



## **The Haddon Township "Doughboy"**

**By Sandra White-Grear**

*Haddon Township Historical Society*

*March 1, 2010*



1920



2010



Close-up showing sculptor's name on Haddon Township "Doughboy" Sculpture

RICHARD W. BOCK SC.



Close-up showing foundry mark on Haddon Township "Doughboy" Sculpture  
CAST BY AMERICAN ART BRONZE FOUNDRY CHICAGO

Photos by S. White-Grear, 2010

The World War I memorial "Doughboy" sculpture, located in front of the Westmont Fire Company No. 1 at 120 Haddon Avenue in Haddon Township, was created by Richard Walter Bock.

Bock was born in Schloppe, Germany on July 16, 1865. By 1870 his family emigrated to Chicago, Illinois where his father became a cabinet maker. Richard attended a Lutheran parochial school until age fourteen when he began an apprenticeship with his father at a furniture factory. The young Richard Bock excelled in the art of wood carving and as a teenager was paid for his skills. He earned enough money to enroll in the Mechanic's Institute of Chicago where he studied drawing and geometry. He also enrolled in a class to learn modeling and plaster casting. By age eighteen Richard Bock was on his way to becoming a sculptor. He worked as a modeler at the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company making terra cotta building designs. He then moved to New York City where he continued working as a modeler. By 1888 Bock left the United States to begin his formal arts training in Europe. In Germany he studied for two years at the Gewerbe Museum (School of Art and Design) and the Academie der Bildenden Kunste (Academy of Fine Arts) both in Berlin, then moved on to Paris to study for one year at the Ecole des Beaux Arts under Alexandre Falguiere. He ended his studies with a three month tour of Italy.

When Bock returned to America he opened his first studio in Chicago. Among his early commissions were sculptures for the Mining and Electricity Exposition Halls of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, an exterior bronze figural sculpture at the Indianapolis Library, and interior bas-reliefs at Chicago's famous Schiller Theatre building.

While working under the Schiller Theatre's architect Louis Sullivan, Richard Bock was introduced to head draftsman Frank Lloyd Wright. This was the beginning of a 20 year friendship and professional relationship between the two men. Bock recalled:

*The year 1897 is an especially memorable one for me for it marked the beginning of my odyssey of working with Frank Lloyd Wright, which was to last until he left his family and went in another direction... Though our characters and dispositions were entirely different, we found much to admire in each other and always enjoyed being together...<sup>i</sup>*

Bock created many statues and sculptures for Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural projects including the Susan Dana, Isadore Heller, and Darwin Martin residences, as well as works in the Unity Temple, the Larkin Building, and a statue of Frank Lloyd Wright's son John and other sculptural pieces at Wright's house and studio in Oak Park Illinois. The Bock and Wright families often socialized together.

Wright drew up plans to build a studio for Bock which, regrettably, never came to be. Instead, Bock's family settled contentedly surrounded by art in Bock's small, secluded studio (called "The Gnomes") in River Forest, Illinois. As Bock recounted in his *Memoirs*:

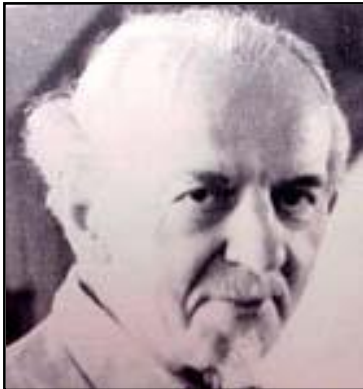
*We had purchased the heavily wooded property in River Forest, and built my studio at the rear of the land, with the plan of building the studio Frank had designed for me in another area... An important feature of the building was the horizontal leaded glass windows, a gift from Frank... Here we built a house that is surrounded by sculpture as an integral, essential part of the architecture instead*

*of an afterthought decoration...It was a great disappointment to me that the Wright studio was never realized but it is no boast to say that our little studio home at Chicago and Forest Avenues in River Forest became a local landmark.* <sup>ii</sup>

[Note: the River Forest studio was demolished in October 2003.]

Bock's last commission for Frank Lloyd Wright was in 1914 at Chicago's Midway Garden. Bock was by then a well respected sculptor. Besides his work for Frank Lloyd Wright, he executed many sculptures and statues for public memorials and in commercial buildings, including commissioned pieces within the works of famed Prairie School architects William Drummond, Charles White, and William Purcell.

