

Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

July 2021

Volume 46 / Number 1



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

WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

Memorial Day 2021

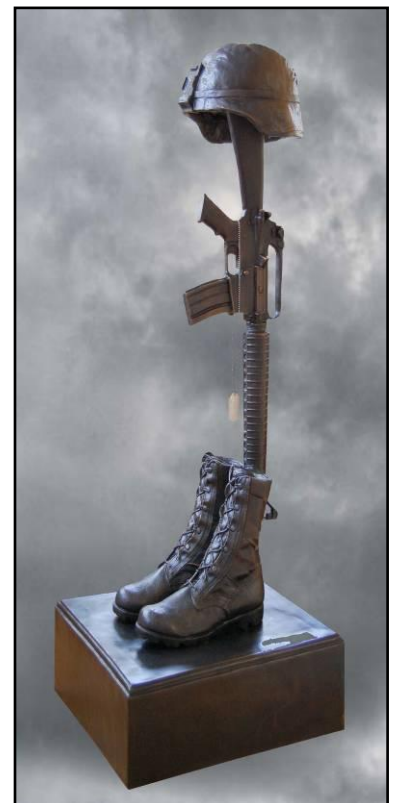
By Bob Mogray

Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day is an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May. The purpose of this day is to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. This day originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Placing American flags on the graves of veterans has been a tradition for many years. Unofficially, Memorial Day marks the beginning of the summer season. In 1966 the federal government declared nearby Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day.

Here in Walworth, Memorial Day was celebrated with a short parade that set up in Ginegaw Park and proceeded down Sherburne Road, through town, and back into the park where there was a brief ceremony at the Lions Club Memory Garden. Members from the Ontario American Legion Post presented the Colors. The speaker, local veteran Rick Carley, shared his thoughts and remembrances of Memorial Day.

From the shadows of the gazebo a young lad played Taps – a very effective ending to the ceremony. Many of the participants in the parade are veterans who continue to serve us with their dedication to the Wayne County Sheriffs, the New York State Police, the Western Wayne Ambulance, Inc., the Walworth Fire Department, the West Walworth Fire Department, and the Lincoln Fire Department. Walworth Town Supervisor Susie Jacobs helped organize the parade.

Below are some photos from the 2021 Walworth Memorial Day Parade and the ceremony which followed.



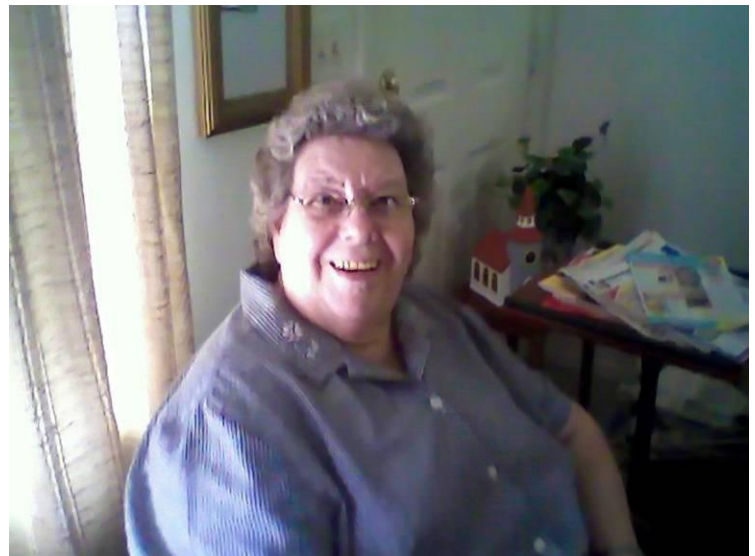
Walworth Historical Society Presents Awards By Dorothy French

West Walworth was well represented when two Community Service Awards were presented by the Walworth Historical Society at its May 17 annual meeting held at Ginegaw Lodge. First to receive the award was Ray Welker, Jr., a 65+ year member of the West Walworth Fire Department. When presenting the award, Judy Markowski recalled the various fire department positions he has held throughout the years. A U.S. Army veteran, Ray was active in the 4-H and was Fireman of the Year in 1982. In 1995 Ray's wife, Dorothy, received the Community Service Award.

