

FROM THE *TOWANDA HERALD*, a weekly published from 1885-1894:

Sandy John Visits the Newspaper - John Heath was known as Sandy John for the sand he sold to people building houses. May 5, 1885 Towanda Herald.

John Heath, commonly called "Sandy John," made our office a call yesterday. He informed us that it was just fifteen years since he landed in this State. A vast change has taken place in this country since then.

Bill Heath back from The West - John's son William (aka Bill) was always looking for better opportunities. He eventually made a land claim in Colorado but stayed in Kansas. September 1, 1885.

Bill Heath, one of Towanda's old-time born, is back again from the west, looking as hearty and as saucy as ever. As women are a scarce article out there, it is possible and probable that Bill is on a sharp lookout for a partner to share with him his western home. Good luck to ye, Bill.

John Heath Sells 30 Acres - As the years passed, John had some financial problems and had to sell some of his land. October 26, 1885

John Heath sold 30 acres of land to B. [?] H. Cupp.

John Heath Stops a Fire - John and some neighbors put out a potentially serious fire before it could do any real damage. November 12, 1885

John Heath, who resides on his farm, one-half mile west of town, met with what might have proven a serious loss the other day. It seemed that a child had carelessly dropped fire among some loose straw that was scattered around a number of stacks of grain belonging to different parties, John's among the rest. Fortunately an errand called John near the stacks before the fire had gathered much headway. and with the assistance of a neighbor, he was enabled to check its mad career.

John improves his home - John told the editor he was determined to update his home for the long term. November 26, 1885

John Heath gives it out as his intention to live comfortable in the future, and has therefore been engaged for some time in making substantial additions to his home. John always keeps up with the procession in the matter of improvements, and the same we are pleased to chronicle.

[Wm Heath Returns for Christmas](#) - The microfilm was a bit blurry. December 17, 1885

Wm Heath, who has been sojourning in the west where he has taken up a piece of Uncle Sam's valuable domain, is home for the holidays.

[Jeff Heath to Missouri](#) - Jefferson Heath was a son of John. He went to Missouri looking for land or other opportunities. March 18, 1886

Jeff. Heath, John Nash, F. Lytle and others, are going to Lane-oo [?] to secure a tract of US best land. The three mentioned men are Gentlemen and will no doubt make a good selection of Real Estate. They have the best wishes of the Herald.

[John Heath Visits Illinois](#) - John had not been back to Illinois to see his siblings since he left. February 10, 1887

John Heath started Monday on a two weeks visit to his old home in Ill., which he has not seen for 17 years.

[John Heath Returns](#) - March 3, 1887

John Heath returned from his visit to Illinois yesterday morning, the better for his visit and looking like new. He wears a handsome silver watch and gold chain with his name, a testimonial of love from his brother and sister at Goodhope, Ill. John made his first call at the Herald Office in order to be in time and to see that copies of the paper reached his relations back east, whom he had so lately left.

[Jeff Heath Moves](#) - Jeff and his wife Teresa Safford Heath moved to their own farm. March 16, 1887

Jeff . Heath and his wife are now keeping house by themselves. Mr. Safford and family moved into the Dudley house last Tuesday.

[John Heath on Sleigh](#) - This is one of those where the editors pokes fun at John. March 24, 1887

John Heath was sleighing last Monday morning, it was cold enough but we could see no snow.

[Sandy John Horse Trade](#) - March 24, 1887

Sandy John is good on the trade. He gives a graphic description of the mare he traded for a horse with a pedigree.

[Martha Heath Moves to Towanda](#) - Martha Heath is the step-sister to John but 30 years younger. She was born to John's father Samuel and his second wife. Image is blurry. August 1, 1887

Martha Heath has moved here from Wichita, and will shortly open a millinery establishment. We wish her every success.

[Maud Heath School Report](#) - Monthly newspaper report of the school. This is Maud, the youngest child of John and Ester. December 1, 1887

Monthly Report of the Primary Department of the Towanda Public Schools. Pop. Is [?] enrolled number 27. Average daily attendance 24. Name: Maud Heath: Department [#] 95; Monthly Average 84.

