



NEWSLETTER
**Walworth Historical
Society**

March 2022

Volume 46 / Number 4



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



Shown above is the Place farm on Burrows Road.

Lincoln Area Farm Tour at the Lodge By Bob Mogray

On Monday, March 21 at 7:00 PM the Walworth Historical Society will present a Powerpoint slide presentation at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park. This will include photos and histories of many of the farms of today and of the past in the Lincoln area. This is a follow-up show to the general Lincoln show that the WHS presented last year. This will be a virtual tour of the Lincoln area and is free to the public. Please invite a friend or two and join us for this program.

The Walworth Historical Society appreciates everyone's support for our meetings and programs as we continue to present topics of local historic interest. Please bring your thoughts and memories to the meeting because we welcome your experiences and recollections of the people and farms of the Lincoln area. We always look forward to gaining new information from our guests and members in order to update our records.

Because of the changing COVID conditions and restrictions, at this time masks and social distancing are recommended. This situation may change in the near future and we will try to keep everyone informed with current regulations a few days before the show on March 21.

President's Report By Becky Appleman

Winter seems to be our slower season for the Historical Society. We have planned a program for our general meeting on March 21. The program we have scheduled will be about Lincoln area farms and proves to be very interesting. (See newsletter front page for more information.) Depending on the March COVID-19 conditions, the board will make the decision as to whether or not to go ahead with this program. We hope for healthy conditions and good weather for our March meeting.

Our filing committee continues to meet and sort through books, photos, family histories and many other donations that we receive on a regular basis. Thanks to our great team for labeling and recording this history for us.

Please remember we are always looking for programs that may be of interest. This doesn't need to be only of the Walworth area but anything in our surrounding communities. If you have an idea for a program, we would love to hear from you. Contact any of our board members. Hope to see you all in March—stay warm and stay healthy!

Volunteers Needed By Becky Appleman

Household chores are inevitable.....they come with home ownership. Our museum is the town's "home" and we have an obligation to maintain it. It's because of volunteers that we can continue to provide this home for our historic records.

Our current volunteer need is for someone to plow the museum's parking area along Academy Street and to shovel the walk leading to our building. In the spring we will need someone to mow for us. Gene Bavis has been doing both jobs for more than 30 years. He no longer lives in the hamlet, making it difficult to have equipment available. .

If you can help us, contact Becky Appleman at 315-524-3289 or beckyapp@hotmail.com or Gene at 315-573-2768 or genebavis71@gmail.com. Thank you.



We need to keep our museum looking great no matter what season it is!

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 Becky Appleman at 315-524-3289. We welcome your help and suggestions.

The Fosdicks of Fosdick Road

By Dorothy French

Thanks to a chance meeting during a stroll in a Florida RV resort several winters ago, the Walworth Historical Society is the recipient of historical data about the Fosdick family. When Marcia (Mrs. Joseph) Englert mentioned she was from Walworth, Cheryl (Mrs. Allen) Rosenow acknowledged her family's connection to Fosdick Road. Cheryl promised that, when she and her husband returned home to Arkansas, she would send information about the Fosdick family. The result was a treasure trove of information and photos.



The family's farm was located at 5184 Fosdick Road and originally consisted of 100 acres. At one time the three generations lived together: Norman and Hattie (great-grandparents); Ernest and Mary (grandparents), and Wilson (grandson). Cheryl's father was born in 1916 in the family homestead, attended District #11 School on Hennessey Road, and graduated from Ontario High School in 1935.

Left: Four Generations - Cheryl and her relatives. Left to right: Wilson (father), Hattie (great-grandmother), Cheryl (great-granddaughter), and Ernest (grandfather)

From age 12 until he entered the Service in 1941 Wilson worked with his father in the threshing business which was known as Fosdick and Brockman. Most of the threshing was done in barns located in Ontario and the northern part of Walworth. Among the items sent by Cheryl is a copy of a 1978 interview between 62-year-old Wilson and several members of the Ontario Historical Society in which he explains in detail his father's and George Brockman's threshing and saw mill business. Also included is a receipt acknowledging payment of \$300 so that a son would not have to fight in the Civil War; this was a common practice in those days.



