

## Thieves Make Successful Visit to a Woonsocket Residence.

### Woolen Mill at Bethel to Start Soon— Accident at Thornton.

Thieves visited the William C. Blanchard residence on the corner of Harris avenue and Blackstone street, Woonsocket, Wednesday and made a good haul, taking away with them a sum of money, said by the family to be less than \$100, which had been left for safe keeping in a drawer of one of the desks in the house.

The burglars performed their work quietly, and the members of the Blanchard family were left in blissful ignorance of their loss until yesterday, when the condition of a front room on the south side of the house made them suspect that unbidden visitors had been present there during the night.

Yesterday a window in the front room on the south side of the house was found wide open. Nobody could explain the incident until an examination of a money drawer in a desk in the room told the story.

The drawer had been looted of its contents during the night, and was empty. Just when the burglars made their appearance no member of the Blanchard family can state with certainty, but there is good reason to believe that the break occurred about 1 o'clock, for at that time the barking of a neighbor's dog awakened William C. Blanchard and several others in the house. The dog barked for nearly a quarter of an hour, but no attention was paid to it.

That the visitors were well acquainted with the premises there can be no doubt. They confined their attention to the room containing the money and did not enter any others. In forcing up the window of the room a jimmy of some kind was used. Its marks are still to be seen on the casing.

A little over one year ago burglars visited the Blanchard home. The only thing missing at that time was a box containing papers. These documents were of no value to them and consequently after overhauling the tin box containing the papers, the burglars left the box and its contents on the floor of one of the rooms.

In taking the box from a desk yesterday morning the thieves overlooked a drawer containing \$40.

The room from which the money was taken is used as a reception room by Miss Emmaroy A. Blanchard, dressmaker, and is on the first floor.

The woolen mill at Bethel, a small hamlet about a half-mile north of Ashaway, has changed hands and will soon be in operation.

Since 1818, when William Arnold built a small building on the site now occupied by the present structure, where he manufactured scythes, there has been a manufacturing plant located on that spot. Mr. Arnold continued to operate the plant until Zebulon Stillman purchased the property and proceeded to manufacture and repair wagons.

In 1829 the property again changed hands, J. D. Babcock becoming the owner, and the building was enlarged and the manufacture of carding machines engaged in. A few years later the property was leased by Rowe Babcock and John Knowles, who manufactured yarn and sent it out in the surrounding country to farmers' wives to be woven by them into cloth, as was the custom of the smaller mills of that time. Babcock & Knowles continued to run the mill until 1848, when it was destroyed by fire.

Immediately after the destruction of the mill, J. D. Babcock erected a building 33x70 feet, with a basement, two stories and an attic, which was leased by Asher Babcock and Welcome Stillman, who equipped it with machinery, and for a long period manufactured woolen goods. This firm was succeeded by T. R. Wells & Co., who were later succeeded by W. R. Wells, who made extensive alterations and improvements, putting in an electric light plant and erecting a commodious office building.

Seeing a chance to dispose of a larger output a large weaver shop was erected, but about the time it was completed the firm was forced to the wall and the property passed into the hands of the mortgagees, the Pawcatuck Savings Bank holding the mortgage on the real estate and F. R. Barber the mortgage on the machinery.

Early in the present year New York parties made arrangements to purchase the property, but backed out before a deal was effected, and in August the Ashaway Woolen Company bought the plant, and are making preparations to put the machinery in operation some time in December.

A large force of men are engaged in putting in a new dam, while a new flume and water wheel are already in position. The property is about five miles from the railroad, but the roads are excellent. The concern will expend about \$12000 in repairing and equipping the mill and will manufacture worsteds.

H. G. Martin, 32 years old, met with a serious accident at Thornton village yesterday. He is a painter, and had a contract for painting the houses in the Victoria mill village. He was on the staging 25 feet from the ground when the accident happened. It occurred when he attempted to tighten a hook which held the end of the staging, where he was standing in position. In the attempt to tighten it, the hook slipped, and that end of the staging fell to the ground. Martin struck on one side, breaking his arm, sustaining severe internal injuries and hurting his head so that he was delirious. Dr. Shaw was called to attend him, and under the doctor's directions the man was conveyed to his home in the annexed district.

William H. Hughes, a well-known resident of Johnston and eldest son of the late Thomas H. Hughes, who was the founder of the village of Hughesdale, died yesterday at the Hughes homestead in that place. He was in his 53d year and during his life was a chemist by occupation. After the business of his father was disposed of he followed this occupation in various sections of the country. He was for a long time engaged in the installing of public sanitary plants in New Orleans and other Southern cities, but for several years he has been in poor health and lived at his old home. During the past few years he had held several minor offices in the town. Last Sunday his illness took a serious turn, when he became unconscious, a condition from which he did not rally. A widow and one daughter survive him.

District Sergt. Louis Champlin was again yesterday with a party of men engaged in dragging Narragansett river in search of the body of Capt. Howard Orr, who mysteriously disappeared a week ago yesterday while on his way home to Sunderland from Narragansett Pier, and it is stated that rises have developed within the last 48 hours which point to the probability that the man was robbed and then murdered when it was found that he recognized his assailants.