

Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

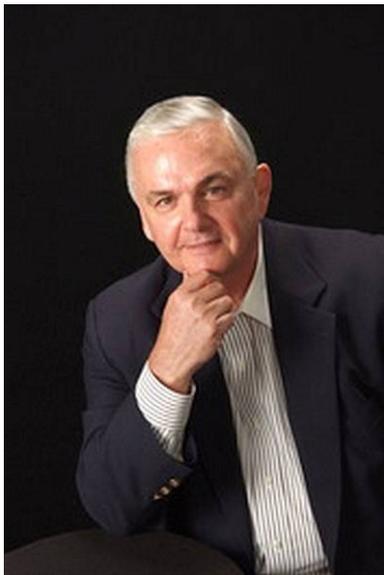
Volume 40 Number 3 November 2015

Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568
WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

Color printing of front cover courtesy of Reliant Community Federal Credit Union.

November 16 Program: Michael Keene's "Abandoned....." By Bob Mogray

On Monday, **November 16 at 1:00 pm** at meeting of the Walworth Historical Society will host author Michael Keene as he presents his program "Abandoned: The Untold Story of Orphan Asylums." This is taken from his new book of the same title and explores the mid-1800's New York City orphan asylums. It tells the story of a million Irish immigrants who hoped to find better conditions in New York after leaving behind the famine they experienced in their homeland in the middle of the 19th century.

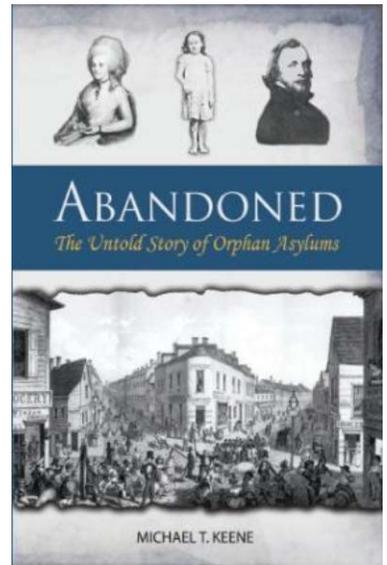


Unfortunately, after arriving in lower Manhattan, they found poverty, violence and disease. Soon there were thousands of orphaned and homeless children who were placed in asylums. These children were exploited and lived terrible lives. Mr. Keene's presentation will explain how some of these children ended up in street gangs but how some were rescued.

This will be an excellent program and we are hoping that you will come to our museum on Academy Street in Walworth to show your support. Please note the afternoon meeting time.

As always refreshments will be served. If you have questions, please call Gene Bavis at 315-573-2768 or Bob Mogray at 585-576-4156. Hope to see you there!

(left) author Michael Keene



Wonderful Old Postcards For Sale By Bob Mogray

Over the last several years the Walworth Historical Society has collected some old postcards from around the country. We have an entire shoebox full of them and they are sorted according to the area from which they originated. These are for sale for the paltry sum of \$ 1.00 per postcard. They are old but unused. Pictured below are three of them. If you are interested in purchasing or seeing them, please call WHS president Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205.



Editor's Note: This is the 2nd in a series of stories spotlighting the businesses and homes on Main Street. The tour began at the four corners with the buildings on the west side and travels south.

Pacific Hotel

- Source: Military History of Wayne County. "April 6, 1830: First town meeting was held at George Smith house. This was the old tavern that stood on the site of the present Temperance House erected by the liberality and largely sustained by the public spirit of the Honorable T. G. Yeomans and known as the Pacific."
- Named Pacific Hotel (two photos below) because there was a hotel in Marion to the east called the Atlantic.
- Business center for many salesmen stopping to show their merchandise. Twice a year salesmen arrived with yard goods and patterns; displays were set up in the hotel parlor.
- Stage from the hotel met each train that stopped at Walworth Station, three miles south of Walworth.
- Dinner cost 25 cents, breakfast and lunch 15 cents, and night's lodging 75 cents.
- Some of the managers: Glen Petty, Frank Sanford, Louie Furman, Madison and Sophia Reynolds (1888-1891), John Franke and John Rosencrans.



Grange Hall



1929: Walworth Grange #289 members purchased the hotel when their building (the original Walworth Academy) was torn down. Grange meetings were held upstairs. First floor areas were rented to businesses (left photo).

1931: Grange Hall dedicated. Newspaper story: "One glance at the picture reveals a Grange Hall of unusual worth and no wonder the Walworth members are delighted over their precious possession."

