



# Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 39 Number 2 September 2014

Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568  
WHS Website: [www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org)

Color front cover courtesy of Reliant Community Federal Credit Union.



## The History of Our Bell

By Dorothy French

The theme of this year's Festival in the Park parade was "Taking Pride in our Mascots, Symbols, and Logos." The obvious choice for our float was to feature a scaled-down version of the bell that graces the lawn at our museum, mount it on the Keymel's hay wagon, and add some decorations. The parade judges agreed and awarded us a trophy for Most Original Float. A photo of the WHS Festival in the Park float is shown above.

Our museum's bell has an interesting history. In 1980 Joe Finley, Class of 1933, wrote a poem in commemoration of the 1980 closing of Walworth Elementary School. The poem ended with these words:

*The closing of our Walworth School is like the passing of a friend.  
We must think about our years together and not the sadness of the end.  
And now dear friends of Walworth School before we say "farewell"  
Do your best to secure for the Walworth folks our treasured old "School Bell."*

The bell was a gift from Moses Padley of Walworth, a cabinet maker, to the Walworth Academy. The school was located at the corner of Academy and High Streets. The property is the site of the recently-demolished Walworth High School.

In 1858 it was mounted in the Academy's tower, where it summoned students to their classes. Moses also donated a clock for the tower, which worked in unison with the bell for many years. The bell was faithfully in service until 1930 when the Academy was torn down to make way for a new school.

Author and newspaper columnist Arch Merrill recounted a story about the bell and its place in local history. It mentioned that "Around 1870 a smart and determined young woman named Susan Cleveland came to Walworth as Principal of the Academy." Susan met Lucien Theron Yeomans who soon proposed marriage. She told her suitor to listen for the school bell. If it rang at a certain hour, her answer was yes. Wedding bells soon followed.

From the diaries of John Dennis (J.D.) Kipp, dated January 1925, we read the following entry: *By the way, did any of you ever hear Moses Padley talk? Well now, that's funny. Years ago he used to talk every hour, day and night, and even now if I happen to be up on High Street about nine o'clock in the morning, I can hear him talk and this is what he says: "Come – Come – Come – Come."*

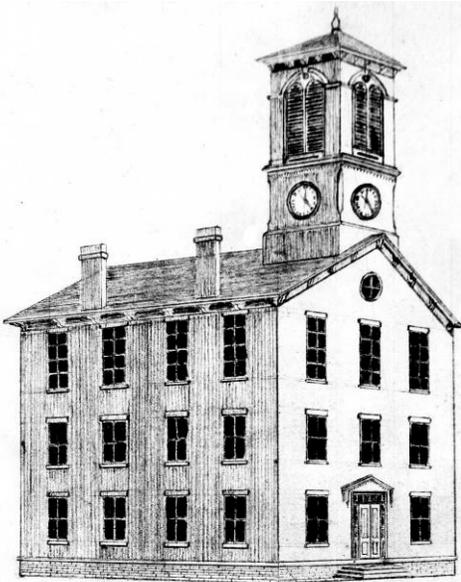
*Now you know what I mean, but perhaps you did not know that Moses Padley, a well-to-do farmer of the town, bought the clock and bell at a cost of \$500 and, if I am not mistaken, gave it to the Trustees of the Academy. It was a great blessing in those days when dollar watches were not as plentiful as they are now and, when the old clock used to strike out the hour, I have heard my father say, "Well, Dennis, Moses Padley says it is twelve o'clock so let's quit and go to dinner."*

A 1915 newspaper story from our museum files adds more information: *After many, many years of silence, the clock in Walworth Academy, now our high school, is again in working order and strikes each hour. This clock was given by Moses Padley. It has been said that the clock could not be used satisfactorily, as the same bell is used as the school bell. Through the efforts of Leland Franke, assisted by Harold Baker, this clock has been cleaned and repaired and put in working order. Had it not been for the mechanical genius of Leland Franke, the clock would still be silent. He is to be congratulated upon his success and interest shown.*

According to a history of the Walworth Historical Society written by Hazel Bassage in 2000, for many years the bell was stored in a barn on the Allison Frank property on Main Street after the two Academy buildings were torn down in 1930. In 1949 it was moved to the front of the high school by the Walworth Board of Education as a memorial and was dedicated on June 30, 1949. In a 1984 letter from Charles Pembroke, he said he was president of the Walworth Alumni Association when the bell was mounted on a cement edifice built by Ray Hoffman, local mason. A solid bronze plaque was placed on the front.

