evening they found that the fire had caught in some of the upstairs rooms. A call for help was given and all the Northfield men responded. The Walton fire department's pump engine and crew were called and responded. When they arrived it seemed that everything would be all right with a little watching. After they had gone, however, some of the men saw tiny puffs of smoke issuing out from between floors and partitions and when they finally began to chop away the woodwork it burst into little flames. When, at last, the men were satisfied that they had every spark the woodwork about the chimney was all chopped away from the first floor to the attic, marring about seven rooms. The loss was partly covered by insurance.

COUNTY HEALTH UNIT FAILS OF APPROVAL

Proposition Is Defeated by Supervisors Second Time

COST TO COUNTY $7,450

Budget of $15,200 Calls For Health Officer and Two Nurses As Assistants

The proposal to establish a county health unit in Delaware county was defeated by the board of supervisors Monday by a vote of 15 to 4. Those recorded in favor of the proposition were Supervisors Bruce, Gilbert, Stevenson and Carpenter. Those voting in the negative were Supervisors Storie, Garrison, Kenyon, Black, Latham, Sommer, Fowler, Elwood, Smith, Stephens, Tobey, Dugan, Blythe, White and Chamberlin.

At the session of the board of supervisors Friday J.J. Farrell of Walton, president of the Delaware County Tuberculosis and Public Health association, presented Homer Folks, secretary of the State Charities Aid, and a member of the Public Health Council of the State, and Dr. Plunkitt of the state board of health, who addressed the board in relation to the establishment of a health unit in Delaware county.

The proposal for a health unit in brief is for a full time county health officer with two public health nurses as assistants. A similar unit is now established in Cattaraugus county and Delaware county was selected by the state health authorities as suitable for another such unit because it has a tuberculosis death rate above the average.

The budget for the health unit calls for $15,200 toward which the Rockefeller Foundation will contribute $2,500, the state $5,250, while the county's share is $7,450. Proponents claim that the county is now paying $3,500 for work which would be taken over by the health unit so that the actual increase in cost would be $3,950.

Last year the proposal was defeated by a vote of 14 to 5. The principal objection then raised was that there could be no retreat from the project when once entered it. A law enacted by the last legislature is understood to cure this objection and permit dropping the health unit later if desired. The supervisors, however, saw the matter in the same light as last year and the resolution establishing the unit was defeated 15 to 4.

HIGH WATER TUESDAY CAUSE OF TROUBLE

Flood Undermines Bridge in Walton Village

SOME DAMAGE BY WIND

Railroad Traffic on Ulster & Delaware and Delaware & Northern Delayed by Heavy Rains

Regularly about twice a year, in spring and fall, Walton is visited by high water. The autumn flood this year came Tuesday during the driving rain, which set in Monday night and continued almost steadily until Tuesday evening. According to the records of the state school of agriculture in Delhi 2.6 inches of rain fell between 4 p.m. Monday and 4 p.m. Tuesday. The average monthly precipitation during the year is about 3.5 inches.

The river flats were flooded both above and below the Bridge street bridge, and the Stockton avenue school playgrounds were under water Tuesday and in no shape for use for several days afterwards.

The easterly abutment of the bridge over East brook connecting East street and upper Park street, was carried out and that end of the bridge dropped into the brook. Part of the road leading to the bridge caved in and was carried away. The bridge has been closed to traffic, and it will cost considerable to restore it. The water came close to the other bridges in the village and West brook over flowed its banks below Mead street. Tuesday afternoon and evening Delaware street was under water most of the distance from the Liberty street corner to the West brook bridge. Cellars along Delaware street were filled with water unless watertight.

The storm was accompanied by a high wind. Several windows in the "dogtown" section of Delaware street were broken by falling branches. A tool house 16 x 52 feet in dimensions on the Jenkins farm, Pines brook, was blown over and lay bottom side up. A true neighborly spirit was shown Wednesday when twenty men gathered at the Jenkins farm and put the tool house back on its foundation.

Traffic on the Ontario & Western was not delayed much. The Delaware & Northern and Ulster & Delaware railroads suffered, however, The Reporter's correspondent at Arena writes that the east branch of the Delaware on Tuesday afternoon reached the highest mark it has in twenty years. Roads in that section were flooded and impassable. The D. & N. electric car did not make the trip from Downsville to Arkville on Tuesday afternoon.

Traffic on the Ulster & Delaware was practically at a standstill Tuesday afternoon. At Phoenicia a railroad bridge was under four feet of water. Late in the afternoon the U. & D. company, which had kept traffic in motion during the larger part of the day, sent out warnings to all conductors and engineers to proceed with great caution, and shortly after its telegraph lines went out of commission and traffic was practically suspended. The west bound passenger train was annulled and the east bound milk, passenger and express train was flood bound west of Phoenicia. The five mile stretch of track between Shandaken and Phoenicia was inundated and the ballast of cinders washed out, causing the tracks to drop down. Bad slides occurred on the Stony Clove branch.

The downpour was especially heavy also in the watershed of the Schoharie creek and the Gilboa reservoir is reported to have risen four feet in five hours. The outflow from the Gilboa reservoir was shut off from the Ashokan system.

Prattsville reports that the temporary bridge over the Schoharie creek in the lower end of that village, constructed when the old one was condemned, was washed away late in the afternoon as a result of the creek overflowing its banks. The barn of Fred Hill, residing in the outskirts of the village, was partially destroyed by being undermined by the flood.

