



Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 39 Number 3 November 2014

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.

Christmas Holiday Cheer for the Military By Dorothy French



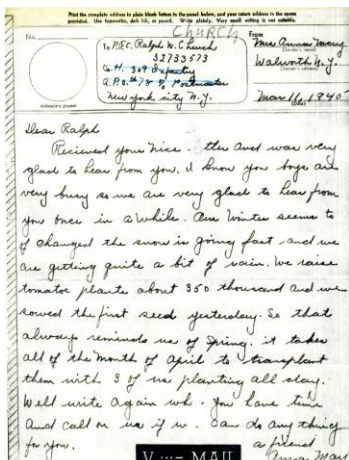
Christmas card sent to local servicemen and women in 1944 by the "Boys in Service Club." Tucked inside each card was a \$5.00 bill.

Seventy plus years ago our nation was at war. It was a time when everyone did their part to help the war effort. A group of local residents, determined to improve the morale of our servicemen and women, held a meeting on October 2, 1942. The group became known as the "Boys in Service Club." Officers elected were Emily Huntley, chairman; Jane Huntley, assistant chairman; and Anna May, secretary and treasurer.

Thanks to Mrs. Elton (Anna) May, the museum has a scrapbook filled with photographs and information about the local men and women who served in World War II. We also have the group's *notebooks which contain their minutes and treasurer's reports and a list of 57 names who received correspondence.* After Anna's death, these items were given to Gordon Youngman, who believed this historic information should reside at our museum.

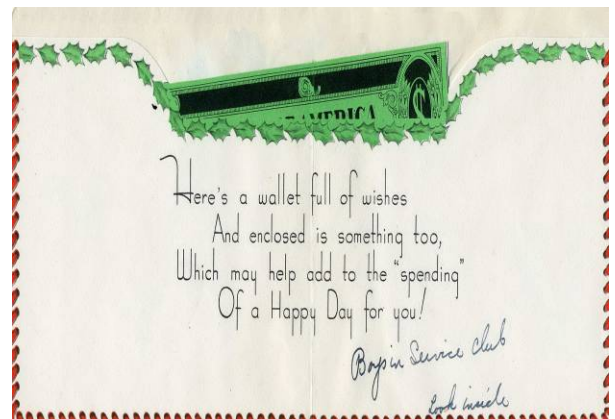
Members also sent birthday V-cards and a small gift. They also paid for newspaper subscriptions and postage so the servicemen and women could read the hometown news. The committee for letter writing for January 1943 included Truman Yucker (Walworth), Mrs. George Burrows (Lincoln), and Mrs. Alma Harris (West Walworth).

The group held numerous baked food sales to help with expenses. Some of the local organizations and businesses who contributed money included "Frowley Club O.F.S., a baseball team, Baptist Church, Bay View Reading Club, Methodist Sunday School, Home Bureau, firemen, Masons, Ladies Auxiliary of Walworth Firemen, FFA Boys and 4H, Baptist Church of West Walworth, WCS of Methodist Church, Evangelical Church of West Walworth, Pembroke Family, Lincoln Grange, Lincoln school children, and Lincoln Home Bureau."



V-Mail was the preferred method of corresponding. Included in the scrapbook was a copy of a V-Mail letter sent by Anna on March 11, 1945, to P.F.C. Ralph W. C. Church. Many of the recipients sent thank you letters and cards from various locations: England, Utah, Texas, Italy, Oklahoma, Japan, Netherlands, East India, Philippines, and France.

This effort by local residents was America at its best – helping others.



From Our President By Jessie Keymel

We have had a busy summer and fall at the Museum. Our fence was painted, the shrubs around the building were trimmed, and the outside of the building was washed. All this was done under the guidance of Stan Weller, with the help from some of our members and a crew from Mark's Pizzeria (David and Derek Teeter and Ryan and Tyler Best) and a student from Newark High School (Sierra Powers).

With the outside work completed, the big project inside began: PAINTING.. Everything on or against the walls in the main room and hall was moved to the center of the room or put somewhere out of sight. Then on October 13 the final preparation was done and the painting began. Again, Stan Weller took the lead.

Thank you to the volunteers who moved furniture and painted. Those who helped were Becky Appleman. Roger Keymel, Larry McMillan, Lou Villanova, Mary Jane Devlin, Jessie Keymel and Dorothy French - and most important Stan and Louise Weller who were there every day. The main meeting room was still in a form of disarray when we held our Walworth Memories event on Sunday, October 19. The room should be back to normal in time for our November 17 program (see story elsewhere in this newsletter).



