

# DOWNERS GROVE REPORTER

FOURTEENTH YEAR.

DOWNERS GROVE, DuPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1897

## VICTIMS OF BRUTAL ROBBERS

### CHRIST WARTENBURG AND AGED WIFE ASSAULTED TUESDAY

#### IN THEIR HOME SOUTH OF CASS.

Robbers Place Their Bare Feet in a Mixture of Snow and Salt—Found Unconscious Wednesday Morning.

One of the most inhuman acts of brutality ever perpetrated by robbers came to light last week Wednesday morning.

Two robbers visited the home of Christopher Wartenburg and his wife, near Cass Tuesday night, torturing the aged couple in a barbaric manner to force them to reveal the hiding place of supposed wealth. Surprising their victims in the night, the robbers placed the feet of the aged couple in a tub of snow and salt, but the cruel agonies inflicted failed to yield the desired information. As a climax to the atrocity the assailants finally bound the pair in a position where the feet and limbs were immersed in the freezing mixture, and escaped.

In this dire predicament the couple were found by a neighbor Wednesday. The woman had succumbed to the terrible ordeal and was unconscious. Her husband could only utter groans of pain. The robbers are believed to have been men employed on the drainage canal, and citizens of this neighborhood and adjoining towns have organized a vigilance committee to wreak vengeance upon the perpetrators of this and similar deeds of violence.

For many years Christopher Wartenburg has lived with his wife on their farm, south of Cass, between Downers Grove and the drainage canal, and near the large tract of woodland called "the big woods." Wartenburg at one time owned a large portion of this territory and many persons in his neighborhood have long believed the couple to be the possessors of a large sum of money, which was said to be kept concealed about the house.

Tuesday night, two men, who introduced themselves to the couple as Clark and Heinke, from Chicago, stopped at the Wartenburg home and requested the old man and his wife to keep them over night. They carried guns and said they intended to start early Wednesday morning to shoot rabbits. The couple at first refused, but upon being offered a liberal sum for a night's lodging consented to receive the strangers. Both men professed to be fatigued, and were shown a bedroom adjoining the sitting room immediately after supper, having first been invited to participate in scriptural reading with their host and hostess. Mr. and Mrs. Wartenburg retired about 10 o'clock, after locking the house securely. Shortly after midnight the old man was awakened by the pressure of the muzzle of a revolver against his forehead, and looking up saw the elder of his two guests, who had given his name as Heinke, standing over him with a lamp.

"Tell us where you keep your money and you will not be harmed," said Heinke.

"We have no money in the house," responded Wartenburg.

"We know better than that and we are going to have it. Tell us where it is or we will kill you," declared the robber, and they forced both occupants of the bed to arise.

The old man steadfastly denied having any money, and with an oath the robber called his companion to bring in a tub.

The robber known as Clark dragged a large tub, which he had filled with snow and salt, into the room, and, seizing Mrs. Wartenburg, bound her with a sheet and plunged her bare feet into the freezing mixture. The other assailant kept the old man covered with his pistol and repeated his demands for money. Mrs. Wartenburg is nearly 70 years old and the pain from the frigid slush about her feet caused her intense suffering. In the face of all she steadily denied that there was any money about the place, and begged piteously to be released.

Believing that the old man would lose his nerve at the sight of his wife's suffering, the torture was continued until the poor woman screamed in agony. Finding that this failed to bring about the desired information, the aged host was treated in similar manner. In spite of his entreaties and assurances that a pocketbook in the bureau containing \$4 was all the money in the house, the robbers ripped open mattresses and turned every drawer inside out in their search for wealth. Every carpet in the house was torn from the floors and even the boards of the kitchen floor were taken up. Not a crack nor a cranny that might contain a treasure was overlooked.

chilling foot bath failed to elicit any information, the robbers bound and gagged the couple securely to two large chairs with their feet in the brine and left them.

The Wartenburg home stands quite a distance back from the road and no one chanced to visit the house until Wednesday forenoon, when a neighbor knocked and hearing only a groan in response, broke the door from its hinges and, entering, found the aged couple as the robbers had left them. Mrs. Wartenburg was unconscious and her husband nearly so when relief arrived. The feet of both are badly frozen, and as the fire went out several hours before they were discovered it is feared the shock and exposure may result fatally.

