



Walworth Historical Society



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



Reopening New York and Our Museum By Jessie Keymel, President

During the COVID-19 public health emergency our Walworth Historical Society and Museum is considered Low Risk Indoor Arts & Entertainment. Therefore, we must keep up to date with the recommended guidance and practices and incorporate them into our activities and operations. At this time we will only be open to the public by appointment. When we have board meetings or other activities that are necessary to keep our society and building in proper condition, we will be following the "Recommended Best Practices".

By now we are all familiar with the signs in public places: wear a mask, keep a social distance (6 ft.), wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer. All of the appropriate signs are posted in the museum. There is a sanitizing station set up with masks available if you need one and disposable gloves. Most important - do not come if you feel ill. We have added a column to our sign-in sheet that includes your contact number in case it is necessary to trace your activities.

To sum this up:

1. Please sign in on the sheet provided and include your contact information.
2. A hand sanitizing station is provided and masks are available if you need one.
3. Committee members will meet in the main meeting room, masked as they enter. Seating will be set up at appropriate distances and the business office occupancy will be limited to one person at a time.
4. Public visitations to the museum will be by appointment only, will include one WHS member, and limited to two members of the public.

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision has been made to cancel all WHS programs that were planned for the rest of the year. These include September 21 meeting and the "Marion Vinegar Works" program by Lucinda Collier, September 30 Letchworth Park tour, October 18 meeting and the "Tour of Lincoln" program, and November 16 meeting at Ginegaw Park.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

[Holland American Club](#) By Mary Jane Devlin

The Holland American Club was started as a social club by descendants of people of Dutch origin. When we started going in February 1972, Abe and Marie Jensen of Newark, New York were the organizers (presidents). Elwin and Marion Blik were presidents when the dinner/dances were held in Marion.

The dinner/dances were held at the Old World Inn on Route 88 south of Newark from September through May. When the Old World Inn closed, the meetings were held at the American Legion Post 1430 in Marion, New York. At the Old World Inn and at the Legion in Marion roast beef dinner was served every month.

Linda DeBrock and her orchestra, Almost Country, played for dancing. Linda played the electric organ. Other members of the orchestra included Duane Rykbost who sang and played guitar; Bob Mason who played steel guitar; and Bob's son, David, who played rhythm guitar. A man named Dewey played bass. Bev Owen played bass and sang. Larry Hill and Dick Roland sometimes filled in when other orchestra members were unable to participate. Most of the dances were waltzes, polkas, fox trot, a little rock and roll and an occasional square dance. Linda's orchestra was organized before 1970. The orchestra also played at the Moose Club in Palmyra and Freddie's in Newark.

People were encouraged to get acquainted with each other. One of the ways that happened was to have a "broom dance". One of the men started dancing with a broom and then passed it to another man. As the broom was passed, everyone changed partners. There was a picnic in the summer time where hot dogs, hamburgers, and lots of salads and desserts were served.

Some attendees were Abe and Marie Jensen, Elwin and Marion Blik, Wally and Irma Wyse, Cecil and Ann Wyse, Arnold and Mary Jane Devlin, Peter and Esther Cauwels, and Bill and Arlene Suwijn. There was usually an attendance of over 100 people. We started attending February 2, 1972 and continued until December 1986.

From 1981 through 1996, there was also a Holland American Festival held at Forman's Park in Pultneyville every summer. It was sponsored by the Grange (Patrons of Husbandry).

If anyone can add to this story please let us know.

[Ethel's Memories – Merchandizing in the Early 20th Century: Part 3](#) By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: *In our last issue we printed a story by Walworth resident Ethel Henning who reminisced about several peddlers who frequented our community. We continue Ethel's report with stories about other travelling merchants. Ethel was born August 1902 and passed away in 1997.*

Everyone had a rag bag into which were put discarded clothes and other such items. Regularly an aging man came through the area riding in a small wagon pulled by an old horse. He called "Rag Man, Rag Man" and the residents exchanged the rag bag for money paid according to the weight of the bag.

A man canvassed the area collecting old iron to be recycled. No piece was too small for him to be willing to buy.

People were glad to have the scissors grinder come through the area, for he was very capable of sharpening shears, scissors or knives.

To be continued



Left: In the early 1900's it was common to have a gentleman stop at a house to sharpen knives or take them to his shop to do the work, as shown on the left.

Charles A. Stalker – Before and After the Fire: Part 2 **By Dorothy French**

In our last issue we featured Stalker's store in West Walworth and the disastrous 2007 fire. For 24 years the store at 4002 West Walworth Road was owned and operated by Charles Stalker; he also served as postmaster. However, that is not Charles' only claim to fame.

