COUNTY-BORN ARTIST: E.W. BARTLETT

Elwood Warren Bartlett was born in Walworth County (likely in the Town of Linn) in 1906 to Warren and Lena Bartlett. According to the Museum of Wisconsin Art (MOWA), he worked in the late 1920’s as a railroad clerk at the Division Engineer’s Office in Milwaukee. Bartlett took an interest in printmaking and became, for the most part, a self-taught artist who did wood engraving. He later worked as an illustrator in Milwaukee and as an illustrator making print block wood engravings for the Chicago Tribune newspaper. MOWA goes on to say that Bartlett made many carefully crafted wood block carvings in the 1930s to the 1950s. He was an award winning artists in the 1940s and sold many of his prints to collectors and noted galleries throughout the United States including the Library of Congress and New York Public Library.
Top Right--Veterans pose for a group photograph after the ceremonies on Veterans Day.

Center left--WCHS President and veteran Jim Boardman welcomed audience and veterans to the ceremonies.

Center Right: JaNelle Powers, Charlene Staple and Pat Blackmer prepare to make presentations.

Bottom Right--Pat Blackmer make a presentation to Albert Anstad veteran and museum docent.
Top right--Pat Blackmer presents Vietnam era pin and certificate.

Middle--JaNelle Powers makes a presentation.

Bottom--Charlene Staples gives a pin and certificate.

Lower Right--Mike Clark was the keynote speaker at the recognition ceremonies.
WCHS Extends Thanks to Tree Decorators

WCHS extends a big “Thank You” to the following who participated in the annual Christmas Tree Walk held at Heritage Hall, 103 East Rockwell Street, Elkhorn, during the pre-Christmas holiday season:

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Delavan Wisconsin Tent #23, Daughters of the American Revolution Samuel Phoenix Chapter, Delavan, Wisconsin, NAPA Auto Parts, Franks Piggly Wiggly, Sons of Norway, Cub Scout Pack #225, J & J Sanitary Disposal, 4-H Junior Leaders of Walworth County, Merry Bell’s Angel Tree, Murphy’s A+ Auctions, Hobby Crafts by Sheri & Kari, Veterans’ Tree, Volunteer Connections and Wisconsin School for the Deaf

Thank You!

Time To Renew Your Membership

Your membership is important to us. Membership dues are a major source of income. Your membership dues help keep our museums open, “The Legacy” get printed/mailed, gas, electric, telephone and internet utilities get paid and other general maintenance work gets done.

Why not renew your membership today? Also consider an additional donation to help defray the costs of operating the county historical society for another year. WCHS is a 501c3 organization.

While you are at it--consider giving the gift of history to a relative or friend this year by pursuing a membership for them?

Give the Gift of History in 2019!!

Video Production of Eames Print Shop Now Underway

The WCHS Board of Directors voted to support the production of a video program that will become a part of the Eames Print shop exhibit located in Heritage Hall, 103 East Rockwell Street, Elkhorn.

Walworth County videographer Tom Laughlin of the Lake Geneva area will create the ten to fifteen minute video that will be shown when Frank Eames is not available to be at the print shop exhibit to give his usual exemplary in-person presentation.

Eames, third generation owner, editor and publisher of the Elkhorn Independent donated all the artifacts in the print shop exhibit including an offset printing press, furniture, vintage Elkhorn Independent printings such as the newspaper, posters and other ephemera. The video could be ready as soon as next summer.

What’s Past Is Prologue.

-William Shakespeare

From His Play

The Tempest
A significant donation has been recently accepted by the Board of Directors and added to the archives collection of the Walworth County Historical Society. The donation added is a 128 volume set of THE WAR OF THE REBELLION: A COMPILATION OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES published by the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. in 1891.

The multi-volume set was donated by Ron and Julie Dorn. They also donated a thirty-two volume set of the 1901 OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE NAVIES IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION (Reprinted).

In addition, a set of blueprints of the Stone Manor condominium project was donated by Patrick Murphy.

