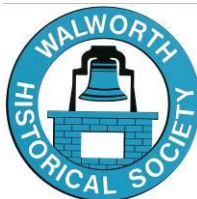


Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Nov. 2021



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

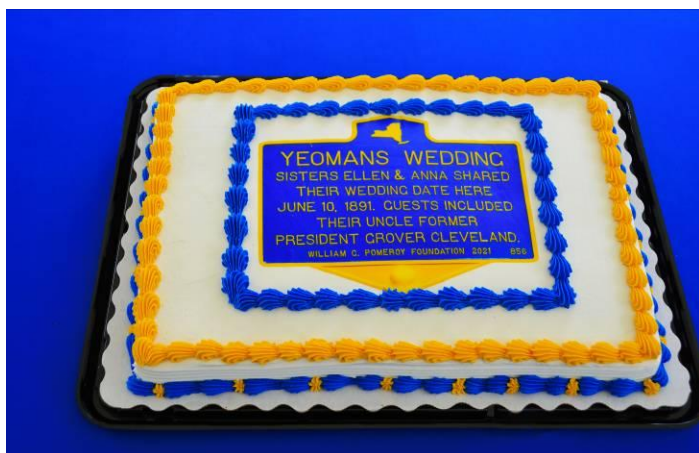
Historic Marker Dedication

By Gene Bavis

On Sunday, October 3, a dedication ceremony for Walworth's newest historic marker was held on 3634 High Street in Walworth. On June 10, 1891, Ellen (aka Nellie) and Anna Yeomans, daughters of Lucien and Susan Yeomans and granddaughters of Theron and Lydia Yeomans, were married at their parents' home in a double ceremony. A special guest was Susan's brother, former/future President, Grover Cleveland. President Cleveland was between terms. He is our only President to have served two terms that were not consecutive.

The historic marker was provided by the Pomeroy Foundation upon application by Town Historian Gene Bavis. Thankfully the event was well documented since a celebrity was in attendance. This documentation is essential in order to meet the high standards of the Pomeroy Foundation for accuracy. Dan and Jennifer Miles and their children now live in the home where this event occurred and were delighted to have the marker placed in front of their home. Following an unveiling of the marker and some background information presented by Gene Bavis, the 50+ guests enjoyed a cake decorated by the Walworth Tops, with an image of the marker.

The Walworth Historical Society Open House included a display of historic wedding dresses from our collection. A Walking Tour of the Hamlet was offered in two formats...an actual walk around the hamlet but also a virtual walking tour for those who preferred to not walk. Thanks to the Walworth Lions Club for the use of their tent.



Top left: Yeomans marker cake made by Walworth Tops

Bottom left: (left to right) - Chase Miles, Susie Jacobs, Summer Miles, Emillie Miles, Jennifer Miles, Daniel Miles

Top right: New Yeomans marker

Bottom right: (left to right) - Walworth Town Supervisor Susie Jacobs, Walworth Town Historian Gene Bavis

"The Hamlet of Lincoln" Show at the Lodge

By Bob Mogray

After delays of almost two years due to COVID, we were finally able to have our slide show about the "Hamlet of Lincoln" at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park in Walworth! This program was held on September 20, a Monday night, and there was a fantastic attendance. There were about 60 people who were present to see the Powerpoint presentation. There was a discussion and questions about this slide show of Lincoln history, people, churches and businesses over the years. However, this was only Part One of a two-part total coverage of the hamlet of Lincoln. Hopefully, at the March 2022 meeting there will be a Lincoln Part Two program that will focus on the many farms in this area. More information will follow as plans progress. If you have information about a farm (past or current) in the Lincoln area, please contact me or Dorothy French so we can include it in the program.



The Walworth Historical Society really appreciates the participation of so many members and guests at these shows and events that we sponsor. Maybe by next year we can get back to serving refreshments and having a more normal situation. We hope to see you there!

Photos: Top left: Lincoln Fire Hall circa 1950
Bottom left: Johncox Trucking
Top right: Hamman Christmas Tree Farm

Our Collections

By Jessie Keymel

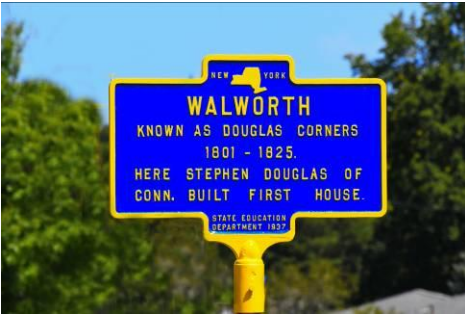
Among our collections of World War II items are pins and patches, in addition to awards given to our local Aircraft Observers. Were your parents or grandparents members of the Ground Observer Corps? There was an observation spot on the DeFlyer farm on Walworth-Ontario Road (Bob Helm's property) and another behind the Lincoln Baptist Church. There was a mention of another site but no one could tell me the location.

