

W. J. SHARPE, HOLSTEIN DIED LAST THURSDAY

(Continued from page 1)

I am Bradley, where he remained until his death in August, 1892. My father had a cousin living in the Township of Nassagaweya, Eliza Reid, wife of William Reid. He went there on a visit and in so doing became acquainted with my mother, Isabella Gordon, and in February, 1854, they agreed to join heart and hand. My mother was the eldest daughter of James Gordon and Agnes Huggard.

"After their marriage they set out on a 60-mile trip and established themselves on the aforesaid farm, Lot 19, Concession 2, Egremont. There on the 16th day of September, 1855, the subject of this sketch first saw the light of day.

"The house I was born in was one of the first log buildings in the neighborhood—saddled corners—logged to the peak; ribs for rafters, and clapboard roof, one door in the east side and two windows, and heated by a fireplace in the north end of the house. No cradle for the new-born boy; simply a large sap-trough had to suffice. This was no drawback to my development, for I lived and grew well in the hands of my proud parents. My mother tells of an experience she had in August, 1856, when I was 11 months old. Neighbors' cattle were in the habit of frequenting our grain fields, parts of which were protected by a 'slash' fence, which often in the summer months needed repair. My father had gone to make these repairs and had partly cut down a large hemlock tree. He noticed that it was likely to go the wrong way and hence, from the opposite side, he threw a small hemlock into the large one to send the big one the right way. The small tree simply lodged in the big one. He then went farther back and threw a still larger one. When this last one was falling father stepped to the side but unfortunately this last one was misdirected and slid down the back, and fell on him and broke his left thigh bone. Here he was, pinned down helpless and alone. The location was almost half a mile from the house. Father called and mother answered, having chanced to be outside and heard the call. She at once took in the situation. I was 11 months old. Mother carried me as far as she could, placed me on the path and ran on. She soon reached the spot and found father under the tree. She was helpless. She says 'I let two most unearthly yells.' George Bradley and Samuel Orchard were passing on a byroad, heard the yells, and came to the assistance, removed the tree. Neighbors were summoned and he was carried home on a door. It was months before he recovered. It was harvest time. Isaac Queen, with the assistance of the neighbors gathered in the grain. In the meantime I had crawled several rods and was standing against the fence.

"In 1858 the old log house was replaced by a new hewed log house. John Queen did the carpenter work. I can remember him working at it. This is my earliest recollection.

Commenced School Career
"Nothing very eventful happened until I was nearly five years old, when it was decided that I should start to school and to that end, on the 5th day of July, 1860, I was 'got ready' and off I went on horseback with my father, who was going to the sawmill to look after some lumber. At noon that day he called at the school and took me home. Next day he was going to the mill with a wagon to get the lumber and I went along and hence I very largely took care of myself. My parents asked Peter Campbell, one of the 'big boys', to have an eye on me.

"The school house, a log one, was situated on the south-east corner of Lot 13, Concession 2, Egremont. This farm was then owned by Samuel Fleming. The teacher was James Allan, now deceased.

"I was fairly successful in my school work and had always great respect for my teachers.

"As stated above, I commenced with James Allan. Those following in order were: Samuel Queen, Samuel Acheson, Tristram Chislett, and David Allan, all of whom have passed away except Mr. Chislett, who is at present postmaster at Ceylon. (Mr. Chislett has passed away since this autobiography was written.—Editor Chronicle.)

"During my school days I assisted with the farm work, having performed work in all lines of farming except sowing grain, which was done by hand in those days and was performed by my father.

"Then came a time when I should choose a vocation in life and my first impression was to become a telegraph operator, and to that end I made application to a firm in Toronto to receive me to train in that line. My application was accepted, but when the time came that I had to leave home my heart failed and I did not go.

Entered Georgetown Academy
"My parents there advised that I enter the teaching profession and as I had been fairly successful in my studies I was persuaded to try for a teacher's certificate at Owen Sound in December, 1873, but I failed.