When the school was closed in 1980, the Board of Education donated the bell to the Walworth Historical Society. Highway Superintendent Dan Keyes and the Walworth Highway Department dismantled the monument and, using a big loader, transported it to the town barns on Canandaigua Road. The bell was stored there for a short time until a new monument base could be built by Don Goebert of Marion, formerly of Walworth. Larry Hill worked for the highway department at the time, and said someone reported to the State Police that the bell had been removed from its location at the school. The police were reassured that the bell was in temporary storage and had not been stolen.

Thus the bell now has a permanent home on our museum's front lawn. It faces the empty lot which formerly was its home at the Academy and Walworth High School.



**Left:** From pencil drawing made by Lucien T. Yeomans about 1856. Drawing donated by Linda VerPlank, daughter of the late Stuart Huntley, a Yeomans descendant. **Right:** The bell now on the WHS museum front lawn.

## Our Collection Continues to Grow By Judy McMillan



**Oakley Porrey**

Walworth Historical Society members are grateful to Oakley Porrey\* for his generous donation of family memorabilia to the museum. Among some of the treasures are:

- **Farm ledger** dated 1924 from the farm located at 5161 Walworth-Ontario Road belonging to his parents, John and Hattie Porray. Bert Hermanet was listed as a hired farm laborer. The ledger also includes many entries of monies spent on groceries \$10.47, milk tickets \$4.40, Dr. Camp \$2.50, threshing \$88.00, Ontario Mill \$21.10, and J. Raush & Son \$17.50.
- **Tax collector's receipt** dated February 1, 1928: "Received payment from John Porray for his farm." The assessment was \$5,000 for 100+ acres of land plus barn and house. Total taxes were \$102.36. The tax collector's fee was \$1.03 and he had to come to the farm to collect it! Harold Reynolds was the tax collector.
- **Photograph of haying season** in 1941 at the Porray farm showing a fully-loaded hay wagon. Oakley is standing on the top of the wagon and his father, John, is standing in front. The wagon was driven by two work horses named Prince and Nellie. This photo was taken on Finley Road. The men used two large hay forks and then used a pulley to load the hay into the haymow in the barn. Oakley recalled how his father always purchased his horses from the McGregor's in the City of Rochester. This photo is on the left below the article.
- **Wedding photo** of Oakley and Barbara Porrey seen below this article on the right.
- **School picture** taken of the students and teacher of Walworth District #6 on Finley Road in 1937. Students: Gerry Heinsbergen, Frankie Pitts, Mary Heinsbergen, Harold Herman, Marjorie Simmons, Melba Porray (Oakley's sister), Ernie Pitts, and Ed Welsh. Teacher was Miss VanScott.
- **1927 Scrapbook** belonging to Mina Fillmore (Oakley's grandmother) containing newspaper clippings and poems (Edgar Guest was a favorite poet), obituaries, trivia and memories.
- **Many Golden Books** illustrated by Walworth's own Joan Esley.
- **Victorian Card Case** from the Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, New York, dated May 1 to November 1, 1901. Inside were calling cards from the following people: Lilly Bell Nixon; Mrs. Ella DeLong of Penfield, NY; Abby Barton; William Ashdown; George R. Wignall; Cora May Finley; Roscoe Manchester; Myra E. Wells; Frank A. Wells; Willie A. Manchester; William Manchester; Bruce F. Hill ("May future with her kindest smile, Wreath laurels for thy brow, May loving angels guard and keep thee, Ever pure as thou art now"); Mrs. Emma Manchester of 1735 R Street, Lincoln, Nebraska; Nora E. Wells; Charley Mathewson; and Luther F. Fillmore.
- **Photo album of family:** wonderful 8"x10" pictures including one of a cousin in uniform who served in the Civil War (this album is another WHS newsletter article).
- **Wedding invitation** from Mr. and Mrs. Luther Fillmore to their daughter Hattie's marriage to John Porray dated February 2, 1910.

