



Walworth Historical Society



Volume 44

July 2019

Number 1

Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568

WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

WHS Honors Steve Gallaher With Service Award By Becky Appleman and Bob Mogray



The Walworth Historical Society met at The Lodge at Ginegaw Park on Monday, May 20, for our annual meeting and pot luck dinner. First there was a meal consisting of delicious dishes of food brought by those in attendance. Then there was a short business meeting in which officers were re-elected for the next year. These officers and trustees are as follows:

President	Jessie Keymel	Vice-President	Bob Mogray
Secretary	Judy McMillan	Trustee	Gene Bavis
Trustee	Becky Appleman		

After the election of officers Becky Appleman (WHS Trustee) presented Steve Gallaher with this year's Community Service Award (left photo). His wife Amy and their three children accompanied him to this dinner. Also there to see Steve accept his award were his parents, his brother Jim, and about 20 members of the Lincoln Fire Department (photo below) of which Steve is a member. Steve works with the New York State Homeland Security Office for fire prevention and control. He also works part time as a New York State Fire Instructor and teaches fire training classes for Wayne County.

Steve is an Eagle Scout and has been involved with the Boy Scouts since 1982. He is a member of the Wayne Central Board of Education and also the chairman of the Walworth Conservative Party. Steve owns and operates his own construction business. He has made a life-time practice of helping others.

After the award, there was a short program "1969: 50 Years Ago" reviewing some of the events of that year including who was born, who passed away, and some of the prices and popular culture items of 1969. A short trivia slide show was also presented and the audience did very well guessing the photos of famous people over the years.

Steve Gallaher joins the growing list of people and organizations who have received this Community Service Award that is given for selflessness and service to community and others. The Walworth Historical Society thanks Steve for his service and also those in attendance for supporting him and the WHS at our meetings and functions.

2019 Calendar of Events

July 26	7:00 PM	Festival in the Park Parade / Booth
Aug. 12	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees
Sept. 16	7:30 PM	General Meeting "Iron Ore Mining"
Oct. 6	2-4 PM	WHS Open House: "Autumn on the Farm"
Oct. 14	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees
Nov. 18	1:00 PM	General Meeting "Soup & Spiritualism" Ginegaw Lodge
Dec. 7	6:00 PM	"Light the Night" Ginegaw Park
Dec. 9	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees



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

Walworth Town Hall Display Case Photos

By Bob Mogray

The last few years the Walworth Historical Society has provided displays with varying themes for the public to view in the Walworth Town Hall display case in the main hallway. Last month we had displayed a variety of photos from some of the gardens in the Walworth area. There were flowers of many colors and varieties. The theme of the current display is some of the local buildings and areas. As always, Judy McMillan helped to organize and install these photos into an excellent arrangement. Some are 13" x 19" prints and others are of a smaller variety. She has done many of these displays over the last few years. Included are photos of churches, murals, the fire hall, and other spots around town.

In the past, other organizations have had displays at the town hall. For the rest of the year, except for November when the WHS has the case reserved, there are no other displays scheduled. If you know of any organizations that would like to put up displays, please contact me at 585-576-4156 or Walworth Town Clerk Aimee Phillips at 315-986-1400.



June Town Hall display case

Walworth High School Alumni 2019

By Mary Jane Devlin

Twenty-six graduates and guests of the Walworth High School and Wayne Central School met for lunch on June 3, 2019 at the Log Cabin Restaurant. Attendees were from classes 1941 through 1957. 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.

We received a thank you note from Walworth Historical Society for the \$42 that had been left in the treasury. We decided last year to donate it to the Society as several people are members of the organization. We notified the people in attendance that we would have special displays for them at the museum on July 28, 2019. Pictures and memorabilia from previous alumni banquets will be available as well as items from Walworth High School.

We agreed to meet next year on the first Saturday in June at the Log Cabin Restaurant. Jessie Keymel and Mary Jane Devlin volunteered to call everyone to remind them of the date and time. We feel it is important to the historical society and Walworth to keep this group together as long as we can. Thanks also to the people who brought parents/friends who are no longer able to drive.



A Clear View of the Museum Bell

For the last few years the plaque and bricks on the pedestal in front of the museum have been hidden as the shrubs grew to cover it. These bushes have been recently removed by Gene Bavis to better display the plaque. This plaque tells of the donation of the bell by Moses Padley to the original Walworth Academy in 1858.

