

# WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

**Volume 34 Number 5 March 2010**



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

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**Jessie Keymel**  
**Robert Mogray**  
**Judy McMillan**  
**Mary Jane Devlin**

**(315) 524 - 9205**  
**(585) 576 - 4156**  
**(315) 524 - 4219**  
**(315) 986 - 1512**

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**WHS Trustee**  
**WHS Trustee**  
**WHS Trustee**  
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**Gene Bavis**  
**Nancy Bel**  
**Joyce Finney**  
**Dorothy French**  
**Larry Ruth**

**(315) 524 - 3289**  
**(315) 986 - 1474**  
**(315) 986 - 1164**  
**(585) 377 - 9535**  
**(315) 986 - 1098**  
**(315) 524 - 7936**

**Town Historian**  
**Publicity**  
**Genealogy**  
**Refreshments**

**Gene Bavis**  
**Joyce Finney**  
**Kathy Aeckerle**  
**Nancy Bel**

**(315) 986 - 1474**  
**(585) 377 - 9535**  
**(315) 597 - 6864**  
**(315) 986 - 1164**



## **President's Message**

By Jessie Keymel

Thank you, Nancy Bel, for taking on the task of coordinating the volunteers for the summer open houses at the museum. Nancy will be calling you to set up a time when you can help on Sundays and Wednesdays during the months of June, July, August, and September from 2 – 4 PM.

Thank you to Kathy and Karl Aeckerle for the loan of a chest with drawers wide enough to hold maps and over-sized documents. These items are very difficult to store where they can be readily available for research.

This year in May we have set aside two days for spring cleaning in the hope that you can fit it into your schedule. The dates are May 1 and May 8 from 9-12.

Remember to check out our web site: [www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org).

## **Local Talent Headlines Minstrel Show**

By Dorothy French

The 1959 Minstrel Show featured these four lovely singers: left to right - Ruth Reybrouck, Bertha Pembroke, Katie Youngman, and Joyce VanHaneghem. The show was sponsored by the Walworth Chamber of Commerce, and included a wide variety of acts showcasing local talent. Capacity crowds attended the April 1 and 2 performances.



## **Yes, We Can (S)can**

We continue to enlarge our file of photographs, thanks to those who have given or loaned us pictures of people, places and things. The good news is you do not have to give up the photographs unless you want to donate them to the museum. We have the capability to scan them into our computer. If you loan them to us for a short time we can copy them and then return them to you, or we may be able to copy them on the spot if you have the time to wait. Photos don't have to be old to be important. To share your photos, contact Bob Mogray or any WHS Board Member listed on the front cover of this newsletter.

## **A Little Info About Us**

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. Donations are tax deductible as we have 501(C)3 status. Our newsletter is published six times a year. The newsletter committee includes Bob Mogray, editor; Gene Bavis, Mary Jane Devlin, Dorothy French, and Jessie Keymel.



## WHS Museum Clean Up Dates

By Bob Mogray

This is an urgent plea for help!! There are two dates in May that have been designated for the spring clean up at our museum at 2257 High Street. In the past, just a handful of people have volunteered for this. This year we really need as much help as we can get. There will be inside jobs such as cleaning the display cases, sweeping, dusting, vacuuming, washing windows, and organizing. There will also be many outdoor things to do such as raking, trimming bushes, painting, and window cleaning. If you can help for just an hour, your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

The two dates and times that have been set aside for working on these projects are **Saturday, May 1, and Saturday, May 8, from 9:00 am until noon.** Again, we could use all the help we can get, so please if you have some time on either or both days stop at the museum and lend a hand. There will be something for everyone to do and your efforts will go a long way to accomplishing all of the work that needs to be done and aid in keeping our museum looking great for us and our visitors. Thank you!

