

# WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 36 Number 5 May 2012

Photos are of the before (small) and after (large) Clara Billings Yeomans paintings recently restored and framed for the Walworth Historical Society. The story is in this newsletter.



## INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- \* POW Camps in Wayne County
- \* The Roads of Lincoln (part 7)
- \* Membership Dues are Due
- \* Knollwood School District #4
- \* Arlene Youngman and Lois Vane
- \* 2012 Events Calendar
- \* President's Message
- \* The Cows Came Home
- \* Walworth Methodist Church Cookbook
- \* Historic Markers
- \* To Have and To Hold
- \* May 21: Annual WHS Meeting



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Color front cover printing courtesy of Reliant Community Federal Credit Union

**President's Message** By Jessie Keymel

WHS on the Road: On March 5 Bob Mogray and Dorothy French gave a presentation of Walworth history through some of our DVD collection of photos at The Gardens in Gananda. This is the second time we have brought a presentation when Town Clerk Susie Jacobs makes her monthly visit to The Gardens.

On March 6 I brought our Walworth sesquicentennial quilt and a signature quilt to share with the Reverse Curves Quilt Club in Williamson. The quilt, which is displayed in our museum, was made by early members of the Reverse Curves Quilt Club which had its beginning in Walworth. The signature quilt (we have 3) was made with signature squares bought by members of our community, and assembled by the Reverse Curves Quilt Club members. The money raised is in our treasury in reserve for the bicentennial celebration of Walworth. An upcoming project is to record information on each of the families represented on our quilts. Did you record your family on a square? We would like to hear from you.

**POW Camps in Wayne County** By Gene Bavis



**Annette Harris**

On March 19, we had the pleasure of having Annette Harris speak to the Walworth Historical Society members regarding her research on POW camps in Wayne County.

In November 1942 there were 380 German and 51 Japanese prisoners in the United States. By the end of 1943, those numbers had increased to 124,000 Germans and 50,000 Italians here. Four camps were opened in Wayne County. They were located in Newark (June 1, 1944), Clyde (July 16, 1944), Sodus Point (September 1944) and Marion (July 23, 1945).

The United States adhered meticulously to the Geneva Convention and prisoners were treated in a very humane manner. Many of them worked on local farms, as there was a shortage of labor due to the fact that many of the men were off fighting the war. Their hours were limited and they were paid for the work. In addition they were provided with medical and educational services and had recreational opportunities.

Annette shared several interesting stories based on interviews with local farmers, former prisoners, former guards and others. Most of this information is contained in her book that is available from Annette, at the Wayne County Historical Society, and other places. Thanks, Annette!

**Found: One War of 1812 Soldier** By Mary Jane Devlin

In our March 2012 newsletter, we requested any information people had about ancestors who had participated in the Civil War or War of 1812. A Life Member, Grace Smith, of Michigan, sent information about her 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather, George Boynton, who was a soldier in the War of 1812 and also was a long-time Justice of the Peace in Walworth. George Boynton died on 11 August 1852 at Walworth, NY. George was a private in the 39<sup>th</sup> Regiment from July 1812 through June 1813. Boynton Road is just east of Walworth. No Boyntons are presently listed in the Wayne County telephone directory, but there are some listed in the Rochester area telephone directory.

**Historic Markers** By Gene Bavis, Town Historian

The Association of Public Historians of New York State is the umbrella organization for all municipal historians in New York State. I recently attended a regional meeting of the group where I learned about a state-wide project to catalogue all of the State Historic Markers in NYS. As many of us know, we have 5 in the Town of Walworth. There is documentation that we once had 6, but the one near the intersection of Routes 441 and 350 (the first church in Walworth) has been missing for many years. I have photographed and documented the GPS location of each marker that we still have. I am looking for more information about the one we've lost. Specifically, I'd like to know the exact location of the marker, what happened to it, and when it disappeared. It would be GREAT if someone had a photo of it. If you can help, please contact me at 315-573-2768.

## The Cows Came Home By Gene Bavis

The paintings by Clara Billings Yeomans have now been fully restored and framed and are back home. It's been about a year and a half since we began the process.

First we took the larger painting of the herd to West Lake Conservators in Skaneateles to be examined and stabilized. That cost was covered by a grant from the Wayne County Antique Dealers. Next, we applied for and received a grant from the Hoffman Foundation for the restoration. If you attended our May 2011 annual meeting, we did unveil the restored but un-framed painting at that time. This past year we applied for another Hoffman Grant to cover the cost of framing, and again we were successful in obtaining it.



