

Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 40 Number 1 July 2015

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

Color front cover courtesy of Reliant Community Federal Credit Union.



Above: Left to right: Stan and Louise Weller accept the Community Service Award from WHS President Jessie Keymel



Top: Stan and Louise at dinner.

Bottom: Stan, Louise, and family.



Honoring Stan and Louise Weller By Dorothy French

The letter nominating Stan and Louise Weller for the 2015 Community Service Award referenced their wide-spread commitment for helping others in and around Walworth. The award was presented at the annual WHS meeting on Monday, May 18, at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park. Many of their family members were present to witness the presentation; out-of-state relatives watched via Facetime.

Individually and as a couple, Stan and Louise have used their time and talents for many service projects, including Christmas Sharing, Meals on Wheels, Dolomite Trail Works, Literacy Program, Catholic Charities, Birthright, and charity projects with several quilting clubs. They volunteer at School 34 in Rochester, helping children learn to read. As if they didn't already have enough to do, these two folks still continue to spread their wings over our community. Their newest project is organizing Rally Around Your Neighbor (RAYN); Stan and Louise believe there is a need to help neighbors who require assistance for a short period of time doing yard work, driving to medical appointments, etc.

President Jessie Keymel conducted the meeting which followed the dish-to-pass dinner. The proposed bylaw changes were approved by the members. Re-elected were President Jessie Keymel, Vice-President Bob Mogray, Secretary Judy McMillan, Treasurer Mary Jane Devlin, and Trustee Marlene Slocum. Linda Pembroke was elected trustee, replacing retiring trustee Nancy Bel. Other trustees, whose terms did not expire, are Becky Appleman, Gene Bavis, Dorothy French and Larry Ruth.

Bob Mogray presented an award-winning program entitled "Entertainment Trivia." Using the museum's computer and projector, Bob showed photos of famous people. There was exciting competition to see who could be the first to correctly identify the person shown on the screen.

Upcoming Fall Programs By Gene Bavis

The Walworth Historical Society has booked two very interesting programs for this fall. On September 21, Edie and Bruce Farrington will present a program based on some Civil War letters between soldiers in the field and some folks in Sodus Center. These letters will highlight some aspects of local history that are not common knowledge.

On November 16 Michael Keene will speak on a subject that also doesn't make it into the history books very often. The title of his program is "Abandoned: The Untold Story of Orphan Asylums." One aspect of that story is the Orphan Train movement that lasted for more than 75 years, relocating more that 250,000 children.



Their Good Deed By Judy McMillan

Many hands made light work. Boy Scout Troop #113 again this year volunteered to help with grounds clean up at the Walworth Historical Society's museum. Armed with rakes, shovels, and muscles, ten Boy Scouts and fathers (Pat and Jacob Donnelly; Tom, Jacob and Joshua Beha; Scott, Adam and Jon Murtha; and Brad and Josh Rush) assisted WHS members Larry and Judy McMillan, Becky Appleman and Gene Bavis on May 9. In addition to removing winter's debris, the crew spread 4 yards of mulch donated by Dana Luckman. WHS is grateful for the community service these volunteers performed.

Left: Boy Scout Troop #113

The Neighbor, Jay Taber By Vaughn Pembroke

Editor's Note: Here's another "Charlie story" submitted by his son, Vaughn. The Pembrokes and Tabers were next door neighbors for many years on Walworth-Penfield Road.

Jay Taber needed some work done at his house on Walworth-Penfield Road. It was arranged that Jay owed Charlie Pembroke some money. The bill was paid promptly each month. The problem came when it got down to the last \$50.00. When Jay came over to pay, Dad said "You do not owe me any money, we are even." Jay insisted on the \$50 difference. Dad informed him that he no longer needed the cistern pump in the cellar so Dad removed it and sold it to someone for the \$50. Jay looked and the pump was gone. This story was told at Dad's funeral at the Walworth fire house by Jay Taber. May they both rest in peace.

