

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1923

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About
at the County Hub

OUR BOYS RAISED FLAG

Married Fifty Years—Fell
and Broke Wrist—Real Estate
Changes—Granted a Divorce.

Three babies born in Walton Wednesday bear the name Elizabeth as part of their Christian names.

Today, Friday, Feb. 2, is Candlemas day, when, so runs the tradition, the groundhog comes forth to view the weather. If he sees his shadow six weeks more of winter are in store.

Mrs. Latham, who keeps house for her son-in-law, Martin Nichols, fell Wednesday at the Nichols home on Prospect avenue and broke her left wrist. Dr. Smith reduced the fracture.

Over one hundred applications for trout fry and fingerlings have been made to the federal bureau of fisheries and the state conservation commission by members of the Delaware Valley Fish and Game club of Walton.

Henry J. Wilson has purchased the interest of his partner in the firm of Austin & Wilson, who have conducted a Chevrolet agency in the Munn building, Delaware street. The sale includes both the real estate and the business.

Anna P. Tripp of Walton was granted a decree of divorce from her husband, Lemuel A. Tripp, by Justice Kellogg in Oneonta, Saturday. The defendant made no appearance. A. E. Conner was the attorney for the plaintiff.

Mrs. Estella Boyd has closed her tea room on Delaware street, The Just-a-Bite, finding that the business did not pay. She will open a dressmaking establishment about Feb. 15 in the room in the Lyon block formerly used for a public rest room.

Theodore McLean of Beerston slipped and fell one day this week while working in the Beerston acetate factory. In falling he struck his hip against a stick of wood. The blow affected the nerve of the leg and caused a temporary paralysis of the member. At first it was thought the hip was fractured.

The Walton high school girls defeated the Oneonta normal five in the auditorium Friday evening by a score of 13 to 9. The Company F team won the game with the high school boys. Friday evening Stamford Hi plays in Walton and next Thursday the Delaware academy five of Delhi. This will be the big game of the season.

Hugh Jones has sold his house on Griswold street known as the E. T. Shaw property to Edward L. Lathan. Mr. Lathan has sold the Jackson farm, Frear hollow, to Charles Loker and will move to the village. George Tacy and F. W. Dann have bought the Charles Foote house, corner of East and Liberty street. The sales were made through the agency of H. M. Robinson.

Dr. Montraville Wood, the scientific lecturer who was to have appeared in Walton on Feb. 15th, died in Chicago last week from pneumonia. Dr.

Wood had spoken in Walton on two or three occasions and was very popular here, his lectures on science always drawing large houses. The local lecture course committee has secured a substitute number as elsewhere announced in this issue of the Reporter.

The flag on Ehrenbreitstein which American troops lowered recently when they ended their occupation of the Rhine area was raised by a regiment in which a number of Walton men served during the World War. The regiment was the First Pioneers and the flag was raised Dec. 14, 1918. The First Pioneers was the first complete regiment to cross the pontoon bridge to the castle. Its first orders were to erect a flagpole and raise a flag. The regiment was relieved in February, 1919, by the 17th Field Artillery, Second Division.

Fifty years ago Henry Olmstead and Miss Anna Jones were married in Walton. On Monday, Jan. 29th, some sixty friends and relatives of the couple gathered at their home at Pines to help celebrate their golden wedding. The guests assembled at eleven o'clock and at noon a bountiful repast was served. The afternoon was spent socially. Greetings were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead by representatives of the various sections in which their wedded life has been passed. Albert Holley spoke for the East Walton community, George Coulter for Pines brook, and Henry Stewart voiced the sentiments of esteem felt by residents of the river road section. Rev. S. U. North extended greetings from the First Congregational church of which Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead are members, while a letter was read from Rev. G. W. Nims, a former pastor. Elizabeth Olmstead and Everett Bond then presented their grandparents with a cut glass dish containing a substantial sum in gold from the children and grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead were also liberally remembered with money and other gifts by their friends and neighbors of bygone years. Their entire married life has been spent in Walton and vicinity and it is the wish of a host of friends that as the years pass they will be permitted to pass other anniversaries with Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead.

DAM BLASTS KILLED MERWIN'S HONEY BEES

Prattsville Man Asks City to
Pay for Disturbing His Hives

Can a Catskill mountain law suit revive Shakespearean memories in the mind of an Ulster county lawyer? If you doubt it read this:

Schoharie reservoir and Shandaken tunnel commission, composed of Messrs. Kelly, Mayham and Shea, sat in Kingston last week hearing claims against the city of New York because of the construction of that reservoir.

