

# WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 30

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**Walworth Museum 2257 Academy Street, Walworth, New York 14568**

**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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## A Wedding and a Peony

When you visit our WHS museum on Academy Street in the village, take note of the beautiful peony that is planted by the walkway. It is called “Grover Cleveland” – and was planted last fall to commemorate President Cleveland’s visit to Walworth on June 10, 1891, to attend the double wedding of his nieces, Nellie and Anna Yeomans.

The following is an excerpt from Arch Merrill’s writings:

*So it came to pass that a former president of the United States clambered off a New York Central train at Walworth Station that bright June morning. Grover Cleveland had been in Walworth before, nearly a decade earlier to eat Thanksgiving dinner with his sister, Susan Yeomans (wife of Lucien Theron Yeomans), Walworth’s first family. He had gone far since then, with a term in the White House and after his defeat by Benjamin Harrison, lush years of corporation law practice in New York. He had gained in girth and conservatism. He had hobnobbed with the great. But he still was a forthright, unpretentious individual with little gift for “small talk”.*

*The wedding took place in a beautiful Victorian house under tall trees, set well back from High Street in Walworth village. The principal characters, by all the rules, should have been two bright-eyed young sisters, cool and lovely in their white silk gowns and each carrying a bouquet of June roses. For it was their wedding day and they were of “the upper crust” of the orchard country, members of a family long dominant in the social, political and business life of the community. The double wedding had drawn to the house on the hill 100 guests.*

*But strange to say, the center of attention was not the brides, but a fat and taciturn middle-aged man with a bull neck and a walrus mustache. His ponderous frame was swathed in a tent-like frock coat. It was a blistering hot day and he sweated profusely. The saw-like edges of his wing collar clawed into his several chins. He was obviously an uncomfortable figure.*

In a scrapbook at the museum is a clipping from the Democrat and Chronicle dated Sunday, November 30, 1947, that tells of the double wedding at high noon in the Lucien Yeomans’ residence “under an arch of smilax, festooned with a horse shoe of white roses”...how the fair-haired Nellie entered on the arm of her frail and distinguished appearing father, and brunette sister Anna followed escorted by her uncle, the former President...of the officiating clergyman, the Reverend William N. Cleveland of Chaumont, an uncle of the brides...of the long list of guests, some of them from Rochester...of the “two elegant traveling clocks” from Tiffany’s in New York that were the gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Cleveland and the two \$100 checks presented by the Hon. Theron G. Yeomans”...of the “sumptuous repast served by Caterer Ridley of Newark” and how the former President took the evening train to New York.



Grover Cleveland now is only a name in the history books to all save a few oldsters and Walworth has forgotten the glory that descended upon it for one day. The old house, where the huge frame of a former president “filled an open window to overflowing” on a hot June day years ago, still stands.

**Grover Cleveland Peony at the Walworth Museum**

## President's Message

### Spend a Sunday Summer Sitting at the Museum

Summer is the season to visit museums. We need members to take turns sitting at the Museum on Sunday afternoons. Our mission is to collect items of historical significance to our Walworth area, and have it available for public viewing. We are open from 2 until 4 every Sunday and Wednesday June through September.

Kay and Gene handle the Wednesday afternoons, and other board members schedule appointments. We have many openings on Sundays. We need your help to meet our commitment to the community. It also is an interesting way to spend a Sunday afternoon by looking through scrap books, old school pictures, and items from past businesses. Often a sitter is there over the time required because time goes so fast!

Please call Jessie at 524-9205, or email [Rkeymel@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Rkeymel@rochester.rr.com) if you can help. Thank you.

<u>Date</u>	(Museum Sunday Sitting Schedule) <u>Volunteer</u>
July 9	Mike McEwen
July 16	
July 23	Wilbur Reybrouck
July 30	Kris English
Aug. 6	Nancy Bel
Aug. 13	Joyce Finney and Marlene Slocum
Aug. 20	
Aug. 27	
Sept. 3	Closed: Labor Day weekend
Sept. 10	Stephanie Craft and Dawn Groell
Sept. 17	
Sept. 24	

### Stuart Huntley



**Congratulations** on your 65 years of service to the Walworth Fire Department and the Walworth community.

From your friends at

The Walworth Historical Society

Stuart Huntley

## WHS Election of Officers

This year's annual meeting was held on May 15 at the museum and included the election of officers. Re-elected were president Jessie Keymel, secretary Judy McMillan, and trustee Nancy Bel. Bob Mogray was elected vice-president, replacing Tracy Woodhams. New trustee Joyce Finney replaces retiring trustee Kay Scott, who will continue to serve as curator for the organization. Terms of office did not expire for treasurer Mary Jane Devlin and trustees Gene Bavis, Marcia Englert, Dorothy French, and Roger Keymel.

