Walworth County Historical Society

The Legacy

Fall 2016

Election Edition

Walworth County Native Ran for President of the United States

Note: In 1908 and again in 1912 Eugene Wilder Chafin who was born in the Town of East Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin, November 1, 1852, ran for President of the United States on the National Prohibition Party Ticket along with his running mate Aaron Watkins. The two were nominated at conventions in Columbus, Ohio in 1908 and Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1912. What follows is a short “biographical sketch” written by Chafin in “The Master Method of the Great Reform,” 1913:

“The Master Method of the Great Reform,” 1913:

“Eugene Wilder Chafin was born in the town of East Troy, Walworth county, Wisconsin, November 1, 1852. His native county was named for Chancellor Walworth, a distinguished jurist, who at the time was president of the New York State Temperance Society. Eugene was the ninth in a family of thirteen children—six girls and seven boys. His father, Samuel Evans Chafin, was born in Weston Vermont and his mother, Betsey Almira Pollard, was born in Surrey N.H., where they were married, March 5, 1836. In 1838 they, with the oldest child, removed to East Troy, and settled on the farm where the other twelve children were born, and the old farm is still kept in the family. His mother’s oldest brother, Dr. Amos Pollard perished in the battle of the Alamo, Texas.

Mr. Chafin’s father died October 24, 1863, which left the care of the farm largely in his hands. He attended the district and graded schools and was graduated from the University of Wisconsin , at Madison, June 17, 1875, with the degree of L.L.B. and the same day was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. He then went to Waukesha, in that state, where he practiced law until October 1, 1901, when he removed to Chicago and became Superintendent of the Washingtonian Home, an institution for the treatment of inebriety. He was there two years and seven months, and had more than three thousand patients under his care. It was at this institution that he made a thorough study of the effects of alcohol on the human system.

The family removed to Tucson, Arizona, in October 1908, bought a home, and say they are going to stay there for life, they like it so well.

November 24, 1881, he married Carrie A. Hunkins, of Waukesha. Their first child was born February 22, 1884, and died. The other, born March 17, 1893, Miss Desdemona, is attending school at the University of Arizona, at Tucson.

(See “Chafin,” page 6)
PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO QUIZ

Can you identify the candidate in each photograph and give the year of the campaign for President of the United States? A clue near each photo may help jar your memory as to the answers. Good Luck! Answers appear bottom of page 3.

“Every four years in the presidential election, some new precedent is broken.”
-Nate Silver

#1--Clue: You may just be able to make out the once well-known building in the background or the name of the building behind the candidate.

#2--Clue: He was given the not-so-nice nickname “Tricky Dick.”
CAMPAIGNS AND CAMPAIGNERS WALWORTH COUNTY & WISCONSIN

Photo Quiz Answer Key:

#1--Senator Robert Taft campaigning in Elkhorn, WI in front of the Lorraine Hotel (1952) United Press--Acme Telephoto. #2--Vice-President Richard M. Nixon (left) with Wisconsin’s Republican candidate for governor Philip G. Kuehn (1960) #3 Walworth County-born Eugene W. Chafin (left) with his running mate Aaron Watkins standard bearers for the National Prohibition Party (in both 1908 and 1912) #4 John F. Kennedy, the victor in Wisconsin’s primary with wife Jackie in Milwaukee, WI (1960)--AP Wirephoto #5--Governor Earl Warren of California shown here entering Wisconsin’s primary (1952) United Press Telephoto.

#3--The only graduate from U.W. Madison--and native of Walworth County for that matter--to ever run for President on a national party ticket twice!

#4--Clue: Won a Pulitzer Prize in biography in 1957 and was given Last Rites three times before being elected the 35th President of the United States.

#5--Clue: Bowed out of this Presidential race only to be named to the U.S. Supreme Court

-WALWORTH COUNTY & WISCONSIN

-ONCE EVERY 12 YEARS THERE IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE THE BONDS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES, WHEN OUR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CYCLES COINCIDE.-ENRIQUE PENA NIFTO
All around us are stories begging to be told, to be listened to. Sometimes they whisper at us from older buildings, causing us to wonder, “Who lived there and what were those people like?” Sometimes the stories shout at us from the headlines of the newspapers from long ago, grabbing our attention as we are drawn to the breaking news of that day. And sometimes we see the stories reflected in the faces of the older generations, whose faces only hint at the events and eras they’ve lived through. Every story needs someone to tell it—through placards on buildings in a community; research collected on a variety of topics, places, and people; or even events and programs that immerse us in those times gone by. But those stories don’t get told unless someone is willing to tell them.