Right: Norman and Harriet pre June 1941



Wilson was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he married Virginia Zimmer of Webster. As a litter officer in the front line of an armored infantry regiment, he saw action in Europe, including Omaha Beach in 1944, and Africa. Wilson received many commendations for his service and was discharged in 1946 as a second lieutenant.

Following his return, Wilson, Virginia and baby Cheryl lived on Lakeside Road in Ontario. When Cheryl was 5 years old they lived on Ridge Road near a mink farm in Ontario. They soon moved to Waterloo where Cheryl attended kindergarten and later to Utica before settling in North Syracuse when she was in third grade. Wilson worked for S. J. Groves and Sons, a construction company who built the New York State Thruway.

Left: Ernest and his second wife Carrie circa late 40's/early 50's



From 1946 – 1968 during the summer months Cheryl visited Walworth and worked on the farm, picking cherries, bailing hay, and helping with threshing. Her family visited the homestead every other Sunday. Cheryl said her Uncle Howard Fosdick lived across the road at #5207.

Left: Cheryl's family left to right: Nancy (sister), Virginia (Mom), Cheryl, and Wilson (Dad). Circa late 70's/early 80's.

Although it's been 30 years since Cheryl visited Walworth, she has many cherished memories of time spent here with her relatives.



Editor's Note: Current owners of #5184 Fosdick Road are Paul and Kathy DeMinck.

Left: Current photo of house: 5184 Fosdick Road

Kodakids During WW II

By Judy Markowski



On November 15, 2021 in the afternoon between the Delta and Omicron peaks, WHS was able to fit in a presentation for the community. Mary Jo Lanphere (left photo), the Town of Brighton Historian, presented the Kodakids program at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park.

Her presentation had lots of facts around a Kodak plant in England during World War II. With the mass bombings in the area, Kodak offered to bring company children to Rochester to keep them safe. This was a huge project. Committees were formed to get the work done.

Mary Jo had much information as she wrote a paper on this for her Masters' thesis. She brought the event to life with stories of individual children and families who participated.

Our thanks to Mary Jo Lanphere for presenting a local story that very few had heard about.

Did You Know? By Charlie Pembroke

Editor's Note: The late Charlie Pembroke left a legacy of stories about our area. He shared these stories in a booklet published in 1990, "Walworth, As I Remember It." Copies are available at the museum.

- A farm wagon of Jerome Pembroke's was found up on the Baptist Church.
- Some boys put a fence from the north corner of the Baptist Church, out into the church yard and to the south corner. They turned Jerome Pembroke's cows loose in the church yard. You can imagine the mess Howard Bassage had to clean up, as he was janitor.
- On Halloween night Frank Finley turned the coils around on Cope Morse's old Model T. Cope was courting Nevada Henning and she stayed at Fremont Fulmer's where Schmidts live.
- Jay Seeley put dynamite in a tree and it would blow when someone stole his grapes.

Turning Back the Pages to 1962 By Dorothy French

The following news items appeared in the Wayne County Mail during 1962:

- March 9:** Ladies of the Walworth Fire Department may check a list posted in the truck house to find out whose turn it is to next launder the ambulance linens.
- March 21:** Sixteen Walworth Boy Scouts went on a hike Saturday which took them into the woods back of Nelson Taber's. Under guidance of Scoutmaster Thomas Fleming, several boys completed badge requirements.
- April 13:** Richard Schultz and Gordon Bush exhibited their dragster at the Rochester War Memorial and were awarded a 2nd place trophy in their class.
- April 27:** Jay Taber, English 10 teacher at Wayne Central School, was one of 45 participants in the Summer English Institute at Cornell University.
- May 18:** First prize in the Grange apple pie baking contest went to Mrs. Harold Reynolds, second prize to Mrs. Robert Wignall, and third prize to Mrs. Leigh Darron.