## Scrapbook Memories

The Museum has a substantial collection of scrapbooks. Scrapbooks from Dorothy Petty, Bernie Porray, Alton May and others have been donated to the Walworth Historical Society.

We are looking for some one to glean interesting facts and historical tidbits from these scrapbooks so we can include them in our newsletter. If anyone is willing to do this please call Bob Mogray, editor, whose phone number is on the front.

Below is a partial list of what is included in one of Dorothy Petty's scrapbooks. This scrapbook includes 1946 to 1959.

- Article from Rochester Democrat & Chronicle – Donald Jerrings built an electronic organ for the Walworth Second Baptist Church
- WHAM opens New Rochester Radio City
- News articles about the Walworth Fire Department, Wayne Central Board of Education, various churches, parades, the Grange, 4-H, the Wayne County Fair, Chamber of Commerce, and American Legion
- "Trip Down Memory Lane" by Arch Merrill from Rochester Democrat & Chronicle
- Birth announcements; wedding invitations; 67 death notices; military happenings; pictures and descriptions of 19 anniversary celebrations
- From the Wayne County Mail, dated Dec. 7, 1951, "The Ore Mining Era" by Lilah Henry
- An article from the Wayne County Mail, "A Century of Progress for the Walworth Masonic Lodge"
- Pictures of "Rose Princesses"
- Article about new doctor (Dr. Newman)
- Walworth Baptists plan ceremony for the laying of cornerstone for new Christian Education Building
- School news, pictures, programs, projects, field trips, and plays
- Minstrel show news articles and programs
- News article "Macedon Fire Injures Three Walworth Volunteers" (1956)
- Newspaper write-ups and pictures of sports teams
- Joseph Finley assumes County Clerk duties and other political news
- Program from installation of officers of Athena Chapter (1958)
- Alaska is 49<sup>th</sup> state (1958)
- Poems by Joseph Finley, Lucy Boynton Franke, and Helen Schultz
- Commencement programs
- Article about artist Joan Esley by Lilah Henry in The Herald-Mail, Fairport, NY (1951)
- 55 newspaper articles about weddings and 18 engagement pictures

## **Festival in the Park**

Once again we will be participating in the Festival in the Park events. We hope to have a float and will be working on it early in the week of July 16. The parade begins at 7 PM on Friday, July 21. The Lions Club decided this year's parade theme would be "The Year of the Museum". Look for us.

We will have a booth in the park on Friday evening and again on Saturday from 12:00 till dark. We need people to man the booth both days; call Jessie if you can help. If you cannot commit to a time and are at the park, check and see if the booth sitter needs a break. To be a successful museum we need visitors; the exposure at the park helps people learn about us. We hope to see you there.

## **We Have Names But No Faces**

At the museum we have a composition book with the names and addresses of men and women who, during their time of service in World War II, received greeting cards from a group of dedicated women in our community. Within our scrap books we have newspaper articles telling about the activities of our men and women in the service. We even have a Purple Heart Medal and the information to go with it. We have a diddy bag from World War I, a duffle bag from the Korean conflict, and a photo of the instrument panel of the plane Elwood Baker flew. We have uniforms from World War II and Viet Nam, and a replica of the military honor roll has a place of honor on our lawn. Lots of names but no faces.

Our collection has a little bit of everything but no photos of our service men and women. We would like to complete our collection with faces of the men and women from our township (Lincoln, West Walworth and Walworth) in uniform, and, if possible the dates of their service. We know you all have some photos - would you be willing to share them with us?

Our aim is to fill this very big gap in our collection. Walworth has played a role in the history of our nation and the world. We have the names but no faces. With the scanner at the museum we can scan your photo and return it to you. At the Festival in the Park we will have a sign up sheet to set up an appointment or call Jessie at 524-9205.

## **It's Tea Party Time!**

WHS will host an Afternoon Tea Party for Ladies and Gentlemen on Thursday, September 14, from 2 – 4 PM. Invitations will be sent to those 75 years or older. Transportation will be provided if necessary. More info coming in September newsletter.

## **Dues are Due**

If you have not paid your dues, there is a red dot on your address label. Membership dues help to continue the programs, projects and newsletter of the organization.

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

Dues may be sent to the Walworth Historical Society at the address listed on the front of this newsletter, or given to any officer or member of the Board of Trustees.

## **Bill Boyd: Award Recipient**

"We Serve" is the motto of Lions Club International. The Walworth Historical Society believes this motto also applies to William P. Boyd of Plank Road, Walworth, and appropriately bestowed the 2006 Community Service Award on him during a surprise ceremony on May 15.

Presenter Debora Germain emphasized Bill's more than 30 years of service to the Walworth Lions Club and his chairmanship of the annual Walworth Festival-in-the-Park. She also noted his extensive involvement with the Zion United Methodist Church of West Walworth, including membership in various councils and committees, long-term treasurer, and leadership role in a recent renovation project.