2015 Festival in the Park By Bob Mogray

This year's Festival in the Park will be held on Friday, July 24, and Saturday, July 25. The annual parade will be on Friday evening at 7:00 pm and, as usual, the Walworth Historical Society will have a float entered. The theme for the festival this year is "25 Years of Toys and Games." Friday night after the parade and Saturday afternoon and evening will feature many events at the Ginegaw Park on Penfield-Walworth Road/Lorraine Drive in Walworth. There will be games, food, and booths from many Walworth organizations. Please stop at the WHS booth to see old photos of the Walworth area, talk to our members, and possibly purchase one of our items for sale such as shirts, CD's, Christmas ornaments, and more! We hope to see you there to support the Walworth Historical Society and the Lions Club who sponsors this event.

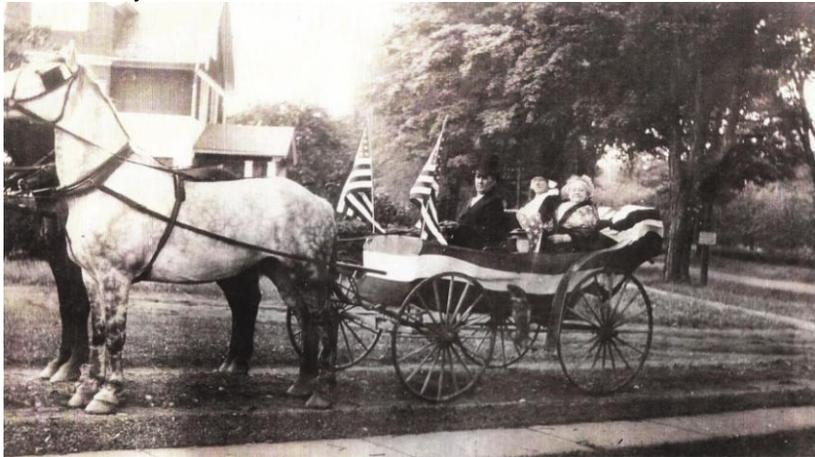


Photos of a previous Festival in the Park

“Jottings of Walworth Past” – Celebrating the Fourth of July By Robert W. Wignall

Editor's Note: This story was written prior to 1981 and was recently found in our museum files. The Fourth of July holiday celebrations of the past involved the entire community.

One of the yearly events in Walworth that today is just a memory was the annual Fourth of July celebration. My first recollection of the event goes back to about 1903 or 1904, when Carlyle Boynton and I made elaborate plans to celebrate together, especially in arousing the neighborhood with our noise making before most folks planned on getting out of bed on a holiday.



Above: George and Carrie Wignall, dressed as George and Martha Washington, pose in their horse-drawn carriage with driver George Millen circa 1920. Robert W. Wignall, the author of this story, is their nephew. This photo is on display at the new Tops Friendly Markets, which is located on property once owned by the Wignalls.

The two churches of Walworth took turns putting on the event and it was a real task that required weeks of planning. The first event of the day was usually a baseball game about ten o'clock. In those days our town had a very good team and always planned to win even if they had to hire a pitcher from the league team in Rochester. But we had real good players in our area. A few I can remember were Dan and Clint Lee, Harry Conant, Frank Taber, Charlie Buckley, Ray Blyth, Ray Billings, Howard Mastin, and Ray Carter. Then a bit later others developed into good players like Frank Decker, Cliff and Wes Huntley, Frank Sawyer, Charles Griswold, and many more whose names escape me right now. Henry Bean was the local harness maker and hardware store proprietor, and he had played professional ball with a team in Buffalo. So he was always a great help to the local teams and also umpired all of the games, usually giving the local boys all of the breaks.

After a while a parade took over the place of the morning ball game and it became quite an event with all the local organizations entering floats. A special part of the parade was for children and they really made up quite a large part of the parade. Also the local musicians got together weeks before the big day to practice up on marching music. So altogether the parades were very colorful.

