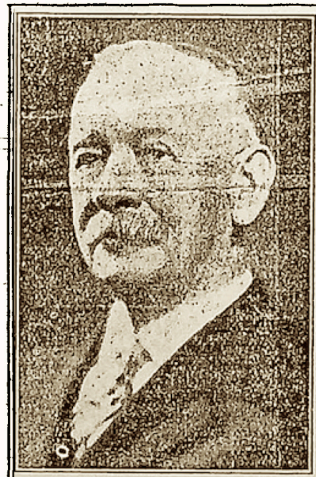
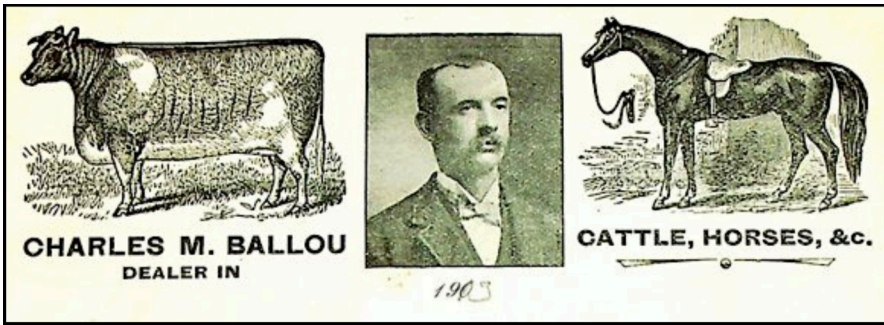


CHARLES BALLOU COLLECTION





The descendants of Stephen Cook Ballou (1845-1889) and Josephine M Beach Ballou (1846-1932) played important roles in the history of Wendell, Massachusetts. The Ballous had three children: Anna Bertha Ballou (1871-1900), who died a few days after the death of her newborn child, William Herbert Ballou (1869-1943), a well known merchant, and Charles Martin Ballou (1867-1946) a farmer, horse trader and politician. Charles' son Frank Ballou (1891-1963), was also involved in local politics and with his wife Etta H Robinson Ballou (1894-1969) operated the Brown Pitcher luncheonette and store in Wendell Center. (Property currently owned by Apollo Compagnone). Their son Robert E. Ballou (1922-2006) and Winona A. Bumford Ballou (1922-1997) owned what would eventually be known as the Wendell Country Store.

This collection contains clippings from the life of Charles M. Ballou, "a man whose influence pervaded Wendell's town government well into the twentieth century. Mr. Ballou held so many political offices - often simultaneously - that he sometimes seems to have run the town single-handedly. Indeed, this appears to have been his own perception as well.(1)

(1)Richardson, Pamela, Wendell, Massachusetts: Its Settlers and Citizenry, 1752-1900, p. 263.

Orange Enterprise.

ORANGE, MASS., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1891.

31.6
17

WENDELL.

The Baptist meeting-house seems to be undergoing quite a change both inside and out, since it became the property of Charles Ballou. The inside of the building has turned into a meat market and store house. The outside is receiving a coat of red paint with trimmings of white.

Walter Hover has gone to York State to visit his brother who lies at the point of death with consumption.

Mrs. S. C. Ballou has gone to Templeton expecting to stay for the winter.

Mrs. Anna Felton has gone to South Royalston to reside.

Mormon Hollow school commenced Monday, November 31, Miss Bachelder of Wendell taking charge of the school as teacher.

W. H. Ballou is newly painting his house with a coat of white paint.

Ladies' Aid Society met at Erastus Smith's, Wednesday, December 2.

William A. Ballou, who has a new store here, wishes people to call in and see his stock of goods, and we bespeak for him a share of the patronage of the public.

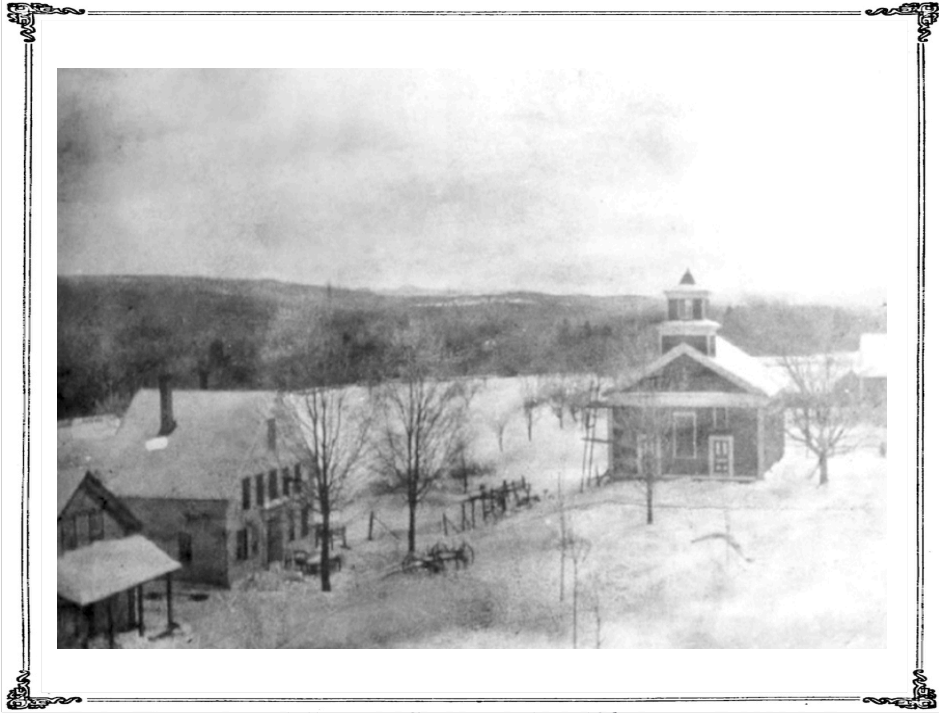


Former Baptist Church during Ballou ownership (colorized image).

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

A peculiar case has just come to light at Wendell that has caused much comment

among the townspeople. Several years ago a prominent Wendell man gave a piece of land to the Baptist society as a site for a church, but stipulated in the deed that when the society ceased to hold meetings the property should go back to the estate of the donor. The church was built and flourished many years when the town was one of the richest in the county. Later the town fell behind and the two churches in the town became poorly attended until the Baptist church was closed for good many years ago. Charles Ballou, son of the late S. G. Ballou, bought the title of the donor of the property, and on the ground that it had not been used for church purposes for several years at once took possession not only of the land, but of the building, and before the townspeople knew of the change, the church was converted into a meat market and provision store. The pews will soon give way for a carriage house, and thus the old church that has defied the storms of Wendell hill for nearly a century is now adorned with signs: "Meat Market," "Carriages and Wagons." Mr Ballou has taken the steeple off and also is giving the building a coat of paint. Of course, the society is up in arms and has obtained counsel and proposes to fight for its rights.



Wendell Town Common, late 19th century.

Springfield Republican, July 23, 1901

WENDELL.

Mr and Mrs Charles Ballou and four children were just returning from their berry pasture on the Blanchard place with their gray colt and covered carry-all when the colt took fright and all were thrown out. The colt and parts of the carry-all went home. Mrs Ballou was badly shaken up. The rest escaped with slight scratches. One of the boys in exploring found marauders on the field, who chased him till they ran into the overturned party.

Rev A. V. House preached very acceptably on Sunday, the 14th, in exchange with the pastor. He was accompanied by his mother and aunt, who are spending the summer with him. Charles Woodard and James Powers are shingling the town hall and the hearse-house.

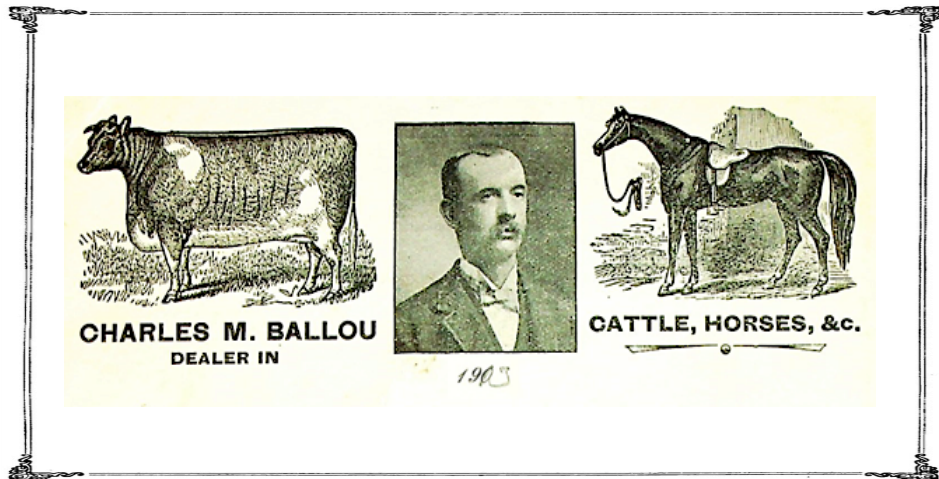
The blueberry season is now at its best. The low berries are unusually fine and abundant, and in many places the ground is "like a blue sheet." The high bushes have an average crop.

Superintendent Clark of the Baptist Sunday-school in Athol and Superintendent Sweeney of the Methodist school in South Athol were present at Sunday-school Sunday.

Rev J. C. Wightman of Farley is to preach Sunday morning and Rev W. L. Anderson of Moore's Corner in the evening.

The old Dr Andrews place was sold by M. B. Johnson last week to Mrs Josephine Ballou.

Mrs Freeman of North Prescott is spending a few weeks with Mrs William Ballou.



Springfield Republican, January 24, 1906

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

GREENFIELD.

Petitions for Annulment of Marriage.

Two petitions for the annulment of marriages filed at the office of the clerk of courts yesterday are the first filed since Clifton L. Field has been clerk of the superior court for the county. Burnhill R. Davis of Erving, an employe of the Millers Falls company, has, through an attorney, given reasons why his marriage to Miss Jennie Wright of Farley should be annulled. He states in the petition that while at work December 11, 1905, he was visited by the selectmen of Wendell, George A. Fleming, Andrew Baker and Charles Ballou, with a constable, and confinement in a jail was threatened if he did not marry Miss Wright. He further states that permission to visit counsel in Greenfield was denied. The marriage ceremony was performed by Nelson D. Plumb, town clerk and justice of the peace. Mr Davis alleges that a marriage license was issued by Mr Plumb, although he (Davis) was only 19 and that his age was given as 20 in the license. The grounds for seeking an annulment are that the restraint exercised was illegal and the license and marriage are illegal. It is understood that Davis and his wife have not lived together since their marriage. Arthur H. Carpenter of Charlemont is the second petitioner for the annulment of a marriage. His petition says that he was married at Hoosick Falls, N. Y., November 20, 1904, when 20 years of age, to Grace Rood of Williamstown, by Rev W. E. Webster, the bride being four years his senior at the time. The petitioner recites that on a visit to Williamstown in November, 1904, he saw Miss Rood and her father and that the latter threatened prosecution if he did not marry Grace. The petitioner further recites that he was not allowed to consult his father and that he was compelled to accompany Miss Rood to Hoosick Falls, N. Y., where the marriage took place. Undue influence and false and fraudulent representations are alleged as reasons for the annulment of the marriage. The father of Mrs Carpenter and the selectmen of Wendell believe there were good and sufficient reasons for the marriages, taking place in each case.

SEPT. 28, 1907

GAZETTE AND COURIER, GREENFIELD, MASS.

THE WENDELL GRANGE FAIR.

The Wendell Grange fair last Friday was a success in every way. Although the past season has not been altogether favorable to farmers, yet a very creditable showing of fruits and vegetables was made. On the grounds south of the hall the cattle and horses were exhibited. Among those which attracted much attention was a pair of oxen owned by Wallace Morgan, a head of 18 Holsteins exhibited by Charles Ballou, Jersey cows exhibited by Charles Cogswell and Nathan Symonds, and colts shown by Charles Ballou. A large number of people were present in the afternoon and evening, some coming from New Salem, Wendell Depot, Warwick, Farley, and Millers Falls. Supper was served out of doors under the maples at 5 o'clock, and ice-cream was served in the evening. A short entertainment was given in the evening. Among those who drew premiums on exhibits in the hall were the following:

Vegetables—Best collection, 1st, Wallace Morgan, 2nd, John Quist, 3rd, C. A. Cushman. Potatoes, 1st, Wm. McLearn, 2nd, E. L. Colson, 3rd,

of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Stratton.

The High and grammar schools were not in session Wednesday to allow teachers and students to attend

ORANGE ENTERPRISE AND JOURNAL,

APRIL 25, 1919

WENDELL

Some of the holiday visitors in town were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Thomas from Springfield at F. C. White's, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Clark of Orange at G. E. Clark's, Winnie Sandberg from Orange at J. A. Sandberg's, Roswell Woodard from Boston at E. S. Woodard's and Miss Lillian Rush from Springfield at C. H. Jennison's.

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Woodard went to Warwick last week Thursday to the gathering to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Worden.

Mrs. Annie Ray from Springfield has been visiting Mrs. W. H. Lockwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton Lockwood visited relatives in town one day last week.

Roy Allen received word Sunday of the death of his mother Mrs. Lucy Allen at South Royalston, Vt.

Mrs. Lizzie P. Lewis of Orange visited at Nelson Plumb's last week.

Charles M. Ballou has purchased the Cushman place for a home. He has lived at his present home 42 years. His son, Frank, will reside there after Mr. Ballou moves.

Mrs. Charles Hibbard is in Erving with her people for a while.

The school committee met and organized last week Thursday at Mr. Whelpley's. Mr. Whelpley was elected chairman, Mrs. Mary White, secretary and treasurer, M. M. Carroll attendance officer and Dr. Johnson school physician.

State officer Joseph St. Martin was in town last week Friday to meet the assessors. As he was driving up the hill his horse turned, throwing Mr. St. Martin out, breaking the shafts and otherwise damaging the carriage. Mr. St. Martin was not injured but had to walk to the depot and get other conveyance.

Arthur Glidden lost a horse Sunday which he had recently purchased.

ORANGE ENTERPRISE AND JOURNAL

MAY 2, 1919.

WENDELL.—William H. Ballou to
Cecil S. Ballou, real estate in Wendell.
Charles M. Ballou to Inhabitants of
Wendell, the Baptist church property
so-called.

Greenfield Gazette & Courier, May 24, 1919

WENDELL,

Memorial Day Exercises

Memorial day exercises will be held at the church on Friday, May 30, at 10.30 a. m. The speaker of the day is Rev. Mr. Hayes of Greenfield. After the exercises in the church the congregation will march to the cemetery where the soldiers' graves will be decorated. After this a collation will be served in the town hall, to which all are invited.

Wendell, with the kindly assistance of out of town friends, went over the top on the Liberty loan, and the flag will be raised on Memorial day.

Leslie R. Smith of Hadley, master of the State Grange, and Arthur Fairbanks of East Templeton, a state deputy, were present at the grange meeting Tuesday evening. After an interesting program, Mr. Smith and Mr. Fairbanks gave helpful talks on grange work. Ernest Putnam of Wendell Depot, master of the Pomona Grange, told several stories and Mr. Ballou made a few brief remarks.

O. D. Baker held an auction sale of stock and farming tools at his home on Tuesday.

Miss Ona Evans of Boston spoke at the town hall Thursday evening on "World reconstruction."

Mr and Mrs. Marvin Ellis of Springfield spent Sunday at G. M. Ballou's. Mr. Ballou has lately returned from service overseas in the A. E. F.

Sunday will be observed as memorial Sunday and veterans and S. of V. are invited to be present at the church services.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lockwood entertained friends from Springfield on Sunday. Mrs. Lockwood is boarding three children from Springfield, whose parents wish them to be out in the country for the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilkey of Athol spent Sunday with Mrs. Wilkey's mother, Mrs. Charlotte Blair.

Mrs. Katherine VanArnam, who has been spending the winter with her daughter in New York, is at her old home here for the summer.

C. A. Poland and friends from Putney, Vt., visited at G. E. Poland's on Sunday.

Mrs. Sanford Glidden is visiting friends near Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Kelly welcomed a little son to their home last Wednesday.

Charles Ballou has moved onto the Cushman place and Frank Ballou has moved onto his father's farm.

A church meeting was held after the church services on Sunday and it was voted to extend a call to the Rev. E. F. Blackmer of Crown Point, N. Y., to become the pastor of the church in this place.

ORANGE ENTERPRISE AND JOURNAL,

Geor OCTOBER 10, 1919

WENDELL

We are glad to report that Mrs N D Plumb is gaining. Mrs Bullock came Sunday to care for her

Mr. and Mrs. Wood entertained their son and wife and their daughter Marjorie for the week-end

The ladies' have worked at the parsonage several days getting it in order for the new minister who is expected to be here to preach next Sunday.

C M Ballou and F E. Ballou are both having silos built.

Mrs Maria Austin celebrated her 91st birthday Oct 5th She retains all her faculties to a remarkable degree and is able to do light housework and plain sewing.

Prof Waugh from Amherst college is to be the speaker at the grange fair next Monday He was a captain in the World war and is said to be a fine speaker. The committees in charge are preparing to entertain a large number at the fair

Mrs Fleming who has been on the sick list has a severe burn on her hand which she got by putting her hand on the stove in a fainting spell

ORANGE ENTERPRISE AND JOURNAL,

MARCH 11, 1921 | an

WENDELL

Town meeting was an unusually quiet affair. C. M. Ballou and E. S. Pufnam were up for moderator. C. M. Ballou was elected, W. C. Brown ran on sticker for selectman, getting a small number of votes. Two articles in the town warrant were of special interest. The article relating to raising money to finish the library building resulted in raising \$500 for that purpose. The article about fixing the salary of town officers resulted in leaving the officers free to fix their own salaries. Town officers: Selectmen, Charles M. Ballou, Henry M. Haskins; Albert C. Merchant; overseers of poor, Charles M. Ballou, Henry M. Haskins; Albert C. Merchant; town clerk, Tremaine W. Whelpley; town treasurer, Fred C. White; tax collector, Frank E. Ballou; assessor for three years, Ozro D. Baker; auditor, Robert F. Wood; school committee, for three years, Mary E. White; school committee for one year, Joseph L. Perry; constable, Charles A. Fiske, cemetery commission for three years Charles H. Jennison; library trustee for three years, Edwin D. Austin; tree warden, George E. Mills; surveyors of wood, bark and lumber, Charles H. Jennison, Curtis E. Tucker, Albert C. Merchant; field drivers, George E. Mills, Lewis B. Bowen; fence viewers, George E. Mills, Fred C. White; license vote, yes 40, no 20.

Appropriations: Highways, \$2500; snow bills, \$500; bridges, \$500; debts

THE GREENFIELD RECORDER

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1926.

Wendell

Mrs. Josephine Ballou has sold her place to Walter Oliver of Athol. Mr. Oliver does not plan to take possession until next spring.

