

## **Lorraine Finley to Receive Award May 21**



**Lorraine Finley circa 1950's**

A former resident, who advocated the establishment of a library in Walworth and volunteered countless hours serving the community and Wayne County, will be honored this month. This year's Community Service Award will be presented to Lorraine Finley of North Carolina by the Walworth Historical Society at the meeting of the Walworth Historical Society on **Monday, May 21, 2007 at the Walworth Town Hall, 3600 Lorraine Drive.**

The event begins with a potluck supper at 6:15 PM. WHS will provide a ham and beverages; attendees are asked to bring their own place settings and a dish to pass, including serving utensil. Election of officers will take place during a brief meeting. The program will include tributes from people who worked with Lorraine on community projects through the years. Guests will be transported back to August 19, 1962, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new library, thanks to a video from the Charlie Pembroke collection.

The award is being given to Lorraine for her volunteer work involving area organizations, notably the Walworth-Seely Public Library, Walworth Chamber of Commerce, Walworth Loan Closet, and Wayne Central School Board. In addition, she held memberships in numerous Wayne County organizations.

Lorraine was one of the founding organizers of the Walworth Reading Room, predecessor of Walworth-Seely Public Library, and served as the first president of the Library Board from 1961 – 1971. She was instrumental in securing funding from the Wayne Central School Board for appropriation for both Walworth and Ontario libraries and from the Wayne County Library System and other sources.

Because of her interest in education, she served six years on the Board of Education of Wayne Central School District. As president of the Wayne County School Boards Association, she appeared before the Wayne County Board of Supervisors and was successful in her request that 1% of sales tax revenues be donated to the public schools of Wayne County for education purposes, thereby benefiting everyone who pays school taxes.

Lorraine moved to Walworth following her marriage to Joe Finley in 1946 and became actively involved in local and area activities. In addition, she and Joe were partners in every sense from his early years as Supervisor of the Town of Walworth to his tenure as New York State Assemblyman in Albany.

The Community Service Award was presented to Joe in 1991. A recommendation was recently made to the WHS Board of Trustees that recognition should be given to Lorraine for her many contributions to our community. Lorraine and Joe retired to South Carolina in 1977 and moved to North Carolina in 1989, where Joe passed away in 1991. She continued her volunteer work in her retirement years, noting "I have received help from many people. Volunteer work is my way to pay back. I really wanted to do something that had lasting value."