



Walworth Historical Society



Volume 43

March 2019

Number 4

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

WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

Virtual Tour of Walworth at the March Meeting By Bob Mogray

This year's first Walworth Historical Society meeting will be held on **Monday, March 18 at 7:30 PM** at the museum on Academy Street. WHS President Jessie Keymel will preside over a short business meeting and then there will be a presentation of "A Virtual Tour of the Walworth Hamlet." This will be a slide show that includes photos of many of the buildings and businesses in the Walworth hamlet with a few facts about each of them. The area covered will be Main Street, Walworth-Penfield Road, Walworth-Marion Road, Church Street, and Academy Street.

2019 Calendar of Events

March 18	7:30 PM	General Meeting "Virtual Tour"
April 7	2-3:30 PM	Memories Meeting "Summer Vacations"
April 8	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees
May 20	6:15 PM	Annual Meeting Ginegaw Lodge
June 10	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees
July 26	7:00 PM	Festival in the Park Parade / (booth)
July 27	3-8 PM	Festival in the Park Day 2 booth
Aug. 12	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees
Sept. 16	7:30 PM	General Meeting "Iron Ore Mining"
Oct. 6	2-4 PM	Open House
Oct. 14	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees
Nov. 18	1:00 PM	General Meeting "Soup & Spiritualism"
Dec. 7	6:00 PM	"Light the Night" Ginegaw Park
Dec. 9	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees



The show will depict what one might see if they were to walk around the main roads of the hamlet. However, this will be a virtual tour; no walking required. Throughout this presentation, discussion from the audience is encouraged. Much of the information that the WHS gets is from its members and from those who attend our functions. Please don't be shy and feel free to tell us anything you may know about the places on this virtual tour.

So, please invite a friend or two and join us at the museum for this presentation. We appreciate your support and participation in these events. As usual, refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!

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



State marker at the Walworth four corners

Question: What do the years 1799, 1829, and 2019 have in common?

Answer: In each year the number 9 is linked with the history of Walworth township as shown below.

1799: The four Miller brothers (Andrew, John, Samuel, and Daniel) left their homes in Connecticut to become the first settlers in the area we know as Walworth, where they built crude log cabins, the first dwellings. One year later, brothers Stephen and Daniel Douglas, also from Connecticut, located here. Stephen built the first frame house on the southwest corner of the four corners, thereby giving the Douglas Corners name to this growing community.

1829: The Town of Walworth was officially established on April 20, the last town in Wayne County to be formed. It took its name from General Chancellor Reuben H. Walworth, the popular and last chancellor of the State of New York.

2019: Now, 220 years since its inception, Walworth continues to grow. According to the Town of Walworth web site, the 2010 Census listed 9,440 residents and numerous businesses. To quote John Traas, former town historian and author of Walworth – from Douglas Corners to Gananda: “It is a nice place to visit, a pleasant place to live and a good place to raise a family.”

"Light the Night" at Ginegaw Park Last December By Bob Mogray



For the last several years the Walworth Recreation Department has sponsored the "Light the Night" celebration at Ginegaw Park in Walworth. **Shown at the left** is the WHS tree that was decorated for 2018. These trees are donated for many of the town organizations to decorate in the spirit of the holidays. Prizes are given in several categories.

The kids had a chance to see Santa Claus and there were trees that local organizations had decorated. Refreshments were served also. The Walworth Historical Society participated by decorating a tree (see the photo). This festival was held on December 1 at Ginegaw Park from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. There was excellent attendance.

Nominations Needed for Community Service Award By Bob Mogray

Since 1990, the Walworth Historical Society has chosen to honor an individual or group of people to receive its Community Service Award. This award is given at our annual business meeting in May. Every year we ask you for help and a chance to express your opinion as to which person or group may deserve this award. If you know of a deserving person or group who has stood out in the Walworth area with a reputation of giving and serving our community, please send your nominations to the Walworth Historical Society at P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568 by April 1. For additional information, contact WHS President Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205. This year the award will be presented at our meeting on Monday, May 20, at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park. We welcome your help and suggestions.

Three New Resources at the Museum By Bob Mogray

There are three new items at the WHS museum that can be used by members and visitors.

The first item is a booklet that lists most of the available information resources at the museum. It includes what genealogies and family histories we have on file. There is a list of WHS surnames on file and also what books, folders, or information we have available for use. This was compiled by Walworth Town Historian and WHS board member Gene Bavis and WHS genealogist Ellen Dietterick.

