



NEWSLETTER
Walworth Historical Society
May 2022
Volume 46 / Number 5



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

Annual WHS Meeting at Ginegaw Park Lodge By Bob Mogray

On Monday, May 16 at 7:00 PM at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park (shown below), the Walworth Historical Society will once again host our annual meeting. There will be a short meeting to conduct a few orders of business, as well to make several announcements. There will be nominations for officers whose terms have expired. This year Jessie Keymel and Gene Bavis are up for re-election as WHS board members. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at this meeting.

We will also be giving out our yearly Community Service Award. This is an award given to a person or small group of people who throughout their lives here in the Walworth area have distinguished themselves by giving of their time and effort by helping others and the community. This year we have selected Vaughn Pembroke (shown below) to have this honor.

Vaughn has been a lifelong resident of this area as has his family. He has been a volunteer member of several local organizations including three fire departments, the ambulance squad, and the Boy Scouts. Vaughn was also a member of the Wayne Central School Board and the Walworth Town Board. He is well known for helping others and volunteering his time to a variety of projects, especially as a counselor for the Rochester Spinal Association.

As we have done on several occasions in the past, a short slide presentation will be shown about some of the things that happened and were important 50 years ago in 1972. This will provide a short trip down memory lane for many of us older members!

Because of COVID, face masks are optional and there will be social distancing. This is a free event and is open to the public so please bring a friend or two and join us for this meeting. The Walworth Historical Society appreciates your support for all of our shows and programs.

We hope to see you there. **For questions, please call:** WHS President Becky Appleman at: 315-524-3289
Walworth Town Historian Gene Bavis at: 315-573-2768
Board member Jessie Keymel at: 315-524-9205



A Tour of Lincoln Farms By Bill Boyd



I had the honor of narrating the "Farms of Lincoln" presentation at the March 21 meeting of the Walworth Historical Society. The meeting was well attended and received by those in attendance at the Lodge at Ginewag Park.

Over the years there have been other farming endeavors in the Lincoln community. The first one that I recall was Louie Wahl at **449 Plank Road**. He and his wife Martha farmed small vegetables and some fruit. I remember one daughter, Linda.

Next would be **3108 Plank Road** which was owned by Wilbur Leaty. He had fruit trees including apples, cherries and peaches. In 1953 the farm was purchased by William Boyd and wife, Till. With the county-wide re-numbering in the fifties the house became 599 Plank Road. Children are Nancy, Bill and Ellen.

Around the corner at **5103 Lincoln Road** was Ellis and Emma Collier. Their land adjoined 599 Plank Road. Ellis grew apples and cherries and had a small hay lot. They had one daughter, Jean. This farm was later purchased by Lee and Marlene Slocum.

On **Plank Road** farther east was the farm owned by Sid Schoenwald. The house was on the north side of Plank Road at the end of Tiffany Road. The barn was on the southwest corner of that same intersection. The barn burned in the fifties. Sid and Evelyn and their four children (Laura, Kip, Justin and Nicholas) built a new house at **1185 Plank Road**, just west of the old house. Later the old house was torn down. Some years later Sid bought the Bushwood farm at **876 Burrow Road**, directly across from Old School House Road. Today that house is occupied by Justin Schoenwald.

On Lincoln Road close to Whitney Road was the Clow farm at **5555 Lincoln Road**. It was owned by Howard and Vera Clow and their son, Garth. The house was on the west side of the road and the dairy barn was on the east side of the road. The barn has been torn down and replaced by new homes. Garth was a commercial farmer. He had the combine, bailer and other equipment to do work for smaller farms in the area. In 1958 the Clows built a new home on the southwest corner of Lincoln and Whitney Roads. This home at **5585 Lincoln Road** was a Sears-Roebuck catalog house. 5585 Lincoln Road is now occupied by Sandy Allen, who is a second cousin to Garth Clow.

