

Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 41 Number 2 August 2016

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

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A Sporting Event By Jessie Keymel

“Sports/Summer Olympics/Sports Teams” was the theme of this year’s Festival in the Park parade sponsored by the Walworth Lions Club on July 22. Sports represented on our float were basketball, soccer, badminton, archery, golf, shot put, racing, bicycle racing, and weight lifting. We won the trophy for the Most Original Float.

Like their forefathers, our youth strive to be the best they can be. Our community and local schools give them opportunities to excel in their favorite sport. Who knows – someday a future Olympic athlete might come from Walworth! We must continue to encourage and support them.

Participating in the Festival requires the help of many members. The float’s display was put together at Keymel’s on July 19. The canopy was installed at the park on Friday and display items were brought from the museum. Volunteers staffed the booth Friday evening and again on Saturday afternoon and evening. We sold items, chatted with passersby, and displayed photo albums which are always a big attraction. Later, more volunteers helped to take down the canopy.

Volunteers are the life blood of any organization. We are grateful to everyone who helps us in so many ways to make our presence known in the community and continue our mission of preserving the past for the present and future.

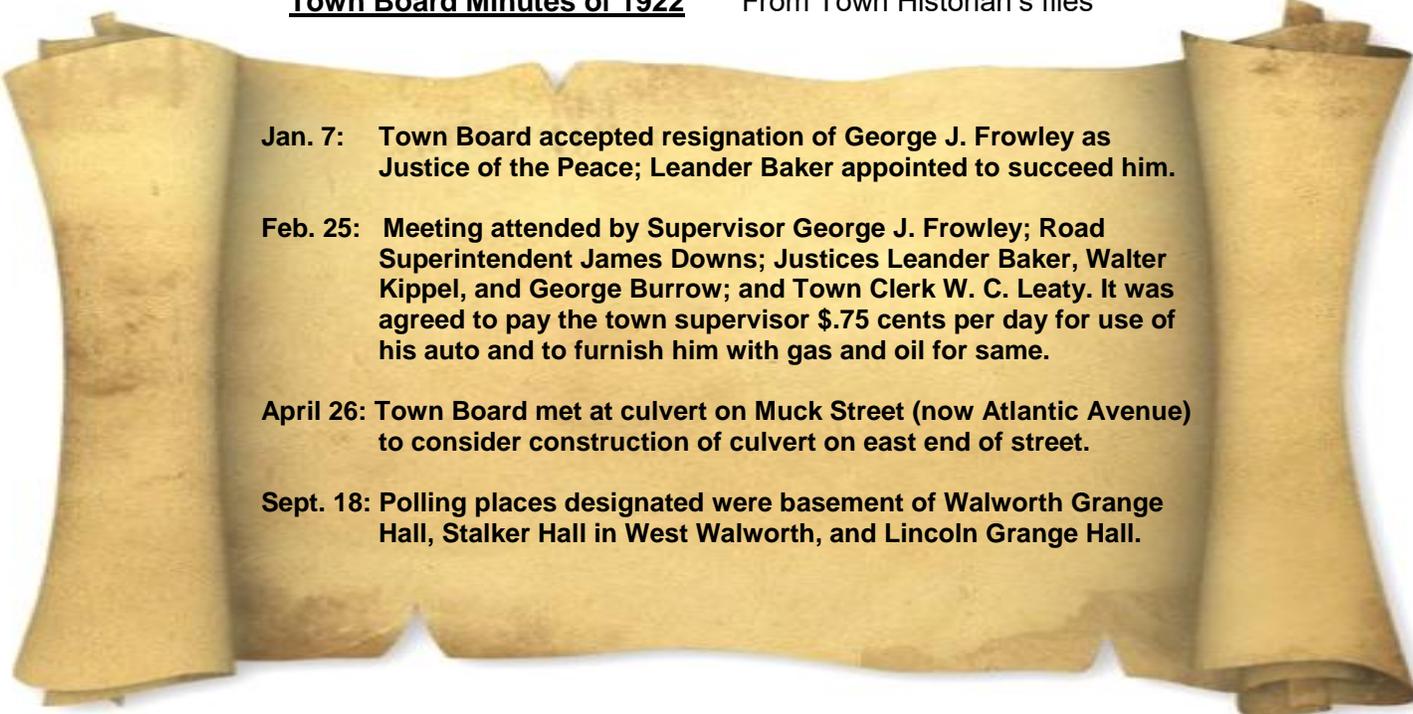
October 2: Sing-A-Long Under the Tent By Judy McMillan