[Maud Heath Recitation](#) - Towanda School Christmas Program. December 15, 1887

The children of the primary dept.-- gave us so many and such good little recitations that our time will not allow us to mention them separately, all did well for so little practice as they had; Maud Heath spoke "The old kitchen floor" in a manner that touched more than one mothers heart.

[Bill Heath Selling](#) - Bill selling young Bulls and firewood. A bit blurry. December 22, 1887

Bill Heath has been doing a roaring business in bull-pups and firewood. Bully, Bill. Dog-gone good.

[William Heath to Wichita](#) - This is very typical of local items. January 5, 1888

Wm. Heath went to Wichita Tuesday and returns to.morrow.

[Ester Heath Visiting](#) - Very few items for Ester. January 5, 1888

Mrs. John Heath was visiting in the country yesterday, we didn't learn where.

[George S. Heath Married](#) - George married Emma Atkinson. January 12, 1888

Married: At the residence of John Heath Esq. by Elder Barker, on Sunday January 8, 1888, Mr. Geo Heath to Mis [sic] Miss Emma Atkerson, all of Butler Co. Quite a number of the relatives and friends of both parties were present and witnessed the ceremony, after which all partook of an excellent and bountiful dinner. Among the guests I note Mrs. D.H. Cupp and son Sheridan, Mr. and Mrs. Atkerson, Mr. and Mrs. D.W. Saffer, Mr. Chas. Wilson of Canton, Ill., and A.W. Stearns and son Joe. A pleasant time was experienced.

The wishes expressed for the future happiness and prosperity of the newly married pair were sincere and unanimous.

We acknowledge the receipt of a rich frosted cake and congratulate George on the acquisition of a better half.

[William Heath to Colorado](#) - February 23, 1888

Wm Heath started to Colorado on Tuesday, he will however only make a short stay; and we may expect to see him back very soon.

[William Heath Sends a Colorado Newspaper](#) - He had staked some land in Chevington, Kiowa, CO. March 1, 1888

Wm. Heath has sent us a copy of the "Chevington Chief" published at Chevington, Col. Thanks Bill, your "Chevington Chief" is a nice live paper and we appreciate your favor.

[William Heath Back from Colorado](#) - April 12, 1888

Wm Heath is back from Colorado.

[William Heath Newspaper Request](#) - April 12, 1888

Another Towandaite in the busy wilderness of Wichita wafts a request back here for his home paper, well Wm Heath we will try and get it out there to you somehow.

[Parley Heath in Towanda](#) - May 3, 1888

Parley Heath in [sic] back in Towanda on a visit to his parents.

[Heath Boys Visit Sick Mom](#) - May 3, 1888

Bill Heath from Wichita, Parley Heath from Texas, and George Heath from Murdock all Sundayed with their parents Sandy John and wife, Mrs. Heath is recovering from a spell of sickness, Dr. Godfrey attended her.

[William Heath Visits Editor](#) - May 31, 1888

Wm. Heath was in from Wichita Saturday, and came in as usual to enquire after the "Herald's" health—Health and appetite both good, Bill.

[Sandy John Brings Potatoes to the Editor](#) - Quite a description of enjoying the potatoes ! June 14, 1888

Sandy John's early potatoes get a warm welcome on the editor's table this week and as each smoking tuber bursts open ou [sic] our plate and is wiped quickly out of sight, we breathe many blessings on the man who remembers the hard working publisher.

[John Heath Sends the Herald to his Brothers](#) - John purchased subscriptions for William and Samuel Parley who live in McDonough County, Illinois. June 21, 1888

John Heath, who has been sending he Herald to his two brothers in Ill., called in Tuesday to see that they get it for the next six months. You are all right Sandy, they will both get it regular. Sure.

[Wm Heath Spends 4th of July in Towanda](#) - July 5, 1888

Wm. Heath was in from Wichita to spend the fourth in Towanda.

[John Heath Brings a Large Stalk of Corn](#) - "The corn is as high as an elephant's eye..... " August 9, 1888

Mr. Heath brought up a stalk of corn measuring eleven feet and a half in height: nearly long enough to make two R.R. ties, John, but not quite.

