

Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 38 Number 4 March 2014

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

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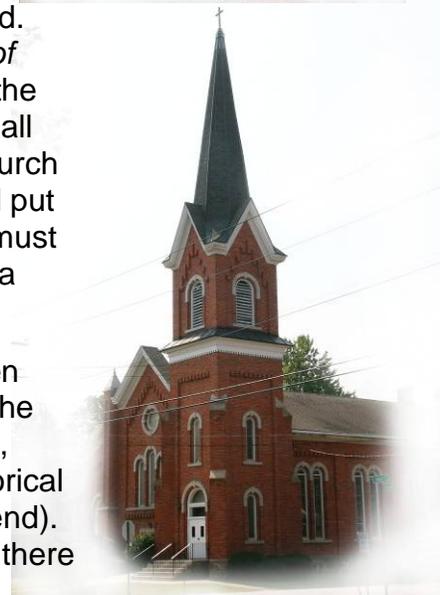
Churches of Wayne County Program: March 17 By Gene Bavis

(with assistance from our speaker)

In 2010 the Wayne County Museum of History had an exhibit "The Burned-Over District: the Churches of Wayne County." In preparation for that exhibit letters were sent out to churches, and Loreen Jorgensen, retired Wayne Central Primary School Librarian, traveled around the county picking up histories and artifacts that were loaned, photographing the sanctuaries, and talking with the pastors/historians she met about their churches.

Museum Director LarryAnn Evans asked her to put together a PowerPoint presentation, so she did. She began reading the histories and *Landmarks of Wayne County* on churches, and that led her to the County Historian's office where she went through all his books, files, and about half the microfilmed church records. Last June, Loreen realized that she had put 3 1/2 years into this research and decided that it must be a book. Since then, she spends about 2 days a week on her research.

Loreen's slide show has grown, so it has now been divided into two parts. There are 42 churches in the first part that she will share with us at our Monday, March 17 meeting (7:30 PM at the Walworth Historical Society Museum). Please join us (and bring a friend). As always, refreshments will be served (and I bet there might be some green ones).



Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal

By Gene Bavis

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, June 7, 9 AM-4 PM. I will conduct a bus tour of the Canal Corridor from Lyons to Macedon under the sponsorship of the Walworth Recreation Department. We'll tour museums, historic canal structures, and murals. Lunch, tours, and transportation will be included for the fee of \$25 per person. For a pre-registration flyer, contact me at gbavis@rochester.rr.com. It will be published in the Spring Walworth Town Topics and more details will be in the May newsletter.

From Your President

By Jessie Keymel

We have had a busy 2013 at the Walworth Historical Society. More than 480 signatures were written in our registration book; this represents the many visits made to our museum by both visitors and member volunteers. It is a busy place - we even had a family from Michigan with the last name of Walworth.

Perhaps our open house when we dedicated the mural on the Post Office wall was the gold star winner of the year. We are indeed fortunate to have speakers such as Rich Hoven, Patty Alena and Bill Lesniak, who are passionate about their subject and willing to share their knowledge with us. 2014 promises to be another year of interesting programs. Our Walworth Memories is always a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and neighbors, new and old.

We are looking for nominations for the Citizen of the Year award; if you have a suggestion please contact any of our board members. Councilman Larry Ruth has been appointed as our liaison with the Walworth Town Board. Thank you to donors for your financial support when we needed it for a new furnace.

Scrapbook Memories: 1990

By Joyce Finney

We are indebted to Walworth native and long-time school teacher Dorothy Petty, who compiled more than 30 scrapbooks through the years. We are honored to be the custodian of these scrapbooks and to share their contents with our readers.

January - Chunks of the Berlin Wall sell for \$30,000.

February - No smoking on airplanes begins. Ban hits U.S. flights of six hours or more.

May 21 - On May 21st the Walworth Historical Society held their annual meeting at which time the first Community Service Award was presented to Emily Huntley in recognition of her life-long interest in the community.