The robbers are described as men 40 years old and were comfortably dressed, the younger in a suit of navy blue and the elder in a gray coat, with black trousers. Both wore dark caps. The younger of the two has curly brown hair and a clear complexion, while the elder has black hair and a swarthy face. No one was seen in the neighborhood answering this description, but it is believed that the robbers were men from the drainage canal.

Residents of neighboring villages were greatly excited when the news of the robbers' assault was spread, and the need of a vigilance committee was discussed freely. Supervisor James McClintock of Hinsdale is at present investigating the case, and making every effort to capture the perpetrators of the brutal outrage.

## THE "NEW" LITERARY SOCIETY.

The literary society completed its organization and listened to the first program Monday evening at the home of Miss A. U. Elliott. The constitution was read and signed by all present. The following officers were installed: Herman New, president; Miss M. Nell, vice-president; H. S. Wheeler, treasurer; J. W. Graves, critic; executive committee: J. W. Graves, Miss Cora Blodgett, H. H. Rood, F. M. Stanger.

A very interesting program followed the opening exercises, commencing with a piano solo by F. E. Mayer. Rev. H. H. Rood read an affecting poem by J. Whitcomb Riley, "Childhood Verses." "Down-Down" and "Gertrude" presented captured the audience with a guitar duet and were vigorously encored. Miss Jean Estabrook was inimitable in her impersonation of the new woman. The glee club enlivened the evening with a song in which a search for a key that would fit, was a prominent feature. Charades under the direction of Mrs. J. W. Graves, were enjoyed by all. The duet by Mrs. F. E. Mayer and Miss Edith Graham was thoroughly appreciated. A paper on local events was read by H. P. Jones. Lack of space prevents our publishing it. Mrs. J. W. Graves convulsed her hearers with a dialect sketch from Joel Chandler Harris "Nights with Uncle Remus." The program closed with a song from the glee club. Soon after, the society adjourned to meet with F. E. Mayer January 25th.

## WAS A PROMINENT LAW FIRM.

We copy the following from the "Banker Merchant and Manufacturer" which says in its last Saturday's issue: "The most important announcement we have to make this week in legal circles is the dissolution of the law firm of Mann, Hayes & Miller. Mr. Mann's congressional duties will require his presence in Washington, D. C., and Mr. Geo. W. Miller, who was recently elected a member of the state legislature, will therefore go to Springfield in a short time to attend to his duties. Mr. F. W. C. Hayes, who is a Master in Chancery in the Superior Court, will continue in business alone, occupying the old offices at 97, 175 Dearborn street. These gentlemen are all prominently known in Chicago legal and political circles, and rank among our foremost members of the bar. There are few lawyers in this city who have attained such an enviable record as Mr. F. W. C. Hayes, and which have had such a successful career. His experience is great, and his learning, versatility, sound judgment, comprehensive grasp of details and capacity place him in the front rank among our most distinguished members of the legal fraternity. He is highly esteemed, not only by the profession, but also among the general public. He has fine literary tastes, and his record as a lawyer is one of distinguished and honorable service."

The people of Downers Grove heartily endorse the good words in regard to Atty. Hayes. He owns a summer residence here and is held in high esteem not only as a legal light but as a neighbor citizen and friend. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes are always in readiness to do and labor for the advancement of the best interests of the community, and in aid of those who are needy and suffering.

## Local and Personal Paragraphs.

Additional local news on fifth page. Miss Edith Graham returned from Plano Saturday.

Go to Brode & Co. for skates and all kinds of pocket knives.

D. K. Foote is quite sick—symptoms of an attack of lung trouble.

B. B. Boecker of Naperville was a visitor in the Grove last Monday.

Mertz & Mochel have some good bargains in second hand heaters.

Mrs. E. O. Giddings has been confined to her home by sickness the past week.

Cut and broken mixed candy, 10c per pound; three pounds, 25c, at Nash Bros.

Miss Nettie Robbins of Chicago, visited her uncle, D. K. Craig, and family this week.

Makes the whitest and sweetest bread—Pillsbury's Best flour at Thompson's.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Renninger rejoice over the arrival of a bright baby girl at their home.

Good candy at Nash Bros., 10c per pound; three pounds, 25c. Just the thing for the holidays.

