



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

WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org



Walworth Lions Club Memory Garden (Part 2) By Bill Boyd

Adding to the beauty of the Memory Garden are landscaping and memorial items. North of the gazebo a tree was donated and planted by Lion Bob Manning in memory of his father, Dr. Robert V. Manning (1958 – 2006). Dr. Manning had been a Lion in Palmyra and Webster. The tree is a Paperback Maple.

In the northwest corner of the garden is a clump Amelanchier or Serviceberry Bush in memory of Lion Aida Leon (1964 – 2016), a Lions member from 2013 to 2016. Aida and Town Supervisor Susie Jacobs were sisters. Also north of the gazebo is a bench dedicated to the memory of Yadira and Urbano Vanegas, parents of Town Supervisor Susie Jacobs. This was placed in August of 2013.

In June of 2015 we added plants and bushes to fill in the open areas of the garden. This effort was led by Lion Bob Manning and includes an Adirondack Crab near the road and a Japanese Maple near the pergola. In September of 2016 the Town Board abolished the practice of planting memorial trees in the park and ordered bricks for each of the tree donations to be placed in the Memory Garden.

In 2017 we lost Lion John Baxter, a member of the Walworth Lions Club from 1972 to 2017 and Lion Stella D'Angelo, a member from 2014 to 2017. John Baxter had been a Lion in Henrietta prior to 1972. Stella had been a Lion in a club in Florida prior to 2014.

In March of 2018 we lost Lion Bob Lemmey, member from 1974 to 2018, and in May of 2018 we lost Lion Gary Cain, a member from 1985 to 2018. In July of 2019 a granite bench was placed in the Memory Garden in memory of Bob Lemmey and Gary Cain.

In August the vandalized sundial was reinstalled on a new stand courtesy of Town Board member Karel Ambroz.

Other Lions Club Projects

The Lions Club has been involved in community events for many years. It began when the town government requested that the Walworth Lions Club oversee the running of the Festival in the Park for the town. Unfortunately, the 31st year (2020) was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Lions were instrumental in proposing the building with flush toilets in the front section of the park. Lions members also provided labor to help in building the playground (also near the open air pavilion).

In 2006 the Walworth Lions Club, with approval of the Town Board, constructed a storage barn along Lorraine Drive in the park. It was later dedicated to Lion Tony Tarana (1938 – 2012) who was a Lions member from 1976 to 2012.

In March of 2014 the Lions purchased sheets of special plywood for the first mural in the park. This was in cooperation with the Walworth Historical Society and led by Gene Bavis, Town Historian. The names of the artists are incorporated in the mural. The mural depicts the Festival In the Park and includes the parade and the carnival rides. In July of 2014 the mural was installed on the south side of the Lions storage facility and was dedicated on July 25 in a ceremony which included many members of the Towpath Volunteers.

(To be continued: Part 3)

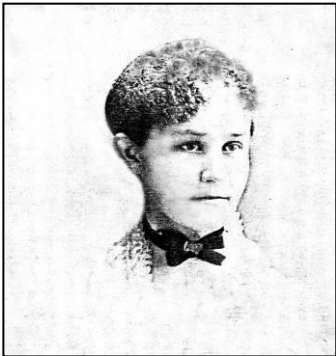
Nellie Yeomans' Letter to President Cleveland

By Dorothy French

Dear Uncle:

I think it is now safe to write and tell you how glad I am that after all the trials of the summer, you are elected. You must expect a large crowd of relatives at your inauguration for we shall all, I assure you, be very proud to see that ceremony performed but we shall not love you any better as President than Uncle.

Your own little niece, Nellie



Editor's Note: On November 8, 1884, Nellie Yeomans wrote this letter to her uncle, President Grover Cleveland. Nellie's parents were Lucien and Susan (Cleveland) Yeomans. Her given name at her 12/25/1869 birth in Walworth was Ellen Louise but she preferred Nellie. She married Charles Hamilton June 10, 1891 and she passed away 10/28/1961. President Cleveland served two non-consecutive terms of office: 1884-1888 and 1892-1896.

