

WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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Roger Keymel on his 1950 Farmall C tractor pulls the WHS float in the 2007 Festival Parade

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President's Message

By Jessie Keymel

The Walworth Historical Society was the host of the August 15 meeting of WHO. Who is WHO? WHO is the Wayne Historians Organization, a group of representative members from the historical societies and town historians of Wayne County.

WHO meets every other month in a different Wayne County town; the August meeting was our responsibility this year. The Wednesday meeting was attended by 21 WHO members, representing 15 different organizations. John Young, the Huron town supervisor, often attends. John is a member of the Wayne County Committee of History and Education; County Historian Peter Evans reports to this committee.

The meetings are informal, led by Carol Bailey, Lyons Historian, or Peter Evans. There are times we have special guests, experts in the field of restoration, preservation, or some other subject of mutual interest. The most important benefits of these informal gatherings are the ideas and information we gather from each other. Thank you Mary Jane Devlin, Gene Bavis and Jessie Keymel for taking time to attend WHO meetings. It was a pleasure to welcome WHO to our Museum. Now you know who's WHO in Wayne County.

WHS Annual Community Service Award Winners on Display

At a recent WHS Board meeting it was suggested that we have a photographic record of all of the WHS Annual Community Service Award winners through the years. This could be similar to the photographs the Walworth Fire Department has of their past Fire Chiefs. It is a memorial to all of the people who have been honored by us for their hard work, unselfish dedication, and devotion to the people and the community of Walworth. Beginning in 1990, the Walworth Historical Society has given this award to 18 people who we feel have richly deserved this honor.

Now hanging on the north wall of the main meeting room of the Walworth Museum are 18 photos of the winners of our yearly award, along with the main plaque with the names of these people and the year of the award. They start with Emily Huntley in 1990 and go up to Lorraine Finley in 2007. We are so proud of these people and we hope this display does them justice. Please stop in and check it out when you get a chance.



Hazel Bassage



Monnie Churchill



Bill Boyd

Driving Around Walworth: October 14 Fall Festival

This year's annual fall festival will feature a self-guided driving tour of the Walworth township. Maps will be provided beginning at 2 PM at the Walworth Historical Society's museum, located at the corner of High and Academy Streets. Points of interest on the tour will include historic houses, churches, schools, businesses, etc. At 5 PM at the museum, prizes will be given to winners of the contest who have correctly completed a questionnaire regarding sites on the tour.

Other activities and displays are planned between 2 and 5 PM at the museum. Refreshments will be available.

A Tribute to Irma: The History of Bills Road (Part 2 of 2)

Prior to her passing last year, Irma (Barmaster) Wyse and her friend Mary Jane Devlin enjoyed memorable times together. Their conversations frequently included memories of West Walworth and Bills Road, resulting in this list of former and current residents. Irma lived on Bills Road her entire life except for a short period of time. (Part 1 of this history of Bills Road was published in the July WHS Newsletter.)

Additional information was compiled with help from long-time residents Norman Druschel, Inez (Welker) Ickewood, and many others. Our thanks to everyone who helped. If you have memories of Bills Road that you would like to add to this file, please contact anyone listed on the front of this newsletter.

Note: In the early 1970's the numbering system was changed. The first number is the old number and the second number is the new address. If there is only one number, the house was built after the new numbering system started.

Starting at West Walworth Road - North Side

- 76/557 Lonnie and Jean Loncasty and son, Peter. Then Raymond and Dorothy Welker and children Larry, Kevin, and Thomas.
102/511 Thomas and Jeanette Hook and children Donald and Cheryl; now Tim Sergeant.
114/487 Peter and Mary Cefarilli; now James Dawson.
120/475 Richard and Marilyn Junot; now owned by Robert Thorp.

Intersection at Cream Ridge Road

- 136/435 Michael and Evelyn Thornton; now Clinton Ludwig.
140/427 Alton and Nancy Fox; now Paul Fidelity.
144/419 William and Lois Maloney; now Louis and Darlene Martino and children Jack and Gregory.
148/411 Raymond and Elizabeth Thompson; now Timothy Beck.

