

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1922

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About
at the County Hub

GEORGE TACY FARM SOLD

**Fell and Broke Kneecap
- Ancient Ford Blew Up -
Bicycles Collide - Death of a
Child.**

At the recent election of the Walton chapter of the American Red Cross Rev. F. C. Davidson was chosen as chairman of the executive committee for the ensuing year.

Much malicious mischief was done on halloween, Tuesday night, as well as the usual harmless pranks. In recent years halloween in Walton has become little more than a night of pure rowdyism.

A. M. Thomson, who recently purchased the George S. Wake-man farm, Third brook, has purchased of Meridale Farms a valuable Jersey bull, Sayda's Sperm-field Medalist, to head his herd of Jerseys.

Mrs. Ida Houck of Burton street slipped on the linoleum in her kitchen last Thursday and in falling struck her right knee against the rocker of a chair, fracturing the kneecap. Dr. E. Ray Gladstone is the attending physician.

Barney Wallace, the junk dealer, built a fire under an old Ford one day recently to burn off the woodwork and reduce the metal to junk. He was standing nearby when the gasoline tank of the machine exploded, burning him painfully.

Mrs. Augusta Udell of Mead street fell down the cellar stairs of her home last Thursday and broke her left leg below the knee. On account of Mrs. Udell's advanced age the shock of the accident has been serious. Dr. W. R. Gladstone attends her.

Dr. W. B. Morrow, attended the convention of the New York and New England Association of Railroad Physicians held Friday and Saturday in the Hotel McAlpin, New York. Dr. Morrow has been a member of the association for thirty-one years.

Ten weaving machines have been moved to the Walton plant from the Kayser silk mill at Palatine Bridge, near Utica, and two more will be moved soon. The Palatine Bridge plant has been closed and several families will move from there to Walton and work in the local mill.

Ray McDonald of Colchester was struck on the head by a log chain Wednesday and knocked unconscious by the blow. He also suffered a severe scalp wound. McDonald was riding on the end of a load of logs when a chain used to bind the logs broke and the end flew back and struck him.

The Chamber of Commerce at a meeting Monday evening voted to contribute the sum of ten dollars a month for the ensuing year toward the maintenance of the rest room over the Fundas candy store, Delaware street. It was also voted to have road signs directing motorists to Walton placed along highways in this section.

The machines of William Mead and Howard Northrup were in a collision Monday evening. But instead of the machines being automobiles they were bicycles. The accident occurred at the corner of William Street and Stockton avenue while Mead was on his way home from the Kayser silk mill and Northrup was riding up

Stockton avenue. In the words of the usual automobile story "both machines were wrecked."

Harriet Marie Perry, the four year old daughter of Mrs. W. E. Hansen, East brook road, died Friday from acute Bright's disease following scarlet fever. The funeral was held Saturday morning at 11 o'clock, conducted by Rev. F. C. Davidson, with burial in the Walton cemetery. Little Marie is survived by her mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Hansen, and by four brothers and sisters, Helena I., Bernice L., Beatrice L., and Merion Perry.

George S. Tacy has sold his farm on the Hamden road just outside Walton village to Harry and Donald McLaughlin of Hamden who will take possession Nov. 15. The sale includes the personal property including some fifty head of stock and all farming tools. In the deal the McLaughlins trade in the Fancher house, North street, which Mr. and Mrs. George Tacy will occupy when they move to the village. The farm contains upwards of 200 acres, including river flat, and there are two houses on the property. The reported purchase price, which is not confirmed, was given on the street as \$30,000.

A suit brought by E. E. Risley of Oneonta, formerly of Walton against Clifford Fitch, Mrs. Nathan Jenkins and the estate of Louis Allen, was tried in Walton Wednesday and Thursday before H. C. Stratton of Oxford as referee. The action is to recover \$2,500 which it is claimed was the purchase price of Ragapple Inca Segis, a registered Holstein bull bid in by the defendants at an auction sale held by Mr. Risley in 1919 at his Third brook farm. The defense is that the bull was sold conditionally, and that the conditions of the guarantee were not fulfilled. A. G. Patterson tried the case for Mr. Risley. A. E. Conner represented the Allen estate and C. C. Flaesch of Unadilla appeared for Mr. Fitch and Mrs. Jenkins.

JAIL DELIVERY FAILS ON VERGE OF SUCCESS

Unable to Bend Window Bar
After Gaining Corridor

WHICH PRISONER DID IT?

Sawed Steel Bars to Alleyway
But Failed to Make Escape
from Building.