Our annual open house at the museum will be Sunday, October 2, from 2 – 4 PM. The event is free and everyone is invited to enjoy an outdoor concert by “Dotty and Friends” beginning at 2:30 PM. This is a return engagement for the group, who entertained us at our November 2011 meeting. Their leader is Dotty Ludeke, a retired music teacher from the Pal-Mac School District.

The group - more lovingly known as “The Treble Makers,” started many years ago in the Macedon area as a group of friends who wanted something to do in retirement. Their main purpose for getting together is to enjoy friendships and share a love of music. Over time, a collection of about ten sing-along packets has been assembled including patriotic songs, holiday songs and music starting from the 1930's. They meet every Tuesday morning at various nursing homes and senior living centers to sing with residents. They do not consider themselves a professional group or a performance group, but rather a participational group known as a sing-along! In the words of their traditional closing song - "We lift up the world, one heart at a time!"

The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street. Contact Jessie Keymel, president, at 315-524-9205 for additional information.

Town Board Minutes of 1922 From Town Historian's files

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- Jan. 7: Town Board accepted resignation of George J. Frowley as Justice of the Peace; Leander Baker appointed to succeed him.**
 - Feb. 25: Meeting attended by Supervisor George J. Frowley; Road Superintendent James Downs; Justices Leander Baker, Walter Kippel, and George Burrow; and Town Clerk W. C. Leaty. It was agreed to pay the town supervisor \$.75 cents per day for use of his auto and to furnish him with gas and oil for same.**
 - April 26: Town Board met at culvert on Muck Street (now Atlantic Avenue) to consider construction of culvert on east end of street.**
 - Sept. 18: Polling places designated were basement of Walworth Grange Hall, Stalker Hall in West Walworth, and Lincoln Grange Hall.**

Texas Ladies Visit Walworth

When your last name is “Walworth” it seems reasonable that you should visit Walworth, NY, while on a three-week trip to visit relatives. Pat Walworth of Gilmer, Texas, (left in photo) and her daughter, Laurie Otte of East Tawakoni, Texas, headed north to attend a Kiely family reunion in the New York/New Jersey area. During their July 24 visit to our museum, Pat shared that her husband is a descendent of James Walworth, a relative of Reuben Walworth, our town's namesake. The ladies ordered two T-shirts with the Walworth logo as a reminder of their visit here.



Genealogist Wanted

Are you interested in genealogy and helping others? You don't need to be an "expert," just possess basic knowledge and have interest. We need someone who can answer occasional genealogy requests regarding the people and places in the Walworth area. Must have access to a computer and the internet. Assistance provided by the town historian and the museum's filing committee. Contact WHS President Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205.

History of the Walworth Post Office By Gordon J. Youngman

Editor's note: First three photos on this page are courtesy of Gordon Youngman.

Prior to April 1829 what is known as the township of Walworth was part of the Town of Ontario, New York. Luther Tucker was appointed the postmaster for this new town in December 23, 1830, and served until 1837. From 1830 until 1970 there were 24 different postmasters. Two of them served more than one time. Theron G. Yeomans was appointed from 1844 to 1846 and also from 1877 to 1878. John W. Baker was appointed three different times: from 1861 to 1865, 1867 to 1877, and 1896 to 1899.



The location of the post office is somewhat in question from the years of 1830 until 1861. At one time prior to 1902 there was a small building on the south side of John W. Baker's general store. Baker's store was located on the east side of Main Street in the north building of what is now 3700 Main Street. This location later became Gordon and Katie Youngman's Variety Store and, later in 1976, the Walworth Hardware.

The small building was on the site of the K.O.T.M. (Knights of the Maccabee) Hall. This building at times was used as the post office until the K.O.T.M. was built in 1902. At the time John Baker was postmaster the post office was located in his store. When the business was sold to Charles Clark in 1915, the post office remained in that building as Charles Clark became postmaster in 1922. In 1925 he sold the business to T. M. Salyerds who was then appointed postmaster until 1941.

