



Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 38 Number 3 November 2013

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

Color front cover courtesy of Reliant Community Federal Credit Union



(Photos from the Walworth Mural dedication on October 6)

Mural Dedication, Reception, and Open House on October 6

By Gene Bavis

As with the fundraising campaign for the mural, we used every possible avenue to invite people to attend. All donors were invited by email or snail mail. I posted it on Facebook not only on my page, but on 3 other pages that I am involved with. It was promoted county-wide through the WHO (Wayne Historians Organization). I sent press releases to several papers. I made a number of phone calls and sent a lot of emails.

We were really worried about rain, as the forecast until Sunday morning called for rain, but about noon they changed it and they were right! It was sunny and warm. We lucked out! The good weather and the numerous contacts resulted in a great crowd of approximately 150 people. Several people came long distances to join us. Alfred (Fred) Enisz, who moved away in 1975, came all the way from Denver. Gary Amsler came from South Carolina and Tim Scott from Ohio. Several others drove at least an hour to attend. The ceremony opened with a flag raising and Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scouts from Troop 113, Walworth (Kevin Barci, Scoutmaster).

John and Martha Sutton of West Lake Conservators came from Skaneateles to join us. They were involved in restoring our paintings that served as the inspiration for this mural. They were pleased to see that the mural represented the paintings so well. Mural artist Corky Goss also attended and spoke to those gathered for our dedication. His speech is included here in the newsletter.

I spoke about Mural Mania and future murals in Walworth. I was able to unveil the two plaques that were donated by Carrie Perry of Creative Plastics. One is entitled "Why Cows?" It's a question that people often ask, "Why do you have cows on the side of this building?" Now you know. The second plaque recognizes the many donors who gave \$25 or more toward the project.

The next mural across the parking lot was announced. The owners of Crossroads Automotive have consented to let us put a mural on their east wall, depicting the double wedding of Anna and Nellie Yeomans, daughters of Lucien and Susan Cleveland Yeomans. Susan's brother, former President Grover Cleveland, attended that wedding in 1891. The copper beech trees brought to town by Theron Yeomans will also be featured. Surplus funds from the first mural will kick off this one, plus we already have over \$500 in donations collected on October 6. The exact goal will be announced in the next newsletter, and a fundraiser progress "thermometer" will be posted in a prominent spot in the Post Office plaza.

The Walworth Town Board has granted permission for a mural to the right of the town hall main entrance. It will be 8' wide and 12' high, and painted on special quality plywood. It will be a full-color representation of the coverlet offered for sale by the Walworth Historical Society. As you probably know, several landmarks from around the town are depicted. I am working with the Art Department at Wayne Central School, and am hopeful students will be able to paint that one. I will try to get donations for supplies for the project. We'll keep you posted.

Following the ceremony most of the attendees joined us at the museum for the reception and open house. Our theme was Dairying. We have collected several dairy farm histories thanks to the mural as well as copies of many photos, but we aren't finished yet. We encourage anyone who has memories of dairy farms in Walworth or near Walworth to share their stories and photos with us. As always, we don't need to keep your original photos. We just want to borrow them long enough to scan and then we'll return them.

Inside the museum we had displays of Wayne County milk bottles, dairy-related artifacts (butter, cheese, ice cream), farm-related toys, and two special guest displays by Carol Bailey of Lyons and Ellen Rich of Marion. Bob Mogray put together a series of photos of farms, barns and other dairy-related pictures that ran in a continuous loop on the screen. Also running in a continuous loop were photos of the 29 murals in Wayne County.

Refreshments included a beautiful photo cake of the Clara Billings Yeomans painting of the herd, ice cream, cheese and crackers, cow cookies, milk and chocolate milk, cider, and haymakers switchel (a common drink for farm hands working in the fields). Several Girl Scouts and their leader, Colleen Siracuse, helped us with serving.