Charles Ballou has moved into his place next to the town hall.

William Lucia of Orange has rented the place recently occupied by C. M. Ballou.

Earle Desseau and Mr. Martin of New Haven spent a few days the last of the week at Morton Oliver's.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Woodard are at R. S. Woodard's.

Mrs. Alice Taylor of Baldwinsville visited relatives in town the past week.

Mrs. Lee Fleck and little daughter visited her sister, Mrs. Leon Taylor, the past week.

Representative Frank H. Foss met the people at the postoffice yesterday morning.

ORANGE ENTERPRISE AND JOURNAL,

JANUARY 21, 1927

WENDELL

There was no church service Sunday as the roads had not been broken out. Sunday and Monday, the roads were broken with horses and Tuesday morning, the Orange tractor went from the depot to the center so the main road is in fine condition again.

Sunday morning as Luther Daniels was removing the blanket from his horse, he slipped on the ice, falling under the horse. The horse was frightened, and stepped on Mr. Daniels several times. As the result, he has a broken arm, fractured ribs and bruises on various parts of his body where the horse stepped on him, one being on the face, just under his eye. Mr. Woodard carried him to the doctor, having to break his own road to the depot. It will be months before Mr. Daniels recovers from his injuries.

The officers of Wendell grange were installed Tuesday night by Deputy Clark of Montague, assisted by Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Hudson and Miss Bronsdon, the latter two from Orange. Twenty-two came up from Orange on a sleigh-ride.

The birthday of the worthy master, C. M. Ballou, and that of Sister Lockwood coming this week, both were presented with a birthday cake. Mr. Ballou was sixty and his cake was made by his mother who is eighty. Mrs. Glidden made the cake for Mrs. Lockwood. She might not care to have her age mentioned. All seemed to have a good time, and it was early morning hours when they went to their homes.

Owing to the storm of Saturday, no services were held in the Congregational church, January 16th. Our people were pretty well "snowed in" and it was thought wise not to attempt any meetings. It is hoped conditions will be more favorable next Sunday and the usual church school and service of worship will be held if possible. The pastor, Deane Holt, will speak on the subject already announced, "The Problem of Church Union."

ORANGE, MASS., ENTERPRISE AND JOURNAL,

JUNE 15, 1928

WENDELL

The graduating exercises of the West school took place at the town hall Monday evening. The hall was prettily decorated with blue and white, the class colors. The pupils sat upon the stage. A very attractive program of music, recitations and dancing was given under the direction of the teacher assisted by Mrs. Bartlett. Mrs. Wood, chairman of the school committee presided, Mr. Holt made the prayer, Mrs. Glidden presided at the piano. Peter Wirth gave the address of welcome and Thelma Bartlett the farewell. Superintendent Carpenter gave a talk to the school and presented diplomas to Peter Wirth and Thelma Bartlett. Mrs. Wood made brief remarks. The costumes worn in the dances were very pretty and must have taken much time to make. After the exercises punch and cake were served. There was a large audience.

C. M. Ballou met with a painful accident Monday afternoon when he fell from a load of hay he was getting from the Cushman barn. He struck on his head injuring his chin quite badly. Dr. TenBroeck fixed him up. It was a wonder he was not injured more seriously than he was. He received bruises and scratches but fortunately no bones were broken.

Mr. Billings came up Sunday as Mr. Holt had a funeral at the hour of service. The children took the greater part of the time under the direction of Mrs. Glidden. Potted plants were given to all the Sunday school children and to five ladies who are elderly or in poor health, namely: Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Ballou, Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. Whelpley and Mrs. Whitney. Gratitude was expressed for the plants.

ORANGE, MASS., ENTERPRISE AND JOURNAL,

EVERY AUGUST 16, 1929

piece
late

WENDELL

Miss Alice Bradshaw of New Haven Conn., is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Morton Oliver.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. D. Clark and daughter Dorothy and little Catherine Turman of Union City, N. J., who have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Field have returned.

Mrs. L. E. Field of Providence, R. I., is visiting her son, D. W. Field and Mrs. Field.

Mr. and Mrs. George Smith of Middleboro are visiting at D. W. Field's.

Clearing skies brought out a good number to Wendell's Old Home day. The morning program consisted of remarks by C. M. Ballou, songs by the audience, Miss Leach and Miss Bradshaw, reading by Rev. Mr. Holt, and a Chinese sketch by the children. There were races and a ball game during the afternoon. The footrace for girls under 15 was won by Dora Taylor. For girls over 15 Esther Holt was the winner. Leon Weatherby won the boys' race for boys under 15 and Warren Taylor for the boys over 15 years. The ball game between Leverett and Wendell was won by Leverett 16 to 6. The exercises at the church in the afternoon were opened by C. M. Ballou, who welcomed the people to Wendell. He was followed by Barger's orchestra. Rev. A. A. Bronsdon of Baldwinville was the speaker for the afternoon and he gave a very fine address on the "Memory of Mankind and our Debt to it." There were songs and violin solo by Mr. Barger.

Among those present were A. El Brooks of Grand Rapids, Mich., who was born across the common from the church 37 years ago. Other visitors were present from Illinois, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont and many places in Massachusetts. Mr. Brooks left with the clerk of the church two deeds for pews in the church which were over 80 years old.

Thomas Redway entertained on the common with his juggling acts, and supper was served in the hall. The evening entertainment consisted of dancing by Alice Bradshaw, Mrs. Bartlett, and Thelma. George Webster gave a clog dance, Mrs. Brisco sang and Mr. Slack gave a reading. A very large crowd enjoyed the dance which completed the day's program.

Mrs. Leon Taylor entertained her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brown of Watertown over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Roswell Woodard returned to Dorchester, Sunday.

Miss Laura Stevens of Springfield spent the week-end with her sister, Mrs. Henry Champlin.

Mrs. Nelson and baby of Connecticut were the guests of her uncle, Arthur Glidden, and Mrs. Glidden this week.

Mr. and Mrs. George Whippen and three children of Dorchester are stopping at the Woodward farm.

Some one shot and so badly wounded "Billy," the collie dog of Mr. and Mrs. Wilder that it had to be killed.

Mrs. William Rose and daughter, Barbara of New Jersey, have been the guests of Mrs. Rose's sister, Mrs. Henry Champlin this week.

ORANGE, MASS., ENTERPRISE AND JOURNAL,

SEPTEMBER 6, 1929

WENDELL

Mr. and Mrs. Leyl Becker of Windsor, Vt., spent the week-end and holiday at Leon Taylor's.

Mrs. W. H. Lockwood went to Watertown Tuesday to stay for a while.

Mrs. Herbert Thompson will care for little Elizabeth during Mrs. Lockwood's absence.

Frank Nightingale of Quincy spent the week-end at C. M. Ballou's.

Mr. and Mrs. William Lucia have been entertaining Mr. Lucia's sister from New York.

Dresser's mill has finished sawing the lumber on Plin Weatherby's lot and will move to Northfield.

Mrs. Milton Wilder has been visiting in Johnstown, R. I.

Luther Daniels is moving his family to Boston. Their friends here regret their departure from town.

Miss Talmi-Kaipainen of New York spent the week-end with Mrs. Charles Fiske.

Mrs. Crocker, who has been spending the summer at Samuel Bartlett's, has returned to Boston.

Misses Winnie and Julia Sandberg spent the week-end and holiday at their home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Taylor and daughters, Marguerite and Elizabeth, spent the week-end in Baldwinville.

George and Louie Weatherby spent the week-end and holiday at their home here.

C. M. Ballou will hold a dance every Thursday night, in the town hall until further notice.

Schools in town opened Tuesday for the fall term.

Misses Viola Brown and Helen Ellis have entered Orange high school. Misses Marguerite Taylor and Grace Powling have entered the New Salem academy.

Warren Taylor, Jr., won the ticket entitling him to a free airplane ride, at Dr. Charles' dance Tuesday night.

Old Guard Wins in Town Election

Ticket Headed by Charles
Ballou Defeats Orange
Insurgents.

WENDELL, March 4.—Hot contests between the old guard and a newer insurgent element in the town drew out 130 votes at the annual election today, the largest number ever polled in the history of the town. In spite of strenuous opposition the old guard ticket, headed by Charles M. Ballou, was placed in office.

Mr. Ballou himself was elected to five offices, moderator, selectman, overseer of the poor, member of the board of health and assessor.

The contest for selectman resulted in a tie for third member between Robert Woods and George D. Poland, each receiving 64 votes. Mr. Ballou polled the highest number, 70, while Oswald D. Baker received 61. Another election will be arranged to settle the tie between Mr. Woods and Mr. Poland. The other candidates for the office were Alvin Fisk and J. L. Perry.

Tremaine W. Whelpley, present town clerk, retained his place against the efforts of Fred Grew. Mr. Whelpley's majority was 25. Mr. Ballou was kept in office as assessor by a majority of 30 over W. W. Brown, his opponent. In spite of the deadlock between Mr. Woods and Mr. Poland for selectman, Mr. Woods is secure in his office of overseer of the poor, the vote for that office having been taken separate from the vote for selectman.

The 2.75 per cent. beer referendum was lost by a vote of 40 to 15.

Officers elected: Moderator, Charles M. Ballou; town clerk, Tremaine W. Whelpley; town treasurer, Fred D. White; tax collector, Frank E. Ballou; selectmen and board of health, Charles M. Ballou, Oswald D. Baker, tie between Robert Woods and George D. Poland; overseers of the poor, Charles M. Ballou, Oswald D. Baker, Robert Woods; assessor, Charles M. Ballou; school committee, Emma Woods; library trustees, Effie Bowen; tree warden, George C. Mills; constable, John Moran. 2.75 per cent. beer license: Yes, 40; no, 15.

Appropriations: Town officers, \$300; schools, \$6000; street lighting, \$50; library, \$100; highways and bridges \$2500; cemeteries, \$100; Memorial Day, \$50; total appropriations, \$9000.

1930
Result of Vote

Selectmen		
	Charles M. Ballou	92
Lewis B. Bowen		108
	Alfred S. Chapman	79
	Charles H. Jennison	116
	William Bowen, stickers	62
Board of Public Welfare		
	Charles M. Ballou	97
	Lewis B. Bowen	105
	Alfred S. Chapman	71
	Charles H. Jennison	111
	William Bowen	49
Town Clerk		
	Elias Richardson	139
Town Treasurer		
	Mildred A. Glidden	129
Tax Collector		
	Elias Richardson	135
Assessor for Three Years		
	Charles M. Ballou	104
Auditor		
	Alton B. Wilson	87
School Committee for Three Years		
	Emma F. Grew	104
	Joseph L. Perry	67
Constable		
	Glenn O. Ellis	125
Cemetery Commissioner for Three Years		
	Walter C. Oliver	89
	Eugene Hutchinson	23
Library Trustee for Three Years		
	Frank E. Ballou	102
Tree Warden		
	Daniel W. Field	122
Surveyors of Wood, Bark and Lumber		
	Charles H. Jennison	104
	Charles A. Lewis	109
	Frank N. York	107
Field Drivers		
	Eugene R. Hutchinson	92
	Ernest E. Taylor	92
	Clesson Wyman	100
Fence Viewers		
	Frank E. Ballou	102
	Ray M. Clark	107
	Arthur G. Glidden	109

Springfield Republican, March 26, 1930

WENDELL

Surprised on Golden Anniversary

Wendell, March 25--Mr and Mrs John Quist of this place were pleasantly surprised at the home of their daughter, Mrs Oscar Pettersen in Orange, Sunday, where they had been invited. They found numerous other relatives gathered who reminded them it was their golden wedding anniversary. In the afternoon about 100 friends dropped in to offer congratulations and best wishes. Rev Mr Johnson, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church, of which they are members, presented them in behalf of the friends and relatives, \$125 in gold. Mr and Mrs Quist were married in Sweden and came to the United States soon afterward. They first made their home in Connecticut, later moving to Orange. They have been residents of this town for 24 years.

Mrs Mellette of Marlboro is stopping with Mrs T. W. Whelpley for an indefinite period.

Charles Ballou has moved into the Cushman place. Constable Glenn Ellis will move into the house vacated by Mr Ballou.

Greenfield Recorder, September 11, 1930

Wendell

Ora Gilliland entered Hopington academy Tuesday.

Collins Pettengill of Millers Falls spent the week-end at his cousin's, M. E. Whitney's.

Miss Bessie Gilliland, who is a student at the Rockingham hospital, visited her parents the last of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brazier of Brattleboro, Vt., were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Austin, Sunday.

Religious services will be held in the town hall next Sunday from 10 a. m. until 6 p. m. by a Pentecostal society.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hartjens entertained Mr. and Mrs. Henry Teele of West Acton and Henry Lively of Montague, Sunday.

George Rock has moved to the Porter place known as Pine Hill farm.

Ernest Taylor has moved into the little bungalow owned by Charles Ballou near the parsonage.

The hardest electrical storm of the season passed over this place Saturday night, with wind and hail, and heavy rains. The roads were badly washed. Work on the state improved road was stopped and the men were put to work repairing the damage done by the storm.

George Blair and the Van Renssellar family are moving into the John Harris place.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boyes and son of Somerville were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Glidden.

There was a white frost here on Tuesday morning.

Enterprise and Journal

ORANGE, MASS., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1930.

Watching Politics in Wendell

People of the several towns surrounding Wendell are watching with considerable interest the struggle between two factions in that town, one led by Charles M. Ballou, for many years chairman of the board of selectmen and the other guided by Ozro D. Baker, former selectman and up to within a few months a friend of the former. The recent report of the state auditors, who found many discrepancies in the way in which municipal business has been run, as well as suggestions made for correcting conditions, was in the main responsible for the feud which has started. It was indicated by the recent special meeting that the followers of Mr. Baker out-number those of the veteran selectman by a good majority and it remains to be seen which side will have the upper hand at the annual meeting next spring. If the situation continues as it is at present, it appears inevitable that Mr. Ballou who has been a town father of Wendell for the past 20 years will be succeeded by some candidate favorable to the other side. Politicians in small towns are temperamental, however, and change their minds, their likes and dislikes in short periods of time and such may be the case in Wendell before 1931 arrives.

For many years Mr. Ballou has had opposition but when the annual meeting came his following was sufficient to elect him. He has been a candidate every year, for Wendell still elects its three selectmen annually. To be acceptable to the majority each year is much more difficult than to be favored every three years, but not until two weeks ago Friday has Mr. Ballou's supremacy been broken. In the meantime no doubt, efforts will be made to repair the broken political fences and if Mr. Ballou fails to do this it will be the first time he has failed in the past 20 years.

ORANGE, MASS., ENTERPRISE AND JOURNAL, SEPTEMBER 19, 1930

WENDELL

School teachers of Wendell, Erving, Leverett and Shutesbury were entertained by Superintendent Carpenter and daughter, Mrs. Thomas, at their cottage at White pond recently. The work of the coming year was discussed and there was an interesting talk by Mr. Ward. Refreshments were served and the event was much enjoyed by all.

Between 80 and 100 grangers and friends gathered at the town hall Wednesday night, August 10th, to help Mr. and Mrs. Ballou celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. The affair was planned by the local grange. And when members of the Pomona grange learned of it they wished to join the members of the local grange in honoring brother and sister Ballou. Some friends of Mr. and Mrs. Ballou, who do not belong to either order were also invited. Mr. and Mrs. Ballou had no suspicion of what was afoot and were taken completely by surprise. Mrs. Glenn Ellis asked them to go to Athol to the pictures and told them Mr. Ellis would call for them at 7:30. Just as Mr. Ellis drove in with his car which was decorated with white streamers, their son, Frank and Bobby, drove in and handed them a card which said "You are invited to a 40th wedding anniversary at the town hall." The hall was tastily decorated for the occasion. An entertainment was given upon the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Ballou. The first number was a mock marriage in pantomime with Glenn Ellis as the groom and Ray Clark as the bride. As Mr. Clark is over six feet tall his wedding dress was somewhat abbreviated and showed his rolled stockings to good advantage. The bride carried a bouquet composed of carrots and other vegetables. The flower girls were Alice Oliver and Genevieve Robinson. Helen and Charlotte Robinson carried the train of the bridal veil and Beatrice Blade was ring bearer, bearing a large wooden ring about three inches in diameter. Mrs. Morton Oliver as the bride's mother gave the bride away and Daniel Field impersonated the minister, using a large mail order catalogue for his text book. After the bride and groom had gone out, in came Bobby Ballou bearing a wedding cake which was baked by Mrs. Josephine Ballou, who is past 80 years of age. The cake which was decorated with pink and white frosting and carried the inscription 1890-1930 40th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Ballou was decorated by Mrs. Frank Ballou. Following Bobby came little Susan Clark drawing a little decorated wagon filled with gifts. Beatrice Blade held the streamers which were fastened to Susan Benjamin Coolidge then made a few humorous remarks and presented Mr. and Mrs. Ballou with \$15.00 in gold, a purse of silver and other gifts in behalf of their friends. Mr. and Mrs. Ballou were deeply touched by their tokens of kindness, and good wishes and after a few minutes he responded with much feeling. Mrs. Ballou also expressed her thanks. Mrs. Cooper of Athol and lecturer of the Pomona grange read a poem which she had composed for the occasion, the audience singing the chorus. The poem follows.

Forty years ago today, a young man and a maid,

To each other gave their vows, and to them faithful stayed.

We are here tonight to speed them on their way

The Ballous are marching on.
Chorus: Sung by audience.

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah,

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah,

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah,

The Ballous are marching on.

The days have come and gone, the years have seemed too short.

For Charlie and his wife have never older grown

They welcome us tonight as in the days of yore

The Ballous are marching on

Chorus

With their friends and neighbors they have labored side by side

The Town and Grange have always been their honest love and pride,

Tonight we give to them the guerdon nobly won

The Ballous are marching on.

Chorus

In ten more years we'll come again to weld the golden chain

In ten more years we'll come again to speed you on your way

In ten more years we'll come again, and once more we will say,

The Ballous are marching on

Chorus

There were songs by Miss Alice Bristol of Orange and a piano duet by Mrs. Arthur Glidden and Miss Thelma Bartlett. Among those present were Mrs. Emma Cogswell, Mrs. Ever Fleming of Orange and Fred Jennison of this town, who were in the party which serenaded Mr. and Mrs. Ballou when they were married. Refreshments were served and a wedding cake made by Mrs. Charles Hibbard of Orange which was frosted with white frosting and decorated in pink and green with this inscription, "40th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Ballou." was cut by Mr. Ballou and each one present received a piece.

Mr. Barger and son, Donald came up and with Mrs. Glidden at the piano furnished music for the dancing which lasted until a late hour. Mr. Ballou was born in Wendell and has always lived here. He is chairman of the board of selectmen and has served on the board about 25 years. He has also held various other town offices. He is also master of the local grange. Mrs. Ballou, whose maiden name was Brown was born in Stafford Springs, Conn., and resided there until her marriage to Mr. Ballou. She is an active worker of the grange and ladies' aid society. They have one son, Frank E. Ballou, of this place. Mr. and Mrs. Ballou were married in Orange, September 11, 1890, by Rev. Mr. Caton of Orange. Owing to the fact that Mr. Ballou has held dances on Thursday nights, the affair was set for the previous night.