In 1928 Richard Bock was asked to become Head of the Sculpture Department at the University of Oregon in Eugene where his classes were very popular. While at the university, Bock created a sculpture of a former university president, as well as a series of lunettes and capitals for a courtyard at the new Museum of Art. He retired from his university post in 1932 and returned to his River Forest, Illinois home. In the 1940s Bock and wife Martha Higgins Methven moved to California to live with daughter Dorathi Bock Pierre and son Thorwald Methven.



Richard W. Bock died on June 29, 1949 from the effects of Parkinson's disease. After his death, Bock's children preserved his collection of drawings, documents, letters, photographs and sculpted creations. In 1972 they presented the Richard W. Bock Collection to Greenville College in Greenville, Illinois. This collection consists of over 300 plaster and bronze sculptures, as well as treasured architectural drawings by his friend Frank Lloyd Wright. The Richard W. Bock Museum opened in Greenville in 1975.

*Portrait of Richard W. Bock 1947*

In his *Memoirs* Bock describes the sculpture that was to become part of the Haddon Township World War I memorial:

*Following the War, I had a number of commissions commemorating that unhappy event. One was a very conventional statue made as a civic monument for Jersey City, New Jersey. It was a realistic charging soldier with a fixed bayonet, titled "Over the Top," symbolizing the spirit of the First World War. In a small size about four feet tall, it was widely copied for schools all over the country.* <sup>iii</sup>

Our copy of Bock's commission is mounted on a stone pedestal which includes an Honor Roll containing the names of 81 Haddon Township residents who served in World War I (NOTE: two Haddon Twp. residents died while in service during WWI - Edgar Burton Lloyd and Allen Irvin Morgan). The sculpture first stood in front of the Westmont School No. 1 (1909-1957) located on the corner of Haddon Avenue and Reeve Avenue, on the site of our current Municipal Building. Prior to the school's demolition in 1961, the memorial was moved to its present location at the Westmont Fire Company No. 1 property on Haddon Avenue. The Haddon Township sculpture is listed in the 1995 Outdoor Sculpture Inventory conducted by the *Smithsonian American Art Museum* (Control Number IAS NJ000590).

Haddon Township's 'doughboy' memorial was dedicated on May 30, 1920. The ceremony was covered by a local newspaper and described as follows:

*Unveiling of the statue in front of School House No. 1 Haddon and Reeve Avenues, Westmont, as a memorial to the services of Haddon Township boys in the World War will go down as a red-letter event in the annals of the community. The monument was draped in white and over it was a canopy of laurel and roses, while surrounding the shaft were grouped high-standing wicker baskets filled with handsome cut flowers. To the left side of the memorial was a platform occupied by a number of veterans of the War of '61, members of the Red Cross, the First M. E. Church choir and invited guests. In the balcony of the school building was an orchestra led by Joel Clark, of Collingswood. On the pavement forming an angle in front of the statue was the members of Allen I. Morgan Post No. 230, American Legion, while on chairs provided were seated many parents of those whose names appeared on the bronze tablets on the sides of the monument.*

*Rev. W. S. Booth of Collingswood, a Legion chaplain, offered a short prayer which was followed by the singing of "America" and Chairman William J. Mayer introduced Dr. Franklin G. Hawksworth,\* who on behalf of the members of the committee, presented the memorial to the Township of Haddon. As the drapery covering was [lifted] by little Miss Dorothea Dittess there was a burst of applause.*

*Alfred M. Matthews, chairman of the Township Committee\*\* received the monument on behalf of the citizens of the township, making what was pronounced by many as the speech of his life. He referred to the object of the memorial, and the passing of the boys of '61 and the spirit that animated those of the World War to go over the top. Hon. Ralph N. Kellam also made a splendid address.*

*The "Star Spangled Banner" was rendered by the audience with vim and the benediction by Rev. Booth, placing a wreath on the monument, firing a salute, and taps completed the ceremony.*

*Howard Morgan, who had charge of the decorations has the thanks of the committee and the congratulations of the entire town, and Mr. Clark, leader of the orchestra who volunteered the services of his organization, also has the thanks of the memorial committee... After the service Committeeman Matthews served lunch to the boys of '61 and the speakers.<sup>iv</sup>*

\* Dr. Franklin G. Hawksworth, who resided at 300 Cooper Street in Haddon Township for 22 years, was a graduate of the Medico-Chiurgical College in 1808 and served with the S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Company in Philadelphia for 42 years.<sup>v</sup>

\*\* The chairmanship position was similar in responsibilities to today's mayoral position.

