



Walworth Historical Society



Volume 43

July 2018

Number 1

Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY

WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

2018 Calendar of Events

July 24	6:30 PM	Decorate FIP float for parade (Keymel's)
July 27	7:00 PM	FIP parade/booth (Ginegaw Park)
July 28	3 - 8 PM	Booth (Ginegaw Park)
Aug. 13	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting (museum)
Sept. 17	7:30 PM	General meeting: "Indentured Servants" (museum)
Oct. 7	2 - 4 PM	WHS Open House
Oct. 8	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting (museum)
Nov. 19	1:00 PM	General meeting: Program TBA
Dec. 10	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting (museum)



New Photo Quilt at the Museum By Bob Mogray

We have many quilts in our possession at the WHS museum. From time to time we have displayed some of them and even had a special show last year as these and other quilts were shown and some of the history of them was explained. It was from these quilts that the idea came to try to make a photo quilt using images from the Walworth area. Now we have a new and unique quilt on the south wall of the main meeting room. It is a photo quilt. This was made possible by the availability of special printable cloth material.

It is now possible to obtain this material and run it through an ink jet printer, just as one would do with plain paper. The result is a print of very good quality on cloth material. This made it possible to print photos on these 8 1/2 x 11 inch printable material sheets. The next step was to select which photos to print from the thousands on the museum's computer. Of these, 28 were selected, printed, and arranged in a certain order that would make a colorful and interesting quilt.

The only problem was how to get these prints sewn together to make a quilt. This is where the Quilts for Kids group stepped in to take over the manufacture of our photo quilt project. They are a local organization that has a mission of providing quilts to children in Third World countries who have been hospitalized. Thanks to Kim Valone and Linda Saxton from this group who aided in the design, arrangement, and sewing together of these cloth photos to make our final product. Without their valuable assistance, this photo quilt could never have succeeded.

Please stop in at the WHS museum on Academy Street during open hours to see the result of our efforts to put together this unique quilt shown above. See our summer open hours for the museum at the left of this story.

Walworth Museum Summer Open Hours

If you are looking for a family activity this summer, please plan on visiting the WHS museum. Open hours for the summer are:

June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 until 4:00 PM.

(The museum is closed on July 1 & 4 and also on September 2 because of holidays).

Volunteers are there on each date to greet you and share information about our collections. Of special interest is our extensive scrapbook collection, school memorabilia, quilts, photographs and our paintings that inspired the mural on the Walworth Post Office.

For other appointments contact:

WHS Pres. Jessie Keymel (315-524-9205) or Town Historian Gene Bavis (315-573-2768).

(Color printing of this page courtesy of Reliant Community Federal Credit Union)

Honoring Charlie and Mary By Dorothy French

The recipients of this year's Community Service Award are meaningful examples of sharing their time and talent with their hometown. Charlie Pembroke (posthumously) and Mary Abrams were recognized with the award on May 21 at the annual dinner meeting of the Walworth Historical Society held at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park.

Charlie and Mary are members of the Walworth Fire Department and Walworth Ambulance, Inc., in addition to their extensive community involvement with other organizations. Rev. Joseph Stupin, pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Walworth, gave the blessing before the meal and noted the importance of giving back to the community where you live. John O'Toole, Chief of the Walworth Fire Department, spoke of Charlie's and Mary's dedication to that organization. Jack Leasure, President of Walworth Ambulance, Inc., noted that Mary was very good at calming frightened patients and that Charlie was involved in getting the department's first ambulance.

Representing Charlie's family were his son and daughter-in-law, Vaughn and Linda Pembroke; Charlie's grandson, Greg; his wife, Charity; and their sons, William and Charlie Pembroke. Young Charlie was presented the plaque (center below) honoring his great-grandfather who passed away May 2003. Presenter Town Historian Gene Bavis mentioned the many acts of kindness Charlie (right below) performed as a local businessman and his involvement in senior citizen activities where he played his accordion. In 1990 Charlie documented his memories in a book "Walworth, As I Remember It" in which he shared history, stories, and local lore about his beloved hometown.

