

1871 POSTOFFICE ROBBERY IN GALESVILLE

Sept. 1871 Galesville Transcript-REPORTED IN Sept. 1936 by Galesville Republican

In 1871 Galesville had one of the most exciting nights in the history of the town. Not only was an attempt made to burglarize the postoffice and the treasurer's office in the courthouse but one of the burglars was shot to death and another wounded. At the time, Galesville was the county seat although it was a much smaller town than now, with but a few scattered buildings. However, citizens of that time were none the less alert than now—nor were they wanting in courage.

The day before the attempted burglary two men, strangers to the locals, had slept among some grain stacks at the old Two Mile House (near Trempealeau). During the night the stacks were discovered on fire and were consumed. The following day Sheriff David Wade started out to round up the miscreants. He tracked them from the scene of the fire to Galesville and then out of town again. This he reported to Galesville people and it was generally believed the two men had left the vicinity.

That night there was a wedding at the home of Judge Perkins and most of townspeople were gathered there. The burning of the grain stacks and the tracking of the two men to Galesville, and then out again was discussed with alarm.

Among those not convinced that the two strangers were not lurking in the vicinity was George W Gale, then postmaster. The postoffice at that time was located in the building now occupied by the Galesville Republican. Mr Gale occupied the rooms above as residence. When he returned about midnight something told him that an attempt would be made to rob the postoffice so he determined to keep watch. W H Bunn , then Register of Deeds, boarded at the Gale apartment. He was informed of the situation and joined in the watch. All the lights in the house were extinguished and the members of the household were extinguished and the members of the household were stationed at the different windows. The watchers did not need to wait long before a sound was heard at the rear of the postoffice building and Mr Gale discovered two men crouching in the back yard. Procuring a revolver from Mr Bunn, Mr Gale went quietly down the stairs and crossed the street to the home of Sheriff Wade. He informed the sheriff of the presence of the prowlers, and the officer requested him to keep on the watch while he rounded up the deputy sheriff and some others. The Sheriff and his party soon arrived and then other citizens were aroused from their beds and stationed at different outlets so the burglars could not get out of town easily. Some of the citizens were armed with revolvers , others with guns and others with clubs and pitchforks.

Mr Gale, the Sheriff and the Deputy took up a position in a clump of weed . They had not long to wait before the two men appeared at the front door of the postoffice, conversed for a short time and then crossed the street as if to observe whether or not

anybody was about. In moving about the place where the sheriff and his companions were concealed and were almost upon them when the watchers arose with revolvers in hand.

Sheriff Wade said to the fellows "Boys, what are you looking for?"

The response came quickly in the way of a shot, one of the men firing into the party at a distance of not more than six feet. Although they had the men covered, the three citizens were so surprised their fingers did not press the triggers until the second man fired and the two turned and ran. Three revolvers in the hands of the Sheriff, Postmaster and Deputy spoke rapidly. One of the men kept straight ahead down Allen Street and other turned toward the courthouse. The pursuers, coming from all directions, also divided. Those who followed the burglar fleeing down Allen Street heard a gunshot when they reached the store. Arriving at a spot opposite the Davis Mill, they found a crowd gathered around the body of the man they pursued.

W Sheeley had been posted near the mill when Captain Arnold and others were on the bridge. When the burglar ran past Sheely, the latter called to him to halt. Instead of stopping, the fleeing man fired at Sheeley, who let him run a few feet and then brought his army musket, loaded with buckshot, to bear upon him. The man fell in the road, flat on his face. In his right hand was still gripped a heavy cavalry revolver. One shot had taken effect in the back of his head and although there were signs of life for several hours afterward, he did not regain consciousness.

The other burglar who had run toward the courthouse secreted himself among the buildings in the rear. The citizens, believing him to be armed, decided the safest plan was to surround the place and wait for daylight. When day dawned a revolver was picked up in the street opposite the courthouse. It appeared that the second burglar was wounded in the shoulder as he ran and he dropped his weapon. He was brought from his hiding place and later sentenced to five years in Waupun. His name was Smith.