Light the Night - December 2021



Last December, once again the Light the Night event was held in Ginegaw Park. Town organizations volunteered to decorate a tree as is always the custom. Liz and Gene Bavis decorated a tree for the Walworth Historical Society (left). Thanks Gene and Liz!

There were many other trees decorated also (right photo). Even with COVID around, this celebration still was held.



The planning for the Wayne County Bicentennial is coming together nicely. Later this spring we should be able to give you a fairly complete list of the activities and programs being planned for 2023. Our county and town committees will be busy this summer sharing this with you.

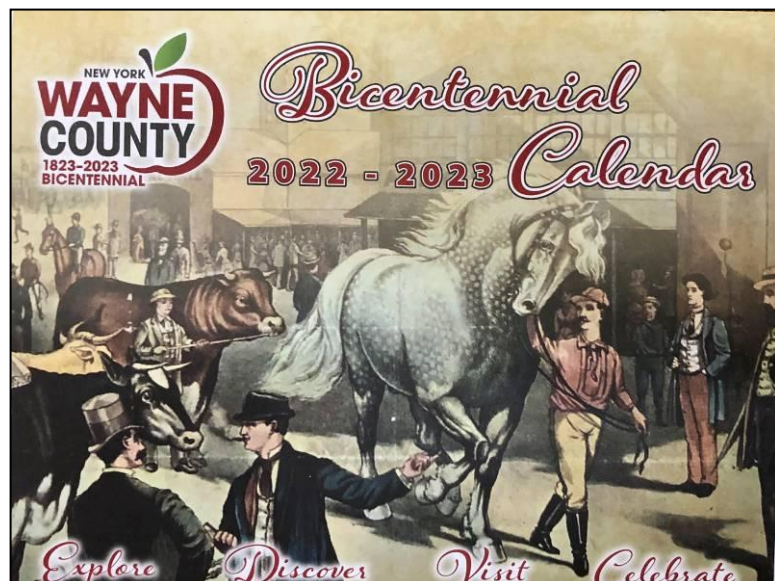
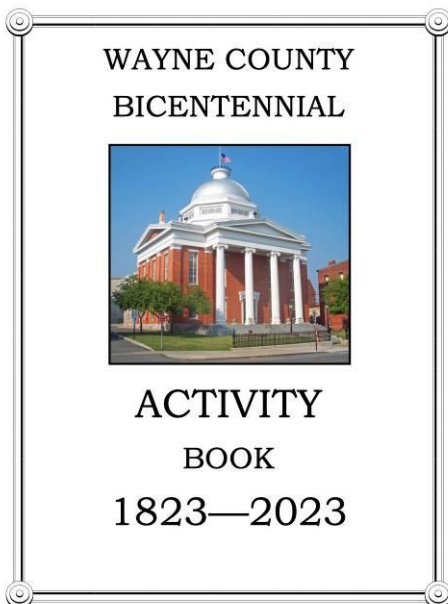
The major accomplishments to date are the production of Bicentennial T-shirts so that you can show your Wayne County pride, a commemorative calendar (right photo below) filled with over 800 historical tidbits and 300+ photos, and a Wayne County Activity Book (left photo below). We have also produced several brochures and rack cards about the bicentennial and historic topics.

If you are able to access Facebook, we urge you to visit daily to read interesting tidbits of Wayne County history. Each day a NEW posting is done and most of them are fascinating. Similar information is found on Instagram. The simple way to access them is to click the link on the Wayne County Bicentennial website: www.waynecounty200.com. Then "bookmark" both it and the Facebook page. While you are on the website, please check out the latest edition of "Bicentennial Bytes," the newsletter from the Wayne County Bicentennial Committee. Back issues are there, too.