The second item is a printed copy of all the early WHS newsletters. The dates of these newsletters are from September 2002 until November 2005.

The third item is a notebook of photos of recent WHS displays at the Walworth Town Hall. We usually set up from 2-4 of these monthly displays each year and this notebook shows many of these displays. Most of them are designed and arranged by WHS Secretary Judy McMillan with help from other WHS members. She has done an excellent job with this for years. So, if you stop in at the WHS museum, please take a look at these new items.

Displays at the Town Hall By Judy McMillan



Valentine's Day display

Walworth Historical Society's November display featured the one-hundredth anniversary of the end of World War I. Larry Ruth generously loaned us WWI memorabilia previously owned by his grandfather including his uniform, mess kit, various tools and documents. It was very interesting and informative.

The December/January display was a collection of photos taken by our very own resident photographer, Bob Mogray. It featured holiday decorations of various Walworth houses and was enjoyed by the community!

February's display focused on Valentines from the past, as well as "calling cards" which featured some amorous sentiments.



Holiday-decorated homes display



World War I display



Please check our website at: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org for years of our newsletters. These contain hundreds of stories about the history, people and events of Walworth and near-by areas. There are many new and old photos and much more in these newsletters. Please feel free to check us out on the web!

Walworth Area Country Doctors: Dr. McLouth By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: Through the years the Walworth area has been served by numerous medical doctors. This issue features Dr. John McLouth, who was also active in local and county politics.

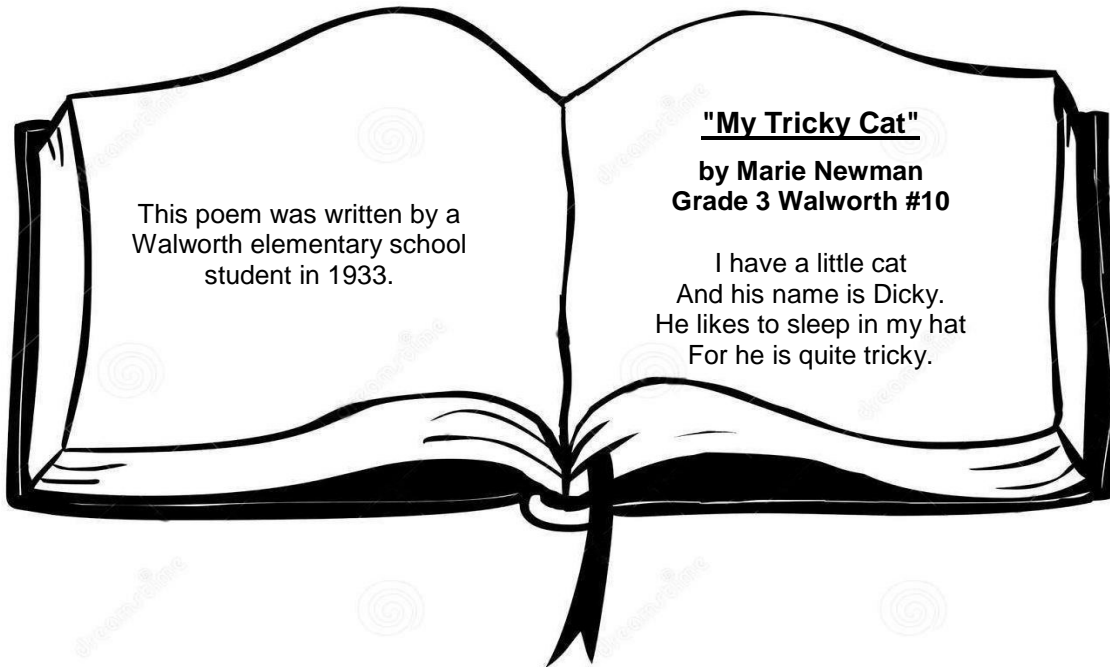
Dr. John McLouth was the first doctor to be elected Walworth Supervisor (1839-1841-1847) and the first medic to preside as chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors in 1847.

Born in Cheshire, Massachusetts on December 16, 1795, Dr. McLouth began the practice of medicine in 1825 in Wheatland (Monroe County). An obituary in our museum files states "In his early tooth, he decided to read medicine." The newspaper clipping reported he came to Walworth in 1828 and was "located on Main Street near the present hotel."

