



## Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 42 Number 5 May 2018

Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568  
WHS Website: [www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org)

Color printing of this page courtesy of Reliant Community Federal Credit Union.

### May 21: WHS Annual Meeting at Ginegaw Lodge

This year's annual WHS meeting will be held as always at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park. It will take place on Monday, May 21 and will begin at 6:15 PM with a pot-luck supper. WHS will provide the ham, rolls, and beverages; attendees should bring their place settings and a dish to pass. The actual meeting part will begin at 7:00 PM and will include nomination and election of officers as well as the presentation of our Community Service Award. This year it will be presented to two individuals. Mary Abrams will be on hand to accept the first award and the second award will be to Charlie Pembroke posthumously. There will also be a short video slide presentation program "1968 – 50 years ago." We will show you some popular culture, state, national, international events, and some local stuff from 1968. We hope to see you at this annual meeting to vote for officers and board members, enjoy the food, honor our award winners, and enjoy the show.



On May 21 the Walworth Historical Society will be honoring Mary Abrams with the Community Service Award. Mary has lived in Walworth almost all of her life. She is and has been involved in many different local organizations such as 4H, Fire Department, Ladies Auxiliary, EMT, and the Second Baptist Church of Walworth, thus making Mary a very versatile person. She also is involved with the Red Cross blood drives. Mary's heart lies with her community, and is reflected in all that she does. She is a prime example of a person dedicated with love to the community of Walworth.



At our annual meeting this year, Charlie Pembroke will also receive the Community Service Award. Since he passed away several years ago, this will be a posthumous award. Although he was one of our local "characters" Charlie was in the Fire Department, served as a Fire Commissioner, drove the ambulance, did much electrical and plumbing work for local businesses for free, wrote a book on local history, was a guard at the Marion POW camp, entertained with his accordion, and was involved in many, many more acts of service to the Walworth area.

## The WHS Filing Committee: A Whole Lotta Sorting Going On

By Bob Mogray



As Walworth Historical Society Vice-President, I just wanted to give a well-deserved "thank you very much" to our Filing Committee. This committee is a small group of members who are dedicated to keeping track of all items in our museum. They receive new donations, sort items that are already located at the museum, organize the thousands of photos and papers in numerous filing cabinets, and assign accession numbers to each and every item we have. This is only a list of a few of the tasks of this committee. The work they do is "behind the scenes," so to speak. They meet from two to four times each month of the year and do an excellent job with all of our inventory so that when we do a show or set up displays, we can easily find materials on a wide variety of subjects and themes. These committee members include Jessie Keymel, Dorothy French, Mary Jane Devlin, Jeanne Flye, and a few other volunteers from time to time.

## Membership Dues Are Due

By Mary Jane Devlin

The Walworth Historical Society's fiscal year is from May 1 to April 30. Your membership dues are due May 1 unless you are a Life Member or have paid dues in advance. There is a red dot on your address label if you owe dues as of May 1, 2018. Members who receive their newsletter by email will receive a notice by email. If you have questions about when your membership expires, please contact the treasurer at 315-986-1512 or check your membership card.

There are several categories of membership in WHS: Student \$5; Individual \$10; Joint or Family \$15; Supporter \$25; Corporate or Business \$75, Sponsor \$50, Patron \$100, Life \$150. By choosing to join at a higher level of membership, you will enable us to continue to expand our program presentations and add to our collection of historical items, as well as restore and preserve the items that are already in our collection. If you are a Life Member, you are encouraged to make a donation, if you wish, so we can remain an active organization in town. Your membership dues and donations are tax deductible, if you use the long form.

Please pay dues at the annual meeting in May or send your check to the Walworth Historical Society at the address listed on the front of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at a meeting or at the museum in the near future. Thank you for your continued support.

## Thank You, Dawn By Jessie Keymel

For the past two years Dawn Russell has volunteered to do the publicity for the Walworth Historical Society. She has done an excellent job, always aware of our programs and the deadlines of all the publications that advertise for organizations. Dawn has also been our featured interviewer of many Walworthians. She has decided to give up the publicity job but possibly continue to do interviews from time to time. Becky Appleman has volunteered to take on the publicity job. This is an important, necessary job as it is the Historical Society's main connection with residents in our township and surrounding communities. Thank you Dawn, Becky and all our volunteers for your dedication. Without you we could not work to preserve our Walworth history for future generations. No matter how small the job it is important. THANK YOU ALL.