Failed again in July, 1874, and again failed by only a few marks. My parents then decided that I should attend Georgetown Academy. I was to have gone in company with Thomas Allan, now of Durham, on the 5th of January, 1875, but I took the measles and my departure for that institution was delayed until the 12th of January, 1875. We had to rise early to catch the train at Harriston. When I had to arise about 3 o'clock in the morning the bed never seemed so comfortable, as it was a cold, frosty morning. The evening before I went around and said good-bye to everything—horses, cattle, sheep, stables, cat and dog, and last of all to the folks at home. Father drove me to Harriston and I had to change trains at Guelph. It was dark before I got to Georgetown, but Mr. Allan was at the station to meet me, and with him were Bobby Bell, long since deceased, and W. L. Dixon, recently deceased. Soon I was in the old Academy, then under the control of John Tait (deceased now), and a Mr. Queen was assistant. My parents gave me \$56.00, all they had, and later they sent me \$4.00 with Thomas Allan, who had been called home on account of the death of his sister, Mrs. Nelson Main. On the 5th of April, my funds being exhausted, I returned home. My father met me at Harriston. My brother John, a little chap of about five years, was with him. Mother had prepared a lynch and as soon as we got back to where the buggy was, John directed me to the back thereof and said, 'William, here's your dinner!'

"I then spent the balance of the term to July studying at home. Mr. S. O. Irvine, then teaching in Holstein, came on Saturdays and we studied together, as he was going up for examination in July also.

When examination time came came round in July we went to Walkerton, tried the examination for third class certificate, and were successful, with a good margin to spare.

"S. O. Irvine in some way found out that the results of the examination were out. He drove past and called from the road that he had passed, but failed to notice the result so far as I was concerned. However, the next morning my brother George was sent to Durham. He went to The Chronicle office and there learned of my success. Then there was joy in the camp, although poor George walked seven miles there and seven miles back. Soon after my sister Annie went to the post office at Orchard and when she returned she had my certificate with her.

"The next move was to secure a situation as teacher.

Tells of Conversion
"But here I must refer to an event of vital importance to me, and that is my conversion.

"During the fall of 1874 a series of revival services were held in what was then known as Barber's school house, and were conducted by the Rev. Thomas Dudley, whose remains lie close to the place of these activities. Many of us were young men attending school. S. O. Irvine was one of them and he induced many of us to attend these services.

"Though not being a wild, rough character, I was convicted of the error of my way and on Wednesday evening, November 12, 1874, I went forward. The joy and peace did not come then. The following Sabbath I attended the services in the school house at home and conducted by the Rev. Mr. Glover. This service was followed by an old-time class meeting. I got up and testified. The meeting closed. I proceeded homeward. I had reached a point a few yards south of Allan's sideroad and on the west side of the road the Light came. Then all was brightness and joy. Old things passed away and all things became new. I attribute my conversion to taking the stand and testifying for Christ in that meeting.

"The January following I went to Georgetown and there I met two others, Archibald Vance and John McKay, who had had the same experience as myself. We agreed to attend the class-meeting in the Georgetown Methodist church but the reception we received seemed cold and formal. The class leader, no doubt a good man, did not appear to be friendly. The pastor of the church came to the academy but we failed to meet him. Probably we were unknown in any way to him, but we felt the coldness.

"Now I must return to my school career.

"During August, 1875, I searched diligently for a situation, going to Proton Township, where I found a vacancy. I offered my services for the balance of the year for \$90.00, but a gentleman from Owen Sound was there also and offered the services of his daughter for \$75.00 for the balance of the year. One trustee favored my terms, but the other two favored the lady, so I lost. During the fall of that year I applied at S.S. No. 4 (the Red School). The trustees were John Gardner, Neil McKellan Sr. and William Cameron. I secured the situation at \$300 per annum and commenced my duties on January 7, 1876. I taught there during 1877, when I resigned and went to Owen Sound High school during the first half of the year 1878, and was successful in securing a second-

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ARTICLE No. 12

A bid that is sound in itself, that is, that may contain sufficient strength to make the number of tricks in the suit indicated, may be very unsound in other respects. It may be of such a character as to deceive partner or to enable the opponents to block further bidding by making a shut-out bid. For that reason, before you make a bid, try to figure out what conclusion your partner will draw from it, and then what action he or your opponents may take. If your bid conveys the information to your partner that it should leave you in a position to go ahead with the bidding, irrespective of the opponents' bidding, your bid is sound, but not otherwise. Too many players make a bid without a thought of its influence on their partner or of what they will or should do if their opponents overbid. Try to think of your first bid as the beginning of the story and make it only when you are sure you know what to do later. All sound bidding should be part of a harmonious whole, the first link of a chain of bids, and not a disconnected effort.

The following hands are illustrative of the point just emphasized: "Think of what your partner or opponents may do, before making a bid. If you are prepared to meet any action they may take, your bid is sound; otherwise, not. Be sure that the bid you decide upon is one that you are prepared to back up later.

