



NEWSLETTER
Walworth Historical Society
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Celebrating Lincoln Fire Department's 75th Anniversary By Bob Mogray

On October 2 the Walworth Historical Society was honored to co-host the 75th anniversary of the Lincoln Fire Department. Held at the Lincoln Fire Hall, there were displays and photos from not only the Lincoln Fire Department but also from the Walworth Historical Society, the West Walworth Fire Department, the Western Wayne Ambulance Inc., and the Walworth Fire Department. These displays were set up in the truck bay and were there along with representatives from each of the organizations to answer questions, supply information, and be a part of the celebration.

This combination anniversary and open house was very well attended. There were presentations in the meeting room by several of the Lincoln Fire Department members and attendees from the other organizations. At the end of the session, there was ice-cream and a cake from Wegmans. The cake had a photo of the Lincoln Fire Hall as it looked 75 years ago and another photo as it looks today. The logo was also printed on the cake. The design for the cake top is shown below (top left).

Many thanks to all of those who attended this 75th birthday/open house celebration of the Lincoln Fire Department. Hats off to these men and women who have volunteered many hours in the service of the Lincoln area as part of this great organization.



When the Brakes Failed..... By Linda Pembroke

Vaughn Pembroke might be the only person in the history of Walworth to belong to all three local fire departments as well as the ambulance service. At the recent Lincoln Fire Department's 75th anniversary celebration he was reviewing all the displays by the departments and had comments on the photos.

He fought the fire in the Baptist Church in West Walworth as a Walworth firefighter. He "rode that ambulance. I remember that barn fire." The newspaper article brought out the behind-the-scenes story about the time the Lincoln fire truck crashed into a house.

It was 1977 or early 1978 before cell phones. Snow was on the ground. Lincoln's fire monitor went off late at night for a fire at the Walworth Garden Apartments and Vaughn took off for the Lincoln Fire Department. Three trucks rolled. Vaughn closed the firehouse doors and hopped into his vehicle to get to the scene. Upon arrival he discovered only two of the three trucks had arrived. He retraced the path back to the firehouse to look for it. At the corner of Plank Road and Route 350 he found Percy Tetlow standing in the road wearing his pajama bottoms and a jacket. Vaughn stopped and asked what he was doing and Percy just pointed and said, "He went right through that house!" There was the missing truck.

No one was injured. However, a young girl was saved from injury when her bed mattress curled around her like a burrito when her bed was pushed across the room. The truck had stopped its forward motion before crushing her and before the truck would have tipped into the basement. It was later determined the brakes had failed.

The fire at the Apartments turned out to have been in a garbage can and had been extinguished so everyone went to the crash. First task was removing the truck from the house. Vaughn volunteered to try to get a heavy cable his father-in-law, Bob Cooman, used to pull out his tractors when they got stuck in the field. He tried to wake Bob and Kate by knocking and calling their names from downstairs. There was no response so he went upstairs and ended up poking his head in the bedroom before they woke. He asked about the cable and Bob said it was probably frozen on the dirt floor of the barn and unavailable. So, Vaughn went back to the scene. The next morning Bob told Kate he had the weirdest dream that Vaughn was standing in their bedroom in his turnout gear. Kate told him she had the same dream.

Vaughn and his dad, Charlie Pembroke, spent the rest of the night working on fixing the electrical wiring and heat for the house while the rest of the guys got the truck out and boarded up the hole. When Vaughn finally arrived home, he was met by a distraught wife who had heard on the scanner that the fire amounted to nothing and she had been wondering for hours where he was. Vaughn got much better at calling if he was going to be late.

November 21 Program Meeting By Gene Bavis

Please join the Walworth Historical Society at Noon on November 21 at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park for lunch and then "Tidbits of Wayne County" a program presented by Bicentennial Co-Chair, Rosa Fox. This program is based on the daily postings Rosa does for the Bicentennial Facebook page. Amazing things from all over Wayne County are shared and followed by over 300 people. We will be serving a variety of homemade soups with bread and crackers, beverages and dessert. The lunch and program are FREE and open to the public.



Rosa Fox

Upon retirement in 2014 from 30 years of teaching instrumental music at North Rose-Wolcott Middle School, Rosa decided to explore the post of historian for the town of Huron. This appointment fills Rosa's days with local history research, writing, and keeping track of the Town of Huron's three historic buildings and their contents – just to name a few of her roles as a municipal historian.

She has played a very active role in the Wayne Historians Organization and attends many of the workshops and programs on local history that are available to historians. When the Bicentennial Committee was established in 2019, she was one of the first to join. After LarryAnn Evans passed away in 2020, she was appointed as Co-Chair.

Memories: An Interview with Cheryl Bradshaw Nieves By Dawn Russell

Cheryl Bradshaw Nieves was born in the city of Canandaigua on February 28, 1944, just missing leap year by hours. She weighed three pounds and was the first baby to use the new incubators at the hospital. Her parents were Milton and Charlotte Bradshaw. She has two siblings - Bonnie and Grant.