Joyce Munger passed away January 16, 2021, leaving many memories of helping people. For more than 50 years Joyce shared her musical talent as organist with several area churches, especially the West Walworth Baptist Church. She was a long-time employee at Mary Cariola Children's Center in Rochester, volunteered for the Ontario Loan Closet, helped at Sodus Rehabilitation, and volunteered at the Walworth Historical Society's museum on Wednesdays. Joyce's long-time friend Sharon Boyd commented: "Thank you for making my life and the lives of so many others richer for having known you." The award was presented by Sharon to Avery Munger, Joyce's oldest grandson.

Election of officers was held following the presentations. Becky Appleman was elected president, succeeding Jessie Keymel who has served in that position for 24 years. Other officers re-elected were Vice-President Bob Mogray, Secretary Judy McMillan, and Treasurer Linda Pembroke. Trustees re-elected were Judy Markowski, Larry Ruth and Dorothy French. Ellen Dietterick was elected trustee, replacing long-time treasurer and trustee Mary Jane Devlin. The remaining term of Becky's trustee position will be completed by Jessie.

The evening ended with a short presentation by Walworth Town Historian and Wayne County Bicentennial Co-Chair Gene Bavis who provided updates on the county's upcoming 2023 bicentennial celebration.



Above photo: Ray Welker, Jr.

Top right: (left to right) Jessie Keymel, Avery Munger, Sharon Boyd

Bottom right: Joyce Munger

The Festival-in-the-Park Is Scheduled By Bill Boyd



In a hopeful step to return us to normality, the Walworth Lions Club has scheduled the Walworth Festival-in-the-Park for Friday and Saturday, July 23 and 24 at Ginegaw Park. The theme for this year's festival will be "Tales/Mythology/ Fantasy." This will be the 31st annual Festival-in-the-Park sponsored by the Walworth Lions Club for all to enjoy. There will be a parade with floats that will start at 7:00 PM sharp on Friday, July 23, as it has in the past. There will be displays, games, booths and food.

The Walworth Historical Society will sponsor a photo booth on Saturday, July 24 from 2-6 PM in which people and families can have their photo taken for our records. A free copy will be sent to those who participate.

For more information about the Walworth Lions Club please visit their website at: <http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/walworthlionsclub/>.



Bicentennial Updates By Gene Bavis



[Bicentennial Float Debut!](#)

The Wayne County Bicentennial Float was in its first parade – the Wolcott Memorial Day Parade on May 31, 2021. Many thanks to Rose Town Supervisor Dick Lasher and Huron Town Supervisor Phil Eygnor and their volunteers for the colorful and cheery Bicentennial Float that certainly brings a smile to all.

We were pleased to have it on display at the Walworth Farmers Market (left photo) on June 15. If you missed it there you can see it in the Walworth Festival-in-the Park Parade on July 23. It will also make other appearances around the county.

[Commemorative Calendar – Coming Soon!](#)

The Bicentennial Calendar has moved on to the next stage of development – the graphic designer. The two-year (2022-2023) Bicentennial Calendar will be off to the printer and available at local farmers markets, historical societies, and other events throughout the county. Heading up the committee to create the calendar are Loreen Jorgenson and Chris Davis. We thank them for the MANY hours they invested in this project.

We urge you to follow us on Facebook or Instagram and also please visit our website.

- PLACES TO GET INFORMATION: www.waynecounty200.com and www.waynehistorians.org
- As always, if you have any suggestions, questions, etc., please contact Gene or Rosa.
- Gene Bavis genebavis71@gmail.com or call 315-573-2768
- Rosa Fox rfox@townofhuron.org or call 315-573-4493

Mary Jane Devlin Biography By Bob Mogray

Mary Jane Devlin has been a part of the Walworth Historical Society since its beginning in 1975. She is a charter member and has served as president, board member, and more recently the treasurer for many years as well as a member of the Curator Committee. She is also one of the article writers and proof readers for our WHS newsletter.

