



Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 39 Number 4 March 2015

[Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568](#)
[WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org)

Color front cover courtesy of Reliant Community Federal Credit Union.



The Lions Club gazebo in Ginegaw Park



The Lodge in Ginegaw Park

Light the Night By Becky Appleman

The WHS again this year participated in the December 6 "Walworth Light the Night" celebration at Ginegaw Park. Liz Bavis, Becky Appleman, Judy McMillan and Judy's sister Jill decorated the WHS Christmas tree the week prior to the celebration. The tree was decorated with red beads, mini lights, and wooden cut-outs. It is shown in the center photo above. It was a cold windy day but when completed our tree looked beautiful. There were 15 trees this year decorated by various civic and school groups as well as the Scouts. There was a very good community turn out for this second annual event. Hots, hamburgs, hot chocolate and cookies were available. Participants could roast marshmallows, ride a hay wagon decorated as a sleigh, or just stroll and admire the trees; of course Santa made his annual visit. A few weeks later, Becky and Judy dismantled the tree and packed decorations away to await the celebration next year.

WHS March 16 Meeting: Life in Walworth Slide Show By Bob Mogray

The March meeting of the Walworth Historical Society will be on Monday, March 16, and will begin at 7:30 PM. It will be held at the WHS museum at 2257 Academy Street. It will begin with a short business meeting and will be followed by a photographic slide show all about life in Walworth in the past and present. These photos were taken by a variety of people and will include scenery, buildings, people, and much more. The success of these meetings depends on the support of our members and your attendance is greatly appreciated. Please note this date on your calendar. As always, refreshments will be provided. Thank you and we hope to see you there.

Next Walworth Memories: April 12 By Dorothy French

"Entertainment in Walworth" is the theme for our Sunday, April 12, Walworth Memories program from 2 – 3:30 PM at the museum. Some of the entertainment will be courtesy of the late Charles Pembroke in the form of a street dance movie, an audio of Charlie playing the accordion, and photographs of the minstrel shows. Also popular were dances held at various locations in Walworth, West Walworth, and Lincoln. We have invited people who participated in these events to join us and share their memories. Of course refreshments will be available!

President's Message By Jessie Keymel

Did you know that each item that is added to the collection at the Walworth Museum has a number? The Filing Committee checks in the item on an accession sheet, gives it a number and a description. The number and description go to the computer at the museum and the original accession deed is stored off the premises. This is one of the things your Filing Committee does on their Wednesday afternoons at the museum. Louise Weller enters all the gathered information in the office computer; it is a tedious job. Thank you Louise for getting our information up-to-date and keeping it there; you are indeed a valued member of our filing team.

We are looking for a member who will sell items on eBay or Craig's List for us. We have some old post cards and books that do not fit into our collection and can be offered to the public. Selling takes some constant monitoring. Is there a member willing to take on this project for WHS?

We have a new project. Stan Weller is working with a carpenter to build more shelving in our attic space. Thank you Stan for your attention to the details of our building. It is a pleasure to work with so many members dedicated to preserving our history.

Scrapbook Memories: 1964 By Marlene Slocum

Editor's Note: Dorothy Petty, Walworth native and long-time school teacher, believed history should be preserved for the future. During her lifetime she compiled more than 30 scrapbooks containing photos, newspaper stories, wedding invitations, etc. about local, national, and international events and people. In 1934 Dorothy began her teaching career at Freewill District School, located at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Lewis Road, where she taught all eight grades. In a 1970 interview, she said "I thought I had the world by the tail by earning twenty-two dollars per week. The second year they gave me a raise of 50 cents a week."

She reminisced about the winter of 1934-35 when "The Downs Road and Atlantic Avenue were so drifted with snow that snowplows were unable to get through. My Dad took me to the end of Atlantic Avenue or as close as he could get to my school and I walked over the big hill. I don't know why the wind didn't blow me away."

Do you remember these events which were recorded in Dorothy's 1964 scrapbook?

