

Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 28

Number 3

March, 2004

April 6: Learn and Share About the Past

March 15 Program Cobblestone Architecture

Gene Bavis & Judy McMillan will present a program on Cobblestone Architecture on Monday, March 15 at 7:30 PM following a brief business meeting (exciting things are being planned. Read further).

Did you know?:

- ◆ There are more than 150 cobblestone structures in Wayne County.
- ◆ Most of the cobblestone structures in the world are located within 100 miles of Rochester, NY.
- ◆ Some of the cobblestone structures were made of field cobbles and others from lake-washed cobblestones.
- ◆ Cobblestone construction occurred mostly between 1825 and 1860.

Want to know more? I guess you'll have to come to the meeting on 3/15!

As always, there will be refreshments!

Dues are Due on May 1

The Walworth Historical Society operates on a May 1- April 30 fiscal year. Your dues are therefore due on 5/1/04 (unless you are a Life Member).

Dues categories are as follows:

Individual \$6, Joint or Family \$10, Student \$3, Corporate/Business \$25, Life \$100, Supporter \$25-39, Sponsor \$40-99, Patron \$100-149, Benefactor \$150 or more

Please pay at the meeting or send your check to the Walworth Historical Society at PO Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568.

Our 175th Birthday!

The Town of Walworth will be celebrating a birthday on April 20, 2004. It's been 175 years since the Town was established. The WHS has decided to host a birthday party beginning at 6:30 PM. Come to the Museum for cake and "ceremony." We promise to keep the ceremony short! Following the "formal" event, we hope to show off some of our collections and share information about our history.

This event will be the first of a series of programs where we highlight Walworth's history. Our regular meetings throughout the year will each cover a certain era of Walworth's past. Save the dates:

May 17 – Pot Luck Dinner/Program

July 23 – The BIG Festival Parade

July 24 – Festival in the Park (visit our booth)

Learn and Share About the Past Part 2 – Sunday, March 28, 2004

"Walworth Memories," an event co-sponsored by Walworth-Seely Public Library and the Walworth Historical Society was held last September. The program was well-received so it was decided to do it again. This time, WHS will host it at the Museum. Join us on 3/28 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM. The format is informal. People are invited to bring photos or objects and tell about them or just to share a memory. Do you have a story or a memory to share? Please come on 3/28 to speak or just to listen. We don't know how to have a gathering without refreshments!

In Memory of
Anna B. Youngs
1909-2004

Anna passed away at the age of 94, on January 9, 2004 at the Blossom View Nursing Home in Sodus. She was the daughter of the late Peter and Ona Balzer. Anna was born April 19, 1909 in Philadelphia, PA. Her family relocated to Rochester about 1915. She attended Mechanics Institute. In the 1930's her family moved to Walworth and upon her father's death in 1944, Anna took over day-to-day operations and management of the family mill in Walworth, which she ran until she retired in the 1960's. She married Rex Delaye Youngs on April 2, 1945 in Macedon, NY. She was the past President of the Walworth Chamber of Commerce and active in the Eastern Star in both Walworth and Palmyra, NY. She was also a member of the Walworth Historical Society, and her family has donated some of her memorabilia to us.

Are you able to Contribute?

As you may remember, we reported recently that we have "finished" the upstairs of the Museum with drywall and paint. This is our storage area. We have heat up there, but in the summer, it gets quite warm, so to maintain a reasonable temperature, we plan to add air conditioning. We also need to get more shelving and proper storage containers for the various items in our collections. If you are able to make a donation specifically for these items, we would appreciate it very much.

Other items on our "wish list" include a TV and VCR. If we go out to purchase one, it would be a single unit, perhaps with a DVD player, too, but we certainly would consider a donation of a good TV and VCR that you may no longer have use for.

SO...if you are able to contribute cash or "in kind" items, please contact Jessie Keymel.

Walworth Historical Society Products

Christmas Ornaments:

2000 – 25th Anniversary Academy Bell \$7.50

2002 – Firefighter Recognition \$7.50

Walworth Coverlet (blue or cranberry) \$46

Books:

Walworth As I Remember It (Pembroke) \$5.50

Walworth-From Douglas Corners to Gananda (Traas)
\$4.35

A Gathering of Memories

The latest book produced by the Wayne County Historical Society is NOW available from the Walworth

Curator's Corner By Kay Scott

The WHS has been very fortunate to receive a multitude of items for our collection of Walworth-related memorabilia. Dorothy Yucker Petty's daughter Elaine Hay has been more than generous with items from the Yucker farm: toys, kitchen items and scrapbooks as mentioned previously.

Janice Wignall Mitchell has just sent us an appliquéd quilt in blue and white from the Wignall home.

All of these items have kept me very busy considering I had an operation on my right hand and haven't been able to write since February 4th. Things are looking better and hopefully I'll be back at it soon.

Gene Bavis was appointed Town Historian by the Walworth Town Board in January replacing John Traas, who has retired. Thank you, John for your many years of service.