Spotters learned to identify all types of aircraft with the aid of identification cards and silhouettes. A phone was provided to the volunteers, along with the number to call to report the time and direction the planes were flying. These locations were manned around the clock, usually in two-hour shifts. There were other civilian posts that were a part of village life, including wardens who checked for lights coming from homes during blackouts. We also have records of the members of "Boys in Service Club," a group composed of local residents, who wrote and sent gift items to our town's servicemen overseas. We have cards and items sent home by the servicemen. We also have uniforms from every branch of the Service.

The Grangers posted a list of servicemen and women on a board outside their building on Main Street. There is a partial copy done by Eagle Scout Nathaniel Ruth and it is displayed at our town hall near the meeting room. Note: the list is not complete because names were added as they enlisted and were added to the board's wings. Sadly the wings were lost and therefore the list is not complete. Many of our farmers went to work in the city and were employed in industry towards the war effort as well as keeping their farms producing. World War II affected everyone one way or another, and the many items in our collections document this effort.

Walworth Historical Markers Repainted

By Bob Mogray



In our last newsletter (September 2021 issue) it was briefly mentioned that all five of our older local historical markers had been refurbished in anticipation of the Wayne County Bicentennial celebrations that will begin in 2023. This must have been quite a job for Walworth Highway Supervisor Tim Vendel and his crew.

Over the years the paint color had faded and there was some damage due to the weather conditions. To bring these markers back to their original quality they were sandblasted and repainted on both sides. This is the first time they have ever been resurfaced and repainted since their original installation many years ago. The original five markers are shown here. The latest one can be seen on page one of this newsletter.

Tim and his crew also installed the sixth and latest addition to our local historic markers. This new marker was dedicated and unveiled at a ceremony on October 3 at 3634 High Street and it commemorates the attendance of former U.S. President Grover Cleveland at his two nieces' double wedding in 1891 at the High Street house behind this marker.

Holiday Gift Suggestions

By Dorothy French

With the holidays fast approaching it is not too early to think about gift giving. Items available for sale at our museum include booklets about our area, commemorative ornaments, plates, coverlets, music CDs and several colors and styles of shirts seen in the photo below, modeled by Gene Bavis and Jessie Keymel.

Memberships are a gift that keeps on giving. Categories include: Student \$5; Individual \$10; Family \$15; Supporter \$25; Sponsor \$50; Patron \$100; Life \$150; and Corporate/Business \$75. Donations may be made for a memorial or for a celebration gift. We are approaching the end of the 2021 tax year and know that many people look at their finances regarding year-end donations. Checks can be mailed to Walworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568.



In addition, we are helping Wayne County celebrate its Bicentennial in 2023 by offering several items for sale. The two-year calendars (2022 and 2023) are available for \$15. Bicentennial T-shirts are \$15 each for sizes Small through XL and \$20 for sizes XXL and XXX. WHS receives \$3 for each calendar and T-shirt sold. (See page 5 for more information). Calendars are also available at the museum. The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street and is open on the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays 2 – 4 PM or by appointment. For more information, call Becky Appleman, President, at 315-524-3289.

Turning Back the Pages to 1961

By Dorothy French

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

- Nov. 3:** Walworth Chamber of Commerce urges everyone to "Vote and Eat" on Election Day at the Methodist Church at a pancake breakfast. Proceeds will go into a fund for the Seely Library.
- Nov. 10:** Walworth voters turned down all four proposals for sale of alcoholic beverages in the town. The town has been dry since 1941 and will continue on the strength of the 2 to 1 vote.
- Nov. 17:** Owners of century farms were honored at a dinner at the Clyde Grange Hall. Representing Walworth were Mrs. Frank Taber, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Taber, and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Huntley; Mr. and Mrs. Fay Druschel represented his parents.
- Dec. 15:** Community Carol Sing, an outdoor invocation, will be led by youth of Baptist and Methodist Churches, under the leadership of John Traas. Walworth Chamber of Commerce and ministers of the community are cooperating by asking stores to be closed for one hour during the 7-8 PM sing.
- Dec. 22:** The Public Service Commission has authorized Rochester Gas and Electric to construct a new gas distribution system within Walworth township. RG&E expects to serve more than 84 Walworth customers in 1962 and 200 gas customers by 1964.