Mary Jane was born to parents Peter (also known as Jack) and Esther Cauwels on September 23, 1934 in Rochester at the Genesee Hospital on Alexander Street. When she was two years old she and her family moved to West Walworth in the hamlet and lived there for one year. Then the Cauwels family moved to the Monroe-Wayne County Line Road and remained there for about five years. Mary Jane and her family moved again to the south end of the Monroe-Wayne County Line Road, where they lived for about four years and then moved again to the Ontario Center Road for a year.

If you haven't noticed by now, the Cauwels family tended to move quite a bit. That is partly because Mary Jane's father was a share-cropper and needed to live close to where he was employed. Well, the moving wasn't over yet. When she was in seventh grade Mary Jane and her family moved again - this time to the Town of Walworth just across from what is now the Kwik-Fill gas station/store. There she stayed until she was married.

On May 7, 1955, Mary Jane married Arnold Devlin. Well you guessed it - they moved two houses farther from the four corners in Walworth and stayed there for one year. They then moved to Bills Road and remained there from April 1956 until April of 1957. Then they moved to Marion and stayed for about ten years. Finally Mary Jane moved to her current home on the Walworth-Marion Road (55 years). This house is a Bennett home, a type of kit home that had to be assembled from scratch.

Her father passed away January 31, 1994 and her mother passed away February 19, 1992 in Florida, while vacationing. Mary Jane was very active in high school. She was a member of the chorus, library club and future secretary's club; played the flute in band; and was on the student council. She attended the #4 school, the #12 school, Walworth High School and Wayne Central School. She graduated in 1952, attended RBI, and took some courses at Monroe Community College also. From 1966 -1979 Mary Jane worked at Wayne Central School. Then she worked at Newark Central and was in charge of all the cafeterias in the system. She retired from this position in 1991.

As President of the NYS School Food Service Association she lobbied for increased funds for school lunch programs. Mary Jane was also a member of the Marion American Legion Auxiliary and was involved in forming the WHO (Wayne Historians Organization). She has travelled to all 50 states and many national parks. Somewhere in all of these activities she had three sons: Mark, Paul, and Bruce. Currently she still lives in Walworth and is active in the Walworth Historical Society. As Vice-President of the WHS I can say that we are very fortunate to have this very talented lady as a part of our organization and I would like to thank Mary Jane for all of her years of service.



The Clock in Walworth Academy By Dorothy French

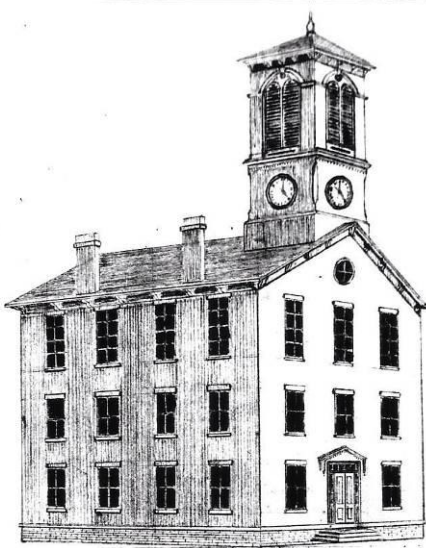
Undated: Reprinted from our museum's files:

After many, many years of silence, the clock in Walworth Academy (now our high school), again is in working order and strikes every hour. This clock was given by Moses Padley. It has been said that the clock could not be used satisfactorily at the same time as the school bell. Through the efforts of Leland Franke, assisted by Harold Baker, the clock has been repaired, cleaned, and put in working order. Had it not been for the mechanical genius and perseverance of Leland Franke, the clock would still be silent. He is to be congratulated upon his success and interest shown.

From J. D. Kipp's "A Glimpse into the Past" January 1925":

"Now you know what I mean, but perhaps you did not know that Moses Padley, a well-to-do farmer of the town, bought the clock and bell at a cost of \$500, if I am not mistaken, and gave it to the Trustees of the Academy. It was a great blessing in those days when dollar watches were not as plentiful as they are now, and when the old clock used to strike out the hour, I have heard my father say: "*Well, Dennis, Moses Padley says it is twelve o'clock so let's quit and go to dinner.*"

Editor's Note: The Walworth Academy was located at the southeast corner of High and Academy Streets. In 1858 the bell was mounted in the Academy's tower. The Academy was torn down in 1930 to make way for a new school. The bell now graces the front lawn of our museum.