"Caring For Cemetery Gravestones" Program Presentation/Demonstration

Dave Bloom, "The Gravestone Guy", will be doing several presentations/demonstrations on how to properly clean gravestones and also on how to make repairs. On Saturday, July 16 at 10:00 AM at the Hall Center Cemetery, Dave will have this presentation. This is sponsored by the Marion Historic Association and the Walworth Historical Society. This cemetery is located at the corner of Goosen Road and Hall Center Road.



For any questions please contact:

Gene Bavis at genebavis71@gmail.com or

Caryn Devlin at marion.ny.historian@gmail.com

Other dates and places for Dave's presentation are:

June 9: Farmington Town Hall at 7:00 PM

June 11: Salem Cemetery on Farmington Road at 9:00 AM

August 15: Huron Evergreen Cemetery at 10:30 AM

Our Collection Continues to Grow

By Mary Jane Devlin

Larry Hill's Hohner piano accordion was recently donated to the museum by his wife, Molly Ebert Hill. Larry was a well-known band leader from the 50's to the 90's. He formed a band called "Larry and the The Music Makers". The band played for square dances at fire halls, at private parties and anywhere else he was requested to do so. He also played with other bands when one of their own members was unable to play and they reciprocated by helping him when one of his members was unable to play on a certain night for some reason. The band members were John Duffy, Eddie Merrill, Larry Hill, Glenn Hyman, and Owen Bassage.

Larry was born in West Walworth and died on June 28, 2021. He was one of seven children. He attended Walworth schools. His father, Forrest, played the fiddle and that is who taught him to play.

The Walworth Historical Society featured Larry and Molly in the September 2015 newsletter. They were interviewed by Dawn Russell, who wrote the article. We thank Molly for thinking of us with such a unique donation.



Molly Hill with Larry's accordion



Larry Hill is shown with his accordion second from the left

President's Report

By Becky Appleman

Happy Spring! With the good weather comes a busy time for WHS.

Home Town Hero's Banners: I wanted to bring everyone up to date on our latest project. WHS is working in conjunction with the Home Town Hero's Banner Committee to bring the Walworth heroes to our hometown streets. Some of the lampposts along Route 441 from the U.S. Post Office to Tops Market, as well as some on Lorraine Drive leading to the town complex and two town-owned poles in Lincoln, are currently being considered.

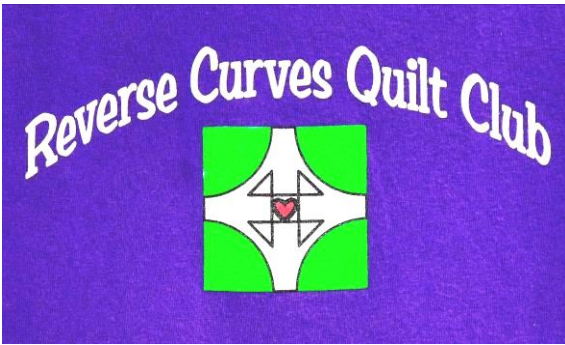
Banners range in price from \$98.00 to \$150.00 depending on size. An 18"x36" size would be placed on the shorter town-owned lampposts and the 30"x60" would go on utility poles. The committee is currently working on permits for NYSEG and RG&E to use their poles. They hope to have more poles available as they get further into this project. These banners would be displayed from Memorial Day to Veterans Day and would be removed and stored each year by the Walworth Highway Department.

If you would like to purchase a banner for a friend or family members who served in the military, we would love to hear from you. A photo and some form of verification will be needed upon completion of your application. The WHS will also retain a copy of this information for our records. The banners are being produced locally by the Lettering Lounge at 6160 South Avenue in Williamson. Because we are a 501(C)(3) organization, WHS will be handling the money and applications; we will be communicating with the Lettering Lounge concerning orders. The committee is currently at the limit for poles until they get permission from the utility companies. The applications and instructions will be on our website and questions can be directed to either Bob Anderson at 585-737-9577 or myself at 585-703-1559. We look forward to your input.

Spring Clean Up: Remember our much-needed spring clean up at the museum on Saturday, May 7, at 9:00 AM with a rain date on May 14. Remember many hands make light work.

