

# WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 35 Number 3 November 2010



Jay Taber holds school at the October WHS meeting at the museum (Article on page 8)

## INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- \* President's Message
- \* Scrapbook Memories
- \* Holiday Memories Shared
- \* Holiday Gift Suggestions
- \* We Are On Display
- \* Charlie Pembroke's Movies On Nov. 15th
- \* Our Collection Continues to Grow
- \* The Lincoln Cheese Factory
- \* WHS Open House on October 3rd
- \* Calendar of Events

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## President's Message

By Jessie Keymel

November 15 is the last program of the year 2010; it has been a very successful year. Our programs have been varied, ranging from "Introduction to Architecture and Reading the Landscape" by Gene Bavis and Dick Poulsen, the Community Service Award to Quilts for Kids, and "Children's Games of the 1800's" by Irene Bierer, to November's "Life in the Walworth Area As Viewed in Charlie Pembroke's Movies".

All our presentations have been well attended by area residents. The presenters have been very knowledgeable and entertaining - an evening well spent. It is our hope that we can bring some history into your daily lives to be experienced, enjoyed and perhaps even to learn more about the area in which we live.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved with our many activities, including the open house, spring clean-up, and Walworth Memories. We are grateful for those serving as hosts on the Wednesday and Sundays we are open from June through September and those who bake cookies for every occasion. Thanks to the members who helped with the parade float and Festival in the Park - it is important that we are involved in our community.

As always there are those who work tirelessly without recognition: the filing committee (who work all year), the lawn and landscape crew, and the members who prepare the museum for our meetings and clean up afterwards. The Walworth Historical Society is indeed fortunate to have so many dedicated members.

Thank you all again - you make our organization exceptional.

## Scrapbook Memories

By Joyce Finney

Here's highlights of what happened nine years ago, as documented in Dorothy Petty's scrapbook that chronicled the year 1991.

**January:** "Bee" planned for town's first bicentennial legacy quilt. The first quilting bee will be held on February 9 at the Lincoln Baptist Church from 9:30 AM and will last until after suppertime. Host will be the Reverse Quilt Club and the Walworth Historical Society. Emily Huntley, one of Walworth's oldest residents going on 96, was the first to sign the bicentennial quilt.

**February:** Walworth house destroyed. The house at 4394 Boynton Road was owned by Dorothy Petty and was occupied by Kevin and Leon Merlin.

**March 2:** Spring-like day breaks record, eclipsing a 117 year-old record. At 4:15 the temp reached 68 degrees. Today's high is expected to drop back in the 40's with rain likely.

**March 3 & 4:** Ice storm clobbers area. Power knocked out by ice and falling limbs.

**May:** No slowing down for 50-year Walworth fighter. For 71 year old Stuart Huntley, his golden anniversary with the Walworth Volunteer Fire Department, it was business as usual.

**June 28:** John and Doris Traas celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

**July:** Lincoln Baptist Church marks 175 years in Walworth. There was a Baptist church in Walworth long before there was a Walworth - or even Wayne County. According to Bessie Baker's history of the Lincoln Baptist Church, the church was established by a missionary from Maine in 1816 - seven years before Wayne County was divided from Ontario County and 23 years before the Town of Walworth was divided from the Town of Ontario.

**September:** Old Farmers Almanac turns 200 years old.

**December:** Mikhail Gorbachev's farewell ends Soviets' reign. Nuke arsenal of 27,000 nuclear warheads is now in Yeltsin's hands.

**Nov. 15 – Come See Charlie Pembroke’s Movies** By Bob Mogray



**Charlie Pembroke**

In 2005 the Pembroke family donated to the Walworth Historical Society the many 8-mm movies that Charlie Pembroke took over the years of his life. Mr. Pembroke was a prolific movie taker and there were many of these films that he had taken in and around the Walworth area. The subject of these films varies from family stuff to local buildings and events. Just before I joined the WHS, a committee viewed these movies and took notes as to their content. These movies were also rated as to the quality of the video. This type of film deteriorates over time and eventually a point is reached when they are totally non-viewable. We are fortunate to have most of them still in good condition.