Perhaps the most interesting case was that of John B. Merwin, who conducts a large apiary between Prattsville and Grand Gorge, the trial developing many interesting features relative to bee culture. Mr. Merwin's farm is in one of the valleys of the Catskills, famous in the writings of John Burroughs, and noted among the bee keepers of the world in that the valley contains a unique and extraordinary growth of thyme, which spreads over several thousands of acres, furnishing a large proportion of the nectar from which bees distill more honey than any other flower. John Burroughs repeatedly visited this valley, and in his

writings said that nowhere else on this continent had he been able to find the variety of thyme which grew there, although he had looked for it from the wilds of Canada to the gulf, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans.

In 1916 Mr. Merwin had 325 colonies of bees. In October of that year, the board of water supply of New York began its experimental excavations for the purpose of ascertaining the exact location of the bed rock and through which to construct the Schoharie reservoir and Shandaken tunnel. Among its blasting operations was one with dynamite conducted forty-five feet from the apiary of Merwin.

It was proved upon the trial of the claim that about the time of year that the board began its blasting the honey bees of Merwin's colony began to hibernate and gather into clusters in the hive. That any disturbance of these clusters by blasting or which would produce a heavy vibratory shock would cause the bees to separate. They would then become frightened, gorge themselves with honey, and being unable because of the outside temperature, to get exercise by flying, would die. Merwin claimed that as a result of the blasting the bees composing two hundred of his colonies died, and those composing the remaining one hundred and twenty-five colonies, became emaciated and weakened. That therefore he lost not only the bees which died, but his entire honey crop for the summer of 1917.

Among the witnesses was Mr. Woodward, the bee inspector in the employ of the state department of agriculture, who testified to these and many other interesting facts concerning the habits of honey bees. He said that the night before bees swarm, the queen bee would begin to sing, that she would sing until the swarm had located at some place outside the hive; that bees would follow the queen as long as they heard her sing, but when her voice became inaudible they would settle in the first convenient place. Therefore it was the custom among bee keepers to ring bells and beat tin pans as soon as bees swarmed and thus drown the queen's voice, with the result that the bees would settle upon a tree near home, and easily could be secured. If, however, the noise was insufficient to prevent the voice of the queen being heard, the swarms sometimes would fly for miles and settle in some hollow tree, hence the large number of bee trees in the Catskills. Mr. Woodward also said bees would not tolerate a dead bee in the hive. As soon as a bee died it was picked up by one of the workers, carried for a considerable distance and dropped. That the queen bee would lay substantially 4,000 eggs in twenty-four hours, and would produce during a season from 60,000 to 90,000 honey bees. She would live for two or three years, repeating this process each year of her life. The bees kept by Mr. Merwin were Italian bees, and after the death of his 200 colonies, and the emaciation of the other 125, he scoured Greene, Delaware, Schoharie and Columbia counties in the effort to recoup his losses. Emphasis was laid upon the value of the thyme which grew in the valley.

Judge Clearwater said it recalled to his mind the quatrain of Oberon in "Midsummer Night's Dream":

"I know a bank whereon the wild thyme blows;

Where ox-lips and the nodding violet grows;

Quite over-canopied with lush woodbine,

With sweet musk-roses and with Eglantine."

—Kingston Freeman.

ACQUIT MRS. COLLINS OF MURDER CHARGE

Chenango Jury Finds Greene
Woman Shot Husband In Self
Defense

Mrs. Frances Collins, on trial in Norwich for the murder of her husband, Nicholas Collins, at Page brook, town of Greene, in April, 1922, was acquitted by the jury Wednesday on the grounds of self-defense.

George A. West, jointly indicted with Mrs. Collins, was set free after the acquittal was brought in. The prosecution alleged that Mrs. Collins' shooting of her husband was deliberate and premeditated. The defense claimed that she fired only when attacked by her husband and in defense of her own life. The couple had parted and Mrs. Collins and West had gone to the Collins home after some furniture when the shooting occurred.

The trial was twice adjourned after part of the evidence had been taken, first because of the illness of a juror and later on account of the sickness of District Attorney Truesdell.

THEIR HORSE WENT HOME

Andes Young Men Forced to
Hike Back Through Snow.

(From Andes correspondent.)