Summer Open House Hours: The museum will be open from 2 – 4 PM on Wednesdays during June, July, August, and September. For appointments at other times, contact President Becky Appleman at 315-524-3289 or Town Historian Gene Bavis at 315-573-2768.

The Reverse Curves Quilt Club By Bob Mogray



The Reverse Curves Quilt Club is a local group of talented ladies who started the club in 1974. Gwyn Bassage was inspired by a trip to the Quilt Shop in Webster. She signed up for a beginners' class there and later another advanced class. Soon Gwyn was asked to share her knowledge and talent by teaching a class at the Walworth-Seely Public Library. Later that fall Gwyn had a new group of quilters who included Mary McGahen, Phyllis Dake, Rita Keating, Adele Simmons, Jackie Brunner, Nancy and Patty Benedict, Bertha Masclee, June Wass, Jane Holihan, Peg Frances, Betty Lehr, Diane Lucey, and Gerry Whitmire. For the next two years Gwyn taught more classes.

In 1978 they held their first show to display their quilts at the Walworth Street Dance. The early name of the group was "The Samplers" but was soon changed to "The Reverse Curves Quilt Club", a humorous reference to their body figures and not a type of quilt block. They met on Wednesdays in each other's homes and brought sandwiches to eat, just as they do now.

By 1978 they had constructed a Dresden Plate quilt that was raffled off and the money was donated to the Walworth-Seely Public Library. During the Walworth Sesquicentennial year, the Reverse Curves Quilt Club made a quilt for the Walworth Historical Society. For the construction of this quilt, Walworth Town Historian Gene Bavis provided slides of historical importance to serve as a guide for the individual panels of the quilt. When finished, it was presented to the WHS in 1989 and it was displayed in a parade on Street Dance day. Later it was shown for two days at the Walworth Elementary School and is periodically displayed at the Walworth Historical Society Museum on Academy Street.



Until 1981 their group was loosely organized but then they started taking minutes at their meetings and keeping closer track of their finances. The first officers were: President Gwyn Bassage, Secretary Marty Davis, and Treasurer Phyllis Dake. After that they participated in numerous quilt shows, raffles, and school events.

This organization is still very active and participates in educational programs, donates to the Ronald McDonald House, the Macedon Scout Camporama, the Walworth Historical Society, and the Wayne County Bicentennial project. They are a great group of selfless women who share their talents and support various charities. We are looking forward to seeing the photo quilt they will create for the Wayne County Bicentennial in 2023 which will contain pictures from each town in Wayne County.

Thank you for all of your efforts over the years and continued good luck in the future!

It's That Time of Year Again When..... By Linda Pembroke

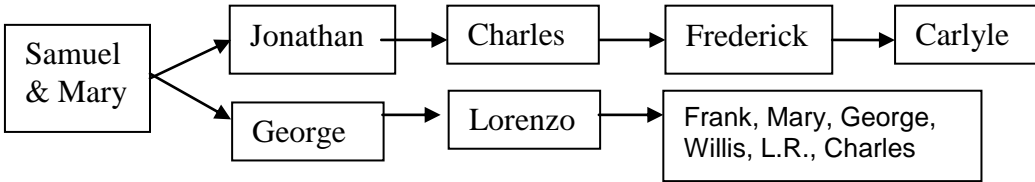
.....we thank our members and friends for their continued financial support of the Walworth Historical Society and museum. This support includes dues, donations, or memorials. As a result, we are able to present programs of historical interest, maintain and enlarge our collections, and preserve the history of our town.

Many of you responded to our February letter. If you have already replied, we thank you. If you haven't, this is a gentle reminder that our fiscal year is May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 and dues are due. Membership levels are noted below:

Individual: \$20	Family Household: \$25	Senior Single (65+): \$15	Senior Couple (65+): \$20
Student: \$5	Supporter: \$50	Patron: \$100	Life: \$250
Life Sr. Couple (65+): \$200	Business: \$75	Business Sponsor: \$150	

Make your check payable to Walworth Historical Society and mail to: Walworth Historical Society, 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. **Contact me at 585-455-7595 if you have questions.**

Samuel and Mary's family



In 1806 three generations of Boyntons came from Massachusetts to Walworth, "an almost unbroken wilderness", according to a Boynton family genealogy.