1985: Grangers sold building due to declining membership and donated significant amount of proceeds towards construction of Walworth Historical Society's museum. Grangers completely disbanded in 1992.



American Pool

1985: Grangers sold to David Kords, owner of American Pool Supply and American Hobby Shop (left photo). South side and middle section used for his businesses.

2009: David moved businesses to former fire department building on Walworth-Penfield Road across from Orchard Street.

Vacant

2015: Vacant building (5,504 square feet) sits on .30 acres and is for sale. Memorial, erected on front lawn many years ago, recognizes our military: "In memory of those who gave their lives in service. Crane-Engert Post American Legion."

**** **Businesses Through the Years** ****

Basement:

Meat Market: Entrance on building's north side. Meat cooler was downstairs. Meat market operated by David Gilbert (Source: Wayne County Historian/Wayne County Business Listings for 1863-1864).

North Side:



Telephone Office: Blanche May (Elton May's sister) was a telephone operator.

Barber Shop: Operated by Paul Lansing. Ray Bavis operated shop beginning early-mid 1940's. After Ray's death in 1968, business sold to Ron Fillmore (Wayne County Sheriff and part-time barber); later sold to Frank Pignato of Penfield.

Potpourri of Gifts: Operated by Edie Pasquini.

Beauty Shop: Operated by Melissa McCombs.

Middle Section:

Grocery Store: Operated by Irv Carpenter.

Beauty Shop: Operated by sisters Irene and Marge DeGroot 1944 – 1947.

Post Office: No phone in the 1940's. If you wanted to know if package arrived, call George Duell, whose business (garden and feed store) was located on building's south side. Post Office moved in 1968 from Grange Hall to building at 3720 Main Street, northeast corner now occupied by Cleary Insurance.

Town Assessor's Office 1969 - 1977: Assessor John Aman said Grievance Day was held on second floor. In 1977 John's office was moved to Walworth-Marion Road (now site of Wee People) and town offices were consolidated in one building.

South Side:



Barber Shop: 1893: Barber was C. E. Stevens. 1930's: barber was Jake Koole. Harold Ginegaw said Jake wore a spot on the floor by his walking around the barber chair so much.

Feed Store: 1938-1956: Operated by Abe Almekinder. In wintertime "when farmers weren't farmers," they would congregate at the shop. Musicians included Casey Cuvelier, Jake Koole, Pat Curran, Forrest Hill, and Bill Mastin. Abe had a peanut machine in the shop.

Garden and Feed Store: George Duell (left photo) bought business in 1956 from Abe and Stanley Almekinder. George sold it in 1978 to Bill Frizelle, who operated it for 6 years.

The Pizza Cutter: Operated by Dan Utz (currently manages Pizza Cutter at the Station in Gananda).

Upstairs:

Meeting Room: Used by Grange members.

School: Used as school while new high school was built in 1930.

Rear of building:

Apartment; several renters were Al and Hattie Croucher, Cliff and Mary Jane Beadle, Russ and Pat Scott and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Murray and family, and Dave and Andrea Kord.

North Corner of Property: A large sign listing the names of local men and women who served in the military was located here. This sign was removed at an unknown date.

Next building to be featured: Harold Ginegaw Home at 3707 Main Street.

If you have information about this building, contact Dorothy French at 315-986-1098. We are always looking to update our museum files about people and places in the Walworth area.

September Meeting: Civil War Letters By Jessie Keymel and Bob Mogray

On Monday, September 21, the Walworth Historical Society, after a short meeting, hosted a historical program featuring not fire arms, uniforms, skirmishes, battles, and troop movements, but Civil War correspondence from our area of New York State. Edie and Bruce Farrington of Sodus Point presented a program based on letters written between soldiers in the field and their friends and relatives in the Sodus area. These letters were not of an official nature but were just everyday writings that were common of the time. The language however was not the common English that we would use today and it took the Farringtons some time to figure out what some of the words and phrases meant. This program presented a look at life through the seasons, when life was simpler and families were closer and more dependent on each other especially during harvest time.



This was the second program for Edie and Bruce at our museum and once again they did not disappoint. Their show was entertaining and very interesting.

We wish to thank the Farringtons for all of the time it takes to put together such an interesting program told from a unique point of view. Thanks also to those who were in attendance. The WHS officers and board appreciate the support of our members as we attempt to provide excellent historical programs at our meetings. We plan to continue to host these programs at our meetings.