## We're On Display – Again!

By Judy McMillan



Walworth Historical Society volunteered to prepare a Valentine display in the Town Hall display case for the month of February. We featured many antique valentines, beautiful old candy boxes, a sailor's valentine and hand-crocheted hearts as well as old lace. Contributors were Dorothy French, Shirley Osterhout, Kathy Aeckerle and Judy McMillan. This display is shown on the left.

We are looking ahead to the month of June when we will feature "Walworth Weddings of By-Gone Days". Do you have a portrait/picture we could borrow for display? Please contact Judy McMillan at 315-524-4219 if you would like to participate in this effort. It is a fun way to promote the Walworth Historical Society and to educate the public about our many activities.

## A Puzzlement Answered – We Think

By Mary Jane Devlin

After talking with members of the Classes of 1945 and 1946, we found that there was no particular reason that the Class of 1945 had 10 boys and the Class of 1946 only had one. It just happened that way. Thanks to Peter Evans, Wayne County Historian for noticing. Isn't Mother Nature a puzzlement sometimes?

## Landmark Society Hosts Conference

By Mary Jane Devlin

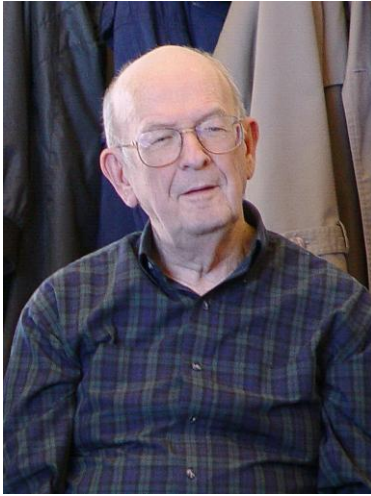
The Landmark Society is planning a conference in Palmyra on April 24. The theme will be Saving the Past, Sustaining the Future. There will be five areas of interest to follow: Enhancing Main Street, Historic Preservation Strategies, Caring for your Historic Building, Historic Preservation 101 and Preservation Board/Commission Training. Anyone interested may visit their website at [www.landmarksociety.org](http://www.landmarksociety.org) or call 585-546-7029 for more information.

## Walworth High School Class Photo Update

By Mary Jane Devlin

Another class photo has been delivered to the Village Frame Shoppe in Macedon to be restored. The Class of 1945 composite photo is there now. We will take another photo to be restored when this one is finished. If any member knows anyone from the classes of 1943 and 1944, please contact them to find out if they have access to these class pictures. Were similar pictures done in 1940 and before?





Jay Taber

When I was growing up at 4049 Ontario Center Road/Route 350 (two miles north of the Routes 441 and 350 intersection), everyone walked to the school on Academy Street in the village. There were no buses and – unless one's parents took us (not very likely) – we walked the entire distance.

Often we would walk cross lots for a little variety. This entailed walking on the Walworth-Ontario Road as far as Harold Reynolds' place at # 3923 or George Wignall's at 2119 Penfield-Walworth Road, and then walking through the fields to our property. No one ever objected nor asked what we were doing. But walking on the road was an adventure because we would walk with other kids who lived on our roads.

Leaving our house, we would meet the Petty girls – Ruby, Pearl, and Marge – at their home on Ontario Center Road/Route 350. Sometimes Ruby drove, but not often. Sometimes the Swadlings came along or Muriel DeSanto. Nobody else went by our house at that time. Sometimes Joe Cameron would join us at Mr. Crisp's house at 1828 Walworth-Penfield Road. He wasn't their son, but he lived there and graduated from Walworth High School.

Next came Dorothy and Bruce Hall. They lived at 1869 Walworth-Penfield Road, the first house east of Raymond Yucker's house, which wasn't there at the time. Ken Pembroke, Roger's brother, lived in the former VanDeWalle's house at 1920 Penfield-Walworth Road. Ken VerPlank would appear from the Tulloch place at 2017 Walworth-Penfield Road. The Filmores lived in the next place on Walworth-Penfield Road; the house was torn down in the early 1940's. The Bristol family lived next store at 2071 Walworth-Penfield Road.