Samuel and Mary (Robinson) Boynton: Parents of 6 children including Jonathan and George. Samuel was born in Massachusetts, baptized in 1751, and served as a private in the Revolutionary War. As a youngster, Mary lived with the family of Robert Treat Payne, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Samuel died in 1793 but it is unknown where he is buried. Mary spent her last days with her son, George. She died in 1841 and is buried in Freewill Cemetery.



Boynton pear orchard: 1907 WHS photo

Jonathan Boynton: Son of Samuel and Mary. The Honorable Jonathan Boynton was born August 10, 1779 in Stockbridge, Mass. He married Elizabeth Smith, who was born September 6, 1783. Jonathan, Elizabeth and their daughter Caroline moved here in 1806 with his parents and had five more children, including Charles. Elizabeth passed away in 1816. In 1817 Jonathan married Minerva Smith who was born January 15, 1797 and died September 18, 1853. They had two children, Julia and Samuel. Jonathan was Justice of the Peace for more than 20 years, held the office of Judge, and was a member of the New York State Legislature from 1827 to 1831. Jonathan and his two wives are buried in Freewill Cemetery. At the time of Jonathan's death March 28, 1845 the home farm contained 500 acres. The farm was located on the east side of Boynton Road, half way between Walworth-Marion Road and Smith Hill Road.

Charles Boynton: Son of Jonathan and Minerva and born in 1833. Charles married Mary Robbins and they were parents of Frederick (Fred), Mary, Frances, and Julia. For 10 years they lived on a small farm west of Walworth village. They later moved to a farm east of Walworth village on Boynton Road.



Fred Boynton, undated WHS photo and unidentified child

Frederick (Fred) A. Boynton: Son of Charles and Mary and born in 1856. Fred married Eva (born 1871) and they were parents of Bessie, Carlyle, and Lucy. The family lived on a farm two miles east of the village on Boynton Road.

Following his wife's death in 1905 after giving birth to Lucy, Fred asked neighbors Frank and Anna Dumond to move in with them and take care of their three motherless children. After Frank's death in 1927 Anna, a well-known member of the Walworth Methodist Church, married Fred. Anna died in 1958 after giving 50 years of her life to an orphaned neighbor family. She lived to see Carlyle, her stepson, graduate from college.

Fred was an auctioneer in the 1920's. His auctioneering soon became more and more important and his farming less and less important. The family moved to the village where they established family pew #52 in the Methodist Church. Fred would begin auctioning in April when the farmers started to work their farms. He died November 29, 1936. Fred, Eva, Frank and Anna are buried in Baker Road Cemetery.

(continued on next page)

A story by Charles Pembroke, Walworth's famous storyteller:

When Fred Boynton was having a farm auction he held up a pot - the kind we used to slide under our bed. He asked: "What will you give for this musical instrument?" One lady in the front row said "That ain't no musical instrument, Fred, it's a pot." Fred replied: "It's a musical instrument, many a tune has been played on it."

Sources:

- "The New Song" by Rev. Carlyle Boynton
- "Descendants of George Boynton"
- "Walworth, As I Remember It" by Charles Pembroke 1990
- Museum files

To be continued in the next issue

2022 Walworth Festival in the Park By Bob Mogray

On July 22 and 23 the Walworth Lions Club and the Town of Walworth will sponsor the 32nd annual Festival in the Park at Ginegaw Park. On Friday night there will be a Main Street and Walworth-Penfield Road parade with many participants. The theme of this parade is "Music". As always, the Walworth Historical Society will have a float in the parade. Please stop at our booth on Friday night and Saturday afternoon to see displays of historical photos and Walworth area historical items. We hope to see you there! **Below are some vintage photos from the first Festival in the Park Circa 1990.**



The Story of the Topping Ladder Company By Gene Bavis

Twenty-three members and guests were in attendance on April 18 for a very interesting story about the Topping family business in Marion, NY. Fifth generation family member Doug Topping told us about the various products that his family made beginning in 1860. To our surprise, ladders were not the mainstay of the business until the early 20th century. During the 19th century, Topping made a lot of custom wooden items including farm gates, apple corers, crates, fruit dryers, and even a washing machine. Doug's collection includes some GREAT salesman models of some of these products. Those of us in attendance enjoyed seeing them.