Left: Building on right is post office

In 1941 Charles M. Buckley was operating a hardware and general store in the K.O.T.M. building and was appointed postmaster until 1944. In 1947 the post office was moved to the Grange building located on the west side of Main Street. At that time Gwen Naber was postmaster.

In 1968 the post office was moved across the street to the southeast corner of Main Street and the Marion-Walworth Road. In 1987 it was moved a little further east to Joe Englert's mini-mall which is now owned by Mark's Pizzeria.



1965: small building attached to Youngman's store



Sept. 1987: Post Office moving day



The Walworth Post Office today.

Note: See the next issue in November for a complete listing of all of the postmasters of Walworth.



Mary Jane Abrams was born on November 6, 1956. Her parents are June Wheaton Abrams and Elwood Abrams. Mary has three siblings: brothers Richard and William and a sister Carol. Mary has lived her whole life in the town of Walworth. She grew up on a farm at 150 Daansen Road, Walworth. Mary's mother worked at the Marion Canning Factory and was a homemaker. Her father was employed at Garlock in Palmyra on the night shift and worked his 24-acre pig farm during the day. The pig farm had an average of 200 pigs at any given time. Mary was her dad's right-hand helper after her brothers left home. She did many chores from the time she was able to help but she didn't mind it as it was just the way. She remembers running through fields with her brothers to pick raspberries. Mary's Aunt Patty was a big part of her life. Mary was an advocate for her aunt due to her disability. Sue Daansen, a neighbor friend, taught Mary how to sew and crochet.

Her first babysitting job was for Kay Aman's children. They became so attached to Mary they would call her mom. Mary remembers a certain babysitting job she had taking care of four children for a whole week. She earned \$20.00, just enough to take a friend and herself to the Wayne County Fair.

At age 13, Mary joined a 4-H group called the Lucky Strikes, later known as the West Wayne 4-H ers. Les Hall and Abby Sauer were her leaders. Abby was an influence on Mary and also taught her how to make homemade bread. Mary has been very active in 4-H ever since. She has been a leader for 40 years and involved for 47 years (**bottom left photo**). She also has worked the dairy booth at the Wayne County Fair for the 4-H scholarship fund, this being her 25th year. In 2014 Mary received the highest honor given, Executive Director's Certificate of Appreciation, for her years of dedication and service to 4-H. Her passion is strong for helping the children. Mary said she always wanted children of her own and this is her way by helping others.



Growing up in Walworth, she has good memories of the firemen's auctions and the street dances. Her best friend was Jean Joslyn. They used to say to one another "We are going to get old but we are never going to grow up." Mary graduated from Wayne Central High School in 1974. She attended Monroe Community College and received a degree in accounting. She worked for the Paul T. Freund Company for 14 years.

After taking the Civil Service exam, Mary was hired on April 19, 1990, as a developmental aide for the Newark Developmental Center, later called Finger Lakes DDSO. In 2004, while working, Mary went to school to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. She continued working for the Finger Lakes DDSO in this capacity until 2015 when she retired. Mary would often babysit for the children of the Palmyra Volunteer Ambulance workers. While doing this, she was approached about joining their organization.

Instead, she decided to join the Walworth Fire Department in 1987. Within the year, she became a certified Emergency Medical Technician. In 1998 Mary was awarded Fireman of the Year for her outstanding and dedicated service. She has been with her hometown fire department for almost 30 years (**top left photo**).

Mary is a long-time member of the Second Baptist Church of Walworth. Bill Wemple was her Sunday School teacher and he was like an extra parent to her. While attending this church, she has filled capacities such as treasurer, deacon and Sunday School teacher.

Since Mary's retirement in 2015, she is still very active in the Walworth community. She volunteers at the Walworth Historical Society's museum, serves on the Board of Directors for Cornell Cooperative Extension, and volunteers for 4-H. In addition, she is a long-time member of the Walworth Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Mary is a very giving person to others and her community. She loves living in Walworth; she says it gives her the feeling of family.

