



Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 41 Number 1 July 2016

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

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2016 Recipients of Community Service Award

By Dawn Russell

Walworth Historical Society held its annual dinner meeting and awards night on May 16 at the lodge at Ginegaw Park. There was a great turn out for the event. Recipients of the 2016 Community Service Awards were Buzz and Becky Appleman and also Claire and Joyce VanHaneghem; Claire passed away December 21, 2014.

The Applemans are members of the Walworth Fire Department and the United Methodist Church of Walworth. Buzz is active with Walworth Ambulance; Becky is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and has held an office with the Walworth Food Pantry and Walworth-Seely Public Library Board of Trustees.

Claire was a member of the Walworth Fire Department and the Second Baptist Church of Walworth; Joyce continues her membership in both organizations.

Stephen MacNeal and Jack Leasure were speakers on their behalf, sharing how the award recipients have lived their lives in service to the community of Walworth. The VanHaneghems and Applemans have encouraged and helped their children and grandchildren to be involved in the community in which they live. It's a generational thing - people helping people and setting a wonderful example.

Re-elected were President Jessie Keymel, Vice-President Bob Mogray, Secretary Judy McMillan, and Trustees Gene Bavis and Becky Appleman. Bob Mogray showed old pictures of Walworth, followed by a trivia game. It was with great joy to see their families and many friends attend this event which was enjoyed by all.

Larry DeMinck Aerial Farm Photos Shared With Us By Bob Mogray



At a recent meeting of the Walworth Historical Society, Larry DeMinck brought several aerial photos of his farm on Tummonds Road. These were taken a few decades ago but were in color and of excellent quality. They were in frames and well protected and preserved. We were able to remove them from the frames, scan them to our files, put them back into the frames, and return them to Larry. This whole process took about 15 minutes. This is a great example of the type of old photo that we are asking people to please share with us so we can make a digital copy for our historical records. One of these photos is shown on the left. Thanks to Larry for sharing his photos with us!

Left: Aerial view of the DeMinck farm

Walworth Township – Its Beginnings By Dorothy French

Thanks to the perseverance and knowledge of former town historian John Traas, the history of the Walworth area has been preserved in booklet form. In 1989, John authored “Walworth – From Douglas Corners to Gananda;” the booklet is available for \$4.50 at our museum or at the town clerk’s office. His story continues:

The Walworth we know today can trace its documented history to 1786, when Massachusetts was awarded the “Preemption” right, or the right to sell the land west of a line that ran from Lake Ontario to the Pennsylvania border. This line divided what became Wayne County in half. In 1789, Massachusetts sold six million acres of land to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham for about three cents an acre. Some of this land, in turn, was sold to Sir William Pulteney and was named Pulteney Estates; a portion of this is what is now Wayne County.

Walworth was originally part of the town of Ontario and covered just over 20,000 acres. It was formed in the central part of the western border of Wayne County and took its name from General Chancellor Reuben H. Walworth, the very popular and last chancellor of the state of New York. The town was officially established on April 20, 1829, being the last town in Wayne County to be formed.

To Be Continued

Catlin House Photo Restored By Bob Mogray

A few weeks ago the Walworth Historical Society was contacted by Betty Catlin, formerly a West Walworth resident now living in Macedon. She had seen our offer to borrow old photos of homes, buildings, businesses, etc. in Walworth and surrounding areas in order to restore them if necessary and copy for our files. She had a photo of an old house in the West Walworth area that needed restoring. Below is a photo of the original on the left and the restored photo of this home on the right. If anyone has any information about this building, please contact Bob Mogray at 585-576-4156. We are always looking for old pictures so that we can document what is known and copy them for our growing historical files. Our thanks to Betty Catlin for sharing this with us. If you have old photos that we could borrow and copy, please contact any WHS officer or board member.



