

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1922

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About
at the County Hub

VILLAGE BONDS ARE SOLD

Inter-church Athletics—
Truck Broke Woman's
Ankle—Florida Travelers in
Wreck—Broke Right Arm.

Harry Thomas has opened a market at 33 West street, near the Nestle creamery.

At a recent special meeting of the Walton fair association it was voted to incorporate as a stock company and to sell \$15,000 of stock at \$50 a share. The annual meeting for the election of officers will be held Dec. 16.

Douglas VanGorden, nine months old son of Mr. and Mrs. A. I. Van Gorden of Binghamton, formerly of Walton, died Monday of pneumonia. The body was brought to Walton where the burial service was held Wednesday.

The Walton high school basket ball five opened the season Friday evening in the high school auditorium by defeating Margaretville by a score of 31 to 19. The playing was fast throughout and by winning the first game Walton makes a good start in the county championship race.

At the annual election of officers of Fancher Hook and Ladder company, No. 3, held Monday evening the following officers were chosen: Foreman, Samuel H. Fancher; assistant foreman, J. Ward Palmer; secretary, George Rutherford; treasurer, Fred B. Lyon; steward, Charles M. Evans.

Harry Hall, proprietor of the uptown garage at Hamden, had the misfortune Sabbath to break his right arm while pushing a car back out of the way. The machine had been locked by the owner and Hall and Claude Sands started to push the machine back out of the way. In doing so Hall's arm was caught between the car and the building and the bone broken. Mr. Hall is a former Walton man.

On Tuesday evening a meeting of the ministerial association and one representative from each church was held in the parish house to discuss forming an inter-Church athletic league. At the meeting it was voted that an athletic council of two members from each church be formed and that a schedule of indoor baseball games be played between teams representing the different churches. The first game will probably be played next week.

Mrs. Verne Francisco of East brook had her left leg broken at the ankle recently. She had gone to Rockroyal where her son, who lives on Bullock hill, met her with a truck to take her to his home for a visit. Going up a hill the Ford truck stalled and Mrs. Francisco got out to push. When the driver tried to start up the wheels spun and Mrs. Francisco, who was standing near the rear wheel was caught in some way by the chain and thrown down, fracturing her ankle. Dr. W. G. Smith reduced the fracture.

While Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Brown were on their way from Purdys Station to Florida recently, their train collided with a heavy freight train. The accident occurred about four o'clock in the morning while the train was passing through South Carolina. One woman was killed and several others severely injured. Mrs. Brown, who will be remembered as Miss Mina Shepard before her marriage, in a

letter to her sister, Miss Lizzie Shepard, states that she received painful muscular injuries about the chest in the accident.

Bids for the sale of the \$16,000 of bonds authorized by the taxpayers of Walton village recently to meet the deficiency on the highway improvement last year were opened by the village board Monday evening. The bonds were sold to George B. Gibbons & Co. of New York, whose bid was 100.34 on a 4.70 per cent interest; Sherwood, Merrifield Co., New York, 100.51 at 4.75 per cent interest; First National bank of Walton, 100 at 4.75 per cent.

Conductor Charles G. Robinson has resigned his position with the Ontario & Western railroad after forty years' service. Ill health brought on by a nervous breakdown led to Mr. Robinson's severing his connection with the company with which he has so long been associated. He is one of the oldest employees on the road in point of service. Entering the employ of the company forty years ago he became conductor in 1890. Many who have become acquainted with Conductor Robinson through courtesies extended to them while on railroad journeys will regret to learn of his retirement from active service.

The quarterly meeting of Delaware County Pomona Grange will be held in Walton Tuesday, Dec. 12, with an all day meeting. At the morning session reports and business will be taken up and delegates will be elected to the State Grange meeting to be held in Syracuse in February. In the afternoon Prof. M. P. Rasmussen of the Department of Farm Management will speak in regard to farm accounts. This session will be open to the public. In the evening the fifth degree will be conferred and a short farce will be given by Walton Grange. Dinner will be provided the delegates and visitors by the Walton Grange.

TURKEYS ON HIGHWAYS SEEN IN OLDEN DAYS

Birds Were Driven to Market
at Catskill and Kingston

GEESE HAD TO BE SHOD

Very Few Turkeys Now
Raised in County Compared
with Fifty Years Ago.

(From Delhi cor.)

We noticed in the Reporter last week that some Walton observer noted the fact that but few, if any, turkeys were to be seen about the farms of Walton. Had he taken a wider survey he could have remarked that but few were to be found on the farms anywhere in Delaware county.

