

WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 30

Number 4

May 2006



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**

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- * Penfield Road History (part 2)
- * President's Message
- * "Walworth Memories"
- * May 15 Dinner Meeting
- * Museum Funds
- * Curator's Corner
- * Women in the Military
- * House History
- * 2006 Important Dates
- * More news items, etc.

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Curator

Town Historian

Jessie Keymel

Tracy Woodhams

Judy McMillan

Mary Jane Devlin

Kay Scott

Gene Bavis

(315) 524 - 9205

(315) 986 - 8613

(315) 524 - 4219

(315) 986 - 1512

(315) 524 - 9528

(315) 986 - 1474

President's Message

Two Monday evenings in April we hosted groups of Cub Scouts at the Museum to fill requirements for a badge. The first group of Tiger Cubs had to visit a museum and learn about their town. At first they thought the building looked more like a house than a museum. "A museum has skeletons of big animals". I showed them the horns of Burley the bull, and told the story of the first Holsteins. Quickly they were on to the next items of interest, the sword, the barrel butter churn, the big basket for collecting apples, and the metal dibble on the shelf that looks like a weapon to boys. The quilt with historical events is a great teaching tool and generates a lot of questions. The 1907 survey photos give a good understanding that this was very much an agricultural community in the past.

The second group of Cub Scouts were older! Their task was to walk about the town looking at old buildings and, if possible, go into one. We toured the Methodist Church and walked down Main Street to Center Street, and back up High Street. Another requirement was to talk about two famous people who had a connection to the town, so we covered President Cleveland's visit and Mr. Yeomans' importance to the town. The group spent the previous weekend on a WW II battleship, so the honor roll board on the grounds was easy for them to understand. Inside the museum the sword again took a central role, as well as the photos from 1907 of the area we had just walked around. I told them about Joe Finley, the boy who sold pencils and school supplies on his mother's porch and grew up to become our Assemblyman.

The visit of children to the museum is always interesting. We invite everyone to bring their children and grandchildren any time, just call any board member who will be more than willing to give them a tour. The names of the board members are listed on the front page of this newsletter.

Thank you, John Traas

Once again we owe John Traas our thanks. He has been collecting the articles about Walworth Historical Society from the area newspapers and inserting them in a scrap book. John is retiring from this important job and we are looking for someone to take up the task. If you would like to do this please let Jessie Kemel know. Thank you for your help.

May 15 Meeting To Feature Lions Club

Long-time Walworth Lions Club member Bill Boyd will be the guest speaker at our Monday, May 15, annual meeting. This will be preceded by a pot-luck supper, brief meeting, and election of officers.

For years we have enjoyed and participated in the Festival in the Park. An event like this takes many volunteers and hours of planning. The Walworth Lions Club is the driving force behind this event and many other activities in our area. Bill will tell us about the numerous service projects the club has undertaken or assisted with on a local, national, or international basis.

Our purpose as a historical society is to collect and preserve history of our township. The Lions Club is very much a part of our community, and their history and involvement should be part of our collection. Thank you, Bill, and the 28 members of your organization.

The meeting begins at 6:15 PM at the museum, corner of Academy and High Streets. Members are encouraged to bring a guest. Attendees are asked to provide a dish to pass and their table service.

Membership Dues

The Walworth Historical Society operates on a May 1 to April 30, fiscal year. Your membership dues are due May 1, unless you are a Life Member.

There are several categories of membership in WHS: Student \$3; Individual \$6; Joint or family \$10; Supporting or corporate/business \$25; Sponsor \$40; Patron or life member \$100; and benefactor \$150.

By choosing to join at a higher level of membership, you will enable us to continue to expand our program presentations and our collection of historical items. Thank you for any consideration you give us.

Please pay at the annual meeting in May or send your check to the Walworth Historical Society at the address listed on the front of this newsletter.

A Journey Down Penfield Road (Part 2) (by Jay Taber and Friends)

Part Two: Jay continues his narrative from the March newsletter and heads west on Walworth-Penfield Road. If anyone can add other names and dates to the story let us know.

NOTE: House numbers throughout Wayne County were changed in the mid 1970's for simplification and emergency response purposes. The numbers in parentheses are the original numbers that are no longer used. The road was originally called Rochester Street.