\*Oakley explained that his last name is spelled "Porrey" instead of "Porray" to avoid confusion at the post office. It seems the mail carrier was always mixing up their mail with the neighbor's.



**Haying season in 1941. Oakley standing on top.**



**Oakley and Barbara on July 15, 1955.**

## **Walworth Memories of Our School** By Dorothy French

Did you attend Walworth High School or Walworth Elementary School? Perhaps you were one of the fortunate who spent your entire school years at the brick school building on Academy Street. Or perhaps you were caught in the middle when Wayne Central School District centralized and your beloved school was closed.

Whether you were a teacher, student or parent involved with Walworth High, we invite you to share your memories at our next Walworth Memories program on Sunday, October 19, from 2 – 3:30 PM. The program will be held at our museum which is located at 2257 Academy Street and – of course – refreshments will be available.

P.S. - Send or come! If you are unable to attend on the 19<sup>th</sup>, send your written memories to the address above or e-mail them to [dfrench5@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dfrench5@rochester.rr.com).

## **WHS Museum Computer on the Mend** By Bob Mogray

A few weeks ago the Walworth Historical Society computer finally bit the dust. We don't know the cause of its demise but it lasted many years with only a couple of minor problems. This computer is an important part of the museum because it holds all of the thousands of photos, important WHS documents, museum records, and valuable historical information collected with many hours of work by the WHS officers, board, and members. Luckily the computer had been backed up recently and no information was lost. The WHS officers and board got together to decide the best path of action. It was decided to have local computer expert, my son Michael, take a look at it and give us his opinion. He said that it would be best to keep the computer cabinet and replace the mother board, hard drive, power supply, and memory. All of these things needed to be updated because the technology had advanced quite a bit since we first installed our computer in the museum. Also added was a combination fax/scanner/printer/copier unit to complete the new equipment. Some of the old equipment was incompatible with the new Windows 7 operating system. We are now in the process of reinstalling the programs. Then the data will be restored to the new computer and we should be back in business. Hopefully by the end of August we will be up and running as if nothing happened. Thanks for the support of the board and fellow officers in this matter. Thanks also to Michael Mogray for his expertise in these matters.

*Just a reminder that all of this local historical information and many, many local photos are available for viewing during the hours that the museum is open during the summer months. 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.*

## **WHS Booth at the Festival in the Park** By Bob Mogray



For this year's Festival in the Park the Walworth Historical Society has, as it has done for many years, had a booth to display many items. Shown here in the photo are Roger Keymel (left), Joyce Van Haneghem (center), and Jessie Keymel (right). Our booth was open on Friday night and also all day Saturday. This year we had items for sale on the far left table which included hats, books by local authors, Christmas ornaments, and shirts (hanging on the back wall). Also on display were local photos in several books, our parade trophy for having the "most original float," and other odds and ends. Above it all was a banner "Take Pride in Our Town" which was basically the theme for this year's festival. Thanks to all who visited our booth. We really appreciate your support. See you at next year's Festival in the Park.

## A Surprise Visit By Jessie Keymel

During a surprise visit from Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery R. Bavis on July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, he delivered a gift for the Walworth Historical Society. Jeff brought us a flag flown over the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. It is indeed an honor to accept this flag; thank you for thinking of us. The flag will take a place of honor in our main exhibit room at the museum. Thank you Jeff and for your life commitment in service of our country. Following is the script that accompanies the flag.

"Be it known by all, this flag was flown in the face of the enemy, hoisted as a standard of liberty and illuminated by the light of justice, bearing witness to the removal of terrorist forces threatening the freedom of the United States of America. It was raised with great honor and pride from atop the United States Embassy Kabul, Afghanistan, overlooking lands where each day Americans fight the Global War on Terrorism, in remembrance of all who have gone before and furthermore of the cause of freedom.



