

Bay Hill

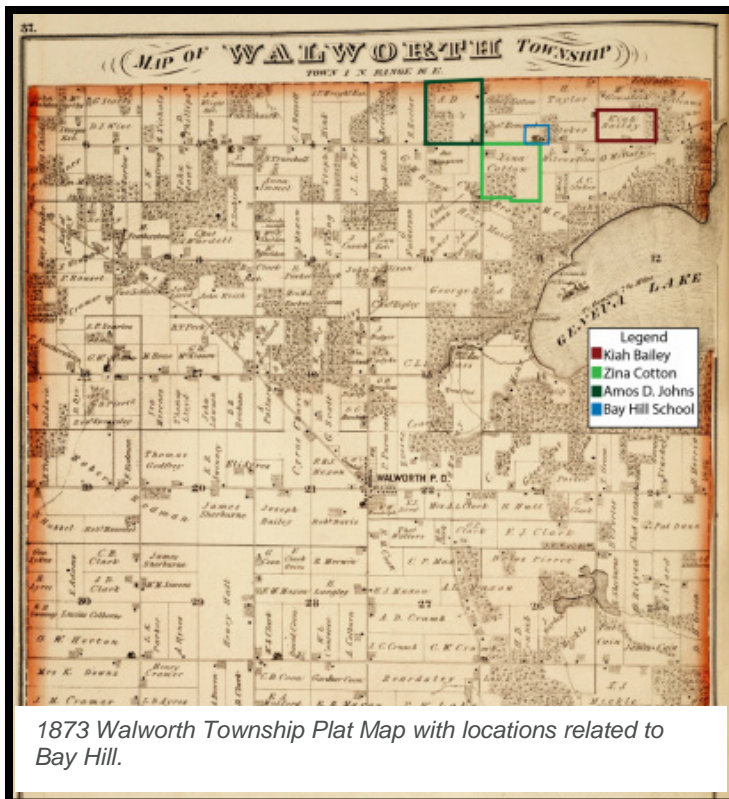
If you have driven into the Village of Williams Bay from the west you have also driven through the area of Walworth County that was once called Bay Hill.

Amos D. Johns purchased the land and built his home on the NW corner (now the Pearce Farm). The present house was built in 1864 and remained in the Johns family until 1964. Amos Johns was named the Bay Hill Postmaster in July 1869; as was common in those days the Post Office was located in the Johns home. Johns was Postmaster until the Post Office was discontinued in January 1874.

Interestingly enough, U.S. Postal records show the Geneva Bay Post Office, whose first Postmaster was Israel Williams, became the Bay Hill Post Office sometime after January 1848 when Kiah Bailey was named Geneva Bay Postmaster. Postal records in 1864 show Kiah Bailey was the Bay Hill Postmaster with the Post Office located in his home. The Bailey cabin was located at the current site of the Bailey House B&B. In November 1865 the Post Office was relocated and Zina Cotton was named the new Postmaster. The Cotton was home was located on the SE corner of the intersection of what is now Highway 67/County Road F/North Walworth Road. Zina Cotton was Postmaster until 1869.

In addition to the Post Office, the area known as Bay Hill had a school that was

built in 1866. The original Bay Hill School stood at the SE corner of the current intersection (now Inspiration Ministries). The school was 20 x 24 feet. By 1873 the school had been moved 1/2 mile east of the original location on the north side of the road. Records indicate the 1876 district officers were R.J. Williams and J.I. Brown; the teacher was N.W. Webber, who taught the winter term in 1876 and 1877. Ella Baker was summer term teacher in 1876. The summer term teacher in 1877 and 1878 was Ella Virgil.



1873 Walworth Township Plat Map with locations related to Bay Hill.

1897. Students of Miss Sherman had an average standing of above 70 percent in daily grades and final examinations. Students and their grades at the end of the winter term were Henry Arneson - 86%; Asa Carpenter - 83%; Julia Madison - 92%; Ernest Madison - 93%; Leon Thomas - 80%; Herbert Parker - 93%; Mike Peterson - 85%; Anna Peterson - 81%; Peter Peterson - 84%; Roy Carpenter - 82%; and Ralph Rouse - 74%.

Mabelle Godfrey was the teacher in 1909. She was paid \$40 a month and had 15 students. She remained at Bay Hill School through 1912 with her salary remaining at \$40 per month. Students during this time ranged from 15 to 18. In 1913, Hanna Yankee was the teacher she received \$40 per month and had 11 students.

The original school was very cold and drafty according to former students. A new school building was constructed in 1930. Marie Holloway was the teacher in 1930.



Miss Holloway and students at Bay Hill School. Photo credit: Walworth county Historical Society.



Bay Hill School today . Photo credit: Michelle Bie Love

Bay Hill School Joint #10 closed sometime between the late 1940s and the 1950s. The district was incorporated with the Williams Bay and Fontana school districts.

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