The dead burglar was buried in the Galesville cemetery. His name was Wright. A short time afterward two women arrived in Galesville. One of them stated that she believed the dead man to be her husband. The body was dug up and she identified the corpse as that of her missing husband. The body was returned to the grave and the mound, in a secluded part of the cemetery, is still pointed out by old timers who were familiar with the tragedy.

PHOTOS				
Folder	Topic/Name	On web	Need ID	NOTES
Arcadia	Badger/Man	x		
Arcadia	1939 Flood	x		
Arcadia	Lewis Valley School Directory	x		
Arcadia	Main Street 1915	x		
Arcadia	Oak Ridge School Directory	x		
Arcadia	Old Arcadia High School	x		
Arcadia	Pat Koloff	x		
Arcadia	Ridge School directory	x		
Arcadia	Ridge School teachers	x		
Arcadia	Main Street 1923 Measure Bldg	x		
Arcadia	Carnegie Library 2009	x		
Arcadia	Library Door	x		
Arcadia	Norway Valley school	x	x	
Blair/Preston	German POWs	x		
Blair/Preston	County Fair Promo Band	x		Change caption
Blair/Preston	1922 Baseball Team	x		
Blair/Preston	1929 Flood with ladies	x		
Blair/Preston	1912 Blair Arcadia BB game	x		
Blair/Preston	Band Preston	x		
Blair/Preston	Band on train 1918	x		
Blair/Preston	1919 Graduation Programs	x		
Blair/Preston	Blair High School 2001	x		
Blair/Preston	Blair Children	x	x	
Blair/Preston	Elmer Ferguson Threshing machine	x		
Blair/Preston	Larson Farm	x		
Blair/Preston	Reynolds Coulee School Photo	x		ID doc with photo
Blair/Preston	One Box Anniversary	x		
Blair/Preston	Rainhold and Laura Berg	x		
Blair/Preston	Berg Boy	x		
Blair/Preston	Kan. Hummer Farm	x		
Blair/Preston	Berg/Fisher Wedding	x		
Blair/Preston				
Centerville	Stork School	x		
Centerville	Centerville School 1946	x		
Chimney Rock	Kloss steam engine	x		
Chimney Rock	Logging machinery	x		
Dodge/Pine Creek	Dodge Schog 2009	x		
Dodge/Pine Creek	Old backsmith shop Dodge	x		
Dodge/Pine Creek	Stonefront Dodge	x		
Dodge/Pine Creek	Stonefront Pine Creek	x		
Eleva/Atbison				
Etrick	Fisher Children	x		
Etrick	Mr & Mrs John Hagestad	x	x	
Etrick	Hagestad Farm	x		
Etrick	Wedding photo	x	x	
Etrick	Harmon School Interior	x		
Etrick	Harmon School Steps	x		
Etrick	Old Etrick School	x		
Etrick	Wayde School 1906	x		
Etrick	Wayde School 1957	x	x	x
Etrick	Hogg Cornet Band/Blue Farm	x		
Etrick	Hogg Mercantile	x		
Etrick	Greeland Olson	x		
Etrick	Hogg musicians	x		
Etrick	Beach garage	x		
Etrick	Beach School	x		
Etrick	Etrick Fair Promotion	x		
Etrick	Highway near Frenchville	x		
Etrick	Frenchville Stone	x		
Etrick	Upper French Crk School 1903	x		
Etrick	Upper French Crk School 1906	x		
Etrick				
Gale/Galesville	1920 Aerial View of Galesville	x		
Gale/Galesville	Artie Springs 1890s	x		
Gale/Galesville	Creamery	x		
Gale/Galesville	Ben Davis and wagon	x		
Gale/Galesville	Brick layers (2 photos)	x		
Gale/Galesville	Cadet band	x		
Gale/Galesville	Cpt Arnold and car	x		
Gale/Galesville	Mikeveth garage	x		
Gale/Galesville	Cave spring High Cliff pk	x		
Gale/Galesville	Train	x		
Gale/Galesville	Curling team with Norman Valiska	x		
Gale/Galesville	Several churches	x		
Gale/Galesville	Strand Stone	x		
Gale/Galesville	Davis Mill 1900	x		
Gale/Galesville	Davis Wilson Mill	x		
Gale/Galesville	Onion Oil	x		Move to County Fair
Gale/Galesville	Eastside camp ground	x		
Gale/Galesville	Fair 1920	x		Move to county fair
Gale/Galesville	First cooperhouse and hose company	x		
Gale/Galesville	First Schoolhouse	x		
Gale/Galesville	Presbyterian church	x		
Gale/Galesville	Hauling lumber in winter	x		
Gale/Galesville	Gale cottage dorm (newer one)	x		
Gale/Galesville	Gale Cottage class 1903	x		
Gale/Galesville	Gale Class of 1904	x		
Gale/Galesville	Parker house	x		Change caption
Gale/Galesville	Galesville 1895	x		
Gale/Galesville	Bank	x		
Gale/Galesville	Bank 1895	x		
Gale/Galesville	City Hall 1900	x		
Gale/Galesville	Concert band 1920	x		
Gale/Galesville	Mill dam 1919 flood	x		
