

WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 37 Number 3 November 2012



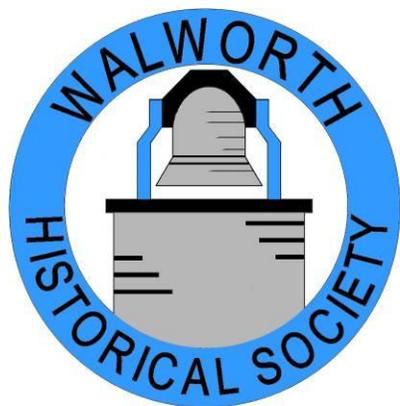
Pictured above are the graves of James and Jabez Blythe, local brothers on opposite sides in the Civil War. See story on page 3 of this newsletter.

Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568

WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

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Grounds

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Color front cover printing courtesy of Reliant Community Federal Credit Union

President's Message By Jessie Keymel

Our active season at the museum is just about finished for this year. All that is left is our November 19 program meeting (1:00 PM) with Rev. Jacob Denny and his talk about the War of 1812 (see story elsewhere in this newsletter.) However, our community involvement continues. Some members will be taking part in the Walworth-Seely Public Library's "American Girl Event" on November 3 about life during World War II. A WHS program about our quilts will be presented at The Gardens in December; this will be the third program we have shared during The Gardens' coffee time. We are always available (by appointment) to help Scouts and school children learn about local history. We are currently helping an 11 year old boy in Kentucky research his family's involvement in the Civil War.

A copy of "Walworth... from Douglas Corners to Gananda" by John Traas and a copy of "Walworth, As I Remember It" by Charles Pembroke were donated to the Literacy Volunteers of Wayne County to be added to a basket for their silent auction fund raiser. Now on to planning for 2013. Do you have any suggestions for subjects or speakers for our meetings? Do you have any suggestions for our Community Service Award in 2013? There are many people and groups who give selflessly of their time and service to our community. This is your opportunity to thank them and give them recognition.

Daffodils in the Spring By Jessie Keymel



A surprise gift gets special attention. The museum received the gift of daffodil bulbs from Gail Houghtaling, a gift that will be enjoyed by everyone in the spring. Then came the volunteers to plant them. After checking with the museum's grounds committee, the bulbs were planted by Girl Scouts Rosalie Siracuse and Paige Steffen from Troop 786.

They have also put together a basket of traditional games and toys they are donating to the museum to be used when children visit and at open houses. According to leader Colleen Siracuse, this is part of their community service while working on their Bronze Award. Thank you, girls, for your help and thank you, Gail, for the thoughtful gift. Daffodils in spring by the sidewalk entrance will be a welcome sight.

Get This Newsletter on Your Computer By Bob Mogray

In an effort to make the WHS newsletter easier and less expensive to print and distribute, we are asking those members with computers to consider getting this newsletter by email. Currently we print and distribute about 90 newsletters every two months by conventional snail mail. Every year paper, stamps, and envelopes become more expensive. However, there is no cost to send our newsletter to members by email.

If you currently get this newsletter by standard mail and wish to change to email, please call me at 585-576-4156 or send me a note at mogray@rochester.rr.com. This is an attempt on our part to be more cost effective by sending the newsletters electronically. Please seriously consider this email option. As a bonus, newsletters sent by email include two extra pages of photographs. Your help with this is greatly appreciated. Also, if anyone has any ideas for articles or any stories that they wish to include in the newsletter, we would love to include these. Thank you for your support.

Remembering Our Veterans By Judy McMillan

"Lord, bid war's trumpet cease; fold the whole earth in peace." Oliver Wendell Holmes

The glass display case next to the library entrance at the town hall will honor the memory of two local soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War. Walworth Historical Society salutes Alex Menzies and Larry Ludwig. Please stop by to pay tribute to these two fallen heroes during the month of November.

The story of Jabez and James Blythe (pronounced Bly) has been documented on numerous occasions. It tells that the brothers fought on opposite sides in the Civil War, but safely returned to Walworth to live the remainder of their lives. The brothers and their families are buried in two of our cemeteries.

A Request for Information

Tracing a family's roots has become a popular hobby and the Walworth Historical Society frequently receives genealogy requests for information about families who lived here years ago. One such request was recently sent to Town Historian Gene Bavis from Julie Quinn Blyth. Gene was her 7th grade social studies teacher when she was a student at Wayne Central School. Julie's parents, William and Joan Quinn, lived on Furnace Road in Ontario; Bill was a member of the Board of Education at WCS for many years in the 1980's and early 1990's. He and Joan later returned to the Buffalo area, where Bill died about six years ago.

