

WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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Walworth Museum 2257 Academy Street

**The Walworth Museum Hours: June - September
Sundays & Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

To schedule a visit please call:

Jessie Keymel 315 524-9205 or Kay Scott 315 524-9528

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Goodbye, Hazel, and Thanks for the Memories

It is with sadness that we share with you the loss of Hazel Pembroke Bassage. Our friend and benefactor passed away on February 16 at the age of 95.

She is survived by her son Lyle and his wife Jean; granddaughters Dawn, her husband Duane Kittleson; and Denise and her husband Scott Bickert. Hazel will be sadly missed by her great-grandchildren, Andy, Rebecca, Caitlin, and Kylie.

We have indeed been fortunate to have had the privilege of knowing Hazel, whether it be in the classroom or in the neighborhood. We would not have a Historical Society if it were not for Hazel and her friends insisting we needed to preserve our past for future generations. Because of Hazel we have a building to house your collections. Because of Hazel we have a complete understanding of who we are and where we came from. We will miss Hazel, her stories, and her tenacity when she set her mind to a project.

We have all benefited from her hard work. It is up to us now to continue her mission of preserving the history of Walworth and telling it to the children. Thank you Hazel, for your wonderful gift to us. We have received several donations in her memory and are grateful to the donors.



Hazel Bassage

A Journey Down Penfield Road (Part 1)

(by Jay Taber and Friends)

Editor's Note: This is Part One of a narrative written by former Walworth resident Jay Taber, who recently shared his memories of living on Penfield Road. Several residents were able to include additional information. If anyone can add other names and dates to the story let us know.

The journey begins at the four corners in Walworth hamlet and heads west. The journey continues in future issues and will include the remaining north side of Penfield-Walworth Road and property on the south side of the road.

NOTE: House numbers throughout Wayne County were changed in the early 1970's for simplification and emergency response purposes. The numbers in parentheses are the original numbers that are no longer used.

Arline and I moved to 2203 Penfield Road in August of 1955. Fifty years later (lacking two months) we moved to Daniel's Creek in Penfield. We knew everybody on the street before we moved in. Today there are people living there whom we do not know at all.

2225 - (2): The trip begins at the northwest corner of Penfield-Walworth and Ontario-Walworth Roads. Harry and Myrna Conant lived there for years. Myrna was a rather imposing individual. During the Depression, many people in the Walworth community boarded women from the state school in Newark. Today we would call them intellectually challenged. At that time we called them mildly retarded. Myrna was head of that program, checking to see that the "girls" were contented and getting along well with family members where they lived and with other women from the school living in the household.

When Myrna died, the Schenks, Sheila (Roger Pembroke's daughter) and Bill and their family – Brian, Barry, and Julie - lived there for several years, followed by Joe and Marcia

Englert and their children, Sue, Patti, and Joey. In the early 80's, there were several additions to the house and the structure was divided into three apartments. Current owner/occupant Kathleen Celso purchased the property in 1987.

2213 – (8): The house to the west of Conants was owned and occupied by Orley and Matie Clark. They had lived there for a long time before we moved to the neighborhood. Mr. Clark was well along in years and died within a few years of our move to the street. Charlie Pembroke bought the house and rented it to several people before he sold it to current owners Ronald and Diane Hermanet. For several years Willie and Nancy Rowell have lived there.

2209 – (10): At one time Henry Bean operated a harness shop, hardware store and gasoline station at that location. Later, George Fehr operated a woodworking and upholstery shop in the front part of the building; he had an English bulldog. The desk recently donated to the Walworth Historical Society was made there.

When Charlie and Bertha Pembroke purchased the property in the late '40's they remodeled it into a home for themselves and their sons, Burton and Vaughn. Charlie and Bertha lived there until their retirement move to Florida in 1997. Charlie was probably better known than anyone in town since he was a heating, plumbing, and electrical man.

From our house we watched a constant stream of people stop in to Charlie's to ask him to come fix something or other. Or they stopped just to talk. Whenever someone asked where we lived, I always replied that we lived the first place west of Charlie. Charlie wrote the little booklet, "Walworth, As I Remember It," in which he recalls many of the events and people of the town. Current owners are Ronald and Diane Hermanet.

2203 – (12): The next house is the cobblestone home we lived in for so long with our daughters, Mary Ellen and Joan. The house was built in the 1840's and has had a succession of owners, including Henry and Libby Bean in the early 1920's. His sister, Carrie Carter, inherited it upon their deaths. Carrie and her husband in turn left it to their two daughters and son - Mrs. Fred Peacock, Ray (Grace) Carter, and Mrs. Peet. The Carter children sold it to the Bennetts, whose son Vern and his wife Helen lived there for about five years with their children. They sold it to us in 1955.

The second floor space had been increased to add an apartment, which was rented at various times. Bill, Hennie, and Bunny Underhill lived there when we first moved in. Newlyweds Leighton and Nancy Bel lived there from 1956 – 1960, and in 1962 Arline's mother moved into the apartment.

Last summer we sold our home to Jim and Linda Harden and their children.