- Don Brockman opens super market.
- Town Board purchases tape recorder for meetings so they can keep up with the agenda and then can erase it and use it next month.
- Home Bureau founded in Lincoln by Mrs. Lester White.
- The David and Nancy Payne triplets are born.
- Wayne County Fairgrounds horse barn and grandstand burn.
- Town Board approves Atlantic Avenue extension improvements.
- Joseph Avenue riots required an 8 PM to 8 AM curfew in Rochester.

We Were on Display By Judy McMillan



The display case at Walworth Town Hall for the month of February was prepared by the Walworth Historical Society. The subject is "Autographs." An autograph book is a book for collecting the signatures of others. Traditionally, the books were exchanged among friends, colleagues and classmates to fill with poems, drawings, personal messages, small pieces of verse and other mementoes. The modern derivations include yearbooks, friendship books and guest books.

The tradition of autograph books can be traced as far back as the 1500's. The most popular cultures to embrace this were the Germans and the Dutch. Walworth Historical Society is the beneficiary of many of these fun books!

Website By Gene Bavis

The Walworth Historical Society has a website, but it's built on a format that is difficult to manage. In order for us to update anything, we have to hire someone to do it. As many of you know, I've been involved in several other organizations and have learned that the format called Word Press is easy to use. I tell people that I know just enough about computers to be dangerous. Hopefully in the Spring, a friend will show me how to do simple website maintenance (add stories and pictures, update calendars, etc.). In the meantime, is there anyone out there who would be willing to volunteer to help Bob Mogray and me set up a NEW website using Word Press? Contact me at 315-573-2768 or Bob at 585-576-4156.

Walworth Hosts WHO By Gene Bavis

It was a snowy day in Walworth on Monday, February 9, when the Walworth Historical Society served as host for the Wayne Historians Organization (WHO). In spite of the weather, 12 people attended and some good discussion took place. WHO was formed in 1999 and meets 6 times a year at rotating locations. Typically we host about every two years. Membership consists of municipal historians and representatives of the various historical societies around Wayne County. The group is coordinated by County Historian Peter Evans and I serve as the meeting facilitator. It's a GREAT opportunity to network and learn from each other. It also gives us an opportunity to promote our programs beyond our own groups.

Tiger Cubs Visit Our Museum By Gene Bavis

John Albright is the Leader of the Tiger Cub Den in Pack 167 (Gananda). It so happens that his Mom is Ontario Town Historian, Liz Albright, so he asked her to do a program for his Den about local history. Because Heritage Square is closed for the winter and because John's group is closer to the Walworth Historical Society, Liz asked if she could do her presentation at Walworth. Liz Bavis and I were happy to host them on December 16. The group was very enthusiastic and between the kids, siblings and parents, we had about 25 visitors to our museum. We sent the kids home with Walworth Historical Society Coloring/Activity Books.

Mural Mania By Gene Bavis

WHEW! What a ride! It's been just two years since I was bitten by the "Mural Bug." I am proud to say in that time I've been able to promote and get completed 3 murals for Walworth. I've done mural presentations for several organizations and have collected photos of hundreds of murals all over the Eastern United States and even some in Canada. I'm writing this story from Palatka, FL, and just yesterday I learned that they have 30 murals here. Guess what we are doing today!

In addition to the projects in Walworth, I've worked closely with Cameron Jones of Marion. His mural is complete and will be installed and dedicated this spring. I'm also Co-Chairing the Planning Committee for the Global Mural Conference that will take place in Geneva, NY, in September 2016.



Two years ago, we set a plan in motion to do the Yeomans Wedding Mural, but it got put on hold because we could not find an old photo of the house where the wedding took place. Thanks to Mary Jane Devlin, we now have that photo (seen at the left), so hopefully we can move forward with this project this summer.

The original picture belongs to Barbara Schultz Minnamon, who grew up in the house. We've raised more than half the money we need. I'll have more information in our next newsletter on this.