Julie's husband, James, is a distant relative of the Blythe brothers, although the family does not know when the "e" was dropped from their last name. James and Julie grew up in this area a few miles apart but didn't meet until 1985 in Japan where they were exchange students. Julie was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ontario/Walworth. James and Julie have lived in Lexington, KY, for almost 15 years. Their son, 11 year old Henry, is focusing on the Blythe connection for a history assignment at school.

Prior to their visit, Julie asked the Walworth Historical Society if we had information about the Blyth(e) family. A quantity of historical information from our files was mailed to them. One of their goals during their trip was to locate the graves of James (Walworth Cemetery on Sherburne Road) and Jabez (Baker Road Cemetery on Route 441). WHS member Bob Mogray and his family toured the two cemeteries, found their graves, and provided their burial sites to the Blyths. Bob also photographed the headstones for our museum files.

A Visit to the Walworth Area

The Kentucky Blyths traveled to the Walworth area the weekend of October 13 and 14 to visit James' parents, John E. and Joanna (Jennings) Blyth who live in Gananda and are graduates of Macedon Academy. James began school at Pal-Mac, but graduated from Gananda in 1985. John's father, Ray Blyth, owned the Craggs Roller Mills on Walworth-Palmyra Road in the late 1920's and sold it to Peter Balzar in 1930. John told his family that the original James Blythe family emigrated from York, England, to Pultneyville in the earlier part of the 1800's. They were land speculators and the promise of vast amounts of available acreage in America was their incentive to leave England. Seventeen years ago, James and Julie visited the original homestead in England.

Jabez and the Union Blue

At the age of 23, Jabez Blythe enlisted in 1863 and joined Company B 9th Regiment New York Heavy Artillery. In June of 1865, two months after the War Between the States officially ended at Appomattox Court House, Private Jabez Blythe proudly returned home to Walworth, where he had lived since the age of 5. He had been shot in his right elbow during the Union's successful battle at Winchester, VA, in 1864, and spent recovery time at a hospital in Philadelphia. Soon after his return home to Walworth, he married Emma J. Mason in the Walworth Methodist Episcopal Church on December 12, 1865. Within ten years they had three daughters, but only the last (Lottie, born in 1875) lived beyond the age of 4.

Jabez and Emma lived in Walworth for a time until they moved to Orleans, NY, where he operated a flour mill with his brother, Joseph. The family later lived in Rochester but eventually returned to Walworth for their remaining years. Jabez died on October 13, 1898; ironically the Kentucky Blyths visited the cemetery on the same day – 114 years later! Jabez is buried in Baker Road Cemetery beside his two little daughters; they were joined in time by Emma. Nearby is the Mason family plot. It is not known where Lottie is buried.

James and the Confederate Grey

James Blythe, 16 years older than Jabez, was the first of the two brothers to come to America. He lived briefly in Niagara County, NY, before wandering south to Mississippi. He settled in Biloxi and married Louisa, a wealthy Southern belle. He was a successful businessman, serving as chief of police, postmaster, and proprietor of a general store. In 1861 at the age of 37 he enlisted in Company A 3rd Regiment Mississippi Infantry of the Confederate States of America where he earned the rank of sergeant. James was captured by the Yankees and was a prisoner of war for nearly a year in Alabama.

When the war ended and James returned to Biloxi, he discovered the area had suffered greatly from the war and from the Yankees. The Blythes were financially ruined; all the family had left of their prosperity was a trunk full of worthless Confederate money and little else. Their home, furnishings, slaves, and the family silver were gone. James, his wife Louisa, and their little girl Caroline moved to Walworth to be near other relatives so James could work at a local flour mill. It was a difficult transition for Louisa, who was used to being pampered and living in luxury.

In 1868 James and Louisa had a son named Willis. During Henry's recent visit with his grandparents, he interviewed his grandfather for a school history project. John remembered Willis Blyth, who was called Bucky by his family and died a very poor man. James died in 1886 at the age of 62. The headstone for James is difficult to locate except for the Confederate flag on his grave. Beside him lie Louisa (her headstone reads Mother) and their two children, both of whom lived into their seventies and died unmarried.