Charles was born in Rochester on March 11, 1870, the son of Robert and Henrietta (Daisy Deane) Stalker. In 1888 he passed his Regents exam at Walworth Academy and then attended Macedon Academy. Charles taught at District School #3 at West Walworth for six years before he purchased the store.

In 1909 Charles had a leg amputated after he fell down a flight of stairs and the leg became infected. He was married twice. Charles married Hattie Brower and they had two children: Earl and Maude. Hattie passed away in 1906 in Walworth. His second wife was Frances Welker. They had four children – Claire, C. Everett, Jay and Lillian. As a small child Frances joined the Evangelical Church of West Walworth; she was organist for several years and teacher in the primary department. Frances died in 1931.

In 1922 he and his family moved to Center Street, Macedon, where he served as postmaster for four years. He then entered the real estate and fire insurance business. Charles was a registered Republican and served as Wayne County Superintendent of the Poor for six years. In 1927 the Clerk of the New York State Assembly appointed him as Assistant Postmaster in the Senate where he served for five years. He was a member of the Macedon Board of Education and also served as president of the Wayne County Health Committee. Charles died October 5, 1942; he and his two wives are buried in West Walworth Cemetery.

Story sources: Donna Stalker and museum files



Undated file photo: Charles Stalker in his store



Undated file photo: Charles Stalker and wife with deer

In Memoriam – Cathy Ebert Roland **By Jessie Keymel**

Cathy Roland passed away on August 11, 2020. Cathy and her husband Dick have been a vital part of the Walworth Historical Society since its conception in 1975. Cathy and her family moved to Walworth-Penfield Road in 1947 when she started third grade at Walworth High School. She graduated from Wayne Central High School in 1957 and later worked in the business office for the Marion School District. Cathy and Dick were married for 63 years; the majority of those years were spent at the family homestead on Hall Center Road.

In 2019 Cathy wrote a detailed history about the Ebert family, beginning with John, her great-grandfather who came to Walworth in the mid 1800's from Germany to begin a family dynasty. She detailed her remembrances of growing up in the hamlet and shared memories of people and businesses that were located here. Cathy promised she would add family photos after she and Dick moved to their new home in Ontario. Unfortunately, death came before she could complete this project.

Cathy is survived by her loving husband and their children Daniel (Susan) Roland, Tamara (Charlie) Scott, Sandra (Rick) Hansen, and Jeffrey (Julie) Roland; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren and her brother Robert (Martha) Ebert.

Walworth's Country Doctors: Dr. Newman **By Dorothy French**

Editor's Note: Our series about this area's country doctors continues with Dr. Newman.



Dr. and Mrs. W. H. F. Newman: pre 1962

Realizing the need for a doctor to serve the local area, in 1953 the Walworth Chamber of Commerce placed a notice in the Medical Journal. The physician who answered this ad was well qualified and quickly became an active member of this community.

Born in Canada June 22, 1906, Dr. William Horace Foster Newman graduated from Queens College, Kingston, Ontario, and interned at Albany Memorial Hospital. He served three years in the United States Medical Corps as disembarkation officer. He usually was referred to as Dr. W.H.F. Newman.

Dr. Newman was the first resident doctor here in seven years. The Newman family was warmly welcomed at a November 1953 town-wide reception held in their honor. It was organized by Mrs. Clifford Huntley of the Wayne Central School Board and Mrs. Joseph Finley of the Walworth Chamber of Commerce; Robert Wignall was the master of ceremonies.

Dr. Newman and his wife, Gladys, moved from Stanford, NY, where they had resided for 22 years. They purchased the former Charles Tuttle house at 3647 Main Street which also served as his office. They were parents of four children: Dr. William N., Muriel (Kenneth) Mithalske, Mary Newman and Jean (Grover) Riddle, Jr.

His community involvement was extensive:

- President of Walworth Chamber of Commerce which raised money to renovate the Jay Seely building into a library
- Member of the Walworth United Methodist Church. He organized and taught the Samaritan Class, a group of young adults, in Sunday School
- Member of Walworth Masonic Lodge
- Instrumental in starting the street dances and organizing community variety shows

Sadly, at age 58 Dr. Newman died August 12, 1962, while vacationing at the family's summer home on the St. Lawrence River near Gananoque, Ontario, Canada. He had planned to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Walworth-Seely Public Library on August 19; the library was dedicated without him. Dr. Newman and Gladys are buried in Gananoque.