Gale/Galesville	School kids 1898	x		
Gale/Galesville	Farmers Exchange Mill	x		
Gale/Galesville	Irst Lutheran church 1915	x		
Gale/Galesville	George Gale Jr	x		
Gale/Galesville	George Smith	x		
Gale/Galesville	Gilbertson Myre Stone	x		
Gale/Galesville	Grade 5 1910	x		
Gale/Galesville	High Cliff Park 1920	x		
Gale/Galesville	High Cliff Park 1905	x		
Gale/Galesville	Jensen building	x		
Gale/Galesville	Cate-dorn Log Jam clipping	x		
Gale/Galesville	Scarfth lumber headers	x		
Gale/Galesville	Martin Johnson stone	x		Change caption
Gale/Galesville	cottage on lake	x		
Gale/Galesville	First bridge	x		
Gale/Galesville	Methodist church	x		
Gale/Galesville	Old bridge dissep	x		
Gale/Galesville	Prohibition morning	x		
Gale/Galesville	Rev gimstead	x		
Gale/Galesville	Boat on Lake	x		
Gale/Galesville	Square 1922	x		
Gale/Galesville	July 2 1915	x		
Gale/Galesville	Swinging bridge	x		
Gale/Galesville	Square 1940	x		
Gale/Galesville	1883 view	x		
Gale/Galesville	allen Street 1910	x		
Gale/Galesville	Bridge west view	x		
Gale/Galesville	Cinder Hill	x		
Gale/Galesville	Old Hotel on Square	x		
Gale/Galesville	Grocery store interior	x		
Gale/Galesville	kneeland building	x		
Gale/Galesville	Flow Mill	x		
Gale/Galesville	Decorah Prairie Homemakers picnic	x		
Gale/Galesville	Decorah Mound	x		
Gale/Galesville	Don Hunter and car	x		
Gale/Galesville	East view of Square	x		
Gale/Galesville	Gale Cottage dorm old one	x		
Gale/Galesville	Riverside Hotel	x		
Gale/Galesville	Southview from Square	x		
Gale/Galesville	1895 view after mill fire	x		
Gale/Galesville	East side of Galesville	x		
Gale/Galesville	Volunteer fire dept	x		
Gale/Galesville	Zion Luth singers	x		
Gale/Galesville	Smith School	x		ID doc with photo
Gale/Galesville	Jack Doonan Front Porch	x		ID doc with photo
Gale/Galesville	Duncan Grant & Walter Irvine	x		
Gale/Galesville	Hunter Hunter Farm	x		
Gale/Galesville	First Hunter's Bridge	x		
Gale/Galesville	Thomas H Hunter	x		
Gale/Galesville	Thomas H Hunter & wife Agnes	x		
Gale/Galesville	Galesville HS Class of 1915	x		
Gale/Galesville	Cream maker Mrs Hunter	x		
Gale/Galesville	Curling North Bend vs Decorah Prairie	x		
Gale/Galesville	B bank of Galesville 1908	x		ID document
Gale/Galesville	Kellman Hardware Store	x		ID document
Gale/Galesville	Eden Lutheran Church	x		ID document
Gale/Galesville	Town Square 1875	x		ID document
Gale/Galesville	Decorah Peak	x		
Gale/Galesville	Farm Home Town of Gale	x		
Gale/Galesville	IA Mariuska East Side Bridge 2009	x		
Hale	Rob Herman streambank 2010			create folder 7
Independence/Burnside	Fishing by bridge	x		
Independence/Burnside	City Hall 2010	x		
Independence/Burnside	1930 Fair Promotion	x		
Independence/Burnside	1919 High water train	x		add date to photo
Independence/Burnside	Stark steam engine	x		
Independence/Burnside	Markham Farm drawing	x		
Independence/Burnside	1881 drawing lake	x		
Independence/Burnside	Ronover	x		
Independence/Burnside	Bridge 2007	x		
Independence/Burnside	1929 baseball team	x		ID document for both photos
Independence/Burnside	Reunion baseball team 1940s	x		
Independence/Burnside	First School 1868	x		
Independence/Burnside	1930 barn repairs	x		
Independence/Burnside	Fireworks	x		
Independence/Burnside	Street scene 1900	x		needs date on web photo
Independence/Burnside	Street Scene 1940	x		
Independence/Burnside	ladies	x		
Independence/Burnside	4th Fishing contest 2008	x		
Independence/Burnside	Kurth Family	x		
Independence/Burnside	Hugh & City Hall 2005	x		
Independence/Burnside	Fishing contest 2009	x		
Independence/Burnside	Fishing contest 2010 bridge	x		
Independence/Burnside	Fish board 2010	x		
Independence/Burnside	Aerial view of Independence	x		
Independence/Burnside	Onie and friends	x		
Pigeon/Pigeon Falls	Daggett School	x		MS on document
Pigeon/Pigeon Falls	Fisher Coulee	x		
Pigeon/Pigeon Falls	PF Bank Bldg detail	x		
Pigeon/Pigeon Falls	PF Bank 1890s	x		

