

# WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 32 Number 4 March 2008



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WHS Website: [www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org)

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**President's Message** By Jessie Keymel

Have you read the book Call of the Wild by Jack London? Most of the men I asked said yes. Then I asked: "Did you notice the illustrations?" They are the work of Charles Livingston Bull, "premier wildlife artist of his time in America, perhaps the best of his kind in the world". This compliment was given by the Society of Illustrators when reflecting on his talents.

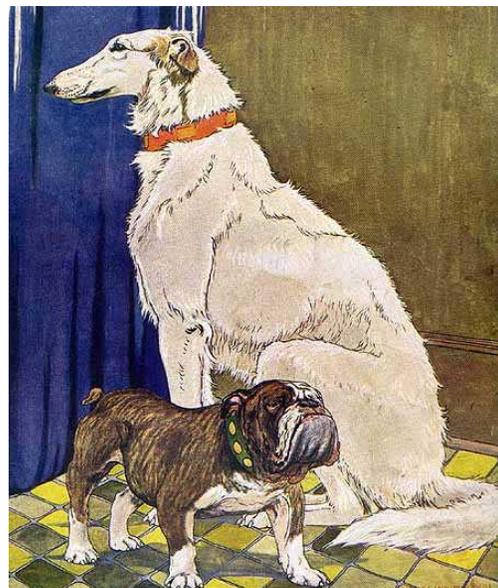
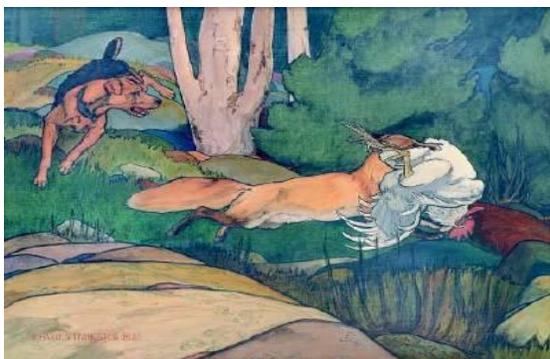
Charles Livingston Bull was born in West Walworth in 1874. He illustrated more than 135 books and numerous articles for magazines such as The Saturday Evening Post, Life, Collier's, American Boy, and Country Gentleman. He attended classes at the Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute (now Rochester Institute of Technology) and began a taxidermist apprenticeship for the Ward Museum of Natural History in Rochester. Professor Ward sent him to the 1893 Chicago World Exposition to design and set up an exhibit of 400 birds for the government of Guatemala.

Charles became the chief taxidermist in the National Museum in Washington, D.C. Like many illustrators of his time, he also created posters for advertising campaigns and patriotic themes. Perhaps his most famous works in this medium are the leaping tiger for Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circuses and the Keep Him Free Eagle poster for war savings stamps during World War I.

Charles Livingston Bull's work can be seen at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole, WY; Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Fork, PA; the National Museum of American Illustrators in Newport, RI; and many other art galleries and museums throughout the country, including the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery.

There is much more that could be said about this West Walworth native who died in Oradell, NJ, in 1932. He was held in great esteem by those who knew his work as a wild life artist, illustrator, and educator. Remember the name Charles Livingston Bull when you are visiting museums in the future, or check some of his work on the internet.

*Note: Thank you, Nolan Powell, for bringing this fascinating man to our attention. Much of this information is from the artist's biography of the National Museum of Wildlife Art.*



**Three works by Charles Livingston Bull**

## The Huddle

By Dorothy French

An interesting name – and frequently followed by the question: how did the Huddle get its name? Someone suggested it refers to the cluster of buildings in close proximity to one another in an area near the Walworth/Macedon town lines on Walworth-Palmyra Road. Is this true?

Thanks to stories shared at our October 29, 2006, Walworth Memories program, we have this information on file about the Huddle:

- The Huddle is located in the area south of Walworth village on Walworth-Palmyra Road near the curve where the bridge was replaced in 2006. It is a few yards south of the Town of Macedon marker by Pond Road.
- The area was very swampy and the early road was made of planks. Years ago, when a crew was working on the road, they found a plank and gave it to John Traas who was the town historian. It was not uncommon to lay planks (called a plank road) or logs (called a corduroy road) as a road base.
- Betty Brown asked if anyone remembers the Hickey Farm on Walworth-Palmyra Road in Macedon where she was born. It was located in the Huddle area near the mill, west side of road. Walter Newbury owned it and used the building for hatching chickens. At one time there was a school house before it burned. A new home was recently built on the property (between the original Newbury house and Wilbur and Ruth Reybrouck's home).
- Walter Newbury had the contract to deliver U.S. mail on Walworth-Palmyra Road from Walworth village to Walworth Station. The former Ralph Allen house at 3199 Walworth-Palmyra Road (across from Nortiers) in Macedon township was a stagecoach stop and tavern; it currently is owned by Darlene and Victor Werlau. Barb Allen Wixon of Farmington claimed there was a ghost in the house!