[Baseball Game at Towanda](#) - The Towanda team was known as the Towanda Reds. Frank Heath played for them. August 9, 1888

AT TOWANDA: Fairview and Towanda played a match game of ball Saturday, which was close and exciting till the end of the 9th innings, when the score stood 26 to 30 in favor of the home club.

[Frank Heath Hurt During Game](#) - Frank was hit by a bat during the game mentioned above. August 9, 1888

Frank Heath was accidently struck down by the bat during the game on Saturday and picked up unconscious. He did not get over it until the next morning.

[John Heath Hurt by Rooster](#) - John's hand was cut by the spurs of a rooster and infected by flies. August 9, 1888

John Heath has a bad hand, it was wounded by the spurs of a rooster and then poisoned through the bites of flies.

[Jeff Heath has a new baby son](#) - This is Floyd who died in Missouri at the age of 24. August 16, 1888

If any one says our town is not booming, let them not run across the big boy who arrived at Jeff Heath's Tuesday afternoon: he weighs 10 lbs: at present but has faith enough in our climate to try and weigh twenty times that by the time he votes.

[Martha Heath Whaley has a Son](#) - The newspaper called John the "Grand pap" but he was actually a great uncle as Marchtha was a step-sister but 30 years younger. August 30, 1888

BORN: Sunday August 26th 1888, to Mr. and Mrs. Waley, a nine pound son. Grandpap Sandy walks proudly round the streets of Towanda and speaks words of wisdom to the rising generation.

[William Heath Home Visiting Parents](#) - September 6, 1888

William Heath was home on Sunday to visit his folks. He started Monday to look after his claim, and build a house, probably has a possible housekeeper in view.

[Sandy John Rejoices](#) - Over a new wooden Box on his wagon. September 26, 1888

Sandy John rejoices in a bran new wagon box.

[Sandy John Family Reunion](#) - His brother Samuel Parley was visiting. October 4, 1888

Sandy John had quite a family reunion last Sunday.

[SP Heath and Sandy to Wichita](#) - The editor pokes fun at John by calling him the "well advertised Sandy". October 4, 1888

Mr. and Mrs. S.P. Heath of Illinois accompanied by their well advertised brother Sandy took a carriage and went to Wichita yesterday morning.

[Jeff Heath Family to Missouri](#) - Jefferson Heath family will move to Missouri. October 4, 1888

Mr. and Mrs Jeff Heath will start for Sarcoxie, Missouri, next Monday.

[Wm Heath Robbed](#) - Of his clothing ! November 15, 1888

Wm. Heath at Wichita has been robbed of a trunk containing his clothes.

[Sandy John in a Fight](#) - Sandy Decemberlared a "good tussle" knocked the Rheumatism right out of him. November 22, 1888

Sandy John says that a good tussel with our tall livery man last Thursday, knocked his rheumatism so far that he could not find it the first cold damp day that came along.

[George Heath has a New Son](#) - This is Walter Heath. December 16, 1888

Mr. and Mrs.Geo Heath are rejoicing over the arrival of a 10 pound baby boy. He came on the morning of the 9th of December. Dr. Godfrey attending.

[John Heath Complains to the Editor](#) - January 31, 1889

"I have been sick for over six weeks and that -----editor knows nothing about it; if it was some body in the north edge of town, he would be sure to publish it." All right John we saw you so often we did not know it.

[Parley Heath Visiting Parents](#) - April 11, 1889

Mr. Parley Heath is making a visit to his parents Mr and Mrs. John Heath this week.

[Wm Heath Planting Grapevines](#) - April 18, 1889

Mr. John Noble and his son John jr and Wm. Heath of Wichita are planting 300 grapevines, on the Turner farm west of the Creek.

[Sandy John to El Dorado](#) - Went for supplies. May 2, 1889

Sandy John made the trip to ElDorado on Saturday, and returned with the cart full.

[John Heath Brings Peaches to the Editor](#) - Editor promote the area. June 27, 1889

A broken bough full of unripe peaches from John Heath and a long limb full of rich ripe cherries from I.Mooney were among the last Saturday's specimens at this office. The west part of the county can lay it over the east in, eyeverything [sic] but floods.

[Parley Heath Family Moves into House](#) - September 19, 1889

Parley Heath and family moved into the house south of the corner store Thursday.