Sometimes we were lucky and got a ride home or part of the way. Dr. Ernest E. Esley often picked me up as I walked home. When he was going to Rochester, he'd say, "Hop on the running board, Jay. I am only going to the corner." On hot days, the breeze felt wonderful and I came to realize why dogs put their heads out of the window when riding. What idiot from Detroit decided running boards were unnecessary?

During bad snow storms, my uncle, Herland Wray, or my father, Frank Taber, would come after us with the bob sleds. That was fun for everybody. My parents always picked up whoever was walking home from school and so did everyone else. We had a Model T Ford in the 30's, later an Essex. We picked up all the kids as long as there was any room. And we rode with whoever picked us up, even the ragman/junk metal man, Benny Scar, who knew who we were. We were glad to get the ride.

From school to our place was about two miles. But the Swadlings walked from their cobblestone house on Lewis Road to school and back daily. Bill Swadling used to walk to school, then walked to our house with my brother Nelson, stayed for supper, and walked back to school with my brother for basketball practice. Darwin Reed from Lincoln would give all the boys a ride home. Sometimes they would buy a pound of hamburger for about 10 cents a pound and take it to my mother, Sara Taber, to make hamburgers for them.

Today there are no running boards on cars, parents warn children not to take a ride with just anyone, and the fields are generally filled with houses with people who do not want strange kids cutting through their property. But it was fun, probably far more so than the ride to school on a bus.

**. Happy Methodists**

By Dorothy French



It must have been a happy occasion, judging by the smiles on these faces. The photo was taken in front of the Walworth United Methodist Church and was recently donated by Gene Reynolds. Standing in the front row, left to right, are Bernard Porray, Jacob Pembroke, Albert Brown, Stanley VanHoover, and Carlyle Darron. To the left in the back of the photo are Herland Wray, Nellie Wray, and Sara Taber.



## Name the Merchants

By Dorothy French

The 1950 *Eagle* yearbook from Wayne Central School included advertising from area merchants. How many merchants from Lincoln, West Walworth, and Walworth can you name, based on information in their ads? Thank you to Molly Hill for loaning us this yearbook. The answers appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

**A**

Walworth, N. Y. Pal. 728-R  
FURNACES BATHROOMS  
OIL BURNERS ELECTRICAL WORK

**B**

MEATS GROCERIES  
GAS OIL TIRES  
Phone—Macedon 4246  
West Walworth N. Y.

**C**

MEATS GROCERIES  
Your I. G. A. Store  
Staple and Fancy Groceries  
Fresh Meats and Vegetables  
Walworth, N. Y. Pal. 731-R2

**D**

GROCERIES  
Phone Ont. 2887  
Lincoln, N. Y.

**E**

Compliments of  
CATTLE DEALER  
Walworth, N. Y.

**F**

Compliments of  
Walworth, N. Y.  
Gifts For All  
Occasions

**G**

Compliments of  
GARAGE  
Walworth, N. Y.

**H**

Service Station  
Lubrication  
Repairing  
Towing  
Stop at the ESSO  
Sign  
Phone Pal. 549  
Walworth, N. Y.

**I**

GROCERY  
Lincoln, N. Y.

**J**

Compliments of  
Red & White  
Walworth, N. Y.

## Moving Forward in History

By Gene Bavis

Today's world is different in terms of communications. Several years ago the internet began to revolutionize the way we communicate. Now we have millions of websites and many of us seldom write a paper letter anymore...instead we send an e-mail. Over the past few years social networking sites have grown rapidly. One of the most popular ones is Facebook. I understand there are more than 400 million users of Facebook...it blows my mind.

The Walworth Historical Society has a website (we hope you have visited it). About three months ago, I began a Walworth Historical Society group on Facebook. What is really nice about the Facebook group is it can be easily updated and members of the group can contribute comments, photographs, etc. to it. All you need to do is have a Facebook profile and you can join the Walworth Historical Society group.