(From Delhi correspondent.)
Wednesday morning when under sheriff, L. J. Stewart, went in the cell compartment of the county jail in Delhi to give the prisoners their breakfast, he discovered an attempt had been made to break jail on the part of some of the prisoners.

There are four cells in a tier with slide doors which lock automatically with a lever from the outside corridor. In front of these cells is a steel grating with bars and cross bars a few inches apart, extending to the ceiling and leaving a narrow alley between the cell doors and this protecting screen of steel. Next the concrete floor two steel bars were found sawed off, leaving an opening eleven by twelve inches. Through this opening a prisoner had crawled and then having access to the larger outside corridor had sawed off one end of a bar in the grating protecting a window which opened out upon the great outside world and only a few feet above the ground. Then an attempt had been made to bend this bar to one side which if it had been entirely removed would have left an opening seven by fourteen inches. Not being able to remove the bar entirely the prisoner was unable to make his exit nor to release the others.

The mysterious part of the affair to Sheriff Arbuckle was that in the morning all the prisoners

were safely locked in their cells and no tampering had been done with the steel bars that form the cell doors. This was all the more mysterious as surrounding circumstances showed it was an inside job. Upon search being made pieces of a hack saw were found and pieces of the rung of a stool which had been used as a handle for the saw. While the doors are locked by a lever in the main corridor, the sheriff or officer in attendance tries each cell door to be certain they are locked when closing the cells for the night and so the mystery deepened as to how at least one prisoner had got out of his cell in the night to work hours sawing the bars when there were no keys or key holes connected with the doors and each morning everybody was found safely locked up.

During the day the sheriff feels that he has figured out how the trick was turned. A little piece of wood, a mere sliver, was inserted against the casing of the door on the side where the fastening acts and so prevented the proper result from the working of the lever from the corridor when the door went shut. Then to account for the door seeming to be fastened when tested by hand was the next problem. Some ordinary spools were found about the cells and it was discovered that when two of them were placed end to end and placed between one of the bars of the door and the casing opposite the side where the locking took place it formed a brace that held the slide door firmly in place when one went to shove it open, but when removed the door could be opened at will and so the mystery was solved. Russell Clark of Hobart, with his portable electric welder, was called and soon all damage had been repaired.

The three prisoners whose doors opened on the corridor where the bars were sawed are Brownrigg, indicted for forgery; Frisbee for transporting liquor and Williams for attempted safe robbery. It would appear very likely if the hack saw had not broken that an escape would have to be chronicled.

JURY GIVES HEART BALM

Miss Lent Awarded \$1,750 in
Breach of Promise Case

CLAIM BUDINE A MINOR

Case Hinges on Point
Whether Defendant Was
of Age and Able to Make
Contract Alleged.

(From Delhi correspondent.)
A verdict of \$1,750 for alleged breach of promise was returned Friday by a jury in supreme court in Delhi in the case of Miss Irene E. Lent of Cornwall against Lawrence Budine of Walton.

There was nothing sensational in the way of testimony brought out in the case. Evidence was presented by the plaintiff showing that a diamond ring had been presented to her; that love letters had been written her; that the defendant had told her relatives that they were to be married and presented this as a reason to one member of her family why they should go in business together.

The defense seemed to rest their case largely on the allegation that the defendant was a minor when the contract was made if any such contract was ever entered into. The defendant had given his age at the time of his marriage to Mrs. Hazel Lakin as 23. Testimony was conflicting on this point but Mr. Budine's parents declared that he was only 20 at the time of the alleged engagement to Miss Lent. The jury were not long in deliberating and brought in a verdict of \$1,750 in favor of Miss Lent.

Henry Hunter of Newburgh and Arthur Patterson of Walton appeared for Miss Lent and A. D. Peake and A. Lindsay O'Connor appeared for the defendant. A motion was made to set aside the

verdict upon which decision was reserved.

The next case called was of brief duration. The action was that of Earl and Herbert McKown against Fred H. and Bertha Berray on a contract. The plaintiff's attorney, Lincoln L. Kellogg, presented briefly the evidence for McKown, the plaintiffs, and when he rested Charles Flaesch, attorney for the Berrays, the defendants, moved for a non-suit which was granted by Justice Tuthill.

MAN WHO KILLED GAY ENDS HIS OWN LIFE

Lifeless Body of William H.
Fritts Found Hanging in
Barn Last Sunday

William Henry Fritts, a native and long time resident of the town of Franklin, ended his life by hanging at noon on Sunday.

He was employed on the farm of George Wasson, on the Franklin turnpike road and had helped about the chores in the morning and when he was not seen about for some time a search was made which resulted in finding his lifeless body hanging from one of the beams of the barn.