Kathy Aeckerle



Louise Weller, Jessie Keymel, and Sonny French



Stan and Louise Weller



Mary Jane Devlin



Stan Weller thanking a Mark's Pizza employee



Stan Weller and Sierra Powers



Sierra Powers, Stan Weller, Larry Ruth, and Jessie Keymel



Larry McMillan

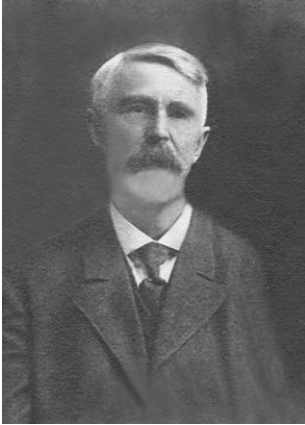
Two Families Search for Reuben Brown

By Jessie Keymel

On July 17 Stan Weller saw a car with Alabama license plates parked at the museum. He made a few phone calls and we opened the museum for the Reuben and Seldon Brown family. They were researching their family history and searching for Reuben Brown.

Their information showed Reuben was a Supervisor in our area. Several years ago Dottie DeMay of the Walworth Highway Department compiled a book with the names of members of the town board from 1855 until the present time; this was one of the places we looked. Reuben T. Brown was the Town Supervisor from 1906 until 1913. With Reuben accounted for, we continued looking in our cemetery records for other family members. We were able to share quite a lot of information with this family from Alabama.

One Wednesday early in October the filing committee was hard at work when we were visited by 8 members of a family from Indiana who were here, searching for their roots. We welcomed them and started to help them with their search. They were looking for the Brown family, including Reuben T. Brown. Jackpot!!!!



We knew just where to find him. We even found where a family member had been treated by Dr. Esley. "This place is a gold mine," one of our visitors remarked. When we told our guests that they were not the first group searching for Reuben we looked up in our guest book and found the Alabama Brown family. They were indeed relatives and we shared the email address given us so the Indiana family could share their information with their Alabama relatives.

Later, while sharing our story and patting ourselves on our backs for a job well done, it dawned on us that perhaps we have a picture of Reuben on the photo wall at the town hall. Several years ago Bob Mogray put together a collection of photographs of Walworth Supervisors for the town hall meeting room. Sure enough, Reuben was there and a copy of the photo will be on its way to Alabama and Indiana by email.

Donations Are Tax Deductible

By Gene Bavis

The Walworth Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization chartered by the New York State Board of Regents as an educational institution. Our mission is to purchase, collect, preserve, display, and generally deal with those items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the history of the Town of Walworth and environs and to generally promote interest in the study of the life, growth, and history of said area.

Our historical society also hosts the Walworth Town Historian's Office and assists him in research tasks. The Town provides an annual stipend to the Walworth Historical Society, but MOST of our income is from DUES and DONATIONS. We are approaching the end of the 2014 tax year, and we know that many people look at their finances for year-end donations.

This past year, we've expended funds that were not budgeted. Fortunately, we did have some reserves, so we were able to replace our 25-year-old furnace and our 5-year-old computer. Several people did make special donations for the furnace which we really appreciated. If you would like to make a donation to the Walworth Historical Society now or at any time, please mail it to Walworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. You will be able to take any donation as a tax deduction under the current IRS rules if you use the long form. THANKS for your support!

Life on a Farm Program

Diaries are an important part of our genealogy research as we learn about our ancestors and their day-to-day lives. Edith Farrington would be the first to agree with that statement. Her September 15 program at our museum was based on information she found in diaries written by members of her Clyde, NY, family. The subject was "Life on a Wayne County Farm: 1870 – 1890," and included references to daily trips to town via horse and buggy to get their mail, the variable weather, and utilizing the land to provide food and shelter for a family.

Walworth Memories: A School Remembered

By Dorothy French

Although their school building was demolished earlier this year, that hasn't erased the memories of parents, former students, and a teacher who shared stories about the 2 ½ story Walworth School. Attendees at the October 19 Walworth Memories program received a grade A for their "homework," but it was former teacher Bill Ruoff who was awarded an A+.

