

## Walworth Area Country Doctors: Dr. Rodenberger

By Dorothy French

*Editor's Note: Our series about country doctors continues; this issue features Dr. Rodenberger.*

**Dr. Rodenberger is shown with his horse and buggy in the 1920's along the east side of Main Street, Walworth just south of Center Street.**



Dr. Edward M. Rodenberger was born in Fayette, Seneca County, on March 30, 1860 and graduated from Geneva High School 20 years later. He graduated from the University of Ohio in 1885 and also attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor for two years. After the completion of his college work, Dr. Rodenberger moved to Palmyra and later to Geneva where he went into practice with the father of his bride-to-be. He married Ella Herendeen on May 30, 1885 in Geneva.

He was an old-fashioned country doctor and administered to his patients in several towns, including Macedon, Walworth, Palmyra, and Farmington. When he first started his practice, he walked many miles a day to visit his patients. As his practice increased, he was able to buy a horse and eventually a buggy in which he made his calls.

After residing in Walworth for 17 years, Dr. Rodenberger sold the partial-cobblestone house located on the southeast corner of Church Street and Penfield-Walworth Road to Dr. Ernest Esley and moved to Macedon.

One of the doctor's hobbies was his boat, a 38-foot cabin cruiser which took him seven years to build. At the public launch of his boat, the 76-year-old Dr. Rodenberger stated: *Goodness knows, you folks have been waiting enough years for this – so climb aboard and have a good look.* With those words and the ceremonial bottle of champagne to christen the boat "Doc," his man-made boat was launched on the waters of the Barge Canal.

Dr. Rodenberger died in 1943; Ella passed away in 1938. They are buried in Farmington Cemetery.