2193 – (18): Charles and Vivian Buckley lived in the next house with their son Aschel and daughter and son-in-law, Jean and Wally Joslin and daughter Mary Ellen. Charlie and Vivian had operated the Walworth Hardware in the south half of Marlene Hall's store. If I remember correctly, they also sold some groceries and there were gasoline pumps before the Post Office was moved there. The Post Office was located in the back of the store; Jean was the postmistress. It was a store where one bought a few things and sat around and talked for 20 minutes to an hour. But by 1955 they had long since sold the store (to Jack and Blanche Wick, I think. Blanche was Howard Triou's sister.)

Earl and Bev Stauring and their three children lived in the Buckley house for several years after Vivian and the Joslins moved. Then Leighton and Nancy Bel moved back to Walworth and lived there with their four children – Lee, Dee, Lori, and Terri. Years later, after Lee Bel had decided not to continue in the Air Force, he and Katie bought the house from his parents in July 1988 and

are still living there today with daughters Samantha and Sabrina.

2179 – (22): Melba Smith had lived in the house next to the Buckley-Stauring-Bel house since I can remember. She was a retired district school teacher and lived there with her mother and later alone after her mother's death. By the time we moved into our house, she had become the local eccentric, who really didn't mix with the people in the community much at all. She died at the time the Stauring's were living next door. Russell and Barb Kuelling purchased the property in 1971. Daughter Kelly moved there with her parents; Kevin was born in 1974. The Kuellings are now empty nesters.

2175 – (26): Next to Melba's was a vacant lot. This was eventually sold to a DeMay family who moved a pre-built home in two halves onto the cellar wall in 1965. This was quite an event and the neighbors all came together to witness this novel way of "building" a house. The DeMays lived there only a short time before Roger and Dottie DeMay (no relation, I believe, to the previous owner) bought it in 1969. Their two sons, Brian and Bruce, are now adults and no longer live at home.

2167 – (30): Miss Ella Ebert and her brother George lived in the next house in the '40's. Ella died in 1946, her brother pre-deceased her. When Erwin and Coral Ebert and children Cathy and Bob purchased the house, Erwin made the upstairs into an apartment for his mother, Anna Ebert. After they moved, several people

lived there before the present occupants, the Andrew Britts purchased the house in November 2003.

2159 – (34): This house was built in 1865. Cliff and Bernice Nortier and daughters Nancy and Sally lived there from the late 1930's until 1949; Cliff worked for George Wignall. Pete Cauwels and his wife, Esther, and children, Mary Jane and Stanley, also lived there. Pete worked for Bob Wignall and had a meat slaughtering business as well. After they moved out, many people lived there including Marty and Eugene Davis and three children Don, Steve, and Scott. Later the house was divided into two apartments.

Current owners Janice Filion and Paul Korolko share the house with their daughter, Annabelle Korolko. Since purchasing it in December 2001, they have been converting it from apartments to a single home.

2151/2153 – (36/38): The next house is the one that we always referred to as “the duplex,” a place where people moved in for a couple of years until they could afford to buy their own home. It was built in the late 1960's by Harold and Richard Schultz.

But before it was built, a small two story house had to be torn down. That is where the Pardees lived with their large family in the late 1930's, and later Tony and Mammie Vasseur lived there with their son Myndert; Tony worked for George Wignall. Pat and Minnie Curran and three sons Donald, Bernard and Harvey also lived there. We called it the tenant house. It was purchased in December 1998 by Matthew Juby.

To be continued



2193 Penfield Road



2179 Penfield Road



2175 Penfield Road



2167 Penfield Road



2159 Penfield Road



2151 / 2153 Penfield Road

Women in the Military

On April 11, Gene, Jessie and Mary Jane attended the Wayne Historians' Meeting. There was a request for information about local women who have served in the military, especially during WW II. Here is the basic information:

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, in partnership with the Library of Congress Veterans' History Project, is collecting the oral histories of America's women veterans. This nationwide effort to record our service member's memories and experiences is critical to preserving America's military heritage for generations to come.

Check out the following website: www.womensmemorial.com. The local contact person is Jeanne Frey of Newark. 315-331-2203. She would appreciate any leads or information you have available.

"Whatsit"? – Fact or Fiction?

There were many puzzling looks and questions at the March 20 meeting as guest speaker Joseph O'Toole unpacked his treasures of the past. Attendees were divided into groups, asked to provide identification and purpose of each item, and tell a story about it. It was up to the audience to decide if this was fact or fiction.....and we soon discovered there are many story tellers in our organization!