1931
Ballou Government Again Wins Wendell Election

Bakerites Out In Full Force and Voice

Mrs. Grew Elected to School Committee

Famous Smoke Pipe Seems Doomed

The famous smoke pipe which extends along the center of the town hall ceiling and has been a town meeting dividing line for the forces under the leadership of Charles M. Ballou, veteran selectman, and Ozro D. Baker, arch enemy of the present administration, is likely to disappear if ERA funds may be procured to carry out a vote taken at Monday's annual meeting when \$800 was appropriated for the installation of a new heating system for the hall. A committee composed of J. B. Hartiens, Jr., Charles Ballou and Curtis E. Tucker was appointed by Moderator Joseph L. Perry to have charge. So far as Monday's meeting was concerned, however, the smoke pipe served to divide the two forces while the disposal of the 32 articles was taking place. It was predicted that Ozro D. Baker would be present after a temporary leave of absence from Wendell's voting list, and he lived up to expectations. He was the spokesman, cheer leader and ring master of a group of loyal cohorts who segregated themselves on the right side of the old smoke pipe and followed his advice 100 per cent. They represented the response to some active campaigning which had been made for two weeks by Mr. Baker, William Bowen and A. C. S. Raymond, an Orange printer, who feels that Wendell should have a new administration for obvious reasons.

Baker Is Reprimanded

Mr. Baker showed opposition from the time the meeting opened at 10.30 until it closed at 12.30, first objecting to accepting the reports of the town officers. He was defeated two to one on this action and soon afterwards was rebuked by Moderator Joseph L. Perry when he questioned the latter's honesty in counting votes as expressed by raised hands. Finally Mr. Perry exclaimed, "Mr. Baker, I was elected moderator of this meeting and as such I am endeavoring to carry out the responsibilities honestly and in accordance with the trust which has been placed in me. I do not propose to be continually challenged nor to be heckled for carrying out the duty to which I was chosen." This reprimand served to eliminate any further doubts on the part of Mr. Baker with regard to the count of votes but it did not prevent him from arguing,
 (Continued on page 7, column 3)

The voters of Wendell once more gave notice on Monday that they have confidence in the integrity and ability of the gentlemen who have headed their town government for a number of years and particularly in Charles M. Ballou who was re-elected to the office of selectman and board of public welfare for the 32d consecutive time. They gave evidence that "dirty work at the cross roads" is not relished now any more than it has been and that despite the result of court decisions and the machinations of those who pose as creatures sublime and untainted, they remain loyal to those who have served them as they wished to be served. Messrs Ballou, Lewis Bowen and Charles H. Jennison were reelected town fathers, defeating Alfred S. Chapman who ran on nomination papers and William Bowen who ran on stickers. In the only other contest, Mrs. Emma Grew, former school teacher and most estimable woman, who had the support of both sides, was elected a member of the school committee, defeating Joseph L. Perry by a vote of 104 to 67. Elias Richardson proved the most popular candidate, receiving 139 votes for town clerk and 135 for tax collector. Mrs. Mildred Glidden received a fine vote of 129 in her candidacy for town treasurer and Glenn O. Ellis was re-elected constable by a vote of 125. On the trapping question the vote was 71 yes as against 31 no. Joseph Perry served as moderator in an efficient and impartial manner.



CHARLES M. BALLOU
 Still In Saddle At Wendell

(Continued from page 1)

objecting and discussing the various articles as they came along. Mr. Ballou took little part in the discussions except to state at one point that it would be possible to argue with Mr. Baker all day long and then not satisfy him.

Ballou Forces in Majority

The Ballou forces were in the majority and carried every article. The greatest controversy arose over article 27 with regard to appointing "the selectmen as agents to prosecute action on suit for or in behalf of the town and to defend any suits brought against the town or its officials and with the authority to employ counsel thereof," which was carried by a vote of 51 to 35. The amount appropriated was \$2400. The town officers' salaries were increased 25 per cent despite the stubborn opposition of the Bakerites. William Bowen who ran for the office of selectman was almost as much in the limelight as Mr. Baker and his ideas fully coincided with those of his "chief." They were authorities on the printing business, the courts, parliamentary law and the art of detection. The oratory of the day was furnished by them and they were given the floor until such time as the Ballou forces decided to end their fluent flow of words by calling for the question and then proceeding to vote it. The polls closed at 2.30 p. m.

Appropriations

Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 1500 00
Schools, including nurse	10000 00
Old Age Assistance	2000 00
Boa. of Public Welfare	5000 00
Sr. Rom-Vall equipment and building	800 00
Fire Department	100 00
Head Hog Bounty	25 00
Board of Health	700 00
Interest on Notes	200 00
	\$20325 00
State Improved Road	\$3000 00
Memorial Day services	50 00
Bonding Town Officers	80 00
Workmen's Insurance	700 00
Tax Collector's salary	250 00
Electric Lights at Wendell	
Depot	100 00
Tree Warden	100 00
Old Home Day celebration	50 00
Contingency Fund	1000 00
Salaries and Expenses of town officers	1250 00
Suppression of Gypsy and Brown Tail Moths	300 00
Maintenance of posts and railings	500 00
Treating the Roads with Tarvia	1500 00
Bridges	1000 00
ERA or any Federal project	500 00
Heating plant	800 00
Cemeteries	150 00
Fire protection	150 00
Total	\$31895 00

1931 Wendell Town Meeting



*Wendell
T. Mead*

THE SPRINGFIELD DAILY REPUBLICAN, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.: FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1931

BAKER CALLS FOR RECOUNT AT WENDELL

Defeated Candidate For Selectman Calls For Re- check

Orange, March 12.—It is understood that Ozro D. Baker, defeated candidate for the office of selectman in Wendell, has petitioned for a recount of votes, and action with regard to the qualification of the nine voters who were challenged at the hectic town-meeting held the 6th. These include Mr and Mrs William Ballou, John W. Moran, Mrs Elizabeth Casavant, Mrs Maude Lewis, Julian M.

Higgins, Mr and Mrs James Boland and Dr F. A. Charles. Andrew Baker, son of the petitioner, was also challenged and was not allowed to vote. The legality of the action of the registrars with regard to the latter will no doubt be decided at the trial of the suit which is pending in the superior court in which Mr Baker has brought suit against selectmen and registrars, Charles Ballou and Lewis B. Bowen. Of the nine voters who were challenged, seven supported Mr Ballou and two supported Mr Baker. The result of the vote for selectmen was as follows: Ballou 84, Bowen 86, Fiske, Jennison and Putnam 79 each, and Baker 77.

Hatchet Still Unburied

It is difficult to bury the political hatchet in Wendell, judging from the attitude which is being taken there by certain residents with regard to dedicating the new memorial in honor of the Wendell boys who served in the World war, a part of the program arranged for the 150th anniversary celebration next week Wednesday. Pressure has been brought to bear by those who are out of harmony with the present official family of the town whereby Orange Post, American Legion, has decided not to conduct the dedicatory exercises. Evidently there are some who cannot get over the hard feelings which emanated from the annual meeting in March and are doing what they can to embarrass the committee in charge. The dividing line seems to be as sharply drawn as it was on March 6 and politics are not being laid aside by any means in the efforts which are being made to celebrate this important anniversary.

It was not long ago that an attempt was made to blow up the old millstone which was donated by Selectman Lewis Bowen for the memorial and which happily proved unsuccessful. The committee next received a letter from one of the mothers of the veterans forbidding the use of her son's name on the bronze plaque which is attached to the upper part of the millstone and soon afterwards the boy's father sent a letter stating he would be greatly offended if it were not used, incidentally inclosing some money to be applied to the fund raised for the memorial. The name of every veteran is on the plaque. The opposition has made so many protests concerning the dedication that the Orange Legion feels it better not to take part. The memorial has been placed, however, in front of the library and will be dedicated. It is unusually attractive and was conceived and donated to the town by the Community Service department of Wendell grange. It was given in good faith and none of the members anticipated the opposition which has arisen.

8/7/31

WITNESS WEEPS WHEN QUESTIONED IN WENDELL CASE

Mrs L. M. Ellis Sobs When Asked Whether She Still Wants Married Teacher Kept From Staff

Greenfield, Dec. 1.—Ratifications of political and educational affairs in the hill town of Wendell again held the spotlight as the hearing before Auditor Walter L. Stevens of Northampton on the petition for a writ of mandamus of Mrs Emma F. Grew, discharged Wendell schoolteacher who is seeking reinstatement, was continued at the courthouse today.

Mrs Edith P. Hartiens, secretary of the Wendell school committee, related to the witness chair this morning and was followed by Lydia M. Ellis, other woman member of the committee. Atty Fairhurst, counsel for Mrs Grew, to answer whether she still wanted Mrs Grew kept of the Wendell teaching force, Mrs Ellis began to sob convulsively and Auditor Stevens adjourned the hearing would take a brief recess.

Admits Letter of Remonstrance This morning Mrs Hartiens reiterated her statement of yesterday that she thought Mrs Ellis had proposed the motion for a vote against the employment of married teachers at the meeting of the school committee June 12. She admitted shouting Mrs Grew about the vote that night, and writing her a letter next day in which she stated she was with Mrs Grew and referred to the actions of the school committee as "spring homecoming."

"Whoever teaches up there," Mrs Hartiens wrote Mrs Grew, "will have a difficult year. The whole reason is politics, but the truth is so twisted about I believe they are playing safe." Mrs Hartiens denied she knew to whom she referred by "they." She later admitted she had believed that Charles M. Ballou, chairman of selectmen and father of Frank B. Ballou, chairman of the school committee, was back of the move to oust Mrs Grew.

Says Mpsa Surprised Her Mrs Ellis also admitted that the proposal to employ no married teachers came to her as a surprise at the June 12 meeting, and that at the time she had included Charles M. Ballou among those who were "playing safe" by passing the rule against married teachers as a means of getting rid of Mrs Grew.

She told of going to consult with Judge Ellaha B. Hall at Orange during the summer with the other members of the committee and of writing to the teacher who had been similarly dismissed in the so-called Hurdella case of last spring. She said she wrote of her own accord and out of curiosity only, though admitting she had received it in the name of the other members of the committee.

Mrs Lydia M. Ellis followed Mrs Hartiens and said she had lived in Wendell 11 years. She had been a member of the school committee since the March town-meeting, she said. She said she had always been friendly with Mrs Grew but had a good reason for promoting her dismissal, would prefer to the town meeting. She was unable to say who had asked her to run for office but admitted that Frank B. Ballou had asked her. She also denied running for office because she believed that Mr. Ballou would support her. She said she had never talked with any of the ballous about the school committee position, she said, and had never told anyone prior to the town meeting that if elected she would help get Mrs Grew discharged.

Admits Being "Prejudiced"

Mrs Ellis declared she was "prejudiced" against married teachers, but not against Mrs Grew or Mrs Ruth Thomas, daughter of Superintendent of Schools David F. Carpenter, who gave up a teaching position at Wendell at the end of the school year. She had never investigated application of the rule barring married teachers in other towns to see how the rule worked, she admitted. She denied it had been arranged between her and Frank B. Ballou that she was to make the motion for a vote against married teachers at the June 12 meeting. She testified that she was interested in improvement of the Wendell schools but had not asked Superintendent Carpenter for his opinion on the subject. Furthermore, she did not know that Superintendent Carpenter's opinion would have made any difference, she added.

Continuing her testimony, Mrs Ellis admitted Mrs Grew was the only teacher who could have been affected by the vote but denied it was passed expressly to oust Mrs Grew. She had nothing personal against Mrs Grew, she said, but had made an inquiry whether Mrs Grew was a good or a poor teacher. She would not like to have the rule changed, never so related, and pressed further by Atty Fairhurst as to whether she still wanted Mrs Grew kept out educational affairs she sobbed convulsively for a moment. After a brief recess she told of seeing Mrs Hartiens all alone, once with Mrs Hartiens and again with Mr Ballou. She did not ask Mrs Hartiens to go with her the second time, she said, she denied she and Ballou had managed the matter without Mrs Hartiens's knowledge but admitted she had discussed the wisdom of the policy against married teachers with the latter. Mrs Ellis concluded her testimony by admitting her husband had worked in the town of Wendell and that they had both been tenants of Charles M. Ballou, chairmen of selectmen, for three years.

Douglas Howard Offered

Mrs Webster (Lena W.) Brown, mother of Miss Eunice Brown who took Mrs Ruth Thomas's place as teacher at the Northwest or "Storm hollow" school this year, was the next witness. Mrs Brown said she had lived in Wendell for 11 years and had been "restroom" for the past four years. Informed for the past four years of the March town-meeting with a proposal to reward the turning of the four votes in the Brown family to the Ballou interests by appointment of her daughter, Eunice, to a teaching position. She had never been much interested in town affairs, she said, and did not attend the town meeting of March 9, holding the conviction from an attack of pneumonia. She denied telling Mrs Ruth Champlin, dismissed janitor of the Center school, that Frank B. Ballou had so approached her.

Miss Eunice Brown told of her appointment to the Stormon hollow school in late August, last, where she took Mrs Ruth Thomas's place. She denied having seen Frank Ballou at her house or that she had talked with her mother about a position in Wendell. She also denied talking with Frank J. Flak or Edwin D. Austin and telling

them that Frank Ballou had been her house with a proposal to give her a job if the Brown family voted right way" at the March town-meeting. Flak, former mill carrier between Holyoke and Greenburg, and the present mail carrier in Wendell both testified they had been, to Eunice Brown, Flak prior to the meeting and Austin afterward, her mother had been so approached Frank Ballou.

Austin, when asked whether he was a Bakerite or Ballouite, replied at the town-meeting he had been on the right side of the "a pipe," referring to the line which common consent separates the factions at Wendell town-meetings. Flak admitted he had been a of Mrs Grew but denied he had asked him out of that school and him to another because Mrs J. could teach him little. He said he changed school of his own accord because most of his friends were at other schools.

Ellis of Being Discharged

Mrs Ruth Champlin, who has in Wendell for 30 years and was in of the Center school from 1927 March, 1931, told of getting a letter dismissed from Mrs Ellis dated May 20. That was the first notice she she said, that she was to be discharged. She said she was a Bakerite and swore Mrs Brown had told her. Proposal made by Frank Ballou regarding a position for Eunice B. provided the Brown family voted right way. Under cross-examination by Atty Frank J. Lawler, counsel the school committee, Mrs Champlin admitted her discharge by the committee had made her "sore."

Most of the afternoon session taken up by the testimony of the witnesses as respondents. Frank J. Ballou, chairman of the school committee and a member of it for three years denied most of the petitioners' allegations. He explained the dismissal of certain school janitors by saying it could be engaged to work for money or who could do the better.

Mrs Grew had been discharged, said, because of a belief the committee had that single teachers who younger, and who were willing to attend summer sessions in order to abreast of modern methods, were desirable. Atty Fairhurst finally Mr Ballou to say that the kin teachers he wanted in the Wendell schools were single and under 25. Ballou denied his father had ever to influence him regarding school term. The session ended when he said that at the time he went to Judge Hall at Orange he did so because he knew Judge Hall was engaged in holding a criminal in into a political affair of the town, especially as they related to the town-meeting on March 9, and the fact it would be a good idea to re Judge Hall's services on that account. The hearing will be continued tomorrow at 10.

Springfield Republican

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1902.—TWENTY-SIX PAGES.

**TESTIMONY ENDS
IN WENDELL CASE**

**Auditor Will Make Report
on Discharge of Teacher
and Supreme Court Will
Then Consider Matter**

Greenfield, Dec. 3.—Evidence in the hearing before Auditor Walter L. Stevens of Northampton on the petition of Mrs Emma F. Grew, discharged Wendell school teacher, for a writ of mandamus to compel her reinstatement was completed at 3.36 this afternoon. The end was reached after a five-minute conference between Atty Frank J. Lawler and his clients, the Wendell school committee, in an anteroom at the superior courthouse and after a brief rebuttal during which Atty Charles Fairhurst questioned his client, Mrs Grew, regarding the number of hours she had devoted to her work as teacher at the Center school. Counsel will argue the case at the courthouse Tuesday afternoon at 2, after which the auditor's report must be prepared and may be filed either at the office of the clerk of courts here or with the supreme judicial court at Boston. It may be weeks before the latter body makes a ruling in the case.

Says She Resented Interference

For the most part today's proceedings were a repetition of the previous two days' testimony, with Frank E. Ballou, chairman, Mrs Lydia M. Ellis and Mrs Edith F. Hartjens, secretary of the Wendell school committee, re-

(Continued on Second Page)

peating salient features of their earlier testimony.

Mrs Hartjens, a daughter of Lewis B. Bowen of the Wendell selectmen, under cross-examination told of a talk she had had with Charles M. Ballou, present chairman of selectmen, during a previous term when Caro D. Baker was also a member of the board. They had discussed the transportation of school children, and Mrs Hartjens said she had resented Mr Ballou's interference in school matters at that time. She is of a stubborn nature, she said, but was unable to say whether any two members of the present school committee are easily influenced.

Denies Examining Records

She denied going or sending anyone to Orange to examine certain court records there but admitted hearing that the Orange court had made an order whereby the "Reed" children were to be returned to Wendell, on condition they walk to the Center school from the home Charles Ballou was to provide for them.

To the question: "Did you learn that despite the court order Mr Ballou wanted to enter an agreement whereby the Thompasons would transport the Reed children in order that the former might receive remuneration therefor?" Mrs Hartjens was noncommittal and a moment later denied she was trying to avoid answering. She would not say whether she was, positionally, a Ballouite or a Bakerite. In reply to a question from Atty Lawler, she denied knowing anything about the Orange court order regarding transportation of the Reed children.

Under further cross-examination Mrs Hartjens said Charles M. Ballou had told her something about his interference in Orange in order to keep the Reed children in Wendell, in a house to be provided by him, in order to keep the votes of the Reed family in Wendell. She admitted she knew that the Reed children had been moved to another house at Wendell Depot and that they were now being transported to the Mormon hollow school by Miss Eunice Brown, teacher at that school, and that Miss Brown was getting paid for it.

Testimony Interrupted

At this point Auditor Stevens interrupted and asked Mrs Hartjens to tell him the substance of her talk with Charles M. Ballou about the transportation. Mrs Hartjens told Mr Stevens that she and Frank E. Ballou had arranged transportation for the Mormon hollow pupils and that Charles M. Ballou stopped her one day and told her that he had planned to "look out for that, and that he thought the money formerly spent for transportation of Mormon hollow children might be used to buy them shoes and other necessities." At this point Atty Lawler called the school committee members into conference.