### The Mill:

- The mill was located on the west side of Walworth-Palmyra Road.
- Gordon Youngman showed 3 photos of the mill from Anna May's scrapbook.
- According to John Traas' book, Walworth, from Douglas Corners to Gananda, Isaac Barnhart was the first owner and Walworth millwright; he built the dam and gristmill in 1818. When the mill was purchased by John Craggs in 1862 it became known as Craggs Roller Mills; John also owned a mill in Pultneyville. Edson Blyth continued operating it after his uncle (John Craggs) died. After Edson's death, his son took over the management of the business and later sold it to Peter Balzar in 1930, who was assisted by his daughter, Anna B. Youngs. Anna operated the mill from 1944 (when her father died) until she retired in 1957. She only owned it a few months before it burned.
- All three mills burned at that site. They were very flammable because the dust would cling to a heated light bulb and that meant instant fire. One of the fires occurred when future fireman Stuart Huntley was a youngster; he was told to sit in his front yard and watch it but not go near the blaze. Now (in 2006) he has 65 years with Walworth Fire Department and has fought many fires.

## The Mill Pond

- After the mill dam broke in the '50's, Anna wanted to rebuild it but the State stepped in. Gordon said it would cost too much to have it done according to state specifications, although it would have been a beautiful spot for a park. Gordon used to go skating and ice fishing there. Stuart said you could ice skate all the way from Walworth-Palmyra Rd. to West Walworth Road/Rolford Heights on Red Creek – a distance of more than four miles.
- Gordon said his dad, Ezra Youngman, would cut a hole in the ice in the winter time. As fast as the bullheads would jump to the surface they would be put into a pail and he would immediately take them to his mother, Ida Youngman, who fried them. However, they were still frozen and jumped up and down in the frying pan!
- During the winter, a ramp was built on the pond's edge. Channels were cut out of ice with crosscut saws. Slabs of ice, cut 2 ft. wide and 3 ft. long, were floated down the channel, loaded on a horse-drawn wagon with ice tongs, and taken to a farm's ice house. Sawdust was available for ice storage.

If you have additional information about the Huddle, contact one of the WHS officers listed on the front cover of this newsletter.



**The last surviving mill in the area of Walworth known as “The Huddle”**

## **Moonshine (Not the Lunar Version)**

By Mary Jane Devlin

Walworth Historical Society is proud to present an evening of entertainment on Monday, March 17, 2008 at the Museum at 7:30 p.m. Angela Evangelist of Lyons will present a program entitled "Bootlegging, Booze and Prohibition." The Museum is located at 2257 Academy Street in Walworth.

Angela has written two books on Wayne County history and several others on local history. She is president of the Civic Club of Lyons. She is a moderator for Winston Dobbin's Old Geezer Network, an on-line group of 250+ who enjoy exchanging memories.

Do you know if there was a still on your property? Join us on St. Patrick's Day and you may learn the tell-tale signs of a still and bootlegging operation.

All programs are free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

## **Thank You!**

Our limited budget thanks the many members who have agreed to receive this newsletter via e-mail. Postage and paper costs continue to increase. These savings enable us to use these funds for our chartered purpose of collecting, preserving, and displaying items and artifacts that are of historical importance to the people of the Town of Walworth.

If you are not receiving the newsletter via e-mail and would like to try it, contact Bob Mogray at [rmogray@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rmogray@rochester.rr.com). As a bonus, newsletters sent electronically also include additional photos of interest.

## **How Sweet It Is!**

By Dorothy French

It's that time of year when the maple trees awaken and buckets are attached to the tree trunks to catch the sweet sap. The maple sugaring process is time consuming but the end result is so rewarding!

One of the wonderful benefits we have received from our popular Walworth Memories programs is the sharing of information about our community. At a March 2004 get together several attendees commented that many of the maple trees in our area have not survived due to extreme weather or road construction. A former village resident remembers the maple trees that lined our streets. Another resident mentioned that Ray Cring operated a maple sugar house near the northeast corner of Orchard Street and Penfield-Walworth Road; in later years this building was a diner, pizza place, and now a home.

If you have stories or photos you would like to share about maple sugaring, contact one of the WHS members listed on the front cover of this newsletter.

## District School House Memories: April 6

By Dorothy French

It wasn't that long ago when the Walworth area was populated with small district school houses whose teachers often taught a multitude of students of various ages and grades. Today we could say these teachers were excelling in multi-tasking.

Many of us are products of these now extinct school houses. Come to the Walworth town hall complex, 3600 Lorraine Drive, on Sunday, April 6, from 2 – 3:30 PM and join others for the next Walworth Memories program. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Walworth-Seely Public Library.

Since 2003 the Walworth-Seely Public Library and the Walworth Historical Society have co-sponsored these programs. Some of the school memories shared during previous programs include:

- Parents would know of their child's misbehaving before the pupil arrived home from school, as word traveled fast.
- Children didn't hear swear words in school.
- Teachers had moral authority and high standards.
- When you goofed off, you were sent to the cloak room.
- Administrators seemed to have eyes in their back of their heads and didn't miss anything.
- District school #6 was located on Finley Road next to a cemetery. During baseball games, a tombstone was used for home plate.