Dr. McLouth was often called the lung doctor because of his reputation for treatment of the lungs. He frequently made the trip to Penfield on horseback, a distance of 12 miles one way, and received \$.75 a visit. He continued the practice of medicine up to and including 1885. Dr. McLouth purchased a farm in the southern limits of the village and in 1875 moved to the home where he died January 18, 1887. Dr. McLouth and his wife, Cordelia, who passed away in 1903, are buried in Walworth Cemetery.

Rural Flashes By Mary Jane Devlin

This poem was from a booklet that was donated to the Walworth Historical Society by the Macedon Historical Society.



WHS Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs

Officers and Trustees

President	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205
Vice-President	Robert Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156
Secretary	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219
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WHS Trustee	Dorothy French	(315) 986 - 1098
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WHS Trustee	Larry Ruth	(315) 524 - 7936

Committees and Chairpersons

Bldg. Maint.	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768
Collections	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205
Displays-Museum	Judy Markowski	(315) 524 - 8649
Displays-Town Hall	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219
Genealogy	Ellen Dietterick	(585) 200 - 4685
Grounds	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219
Grounds	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
Hospitality	Liz Bavis	(585) 802 - 0380
Hospitality	Marlene Slocum	(585) 289 - 7080
Membership	Linda Pembroke	(585) 455 - 7595
Newsletter	Bob Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156
Publicity	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768

The Year Was 1961 By Dorothy French

The following information appeared in the Wayne County Mail and is reprinted with their permission.

Oct. 27: Nearly 500 citizens of Walworth enjoyed free pancake and sausage supper, sponsored by the Walworth Republican Committee, at the Walworth fire hall. Home-town talent orchestra consisting of Charles and Vaughn Pembroke, Lawrence and Forest Hill and Burt Whipple, with Stanley VanHoover calling, provided music for dancing.

Oct. 27: The Ladies Auxiliary of the Lincoln Fire Department and the Friendship Guild of Lincoln Baptist Church will again sponsor a UNICEF collection this Halloween. The children of Lincoln will be going door-to-door on the various roads assigned to them.

Nov. 17: Owners of century farms were honored at a dinner at the Clyde Grange Hall. Representing Walworth were Mrs. Frank Taber, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Taber, and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Huntley. Mr. and Mrs. Fay Druschel represented his parents.

We Had Soup and Learned About Suffrage By Bob Mogray

Last November 19 the WHS hosted a meeting that featured a free lunch consisting of soup, bread, crackers, and beverages plus brownie sundaes for dessert. Rosa Fox presented a program on Women's Suffrage immediately following the meal. She is the Town Historian for Huron. For the past several years she has done much research on the topic of women's suffrage. Rosa presented an excellent program that was both very interesting and informative. There was great participation of our guests also.

There was a great turn-out for this event. The museum was crowded with tables and guests and the smell of several kinds of soup filled the air! This format of soup and a show has proven to be quite successful. Later this year we plan on doing it again. Thanks to all of the guests for attending and participating. We really appreciate your support for our events and programs.

Please check out our website at: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org for more information and schedule updates.



Marlene Slocum (left) and Liz Bavis (right) prepare to serve the soup.



Liz Albright (left), Rosa Fox (center) and Kathy Roland (right) after the meeting.

Our Collection Continues to Grow By Jessie Keymel

Thank you, Molly and Larry Hill, for your donation of Loreen Jorgensen's book "The First Hundred Churches of Wayne County." This collection of information that Loreen has gathered from all the communities in Wayne County is a valuable tool for families searching for their ancestry. Churches are such an important part of the development of the towns in our county.

Ruth Reybrouck has donated her scrapbook of newspaper clippings about past sport events in our schools and we have received Yeomans/Huntley memorabilia, children's books and post cards from Donna Huntley Stalker.

We have also added historical photos and other information from Nelson Taber's collections. Thanks go to his daughter, Bonnie Meszaros, who no longer lives in Walworth. It is worth noting that all these historical additions to our collections come from families who have been in our community for several generations. Their stories are the foundation of our Historical Society. Thank you for your continuing support.