Intersection at Hillside Drive

- 154/389 Fred & wife Frey and daughter Onalee; then Monaghan from Penfield; then Benny and Mary LaLoggia; now Dean Carlson.
379 Bradley La Berge.
367 Todd Russell.
212/281 Raymond and Florence Tuhro, original owners, built for them; then James Purdy (great-nephew of Raymond) and Laura.
275 Wallace W. and Margaret Wyse and Eric.
216/271 William and Helen Barmaster and daughters Irma and Arlene, now owned by Wallace W. Wyse and rented.
222/265 Wallace C. and Irma B. Wyse (built by them) and children Wallace, Mark, and Robyn.
238/233 Robert and Charlene Anderson and children; then Dennis and Carol Derkits.
111 Robert Schreiber.
310/95 Stephen and Virginia Gorski.
Bill Laird, wife and children, including Michael.

June 1, 1961.....The main business section of Walworth was threatened with serious fire loss as fireman battled a roof blaze in the Walworth Grange Hall building that also houses the Post Office, feed and grain store, barber shop and apartment. Estimated damage about \$2,000.

January 24, 1962...Mr. & Mrs. Theron Hack celebrate 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. Hack was a dairy farmer until his retirement in 1950.

January 16, 1964...Walworth's 1st supermarket opens at 2263 Walworth-Marion Road. Don Brockman, owner of Don's IGA, has set 8:00 AM to let the first customer into the new store. The store was built by Norman Soucy.

March 26, 1964....Mr & Mrs. David Payne of Walworth became parents of triplets (Lori, David, and Lesa). The Payne's also have a 6-year old daughter.

1965....Dr. Albert Schweitzer dies at age 90. He was called the "great white doctor". He was buried on the red African soil near the jungle hospital to which he devoted most of his long life.

January 1965...First commercial jet lands at Rochester-Monroe County Airport. The American Airlines Boeing 727 astrojet touches down at 12:35 pm.

January 24, 1965...Sir Winston Churchill dies.

August 1965...RG&E to build atomic plant in Wayne County. RG&E decided to build a nuclear power plant on Lake Ontario, 18 miles east of Rochester. Robert Ginna, Chairman of the Board, said the plant would cost more than 50 million dollars and will be built by Westinghouse Electric Co. Expected completion and in operation by early 1969.

June 1966....Mary Ellen Taber, who just completed first grade, named Rose Princess.

August 1966...Lincoln Baptist Church celebrates 150-year anniversary.

August 1, 1967....Thomas C. Armstrong, Superintendent of Wayne Central School District, resigns. In 1953 he was named High School Principal and in 1956 assumed the position of superintendent. (In April of 1968 the Middle School was dedicated to Mr. Armstrong).

January 16, 1968...."The Smallest 'Town' Secedes". Greenview has seceded from the Town of Walworth to become Wayne County's 16th town, albeit very unofficial. Founded in 1963, seceded in 1968. Population 24 adults, 31 children and 14 dogs. No one knows who, under the cover of night, put up the neatly stenciled sign.

August 31, 1968....Walworth Post Office moved from the present location in the Grange building to the remodeled building across the street at 3720 Main Street. Postmistress is Mrs. Peter VanHaneghem.

1969....The 1.9 million dollar water system is now operational.

August 24, 1969....Mr & Mrs. Harold Reynolds celebrate 50th wedding anniversary.