Similarities

Both brothers were born in England, immigrated to America and New York State, fought in the Civil War for principles they wanted to preserve, returned to Walworth to live near family and friends, and are now at peace resting in Walworth cemeteries. It is not clear whether Jabez and James were aware throughout the war that the other was his sworn enemy. There is no evidence to suggest they ever met in battle.

Editor's Notes:

We are glad to be able to help James, Julie and Henry research their roots. This is the purpose of our Walworth Historical Society and its mission - to preserve the past for the present and future.

Information for this story was obtained from files at the Walworth Historical Society's museum:

- "When the Blythes Came Marching Home" by Cheryl Miller, The Times, July 26, 1993.
- "It Was Brother Against Brother" by Arch Merrill (no date).
- "Southerners Who Rest in the North" by Arch Merrill, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, May 29, 1955.

Walworth Democratic Candidates - 1975

By Dorothy French



These Democratic candidates posed for the camera in 1975. Front row, left to right: Pat Bachison, Frank Guelli, and Joyce Scott (Finney). Back row: Mel Green, Kearney, Bob Lemmey, Milt O'Brien, and Gary Kempf.

War of 1812 Comes to Walworth

By Mary Jane Devlin

On Monday, November 19, at 1:00 p.m. Reverend Jake Denny of the Wolcott Faith United Methodist Church will speak about Western New York's involvement in the War of 1812 at the Walworth Historical Society Museum on Academy Street in Walworth. He is on the Board of Directors of the Wolcott Historical Society, and became interested in the War of 1812 while he was a pastor in the Niagara Falls area. He loves history and is a collector of autographs, antiques, and historical documents.

According to a 1925 diary by J. D. Kipp, fifteen men from the Town of Walworth served in the War of 1812. Some of these men are buried in Walworth cemeteries including Daniel Douglass, Garner Wait, James Andres, Daniel Lyon, Harvey Mathewson, George Randolph, Aber Chase and Enos Palmer.

This is our second year of offering our November program in the afternoon instead of the evening. We hope to have a good turnout. Refreshments will be served.

Editor's note: Please note that the time of this meeting will be at 1:00 in the afternoon.

Carol Bailey's Vintage Clothing Presentation

By Bob Mogray

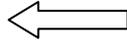
At the September 17 gathering of the Walworth Historical Society, after a short business meeting, we were treated to an excellent program by Carol Bailey. As you might recall, she presented a program about barns a few years ago but on this night she spoke about clothing of the past. Not only did she share her knowledge about vintage clothes but she brought along many examples of dresses, coats, and even hats and shoes. Many of the items she displayed were from the late 1800's to early 1900's.

Carol is currently a member of three historical societies, is an expert on many historical subjects, has written a book about her childhood, and is working on compiling a history about her Bailey Family Reunion which will have been held for 100 years in 2013. Carol is also the historian for the New York State Grange and is a board member of the New York State Grange Museum in Cortland, New York.

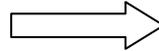
Refreshments were served, as always, after the presentation, by Nancy Bel and others. We would like to thank Carol for another excellent and very informative meeting. Everyone especially seemed to enjoy the displays of old clothing she brought with her. We also thank our members for attending these presentations. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Carol Bailey presents a program on vintage clothing at the museum.



Duke and Mabel Risley at the vintage clothing meeting. Duke models one of the display hats in the presentation.



Fall on the Farm and Music Too!

By Judy McMillan

The annual Fall on the Farm Open House held at the Walworth Historical Museum on October 7 was the most successful one we have ever had. The Community Band (below right photo) was a big hit! Even though the weather was not at all cooperative, hearing that beautiful music conjured up sweet memories of the past and we experienced a real community gathering. One of the band members commented they have never had people dancing in the street while they played!

Neighbors were conversing, children were playing in the yard, people were perusing the museum, and some of the men were gathered around the "Doodlebug" (home-made tractor) (below left photo) discussing its mechanical workings. Despite the cool temperature, the mood was happy and the homemade pies, hot coffee, cider and donuts were enjoyed by 68 visitors and members. A good time was had by all. Thanks to the Keymels for the loan of their tent -- and to all who helped make this day such a wonderful time.



The Roads of Lincoln: Part 9 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.