To be continued: Dr. Lamphere

In Memoriam: Joyce Thedens Scott Finney **By Jessie Keymel**

WHS lost a valued member when Joyce Finney passed away July 7, 2020. Joyce was born on the Valentine farm, her maternal grandparents' home, on Penfield-Walworth Road. She grew up on the main street of West Walworth, attended school there, and later rode the school bus to Walworth High School. She graduated in 1957 from Wayne Central. Joyce served as town clerk for 13 years while raising the Scott family at their Canandaigua Road home. She joined the Walworth Historical Society In 2004 and later became a member of the board. Her knowledge of the history and events of West Walworth was a great asset to our organization as we covered the history of all the hamlets in the Township of Walworth.

She is survived by her daughters Teresa (Mark) Scheemaker, Sue (Bobby) Burgess, Mary Piper and her son Stephen (Barb) Scott; grandchildren Matthew Scheemaker, Michael Scheemaker, Myra Scott and Taryn Scott; great-grandson Bryson Scheemaker; stepchildren Donna Gange, Rick Finney, Mark Finney and their families. She will be missed by all.



The Walworth Historical Society wishes to thank the Reliant Community Credit Union for the excellent job in not only color printing the cover of this newsletter as they have since 2014, but for color printing this entire newsletter to be sent to those who do not have access to a computer and receive this publication by the U.S. Mail.

A Tour of Main Street: #3720 Southeast Corner– Part 1 By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: The southeast corner of Main Street and Walworth-Marion Road is the last site in our "Tour of Main Street" feature. It has been the location of many businesses, some as early as 1875. Did you know that originally there were two stores located there?

1875-1900: Two stores were located here and owned by Luther Shultz and F. C. Robie.

April 19, 1910: According to a newspaper story in our museum files, "Our citizens were awakened early on a Sunday morning by the cry of fire and the ringing of the church bell." The first floor of the corner grocery store, operated by Ray Clark, was engulfed in flames. The Clarks lived in a second floor apartment; dense smoke prevented them from using the stairs. Ray went to the front balcony and made a rope of a bedspread to lower himself to the ground, where he secured a ladder and helped his wife and son escape.

The fire spread rapidly next door to the F. C. Robie (Fred Robbins) boot and shoe store on the lower level and H. C. Bean's harness shop on the second floor. Both buildings were a total loss and the Pacific Hotel and neighboring homes sustained minor damage. The cellars of the two stores were filled in and remained that way until 1936.

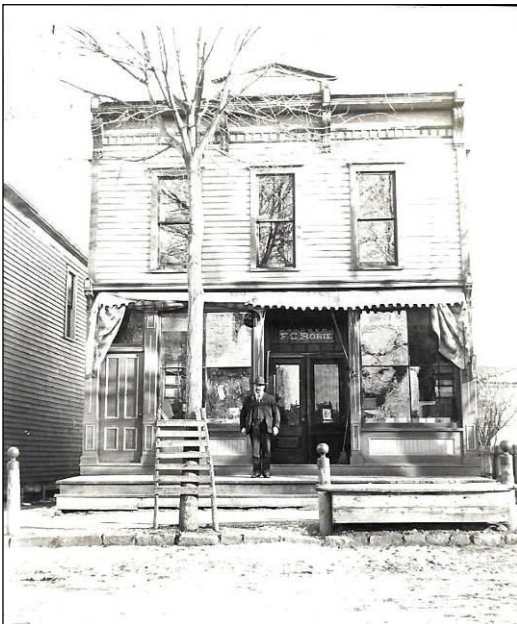
Quote from newspaper: "This fire again proves how badly we are in need of some fire apparatus." *Editor's Note: It would be 19 years before the Walworth Fire Department was organized.*



1907: The two stores prior to 1910 fire



Prior to 1910: Corner store



Prior to 1910: Fred Robie's store



April 1910: Looking north: remains of fire

To be continued

Leon Seen Interview By Dorothy French

Leon Walter Seen was born November 11, 1939 in Macedon and now lives in Palmyra. During the 81 years between those two periods of time he has retired twice and became a world traveler. Yet he continues to keep in close contact with his Wayne Central School's Class of 1957 and his Walworth classmates during their monthly luncheons.

Leon was born at the house built in the 1800's by his great-grandfather, Walter Slade. His parents were William and Norma Slade Seen; Florence Allen, a neighbor, was the midwife. The house was located at 3241 Walworth-Palmyra Road in an area called the Huddle just south of the Walworth town line.