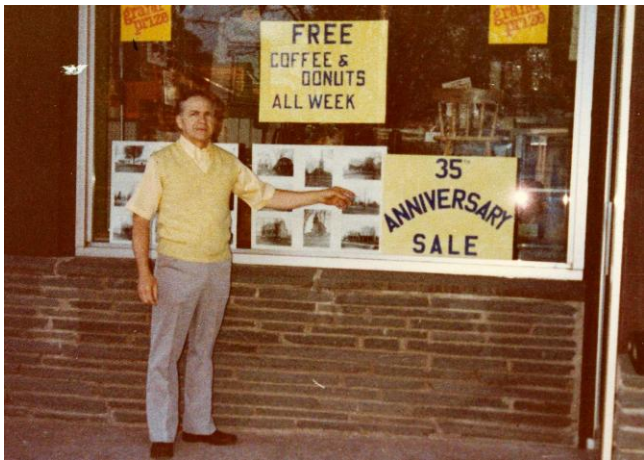
Gordon and Betty Youngman Interview By Bob Mogray

Gordon Youngman, or "Gordy" as many call him, is a life-long Walworthian as well as a local businessman and friend to many! Because of his historic local ties he has contributed to many stories in our past newsletters. He and his family have been excellent sources of historic dates and events. Gordy has also contributed many photographs of local families and buildings that have been stored at the museum; these have also been scanned and backed up on our computer. He has granted this interview which is a personal look into his life story.

Gordon Youngman was born on June 18, 1928 in the second house down the hill east of the Walworth Post office; the house is the current Heinonen family home. Gordy's family consisted of his father Ezra, his mother Ida, brother Bill, and sisters Ester, Leona, Bessie, and Edith. He and his family lived in this house for approximately five years, until he started school at the Walworth High School. Gordy started directly in the first grade and did not go to kindergarten. He and his family then had moved into the next house west of Jay Taber's cobblestone house on the Walworth-Penfield Road. They stayed there for about two years. They moved again, this time into the second house north on the west side of Main Street past Center Street. This occurred when he was seven years old in 1935. We jump ahead until 1945 when Gordy graduated from Walworth High School.

Let's skip ahead a few years until 1949. In October of that year he married Katie Luke who lived on Plank Road. They moved to a house that was between the Baptist Church and the old Masonic Hall. At this time Gordy and Katie rented from DeWitt Tuttle and operated an ice-cream and candy store. This house was later torn down. As you can see, there was a lot of moving around in Gordy's life and one year later in 1950 he and Katie again moved. This time they moved across the street to the second floor apartment in the left side of the store that would later become his hardware store.

For three years they lived here and in 1953 Gordy was drafted into the U.S. Army. Joe and Lorraine Finley bought his store and operated it for the two years he was in the service. While in the Army he served in Okinawa, Japan in the counter-intelligence corps for two years. When Gordy returned home he bought the store from Joe Finley. So by 1955 he was back in business at the store. In 1958 you guessed it! He moved again! This time he and Katie bought the big house on the north side of the store and moved into it. Three years later Gordy enlarged the store - 12 feet to the north and 30 feet onto the back. During the years that Gordy owned and operated the variety and hardware businesses in the stores on Main Street in Walworth, he was active as a volunteer fireman and in the volunteer ambulance also. As a matter of fact, there was a fire and ambulance emergency button in the store and his phone number was listed as an emergency contact for local fire and ambulance calls. When a call came in, Gordy would push the button and the fire siren would sound. Responders would know to report to the fire hall to answer the call.



Gordy and Katie had two daughters. Marlene was born in 1954 and Kathy was born in 1957. Gordy and Katie bought the north store in 1963 and initially ran it as a variety store and also had an ice-cream counter. In 1978 they closed the ice-cream fountain. They bought the hardware store (the former K.O.T.M. building to the south of the variety store) from the estate of Jack Wick in 1972.

From then on only hardware was sold there and it became the Walworth Hardware business until 1990 when he retired and sold the business to their daughter Marlene and her husband Steve, who ran the business until 2011 when they closed the hardware store.



After Gordon retired, his wife Katie passed away in February of 2001. Over a year passed when Gordy went to a Walworth Alumni banquet where he met Betty Garlock. Betty had lived in the "Huddle" area of Walworth when she was younger. Gordy and Betty had actually dated each other in high school. Betty was a junior when Gordy graduated as a senior.