[Note: Decorations for the event were provided by Frank & Seder, a Pittsburgh-based department store founded in 1907, which expanded to Philadelphia. It was once one of Philadelphia's six major Market Street department stores. In 1953, Frank & Seder closed its Philadelphia store and the building was torn down in 1959.]



**Haddon Township**

**Anneiling**

**Memorial Exercises**

**Sunday Afternoon, May 30th, 1920**

**AT 4.00 O'CLOCK**

**WESTMONT, N. J.**

**April 6th, 1917**

**November 11th, 1918**



# Program

CHAIRMAN, WILLIAM J. MAYER

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OPENING PRAYER	AMERICAN LEGION CHAPLAIN
PATRIOTIC SONG—America	
PRESENTATION ADDRESS	DR. F. G. HAWKSWORTH
UNVEILING	MISS DOROTHEA DITTESS
ACCEPTANCE	MR. A. M. MATTHEWS
PATRIOTIC ADDRESS	HON. RALPH N. KELLAM
PATRIOTIC SONG—The Star Spangled Banner	
PLACING WREATH—SALUTE—TAPS—By THE AMERICAN LEGION	ALLEN IRVIN MORGAN POST No. 230
BENEDICTION	CHAPLAIN W. S. BOOTH

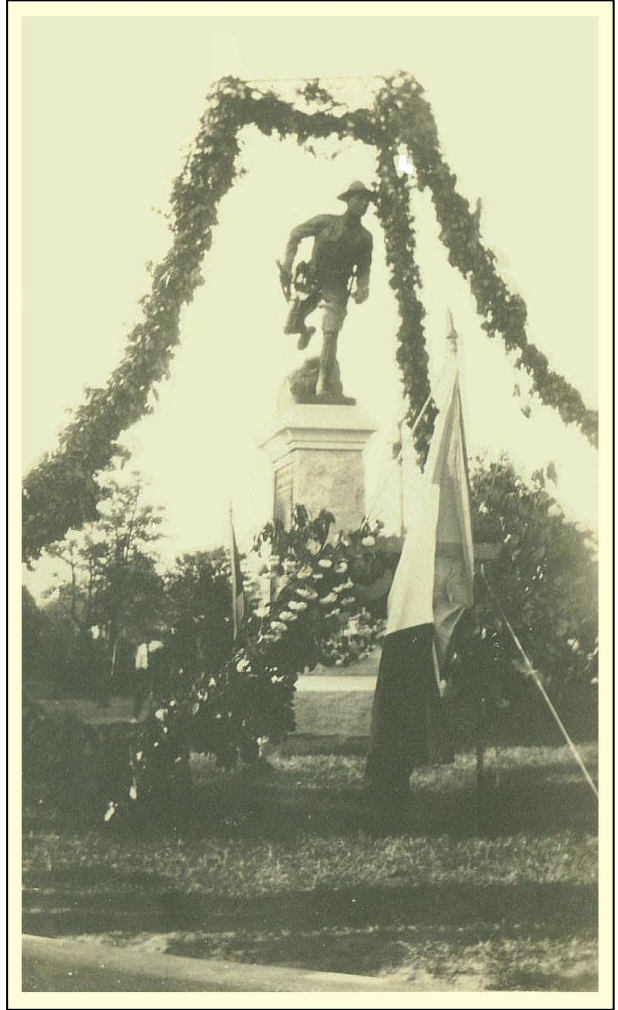
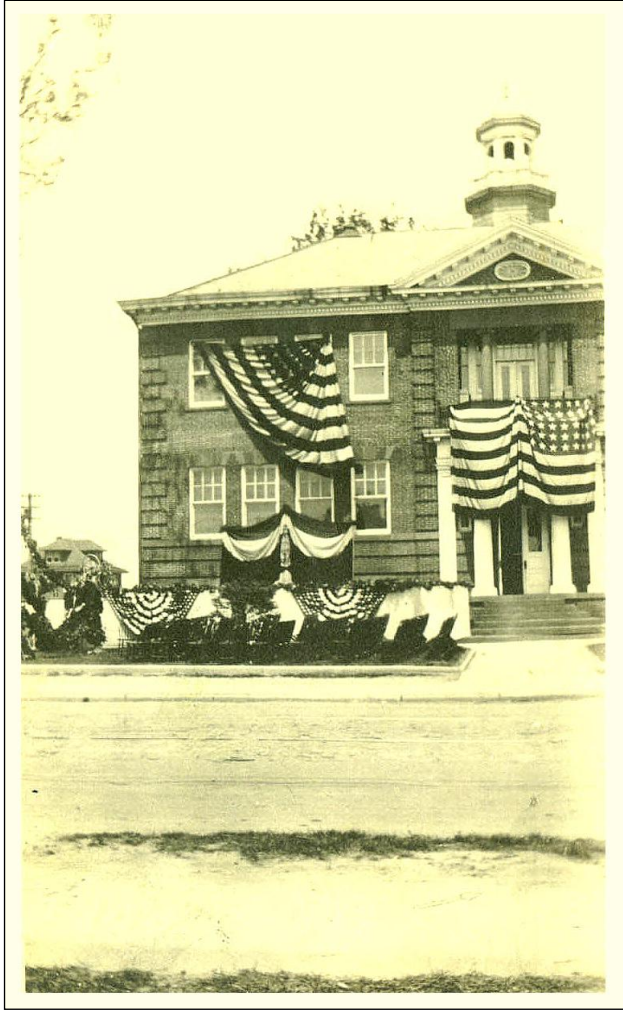
DECORATIONS LOANED BY  
FRANK & SEDER  
PHILADELPHIA