In Memorium By Jessie Keymel

On December 21, 2014, Walworth lost a life-long resident, Claire VanHaneghem. Claire attended Walworth High School, was a member of the Second Baptist Church and the Walworth Fire Department, and served for 33 years with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. He is survived by his wife, Joyce; daughter, Debbie Williams; 2 grandchildren; 6 great-grand children; and sister, Ruth Reybrouck. Claire was laid to rest in the Walworth Cemetery on Sherburne Road beside his parents, Gladys and Peter VanHaneghem, and his son, Donald. We will miss Claire in our little hamlet.

Heroes in the Attic Program By Gene Bavis



On Monday, November 17, 2014, our featured speaker at the Walworth Historical Society was Dennis Bielewicz of Ontario. Dennis is a retired school librarian. As a youth, he grew up in the Southern Tier of NY. While working on a farm, he was curious about an old abandoned house on the farm. The owner gave him permission to explore. What he found was amazing. It was left as it was in the late 1800's. In the attic he found Civil War letters related to H. Seymour Hall and Benjamin Coffin who left their studies at Genesee College in Lima, NY, and enlisted in the 27th Regiment. Years of research by Dennis led to an excellent book and this exciting program. Those in attendance said that this was "one of the best programs" ever presented at the Walworth Historical Society. If you missed it in Walworth, Dennis will be presenting at the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society on Wednesday, March 4, at 7 PM in Gates Hall.

Annual Meeting: May 18 By Mary Jane Devlin

The annual meeting of the Walworth Historical Society will be held at The Lodge at Ginegaw Park on Monday, May 18, 2015, at 6:15 p.m. The evening will start with a dish-to-pass dinner. Following dinner a meeting will be held to elect 2 new trustees and a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

We will also be voting on changes to our Charter and Bylaws. Some of these changes are suggestions from the State to include new social media ways to communicate. Every member of the Society will receive a copy of the new suggested Charter and Bylaws in a separate mailing or through email prior to the May annual meeting.

We plan to give a Community Service Award to some deserving person or organization. We encourage nominations from the public, so if you have a suggestion for the award, please contact any trustee or officer before April 1. A program by Bob Mogray, entitled "Entertainment Trivia," will follow. Please plan to attend the annual dinner meeting at Ginegaw Park.

Show Your Pride in Walworth By Dorothy French

Show your pride in Walworth by purchasing a shirt, cap, or tote bag embroidered with the words "Walworth, NY, founded 1829," surrounding a picture of the Academy School. Golf shirt (\$20.00), T-shirt (\$15.00), cap (\$13.00), or tote bag (\$13.00) are available from All Stitched Up, a Walworth business. To place an order contact WHS member Nancy Bel at 315-538-8605.

Staples Rewards By Dorothy French

Thank you to everyone who has donated used toner and ink cartridges. We recycle the cartridges (any brand) at Staples and receive a \$2.00 rebate per cartridge. To date we have earned rebate checks totaling \$407, allowing us to purchase a carton of paper, envelopes for mailing our newsletter, and office and kitchen supplies. This has helped reduce budget expenses. Cartridges may be dropped off at the museum on the 1st and 2nd Wednesday of each month between 1 and 4 PM or at one of our meetings.

1958 Snowstorm



This 1953 Plymouth, owned by Larry and Molly Hill, is dwarfed by the snow banks lining Albright Road during a snowstorm in 1958. The Hills report they were snowed in for four days and the Lynn snow plow was only able to open one lane of their road.

Three and a half miles south of Walworth's four corners is an area divided by two railroad tracks that cross Walworth-Palmyra Road. There is no signage to indicate its history but, as early as the late 1800's, this area was a busy place that included four main railroad tracks with two switch lines, a post office, passenger and freight stations, and various buildings – all in an area of a settlement of homes. Although this area is located in the Town of Macedon, much of this activity involved Walworth residents who were able to ride the passenger trains, send or receive produce and household goods via rail, or purchase supplies.