The few remaining minutes were used by Frank E. Ballou in describing how the lock on the Center schoolhouse came to be changed. A state fire inspector told them the old lock did not satisfy the requirements of the law and it was changed, as was the lock on the town hall. There was no idea of trying to keep Mrs Grew out of the schoolhouse, he stated, Mrs Grew knew of the inspector's visit, he said, and that the lock was to be

Tells of Discharging Mrs Grew

During the forenoon session Frank E. Ballou testified the school committee, while discharging Mrs Grew partly because she had made no effort to improve herself by means of summer school courses and did not play with the children as much as the committee thought she should, admitted the committee had never asked her whether she was willing to attend such summer courses or to make an effort to play more with her pupils. During his term of office as a member of the committee, Mr Ballou said, he had been in but one of the Wendell schools to "visit," and that during the past year he had "visited" the Center school not at all. To Atty Fairhurst's question, "Do you know much of anything at all about the Wendell school system?" Ballou replied, "Perhaps not."

Mrs Ellis denied that Charles M. Ballou had had anything to do with the school situation but was unable to say why she had run for a place on the school committee or how her name had gotten in the town-meeting ballot. Asked by Atty Fairhurst about her views on the qualifications of teachers, she said she believed in having them single and young. To a certain extent she believed that teachers under 25 were more desirable than ones over that age. Asked about Miss Norcross, who took Mrs Grew's place, Mrs Ellis said she was unable to say whether she was young or old. Miss Norcross had just passed 35, she thought, and as muffled laughter sounded from the rear of the jury room she added that Supt Carpenter had told her Miss Norcross was about 25.

ORANGE, MASS. ENTERPRISE AND JOURNAL, MARCH 3, 1932

**Wendell Registrars Remove Bakers
From Voting List**

When the roll is called up yonder, yonder in this case meaning Wendell and the roll applying to the voting list, at next Monday's annual meeting in Wendell, the names of Ozro D. Baker, his wife, Gertrude F. Baker and his daughter, Miss Dorothy Baker, will be missing. Mr. Baker is the leader of the opposition to the present town government which has Charles M. Ballou, chairman of the selectmen, as its spokesman. Mr. Baker and the two other members of the family received notices on Saturday from Elias Richardson, secretary of the Wendell board of registrars, that their names had been removed from the list at a meeting held February 20. The letter was as follows:—

"At a meeting held at the town hall at Wendell, Saturday, February 20, 1932, after notice was given to you to appear and show cause why your name should not be removed from the voting list, you having appeared in answer to said notice, and not having given evidence or any legal reasons why your name should not be removed from the list, the registrars, after having given the matter due consideration, voted to remove your name from the voting list of the town of Wendell, and in accordance therewith your name has been removed from the voting list."

This action was taken because of the fact that Mr. Baker and his family have made their residence for the most part in Millers Falls and that on April 1, the registrars visited the Baker farm in Wendell and did not find any member of the family there. Last year Mr. Baker was assessed a poll tax in the town of Montague as was his son, but these have since been abated following a session between the Montague selectmen and Attorney Charles H. Fairhurst. Mr. Baker who has served as a Wendell town official in years past was born in Wendell, March 9, 1874 in the old Baker homestead which was built 150 years ago. He has been a voter in Wendell 30 years. The Wendell registrars at this meeting

removed 13 names from the voting list and added 31 new names. It is probable that court action will ensue as the result of this latest development in the Wendell political proceedings. A suit has already been brought against Mr. Ballou for \$10,000 as a result of the refusal of the registrars to permit Mr. Baker's son to become a voter and of course there was the recent session held in Greenfield with regard to the dismissal of Mrs. Emma F. Grew, the Wendell school teacher last fall.

WENDELL REMAINS UNDER CONTROL OF BALLOU "MACHINE"

"Bakerites" Vainly Protest Decision of Registrars—Snowstorm Fails to Keep Residents Home

Orange, March 7.—A snowstorm with the earmarks of the 1888 blizzard, driving relentlessly down from the northeast throughout the night and this morning, failed to keep the voters of Wendell from attending today's annual town-meeting. It did keep outsiders from plowing through the drifts to witness what promised to be the "biggest show on earth" so far as this neck of the county is concerned. A total of 179 votes was cast today, as against 165 last year.

The 1931 free-for-all was not duplicated so far as an antagonistic spirit was concerned. The Ballou forces had their own way. In fact, the results placed the veteran leader of Wendell's political family more firmly established in the saddle than ever before. Something of the nature of Mr. Ballou's dominance of today's session may be gained from the fact that not a single dissenting vote was uttered as successive articles were taken up and not a single discussion ensued.

Bakers Kept from Voting

Every motion was made by the Wendell chairman, who has served 29 years as a selectman and whose political sovereignty has been threatened only once or twice during that long period. The most stubborn resistance came at last year's meeting when the forces under Mr. Ballou's foremost political opponent, Osro D. Baker, former selectman, assessor and school committeeman, made a determined attack and failed by only five votes.

Mr. Baker figured little today, however, for he and his family were forced out of the picture last week by the action of the board of registrars, composed of Mr. Ballou, Louis B. Bowen, Charles H. Jennison and Elias Richardson, who removed them from the voting list. The Bakers were present, however, and before the articles were taken up appeared in protest against the action of the registrars. Mr. Baker declared the action illegal and asked for an immediate hearing before the registrars. The meeting was delayed 40 minutes while this procedure took place in private. According to reports which later leaked out, some caustic remarks were made and Constable Glenn Mills was called from the floor to prevent trouble which threatened. No announcement was made of the result of the hearing, but the Bakers did not vote.

As a result, Mr. Baker, who was spokesman of the opposition to the Ballou regime last year, could not participate in today's discussion and no one else appeared to take his place.

Ballou Candidates Win

The result of the vote for town officers showed a large majority for the candidates loyal to the Ballou side. For selectmen and members of the public welfare board, Charles M. Ballou received 111 votes, Lewis C. Bowen 118, Charles H. Jennison 114, Charles A. Fleke 84 and William D. Bowen 65, the first three named being elected.

Mr. Ballou was reelected assessor; cemetery commissioner, library trustee and member of the public welfare board. Frank B. Ballou was reelected to the school committee over Ella H. Wetherby, and Joseph L. Perry was elected auditor to replace Marion Whitney, resigned.

The meeting was scheduled to start at 10 a. m. but got under way at 10.30 because of storm conditions. The warrant was read by Elias Richardson, appointed town clerk pro tem several weeks ago to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Town Clerk W. W. Whippley. Mr. Perry replaced Ernest S. Putnam, the old time adder who has been moderator for years and who was in charge of last year's hectic meeting. This was Mr. Perry's first appearance as moderator.

Percupines Bounty Reduced

The spirit of economy was shown in the disposal of the articles, many appropriations being cut in half. For the coming year Wendell will pay only 25 cents for percupines killed, the usual \$100 appropriation being cut to \$50. Each year hunters have received 50 cents for each badger brought to the selectmen. For the further improvement of the main road from Wendell Center to Wendell Depot \$2000 was appropriated, and \$1500 additional with which to apply tarvia. The library appropriation was cut out to \$50 and the same amount was voted to conduct the annual old home day.

There was no objection to the article calling for \$400 for a school nurse, \$200 for tax collector's salary, \$100 for electric lights at Wendell Depot, \$50 for tree warden, \$400 for contingency fund, \$1000 for salaries and expenses of town officers, \$250 for month work, \$100 for fire equipment and \$500 for the maintenance of potholes and railings about town and \$50 for Memorial day.

Permission was given the welfare department to accept any real estate or personal property acquired through assistance from funds of this department or the board of health.

Women First to Vote

The first to cast a ballot was Mrs. Harriet Sparks, 86, and the second was Mrs. Elizabeth Casavant, 78. Atty. F. J. Lawler of Greenfield was present to represent the selectmen in case any legal technicalities appeared and there was also a state officer on hand, although he was in plain clothes.

The same old stovetop which extends the length of the hall indicated the dividing line between the two forces, as it has the past few years, although the Baker side was much thinner in numbers than previously. Before the meeting was under way, adherents of the Ballou regime were borrowing chairs and taking them across the dividing line.

This separation of voters originated three years ago, when Moderator Ernest Putnam in an effort to count votes on articles, asked those in favor to stand on one side of the hall and those opposed to stand on the other.

The total appropriations were \$21,185. The voting list numbered 185 as compared with 177 last year, 13 names being dropped and 81 added. Voters remained until the ballot box was closed, for the impression prevailed that Mr. Baker was to make some kind of a demonstration at that time. But no action was taken when the balloting was declared closed.

Lawsuit May Be Filed

There is reason to believe that a lawsuit will grow out of the action of the registrars in removing the Bakers from the voting list. A suit for \$10,000 against Charles M. Ballou brought for the alleged refusal of the Wendell registrars to register Andrew Baker, son of Osro Baker, is pending in superior court.

It is the contention of the registrars that the Bakers are not entitled to vote in Wendell because none of the family was living in the Bakers

THE SPRINGFIELD DAILY REPUBLICAN, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.: TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1932

TRIAL OF WENDELL REGISTRARS OPENS

Ballou, Jennison and Bowen Are Charged With Fraud and Corrupt Conduct in Public Office

Greenfield, April 4—Wendell politics came to the fore again this afternoon as Charles M. Ballou, Charles H. Jennison and Lewis B. Bowen, comprising the Wendell board of registrars of voters, went on trial in superior court here on charges of fraud and corrupt conduct in public office. Each was charged specifically on three separate counts with causing the removal, for political reasons of the names of Ozro D. Baker, his wife, Gertrude F., and his daughter, Dorothy M., from the Wendell register of voters, knowing they were legal residents and voters of the town.

The state's case was outlined by Dist-Atty Bartlett from the time the Bakers received notices February 10 to attend a meeting of the registrars and show cause, if any, why their names should not be so removed, until actual removal of their names February 20. Atty Bartlett said the evidence would show the registrars to be political opponents of the Bakers and that as there was no legal reason for such removal it was done only to strengthen the political grip of the Ballou element on the town of Wendell.

Little Progress Made

Little progress was made in the trial this afternoon, Ozro Baker himself being the only witness called to the stand. He testified he was born and had always maintained a residence in Wendell, where he runs an 80-acre farm and keeps a furnished home where he spends his summers with members of his family.

He testified to having served the town in the capacity of selectman, assessor, school committeeman and member of the boards of public welfare and health. Since he has been old enough to vote he had never missed a town-meeting or failed to exercise his right to vote in Wendell until the 1932 town-meeting, he said. He told of attending the registrars' meeting February 20, of his effort to show reasons why his name should not be stricken from the list of voters and of its subsequent removal.

Long after court adjourned at 4 Judge Butterworth and the four attorneys in the case discussed the compatibility of certain evidence with the precise specifications contained in the indictments. Indications were that the cases might last for several days. Dist-Atty Bartlett, assisted by Atty John W. Heseltun, represent the commonwealth, Attys Frank J. Lawler of Greenfield and Thomas R. Hickey, Jr., of Northampton, are counsel for the defendants.

The following jury was impaneled: Harry M. Billings of South Deerfield, foreman; Abbott L. Howes of Ashfield, John F. Luppold, Ralph E. Johnson and William F. Axelby of Greenfield; Elric Lamoureux of Turners Falls, Herbert T. Slate of Bernardston, George L. Rice of West Hawley, Arthur F. Martineau of Montague City, Gunnar N. Thoren of Orange, Orin E. Ball of Shelburne and Alex. White of Monroe Bridge.

Tuesday, April 5, 1932.

Associated Press Service

Baker Acknowledges "Feeling" As Wendell Registrars' Cases Occupy Superior Court During Second Day

OPPOSED IN WENDELL POLITICAL TANGLE



Dist. Atty. Joseph T. Bartlett is prosecuting Wendell registrars while Atty. Thomas R. Hickey of Northampton has joined Atty. Frank J. Lawler in defending the town officials. Atty. John Heselton is aiding the district attorney.

Recounts Differences With Ballou Over Town Affairs

Counsel Agree To Continue With 11 Jurors When
Montague City Man Falls Ill — Cross Examination Of Baker Begins Late

continued

The trial of the first set of so-called Wendell cases went into its second day Tuesday before Judge Arthur F. Butterfield in superior court. There were only 11 jurors, Arthur F. Martineau, Montague city contractor, jurymen number 12, having sent word illness confined him to his bed. Counsel on both sides agreed to continue with the 11 jurors.

Baker On Stand

When the court recessed Tuesday noon for luncheon Ozro D. Baker, former selectman, was still on the stand, submitting redirect testimony in answer to questions of Dist. Atty. Joseph T. Bartlett. It was his second day on the witness stand.

Tuesday's hearing was delayed nearly 40 minutes when the attorneys on both sides remained in the judge's chambers to discuss questions of law relative to the case. Many times during the hearing defense counsel objected to questions and the court was called upon to make rulings.

Cross-examination of Mr. Baker by Atty. Thomas Hickey for the defense, brought late in the forenoon an admission from the witness stand that he had "feeling" against Charles M. Ballou (one of the defendants) since he was defeated for the office of selectman.

It is apparent that the cases, to a certain extent at least, will be tried separately, and Monday saw Charles M. Ballou, Charles H. Jenkinson and Lewis B. Bowen, all members of the board of registrars of the town of Wendell, arraigned on an indictment containing three charges growing out of the alleged striking of names from the town's voting list.

The first surprise in the trial came at the very outset when the defense announced Atty. Thomas R. Hickey of Northampton had been added to their counsel. Atty. Frank J. Lawler has been engaged for some time as counsel for the defendants and remains as such. Dist. Atty. Joseph T. Bartlett is being assisted by Atty. John Hesclton.

The jury impaneled remained the same when neither the defense or prosecution challenged. Those drawn were:—

William C. Appleby, Greenfield;

given, "but evidence will show it was done to strengthen their side," the district attorney told the jury. The removal was not founded on legal cause, he concluded.

A lengthy discussion as to procedure and questions of law followed between the court and defense and prosecution counsel and the trial resumed after about 10 minutes.

Ozro D. Baker was the first prosecution witness. He testified he owned property in Wendell consisting of about 80 acres, two houses, two barns and live stock. He said the farm had been carried on there for some time and crops raised annually. He testified he voted in Wendell all his life up to 1931, and that he received his first notice to appear and show cause why his name should not be removed from the voting list on Feb. 3. A second notice was received, he testified, that this name would not appear on the voting list unless he could show a legal residence in Wendell April 1.

He said he replied to the notice and on Feb. 20, sent to the Wendell town hall and at an executive session of the registrars he showed a poll-tax abatement. He said he made also a verbal statement and made a memorandum of his statement.

Defense counsel objected to the abated bill's being placed in evidence and the court sustained the objection. The first notice, the witness testified, he was told was incorrect and his name was on the list then. Another notice, signed by Ehas Richardson, clerk of the registrars, was received later. Mr. Baker testified, which stated his name had actually been removed from the voting list.

Baker's Political Record

There was considerable testimony concerning the public offices Baker had held in Wendell during the past several years. Defense counsel objected to much of the testimony but the court overruled. Baker said he bought his Millers Falls property in 1922 and had occupied it during the fall and winter of every year since 1923 and goes to his Wendell home every June until September. Conditions have always been the same, he testified.

The next question asked by the

continued

Cross-examined further by Atty. Hickey regarding the second hearing given the Bakers at the town meeting last March, the witness, Mr. Baker, admitted he told Ballou that "any man who puts his property out of his name before monkeying with my vote does a dastardly act." Baker maintained under cross-examination he was not angry at Ballou but "felt hurt." He further admitted in answer to questions from Atty. Hickey that he had a "feeling" toward Mr. Ballou and in answer to the following question: "Haven't you had a feeling against Charles M. Ballou ever since you were defeated for the office of selectman," the witness answered, "Yes."

Baker testified, while being subjected to re-direct examination, he never attended a meeting of the board of registrars while a member because no meetings were called. Baker further testified Ballou telephoned him before the last election and asked him to run for the office of selectman and assessor.

At this point in the trial Dist. Atty. Bartlett offered in evidence the Montague poll tax abatement. Monday the court refused to allow the admission of the abatement, Tuesday the court addressed the jury telling its members they were to consider the abatement as evidence showing only what the registrars of Wendell had before them at the time of the first hearing, given the Bakers and not to consider it as a decision made by the Montague assessors.

Baker further testified he is in Wendell every day if the going is good and that his family goes there frequently during the winter. Questioned about the decision of the registrars after the second hearing at the March 1931 town meeting, Baker testified Ballou announced to him the board had decided to let their decision that the Bakers could not vote stand.

Mrs. Gertrude F. Baker, wife of the first witness next testified. She said she had claimed Wendell as her home for the 26 years of her married life. She said she told the board of registrars at the first hearing that Wendell was her home and residence. Cross-examined by Atty. Hickey she admitted her postoffice address remained Millers Falls the entire year including the summers she was present in Wendell.

Miss Dorothy M. Baker, daughter of the Bakers and a school teacher at Athol, the next government witness, testified her residence was wherever her parents lived and so told the board of registrars of Wendell when she appeared in answer to a communication to do so and show cause why her name should not be stricken from the list.

Cross-examined by Atty. Hickey, she said she was at both the Millers Falls home and the Wendell farm during vacations, week-ends and days off. She denied her father had ever told her anything about his feelings toward Mr. Ballou, one of the defendants.

State Completes Evidence Against Wendell Officers In Corrupt Practice Case

Town Clerk And Moderator Tell Of Votes At 1931 Town Meeting

Montague Assessor Testifies Ballou Told Him
Baker Was Not to Be Assessed Poll Tax in
Wendell in 1931 --- Hummer Marks Third Day
of Trial

Joseph E. Sicard, clerk of the board of assessors of Montague, testifying in the first of the so-called Wendell cases which went into its third day Wednesday, said Charles M. Ballou of the Wendell board of assessors and one of the defendants in the present case told him in July, 1931, Caro D. Baker would not be assessed a poll tax in Wendell that year.

The commonwealth completed the presentation of its evidence against Charles M. Ballou, Charles H. Jennison and Lewis B. Bowen, members of the Wendell board of registrars, charged with corrupt practice while in office and with striking the names of certain persons from the Wendell voting list for political purposes, just before the 1 p. m. recess Wednesday.

The names the commonwealth alleges were stricken from the voting list of Wendell are Ozro D. Baker, Gertrude F. Baker and Dorothy M. Baker.

The third day of the hearing was marked with humorous answers from witnesses, objections of the admission of certain evidence by both the commonwealth and the defense and clashes between the attorneys.

Clerk Takes Stand

Elias Richardson, Wendell town clerk, was on the stand when the court opened Wednesday. His testimony concerned various votes at the March, 1931, town meeting which were close and in some cases ties were recorded of votes taken on motions made by Baker and Ballou. He said the vote to remove the Baker names from the voting list was unanimous by the board of registrars.