Fritts was 68 years of age and was well known in the vicinity of North Franklin. It is believed that he was despondent because of ill health, he having suffered seriously from rheumatism of late and having reached a time when he felt he could no longer work and earn a livelihood.

More than a score of years ago he shot and killed his more prosperous neighbor, Jotham Gay, at North Franklin, charging that Gay had been intimate with his wife and had refused to make the cash settlement promised. Since his release from prison Fritts has been unfortunate in many ways, Fritts leaves a wife, five children and one sister.

HUNTERS AFTER DEER

Animals are plentiful in
Catskills This Year.

(From Catskill correspondent.)

With the stage all set by finding the remains of a doe up the Olive-vea Valley, near Big Indian, by state troopers, and a young buck deer killed near Phoenicia by a train, and the return of hunters with game, who have been in the Adirondacks, the curtain opened at sunrise on Wednesday to our deer season.

Towns lying advantageously to old trails and reputable regions are being filled with hunters. Especially will you find this true of Phoenicia which is the center of a great hunting ground. Camps in the Woodland Valley are being occupied and auto camp sites along the highways are being tenanted.

Many deer have been seen up the Stony Clove Valley. Hunters are tramping the Esopus Valley to Cold Brook and Ashokan and the ridges to the north from there down are being closely watched. Old hunters say this season promises good sport as there appears to be many more deer in the mountains this year than last.

LICENSE PLATES NOVEMBER 15

State Automobile Bureau
Will Distribute Plates About
That Date.

Otsego county owners of automobiles will, on application, receive their automobile license plates for 1923, about Nov. 15, as the automobile license bureau of the state tax department is preparing for their distribution on or about that date.

The plates will be distributed from the New York city office of the commission of which Bert Lord is director, and by the county clerks of other counties, excepting Erie county, where they also will be given out at the

commission's branch office.

The law provides that where an owner sells his car the original certificate of registration must be produced and signed by both parties.

QUIETED BOYS WITH BUCKSHOT

Harpersfield Man Wounds
Hobart Youth on Halloween.

Angered because a group of boys animated by the spirit of halloween tried to move a wagon out of his yard Tuesday evening, Fred Van Deusen, a Harpersfield farmer, opened fire on the lads with a shotgun, wounding Charley Maney of Hobart quite severely. Maney, who has been installing farm lighting plants in the vicinity for his brother-in-law, Hugh King, of Hobart, received most of the charge of good sized shot in his back and shoulders. He was taken to the office of Dr. G. L. Hubbell in Stamford and later removed to his home in Hobart where he is under the care of his sister, a trained nurse. It is feared that blood poisoning may result.

VanDeusen, anticipating halloween pranks, had hidden himself in the barn, leaving the door open.

MRS. ALLEN'S COWS CONDEMNED.

(From Loomis correspondent.)

A state inspector was at the farm of Mrs. Louis Allen, Third brook, last week testing the cows for tuberculosis and out of a dairy of 27 cows 26 reacted and were condemned and will be shipped this week to Albany. It is stated that Mrs. Allen may recover a sum totalling \$160 each. There was one cow amongst them which cost when purchased a clean \$1,000. Mrs. Allen will give up farming for the present and move down to her mother's home where she can give more time to the care of her mother, Mrs. E. D. Finch, who is in very poor health.

LINEMAN GOT A JAR

Fell Twenty Feet to Ground
When Strap Broke.

(From Hancock correspondent.)

Delos Gibson of Hancock, fireman at the New York Transit company, was sent out last week over the pipe line to locate some trouble with the telegraph wires. Near Long Eddy he found some of the wires out of commission and had to climb the telegraph pole. When about twenty feet from the ground the strap which he had around his body and pole broke letting him fall to the ground. He escaped serious injury but suffered a bad shaking up. He was able to walk on to Long Eddy and returned home next day. For several days he was quite lame and sore.

BLOOMVILLE CAR OVERTURNS.

James Davidson of Bloomville had a narrow escape from a serious accident Friday evening near Andes, when his Ford touring car skidded on the wet road and turned completely over in the ditch. He was accompanied by two friends, but aside from a broken top and windshield no damage was done. All the occupants escaped without a scratch.

KILLED ALBINO SQUIRREL.

(From Fish's Eddy correspondent.)

Cody Lewis, one of our local hunters, killed what is apparently an albino squirrel, a few days ago on Big island. The animal is the size and shape of the ordinary red squirrel. The fur is pure white as well as the tail and the eyes are pink like those of a white rat. The skin may be seen at the home of Albert Leonard where Mr. Lewis is stopping.