



Walworth Historical Society



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Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568
WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

The Coronavirus (Covid-19)

These are trying and unprecedented times in our society. Who would have thought that that over 8,500 fragments of the virus would fit in a one mm gap and disrupt the entire world's operation and everyone's personal life styles?

The Walworth Historical Society, like all other organizations, has been drastically affected. We have had to cancel or postpone many of our regular yearly functions. As you can see from the calendar of events there are only a few items left on our schedule.

We hope that you and your families are well. Please stay safe!



From Your President By Jessie Keymel

This is a strange time in our history - a time when we have to rethink a lifetime of habits and decision making.

Decisions about WHS events for 2020 had to be discussed and revised so, after many phone calls and emails between board members, we all came together on our personal computers on April 20 at 7:00 P.M. Armed with the emailed agenda, reports and comments, we were all online to communicate and take votes on decisions to be made. It was not the best way to meet (there is nothing like coming face-to-face to share) but all board members were present and aware of all decisions.

We are on board with the rest of New York State and have a plan. The 2020 schedule has been changed to comply with social distancing. We have cancelled some scheduled events and will be meeting in June to evaluate the situation and decide what our plan will be for the fall of 2020. Unfortunately, at the time of this writing the museum cannot be open to the public due to state-wide restrictions.

<u>2020 Calendar of Events</u>		
Sept. 21	7:00 PM	Annual Meeting "Marion Vinegar Works"
Oct. 12	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees
Oct. 18	2:00 PM	"Tour of Lincoln" Ginegaw Park
Nov. 18	1:00 PM	General Meeting Soup & show Ginegaw Park
Dec. 5	6:00 PM	"Light the Night" Ginegaw Park
Dec. 14	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees

Page 2 of this newsletter contains the changes to our yearly schedule with a little more detail.

As you can see, our schedule until September is on hold, cancelled or postponed. We will notify everyone with changes and updates as they become available.



THANKS

The Walworth Historical Society officers and trustees would like to thank all of those true heroes who work in the medical facilities and ride the ambulances to put the health and well-being of others ahead of themselves in the fight against this terrible pandemic. These doctors, nurses, EMTs, and all other healthcare workers have shown us what true bravery and dedication to others really means. Please stay safe!

These are the changes to our schedule and events.

- By email vote on Monday, April 20, the officers and trustees decided to extend the terms for all current office holders until such time that we can safely hold our Annual Meeting, temporarily scheduled for September 21.
- The scheduled museum clean-up with the Boy Scouts on May 9 has been cancelled.
- The WHS Annual Meeting scheduled to be held on May 18 has been cancelled. This meeting has tentatively been rescheduled for September 21, 2020.
- This summer's museum's hours of operation (June - September) have been changed to appointments only. Please contact WHS President Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 for an appointment.
- The Letchworth Bus Trip organized by the Walworth Recreation Department originally scheduled for May 27 has been postponed until September 30. The schedule will be essentially the same. Please note that NO plans can be definite at this time, so it might be necessary to change plans again. The Walworth Recreation Department hopes to be in touch with each person who has registered sometime in the near future to verify your registration.
- The Festival in the Park for July 24 and 25 has been cancelled.
- The September 21 meeting featuring the "Marion Vinegar Works" show is still scheduled and will hopefully double as our Annual Meeting.
- Our October 4 WHS Open House has been cancelled.
- On Sunday, October 18 we will feature a "Tour of Lincoln" show. This will be held at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park. It will start at 2:00 PM.
- Our general meeting on November 18 at 1:00 PM will be held at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park. This will feature soup, bread, beverages, and dessert.
- For any further changes to the WHS schedule, we will send a notice to our members at least two weeks in advance.

WHS Membership Dues Are Due By Bob Mogray

This is just a reminder that the Walworth Historical Society **dues are due on May 1, 2020** if you are not a life member or have already paid for 5/1/20 to 4/30/21. June 1 will be the cut-off date.

Please make checks payable to: "Walworth Historical Society."

The address is P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568-0142.