Bill, a 6th grade teacher from 1962 – 1964, brought movies showing his students and their activities. One of the movies pictured an elaborate African village his students erected from fallen branches they collected from nearby trees and a map drawn on the school wall showing geographic locations of places in Africa. Attendee June Wright Abeel, shown wearing a white coat, was the village's doctor at the first aid station; she brought to school a bag containing doctor tools. Another movie showed June (aka Jed Clampett) and several classmates stargazing in their dance version of the Beverly Hillbillies.

Sunday's attendees included Helen Darron Schultz Triou (all 12 grades). Harvey Almekinder said he started Walworth School the year Helen graduated. Other students were Molly Ebert Hill (grades 9 – 12), Judy Markowski's daughter Jill (K-1), and Dawn Russell (elementary grades). Ray (Buzz) and Becky Porterfield Appleman were students in grades 1 – 12; later, their daughters, Sonia and Shannon, were students there. Buzz' father, Ervin Appleman, helped build the school in 1930. Mary Jane Cauwels Devlin said she was happy to go to the Walworth School from 7th through 9th grade, at which time centralization occurred with Wayne Central School District. Roger Keymel and Al Osterhout admitted they were former students also. Jessie Keymel said she visited the school as a parent because her sons were students.

The Walworth Historical Society previously received information from other former students. These memories will be consolidated into a booklet which will be available for reading at our museum.



Former student June Abeel (print blouse)



Bill Ruoff



Left to right: Jessie Keymel, Vaughn and Linda Pembroke, and Bill and Helen Ruoff

WHS Offers Holiday Gift Suggestions

By Dorothy French

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

Available at the museum, 2257 Academy St., 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 time ordered to delivery - is about one week. Contact Nancy Bel at 315-538-8605.

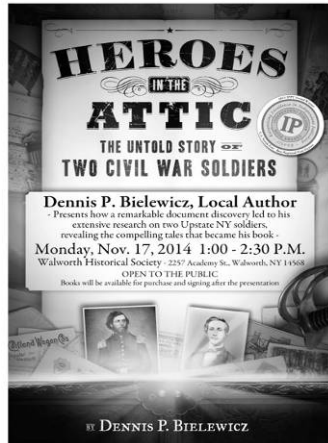
Available only at the museum, in addition to items listed above:

- **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. Gift memberships are available.
- **Donations:** For additional information, contact Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Dorothy French at 315-986-1098. Donations may be made in honor or in memory of someone or an event.

Heroes in the Attic: Nov. 17 Program

By Melissa Bielwicz Talma and Gene Bavis

On Monday, November 17, the Walworth Historical Society will host local author Dennis Bielewicz. There will be a brief business meeting at 1:00 PM, prior to Dennis' presentation. The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street. Beginning with a remarkable discovery, *Heroes in the Attic – the Untold Story of Two Civil War Soldiers*, is a true saga of two college students who abandon their classes to fight in the Civil War. In a secret room of an abandoned house, the author, Dennis P. Bielewicz, who currently lives in Ontario, NY, uncovered the documents which led to research and a retelling of the complete military service of H. Seymour Hall and Benjamin Coffin.



From Genesee College in Lima, NY to Company G of the 27th Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry, Hall, Coffin and other soldiers in their company train for war and fight at First Bull Run and over twenty more battles from May 1861 to May 1863. Compelling in scope, the story of Hall and Coffin defines the heroism of common men against the backdrop of history.

Larry Ruth and Gene Bavis had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Bielewicz present this to the Wayne County Retired Teachers a while back. We thought it was GREAT and we are sure that YOU will enjoy it too. Mr. Bielewicz is a retired school librarian and he has traveled extensively as he researched the 27th Regiment. He will have copies of his book for sale (\$34.95 + tax) after the program and of course refreshments will be served. If you are unable to attend and want to purchase the book, visit www.dennisbielewicz.com. His website also lists his other appearances in the area.

Mural Mania Update

By Gene Bavis

Last time I announced that Mural Mania has been selected to host the next Global Mural Conference. We have a tentative date of September 21-24, 2016, at the Ramada Inn in Geneva, NY. The conference will consist of mural tours, workshops, demonstrations, lectures, networking and entertainment. We are planning a portion of the program specifically for young people (elementary through college). We hope to have 300 or 400 participants and plan to try to entice out-of-towners to stay for more than 4 days to enjoy our cultural heritage. The organizational meeting for Global Mural Conference 2016 Steering Committee was held on October 28. Numerous sub-committees are being formed and volunteers sought. For more information, contact me.

The Mural Mania Advisory Committee met at the Newark-Arcadia Historical Society on October 7. Our mission to promote history through art continues; and, now that we'll be entertaining guests from all over the world, we hope to add MANY more murals to our list of attractions.