“In memory of those who gave their lives in service” By Dorothy French

The above words appear on a monument honoring area servicemen and women who died while serving in the military. On Memorial Day it was appropriate that the plaque containing those words was re-dedicated and installed on a new foundation at the Lions Club’s Memorial Garden at Ginegaw Park. The plaque and its original base were donated by the American Legion’s Crane-Engert Post in the early 1960’s.



An honor/color guard from Meyers-Ingram American Legion Post 428 of Ontario (**above right photo**) was present, in addition to a rifle squad for the presentation of colors and ceremony. Lions Club President Susie Jacobs welcomed the attendees and Jacque Ruth, pastor of Walworth Methodist Church, reminded the audience of the importance of remembering our fallen heroes. Several local residents spoke of their military service. Efforts to obtain information about Crane-Engert Post have been unsuccessful; Eugene VanDeWalle said his family moved to Walworth in 1961; at that time Post members held their meetings in the lower level of the firemen’s building (the current American Pool Supply) on Penfield-Walworth Road.



(Left photo above) Circa 1961: Bessie Seely visits the veterans’ memorial. To the left is her father’s building, which was sold to the Chamber of Commerce and became the Walworth-Seely Public Library. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.

The original memorial was installed on the lot to the west of the future library and owned by Bessie. It was located between the Walworth-Seely Public Library and the town hall on Walworth-Marion Road. Also on the property was a mobile home owned by Mrs. Truman (Clara) Yucker, according to Gordon Youngman.

(Right photo above) Circa 1971: Congressman Frank Horton (center) presents the American Flag which had been flown over the Capitol to American Legion member William Youngman (left) and Supervisor Charles Hack (right) during the rededication of the memorial at the Grange Hall. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.

The monument was re-located to the front lawn of the Grange Hall (now the vacant American Pool Supply building) on Main Street. Despite occasional care from neighbors, the memorial was in need of some TLC. The Walworth Lions Club obtained permission from site owner David Kords to relocate the plaque to the club’s Memory Garden, where a foundation was built for it. Attendees at the May 30 rededication ceremony agreed that the Memorial Garden is a fitting home for the monument.

Thanks Again to the Boy Scouts

By Judy McMillan



Walworth Boy Scout Troop 113

Thanks to efforts by members of Boy Scout Troop 113 and their fathers, our museum grounds now resemble a well-manicured park. This is the third year the Scouts have performed their community service work at our museum. During the May 14 clean-up many tasks were completed – raking, weeding, edging, planting and mulching. We are most grateful to Dana Luckman for his generous contribution of mulch to beautify our grounds.

Scout volunteers and their fathers included Henry and Steve Becker; Thomas and Mike Shannon; Adam and Jon Murtha; Joshua, Jacob and Tom Beha; Bradley Rush; Michael Alexander; Jacob and Pat Donnelly; Brian and Kyle Gerhardt; Trevor Wahl; and Jacob Serotta. WHS is grateful for the community service these volunteers performed. WHS members who guided the group were Gene and Liz Bavis, Buzz and Becky Appleman, and Judy McMillan.

Walworth Alumni Meet By Mary Jane Devlin

The Walworth High School Alumni Association held its annual meeting at the Log Cabin Restaurant on June 4, 2016. There were 26 members and guests attending - 17 were Walworth High School graduates. Seven were members of the Class of 1947.

Carlyle Darron conducted the meeting. A committee of volunteers consisting of Joyce VanHanehem, Jessie Keymel and Mary Jane Devlin planned this year's meeting. The treasurer reported there is no money in the treasury to send notices next year and for incidental expenses. After discussion, Gordon Youngman made a motion that we meet at noon on June 3, 2017, at the Log Cabin Restaurant and order from the menu. Carlyle appointed the same committee for next year, but we will contact everyone by email or telephone.

The Walworth Historical Society had photo albums for display and Charlie Pembroke's CDs for sale. Gordon Youngman also brought some photo albums. Everyone enjoyed catching up on the news and remembering old times.