Haystacks and manure piles left on low land were carried away by high water all through this section. Reports indicate that many back roads were badly washed.

RECORDS ARE NOW SAFE

New Vaults in Court House For Surrogate's Use

OTHER CHANGES MADE

Cost of Improvements to Care for Priceless Papers Will Be Around $12,000

(From Delhi correspondent)

The changes and improvements in the chambers of county judge and surrogate in the Delaware county court house which have been under way for several weeks are now completed.

The Delaware court house is now fifty-seven years old. Some thirty years since an addition was constructed to provide a room for the supervisors and to accommodate the court library and this is the only important change in the original structure until the present year.

For some years past it has been recognized by court officials, by lawyers and by supervisors that something would have to be done to increase the filing space for estate documents in the surrogate's office and from time to time various plans have been suggested for this accomplishment and also to afford better fire protection to these valuable papers. One plan was to build a fireproof structure in the rear of the county clerk's office and another to build an addition to the court house covering the surrogate's necessities and also providing extra office room, which really is needed, for county treasurer, highway department and election commissioners. Plans were drawn and submitted for a court house extension which were very satisfactory and at an estimated cost of $60,000. This seemed out of reach for the county and had the plans been fulfilled the cost would have reached $100,000, as it was at a period when prices of material and labor were commencing to soar.

All concerned seemed a little timid about increasing the mounting tax budget of the county and from time to time the work of providing adequate room and fire protection for the valuable, and in fact priceless, papers of the surrogate's office was delayed until a point was reached that something had to be done, as the last inch of space in the surrogate's office had been filled. A building committee was appointed by the board of supervisors and authorized to do something to meet the crisis. After much consideration of various plans it was settled to utilize a portion of the basement of the court house. Now that the work is completed a section of the court house basement, about 20 feet wide and extending the entire length of the front of the building about 80 feet has been made absolutely fireproof, with the exception of a small office room fitted up for the use of lawyers and others who may wish to consult the records in the vaults. At the easterly end of the basement is a large vault, or perhaps it might better be called a large room, as fireproof as a bank fault. Here are placed the filing cases formerly in the rooms above with the addition of many new ones.

The first paper on file in surrogate's office was recorded 130 years ago and so now the accumulation of 130 years will be in systematic order and in fireproof quarters. Furthermore it is estimated that this room will take care of the surrogate documents for 75 years to come. Aside from this room mentioned another smaller vault, about the same size as the one removed from the surrogate's office has been constructed in this basement. Again another fireproof vault has been constructed in the extreme western end of the basement, which is for the use of the county treasurer.

These basement rooms are accessible by the main stairway from near the main entrance to the court house or by a spiral stairway leading from the surrogate clerk's office to the office in the basement. The judge's chambers have been enlarged by the space occupied by the vault removed. These rooms have been redecorated. All the old filing arrangements and furniture have been utilized in the new accommodations.

While the exact cost of this transformation with its new equipment, including all betterments, cannot be stated exactly at present, the total expense will be in the vicinity of $12,000. In commenting on the cost of these improvements to the surrogate's offices we cannot do better than to quote ex-judge Bruce of Andes and New York city, who inspected them within the last day or two. He stated it was the wisest expenditure ever made by Delaware county and would be a lasting monument to the present judge and surrogate of the county. When one comes to think that every man, woman, and child in the county is interested or may be in the safe keeping of the papers connected with estates the words of Judge Bruce seem none too strong.

Much credit should be given the building committee, W.S. Fowler of Hamden, James R. Stevenson of Stamford and J.B. Gilbert of Harpersfield for their unflagging interest and supervision of the work.

Didn't Need Rifle Practice

Ernest Allen, son of Jewett Allen of Berry brook, killed a ten-point buck near his home on Wednesday of last week. The young man was quite proud of the fact, since it was the second time he ever fired off a gun.

AN UNEXPECTED BATH FOR AUTO OCCUPANTS

Machine Goes Over Bank Into River When Steering Gear Locks

(From Fishs Eddy correspondent)

Friday was an unlucky day for Arnold McCarter and yet a very lucky day all things taken into consideration.

Mr. McCarter was on his way from his father's farm to Fishs Eddy driving his Willys Knight car. In the car with him were Harmon Brush of Fishs Eddy and Mr. Callard of Middletown, a cousin of Mr. McCarter. As they swung off the state road onto the approach of the river bridge the steering gear locked on the car and Mr. McCarter was unable to turn the car back. It went over the upper side of the bridge approach which is twenty feet high at this point and landed out in the river fifteen feet from shore and in about four feet of water.

The remarkable thing about it is that the car did not turn over but landed right side up and was not damaged to any great extent. The occupants of the car, aside from a cold bath and a few patches of misplaced cuticle, escaped injury.

Later a team of horses was brought from the McCarter farm and the car was pulled out of the river and up the bank to the state road.

A Thief Is a Thief

(From Fishs Eddy correspondent)

Sneak thieves have at various times during the past two weeks invaded the premises of Mrs. Ellen Fish at Fishs Eddy, and stolen several choice fowls. It may be that some one's family larder was low or it may be that some of the boys had a roast, but the fact remains: a thief is a thief.

A Good Time to Have Horses

(From East Branch correspondent)

John Williams of East Branch, while getting some wood away from the river during Tuesday's storm, got his truck stuck in the mud. James Allen went to his assistance with his Buick and was also held fast until Allen's horses were brought, which pulled truck and car from the mud.