From Your President By Jessie Keymel

This has been a busy summer at WHS, especially with all the extra planning and paperwork required to bring the mural to fruition and our normal monthly activities.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time to make us an intimate part of this community. Thank you to the float builders and to Roger Keymel for driving the float in the parade. Thanks also to everyone who sat at the booth at the Festival in the Park. We won best float award this year, displaying the items that were necessary for the pioneers to settle here around 1800. We are grateful to the members who spent hours at the museum on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons this summer. It is important that we are open when the public expects us to be there. Many thanks to our grounds crew who make sure our appearance is always properly presented.

Thank you to Jacque Ruth and Becky Appleman for helping to host the August 20 Aldersgate Class meeting at the museum. I showed a program of old and new photos from our collection, just a small taste of Walworth's past. Eighteen members of the class were present. This adult class of the Walworth United Methodist Church was started in the 1940's and is still very active.

November Display at Town Hall By Judy McMillan

Coming soon to our town hall! Look for the display of beautiful two-dimensional replicas of area landmarks. These miniatures were painted by Walworth's own talented artist, Edie Pasquini, who previously operated the Potpourri of Gifts store which was located across from the Walworth Post Office. Edie recently donated a portion of her collection to the Walworth Historical Society, and we are pleased to share her work with our community.

In Memoriam: Jay C. Taber

By Vaughn Pembroke



Jay Taber holds class at the Museum

A couple of months ago the Walworth Historical Society lost one of its charter members. Jay C. Taber will be remembered as a man of slender build with an oversized friendly personality. Anyone who took the time to listen realized that he was a man of integrity who had his priorities in the right order. His family, consisting of wife Arline and daughters Mary Ellen and Joanne, were his pride and joy. His daughters were raised in a loving home and grew up to be well mannered, educated and beautiful people.

Jay spent time in the Army, went to college, and became a teacher at Wayne Central High School. He was the high school English department head for a long time.

In 1955 when he was 28, he and Arline bought the house on Penfield Road right next door to our house. It was always kept in impeccable condition inside and out.

I can remember seeing Jay at the top of a 40 something foot ladder scraping and painting the exterior of this huge house. The lawn was perfect and flower beds very nice. As a neighbor, he willingly offered help when needed. I do not remember this man ever swearing, not even when the preschool age boy from next door showed up for breakfast uninvited once in a while.

His family, friends, and the people of Walworth will miss the cheery smile, quick comebacks, and spark in his step. Jay, may you rest in peace with your time on this earth done well.

Summer at the Museum

By Judy McMillan

It's difficult to realize that summer is already past! We had many visitors to our Walworth Historical Museum this season - thanks to the following people who so generously gave their time so that the museum could be open for business:

Gordon and Betty Youngman, Gene and Liz Bavis, Bill and Sharon Boyd, Lyle and Jean Bassage, Donna Stalker, Stan and Louise Weller, Mary Jane Devlin, Marlene Slocum, Pat and Cathy Stark, Joe and Marcia Englert, Leighton and Nancy Bel, Sonny and Dorothy French, Sam and Isabel Kaplan, Mary Earlandt, Roger and Jessie Keymel, Kathy Aeckerle, Joyce Finney, Joyce Munger, Jacque Ruth, and Larry McMillan.

As you probably know, it is necessary for us to have the museum open to the public a certain number of hours in order to keep our New York State Charter. We truly appreciate your helping us.

Genealogy Group To Meet Nov. 20

By Peg Harvey

The Walworth Genealogy Group will meet at the Walworth-Seely Public Library on Wednesday, November 20, from noon-2 PM in the community room. If you would like to attend, bring your lunch and beverage. If you need to leave early, it is OK. Liz Albright will share with us information about the first New York State Family History Conference that she attended on September 20-21 in Syracuse.

For people who were not able to come to our September meeting, time will be available if they still want to share about their ancestors coming to the United States.