A Tour of Main Street: #3700 – Finley’s Variety Store - Part 3 By Gordon Youngman and Aaron Fernaays

Editor’s Note: Our tour of the east side of Main Street continues from our last issue. The building at #3700 was the site of many businesses, eventually Walworth Hardware. Part 3 features ownership by Joe Finley. Thank you to Gordon Youngman and his grandson, Aaron Fernaays, for sharing their memories and for the time they spent researching and documenting the information about the stores located at 3698 and 3700 Main Street.

The following are excerpts from information documented by Gordon in March 2000:



On December 4, 1944, Joe Finley purchased the store from Irvin and Anna Salyerds and the Post Office was moved to Buckley’s store to the south. Joe put in a line of dry goods – small and large appliances, linoleum runs, paint, school supplies, candy, ice cream, etc. Soon afterwards Joe moved the ice cream, candy and patent medicines to the little store next to the Masonic Temple on the west side of Main Street.

**(Left) 1944: Finley’s Variety Store.
Photo courtesy: Gordon Youngman.**



In 1948 Joe sold the dry goods store to Norman Hulbert and continued on with just the little store. After two years Norm couldn’t make a go of the dry goods store and let it go back to Joe. In April 1949 I purchased the ice cream store from Joe, borrowing \$25.00 from my mother for change in the register, agreeing to pay Joe \$25 a month for the stock and equipment, and paying Dewitt Tuttle \$15 a month rent. Meanwhile, the dry goods store on the east side of Main Street stayed empty after Mr. Hulbert closed out the stock.

(Left) Mid 1940’s: Finley’s Variety Store on the left and Buckley’s Hardware and Grocery on the right. Attached to the post at the right above the car is a sign that reads “Town Clerk.” Jean Buckley was the town clerk. Note Buckley’s Esso sign and gas pump. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.



In November 1950 I decided to move my ice cream business into Joe’s empty store and also sell dry goods. My wife Katie and I moved into the apartment above the store so for \$65.00 a month we had a store and living quarters. We just got the business going at the end of 1951 when I was drafted to serve in the Korean War and I was given 30 days to get rid of the business.

Joe and Lorraine Finley agreed to purchase my inventory and operate the store until I returned. After serving two years in the Army Counter Intelligence Corp, I returned to Walworth. Joe and I inventoried the merchandise and I was back in business.

**(Left) Mid 1940’s: Joe and Lorraine Finley.
WHS file photo.**



At the time Joe purchased the store from Mr. Salyerds in 1944, ownership of the house to the north was separated from the store property and sold to Milton and Charlotte Bradshaw. In 1955 the Bradshaws sold the house to Elton and Anna May and Katie and I purchased the house in 1958. In 1963 we purchased the store from Joe so the two properties were back under the same owners.

(Left) 1944: Joe Finley on steps of his variety store. Youngster to the left is Harvey Curran. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.

(To Be Continued: Part 4 – Youngman’s Variety Store)

Hooked-Rug Picture

By Mary Jane Devlin

Last year, Liz Bavis took a picture of the Larry DeMinck barn on Tummonds Road in Walworth and Gene Bavis posted it on Facebook. Marion Historian Caryn Devlin, who is an avid rug hooker, saw it and decided to do a hooked rug/picture of the barn. Caryn donated the picture to the Walworth Historical Society to be used as a fund raiser.

The picture is made with hand-dyed 100% wool which was dyed and cut by Caryn on a machine that her husband, Mark, designed and made for her. It is 25½" x 13½" and framed in 200-year-old barn wood. The backing is linen. The approximate value is \$400.

To raise funds we have decided to offer raffle tickets at \$1 for 1 ticket, \$5 for 6, and \$10 for 15. We will be offering the tickets at our programs and other locations throughout the spring and summer. Sales will begin on March 18 and end at our "Fall on the Farm" Open House on October 6, 2019, when the winning ticket will be drawn. You will not have to be present to win. Caryn belongs to the Rug Hookers of the Finger Lakes and has sold her works at various festivals as well as Letchworth State Park Arts and Crafts Festival. She has also had them displayed at Genesee Country Museum.



Hooked-rug barn picture by Caryn Devlin



Recent photo of the hooked-rug barn.

In Memoriam By Jessie Keymel and Mary Jane Devlin

Sadly, we need a column of memorials to acknowledge the passing of members of our Walworth Historical Society; with them go many stories of our corner of Wayne County.