(left photo: Bruce and Edie Farrington)

We Really Really Really Want to Borrow Your Walworth Area Photos By Bob Mogray

One of our on-going projects for the Walworth Historical Society is to borrow or obtain old photos, slides, or negatives that show the Walworth, Lincoln, West Walworth, and Gananda areas from many years ago up to the present time. These can be black and white or color. We have some already but we are looking for many more. We would like to borrow the photos for a very short time, copy, and return the originals to you. Examples of items we need are: old parades, Walworth functions, buildings, businesses, schools, prominent citizens, and so forth. We use these to help others research family roots, to put on shows at meetings, and to allow anyone to view and enjoy them. If you can help us, please call Bob Mogray at 585-576-4156. We will pick them up and return them to you. If you have an email address we can send you an additional digital copy of your item if you like. There is no cost to you. We only want to borrow your old images for a short time for the sake of history. It's what we work so hard to do! Thank you!

October 4 Fall on the Farm – and More!

By Dorothy French

Our annual Fall on the Farm event included a multitude of displays: photos of dry houses that once dotted the countryside, an apple peeler, fall flowers, pumpkins and a huge cabbage. One of the highlights was a mini-concert by the elite Honor Guard members of the Towpath Volunteers Fife and Drum Corps of Macedon. Standing under our copper beech tree, they played to the appreciative audience who could be seen toe-tapping to the marching and military music. Several Towpath volunteers shared the history of the group and noted the importance of the instruments in wartime. The Towpath hosted a successful World Friendship Festival in September with groups coming from Italy, France, Belgium, and Camden, New York.



Our Displays at the Town Hall

By Judy McMillan

A few times each year, the Walworth Historical Society displays subjects of public interest at the Walworth Town Hall. For the month of September, we featured a display regarding “Apple Dry Houses in Walworth.” Many authentic photos were exhibited. That display has been moved to our museum, and can now be seen if you visit the WHS Museum (by appointment, call 315-524-9205).

The month of November features “The Erie Canal.” Remember the tune "I've got a gal and her name is Sal, 15 miles on the Erie Canal. She's a good old worker and a good old pal." This song reminds one of the most amazing engineering feats of the 19th Century. When the federal government decided this project was too ambitious to start, the State of New York undertook the task of carving 363 miles of canal through the wilderness with nothing but the muscle power of men and horses. Stop by the town hall and read all about it - along with photos and maps of our wonderful heritage.

Holiday Gift Suggestions

By Dorothy French

With the holidays fast approaching it is not too early to think about gift giving, while helping the Walworth Historical Society continue our mission to preserve the past for the present and future generations.

These items are available at the museum (2257 Academy Street) or the Town Clerk's Office (3600 Lorraine Drive) in the town hall/library complex. Prices include sales tax.

- **Booklets:** “Walworth, As I Remember It” by Charles Pembroke: \$5.50 and “Walworth – From Douglas Corners to Gananda” by John Traas: \$4.50.
- **Calendars:** 2005 and 2006 containing local pictures and “A Day in History”: Donation
- **Commemorative ornaments:** \$7.50.
- **Coverlet:** Depicts area buildings; available in maroon and Williamsburg blue: \$46.
- **Book:** Wayne County history book: \$25.
- **Music CD:** By Charlie and Bertha Pembroke: \$5.00.

Also available at the museum:

- **Memberships:** Check out the level of memberships listed on page 8 of this newsletter. A life-time membership eliminates the need for renewing annually. It's a gift that keeps on giving!
- **Commemorative Plates:** Depicts the Walworth Academy: \$25
- **Clothing and tote bags:** Available in many colors and sizes from All Stitched Up, a Walworth business. They feature the embroidered logo “Town of Walworth, Founded 1829.” Prices include golf shirt \$20, T-shirt \$15, cap \$13, and tote bag \$13. The turn around - from the time ordered to delivery - is about one week. Contact Marlene Slocum at 585-289-7080.

If you would like to make a donation to the Walworth Historical Society now or any time, please mail it to Walworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. We are a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization and you will be able to use the donation as a tax deduction under the current IRS rules. For additional information, contact Dorothy French (315-986-1098) or Jessie Keymel (315-524-9205). Thanks for your support!



Although stories about cars and trains were the focus at our October 18 Walworth Memories program, they were interspersed with tales about driving experiences that sometimes stretched the law a bit! Under-age driving apparently was the norm as several attendees said they learned how to drive at an early age behind the wheel of a beat-up jalopy in an orchard. Other memories included speeding (100 miles an hour on Route 350), driving with outdated plates, and trying to master shifting gears while stopping on a hill.