Any organization needs passionate people to come alongside and further the group’s mission. The Walworth County Historical Society (WCHS) is no exception. One way that people can assist with that is through volunteering. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of WCHS, enabling the Society to further its mission of “collecting, preserving and sharing the rich history of Walworth County, Wisconsin.” They provide the staff that is needed to host the events and tell the wonderful stories our county has to offer. But not everyone is able or willing to give of their time or talents in that way. And that’s all right. But there’s another—and equally important—way that people who recognize the importance of that same mission can get involved. In the lobby of Heritage Hall, across the street from the Webster House, there is an artistic sculpture of a tree. Each leaf on that tree represents a person or organization that is financially committed to preserving those stories so that current and future generations may learn from them. Some leaves are inscribed with names, still others are not. But each of those blank leaves represents an opportunity—an opportunity for you to pledge your support in a very tangible way. Perhaps it’s in memory or in honor of a loved one. Perhaps it’s a way to show others that you value what WCHS does. Perhaps it’s just in an effort to provide backing to the workings of the community. But no matter what the reason, your financial support continually enables the story of Walworth County to be told. All donations, no matter the amount, are listed in the Heritage Hall Donor Book. Inscriptions on the leaves, as mentioned above, start at just $100. And for those who wish, naming rights for certain rooms in Heritage Hall are available starting at $10,000.

If you’re reading this newsletter, chances are you are a person who values the preservation of these stories. Would you join me—and many others—in sustaining the work of the Walworth County Historical Society through your time as a volunteer and/or through your financial support?

**Donor Levels for Leaves on the Donor Tree**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Name</th>
<th>Donor Levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Appleby Preservationist</td>
<td>$100—$999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Sturgis Partner</td>
<td>$1,000—$4,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Fox Potter Patron</td>
<td>$5,000—$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Phoenix Collector</td>
<td>$10,001—$24,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mary Reynolds Associate</td>
<td>$25,000—$49,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reuben Hyde Walworth Benefactor</td>
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**Donor Levels for Room Naming Rights**

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<tr>
<td>Map Room</td>
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<td>Display Room A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display Room B</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans’ Display Room</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Room</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on how to further the work of the Walworth County Historical Society please contact us at (262) 723 - 7848; walcohistory@tds.net; or P.O. Box 273, Elkhorn, WI 53121

Walworth County Historical Society is designated a 501(c)(3) organization by the Federal Government.
WCHS Annual Meeting Set for October 18th

The Walworth County Historical Society will hold its annual dinner/meeting/recognition night Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at Heritage Hall, 103 Rockwell Street, Elkhorn, WI.

MENU
Beef Tenderloin, Chicken Provencal, Yukon Herb Roasted Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Cashew Salad, Seafood Salad, Rolls w/Butter, Dessert, Coffee, Tea

There will be a recognition of our volunteers and a program on the life and times of John H. Harris with an unveiling of his portrait donated by the Harris family.

Reservations and payment of $20.00 per person are due by October 5, 2016.

Please send your reservations and payment to WCHS: Annual Dinner, P.O. Box 273, Elkhorn, WI 53121

Northwestern Military Academy: Chris Brookes

By Marra Andreas

Even though the night was warm, the large group that gathered at Heritage Hall on August 11, 2016 at 7 pm to hear Chris Brookes of Lake Geneva speak on the history of Northwestern Military and Naval Academy (NMNA) greatly enjoyed her insight into this aspect of Walworth County’s history. The history recounted by the speaker was supplemented by photos and information projected on the screen at the front of the hall. Starting with the school’s inception by Harlan Page Davidson in Highland Park, Illinois, the story was told of the Academy’s early years and later relocation to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin by the second headmaster, Royal Page Davidson, son of Harlan Page Davidson. Brookes’ father, Rev. James Howard Jacobson, became the Assistant Headmaster in 1942, taking on the role of Headmaster two years later. The family lived on the grounds, moving to town only when the headmaster’s apartment became too small for the growing family. Personal remembrances of the family were shared with all in attendance, including the tale of the visit by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to her grandson who was a cadet enrolled at the school. Information about the two large-scale murals that hung in Davidson Hall, painted by famed artist Louis Grell, was further enhanced by photos of the paintings. The story of the merger with St. John’s Military Academy in 1995, and subsequent demolition of the buildings brought the program to a close. Alumni of the school who were in attendance leant their own unique remembrances to the evening’s program. The news that the Geneva Lake Museum is working on a permanent exhibit about this iconic Lake Geneva site was well received by all. Those interested in donating items concerning NMNA to the Geneva Lake Museum should contact Helen Brandt, the curator, for more details.