Flown May 10, 2014 in honor of the Walworth Historical Society

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we will pay any price, bear the burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and success of liberty. President John F. Kennedy."

Flown by Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery R. Bavis  
U.S.A. Special Operations Liaison, U.S. Embassy

Certified by Colonel Marc McWilliams U.S.A.F.  
U.S. Embassy Kabul

**Left: WHS President Jessie Keymel**  
**Right: Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery R. Bavis**

## Volunteers Are a Vital Part of WHS By Jessie Keymel

Our most important asset is **you**, the volunteers. It is possible to open our museum every Wednesday and Sunday during the summer months because the following members take time to be there for visitors: Judy and Larry McMillan, Nancy Bel and her family, Stan and Louise Weller, Gordon and Betty Youngman, Isabel and Sam Kaplan, Marlene Slocum, Joyce Finney, Joyce Munger, Dorothy and Sonny French, Gene and Liz Bavis, Sharon and Bill Boyd, Jacque and Larry Ruth, Becky and Buzz Appleman, Mary Earlandt, Lyle Bassage, Judy Markowski, Doris Dreschler, Mary Jane Devlin, Kathy Aeckerle, and Jessie Keymel.

Did you notice we did not have an indoor work week this spring? Never fear, we have something bigger planned. Stan Weller has agreed to paint the inside of our museum and also the outside trim this fall. Sooo, we will need your help, moving items around and assisting Stan when he paints the museum's interior. This is not a **one-man job**. Can we schedule you to help? The walls have not been painted since we moved into the building in 1989. Call me (315-524-9205) or any board member.

Thank you all for your continuing support. Your financial contributions and presence keep our Walworth Historical Society a vital part of our community.

## October 5 Open House At Our Museum By Mary Jane Devlin

You and your family and friends are invited to the Walworth Historical Society's fall open house on Sunday, October 5, from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm at 2257 Academy Street. The Golden Eagle String Band will be performing music and recreating various events from the Civil War era. Their program is called "The Civil War Comes to Western New York" and is partially sponsored by Keymel's Christmas Tree Farm. We thank the Keymels for their continued support for all of our programs and all they do for our Society. This band has been performing since 1978. They have toured under a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. They have performed at Erie Canal Village, National Museum of Play, and Canal Days in Brockport, Spencerport, Fairport, and Palmyra. They recently played at a Macedon Community concert. This concert for the WHS is free; however, donations will be accepted. There will be displays in the museum and refreshments will be served. We will be waiting for you!

## The Other Bell

By Jessie Keymel



The bell on our Festival parade float has its own history. We do not know where it started or how it was used. We do know that it was stored in the barn at the Keymel family farm where Roger grew up. We think it had been there since the 1920s as it was always there. Jack Keymel (Roger's Dad) needed a part for his Model T Ford. He purchased a used part but it did not fit. When he brought it back, the dealer did not have the money, so he agreed to take the bell instead. The bell was cracked so Jack did not use it. Years later a neighbor told him he could weld the bell and another neighbor built a cedar stand for it. This was his last Christmas gift; Jack died January 15, 1972.

**Left: WHS Festival in the Park float**

## National Register of Historic Places

By Gene Bavis

When I got started on my inventory of sites of historic interest for Wayne County, I discovered that MY Town of Walworth has NONE listed. That just isn't right! In conversations with Cynthia Howk of the Landmark Society of Western New York, we decided to try to encourage those who own eligible properties to apply for National Register listings. Because many people don't know about the program OR have misconceptions of what it is and isn't, Cynthia will be coming to the Walworth United Methodist Church on Monday, October 20, at 7:30 PM to explain the program. This meeting is open to ANYONE interested, but I would encourage anyone who owns a property that MIGHT be eligible for listing to come learn more. There will be refreshments following the presentation.