I got started on Facebook about a year ago. At first I was hesitant to join, but I found it's a great way to connect with friends and family. The best thing is that we can share photographs very easily. I began to connect with people from my past including several hundred of my former students and many of my high school classmates.



One day I stumbled upon a local history fact and posted it on my Facebook page. Several people commented that it was interesting. That got me thinking...when I was teaching in the Wayne Central Middle School, one thing I used to do is "This Day in History." I would send a fact to the office each morning to be read on morning announcements.

In 2005 and 2006, the WHS published calendars and we put a fact of historical interest on each date. So, because it's hard for an old history teacher not to teach, I am now doing "This Day in History" on Facebook. I am having a wonderful time, and I have had some great feedback, including people adding additional information about the fact or event. I invite you to join Facebook and become my friend. In doing so, you'll be able to not only follow my crazy life, but be able to see "This Day in History."

### **April 18 Walworth Memories**

By Dorothy French

Childhood Memories.....There's no doubt we are living in a very different world than the one that existed during our childhood. There are more gadgets to play with, thanks to technology which is moving at breakneck speed. The positive strides in medicine can't compare with Grandma's old fashioned home remedies – many of which were effective. Space travel was only in your imagination, but we used our imaginations because we didn't have so many distractions.

What do you remember about your childhood? Come to the Sunday, April 18, Walworth Memories program and share your memories, stories and photos with others. This event is co-sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society and the Walworth-Seely Public Library, and will be held from 2 – 3:30 PM in the Walworth town hall meeting room, 3600 Lorraine Drive. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

The Childhood Memories theme dovetails with "The Big Read", a reading program sponsored by Books, ETC. of Macedon in conjunction with the Walworth-Seely, Macedon, and Palmyra libraries. This year's selected book is "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. The "Big Read" will give readers an opportunity to build community through ideas and common experience. During March each library will offer programs related to the book, promoting cultural facets of our communities and encouraging readers to build on their experiences by sharing memories with others.

### **Our Collections Are Growing**

By Jessie Keymel

The Walworth Historical Society collections are growing. We have filled the display cabinet on the east wall of the museum with some of our recent donations. Irma and Danny Keyes have contributed their collection of mugs from area fire departments, and Kathy Aeckerle has given us her Uncle Fay Arnold's uniform and badge from the Lincoln Fire Department, along with some of his memorabilia from his service in the department.

Over the years Kathy has contributed many items from the Yurker family. Some of these items are currently in the display cabinet, including a horse-drawn hay tedder that is a salesman's sample or a toy and is in very good condition, in addition to a collection of buttons and some glass negatives.

The doll sitting in the corner of the case is from the home of Loyd and Leona Bassage and was given to us by George and Gwyn Bassage. Several notebooks of Bassage family history and genealogy were also added to our collection - a great example of family history from the immigrants of several generations ago to today.

Do you remember the tee-shirts that advertised Walworth? The samples on display were given to us by Duke and Mabel (nee Lewis) Risley.

We are indeed fortunate that the Bassage, Yurker, and Lewis descendants have shared so much of their family histories through gifts that include marriage and baptism certificates, church membership and other documents, and photos that we gather throughout our life. These gifts from many families are the foundation of our collection of Walworth history

### **Answers to Merchants' Quiz**

The names of the merchants in the advertising quiz found elsewhere in this newsletter were removed to test your memory. Here are the answers:

- A. Charlie Pembroke B. Pat Ryan C. Triou's D. Church and Risley E. Ray Appleman F. Red House  
G. Pete Van Haneghem H. Van Hoover I. Warren and White J. Ray Pembroke

How many names did you correctly guess?



## **Looking Back to 1958** By Dorothy French

Welcome to 1958, a year where a five pound bag of sugar could be purchased for \$.39 cents and voters approved an addition to Wayne Central School's high school building. News events of local and national interest were captured by the Wayne County Mail, and are reprinted with their permission.