The second smaller painting is of Aaggie 2<sup>nd</sup>, a prize-winning cow that was part of the original herd of Holsteins brought to Walworth from Holland by Theron G. Yeomans in 1879. The grant from the Wayne County Antique Dealers also covered the cost of examination and stabilization of Aaggie. We then applied to the Hudson Valley Heritage Network for a grant to restore and frame this painting. Thanks to the assistance of the folks from West Lake Conservators, we were again successful in obtaining the grant.

Restoration work on Aaggie was completed in January. We then picked out frames for both paintings, and the job has now been completed. They look GREAT! We hope that we'll have a large turnout for the annual meeting at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park on Monday, May 21, when we will unveil both paintings in their new frames. More information about the May 21 meeting is found elsewhere in this issue. The speaker will be Preston Pierce, Ontario County Historian, who will tell us about "Mr. Lincoln's Army."

**Shown on this newsletter cover is the before and after pictures of "The Herd." To the left is a small portion of Aaggie showing a little leg to tease you.**

## Membership Dues Are Due – LOOK FOR THE RED DOT! By Mary Jane Devlin

The Walworth Historical Society operates on a May 1 to April 30 fiscal year. Your membership dues are due May 1 unless you are a Life Member or have paid in advance. **There is a red dot on your address label if you owe dues as of May 1.** Members who receive their newsletter by e-mail will receive a separate notice. If you have questions about when your membership expires, please contact the treasurer at 315-986-1512, or check your membership card. We welcome the following members of our organization who have joined within the last fiscal year: Judy Casler, Erik Finley, Peggy Harvey, Esther Kovacs, Joyce Munger, and Stan & Louise Weller.

There are several categories of membership in WHS: Student \$5, Individual \$10, Joint or family \$15. Supporting \$25, Corporate or Business \$30, Sponsor \$50, Patron \$100, Life \$150, and Benefactor \$150. By choosing to join at a higher level of membership, you will enable us to continue to expand our program presentations and add to our collection of historical items, as well as restore and preserve the items that are already in our collection.

Please pay dues at the annual meeting in May or send your check to the Walworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. Thank you for your continued support.

## To Have and To Hold By Judy McMillan

June is the month when thoughts turn to love (and marriage!). Brought back by popular demand for the third consecutive year, the Walworth Historical Society is preparing a photographic display at the Walworth Town Hall with the theme of Walworth Weddings and we're looking for prospective couples. Please contact Judy McMillan 524-4219 by May 15 if you would like to be included in this display. Your original photo will be scanned and returned to you; a copy will be used in the display.

## The Roads of Lincoln: Part 7 By Mary Jane Devlin

Join us as we travel throughout the Lincoln area on the many roads leading to and from the hamlet. This project was originally started by Ethel Henning. In 1973, house numbers were changed county-wide; the new numbers and Ethel's information were combined in 2009. The \* indicates the name of residents as of 1973. If you can provide more information, please contact me at 315-986-1512.

<u>Old #</u>	<u>New #</u>	<u>Lincoln Road North of Jacobs Road Intersection (continued from Nov. 2011)</u>
15	4999	* Angelo & Betty Buchiere, 9 children. 1950's. * George & Eva Kahler. Lawrence Jackson. John & Bertha Kier. Harry & Viola Bommele. Lavina Goosen. Isaac Anderson Sr. & Isaac. Case Anderson, Goldie, Helen, Elizabeth, Alice, Edward, Geraldine, Carol, Kenneth, Robert. Isaac Anderson Jr.
14	5000	* Frank & Florence Yakley, Bette (Eidman, Don)
	5001	Frank Yakley's Garage, built about 1930; house 1935
	5006	John & Bertha Kier, Earl, Norman, Floyd, Art, Lester, Howard, Florence, Eva, Grace, Irene (Barnsdale)
8	5008	* Christopher & Lucy Miraglia
		The large store on the southwest corner was operated by Reuben Warren before mid 1920's. Irving & Hazel White operated the store through the mid 1930's; it has stayed idle since. During the Depression it was a common sight for many locals to enjoy the warmth of the large wood/coal stove and play euchre or "42" dominoes. Many times as a youngster, Ethel Henning would ask her father for a nickel and get a big ice cream cone at the store.
	5012	Resident
3	5015	* Douglas & Clarice White, Mickey, Terry, Bonnie. Stanley & Doris Church, Elsie. Ed Hawks. Irving & Hazel White, Douglas & Marjory. Reuben & Mary Warren, Hazel