(left) Nellie: age 15

(right) Nellie: undated photo



Landscaping the Town of Walworth

By Bob Mogray

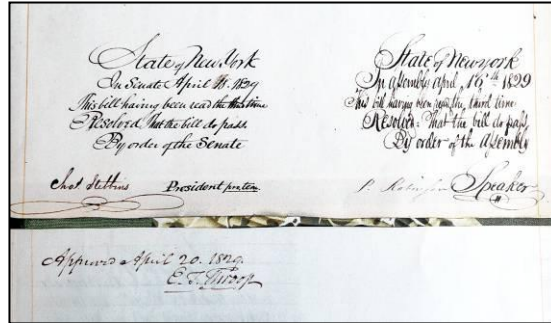
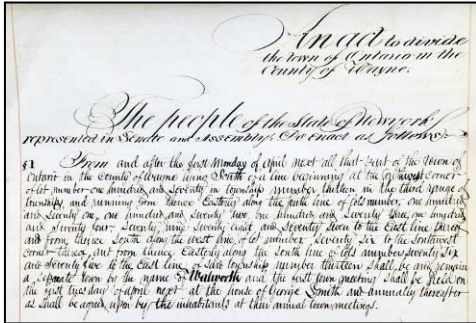
For many years Becky Appleman (left) and Judy McMillan (right), members of this Walworth Historical Society, have donated their time and efforts to making many of the local public buildings and areas look their best. They have done this by planting flowers, hostas, and shrubbery in public areas such as the Town Hall, the Walworth Fire Hall, Post Office, churches, cemeteries, and the WHS museum to name a few. Not only have they created these aesthetically pleasing areas but they have also spent much time maintaining them.

Recently they have announced that they will be retiring from doing these activities and we want to thank them for all of their efforts, making the Walworth town area grounds look so colorful and well-groomed. They have donated hundreds of hours of hard work so the town can look great! To be sure, others have helped them in these efforts, but Becky and Judy have spearheaded these landscaping projects for our town. Thank you, Becky and Judy!

Our Founding Date Is Wrong? By Gene Bavis, Walworth Town Historian

Most of us haven't given much thought to how our towns came to be. Settlements came several years before there was a need to divide up the area into towns. Our Town of Walworth was created by an act of the New York State Legislature that divided Ontario into two parts. We had thought our founding date was April 20, 1829. It was written in various books, and we just accepted it as fact. There was no particular reason to question it. The document that created the division of Ontario is located at the State Capital filed away with the rest of our state records, so after it was created few people ever saw it again. In recent years many of these early records have been digitized and have become more available for the public to read.

Here is part of the law that created the Town of Walworth from a portion of the Town of Ontario. Note that it was passed and signed in the Assembly on April 16, 1829 and in the Senate on April 18, 1829. Governor Enos T. Throop signed it on April 20, 1829. Reading the first sentence, "From and after the first Monday of April next, all that tract (legal description of the area)..." it goes on to say, "shall be and remain a separate town by the name of Walworth...". The "first Monday of April next" was April 5, 1830.



In addition to the Town of Walworth's founding date being listed incorrectly, we have discovered that twelve other Wayne County towns have been incorrectly reported. Historians have always told us to use primary source documents. Sometimes we have not done that, and this discovery shows us the importance of original documents. A more comprehensive version of this report can be found on-line at <https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Our-Dates-Are-Wrong.-FINAL.pdf>



The Gould House Painting By Bob Mogray

For those unfamiliar with the Gould house, it is a home at 1019 Atlantic Avenue. It was constructed from stone blocks cut from the farm located on the northeast corner of Lincoln Road and Atlantic Avenue. It is the oldest cut stone home in Walworth still standing and an active residence.

In 2011 artist Achilles "Bill" Mafilios painted a picture of this house and gave it to his friends, Pat and Kathy Stark, owners of this house at that time. The painting is 14" x 18" on canvas. Recently this painting was given to WHS member Becky Appleman who in turn donated it to our museum for safe keeping and display. The Walworth Historical Society wishes to thank the Starks and Becky Appleman for this welcome addition to our inventory! This painting is now on display at the museum.

Suggestions 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 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 submit their names and qualifications to Walworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568 by March 31. If you need more information, contact WHS President Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205. We welcome your help and suggestions.