- Jan. 3. Bob Hope continued his holiday tour of Pacific Coast service bases.
- Jan. 24 Robert Wignall, cherry and apple grower from Walworth, is the new president of the New York State Cherry Growers Association, Inc.
- Feb. 14 Snow piled up so high in Bernard Porray's driveway on the Walworth-Ontario Road across from Finley Road that not even the town snowplows could move it. Bernard hired a bulldozer to shovel them out.
- Feb. 28 Mrs. Raymond Tietze, chairman of the Walworth branch of the American Red Cross, announced that the 1958 fund and membership drive chairman is Herland Wray and Walworth's goal is \$681.
- Mar. 28 Sally Nortier won first prize of \$3 in a cherry pie baking contest at Wayne Central School.
- May 2 Miss Barbara VanWyckhouse of Wayne Central School will read her winning essay on Safety at the May 2 meeting at Lincoln Grange. Ten year safe driving awards will be given to all Lincoln Grangers who have driven ten years or more without an accident.
- June 20 By a margin of 72 votes, voters approved a proposed bond issue, permitting an addition to the Wayne Central high school building.
- June 27 Town of Walworth was allocated \$500 in state aid for a recreation project for a 12 month period, allowing the town to spend \$1,000 during the year to provide a recreation program. Facilities to be used include Wayne Central School, Walworth School, Sodus Point beach, Baptist Fellowship Hall, B. Forman Park, and Walworth Volunteer Fire Company hall. Mrs. Dorothy Hack is chairman of the Walworth Youth Recreation Committee.
- July 25 The annual Black and White Show of Holstein cattle was held in Newark. C. M. Huntley & Son of Walworth showed the grand champion bull.
- Aug. 8 Wrestlers Gorgeous George and Yukon Eric will headline the August 8 professional wrestling card at the Rochester War Memorial.
- Sept. 19 On sale at Hegedorn's IGA in Webster: 5 lbs. sugar .39 cents; ½ gallon ice cream .59 cents, and a lb. of bacon .49 cents.
- Sept. 26 Trudy Burlow of Ontario will be giving dance lessons at the Walworth fire hall.
- Oct. 3 Nelson A. Rockefeller, Kenneth B. Keating, Mrs. Charles (Jessica) Weis and James A. Lundy – top candidates on the Republican ticket for the November 4 elections – will lead a campaign through Wayne County, according to Joseph C. Finley, chairman of the Wayne County Republican Party.

### **Walworth Firemen Douse Blaze Threatening Business District**

*Editor's Note: The following story appeared in the June 1, 1961, issue of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. Thanks to the foresight of Mrs. Elton (Anna) May, it was included in one of the many scrapbooks she created and later donated to the museum by Gordon Youngman.*

WALWORTH – The main business section of Walworth was threatened with serious fire loss for more than an hour yesterday while volunteer firemen battled a roof blaze in the Walworth Grange Hall building that also houses a Post Office, feed and grain store, barber shop and apartment. The blaze was discovered about 10 a.m. by Harold Kessler who was driving by.

Charles Hack, Grange trustee and Walworth Town Supervisor, estimated the fire damage at about \$2,000. The fire, he said, apparently started on the outside of the building and was caused by sparks from a trash fire; strong winds carried the sparks to the roof.

Although the fire was confined to the attic and roof of the two story wood frame structure, there was considerable smoke and water damage to the Grange meeting rooms on the second floor and in the Post Office, grain store, and barber shop on the ground floor.



George Duell, who operates Duell's Garden Store, said he was able to attach new garden hoses from his store to an inside water tap and run the hose up the stairs before firemen arrived. The Post Office suffered only water damage, according to Postmistress Gladys VanHaneghem. No mail was damaged, she reported. Ray Bavis' Barber Shop suffered slight water damage, according to its owner.