The Topping Ladder Company was sold in 1965 to a Rochester company. It remained in business in Marion until 1997 when it closed.



Left: Doug Topping

Right: Wooden miniatures of an apple drying machine on the left and a washing machine on the right. Both of these items were sold in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

If you have access to a computer or even a smart phone or tablet, you can read the official newsletter of the Bicentennial online. Produced by Patti Holdraker, they are called "Bicentennial Bytes and Updates." We publish them at least once every other month or sometimes monthly. Here is that link: <https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/544/News---Bicentennial-Bytes>

Now to the latest news:

The first posting of **Bicentennial Minutes** was made on April 6. There will be 52 of these short videos posted on YouTube and social media. Soundbites have been sent to WACK radio and press releases to the local newspapers. The Times of Wayne County will be publishing them all on their history page. Tentative publication dates are posted on the website: <https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/DocumentCenter/View/4047/Bicentennial-Minutes-Publication-Dates-PDF>

The date and location for the **Bicentennial Gala** has been set: The Ballroom at Carey Lake on May 13, 2023. Patti Holdraker is heading up the committee to plan the details of this "dress up" event. We'll report more news as it develops.

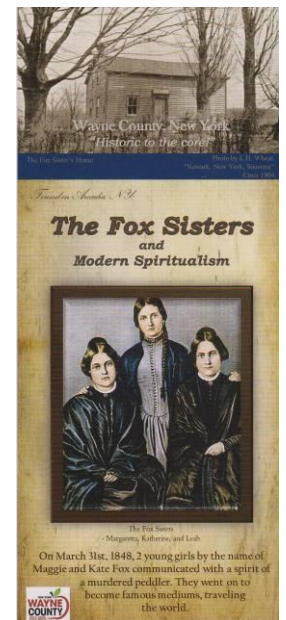
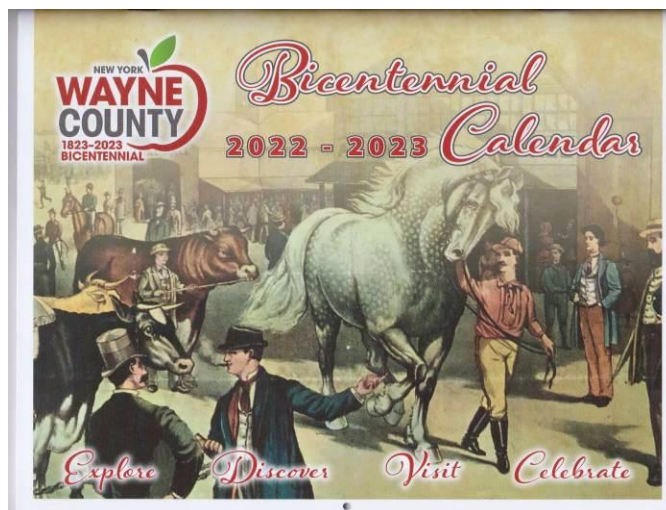
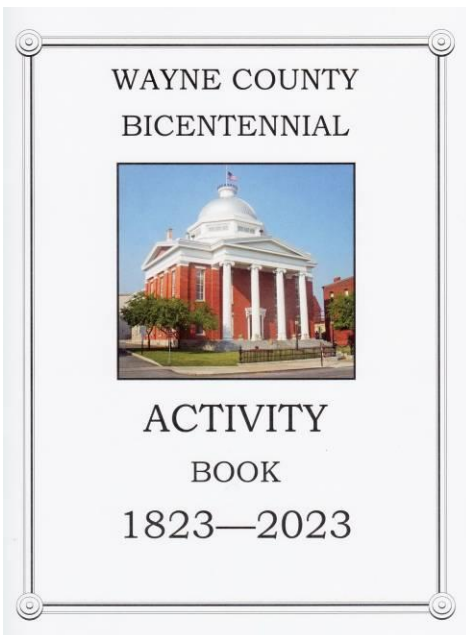
The **Activity Book** for elementary aged students has been released. This project, headed by Marion Historian Caryn Devlin, resulted in a 60-page book printed with County funds and is available **FREE** of charge at all public libraries in Wayne County. We are working to get copies to historical societies and others. Some of the public schools will be using them this spring with their 4th graders. Others will be using them next school year (or both years). Caryn and her team did a GREAT job.