The Valentine Family and Farm: Part 2 (continued from the Nov. 2020 newsletter) By Larry Thedens

The farm also had about 7-10 acres of fine hardwood. I can remember cutting, stacking, and carrying in wood for my grandmother's Franklin wood stove. From 1950-59 all I can remember for heat in that large home was the wood cook stove in the kitchen and an oil stove in the parlor. The Valentines were also known for their Saturday night square dances. I was told how it used to get so hot on the dance floor they would remove the hood from the parlor's wood stove and carry it outside using two 2x4's.

Grandma (Gertrude Valentine) had about 500 chickens, ducks, pigs, and geese. She was also known as the "Pickle King" at the Rochester farmers market where they sold apples, cider, eggs, and pickles. Grandma and Grandpa (Walter Valentine) grew about 5 acres of cucumbers every year. They used to pick, cut, and dry apples for sale. The kitchen table was large enough for butchering a cow. Can you imagine cooking and feeding 11 kids, Grandma, Grandpa, and at least one hired man? That's 14 people three times a day.

My dad, Walter Thedens, came from Chicago by way of Texas with a load of horses for the Johncox Auction House in Palmyra. He then boarded and worked for a farmer on Wayneport Road, southeast of Walter Roland's farm. He met my mother, Norma Valentine, at one of her family's square dances. We lived in Wayneport in 1942 and then moved to the Valentine farm in the west side of the home. In 1946-47 we moved "uptown" to West Walworth in the old Frey home which has since burned.

2020 Editor's Note: Walter and Norma had two children: Joyce Scott Finney and Larry; both are recently deceased.



Uncle Earl moved to Las Vegas as a union carpenter around 1945-47 and Grandma employed a live-in hired man to help around the farm. When I was about 14 I helped out on the farm and we milked about 16-20 cows. I can remember bringing the cans down to the milk house. After Grandma died on March 22, 1959, I was the last one to have been running the farm, milking, etc. at age 16. I went to the two-room school in West Walworth, then to the Walworth High School and Wayne Central School. I joined the Marines in 1961.

I can't say enough good things about Bruce Carey as he and I go way back. His dad, George, and my dad helped to start the West Walworth Fire Department. I helped Phil Dirue of Fairport dig Bruce's "great lake." I can't tell you enough how nice it is to see that Bruce has changed the old Valentine Farm into Carey Lake.

Left: My parents' wedding photo March 27, 1935. Seated: Norma (Valentine) and Walter Thedens. Standing: Edith Valentine and Lewis Frey.

The Year That Wasn't By Jessie Keymel

Our schedule of meetings for 2020 was quite impressive. We had some local history (The Hamlet of Lincoln), World War II history (effects on Kodak families here and in Great Britain), community activities (Festival in the Park), and a look at Wayne County industries (Marion's vinegar works). Seems to me that we had a well-rounded selection of history to learn about and enjoy while sharing the messages of our guest speakers.

THEN COVID-19 entered early in March 2020 and with it a new normal came into our daily lives. No gatherings of more than ten people and a mandatory of six feet of social distancing when we did meet. The new rules made our planned meetings impossible, so we delayed everything again and again, until we just cancelled everything for the rest of 2020. Our programs were all cancelled but the work and business of Walworth Historical Society continued with masks, sanitizers, posted instructions, a contact register kept for tracing if necessary and board meetings on the internet. The newsletter committee continued to publish the newsletter, the grounds were mowed, summer planters were placed, and a tree was removed. Maintenance of the building required the replacing of the exit door on the north side of the museum and a gutter was replaced on the same side. The filers and gatherers met as usual and catalogued items. The treasurer has filed the necessary annual reports with the State and continued to pay our bills. Many of the Lincoln items are still displayed in our revolving show case. And we continue to fill the town hall display case with Walworth history.

So while we are all in shutdown mode, the committee members have been active. We look forward to continuing with new revised programs and another year of keeping history available to everyone.