Bill's community involvement also includes being an active member of the Walworth Parks Committee for many years. He has served on the town's Master Plan Committee and the Academy Committee, and most recently received an appointment to the Assessment Review Board.

Bill and his wife, Sharon, were invited to the annual meeting of the Walworth Historical Society so Bill could speak about the Walworth Lions Club and the numerous activities of the service organization. Bill stated Lions Club International is almost 90 years old and is the largest service organization in the world. The local club was chartered in 1972 and has no geographic boundaries. There currently are 28 members.

The Walworth Lions Club sponsors many local events, including the Easter Egg Hunt, Breakfast with Santa, spaghetti suppers, and the Festival-in-the-Park. Their fund raising efforts have resulted in donations to local, national, and international disaster relief efforts; scholarships at Wayne and Gananda High Schools; two tons of potatoes to the Walworth Food Pantry; and other service projects. The club is a collection agency for eye glasses and hearing aids for re-use purposes. Its latest project is funding a storage building at Ginégaw Park. Memories of club events from the 1970's were shared via a 35 mm slide presentation.

This year's Festival-in-the-Park will be July 20, 21, and 22. Bill said the Lions Club has been sponsoring this event since the 1980's and is the successor to the well-known Walworth street dances. Marcia Englert was able to provide additional background information about the street dances, which were held from the 1950's to the mid 1980's.



**Left to right: Bill Boyd and Debora Germain**

## Checking Account Report

May 16-June 19, 2006

### Income:

Dues	\$104.00
'06 calendars	7.36
J. Traas Book	4.16
Donation	100.00
C. Pembroke Book	5.09
Wayne County Book	25.00
Coverlet	42.60
Sales Tax	4.79
	<u>\$293.00</u>

### Expenses

NYSE&G	\$ 25.72
RG&E	88.47
Cart	33.18
Misc.	28.60
Postal Service	65.00
	<u>\$240.97</u>

## A New Addition

Have you seen the latest addition in the museum? We now have a rolling cart to house the many scrap books in our collection. It was decided we would purchase a cart to fit our needs; \$500.00 plus was the amount of purchase and shipping. OOOPS - too much money. We wondered if WHS had a member who could construct one of similar design. John Scott and Roger Keymel came up with a rolling cart, custom made, for about \$181.18. The cart looks great, is movable, and will hold Dorothy Petty's and Anna May's scrap books and more. Thank you, John and Roger, for your donation of time and talents and all the incidentals constructing requires. A great job, don't you agree?



**The new rolling storage cart for scrapbooks, etc. at the Walworth Museum**

## May 6 Museum Clean-Up

On a dark, cool, and rainy May 6 morning, almost a dozen volunteers bravely showed up at the Walworth Museum for our annual spring clean-up day. Even though the scheduled work time was from 9:00 am until noon, Stephanie Craft and two employees of G and S Orchards were there at 7:30 a.m., working in the flower beds and on the edging around the museum. Many of the scrapbooks were placed on the new cart that was designed and built by our own John Scott and Roger Keymel. The kitchen and the main meeting room were given a good cleaning by Jessie Keymel, Judy McMillan, Kay Scott and others. Several large items were moved to the second floor. A special thanks to all who were able to show up and give a helping hand. Some photos of this clean up are posted on the museum computer.



**Some of the WHS volunteers on Museum clean-up day on May 6.**

## Curator's Corner

We as a society owe a huge thank you to Gordon Youngman. He met me at the museum one day to give us a large amount of Walworth history. Much of this history is encapsulated in Anna May's scrapbooks and, as soon as they are recorded, they will be on display. There are also attendance records for the Walworth Academy dating back to 1904. You will soon hear more about these wonderful articles.

## 2006 Meeting Dates

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

<u>Fri., July 21</u>	7 PM	Festival in the Park Parade. Watch for our float and visit our booth at Ginegaw Park.
<u>Sat., July 22</u>	12-6 PM	Festival in the Park. Visit our booth.
<u>Thurs., Aug. 10</u>	Noon	WHS hosts' Wayne Historians' Organization (WHO)
<u>Mon., Aug. 21</u>	7 PM	Board of Trustees' meeting
<u>Thurs., Sept. 14</u>	2 – 4 PM	Afternoon Tea Party for Ladies and Gentlemen
<u>Mon., Sept. 18</u>	7:30 PM	General meeting; program to be announced.
<u>Mon., Sept. 25</u>	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees' meeting
<u>Sun., Oct. 1</u>	2-5 PM	Annual open house and fall festival.
<u>Sun., Oct. 29</u>	2–3:30 PM	Walworth Memories. Part 2, Businesses Past and Present; co-sponsored with Walworth-Seely Public Library
<u>Mon., Nov. 20</u>	7:30 PM	General meeting; program to be announced.
<u>Mon., Nov. 27</u>	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees' meeting