April - A New Tree Grows in Yeomans' Park. On Arbor Day April 27, 1990, Den 3 of Cub Pack 113, under the leadership of Vaughn Pembroke, presented to the Walworth Historical Society a Kwanzan flowering cherry tree which they planted in the front yard of the museum. The boys earned the money to pay for the tree by collecting and selling recyclables.

May - English joins "Gypsy" cast. Walworth native Corey English is making it big in the Big Apple. A former student of Sandy Stramonine School of Dance, English has just been signed to the permanent cast of the Broadway musical "Gypsy" starring Tyne Daly.

September - West Walworth Baptist Church Celebrates 175 years. A quilt made by the church members and coordinated by Barbara Pifer will be unveiled and displayed this Sunday. Nathaniel Palmer, whose burial site was recently honored by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in 1815 donated the land on which the church stands. In 1816 Daniel Palmer was named the church's first minister.

November - The sudden death of Stormie Jones is being studied. Doctors conducted a lab test to determine what caused the sudden death of 13-year-old Stormie Jones, the world's first heart-liver transplant recipient.

New Furnace

By Gene Bavis

In December, I was having my furnaces serviced. I realized that the Historical Society's furnace had not been serviced recently, so I asked Marty of Always Safe Heating if he'd be willing to check ours. He did, and he found that our heat exchanger was cracked. That was serious! Thankfully, within a few days he was able to install a new high efficiency furnace. Your Board of Trustees had not budgeted for a new furnace, so we notified our members that we had expended "reserve funds" to cover the costs. The response was GREAT. We are thankful for the donations that have mostly replenished the emergency expenditure.

Light the Night at Ginegaw Park

By Judy McMillan and Bob Mogray

On December 6 the Town of Walworth held its first annual "Light the Night" festival at Ginegaw Park. It was sponsored by the Walworth Parks and Recreation Department and really was a festive occasion with lots of free activities.

Keymel's Christmas Tree Farm and Franke's Nursery donated Christmas trees and Walworth organizations were invited to decorate them for all to see during the holiday season. They were located near the Lodge and could be seen from both Walworth-Penfield Road and Lorraine Drive. The community was asked to judge the decorated trees and the Wayne Central Junior Class won first prize.



Santa arrived in a fire truck and rides on his "sleigh" were available. Hot chocolate, cookies, and hot dogs were available at the Lodge, while neighbors met and viewed the ten beautiful trees that were decorated and lighted for the occasion.

Walworth Historical Society's tree had a look of a tree from long ago. It had wooden ornaments of animals, wooden beads, apples, popcorn strings and lots of red bows. Becky Appleman and her granddaughter, Brooke (shown on the left), helped decorate the tree. Also assisting were Gene and Liz Bavis and Judy McMillan. It was a night to remember. Mark your calendars for another festival on Saturday, December 6 next Christmas!

Roadside History of Wayne County

By Gene Bavis

On Monday, November 18, 2013, our featured speaker was Bill Lesniak from Sodus. His daughter had worked on a project of documenting historic markers along the northern tier of Wayne County for her Girl Scout Gold Award and, like a good Dad, Bill went along. Then he decided that the rest of Wayne County should be added too, so he did. He took all of the photos and other information they collected and created a PowerPoint program. Larry Ruth and I had seen the program at a retired teacher luncheon, so we thought our historical society would enjoy it too. I am happy to report that it was very well received.

I will add a side note. Bill gave me a copy of his program and, thanks to this resource, I was able to add historic markers to the Wayne County Historic Sites Survey that I started last summer. I will report further on that project another time.

In Memoriam: Nancy Lewis Isbell

By Mabel Lewis Risley

Nancy Lewis Isbell, Walworth native and life-time WHS member, passed away December 25, 2013, in Memphis, Tennessee at the age of 72. Nancy was one of eight children born to Jay and Margaret Lewis at their Lewis Road home. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, and knitting, and worked as a seamstress.