New York Central Railroad

According to June Hamell, Town of Macedon Historian, the Palmyra Courier-Journal published a story on December 2, 1968, about the nearby Wayneport station. The newspaper story said the New York Central Company officially came into existence on July 7, 1853, when "Ten small railroads consolidated and formed one through line across the state." Eventually unused tracks were torn up to avoid paying taxes on them.

An 1876 N.Y.C. railroad map noted *The company owned the world's only four-track railroad all laid with steel rails.* In 1990 Walworth resident and storyteller Charles Pembroke wrote Walworth, As I Remember It, and commented that *Walworth Station on the New York Central Railroad was the busiest spot on the rail line in the 1920's.*

Greene's Corners/Crossing

Greene's Corners (also known as Greene's Crossing) was located a short distance north of the tracks at the intersection of Walworth-Palmyra and Macedon Center Roads. According to a letter written approximately 1976 by Mrs. Leland (Lucy Boynton) Franke, Mr. Greene was the station agent and lived in the "dugway" home nearby. District School #2 was located on Macedon Center Road just east of the Greene's residence and Lucy wrote *The school has since been turned into a dwelling.* The May 27, 1909, issue of the Monroe County Mail reported that *Miss Maud Stamp has closed her school at Percyville today.*

******* North Side of the Tracks *******

The north side of the tracks was the commercial site for the post office, freight station, and a cluster of buildings. Facing west, the buildings were separated by a roadway, with the freight station on the left side adjacent to the railroad tracks and the post office and other buildings on the right side of the roadway.

Percyville Post Office

The photo shows the Percyville Post Office located in the office building of E. D. Haney. To the left are signs on the building noting Hardware, Feed, and Produce.

Fultonhistory.com website contained this information about the Post Office:

- November 2, 1898, Newark Arcadia Weekly Gazette: *Percyville Post Office at Walworth Station now open for business.* (Editor's note: Mrs. Edgar D. (Frances C.) Haney was Postmaster from September 21, 1898, to December 19, 1907.)
- January 23, 1908, Wayne County Journal: *Percyville remains on postal maps as shown by the appointment of Edgar D. Haney as Postmaster on January 19. Mr. Haney's wife was Postmaster for a time, but finally decided to give up the work and there was talk of abandoning the post office for a time.*



The Percyville Post Office served the area from 1898 - 1909. Undated WHS file photo.

- February 18, 1909, Monroe County Mail: *Edgar Haney has resigned as Postmaster at Percyville, effective February 27, 1909. Before the rural delivery, the office at the Station was a great convenience.*

The Wayne County Historian's web site listed information in a Wayne County Postal History booklet written by Emma G. Koberg in 1982. It stated that the *Green Coal Company had an office and yard beside the railroad tracks and the post office was located in Mr. Green's coal office.* According to Fultonhistory.com website, the June 17, 1909, issue of the Monroe County Mail announced that *Rouch and Sawyer have bought the Haney store at Percyville and will have charge of P. Greene's coal yard.*

Lucy Franke: *The station agent climbed a pole high above the tracks and secured the mailbag in a special way that dispatched the mail by a New York Central train that did not stop. A mailbag iron rod snatcher picked it off and we kids couldn't believe our eyes.*

Charles Pembroke: *Walter Newberry was the drawer of the mail from Walworth to Walworth Station. He also had to deliver the mail to the families along the route. He made three trips a day.*



Looking north: freight station and milk cans lined up. Undated WHS file photo.

Freight Station

Charles Pembroke: *The freight station was located at the end of a long building where freight was unloaded from the rail cars. I have seen plows, drags, wagons, and sleighs lined up for people to call for. The freight station attendant would notify you that some freight had arrived, so please claim as soon as possible.*

Next we would come to the Scale House of Haxton and Petty Co. That was where all the wheat grain, beans, and coal would be weighed that they were buying or selling. The last man I can remember using these scales was Charles Griswold.

Going west and down a slight incline we come to the lumber yard of Charles M. Buckley. I can't say how many years Charlie Buckley ran the lumber yard and he also sold International Harvester farm equipment. Buckley used to buy all kinds of fruit and packaged them and sent them by rail to New York, Philadelphia, or Boston, wherever he had a call for some fruit.