Mr. Richardson had previously testified he automatically became a member of the board of registrars when named town clerk. Cross-examined by Atty. Thomas R. Hickey for the defense he said there were 177 voters in Wendell in 1931 and every registered voter present at the town meeting voted. He said he had no ill will toward the Bakers and Ballou didn't ask him to vote to remove the Baker names. He admitted he didn't know whether or not Baker was living in Wendell April 1, 1931. Dist. Atty. Joseph T. Bartlett objected to a question regarding a visit by Baker to Mr. Richardson's house in October and the court sustained him. Mr. Bartlett also objected to a question by Atty. Hickey:

continued

"Why did you vote to remove Baker's name from the list?"

Dist. Atty. Bartlett stated as his objection that Richardson was not indicted on this charge. The court sustained him but Atty. Hickey obtained the consent of the court to save his objections.

Talked All Day

Ernest F. Putnam, now residing at 92 Mechanic street, Orange, injected some humor into his replies under cross-examination. He said he was the moderator of the 1931 town meeting and testified as to votes taken at the meeting and the motions made by both Ballou and Baker. He said the two of them talked most all day and if Baker was against Ballou it was for the settlement of the "Harris case".

He said the Ballou debate was the most heated and Dist. Atty. Bartlett asked the witness under direct examination if Ballou was sitting nearer the stove. The question remained unanswered.

His answers under cross-examination brought laughs from the audience when he said both sides were close enough to the stove in the town hall to keep warm. He insisted, however, Baker didn't get hotter than Ballou.

Questioned further by Atty. Hickey as to which side he (the witness) belonged, Putnam answered that he "didn't belong to the Ballou crowd." He did admit under further questioning he did question the Bakers' right to vote in Wendell in 1923.

Baker Cross-Examined

Mr. Baker under cross-examination by Atty. Hickey said he was a member of the board of registrars of Wendell at the same time he was selectman but declared there never was held a legitimate meeting of the registrars during that time. The district attorney objected to the question regarding Baker's knowledge of being assessed a poll tax in Montague and the court sustained the objection.

Baker admitted there was no attempt to take his name from the voting list while he was a candidate for the office of selectman in 1931 and further admitted he hadn't paid his 1931 poll tax when he received notice to appear before the registrars and show cause why his name should not be stricken from the voting list. He further denied being engaged in litigation with Ballou at the time of the registrar's hearing but said his son was. Asked if he told the Wendell tax collector he was a man without a county, Montague didn't want him nor did Wendell, the district attorney objected before the witness answered and the court sustained the objection.

April 19, 1931
**Wendell Evidence All In
But Case Will Not Reach
Jury Until Late Monday**

**Arguments Of Both Counsel And
Charge Of Judge To Be Heard**

State Offers Rebuttal Testimony After Examination of Atty. Lawler Completed in Case Involving Town Officials

The cases of Charles M. Ballou, Charles H. Jennison and Lewis B. Bowen, members of the board of registrars of the town of Wendell, all charged with fraud and corrupt practice and for political reasons having removed the names of Ozro D. Baker, Dorothy M. Baker and Gertrude F. Baker from the Wendell voting list, will not go to the jury until some time Monday.

The decision was made Friday noon. Defense evidence was completed early Friday morning, the fifth day of the trial, and the commonwealth's rebuttal was completed at about 11:40 a. m.

Questions Lawler

When court opened Friday morning, Atty. Frank J. Lawler, who started as a member of the defense counsel but became a defense witness, was being cross-examined by Dist. Atty. Joseph T. Bartlett.

Mr. Lawler said he was not the personal counsel of Mr. Ballou, one of the defendants but later acknowledged he represented Ballou in a suit. He believed it was the duty of the Wendell assessors to notify the Montague assessors. Baker was not being assessed in

Wendell and so instructed the Wendell assessors. His advise to the Wendell registrars was based on the facts they (registrars) gave him. The witness declared he represented the town and not Ballou at the 1931 town meeting. At this point Dist. Atty. Bartlett tried to get a written or signed statement into evidence but the defense counsel objection was sustained by Judge A. F. Butterworth. Lawler admitted there was a question raised as to Baker's domicile at the time of the 1931 recount meeting.

The defense put Elias Richardson on the witness stand. Richardson is a member of the board of registrars, town clerk and tax collector. He testified Ozro D. Baker came to his house Jan. 16 and inquired as to why he hadn't received a tax bill. Richardson said he replied he couldn't send out a tax bill if Baker's name was not on the commitment. As Baker left the house, the witness testified he said:

"Mr. Ballou will find himself in jail if this action is carried through and Baker is not a quitter if it takes all we have."

continued

Accuracy Questioned

Mr. Ballou testified under cross-examination he couldn't remember if Baker was a member of the board of registrars in 1930 or not but questioned more closely he finally admitted Baker was not a member. The question was asked by Dist. Atty. Bartlett, who followed it with another asking the witness if the rest of his testimony while under direct examination was as accurate as it was in reference to Baker's service as a registrar. The witness declared his other testimony was more accurate.

Ballou said his actions as a registrar were the same toward everyone. He admitted in answer to a question of Mr. Bartlett's there was no difference in the circumstances of Mr. Baker's residence in Wendell in 1932 than in any other year since 1923. He said the circumstances of the others stricken from the assessor's list were entirely different. He maintained under cross-examination there was no evidence to show Baker was ever coming back to Wendell in 1932.

The witness, Ballou, admitted he only limited himself to the evidence given by Baker at the registrar hearing when voting to remove the name from the poll list. Questioned again by the district attorney, Ballou said he wanted to leave it that the reason he took the Baker name from the assessor's list was because he didn't think Baker was coming back. He further testified his visits to Tax Commissioner Long at Boston were in the capacity of an assessor.

William Bell On Stand

William A. Bell, Greenfield, state supervisor of assessors in Western Massachusetts was a defense witness. He testified he informed the Wendell assessors that if they did not find Baker at his Wendell home April 1 they were not obligated to assess him. He said he knew nothing about the Montague poll tax abatement granted Baker until after it had occurred. Cross-examined, the witness said he did know there was a provision in the law stating that a man can declare his residence in another town even if not there April 1. He admitted he got in touch with the Montague assessors first.

Lewis B. Bowen, holder of various offices of Wendell at various times and a defendant in the present cases, corroborated most of Charles M. Ballou's testimony regarding the striking of the Baker names from the poll list. He said

he did not vote to take the names off to strengthen his political party or for any political corrupt or fraudulent reasons. He maintained his attitude was the same toward everyone as it was toward the Bakers. He said he didn't know why any previous board of registrars hadn't acted to remove the Bakers' names.

Under cross-examination Bowen admitted the poll tax of Baker's was not important, except as it affected his right to vote. He admitted the facts regarding the Bakers and their residence were the same in 1931 as in the year when not assessed.

Charles H. Jennison, another defendant and a member of the board of registrars, testifying directly, said he was not on the side opposing Baker until about a year ago last April 1. He then modified his statement by saying he was sometimes with Baker. He, too, denied he voted to remove the Baker names for any political purposes.

Facts Unchanged

Cross-examined, the witness admitted all the facts were the same in 1931 as they were in other years but one reason why the Baker name was taken from the poll list was because it was not on the assessors' lists. He said he based his vote on removal on the fact Baker would not swear he was in Wendell April 1.

Frank A. York, Wendell farmer, neighbor of the Baker's at Wendell testified only a few sheep are kept at the Baker farm in Wendell in the winter; the Bakers come there only for two months and usually bring furniture on a truck when they come. He said the livestock is not kept there in the winter except for the sheep. Cross-examined by Dist. Atty. Bartlett the witness said he attended the March 1931 town meeting and was on the Ballou side. He admitted having trouble with Baker and that he was not in Wendell in the winter of 1927.

continued

William Howe of Millers Falls, neighbor of the Bakers when they are living there, said Baker was engaged in the wood business in that town. He said further Baker keeps his horses and cows at Millers Falls in the winter but has never seen him take his furniture to Wendell in the spring or summer.

Ballou Went Only To Baker's

Mrs. Grace Howe, wife of William, testified Baker engaged in the wood business while living in Millers Falls and under cross-examination said they never left Millers for Wendell before July.

James Wilder of Wendell, told the court he was the man who drove Ballou to the Baker residence in Wendell and Millers on the night of April 1. He said he didn't see Baker at Wendell between the hours of 6 p. m. and 9 p. m. but thought he saw him at Millers. Cross-examined by Mr. Bartlett, the witness declared he didn't drive Ballou anywhere else but to the Baker home on that day.

The next defense witness was Atty. Frank J. Lawler. He said he conferred with Ballou and Bowen regarding the Baker assessment. He said the Wendell registrars received a complaint that Baker had no legal right to vote in Wendell on Dec. 3, 1930. Lawler testified he advised the Wendell assessors Baker should be a resident April 1 and if not there, they had no right to assess him a poll. He said he instructed the assessors to find out if Baker was in Wendell any part of the 24 hours of the day. He further testified he advised the registrars they would have to remove the names of Baker's daughter and wife if they removed Ozro D. Baker's name because both had claimed Ozro Baker's residence as theirs.

Mr. Lawler testified he was present at the March, 1931, town meeting and it was not a disorderly affair. He said the discussion was orderly.

Cross-examination of Atty. Lawler by Dist Atty. Bartlett had started when court adjourned for the day.

Rebuttal Witnesses

The state's rebuttal witnesses included Mrs. Mildred Glidden, clerk of the board of assessors of Wendell, who said she never sent a notice to Baker regarding his poll.

John Bitzer, Montague assessor, testified he had conversation with Mr. Ballou at a Grange meeting in Montague sometime in 1930. The substance of the statement was not revealed because defense counsel objected and the court sustained the objection.

Charles A. Fiske, Wendell lumber and lumberman, testified a statement was issued at the Wendell town meeting which in substance said no votes should be counted for Baker because he had no legal residence in the town of Wendell. He said the statement was signed Frank J. Lawler and Charles M. Ballou. He said he lived three miles from the Baker homestead in Wendell; that the Bakers came there around the first of June and stayed until September. He said one horse was there all last winter. Cross-examined by Atty. Thomas R. Hickey representing the defense, the witness declared he never questioned Baker's right to vote in Wendell.

Mrs. Baker, wife of Ozro D. Baker was recalled to the stand and testified to the amount of furniture in the Wendell home and under cross-examination said she didn't believe it was worth \$1,000.

Ozro D. Baker, the next rebuttal witness, denied he made a statement about Mr. Ballou while leaving the home of Mr. Richardson.

Arthur C. Noyes, Wendell, last rebuttal witness said the Bakers are in Wendell the forepart of June each year and that his horse was kept there all last winter.

WENDELL TRIO OF REGISTRARS FOUND GUILTY

4/11/32—

Ballou, Jennison and Bowen
Convicted of Removing
Names of Qualified
Voters from List.

GREENFIELD, April 11 — Three members of the Wendell Board of Registrars were found guilty today by a Superior Court jury of fraud and corrupt conduct for political purposes. Each was convicted on three counts. The officials, Charles M. Ballou, Charles Jennison and Lewis B. Bowen, were accused of removing names of certain qualified voters from the voting list of the town of Wendell.

Principal witnesses testifying this afternoon were William H. Ballou, who stated that he had had no intention of changing his legal residence from Wendell to Orange, and Mrs. William H. Ballou, who also claimed residence in Wendell, but who said she had not lived there much of the time during 1931. She said they went to Orange about two years ago and that her postoffice address is Orange. Mrs. Ballou further testified that when her husband was in Wendell conducting his lumbering business, she was alone for weeks at a time in Orange. Elias Richardson, town clerk and registrar of voters by virtue of his office, also tax collector, said he considered William H. Ballou a legal resident of Wendell on April 1 as he had paid a poll tax in that town and his name was not removed from the voters' list when it was revised in February.

The jury retired for deliberation at 1 o'clock. Arguments were made for the defendants by Atty. Thomas T. Hickey of Northampton and by Dist. Atty. Joseph T. Bartlett for the Commonwealth.

The registrars were charged with removing the names Ozro D. Baker, his wife and daughter, from the voters' list, who held residence properties in both Wendell and Millers Falls. The Commonwealth alleged the Bakers were legal residents of Wendell when their names were removed, although residing in Millers Falls during the winter months while their children went to school.

The jury was impaneled Friday and the starting of a second trial was begun this afternoon with the appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Ballou, the former, brother of Charles M. Ballou.

The penalty on the charge is not more than six months in jail.

4/12/32
**WENDELL BOARD
OF REGISTRARS
GET SENTENCES**

Ballou, Bowen and Jennison
Held in \$500 Each on
Appeals from Six-

GREENFIELD, April 12—Charles M. Ballou, Charles H. Jennison and Lewis B. Bowen, Selectmen and Registrars of Voters in town of Wendell, this noon were sentenced in Superior Court by Judge Arthur E. Butterworth to the House of Correction for terms of two months in each of the three counts of the indictments charging fraud and corrupt conduct for political reasons.

Execution of sentences was suspended by order of the court and defendants furnished bonds of \$500 each, Charles Leach, bondsman, as their cases now go on appeal to the Supreme Judicial Court.

In Superior Court this morning Judge Butterworth directed a not guilty verdict in the second trial of the Commonwealth against the three members of the Wendell Board of Registrars of Voters in which they were charged with failure to remove from the voters' list of that town the names of William H. Ballou and wife of Orange, who also claimed residence in Wendell.

Another case of the same nature similarly disposed of involved Elias Richardson, town clerk and member of the Board of Registrars by virtue of his office, a complaint of preventing the legal voting on one Eugene R. Gale.

Judge Butterworth said when he dismissed the jurors that the evidence showed nothing to strengthen the political position of these defendants. In the first trial against the same defendants under similar counts these men were charged with removing names from the voters' list of Ozro D. Baker, his wife and daughter of Wendell, who also held residence property in town of Millers Falls, and the jury reported verdict of guilty.

WENDELL SELECTMEN TO SERVE SENTENCES

Full Bench of Supreme Court Upholds Decision

GREENFIELD, June 28—As a result of the decision of the full bench of the supreme court today, Charles M. Ballou, Charles H. Jennison and Lewis B. Bowen, former Wendell selectmen and members of the Wendell board of registrars of voters in 1932, must appear at a special August session of the superior court here and receive sentences of six months each to the house of correction.

The three were charged and found guilty of striking the names of three citizens of Wendell from the voting lists for political reasons. This case was the culmination of a long period of political strife in Wendell between the so-called Baker and Ballou factions for control of the town's various offices.

During the fight, the three struck the name of Ozro Baker, their political opponent, from the voting list, as well as those of two members of his family, Dorothy M. Baker, and Gertrude F. Baker. After their conviction, the three selectmen were sentenced by Justice Arthur F. Butterworth, but the sentences were held up pending appeal.

The defendants struck the names of the Baker family from the list on the grounds that they were not residents of Wendell but of Montague. The Bakers contended they were, and had been for many years, residents and taxpayers of Wendell.

Board Retains Parker. 7/1/32.

Former attorney general of Massachusetts, Herber Parker of Boston, has been retained by members of the Board of Registrars of Voters of the town of Wendell as counsel in cases pending against them in the Superior Court. Entry to this effect has been made in the office of the court. The cases listed are those of the Commonwealth against Charles M. Ballou, Lewis B. Bowen and Charles H. Jennison, registrars of voters in Wendell. They were sentenced in the March term of court to serve six months in the House of Correction when found guilty on indictments charging corrupt practises and fraud in connection with their official duties. A motion of stay of execution was granted with the time for filing exceptions fixed for July 1, but now extended to Aug. 1.

Injunction In Wendell Case To July 1st

Judge Lummus Allows Atty. Lawler's Bill for \$412 --- Restraint Is Continued

(Special to The Recorder)

SPRINGFIELD—Justice Henry T. Lummus, in the superior court Monday, ordered the temporary injunction, restraining certain officials of the town of Wendell from paying legal fees voted at the recent special town meeting there, to continue in force. Justice Lummus ordered all pleadings in by July 1 and a further hearing in the case will be before Justice William A. Burns at the July sitting of the Franklin county superior court.

The temporary restraining order was first issued June 9 by Justice Raoul Henri Beaudreau at Northampton as the result of a taxpayer's bill filed in superior court there by 75 Wendell voters who signed a petition asking for such an order. The bill sought to enjoin Messrs. Ballou, Bowen and Jennison, members of the Wendell board of selectmen and Mrs. Mildred A. Glidden, Wendell town treasurer. The former three were defendants in court proceedings at the March sitting of superior court in Greenfield charged with corrupt practices and fraud in the conduct of their offices.

The selectmen ordered a special town meeting for Friday, June 10 and the meeting voted to pay legal fees and reimbursements for the lawyers and defendants amounting to \$4,000. The payment of this amount is what the 75 taxpayer's bill signers wish to prevent.

The special meeting voted the sum of \$412 for the expenses and fees of Town Counsel Frank J. Lawler, Greenfield. Justice Lummus allowed this amount.

Wendell

MORE THAN 200 RETURN TO WENDELL

Record Crowd Attends Old Home Day Exercises; Woman Faints.

WENDELL, Aug. 25 — Excellent weather brought out a record crowd for "Old Home Day" Wednesday. There were ball games both morning and afternoon and a luncheon booth on the common served refreshments at noon. There was an entertainment at the church in the afternoon by the Bargeron Family Orchestra played. Miss Winnie Sandberg of Springfield was reader, Mrs. Bristol and Rev. Dean Holt soloists. The speaker was Rev. Charles White of Millers Falls. C. M. Ballou gave the address of welcome with a response by Miss Ethel Bowen of Springfield. The church was filled.

During the exercises Mrs. Carrie Putnam of Orange, a former resident, fainted due to the heat. She was attended by Dr. Johnson who was present and was quickly revived. The supper in the evening was well attended as was the dance. More than 200 were present. Comdr. Baker of the G. A. R. in Orange, the only living Civil War Veteran who enlisted from Wendell, spoke in the afternoon. Rev. J. S. Whitman, a former pastor, was also present and spoke.

THE SPRINGFIELD DAILY REPUBLICAN, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1933

WENDELL INTERESTED IN PROVINCETOWN CASE

Parallel Drawn Between Hearing There and Suit Brought by Ozro Baker

Greenfield, Feb. 12—Residents of Wendell read with interest today a special dispatch to a Boston newspaper from Provincetown, where a crowd of 300 persons stormed the town hall yesterday to attend a hearing in the case of Ralph S. Carpenter, former manager of a Cuban sugar plantation and candidate for selectman, who was charged by an opponent with illegal registration. The crowd tore the town hall doors from their hinges and after Judge Herman A. Harding had ruled in favor of Carpenter, cheered him to the echo. One woman fainted in the crush and disorder.

Carpenter, who built a house in Provincetown in 1931 with the intention of making that town his permanent residence, was summoned on complaint of Charles N. Rogers, one of three opponents in the race for the joint offices of selectman, assessor and member of the board of public welfare. The basis of Rogers' complaint was that when Carpenter registered in Provincetown January 30, this year, he had not been a resident for the required one-year period.