Harold Granger: Harold passed away on January 24, 2019. He grew up in West Walworth and graduated from Walworth High School, Class of 1947. His wife, Nancy, also graduated with the Class of 1947. They brought up their children in West Walworth. After they retired, they travelled to many national parks, including Denali National Park in Alaska, where they spent 8 summers donating their time to help the rangers. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

Warren Bell: We are saddened to share with you news of the passing of Warren Bell on November 15, 2018. Warren and his wife Betty raised daughters Mindy and Becky and son Gaylord in Walworth at a time when the children could walk to the elementary school. Bell's Service Station at the hamlet's four corners was an important part of the lives of many Walworth residents as they went about their busy days. Many of us can tell stories of Warren's and Betty's kindness as we grew up and later as we raised our children in Walworth. Thank you for being such an important part of the history of our small town and everything that was good about living here.

From Your President By Jessie Keymel

Another busy year has come and gone. Last year we welcomed more than 500 visitors into our small museum, many searching for the history of their families or their homes. Thank you all for making it possible to keep our museum open for visitors during the summer months. Thank you also to the board members who work all year around adding the many gifts to our collections and making them available to the public.

Have you seen the town hall display case when we share some of our collections with everyone who visits the town hall and the library? The WW1 display was excellent, Bob's winter holiday photos were a big hit, and the old Valentines remind us all of our school days. Keep watching the displays as we take our turn with other community groups to share our stories. Thank you Bob and Judy for constantly sharing your talents with this project. If you enjoy Bob's photos, we have several shows of historic photos that we can share with any group.

Our 2019 programs have been arranged and you can find the schedule in this newsletter. As always, we have a variety of interesting topics. Please join us as we share with everyone some of our area history. Our open hours are printed in this newsletter. You may visit anytime if you call a board member and we will make arrangements to open for you.

Part of the maintenance of our museum in the winter is to set up a light system to alert us when there is a problem with the heat. The red light is by the front door and goes on as a warning. Thank you to Duke Risley for calling a board member to tell us that the warning light was on. The building was checked and everything was OK. Thanks again for your call.

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.

Level of Membership

<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	\$ 5.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporter	\$ 25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsor	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Member	\$ 150.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	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!*

March 2019 WHS Email Newsletter Extra Photos

(All images on this page are of Evergreen Place)



Before the fire



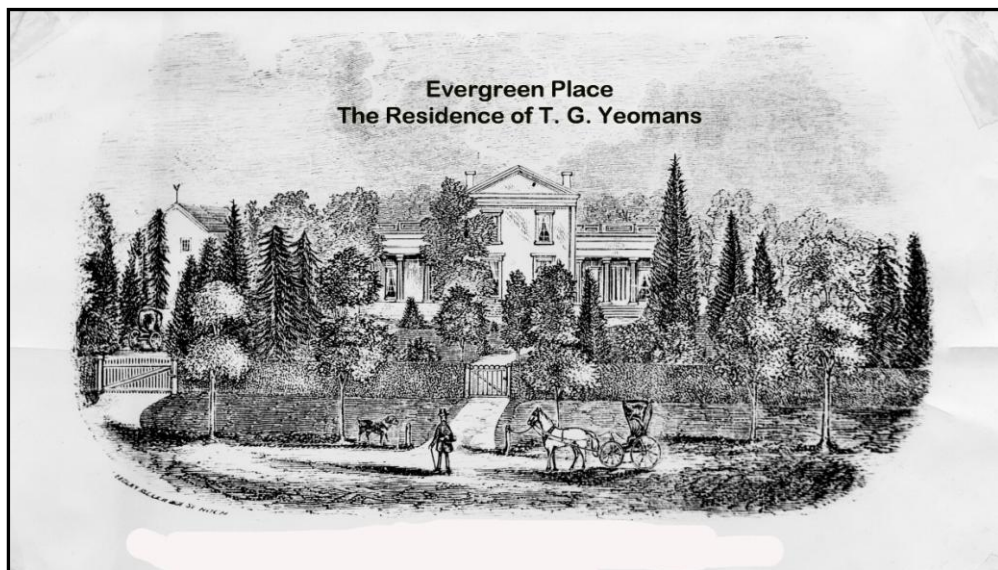
Just after the fire



At the start of tear-down



Demolition almost complete





The above two maps show the concentration of the members of the Walworth Historical Society

All photos below are from the November 2018 "Soup and Suffrage" meeting of the WHS

