

Final Call and Bell Ceremony for Stuart Huntley

By Dorothy French



Walworth was his birthplace and now the location of his final resting place. The in-between years in the life of 91-year old Stuart Huntley were filled with love for his family, country and community. When he passed away on March 26, Stuart left a legacy of caring, sharing, and volunteering.

Our museum's roots can be traced to his parents, Clifford and Emily Huntley, who in 1985 donated the property at the corner of High and Academy Streets to the Walworth Historical Society, thereby enabling the community to build a museum. This empty lot originally belonged to the T. G. Yeomans family; Stuart was a great-great-great nephew of Mr. Yeomans. The Yeomans family played a pivotal role in early Walworth.

Stuart was a treasure house of information about the Walworth area, frequently stopping at the museum just to visit or to donate something. His keen memory was helpful when we were researching facts and it was not uncommon to receive a late evening phone call with an idea for a newspaper story.

During World War II, Stuart served in the European Theatre for 15 months in the infantry. Several years ago he was invited to fly to Washington, D.C. with other veterans as part of the Honor Flight program to see the World War II monument. He admitted this trip was one of the highlights of his life.

In 1941, Stuart joined the Walworth Fire Department, serving in many capacities through the years – 10 years as chief and 22 years as fire commissioner. While in the hospital in March, he was presented with a pin for his 70 years of service. Members of area fire departments and their equipment provided a backdrop of respect at his March 31 memorial service at the fire hall. His casket was carried on the department's E37 truck, past saluting comrades and under a huge American flag hung between two ladder trucks, as the procession made its way to the cemetery on Sherburne Road.