

Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

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April 6: Learn and Share About the Past

November 21 Program Sears Roebuck Houses

Marion Town Historian Carolyn Adriaansen will be our speaker on Monday, 11/21 beginning at 7:30 PM. The Sears Roebuck mass-merchandising, mail-order company was founded in 1886 and quickly became one of the largest such operations in the world. Between the last decade of the nineteenth century and the beginning of World War II, its name became synonymous with American retailing. While most people know that Sears sold nearly everything for the home from its mail order catalogue few realize that it also sold the house as well. They started to offer building supplies and house plans in 1895. Between 1908 and 1940 Sears operated a "Modern Homes" division that supplied building plans, materials and kit houses shipped by rail to all corners of the nation. During that time more than 100,000 homes were sold, and I am sure that many of them were built in this area. For those of you who have access to the internet, "Google" provides us with soooooo much information. I wanted to share a little more than "Carolyn is coming to speak," so I did a search for Sears Roebuck Homes. Check out some of the information I found:

<http://www.arts-crafts.com/archive/sears.shtml>
<http://www.searsarchives.com/homes/index.htm>

Walking Tour a Success

The short walking tour of the Hamlet of Walworth held in conjunction with the Fall Open House Program on October 2 was very well received. As stated, it is a "work in progress." We are planning to refine the tour and add more details. In fact, Jay Taber has already done some work on writing up the last 50 years of Penfield Rd. as he and Arline remember them. If you have information about any of the houses, stores or other structures in the hamlet that you can share, please let us know. Old photos of both the homes and their owners would be appreciated, too.



A Sears Roebuck House

Our Calendar Would Make a GREAT Holiday Gift!

Our 2006 Calendar is NOW available! Amazingly we had it done for the Festival in the Park. The cost of the 2006 calendar is \$8.00 with tax included. Like this year, it has many pictures from Walworth and some historical event written on each day of the year (none of the events was repeated). We chose the theme of "people" so the events focus on people and so do the photos. You will CERTAINLY want to have one for yourself, and I'll bet you could think of friends or relatives who would enjoy getting one for Christmas or some other special occasion. 2005 Calendars are still available for \$6.50, and if you don't have one, you should get one! If you buy a 2006 calendar, you may purchase a 2005 one for only \$6.00!

Put these Dates

On Your Calendar Now!

Monday, Mar. 20, 2006, 7:30 PM

Program at WHS to be announced

Sunday, Apr. 2, 2006, 2:00 PM

Walworth Memories Program co-sponsored with the Library (tentative)

Monday, May 15, 2006, 6:15 PM

Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Supper, Elections, Community Service Award, and Program.

9/18/06 & 11/20/06 are fall meeting dates.

In Memory of Charlotte Bradshaw

Charlotte Bradshaw, a member of the WHS and former Walworth Entrepreneur (she and her husband Milt ran a Greenhouse/Florist Shop here for many years) passed away on October 2, 2005 at the age of 86.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who have made a donation toward our roof replacement project. \$1155 has been collected so far. We are still in the process of getting estimates, and hopefully the project will cost a little less than originally anticipated. Donations will be gladly accepted for the project which is expected to be done in the spring.

Curator's Corner

The curator and much appreciated helper, Joyce VanHaneghem, are busy placing the museum collection inventory in the computer. Is a BIG job and one that will take a long time, but will be well worth it in the long run.

Items continue to come in, and we are most grateful for the contributions. We are looking for pictures and articles pertaining to Walworth, Lincoln and/or West Walworth as we are now have the capability to copy if the donor wishes to only lend them to us for a short time.

Kay Scott, Curator

Town Historian's Note:

AND on the topic of pictures, etc...

Now that we have our wonderful new computer, there are so many things we can store electronically. Pictures are just one thing. We can have movies, videos, etc. converted to DVD's and maintain an incredible archive of Walworth's History. The materials don't have to be from 100 years ago. The events of today and of recent years are just as much "history" as the things that happened a LONG time ago. Are you willing to share such things as individual and family portraits, wedding pictures, graduation photos, etc.? We can scan them into our system, and when someone 10 or 20 or 30 years from now says "Do you remember so and so?" we can show them a photo. Another thing I started doing is keeping electronic copies of the Methodist Church Newsletter. Somehow I got on the email distribution list, so I just put them in a file on my hard drive. Eventually, I'll copy those files and transfer them to the WHS computer. Do you have any similar items from an organization you belong to (Walworth, of course)? Let's save them before they get deleted from somebody's computer. Future researchers will thank us!