Here is a link to the National Park Service's website: <http://www.nps.gov/nr/>

## September 15 Program Meeting

By Gene Bavis

On Monday, September 15, at 7:30 PM, the Walworth Historical Society will host Edith Farrington's program on "Life on a Wayne County Farm, 1870-1890." This program is based on diaries of Edith's family who lived in the Clyde area. I had the opportunity to hear Edith present this at the Galen Historical Society last year and I'm sure you will enjoy this program. YOU are INVITED and encouraged to join us at our museum on Academy Street for this interesting program. As always, there will be REFRESHMENTS!

## Thank You, Joyce

By Jessie Keymel

We would like to take this time to thank Joyce VanHaneghem for the many hours she has spent at the computer on our behalf. Joyce has entered all our accessioned items into our inventory file on the museum's computer since the beginning. She continues to catalog the vital news items that Gordon Youngman collects for his note book. Thank you, Joyce!

## Mural Mania

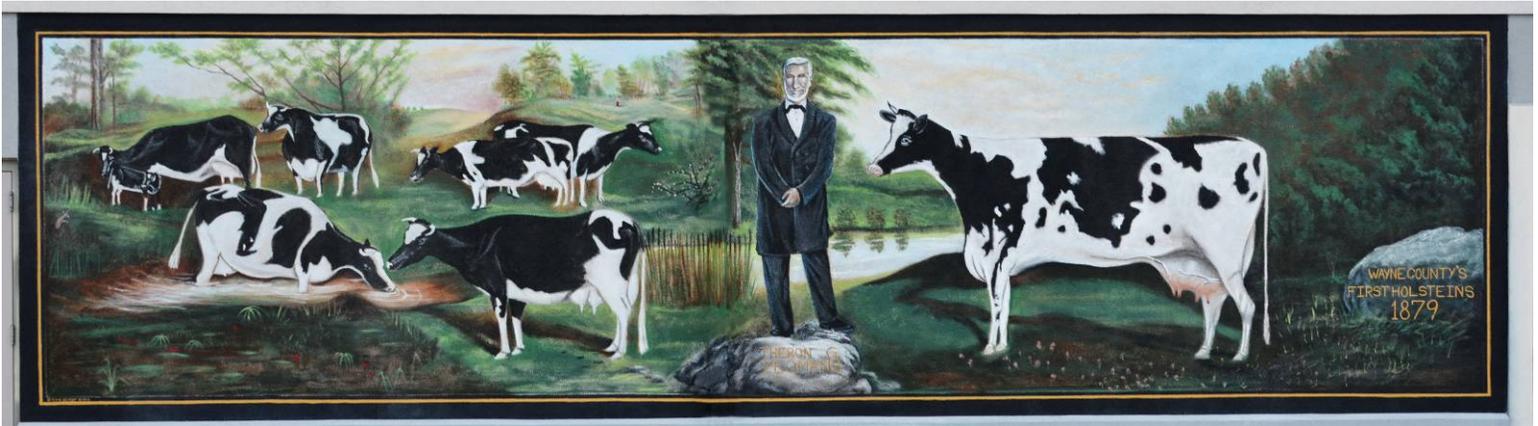
By Gene Bavis

It's been an exciting year for Mural Mania. Just a little over a year ago, Walworth got it's first mural, the First Herd of Holsteins, on the Walworth Post Office west wall. Our second mural, which was to be painted this summer on the east wall of Crossroads Automotive, was put on hold primarily because I can't find an old photo of the house where the Yeomans wedding took place. If YOU can help, please let me know. I'm sure we'll eventually find something and proceed with the mural next year.

Walworth's third mural is based on the Walworth Historical Society's coverlet. Samantha Bush, a Junior at Wayne Central, has just completed work on it. It will be mounted on a wall at the Walworth Town Hall as soon as possible and dedicated this fall.

Walworth mural #4 (sorry about the confusion...I numbered them based on when they were conceived, not when they were completed) was dedicated on July 26 along with the Lions Club Memory Garden. The mural depicts the Walworth Festival in the Park with elements of the parade coming into the park. This mural was created by 4 students (Samantha Bush and Erin Upson from Wayne Central School and Elijah Munoz and Patrick LaPlant from Gananda Central School) working with Mural Camp Director James Zeger (muralist and art teacher) in July. Materials were donated by the Walworth Lions Club, Golden Artist Colors, and Gene Bavis; Stan Weller primed the panels beforehand. The Walworth Recreation Department paid for James Zeger's services to direct the camp.