[Parley Heath Son Born](#) - This is Arthur. October 20, 1889

BORN: Oct., 9th, 1889, yesterday morning, a big twelve pound democrat. He will take board with Mr. and Mrs. Parley Heath. He is a buster.

[William Heath Takes a Drummer to Potwin](#) - A Drummer was a traveling salesman. November 7, 1889

LOCALS POINTERS

Wet weather just now.

Car load of SALT at M.P. Westcott's.

William Heath took a drummer up to Potwin and Brainerd last Tuesday.

[John Heath in theological discussion](#) - Editor poking fun again. November 14, 1889

Mr. George Cornelius and Mr. John Heath had some theological discussion last Monday morning. George is getting quite zealous and felt quite able to tackle Sandy John. Go at him again George! "Faint heart never won fair lady." you know.

[John Heath Helping During a Fire](#) - John's help was dubious. November 28, 1889

Events During the Fire [sic]

J.E.Sorter saved his crib of corn by prying it over, and thus cut the connection between the fire and a millet stack.

The lumber office was saved by the water being thrown from the inside against the burning siding and by salt and water being thrown on the roof.

John Heath is said to have carried a bucket of water to the fire and let the water get red hot and set fire to the bucket.

[George Heath Daughter is Born](#) - This is Ida Heath. December 19, 1889

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. G. Heath, Saturday, Dec. 14th 1889, a little girl.

[Wm Heath Sends Potatoes to Editor](#) - January 23, 1890

Wm Heath sent us a nice sack of potatoes Tuesday. Thank you William.

Parley Heath Moves to Farm - February 27, 1890

Pawley [sic] Heath moved out of town on to the farm the first of the week.

John Heath Kicked by a Mule - This story is pretty funny. March 20, 1890

John Heath while killing rats in his barn Tuesday night got a kick on the head by one of his son William's mules. It was a severe kick, but John told the boys to go on with the rat killing.

John Heath Critically Injured - John was injured in an accident with his horse and cart. This is the start of a long physical Decemberline. April 3, 1890

John Heath was hauled home in a wagon Saturday afternoon. He had driven the sorrel and cart to El Dorado in the morning, but parted company with the horse and cart on the road from there where he was picked up almost dead. The sorrel arrived home minus the cart, which was found on the road very little damaged. But poor John is in very critical condition, having sustained severe injuries. In the chest on the left hip, altogether rendering breathing and moving difficult and painful.

John Heath Re-breaks ribs - John took the bandages off too soon. April 10, 1890

M. John Heath broke his ribs over again by taking off the bandages too soon. This was a very foolish trick of John's.

Parley Heath in Oklahoma City - Story about a shooting. A bit blurry. April 24, 1890

Parley Heath, who was in OklahomaCity last week tells about the shooting of W.L.Couch. He says the man Adams who shot him was one of the claimants of the quarter section which Will took and is endeavoring to hold; that Adams is an xcitable man and is hardly responsible for his acts. Cap. Couch and his son Ira were putting up fence when Adams attempted to prevent them, and drew a revolver, but was not quick enough with it, Couch getting. . .[story not finished]

Barber Gave John a Shave at Home - John cannot yet get out of bed. May 8, 1890

The Barber was down at John Heath's Tuesday, to give him a shave. John is pretty badly off, and will not leave his bed for some time.

Wm Heath Reports John No Better - May 15, 1890

Wm Heath was in the office yesterday morning, he reports his father as no better in health. John is having a rough time of it.

Heath's Leaving Illinois 1869 - This is a lovely story of John and Ester leaving IL. and accidentally leaving George asleep on a bench in the station. June 26, 1890

Wonder if John Heath remembers the time when he and his family were coming out from Illinois to Sunny Kansas on the cars, leaving one of the babies asleep on the depot seat and going off with the train. He will remember that the train of cars was obligingly backed up to the depot again while he got out and secured the baby. That baby now has a family of his own to be responsible for.

Yours truly, REPORTER

John Needs Surgery - July 10, 1890

The doctor from Augusta was up to see John Heath yesterday and has concluded that a surgical operation will be necessary in order to remove some of the broken bone from John's hip. The time set is a week from today. Sandy John is clear grit however and will stand the racket all right.