Judge Harding ruled that it was not necessary for a person to reside continuously in one place in order to be regarded as a resident. He cited the cases of whaling captains, who were absent for long periods but were none the less legal residents of their home ports.

The case is similar to one tried in superior court here last year and in which a jury found three members of the Wendell board of registrars guilty of fraud and corrupt conduct in public offices in that, for political reasons, they removed from the list of Wendell voters the names of Ozro D. Baker, his wife, Gertrude F. Baker and his daughter, Dorothy M. Baker, knowing they were legal voters of the town. The registrars based their defense largely on the fact that the Bakers were living in Millers Falls (town of Montague) on April 1. Counsel for the Bakers rested their case on their long residence in Wendell and maintenance of a legal residence there.

THE BOSTON HERALD, THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1933

WENDELL SELECTMEN TO SERVE SENTENCES

Full Bench of Supreme Court Upholds Decision

GREENFIELD, June 28—As a result of the decision of the full bench of the supreme court today, Charles M. Ballou, Charles H. Jennison and Lewis B. Bowen, former Wendell selectmen and members of the Wendell board of registrars of voters in 1932, must appear at a special August session of the superior court here and receive sentences of six months each to the house of correction.

The three were charged and found guilty of striking the names of three citizens of Wendell from the voting lists for political reasons. This case was the culmination of a long period of political strife in Wendell between the so-called Baker and Ballou factions for control of the town's various offices.

During the fight, the three struck the name of Ozro Baker, their political opponent, from the voting list, as well as those of two members of his family, Dorothy M. Baker, and Gertrude P. Baker. After their conviction, the three selectmen were sentenced by Justice Arthur F. Butterworth, but the sentences were held up pending appeal.

The defendants struck the names of the Baker family from the list on the grounds that they were not residents of Wendell but of Montague. The Bakers contended they were, and had been for many years, residents and taxpayers of Wendell.

AUGUST 3, 1933

Ship Without a Rudder

For the first time in its history the town of Wendell found itself Monday night without a board of selectmen or of public welfare, and minus an assessor, two cemetery commissioners and a library trustee. This was because Charles M. Ballou, Lewis B. Bowen and Charles H. Jennison are serving time for alleged violation of election laws. The town is also without a chairman of the old home-day committee, to which office Mr. Ballou was elected at the March 6 town-meeting.

Because the Great and General Court of Massachusetts overlooked the possibility that three selectmen might go to jail at once, the Wendell town hall has been moved bag and baggage into the county house of correction.

Atty. Gen. Joseph E. Warner, interviewed at the state house, Boston, said he could find nothing in the statutes to invalidate the transaction of town affairs by the three imprisoned selectmen of Wendell if the sheriff of Franklin County permitted them to get together for a meeting inside the walls.

The Legislature provided for an emergency town government in case of death, vacancy, or removal from office, but not for imprisonment, so far as Mr. Warner could learn.

According to rules of the jail, they may receive visitors, including their appointees and constituents, from 1 to 4 p. m. Wednesdays and Fridays. However, the same visitor may not have two audiences a week and telephone calls are forbidden.

Persons desiring to transact town business must travel from Wendell to the jail at these times, and if the chief of police, town treasurer, or town clerk desires a second audience during the week he must first convince Sheriff F. W. Doane that the affairs of Wendell are sufficiently important to justify an infraction of the rules.

WENDELL OFFICIALS GO TO JAIL

A long fight to convict the Wendell registrars of voters for violations of the election laws ended in a special misdemeanor session of superior court in Greenfield, Monday, when Charles M. Ballou, Charles H. Jennison and Lewis B. Bowen were sentenced to one month in the house of correction on each of three counts, by Judge Arthur F. Butterworth of Brookfield. The men, who are also the Wendell selectmen and board of health, were sentenced at 1 p. m. following long arguments by counsel, Atty. Frank J. Lawler of Greenfield and former Atty. Gen. Herbert B. Parker of Lancaster. After shaking hands with a number of friends and relatives who were in the courtroom, they departed for the jail in charge of Sheriff Fred W. Doane.

The registrars were found guilty by a jury in superior court last year of fraud and corrupt conduct in office in that, for political reasons, they caused the names of Ozo D. Baker, his wife, Gertrude F. Baker and daughter, Dorothy M. Baker, to be removed from the voting list and at that time Judge Butterworth sentenced the men to two months on each of the three counts and the cases were taken to the supreme court on exceptions. The supreme court overruled the exceptions and Dist-Atty. Joseph T. Bartlett moved for sentence Monday morning.

After asking that the registrars be placed on probation or given suspended sentences, Atty. Parker called two witnesses: Tax Commissioner Henry F. Long of Topsfield and William A. Bell of Greenfield, supervisor of assessors for the four western counties. Long testified that the defendants called on him at Boston more than two years ago to ask his advice relative to whether the names of members of the Baker family should be placed on the poll tax list. In the light of the facts they gave him, Long declared he told the registrars the Bakers were not domiciled in Wendell. Bell testified he told the registrars the Bakers were not domiciled in Wendell. Bell testified he informed the registrars that if the Bakers were not in Wendell April 1, 1931, the town was not required to assess them for a poll tax. In its ruling on exceptions, the supreme court recently found the Bakers were domiciled in Wendell, although they were not actually in that town April 1.

Atty. Lawler, counsel for the registrars throughout the case, presented the court with a petition signed by some 180 residents of Wendell, asking leniency for the three defendants. In imposing sentences totalling only half the previous ones, Judge Butterworth remarked he had originally intended to impose sentences of but one month on each count, and would carry out his former intention. Other criminal cases pending against the registrars, who included Town Clerk Elias Richardson, and against Charles M. Ballou alone, are to be not pressed, ending the criminal phase of the Wendell cases. Several civil suits brought by members of the Baker family are still pending.

THE BOSTON HERALD, SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 1933

How Baker-Ballou Feud Started

WENDELL, Aug. 12—When this town's three selectmen went to jail earlier for violation of the corrupt practices act, they could scarcely have foreseen the complications that were to come. Their enforced departure to the county jail at Greenfield stirred a lot of questions regarding their right to continue in office. They are transacting the town's business from the jail.—News item.

By ROWE WARWICK

Wendell, which in its day saw the high court sit within its borders, today finds itself bereft of all selectmen, registrars of voters and members of the board of welfare by order of the court.

Wars are no less intense because of small scale and the political warfare which has raged in bitter form for nearly three years in this Franklin county township of 350 people makes up in intensity what it lacks in number of combatants.

To date the Ballouites have won every skirmish with ballots and the Bakerites have won every action in the courts. This means that Charles M. Ballou, captain of his faction and selectman for 30 years, is in office, but a prisoner in the Franklin county house of correction, while Ozro D. Baker is out of office but free to roam the wooded hills and berry pastures at will. With Ballou are Lewis Bowen and Charles H. Jennison.

The townspeople are now concerned to learn the legal status of the three selectmen who have just entered upon terms of three months each because the names of Baker and two of his immediate family were stricken from the voting lists, illegally, as the jurists and jurists have decided.

Until that is decided not a tap of work is going to be done on the new state-aided road which residents had hoped would at last give them all-year, all-weather access to the outside world. Selectmen have to sign the payrolls, and no one whom the Ballous would employ for the road job would dream of working for the town if a special election is likely to bring the Bakers back into office.

Whatever may be the private basis for the political feud between the two families, the open warfare can be traced back to the election of March, 1930, and to the earlier purchase of a plot of land that a kitchen ell might be added to the town hall.

WAR DECLARED

In March, 1930, Ozro Baker went down to defeat as a candidate for selectman. Charles M. Ballou was re-elected for the 33rd time and with him two henchmen. War was formally declared.

Using a report of state auditors made in July of that year, Baker carried the battle into the special town meeting of Aug. 29, 1930. There were at the time 150 registered voters in Wendell and 130 of them were on the floor while the gallery was crowded by spectators. Ernest S. Pummam, old time fiddler from the Depot, was again made moderator, a hot seat during the turbulent session.

The issues in the seven articles of the warrant are inconsequential, the fight was the thing. The auditors' report had brought out that Ballou on March 26, 1919, had sold the site of the town hall to the town for \$1000. They remarked the books showed a payment of \$50 to him in 1928 for land on which to build the town hall kitchen, but no deed had been filed. They suggested this be regularized. This provided most of Baker's ammunition.

This opposition leader pointed out the deed was filed in the courthouse in Franklin county on the very day of the special meeting, two years after the \$50 was paid. He said the plot measures 24 feet by 8 feet and estimated the town had paid Selectman Ballou at the rate of \$11,326.60 per acre in order that the Grange might have hot suppers at the winter meetings.

Debate waxed long and hot and personalities were freely exchanged. Some who had crops to gather next day began to stray out of the meeting. Then at the height of the evening the cry of "Fire" was raised and every able bodied man in his role of volunteer fireman forgot his duty as a voter and dashed for a blazing barn on a hilltop two miles away. It was freely charged later that one faction or the other had created this diversion but it was never proven.

Both sides began quietly to campaign for the next election. In such a town-

continued

relationships are crossed many times, one man's cousin is a neighbor of a lukewarm voter, and there are old records of favors and of sharp Yankee trading. Vote catching becomes a close race there.

The regular town meeting came March 2, 1931. The then town clerk, Tremaine W. Whelpley, who has since died, was a sick man and his physician had ordered him to remain abed. He defied the doctor, the snow drifted road and the keen March wind and came up the hill to the hall to cast his ballot. On the Wendell town hall floor is a large wood burning stove and its pipe runs nearly the length of the room before entering the ceiling, the better to warm the hall. It was a natural dividing line and the old guard led by Ballou gradually crowded into seats along the south wall, while the Baker-led cohorts assembled on the north.

This "stovepipe meeting," as it has since been known, began to ballot. Eight voters were challenged as they came forward. The old ballot box register constantly showed "10," as it had for years, although every eligible voter made use of it. This box, incidentally, was to yield up last June a four-year-old ballot which had become lost in its inner machinery and was never counted.

The result of the selectmen's contest was awaited tensely. The count announced was Charles M. Ballou, 84; Lewis Bowen, 86; Charles Fiske, Charles H. Jennison and Ernest Putnam, tied for third place on the board with 79 votes each; and Ozro Baker, 71.

Two weeks later a recount that lasted six hours was held. It found three more votes for Jennison and the rout of the Baker forces was complete. It was now an all-Ballou board. From this time on the Bakers have failed to swing a town meeting.

But the war has gone on. The Ballou family, who spend their winters in Millers Falls, but who are careful to appear at the old farm in Wendell where they spend their summers in time for the April 1 listing, made it a point of attempting to register and the registrars, who are the selectmen, having taken advice of counsel and having consulted Henry F. Long, state tax commissioner, on some phases, made it a point to refuse them.

refuse them.

From this action arose the criminal action which resulted in a verdict of guilty of corrupt practice in removing the Ballou names from the voting list, returned in April, 1932, in Franklin superior court. Exceptions were overruled by the supreme court and sentence of a month on each of the three counts has been imposed this month. That is why Ballou, Bowen and Jennison are now in the jail. Yet after their conviction and with the exceptions pending, all three were again elected, unopposed this time.

Meanwhile civil suits had been brought against the board by the Ballous for loss of voting privilege. An attachment was filed on Ballou property and when wood cutting began a year ago on one of the Ballou lots an injunction was promptly obtained to prevent such removal of Ballou assets.

ROW OVER FEES

Another complication has arisen over the fees of counsel Baker has contended the Ballou crowd employed this counsel as individuals; they contend it was the town who did the hiring through them as selectmen and the taxpayers should foot the bill.

Still another court action arose. Charles M. Ballou was chairman of the school committee, in addition to his several other town offices. Mrs. Emma F. Grew had been a teacher in the Center school for some years. It may be that being at the Center she was in a better position to express her opinion about Mr. Ballou than if she had been off in one of the other districts, say Pudding Hollow.

Anyway, the school board voted to dispense with all married teachers. The other three were single, so Mrs. Grew felt the full force of the blow. She continued to report to her school and brought a writ in supreme court charging the dismissal was illegal and actuated by political motives. A master sustained her in this after a hearing and she has finished out the school year. Now she has resigned her teaching post, vindicated, and is no longer an active participant.

That then is the condensed history of the Baker-Ballou conflict up to last Monday when Ballou, Bowen and Jennison entered the jail and a new chapter began.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1933

Big Reception Planned

There is unrestrained joy in Wendell town—at least in the hearts of 180 of the 200 souls who remain loyal to the government headed by Selectmen Charles M. Ballou, Lewis B. Bowen and Charles H. Jennison, for yesterday afternoon Gov. Ely pardoned them from further residence in the Franklin County jail at Greenfield, where they have been sojourning since three weeks ago Monday as the result of alleged negligence in the performance of their duties. The negligence applied to the removal of the names of Ozro D. Baker and members of his family from the Wendell voting list, though they had acted on the advice of counsel and state officers who were among those who signed the petition which went to the governor yesterday for their release. It was a full pardon which exonerates them of any wrong-doing.

This morning 20 automobiles and more, from the "home town", started for the Greenfield jail to escort the three men back to their firesides. It was expected that papers of release would be received by Sheriff Fred Doane on the morning mail and that they would immediately be returned to their former status. No heroes of old ever returned to their native hearths with more acclaim than will these three men be received into Wendell. Last evening the news of the pardon spread rapidly and supporters proceeded to get the forces together. Soon after the message was spread about

proceeded to get the forces together. Soon after the message was spread about the countryside by telephone, cars containing the "whole family" were seen wending their way to the center of the town and even before darkness had settled down, the parked cars in the yard of Constable Glenn Ellis were so thick that one could scarcely get in or out of the house. Wallace Oliver, who went to Greenfield in the afternoon with Mrs. Ballou to visit her husband and the other two members of the board, returned at an early hour, blowing the horn of his automobile continually to bring verification of the report received in the late afternoon at the office of Lawyer Lawler, the town's attorney. Plans were made for the triumphant entry on the morrow.

At Wendell Depot a large banner was stretched over the road leading to Wendell Center, bearing the inscription:—"Our Selectmen Welcome Home." In front of the other residences there were flags; while the Dexter House, lighted from cellar to garret, displayed a huge flag from the front veranda. There were hopes until 9 o'clock that the three men would return last night but communication with Sheriff Doane disclosed the fact that there was no chance of release until this morning. Accordingly flags and banner were removed but this morning they were put back and practically every residence along the route to Wendell town is flying old Glory or displaying some token of welcome. It will be a noisy caravan which returns from Greenfield and tonight, plans have been made for a monster reception in the old town hall where hectic political battles have been fought with Mr. Ballou leading his cohorts against the opposition of Ozro D. Baker and his followers. Just what program will be carried out has not been divulged but the

three town fathers will realize that they are in the hands of loyal friends and that their return is welcomed.

During their stay at the Greenfield jail, Messrs. Ballou, Bowen and Jennison have come to realize that the court's action has only strengthened friendship ties. Last week over 40 visited them and candy, fruit and cigars in abundance have been sent them. Last night at the Ballou home, callers were received throughout the evening and a happy environment was evident. Mrs. Bowen was not at her home for she remained in Greenfield to welcome her husband when he leaves the jail this morning. Mrs. Jennison was at her home, happy in the realization that she and her good husband would soon be reunited.

YES, WE HAVE BATHROOMS

That recent special article in a Boston Sunday paper which stated that Ozro D. Baker's house was the only domicile in Wendell which had a bathroom with hot and cold running water, has apparently started something in Wendell town. At any event a well-known Wendell woman called up Boston one day this week and let it be known that she was the possessor of such facilities and that it was a mighty, mighty pretty bathroom, too. More grief is added to the Baker claim of distinction by the announcement that the very first bathroom which was ever installed in Wendell is at the house where Mr. Baker's arch enemy, Charles M. Ballou, now resides. Yes sir, the Specialist would have tough picking in Wendell.

AUGUST 31, 1933

Noisy Welcome Greet Wendell Selectmen

Had there been another liberty bell available in Wendell on Thursday, it not only would have been cracked but it would have been split "clean in two" for no bell would have stood the strain the residents of the hill town were willing to put on it to indicate their joy in receiving back to their midst their three town fathers, Charles M. Ballou, Lewis B. Bowen and Charles H. Jennison who for three weeks and two days learned to play checkers and contract bridge under the kindly eye of Sheriff Fred Doane at his residence, the Franklin County jail in Greenfield. The three men who could not find Ozro D. Baker and other voting members of his family at their Mormon Hollow residence on April 1, 1932 and consequently dropped them from the Wendell voting list, were sentenced to the Greenfield institution for this omission after considerable legal litigation and were adapting themselves like real Spartans to their new environment, only to be released Thursday morning after Gov. Ely had given them a full pardon. The news came through Wednesday night but the papers didn't arrive until Thursday morning and as Sheriff Doane looked out onto the dampened landscape in front of the county jail at 8:30 to see many automobiles waiting to transport triumphantly the three men back home, he remarked that

he had never sent any one out like that before.

Notwithstanding that Jupiter Pluvius elected to empty his water buckets on Thursday, the downpour didn't dampen the ardor of the loyal supporters of the Wendell government and at a good hour in the morning automobiles were on the way to Greenfield. As the three selectmen walked out of jail they were greeted with a cheer which could have been



CHARLES M. BALLOU

heard 'round the world. They were placed in the car of Glenn Ellis, superintendent of roads and constable in Wendell, who had a sign on the car with the inscription, "Selectmen of Wendell." In the second car operated by Walter Oliver and decorated with flags, rode the wives of the selectmen while following came the school bus of Ray Clark filled with citizens. Other cars followed and as the caravan proceeded toward Wendell, cow-bells were rung and horns blown with much gusto to let the wide world know the selectmen of Wendell were again in the hands of friends. As the procession neared Frising, other cars from the hill town joined the parade until there were a total of 15. Through to Orange went the jubilant celebrators and then back to Wendell Depot where the triumphal entry into Wendell town began. Over the road near the Brown residence was hung a banner with the inscription, "Our Selectmen. Welcome home," and in front of other residences at the Depot were displayed flags. Nearly every home had some decoration to express the welcoming spirit and those who were not in the parade went out on verandas or in front of the house to extend greetings to the home-comers. Each selectman was taken to his home and as he left the car to take up life again where he had left it three weeks before, he was given a wonderful ovation. It was a holiday in Wendell, at least for 180 of the 200 residents who are loyal to the Ballou government.