About 1856: Pencil drawing made by Lucien T. Yeomans of Walworth Academy



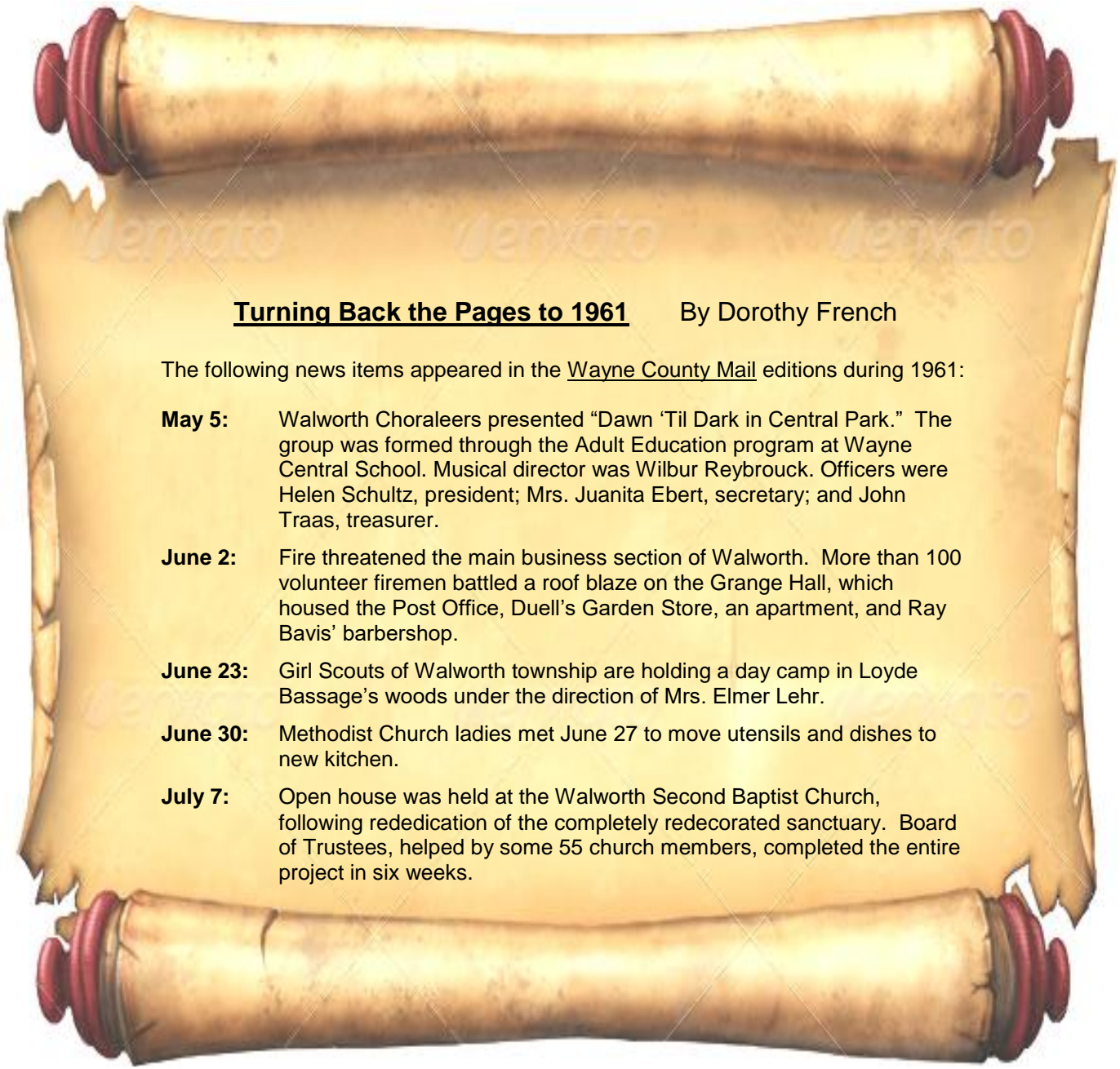
1915: Leland Franke standing in front of clock