Lincoln Baptist Church Celebrates 200 Years By Jessie Keymel



Lincoln Baptist Church

It seems hard to believe that only 200 years ago this area was the Far West with settlers clearing forests to build homes. In 1816 Elder Thomas Lewis, a missionary, came here to preach the Gospel to settlers. In November of that year a church was born with a membership of eight. In 1832 the members began planning a house of worship. Local limestone was used to build a block structure on the top of Freewill Hill on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Downs Road in the approximate area of #12 green and #13 tee at Greystone Country Club's golf course.

As the community surrounding the church changed, most of the congregants lived in the village of Lincoln so the decision was made to move the church to a site on Lincoln Road near Plank Road. In December of 1876 the present church was dedicated and was "Founded on faith, sustained by the faithful" for 200 years.

According to Pastor Dottie Tierson, the 200th Anniversary Celebration will be Saturday, August 20, starting at 2:30 PM with a worship service and followed by a dinner and a 5:30 to 7:30 PM musical program.

The historical information was taken in part from the programs of the 1966 and 1991 Anniversary Celebrations.

WHS website: walworthhistoricalsociety.org

WHS July 2016 Newsletter (page 4)



Winnie Pease

Winifred Adele (Knight) Pease was born on June 9, 1921. She likes to be called Winnie, the name by which people know her best. Winnie is now 95 years young.

She was born in Cato, New York, living there until the age of two. Her family moved to Boston for one year, so Winnie's father could further his medical education, specializing as a gastroentologist. As a physician he would make house calls and mainly performed as a general practioner. He was affiliated with the old Genesee Hospital on Alexander Street in Rochester. After furthering his education he moved his family to Rochester and that is where Winnie and her siblings (brother Hal and sister Millicent) grew up. They lived near Brooks Avenue and Kron Street in the 19th Ward. Winnie had a childhood of playing with a group of friends, going to the lake, playing at Genesee Valley Park, and visiting the family's cottage on the lake in Wolcott.

Winnie and other neighborhood children of the 19th Ward didn't endure the Depression. Winnie's brother Hal became a heart surgeon, following in the footsteps of their father. Her mother was a homemaker and was a hostess to many functions for her husband. Winnie graduated from West High School in 1939. She went to Geneseo State Teachers College and graduated with a degree in education. While in college, Winnie belonged to the National Arethusa Sorority and is a life-time member of the Geneseo Chapter.

Her first teaching position was in Nunda. While teaching there she met her husband-to-be, John Pease, through her co-worker, his sister, Ruth Pease. Winnie had that teaching position 4 years and then taught in a Webster school for 8 years. John and she courted during this time. They were married on June 29, 1953, and moved to Lima. Winnie would commute from Lima to Webster every day for work. John wanted to move closer to her work, so they moved to Furnace Road in Ontario where their son Chris was born in 1956.

While living in Ontario, John was a milk hauler. One day he went to a farm in Walworth owned by Carlyle Darron. He mentioned that he and Winnie were looking for a bigger place to live. Mr. Darron told them that Lorraine and Joe Finley were selling the estate of Joe's mother in Walworth. In 1958 Winnie and John bought the house on 2175 Church Street for \$8,000.00 and moved there with their son Chris. John went on to work for the Department of Motor Vehicles for several years, retiring in 1982. Sadly he passed away in 2005.

Winnie remembers one of their first days in Walworth when a neighbor woman, Helen Schultz, sister to Carlyle Darron, came over to greet them. Ever since that day Helen and Winnie have been great friends. Other friends the Pease family had were the Esleys, Finleys, and Darrons to name a few. Winnie became a substitute teacher at the Walworth High School the same time their son Chris started school there. She said being a substitute teacher was more work than being the teacher, but she loved it.



Winnie was a great traveler through the years. She and Helen would go to Lancaster, PA, to watch the religious performances held there. Winnie would go with a tour group to Europe and visit countries such as Switzerland, England and Germany. After visiting Germany, Winnie arrived home only three weeks before the Berlin Wall fell. While touring Europe, she became friends with Thelma Russell and they are friends to this day, staying in constant contact through Gerry Whitmire. Winnie was also friends with Marjorie Esley, Doctor Esley's daughter. Winnie tells that Marjorie was born in 1904 in the kitchen of the house where the Pease family still lives.