Evening Celebration

The grange dance which had been arranged for Thursday evening in the town hall was called off so that the citizens of the community might gather for a reception to the "returning heroes." If there were any doubts that the townspeople were not nearly 100 per cent loyal to their three veteran officials, they must have been convinced of the fact Thursday evening for despite a sour night in which it rained intermittently, there were approximately 400 present to make the affair a huge success. The three selectmen must have had tired arms the next day for there were few periods during

(Continued on page 4)

continued

**NOISY WELCOME GREETES
WENDELL SELECTMEN**

(Continued from page 1)

the evening when someone was not "working them" vigorously. Soon after 8 o'clock the three men and their wives, with the exception of Mrs. Bowen who was unable to be present because of the fact that she was officiating in the home of her daughter in Hampden while the latter was on a vacation, were escorted to the front of the hall and there Joseph Perry, moderator at the town meetings, brought greetings to the selectmen and led the assembled crowd in three hearty cheers. A grand march was quickly formed and as the selectmen were passed they were extended the "right hand of fellowship." Assisting in the receiving line were Winfred Wyman, master of the grange and Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Glenn Ellis, Dr. F. A. Charles and Miss Marvis Thompson who "subbed" for Mrs. Bowen. Glenn Ellis went to North Brookfield, Thursday afternoon to get Dr. Charles, the "smiling dentist" who is almost popular enough in Wendell to be its mayor. After the reception there was dancing until 1 a. m. with music by Crowl's orchestra. The party brought to a close a rather strenuous day for the selectmen and the townspeople but it was an occasion which will never be forgotten.

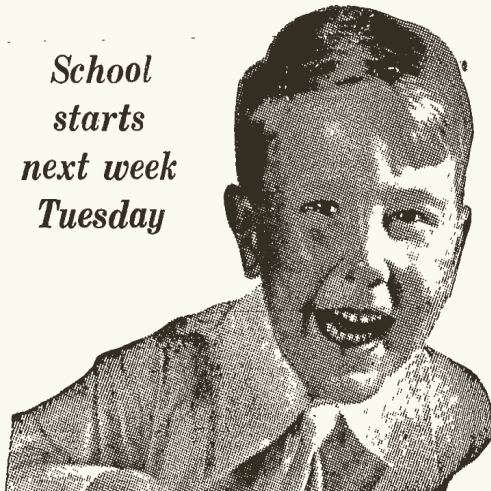
Well Treated in Greenfield

Messrs. Ballou, Bowen and Jennison have only words of praise for the kindly way in which they were treated by Sheriff Fred Doane during their short stay at the Franklin county institution. Mr. Ballou gained six pounds, Mr. Jennison four and Mr. Bowen just held his own, neither losing nor gaining. They had many visitors and received many assurances of sympathy and friendship in the form of gifts of fruit,

candy, cigars, cards and letters. Mr. Ballou was considerably affected by the demonstration which was accorded him when he returned home and could not conceal his feelings, and the same was true of his associates. The faces of all were beaming, however, at the evening reception. Practically everyone of Wendell's official family was present, including Town Clerk Elias Richardson, Town Treasurer Mildred Glidden, Constable Glenn Ellis and others. There are only 160 voters in Wendell but 400

people were present, many in the crowd coming from surrounding localities. The hall was artistically decorated for the occasion and no detail was overlooked to make the affair a real home-coming celebration. Particularly pleased were the selectmen at the way in which the townspeople had carried on during their absence and in after years residents will point back to this period as a splendid example of loyalty and devotion to those chosen to carry out the duties of administration.

*School
starts
next week
Tuesday*



POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



Republicans Nominate
Charles M. Ballou

for

County Commissioner

FOR UNEXPIRED TWO YEARS
(Short Term)

Give a small town one of the three
County Commissioners. A

TRIED *Public Official*
RUE *of 40 years'*
RUSTY *service*

who stands for

ECONOMY
EFFICIENCY
EXPERIENCE

in Franklin County management,
as the

TAUX PAYERS
TAUX CONSCIOUS FRIEND

VOTE FOR HIM

Signed: ELIAS RICHARDSON

1934

Wendell, Mass.

MARCH 7, 1935

Famous Smoke Pipe Seems Doomed

The famous smoke pipe which extends along the center of the town hall ceiling and has been a town meeting dividing line for the forces under the leadership of Charles M. Ballou, veteran selectman, and Ozro D. Baker, arch enemy of the present administration, is likely to disappear if ERA funds may be procured to carry out a vote taken at Monday's annual meeting when \$800 was appropriated for the installation of a new heating system for the hall. A committee composed of J. B. Hartjens, Jr., Charles Ballou and Curtis E. Tucker was appointed by Moderator Joseph L. Perry to have charge. So far as Monday's meeting was concerned, however, the stove pipe served to divide the two forces while the disposal of the 32 articles was taking place. It was predicted that Ozro D. Baker would be present after a temporary leave of absence from Wendell's voting list, and he lived up to expectations. He was the spokesman, cheer leader and ring master of a group of loyal cohorts who segregated themselves on the right side of the old smoke pipe and followed his advice 100 per cent. They represented the response to some active campaigning which had been made for two weeks by Mr. Baker, William Bowen and A. C. S. Raymond, an Orange printer, who feels that Wendell should have a new administration for obvious reasons.

THE SPRINGFIELD SUNDAY UNION AND REPUBLICAN,

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.: MARCH 3, 1935

**POLITICS AT WENDELL
OF INTEREST AT ORANGE**

**Ballou-Baker Feud Still Very
Much Alive Despite Court
Cases**

By Our Special Correspondent.

Orange, March 2—The first Monday in March, which used to mean so much to practically all the townships in these latitudes before the modern trend in things political served to advance the time for holding town-meetings to February, has little significance any more except for the town of Wendell. This community, which carries on as of yore in its elevated seclusion, has not deviated from the customs of its founders so far as the time of holding its annual meeting is concerned and so next Monday means as much to this town as it ever did. Perhaps that is one of the reasons why the town gains the limelight each March, for the troubles and worries incident to other towns have been brought to a head, action taken and the excitement incident to the same thus subdued. Attention, as a result, becomes concentrated on Wendell town more than it otherwise would.

Events which have transpired in late years have necessarily added interest, to wit, the controversy by two groups, one headed by the veteran selectman, Charles M. Ballou, and the other by Otto D. Baker. The feud has been dragged through the courts with subsequent publicity and notoriety. With the disposal of these cases the impression has been given that the cantankerous feeling would subside and that the government which had been headed by Messrs Ballou, Lewis B. Bowen and Charles H. Jennison would continue unmolested, but such is not the case. Mr Baker is still in harness and is making his presence felt in the campaign which is leading up to next Monday's meeting.

The fact that the Ballou regime has each year retained the majority support of the voters despite jail sentences and the legal victories of Mr Baker, might seem to argue for a reversal of sentiment, but the citizens of the town have remained loyal to the government which has succeeded in giving them the kind of an administration they want and keeping the tax rate surprisingly low. Mr Baker's activities are not slackening regardless of the sentiment shown in the past and at next Monday's meeting

will have at least two candidates which he chooses to have elected. They are Alfred S. Chapman, former selectman, who is asking a place on the board again and Mrs Emma P. Grew, veteran school teacher, who is a candidate for the school committee. Efforts, it is understood, were made to find three candidates for the office of selectmen to oppose the present members, the "old guard" if you please, but Mr Chapman is the only one who was willing to throw his hat into the ring. For the past few weeks Mr Baker has been "about town" considerably interviewing the voters and urging their support for the two candidates.

It is also predicted that he will take an active part in the coming meeting with regard to action on the various articles and the chances are good that the two groups will again locate on each side of the historic stove pipe according to their preferences. This stovepipe should go down in the history of Wendell as one of the most pronounced dividing lines which ever existed in town politics. When it reaches the end of its serviceable days it should be retained as an historical memento of many hot seasons which have obtained in the municipal life of a naturally peaceful little town.

Miss Richardson is unopposed for town clerk and tax collector and the same is true of Mildred A. Glidden for town treasurer. Mr Ballou has no opposition in his candidacy for assessor nor have Alton R. Wilson for auditor, Glenn O. Ellis for constable, Walter C. Oliver for cemetery commissioner, Frank E. Ballou for library trustee and Daniel W. Field for three wardens. The other unopposed candidates are Charles H. Jennison, Charles A. Lewis and Frank N. York for surveyors of wood, bark and lumber; Eugene R. Hutchinson, Ernest E. Taylor and Clomon Wyman for field drivers and Frank E. Ballou, Ray M. Clark and Arthur G. Glidden for fence viewers. Mrs Emma Grew, who is a candidate for the school committee, is opposing Joseph L. Perry, who serves as moderator of the annual meetings.

The Evening Gazette

WORCESTER, MASS., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1935.

THREE WENDELL TOWN OFFICIALS FREED IN COURT

Selectmen and Town Clerk
Not Guilty of Aiding Illegal
Registration of Two
Women Voters

EDITOR AND CITIZEN HELD IN CONTEMPT

ORANGE, Sept. 7.—Associate Justice Hartley R. Walker today made a finding of not guilty in the cases against three Wendell town officials, charged with aiding in the illegal registration of two voters. The defendants were Selectmen Charles M. Ballou and Lewis B. Bowen and Town Clerk Elias Richardson.

Judge Walker said there was no evidence against Bowen and that the testimony against the other two was insufficient to find them guilty.

It was charged the officials had aided Miss Blanche Riley and Mrs. Esther Leroy Marion to become voters when they were not eligible. Testimony in the case was heard Aug. 29.

Otto D. Baker, political opponent of the town officials, was fined \$25 for contempt of court, and the case was continued to Tuesday for payment. Roy W. French, editor of a weekly newspaper here, will be arraigned Tuesday for contempt of court.

It was charged that Baker had written a letter to Justice Walker while he was considering the case, and called attention to two points in the case that had been brought out in the testimony.

Editor French will be arraigned because of an article allegedly written by him to influence the court's decision, according to Charles Fairhurst, acting prosecutor. The article appeared in Thursday's issue of the Orange Enterprise and Journal and called Charles Ballou, one of the defendants, "the object of another political attack" and said Mr. and Mrs. Richardson "would give the impression they are people of their word."

This is the first case of contempt in the Orange Court within the memory of court attaches.

THE GREENFIELD RECORDER, TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1936.

Wendell

The local grange plan to have their sugar supper, April 10th.

Elias Richardson who sent in his application for the position of census enumerator for this town passed the examination with a high mark of 97. Being one of the three highest in Franklin County. But owing to the fact that he is the tax collector for this town he will not be permitted to take the census.

Hazel Weatherby who has been on the sick list is recovering.

Charles Ballou will move this week into the property known as the Cushman place.

Glenn Ellis will move this week into the house vacated by Charles Ballou opposite the post office.

OST DAY GLOBE - MA
-1938-
**Father and Son Government No
Supplants Wendell Factional War**



FATHER AND SON SELECTMEN
Charles M. Ballou, left, and his son, Frank E. Ballou, both of
whom are members of the Wendell Board of Selectmen.

THE SPRINGFIELD UNION, SPRINGFIELD

Hope to Keep Wendell on Postal Map



Springfield Union Photo

Wendell's veteran chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Charles M. Ballou, (left) talks over the town's tax difficulties with Postmaster Charles B. Lewis. Hill-town wits maintain that the post office and the Welfare Department are the only "going" concerns in the township.

continued

In 1938 Wendell's total valuation was \$898,502. About \$647,000 of this amount came from the dam and power plant at Wendell Depot which was operated by the Athol Gas & Electric Co.

Following the disastrous flood and hurricane of September, 1938, which did much damage at Wendell Depot, the company decided to remove the dam and plant. Charles M. Ballou, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, claims that this was an unexpected move.

"They didn't inform us that they intended to take this action," he said. "They said they would let us know what they intended to do. Then they started to install a gate, and we thought that they intended to repair the damage."

"Suddenly," he continued, "they decided to change and the first thing we knew they were scrapping it. The first thing we knew of their actual plans was what we read in the papers; they didn't tell us. They finally came to me for a permit to blow up the dam, but I didn't feel too good toward them and refused it. They did get one, though, from the state fire commissioner."

Valuation Dropping

Mr. Ballou pointed out that this move by the company will reduce Wendell's valuation to about a quarter of a million, but that the loss of several millions of feet of timber as a result of the hurricane will bring the valuation even lower.

"We can well use the \$20,000 they're trying to get us in the Legislature," he said.

He scoffed at the recent report that 300 of the town's 409 residents depend upon some government agency for their existence.

Figures showed that 26 persons receive old-age assistance, five of whom are charges from other cities or the state. About 17 men are on the WPA, and there are 22 welfare cases representing 86 people. However, nine of these cases, representing 30 people, are the charges of the State or other cities. Twenty-five men are employed most of the year on town roads, but there is plenty of work to keep these men busy, Ballou declared.

This would place the number of persons dependent upon the State or town at between 100 and 125 instead of 300 as stated.

Prospects Dark

With a majority of Wendell's citizens engaged in farming and lumbering on the steep slopes overlooking the turbulent Millers River, prospects of improvement seem dark. Manufacturing interests will hardly risk building plants near the river which has brought destruction three times within the last few years, and the farmlands can provide only a meager living.

A possibility of a slight increase in Federal works assistance was seen over the week end as Joseph H. Cullen, head of the district WPA office, revealed that 17 men are now employed on a fire hazard cleanup project but that the number of projects might be more if the welfare load grows heavier. He added that in past years, when Wendell's tax rate was moderate, the town has been given projects that employed as many as 28 at one time.

Independent Yankee farmers of Wendell, angered at the thought of becoming virtual state charges, will take affairs into their own hands on Monday, therefore, and make a final attempt to hold Wendell's budget to a point where they can continue to maintain their self-respect. Few relish the reputation of existing upon the bounty of the rest of the State.

OSI DAY GLOBE - MA
-1938-
**Father and Son Government No
Supplants Wendell Factional War**



FATHER AND SON SELECTMEN
Charles M. Ballou, left, and his son, Frank E. Ballou, both of whom are members of the Wendell Board of Selectmen.

continued

Special Dispatch to the Globe

WENDELL, March 26—There are father and son banquets, golf tournaments, tennis matches but there is a father and son Government in this town.

The voters at the March 7 town meeting not only reelected Charles

Ballou as first Selectman for the fourth time, but they also elected his son, Frank E. Ballou to serve with him. Now the administration sign-board at Wendell reads: Ballou, Ballou and Lewis, much after the style of city law firms.

The town loses its notoriety occasioned by ceaseless political controversies which gained the spotlight during the past dozen years.

There have been two factions

which stubbornly refused to give an inch. Each fought relentlessly for control.

Charlie Ballou and Ozro Baker have not been too far apart during the years their antagonism has been the greatest. They parted friends while each was a member of the Board of Selectmen, over the choice of a town constable, and they have apparently come together again by joining forces to defeat that same constable.

So the house of Ballou that Baker reconstructed, stands on firmer foundations than ever before. It is the 35th consecutive time that Charles M. Ballou has been elected a member of the Boards of Selectmen, and Welfare and the 43d time he has been elected a member of the Board of Assessors.

His son was born in Wendell 46 years ago, is married, lives in the north part of the town. He has been a farmer and lumber dealer. He enjoys the respect and confidence of his fellow residents and should be a help to his father in the administration of town business.

Springfield  Republican

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1939—EIGHTEEN PAGES

\$20,000 Asked for Wendell To Save It From Extinction

Committee On Taxation Reminded That, as Result of Flood, Franklin County Town Lost Property Taxable for That Amount

From Our Special Reporter

Boston, March 28.—Two bewildered selectmen of the little town of Wendell, in Franklin county, sat in a hearing room at the State House today and heard their community used to bring forcibly to the attention of the Legislature a problem that bids fair to tax the wiscences of that great and august body before a solution is attained, if one ever is.

In brief, the problem is: Shall the state take over towns on the verge of bankruptcy, run them as state reservations, require only that the townspeople run themselves without meeting any of the requirements of laws foisted upon them without their consent, and gradually evacuate them to other communities, and let the

once-fertile land revert to its original wild state?

Or: Shall a state agency be created to handle these towns, absolve them from requirements of an educational program, old-age assistance, dependent aid to mothers, and all other forms of relief aid laws, and try to let them be self-sufficient, even though they revert to a low level of life, minus schools, health facilities or any other of the mandates imposed by said great and august Legislature?

State Tax Commissioner Henry F. Long put the problem right in the laps of the committee on taxation members and made his problem as strenuous as above outlined, in order to

try to bring home to these legislators the thought they must cease, in this depressing era, to make laws that impose financial burdens on communities, or else provide a commission to say how far these burdensome laws shall be enforced.

\$649,000 in Property Destroyed

Representative Ralph C. Mahar of Orange, who filed the Wendell bill that was in hearing, explained Wendell's plight, in urging that \$20,000 be diverted from the state income taxes to help the town out of the doldrums. He said the town, prior to last September's disaster, had property of a total value of \$387,000 for assessment purposes. Then the New England Power association dam and power plant were washed completely away, and the company decided not to rebuild. That took \$549,000 of the total valuation, or 71 per cent of taxable property, representing all but \$29,000-odd on which to raise money to meet expenses. Mahar said an identical bill had been passed by the Legislature to aid Savoy in years passed, and the \$20,000 would enable the town to keep its tax rate at \$30, instead of boosting it to \$100, which the townspeople could not possibly pay.

Selectman Charles Balleu echoed his statements, and then Selectman Arthur Lewis went before the committee. He said the town has only 207 registered voters, yet there are approximately 350 on relief. The approximately 100 male registered voters work out their taxes on the roads or on other town work, he said, and all residents are working on some kind of government work, as there is absolutely no business in the town. The state has taken 6000 of the town's total of about 20,000 acres.

Representative Arthur L. Mahan of Leominster, of the committee, seemed to have studied the Wendell situation and, armed with town reports and other data, he began an examination of Lewis. He noted that from 1900 to 1936, the town's municipal appropriations remained \$1.96 per cent and asked why these cannot be cut. Lewis replied they had been cut—that this year's budget is \$26,000 as against \$33,000 last year. Mahan noted that last year \$26,955.56 was raised by taxation and the state reimbursed about \$22,000.

Housecleaning Suggested

"It looks as though you fellows ought to go back home and do some housecleaning," said Mahan, as Lewis hesitated in answering some of Mahan's figures. However, Lewis said he supposed the school costs could be cut by eliminating the school doctor, school nurse and singing teacher, but that would amount to only \$600. The school population of the town he gave as 50. Lewis said there was no income from town properties, meaning properties the town has taken over. He admitted, when questioned, that he lives on the so-called Hudson property, but pays no rent or taxes to the town, making it up in new buildings he has put up. The property was obtained by the town when a bank foreclosed on an \$800 mortgage on it, and then the town assumed the property with the mortgage. Property was valued at \$20,500 on town books.