## Congratulations, Carolyn! By Mary Jane Devlin

Recently former Marion Town Historian Carolyn Adriaansen was presented with the "Excellence in Promoting Local History" award at the Association of Public Historians of New York State's Annual State Conference. Carolyn was nominated by former co-workers, friends and other local historians. She was also presented with a commemorative album by the Town of Marion which includes some of the nominating stories. A reception in her honor was held at a meeting of the Marion Historic Association. Carolyn retired as of December 31, 2017 and the town appointed Caryn Devlin as the new historian. Congratulations to both of them.

## In Memoriam: Al Osterhout By Jessie Keymel

We are saddened by the passing of Alvin (Al) Osterhout on March 29, 2018. Al was a Walworth native; he and his wife Shirley raised their family at their Walworth-Ontario Road farm.

**Our Collection Continues to Grow** By Jessie Keymel

Our Walworth Fire Department collection has grown. Bob Plant recently delivered a box of photos from the fire department. We have sorted them by activities, equipment, firefighting and parades; now we need to identify the people in the photos. This sorting took four people all afternoon and it is not finished yet.

There is another collection of memorabilia from the last celebration at Freewill School; these items will be housed in upstairs storage with other Freewill School information. There is information on most of the schools that have been in the three hamlets of our township, so if you are ever looking for the history of education in Walworth, set up an appointment with us.

**A Tour of Main Street: #3698 – Wick’s Hardware- Part 3**

By Gordon Youngman and Aaron Fernaays

*Editor’s Note: The east-side tour of Main Street continues from our March 2018 issue which featured Part 2 - the building at #3698 Main Street owned by the K.O.T.M. (Knights of the Maccabees). Part 3 includes the first-floor store operated by Jack Wick. We are grateful to Gordon and his grandson, Aaron, for sharing their memories of this building and for the time they spent researching and documenting this information.*

**Wick’s Hardware**

Charles and Vivian Buckley operated a general store on the first floor of the Knights of the Maccabees building since the early 1940’s. Charles passed away in 1944 and Vivian purchased the building from the K.O.T.M. in June 1945. Vivian and their daughter Jean continued with the business until 1948, when they sold it to Jack and Blanche Wick. Jack operated the business as a hardware store only, because at this time there was no need to have two stores with the same merchandise next to each other.

The store to the north of Wick’s was owned by Joe Finley and in the fall of 1950 Joe rented it to Gordon and Katie Youngman. Youngman’s Variety sold clothing, magazines, footwear, and many other items; the big favorite at the store was the soda fountain. Additional information about the north store will be printed in a future issue.



**1958: Youngman’s Variety on the left, Wick’s Hardware on the right. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.**



**Mid 1940’s: Finley’s Variety Store on the left and Wick’s Hardware on the right. The post above the car at the right sign reads “Town Clerk.” Note the Esso sign and gas pump. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.**

In 1964 Blanche passed away and Jack continued on until December 1971 when he became sick. The family kept the store open until after Christmas, and then closed it in hopes of finding a buyer.

Information shared at Walworth Memories programs:

- Oct. 2010: When Kathy Yucker Aeckerle was interviewed on the radio, she was asked what she wanted for Christmas. Her reply was “The doll in Jack Wick’s hardware store window.” When Kathy returned home Jack gave her the doll as a thank you for the free advertising.

(continued on the next page)



**1955: Note the Christmas tree on the roof.  
Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.**



**1963: Jack Wick (left) and Elton May (right) preparing for street dance festivities. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.**

***To Be Continued: Part 4 – Walworth Hardware (south store)***

**Walworth Memories of Churches**

By Bob Mogray

The latest in the Walworth Historical Society's continuing series of "Memories" meetings was held at our museum on Sunday, April 8, and the topic was "The Role of the Church in Our Community." These meetings are a round-table discussion of the pre-chosen topic and for this meeting there were many interesting experiences that were told by the attendees. Somehow, the discussion often centered on the role of food in the church experience. There were detailed descriptions of dinners that were held by several different churches in the area.