Also, for those who get our newsletter by U.S. Mail, there will be a separate form for your dues and/or to make a donation. For those who get the newsletter by email, this form will be sent as a separate attachment. Some members have paid for more than one year's dues at a time. This is still an option. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our treasurer Linda Pembroke at 585-455-7595.

Things You Can Do While You Are Home By Gene Bavis, Town Historian

This is an unprecedented time in our history. The last major event even close to the severity of this pandemic occurred 102 years ago with the "Spanish Flu". In this time of uncertainty, and with so many of us spending most of our time at home, I hope we can maintain optimism and find productive things to do. I will suggest some things here that I believe are important for those of us involved in local history.

All of the major history organizations are suggesting that everyone should create a journal. Write down things that are going on, but more importantly how they are affecting YOU. As you know, historians are interested in primary source documents. Your journal will be a primary source document for future historians.

Many of you have heard me say before that the Walworth Historical Society is always looking for more about our local history. In particular we want photographs of anything related to Walworth. That includes homes, businesses, events, schools, AND people. I'd like to see us collect a photo of everyone who lives or has ever lived in Walworth. Yes, I know that we will never get everyone, but we can try to collect as many as possible. My thought is that it would be great to have wedding photos, formal portraits, school pictures (individual and class), good quality snapshots, etc. My ideal would be to have a picture of YOU as a child, as a young adult, as a middle-aged person and in your more "mature" years. A wedding or graduation photo would be great, too. If you served in the military, emergency services, scouting or other organization where you have a picture in uniform, those are wonderful.

We are looking for letters, diaries, journals, birth, death and marriage certificates, deeds, account records and other documents that help us understand life in Walworth. Some families have created extensive genealogies. We have some, but we want more.

The bottom line here is that while you are home, please consider digging those things out. There are a couple of ways you can share them with us. One is to set them aside in a box or envelop and when the dangers subside, we can make arrangements to get them from you. We will scan them and return them. Another method would be for you to scan or take digital photos of them and email the results to us. I've had good luck taking pictures of pictures and documents with my cell phone, and after doing some minor editing on the phone itself, saving them. I then upload them to my computer and file them by category.

Another thing you can do is visit Wayne County Historic Sites on a virtual tour. The Wayne Historians Organization has created a database of over 1000 sites that can be searched by town or topic. Each site has photographs and most have additional information about the site. It also has the address and GPS coordinates so you can even see a Google map or street view. To see this site, please visit www.waynehistorians.org

Last but not least, have you visited OUR website? The Walworth Historical Society has a lot of great things including past issues of the newsletters, articles on many topics, old and new photos, and general information about the WHS. Please visit it at www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

<u>WHS Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs</u>					
<u>Officers and Trustees</u>			<u>Committees and Chairpersons</u>		
President	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205	Bldg. Maint.	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768
Vice-President	Robert Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156	Collections	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205
Secretary	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219	Displays-Museum	Judy Markowski	(315) 524 - 8649
Treasurer	Linda Pembroke	(585) 455 - 7595	Displays-Town Hall	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219
WHS Trustee	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289	Genealogy	Ellen Dietterick	(585) 200 - 4685
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768	Grounds	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219
WHS Trustee	Mary Jane Devlin	(315) 986 - 1512	Grounds	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
WHS Trustee	Dorothy French	(315) 986 - 1098	Hospitality	Liz Bavis	(585) 802 - 0380
WHS Trustee	Judy Markowski	(315) 524 - 8649	Hospitality	Marlene Slocum	(585) 289 - 7080
WHS Trustee	Larry Ruth	(315) 524 - 7936	Membership	Linda Pembroke	(585) 455 - 7595
			Newsletter	Robert Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156
			Publicity	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
			Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768

Extra Photos for the May 2020 WHS Newsletter



Our museum soon after construction (1989)



A recent photo of the WHS museum by Gene Bavis



Evergreen Place before the 2016 fire



White's store before the 2009 demolition



Pacific Hotel in Walworth circa 1907



The Lincoln Cheese Factory on Lincoln Road



Stalker's store in West Walworth before the 2017 fire



Walworth's First Academy (1867)



The Linn plowing the streets of Walworth



The Stark family house on Atlantic Avenue



The Walworth World War II Honor Roll at its original Grange Hall location