How Kodakids Ended Up in the Rochester Area

By Judy Markowski

Join us at our Monday, November 15, meeting for an informative talk on a little known or often forgotten WWII event. Mary Jo Lanphear, Town of Brighton Historian, will tell us how the Kodakids ended up in the Rochester area. Learn about Kodak's program to send children of its employees in England to live in the Rochester area during the war. Come and tell us your memories of this event or learn about a particularly Rochester response to a WWII crisis.

The program will be held at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park beginning at 1 PM. A short business meeting will precede the program. Masks are recommended and safe distancing will be practiced.



Donations May Be Tax Deductible

By Gene Bavis

The Walworth Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization chartered by the New York State Board of Regents as an educational institution. Our mission is to purchase, collect, preserve, display, and generally deal with those items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the history of the Town of Walworth and environs and to generally promote interest in the study of the life, growth, and history of said area. We collect artifacts, photos and other information, and we put on some very interesting programs. We produce five newsletters each year filled with current events as well as great historical information. When I compare our newsletter with others, we are definitely among the very best. We hope that YOU agree and will continue to maintain your WHS membership (dues are due in April).

Our historical society also hosts the Walworth Town Historian's Office and assists him in research tasks. The Town provides an annual stipend to the Walworth Historical Society, but MOST of our income is from DUES and DONATIONS. We have purposely kept our dues low because we know that many of our members live on fixed incomes. **We hope that those who can afford more than minimum dues will consider making an additional donation.** This can be done when you pay your annual dues OR at any time that is convenient.

Some of us are LIFE members which means that we don't have to pay dues at all, but I feel strongly that I should continue to support the WHS with annual contributions.

Tax laws changed a few years ago, and deductions for charitable contributions are treated differently. I am NOT an accountant or tax preparer, so I don't know the details. We always urge people to check on this with the professionals. One method I have begun using is to donate to the Walworth Historical Society directly from my IRA account. Those who have an IRA and are at least 70.5 years old probably know that you are required to withdraw a certain amount of money each year from your IRA and pay taxes on it. If you give it directly to charity, the contributed amount is not taxed but does count toward your minimum required distribution. It's a WIN-WIN.

We hope that the Walworth Historical Society is on your "radar" screen for a possible year-end gift. If you would like to make a donation to the Walworth Historical Society now or at any time, please mail it to Walworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. You may be able to take a tax deduction. THANKS for your support!

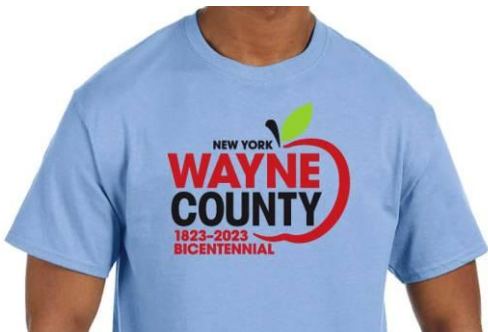


Wayne County Bicentennial

By Gene Bavis

The Wayne County Bicentennial planning is going VERY WELL. In recent weeks, we have begun selling Bicentennial T-shirts and Commemorative Calendars. You can get your Bicentennial Calendar from the Walworth Historical Society OR from the Walworth Town Clerk. The Bicentennial Calendars are a "history book". Calendars have at least one historic fact for each day for 2 years plus over 300 historic photos. Calendars would make a GREAT holiday gift. In 2022, we will again be at the Walworth Farmers Market each week and at as many other events as possible. We plan to announce 2023 events in 2022. **If anyone needs a shirt or calendar please contact Gene Bavis by phone 315-573-2768 or email genebavis71@gmail.com.**

Other projects in progress include the creation of a photo quilt and poster. This should be completed by next spring. Marion Town Historian Caryn Devlin is heading up the Wayne County Activities Booklet targeted at Primary and Elementary students. It will be 60 pages and will be distributed FREE of charge. It will go to press before the end of 2021. Another project is the Wayne County Memories Book being headed up by Amber Linson. YOU are invited to share your Wayne County memory with her. Guidelines can be found on the Wayne County Bicentennial website: www.waynecounty200.com The deadline for submissions is 12/31/2021.



Civil War Headstone

By Gene Bavis and Marjory Allen Perez

On September 25, a ceremony was held in the Sherburne Road Park dedicating a new grave marker for Abraham Gregor (aka Abram Gregor). Robert Pugsley of Lincoln, an active member of the Sons of Union Veterans, headed up the effort to get a replacement tombstone for Abram. Members of the Sons group as well as Marjory Allen Perez, author and former Wayne County Historian, spoke at the event.