In 1975 WHS member Ethel Henning interviewed 88-year-old Loyde Bassage. His story, Things I Remember, was printed in a September 18, 1986, edition of the Wayne County Mail. *Frank Rouch had a small grocery store on the north side near the freight station. This was much like our mini stores today and was very convenient for all those who went to the railroad station. Sometimes the stage coach driver brought groceries from the little store.*



Looking northeast: train is headed west coming into freight station. The white building to left in photo is Frank Rouch's store. At far right end is one-time location of Percyville Post Office. Undated WHS file photo.

The Wayne County Historian's Office in Lyons has a journal written by dairy farmer William C. Packard. On December 20, 1898, William wrote: *I drove on to Walworth (or Percyville as the residents are trying to change the name) and talked with the proprietor of the lumber yard about shingles. I got 173 feet of hemlock and 431 feet of pine, amounting to \$10.84 which I paid.*

Charles Pembroke: *West of Charles Buckley's place of business was a small garage. It was built to store the car of Frank Dumond, the flagman on the crossing. He used to walk from Walworth to Walworth Station every day. But in the late '20's, about 1926 or '27, he bought a Model T coupe and stored it in the garage made purposely for it. Frank did not live long after he bought the car as he did not get the exercise he was used to twice a day and 3 miles each way. He had a heart attack and it finished him.*

The next building was a square tall building where Haxton and Petty took in and sorted and bagged beans. It was run by a large one-cylinder gas engine. There were several large bins in the upper part of the building and they could route different kinds of grain into different bins. A lot of grain was shipped out by railroad cars to different parts of the country.

West of the grain elevator was a long building with several compartments in it for storing coal of all grades and sizes. This was owned by Frank Rouch and in later years by Charles M. Griswold, who delivered coal for years in Walworth, Macedon, and Macedon Center.

The Walworth Historical Society's museum has receipts from businesses located at Walworth Station. The earliest receipts are from the Walworth Station Coal Yard (A. Yeomans, proprietor) dated 1902 to William Mastin, 1908 to Dick Clark, and 1909 to H. Atkinson. In 1918 the coal yard's proprietor was P. A. Greene and manager was Glenn Petty; purchases were made by Dick Clark and William Mastin. The company's name changed and a 1931 receipt to Bert Clark listed it as Walworth Coal and Lumber Co., Inc. Later the business was called Griswold's Coal and Supply Co., Inc., according to 1940 and 1948 receipts to Bert Clark.

Editor's note: In the May edition of this newsletter, we will have the second half of the Walworth Station article by Dorothy French as well as more photos from that era of Walworth history.

The Finley's Generosity Continues By Dorothy French

The Walworth Historical Society is the recent recipient of a sizable donation from the estate of Lorraine Finley. Lorraine passed away in North Carolina on June 21, 2013. Lorraine and her husband Joe were former residents who, through their generosity of time and money, left their legacy in Walworth. The WHS board has not yet determined a usage for the donation and has invested these funds in a Certificate of Deposit.

Joe was born and grew up in Walworth and when he married Lorraine in 1946 she also established roots here. In 2007 the Walworth Historical Society presented Lorraine with the Community Service Award, noting the key role she played in the establishment of the Walworth Reading Room/Walworth-Seely Public Library and the six years she served on the Wayne Central School Board of Education.

Joe and Lorraine were members of the Walworth Loan Closet and charter members of the Walworth Historical Society and Walworth Chamber of Commerce. Joe operated a meat market and later a soda fountain and drug store on Main Street. Joe's political career included serving as town supervisor, Wayne County Clerk, and New York State Assemblyman representing our area.

The Finleys sold their Sherburne Road home in 1977 and moved to South Carolina and later North Carolina. Prior to Joe's death in 1991, the Finley's donated a considerable amount of money to the Wayne County Endowment of the Rochester Area Foundation to be used as a scholarship fund, allowing high school seniors from the Town of Walworth to continue their education at four-year, two-year, or technical schools.