President's Message By Jessie Keymel

Keeping everything in working order at the museum is just like maintaining a home except there is a lot of help available for regular maintenance. A window pane had a stress break in July. Stan Weller and Roger Keymel took time to remove the window, have the glass replaced and reinstall the window. When a huge part of the copper beech tree fell, Sonny French and Gene Bavis cut it up and removed the brush; later Liz and Gene Bavis cut up the larger parts and took them away. Judy McMillan, Becky Appleman and Gene Bavis maintain the gardens and lawns. Stan Weller has painted the cloak room, leaving only the office to be painted. The dehumidifier is emptied on a regular basis and the inside chores are done by whoever is at the museum when work needs to be done.

Each summer we schedule 72 hours to have the museum open to the public to fulfill our purpose of having Walworth area history available. This effort involves a minimum of 36 volunteers. When there is an event open to the public many members are needed to attend to all the details, including baking cookies, setting up the meeting room and arranging for the guest speakers. Another responsibility is writing announcements for the local newspapers; thank you, Dawn Russell, for taking on this most important job. Walworth Historical Society is indeed very fortunate to have members who are willing to give their time and talents when needed. Thank you for your dedication.

Walworth Show 'n' Tell By Gene Bavis

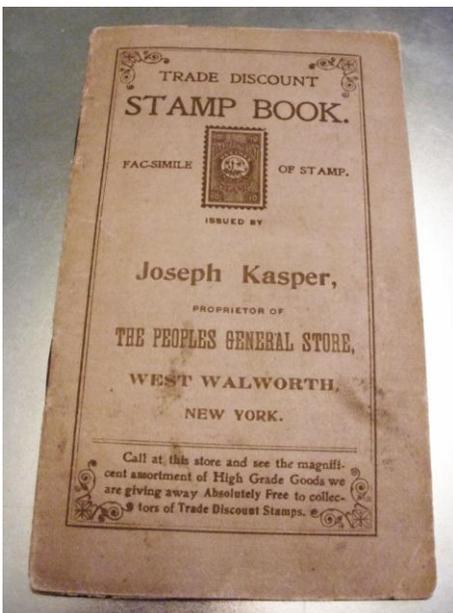
We have been doing Walworth Memories twice a year for the past 13 years. It's been a roundtable discussion on various topics and copious notes have been taken, indexed and saved for future reference. On October 16 we are going to try something just a little different. We'll call this one "Walworth Show 'n' Tell."

The idea is that we'll ask people to bring something that could be of significance to Walworth or family history and share its significance with those in attendance. An example might be...my Dad's fiddle. Dad was the barber in town for many years and often times in the evening a bunch of guys and their musical instruments would show up in the barbershop. Sometimes they played until late at night.

Another example could be my mother's pie stamp. Mom was an excellent pie maker and she was always making pies for baked food sales or church dinners. When she made a pie, she stamped the top crust with her special stamp. This allowed the crust to "vent" but was also her distinctive mark. People often looked to see which pie Etta made. Still another example is a photo of "the farm" that your Dad ran back in "the day." I'm sure you can share some interesting stories about it.

So, look for those interesting objects, photos, etc. and bring them to "Walworth Show 'n' Tell on Sunday, October 16, from 2 PM to 3:30 PM at the Walworth Historical Society. As always, there will be delicious refreshments. Bring a friend! We are located at 2257 High Street.

Our Collection Continues to Grow By Jessie Keymel



Our collection is more than scrapbooks and photos. Recently we added another **wedding dress** to our cedar closet. The dress is from the wedding of Leona Ikwewood and Loyde Bassage. We have a **tee shirt** from the 1960's to add to our Girl Scout memorabilia and an **apron** from a server at the Blue Heron Country Club. Mabel Risley donated an Ertle **toy truck** advertising Youngman's Hardware Store.

A **Trade Discount stamp book** (shown at the left), issued by Joseph Kasper, proprietor of the Peoples General Store in West Walworth, has been forwarded to us by Webster Historian Lynn Barton. We have received a variety of items from the Lincoln area, some from the **Lincoln Baptist Church** and **Frank Yakley's gas station**. A well-used **wooden bowl and butter paddle** came from Ruth Kessler Wykmen.