Abram was one of 6 members of the Gregor family to serve in the Civil War, three of whom volunteered to serve as substitutes for others who would have been drafted. Abram, son of James and Almira Gregor of Walworth, his older brother Bradley Gregor, and his half-brother William Wilson (a resident of Sodus at the time) were those substitutes. Bradley joined the 8th US Colored Troops in July of 1863 and was killed in the Battle of Olustee in February 1864. On July 30, 1864, forty-year-old William Wilson joined for a 3-year term as a substitute for Peter Robison of Orleans County. On August, 29, 1864, Abram joined for a 1-year term in place of William Gould, son of Israel Gould. Abram was 17 years old at the time of his enlistment. He was paid \$600 by the Gould family and that money went to Abram's parents to help support the family while Abram served in the 43rd US Colored Troops.

Abram's unit had participated in the Wilderness Campaign in June of 1864 and the Battle of the Crater in July, suffering heavy losses and injuries. They were in a siege line near Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia when Abram joined them on October 15, 1864. On May 12, 1865, Abram was admitted to the hospital with "cont. fever." Two days later he was transferred to the General Hospital at Fort Monroe, Virginia with a diagnosis of "Incipient Phthisis" (more commonly known as tuberculosis). Information in his pension file indicates that he returned to duty on August 1, 1865 and transferred to Philadelphia on October 12, 1865. He was discharged on December 5, 1865, three months after his term of service had expired. He returned home to Walworth and died on March 9, 1866. He is buried in the Gould Cemetery along the northern edge.

The above information is from *A Shared Sacrifice!* by Marjory Allen Perez, pages 228-231. This book was the result of four decades of research by the author on the role of African Americans from Wayne County who participated in the Civil War.



Top left: New Gregor headstone at Sherburne Road Ceremony

Top right: New Gregor headstone at Gould Cemetery

Bottom left: Presentation of the wreaths

Bottom right: Color Guard



West Walworth and Walworth – 1867 By Dorothy French

In 1867 The Wayne County Directory and the Gazetteer and Business Directory of Wayne County, NY published the names of merchants and their occupations for West Walworth and Walworth.

West Walworth was identified as “a post village near the southwest corner with daily mail.” Walworth’s definition was “a post village near the southeast corner and the seat of the Walworth Academy. Daily mail, north and south.” West Walworth was established in 1805 as Birch Bridge; Walworth in 1799 as Douglas Corners.

<u>West Walworth</u>	<u>Walworth</u>
<u>Similar Occupations/Merchants</u>	<u>Similar Occupations/Merchants</u>
Farmers: 93 names listed	Farmers: 135 names listed
Baptist Clergyman: Rev. Erastus Main	Baptist Clergyman: Rev. R. Sanford Dean
Blacksmiths: Thomas Williams, Oscar Wooster, Richard Neafie	Blacksmiths: William Brown, Burous Traux
Carriage Makers: John Lotze and Urias Kimble	Carriage Makers: Horace Mason, Philip Smith, Samuel Mack
Carpenters: William Forman, Harvey and Loren Sweet	Carpenters: Charles Brown, George Cook
Eclectic Physician: Christopher Fuller	Physicians: S. Ingraham, H. G. Rose
General Merchants: Sylvester Miller and Nathan Reed	Grocers: John Baker, Daniel Missmore
Harness Maker: William Carman	Harness Makers: Charles Deyo, James Whittleton
Leases: Henry Whitcock, Christopher Wolf and William Barnesdale	Leases: John Cappon, William Phelp
Postmaster: Sylvester Miller	Postmaster: Nathan Eddy
<u>Misc. Occupations/Merchants</u>	<u>Misc. Occupations/Merchants</u>
Dressmaker: Mrs. Caroline Clapp	Cigar Manufacturer: William Fillmore
Mason: Russell Hosier	Commissioner U. S. Loan: Philip Lawrence
Millinery: Miss Susan Carman	Cooper Shop: J. Buckley and T. G. Yeomans
Painter – House and Carriage: Lucius Beach	Hotel Proprietor: George Trumble
Proprietor stage route (from West Walworth to Macedon, daily stage): Elisha Nivison	Justice of the Peace: J. D. Bennett
Tinsmith and Goldsmith: Daniel Allen	Manufacturer of Hand Rakes: Henry Graham
	Nurserymen: Eliab and Theron P. Yeomans
	Shoe Maker: Daniel Monfort

President’s Report By Becky Appleman

As fall approaches and we look back on this year there are things we usually do and suddenly we couldn’t do, including our events we had to cancel or postpone. This was quite a different year! Many of us feel that we lost the last 18 months. We’ve all missed getting together, especially our coffee, cookies and other refreshments and all of our friendly chats.

