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Russell J. Waldo

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# Russell J. Waldo, 1892-1959

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Orleans County Historian

**R**ussell J. Waldo was born into an old established family at West Barre, N.Y. to Albert H. Waldo and Ella Northrup Waldo.

Following his education, he entered the newspaper field in 1908 as a field representative and assistant employee manager for the American Press Association with Butte, Montana as his headquarters.

In 1913 he had personal dealings with Thomas Edison in the latter's copper mine in Butte.

Beginning in 1914 until his death, he wrote for the technical and industrial press of the United States, Canada, England, Australia and India. During a 17 year period he covered 4,000,000 miles gathering data for the National Electric Light Association.

He was a "contributing editor" to three large business magazines in the United States and a corresponding reporter for 63 trade and technical magazines.

Mr. Waldo was recognized as an international trade journal writer.

In 1921 he devised a trade test for the more accurate selection of highly skilled workers for the Studebaker Corporation. He also wrote "Medical Economics" and "Industry Picks the Stethoscope" which dealt with workers in industrial hospitals.

Mr. Waldo was the medical correspondent for the Buffalo and Rochester newspapers as well as the Associated Press for the Herlad Tribune. In fact, it was through Mr. Waldo's efforts that the AP Wire Photo Service was first started in Medina. For 25 years he was on the staff of the Journal-Register covering the city hall news.

He authored a column entitled the "Historian's Notebook" which appeared frequently in the Medina paper. As a free-lance journalist Mr. Waldo accomplished all this without ever owning or driving a car or for that matter, graduating from high school.

He married his first wife in Indianapolis, Ind. and they had two sons. In 1927 he married the former Nancy Hellen Moore at the Universalist Church in Middleport and they had five children.

Aside from Russell J. Waldo's journalistic accomplishments he is perhaps best remembered

as a local historian. He was Village Historian for Medina from 1949 - 1959 and headed up the Old Home Week in 1956. He was founder and president of the Medina Community Historical Association which later dissolved after his death. Through his immense interest in and research of Medina's history, much has been preserved for future generations.