In the early days of its history many turkeys were raised in Delaware county. Before the railroads had found their serpentine paths up and through the mountains of our county the turkeys were dressed, boxed and hauled to tidewater at Catskill or Kingston by the farmers or the regular teamsters of that day and then went by boat to New York. However, back in the days referred to, it was no uncommon sight to see a large flock or drove of turkeys being driven along the highway to market. I have talked with men who in their younger days had helped to drive the drove. They informed me that the turkeys would follow the trail without trouble but that there was one peculiarity about a flock of turkeys which were going on foot to market that sometimes was quite annoying. A drove of turkeys, like a drove of cattle, sheep or men always had a recognized leader and when this boss gob-

bler turkey made up his mind to go to roost and had selected the trees that seemed to please him up he went, and all the flock would follow and sometimes on a gloomy day late in the fall this notion of going to roost would get in the gobbler's head as early as 3 o'clock in the afternoon and sometimes even earlier.

In these early days even geese were driven to market on foot, but these birds, accustomed to only the soft ground about barnyards and streams, had very tender feet and could not stand the hard roads of the highway, so they had to be shod for the trip and this was so much trouble not many droves of geese were driven to market. Even long after the railroads had threaded our county—before Thanksgiving and Christmas, about the stations one would see small boxes and large of dressed turkeys waiting transportation to the city markets. A few days since I asked a farmer who was accustomed to having a large flock of turkeys why he did not raise them any more. He replied that grain was high and besides it was a lot of bother and trouble. This answer satisfied me until a day or two before the past Thanksgiving at which time I bought a turkey of a farmer. It was a nice one and dressed and weighed a little less than fifteen pounds and cost me just \$10. Yes, it took an American eagle to get a turkey. Then I began "to think of these things." The other farmer had told me it did not pay to raise turkeys because it was a lot of bother and trouble and grain was high. A few years since when many turkeys were shipped 14 to 16 cents per pound was considered a fair price.

This fowl is a range bird and during quite a portion of its career gets quite a bit of its living out in the fields and woods—grasshoppers, bugs, and worms and in favorable years gets fat on the beech nuts. Grain does not cost more than twice as much now as when turkeys sold for 14 to 16 cents per pound and grasshoppers and beech nuts about the same old price, so that it would be a fair business to raise turkeys at 60 to 70 cents per pound, the prevailing price. The American eagle is a bird that takes it fight in the upper heavens and with the present soaring of the American turkey I think soon they will be companion birds and that the Irishman's toast to the eagle will apply to both birds:

"Here is to the American eagle, Proud bird of freedom—all hail: The fowl no one can inveigle Nor put salt on its beautiful tail."

BUY COAL AT \$13 TO RELIEVE SHORTAGE

Fuel Purchased From
Independents at High Figure

VILLAGE OFFICIALS BUSY

Buy Six Carloads at
Mines to Meet Most Acute
Needs of Walton Residents.

A. J. Courtney, president of Walton village, and Trustees H. M. Barnhart and J. J. Farrell, went to Scranton Tuesday to see about purchasing a carload of independent coal for use in Walton hall and also to investigate the coal situation at first hand to see whether it is possible to get any independent coal cheaper than \$13 at the mines.

While in Scranton the committee contracted for the purchase of six cars of coal, some for immediate delivery. Two cars of this is so-called chunk coal, or anthracite just as it comes from the mines before going through the breakers. This coal must be broken by the consumer before it can be used. The price at the mines was \$8 a ton. Two cars of chestnut were bought at \$13 at the mines and two cars of mixed chestnut, pea, and buckwheat at an average price of \$10 a ton at the mines. To these prices must be added the freight and cost of

delivery, which will total between \$3 and \$4 a ton. The coal will be sold for cash only to those whose needs are acute. Street Commissioner J. A. Robinson will have charge of distribution.

The two local dealers, E. R. Howland and the Camp company, have done everything possible to secure coal from the association companies which sell coal at the mines at about \$8 a ton, making it possible to retail in Walton at \$12.75. Last December the two firms handled about 20 carloads of coal. Mr. Howland has been informed that he will be allotted only three carloads in December and the Camp company has received notice that their letter has been placed on file but probably no coal can be shipped this month. The state fuel administration has repeatedly given assurance that allotments from association companies would be 70 per cent of normal, but these assurances have proven without foundation.

The retail dealers are able to sell the association coal at \$12.75 and to relieve the acute shortage this week one dealer bought a carload of independent coal for which he paid \$13 at the mine. This was retailed at \$17.50 per ton. The freight is \$2.27 per ton, giving an allowance of \$2.25 for cost of delivery and profit as by the state fuel administration.