<u>Old #</u>	<u>New #</u>	<u>Lincoln Road – Going North from Plank Road</u>
	5021	
		The large building on the west side of the road was a cheese factory operated by Goran Engert from 1900 to 1920's. His daughter, Bessie Engert, taught school in Duluth, Minnesota. While in Duluth, Bessie married Fred Berbig. They lived in Duluth until 1935. Building is now used for storage. Henry Kerner. Charles & Eva Bruckman, Mildred, Chubb, Marvin, Ed, Glenna, Ester. Cheese Factory: Goran Engert. Mary Traugott, Edward, Bruce, Nettie, Carrie, Flora. 1935: Fred & Eva Berbig from Duluth, Clarice, Eleanor, Bessie, Fredrick.
11	5041	Resident
15	5049	* Gordon & Gertrude Mulye. Wellington & Elsie Church, Stanley, Ralph, Cleta.
22	5068	1900 (?) to 1926: George & Gertrude Baker, Oscar & Osburne (twins), Lucille, Gertrude, Jane, Elwood. Jim & Bernice Campbell, Dick, Bob, Patricia. Fred & Estelle Kerner, Mabel, Viola. * Gordon & Gertrude Mulye, James
40	5100	* Willard Foote. John Foote Sr., John Jr. & August Foote.
41	5103	* Ellis & Emma Collier, Jean (married Dick Foote). Leon & Marlene Slocum, Benjamin, Susanne, Linda, Bruce
50	5120	Ed & Elizabeth Newman, Olive (Pinkney), Marie (Weldon Pugsley). Wilson & Eleanor Johncox, Joanne, Karen, Mark. * Coulston, Anna & Barbara Zajak.
66	5152	* William Leo. Harvey & Julia Pulter, Janet & Joyce born at 738 Plank Rd.
85	5185	George & Bertha Pugsley. * Walter & Santa Costich, Annette, Grace. Abe & _____ Sonnevile. Case & _____ Bommele. Harry & Babe Bommele
102	5224	* Russell Vance had a business of raising crickets; his house was about full of cages. These crickets were shipped to various zoos, mostly Washington, DC, as food for reptiles, etc. Wife: Edna. George & Bertha Pugsley, Harold, Raymond, Stanley, Ralph, Ladina, Emma, Adelaide, Marie, Leta, Irene. Russell & Edna Vance, 8 kids, Gary & Dale.
107	5241	* Alfred & Evelyn Luke
108	5238	* Bernard Sass
136	5292	* George & Leona Luke, Bernice, Norma, Pauline.

## Sunday Tea with Women of Walworth

By Jessie Keymel

"Sunday Tea with Women of Walworth" - what a great idea! On March 18 fifteen ladies donned their spring finery and hats to participate in a program presented by the Walworth Historical Society and the Walworth-Seely Public Library.

Using information from our museum files, some of the memorable women from our area were introduced to those present. The ladies honored included Hazel Pembroke Bassage, Anna Balzar Youngs, Lorraine Blanchard Finley, Emily Tuttle Huntley, Monnie Wadeikis Churchill, Evelyn Valentine Blik Thedens and Susan Cleveland Yeomans. The afternoon stirred many recollections of these interesting and productive women. And it was indeed a pleasure to be served by a handsome man in a tuxedo (see photo)



**Left:** Dressed in their spring finery, these ladies were some of the attendees who participated in "A Tea with Women of Walworth" program on March 18 at the town hall meeting room. (Left to right) Becky Appleman, Mary Jane Devlin, Donna Stalker, Dana Stalker-Jones, and Jacque Ruth.

**Right:** If you missed him in the photo on the left, the stylish waiter is Gene Bavis.

## A Letter from Radah – The Mystery is Solved

*Editor's Note: A comment was made at the recent "Sunday Tea with Women of Walworth" program that not so long ago a woman could not be a school teacher if she was married. That got us to wondering why. The mystery has been solved, thanks to Jay Taber's conversation with Radah Wing Wacenske. Radah's letter to Jay follows:*

I am Radah Wing Wacenske, a 1937 graduate of Walworth High School. My brother, Ralph, graduated from the same school in 1929. My sister, Lois Wing Bulterman, graduated in 1930. During those years, our father, Alonzo Bridgen Wing, spent some time as a member of the school board. I have taken much pride in our family's association with the school.