Mary Abrams was a 4-H Leader and continues to spend many hours with youngsters preparing them for participating at the Wayne County Fair. She is the nurse and security for the Vacation Bible School. Mary has been active at the Second Baptist Church of Walworth where her newest mission is working in the Many Blessings Clothing Closet. After receiving the award from WHS President Jessie Keymel (left below), Mary commented "God puts me in the places that He can use me." Family members and friends who came to congratulate Mary included her sister, Carol; her husband, John Fitzgerald; and their children, Laura and Emily; and cousin, Nancy Wheaton.

The award was preceded by a pot luck supper and a short business meeting, when retiring treasurer Mary Jane Devlin was recognized for serving as WHS treasurer for 18 years; she will be succeeded by Linda Pembroke. Officers re-elected include Jessie Keymel, president; Bob Mogray, vice-president; Judy McMillan, secretary; and Mary Jane Devlin, trustee. Judy Markowski was welcomed as a trustee succeeding Marlene Slocum, who retired.

The evening concluded with an informative video show "1968 – 50 years ago" by Bob Mogray.



From Your President By Jessie Keymel

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to sit at the museum during our open hours from June until the end of September. Thanks also to Judy McMillan for organizing the schedule; every space on Wednesdays and Sundays from 2 until 4 PM has been filled. I hope you enjoy your time at the museum. Take some time to peruse our many scrapbooks and loose-leaf notebooks full of photos of the area taken by Bob Mogray and older photos that he has brought to life.

On Sunday, July 29, during our 2 until 4 PM open time we are inviting anyone with interest in the history of Walworth High School, especially the alumni, to come and view the Walworth High School memorabilia on display that day.

We will bring history out of the museum on Wednesday, July 18, at 11:00 AM when we will be sharing part of our slide collection at the Garden Senior Apartments on Canandaigua Road. This will be our third visit.

Walworth High School Alumni Meet

By Mary Jane Devlin

On June 2, thirty guests and graduates of Walworth High School and Wayne Central School met for lunch at the Log Cabin Restaurant on Macedon Center Road at noon (photo below). Attendees were from classes 1941 through 1957, including 7 class members of the graduating class of 1947. We ordered from the menu and then reminisced until our meal was served. After a prayer by Jessie Keymel, everyone enjoyed their meal. Each person paid their own bill, including tax and tip.

There was \$42.00 left in the treasury from dues that were collected in previous years. After discussion the people present decided to donate the money to the Walworth Historical Society, as several regular attendees are also members of the Society.



The Walworth Historical Society invited all the people present to visit the museum on Academy Street on Sunday, July 29, from 2 until 4 PM. The docents will special display of items from the high school as well as pictures and minutes of the previous alumni banquets -- much of it donated by Gordon Youngman and Joyce Van Haneghem.

Anyone who is interested in the history of Walworth High School is also invited to visit the museum on July 29.

We agreed to meet again next year on the first Saturday in June at the Log Cabin Restaurant. The committee agreed to call everyone to remind them of the date and place.

Rural Flashes #2

By Mary Jane Devlin

These excerpts are from a booklet that was donated to us by the Macedon Historical Society. The excerpts were written by Walworth Elementary students in 1933.

"Airplanes"

By Fayett Arnold Grade 7 Walworth School #6

I wish I had an airplane
One that truly flies
I'd fly and fly and fly some more
Until the motor dies.

I'm sure that I could fly the seas
For many a day and night
I'd just fly on and on and on
Until I made the flight.

I think I'd like so much to hear
That wonderful motor run.
But best of all I'd like to hear
That old propeller hum.

"My Dog"

By Marjorie White, Grade 3 Walworth School #10

I have a dog whose name is Rin.
With his tongue he licks my chin.
He jumps up on me with his feet,
And whines about to ask for meat.