Old #	New #	Plank Road East from County Line Road (continued from Sept. 2012)
3102	587	* Kenneth & Angela Blanchard
3108	599	Wilbur & Effie Leaty, son Elwyn took care of Lincoln Baptist Church (janitor, bell, etc.). The girl that my brother Oscar married lived here. Ruth Leaty was adopted daughter of Art Leaty, lived in Honeoye. Ethel Henning: "One Saturday night, Oscar and Ruth were playing cards with Wilbur and Effie during a big snow storm. At midnight Wilbur suggested the Model T Ford would never get through the snow, so why don't you stay the night. OK, so my brother ran home to get his pajamas and toothbrush and ran back to Leaty's." * William Boyd and Matilda lived there a long time. Bill was an insurance agent for Farmers and Traders. Children: Bill Jr., Nancy, Ellen
3210	623	* Dennis & Nancy Gotte
3124	631	* William & Sharon Boyd
3140	683	* Norman & Simone Smeltzer

Old #	New #	Plank Road East of Lincoln Road
	719	* Lincoln Fire Department
3167	720	* Ruth Ann LaMartina
	735	Blacksmith shop with ice in basement stored from mill pond. Ice covered with sawdust. 1926 (year?) E. M. Yakley Garage burned, down back, concrete water trough near and May Risley's little store across the road.
	736	May Risley's little store with gas pump. You pump gas in the upper part. 1926: Church & Risley store burned. Grange Hall upstairs.
3176	737	Oscar & Ruth Baker. He was radio repairman, mid 30's Depression. Sold Eureka vacuum cleaners, raised vegetables on the muck, and was struck by lightning, killed instantly. I was in a field adjacent and was down for more than a minute, spread eagle. Ruth was watching with Ronald (7) and Florence (5). July 10, 1940, 9 AM. Same lot: Ethel Hennings' dad had a cider mill. Floyd & Mabel Kier. * James & Muriel Harden, Jerry & Jim (twins), Barbara, Steve & Tom
3177	738	John & Leana Poulter. Harvey & Augusta Trimble. William Lithgow (?), * John & Kathryn Toole
3179	744	Charles & Ida Arney, Chauncey, Don, Charles & Ruth Phillips, Emily & Nelson. * Ronald & Emily Schommer. Emily died and Ron married Julia Poulter.
	748	My Dad's warehouse: basement, excellent storage for potatoes, etc. Upper level in the 1920's: Dad took in pickles for L. C. Forman Co. Also sold fertilizer for Jjareckia (sp.) Chemical Company; it came in on the railroad siding in Fruitland. One dry house on the hill and a second a little farther south, directly east of Ethel Hennings' house. In the 50's: Peter & Jean Stipulkoski.
3184	749	* A. R. Chase, Inc.
3187	758	* Sandy Pecora
3195	776	* Helen Fontaine
3197	778	* Wilson Johncox
	784	Tom & Helen Mix. Old house, gone.
3201	786	* Jennie Johncox. Eleanor Johncox. Albert & _____ Hubright: 14 kids: Oliver, Stanley, Belmont, Harold, Morgan, Albert Jr., Sonny, Dutchie, Leta, Tittle, Walter, etc.
3202	787	Ann Sweet; old lady, lived alone, house gone. * Raymond Zientara
3211	804	Wilbur & Eva Pepper; old house gone. * Russell Fernaays
3212	809	Garan Engert, old house. Dixie Roiucher. * Louis & Phipps Spurr; Phippa rebuilt house.

WHS Offers Holiday Gift Suggestions

Walworth Historical Society has many suggestions for holiday gift giving. Sales tax is included in each price.

Available at the museum, 2257 Academy Street, or at the Walworth Town Clerk's office, 3600 Lorraine Drive, 315-986-1400:

- **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": \$5 each.
- **Commemorative ornaments:** \$7.50.
- **Coverlet:** Depicts area buildings (available in maroon and Williamsburg blue): \$46.
- **Book:** Wayne County history book: \$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 order to delivery - is about one week. Contact Nancy Bel at 315-986-2765.

Available only at the museum, in addition to items listed above:

- **Commemorative plate:** Depicts the Walworth Academy: \$25.
- **Memberships:** Student \$5, Individual \$10, Joint or Family \$15, Supporting \$25, Corporate or Business \$30, Sponsor \$50, Patron \$100, Life Membership \$150, and Benefactor \$150.
- **Donations:** Walworth Historical Society donations are tax deductible; we are a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization. The WHS mission is to preserve the past for the present and the future; financial support is appreciated to help achieve this goal. For additional information, contact Jessie Keymel, 315-524-9205 or Dorothy French, 315-986-1098.