“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.”
- Winston Churchill
Having joined the Order of Good Templars, at Mukwonago, Wis., when he was fourteen years of age, it may be said he then started his career as a temperance advocate.

In the course of time he became District Chief Templar of Waukesha county, when Theodore D. Kanouse was Grand Chief Templar of Wisconsin, and it was largely through his influence that Mr. Chafin became a worker in the order and finally a Prohibitionist. In 1883 he was elected Grand Counselor, and in 1886 Grand Chief Templar of Wisconsin, and held that office for four years. In 1893 he was elected Grand Electoral Superintendent and held the office for eight years. After his removal to Illinois, and in 1894, he was elected Grand Chief Templar of that state.

He was a representative from Wisconsin to the International Supreme Lodge of Good Templars at Saratoga; session, 1887; Chicago session, 1889, and Toronto, 1898. When the National Grand Lodge of the United States was organized, in 1905, he was the first National Grand Counselor, is still an active member of the Order and took its course of study and graduated with the degree of M.R.T.

No kind of temperance work has escaped him. He has been a member of the Sons of Temperance and Temple of Honor. Also an Odd Fellow, and member of the Independent Order of Foresters and High Chief Ranger, and of the United Order of Foresters, of which he was one of the founders and first High Counselor.

While; practicing law at Waukesha, and in 1887 he was elected Justice of the Peace and held the office three terms of two years each, and was then elected Police Justice for two years. Was a member of the school board and public library board. President of the Waukesha County Agricultural Society three terms. Became a member of Methodist Episcopal church in 1877, and served two terms as State President of the Epworth League of Wisconsin.

In 1881 he left the Republican Party and became a Prohibitionist, and has taken an active part in every campaign since. While he never sought the nomination for any office, he has frequently been placed on the ticket. In 1881 for District Attorney of Waukesha County; 1882, for Congress; 1886, for Attorney General; 1898, for Governor, and again in 1900 for Attorney General of Wisconsin.

After his removal to Chicago he ran for Congress in 1902 and for Attorney General of Illinois in 1904. After the admission of Arizona to the union; he was a candidate for his party for Congress at the first election, in December of 1911. He cast his first vote in Arizona at Tucson, for the constitution under which she became a state.

He was a delegate to the National Prohibition Convention in 1884 and every one since then, and was chairman of the Committee on Platform in 1900. Was a member of the National Committee of the Prohibition Party for Wisconsin from 1888 to 1896 and is a member now from Arizona. Col. Frank H. Sibley is the other member from that state.

(See "Chafin," page 7)
The National Convention of the Prohibition party met at Columbus Ohio, July 15, 1908. On the 16th, when names were being presented for the Presidential candidate, without the knowledge or consent of Mr. Chafin, his old friend, A. G. Wolf- enbarger of Nebraska, in one of the most unique speeches ever made in a nominating convention, presented his name as the “choice of Nebraska.” It took. On the third ballot out of 1070 votes Mr. Chafin received 636 and was declared the nominee of the Prohibition Party for President of the United States. Dr. Aaron Sherman Watkins, of Ada, Ohio, was nominated for Vice President. In 1912 the National Convention met at Atlantic City, New Jersey, July 10, and on the 19th Mr. Chafin was nominated by acclamation for President and Dr. Watkins for Vice-President.


While a resident of Chicago he was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Illinois, and in 1902 to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States at Washington, D.C.

Since 1904 he has devoted his entire time to lecture work. He is one of the founders, in 1893, and still a member of the famous “Phantom Club” of Milwaukee Wis. It is the most unique “club” in America. It has fourteen members. At its annual meeting papers are read on principally historical subjects. It has published three volumes of “{Phantom Club Papers.” Its President is Judge James g. Jenkins of Milwaukee, a grandson of the distinguished Chancellor Walworth of New York.”

“Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth”
—John F. Kennedy
“All politicians should have 3 hats--one to throw in the ring, one to talk through and one to pull rabbits out of if elected.”

-Carl Sandburg