DOCUMENTS ETC.			
Site	Folder	Title	Document
Info Center	Agriculture	Upper Plum Creek-Ellingstad	x
"	"	Memories of Tremp Cty	x
"		Ervin & Welsh Coulees	x
Info Center	Cemeteries	Calvary OLPH	x
"	"	Fagernes Church	X
Info Center	Churches	OLPH/Calvary	x
"	"	Fagernes	x
"	"	French Crk Lutheran 1915	
"	"	French Crk Lutheran 2008	
"	"	Hardies Crk Lutheran 2008	
		Pastor Griffiths-Tremp.	x
	"	Tremp Valley Bible Camp	x
"	"	Cantata 1944 & ID for photo	x
Info Center	Crimes & Mysteries	Olson Lynching	X
"	"	Dodge Stills	X
"	"	Erdman Olson Murder	X
"		Osseo Hermit	x
	"	Lynching news Clips	x
"	"	Utter Insanity	x
"	"	Galesville Hold Up	X
"	"	Wellin Murder 1903	x
Info Center	County Fair	Chariot Race	
"	"	Dawn Johnson	
"	"	Aaron Bergman	
"	"	Ann Howard and Mo	
"	"	Jenny Schank	
"	"	Winchell/Johnson	
"	"	Group of 4H Horse Proj Kids	
Info Center	County Officials	Sheriffs	x
"	"	Judge Anderson	X
	"	Ed Erickson, sheriff	x
Info Center	Families	Walter Hunter Letter	x
"	"	Robt Burns Festival	x
"	"	Ole Arneson/Norway	x
Info Center	Maps	Galesville Robbers - 4 Tucker Map	x
Info Center	Obituaries	Col Larson	
"	"	DVM Sam Kowahl	x
"	"	Gilbertsons	x

Martha Hendrickson, C