His paternal grandparents were Abraham and Dina Seen, both natives of Holland. Their farm was located on Walworth-Ontario Road across from Smith Hill Road. His maternal grandparents were Leon and Norma Slade who lived in the Huddle.



Abraham and Dina Seen: 1952



William and Norma Seen: 1932



Leon: 1944

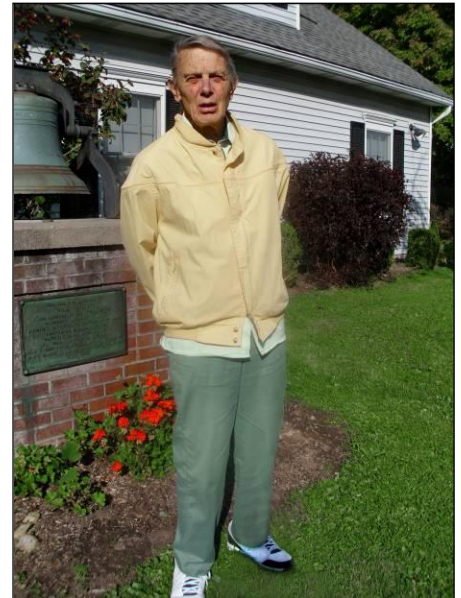
His father raised more than 200 chickens and sold their eggs. Norma was a pianist at Walworth Baptist Church where she and William were married October 26, 1933. One of Leon's earliest childhood memories involved the mill which was located adjacent to a nearby pond. Before the dam broke, his father would take him fishing. Norma was an ice skater and pulled Leon in his sled as she skated around the pond. A church group came there on Sundays to skate. There was a building where they could change into their skates.



William and Dorothy Seen: 1948



Leon: late 1970's



Leon: Current photo

Continued on the next page

Leon's mother died on March 3, 1947 when he was seven years old. One year later his father married Dorothy (Peck) Hicks on November 27, 1948. A half sister, Anita (Seen) Neal and a half brother William Seen joined the family. Leon lived with them until he was 20 years old.

Grades 1 – 6 were spent at Walworth High School. Included in Leon's numerous scrapbooks are report cards from those early grades. He attended 7th and 8th grades at Ontario Primary School on Ridge Road and grades 9 through 12 at Wayne Central High School on Route 350, graduating in 1957. Alumni from the Class of 1957 meet monthly for lunch, usually at Bill Gray's on Route 104 in Ontario because that was where the students from the Town of Ontario went after football games. Luncheon folks include Jessie Keymel, Cathy Roland, Nancy Bel, Mary Ragland, Julie Kuilberg, Barb Maimone, Joyce Finney, Duke Risley, Jean Cass, and Todd Luke.

His post-graduation job (1958 – 1960) was working for a canning factory in Palmyra which processed pickles, cabbage and sauerkraut. He also worked for Schlegel Manufacturing Company in Henrietta.

His career with the United States Postal Service spanned 34½ years, beginning as a part-time employee in December 1965 as a Christmas helper. At that time the Post Office was located on Cuyler Street, Palmyra. From 1961 – 1966 he worked full time at Schlegel Manufacturing Company in Henrietta. In October 2000 he retired from the postal service as a walking mail carrier in the east end of Palmyra. To keep busy he worked paper routes for the Canandaigua Messenger and the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle for 10 years; then he re-retired.

His hobbies through the years have been hiking in county and state parks, kayaking and traveling. Leon has visited several western states 16 times. He participated in 10 horseback trips in the wilderness, the first one in 1978 to Wyoming; other areas included Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, and Alberta, Canada. In 1982 and 1984 he flew across the ocean where he viewed wildlife during an African safari. In 1982 he traveled to Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana. Kenya and Tanzania were his destinations in 1984. He has visited Florida multiple times and also Canada. Now outdoor gardening at his Main Street, Palmyra home keeps him busy. He shares his home with John and two cats.

[Our Collections Continue to Grow](#) [By Jessie Keymel](#)

While the museum has been closed, the mail has not stopped and the filing committee has been receiving items for our collections. Mrs. Robert L. (Virginia) Wignall sent six books written by Arch Merrill, a Times-Union newspaper columnist who wrote fantastic stories about the Finger Lakes region. Also included in the package were some Wignall family histories and memorabilia and a 1907 letter Robert W. wrote to his mother when he was living with George and Carrie. Of special interest is a photograph of the Wignall brothers and nephew Robert W. with their band instruments. Thank you, Virginia, for sharing these local items with us.