We are grateful for their generosity.

WHS Photos at Mark's Pizza in Walworth By Bob Mogray

A few months ago when Mark's Pizza was renovating their Walworth store, the Walworth Historical society was approached by Mark's management and asked to provide a disk of historical area photos. We were eager to help out by doing this. I was at Mark's Pizza in Walworth recently and noticed that these photos had been printed, framed, and hung throughout the store. Below are three photos of these framed Walworth pictures at Mark's.



This newsletter has been available to our members in email form. It can be sent electronically and arrive a few days earlier than if it is sent by conventional post office mail. In addition to the advantage of being sent much faster, it is totally in color and saves the WHS money because we don't have to buy paper for copying, don't have to buy postage to mail it, don't have to buy printer ink, and it has two pages of extra photos at the end. We are asking members who have an email address, receive the newsletter electronically. To do so contact either WHS president Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or WHS vice-president Bob Mogray at 585-576-4156. Thank you for your consideration.

2015 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Subject	Location
Mon., March 16	7:30 PM	General Meeting: "Life in the Country" – photos from Walworth past and present.	Museum
Sun., April 12	2 – 3:30 PM	Walworth Memories: Theme – Entertainment in Walworth (Minstrel show, street dances, etc.	Museum
Mon., May 18	6:15 PM	Annual meeting, Community Service Award, election of officers, and bylaws approval. The program is entertainment trivia.	Lodge at Ginegaw Park
Fri., July 24	7 PM	Festival in the Park Parade: Theme – "25 Years of Toys and Games"	
Sat., July 25		Festival in the Park	Ginegaw Park
Mon., Sept. 21	7:30 PM	General Meeting: program TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 4	2 – 4 PM	Open House	Museum
Sun., Oct. 18	2 – 3:30 PM	Walworth Memories	Museum
Mon., Nov. 17	1:00 PM	General Meeting	Museum

Board of Trustees Meeting: Mondays, 7:00 PM at Museum: April 20, June 15, Aug. 17, and Nov. 2.

Open House Hours: Museum open June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons 2 - 4 PM. Contact Judy McMillan at 315-524-4219 or Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 for appointment for other times.

Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs

President	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205	Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768
VP/Newsletter	Robert Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156	Publicity	Joyce Finney	(585) 377 - 9535
Secretary	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219	Genealogy	Kathy Aeckerle	(315) 597 - 6864
Treasurer	Mary Jane Devlin	(315) 986 - 1512	Hospitality	Liz Bavis	(315) 802 - 0380
WHS Trustee	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289	Hospitality	Nancy Bel	(315) 538 - 8605
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768	Grounds	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219
WHS Trustee	Nancy Bel	(315) 538 - 8605	Grounds	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
WHS Trustee	Dorothy French	(315) 986 - 1098	Collections	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205
WHS Trustee	Larry Ruth	(315) 524 - 7936	Bldg. Maint.	Stan Weller	(585) 545 - 9434
WHS Trustee	Marlene Slocum	(585) 520 - 2312			

Membership Information

Student	\$ 5.00
Individual	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 15.00
Supporting	\$ 25.00
Corp. or Business	\$ 30.00
Sponsor	\$ 50.00
Patron	\$ 100.00
Life Member	\$ 150.00
Benefactor	\$ 150.00

Mission Statement: The Walworth Historical Society is a volunteer organization established in 1975. Our chartered purpose is to collect, preserve, and display items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the Town of Walworth and its environs. We are a not-for-profit organization with 501(C)(3) status and donations are tax deductible.

March 2015 WHS E-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos

(All photos on this page are recent local snowy pictures)



(Photos from December 2014 Light the Night Ginegaw Park festival)



(Below are photos of Walworth Red Apple Kwik Fill on the left and Salvatore's on the right)



(Close up below of the WHS Autographs display at the Walworth Town Hall through February)