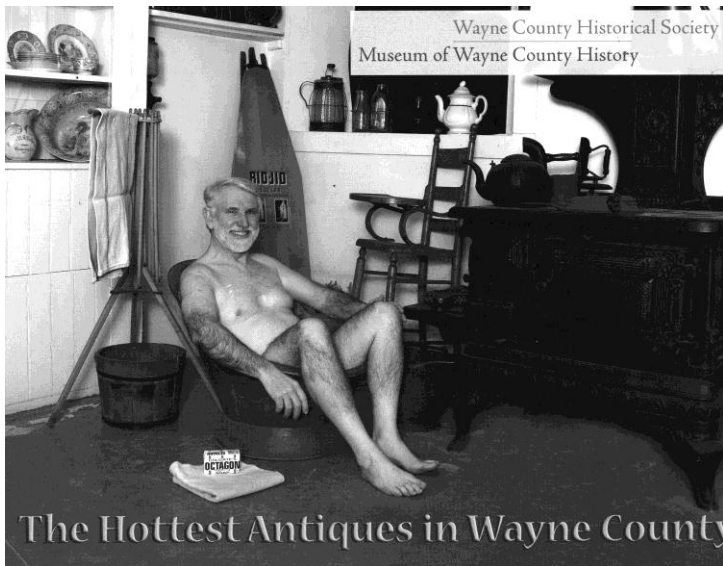
Saving Memories

Uncle Sam needs you. In 2000 the United States Congress created the Veterans History Project as part of a collection at the Library of Congress. New York State has a similar oral history program. The mission of both programs is to collect and archive the personal recollections of U.S. wartime veterans to honor their service and share their stories with current and future generations. The project also collects stories from home-front civilians who worked in support of our armed forces. Volunteers are needed to conduct interviews and collect historical documents.

Additional information can be found on the Library of Congress web site www.loc.gov/vets or by calling a toll-free message line at 888-371-5848. To register for volunteering for the New York State Veteran Oral History Program, call 518-581-5116 or e-mail int-Historians@ng.army.mil.

In addition, you may also contact WHS president Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or curator Kay Scott at 315-524-9528.

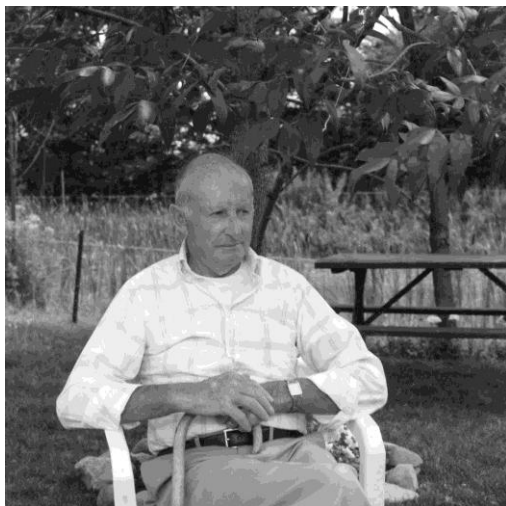
The Hottest Antiques in Wayne County!



The Wayne County Historical Society recently published a 2008 calendar that is available for sale at the Walworth Town Clerk's office for \$16.15 including tax.

The calendar itself is not the big attraction.....it's the photographs of some of Wayne County's senior male citizens that are the talk of the townspeople! And gracing the front cover is none other than Walworth Town Historian Gene Bavis.....wearing a devilish smile.

Gene will have some calendars available at our September 17 meeting and has offered to autograph them.



In Memory of Sam McKee

Sam McKee was a well-known man around Walworth. He and his wife, Betty, raised their nine children (8 daughters and 1 son) on a farm north of town. He was a dairy farmer and also processed the milk, and then delivered it and other dairy products to homes in the Walworth area for several years. He also drove school bus for Wayne Central School District for many years. He worked for the Town of Walworth Highway Department. After he retired, he worked as a groundskeeper at Wayne Central. Sam died on May 20, 2007, at age 86, and we thank his family for asking that memorials be directed to the Walworth Historical Society.

Excerpts from a Farmer's 1922 Diary By Jessie Keymel

These are some entries from a farmer's diary at the museum - a little glimpse in the life of a fruit farmer in 1922. First and foremost, a weather report - then regardless of the weather the work must be done.

"Wednesday, March 29, 1922: *The weather was fair and colder with a raw west wind. I salted the pork of the ½ hog and split wood this AM. Split wood and trimmed a few young apple trees in the PM.*

"Thursday, March 30, 1922: *Stormy, it snowed from 10.30 AM till 5 PM when it began to rain and sleet...I trimmed trees most of the AM.*

"Thursday, July 13, 1922: *Fair and warm, but not as hot as yesterday. Us 4 picked cherries this AM and picked berries this PM. Took the berries=160 qts and cherries=695 lbs to Tobin's at Ontario this evening.*