Nancy is survived by her children Bonnie Sharrow Duval of Walworth, Julie Sharrow Kazmierski of New York, Allen Sharrow of Florida, Yvonne Pope Shaw of Memphis, TN, and Becky Pope Martillo of Jonesboro, AR; 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her brothers, Eddy, Don, and Dick Lewis, and a sister, Mildred Lewis. She is survived by a brother, Bob of Sarasota, Florida, and two sisters, Martha Lewis Michener of Shartel, Oklahoma, and Mabel Lewis Risley of Walworth.

Mural Mania is Growing

By Gene Bavis (Certified Mural Maniac)

The term “Mural Mania” originated in Lyons around 2007 when several murals were painted there. Mark De Cracker and Noel Dobbins created its theme/mission “the preservation of history through community art.” The original intention was to have a string of murals along the Erie Canal that would be 50 miles long, but then others in this area liked the idea too, so murals began to pop up in other communities that were not in the canal corridor. At this point in time, we have 29 in Wayne County and several more are in the planning stages. A few months ago, Mark and I formed the Mural Mania Advisory Committee to support local organizations that were interested in sponsoring a mural project.

We are currently working on 3 more murals for Walworth. As announced last fall at our dedication ceremony for the Holstein Mural at the Post Office, we are planning to depict the double wedding of sisters, Anna and Nellie Yeomans, on June 10, 1891. It was attended by “Uncle Grover” (Cleveland). We are currently in the design stage and hope to have a rough sketch to share with you by the next newsletter. At that point we will begin fundraising in earnest. It will be similar to last year’s project where we will ask people to sponsor a square foot or more.

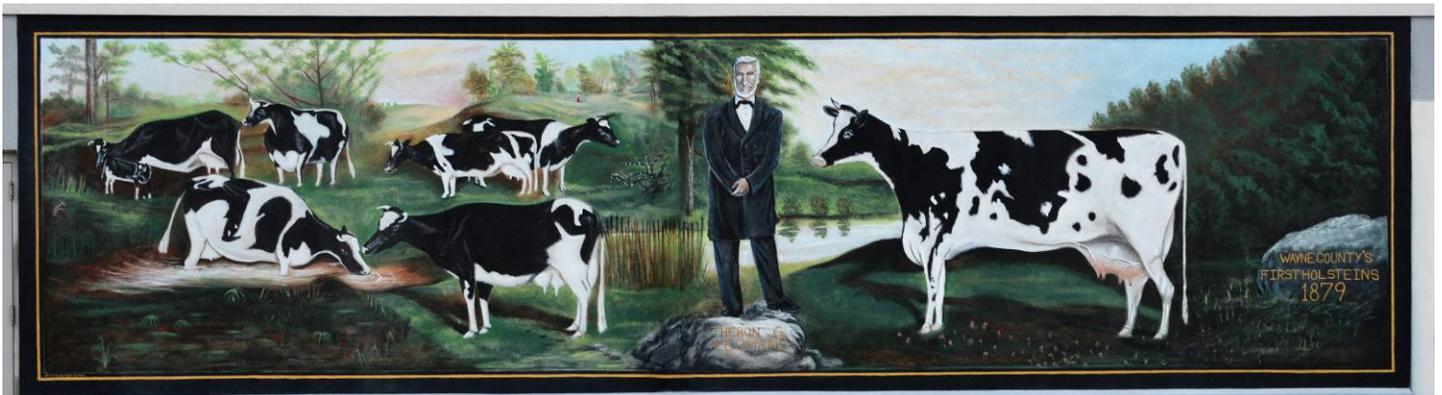
Another mural in the works is the one we have planned for the Town Hall. It will be 8’ wide by 12’ high and be located to the right of the main entrance. I believe that we have a Girl Scout interested in doing this as her Gold Award project. More details will be shared when they become available.

The third project will be unique. It will be a joint venture among the Walworth Lions Club, Walworth Recreation Department, and the Friends of the Park. The plan is that Walworth Recreation will hold “Mural Camp” for two weeks this summer. A professional muralist or art teacher will be engaged to work with 5 to 8 high school students who have been nominated by their art teachers to paint a 4 or 5 panel mural that will be mounted on the south wall of the Lions Club barn in Ginegaw Park. If the timing works out, we hope to hold a dedication ceremony during the Festival in the Park.