The crowds began to gather in the morning and by noon the village was overflowing with people from far and wide, especially the ones who had left the town years before. So it more or less became an old home day. With the morning events over, the crowds would head for the church where a chicken pie dinner was served and it usually took several seatings to feed all of the hungry folks. And after the sumptuous meal the crowd gathered either in the church or on the lawn, depending on the weather, to listen to an oration by a former preacher or a celebrated orator. The subject of the speech nearly always was the virtues of our great country and her progress as a world power.

After the address there were games for all ages, potato races and three-legged races for the youngsters and two-or-three-mile running races for the more ambitious. Then about three o'clock the high school ball diamond was surrounded by a noisy crowd and the big game of the day was on. Needless to say, the home team had lots of rooters to urge them on.

But the ninth inning end did not result in everybody heading for home. There was still plenty of activity to round out the day. By this time the appetites were whetted again and the church women had just what was needed with another bountiful meal in the church dining room.

By eight o'clock the church auditorium was again filled to capacity with local and visiting folks to enjoy a never-to-be forgotten entertainment. A vocal group of musicians was always ready to do their bit to make up an orchestra. A few names I recall were Cope and Ida Morse, Dr. Edwin Rodenberger and his daughter Beth, Ray Blyth, Harry Conant, and drummer Charlie Griswold. Mrs. Charles Baker, wife of the village grocer, was a music teacher and under her guidance we could always expect a varied program of solos and group features. One such group, of which I was a member, was dressed up like fire crackers with large cardboard red firecrackers complete with rope for a fuse and two small holes to see through. We were marching around the platform to musical accompaniment but Carlyle Boynton missed one turn and fell off from the platform about three feet to the floor. Luckily he was not injured. As I said before, putting on the 4th of July celebration was a real task and after a while got too big to handle and soon became a thing of the past. Even when the two churches worked together for a time it did not bring the old fervor, so finally was given up entirely.

Walworth Photos Decorate the New Tops Store By Bob Mogray

A few months ago, before the new Tops grocery store in Walworth was even close to opening, the Walworth Historical Society was approached by a representative from an organization that designs the interior of new Tops stores and we were asked to provide a disk with old photos from the Walworth area. These photos were taken from WHS museum scans of old black and white pictures from decades ago and were to be used as a display to decorate the interior front of the new Tops when it opened. Well, this has happened and this photo display is very impressive! It covers the entire front of the upper area behind the service desk, located to the left as one enters the store. Seen below are photos of this collection at the new Walworth Tops.



Above: Photos from the WHS files enlarged and displayed at the new Tops in Walworth

A Little Pembroke Music By Bob Mogray



We recently had the good fortune of hearing some vintage music by Charlie and Bertha Pembroke that was recorded many years ago onto a cassette tape. Thanks to Lyle Bassage and family, the Walworth Historical Society has had possession of these tapes for some time. As attendees were entering the museum for the April 12 Walworth Memories program, they heard Charlie Pembroke playing the accordion and his wife Bertha playing the organ from these tapes. Since then we have used modern technology to get this music into a computer and then to separate, name, and burn these songs onto a compact disk. The plan is to have these items for sale at a reasonable price at the July 24 and 25 Festival in the Park. If any members are interested in these music CD's, which are currently available, please contact president Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or vice-president Bob Mogray at 585-576-4156. Hopefully we will have this music around for a long time for many to enjoy.

Left: Front cover of the Pembroke music CD.

Walworth Alumni Meet By Mary Jane Devlin

The Walworth High School Alumni Association met at the Log Cabin Restaurant on June 6, 2015, for their annual meeting. The last class to graduate from Walworth High School was in 1949. Nineteen of the 29 people present actually graduated from Walworth. However, several people who live in Walworth and graduated from Wayne Central also attended. Following a prayer and a moment of remembrance for those who have passed away, a delicious dinner was served. The Walworth Historical Society provided a display of memorabilia from the school and particularly from the Classes of 1935 and 1945 which were honored. During the meeting, which was conducted by Carlyle Darron, President, many memories were shared.