We will discuss winter genealogy research that we can be doing "from home", such as accessing online data or gathering more information from family. One website that is fee based, but available for free at the Family History Centers, is www.Fold3.com. Debbie Archambeau will show us how to navigate through that website to illustrate what military information can be accessed. Other free websites will be discussed and looked at as time allows, such as familysearch.org.

For more information, or to be added to the meeting announcement email list, please contact Peg Harvey at genealogywlny@aol.com.

Cameron Jones Wants a Mural in Marion

By Gene Bavis



Cameron Jones

Cameron Jones, age 9, grandson of Ed and Donna Stalker, went to his piggy bank and donated \$25 for the Walworth Post Office mural because he is a Yeomans descendant and he wanted to see it become a reality. Fast forward a few weeks...I get a text from Grandma Donna. "Cameron wants to know if there are any plans for a mural in Marion." My reply, "Nothing definite, but we hope to get murals all over the county." Her reply, "Cameron wants to raise money for one in Marion." (where he lives) OK...I want to meet with him! We met and I explained some of the things that go into doing a project like this, and he is still interested. GOOD DEAL!

I began looking for a good wall. I found one that I thought was ideal, so I boldly knocked on the homeowner's door and said, "I'm involved with mural mania, and your barn would be perfect for a mural." Fortunately, he didn't think I was crazy. He said he'd talk with his wife, and let me know. I had just barely arrived home and his wife called. She liked the idea! Is the fact that she's a former student of mine significant? I don't know, but this is cool.

Cameron loves old trains. The Newark-Marion Railroad was an important piece of history, so I think we've found a theme. We have a wall. Once we get some photos together that might get incorporated into a mural, we'll contact some artists for a quote. We'll need to find a non-profit organization to "sponsor" the project so that donations can be tax deductible.

I am confident that Cameron will be successful. A young person wants to do something to better his community (mural mania theme: the preservation of history through community art). Who could resist donating to that? History buffs should like it (more donations), and train buffs should, too.

I am proud of Cameron, and I plan to do anything I can to help him get his mural in Marion. I will donate to the project! I'll give you an update in the next WHS newsletter.

Our Collection Continues to Grow

By Jessie Keymel

In August Mrs. Alice Doyle called me to ask if we, WHS, would like a suitcase full of diaries. The diaries date from 1865-1923 and were written by Thomas Dadswell, a Union soldier from the time of his discharge until his death. Some years ago Alice and her friend were on a search for old chairs that needed caning when they discovered an old trunk full of diaries. They purchased the trunk and enjoyed many hours reading about Thomas' life in Hall Center and his many friends whose family names were familiar. Thank you, Alice, for rescuing this detailed accounting of life in our area from the mice and rats in a barn.

When Oakley Porrey came to share stories with us about the Porray farm he brought history with him. Oakley gave us a diary written by his grandmother, Mina Fillmore, in 1888; an Invitation to his parents' wedding in 1910; and a program from the Methodist Church Sesquicentennial in 1959. Previously Oakley has given Golden Books from his sister Melba that were signed by the Walworth artist, Joan Esley; a student book from the district school on Finley Road; his mother Hattie's autograph book from 1898; and an opportunity to copy old photos and news articles. Thank you, Oakley, for sharing your memories and treasures with us. It is memories shared that bring history to life.

Staples' Rewards Status

We are participating in Staples' Rewards program. Thanks to everyone who has donated used toner and ink cartridges to us. To date, your donations have earned us \$170.70 in Rewards; we have used a portion of this towards the purchase of envelopes and a carton of copy paper. Bring your donations to any event at the museum or call Dorothy French at 315-986-1098.

Why Cows?