The local dealers have decided that they will buy independent coal if the people are willing to pay the price. A comparison with the quotations given the village officials shows that independent chestnut coal will cost over \$16 delivered so that it can be seen that the margin of profit for the capital required is small.

The matter of the establishment of a community woodyard has been suggested as partial help to the solution of the fuel shortage which faces Walton this winter.

PRISON TERM GIVEN PROMOTER RODGERS

Fleeced Laborers in Stock
Sale in Which Walton
Factory Figured

E. Bromley Rodgers, 39, of 507 Bloomfield avenue, Hoboken, formerly president of the "Scientific Automotive company," at 74 Worth street, New York, was sentenced by Judge Nott in general sessions in New York last week to serve from one and a half to two and a half years in Sing Sing prison. He was convicted of grand larceny.

Through advertisements that his company was a co-operative enterprise in which workers and managers shared equally, Rodgers is alleged to have swindled laborers of more than \$25,000. One of his advertisements read: "Automobile mechanics, tool-makers, auto assemblers, first-class men only, co-operative opportunity; every worker an owner; 70 cents to 90 cents an hour."

Workmen in court during the trial testified that plenty of stock was for sale but no jobs were to be had. To prospective victims a prospectus was shown describing a wonderful plant in Walton engaged in turning out thousands of motorcycles so that henceforth no workman need ever walk to work. The only basis of such a plant's existence was the fact that Rodgers paid one month's rent for the former Munn piano factory in Walton. H. M. Robinson and S. T. H. Knight of Walton were called to New York as witnesses at the trial.

CRUSHED UNDER LOGS WHEN CHAIN BROKE

Hancock Man Nearly Buried
Under Timbers Released by
Binder Giving Way

(From Hancock cor.)

Bayne Peterson of Hancock was seriously injured Tuesday morning when crushed under a load of logs.

Last spring Mr. Peterson pur-

chased the John Houghtaling farm on Sands creek and of late he has been cutting logs and drawing them to the Cadosia manufacturing company's factory at Cadosia. Tuesday he went into the woods, got a big load and started out with them. He had not gone very far when the binding chain broke letting the logs fall off the wagon and carrying Mr. Peterson with them so that he was nearly buried under the timbers.

When his cries were heard and neighbors hastened to his assistance nothing could be seen of him except his head, five big logs resting on the rest of his body. When he was gotten out it was found his right arm was crushed and it is feared he is injured internally. The result of his injuries will not be known for several days. Mr. Peterson has not been in this country very long, coming from Denmark about one year ago. He is a hard working man and has the sympathy of the entire community.

LEG SHATTERED BY SHOT

Rockland Boy Wounded by
Gun in Hands of Companion

BONE WIRED TOGETHER

Weapon Discharged
When Boys Started
Cleaning in Evening After
a Day's Hunting.

(From Rockland cor.)

Cleveland Darbee, the 14 year old son of Samuel Darbee of Rockland, had his leg shattered Friday night by a charge of buckshot from the accidental discharge of a shotgun.

Young Darbee had been visiting his boy friend, Chester Thorington, at the home of the Thorington boy's father, Albert Thorington, at Spring brook. The boys went out hunting that afternoon and about 10 o'clock in the evening after the family retired they took down their shotguns to clean. In some manner the gun held by Chester Thorington was discharged and the charge of buckshot was driven through Darbee's leg above the knee badly shattering the bone.

Dr. J. A. Miller of Roscoe was at once summoned. The wound bled profusely and the wounded boy showed remarkable grit in giving directions for applying a tourniquet to stop the flow of blood. On the first dressing of the wound nine buckshot were removed from the femur bone by Dr. Miller.

Drs. Miller and Selleck operated the following morning when the broken bone was set and successfully wired together. The lad was taken to his home in Rockland where he is being cared for by his mother and Miss Reichman, nurse.

SIDEWALK ON "DRY BRIDGE"

Railroad Will Erect
New Steel Structure Later.

F. J. Myers, representing the Ontario & Western railroad, met with the village board Monday evening when an agreement was reached whereby a sidewalk will be added to the northern side of the bridge over the railroad tracks on Burton street known as "dry bridge." The railroad will construct the hangers and the village will pay the cost of the sidewalk itself. A new survey will be made and within a short time it is stated that the railroad company plans to erect a new bridge at this point so as to permit of a double track beneath for switching purposes. Such a bridge would be of concrete and steel construction. President Courtney and the village trustees have been trying to secure action by the railroad in this matter for a long period of time, and the assurance received that something will now be done will be favorably received by all who must travel over the bridge.