What we have done is to have many of the best quality films transferred to DVD. The funds for this project came from a grant from the Hoffman Foundation, thanks to Mary Jane Devlin’s great work in applying for this money. The actual transfer was done by Rowe Photographic Audio and Video. Thus far we have many of Charlie’s films on three DVD’s.

We will show some of this material at our Monday, November 15, meeting, beginning at 7:30 PM. Because of time constraints, we will not be able to show all of Charlie’s movies or do any of our own editing. We plan to share more of them at a later date. So, please attend the next WHS meeting when we will begin to share these movies that were shot in and around Walworth in the 1950’s and 1960’s.

The WHS wishes to thank the Pembroke family for their generous donation of these valuable slices of history of the Walworth area. There is nothing quite like video to show past history of the people and events that are the history that we all share

An informative meeting, home-town movies, and delicious refreshments – does it get any better? The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street. Contact Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Nancy Bel at 315-986-1164 if you have questions.

**Our Collection Continues to Grow** By Jessie Keymel

Our collection of Walworth history continues to grow. As you can see in this article, our information comes from many different sources and - just like any small town - it is the variety that makes it interesting. Thank you all.

In preparation for the September display on Walworth schools at the town hall, the members working on the project received help from **Dottie DeMay** at the Walworth Highway Department. She has created some wonderful scrapbooks for the Highway Department and maintains an extensive record of the department. Dottie supplied information about School House Road. Our museum has a wonderful photo of children and a teacher standing outside a school; we believe there was a district school located on School House Road. (Do you have any knowledge about this school?) Dottie also copied Walworth-related information that was very helpful and has been added to our files.



We also reached out to **Jim Switzer** (left photo) for help on the Walworth school display. At our request, Jim searched records in Wayne Central's archives to help us with our project. While searching for school information, he discovered historical info related to Walworth and West Walworth. He mailed us a huge envelope full of wonderful information. Included are memoirs of Walworth Academy by Howard Joslyn, Jr., a story about the 1906 contents of the West Walworth school cornerstone, historical markers, Finley Cemetery, Joe Finley, West Walworth Evangelical United Brethren Church, Blanche Wilson, bills of sale from several district schools, photos of the house formerly known as old Freewill School, and memories of Roger Pembroke. What a tremendous amount of info - welcome additions to our files.

**Jim Switzer, Wayne Central School District Clerk, is shown (left front). Also, (standing, left to right) Kathy Aeckerle, Jessie Keymel, and Dorothy French. Mary Jane Devlin is seated. Photo by Gene Bavis.**

**Keith Henry** visited the museum for the second time with another donation. He recently gave us the glass plates containing photos of local interest. On September 8 he gave us a 10" Yeomans glass bottle in excellent condition. We will add this to our Yeomans' collection.



**Mr. and Mrs. Larry (Molly) Hill** donated a coverlet made by her niece, Lindsey Ebert, of Macedon as a college project. The coverlet contains the photos of Molly's five brothers who served in World War II and returned home safely. Lindsey is the granddaughter of Ellsworth Ebert. The coverlet was given to Larry and Molly as a surprise at a recent Ebert gathering. Our February 2010 newsletter contained the story of the five brothers that stimulated the project.

**Marlene Youngman Hall** donated a ballet tutu and also a dress from one of the Minstrel shows (do you remember the shows?). We have an album of professional photos taken at that time; you will be surprised to see who can wear a tutu. Marlene also donated newspapers covering the Kennedy assassinations, gloves, antique fan, and a globe. Thank you Marlene for your continuing support.



**Janice Wignall Mitchell** recently sent us several mailings of Walworth and Wignall family information. The first mailing had a huge assortment of photos. Included was a wedding photo of her parents, along with a copy of the newspaper clipping describing their wedding. Unfortunately this was too late for our June display at the Town Hall, but will be added to our fast growing file on Walworth Weddings. In the second mailing were newspaper clippings, photos and school programs from Walworth High School. Thank you Janice for thinking of us as you journey through your family's life in Walworth.