By Mary Jane Devlin

Editor's Note: These remarks were made by Corky Goss, the artist of the mural on the Post Office wall:

"Why Cows? Indeed! Who needs 'moving pictures,' when we've got a 'mooving picture'?" Of course, the mural is mooving in the right public art direction: It contains relevance to this particular part of the world, it speaks volumes about and honors the long Wayne County dairy story, and these hopefully, significant messages are conveyed to the many 1000's of viewers over time, who are mooving past it by car, horse, or on foot! If we are here to dedicate this mural - it must be "working" - that is resonating - with people. Public art can do that - energizing people to act in whatever capacity they can to beautify the present, resonate with the future, and know that our actions can make a difference in our world.

And we did it -- sure it takes a few instigators: Gene and Liz Bavis, Mark Crane (owner of the site) and donors to the mural cost and even this event -- we got 'r done.

And so I'd like to dedicate this mural to the people of Walworth: the locals, farmers, business folks, travelers, and especially artists--young and old alike--but be aware public art is like a virus, creating a mural mania syndrome, which you will hear more about, that can be contagious -- in a good way. For example, as a young muralist fresh out of grad school, I was focused on merely getting the job done. What wasn't clear to me through the haze and daze of creating was that when I walk away the work stays put. And resonating with people I will never meet. This happened to me in A. C. C. when a first year V. C. student saw a photo of one of my murals painted many years earlier in Syracuse, and said, "I grew up looking at that mural."

It hit me like a lightning bolt - The work resonates over time - especially in our media/advertising saturated world. My awareness as a public artist moved from "me" focused to "we" centered, and I've listened, researched, and crafted murals more carefully ever since.

In closing, a special thanks to Theron Yeomans, himself, and may our collective memory of his magnificent contribution to Wayne County always be remembered with pride. Mooving Holsteins to Wayne County -- udder genius."

Attic Treasures

By Jessie Keymel

The subject of our September meeting was "What's in the Attic?" In each newsletter we often have an article stating that our collection continues to grow. On September 16 we brought down from the attic some of these items for a show-and-tell session. We displayed 3 of our flags: one covered the casket of World War I soldier George Frowley. Another flag was draped on the Pacific Hotel to honor Grover Cleveland's visit; it measures 12 ft. by 48 ft., has 40 stars, and is dated 1891. The third (48 star) flag was donated to WHS at the town hall; we have no information on whom or why it was given to us.

We showed 3 quilts (one is shown on the right below): an exquisite, colorful embroidered quilt made by Emily Knapp, Emily Huntley's great-grandmother, and a signature quilt from 1910 with the names of Walworth's women of that time. The sesquicentennial quilt, made by the original members of the Reverse Curves Quilt Club, is hanging in the museum.

Also on display were an infant's baptismal dress (shown on the left below) and a picture of baby Ethel Henning wearing it, a Wayne County directory from 1997-8, a diddy bag from World War I, and the letter that accompanied Burlee the Bull's horns when he came back to Walworth in the 1940's. The evening was filled with quite a cross section from our collections and there are many more items we can share at another time.



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 the time ordered 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.

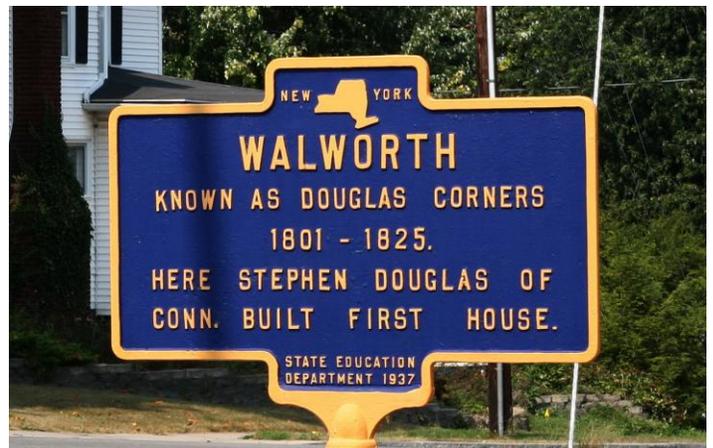
November 18 Program at 1 PM

By Gene Bavis

A couple of years ago, we decided to hold our November meeting during the day instead of in the evening. Since we have had good participation, we've continued. Bill Lesniak from Sodus will be our speaker for our November program. The title of his presentation is "Roadside History in Wayne County." This began as his daughter got interested in this as a project for her Girl Scout Gold Award. She investigated the history of the markers located in the towns along the Seaway Trail. Bill continued to be interested in this, and has collected state historic markers throughout Wayne County. He has many photos to share with us.