Gordon Youngman (left) brought a photo display of cars he has owned over a 70-year period. He bought his first car (a 1934 Ford with suicide doors) when he was 17. The oldest car he owned was a 1927 Model T Ford. Gordon admitted he changed cars every 3 or 4 years; of the 28 cars he has owned, 26 were new models. The audience agreed that years ago you could recognize each car by its distinctive styling; now most cars are the result of cookie-cutter manufacturing by car makers.

Genealogy Charts

By Cathy and Dick Roland



Dick Roland and genealogy chart

The genealogy charts pictured left were compiled by my uncle, Harold B. Smith from 1987-89. Harold and his wife, Edna (Bavis) Smith, were charter members of the Walworth Historical Society. Many Walworth area names are listed on this family genealogy treasure: Roland, Ashdown, Wheeler, Horton, Porray/Porrey, Bassage, Bavis, and others.

Harold was born in Manlius, NY, in 1908 and is descended from the Daniel Smith family of Lincoln. They lived south of the four-corner intersection on Lincoln Road at a large farm which was more recently occupied by the Pugsley family for many years. Harold's father, Edwin Smith, was a railroad engineer and retired from the New York Central Railroad. Harold's mother, Bessie (Baldwin) Smith, did her practice teaching at the Finley Road schoolhouse. During that time she lived with Almira (Aunt Mina) and Luther (Uncle Lute) Fillmore and

their family on Ontario-Walworth Road, Walworth. Harold became an electrical engineer after attending Cornell University and Mechanics Institute (now Rochester Institute of Technology). Edna (Bavis) Smith, the second child of Winfield and Cora (Horton) Bavis, was born in 1913 on Sherburne Road, Walworth. The Bavis home was next door to the Sherburne Farm where Hazel (Pembroke) Bassage and her siblings, Bob and Charlie Pembroke, were born. Other neighbors were the Huntley, Clark, Bailey, and Stebbins families. Edna walked every day to school at the Walworth Academy from first grade until her graduation in 1932 from what became Walworth High School. The Commencement Program lists the other three graduates as Beverly Burritt, Raymond Foulkrod and Mabel Scott.

In the 1920s, Edna and her sister, Bessie, both members of the Walworth Methodist Episcopal Church, went each summer to the Epworth League Institute held annually at Silver Lake, NY. Other attendees were Hazel (Pembroke) Bassage, Charlie Pembroke, Dorothy (Yuker) Petty, Alice Dayton, and Melba (Tuttle) Carter. Edna (Bavis) Smith and Harold B. Smith were married at the Bavis family home on Sherburne Road on January 1935 by Reverend D. O. Chamberlayne, minister at the Walworth Methodist Church. They subsequently moved to Syracuse where Harold took a job with Crouse-Hinds for \$15 a week. The first of their two sons was born in Syracuse. Later Harold and Edna moved to Rochester, where their second son was born. At this time Harold was employed at Delco Products from which he retired.

Edna and Harold both passed away at their long-time family home in Rochester in 2003 and 2004, respectively. They are buried in White Haven Memorial Park, Pittsford, in the Smith family plot.



Arlene in high school in 1941)

Arlene Suwijn was born on March 23, 1924. She grew up in Walworth on Walworth-Penfield Road near the old firehouse, which later became the medical loan closet. Her father, Louis Duell, and his brother, Ernest, were multi-businessmen. They did thrashing and custom baling, in addition to operating a saw mill and cutting ice on the mill pond off Walworth-Palmyra Road. Her mother, Gertrude, was a very busy homemaker.

Arlene had two siblings, Burnice and Eleanor. She remembers her childhood as a good one and being in the center of most activities. As a youngster she rode the ice floes in the mill pond before they were broken apart and sent up the conveyer, and she didn't know how to swim. She was quite the daring child. She recalls jumping from the rafters in a barn into the hay mow below. She and a friend, Johnny Shoales, would make their own newspaper out of ink stamps. In the winter, Arlene and her friends would slide downhill in the middle of Walworth-Marion Road. She remembers buying a pair of skis for 75 cents and, without poles and only straps to hold the feet, she would ski down the big hill east of the 4 corners. A fond memory she has is of all the maple trees lining the roads in Walworth; she reflected it was almost like a canopy effect.