**Wedding photo of Robert and Bertha (Franke) Wignall, July 31, 1920**

## WHS Offers Holiday Gift Suggestions By Joyce Finney

Walworth Historical Society has many suggestions for holiday gift giving. The following items are available at the museum, 2257 Academy Street, or at the Walworth Town Clerk's office, 3600 Lorraine Drive, 315-986-1400. Sales tax is included in each price.

- **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: \$5 each.
- **Commemorative ornaments:** \$7.50.
- **Coverlet** depicting area buildings (available in maroon and Williamsburg blue): \$46.
- **Wayne County history book:** \$25.

Gift ideas available at the museum:

- **Commemorative plate** depicting the Walworth Academy buildings: \$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

**Clothing and tote bags** (embroidered with the logo "Town of Walworth, Founded 1829") are available in many colors and sizes. All Stitched Up, a Walworth business, is making this possible for us. Prices include golf shirt \$20, T-shirt \$15, cap \$13, tote bag \$13. The turn around - from the time ordered to delivery - is about one week. Contact Nancy Bell at 315-986-1164.

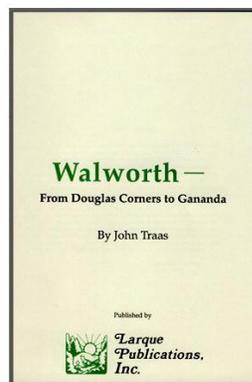
Donations to the Walworth Historical Society are tax deductible. Our mission is to preserve the past for the present and the future; your financial help is appreciated to help us achieve this goal. For additional information, contact Jessie Keymel, 315-524-9205 or Dorothy French, 315-986-1098.



**Charlie Pembroke's book**



**Commemorative plate**



**John Traas' Book**

## Wayne County Historian to Present Program By Dorothy French

Peter Evans, Wayne County Historian, will be the guest speaker at a genealogy program offered by Walworth-Seely Public Library on Wednesday, November 17, at noon. He will detail the services his office provides and describe what resources are available. Even if you do not have a need for a search in Wayne County, you may find some tips to use in counties you need to search. The library is located at 3600 Lorraine Drive in the town hall complex.

## 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, Jessie Keymel, and Joyce Finney.

## Holiday Memories Shared

By Dorothy French

On Sunday, October 17, a reflective group of folks gathered at the museum to share memories of the many holidays occurring throughout the year. Some of the attendees have lived in this area all their lives, while others have been transplanted here. However, their memories of holiday events and stories all contained a common thread: the memories remain with us no matter where we now or did live. Here are some stories that were shared:

**New Year's:** During his trucking days, Leighton Bel said he arrived at a Tulsa, OK, truck stop on New Year's Eve at midnight. Every trucker blew their air horns; there were at least 300 trucks parked for the night so they made quite a noise.

**Valentine's Day:** Helen Triou said she received three big boxes of chocolate candy, and her brother (Carlyle Darron) said he could not be discriminating so he took a piece from each box.

**Easter:** Joan Rosette remembered walking in the Easter Parade down Fifth Avenue in the '50's when she and Alan were dating. She wore a beautiful big hat and new high heels, and had huge blisters on her feet afterwards.

**May Day:** Liz Bavis remembers making baskets out of crepe paper and delivering them to friends.

**July 4:** Jay Taber remembers fire crackers and cherry bombs. Mary Jane Devlin said the sparklers would burn your fingers if you weren't careful.

**Halloween:** Gene Bavis mentioned that during the 1970's village residents were visited by 150-200 trick or treaters. That number has significantly decreased (with the possible exception of a residence on Orchard Street) because parents are worried about the safety of their children.

**Thanksgiving:** Bob Mogray remembered going to his mother's house for dinner and the food was served a bit crispy. It seems someone accidentally pushed the automatic oven cleaning button while the food was in the oven.

**Christmas:** Kathy Ackerle told about visiting a store on Atlantic Avenue that housed a radio station every Christmas. She was interviewed and asked what she wanted for Christmas. Her reply: "The doll in Jack Wick's Hardware Store window". When she returned home, Jack gave her a quarter for the free advertising. Sam and Isabel Kaplan reported seeing a guy in a Santa suit on top of a house roof; it almost made them believers!