Marion's first mural should be completed by the time you read this. Bev Owen of Newark has painted 5 scenes depicting the Newark-Marion Railroad. The project is still a little short of its fundraising goal (donations still being accepted). At this point, I'm not sure if we'll be able to get it up before winter or not. The project came about because ten-year-old Cameron Jones, Ed and Donna Stalker's grandson, wanted a mural for his hometown and was willing to work hard to help coordinate it and raise funds for it. Mural Mania has been working with him to make it happen. For more information, contact Donna or me.

Walworth's New Mural

By Gene Bavis

We have accomplished a lot this year. We have two new murals. We dedicated the Festival-in-the-Park mural in July during the annual festival at Ginégaw Park. It was painted by four students under the direction of artist/art teacher, James Zeger. The Walworth Lions Club donated funds for this project which is located near their Memorial Garden.

Wayne High School student, Samantha Bush, did a second mural project as a part of her Girl Scout Gold Award application after working on the festival mural. She recruited 3 other artists to help her. On October 22, four members of the Walworth Highway Department mounted the mural on the north wall of the Town Hall next to the main entrance. We have scheduled the dedication ceremony for Saturday, November 22, at 2 PM. We hope that you will be able to help us honor Samantha and her co-artists. We'll have a reception following the dedication.



Open House By Mary Jane Devlin

The Golden Eagle String Band entertained more than 60 people at the annual Open House of the Walworth Historical Society on October 5, 2014. They told the history of a Civil War song and then played that song. The title of their presentation was "The Civil War Comes To Western New York."

This program was partially funded by Keymel's Christmas Tree Farm, Ontario-Walworth Road. We encourage you to consider them when purchasing your Christmas tree this year. They give generously of their time and support throughout the year to many organizations in Walworth. We would also like to thank the people who so generously took time to make cookies for this program, and the people who put money in our donation jar.

The Walworth Lions Club members loaned their tent for this occasion. It was quite windy and cool so the tent was very much appreciated. The Lions Club is a service group dedicated to helping both locally and worldwide. The tent size is 20' by 30' with side protection and is available for rent by the public; a larger tent is also available. Contact Vaughn Pembroke at 585-781-4317 or thepembrokes@gmail.com if you are interested in renting the tent.



National Register of Historic Places By Gene Bavis

Cynthia Howk of the Landmark Society of Western New York presented a program about the myths and realities of the National Register of Historic Places on October 20 at the Walworth United Methodist Church. Her message was that MANY properties in Walworth would be a candidate for this honorary designation, but nobody can force you to list your property. In fact, your property cannot be listed without your permission. The owner must initiate the process. Assistance and direction can be obtained from Virginia Bartos of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (518-237-8643, Virginia.Bartos@parks.ny.gov). The process requires documentation and a fairly extensive application.

One major myth is that you can't do anything to your property if it's listed on the National Register. FALSE! Properties in Wayne County that were listed have been demolished. As long as you are using your own funds, you can do whatever you wish with your property. Why list it? The biggest reason is "bragging rights." There are, in some cases, grants or tax credits available if you are listed. As I mentioned in a previous article, I was shocked to learn that we have NO listings in Walworth, and I really would like to change that. I know we have a few people seriously thinking about it now.

To be listed, a building, site, structure, object or district must be at least 50 years old; associated with events that have made significant contributions to our history; and/or be associated with persons significant to our past; and/or clearly illustrate an architectural style, period, type, or method of construction; and/or yield information important to history or prehistory (archeological sites).

WHEW... to simplify a little. We have several structures that were illustrated in Cynthia's talk such as the Pacific Hotel, most of our churches, most of our cobblestone structures, our two cut limestone homes, perhaps one or more of our cemeteries, and others. Over 30 people from Walworth, Ontario, Williamson, Sodus, Palmyra and Macedon attended. Thanks to Peter Evans, Wayne County Historian, for helping to publicize this program. Peter and his wife, Sue Jane, were there.

I hope that Cynthia's enthusiasm was contagious and that this will result in new listings here in our area. Cynthia can be reached at chowk@landmarksociety.org or 585-546-7029. She is VERY helpful.

We Are On Display

By Judy McMillan



The Walworth Historical Society has prepared an interesting display at the town hall. The theme is World War I and the display will be available through the month of November. Since it's the 100th anniversary of the war, we are featuring a display of WWI memorabilia, provided through the generosity of Larry Ruth. The featured soldier is Larry's maternal grandfather, Joshua Haak.