Seven pieces of firefighting equipment from Walworth, West Walworth, Lincoln, Marion, and Macedon Center responded to the alarm. There were more than 100 volunteer firemen at the scene, according to Walworth Fire Chief Larry Stubbings, who was in charge.

### **March 15 Program: A "B-P" Reunion**      By Gene Bavis

This may seem like a strange program unless you know some background. Many of you know that I taught Social Studies at Wayne Central School. During the early part of my career I teamed up with Dick Poulsen and we became known as "B-P" by students and faculty.

One of the things we did as a team which we are proud of was our annual trip to the Wayne County Museum. This was more than a simple field trip. In preparation we taught our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students about architectural styles and how to observe changes to the landscape over time. We outlined a route and prepared a detailed study guide of the itinerary. In preparation for the "big trip" (about 200-250 kids), we trained about 20 students to be guides. We took them on the trip beforehand so they could see the route and learn more about their stations at the Museum. Each of them was assigned a room or section of the museum. On the day of the trip, all of the students were divided into about 20 groups and they rotated to the stations in the museum where the guides gave them a portion of the tour. To this day, when I see or hear from some of these former students, they tend to mention this trip.

So...now that I have re-connected with several hundred former students through the magic of Facebook on the internet, I had the idea that it would be fun to do some of our architecture introduction for the Walworth Historical Society and any former students who wanted to come. I see Dick Poulsen at our ROMEO lunches, so I asked him if he'd like to join me. (ROMEO = Retired Old Men Eating Out)

The event will occur on Monday, March 15, at 7:30 PM at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park. Dick and I will use a series of photographs to introduce you to 19<sup>th</sup> century architectural styles. There will be a quiz at the end...haha. As always, refreshments will be served following the meeting. We hope you will come and join us. Invite your friends. There is room for 99 people in the Lodge, so let's fill it up! This is going to be fun for Dick and I, and I hope you will find it both entertaining and educational.

### **Walworth Historical Society 2010 Events Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>
Mon., Mar. 15	7:30 PM	General Meeting: Program "Introduction to Architecture and Reading the Landscape" by Gene Bavis and Dick Poulsen	Lodge at Ginegaw Park
Sun., April 18	2-3:30 PM	Walworth Memories: "Childhood Memories"	Town Hall Mtg. Rm.
Sat., May 1	9-noon	Spring clean up	Museum
Sat., May 8	9-noon	Spring clean up	Museum
Mon., May 17	6:15 PM	Annual meeting, pot luck supper, election of officers, community service award.	Lodge at Ginegaw Park
Tues., July 20	6:30 PM	Decorate float for Festival parade	TBA
Fri., July 23	6-9 PM 7:00 PM	Booth at Festival in the Park Parade (line-up at 6 PM)	Ginegaw Park Parade route
Sat., July 24	3-9 PM	Festival in the Park: booth	Ginegaw Park
Mon., Sept. 20	7:30 PM	General Meeting: Program TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 3	2-5 PM	Open House. Subject TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 17	2-3:30 PM	Walworth Memories: Holiday Memories	Museum
Mon., Nov. 15	7:30 PM	General Meeting. Subject TBA	Museum

**Board of Trustee Meetings:** Mondays: 7:00 PM at the Museum. April 19, June 21, August 16, and November 1

**Open House Hours:** The museum is open June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM. Contact Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Nancy Bel at 315-986-1164 for an appointment for other times



**March 2010 WHS Newsletter Bonus e-mail Photos**



**Vern English and Charlie Schultz (April 1989)**



**Ernie Symes**



**Scale model cobblesstone home**



**Larry and Molly Hill**



**Mike McEwen at a museum clean up**



**Helen Triou and Mary Jane Devlin**





Jane Burkhart (right) and her mom Dorothy Whitbourne



Float in the 1976 Walworth Parade



Stanley Almekinder



WHS museum group



Original WW II veteran list board



Walworth High class of 1947