Joe is the newly-appointed Executive Director of the Museum of Wayne County History. He extended an invitation to everyone to visit the museum, stating that many of the long-time exhibits have been changed and new items are continually being added to give the museum a new look. The building is located at 21 Butternut Street, Lyons.



Joseph O'Toole



An interested WHS group

Spring Clean-Up at the Museum

It's that time of year again when we give our museum its annual spring cleaning. Help is always welcomed and needed. If you have some available time on Saturday, May 6, from 9 to 12 noon, stop in at the museum, corner of Academy and High Streets, and lend a helping hand. There's plenty of work to be done inside and outside.

House History

We often get requests for information about a certain house. Who built it? When? Who lived there? etc., etc. SO, we wish to establish yet another database. This also will be an ON-GOING project, but the time to start it is NOW! Please begin by writing down what YOU know.

Questions to be answered for each house (property):

- * What address? (old and new numbering system)
- * By whom? And for whom?
- * How has it changed (additions?)
- * How is it unique?
- * When it was built
- * Who has lived at that address and what dates
- * What outbuildings exist (or existed in the past)

We would also like to have pictures of the house and owners (taken at various times over the years). Do you also have a map and/or floor plan? If you have the Abstract of Title, perhaps you could dig out some interesting "tidbits" from there as well.

Information may be emailed to Gene Bavis, Town Historian at gbavis@rochester.rr.com OR sent by U.S. Mail to the Walworth Historical Society, PO Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568 OR be given in person to any WHS Officer or Trustee. Note: You don't have to wait until you get it ALL together before you start sharing this information with us. We'll take it in "dribbles." If you have photos or other materials that you wish to retain (but are willing to share), please contact us to arrange for scanning or photographing them.

Curator's Corner

Some of the recent and not so recent items received at the museum are a framed calendar for 1946 from Sam McKee's "Maple Shade Dairy" with some bottle tops. Two showing pasteurized milk, one for pasteurized chocolate milk and one for orangeade. We are also the proud recipients of a large glass "throw away" pickle jar. It has beautiful mums embossed in the glass. And aren't we lucky that someone had the foresight NOT to throw it away? Also, a recent gift was a stereopticon viewer with 45 slides to accompany it. Some slides are of Watkins Glen and some are of Niagara Falls in winter, plus many other subjects.

And very recently, we were given an 1887 "White House Cookbook" dedicated to the wives of our presidents from Martha Washington to Caroline Harrison. In the front is a picture of Frances Folsom Cleveland called "The Bride of the White House". She married Grover Cleveland in 1886. President Cleveland was elected in 1884 and re-elected in 1892. So Frances was First Lady when this book was written. Our cooks today will find the recipes interesting as they call for pints, quarts and teacups full of ingredients! And there are menus for all 12 months of the year for breakfast, dinner, and supper. We are most grateful for all the wonderful items we receive so stop in and look them over.

Help Wanted

You have read about some of the ambitious projects that we hope to begin. While the Walworth Historical Society has a LOT of information, there is SO MUCH MORE that has NOT been written down or otherwise recorded. Now that we have the technological tools (computer, scanner, digital camera, video camera, tape recorder, DVD and CD burner, etc.) there is NO reason not to collect everything we can about Walworth. VASTS amounts of information (photos, stories, videos, family histories, etc.) can be stored in so little space AND made available to people living in distant places.

You have heard the old saying, "many hands make light work." If you write down information that YOU personally know, that is one way that EVERYONE can help. If you have computer skills (or are willing to learn them), you could help us get this information into more useable form. Let us know if you are willing to volunteer for one or more of our projects.

Walworth Memories

For the past couple of years we (the WHS) have co-sponsored a Sunday afternoon program called "Walworth Memories" with the Walworth-Seeley Public Library. On April 2, 2006 thirty-five people gathered at the Walworth Town Hall to talk about Walworth businesses. This was our BEST turn out ever, AND a lot of interesting information was shared. Thank you to Dorothy French for taking LOTS of notes that day. We just barely scratched the surface, so it has been suggested that we do "part 2." A couple of suggestions came out...Next time, let's have some photographs, maps, charts of what we know (Bob Mogray has volunteered to help put together a picture display, etc.). Hopefully, attendees will be able to give us additional information. Part 2 has been scheduled for Sunday, October 29 from 2:00 pm until 3:00 pm at the Walworth Museum.