Betty's husband had passed years earlier in 1992. Soon they were spending a lot of time together and they married in 2008. They now live in Greece, New York. Betty had 5 daughters, 12 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. Gordy had 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

The Walworth Historical Society would like to thank Gordy and Betty for taking time out of their busy lives to travel to Walworth to grant this interview. We all really appreciate all of the things that Gordon has done to help the people of the Walworth area over the years and for providing photos and information about the early history of our town. In 2000 Gordon Youngman received the WHS Community Service Award for volunteering his time and efforts to better the community and its people.

Hooked Rug Raffle By Gene Bavis

As many of you know, Liz and I moved to Tummonds Road a few years ago. In our neighborhood we have three great old barns that we can see from our property. Liz loves to photograph the barns in all seasons and with different lighting conditions. A while ago she posted one of her photos on Facebook and it inspired Caryn Devlin, Marion Town Historian, to create a hooked rug based on that photo.

After she finished it her husband framed it and she decided to donate it to the Walworth Historical Society as a fundraiser. We began selling tickets at our March meeting and will have the drawing at our Autumn Open House on October 6. While we hope you are there, you do not have to be present to win. During the summer months we plan to be at the Walworth Farmers' Market most Tuesdays to talk to people about the Walworth Historical Society AND of course we'll have raffle tickets to sell. Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5 or 15 for \$10. All proceeds will go toward the mission of the Walworth Historical Society.



The hooked rug by Caryn Devlin



WHS president Jessie Keymel at the Farmers' Market at Ginegaw Park

Former Walworth Woman Honored

By Mary Jane Devlin

Cortland County recently inducted Bessie Mabel Seely into their Hall of Fame. The Cincinnatus Area Heritage Society nominated her.



Bessie Seely circa 1930



Bessie Seely circa 1970

Bessie was born in 1881 to Jay and Sarah Seely. Her father had a tinsmithing shop at 2256 Walworth-Marion Road where Roxy's Salon is now located. She was the first woman to graduate from Syracuse University, School of Law, and the first woman accepted to the New York State Bar.

Bessie's career began as a law clerk in a Syracuse law firm; she soon became a partner. She then joined the banking industry with positions in Syracuse and Detroit. While in Detroit she wrote columns for the "The Detroit Banker" and the magazine of the American Institute of Banking. She also lectured and did public speaking.

In the 1930's she moved back to the Rochester area to help with her aging parents. Following her father's death, Bessie resided in the living quarters of his building. She settled her father's estate in 1958 by giving his tinsmith shop to the Walworth Chamber of Commerce with the stipulation that it be used for educational and cultural benefits of area residents. On August 19, 1962 it became the town library. The library is now located at the town hall complex and is named after the Seely family.

Bessie later moved to Cincinnatus when she inherited a home from her brother-in-law. While living there she became a member of the Cortland County Historical Society and joined the Board of the Kellogg Free Library. In her retirement, she corresponded with several servicemen, pursued her interest in textile arts and continued to be an avid reader.

Bessie passed away in 1981 at the age of 100. She willed her historic home to the Kellogg Free Library and the balance of her estate in trust to two educational institutions.

Congratulations to Bessie Mabel Seely on all her achievements.

Thank You, Walworth Highway Department

A special thank you to the Walworth Highway Department for removing the branches from our copper beach tree that came down during a windstorm. There are many memories from students and lovers who spent time under and in the aging tree.

Gratefully, the Walworth Historical Society Board of Officers and Trustees.

From Your President By Jessie Keymel

There is a small gray building on Academy Street in Walworth. It houses many years of collections of school and family photos, diaries, maps, genealogy and reminders of past businesses and organizations - a lot of history. Most people in our township do not notice it until they need to look for answers for a personal project. It takes a group of dedicated people to maintain the building and keep all these treasures safe and available to you and future generations. Many hours are spent by many people. It is time to take a look at the individuals who make all this possible.

Stan Weller has been the leading force behind our building maintenance. He guided us through painting the interior of the building, the porch railings and exterior door. Stan brought in a carpenter to add shelving upstairs in our storage area. He still keeps a watch when he drives past every day. Thank you, Stan and Louise, for your past attention to the many building needs that are so often missed. Stan's wife, **Louise**, spends countless hours entering all our accessioned items in our computer.

Gene Bavis is our town historian; every town has one. Gene mows the grass, plows snow, and helps the grounds committee. He recently removed the bushes by the bell to make the plaque visible; he is our voice on Facebook and other public venues.

Becky Appleman and Judy McMillan are the main force on our Grounds Committee. They maintain our hosta garden and the many plantings around the building. Becky is our publicity person and keeps the local newspapers aware of our ongoing programs and activities. Judy has been our secretary for many years. She and Bob Mogray are the members who brighten the town hall display case with photos and items from our collections.