As you may know, one of the Depression era projects was to employ people to research local history, make cast iron markers and install them all around New York State. There were 6 of these installed in the Town of Walworth. Five still remain. We lost the one that was located on the southwest corner of Routes 350 and 441. It documented the first Methodist Church in town. Hopefully, we'll be able to get a grant to replace it at some point.

Please join us at the Walworth Historical Society Museum on Monday, November 18, at 1 PM for this program and to see some of our exhibits. Of course, desserts and beverages will be served! Bring a friend! We are willing to provide transportation to this event. Contact me at 315-573-2768 by 10 AM on November 18.



Editor's Note: One of the newest churches in our area is the EastSide Christian Church, located at 3944 West Walworth Road in West Walworth. The information below is excerpted from a detailed history submitted by its pastor.

Hi Everyone! My name is Dan Miller and I am the pastor of EastSide Christian Church and I also drive a school bus for a local district. I had been a part of a local denomination for 25 years, as well as an elder and then ordained a pastor in 2007. We are an unaffiliated non-denominational church of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ where the Word, Worship, and Prayer are essential elements of the church. The Bible is taught expositionally, book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse with occasional topical messages as the Lord leads.

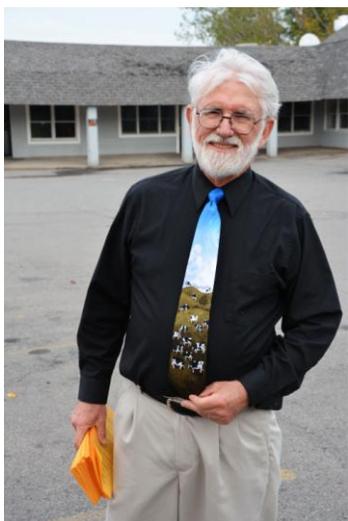
The Church was actually born from a home Bible Study group of about 9 believers. We moved to Gananda where the group outgrew our home, so we were given permission to have Bible studies at the local community center. In 2009 the Lord made it abundantly clear that it was time to "step out of the boat" of the church where we were. After much prayer and seeking the Lord, we took that step and August 2nd EastSide Christian Church was born. We continued to grow to a point where we no longer had any room, especially for the children's nursery. So we began to pray that the Lord would open a door for us locally. While attending a banquet for the jail ministry that I am involved in and talking to a Brother in the Lord about running out of room, he said, "Why don't you check out the First Baptist Church in West Walworth. It has been empty for quite some time."



Eastside Christian Church

We met with the representatives of the church and on Father's Day 2010 we were given permission to use the church. They are truly wonderful folks. Our first Sunday Service in the church was July 4, 2010. I am not a "head counter" so I believe a good guess of how many folks that come consistently is somewhere around 45 total right now. As far as future plans are concerned, it is basically to continue to be faithful to the calling of God in this community in preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have Sunday service at 10:00 AM to include Sunday School for ages 12 and below with Little People care downstairs during service. The Sunday School curriculum is designed for class participation of all ages. We do believe that children the age of 13 years and above should be in service with their parents. Mid-week Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Prayer and Worship is held on Fridays at 7:00 PM.

If anyone wants to know more about us, the doors are open. Our web site is eastsideconline.org.



Gene's Tie

On the front cover of this newsletter in the center is a tall thin photo of Gene Bavis' tie. I'm not sure where he got this item but it was not the only dairy-related bit of paraphernalia at the Walworth Historical Society Museum on October 6.

