

# Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 28

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## *Fall Festival: a little different this year*

For the past several years we have had a Fall Festival. The idea originated with a Farm theme, but we have also had a Civil War theme and a Firefighter theme. This year's theme is "Cemeteries." Cemeteries can be fascinating. There is so much you can learn by visiting one. On Sunday, October 19 we will be focusing on the cemeteries of our town. The final details of the day are not in place yet, but among the plans is a visit to the 8 cemeteries in Walworth with a "scavenger hunt" being part of the fun and the learning. Each cemetery has some unique features and we hope to highlight them. The day's events will end at the Museum with a brief program and refreshments. Please save the date and join us.

## A Gathering of Memories

The latest book produced by the Wayne County Historical Society is NOW available from the Walworth Historical Society. A Gathering of Memories was compiled by Andi Evangelist, Executive Director of the WCHS. The book contains hundreds of photographs and sells for \$25. It would make a wonderful gift. Buy it at the meeting or contact Jessie Keymel at 524-9205.

### Walworth Historical Society Products

Christmas Ornaments:

2000 – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Academy Bell \$7.50

2002 – Firefighter Recognition \$7.50

Walworth Coverlet (blue or cranberry) \$45

## September 15 Meeting

Ruth Metzler will be our guest speaker for the September 15 meeting of the Walworth Historical Society. Her topic will be "Tracing Your Roots." The program is open to the public to come and learn with us about genealogy. Refreshments will be served. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM, and will be held at the Walworth Historical Society Museum on Academy Street.

## Learn and Share About the Past **Rescheduled** for Sept. 28

Do you have memories to share about the Walworth area? Would you like to learn more about this community you call home? Here's your chance.

"Walworth Memories", an event co-sponsored by Walworth-Seely Public Library and the Walworth Historical Society has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 28, at 2 PM in the Town Hall.

This program is of interest to newcomers, as well as to those who have lived in the area for many years. People are encouraged to bring photos or other memorabilia that tell a story. Or just come to listen to others reminisce about the good old days. If you have an item that you know is old but don't know what it is, perhaps someone can help you identify it.

November 17 – Walworth Historical Society meeting at 7:30 PM at the Museum. In keeping with our cemetery theme and the fact there is a black civil war soldier in the Gould Cemetery, the program will be related. More details as they evolve.

# THE WALWORTH PEA VINERY

By Gordon J. Youngman

At one of the Walworth Historical Society Board Meetings someone asked if anyone had any information about the Walworth Pea Vinery. I made the remark that it was the hardest job I ever had. From that I was elected to write a few words of the basic operations of the vinery.

The building was located on the northeast corner of Canandaigua Road and Rt. 441. The approximate size of the building was 80' long and 60' wide. A conveyor extended out the front about 40' and one out the rear about the same length. The local farmers brought the harvested pea vines on wagons or trucks, and unloaded them along the front conveyor. Some were pitched off and others were rolled off in a ball. It was the job of the workers (mostly teenagers) to tug the vines apart and load them on the belt. From there they traveled into a large turning drum with paddles inside turning in the opposite direction. This opened up the pods and allowed the peas, along with the debris, to funnel down onto a shaking conveyor which took them through a series of rubberized shucking screens, which sorted them out of the debris, separated the peas by size, and finally depositing them in wooden boxes for transporting to the processing plant. The stripped vines would go out the rear conveyor onto a stack.

The two jobs for us teenagers were to work out front loading the belt or out back stacking the vines. The hardest job was out front pulling the vines apart with a pitchfork as they were tangled together like a ball of yarn. It didn't take many hours before the blisters started to show on your hands and after a day or two they started to bleed until you got them toughened up. When you finished the day you would swear your back was in two pieces. We soon found out if we loaded the belt a little heavy that the machinery inside would clog up and we

would get a break while they found the problem and corrected it. This worked a few times until we were warned that we could lose our jobs. The job out on the stack was much easier but after a few days the vines started to rot in the hot sun. The stench would get so strong to where it was almost unbearable.

I don't recall too many of the people that worked there as it was close to sixty years ago. I remember Marvin and Bob Shade working with me a couple of years. Harold Reynolds was our boss and after that Roger Pembroke took over Harold's job.

I should also mention that in the Fall a lot of the farmers would return to the vinery to get the vines from the rear stack for cattle fodder, using them as a supplement with their other feed.

## Editor's Note:

I recall the remains of the building being there on the NE corner of Canandaigua & Penfield Roads when I was a kid. Does anyone have a **picture** of it when it was in operation? Also, does anyone else have recollections of working there or knowing more about the operations?

This is the kind of "stuff" we would like to explore. Much of our 20<sup>th</sup> century history is being lost. We just take those things for granted, but when those of us who remember them are gone, our next generation will have nothing to look back at. What topics from 25 years ago or 50 years ago or 75 years ago, do you have information about either from memory or something in your scapebook?

## **Museum Open**

Wednesdays and Sundays

2 PM to 4 PM

Through September 28

A Tribute to Charlie  
By Joe Finley

For a lifetime of years I've know Charlie

Full of fun and nary a frown

Always ready to lend his assistance

To the people of Walworth Town

If the line froze up in the cow barn

And the water pump needed repair

You'd call up Charlie at any hour

And our friend would soon be there.

If your dug well needed cleaning

And after the firemen pumped it dry

We'd rope Charlie down to the bottom

Without a complaint or sigh.