Bob Mogray is our newsletter editor and our photographer extraordinaire who is responsible for our computer-related programs and keeps the addresses of our members up-to-date. Bob is also our Vice-President and co-ordinates many of our programs that include the use of our computer program. He also presents programs about our history to other organizations in the community.

I had intended to write a small article but I could use all 8 pages of the newsletter to include all the jobs and workers who contribute so much, so I guess this is just the first installment.



Refreshments By Gene Bavis

My wife, Liz, is in charge of "Hospitality" meaning that she is the one who makes sure we have goodies at our meetings. If you are willing to occasionally provide cookies or something for one of our meetings, please send an email to liz.bavis48@gmail.com or call Liz at 585-802-0380. She will contact you a couple of weeks beforehand to see if you might be available to provide some refreshments. Assuming we have several volunteers you won't be asked more than once a year.

Left photo: Liz Bavis supervising the meal at the November 2018 "Soup and Suffrage" meeting at the museum.

A Visit With the Lions Club By Bob Mogray

On Tuesday, June 4, WHS President Jessie Keymel and I were the guests of the Walworth Lions Club at their meeting at the Lodge in Ginewaw Park. We had been asked to put on a short video slide show of any theme that we wanted. We chose a combination theme of a photographic tour around the town of Walworth and close-by areas. Buildings and events were shown and the audience seemed like they enjoyed it very much. There were many positive comments and some questions about some of the slides. Earlier in the evening we were treated to a catered meal that was very good. We both wish to thank the Walworth Lions Club for their invitation and hospitality. Lions Club President Lyn Boyd-Bauer presented us with a donation to the Walworth Historical Society for which we were also grateful. It was a fun evening for us and the Lodge at Ginewaw Park was a great place for this type of meeting and program. These types of shows give us a chance to use our laptop computer and digital video projector, and to share our vast and growing inventory of local and historical photos.

Wayne County Bicentennial By Gene Bavis

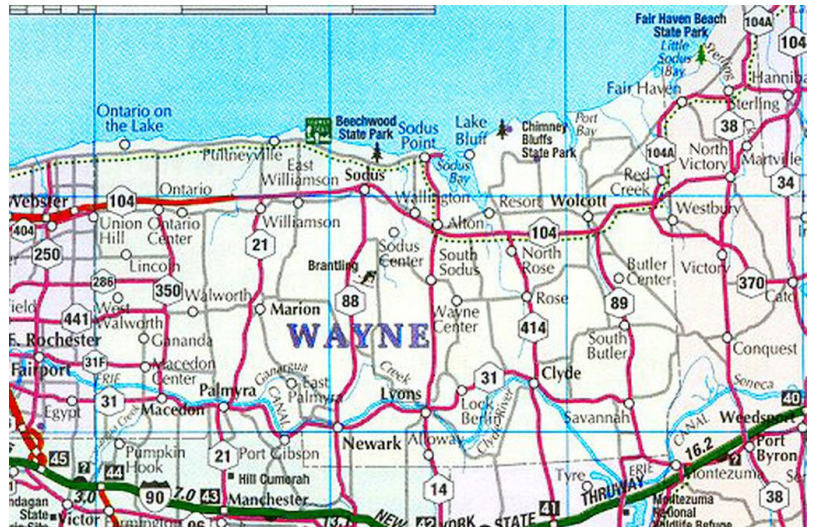
On April 16 the Wayne County Board of Supervisors appointed Larry Ann Evans (Executive Director of the Museum of Wayne County History) and me as co-chairs of the upcoming Wayne County Bicentennial Committee. On April 11, 1823, Wayne County was established by the New York State Legislature when it created a new county from land that was formerly part of Seneca and Ontario Counties. One interesting point is that this is my second appointment to serve on a county-wide planning committee. I served as co-chair of the Wayne County Sesquicentennial back in 1972-73.

While we are in the very early planning stages, our hope is that EVERY community and organization in Wayne County will take part in some way. This is our opportunity to PROMOTE local history. It is local history that got me interested in becoming a social studies teacher long ago. While things like ancient Greek or Roman history is somewhat interesting, there is nothing like being able to see first hand where something happened or learn how things you can see first hand developed. Bicentennial reports will be made regularly, so please keep your eye open for them both here and via local media and on websites.

