

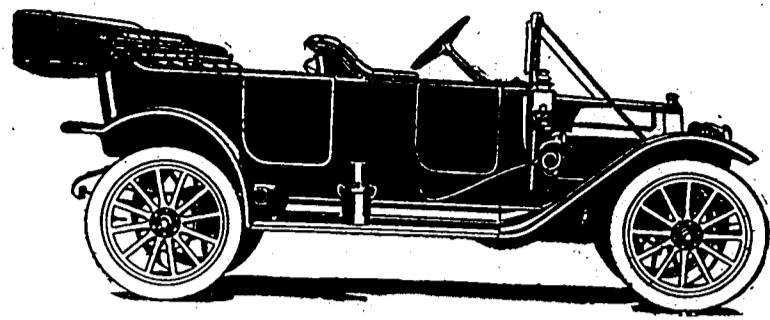
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Ayer, Mass., Saturday, May 4, 1912.

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AYER, MASS.

SHIRLEY.

News Items.

Ex-Chief of police, Irving F. Goodwin, and family, left town on Wednesday for their new home in Milford, N. H., where Mr. Goodwin has secured a position on the force as night patrolman.

The C. A. Edgarton Mfg. Co., are still continuing to beautify the grounds adjacent to their works. A hedge is now being planted from the west end of the main shop to the leather store.

George H. Wilson has hired the house on Harvard road vacated by the Goodwin family.

The Cormier and the Poutbriand families moved to Canada to remain permanently on Wednesday.

Nelson Hewes, who has been sick with pneumonia, and whose serious condition a few days ago alarmed his family and friends, is now able to sit up. His wife's father has arrived at his home in response to a telegram, which was sent when his condition was so critical.

Pomona Meeting.

The Middlesex-Worcester Pomona grange held its regular meeting on Thursday at town hall, Shirley Center. The meeting was opened at 10:30 in the morning with about seventy-five present. A most practical and sincere address of welcome was given by Ardie A. Adams, master of the Shirley grange, which was followed with a very appropriate response by Mr. Proctor of Townsend.

A very interesting paper was then read from Mrs. L. E. Starr, of Pepprell, by Millard S. Sawyer, master of Groton grange, on the subject of "Noted women of Massachusetts." The program of entertainment was then given by the following: Recitation, Mrs. Alice E. Cummings; song, Mrs. Woolley; duet, Miss Barrows and Mrs. Sawyer of Groton. This closed the morning session, and at 12:30 about one hundred partook of a bountiful dinner in charge of M. W. Carey.

The afternoon session was especially interesting, the exercises opening with a fine address by James Harrington, of Lunenburg, on the subject of "How far does the burden of taxation affect the high cost of living?" This was followed with a timely and present-day topic by Rev. H. L. Packard, of Littleton, on the subject, "Who is most deeply interested in the cost of living—the producer or the consumer?" A reading was then given by Miss Ruth Graves, which was followed with a song by Miss Alison Winslow, which was considered the special treat of the entertaining features on the day's program.

Miss Alice Carpenter, of Boston, was then introduced, and spoke in place of Mrs. Starr on the subject of "Woman's suffrage," whose earnestness and convincing language aroused all present to a sincere interest in her subject. A singing vote of thanks was given Miss Carpenter. A recitation was then given by Mrs. Stevens, followed by a song by Mrs. Woolley and a reading by Mrs. Graves.

Mr. Proctor then gave a brief, but sterling address on "How women became admitted to grange order; also how the grange received its name and other important points in connection with the grange. Mr. Proctor will give at the next meeting the history and origin of the grange, which time would not permit at this meeting.

The day set for the Pomona picnic was the last Saturday in July, at the town park, Ayer, if fair. If it should be stormy, it will be held in the town hall, Ayer. N. P. Hull, national lecturer, of Dimondale, Mich., will be one of the speakers, and Charles Gardner, of Westfield, state master, will also be present.

Deaths.

Seth Ramsell Holden, Shirley's oldest resident, passed away on Thursday morning at his home in the Center, of heart disease. Mr. Holden has been failing in health since last November. Funeral will be held in his late home at the Center on Saturday afternoon, May 4, at two o'clock.

Mr. Holden was born in Shirley on January 19, 1826, and was married on January 1, 1852, to Miss

Esther Ann Jenkins. He was a carpenter by trade, but for a great many years has engaged in farming, making a specialty of growing strawberries and plums. He was the originator of the Shirley strawberry, and even up to last year he raised fine strawberries for the market. Besides a wife, he leaves two sons, Edward J. Holden, of Ayer, and Herbert E. Holden, of Leominster. Mr. Holden has always resided in Shirley and was the possessor of the Boston Post gold-headed cane.

Mrs. Mary J. (Holt) Colburn, aged 55 years and 8 months, died on Wednesday, May 1, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Viola Hodgman, Woods Village, from the effects of a general breaking up of old age. Funeral services were held on Friday afternoon at two o'clock, from the home of her daughter, Rev. Allen A. Bronson officiating.

Mrs. Colburn recently lost her husband and son through death, both dying the same day. She has been a resident of Shirley for twelve years. Her survivors are one son, Walter Colburn, of Somerville, and one daughter, Mrs. Viola Hodgman, of Shirley. Burial was in the Center cemetery. The bodies of her husband and son, which have been in the tomb, were buried at the same time.

LITTLETON.

News Items.

A company of men working for the United States government in the agricultural department, has been doing good work clearing away brush and cutting down trees, excepting one here and there, left for shade, on each side of New Estate road, within a distance of thirty feet of the highway. The men piled up and then burned the wood into four-foot lengths, and then put cressets on the gypsy mounds.

The bells rang for five on last Saturday evening, and not a few rushed to the residence of W. H. Deatour, in a few neighbors enjoying a brush fire which was entirely within control.

Thomas Moore has recently acquired a new automobile.

E. B. Priest and his mother, Mrs. Mary J. Priest, attended the funeral of Mrs. Sarah Priest in Charlestown on last Sunday. The deceased, ninety years of age, the mother of John Priest, city clerk of Boston, whose death occurred but a few weeks ago. She was formerly a resident of Littleton, but for many years had made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Boddy, in Charlestown.

On last Sunday, Mrs. E. P. Wilcox presented the Unitarian Sunday school with a picture of Charles W. Eliot, ex-president of Harvard college.

M. W. Leahy took a number from the Guild to the Unitarian church in Groton last Sunday evening.

Rev. Paul G. Favor, pastor of the Prospect Hill Congregational church, Somerville, has been engaged to preach at Hanover, N. H., during the two months of his vacation this summer.

The Backlog club will give a sunset party in town hall on May 10. Dancing for the children at the usual hours, four until six in the afternoon, and one until eight in the evening. Supper at 6:30 o'clock, and dancing for the older people from eight until eleven o'clock. Thayer's orchestra has been engaged for the party.

M. W. Leahy sent seven double teams to Winchendon on Monday to work for the same man that superintended the construction of the roadbed of the Ayer and Lowell street railway. Giles Barber and Edwin Loring each sent one team.

Mrs. Warren Flagg has been the guest of her sister, Mrs. Frank Gregory. Mr. Flagg was also in town for a short time. He is well pleased with his new occupation on the railroad and both Mr. and Mrs. Flagg enjoy Allston as a place of residence, although they prefer Littleton.

Mrs. Julia Davis, of Watertown, whose body was brought to town on Tuesday for burial in the family lot at Westlawn cemetery, was a native and for many years a resident of Littleton. She was the last of the Eli Davis family that lived in the Albert O. Lawrence house at Littleton Center. Since the death of her husband, which oc-

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