2199 – (14): Across the driveway to the west lived Floyd and Clara (Green) Coomber with their children, Larry, Donald, and Nancy. Enos and Ethel Wagemaker and their three children, Sharon, Eddie, and Donna, moved in later and stayed until the death of Mr. Wagemaker. Bill and Lois Monro and children Lisa, Leslie, and Billy next occupied the house. Several years later and after Mrs. Monro died, their son Bill, his wife DeeDee and their daughter Jessica lived there. Nancy Everdyke and Earl Beasley with her children, Aaron and Corrin, moved into the house about five years ago.

Perhaps this is a good time to pause to emphasize what a great neighborhood this has been. Nancy and Earl, Lee and Katie Bel, Bill and Lois Monro, and the Allens have been close to us and, in later years, watched out for "the old folks" living at 2203. Charlie and Bertha and Gertie and Louis Duell were also great neighbors on whom we could and did depend.

To be continued.....



2225 Penfield Road



2213 Penfield Road



2209 Penfield Road



2203 Penfield Road



2199 Penfield Road

President's Message (by Jessie Keymel)

Winter at the Walworth Historical Society is much like nature in the winter. Everything looks dormant, there does not seem to be anything going on, but the return of spring shows us that many things have been happening under the surface, and exciting spring is the result. This winter has been a busy one for board members, learning to use the computer system to its fullest. The insurance company requires a complete inventory, so we have been adding photos to our written accessions list and all the information is in the computer and on a DVD at a secure site off the premises.

We can now scan photos. We look forward to having an appointed time set up when members and others can bring in photos and share copies of them with us.

.Our organization has been represented at all of the Wayne Historical Organization (WHO) meetings. This is a good support group, with people from all of Wayne County's historical organizations and the County Historian.

On January 21 and 22 we hosted a group of Cub Scouts (about 30) that were here to learn the history of their town. It is fun to try to peak the interest of young children. Burley the bull is always a hit with them as is the photo of the cockpit of a Liberator B-24 airplane showing the pilot's instrument and controls panel. The quilt with the squares depicting different activities is a great teaching tool.

As you can tell from all the activities completed during this winter we are ready for Spring.

What's a "Whatsit"?Find Out March 20

On Monday, March 20, the Walworth Historical Society will host guest speaker Joseph O'Toole, Executive Director of the Museum of Wayne County History. His "whatsit" program promises to entertain and enlighten. Attendees will be asked to recognize various items from the past, and are welcome to bring in unusual items for identification.

The meeting begins at 7:30 PM at the museum, which is located at 2257 Academy Street, between Main Street (opposite the Methodist Church) and High Street. Join us for conversation and refreshments.

GET READY, GET SET, GO!!!!

We're in a GET READY mode! President Jessie Keymel reports the receipt of a GET READY grant to help the museum begin its strategic planning process. The grant is from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

On March 8, board members Jessie Keymel, Mary Jane Devlin, Kay Scott, Gene Bavis, Nancy Bel; and members Lyle Bassage, Jay Taber, Arlene Suwijn, and Marion Historian Carolyn Adriaansen met with consultant Joann Lindstrom to provide an overview of the planning process. It also introduced the importance of planning in helping WHS meet its mission, which is to collect, preserve and display items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the Town of Walworth and its environs.

The GET READY grants are one of a series of grants offered to help museums and historical societies strengthen and develop their institutions and work with their communities. These grants, administered by the Upstate History Alliance, are designed to make it easy for organizations to access professional help and improve their institutions.

Wanted: Memories and Writers

How many times have you heard someone say, "I remember when....."? The stories then begin to flow and you are taken back to another place in time.

The Walworth Historical Society would like to undertake a Remembrance project and is looking for volunteers to visit area residents in their homes. By using a tape recorder or video camera, we hope to capture memories of our senior citizens as they relive their pasts.

Think of this project as planting a tree: you plant it for the future. By documenting these memories, this will give future generations an insight into life in the 1900's.

If you can help, contact Nancy Bel at 315-986-1164.

Curator's Column (by Kay Scott)

You may have read in THE WAYNE COUNTY MAIL about the Town of Walworth giving Joe Finley memorabilia to the museum. It is on display in a showcase in the museum so stop in this spring or summer to view it. Call anytime; one of us will meet you. (Jessie Keymel (315) 524-9205 or Kay Scott (315) 524-9528).

In the meantime, cataloging new items continues. We are working on getting all the artifact records into the computer. Pictures are being taken for insurance purposes and appraisals will be obtained.

Work goes on winter, summer, fall, and spring!

April 2 is Next "Walworth Memories" Program

Businesses come and go, but fond memories of them linger. Do you remember visiting Leighton Bel's IGA Store in Walworth, John Ikewood's grocery store in West Walworth, or Douglas White's General Store in Lincoln?

On Sunday, April 2, the Walworth-Seely Public Library and the Walworth Historical Society will co-host their sixth Walworth Memories program. This event will be held from 2 – 3:30 PM at the town hall complex on Lorraine Drive.

Owners or descendants of current and former businesses have been invited to talk about their work places. Come spend a Sunday afternoon listening to their stories and learn more about the area we call home.