The following artifacts were accepted into the collection of the Veterans’ Museum of Walworth County by the WCHS Board of Directors at its monthly meeting Dec 4, 2018:

- Bugle with case (Howard Powell)
- Photograph of 1942 Great Lakes Naval Class (Ilene Sheahan)
- Wisconsin Vietnam Veteran’s memorial badges (Grant Mulder VFW)
- Photo album of Lobdell’s funeral in Hawaii (Pricilla Schmall)
- Pair of Semaphore Flags from World War II (Bruce Featherstone)
- World War I Helmet (Mike Lange)
- Draft notice framed orders and books regarding service in the Vietnam War (Mike Lange)
- A book entitled OPNE MAN’S STORY: MEMOIRS OF A VIETNAM VET (author, Michael Clark)

The Walworth County Board of Directors is grateful to all who made these donations to the Veterans’ Museum Collection. The museum is open during the winter months by appointment by calling 262-723-7848 and will re-open in May 2019.

‘Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.’

-HARRY S. TRUMAN
“YOU CAN’T GET TOO MUCH WINTER IN THE WINTER.”
—ROBERT FROST

The six mile stretch of electric rail line between the villages of East Troy and Mukwonago was once owned and operated by the Village of East Troy. To maintain the line during the winter these two engines were employed to clear snow among other duties. Above is the METRR engine M-15 box motor in 1965. Below is the un-numbered dump motor in 1969. Top photo by Clarence P. Schmidt. Bottom photo by Tom Balduer.
Cravath was an 1839 settler in the Whitewater area. His “Original Reminiscences of Prosper Cravath” was published in the Whitewater Register in 1858.

“Preparations for the First Winter”

“Before the Frost King had made his annual visit, the settlers had rendered themselves comparatively comfortable in their new homes. Their cabins were mud-ded and chinked, and though some cracks and crevices might be found for the entrance of rude and ill-mannered breezes, yet by the aid of roaring fires within, and mud without, they hoped to bid defiance to winter’s keenest blasts. Though there was much to encourage, there was much to dishearten; they missed the well filled granaries, bursting with their rich treasurers, and the cellars stored with products of the garden; they missed the luscious golden fruit, and a thousand other of the many comforts and luxuries to which they were accustomed, so accustomed that they almost deemed them the necessities of life, and were surprised to think that they should live without them. Not less did they miss the busy market-place and the shops, with the tempting array and obliging clerk, where all the wants of the outer and inner man could be immediately supplied. There was no place nearer than Chicago or Milwaukee where even the most common articles could be procured, and to that distance they were obliged to go for all these purchases. Shopping was not then the pastime of the ladies, but something to undertake solemnly, with care and thought, a leaf to be turned down in memory’s book and referred to long afterwards.

But winter was now fast approaching, the first winter in a new land

The provisions which they had brought with them were nearly exhausted, and the demand for further supply, imperative. Accordingly, Squire Hawes started for mill—they by no means the common-place thing it is now—with a wagon and two yoke of oxen. He went to Elgin, in Illinois, and after an absence of thirteen days, returned richly laden with flour and potatoes—a journey of no little difficulty and hardship at the time, as cold weather had then commenced, and there were lowlands, marshes, creeks, and rivers to cross, without bridges or highways, and with only a blind track to guide him, and some of the time not even that, and it was concealed by a light snow...before he returned, pork and flour had entirely disappeared from the settlement, and the bill of fare was reduced to salt and potatoes, and potatoes and salt.”
Historic Photograph
From The Archives Of The
Doris M. Reinke Resource Center

Birds eye view of Tibbets near Millard in Walworth County circa 1910.

For more information about the material in this edition of The Legacy visit the Doris M. Reinke Resource Center, 210 South Washington Street, Elkhorn, WI 53120.

"COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND SHARING THE RICH HISTORY OF WALWORTH COUNTY"

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN...

...the Chicago Northwestern railroad made a daily run morning and evening from Williams Bay to Union Station in Chicago, Illinois and back?

Pictured above the CNW engine steams westerly down the tracks that ran from Lake Geneva along the south side of Lake Como on to Williams Bay.