Walworth Calendar

The Walworth Historical Society will be producing a 2005 Calendar containing photos of Walworth. We hope to find and use photos that have not been previously published. If you have some old photos that might be appropriate, please contact Dorothy French. We are especially looking for an historic winter scene like ice cutting on the mill pond or the old "Lynd" snowplow opening the roads after a blizzard. Dorothy can tell you what is included in our wish list of photos. Her phone number is 986-1098.

The calendar will also contain many items of historic interest. For example, April 20 will be marked "Town of Walworth established, 1829."

There are two purposes for producing this calendar. Hopefully, it will be educational. That's our primary goal, but we would also like to have it generate a little revenue for the Walworth Historical Society. It will be financed in two ways: advertising and sales. We are soliciting businesses or individuals who will purchase the ad strip across the bottom of each page. You may buy a third page width (\$35), half page width (\$50), or the whole page (\$90). The ads will underwrite a portion of the printing cost. Again, Dorothy is the contact person.

Orders for the Calendar will be accepted starting at the Festival in the Park in July. Delivery is expected in October, 2004.

Town Hall Display Case

If you go to the Walworth Town Hall in the next few weeks, check out the display of Walworth Memorabilia from our collections. This is in honor of the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Walworth that took place on April 20, 1829. Thanks to Kay and Dorothy for setting it up.

Website coming

The Board of Trustees has authorized setting up a Walworth Historical Society website. We have tentatively selected a host, but still need to secure our domain name (it will probably be www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org) and organize the site. Hopefully, we'll be able to accomplish this in a month or two. Watch the next issue of the News for more information. If you have expertise with websites, and are interested in helping to set up and/or maintain it, please contact Gene Bavis.

2004 is the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the Walworth Fire Department.

Movies being converted to Video

The Walworth Historical Society recently received a donation in order to convert a 16mm film of Walworth Elementary School in 1952 to video. The film shows the teachers, and students in each of the classes. Since the Wayne Central Classes of 1963 and 1964 are both holding reunions this year, we thought it would be nice to make these available at this time. (Editor's note: I was in Dorothy Petty's first grade class!)

We have finally previewed and made notes about all of the 8mm movies donated by Charlie Pembroke. Our next task is to cut and splice the "good parts" (scenes that have historical significance for the Town of Walworth) so that we can have them made into videos. Ray Bavis also made a film in 1956 of the various businessmen. It should be converted as well. If anyone is willing and able to assist with this project (editing & splicing), please contact Gene Bavis or Jessie Keymel. We will have them professionally copied.

Officers & Trustees

Jessie Keymel, President

Nobody, Vice President

Judy McMillan, Secretary

Mary Jane Devlin, Treasurer

Gordon Youngman, Trustee

Dorothy French, Trustee

Kay Scott, Trustee & Curator

Leighton Bel, Trustee

Stephanie Craft, Trustee

Gene Bavis, Trustee & Town Historian

Elections will take place in May. We've not had a VP

Charles Livingston Bull

American Painter

Born 1874, West Walworth, NY

Recently, my former High School Social Studies teacher and later, my colleague, Nolan Powell called me and asked if I was familiar with Charles Livingston Bull, and I had to admit that I had never heard of him. It seems that Mr. Bull was quite a famous painter and his works bring a pretty good price among Art Collectors. He is best known for his paintings and drawings of animals, having been published in The Saturday Evening Post and Boy's Life as well as many other magazines. He provided illustrations for over 135 books, including Jack London's Call of the Wild. Some of his larger works (murals) hung in some of the Great Camps in the Adirondacks.

As a young man, Bull worked for Ward's Natural History Establishment in Rochester and took drawing classes at Mechanic's Institute. I checked the internet for more

Spring as it used to be

by Jessie Keymel

Spring will be here soon, and the days are getting longer and warmer, but the nights are still cold. There is a promise of more snow to come. All this means is that "the sap is running", an important sentence in our area of the country. Do you remember when that meant buckets were hung on every maple tree in Walworth? The sugar maple trees lined the streets in town, thanks to Mr. Yeomans, giving us shade in summer and sweet syrup in the spring. Mr. Cring would tap them every spring and boil the sap down in his sugarhouse at the bottom of the hill on Penfield Road, across from the old dance hall. Every kid in town, and adults too, stopped in to see the syrup being boiled down. I seem to remember that there were benches in the shack that you could sit and watch the whole process. In one of the many scrapbooks at the museum there is a picture of some boys enjoying pancakes with maple syrup in Mr. Cring's springtime restaurant. There is also a record of this spring event in one of Charlie Pembroke's movies where he recorded the progress of the "improvement" of Penfield Road. As they removed the top branches to remove the trees along the way, we observe the buckets hung on the trees for one last harvest. It takes at least 40 gallons of sap to get one gallon of syrup and a lot of time. You can still get locally made syrup in our area, it makes a unique gift when you travel to other States.

Charles Livingston Bull, continued

information about Bull, and found some of his drawings being offered for sale at a gallery. These were charcoal & India ink drawings and the prices ranged from \$950-\$3500! If you have access to the internet, do a search on "Charles Livingston Bull." There is a lot of interesting information available, including some reproduction posters of his works for the US Food Administration and US Treasury Dept.