Perhaps the largest gift we received is a **five-drawer map cabinet** from Linda Pembroke. The cabinet was used by her father, Bob Cooman, when he was the Walworth town engineer. Now we will be able to store oversized documents and maps properly to make them more accessible. Thank you all for helping us preserve our history.

Editor's Note: This is the 4th in a series of stories spotlighting the businesses and homes on Main Street. The tour begins on the west side of the four corners and travels south. Our May issue featured the home at 3707 Main Street owned by Carol's parents, Harold and Virginia Ginegaw. The house at 3701 is owned by Carol Ginegaw Consol.

I found this information on my abstract:

- July 1812: Henry Burr to Samuel Ingraham, MD
- July 1872: Samuel Ingraham and wife Martha to Henry N. Burr
- March 1890: Mrs. Sarah Chase and Gilmer Chase to John Craggs, Charles Elliott, J.A. Dumun, Lodge Trustees
- April 1900: Burton L. Rowe to Fred A. Boynton
- Feb. 1913: Conveyance. Fred A. Boynton to Edson J. Blythe, George Wignall and Fred Roby, Trustees of Lodge 254
- Feb. 1926: Fred A. Boynton to Peter & Francena VanHee. (Note: Francena died July 1929 leaving her husband Peter and daughter Edna S. Clark as his executrixes. Peter married Rhoda E. Thirkell of Marion September 1930. Peter died May 1936)
- July 1936: Rhoda VanHee to Burton R. Clark and wife, Edna S. Clark
- Nov. 1961: Burton and Edna Clark to Manley W. and Florence J. Cornell
- Aug. 1977: Manley W. and Florence J. Cornell to Carol Ginegaw Consol

WHS file photos below were undated.



My Dad came to my apartment and asked me to consider the purchase of Manley and Florence Cornell's home. I told him I had no money saved, but he encouraged me to go to the bank. Of course, I soon discovered no one was going to give a twenty-six year-old female a mortgage until I approached Central Trust in Marion. Things fell into place and on my Mom's birthday, August 22, 1977; I was the owner of the house at 11 Main Street (now 3701 Main Street).

With what little money was left from bills, I slowly began to have extra doors closed off (began with 7 now have 5), windows replaced (out of 29, I still have to replace 5), heat installed upstairs, and porches redone for support. Each step was a challenge as due to the house settling nothing was or is actually straight. There were lots of tears shed along the way. I still can recall raking of rocks, glass, etc. in suffocating heat in order to have a backyard as I wondered what have I gotten myself into. Thankfully, my husband, Peter, has worked feverishly to beautify the grounds by planting arborvitaes, Rose of Sharon, and other flowers for which I am very grateful.

After many years, the house was sided. Aware of environmental issues, I stood inside the dumpster and placed the yellow asbestos shingles in boxes that were removed from the house. Perhaps that was why I ended up having cancer issues. Finally, I had the outside cellar doors removed, driveway paved and eventually the well filled in for safety reasons. In 1995, the old barn was torn down and a garage was built in its place. It's been an arduous undertaking to keep this old house standing, which left little room for internal upgrades. As far as surprises, I did find two hat molds that must have been when the millinery was operational in 1912; I donated them to the Walworth Historical Society.

Growing up next door, there were lots of fun times with the Cornell family of five girls - Ruth, Catherine, twins Jan and Lee, and Florence. We had a chant of "ee aw kee" to signal time to play outdoors. I recently had a chat with their only son, John, who told me that they had rented this house to Minnie and Pat Curran before permanently moving from Manchester, then Macedon when he was eight years old. His Dad traveled a lot doing photography all over New York State. I do remember Mr. Cornell took a baby portrait of my youngest sister, Amy, in his studio located in the front room. He later did television repair full time; a doorbell rang each time their front door opened to alert them to customers.

I was anxious to ask Johnny about the faint memory I have of his hot dog stand. He had built it himself and it was in the side yard close to the sidewalk with lights. His catch phrase was “free pop with a hot.” He then cleaned up a popcorn machine that Ray Kaufmann offered him and continually filled small paper bags full of popcorn. It was like having the Walworth Annual Street Dance every evening. Before he went into the Navy, the stand was towed to the Little League baseball diamond on Walworth-Penfield Road for their usage. We reminisced over the fact he had a motorcycle that he rode around and around in the backyard and how it seemed so large because I was so small. Amongst other stories, he concluded with saying how the house windows would rattle vigorously when he started his '47 Ford. There were lots of ‘good old day giggles’ for sure.