"March"

By Dorothy Hammond, Grade 4,
Walworth School #10

Oh, when I go out roller skating
My, but it is fun.
Sometimes my skates go backwards
When I start out to run.

The boys, they fly their kites
My, but they go high!
If I were on top of one,
I think I'd reach the sky.

A Welcome to Spring

By Judy McMillan



The May display case at the Walworth Town Hall welcomed spring. It was presented by the Walworth Historical Society and showcased photos of our own garden tour a few years ago. The timing was perfect as the display went up on May 1 and local residents were "winter weary." The sun was brightly shining and everyone's spirits were lifted. All photos were taken by our resident photographer, Bob Mogray.

The Year Was 1965

By Dorothy French

The following are excerpts from a story written by Lois Bulterman that appeared in the January 7, 1966, issue of the Wayne County Mail. Lois highlighted numerous events that occurred in 1965.

As a result of the increase in vehicular traffic and an unfortunate incident with a truckload of logs, a new legal stop light was installed at the intersections of Main Street and Penfield-Walworth Road.

Youngman's Variety spread out sideways, doubling its floor space and adding a new front.

The Starlighters, a Home Demonstration Unit, was organized to "help women learn to do a better job of homemaking."

The Medical Loan Closet used volunteer services for repairing, refurbishing, and making storage space for sick room supplies given or purchased for area use, free of charge.

A tremendous number of good citizens took time to participate in fund drives for polio, Boy Scouts, heart, Cancer Crusade, Red Cross, and a new ambulance which had already made 36 runs since it was put into service in May. Even the children learned the joy of working for and sharing with others in Junior Red Cross and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). They also packed friendship boxes for South Vietnam orphans and provided food and toys for Christmas baskets.

Gil Smith's Memories of Walworth

By Dorothy French

Gil Smith lived in Walworth from 1938 – 1949. In our May 2018 issue he wrote about the history of his family's home at 3921 Walworth-Ontario Road (sometimes called the Downs place). He has shared some Walworth memories with us.

Gil's father, Clayton, worked at Kodak Park and spent many hours upgrading the family's farm. He was a member of the Walworth Fire Department and Masonic Lodge #254. Gil's mother, Emily, was a member of the Home Bureau, Walworth United Methodist Church and the Eastern Star. During World War II she taught Home Economics at Walworth High School and supervised the lunchroom.

Joe Finley (former Walworth supervisor and businessman) told Gil that at one time the family's home was called the Prosperity House. Gil said his mother considered a prosperity house as one that was added on to every ten years or so after a good harvest.

Hazel Bassage was his eighth grade teacher. During a visit to her home, he heard the radio announcement that President Franklin D. Roosevelt had died.

Gil belonged to Boy Scout Troop 113 of Walworth; he recently donated his badges and membership information to the museum.

Gil enjoyed visiting Jay Seely in his tinsmith shop at 2256 Walworth-Marion Road and watching him work on machines.

Every summer Gil picked red and sweet cherries in the orchard across from the Wignall home at 2119 Walworth-Penfield Road. He also picked sour cherries at the Wignall farm on Walworth-Ontario Road near Finley Road; a truck and driver would pick up Gil at 7:30 AM to go cherry picking.

In August of 1945 Gil and Bob Wignall celebrated the end of World War II by writing their initials on the wall of the Methodist Church belfry.

A Tour of Main Street: #3698 – Walworth Hardware - Part 4

By Gordon Youngman

Editor's Note: The east-side tour of Main Street continues from our May 2018 issue which featured the building at #3698 originally owned by the K.O.T.M. (Knights of the Maccabees). Part 4 spotlights the Walworth Hardware (the building to the south of Joe Finley's Variety Store in the photo below). 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.