**Alderman Road (Stop 28) School**



**Finley Road School**



**Lincoln School**



**West Walworth School**

## Curator's Corner

By Kay Scott

On February 6, a group of Walworth Historical Society officers met at the museum with Doug Churchill. Doug has completed the monumental task of cataloging Dorothy Petty's 36 scrapbooks, as well as Anna May's scrapbooks. There is an alphabetical printout in the front of each storage box containing an index for that particular scrapbook. This makes it very easy to locate a person and history of said person.

Doug has also sorted Dorothy Petty's 36 scrapbooks by obituaries which includes the names of the deceased, widow or widower, relatives and even the officiating clergy if given. Doug also created a list of engagements and weddings. These will be invaluable to genealogists. For each scrapbook, Doug estimated that it took him 40 – 50 hours of work.

In the past, we have advised that he has given us listings for all eight cemeteries in Walworth as well as the Marion cemetery; he is now updating these also. There are not enough words to let Doug know how much we appreciate all of the time, work, and expense he has contributed.

Please note that all of this information is in our computer at the museum as Doug also supplies us with discs which Bob Mogray keys into our computer.



**Doug Churchill after cataloging Dorothy Petty's and Anna May's scrapbooks**

## Barney's Diaries    By Jessie Keymel

*Editor's Note: Between 1909 and 1945, Bernard (Barney) Bel documented the day-to-day events in his life as a farmer. His more than 20 dairies, along with a notebook and family photos, were recently donated to the Walworth Historical Society by his granddaughters. Barney, his wife Nellie, and their six children lived on a farm on the Ontario Center Road. Excerpts below were taken from his 1927 diary.*

### Wednesday, March 9, 1927

Fair and bright, froze some during the night, and is freezing some tonight.....trimmed trees till nearly 4 pm and sorted apples the rest of the day. Got 30 bu. ready and loaded on the truck this evening, expect to go to market in the am.....took 5 lb. of butter for Mrs. Millard.

### Thursday, March 10, 1927

Fair and bright. The ground was froze quite hard early this am, but thawed up during the day. I went to the city early to market with apples and eggs, brought me \$32.76. I pd. out for fees and eats=\$2.05.

### Friday, March 11, 1927

The mercury was up to 60 most of the day...I took the rest of cider apples to Mertz @ Webster this am...got \$13.50...sent a check to Mrs. Millard for \$2.50 for the butter.

*Additional Information: At the bottom of each diary page is historical information about weather, which was much like our own this year with cold weather followed by quick thaws. This McCurdy & Co. diary included the following comment: "BENEATH THE ALPS: It took Hannibal fifteen days to struggle across the Alps. Today (1927) hundreds of travelers dash through the Alps in a few minutes by train actually unseen by mountaineers. Modern engineering has created three remarkable tunnels, of which the Simplon, 12 1/4 miles through is the longest.*

## 2008 WHS Events Calendar

Save this schedule and mark your calendar for meetings and activities planned during 2008. All events will be held at the museum, 2257 Academy Street, unless otherwise specified. Note these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. These programs are free and open to the general public.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Mon. Mar. 17	7:30 PM	General Meeting. Speaker: Andrea Evangelist. Subject: Bootlegging, Booze, and the Prohibition
Sun., Apr. 6	2 – 3:30	Walworth Memories, co-sponsor with library. Subject: District School Houses. <b><u>Location: town hall meeting room.</u></b>
Mon. May 5 & Wed. May 7	6 PM 6 PM	Spring Clean-Up (volunteers needed for inside and outside work)
Mon., May 19	6:15 PM	Pot luck supper, annual meeting, election of officers, Community Service Award
Tues., July 22	6:30 PM	Decorate float for parade at Keymel's
Fri., July 25	7:00 PM	Festival in the Park Parade
Sat., July 26	12 – 6	Ginegaw Park: Festival in the Park
Mon., Sept. 15	7:30 PM	General Meeting
Sun., Sept. 28	2-3:30	Walworth Memories, co-sponsor with library. Subject: Weather. Location: Museum
Sun., Oct. 5	2-5 PM	Open House
Mon., Nov. 17	7:30 PM	General Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Apr. 21, June 16, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, and Nov. 10. These meetings are on Mondays and begin at 7 PM at the museum. The museum is open during June, July, August,

and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM. It is open other times by appointment by contacting Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Kay Scott at 315-524-9528.

### March 2008 WHS Newsletter Bonus e-mail Photos



Dorothy Seen and Bill Seen at Walworth Hardware Store 1984



WFD truck in the 2007 Festival in the Park Parade



Dorothy French typing notes at a Walworth Memories meeting



Lorraine Finley during her 2007 visit to Walworth



**Walworth Citizens:**

**Standing:** Floyd and Dorothy Petty, Stanley and Lois Van Hoover, Dorothy Hack, Pearl and Howard Billings,

**Sitting:** Hazel and Howard Bassage



**Louis Duell**

**Walworth Hardware Store in July 1976**

**The Walworth Historical Society Museum gets a new roof in the summer of 2006.**