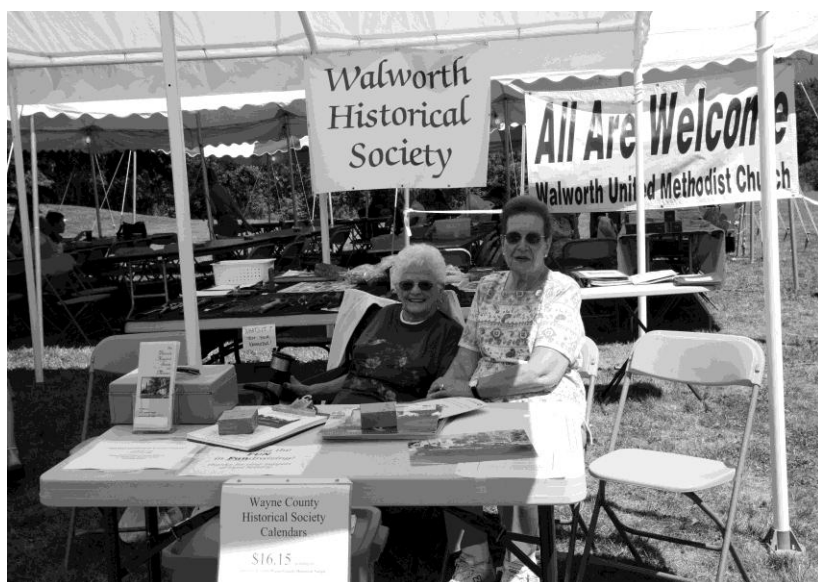
"Wednesday, August 30, 1922: *Fair and warmer. Ernest took the team to Ontario this AM and had them shod."* Editor's Note: Ernest was only 11 years old when he did this.

I wonder: Did this farmer have a dry house to dry his own apples, or did he take them to West Walworth to one of the many large dry houses we have photos of at the museum? As I read on, this was not just a fruit farm, as this farmer grew cabbage, carrots, hay and many other crops. I need to learn more about farming in the past, how can I do this in an afternoon? Mark Sunday, October 28, on your calendar and plan to attend the next Walworth Memories program. The theme will be farming. It's a great way to spend the afternoon sharing stories about this important subject. Join us at the museum from 2 – 3:30 PM (see story on page 8).

Walworth and the Civil War By Jessie Keymel

The hardest part about participating in the Festival in the Park parade is coming up with a float that fits the theme. This year the theme was Walworth and the Civil War.

For the past few years we have been able to secure a hay wagon from the LaBerth farm; thank you, Larry. Our float depicted family life without the father, who was away serving his country. Joyce Smith portrayed mother, while Braden and Elijah Godown took the part of the young children left to take care of the farm. The plow that sits in front of our Museum and other farm and household tools of the day depicted a daily life full of difficult chores. Thank you for your help with this part of the Festival in the Park.



WHS volunteers Joyce VanHaneghem and Nancy Bel tend the Historical Society booth at the Festival.

Again this year we shared our booth space with the Friends of the Walworth-Seely Public Library, a good partnership of community service. Gene Bavis brought his famous "Whatsit?" collection for everyone to ponder over and guess the use of each item. Along with our great photo album we brought along a copy of Jonas Esley's account of his time in the battle of Gettysburg and a list of the Walworth men who were in the Union Army.

Gathering all this together is quite an accomplishment every year. Thank you for all your help, setting up and manning the booth, and volunteering for the many little chores that need to be done to bring the Walworth Historical Society to the community during the Festival in the Park.

Memories of Walworth

We recently heard from Kay Fowler Schweers who used to spend her summers in Walworth. She shared some memories with us.

“I used to visit Walworth in the summers from 1946 to 1950. I lived with my aunt and uncle, James and Kay Morrison. Uncle James was the pastor (I believe) of the Baptist Church on one of the major corners. He left that position and worked for a business college in Rochester, but they continued to live in Walworth for about four more years.

“When Uncle James was the pastor, we lived in the parsonage, which was just about a block or two from the church. My best friend was a girl named Barbie, who lived at the end of the street in a house with a big barn.

“I would come from Virginia to spend the summer with Aunt and Uncle, and I always arrived before school was out in Walworth. I usually attended school there for the last couple of weeks. I remember the field days they had at the end of school.

“Later we lived in a farm house on the road to Palmyra. The farm house was close enough for us to walk into town. I remember very vividly decorating my bicycle to ride in the Fourth of July Parade. (I even have pictures of Barbie and me with our crepe paper decorated bikes!)