For more information, contact Library Director Mary Zingerella at 315-986-1511 or WHS President Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205.

NOTE: Our changing display case has a collection of old toys dating from approximately 1890 until the 1950's belonging to new member Liz Place for the next 4-6 weeks.

A New Look for Our Newsletter

Our newsletter has a new look – thanks to the computer expertise and wizardry of WHS member Bob Mogray. The process seems simple enough: We give Bob the completed stories so he can add his magic touches – and the result is the newsletter you are reading.

But it's not that easy. Stories need to be written, people need to be interviewed, and the "To Do" list goes on and on. Town Historian and WHS trustee Gene Bavis can attest to the many things that need to be done before the newsletter can be mailed each quarter, prior to the general meeting. Gene (a wearer of many hats) became editor and added this responsibility to his repertoire when former town historian John Traas retired several years ago. A big thank you also to John and Kay Scott and Judy McMillan for their assistance in the past.

A committee - consisting of Gene Bavis, Bob Mogray, Mary Jane Devlin, Jessie Keymel, and Dorothy French - has recently been formed to share responsibilities. If you have story ideas for a future issue, contact one of the committee members.

How We Built a Bennett Home (by Mary Jane Devlin)

After attending Carolyn Adriaansen's presentation on Sears' Homes at our November meeting I thought about how we built a Bennett Home.

In 1962 after Arnold and I had our third child, Bruce, and we were renting a 2-bedroom home, we began to look for a bigger house.

After comparing the cost of older houses to the cost of building our own, we decided to build a new one. We started looking at plans, talking to builders and real estate agents. In the meantime, some friends had built a Bennett home. There were also several other Bennett homes around Walworth. After they told us how satisfied they were with the company and their new homes, we decided to do that too. We purchased land from Stuart and Laura Huntley on the Walworth-Marion Road.

We applied for a building permit and loan. The building loan was for 1 year and we had to have everything done within one year. A year later, after an inspection by the mortgage company we were given our mortgage

With our Bennett home we received the blueprints, and all the wood pre-cut after the cellar was up. We received three shipments of material from Bennett Homes. The first shipment was the lumber for the framework and windows, the second was the roof shingles, and siding. The third shipment was the kitchen cabinets, the hardwood floors and all the inside trim and doors. We had to make arrangements for the plumbing, electric, heating, and drywall installation with local companies. Fortunately, we had friends who were experienced in these areas so we hired them.

It took us a year from the time the cellar was dug until the house was completed and we could move. We had lots of help from my parents, and Arnold's family and many friends and other relatives. After we were done, I said I would never do it again, but under the same circumstances, I wouldn't hesitate to do it that one and only time. I still live in the same house at 2447 Walworth-Marion Road.

Other Bennett Homes in the area are located on Walworth-Marion Road, Walworth-Palmyra Road, Walworth-Ontario Road and Bills Road. I'm sure the original owners of those homes worked hard at building their homes too.

Albee Garden Homes was another company that supplied homes that you could build yourself. There are several of these homes in the area also, including one on Atlantic Avenue.

2006 Meeting Dates

(Save this schedule and mark your calendars for meetings and activities planned during 2006)

<u>Mon., Mar. 20</u>	7:30 PM	General meeting. Speaker: Joe O'Toole, Exec. Dir. of the Museum of Wayne County History. Subject: "Whatsit?".
<u>Sun., Apr. 2</u>	2-3:30 PM	Walworth Memories. Subject: "Walworth Area Businesses Past and Present". <i>Note location: Walworth town hall.</i>
<u>Sat., May 6</u>	9 – noon	Clean-Up Day at the museum. Volunteers needed and welcomed!
<u>Mon., May 15</u>	6:15 PM	Pot-Luck supper, annual meeting, and election of officers. Program to be announced.
<u>Fri., July 21</u>	7 PM	Festival in the Park Parade. Watch for our float. The Lions Club has selected "The Year of the Museum" as the parade theme.
<u>Sat., July 22</u>	12-6 PM	Festival in the Park. Visit our booth at Ginegaw Park.
<u>Mon., Sept. 18</u>	7:30 PM	General meeting; program to be announced.
<u>Sun., Oct. 1</u>	2-5 PM	Annual open house and fall festival.
<u>Mon., Nov. 20</u>	7:30 PM	General meeting; program to be announced.

Dues Reminder

Just a friendly reminder to members that in May, dues are due. If you plan to attend the meeting on March 20 or May 15, our Treasurer will be happy to accept your dues payment. Or if you choose, a check may be written to the Walworth Historical Society and sent to P.O. Box 142, Walworth, New York 14568-0142. Also, if you know of any others who would like to join, please encourage them to do so. The levels of membership are as follows:

Individual	\$ 6.00
Joint or Family	\$ 10.00
Student	\$ 3.00
Supporting	\$ 25.00
Corporate/Business	\$ 25.00
Sponsor	\$ 40.00
Patron	\$ 100.00
Benefactor	\$ 150.00
Life Member	\$ 100.00

NOTE: Do you have an email address? Please let us know by sending a note to Bob Mogray at the following address: **rmogray@rochester.rr.com**