Because there were no nominations for officers, it was decided to have a committee chair next year's meeting. The committee consists of Joyce VanHaneghem, Jessie Keymel, Barbara Sass, Marilyn Williams and Mary Jane Devlin. We hope to see even more people next year.

From an interview with Ruth VanHaneghem Reybrouck, her daughter



Above: Gladys and Peter VanHaneghem

Gladys VanHaneghem was born on December 9, 1900. She was raised in Marion on a muck farm with many siblings. Life may have been a struggle at times, but she persevered. After graduating from school, she became a teacher.

Peter VanHaneghem would court Gladys by picking her up in his horse and buggy; eventually they were married and settled in Walworth, living in a house on Center Street across from the tennis courts by the Walworth Academy. Peter and Gladys had two children. The oldest was a son, Claire; Ruth was the younger child. When Ruth was five years old the family moved to the northeast corner of Walworth-Ontario and Walworth-Marion Roads.

Ruth tells of her parents' house which was next to her father's garage/workshop where Peter made his livelihood. There was a large garden in back of the house and a cherry orchard. Migrant

workers would tend to this and Gladys would make homemade hand-squeezed lemonade for the workers. Gladys would always be cooking and often have company.



Above: The VanHaneghem home, Walworth northeast four corners

Ruth and her friend, Molly Ebert Hill, attended the square dances at the firemen's hall on Penfield-Walworth Road and, when they returned home, her mother would always have molasses cookies and milk for them. Ruth remembers a time when one of her cheerleader team mates had never had a birthday party. Gladys planned a surprise party for the girl and even made paper cheerleaders to put at each girl's place setting for the party. Gladys was always going above and beyond for others.

Gladys was a sub clerk at the Walworth Post Office from April 1, 1947, through May 3, 1957. She was acting postmaster from May 3, 1957, to July 16, 1958, when she was promoted to Postmaster of Walworth. In 1964 Gladys was mentioned in a newspaper article about patron obligations. "Postmaster Gladys VanHaneghem emphasized that the Post Office wants to give good service and having a proper mail box expedites that service." She also interested a high school girl who used the improvement mat as a pattern and designed attractive posters for local store windows. The response was gratifying and she commented that, "In her part of the country, great havoc is wrought during the winter months and selection of spring as the pretty-up time was a wise one."



Above: Walworth Post Office: 1987. Last day at Walworth southeast four corners

Ruth repeated a story her mother told her. When Gladys was working at the Post Office prior to Christmas, a gentleman came in several days in a row looking for a package which was a gift. The package finally arrived and the Post Office was closed. Gladys opened the business so the gentleman could obtain the package in time for Christmas. While being postmaster Gladys received honorary recognition from the United States Postmaster General. When she retired from the Post Office on August 23, 1968, her successor was Etta Bavis.

Gladys belonged to the Walworth Second Baptist Church and was involved with the women's circle doing missionary work along with Bernie Nortier, Leona Bassage and others. She would perform in plays at the church and would eventually become the star of the play. Later in life Gladys and Peter moved to a smaller house on Walworth-Palmyra Road. She enjoyed shopping with Ruth and her granddaughter, Sandy. Gladys passed on September 16, 1976, but will be

remembered for being a humble, hospitable, generous, loving spirit to her family and others in the community and her dedication as the Walworth Postmaster.

President's Message By Jessie Keymel

Thank you, Nancy Bel, for your dedication to our Historical Society. Nancy has served on the Board of Trustees and has been responsible for the refreshments for our meetings for several years. Nancy and Leighton were born in the Walworth hamlet and continue to be a valuable source of local history. Thank you for serving and for sharing; we know you will still help us as we search for answers in Walworth history.

Thank you, Judy McMillan, for your work on scheduling museum sitters. We now can say the museum is open every Wednesday and Sunday from 2:00 until 4:00 from June until the end of September. Thanks everyone for volunteering; enjoy your time poking around and learning about the varied history we have gathered about our town.