Have you purchased your Bicentennial Calendar yet? NO, it's not for keeping track of your appointments. Look at it each day to learn something you may not have been aware had happened here in Wayne County. The calendars are only \$15 each (tax included) and are available at the Walworth Town Clerk's office. Thank you, Aimee Phillips-Lomb for helping the Walworth Historical Society sell these calendars. Profits are shared between the Walworth Historical Society and the Bicentennial Fund and both will help fund programs and projects.

The Activity Book project was headed up by Marion Town Historian, Caryn Devlin. It was designed to be used by elementary age children and contains basic Wayne County history covering all 15 towns. There are word searches, puzzles, pages to color, and other activities that kids will find interesting. If you would like a FREE copy for your child or grandchild, you can visit any Wayne County public library and ask for one. They will also be available at most historical societies when we open for the summer. This project was funded through the Wayne County Historian's budget.

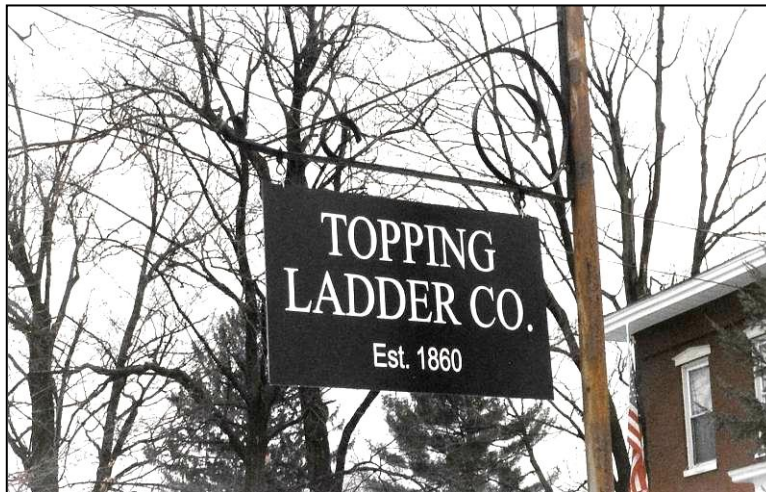
Beginning April 7 and continuing for the next 52 weeks, Bicentennial Minutes will be released. These will take 3 forms. One will be a 2-5 minute video posted on social media, YouTube, and various websites. Print copy is being sent to newspapers and audio clips to WACK Radio. All 15 towns will be included in the topics and we believe that you will learn a lot of Wayne County history if you follow this series. Links will be added to the Walworth Historical Society website as they are released. WATCH for them!



April 18 Program – The Topping Ladder Company By Gene Bavis

On Monday, April 18 at 7:00 PM, our guest speaker will be Doug Topping who grew up in Marion, NY. His father owned and operated the Topping Ladder Company. He is the last family member who worked at the company. Doug has the company memorabilia from throughout the company's history, much of which he will show at the presentation in Walworth. Please come to the Lodge in Ginegaw Park at 7 PM on April 18 to hear the rest of the story and to see some of Doug's collection. Masks are optional and social distancing will be observed.

The Topping Ladder Company was founded in 1850 and remained in Marion until closing. During the early years all sorts of wooden items were made in addition to ladders. These items included wooden gates, apple corers, washing machines and apple dryers of which they still have salesman's models. After 1900, ladders and crates became the prime products made at the company to provide local farmers with items that could be used for harvesting Wayne County's fruit crops. Ladders became the only product that was made from the 1920's onward. As years passed, they were sold not only throughout New York, but also in New England, Michigan, Illinois, and as far away as Arkansas and Louisiana. Topping was the largest producer of basswood ladders in the United States in the 1950's and 1960's. They continued production until 1997, when the company closed.