The Cameron Jones (Ed and Donna Stalker’s grandson) mural in Marion is moving forward. In the last newsletter, I reported that we had found the wall and had a theme. Since then we have found a sponsor and I have had a conversation with the Marion Town Supervisor who is supportive of the project. The next step is for Cameron to select some photos of the elements that he’d like to see included in the mural so we can then send them to various artists for a quote. When we have an idea of mural cost, fundraising will begin.

I have made presentations to several groups, most recently to the Newark Chamber of Commerce. I’ll be doing a mural program as a part of the Newark-Arcadia Historical Society’s Winter Lecture Series at 2 PM at their museum (120 High Street, Newark) on Saturday, March 29. It’s free and open to the public.

The Mural Mania Advisory Committee is looking into hosting the Global Mural Conference in 2016 or 2018. We are also upgrading the Mural Mania website and creating a Wayne County Mural Trail map which we hope to have posted soon. We also have a Mural Mania Facebook page which we invite all Facebook users to “like.”



The first Walworth mural on the west side of the Walworth Post Office

We Were on Display!

By Judy McMillan

The display case at the town hall is available to local organizations and is a wonderful opportunity to showcase a group's activities or highlight collections. The Walworth Historical Society is a frequent user of the display case, as these photos show.

Our previous display (shown on the left below) was the 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 the street from the Post Office. Edie recently donated a portion of her collection to WHS, and the display received rave reviews from the public. Thank you Edie!

"Photos of the Past" (shown on the right below) is presently being featured. The graduating classes of 1947 and 1948 from Walworth High School are on display as well as miscellaneous scenes of by-gone days in Walworth. There is a photo of Abe Almekinder's Feed Store taken in 1938. Stop by and see if you recognize some of those men.



A Charlie Pembroke Story

By Vaughn Pembroke

At a recent meeting of the Walworth Historical Society I was asked to write a few stories about my dad, Charles Pembroke. I would like to start this assignment with you knowing that stories told and handed down should not be confused with actual history. At times stories told lose the moment so something may be added to bring a smile. This would be the case in a Charlie Pembroke-type story.

For example: Dad took neighbor Ernie Bel for a ride in his truck. They went into a field at some point, intentionally. Pretty blah. Now add in: "The woodchucks were running, pheasants flying, the ditch was 2 feet across and they were doing 40 mph." A little smile creeps on your face as you think of Ernie bouncing up and down while chasing a woodchuck with Dad's dash board full of stuff going all over the place. A Charlie Pembroke story with harmless life added.

Did you know that the mill in the Huddle (Walworth-Palmyra Road near Mill Street and owned by Anna Youngs family) had a water wheel that ran off that creek? Nearby you can still see parts of the dam left in ruins. The difference with this water wheel was that it was in the ground and sideways like a turbine. This allowed more water from the dam to be used at lower water levels. Now for the add-on to make it more Dad: "You could hear the frogs in the old mill pond. The smaller frogs were saying in a light voice "knee-deep, knee-deep." The big frogs said in a deep voice: "It's over your head. It's over your head."

I hope this brought a smile, as was always Dad's aim.

In Memoriam: Monnie Churchill

By Jessie Keymel

It is with sadness that we share with you the loss of WHS charter and lifetime member Monica J. Churchill. If you were looking for a single word to describe Monnie I think it would be CAREGIVER. Her life's work was caring, whether it was an elderly neighbor, a sick friend, her sons and grandchildren, or just someone who needed some cooking instruction.

Monnie died January 21, 2014, just weeks before her 98th birthday on February 9th. The Walworth Historical Society presented her with the Community Service Award in 2005. By then Monnie spent most of her



days sitting in her home making simple felt cut-out angels. She gave them to anyone who looked like they “needed an angel” - in grocery stores, restaurants, and wherever she went. I think every doctor's office in Wayne County had them hanging in the office. When a baby is



baptized in the Methodist Church they still receive one of Monnie's angels, a gift from a loving, caring lady who brought joy to everyone she met.