Thank you, Stan Weller, for your constant attention to our building's needs. He has now painted the kitchen. Stan and his brother-in-law, Fred Switzer, took on the monumental task of building shelves on the west wall of the upstairs. The shelves were completed before the museum was open for the summer and the filing committee has started to organize and fill the new space.

Thank you also to Dana Luckman who donated the mulch for the museum grounds.

Name the Apartment Complex By Gene Bavis

As you probably know, the old Walworth High/Elementary School that had been converted to apartments was torn down last year. The owner wanted to build on the same footprint and have one 3-story building. Neighbors came to public hearings and convinced the Planning Board that it was not a good plan. So, it went back to the drawing board. The new project is much more aesthetically pleasing and is for citizens who are over 55 years old. It will be 3 buildings instead of one and it got approved at the June meeting.

The project was to be called "Walworth Village Apartments," but because Walworth is not a village, I suggested to the developer and the Planning Board that a new name should be considered. Both agreed that a new name should be given to the project. I was asked for a suggestion, but didn't have a good one. Then I had a brainstorm. Let's have a name-the-complex contest! The developer thought it was a good idea, so here we go.

Please submit your suggestion for the project's name to the Walworth Historical Society by August 1. A committee will select the top 3 ideas and submit them to the developer for the final decision. There are 3 ways you can enter: 1. Email your idea along with your name and phone number to gbavis@rochester.rr.com. Please write "Name the Apartments" in your subject line. 2. Mail your idea along with name and phone number to Walworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. 3. Put your idea in the drop box that will be at the Walworth Town Clerk's office and at the Festival in the Park using the form available beside the box. Don't forget...August 1 is the deadline to enter.

Our Collection Continues to Grow By Jessie Keymel

We have added another picture of a graduation class to our Walworth High School photo collection. We discovered the Class of '36 when the filing committee was reorganizing our school files.

A new scrapbook, or should I say an old scrapbook, has been added to our collection. The scrapbook was assembled by Gladys VanHaneghem, a former postmaster in the Walworth Post Office. The gift came from Ruth and Wilbur Reybrouck, Gladys was Ruth and Claire VanHaneghem's mother. We also received many pages of Walworth-related items from the pages of Ruth and Wilbur's scrapbook. New discoveries of old news is the rewarding part of our mission to preserve our history.

We have also received team photos from the Walworth Recreation Department, They are dated but unfortunately the team members are not identified. This is a reminder to us all to write dates and information on the back of our photos. Thank you also goes to Dave and Martha Lynch for their gift of a desk-top Victrola and records; now we can play music to fit each of our programs.

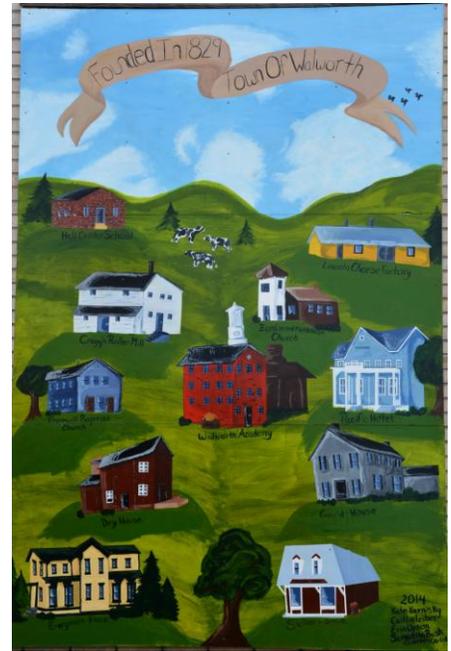
Mural Mania Update By Gene Bavis

I have given several presentations about murals all over the area and there seems to be a lot of interest. I am also working on the 2016 Global Mural Conference that will be held in Geneva, New York.