Some of the history of area churches was also discussed and we were fortunate to have Loreen Jorgensen attend this meeting. She has done extensive research and has authored a book entitled "The First Hundred Years - Churches of Wayne County, New York." Loreen was able to add some interesting information about several churches in this area.

Our thanks to those who attended our latest "Memories" meeting. The officers and board members of the WHS really appreciate your support of our efforts to discuss and also document these get-togethers on various topics. Dorothy French, Mary Jane Devlin, and Judy McMillan take extensive notes as the discussion progresses and then Dorothy organizes, catalogs, and documents the key points of these meetings. This information can then be referenced by any interested person. Almost forgot to mention that the refreshments were quite good also. Thanks again for your support.



**Loreen Jorgensen**



**Methodist Church**



**Second Baptist Church**

## A History of 3921 Walworth-Ontario Road

By Gilbert Smith

The 1829 Burr Atlas does not appear to indicate any development in the area that I estimate to be the site of my old home, so it appears likely construction on that property took place in the 1830's. Later 19<sup>th</sup> Century Atlases depict the property as being owned first by an A. C. Smith and later a J. Green. Before my parents bought the property, it was referred to by neighbors as the Down's place.

The initial structure on the farmstead was probably constructed in the 1830's at the southeast corner, some 150 feet from the road. The house was 1½ stories high, 16' x 20' in size. About a decade later, a 16' x 30' one-story addition was built on the north side of the original building and contained a kitchen and pantry on the westerly half and a dining room.



Left to right: Wendell, Gilbert, Clayton and Emily Smith. ( May 1949)



Southern exposure of house facing driveway: (1948)



***Editor's Notes:*** Gilbert Smith now lives in Canandaigua, but from 1938 – 1949 his family (Clayton and Emily Smith and children Wendell and Gilbert) lived at 3921 Walworth-Ontario Road. We recently received an envelope from Gilbert containing photos, site plan, history and descriptions of the property. The current owner is Dawn Lander (**current photo of the home is to the left**). Gilbert's excerpts are printed above.

*Gilbert also provided detailed information about the numerous outbuildings on the property, including a multi-hole outhouse, a shed used to hang wash in the winter, a barn that sheltered cattle and stored granary and hay, an equipment barn with the date 1865 painted inside it, and a pig pen. His complete narrative is on file at our museum.*

## President's Message

By Jessie Keymel

As our year ends this April 30 and we start a new season, once again we are asking our members to volunteer to dedicate a time to sit at the museum so that we may continue to be open to the public. Every Sunday and Wednesday during the months of June, July, August, and September we are open to the public from 2:00 until 4:00 PM. To schedule a time to sit at the museum please call Judy McMillan at 315-524-4219 or Becky Appleman at 315-524-3289. There is a docent's notebook in the museum to give you information on what is on display and where you might find scrapbooks with newspaper articles that might interest you from our past. Appointments to visit can also be made by calling any board member listed on the back page of this newsletter. Enjoy a time to explore our collections. By the way, if you like to work in the garden Judy and Becky are part of our grounds committee.

**Rural Flashes** By Mary Jane Devlin

Recently the Macedon Town Historian, June Hamill, retired. As she and the new Town Historian, Linda Braun, were going through the files, they found a booklet titled "Rural Flashes." The booklet was written by elementary students from Macedon, Marion, Palmyra, and Walworth in 1933. I have chosen a few excerpts from Walworth students to include in this newsletter; future issues will also include some tidbits.

<b>Stepping Stones – "Which"</b> <b>By Marian Tiede, Grade 8, District 4, Walworth</b>	<b>"The Sun"</b> <b>By Bernard Hilton, Grade 3, District 8, Walworth</b>
Isn't it strange that princes and kings To each is given a bag of tools And clowns that caper in sawdust rings, A shapeless mass, and a book of rules.  And common folks like you and me And each must make 'ere life has flown Are buildings of eternity? A stumbling block or a stepping stone.	I love the sun, it is so bright I wish it would shine both day and night. If anybody asked me if it was O.K. I'd say, "Certainly, any old day."