As Walworth Town Historian and as a trustee of the Walworth Historical Society, I am an active member of WHO which stands for Wayne Historians Organization. It is a loosely organized group of municipal historians and representatives of local historical societies that meets 6 times a year to discuss what's going on and to help each other.

About 6 years ago, I proposed a historic sites database using an Excel spreadsheet and Word documents. I worked on it with the help of a few others, but it was really slow going until last October when Jim Paprocki from Sodus told me at a WHO meeting that he thought he could create an on-line database that many contributors could work on AND which could be easily available to the public to see. By November, he had a prototype available to show State Historian Devin Lander when he visited our County. Mr. Lander was very impressed. Over the winter, several of us worked out some kinks and about a month ago, we went "public." While the database still needs work and will always be a work in progress, it contains nearly 1000 sites of interest to historians and those who enjoy local history. To view the database, look up www.waynehistorians.org. You can search by town and by category. Take a look, please.

You may be wondering what the historic sites database has to do with the Bicentennial. While they are two different things, the database can be used to create custom tours and we believe that tours could be a great way to promote our local heritage.



Gene Bavis (left) and Larry Ann Evans (right)

Cleaning Crew at the Museum

On Wednesday, June 19 five WHS members met at the museum to give it a thorough going-over. They worked at cleaning, dusting, carpet vacuuming, window washing and the curtains were removed for washing. The photo at the right shows these volunteers. Thanks to them, the museum will stay in ship shape. Great work ladies! Front row from left to right are Linda Pembroke, Judy Markowski, and Jessie Keymel. The back row from left to right are Judy McMillan and Becky Appleman.





Visit Our Museum

Our museum will be open on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 – 4 PM June through September. Appointments for other days can be made by contacting Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Gene Bavis at 315-573-2768. The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street.

Visitors are invited to spend an hour or two browsing through scrapbooks donated by Dorothy Petty, Anna May, and the Walworth Chamber of Commerce, or checking out the various displays depicting life from not so long ago. We have several photo binders chocked full of scenes from around our area. For the genealogists, local cemetery records have been catalogued by Doug Churchill for easy access in addition to obituaries and wedding/engagement information.

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
Treasurer	Linda Pembroke	(585) 455 - 7595
WHS Trustee	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768
WHS Trustee	Mary Jane Devlin	(315) 986 - 1512
WHS Trustee	Dorothy French	(315) 986 - 1098
WHS Trustee	Judy Markowski	(315) 524 - 8649
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

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!*

The Walworth Historical Society wishes to thank the following Corporate Sponsors for supporting our programs and events held throughout the year.



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July 2019 WHS Email Newsletter Extra Photos

All photos on this page are of barns in the local area. The barn in the bottom photo was torn down.



100 year-old barn on Penfield Road



Walworth-Ontario Road barn



The former Porray barn on Walworth-Ontario Road



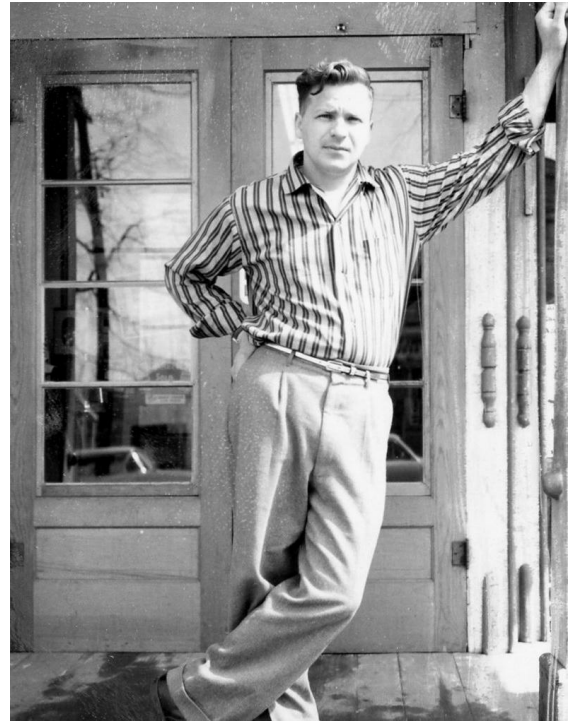
The Keymel barn on Walworth-Ontario Road



The former Hilton barn before it was torn down on Walworth-Palmyra Road



Gordon and Betty Youngman



Gordy at his Main Street store circa 1963



Gordy Youngman



Walworth Hardware decorated for Christmas



Walworth Hardware 1966
WHS website: walworthhistoricalsociety.org



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