“I have very fond memories of picking cherries, playing in the fields, going haying with a family, eating rhubarb pie and just generally having wonderful summers in Walworth.

“I recall that Aunt Kay and Uncle Jim were very close to a very old man we called ‘Grampa _____’. He drove what I guess was an old Ford coupe (the kind with a rumble seat). He visited them often. I had the impression he was a wealthy old fellow.”

If anyone would like to contact Kay and share some memories, or see the complete letter she wrote us, please call anyone listed on the front of the newsletter.

September 17 Meeting Features Kitchens of Yesteryear

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 17, beginning at 7:30 PM at the museum. Following a brief business meeting, we will learn about cookbooks. The presenter will be Laurel Wemet, owner of Cat’s in the Kitchen, a store located in Canandaigua. Her 35mm slide show is entitled “From Fannie Farmer to Betty Crocker – the American Kitchen in the 20th Century”, and shows the progression of labor-saving devices introduced into the kitchen.

Their names are familiar, these two divas of American cooking: Fannie Farmer, famous for her role in teaching cooking classes, and Betty Crocker, a marketing invention of Gold Metal Flour, together epitomize changing culinary habits in America in the 20th century. Learn how the kitchens of our mothers and grandmothers went from the woodstove to the microwave.

Vintage cookbooks will be on display and attendees are encouraged to bring their favorites for show and tell. Laurel will also be bringing items from kitchens of the 1940’s – 1960’s. And – yes – we will be serving refreshments!

The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street, corner of High Street. For additional information contact president Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or curator Kay Scott at 315-524-9528.

Walworth Memories: Oct. 28

Farming will be the theme of the next Walworth Memories which will be held on Sunday, October 28, from 2 – 3:30 PM at the museum. This area continues to have a variety of farms, including dairy, fruit, and vegetable. Did you work on a farm as a teenager? Do you own a farm now? What was/is your favorite and least favorite part of farming? Come share your memories with other attendees as we discuss the importance of farming in our community. There will be a display of old farm equipment.

The program will be held at the museum, 2257 Academy Street, and is co-sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society and the Walworth-Seely Public Library. Attendees are encouraged to bring photos of past and present farms as the museum's computer has scanner capability. Refreshments will be served.

For additional information, contact WHS president Jessie Keymel (315-524-9205) or Library Director Mary Zingerella (315-986-1511).

Curator's Corner By Kay Scott

We have been very busy at the museum on Wednesdays. Mary Earlandt and her daughter Kathie, when she can, have been going through and sorting the multitude of loose newspaper clippings that have piled up. The Walworth, Lincoln and West Walworth articles will be sorted in chronological order and placed in scrapbooks.

Doug Churchill is still working on cataloging Dorothy Petty's scrapbooks and will be for some time. What a wonderful benefit this is when you want to look for information on someone. Joyce Hyman Smith is cataloging all the names, articles etc. from the file cabinets into a genealogical file which will be invaluable for anyone doing genealogy research. We can't thank these people enough for their work.

Try to get to the museum to check out the display on cookbooks from the past and antique kitchen articles. This display is in conjunction with our program scheduled for the September 17 meeting. We are open Sundays and Wednesdays from 2 – 4 PM June through September or by appointment by calling one of the names listed on the front cover.

2007 Events Calendar

Save this schedule and mark your calendar for meetings and activities planned during the remainder of 2007. All events will be held at the museum, 2257 Academy Street, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Subject</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Mon., Sept. 17 | 7:30 PM | General Meeting: Laurel Wemett and old cookbooks; the American kitchen in the 20 th century. |
| Sun., Oct. 14 | 2-5 PM | Fall Festival: Self-guided driving tour of Walworth township. |
| Sun., Oct. 28 | 2 – 3:30 PM | Walworth Memories. Subject: Farming (methods and displays) |
| Mon., Nov. 19 | 7:30 PM | General Meeting: Program TBD |

Board of Trustee meetings for the remainder of the year will be Sept. 24 and Nov. 26 at 7 PM at the museum.

The museum is open during June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM; other times by appointment. Contact Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Kay Scott at 315-524-9528.