Included in the display are several artifacts: i.e. helmet, uniform, pick, gas mask, ditty bag sewn by volunteers from the American Red Cross, photos, and discharge papers. There are many interesting items that may whet your appetite to read about this historical event.

Our Collection Continues to Grow: The Pea Vinery

By Dorothy French

It helps to be persistent and hopeful. At a 2004 Walworth Memories program an attendee mentioned the existence of a pea vinery at the northeast corner of Route 441/Penfield Road and Canandaigua Road. Someone else said they knew a former resident who had a picture of the building.

Fast forward to September 2014. Leighton and Nancy (Nortier) Bel and Nancy's cousin, Ken and Carol Nortier of Canandaigua, visited our museum to present us with an aerial photograph of the Nortier farm on the southeast corner. The picture was taken during the winter of 1959, the year of the great storm, and shows the snow-covered pea vinery across the road.

Carlyle Darron said the vinery was there when his father, Lee, bought the farm land in 1945. He believes the property was vacant prior to the pea vinery. It's not known when it was built, but Vaughn Pembroke said the Boy Scouts were asked to take it down; they built their camp next to the quarry (now Dolomite) and used the lumber from the vinery for shelters. According to Vaughn, Tom and Bill Cooman worked with the Scouts on the project sometime between 1969 and 1971.

Local residents still remember the odor coming from the pea vinery and it was mentioned at several Walworth Memories programs. Gordon Youngman worked there as a young man. He said the pea vines were brought in on dump trucks, mashed and tugged together, using a pitchfork to get the vines on the elevator. The machinery stripped the peas from the pods. The vines began to smell bad when they started to rot on stacks 8-10 feet high. Farmers would come several times a week to get vines to feed their cows. Roger Pembroke, former Walworth school principal, operated the vinery for a short time.

In addition to the vinery picture, Ken and Carol brought other photos of the Nortier farm and included some family history. The Nortier family owned property on the southeast and southwest corners of Route 441/Penfield Road and Canandaigua Road. The original homestead and dairy farm were near the southwest corner and the majority of the family lived there; Lester (Bud) lived in the tenant house on the southeast corner.



In 1956 a fire destroyed the family's farm house. Their brother, nine-year-old Don, had been told he couldn't wear his new shoes, so he ran back into the burning house, changed his shoes to the old ones, and left the new ones in the house.

While the house was being rebuilt as an "all-electric" house, the family was separated. Lester (Bud) moved to a mobile home on his property and Bob and his family moved into the tenant house. Other Nortier brothers lived with relatives and friends. Bud remained in the tenant house until 1984; the property is currently owned by Don and Ken Nortier.

2014 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Subject	Location
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.

Museum Computer: Back From the Dead

By Bob Mogray

This is just a quick update about the museum computer. To a lot of people the technical stuff is not too interesting but for us, the museum computer stores much information that is the result of a lot of hard work by many of our members. Included among the files on the computer are: museum inventory, many thousands of historical photos, all of our newsletters, membership lists and addresses, and dozens of files and folders with valuable information.

A few months ago the computer died a sudden death. It was in need of a rebuild, so Michael Mogray took a new mother board, processor, disc drive, and power supply and rebuilt our computer. Since the information on the computer before the problem had been totally backed up, it was easy to reload the information back onto the hard drive. Windows 7 has been installed as well, making our computer a very up-to-date machine. A new high definition wide-screen monitor was added as well as a combination fax/scanner/printer/copier unit.

Special thanks to Michael Mogray for rebuilding our computer in a timely fashion. This computer holds thousands of interesting photos of the past from around the Walworth area. Some of these photos are used in pre-meeting slide shows. Our next meeting is on Monday, November 17, at 1:00 pm in the afternoon. Many of these images will be used in a slide show before this meeting. We hope to see you there!

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	Liz Bavis	(315) 802 - 0380
WHS Trustee	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289	Hospitality	Nancy Bel	(315) 538 - 8605
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	Collections	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205
WHS Trustee	Larry Ruth	(315) 524 - 7936	Bldg. Maint.	Stan Weller	(585) 545 - 9434
WHS Trustee	Marlene Slocum	(585) 520 - 2312			

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 2014 WHS E-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos:

All of the images on this page are from the WHS Open House on October 5.



All photos on this page are fall pictures in the Walworth area.