Walworth High School Band: 1947 By Dorothy French

Members of the Walworth High School Band posed by the Grange Hall during the summer of 1947 for this photo. According to Helen Darron Schultz Triou, the band played on Saturday nights in Walworth, West Walworth, and Lincoln, and also during parades with Walworth Fire Department. Janice Wignall and Charles Pembroke were co-directors.



Front row, left to right:

Florence Liedke, Margaret Perkins, and Katie Luke.

2nd row: Helen Darron, Beulah VanDerlike, Nancy Allaard, Caroline Rowell, Ruth Pembroke, Barbara Soudan, Ruth VanHaneghem, and Marjorie Scott.

3rd row: Janice Wignall, Marilyn Lynn, Bob Wignall, Violet Read, Nancy Scott, Elinor Van Derlike, Bill Underhill, Chuck Bills, Florence Austin, and Charles Pembroke.

4th row: Faye Dietterick, Al Kasper, Don Baker, Sam McKee, Bruce Neely, and Bob Bassage.

Top row: Shirley Smith, LaVern Morrison, Joyce Goebert, Harold Schultz, Emerson VanHouter, Ethel Provost, and Jim Fraser.

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

Check the appropriate category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Joint or Family	\$ 15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership	\$ 150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$ 150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate or Business	\$ 30.00		

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

Scrapbook Memories: 1945

By Joyce Finney

Here's some interesting facts from a 1945 scrapbook compiled by Walworth native and school teacher Dorothy Petty. More than 25 of her scrapbooks were donated to the museum following her passing.

- The first Labor Day in America was celebrated on December 28, 1869.
- About 224 Ontario men fought for the Union in the Civil War. 33 were killed.
- The first grain planted in Ontario and Walworth was corn. The seeds were stabbed into the earth around tree stumps before the ground was cleared enough for planting.
- The first lighthouse in the U.S. was built in 1719 on Little Brewster Island to guard Boston Harbor.
- The oldest existing town of the thirteen original American Colonies is Albany, NY, first reached by the French in 1540.
- In 1783 Noah Webster published his "American Spelling Books." It is estimated sales in the next 100 years were over 70 million.
- An early settler in what is now the Village of Walworth was Dr. Hulbert Crittenden, who was the first doctor in town. He arrived in 1804.
- In 1893 the Town of Walworth had 11 school districts, each with one teacher and a total of 477 students.
- The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Walworth was the pioneer religious organization of the town. The congregation's first house of worship was a primitive structure built in 1809.
- The first American coin bearing the portrait of a living president was the 1926 half dollar. It bore the heads of Presidents George Washington and Calvin Coolidge.
- In 1816 a state appropriation of \$5,000 made Ridge Road a passable wagon road.
- The stage coach - which in the early 19th century ran from the Lyons Hotel in Ontario to Palmyra - took three hours to make the trip. A stage coach - which ran from Rochester to Ontario - charged \$1.20 per person, baggage extra.

Mother's Kitchen Remembered

By Dorothy French



Treasured and unusual recipes and humorous stories were shared by attendees at the October 21 Walworth Memories program at our museum. The theme, Mother's Kitchen, evoked memories of root cellars, freezer lockers at cold storage facilities, a cook stove that served as a baby incubator, head cheese, Dutch lettuce, preservation of home-grown food, dry curing meat, and sugar specht.

This was the 18th program co-sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society and the Walworth-Seely Public Library. WHS President Jessie Keymel introduced Jeff Davignon, Library Director, who talked about expanding the collaborative role enjoyed by these two organizations. Jeff showed a hand-held Nook reader and explained the various uses it offers. Gene Bavis was program moderator. Refreshments were provided by WHS members.

Walworth Historical Society 2012 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Subject	Location
Mon., Nov. 19	1:00 PM Note time	General Meeting. Program: Rev. Jake Denny and the "War of 1812"	Museum

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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: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
E-Mail: _____

November 2012 WHS Newsletter Bonus Photos

(All photos on this page were from the WHS Open House on October 7, 2012.)



Above: They were walking on stilts and dancing in the streets at the WHS Open House



Above left: Doodlebug **Above right:** October WHS Museum

Below left: Nancy Bel prepares refreshments

Below right: Even puppies enjoyed the open house



All pictures on this page are fall 2012 Walworth area photos

All photos by Kim Voorhees