Monnie Churchill receives the WHS Community Service award in 2005 from WHS president Jessie Keymel (left).

Monnie's angels (right).

Walworth Memories: April 6

By Dorothy French

The recent increase in genealogy has resulted in an added interest in cemeteries and the information available on gravestones. Sometimes this data can pose more questions than answers. Funerals and burial customs have changed through the years. Do you remember going to your grandparents' home as a small child to attend a wake, which was usually held in a parlor reserved only for important occasions? What questions would a small child ask?

Come to our museum on Sunday, April 6, from 2 – 3:30 P.M. and hear the question my seven-year-old daughter asked me. Let's share memories about “Walworth Cemeteries, Funerals and Burial Customs.” The museum is located at the corner of Academy and High Streets – and of course refreshments will be available.

Chet Peters Retirement

The Williamson Town Board invites the public to attend a retirement celebration for Chester “Chet” A. Peters, will be honored for being the Town of Williamson Historian for half of a century. The celebration will be held at the Williamson Town Complex on Saturday, March 15, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Presentations will be at 2:30 p.m. We thank Chet for sharing his extensive knowledge of the area with everyone.

Our Collection Continues to Grow

By Jessie Keymel

Our collection has grown by leaps and bounds lately. We have become the custodians of photo albums dating 1993 – 2002 from Walworth Recreation Department. Can you help identify the players and coaches? The lobby at the town complex has been repainted and we now house the framed Bicentennial message from President Gerald Ford, a framed 1972 newspaper article “Where People Like to Live” from the Wayne County Mail, and an aerial photograph of the Walworth hamlet. All these have hung in the town hall lobby for years, now they are part of our history

Charter Members

By Mary Jane Devlin

We wish to thank the charter members of the Walworth Historical Society for their foresight and fortitude in working to charter this organization enabling future generations to see what Walworth was like in earlier years. The charter members are listed below:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Albrecht, Mr. and Mrs. Herman | Frenz, Mr. and Mrs. William | Rease, Mrs. Betty |
| Ambrose, Mr. Karel and family | Fulton, Mrs. Joan | Rease, Mrs. Kathy |
| Arnold, Mr. Fay | Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Brayton | Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Philip |
| Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood | Granger, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd | Roland, Mr. and Mrs. Richard |
| Barth, Mrs. Leona | Guelli, Mr. and Mrs. Frank | Russell, Mrs. Evelyn |
| Bassage, Mr. and Mrs. George | Hack, Mr. and Mrs. Charles | Seavert, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence |
| Bassage, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle | Hall, Mr. George W. | Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Harold |
| Bassage, Mrs. Hazel | Harris, Mrs. Doris | Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert |
| Bavis, Mr. and Mrs. Gene | Heller, Mr. and Mrs. George | Stevens, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas |
| Bavis, Mr. Jeff | Henning, Miss Ethel | Symes, Mr. Ernest |
| Bavis, Mrs. Etta | Higgs, Ms. Isabel | Taber, Mr. and Mrs. Jay |
| Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Warren | Huntley, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford | Thedans, Mr. and Mrs. Walter |
| Billings, Mr. and Mrs. Howard | Huntley, Mr. and Mrs. Donald | Traas, Mr. and Mrs. John |
| Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. William & family | Ikewood, Mr. and Mrs. John | Tuhro, Mrs. Florence |
| Breci, Mrs. Angela | Keymel, Mr. and Mrs. Roger | Turcotte, Mr. and Mrs. Robert |
| Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald | Kier, Mrs. Mabel | VanHoover, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley |
| Churchill, Mrs. Monnie | Kowalski, Mr. and Mrs. Harry | VanOrden, Mr. and Mrs. Robert |
| Darron, Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle | Kuelling, Mr. and Mrs. Russell | Walczyk, Mr. and Mrs. William |
| Devlin, Mrs. Arnold | Kunzer, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred | Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde |
| Doyle, Mrs. Thomas | Kunzer, Mr. and Mrs. Theron | Welker, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ray |
| Druschel, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence | Leone, Mr. Michael | Welker, Sr, Mr. and Mrs. Ray. |
| Eastman, Mr. Richard | Lonneville, Mrs. Edward | White, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas |
| Englert, Mr. and Mrs. Joe | Masline, Mr. and Mrs. Edward | Wignall, Mr. Robert |
| Englert, Mr. Joseph | Niles, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley | Wing, Mrs. Alonzo B. |
| Finley, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph | Nortier, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford | Youngman, Mr. Gordon |
| Flye, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome | Pembroke, Mr. Roger S. | Youngs, Mrs. Anna |
| Foote, Mr. and Mrs. Williard | Petty, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd | Yuker, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond |
| Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond | Provost, Mrs. Alberta | Yuker, Mr. and Mrs. Robert |
| Franke, Mr. and Mrs. Leland | Pugsley, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn | Zerten, Lynn D. |