The Wayne County Bicentennial Committee and subcommittees continue to move forward with our plans for the 2023 celebration of Wayne County's History and Heritage. I have made reports in previous WHS newsletters that can be found on the Walworth Historical Society's website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

Some of the more recent happenings are:

- My Co-Chair, Larry Ann Evans, passed away on December 18 after losing her battle with cancer. Huron Town Historian, Rosa Fox, has agreed to serve as Co-Chair, and the Wayne County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved her on February 16.
- In mid-November, we launched a "Wayne County NY Bicentennial 2023" Facebook page. A new posting related to Wayne County history is added each day. We have more than 1500 followers so far. Find it at <https://www.facebook.com/waynecounty200>
- Our Bicentennial PowerPoint program was presented via Zoom on January 27 and February 23 to several dozen people each time. A schedule of upcoming presentations can be found on the Wayne County Bicentennial website under "Bicentennial Events."
- We have developed and printed a brochure and rack card. The Walworth Historical Society and town hall will have them available soon, but in the meantime you can see them on the Wayne County Bicentennial website.
- A 5-minute video narrated by Amber Linson has been posted on Facebook, but a link can also be found on the bicentennial website.
- Patti Holdraker has produced 4 Bicentennial Newsletters to date. They are posted on the Bicentennial website.
- The 2022-2023 Commemorative Calendar will go to press soon. It and souvenir t-shirts will be offered for sale by this summer.
- A fundraising campaign will soon be launched to provide funding for some of our Bicentennial projects.

By now, you surely noticed that we are relying heavily on websites and social media. We know that not everyone uses these tools, so if you don't please contact me another way. My phone number is 315-573-2768, my email is genebavis71@gmail.com, and my mailing address is PO Box 71, Walworth, NY 14568. If you DO use the internet, please visit our website at www.waynecounty200.com

President's Message By Jessie Keymel

In each newsletter we tell you about the items the filing and gathering committee has received. These items are displayed for a time in the small glass case against the museum's east wall and later they are filed or taken upstairs for storage.

Have you ever been upstairs in the museum? The furnace occupies a section north of the stairs toward the outside wall. Going east along the north wall, all the way to the east wall, is a counter with shelves underneath; many items are stored on the counter and in a variety of boxes under the counter. There are shelves on the west wall that contain photos and records from Freewill Elementary School among other historical items.

Built into the southeast corner we have a cedar closet. This little room is where we keep all our period clothing and accessories - along with tubs of infant and children's clothing, uniforms, hats, tuxedos, flags, quilts and many other items. Each of the flags and quilts are individually stored in cloth pillowcases, as are other items that can be protected that way. Our uniforms, wedding dresses, and other clothing items are on coat hangers on a crowded rod. We need a wardrobe manager or someone who is interested in preserving these items. Some are in plastic dry cleaner bags. We need some sheets to use as dust covers; lower fitted sheets work great for long dresses. If you have some in the collection of materials from the closets you cleaned out during your confinement this past winter, we would be grateful for these most useful gifts. Every item in our collection has a number and is recorded in the office computer. There is also a paper copy kept off-site,

Much of our time lately has been spent looking at old newspaper clippings to find information about items in our collection that the donors felt were important to Walworth history. Then we place the information in the appropriate file. Thank you for your interest in the history of our growing community.

NOTE: ALL WHS PROGRAMS IN MARCH AND APRIL HAVE BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Remembering Joyce Munger By Sharon Boyd

Joyce was born in Rochester April 12, 1934 and was a graduate of Madison High School. In 1952 she and her husband, Boyd, moved to Walworth. In 1962 they moved to West Walworth where eventually they built a house “up on the hill” by the fire department. Joyce was the organist for the West Walworth Baptist Church for 50 years and in later years helped out at the Second Baptist Church so Wilbur Reybrouck could semi-retire. From 2014-18, she was one of the substitute organists for the West Walworth United Methodist Church. Joyce worked for many years at the Mary Cariola Children’s Center in Rochester and for the Canaltown Travel Agency in Palmyra. She planned many large bus trips as well as cruises, some of which she and Boyd were able to join.

In recent years Joyce took a great interest in the history of Walworth. She was always willing to volunteer on the days the Walworth Historical Society’s Museum was open, often bringing a friend with her while she did her museum-sitting. Joyce also helped at the Ontario Loan Closet. She volunteered at Sodus Rehabilitation, assisting with the programming and music. You can’t write about Joyce without mentioning her faith and the influence she had on everyone around her. Her son Glenn summed up his mother by saying “She was a good, solid, Christian mother.” Joyce passed away January 16, 2021. She was predeceased by her husband Boyd, son Kevin and brother Ronald Ellerstein. She is survived by sons Avery (Florry), Glenn, Brian (Beth) Munger; nine grandchildren; and ten great grandchildren.

