

Memories: An Interview with Wilbur Reybrouck

By Dawn Russell

Wilbur Reybrouck is an 85-year-old man who has many memories of the town of Walworth. He married Ruth VanHaneghem in 1949 (see center photo for a recent photo of Wilbur and Ruth). They have three children named Sandy, Michael, and Greg, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Wilbur remembers attending Macedon School District #2, which still stands as a converted two-story house on Macedon Center Road just north of the railroad tracks. He attended school there until the district dissolved and it split into 3 districts. All students had the choice to go onward to Palmyra, Macedon or Walworth. Six of the students went to Walworth; their names are highlighted below. All of the furniture from this one-room school house went to the Walworth School.

(Left photo) Students at Macedon District School #2 on Macedon Center Road posed with their teacher, Miss Jeffery, in an undated photo. Front row, left to right: **Gene Sharp**, Earl Fager, **Willard Koester**, Lois Smith, **Frances Koester**, Betty Smith, **Shirley Smith**, and Doris Ann Smith. Second row: Wilbur Reybrouck, Evelyn Green, Madeline Ryan, Miss Jeffery, **Jerry Sharp**, and **Gordon Koester**.

At District #2 there was no bus service and all students walked to school; when the district split that prompted bus service. Wilbur's substitute teacher at District #2 would ride the train from Lyons to the Walworth Station each school day. When students were bad they didn't stay after school, due to the teacher needing to ride the train home. Their punishment might be going without lunch or such.

Peter Reybrouck, Wilbur's father, bought the old store at the Walworth Station that had been owned by Frank Rouch and had closed. Wilbur's father and Charles Griswold, owner of the coal yard located at the Walworth Station, salvaged everything they could from the old store to build a house for Wilbur and his wife, Ruth, on Macedon Center Road. Using lumber, roofing, tar paper, and flooring, etc. and also with the help of Wilbur and Ruth tearing nails out of boards to be used, the house was completed to be moved into by 1950 **(right photo)**.

In the 1970's Wilbur moved with his wife Ruth and family to Walworth, and first lived in Dr. Newman's house on Main Street. Ruth was born and raised in Walworth. Her mother, Gladys VanHaneghem, was at a time the Walworth Postmaster.

Wilbur remembers operating the store named the Giftbox for about a year. It was located on the west side of Main Street in Walworth, which he rented from Emily Huntley. Wilbur has attended the Second Baptist Church since 5 years old, being a lifetime member. His neighbor who was the Sunday School superintendent would take him each week. Wilbur has been very active through the years with the church as a Sunday School teacher, organist, choir director and has held many offices within.

He was also a charter member of the Walworth Chamber of Commerce. He served on the Gananda School Board and was a banker of 37 years, real estate broker, fire commissioner of Walworth, and director of the Walworth Choraleers. Wilbur remembers performing in the minstrel shows with Gordon Youngman, Don Brockman and Leighton Bel; the shows were held at the Walworth School.

Wilbur has quite a history with the town of Walworth, and has served in many capacities. Wilbur is a very well respected member of this community.