Arlene attended the old Academy in Walworth for first grade. There was no kindergarten at that time. While the old Academy was being torn down, the children attended school in the Grange Hall. As a second grader, she and the other children

marched to the new Walworth High School. Arlene graduated from Walworth High School in 1941 with the biggest class of 21 students. Arlene was very active in school and participated in sports, cheerleading, chorus, band, newspaper and school plays. She worked on the muck for 20 cents per hour and picked berries. She recalls saving her money to buy a used bicycle for \$5.00; it had to be a boy's model so as she could always ride two people on it.

She met her future husband, Bill Suwijn, at the Friday night dances held at the Walworth firemen's building. Bill may have not been the best dancer, but he was pushed along in the square dances. Later in life Bill and Arlene would take dance lessons from Bernard Hill and became good waltzers. Bill was drafted into the Army before World War II and spent 5 years becoming a captain. Arlene graduated from school and went onward to study nursing. For graduation day, Bill had a corsage of sweetheart roses sent to her from where he was stationed in the Army.



1984 photo in Gordie's store



Arlene and Bill: prior to 2003

Arlene and Bill were wed in 1943 and were married for 60 years. They have two children, Betty and Paul; two granddaughters, Kamaren and Adriana; and one great-granddaughter, Hana. During the war, Arlene followed Bill, living a short while in Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Eventually, they bought a house with 40 acres on Walworth-Palmyra Road, and settled there with their children.

Bill worked for a seed company, and he and Arlene grew many flowers; she remembers pansies and perennials being most of their flowers. Through the years Arlene was a very active volunteer with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and read to primary students. She is a life-time member of the Second Baptist Church of Walworth. Her very special close friend was Charlotte Webben. At church, Arlene taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, and held various other functions including clerk. Arlene and Bill were married in this church and she was baptized there also. Arlene was very active with the Fairport Baptist Home. She volunteered on the Women's Service Board for 20 years. Arlene has made many toys for this organization. I had the pleasure of seeing some of these dolls, and I must say she is very talented. She also volunteered to transcribe books into Braille for 13 years.

Later in life Arlene and Bill moved after 42 years to a small ranch house in Ontario and Arlene now lives in Penfield. Arlene lost the love of her life, Bill, in 2003. She says that her life has been a good one and knows she is very blessed. She loved growing up and continuing on to raise a family with Bill in Walworth. Arlene has the best of memories of the many years spent in the Town of Walworth.

Our Collection Continues to Grow By Jessie Keymel

We are grateful to Gordon Youngman for his continuing interest and support of our museum. Gordon recently donated a box of photographs pertaining to Walworth homes, organizations, and events. That is wonderful! The second best thing is he has meticulously identified each picture with dates and names of people or events. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but having the information about the photo is frosting on the cake! Thanks, Gordon.

President's Message By Jessie Keymel

The Walworth Historical Society is indeed very fortunate to have many members who are willing to share their memories, knowledge, and time to help us achieve our mission to collect and preserve items and events of historical interest to our township. This mission would be impossible if it were not for the volunteers who give their time on Sundays and Wednesdays to make our collection available. Thanks also to the many members who write articles and share information when we need it. Our help comes from all over the country: California, Colorado, Florida, and many other sources far and near. Thank you also to those who keep up the maintenance of our building and grounds. All of you make this an organization of which we are very proud. Thank you!

Howard Triou Remembered By Jessie Keymel

A quote from author Jandy Nelson in *The Sky is Everything* says "Each time someone dies, a library burns." This is indeed true with the passing of Howard Triou, because we have lost volumes of research material about Walworth. Howard and his wife Ethel operated an IGA grocery store on Main Street from 1943-1951. Later he built many homes in our area, including mine; all his working years were in and about our area. His keen mind shared volumes of who, when and where in Walworth; he was a valuable resource. Howard died August 21, 2015. He was predeceased by his wife Ethel and survived by his second wife Helen. He is survived by 2 sons, 3 daughters, 17 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and his brother Donald. Thank you to the Triou family for sharing him with Walworth Historical Society.

2015 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Subject	Location
Mon., Nov. 16	1:00 PM	General Meeting: Michael Keene and "Abandoned: The Untold Story of Orphan Asylums"	Museum

Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs

President	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205	Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768
VP/Newsletter	Robert Mogyay	(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

___ Student	\$ 5.00
___ Individual	\$ 10.00
___ Family	\$ 15.00
___ Supporting	\$ 25.00
___ Sponsor	\$ 50.00
___ Patron	\$ 100.00
___ Corp. or Bus.	\$ 150.00
___ 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.*

November 2015 WHS E-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos

(All photos on this page are from the WHS Open House on October 4)



All photos on this page are of autumn in the Walworth, West Walworth, Lincoln, and Gananda areas.