He'd fill up a pail with old debris

And we'd haul it to the top

And if we spilled a quart on him

He'd never holler "stop."

When Charlie put up our electric lines

For the street dance years ago

He hooked them into the main line

And let the current flow.

The organizations made money folks

And with no utility bill

Charlie has always loved to help  
People in time of need  
The Walworth Ambulance Service  
Is a fine example indeed.

If you had a community program  
And needed music "without fee"  
You'd call up Charlie Pembroke  
And he'd get it for you free!

Charlie played in the High School Band  
Down by the Old Grange Hall  
Those Saturday nights in the summertime  
Were enjoyed by one and all.

Many times I have watched the March Kings  
Parade at the Palmyra Fair  
And I would watch our "Charlie"  
Play the glockenspiel with care.

When the Walworth Chamber of Commerce  
Organized many years ago  
Charlie was most instrumental  
In helping to make it grow.

He's been a great booster for Walworth  
He's known for miles around  
As a good hearted, laughing repairman  
His equal will never be found.

We're mighty proud of Charlie  
That – I can be certain  
We're equally proud of his fine family  
Bertha, Vaughn and Burton.

We wish to show our thanks to you  
We want to make it clear  
Charlie Pembroke is our unanimous choice  
For Citizen of the Year.

*Editor's Note:*

This was written by Joe Finley, our former  
Assemblyman in August, 1979. Isn't it great  
that such a fine tribute was written BEFORE a  
great man like Charlie Pembroke passed  
away?



Charlie



During the Summer of 1947, the Walworth High School Band (and some other folks) got together frequently and played. Charlie was there on the right side of the photo. The following people are in the photo.

Back row (L to R): Shirley Smith, LaVern Morrison, Joyce Goebert, Harold Schultz, Emerson VanHouter (Bertha Pembroke's brother), Ethel Provost, Jim Fraser.

Fourth row: Faye Dietterick, Al Kaper, Don Baker, Sam McKee, Bruce Neely, Bob Bassage

Third Row: Janice Wignall, Marilyn Lynn, Bob Wignall, Violet Read, Nancy Scott, Elinor VanDerlike, Bill Underhill, Chuck Bills, Florence Austin, Charlie Pembroke

Second Row: Helen Darron, Buelah, VanDerlike, Nance Allaard, Caroline Rowell, Ruth Pembroke, Barbara Soudan, Ruth VanHaneghem, Marjorie Scott

Front Row: Florence Liedke, Margaret Perkins, Katie Luke

This photograph appears on page 142 of *A Gathering of Memories* by Andi Evangelist and published by the Wayne County Historical Society, 2003. This book is available from the Walworth Historical Society for \$25.

A glimpse of civil war history

By Jessie Keymel

Later this week I will be meeting with a Civil war retractor at a Walworth Cemetery in preparation for our Cemetery tour On October 19. The gentleman I am meeting is a member of a Colored Troup that is trying to record as many colored Civil war soldiers as possible. We will be visiting the grave of Abram Gregor at the Gould Cemetery. A ceremony honoring Abram Gregor is tentatively planned for October 19. Yes there is history in our local cemeteries, come tour them and discover for yourself.

Did you pay your Walworth Historical Society Dues for this year? We can only continue to operate when we have the support of our members and friends, so please bring your dues to the meeting, or mail your check to the Walworth Historical Society at PO Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. Also, please consider asking a friend to join as well.

Dues categories 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 Membershin	\$1000.00

Please consider becoming:

A SUPPORTING member for \$25.00

OR

A SPONSORING member for \$40.00

OR

A PATRON for \$100.00

Uncle Charlie  
By Ricky Van Houter (Emerson's son)

February 3, 1970

For his 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Class

My uncle isn't really so bad. It just appears that way.

He is always telling jokes that shouldn't be told around little kids. He also swears quite often.

He is a plumber and a electrician. With him it's good sumaritan all the time. He usually doesn't get home until "after newstime," which is the late news, 11:00 p.m. to 12 p.m. Then there's the usual midnight "trouble calls" to attend to.

There are chairmen of the boards, other officials, doctors, nurses, policemen, and all kinds of people who wish they had never heard of Charlie Pembroke. And he says, "When I got through, she knew my name was Charlie Pembroke. I don't know what her name is, but she knows my name's Charlie Pembroke."

He gets slightly mad about city and/or county laws he doesn't think are right. He let's officials know what he thinks, and he usually hets his way.

Uncle Charlie is a volunteer fireman. When that siren blows, get out of his way! He makes a mad dash across the house and doesn't stop to look where he is going.

He's also in a volunteer ambulance service. He even delivered a baby once! He tied the umilical cord with his shoelace. When they got to the hospital, the nurse asked him why he didn't tie it with a white shoelace! I guess he told that nurse what he thought about her.

He told us once how he took a kid that was on a bad trip to the hospital. Uncle Charlie said that he tied the kid up, and stuffed a sheet in his mouth because he was yelling and swearing so. Uncle Charlie said, " I thought I knew how to swear, but that kid knew words I never heard before!" He sounded really disgusted, and I guess he told that kid off too.

I don't think I want to be on a town board, not with Uncle Charlie around!

Editor's Note: I suspect that Ricky didn't get an "A" on this paper, but I am grateful that we have this piece of history to share. The perspective of a 13 year old is always interesting, and when it is related to a "colorful" person such as Charlie Pembroke, it is even more fun to read.