The BIG NEWS for the Finger Lakes Region and Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is that the 2016 Global Mural Conference will be hosted by Mural Mania here in our region. We received endorsements from many people including United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, State Senator Michael Nozzolio, and Assemblyman Robert Oaks. Mark DeCracker made a presentation to the Global Mural Arts and Cultural Tourism Association in Sherbrooke, Quebec, on August 13, and our bid to host was approved. Mark and I believe that hosting this event will draw hundreds of tourists and bring world-wide attention to our murals and our history.



**Above:** The first completed Walworth Mural at the Walworth Post Office



**Above:** The second completed Walworth Mural at Ginegaw Park

## 2014 Events Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>
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: Golden Eagles String Band. Theme: "Civil War Comes Through Western New York". Co-sponsored by Keymel's Christmas Tree Farm.	Museum
Sun., Oct. 19	2 – 3:30 PM	Walworth Memories: Walworth School	Museum
Mon., Nov. 17	1:00 PM	General Meeting: Dennis Bielewicz - "Heroes in the Attic." This is a true story of the Civil War era based on documents found in an old trunk in an abandoned house in Nunda, NY, in the 1960's.	Museum

**Board of Trustees Meeting:** Monday, 7:00 PM at the Museum: 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

<b>President</b>	<b>Jessie Keymel</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 9205</b>	<b>Town Historian</b>	<b>Gene Bavis</b>	<b>(315) 573 - 2768</b>
<b>VP/Newsletter</b>	<b>Robert Mogray</b>	<b>(585) 576 - 4156</b>	<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Joyce Finney</b>	<b>(585) 377 - 9535</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Judy McMillan</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 4219</b>	<b>Genealogy</b>	<b>Kathy Aeckerle</b>	<b>(315) 597 - 6864</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mary Jane Devlin</b>	<b>(315) 986 - 1512</b>	<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Liz Bavis</b>	<b>(315) 802 - 0380</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Becky Appleman</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 3289</b>	<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Nancy Bel</b>	<b>(315) 538 - 8605</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Gene Bavis</b>	<b>(315) 573 - 2768</b>	<b>Grounds</b>	<b>Judy McMillan</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 4219</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Nancy Bel</b>	<b>(315) 538 - 8605</b>	<b>Grounds</b>	<b>Becky Appleman</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 3289</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Dorothy French</b>	<b>(315) 986 - 1098</b>	<b>Collections</b>	<b>Jessie Keymel</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 9205</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Larry Ruth</b>	<b>(315) 524 - 7936</b>	<b>Bldg. Maint.</b>	<b>Stan Weller</b>	<b>(585) 545 - 9434</b>
<b>WHS Trustee</b>	<b>Marlene Slocum</b>	<b>(585) 520 - 2312</b>			

### Membership Information

<b>Student</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>
<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$ 15.00</b>
<b>Supporting</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>
<b>Corp. or Business</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>
<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Life Member</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>
<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>

**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.

### Did You Know That..... By Dorothy French

In 1863 the Town of Walworth had 11 school districts, each with one teacher and a total of 477 students. Source: Walworth Historical Society archives.

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 1808. Source: Walworth Historical Society archives.

Lincoln was originally spelled Lincklean. A mill was built there in 1853 and the first Post Office in 1866. Source: Walworth Historical Society archives.

## September 2014 WHS E-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos:

All of the photos on this page show the hard work and dedication it takes to prepare a float for the Festival in the Park. For many years this activity has taken place at the Keymel farm. These are pictures of this year's float building. You will recognize the float from the actual parade photos on the next page.





All photos on this page are from the Walworth Festival in the Park Parade held on Friday, July 25, 2014

**Right:** Leighton Bel in the Walworth Festival in the Park parade.



All photos on this page are from the second Walworth mural dedication at Ginegaw Park.

