

Walworth Area Country Doctors: Dr. McLouth By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: Through the years the Walworth area has been served by numerous medical doctors. This issue features Dr. John McLouth, who was also active in local and county politics.

Dr. John McLouth was the first doctor to be elected Walworth Supervisor (1839-1841-1847) and the first medic to preside as chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors in 1847.

Born in Cheshire, Massachusetts on December 16, 1795, Dr. McLouth began the practice of medicine in 1825 in Wheatland (Monroe County). An obituary in our museum files states "In his early youth, he decided to read medicine." The newspaper clipping reported he came to Walworth in 1828 and was "located on Main Street near the present hotel."

Dr. McLouth was often called the lung doctor because of his reputation for treatment of the lungs. He frequently made the trip to Penfield on horseback, a distance of 12 miles one way, and received \$.75 a visit. He continued the practice of medicine up to and including 1885. Dr. McLouth purchased a farm in the southern limits of the village and in 1875 moved to the home where he died January 18, 1887. Dr. McLouth and his wife, Cordelia, who passed away in 1903, are buried in Walworth Cemetery.