Can You Help Us? By WHS Board of Trustees



Spring is approaching and with it comes new growth and opportunities. It’s also a time of regrouping and making plans for a new year that, hopefully, will be healthier than 2020. The Walworth Historical Society is facing several challenges this year and we need your help. The only requirements are time and an interest in our community. Here’s how you can help by volunteering for one of the following positions:

President: After 24 years as our president, Jessie Keymel has decided it is time to retire from that position. She will continue to share her wealth of knowledge while serving on several museum committees. This position is for a one-year term.

Trustee: Also retiring after serving many years as treasurer and currently as trustee is Mary Jane Devlin. She has promised to continue with her committee responsibilities. This position is for a three-year term.

NOTE: The two positions listed above require attendance at board meetings, which are held six times a year.

Grounds Committee: Becky Appleman and Judy McMillan have been in charge of maintaining the grounds at our museum for several years. Due to recent health issues, both have had to step down from this position. We are fortunate to have Gene Bavis mow the lawn and Walworth Boy Scout Troop 113 help us with our annual spring clean-up by maintaining the grounds and putting down mulch. We have several outside tasks to be completed including weeding, maintaining our hosta bed and surrounding areas, and trimming trees and bushes as needed. Volunteers are always appreciated but, due to our aging membership, we may have to resort to hiring students to maintain the grounds at our museum.

Wardrobe Manager: A cedar closet is located on the second floor of our museum. It contains historic clothing for all ages, uniforms, flags, quilts, and much more. We need someone who is interested in preserving these items, creating an inventory list of the closet’s contents, and keeping the items organized.

This is a great opportunity to be part of a community that supports our purpose to collect, preserve and display items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the Town of Walworth and its environs. Thank you to Jessie, Mary Jane, Becky and Judy for the many years of devoted volunteer service they have given (and continue to give) to our museum.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please contact a board member listed on page 8 of this newsletter.

Financial Support By Gene Bavis

This article contains my personal opinions and comments. I believe in the mission of the Walworth Historical Society AND I believe that I should donate money to support it, so I do.

I am a Charter Member of the Walworth Historical Society. Early on, I became a Life Member, but over the years I have made additional donations because I have served on the Board for most of those years and I know we need to bring in enough money to carry out our mission. Some years, we've spent about the same amount of money we took in, and we don't have huge reserves in case we have unexpected expenses.

I made a proposal to the Board of Trustees at the February 8 meeting to increase our dues effective May 1, 2021. As I was researching my proposal, I was surprised to find that we had not increased dues since 2007. Obviously, our expenses have increased over the past 14 years. Upon review of our Bylaws, we find that this proposal cannot be approved until the annual meeting in May. During our discussions, Board members did agree to the proposal. I believe that we will be proposing some amendments to our Bylaws at the Annual Meeting in May to streamline our operating procedures.

Membership Year Is May 1 to April 30

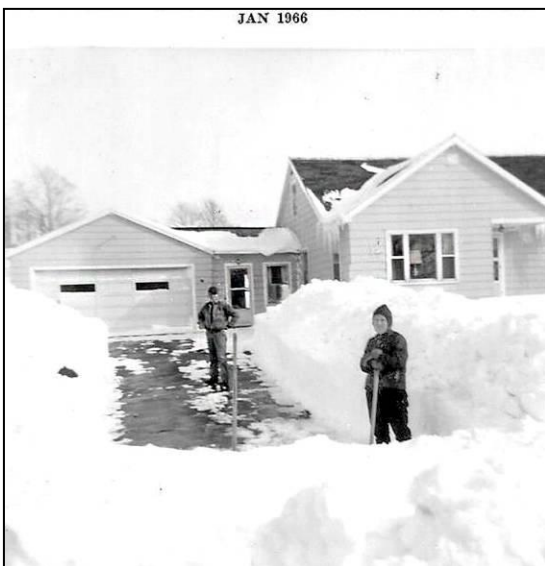
<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Individual	\$ 20	Annually
Family/Household	\$ 25	Annually
Student	\$ 5	Annually
Supporter/Sponsor	\$ 50	Annually
Patron	\$ 100	Annually
Life	\$ 250	One Time
Business	\$ 75	Annually

Donations in any amount are always appreciated. Please consider Memorial Donations and/or remembering us in your will.