## We Were On Display

By Dorothy French



A photographic timeline of Walworth area schools was on display at the town hall during the month of September.

The story began in 1804 with the construction of the first schoolhouse; there is a historical marker near the site of the log building on Center Street. Photos and descriptions of the many district schoolhouses that dotted our landscape through the years were displayed.

Also included was a history of the Walworth Academy and High School, and photos of current schools in Wayne Central and Gananda School Districts.

## Lincoln, New York Cheese Factory By Bob Mogyay

The earliest record of the now defunct Lincoln Cheese Factory is from 1866 by George W. Clyde in the publication Landmarks of Wayne County. All that is left of this local industry is a deserted building. The property is a little over 8 acres and stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of Lincoln Road and Plank Road in Lincoln, New York. This is directly across from the Lincoln Fire Hall building.

The Lincoln Cheese Factory was completed in 1866 into the side of a hill at this location and is about 40 feet by 120 feet in size. The property was originally owned by Willis B. Hicks and was sold to Joseph D. Dewey. Mr. Dewey owned it for a very short time and then sold it to a group of trustees. In 1870 the property was seized for non-payment of taxes. A few years went by and in 1875 Sanford Miller bought the cheese factory at a public auction. In 1892 Goram Engert became the main cheese-maker and also bought the property. After his death in 1936, the property was tied up in Mr. Engert's estate but in 1945 his oldest daughter Miss Flora Engert bought it. She lived here for many years.



The structure has a basement where the cheese-making was done, a first floor that was used for cheese storage and later as living quarters, and a second floor, also used for cheese storage. This building had an elevator consisting of a platform with ropes and pulleys. The main product was cheddar cheese of several varieties. This locally made cheese was sold under the brand name "Holley Brand Cheese." It is interesting to note that in this era, there was actually a season for cheese making. It was manufactured during the spring and summer months because milk was scarce in winter and the steam boiler was much more difficult to operate in winter because of the colder temperatures.

**Left: Cheese Factory in Lincoln, New York**

During the early 1900's, the milk for cheddar cheese production was bought from local farmers and transported to the factory by horse-drawn wagons. This milk was carried in 40-quart metal cans and when all of the milk arrived at the factory it was collected in a large metal tank. When the tank was full it was drawn off to a large vat that was steam heated to 82 degrees. Next a starter mix was added to increase the acid content of the milk. Rennet, a substance that curdles milk, was then added. After about 20 minutes the mixture was mostly solid and was cut with sharp metal blades and slowly stirred. The whey, the liquid part, was drawn off. The cheese that remained after this process was ground, soaked in water, salted, and pressed. The cheddar cheese was then aged from one to four weeks in the dark to properly ripen it.

Buyers for this cheese were Joe Casper, a West Walworth store owner, J.A. Seal Company, and Sibley, Lindsay, and Curr Company in Rochester. The cost of this cheese ranged from about ten cents to eighteen cents per pound. It should be noted that at the time when this cheese factory was in operation, there were no labor unions, no child labor laws, no pure food controls, and no electrically operated machines. The cows were milked by hand, the curd was stirred by arm power, the cheese presses were operated by means of a simple wooden handle, and the water was supplied through a basic pipe and hand pump system. The factory was fairly quiet, plain, and practical. There were no elaborate lounges for visitors or any building cafeteria. However this small local industry made its contribution to the history of the Lincoln area and served as a gathering place for farmers and neighbors for many years.



**An early photo of the Lincoln Cheese Factory**



**The Lincoln Cheese Factory in the 1960s**

In 1905 another building was erected to the east of what is now the Lincoln Fire Department building. The cheese making operation was transferred to this building which also was used for the Lincoln Grange meetings. Cheese was made in this building from 1906 until 1914. The cheese making operations were stopped at this time because the Ontario Creamery bought the building and cheese making was never resumed. This building burned in 1926 under suspicious circumstances and was never rebuilt.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to John R. Baker of Macedon, New York for his 1964 publication: Cheese Manufacturing in Lincoln, New York and Peter Evans, the Wayne County Historian, for help finding information.*

### **We Returned to School** By Judy McMillan

If you were unable to attend our Fall Open House on Sunday afternoon, October 3, you missed a good time! Our theme was "Schools of Walworth" - and we had a simulated classroom with former Wayne Central School teacher Jay Taber as the schoolmaster. He is seen on the cover of this newsletter.