Nominations for 2014 WHS Community Service Award By Bob Mogray

Almost everyone who has lived here in the Walworth area for a few years has come to know many local people who have selflessly given of themselves for the good of the community and for others. These may be people who have volunteered for a community organization, helped on local projects, or just someone who has given of his or her time to make our town a great place to live. Every year the Walworth Historical Society chooses one of these special people for its Community Service Award. Even though these people may have no expectations or want any special recognition, we feel it is a good thing to show them that we appreciate their efforts and we need you to help us do it.

So, what we are asking is for you to help us select one of these special people. If you know of someone who may deserve this award, please contact any WHS officer or board member. The phone numbers are on the back of this newsletter. This award will be presented at our annual meeting on Monday, May 19, at the Lodge in Ginégaw Park. Please help us select this deserving person and support us by attending our meeting. If you have any questions please call WHS president Jesse Keymel at 315-524-9205 or WHS vice-president Bob Mogray at 585-576-4156.

Walworth Historical Society 2014 Events Calendar

| Date | Time | Subject | Location |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mon., Mar. 17 | 7:30 PM | General Meeting. Program: Loreen Jorgensen: "Wayne County Churches" | Museum |
| Sun., April 6 | 2 – 3:30 PM | Walworth Memories. Theme: "Walworth Cemeteries, Funerals and Burial Customs" | Museum |
| Mon., May 19 | 6:15 PM | Annual mtg., pot luck supper, election of officers, Community Service Award. Program: "Walworth – Then and Now" | Lodge at Ginegaw Park |
| Sat., June 7 | All Day | Day trip sponsored by Walworth Rec. "15 Miles on the Erie Canal". More info May | Wayne County areas |
| Fri., July 25 | | Festival in the Park Parade and Booth | |
| Sat., July 26 | | Festival in the Park booth | Ginegaw Park |
| Mon., Sept. 15 | 7:30 PM | General Meeting: Program - Edith Farrington: "Life on a Farm 1870-1890" | Museum |
| Sun., Oct. 5 | 2 – 4 PM | Open House | Museum |
| Sun., Oct. 19 | 2 – 3:30 PM | Walworth Memories | Museum |
| Mon., Nov. 17 | 1:00 PM | General Meeting: Program TBA | Museum |

Board of Trustees Meetings: Mondays, 7:00 PM at the Museum: April 21, June 16, Aug. 18, and Nov. 3.

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) 538 - 8605 |
| 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) 538 - 8605 | 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. Maint. | Stan Weller | (585) 545 - 9434 |
| 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.

March 2014 WHS E-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos:



All photos on this page are from the "Light the Night" festival at Ginegaw Park in Walworth in December 2013.



All photos on this page are of recent WHS displays at the Walworth Town Hall. Thanks to WHS Secretary Judy McMillan for designing and setting up these displays. Also helping were Becky Appleman, Liz Bavis, Dorothy French, and others.