Finley's Store circa 1944.
Photo by Gordon Youngman



1987: Walworth Hardware on the right, Youngman's Variety Store on the left. Photo by Gordon Youngman

Jack and Blanche Wick operated a hardware store at #3698 from 1948 to 1972. When Jack became sick in December 1971 the family kept the store open until after Christmas, and then closed it in 1972 in hopes of finding a buyer. They didn't have to look far to find someone – me (Gordon Youngman), their business neighbor to the north.

The variety store to the north was owned by Joe Finley from 1944 to 1948 when Joe sold his business to Norman Hulbert. Norm sold the store back to Joe in August of 1950. Joe never reopened his store and it sat empty until I decided to move my ice cream business across the street into the variety store and go back into the dry goods plus soda fountain and drug business. We named it Youngman's Variety. I had recently married Katie Luke and we moved into the apartment above the store, so for \$65.00 a month we had a store and living quarters.

Through the years Jack and I had continued to conduct our side-by-side businesses until July 1972, when the Wick family sold the business to Katie and me. Now owning both buildings, I kept the north store as a variety store and the south store as a hardware store. That same year we built a walk way between the two stores to make it easy for customers to visit each side of the store. Now the two stores were one, yet they were still run as separate buildings.

By 1978 we had increased the business to the point we needed more space, so we closed out most of the variety store and moved the hardware to the larger building on the north. That same year Katie and I moved into the apartment above the hardware side of the store. We had previously lived in the house north of the variety store, which we sold to our daughter and her husband, Marlene (Youngman) and Steven Hall. In July 1990 we sold the business to them. Look for more information in a future issue about the "new" Walworth Hardware and the building's current occupant, New York State Sitepower, owned by Dan Hall. ***(To Be Continued: The history of the north store at 3700 Main Street)***

Fun With Our Collection As It Grows By Jessie Keymel

We continue to receive items from the Freewill School. We have the quilt and a photo journal of the children, wall plaques, class photos, and yearbooks. We have accumulated quite an assortment of Freewill memorabilia. The yearbooks will be added to our yearbook section.

The Webster Museum had accumulated quite a few photos of significance to Wayne County. The photos made their way to our museum and, when the WHO (Wayne Historians Organization) met at our building this month, the photos were taken home to their appropriate historical societies by the members present. We, too, often find photos of churches and other buildings that are not associated with Walworth and they are passed around until they find their home.

We welcomed home a trunk this spring. It had "A. Yeomans, Walworth" written on it. The trunk was gifted to the Rease family by Emily Huntley. When the family moved, the trunk went with them to Newark, then to Palmyra and now it has come back to Walworth - thanks to the generosity of the Rease family. Sharing history with friends and family can be most enjoyable.

Walworth Historical Society Hosts WHO By Gene Bavis

HUH? “WHO” stands for Wayne Historians Organization. It’s a loosely organized group of municipal historians and representatives of local historical societies from Wayne County. WHO meets 6 times per year and each meeting is hosted by someone different around the County. Wayne County Historian, Peter Evans, and Gene Bavis coordinate the meetings. Typically, the meeting will consist of a brief presentation of interest to the group and then each historian and historical society will report what’s going on in their town. The meetings are held at noon (each person brings their lunch) and the host group supplies drinks and desserts. Thanks to Mary Jane Devlin, Becky Appleman, and Judy McMillan for supplying desserts for this meeting and to Liz Bavis for serving as our hostess.



Above photos show the WHO meeting at the WHS museum on June 12.

Walworth Troop 113 Helps with Spring Cleanup By Gene Bavis

For the past several years, Scouts, leaders and parents from Walworth’s Boy Scout Troop 113 have volunteered to help with the outdoor cleanup of the Museum grounds and this year was no exception. On May 12, seven Scouts and six leaders spent about 2 ½ hours raking, trimming trees and shrubs, filling in ruts, and spreading 2 yards of mulch that was donated to us by Paul Luckman. Thanks for your help!



WHS Open House on October 7: Stay Tuned For Details

Please watch for details of our annual Walworth Historical Society open house that will be on October 7 of this year. We plan to have Cathy McGrath to present a musical program and we will also sponsor an old fashion ice-cream social. Members and the general public are all welcome to attend, take a tour of the museum and enjoy the program and refreshments. More details to follow!