Jay brought back good and fun memories as attendees remembered:

- Kids playing leap-frog in the Baker Road Cemetery while on recess.
- The Board of Education (of which Radah Wascenski's father was a member) contemplating elimination of married women teachers "because they all had husbands to take care of them and the single women needed jobs".
- The teacher who occasionally fell asleep during class.
- Memories of what clothing was worn when Jay was a kid.

Jay remembered wearing short pants in first grade - and then in third grade the boys graduated to knickers. These knickers had elastic at the knee which wasn't very good, and often times the elastic would give way and the long socks would fall down around the ankles. If the male student was lucky -- and did not receive any hand-me-downs which "had a lot of wear left" -- they began to wear long pants in the seventh grade. They called corduroy knickers "whistle breeches" because of the funny noise made when the male student walked. At the same time girls wore bloomers under long skirts and dresses. In winter it was very cold and everyone walked to school, so warmth was a factor. The long brown stockings were itchy and very uncomfortable to wear.

Gordon Youngman remembered being punished for writing with his left hand and Jay recalled the teacher who "whacked you with a ruler" for misbehaving. After the program we had delicious refreshments, wonderful fresh cider and hot coffee. There was a great photographic display of area school houses and the many classes of by-gone days. Lots of school memorabilia generated many more memories and conversation.

### **A Great Time Was Had By All** By Gene Bavis

On September 20, Irene Beier of Sodus, a former elementary school teacher, took the Walworth Historical Society back a century or more as she presented a program on toys and games of yesterday. This was one of the more interactive programs we've had. She transformed all of those in attendance into the role of children and had us playing the various games. Most of the games and toys were homemade and relatively simple. Our ancestors used their imagination and their resources without the need for sophisticated gadgetry. A great time was had by all!

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>
Mon., Nov. 15	7:30 PM	General Meeting. Program: " Life in the Walworth Area, As Viewed in Charlie Pembroke's Movies"	Museum

**Board of Trustee Meetings:** Mondays: 7:00 PM at the Museum. November 1

**Open House Hours:** The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street and 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.

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



**Irene Beier (center) demonstrates 1800's games**



**More children's games are demonstrated**



**WHS member Larry Ruth is blind-folded**



**Scene from holiday memories meeting**



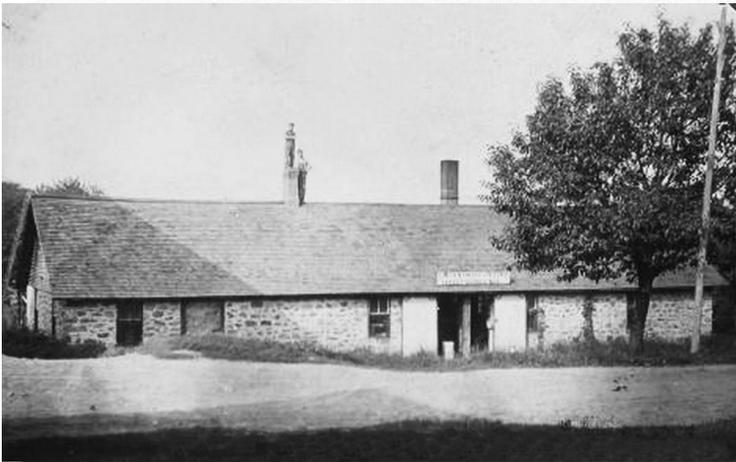
**Items displayed at the "Memories" meeting**



**Holiday memories were discussed on Oct. 17**



**The Lincoln Cheese Factory as it looks today**



**The second Lincoln Cheese Factory (circa 1905)**

**Decorating Walworth in the late 1950's. Notice the Santa is the same one that is on the previous page in the second photo down on the right.**