There were also cow bells, cow balloons, cow cookies, a cow photo cake, a cattle crossing sign, books with dairy farm history in the Walworth area, and much more. Even Mrs. Bavis was dressed up in Holstein cow clothing.

We hope that you had the chance to attend this mural dedication. More to follow about Walworth murals!

On Sunday, October 20 the last "Memories" meeting for 2013 was held at the Walworth Town Hall. This was co-sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society and the Walworth-Seely Public Library. The attendance was a little light but the conversation was excellent and very interesting.

Some of the discussions were about summer jobs and work that was done at home when we were all just a bit younger. Included were stories about working on dairy farms, harvesting cherries on fruit farms, and about the planting and harvesting of celery and potatoes on the muck. Some people also worked at stores and businesses in town. A lot of the conversation focused around summertime work but then it shifted to more enjoyable activities.



There were stories of swimming and fishing at local places, early street dances and square dances with people traveling from neighboring towns to attend, playing baseball in local leagues, and attending local town carnivals and fireman's auctions where games were played and great summertime food was eaten. The meeting went the full one and a half hours and then was adjourned for refreshments provided by the Walworth-Seely Public Library.

We wish to thank those in attendance for a very interesting meeting and great conversation. Hope to see you at the next "Memories" session next spring.

Walworth Historical Society 2013 Events Calendar

| Date | Time | Subject | Location |
|---------------|---------|---|----------|
| Mon., Nov. 18 | 1:00 PM | General Meeting: Bill Lesniak: "Historic Markers and Sites in Wayne County" | Museum |

Board of Trustees Meetings: Monday, 7:00 PM at the Museum: November 4.

Open House Hours: The museum is open June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM. Contact Judy McMillan at 315-524-4219 or Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 for an appointment for other times.

Officers, Board Members, and Committee Chairs

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| President | Jessie Keymel | (315) 524 - 9205 | Town Historian | Gene Bavis | (315) 573 - 2768 |
| VP/Newsletter | Robert Mogray | (585) 576 - 4156 | Publicity | Joyce Finney | (585) 377 - 9535 |
| Secretary | Judy McMillan | (315) 524 - 4219 | Genealogy | Kathy Aeckerle | (315) 597 - 6864 |
| Treasurer | Mary Jane Devlin | (315) 986 - 1512 | Hospitality | Nancy Bel | (315) 986 - 2765 |
| WHS Trustee | Becky Appleman | (315) 524 - 3289 | Hospitality | Liz Bavis | (315) 802 - 0380 |
| WHS Trustee | Gene Bavis | (315) 573 - 2768 | Grounds | Judy McMillan | (315) 524 - 4219 |
| WHS Trustee | Nancy Bel | (315) 986 - 2765 | Grounds | Becky Appleman | (315) 524 - 3289 |
| WHS Trustee | Dorothy French | (315) 986 - 1098 | Grounds | Judy McMillan | (315) 524 - 4219 |
| WHS Trustee | Larry Ruth | (315) 524 - 7936 | Bldg. Maintenance | Stan Weller | |
| WHS Trustee | Marlene Slocum | (315) 524 - 5416 | Collections | Jesse Keymel | (315) 524 - 9205 |

Membership Information

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Student | \$ 5.00 |
| Individual | \$ 10.00 |
| Family | \$ 15.00 |
| Supporting | \$ 25.00 |
| Corp. or Business | \$ 30.00 |
| Sponsor | \$ 50.00 |
| Patron | \$ 100.00 |
| Life Member | \$ 150.00 |
| Benefactor | \$ 150.00 |

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 and donations are tax deductible.

November 2013 WHS E-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos: Mural Dedication

(All photos on this page are from the Walworth Mural dedication on Oct. 6)





The Amsler farm (Lincoln Road)



Walworth area farm



Another Walworth area farm



Ken and Florence Brown with calf



The Hilton farm 20012 (Walworth-Palmyra Road)