My father had some controversial opinions about diverse subjects re: the mission and day-to-day running of the school. One of those controversial subjects was the hiring of married women to teach. Dad felt young, single women, just out of college, deserved the opportunity to put their learning to use. After all, married women had another source of income – their husband's. I believe the dilemma was never resolved. It probably resides in the cobwebs and decay of what was once my pride and joy but which became a target for vandals (Editor's Note: the former Walworth High School). Due to its original insulating with asbestos, it is so costly to remove asbestos safely and no one has volunteered to undertake the project.



## Antique Dealers Visit Museum

By Gene Bavis

On Monday, April 16, the Wayne County Antique Dealers, shown on the left, held their meeting at the Walworth Historical Society's museum. Gene and Liz Bavis and Jessie Keymel gave them a "sneak preview" of the two restored Holstein paintings because it was the WCAD organization that gave us our first grant to stabilize and evaluate the paintings. They were pleased to see their donation go to such an important project.

## **John Baxter to Receive Award at May 21 Annual Meeting**

By Jessie Keymel

Once again our annual meeting is being held at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park so there will be room for everyone. The Monday, May 21, festivities will start with a pot luck meal at 6:15 PM, followed by our annual business meeting, election of officers and two trustees, presentation of the Community Service Award, unveiling of the completed Holstein paintings, and the evening's program - "Mr. Lincoln's Army" by Dr. Preston Pierce. The WHS will provide beverages and ham. Attendees are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to pass. If you need guidance on what to bring, call Nancy Bel or any member of the Board listed on the front of this newsletter.

We will be presenting the 2012 Community Service Award to John Baxter, a tireless volunteer in our community. John has been a member of the Walworth Fire Department and the Walworth Lions Club for the past 40 years. This fire fighter has served as fire commissioner, captain, and second assistant chief and currently is safety officer; in 2006 he was chosen Fire Fighter of the Year. As president of the Walworth Ambulance, John was instrumental in the building of their new headquarters. In April he received two awards from this organization - Ambulance Person of the Year and 2011 Past President.



**John Baxter**

John has served the Town of Walworth as Park Department chairman and is currently a member of the Parks and Recreation Master Planning Committee. John's other community involvement is the Walworth Lions Club, which also is celebrating its 40-year anniversary this year. He is one of three people who are Charter Club members. John spends numerous hours soliciting for donations for the club's spaghetti dinners and Breakfast with Santa events. He served as president in 1978-1979, in addition to holding other positions and is currently a board member.

Last year WHS presented the restored oil painting of the early Holstein herd in Walworth. The project has been completed, and the paintings of the herd and also of Aaggie are now restored, properly framed, and ready for their first public appearance. Additional information about the paintings appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our guest speaker is Dr Preston Pierce, Regional Archivist at the Rochester Regional Library Council and Ontario County Historian. His program tells the story of how the Union Army was recruited, expanded, and changed to fit the needs of the Civil War. The story is told through documents and images typically found in local and state archives, as well as those family researchers may encounter in personal files or local historical societies. It will be a great evening with family, friends and something of interest for everyone.

## **Our Colored Front Cover**

By Mary Jane Devlin

You may have noticed that we had a black and white cover on our March issue. That is because Judy McMillan, our secretary, worked for Mitchell Pierson, Jr., Inc., a real estate company, in Pittsford. They have been printing our cover for a long time for a nominal fee. However, Judy has recently retired so that source is no longer available to us. We thank MITCHELL PIERSON, JR., INC. for their support.

RELIANT COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION has graciously agreed to supply our colored covers in the future. We encourage you to use their financial expertise whenever possible. They have several branch offices in Wayne, Monroe and Ontario Counties. Thank you, Reliant, for supporting the Walworth Historical Society.

## **It's Election Time for WHS**

By Jessie Keymel

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, it is time for our annual elections. The president, vice president, and secretary hold their positions for one year. The position of treasurer is for three years and is up for election this year. Trustees hold their positions for three-year terms, so that two trustees need to be elected annually. Marlene Slocum and Liz Bavis have agreed to act as our Nominating Committee this year; thank you ladies for your time. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting on Monday, May 21, at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park; a pot-luck supper begins at 6:15. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Walworth Methodist Church Cookbook** By Mary Jane Devlin

Janice Wignall Mitchell recently donated a cookbook that had been published in the 1940's (we think) by the Walworth Methodist Church. A recipe from that cookbook was used by me for some of the cookies for our Monday, March 19, meeting. The oatmeal cookie recipe called for 2 cups light brown sugar, 1 cup shortening, 2 eggs, ½ cup sour milk (or buttermilk), 1 teaspoon of soda, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 3 cups oatmeal, 3 cups of flour, 1 cup nutmeats. The directions were: "Drop by spoonfuls on greased cookie sheet. Makes about 4 dozen medium size." The recipe was from Mrs. G. S. Whitmire. The recipe did not have a temperature listing, but then I realized that back in the 40's, the ovens probably did not have temperature controls. They did not have the amount of time to bake the cookies, but I guess if the temperature could not be regulated, you probably just had to watch the cookies until they were done. I hope everyone enjoyed the cookies. **Note:** My son, Mark, says they need raisins.