Come Visit Us By Dorothy French



Thanks to the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions, our museum is officially open during the summer months on specified dates. These include the 4th Sundays (June 27, July 25, August 29, and September 26) and the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays of July, August and September. On these dates, the hours will be from 2-4 PM.

Appointments for other times can be scheduled by contacting one of the following board members: Becky Appleman 315-524-3289, Jessie Keymel 315-524-9205, or Gene Bavis 315-573-2768. The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street.



Turning Back the Pages to 1961 By Dorothy French

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

- May 5:** Walworth Choraleers presented "Dawn 'Til Dark in Central Park." The group was formed through the Adult Education program at Wayne Central School. Musical director was Wilbur Reybrouck. Officers were Helen Schultz, president; Mrs. Juanita Ebert, secretary; and John Traas, treasurer.
- June 2:** Fire threatened the main business section of Walworth. More than 100 volunteer firemen battled a roof blaze on the Grange Hall, which housed the Post Office, Duell's Garden Store, an apartment, and Ray Bavis' barbershop.
- June 23:** Girl Scouts of Walworth township are holding a day camp in Loyde Bassage's woods under the direction of Mrs. Elmer Lehr.
- June 30:** Methodist Church ladies met June 27 to move utensils and dishes to new kitchen.
- July 7:** Open house was held at the Walworth Second Baptist Church, following rededication of the completely redecorated sanctuary. Board of Trustees, helped by some 55 church members, completed the entire project in six weeks.

Did You Know? By Charlie Pembroke

Editor's Note: The late Charlie Pembroke left a legacy of stories about our area. Watch for more in future issues.

There used to be a foot and bicycle path from the four corners of Walworth going north on the Walworth-Ontario Road. The path was built on the east side of the trees that flanked the highway all the way to Gary McKee's house (4090 Walworth-Ontario Road). Gary's great-grandfather was Hiram McKee, the last Civil War Veteran from Walworth.

Do you remember when Hiram McKee lived in the small house north of the Baptist Church and on the 4th of July the boys would drop a large fire cracker in the ice cream tub that housed a metal container? They quickly dropped the cover which would blow it high in the air and Hiram's wife would holler at the boys to stop it.

President's Message By Becky Appleman

After many years of dedicated service our president, Jessie Keymel, has decided to slow down and pursue other ventures in her spare time. She has agreed to continue on our curator committee (the filing seems to be never ending) and to remain a member of our board of directors.

I have been elected as your new president and I plan to continue as has been done in the past. We have a great team who works well together. We're always looking for new adventures or ways to bring Walworth history to life. If you have a specific interest area in Walworth, we are always open to suggestions for programs and events. The COVID virus has put us behind in our planned events and we hope things may get back to pre-COVID times for our programs and other events, including the pot-luck dinner at our annual meeting. Stay tuned!

I am very thankful for our dedicated members who have agreed to remain as officers in our organization. Our secretary, Judy McMillan, does an amazing job keeping up with all of us at our meetings. She takes great notes and keeps the meetings moving. Our treasurer, Linda Pembroke, took over a job that nobody wanted. She always keeps us well informed financially.

Our vice-president, Bob Mogray, along with Dorothy French, do a great job investigating and preparing our newsletters. Dorothy and Mary Jane Devlin do our proofreading and spell checking before our newsletter goes to press. We are also fortunate to have our town historian on our board; Gene Bavis always has interesting information to investigate and report to the board and members.

Larry Ruth works to help design our float for the Walworth parade and Roger Keymel helps turn the design into reality. Judy Markowski is always willing to help out wherever needed. We are very fortunate to have dedicated members to help keep our building and grounds in good condition. This year when we did our outside cleanup we had over 20 community volunteers and members join together to help.