Additional Information about #3701/#11 Main Street from Various Sources

- In 1892 Mrs. Gilmore Chase had a millinery shop at 11 Main Street (now 3701 Main Street). *Source: “Wayne County Business Listings of 1863-1864.”*
- In 1912 Miss Josephine Tears operated a millinery and dress-making shop there. The front windows displayed ladies’ custom-made hats. Miss Tears rode a coach or buggy to Walworth Station south of town, where a train took her to Rochester to purchase whatever was needed to decorate ladies’ hats. *Source: Walworth Memories.*
- Ella Ebert worked for Miss Tears as a seamstress. *Source: Ella’s great niece, Mrs. Richard (Cathy) Roland.*
- Nettie Johnson Almekinder served her apprenticeship at Miss Tears’ shop. *Source: Mrs. Roger (Jessie) Keymel.*
- Unknown date: Ida DeLue operated a bakery at this location. *Source: Walworth Memories.*
- In 1875, Doctor Samuel Ingraham rented space over the horse sheds next to his home and office to the Masons, giving them permission to build stairs to their second-floor meeting room to the south of his property. By 1890 Mrs. Gilmore Chase leased the Masons a strip along the driveway 18 inches wide for building the stairs to the Lodge room. *Source: Reybrouck Scrapbook.*
- Many years ago Florry said she found a bustle, button-up shoes, and an 1800’s newspaper upstairs in a secret compartment. The space could have been used for the Underground Railroad or to hide booze during prohibition time. *Source: Florry (Florence) Cornell Munger.*
- Avery and Florry Munger found a small headstone in the back yard that had the word “Peggy” written on it; she only lived two years. *Source: Florryl Munger.*
- There were two separate residences in the house; some of the occupants are listed below. *Sources: Gordon and Betty Youngman and Florry Munger.*
 - Front part: Minnie and Pat Curran
 - Back part: Steven Coomber
 - Back part: Manley Cornell’s parents when Manley and Florence owned the house
 - Back part: Avery and Florry Munger for two years
- Manley Cornell died August 4, 1995; Florence died July 1, 2001. *Source: Joyce Munger.*



3701 Main Street in Walworth as it looks today.

**[Next building to be featured:
3695 Main Street \(Masonic Lodge, Triou
Store, etc. Currently Baptist Community
Center\).](#)**

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

In Memoriam

On June 22 Karen Schreckendgust of West Walworth passed away. She was a Walworth Historical Society lifetime member. Our sympathy to her family and friends.

What's Cooking? By Mary Jane Devlin

"A Look at Mid-19th Century Cooking" will be the subject at our Monday, September 19, program meeting at the Walworth Historical Society's museum. Following a brief business meeting at 7:30 PM, Sue Leurgans from the Genesee Country Museum will be showing some of the equipment and tools that were used to put on a meal in earlier times. She will also be telling how the meal was prepared. There will be time for questions and answers as well as handouts. Refreshments will be served. Come and enjoy some time with your friends and neighbors. The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street. For additional information, contact Jessie Keymel, president, at 315-524-9205.

2016 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Subject	Location
Mon., Sept. 19	7:30 PM	General Meeting: Program: Sue Leurgans - "A Look at Mid-19th Century Cooking."	Museum
Sun., Oct. 2	2 – 4 PM	Open House – Music under the tent by Dotty and Friends at 2:30 PM.	Museum
Sun., Oct. 16	2 – 3:30 PM	Walworth Memories. Theme: Show 'n' Tell. Need identification? Bring a photo, tool, household item, etc. Tell a story about your item.	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: Next meeting Nov. 14 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	\$ 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 send it to
 P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. *Thank you for your support.*

September 2016 WHS E-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos

(All photos on this page are of the 2016 Festival in the Park parade.)



(All photos on this page are of items for sale by the Walworth Historical Society.)