## Service Men from Haddon Township

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C. Tyce Allen  
Louis Ariger  
George B. Almond, Jr.  
Joseph A. Bentley  
Linwood John Bedsworth  
John Lawrenceon Burbage  
William E. Brice, Jr.  
John P. J. Bernard  
Frank Baker  
James Era Brisbin  
Elmer Arthur Congo  
John Roy Cooper  
Leon A. Chatelain, Jr.  
Arthur Chatelain  
John Joseph Chriswell  
William Eisele  
Joseph Robert Eisele  
Frank Coit Fenton  
George Nicholas Foust  
Paul J. Fleming  
Max Friedlander  
Albert Friedlander  
Eugene Gamison Gravener  
Richard Russell Griffith  
Harry Albertson Githens  
Jacob Henry Heitz  
Charles E. Heintz  
Wesley Morris Hughes  
Walter Scott Hozey  
Robert Kirkland Hill  
Edward Holloway Hunt  
W. Hollis Hoffman  
George Arthur Jobes  
John James Jack  
Clifford Jordan  
Harry C. Kramer  
Albert Francis Lougheed  
Edgar Burton Lloyd  
Harry Joseph Mayer

John A. Macaulay  
William D. Madden  
Gotfield Michael Minuth  
Allan Irvin Morgan  
Edward Rapp  
James Ray  
Donald Christopher Roes  
Alexander Timothy Ragan  
Otto Reiman  
Mark Sheldon  
William C. Snyder  
Louis Vogt Sharp  
George Robert Schnur  
William Otto Schnur  
Raymond Steelman  
Harry Robert Springer  
Elmer A. Springer  
Lester Louis Springer  
Walter Russell Scudder  
John A. J. Sheets  
W. L. Sharp  
Ernest A. Schmincke  
Christian A. Schmincke  
William B. Schrieber, Jr.  
Russell Louis Taylor  
Leonard Lott Taylor  
Benjamin Lutz Taylor  
David I. Taylor  
Joseph Clayton Trego  
Milon Archer White  
Conrad George Werth  
Richard Albert Ward  
George Frederick Ward  
Albert Washington  
Harry S. Williams, Jr.  
Emil Berry Walton  
Edward John Wilson  
Samuel Joseph Wilson  
George E. Zeitz



*Dedication of World War I "Doughboy" Memorial at Haddon and Reeve Avenues, May 30, 1920.*



*1921 View of Westmont School No. 1 showing "Doughboy" Memorial at the corner of Haddon and Reeve Avenues prior to the memorial's relocation to the new Westmont Fire Company several decade later.*

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<sup>i</sup> Richard W. Bock, *Memoirs of an American Artist*, ed. by Dorathi Bock Pierre (Los Angeles, CA: C.C. Publishing, 1989)

<sup>ii</sup> *Ibid.* pg. 92

<sup>iii</sup> *Ibid.* pg. 106

<sup>iv</sup> "Westmont Unveils Memorial Tablet," *Camden [Camden, NJ] Post Telegram*, June 1, 1920, pg. 8

<sup>v</sup> Obituary of Dr. F.G. Hawksworth , [Camden, NJ] *Courier-Post*, February 27, 1934 .

The 1920 Haddon Township Unveiling Memorial Program and Ceremony Photographs courtesy Marguerite Bennett Collection, William G. Rohrer Memorial Library (Camden County Library System), Haddon Township, NJ.

Additional photos supplied by Sandra White-Grear and William B. Brahms, Haddon Township Historical Society