Many years ago Helen invited Winnie to join the Walworth Methodist Church and she has been very active there ever since. Winnie has been in the choir, a treasurer and a member of the women's society. She has lived in Walworth for 58 years. She tells that Walworth gives her the small-town feeling of knowing one another and being friends with many people. The closeness she has shared with them is her greatest memory.

Left: Wedding photo of John and Winnie Pease

Fire Destroys Evergreen Place By Dorothy French

For almost 180 years the large, imposing house known as Evergreen Place stood at 3680 High Street – a symbol of a once-grand home owned by one of Walworth’s elite families. A disastrous fire on June 7 destroyed the house but not its memories.

The Walworth Fire Department was assisted by firefighters from West Walworth, Lincoln, South Macedon, Marion and Ontario. The blaze rekindled several times during the day, leaving the roof and second floor severely damaged. The house is owned by Carol LaValley-Easton. Fortunately, the family was able to escape the inferno. The occupants had been restoring the house for several years and had asked the Walworth Historical Society for old photos of the house. Our museum, which is located across the street, was available to the firefighters for breaks or use of the facilities. Cause of the fire has not been determined, although investigators said it possibly is electrical related.

Theron G. Yeomans built this home for his wife, Lydia, and their children. With its impressive appearance and lush landscaping, Evergreen Place soon became an area showplace. Theron started a nursery business in Walworth, imported the first herd of Holstein cattle to Wayne County in 1879, operated a cooper shop and dry house for his fruit business, and was active in local and state politics. When the Walworth Methodist Church was built in 1871, he requested that the church’s front door be placed so he could look from his home at the east end of Academy Street and into the church.

Following Theron’s death in 1901, the house had numerous owners and occupants. At one time it was the home of School Commissioner Albert H. McMurray and his wife, Emma. In later years, it was divided into apartments and teachers at the nearby Walworth Academy and Walworth High School lived there.

At an April 2011 Walworth Memories program, Jay Taber told us he and Arline rented an upstairs apartment from DeWitt Tuttle for \$35 a month when they were newlyweds. According to Jay, there were two brick posts by the driveway’s entrance. DeWitt’s car wouldn’t fit through them but he kept backing up into them until he could get his car through. Jay said George and Marie Duell also lived there, and they shared a bathroom with the Tabers.

It’s uncertain what will become of the house; it is believed to be a total loss.



Evergreen Place circa 1900



Evergreen Place circa 1980



Evergreen Place after the fire

It Happened Here in 1910 By Dorothy French

From the town historian’s files: News items from the Wayne County Journal, August 4, 1910:

- Mrs. Truman Yucker and little son were recent guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Frowley.
- Robert Wignall and Carlyle Boynton were at Sodus Point from Friday until Monday.
- Frank Bush lost a horse last Saturday by its falling through the barn floor while drawing grain.
- Jacob Dayton was injured in a runaway last Saturday.
- The news of the sudden death of Mrs. May McKee Engert on Tuesday last was a shock to relatives and friends here. Mrs. Engert was born here and had spent the greater part of her life in this vicinity. Two years ago Mr. Engert moved with his family to a farm near East Henrietta, where they had erected a new house, expecting to enjoy their new home, but that grim messenger suddenly entered, robbing the husband of a valuable companion and two small sons of their mother. May was born here 34 years ago and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram McKee.

Area Events of Historical Interest By Gene Bavis

This information was obtained from the Wayne County Historian's website: <http://web.co.wayne.ny.us/office-of-the-county-historian/>

July 10, 1:30 – 4 PM. Heritage Square Museum at Brick Church Corners, 7174 Ontario Center Rd., Ontario. **Summer Sundays for Kids of All Ages**. Admission \$1 per person, free 3 years and under. www.heritagesquaremuseum.org.

July 16-17. Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society's **Pultneyville Homecoming**. www.w-phs.org.

