

Turning Back the Clock: Meet DeWitt and Minnie Tuttle

By Dorothy French

The Tuttle family has deep roots in Walworth. When Howard Triou recently donated this photo of DeWitt and Minnie Tuttle to the museum, our curiosity about the Tuttle family resulted in some research. One of the sources we checked was a booklet, Walworth, As I Remember It. It was written in 1990 by Charles H. Pembroke, long-time Walworth resident whose knowledge and ingenuity could fix almost anything. The booklet is available for sale at our museum.

Charlie wrote about DeLass and Mary Louise (Maria Knapp) Tuttle, who lived east of town. DeLass was a farmer and financier and would loan money to people. Their children, DeWitt, Frank, and Mary (also known as May), followed in their father's financial footsteps as adults. When the new school on Academy Street was built in 1930, the three offspring each loaned \$30,000 to come up with \$90,000 – the price of a new school.

According to Charlie, "DeWitt was honest and always lived up to his word. He would furnish folks with cows and horses and put them on a farm of his and all he got was half of the milk check."

DeWitt married Minnie Reynolds and they had one daughter, Emily May (Mae). She married Clifford Mason Huntley and they had two sons, Stuart Tuttle Huntley and Clifford Donald Huntley. In 1985 Emily and Clifford donated the property at the corner of High and Academy Streets to the Walworth Historical Society, enabling the community to build a museum which would house artifacts and memorabilia from this area.



Editor's Note #1: Donald's daughter, Donna Huntley Stalker, has been researching the genealogy of the Tuttle and other related families – a huge task when realizing the number of families who are related to one another. She told us that DeWitt's first name was Allen, although it was seldom used, and his father's name was actually Loyal DeLos Tuttle (not DeLass). Donna also mentioned that Frank Tuttle was a twin; his sibling died at birth.

Editor's Note #2: Charlie Pembroke spent many hours documenting his memories about local residents and events so they could be published for posterity. Do you have stories to tell about DeWitt or others from Walworth? The mission of the Walworth Historical Society is to preserve the past for the present and the future. These memories are lost unless they are documented in a journal or scrapbook. Take the time to begin this project now, and then share them with us.

Left: Minnie and DeWitt Tuttle