

Walworth Area Country Doctors: Doctors Crittenden and Gardner By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: *Our series about country doctors continues; this issue features Doctors Crittenden and Gardner.*

Dr. Hulbut Crittenden: The following paragraph was obtained from an undated document in our museum's files. "It has often been said a doctor could drive his horse and carriage from Walworth to West Walworth in ten minutes, a distance of four miles of hilly, rough dirt roads. In the midst of the log cabins of the early settlers we find the first doctor establishing his practice of medicine. Dr. Crittenden arrived in 1805 and, from reports of the fever and ague, along with other illnesses as common, he was kept a busy man, many times answering calls of need and receiving little in the way of payment."



The Gardner home at 3696 Main Street. A wing was added later. There was a chimney at the north end of the house; it is still visible in the attic above the kitchen. The property is now owned by Randy and Kathy Emison. Undated photo courtesy of Stuart Huntley.

Dr. William Wilkinson Gardner: Dr. Gardner was born June 18, 1799, in Cairo, Greene County, New York and died May 8, 1875 in Walworth. On July 20, 1825 he married Tammy Elmina Yeomans, daughter of Gilbert and Sally Yeomans, in Cairo. Gilbert and Sally were also parents of Theron G. Yeomans.

The Gardners lived at 3696 Main Street in the home currently owned by Randy and Kathy Emison and formerly owned by Richard and Alice Schlegel. The Gardner's nine children were born in Walworth: Bryon, Loren, Serena Elmina Gardner, Addison, Gilbert, Leman, Irwin, William and Arabel. Tammy died July 11, 1849, and Dr. Gardner married his second wife, Mary Ann Stout, on September 3, 1851. The doctor and his two wives are buried in Palmyra.

According to Donna Huntley Stalker, members of the Yeomans family were patients of Dr. Gardner. Our museum has a hand-written note containing information from Dr. Gardner's 1824 day book, referencing a visit by Gilbert Yeomans (his father-in-law). A second book mentioned the doctor's patients in Ontario and Walworth.