This summer we are doing a one-week “Mural Camp” through Walworth Recreation that will result in a mural for the west wall of the Farmers Market shed in Ginegaw Park. The mural of Grover Cleveland and the Yeomans wedding is progressing slowly.

In Marion within the next few weeks the Newark-Marion Railroad mural will be mounted and dedicated. I can't give you specifics at the moment, so watch the newspapers and Facebook for an announcement.

For information about our local mural program, visit www.muralmania.org. Three Walworth murals are shown below.



The Lost Settlement By Dorothy French

Several years ago Town of Walworth Highway Superintendent Michael Frederes asked the Walworth Historical Society if we had information about an area called “The Lost Settlement” that was located between Walworth-Ontario and Arbor Roads.

Coming up with the answer was easy. When Howard Triou was asked about the lost settlement, he said he was born there in 1918. According to Howard, there was a right-of-way driveway located north of Al Osterhout's property on the east side of Walworth-Ontario Road. The driveway was by a creek bed and the area now is covered by mowed grass. There were seven homes located approximately one mile from Walworth-Ontario Road. Homeowners included Howard's grandparents, Jacob and Nellie Buys; his parents, William and Susie Triou; Dora Whitcomb and her family; the Blankenburg family; and a few others.

The children walked east across the muck to the school located at Frog Harbor on Arbor Road. Dr. Camp, a chiropractor, owned most of the muck; the Whitcombs owned some also.

Show Your Pride in Walworth

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 in a multitude of colors from All Stitched Up, a Walworth business. To place an order, contact WHS member Marlene Slocum at 585-289-7080. Look for our booth at the July 24 and 25 Festival in the Park when we will have several sample items available or you can place an order.

In Memoriam By Jessie Keymel

We are saddened to share the passing of Rev. LaVerne Schattner on May 29, 2015. He was a life member of our Society and the author of many articles in our past newsletters. Rev. Schattner served the Cohocton and North Cohocton United Methodist Churches for 36 years before his retirement. He was born in Walworth and started his education in one of our one-room schoolhouses. His ancestors are buried in Lusk and Findley Cemeteries in Walworth, not far from the location of their farm on Walworth-Ontario Road. He is a good example of how important our newsletters are to many former residents. Thanks for the memories.

2015 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Subject	Location
Tues., July 21	6:30 PM	Decorate parade float.	Keymel's
Fri., July 24	Parade: 7 PM Booth: 6- 9:30 PM	Festival in the Park Parade: Theme – "25 Years of Toys and Games and Beyond"	Main St/Pen-Wal. Rd. Ginegaw Park
Sat., July 25	1-9:30 PM	Festival in the Park	Ginegaw Park
Mon., Sept. 21	7:30 PM	General Meeting: program - Edie and Bruce Farrington: "Civil War Letters"	Museum
Sun., Oct. 4	2 – 4 PM	Open House: Fall Theme	Museum
Sun., Oct. 18	2 – 3:30 PM	Walworth Memories. Theme - TBA	Museum
Mon., Nov. 16	1:00 PM	General Meeting: Michael Keene and "Abandoned: The Untold Story of Orphan Asylums"	Museum

Board of Trustees Meeting: Mondays, 7:00 PM at Museum: 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	Marlene Slocum	(585) 289 - 7080
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768	Grounds	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219
WHS Trustee	Linda Pembroke	(585) 455 - 7595	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) 289 - 7080			

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; donations are tax deductible.

Level of Membership

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corp. or Bus.	\$ 30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	\$ 150.00

I am interested in making a tax deductible donation of \$ _____,
 I am interested in making a tax deductible donation of \$ _____
in memory of _____.
 I am interested in joining and have checked the membership level.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/Town/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please mail your check for \$ _____, payable to Walworth Historical Society, and mail it to
P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. *Thank you for your support.*

July 2015 WHS E-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos

All photos on this page are from the annual meeting at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park on May 18.



All photos on this page are from the grand opening of the new Walworth Tops in April.

(All photos on this page by Gene Bavis)