Top: Topping Ladder sign
Bottom: 1950 Doug in the ladder storage area



2022 WHS Calendar of Events

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	"Topping Ladders" Ginegaw Lodge
May 16	7:00 PM	Annual meeting Ginegaw Lodge
June 13	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
July 22-3	-----	Festival in the Park
Aug. 8	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
Sept. 19	7:00 PM	General meeting TBA
Oct. 2	2-4 PM	Open House
Oct. 10	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
Nov. 14	1:00 PM	General meeting TBA
Dec. 3	6-8 PM	Light the Night
Dec. 12	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum

Officers and Trustees

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

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
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



Proudly posing with their instruments are members of Walworth High School's band circa 1946.

Front row: Helen Darron, Wanda Hoffman, Harold Ginegaw, Violet Reed, Eugene Reynolds, Francis Kelly, Jeannie Collier, Louie Haak, Ruth Kessler, Dick Sewell, and Billy Youngman.

Second row: Mrs. Forbes, Pauline LaParr, Marion Craig, Elaine Bristol, Dorothy Shade, _____, Miriam Sewell, Elizabeth Kelley, Lloyd Smith, Alice Klaser, Geraldine Reynolds, Walter DeWind, Janice Wignall, Eleanor Keymel, Esther Bills, Estelle Godfrey, Mr. Bachman.

Third row: Lloyd Haak, Betty Ralston, Leta Fillmore, Margie Pembroke, Elaine Evans, Joe Finley, Joan Buckley, Viola Saas, Alma Haak, Luther Fillmore, Jean Chapman, Marion Pearson.

Fourth row: Jay Taber, Paul Evans, Harold Schultz, Claire Reynolds, Gerald Rolston, Harold Kessler, Jean Chapman, Oppy Kaper, Evelyn Wickman, Edna Welker.

Fifth row: Thelma Hoffman, Nelson Taber, Gerald Smith, Stewart Clapman, Arlene Duell.

Note: Our museum has a new phone number. It is 315-576-6037. Please leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as possible. Thank you.

Thank you to Reliant Credit Union for printing this newsletter

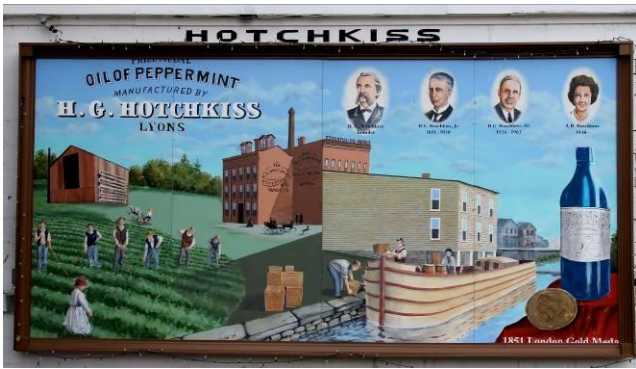


WHS Email Bonus Photos

(All photos on this page are from the December 2021 Light the Night in Ginegaw Park.)



(All photos on this page are of Walworth and other area town murals.)



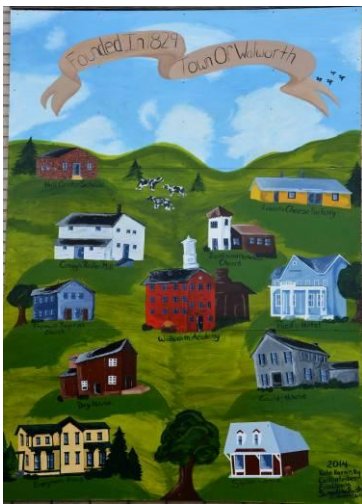
Top left: Lyons / Top right: Macedon



Walworth: summer mural at Ginegaw Park



Walworth: Lions Club Memory Garden, Ginegaw Park



Left: Walworth Town Hall

Right: Walworth winter mural at Ginegaw Park

Bottom: Yeomans Holdsteins at the Walworth Post Office