Don't forget that Corinne S. Brown of Woodlawn, will be at the afternoon tea, Wednesday, Jan. 20th.

Miss Jennie Lyman is recovering from a sprained ankle, resulting from a fall on a slippery walk, one day last week.

Mrs. D. H. Naramore and Mrs. E. O. Stanley, although still confined to their rooms, are both very much improved.

The young ladies on Curtiss street all carry clubs to ward off the familiar advances of a pet squirrel which haunts that street.

After an extended visit with her aunt, Mrs. J. W. Whiffen, Miss Amy Bowles returned to her home in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Judge Southworth of Aurora presided at the law term of the county court at Wheaton this week. Judge Brown going to Aurora.

One authority states that in keeping your head cool and your feet warm lies the secret of good health. For the feet try Thompson's warm footwear.

The ladies of the library association give an afternoon tea Wednesday, Jan. 20th, from three to five o'clock. Every one cordially invited. Tea ten cents.

Mrs. E. McCotter, who organized the hive of Maccabees here last week, went to Champaign and other towns in Illinois, last Friday for the same purpose.

Protracted meetings have been held at the German Evangelical church the past two weeks, and they will be continued another week. Rev. Bast conducts the services.

One day last week a young man got shot in his right hand at F. A. Brode & Co.'s hardware store. Nothing serious however, and they have more that they are selling at nine cents a pound.

P. O. Inspector Gould was checking up Postmaster Stanger's office Saturday. He found everything correct and has recommended an increase in his rent, fuel and lights appropriation.

Mrs. W. C. Bartle has been confined to her room the past week with sickness, but is now improving slowly. Miss Lucy Bartle remains home from school to attend to her mother during her illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Bickford of Chicago, were in Downers two days last week prospecting with a view of establishing their permanent home here. They were highly pleased with the place and the probability is that they will move here in the spring. Mr. Bickford is western manager for the Jones and Lamson Machine Co., at Springfield, Vermont.

The ceremony was performed Tuesday afternoon, which united Geo. Raynor and Miss Jessie Quince in the bonds of matrimony. The wedding occurred at the home of the bride's parents, on the plank road, Rev. Truman R. Green officiating. The young couple will go to housekeeping on the McGary farm north of town, to which home they will carry the regards and well wishes of a large circle of friends.

The board of Supervisors and County Clerk Lawrence will attend the tenth annual convention of the State Association of Supervisors, county commissioners and clerks to be held in Ottowa Feb. 16, 17, and 18. The tenth convention promises to be one of the best the association has ever held. Subjects of interest and importance to every supervisor, commissioner and clerk will be introduced and discussed by able speakers who have made special study of the subjects upon which those officers should be well informed.

Colville for groceries. Sale bills printed at this office. Get our prices.

Untrimmed hats, 25 cents up, at "The Style" millinery.

Velvet flowers at 15 cents per bunch up. "The Style" millinery.

Genuine New York buckwheat at Nash Bros. Guaranteed pure.

Eldred Thatcher visited Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Thatcher the past week.

J. P. Davenport of Plano stopped over in Downers several hours Saturday.

E. E. Escher of Chicago, spent Friday visiting relatives and friends here.

Chas. Rogers spent the week with his aunt, Mrs. Edgar Davis of Hinsdale.

Mrs. McCotter is entertaining her sister and children from Iowa, a few weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Hunt are rejoicing over the birth of a daughter last Thursday.

John Oldfield left last week for his annual visit to California to look after his property interests.

Save money! One way to accomplish this is by using a coal sifter. F. A. Brode & Co. has them.

Perhaps your stock of canned goods is exhausted—Thompson's isn't. Best quality and lowest prices.

Wood for sale. By the tree, cord or stove length, on the ground or delivered. Albert Smart.

Victor Fredenhagen is confined to his home with rheumatism, but is gaining and expects soon to be about again.

Don't forget that those galvanized baskets will outlast several wooden ones, and are handy. Call at Brode & Co.'s and examine them.

Thompson is prepared with a full line of underwear for the coming winter's trade. All grades of cotton and woolen underwear in stock.

E. C. Wetten left last night for Las Vegas, N. M., to try the western air and catch his health. He will be there probably three months.