Seven of the **Town Rack Cards** have been completed thanks to the design expertise of Amber Linson. Huron and Walworth have been printed and the others are going to press very soon. Amber also designed two topical cards, one about the Fox Sisters and Modern Spiritualism and the other about Cobblestone Masonry. These will be distributed **FREE** of charge at events around the county. More to come.

Amber Linson is also heading up the **Memories Book** project. Over 140 stories have been submitted and her team is in the process of reviewing, editing and laying out the book. It is expected to be available this fall and would make a GREAT Christmas gift. Speaking of great gifts - the Bicentennial calendars are still available from the Walworth Historical Society or at the Walworth Town Clerk's office. If someone didn't already buy you one, we suggest you buy yourself a gift calendar. It's packed with facts and photos.

Bob Mogray and the Reverse Curves Quilt Club are creating a **Wayne County Photo Quilt**. Forty photos are done and layout work has begun. A **poster** of this quilt will be created and made available, hopefully by summer. When completed the quilt will visit as many festivals and public events as possible.

Please follow the Bicentennial's daily posting on **Facebook and Instagram** - LOTS of interesting stuff there!



Some of the many publications available from the Wayne County Bicentennial Committee

Yesteryear Businesses in Walworth – Part 1 By Dorothy French

There were numerous businesses located in Walworth in the early 1800's, according to the 1867-1868 "Gazetteer and Business Directory of Wayne County."

*** 1805-1850 ***

Name	Business	Name	Business
Chase, Gilman	Cooper Shop: 1865	Kipp, Alonzo	Tannery operator: 1850
Fillmore, Luther	Built first tannery: 1805	Yeomans, E. & T.	Rake factory: 1850

To Be Continued

2022 WHS Calendar of Events

May 16	7:00 PM	Annual meeting Ginegaw Lodge
June 13	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
July 22-23		Festival in the Park
Aug. 8	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
Sept. 19	7:00 PM	General meeting Ruth Williams 19th Century Funerals
Oct. 2	2-4 PM	Honoring the three local fire departments
Oct. 10	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum
Nov. 21	1:00 PM	General meeting TBA
Dec. 3	6-8 PM	Light the Night
Dec. 12	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum

Looking Back to 1962 By Dorothy French

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

- June 8:** Sharon Schultz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schultz and a junior at Wayne Central School, was chosen by the American Field Service to go to England as an exchange student this summer.
- June 15:** Walworth High School Alumni Association held its annual banquet, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class. Clifford Huntley, only member of that class, spoke as he did 12 years ago when the Alumni Association was organized.
- Aug. 10:** Trudy McNall, home economist for IGA Stores, will be at the "little store" in Walworth, according to Don Brockman, IGA manager. Free tickets will be available at all IGA stores for the cooking school which Trudy will be conducting at the Rochester War Memorial on September 10.
- Aug. 24:** Grand opening ceremonies for the dedication of the new Walworth-Seely Public Library were held August 19. Guest of honor was Miss Bessie Seely, whose father, Jay Seely, owned the site. A moment of silence was observed for the late Dr. William Horace Foster Newman, who was active in many community organizations, including spearheading a fund drive for the new library.

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.

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

Thank you to Reliant Credit Union for printing this newsletter



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WHS Email Bonus Photos

All photos on this page are from the Topping Ladder program



(All photos on this page were taken in the Walworth area during previous spring times)