**"Whatsit" Program a Success** By Gene Bavis

At our March 19 meeting we did a "Whatsit" program. "Whatsit" stands for "What is it?" It becomes a guessing game as people try to identify unusual artifacts. Most of the "stuff" came from the Bavis collection of antiques, but a few things were brought in by George Mandery, Larry Ruth, Roger and Jessie Keymel, Becky Appleman, Susan Herrman, Anne Lorah, and Barb and Ray Crawford. A few objects were from the WHS collections.

Among the objects displayed and identified were a fleam, tooth extractor, hog scraper, log marking hammer, cooper's hoop drivers, poultry de-beeker, 18<sup>th</sup> century wig curling iron, ferrier's hoof knives and buttress, horseshoe calks, travelers, husking pins/pegs, dibbles, and a Kanak war club from the South Sea Islands. A few items could not be positively identified. There was great audience participation and we had fun. Afterwards, we enjoyed some delicious refreshments and fellowship.



**We're Looking To Borrow Your Photos of the Walworth Area** By Bob Mogray

The Walworth Historical Society is looking for a chance to borrow your photos of the Walworth area. This would include Gananda, West Walworth, and Lincoln as well as Walworth. If you have old photos of buildings, people, events, etc. we would love to borrow them in order to scan into our records. Your originals would be returned to you safe and sound. Many of the photos that we have now in our files and on our museum computer are from donations or from allowing us to borrow and scan them. So, if you would have any photos such as this and if you would let us copy them, please call me at (585-576-4156 or send me an email at: robert.mogray@gmail.com. Thank you very much!

## Who Remembers Marilyn Wallace? By Mary Jane Devlin



Marilyn Wallace and her husband, Clyde, lived in the Walworth area while their children were growing up. Ruth Marilyn Decker Wallace was born October 9, 1924, in Rochester, NY to Harlow and Roberta Decker. Her father was a bricklayer and later worked at Gleason Works. She had one brother, Richard, who is deceased. She went to 15 different schools while she was growing up. She had rheumatic fever twice which left her with a heart murmur for several years. However, she eventually outgrew the murmur.

Marilyn and Clyde had five children: Donna, Cindy, and Lori who all live in North Carolina near her. Her son, David, lives in Macedon and a daughter, Sandy, lives in Webster. Her husband, Clyde worked at Gleason Works along with her father.

Her mother and her brother had joined the Army during World War II, so when Marilyn was 18 she joined. She took boot camp at Fort Dix, New Jersey. She said it was a wonderful experience. She didn't even mind doing the pots and pans on KP because everybody got along. However, she didn't like guard duty because the young officers would give them a hard time if the officers realized they were rookies. She signed up to serve in China (tug boat). There were approximately 256 people in her platoon and she wasn't picked to go to China.

Marilyn joined the Army but they sent her to train to be a medical technician, and then transferred her to the Army Air Force. She also trained at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. She was in service for a year and a half before she was discharged in 1946.

Marilyn, Clyde and their family lived at 3959 Walworth-Ontario Road in Walworth while their children were growing up. While they lived there Marilyn babysat and was a foster mother. She had a monkey and raised pigeons. Their house burned and they lived in the converted barn.

Marilyn moved to Lincolnton, North Carolina to be near her daughters and grandchildren. She still lives there and recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## WHS Slide Show at the Walworth Town Board Meeting By Bob Mogyay



On Thursday, April 19, the WHS presented the Walworth Town Board with a video slide show before their regular business meeting. This is a new idea by Walworth Town Supervisor Susie Jacobs, and it is to have a short presentation before some of their meetings. Our purpose in doing this show is to familiarize the Walworth Town Board and any who attended with our organization. Walworth Town Historian Gene Bavis and WHS President Jessie Keymel were on hand to explain some of the slides, educate about some of our projects, and explain our mission. Photos were shown of our open house, "Memories" meetings, annual presentation of the Community Service Award, our website, our newsletters, historical photos, and some current photos around the Walworth area. There was a good audience on hand to see the show and the WHS wishes to thank those who attended and also the Walworth Town Board for the invitation.