We Have the Freewill School Quilt

By Bob Mogray

We have recently acquired the Freewill School quilt that had been hanging in that school for many years. This school has closed now but the panels on this quilt contain the signatures of many students from many classes over the years that this school had been operating. This is a huge quilt and it has been given to the Walworth Historical Society where it now hangs in the meeting room of the museum.



Finally, Some Great Spring and Summer Weather

By Bob Mogray

In an article on page 4 of this newsletter, WHS Secretary Judy McMillan was inspired by spring to create a display of local garden photos at the Walworth Town Hall. Here are a few more photos of spring and early summer in the Walworth area. It looks like the great weather is here for awhile.



Editor's notice: If you have a computer but are currently receiving your newsletter through the mail, it is possible to change your delivery so this newsletter is sent to you electronically. This could be an advantage to us because we don't have to buy envelopes, stamps, paper and ink to print it. It could also be an advantage to you because the newsletter will arrive sooner, the entire thing will be in color, and there will be two pages of additional color photos on pages 9 and 10 that the U.S. mail members don't get. If you would like to change to email newsletter service, please call me at 585-576-4156 or WHS President Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205. Either way that you choose to get our newsletter, thank you for your support!

Turning Back the Pages By Dorothy French

The following events from 1961 were published in the Wayne County Mail and are reprinted with their permission.
Jan. 6, 1961: Regular meetings of the Walworth Town Board will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the town clerk's office, 222 Bills Road, West Walworth. Appointments announced were: George Read and Norman Kirkpatrick, Constables; Jack Hawkins, Dog Warden; Mildred Reynolds, Historian; John Koroly, Zoning and Building Inspector; Robert Wignall, Welfare Officer; John Wilson, Town Attorney; Dr. Donald Bovet, Health Officer; Ernest Strobeck, Chairman of the Board of Appeals; Clarence Druschel, Chairman of the Board of Assessors; Helen Barmaster, Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics; and Wallace Wyse, Deputy Town Clerk. Others holding office were: Irma Wyse, Town Clerk; Lawrence Goebert, Superintendent of Highways; Fay Druschel, Tax Collector; Charles Hack, Supervisor; Herbert Smith and Harold Reynolds, Justices of the Peace; and Glenn Bills and Marvin Ebert, Councilmen.

March 3, 1961: Gale force winds and slashing rain caused area-wide power failures. A Wayne County farmer commented: "We had two kerosene lamps going in the kitchen. We sat there and talked, just the way our family did years ago. It was a wonderful evening."

March 3, 1961: Nearly 2,000 popular books for all ages began circulating among 10 member libraries and one reading center (Walworth) of the Wayne County Library System.

March 31, 1961: Jacob Pembroke of Walworth was presented his 60 year palm at Masonic ceremonies. He became Master Mason in Walworth Lodge #254 F&AM on Feb. 23, 1901.

<u>Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs</u>		
<u>Officers and Trustees</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	Linda Pembroke (585) 455 - 7595	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	Mary Jane Devlin (315) 986 - 1512	Hospitality Marlene Slocum (585) 289 - 7080
WHS Trustee	Dorothy French (315) 986 - 1098	Membership Linda Pembroke (585) 455 - 7595
WHS Trustee	Judy Markowski (315) 524 - 8649	Newsletter Bob Mogray (585) 576 - 4156
WHS Trustee	Larry Ruth (315) 524 - 7936	Publicity Becky Appleman (315) 524 - 3289
		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!*

July 2018 WHS e-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos



The Freewill School Quilt at the WHS museum



The new photo quilt at the WHS museum



The President Grover Cleveland peonies



One of the local Walworth homes in spring



The WHS museum in spring bloom

All photos on this page are of the Boy Scouts assisting at the WHS museum clean-up.