Gene Bavis has donated a period dress that his wife Pam wore to the Walworth Sesquicentennial Ball. That was a busy time preparing for the parade and the ball. We also received in the mail from Florida a complete collection of photos of the parade. Each photo was numbered so that you could order the photo you wanted. This album came from Lisa Walczyk Bass, the daughter of Ann Walczyk, a WHS board and committee member at that time. Thank you for taking the time to pack and send this album to us. What great memories it brings to mind of a busy fun time. Does anyone have any photos of the ball or parade you would like to share with us?

Mike and Nancy Cook have donated a collection of baby clothes from 1914 – 1917 and a beautiful wedding dress and veil from 1913. The gown was made by Mike's grandmother; the stitching and attention to every little detail is certainly not seen anywhere these days.

[In Memoriam – Pat Stark](#) [By Jessie Keymel](#)

Pat Stark, a member of our historical society, passed away June 19, 2020. Pat and his wife Cathy joined our historical society in 1986, shortly after they moved to Walworth. Pat served as a board member and shared information about his travels to World War II sites in Normandy, France at one of our programs. He and Cathy lived in the Gould House on Atlantic Avenue; the home is constructed of cut stone and is the oldest on-going residence in town. Besides his wife Cathy he is survived by his children Peter, Rick (Kathy) and Kathleen (Peter) Landers, 4 grandchildren, one great-grandson Jameson and sister-in-law Ann Stark.

Pat was a quarterback while in high school and college. He began his football coaching career at Syracuse University, his alma mater. He later coached at the University of Rhode Island and Harvard University before he accepted the head coaching position at the University of Rochester in 1969 which he held until 1982. Pat was an inspiration, mentor, and life coach for his players and the coaches that followed him.

We will miss Peter's quiet presence at our meetings.

Editor's Note: Gene began a series of reports on the Wayne County Bicentennial in the July 2020 issue of the WHS newsletter. Amber Linson is chairing the Walworth Committee for the Bicentennial.

Amber's Report on the Walworth Committee

With two meetings behind us, the Walworth Committee for the Wayne County Bicentennial is in the beginning stages of helping the county spread the word and celebrate Wayne County's 200th year. Our first meeting was used to establish guidelines and appoint committee positions. Town Historian Gene Bavis will act as the liaison between the county and town committee, Town Councilwoman Amber Linson will act as the committee chair, and Lions Club Secretary Bill Boyd will act as the committee's secretary.

During the second meeting the committee reviewed the different items suggested by the county and established time frames to get those projects started. While many ideas are in the beginning stages, one thing we realized we could do fairly quickly is to begin getting the word out. Several committee members offered to volunteer their time working a table at the Walworth Farmers Market. As soon as material can be provided to these volunteers, they will be at the Farmers Market handing out information to the community. We hope to expand the items available to include tee-shirts, window clings, and any other celebratory material the county comes up with.

We are also interested in hearing from anyone who lives or has lived in Wayne County. Postcards will be available at the Farmers Market for individuals to record a Wayne County or Walworth Memory; deposit locations will be available for the community's convenience.

As we search for ways to get the word out and involve the community in this historic event, please watch for all of our activities. And always know that we welcome your stories and involvement in any aspect of this celebration.

Gene's Report on the Wayne County Committee

Despite the pandemic, a lot has been happening since my last report. Many of our meetings have been held by Zoom conferencing, but in some cases "in person" meetings have been held with social distancing and masks. A quick summary follows:

- Static cling window stickers of the Wayne County Bicentennial logo have been received. These will be displayed in stores, offices, libraries, museums, and other places around the county.
- We learned that the Pomeroy Foundation is willing to consider funding our plan to create historic markers related to the founding of each of the towns in Wayne County.
- We are planning to produce a photo quilt similar to our Walworth Photo Quilt (to be raffled) and a poster of the quilt (to be sold) both as fundraisers for the Bicentennial. Bob Mogray is doing the photos for us.
- The Towpath Volunteers will be hosting an international gathering of Fife and Drum Corps in 2023 and want to become part of the Wayne County Bicentennial celebration.
- Rose Town Supervisor Dick Lasher (Chairman of our Float project) called to say that he's secured a trailer for us to build a Bicentennial Float on and a place to store/work on it.
- I received a call from Amber Linson that the Wayne County Writers' Guild is excited about participating in writing some books and articles for the Bicentennial.
- Please visit the Wayne County Website where you will find a page called "Wayne County Bicentennial" under the Department listings. There's not much there YET, but we will be adding much more soon.
- Our GOAL: Get as many people as possible involved and create a sense of PRIDE in our heritage and this place we call "home."

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
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

Both of the next two pages are photos taken this spring in the Walworth area.