Two of Andes' popular young men started out with a horse and cutter Sunday evening to call on a couple of ladies of this vicinity. After comfortably taking care of their horse they repaired to the house to spend the evening. When in the wee hours of the morning they went to get their horse it could not be found. After searching several minutes they started with a lantern to walk home, a distance of about three and a half miles. The horse they found had strayed back home and was soundly slumbering at daybreak.

FITCH SENT TO PRISON

Sentence Imposed on Old
Non-Support Charge.

(From Delhi correspondent.)

Guy Fitch, formerly of Delhi and who some three or four years since was sentenced to Auburn for non-support of his children, came voluntarily before Judge McNaught at his chambers on Monday last and pleaded guilty to having broken his parole as the original sentence to Auburn was suspended. The judge revoked the suspending of the sentence, so at the present a term of not less than one year nor more than eighteen months faces the culprit. His former wife, who was a Delhi woman, secured a divorce and has again married and Mr. Fitch recently was married at Susquehanna, Pa., to Mrs. Susie Kinch, formerly of Walton, and the couple came to Walton to live.

NEW RECORD MADE IN BANK DEPOSITS

County Institutions Reflect
Easier Money Conditions

LOANS SHOW INCREASE

Reports Show Over Million
More Deposited Than Banks
Had One Year Ago.

Deposits of the seventeen national banks in Delaware county reached a new high mark on Dec. 29, 1922, as shown by the reports made to the comptroller at the close of business on that date. Total deposits amounted to \$10,939,146. This compares with \$9,732,250 on Dec. 31,

1921, \$10,240,437 on June 30, 1922, and \$10,789,182 on Sept. 15, 1922.

Loans on Dec. 29 aggregated \$8,094,807, reflecting the seasonal demand for credit. A year ago the loans were \$7,842,881. In June they had increased to \$8,029,822 and on September 15 again decreased to \$7,580,944.

Bills payable and rediscounts representing money borrowed to meet calls for loans totaled \$649,993 on Dec. 29. On Sept. 15 they were \$205,325 and on June 30, \$1,076,967. Rediscounts and bills payable were as follows: On Downsville, \$23,000; Delhi, \$40,000; Deposit, \$63,000; Franklin, \$102,000; Hamden, \$28,951; Hancock, \$25,000; First National of Fleischmanns, \$85,000; Citizen's of Fleischmanns, \$45,000; Roxbury, \$60,000; Stamford, \$136,321; Hobart, \$21,721.

The following table shows the amount of deposits and loans of each bank on Dec. 29, 1922:

	Deposits	Loans
Andes	\$ 176,908	\$ 121,495
Downsville	348,160	265,541
Delhi	1,264,028	973,424
Deposit	697,904	652,596
Franklin	411,535	242,788
Hamden	214,199	171,327
Hancock	754,298	382,626
Margaretville	743,116	231,385
Fleischmanns:		
First Nat'l	323,040	391,890
Citizen's	330,256	307,170
Roxbury	413,778	270,639
Grand Gorge	553,898	193,680
Sidney:		
National	1,046,853	882,556
People's	480,876	286,293
Stamford	1,009,753	868,527
Hobart	329,601	485,487
Walton	1,840,943	1,367,383

\$10,939,146 \$8,094,807

STOLE FROM ERIE RAILROAD

Charles Orme Enters County
Jail As Buchanan Goes to
Prison.

(From Delhi correspondent.)

Charles B. Orme was lodged in the county jail to serve a 60-day sentence imposed by Justice Mallory of East Branch, the prisoner having been convicted of stealing from the belongings of the Erie railroad. Orme is out on parole from an institution in Indiana.

Clarence Buchanan of Deposit, who was serving a 60-day sentence for assault and whose term expired a day or two since, was taken by a representative of Auburn prison back to that institution, to complete a sentence, he having broken his parole, direct from the Delhi jail.

At least two-thirds of the younger men brought to Delaware county jail are ex-service men. This fact may well be explained, however, as probably that proportion of young men of draft age served in the army or navy.

Death of Andes Girl.

(From Andes correspondent.)

Miss Lillian Williams, the 13-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Williams, of Andes, died suddenly Friday afternoon after a brief illness of five days. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her as she was loved by everyone. Death was caused by pneumonia following scarlet fever.

Found Dead in Bed.

(From East Branch correspondent.)

Ira Peets was found dead in his bed at his home at East Branch Tuesday morning. Mr. Peets lived alone and had been growing feeble for some time.

Stamford's Widows Row.

(From Stamford correspondent.)

Eighteen widows reside on East Main street, Stamford, nearly all in joining homes.