You will note that we have some categories with higher dues amounts. In previous discussions among our Board and based on my experience in fundraising for non-profit organizations, I have promoted the following philosophy. I believe that many members can afford to give more and that they WANT to show STRONG support of our mission. We should officially offer them the opportunity to do so with these special categories/recognitions. If you can show your support with a higher-level membership gift OR an extra donation, I urge you to join me in the financial support of our great organization.

You can help us in other ways, too. Please help us recruit MORE members who can help not only with donations, but also volunteer for projects.

I began with a statement about believing in the mission. I hope you do too. In case you haven't seen it recently, it says our job is "to collect, preserve, and display items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the Town of Walworth and its environs." I believe we are doing a good job, but there is so much more to do. Thank you for YOUR SUPPORT.



January's 1966 Blizzard By Dorothy French

Wilbur (also known as Pete) and Barbara Schlesing are shown taking a well-earned break after shoveling their driveway at 3584 Main Street following the January blizzard of 1966.

- The blizzard of 1966 lasted for about 4 days and dropped 27 inches of snow in the local area.
- There were very high winds associated with this blizzard.
- The Rochester area was shut down for almost a week.
- A major part of the US and Canada were hit by this event.
- 201 people died due to: being frozen to death, house fires trying to stay warm, and heart attacks trying to shovel snow or push cars off the road.

Turning Back the Pages to 1961 (60 Years Ago)

By Dorothy French

The following news items appeared in the Wayne County Mail editions during 1961:

- Jan. 13:** Regular meetings of Walworth Town Board will be held on 3rd Thursday of each month at the town clerk's office, 222 Bills Road, West Walworth. Town Board members: Charles Hack, Supervisor; Herbert Smith and Harold Reynolds, Justices of the Peace; Glenn Bills and Marvin Ebert, Councilmen. Others holding office: Irma Wyse, Town Clerk; Lawrence Goebert, Superintendent of Highways; Fay Druschel, Tax Collector.
- Jan. 27:** Wayne County's new \$400,000 jail at Lyons, with a capacity for 47 males and 8 female prisoners, will be open for public inspection on Jan. 28 and 29, according to Sheriff Robert W. Burns.
- Feb. 10:** New 4-H Club, under leadership of M/M John Ryan, being formed in West Walworth.
- Feb. 17:** Geraldine Heyman of Lincoln chosen Queen of the Junior Prom at Wayne Central School.
- Feb. 24:** Jeffrey Dippel, son of M/M Perry Dippel of Ontario Center Road named salutatorian at Wayne Central School.
- Mar. 10:** Federal agents and State Police raided a barn on Frank VanMaldegham property on Walworth-Ontario Road, seizing a 275-gallon still, 550 gallons of mash, and several gallons of alcohol. The still was located in a storage room under the ramp connected to the cow barn.
- Mar. 17:** Almekinder's Red and White Super Duper Store opened at Furnace Road and Ridge Road in Ontario. Chase and Sanborn coffee on sale 2 lb. tin for \$1.19, grapefruit was 8 for \$.49, and ground beef was \$.49 lb.
- Mar. 31:** Jacob Pembroke of Walworth was presented a 60-year-palm at Masonic ceremonies. He became Master Mason of Walworth Lodge #254, F.&A.M. 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.	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 Dieterick	(585) 200 - 4685
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2766	Grounds	Vacant	
WHS Trustee	Mary Jane Devlin	(315) 986 - 1512	Hospitality	Liz Bavis	(585) 802 - 0380
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

March 2021 Email Newsletter extra photos

All photos on this page compare on the left, a place from a few years ago to a more recent photo on the right.



2119 Penfield-Walworth Road:
The French residence



The Walworth
Historical
Society Museum



The Lincoln
Cheese Factory



Warren Bel's
Garage /
Salvatore's
Pizzeria

Some winter scenes around the Walworth area