John Receives Visitors - John's brother Samuel Parley came to visit him. August 7, 1890

Mr. and Mrs. Heath of Goodhope Ill. arrived here on Thursday last on a visit to John Heath and family, they returned home yesterday.

Traveler Stops at Johns - Odd story of someone walking back East. August 7, 1890

A traveler stopped at John Heath's Saturday and Sunday, he was making his way east pushing a light two wheel concern in front of him on which was loaded all his goods and camp furniture. He made about eight or ten miles a day, and lived mainly on milk and bread or crackers. He worked in the west as long as he could stand it and take goods for pay, and is now making his way east to find a circulating medium.

Impending Operation for John - DOctoberor stopped to offer encouragement. I do not know if the operation was ever done. No mention of it. August 21, 1890

Dr. Godfrey was able to get as far out as John Heath's Sunday and gave John some encouragement about the impending operation that he must undergo as soon as the weather cools off.

[Wm Heath Rents a farm](#) - As was common for young men of limited funds, William rented a farm. Although this was temporary, he became a successful farmer elsewhere. October 16, 1890

We hear that Wm. Heath has the Pratt farm rented for next year; what? William going to get married?

[John Heath Still Not Well](#) - October 30, 1890

John Heath is not well enough yet to stand riding; his trip as far as the railway last week, laid him up again.

[John Heath Called a Correspondent](#) - The Editor giving John encouragement. November 20, 1890

We can call John Heath a correspondent now, keep up the grit John.

[John Writes a Letter of Thanks](#) - November 20, 1890

Mr. Editor, Towanda, Nov. 15 1890
Sir, I am over here and no better and don't think I ever shall be. I wish to thank Mr. Geo. Robinson and the good citizens of El Dorado for their kind present of a new suit of clothes, also a present from our rustling little merchant Mike Orban. And I wish to return my sincere thanks to the people of Towanda for their kindness to me during my sickness. JOHN HEATA [sic]

[William Tries Selling Sand](#) - William tries to help his dad by selling sand. John will soon lose most of his land due to being unable to pay the mortgages he had.

Persons requiring sand for building purposes can be supplied by Wm. Heath at Towanda.

[Maud Heath Home for Sick Mother](#) - January 8, 1891

Miss Maud Heath was a caller yesterday morning; she has been working in Benton, but is at home now on account of the sickness of her mother.

[John Heath Bad Spells](#) - Very Blurry. January 8, 1891

John Heath is having a very bad spell; his other hip is becoming affected.

[Wm Heath Starts for the Strip](#) - Cherokee Strip was a small strip of land running across the bottom of Kansas that allowed the Indians passage to the Rockies. January 22, 1891

Wm. Heath starts for the strip next Wednesday.

[Wm Heath Brings the Editor Turnips](#) - January 29, 1891

Wm. Heath brought in a mess of turnips, Monday for our deletion. Turnips help considerably, Will.

[Ester sick](#) - January 29, 1891

Mrs John Heath is still very poorly.

[John Heath Letter to Newspaper](#) - John wrote about is life and financial reverses as well as his hope for a better day. May 14, 1891

Editor Herald.

Twenty-two years ago the 12th of last month I first saw the now famous town of Towanda, I have gone through a good many hardships since that time I have been crippled for over a year and that is worse than all, but Mr. Editor. I once saw better times I used to own a bank, not a State bank, nor a National bank, but a private bank a sand bank indeed, but I mortgaged it and it is gone, but I don't blame the republican party nor the democrat party, nobody but myself. Mr. Editor, I am looking ahead for better times when the farmer's Alliance gets into power, they will pay off all the mortgages and then we will fly high and sing that good old song, "Goodbye old party goodbye, from an old time democrat. JOHN HEATH

[Maud Heath Home to Care for Mother](#) - May 14, 1891

Miss Maud Heath who has been working at El Dorado, was called home on account of the sickness of her mother, but will return as soon as she is better.

[Wm Heath Brings Radishes](#) - May 28, 1891

Wm. Heath presented us with a bunch of large radishes on Tuesday. As we have no garden ourselves this year they were very acceptable. Thanks Will.