We however did have a very good attendance at our Lincoln program at Ginegaw Lodge. Bob, Dorothy and Gene did a great job presenting the slide show and tutorial about Lincoln. There were lots of good questions and comments. I think we all learned a little that night. Thanks to all.

Our annual open house began with the unveiling and dedication of the historic marker on High Street at the end of Center Street. After the unveiling we returned to the museum for cake, ice cream and a brief history of the site. We ended our day with a walking or a virtual tour around Walworth. The rain held off until the walking tour was ALMOST over! We did have several guests and members in attendance and it was a fun day for all. Now we’re looking forward to another very interesting program on November 15 entitled “Kodakids”. This will also be held at the Ginegaw Lodge. Hope to see you there. Happy Fall!

<u>Officers and Trustees</u>		
President	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
Vice-President	Robert Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156
Secretary	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219
Treasurer	Linda Pembroke	(585) 455 - 7595
WHS Trustee	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768
WHS Trustee	Ellen Dietterick	(585) 200 - 4685
WHS Trustee	Dorothy French	(315) 986 - 1098
WHS Trustee	Judy Markowski	(315) 524 - 8649
WHS Trustee	Larry Ruth	(315) 524 - 7936
<u>Committees and Chairpersons</u>		
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
Grounds	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
Hospitality	Liz Bavis	(585) 802 - 0380
Membership	Linda Pembroke	(585) 455 - 7595
Newsletter	Bob Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156
Publicity	Becky/Dorothy	See above
Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768

2021 WHS Calendar of Events

Nov. 15	1:00 PM	General Meeting "Kodakids" Mary Jo Lanphear Ginegaw Lodge
Dec. 4	6:00 PM	"Light the Night" Ginegaw Park
Dec. 13	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum

2022 WHS Calendar of Events

Feb. 14	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
Mar. 21	7:00 PM	"Lincoln 2" Farms Ginegaw Lodge
Apr. 11	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
Apr. 18	7:00 PM	General meeting
May 16	7:00 PM	Annual meeting Ginegaw Lodge
June 13	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
July	TBD	Festival in the Park
Aug. 8	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
Sept. 19	7:00 PM	General meeting WHS museum
Oct. 2	2-4 PM	Open House
Oct. 10	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
Nov. 14	1:00 PM	General meeting WHS museum
Dec. 3	6-8 PM	Light the Night
Dec. 12	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum

Remembering...Marjorie Esley

By Jessie Keymel

The Marjorie Esley I remember was a kind, gentle and quiet woman who welcomed me into her home to visit. I, the new kid in town and the new kid in this country, often stopped in to visit in her home studio. She was very patient, answering the many questions I had about her work and how she filled a scene for her work in the "Little Golden Books" for children.

Her professional name was Joan Esley, but in Walworth she will always be remembered as Marge. The sketch you see of the Walworth United Methodist Church on the church's stationary was drawn by Marge (Joan); the original is hanging in the church. Our museum has a good selection of the "Little Golden Books" that Joan Esley illustrated. Many of them are duplicates, with personal messages to the owner signed "Joan."

Marjorie, the daughter of Dr. Ernest and Mabel Esley, graduated from Walworth High School, one of three graduates in 1920. She continued her education at Mechanics Institute (now Rochester Institute of Technology) and Grand Central School for Artists in New York City. She was a freelance artist and also illustrated school text books, "Girl Scout Magazine", and several "Little Golden Books".

My visits to her art studio were very important to me. She is still remembered by the many "children" she used as models who still live in Walworth.

Editor's Note:

The Esley family lived at 2188 Walworth-Penfield Road, corner Church Street. Dr. Esley was a practicing physician here for 44 years. Marjorie was born in 1904 and grew up in Walworth. Her siblings included two sisters (Beth and Mabel) and two brothers (Ernest A. and George). Marjorie died November 22, 2000 at age 96 in Indiantown, Florida. She is buried in the Esley family plot in Walworth Cemetery on Sherburne Road.



**Thank you to Reliant Credit Union for
printing this newsletter**



November 2021 Email Newsletter Extra Photos

All photos on this page are of the marker dedication / WHS open house.



Top two photos: Attendees at the marker dedication
Middle row photos: Attendees at the WHS open house
Bottom left photo: Wedding apparel (tuxedo and gown from the WHS collection)
Bottom right photo: 1913 wedding gown (left) and 1890's wedding gown (right)

All photos on this page are of late summer in the Walworth Area



Top left: Walworth Animal Hospital

Top right: In-progress Pacific Hotel/Grange Hall painting and refurbishing

Middle and bottom two: Fall pumpkins etc. for sale at roadside stands