July 27, 6:30 – 8 PM. Sodus Point Village Hall, 8356 Bay St., Sodus Point, 315-483-4936. Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum's presentation "**The Psychic Highway: How the Erie Canal Changed America**" by Michael Keene. www.soduspointlighthouse.org.

Aug. 6, 9 AM – Butler Historical Preservation Society meeting. 10-2: **Open House at Butler Church Museum**, 4518 Butler Center Rd. Wolcott, and Roe Cobblestone Schoolhouse, 4576 VanVleck Rd. corner of NYS Route 89 South, Wolcott. www.bhpsbutlerny.org.

Aug. 7, 1:30 – 4 PM. Heritage Square Museum at Brick Church Corners, 7174 Ontario Center Rd., Ontario. Summer Sundays for Kids of All Ages: **Pioneer Family Life Day**. Admission \$1 per person, free 3 years and under. www.heritagesquaremuseum.org.

Aug. 9-11, 11 AM – 3 PM daily. Palmyra Historical Museum, 132 Market St., Palmyra. "**Historic Palmyra: Digging Up Your History Archeological Camp**." 315-597-6981. www.historicpalmyrany.com.

Aug. 12, 8-10 PM. Palmyra Historical Museum, 132 Market St., Palmyra. "**Historic Palmyra Pirate Ghost Walk**." 315-597-6981. www.historicpalmyrany.com.

Aug. 13, 11 AM – 4 PM. Historic Palmyra Pirate Whitley's Haunted Cave at **Erie Canal Pirate Weekend**. Meet at Palmyra Historical Museum yard, 132 Market St., Palmyra. Bloody Mary tells stories at 12:30 and 3:30 PM. Discounted Pirate pricing at all museums. 315-597-6981. www.historicpalmyrany.com.

Aug. 20, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Meet at Furnaceville Cemetery, Trimble Rd., Ontario. **Cemetery walk** sponsored by Heritage Square Museum at Brick Church Corners. www.heritagesquaremuseum.org.

Aug. 25. Museum of Wayne Co. History, 21 Butternut St., Lyons. Exhibit opening "**The Evolution of the Little Black Dress**," including Speakeasy Party. 315-946-4943. www.waynehistory.org.

Aug. 27, 9-11 PM. Palmyra Historical Museum, 132 Market St., Palmyra. **Ghost Walk around the Village tour**. 315-597-6981. www.historicpalmyrany.com.

Aug. 31, 6:30 – 8 PM. Sodus Point Village Hall, 8356 Bay St., Sodus Point. Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum's presentation "**The Influenza Epidemic of 1918**" by Walter Gable. 315-483-4936. www.soduspointlighthouse.org.

Sept. 5, 10 AM – 5 PM. Sodus Point Village Hall, 8356 Bay St., Sodus Point. Receive free Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum postcard with paid admission for all visitors mentioning "Rosie the Riveter." 315-483-4936. www.soduspointlighthouse.org.

Sept. 16, 9-11 PM. Meet at driveway entrance to Palmyra Village Park. Historic Palmyra **Ghost Walk** during Canal Town Days. 315-597-6981. www.historicpalmyrany.com.

Sept. 17, 8-10:30 PM. Start at Alling Coverlet Museum, 122 William St., Palmyra. Historical Palmyra **Murder Tour**. 315-597-6981. www.historicpalmyrany.com.

Sept. 17, 9 AM – 4 PM. Heritage Square Museum's **Trunk Sale**. 7174 Ontario Center Rd., Ontario. www.heritagesquaremuseum.org.

President's Message By Jessie Keymel

On June 1 we held a docents' training meeting at the museum; it was attended by people who have volunteered to sit at the museum this summer. Explanations included the contents in the display cases, the scrapbook collections on the movable cart and the information that can be found on the book shelves. We talked about how the information is filed in the cabinets in the office and what forms should be used when accepting a gift from a visitor. As a result of this busy meeting, we have numbered cabinets, etc. containing display material and added 6 pages of data to the "Information for Museum Sitters" notebook. This blue notebook has all the information you should need when you are scheduled to sit at the museum on Sundays or Wednesdays from 2 until 4 PM during the summer months. We hope this makes your time more enjoyable when you help us to share the history of our area with visitors.