**School Daze – District #4** By Dorothy French

District #4 School was located at Knollwood Drive and 4345 County Line Road on the southwest corner of Knollwood Drive. It was also known as Union Hill South School. According to information from our museum files, the school was built in 1824. School hours were 8 AM – 4 PM Monday through Thursday and 8 AM – 3:30 PM on Friday. Students walked to school or were brought by bobsled in winter, or wagon and horses in the spring and fall.

If anyone has additional information about District #4, please contact me at 315-986-1098.



**The building as a country school.**



**This private residence is located on the site of District #4**

**In Memorium** By Mary Jane Devlin

Our sympathies are extended to the families of Lois Vane and Arlene Youngman, both of whom recently passed away. They were both well-loved members of their communities.

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**Membership Information for Fiscal Year May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013**

**Check the appropriate category:**

_____ Student	\$ 5.00	_____ Sponsor	\$ 50.00
_____ Individual	\$ 10.00	_____ Patron	\$100.00
_____ Joint or Family	\$ 15.00	_____ Life Membership	\$150.00
_____ Supporting	\$ 25.00	_____ Benefactor	\$150.00
_____ Corporate or Business	\$ 30.00		

*Thank you for helping us to continue our mission of preserving history for the future.  
(see reverse side)*

**A Spoonful of Sugar...Plus?** By Dorothy French

Kerosene, lard from skunk fat, oil of clove, chicken soup, vinegar, honey, and whiskey. What do these items have in common? These ingredients were used in homemade remedies discussed at the April 15 Walworth Memories program. Our older relatives depended on these remedies because a drug store was usually a distance away and the items cost money – something that was needed for other uses.



**Participants in the "Home Remedies" meeting**

Some "cures" we learned about: 1.) A teaspoon of kerosene was used to cure a cough and also head lice. 2.) A skunk was caught and then skinned; the hunter would scrape off the fat from the hide and his wife would boil it until it became thick to resemble lard. This was used to rub on the chest for colds. 3.) Lemon, honey and a wee drop of whiskey were mixed together to cure a cold. 4) Have a tooth ache? Use oil of cloves, cayenne pepper, kerosene with a little bit of sugar, or juice from an aloe vera plant. 5.) Vinegar, both white and apple cider, had many medicinal and household cleaning uses.

And everyone's favorite home remedy? Grandma's chicken soup, of course!

This was the 17<sup>th</sup> Walworth Memories program co-sponsored by the Walworth-Seely Public Library and the Walworth Historical Society. Thanks to Lyel Bassage for a great job as moderator! The next program is planned for Sunday, October 21, at the museum.

**Walworth Historical Society 2012 Events Calendar**

Date	Time	Subject	Location
Mon., May 21	6:15 PM	Annual meeting, pot luck supper, election of officers. Community Service Award. Program: Mr. Lincoln's Army" by Preston Pierce.	Lodge at Ginegaw Park
Tues., July 24	6:30 PM	Decorate float for Festival parade	Keymel's barn
Fri., July 27	7:00 PM	Festival in the Park: parade and booth	Line up at PM
Sat., July 28	3-8 PM	Festival in the Park: booth	Ginegaw Park
Mon., Sept. 17	7:30 PM	General Meeting. Program: TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 7	2-4 PM	Open House. Subject: TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 21	2-3:30 PM	Walworth Memories. Subject: TBA. Co-sponsored with Walworth-Seely Public Library	Museum
Mon., Nov. 19	1:00 PM	General Meeting. Program: TBA	Museum

**Next Board of Trustees Meeting:** Mondays: 7:00 PM at the Museum. June 18, August 20, and November 5.

**Open House Hours:** The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street (P.O. box 142) and is open June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM. Contact Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Nancy Bel at 315-986-4781 for an appointment for other times.

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Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Make check payable to: Walworth Historical Society and mail to P. O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## May 2012 WHS Newsletter Bonus Photos

The following are photos from the Walworth Memories "Home Remedies" meeting on April 15.



The following are photos from the POW meeting on March 19.



General photos around the Walworth area