We would like YOU to help. If you owned, ran, worked for, or just have knowledge of a business that was based in Walworth, please give us information about it. (Note: When we say "Walworth" we mean **all** of it...Walworth, West Walworth, Lincoln...and all the areas in between.) Specifically, we would like to build a database (and/or collect) the following:

- Name of business
- Owner(s)
- Date started (or approximate date)
- Date closed (if no longer in business)
- Location(s)

- Description of the business (types of products or services offered)
- Names of Employees (& approximately when they worked there)
- Interesting "tidbits" about the business
- Photographs (of the business, owners, employees, etc.)
- Advertising items (calendars, pens or pencils, key rings, business cards, ads in publications, etc.)
- Business records (if appropriate)
- Recollections (for example...there are many stories about going into Ray Bavis' barbershop and participating in a musical "jam session" or just sitting there listening.)

PLEASE WRITE DOWN some of this information and get it to us ASAP. Of course, this will be an ON-GOING project but we are ANXIOUS to get started before we all get any OLDER! Information may be emailed to Gene Bavis, Town Historian at gbavis@rochester.rr.com OR sent by US Mail to the Walworth Historical Society, PO Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568 OR be given in person to any WHS Officer or Trustee. Note: You don't have to wait until you get it ALL together before you start sharing this information with us. We'll take it in "dribbles." If you have photos or other materials that you wish to retain (but are willing to share), please contact us to arrange for scanning or photographing them.



Photos taken at "Walworth Memories" on April 2 held at the Walworth Town Hall

“Get Ready” Grant Received

As a result of the “Get Ready” grant which we received from the Upstate History Alliance Joann Lindstrom conducted a seminar at our museum. Trustees, officers and interested members attended. Joann has been consulting with small museums and historical societies since 2001. Joann helped us understand the importance of long-range planning and how important it is to have a vision statement. She pointed out several strengths such as our collection management policy and programming. She also was impressed with our building and our dedicated, regular volunteers. We have some weaknesses, which she pointed out. Our organization needs to have younger people involved. She suggested that we change our dues structure, and work at fund raising and grant writing. We will be addressing these concerns and suggestions at our next few meetings.

Explanation of Funds

When Joann Lindstrom did a workshop for us through a “Get Ready” grant which we received from Upstate History Alliance, she suggested that we let the general membership know about the funds we have on hand. The Walworth Historical Society has several separate accounts which are in Certificates of Deposit.

The Endowment Account was originally set up to generate interest income. The money accumulates from life memberships and other non-restricted donations. Money from this account may be used as a last resort for debts which have accrued.

The Bi-Centennial Account is proceeds from quilt square sales, starting in 1976, to be used for a town celebration in 2029.

The Acquisitions Account was established from money received from the Chamber of Commerce to acquire items pertaining to Walworth.

The Book Account started with money donated by the Finley family and is to be used for publishing books. Book sales income is deposited in this account.

Museum Account may be used to pay bills and keep up repairs to museum building.

D. W. Welker Account is from donations in memory of Dorothy Welker and may be used for special needs or special purchases for the museum.

We also have received donations in memory of Pam Bavis and Hazel Bassage which are still in another account. It has not determined how we will use these funds. We have also received donations toward a roof repair which we will use this spring. These funds are in a daily market account until we use them. We have a checking account and a savings account. There is a small general CD which we would use as needed for repair of equipment or maintenance, or however the Board of Trustees sees the need.

2006 Meeting Dates

<u>Sat., May 6</u>	9:00 AM - 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. Bill Boyd will talk about the history of the Walworth Lions Club.
<u>Fri., July 21</u>	7:00 PM	Festival in the Park Parade. Watch for our float.
<u>Sat., July 22</u>	NOON - 6:00 PM	Festival in the Park. Visit our booth at Ginégaw Park.
<u>Mon., Sept. 18</u>	7:30 PM	General meeting; program to be announced.
<u>Sun., Oct. 1</u>	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Annual open house and fall festival.
<u>Sun., Oct. 29</u>	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Walworth Memories...Businesses Part 2 at the Walworth Museum.
<u>Mon., Nov. 20</u>	7:30 PM	General meeting; program to be announced.