It Happened Here in 1956 By Dorothy French

From the town historian's files: News items from the Palmyra Courier-Journal , June 14, 1956:

New Parking Area: The grounds at the corner of Church and Main Streets have been having a face-lifting. Several fellows with equipment from hand tools to tractors have been busy grading the Baptist Church yard and filling the ditch along Church Street with gravel. Church-goers will be able to park with safety now, off the road without getting mired. The volunteer crew included Bill Clark, Erwin Ebert, Lloyd Pembroke, Harry Monroe, Howard Joslyn, Carl Jeerings, Jake Koole, Pastor George Munger, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Gordon Schenk, Interior decoration was going on at the same time. Women wielding paint brushes in one of the Sunday School rooms were Joyce VanHaneghem, Dorothy Seen, Betty Clark, and Harriet Hyman.

2016 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Subject	Location
Tues., July 19	6:00 PM	Decorate float for parade	Keymel's
Fri., July 22	6:00 PM-dark 7:00 PM	Booth at Festival in the Park Parade Main St. to Ginegaw Park	Ginegaw Park
Sat., July 23	1:00 PM-dark	Booth	Ginegaw Park
Mon., Sept. 19	7:30 PM	General Meeting: Program: Sue Leurgans - "Historic Cooking"	Museum
Sun., Oct. 2	2 – 4 PM	Open House - Music by Dotty and Friends	Museum
Sun., Oct. 16	2 – 3:30 PM	Walworth Memories. Theme: Show and Tell. Need identification? Bring a photo, tool, household item, etc.	Museum
Mon., Nov. 21	1:00 PM	General Meeting: Program: Michael Keene - "The Psychic Highway: How the Erie Canal Changed America."	Museum

Board of Trustees: Meetings held Aug. 8 and Nov. 14 beginning at 2:00 PM at the museum.

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 Becky Appleman at 315-524-3289 for appointment for other times.

<u>Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs</u>			
<u>Officers and Trustees</u>		<u>Committees and Chairpersons</u>	
President	Jessie Keymel (315) 524 - 9205	Bldg. Maint.	Stan Weller (585) 545 - 9434
Vice-President	Robert Mogray (585) 576 - 4156	Collections	Jessie Keymel (315) 524 - 9205
Secretary	Judy McMillan (315) 524 - 4219	Genealogy	TBA
Treasurer	Mary Jane Devlin (315) 986 - 1512	Grounds	Judy McMillan (315) 524 - 4219
WHS Trustee	Becky Appleman (315) 524 - 3289	Grounds	Becky Appleman (315) 524 - 3289
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis (315) 573 - 2768	Hospitality	Liz Bavis (315) 802 - 0380
WHS Trustee	Dorothy French (315) 986 - 1098	Hospitality	Marlene Slocum (585) 289 - 7080
WHS Trustee	Linda Pembroke (585) 455 - 7595	Newsletter	Bob Mogray (585) 576 - 4156
WHS Trustee	Larry Ruth (315) 524 - 7936	Publicity	Dawn Russell (315) 576 - 0857
WHS Trustee	Marlene Slocum (585) 289 - 7080	Town Historian	Gene Bavis (315) 573 - 2768

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.

<u>Level of Membership</u>	
___ Student	\$ 8.00
___ Individual	\$ 10.00
___ Family	\$ 15.00
___ Supportor	\$ 25.00
___ Corp. or Bus.	\$ 30.00
___ Sponsor	\$ 50.00
___ Patron	\$ 100.00
___ 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.*

July 2016 WHS E-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos

All photos on this page are from the WHS dinner meeting on May 16, 2016



All photos on this page are from the Boy Scouts' Troop 113 assisting in the museum clean-up on May 13, 2016.