Problem No. 15
Hearts—6
Clubs—9, 5, 3, 2
Diamonds—A, K, 4
Spades—K, Q, J, 7, 5

Answer to Problem No. 15
No score, first game. Z dealt and bid one spade. What should A bid?

Problem No. 14
Hearts—A, 10
Clubs—A, Q, 8, 7
Diamonds—none
Spades—none

Answer to Problem No. 14
Hearts—K, 9
Clubs—J, 10, 9, 5
Diamonds—none
Spades—none

Spades are trumps and Z is in the lead. How can he so play the hand that Y-Z can win all of the tricks against any defense? This little problem is a fine example of forcing discards. B is forced to discard either the winning heart or one of his clubs. Z should lead the queen of hearts and win the trick with the ace in Y's hand. He should now lead the seven of clubs from Y's hand,

winning the trick with the king in his own hand. He should now lead the five of spades from his hand and discard the ten of hearts from Y's hand. B is now forced to discard. If he discards the king of hearts, Z's hearts are good. If he discards a club, Y's clubs are good. In either event, Y-Z will win all the tricks.

Appointed Postmaster of Holstein
"I then went into the fire and life insurance business, also conveyancing, until October 8, 1912, when I received the appointment to the Postmastership of Holstein, which I still retain, being ably assisted by my daughter.

"But I cannot conclude this brief sketch without again referring to my father and mother. Father was born in the County Monaghan, Ireland, in May, 1832, and died August, 1892, at the age of 60 years.

"Mother (Isabella Gordon), was born in the County Monaghan, Ireland, September, 1832, and died June 23, 1900, aged 68 years almost. To them were born W. J., 1855, Elizabeth Jane 1857 (now Mrs. D. P. Coleridge), Martha 1860, died March 1867, George, born 1861, now of B.C., Annie (Mrs. Alex. Freeman), born in

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1863, died August 11, 1910 in Rose City, Michigan. Sarah (Mrs. George Deford, Hurlbert, Mich.), born 1864, Mary B. (Mrs. Henry Woodiwisse, of Carsonville, Mich.), born in 1867, and John Henry, born in 1871, now living at Huntsville, Ontario.

Mr. Sharpe concluded his autobiography with a feeling reference to his life partner, who passed away on the 20th of February, 1925, and whose memory was ever green. In fact, Mr. Sharpe's decline commenced with the death of his wife, and for the past nearly two years he had been slowly failing.

Mr. Sharpe was a man of the highest character, and his funeral on Monday afternoon was a remarkable tribute of the regard in which he was held by the residents of Holstein and Egremont where practically his whole life was spent.

Following a short service at the house, the remains were taken to the United church, where the pastor, Rev. Charles Jay, assisted by Rev. L. E. West, a former pastor and close personal friend, and Rev. W. Johnston, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Holstein, conducted a most appropriate service. Interment was made in Mount Forest cemetery.

Many beautiful floral tributes were placed on the casket, among them being a pillow by his only daughter, Miss Ethel Sharpe, an arch by L.O.L. No. 2296, of which he was a member, a wreath by his brethren of the Canadian Order of Foresters, a wreath from the Holstein United church choir, a wreath from the Directors of the Germania Fire Insurance Company, and sprays from the Holstein United church, Mrs. D. P. Coleridge and Mr. J. H. Sharpe, Mr. and Mrs. R. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Arnill and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bert. Eccles, Mr. and Mrs. R. Irvine, and the McCall family, Mr. and Mrs. Hartley Allingham of Georgetown, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Robinson, had sent flowers for the sick room, and these, too, were placed on the casket.

Mr. Sharpe was an active member of both the Orange and C. O. F. societies and it was under the auspices of these societies that the funeral was held. The pall bearers were: From the Orange Order, Bros. George Fenton, George Hunt and George Burrows; from the Canadian Order of Foresters, Bros. John Stevenson, J. D. Roberts and R. Irvine.

With the members of the community, The Chronicle joins in extending condolences to Miss Ethel N. Sharpe, the only surviving member of the family, and to the brothers and sisters of the deceased.

IN MEMORIAM
Giles.—In loving memory of James Ronald Giles, who departed this life January 17, 1925.

Deep in our hearts lies a picture of a loved one laid to rest. In memory's frame we will keep it. Because he was one of the best. Our lips cannot speak how we love him. Our hearts cannot tell what to say; God only knows how we miss him. In a home that is lonesome today. —From the Family.

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See advertisement in this issue, page 7, for great bargain in closed car.

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