**Looking for New Members**      By Bob Mogray

We are looking for new members to join our Walworth Historical Society. As time passes for any organization the membership gets older, some retire, and some pass away. We value all of our members but we as board members and officers are certainly not getting any younger. The life blood of any group is younger active members. We need to start asking for younger people who are interested in preserving and documenting our local history to join us. These members need to be active in this organization by attending meetings and working on some of our projects such as setting up our meetings and shows, building a float for the parade, doing groundskeeping work, doing computer work, working on the newsletter, and many other tasks. If you are interested or know of someone who might like to join us, please call president Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or myself at 585-576-4156. We greatly appreciate your interest.

**2018 Events Calendar**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sat., May 12	9:00 AM	Grounds clean-up with Boy Scouts	Museum
Mon., May 21	6:15 PM	Annual meeting, election of officers, Community Service Award, program TBA	Lodge at Ginegaw Park
Mon., June 11	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting	Museum
Tues., June 12	Noon	WHS hosts Wayne Historians meeting	Museum
Tues., July 24	6:30 PM	Decorate float for Festival in the Park parade	Keymel's
Fri., July 27	7:00 PM	Festival in the Park parade; booth at Ginegaw Park	Line-up at 6 PM
Sat., July 28	3 – 8 PM	Festival in the Park booth	Ginegaw Park
Mon., Aug. 13	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting	Museum
Mon., Sept. 17	7:30 PM	General meeting: program: Lucinda Hance Collier - "Indentured Servants"	Museum
Sun., Oct. 7	2 – 4 PM	Open House	Museum
Mon., Nov. 19	1:00 PM	General meeting: program TBA	Museum
Mon., Dec. 10	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting	Museum

**Open House Hours:** Museum open June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons 2 - 4 PM. Contact Judy McMillan at 315-524-4219 or Becky Appleman at 315-524-3289 for appointment at other times.

**Board of Trustee Meeting:** June 11, Aug. 13, Oct. 8, and Dec. 10 at 2:00 PM at the museum.

\*\*\*\*\*

<u>Officers and Trustees</u>		<u>Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs</u>		<u>Committees and Chairpersons</u>	
President	Jessie Keymel (315) 524 - 9205	Bldg. Maint.	Stan Weller (585) 545 - 9434		
Vice-President	Robert Mogray (585) 576 - 4156	Collections	Jessie Keymel (315) 524 - 9205		
Secretary	Judy McMillan (315) 524 - 4219	Genealogy	Ellen Dietterick (585) 200 - 4685		
Treasurer	Mary Jane Devlin (315) 986 - 1512	Grounds	Judy McMillan (315) 524 - 4219		
WHS Trustee	Becky Appleman (315) 524 - 3289	Grounds	Becky Appleman (315) 524 - 3289		
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis (315) 573 - 2768	Hospitality	Liz Bavis (585) 802 - 0380		
WHS Trustee	Dorothy French (315) 986 - 1098	Hospitality	Marlene Slocum (585) 289 - 7080		
WHS Trustee	Linda Pembroke (585) 455 - 7595	Newsletter	Bob Mogray (585) 576 - 4156		
WHS Trustee	Larry Ruth (315) 524 - 7936	Publicity	Becky Appleman (315) 524 - 3289		
WHS Trustee	Marlene Slocum (585) 289 - 7080	Town Historian	Gene Bavis (315) 573 - 2768		

Mission Statement: The Walworth Historical Society is a volunteer organization established in 1975. Our chartered purpose is to collect, preserve, and display items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the Town of Walworth and its environs. We are a not-for-profit organization with 501(C)(3) status; donations are tax deductible.

<u>Level of Membership</u>	
___ Student	\$ 5.00
___ Individual	\$ 10.00
___ Family	\$ 15.00
___ Supporter	\$ 25.00
___ Sponsor	\$ 50.00
___ Patron	\$ 100.00
___ Life Member	\$ 150.00
___ Corp./Business	\$ 75.00

\_\_\_ I am interested in making a tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_ I am interested in making a tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in  
 memory of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_ I am interested in joining and have checked the membership level.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to: Walworth Historical Society, and mail it to P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. *Thank you!*



**May 2018 WHS e-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos**

(All photos on this page are from the "Whatsit" meeting)



(All photos on this page are of area churches. Some of them were discussed at the "Memories" meeting)



**New Life Bible Church**



**Eastside Christian Church**



**Lincoln Baptist Church**



**West Walworth Zion United Methodist Church**