We have many members working behind the scenes doing inventory, filing, refreshments for open meetings and genealogy searches. Ellen Dietterick, our newest board member, is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic when working on these searches. Thanks to all who work so diligently to keep our organization, building and grounds in good condition for our next generation. We look forward to a successful future. We're always looking for new members; contact one of the members listed on page 8 of this newsletter for more information.

From Your Ex-President By Jessie Keymel

As I sit here trying to thank everyone who has made my term as president more effective, many names, faces, and personalities over the years come to mind. There is not enough room to start a roll call. I suggest you go to the website, look at some newsletter stories and photos - old and new - and check out the names of the contributors and the stories they have brought to our attention.

I thank all of you for helping to keep our pledge to collect, preserve and display items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the town of Walworth and its environs and to keep these items safe and available for everyone now and in the future. We as a historical society have been incredibly fortunate to have had skilled and dedicated board members since our beginning.

As we all know this is not a task that can be done effectively by one person or a small group but by everyone. Every family has a history - some in the settling of our area and some who brought new industries, technologies and ideas to our small part of New York State

As your president I have been fortunate to have had the support of a well-rounded member base and board members who are dedicated. Thank you to all and especially everyone who has worked with me during my turn at the helm. I could not have done the job without your skills and perseverance. I look forward to continuing to work with you as we reach out to share the importance of history in our community.

Right photo: WHS Ex-President Jessie Keymel (left) and newly-elected WHS President Becky Appleman (right)



A Tribute To His Wife By Dorothy French

How and where they met isn't important to this story. What is important is that the September 27, 1837 marriage of Theron G. Yeomans and Lydia A. Stearns was a 63-year commitment to each other. Throughout her husband's busy lifetime as a businessman and politician, Lydia "cheered the home and ministered lovingly to family and friends." She and Theron were parents of five children: Lucien, Vaniah, Ellen, Elon, and Francis.

Following Lydia's April 15, 1900 passing, T.G. authored "A Tribute to the Memory of My Beloved Wife." He requested it to be included in a Souvenir entitled "Leaflets from Landmarks of Wayne County" which contained detailed information about Theron's life. He asked that this memorial sketch of Lydia "be affixed to the Souvenir in the back part by the use of mucilage on the edge only."

Theron stated "Since her decrease, her presence seems constantly near me, lovingly watching over me, and a retrospect of the past shows me more impressively than ever before how much of the pleasure and prosperity of my life has been due to her loving care and companionship."

He confirmed the extent of their closeness with these words: "We had together many times expressed the idea that it would be a fortunate circumstance, if in our advanced years, we should both depart at or about the same time, so that neither of us would be left to finish life's journey alone." Theron joined his wife in death one year later on April 16, 1901. They are buried in Palmyra Cemetery.

2021 WHS Calendar of Events		
July 20	6:30 PM	Decorate Float Keymels barn
July 23	7:00 PM	Festival in the Park Parade / Booth
July 24	3-8 PM	Festival in the Park Day 2 booth
Aug. 9	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
Sept. 20	7:00 PM	General Meeting "Hamlet of Lincoln" Ginegaw Lodge
Oct. 3	2-4 PM	Open House WHS museum
Oct. 11	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
Nov. 15	1:00 PM	General Meeting "Kodakids" Mary Jo Lamphear Ginegaw Lodge
Dec. 4	6:00 PM	"Light the Night" Ginegaw Park
Dec. 13	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum

**Color printing by:
Reliant Credit Union**




**Lydia Yeomans
at age 65**



**Lydia: no date
available**

<u>Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs</u>					
<u>Officers and Trustees</u>			<u>Committees and Chairpersons</u>		
President	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289	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	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205	Genealogy	Ellen Dieterick	(585) 200 - 4685
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768	Grounds	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
WHS Trustee	Ellen Dieterick	(585) 200 - 4685	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/Dorothy	
			Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768

[July 2021 Email Newsletter extra photos](#)

All photos on this page are of recent spring/early summer Walworth area scenes



All photos on this page show cobblestone structures in the Walworth area.