Mahan then read from the 1936 town report showing \$533 as the highest figure given a welfare recipient, and then from the 1938 report, showing one case where \$312 was paid one recipient. Lewis didn't know whether the recipient did WPA work, or whether any of his family did, but Mahan thought at least one did, and advised Lewis to check on this relief case, and straighten it out. He told Lewis the town officials were too premature in appealing to the Legislature. Lewis said the town has a balance of \$8500 today and no debt. Mahan wanted to know why borrowing could not be made in anticipation of taxes, but Lewis doubted much could be obtained with the town credit as it is. He admitted the possibly \$10,000 might be obtained. He said the town seeks no chapter 90 appropriations, but must have chapter \$1 aid, as the state trucks went over its dirt roads in connection with repair work and left them in tough shape.

continued

Long Defends Town

Tax Commissioner Long rushed to the town's defense. He told the committee there are two kinds of municipalities in Massachusetts that are going to need legislative attention and the question is whether a desirable setup for control is to be created, or the towns given state money to spend. "This, he said, must be determined by the Legislature and should be determined this year, as the Legislature will not meet again until 1911. The mere fact that Wendell is in distress indicated to Long, he said, that the Legislature "must take care of its children before all funds and credit are exhausted." The question should be considered carefully, he warned, because Wendell is only an example of many such communities.

The Legislature could refuse this sort of financial aid, Long continued, and then Wendell could refuse to have any activities; could stop all schools, welfare, road building, etc. Then the commonwealth could step in and try to enforce the laws the Legislature has inflicted on the town. But the town has no assets and ultimately must go to the wall. That would have two alternatives—give parts of the town to other communities as was done with Dana, Greenwich, Enfield and Prescott, facing flooding, or run the town itself.

He cited Millville as an example of what can happen to Wendell. Millville, he said, proceeded to exhaust itself, using all of its funds and credit, employing school teachers for 18 months without pay, and running up I. O. U.'s with the businessmen, until it had \$72,000 in unpaid bills. The Legislature took control and ordered these bills paid. That, said Long, is a situation which shouldn't be allowed to develop again. As the Legislature won't meet next year, some action will have to be taken to aid such towns as Wendell.

Cites Mahan's Example
Maine, Long explained, has taken over such communities and disregarded requirements of state law. Then it has let the community function itself, as a squatters' area. Mahan interrupted to say he understood Long's idea was not to require this community to contribute except for its own support, and run itself as best it could, expending not more than \$15,000 a year, on a basis of a

\$600 per capita value. Long said that was the idea. He had a strong feeling, he stated, that these communities are entitled to legislative assistance, because legislation requires certain things of the town, such as education and road-building, public welfare and old-age assistance. The Legislature didn't ask the towns of this type if they could meet this expense; it simply forced it upon them by legislative enactment. There is no way the state can force such towns to provide for such services, said Long, and furthermore, the towns neutralize these requirements by having male residents to work out their bills on the highways.

Savoy, Long continued, has taken state money and indulged in some extravagances of its own. This illustrates how some state authority must take away from these towns the requirements that they are incapable of meeting. If this isn't done, Wendell will spend all the money it can raise or borrow and get as far beyond that as possible. It is better for the Legislature to pick up while there is still a little morale left, than to wait until it is destroyed entirely. He said there are other towns in the state, mentioning Weymouth as one, that are entirely dependent upon one industry, as was Wendell. Take that industry away and they will be in Wendell's present position.

Wait until all credit is destroyed and debts have piled up and then comes another Millville, said the commissioner. Millville, he explained, paid its debts, under the state commission, continued its welfare relief and schools, even to giving children a high-school education. He did not want another fiasco of that kind. Rents are cut to a minimum on basis of such an act as Millville's. He would prefer to see Wendell cut to the bare necessities, perhaps \$10,000 a year, but he warned, that means there will be no schools, road-building, and the like. Yet this is the one way out. The power company paid the town \$20,000 in taxes, he said.

"There is need to set up an agency that this town can slip into when it gets up against it," he stated, speaking also of other towns in like situation.

Long then offered another solution; namely, to let such communities live on county contributions. Let Worcester county take over Millville and Franklin county take over Wendell, and make their support a county problem.

Senator Nicholson declared that just as long as we have a government at Washington that is educating the people that "We owe them a living, just so long will the people sit back and take what comes to them." He couldn't understand how people can do this when there is work to be found if one looks for it. Long declared the average Yankee wants work, but one cannot find work unless he goes out and looks for it.

"We can take over the whole town as a state reservation," he said, "and gradually remove the people elsewhere as work is found for them." Answering a question, Long said there is no market for excess production, and that does not permit them to meet requirements of state laws and attendant expenses.

Senator James A. Guna of Turners Falls and the Franklin County commissioners were recorded for the bill by Representative Mahan. He read a letter from Chairman Samuel U. Streeker of the commissioners saying something will have to be done to aid the community or the state will have to take it over.

None appeared in opposition to the \$20,000 contribution proposal, which, incidentally, would continue to be an annual payment by the commonwealth if the bill became law.

Wendell to Fight Specter ¹⁹³⁹ Of Ruin at Session Today

Citizens, Facing \$100 Tax Rate, Will Swing Ax on Budget at Town Meeting

WENDELL, April 2—Facing a \$100 tax rate unless 1939 town expenditures are cut drastically under those of previous years, residents of this tiny hill town will flock to town meeting Monday afternoon with the specter of ruin as an unwelcome guest at the proceedings.

Although town officials were inclined to blame the sudden loss of Athol Gas & Electric Co. power plant revenues for the financial plight of the town which sees nearly three quarters of its total valuation lost, a few townspeople guardedly agreed that a top-heavy welfare and town pay-roll burden were also playing their part.

86 Get Relief

Despite state and Federal aid, 86 persons receive direct relief, out of the total of 400 inhabitants. Schools require a large bit of the town's appropriation total and highway work, with 25 men said to be employed throughout the year, is also most expensive to a town of this size.

Scene for many years of one of the most bitter political feuds in the state, with the Baker-ites and the Ballou-ites seated on opposite sides of the Town Hall stovepipe and heatedly opposing any suggestion of the rival faction, Wendell now is faced with the prospect of becoming a state "ward." There must be direct state assistance or the tax rate may force inhabitants to give up their holdings in despair, townspeople admit.

Town Once Wealthy

About 150 years ago, Wendell boasted a population of 1500, business was good, its residents were generally well-to-do, and when people from other towns wanted to borrow money they came here.

Today Wendell has 400 residents

and prospects are dismal. However, despite their financial straits, 300 of the 400 residents are not dependent upon some Federal agency, as recently reported.

Several events in the last few years have sent the tax rate steadily upward, the climax of which was the decision of the Athol Gas & Electric Co. to remove the dam and power plant at Wendell Depot, reducing the valu-

(Continued on Twelfth Page)

April 4th, 1939

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., TUESDAY, APRIL 4,

Wendell Hacks at Budget; Levy of Only \$40 Seen if State Aids With \$20,000

Crucial Town Meeting Passes Smoothly, With Total of \$12,915 Cut From 1938 Figures; Ballou Hints Attempt to Bar State Help

WENDELL, April 3—A total of \$20,214.50 was appropriated by taxation and \$8680 from free cash in shortly more than one hour as this town held its delayed town meeting this afternoon in the Town Hall.

This is a reduction of \$12,915.50 from the total amount appropriated by taxation last year.

Free of Controversies

With veteran Charles M. Ballou as moderator, the meeting was surpris-

ingly free of verbal controversies and was well attended. One town meeting goer, coming to the meeting from work, had his ax in hand but joking-

ly agreed that he had better park it ~~before he entered.~~

The meeting was important in that this town faced a \$100 tax rate due to the loss of approximately \$647,000 valuation by the removal of the dam and power plant at Wendell Depot by the Athol Gas and Electric Company. Appropriations have been cut to the bone and officials were confident today that the town will receive state aid.

Selectman Arthur B. Lewis said that with the reduced budget, and provided the Legislature approves a proposal to grant the town \$20,000 aid, the tax levy would be \$40 on each \$1000 valuation, \$10 more than last year.

At various intervals both Chairman Ballou and Selectman Lewis assailed "some good citizen" who they charged has been to Boston in an attempt to block financial aid from the State.

Said Lewis, "some good citizen or group of citizens has worked hard to fill our chances of state financial aid. Now, we couldn't carry on without state aid. Why, the money expended on schools alone would give us a 14 to \$46 tax rate. At this time it seems bad for anyone who has the good of the town at heart to buck the bill. We need help and I think we'll get enough to get back on our feet again."

Town Report Marked

Said Ballou, "When we went down to the Legislature in Boston recently, they had a Wendell town report that was marked in spots so that certain questions could be directed at us. It looks to me like someone went down here and tried to throw a monkey wrench into the machinery."

There was some debate over Article 3 which asked \$250 for the payment of the school nurse.

continued

Town Report Marked

Said Ballou, "When we went down on the Legislature in Boston recently they had a Wendell town report that was marked in spots so that certain questions could be directed at us. It looks to me like someone went down here and tried to throw a monkey wrench into the machinery."

There was some debate over Article 3 which asked \$250 for the payment of the school nurse.

Selectman Frank Ballou moved that the article be excluded and the motion was quickly seconded. However, Mrs. Florence Lockwood thought that "we ought to have a nurse for we really should keep our children in good condition."

She was told by Selectman Frank Ballou that this action did not remove the nurse, but that it did away with the need for \$250 and that the nurse's salary would come from the school appropriation.

Siding with Mrs. Lockwood, Superintendent of Schools Edmund R. Sawyer said, "It is worth \$250 to have a nurse on call all the time, and by using the money from the school appropriation other scholastic sacrifices will be necessary."

"Don't Need a Nurse"

"We don't need a nurse," bluntly asserted William Bowen from the rear of the hall.

Sawyer asked Bowen if he didn't want to eliminate the school physician, too.

"What is his salary," Bowen asked.

"Forty dollars," answered Sawyer.

"Well," Bowen pointed out, "that's better than \$250."

Sawyer asserted, however, that the town should have a school nurse. "If there's any town that needs a school nurse it's Wendell," he said.

At this juncture the veteran Ballou interrupted to briefly outline why he thought the article should be excluded.

It was excluded.

It was pointed out by officials that appropriations of \$8500 from free cash were included in order to keep as low as possible the amount to be raised by taxation. The town treasurer said that bills amounting to \$8500 will be sent out shortly by the town. The appropriations follow:

Appropriations Listed

Miscellaneous, \$1500; old-age assistance, \$1600 by taxation and \$2500 from free cash; schools, including vocational tuition, \$7000 by taxation and \$3000 from free cash; snow and sanding department, \$1000; fire department, \$100; maintenance of highways, \$1920; soldiers' relief, \$100; interest on notes, \$25; salaries and expenses of town officials, \$1250; state improved road, \$2000; Memorial Day, \$25; bond for town officers, \$67.50; workmen's insurance compensation, \$472; collection of taxes, \$259; lights at Wendell Depot, \$5.

The \$5 appropriated for the light at Wendell Depot will pay the current bill, it was explained, and no further need was seen for having one light there at a cost of \$100. Tree warden, \$59; contingency fund, \$500; suppression of moths, \$100; posts and railings, \$100; resurfacing, \$1000; bridges, \$300; Federal or government projects, \$300; cemeteries, \$25; WPA back bills, \$180 from free cash.

No action was taken concerning the annual old-home-day celebration funds. This event has been one of the high spots of the year here.

"We have been through our articles," said Chairman Ballou at the close of the meeting, "and you have all behaved as well as you did at our other meeting. I want to thank you."

While Selectman Lewis was addressing some concluding remarks to the gathering the question of the Cora Hudson property, one of several the Selectmen were authorized to sell for back taxes, came up.

"I didn't know the Hudson property had been purchased. Who bought it?" asked William Bowen.

"My wife," answered Selectman Lewis.

"What was the price?" insisted Bowen.

"One thousand dollars," retorted Lewis.

"I thought that public property must be sold at public auction," offered Mrs. Lockwood.

Chairman Ballou pointed out that

the Selectmen had been authorized to sell the property for whatever price they could get.

The meeting was then enthusiastically adjourned.

continued



The above trio was an important one at yesterday's town meeting in Wendell for from this point came motions, explanations and arguments. They are, left to right, Selectmen Arthur Lewis and Frank Balou and Town Treasurer Mildred Glidden.

One Ballot Advantage ^{3/13/41} Verified At Wendell

Recount Produces No Changes At Hill Town—Ballou,
Ballou And Lewis To Carry On



Selectman Charles M. Ballou and son, Selectman Frank Ballou,
continue to Hold Balance of Power in Wendell.

continued

One must give credit to the accuracy of the ballot clerks in Wendell town! Saturday afternoon's recount of ballots cast on March 3d for selectman and welfare board revealed no change from the original count. Charles M. Ballou retains his one "point" margin for selectman over Avery H. Harrington, the vote standing 69 to 68 and Mr. Harrington is out in front on the welfare board vote 80 to 77, a difference if our arithmetic is right of three votes. The recount was made Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the town hall with Moderator Arthur Lewis serving as "master of ceremonies." In attendance, were the board of registrars—Charles M. Bal-

lou, Frank Ballou, Arthur Lewis and Town Clerk Marion Whitney who made the count. Also present were Mrs. Eunice Marcey, representing Mr. Harrington and George W. Gore who was also a candidate for selectman. The work required approximately one hour.

And so the board of selectmen will function the next three years with Charles M. Ballou as a member. His son Frank Ballou has two more years to go and the third member, Arthur Lewis will have another year. The balance of power will remain with probably the only father and son combination on the selectmen's job

in the state for two more years at least. Wendell will continue to do business during 1941 without any change in the wording of the administration sign:—Ballou, Ballou and Lewis. The elder Ballou who was 74 in January and who is gradually recovering from a serious operation admits that this last election was the closest call he ever had and "understands some of his friends went back on him." But Charlie Ballou takes things in stride and doesn't get unduly excited whether he is riding along on the crest of popularity or battling to retain a place in the sun. He has seen so many elections come and go, been through so many political struggles and noted so many changes in attitudes that he knows a man in public office must expect his ups and downs. Reference to the records indicates that at the completion of the present term he will have served the town of Wendell as selectman for a period of 40 years. He was first elected in 1904. Mr. Ballou has been an assessor 42 years and at the completion of the present term will have served 45 years. He was first elected to this office in 1899. There are few if any town officials in the state who have served a community consecutively any more years than Mr. Ballou. Like all who have been in public office he has had to stand his share of criticism but in all these years he has never shown a vindictive spirit. Friends have become enemies and in turn have become friends again. There has never been a closer contest than this one in his long career but he has taken the verdict of the voters philosophically and realizes his obligations. Charlie Ballou is indeed the good natured warrior of all time.

THE SPRINGFIELD DAILY REPUBLICAN,
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1942

WENDELL SELECTMAN BALLOU'S HOME IS DESTROYED

Wendell, Feb. 5—The home of Selectman and Mrs Charles Ballou was burned to the ground last night, evidently the result of a chimney fire which started about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. A call was sent to Orange for help and a truck was sent up. But it was too late to do more than save the barn and other outbuildings. Some furniture was saved from the lower part of the house. Everything upstairs was lost. Mrs Ballou lost all her clothes except what she was wearing. There was a small insurance on the house but none on the furniture.

The fire was still burning at midnight. But all that remained of one of the nicest places in town was the chimneys. It is estimated that the house was about 100 years old. Mr and Mrs Ballou went to the home of their son, Frank Ballou, who lives at the Center about 1/2 mile away.

Enterprise and Journal

With a local circulation three times greater than any other newspaper

ORANGE, MASS. THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1946

Charles M. Ballou Dies at Greenfield Hospital

PROMINENT WENDELL
CITIZEN LONG A TOWN
OFFICIAL

Well-Known Throughout Frank- lin County

Charles Martin Ballou, 79, holder of more municipal offices for probably more years than any other town official in Western Massachusetts, died in the Franklin County hospital, Greenfield, Friday evening at 9:30 o'clock. He had been ailing for the past two years and for the past six months had been confined to his



Charles M. Ballou

Wendell home. His condition became so serious last week that on Tuesday he was taken to the hospital. Four years ago he underwent a quite serious operation and never regained his normal strength but was able to be about the community in which he was born and had always lived. He had the unusual record of having served the town of Wendell as selectman for 40 years and during that period was chairman of the board for 35 years. Incidentally he served in every office of the town with the exception of town clerk and treasurer. Long service was given as an assessor, member of the board of welfare and library trustee. He had held every office in Wendell grange and was master of the organization for a number of

—Charles M. Ballou

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years. He was a seventh degree member, chairman of the old home day committee for years and in many ways served his community in responsible assignments.

Mr. Ballou was very much a native son. He was born in the present home of Selectman and Mrs. Glenn Ellis, the son of Stephen and Josephine M. Beach Ballou, the latter a native of Wendell. He was one of three children, a brother William who died recently and a sister, Anna who died in her youth. Mr. Ballou grew up in the family homestead but about 25 years ago he went to live at the so-called Cushman place which he purchased. This was on the Wendell Depot road and was one of the finest farm residences in the area. It was originally the home of Dr. Andrews who attended to the medical needs of people in Wendell and vicinity for many years. Later the Cushmans lived there and improved the place considerably. One of the tragedies of Mr. Ballou's life occurred three years ago when the house was completely destroyed by fire. Mr. and Mrs. Ballou resided for a time on their small farm nearby and later moved to their present home in Wendell Center, just a stone's throw from the Ballou homestead. There he spent the remaining years of his life but frequently he would go to the ruins of the Cushman place and live over in his mind the pleasant years which were spent there.

Mr. Ballou was married to Laura M. Brown of Stafford Springs, Ct., 56 years ago the 11th of next September in Orange. Mrs. Ballou has been a constant and devoted helpmate through the years and the home life of the couple has been an inspiration to others. He leaves besides his wife, one son, Frank Ballou who has also been a member of Wendell's official family; one grandson, Robert E. Ballou and three great grandchildren, Roberta, Linda and Marguerite Ballou. The funeral was held Tuesday

Charles Martin Ballou

1867-1946

Name

Charles Martin Ballou

Sex

Male

Birth

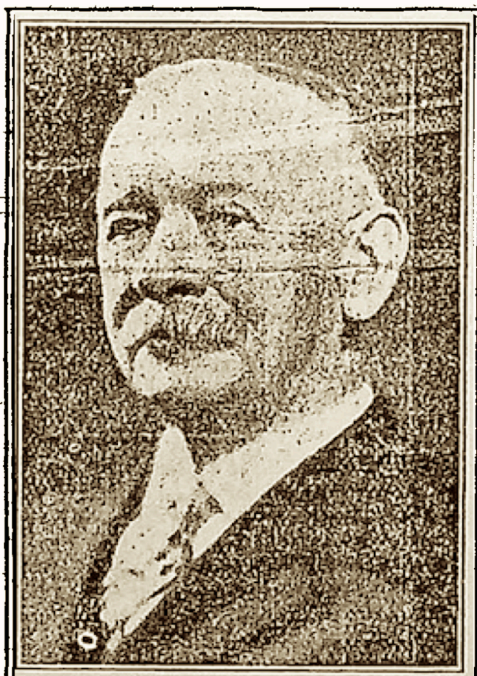
19 January 1867
Wendell, Franklin, Massachusetts, United States

Death

1 March 1946
Greenfield, Franklin, Massachusetts, United States

Burial

1946
Wendell Center Cemetery, Wendell,
Franklin, Massachusetts, United States of
America





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