[John Heath Up and About](#) - John made some recovery and could walk a bit. July 23, 1891

John Heath was in El Dorado Tuesday watching events at the Opera House. John is on the streets of Towanda again occasionally and made THE HERALD office a call yesterday.

[John Heath Says Health Very Poor](#) - August 13, 1891

John Heath was a caller on Monday morning, says his health is very poor. He and his wife were in El Dorado last Saturday on business,--Mrs. Heath stayed at Geo. Robinson's during the day.

[Parley Heath Daughter Born](#) - This is Florence Heath. Grandma Heath (Ester) came to visit. September 3, 1891

Pawley [sic] Heath is the proud parent of a ten pound girl, who arrived last Thursday morning to cheer his home. Grandma Heath went over on Tuesday to see the fair young settler.

[Maud Heath Home for a Visit](#) - Maud was working for the wife of a train engineer. Perhaps as a servant? October 15, 1891

Miss Maud Heath is home from El Dorado on a visit this week having come in on the afternoon train. She has been two months working for Mrs. Calhoun, the wife of an engineer on the Mo. Pac.

[John Heath Runs for Road Boss](#) - a bit blurry. John ran for Road Boss which was an elected official. He needed the money and felt well enough to do it. November 5, 1891

John Heath ran for road boss on the independent ticket and made the remark "God help us all and may we all be elected.

[John Heath Working the Roads](#) - He obviously won and appeared to be well liked by his neighbors. November 26, 1891

John Heath was working the roads yesterday.

[John Heath and Ester Receives Christmas Gifts](#) - There are also blurbs about the Adsits but they will be mentioned on their pages. December 31, 1891

John Heath was the happy recipient of Christmas cake. It was put on the tree by the members of the Universalist Church. Mrs. Heath got a new dress from the same source.

[Mrs. Heath Sick but Improving](#) - February 4, 1892

Mrs. John Heath has had a severe sick spell but is improving again.

John in El Dorado - John was able to go to El Dorado. February 11, 2013

John Heath was on the ElDorado sidewalks last Friday.

John Heath Visits the Herald - February 25, 1892

John Heath spent a few pleasant moments in THE HERALD office last Friday.

Parley Spent Time with Parents - March 17, 1892

Parley Heath spent Sunday with his parents here.

Maud Heath Marchried to HC Hayman - April 13, 1892

MARRIED: Mr. Hayman of Fairview and Miss Maud Heath of Towanda last Thursday. The young people are well known to most of our readers, having grown up from childhood in their respective townships and are held in the highest estimation by all. On account of the unsettled state of things since the storm, we have not been able to get the particulars of this happy event, but have no hesitation in joining with their many friends in wishing prosperity to the newly united and happy young couple.

John Heath Dies This was on the front page of the Herald and in other newspapers as well. John was actually 63 years old. September 9, 1892

DIED: At his residence in this township, soon after midnight, between Tuesday and Wednesday, September 6th and 7th, Mr. John Heath, aged 53 [sic] years and six months, of heart failure. His funeral takes place to-day at 2 o'clock, p.m., Rev. I. Mooney conducting the services. John Heath was one of the earliest settlers, and his death removes one of the old land-marks from our midst, for he was well known in the neighborhood. A large family of children and grandchildren mourn his loss, besides his wife who is left to lonesomeness and advancing age. We all sympathize with the bereft family and trust that time may heal the poignancy of their sorrow.—The Herald

Wm Heath and Mules August 25, 1892

It takes Wm Heath to tell how his mules can move small buildings.

Wm Heath Appointed Road Supervisor To fill his late father's term. September 22, 1892

Mr. Wm. Heath has received the appointment of Road Supervisor in District 2 this township to fill the unexpired term of his father, John Heath. Wm. Heath is one who will attend closely to business and closely watch the interests of the taxpayer.

Ester Moves in with Daughter Maud – Following John's death Ester needed the support. She remained with Maud until her death in 1894. September 29, 1892

Mrs. John Heath has moved to her daughter, Mrs. Hayman's, in Fairview.

Geo. Heath Assault Case – February 19, 1893

Geo. Heath's serious assault case on A. Byers Sunday night before last, came before the court last Thursday and was then adjourned to another date.