D. J. Andre, a business man of Dixon, Ill., was visiting here the fore part of the week. Mrs. Andre is a sister of Mrs. Guy L. Bush and Mrs. Frank Owen.

The new sidewalk snow plow was used for the first time Tuesday. It is a decided improvement over the old implement, cleaning the walks of snow in a thorough manner.

Henry Spiegler takes a half-page in the REPORTER this week to advertise his excellent stock. The prices he is making will command custom. Read his ad on the eighth page.

An afternoon tea for the benefit of "The Ladies Library association" will be given at the library building Jan. 20th, from three to five o'clock. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

Mrs. T. S. Rogers entertained Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. John Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Stanley and Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Stanley at dinner Tuesday evening, it being her brother, D. C. Stanley's, eighty-first birthday.

The annual banquet of the Western Association California Pioneers will be held at the Tremont house in Chicago Saturday, January 23d, at 2 o'clock. Chas. Curtis and I. P. Blodgett are members of this organization, and with their wives will attend the banquet.

Episcopal church, St. Andrew's mission—Service at the chapel on Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Evening prayer with lecture to the confirmation class. On Sunday January 17th, the Rt. Rev. W. E. McLaren, D. D., Bishop of the diocese of Chicago, will visit the mission and administer the rite of confirmation. Morning prayer by the rector at 10:30 a. m. after which confirmation and sermon by the Bishop. All are welcome.

Funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Sarah L. Warren Carpenter were held at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning at Warrenville. Mrs. Carpenter died at Aurora Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Carpenter was the first woman school teacher in Chicago. She came to Chicago in 1838, and taught in the English and classical school opened in that year by Granville Temple Sproat, for three years. Deceased was the wife of Abel E. Carpenter, a brother of Philo Carpenter, Chicago's pioneer settler. They came to this county in 1836 and settled at Warrenville. In 1875 she and her husband moved to Aurora, where she had resided ever since. Mr. Carpenter died in 1892, but three children survive her. Mrs. Carpenter was a devoted Christian and a most successful teacher.

## WHEATON.

An ordinance covering the sale and use of cigarettes in our city is being prepared and should be strong enough to stamp that evil from our midst.

A delegation of county officers went to Geneva Wednesday to look over the furnishing of the court house there and see what kind of furniture is needed for our own structure.

Fred Minor, who has been a steady employe of this office for twenty-one years, severed his connection with the Illinoisian last Saturday. He has been a faithful, reliable and honest workman and will be missed from the scene of his many years service.

Sunday afternoon between two and three o'clock burglars entered the hardware store of Carbaugh & Steven, took a revolver, the loose change and postage stamps in the cash drawer, which seemed to satisfy their wants. A person was seen in the store by a passer-by and can be identified.

While returning home the other night, a stranger met Albert Gauger, started a conversation with him. When Mr. Gauger arrived at his home, the stranger attempted to "hold him up." The thief was hurled into the ditch and made his escape while Albert was in the house looking for a shooting iron.

H. Weisbrook is the proud possessor of a calf which will not switch flies to the discomfort of the hired man or merry milk maid when it gets old enough to fill a 16-quart pail with lactal fluid. The calf was born without a tail, and makes quite a curiosity. Mr. Weisbrook thinks hard times the cause of the missing link and knows that it takes a little less milk to keep the calf in good order.

It is with sorrow that we chronicle the death of the oldest daughter of Wm. Hammerichmidt, of Lombard. The fell destroyer, diphtheria, entered his home and removed therefrom the fairest flower. A week ago last Sunday his two daughters, with six Elmhurst children, took part in Christmas exercises at the Lutheran church, Elmhurst, and all were stricken with the disease within a few days, one dying at Elmhurst on Monday, Mr. Hammerichmidt being seriously ill, but hopes are entertained for her recovery. His four sons are quarantined at the home, Dr. Oleon using anti-toxin on them as a preventative. The daughter which died was only sick a few days, and was about 13 years of age.—Illinoisian.

## ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.

The most pleasant and successful annual business meeting of the Baptist church was held Tuesday evening. Encouraging reports were received for all the departments of church work. Chas. Curtis reported for the board of trustees; E. H. Nourse, board of deacons; W. B. Towles, Sunday school; Mrs. John Dixon, Ladies Aid society; Mrs. Dr. Schofield, Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Circle; Miss C. M. Escher, B. Y. P. U., and H. B. Gibbons, Junior B. Y. P. U. Letters were received from former pastors, Revs. J. F. Heilner, Chas. Oldfield, E. P. Barker, J. L. Jackson, D. D. The roll call was a decided success. Many encouraging notes were read from absent members. The following officers will serve for the coming year: Pastor, Geo. C. Moor; Deacons, Chas. Curtis, E. O. Curtis, E. H. Nourse, J. B. Mackie, W. B. Towles; Trustees, Chas. Curtis, Levi Mertz, Arthur Holt, John Rutherford, J. W. Wortley, Elvin Sacher; treasurer, R. O. Curtis; assistant treasurer, Miss C. M. Escher; clerk, Walter J. Whiffin. The membership is greatly encouraged over the feeling of harmony and cooperation that exists.

## THE TRAINMEN'S BALL.

The members of Columbian Lodge, No. 478, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen wish to announce through the REPORTER that their fourth Annual Ball will take place at the Masonic Temple, Chicago, on Friday evening Jan. 15, 1897. The Grand entire will occur at 8 o'clock. The music will be furnished by Prof. Darrow's Orchestra, consisting of seven pieces.

Special train will leave the Union Depot after the ball for the accommodation of those who attend from the suburbs. A very cordial invitation is extended to the dancing people of Downers Grove who would like to patronize a first class ball to be given by the railroad boys. Tickets \$1.00, no extra charge, except for supper. Come and have a good time.

## LADIES EVENING.

The house committee of the Downers Grove Club have arranged for a ladies evening on Tuesday evening, Jan. 19th.

## THE WEEK IN

NEWBY NOTES OF PATRONS AND

## GOOD WILL OF THE

Work on the Laboratory. A Novel Experiment. Parents' Days.

The Child Study Association of our teachers, auxiliary to the state Child Study Association, will resume the work.

Though it may not be generally known, the Downers Grove Board of Education, their charter being No. 10, one of the first to organize, the object of these associations is to more definitely the nature of individual child, his mental and moral peculiarities; his instruction may be adapted to individual needs, as though children were pitchers to be filled in precisely the same way, by pouring just so much into each one. It is believed much good will come from this plan, and though our school has been far exclusively a teachers' organization, and especially mothers, we are able to membership and very valuable in fact any one interested in a knowledge of child nature and for its highest possible development invited to join. The membership paid to the state association is similar. For particulars consult the superintendent.

Edwin Fridham has not been in the high school room for some time. It is reported that he has accepted position with the Q where we believe he will do good work. Edwin has been a very trustworthy, upright, industrious student and will be missed by his teachers and fellow students who wish him abundant success in his new duties.

Our school is planning another entertainment, the like of which never been seen in Downers Grove before. The proceeds will go for the building up of the school.

Our scholars have settled down hard work after their brief winter is almost half gone and so soon, some of us will have school forever. We ought, therefore, one and all to make the most of the few precious months just before us, that we may be in June, look back on a year that has been made the most of.

We are always glad to have our parents visit our schools. These visits always stimulate and encourage our work, besides showing the people of our town that their money is not being wasted, but is being put to the best use possible.

The laboratory is nearing completion as far as the woodwork is concerned. It still remains, however, to be equipped with the apparatus necessary for proper work in the sciences. This will come in time.

The forty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the First Baptist church was celebrated last Sunday with appropriate services. The morning service was conducted by Pastor Geo. C. Moor. The friends from the sister churches joined in the afternoon meeting. Dr. P. S. Hanson, pastor of the First Baptist church of Chicago, was invited as the "Diplomat of Orthodoxy in the West." Dr. Hanson's discourse was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The choir under the leadership of Arthur Holt, furnished exquisite harmony; the anthem "O, God, Save Us" being a triumph of melody; and one appreciated by all as a lover of music present. Rev. C. Hewitt D. D. of Chicago University delivered a sermon in the evening for an interested audience.

Starting in a small way in the spring, the First Baptist church is growing to be one of the most church organizations in Downers Grove. Those pioneer members who in the early struggle of the church, now enter with vigor and half a century of usefulness, are expected to forward the church with their generous contributions.

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