When Cheryl was six months old, her parents moved to 8 Main Street in Walworth, next to the variety/hardware store. They purchased the house for \$6,500 from the Salyerds. Cheryl lived there until age eleven. She attended the Walworth Baptist Church and it was there at Sunday School she met Carol Goebert (Joyce VanHaneghem's little sister). Cheryl and Carol became best friends from their young age until the present. They were inseparable, called each other Buddy and still do. Cheryl remembers playing house, swimming, and dressing up. Her dad Milton built the children a corn house made out of corn stalks, where they played for hours inside it.

Cheryl's parents moved when she was eleven to 15 Walworth-Penfield Road in the town of Walworth. They bought the house and greenhouses from Elton and Anna May. They operated a business selling flowers for weddings, funerals and events. Cheryl remembers a blizzard when it snowed for a week straight. During that snow storm she remembers watching the farmers come to the four corners of Walworth with their milk cans to meet with a horse-drawn log wagon to pick up the cans. She says there were 33 farms between Yellow Mills Road and Ontario.

She attended Walworth Elementary and Wayne Central Schools and graduated in 1961. While in high school, she would come home every day after school and work in her parents' greenhouses. Working alongside her were Dolores Bush, Freida Leisten, Joyce Bradstreet and others. Cheryl's dad was a bus driver for Wayne Central and Cheryl didn't really like riding his bus because he always knew what she was doing.

Cheryl always wanted to be a cheerleader and in her sophomore year she cheered for basketball. One night during an away game a big snow storm hit and it took the bus, driven by the janitor, "forever" to reach Walworth. Once the bus reached where Ginegaw Park is now, it quit. Cheryl and Carol were the only ones left and had to walk in the freezing cold to their houses wearing only their cheerleading outfits. On their walk, they found a light on at the old fire station/dance hall. They stopped in there and warmed up until continuing home. That was a night she will never forget.

One summer Cheryl remembers her dad purchasing big watermelons. Cheryl's brother Grant would sell slices for \$.25 each to the workmen building Route 441. The men loved getting those refreshing slices of watermelon on those hot days. Years later the Bradshaws bought farm land on Route 350 and turned a cow barn into their beautiful house. Cheryl remembers one winter while living there that it snowed for many days. She would watch as men would pull toboggans through a path in the center of the roadway to get supplies. Eventually an almost-army-style-type Linn would drive through and plow, breaking down every few miles to replace a broken bolt and then plow once again. What a sight to see.

Cheryl met Nelson in 1958 and they went to many dances together. In 1960 they were married at the Walworth Baptist Church by Reverend Peterson. Cheryl and Nelson have three children: Joann, Nelson Jr. and Douglas. They have six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. While raising their children, Cheryl worked at Xerox as a secretary. She also drove bus for Wayne Central School for 20 years and loved that job. At one point she and Marge Hyman worked with Shirley Huntley in her florist shop.

Cheryl and her husband Nelson have lived in their house on Walworth-Palmyra Road for 52 years. They have been happily married for 61 years, raising their children together. Cheryl has many fond memories of Walworth.



Left Photo: Cheryl Nieves from her high school yearbook photo.

Right photo: a more recent photo of Cheryl.



Turning Back the Pages to 1962 By Dorothy French

- Jan. 5 Dolomite announced it is interested in buying property in Walworth to run a gravel pit operation.
- Jan. 26 Walworth town trucks have recently been equipped with two-way radios; four new radios are currently in use.
- Feb. 16 An influx of 200,000 visitors is anticipated in Newark on June 16 – 24 during the 31st annual Rose Festival and the 90th anniversary of the Jackson and Perkins Company.
- Feb. 23 An epidemic of three-day measles, coupled with flu viruses and colds, resulted in 77 students being absent from Walworth Elementary School on Monday and 80 students on Tuesday.
- Mar. 9 The New York State Board of Regents granted a provisional charter, good for five years, to the Walworth-Seely Public Library, which will move to the front of the Seely building when remodeling work has been completed.
- Apr. 6 Members of the library's Board of Trustees are looking for letters, pictures, etc. of historical value for a local history department in the new library.
- June 8 Joseph Finley of Walworth, completing his first term as a member of the New York Assembly from Wayne County, announced he will seek re-election.

Crane-Engert American Legion Post #1710 By Dorothy French



When Oakley Crane and Elwyn Engert of Walworth enlisted in the U.S. Army during the early years of World War II they undoubtedly had put their dreams on hold to serve our country. Their life story had a tragic ending when both young men were killed during the invasion at Normandy.

To honor their memory and ultimate sacrifice, the local American Legion was chartered on December 3, 1957 as Crane-Engert American Legion Post #1710. The Post was cancelled May 6, 1965.

American Legion Members: front row, left to right: Al Traugott and Pete Ricci. Back row: Gordon Youngman, Bill Youngman, Don Crane, and Bill Underhill. Undated photo.



On November 11, 1959, the Post held a memorial service in front of the Grange Hall where a monument was unveiled listing the servicemen of Walworth who served during World War II. It was originally displayed in front of the former Pacific Hotel building (left photo). The names of Oakley Crane and Elwyn Engert were among the local veterans listed. Many years later Nathaniel Ruth created a similar honor board for his Boy Scout Community Service project to qualify for his Eagle Award. The board is now displayed near the entrance to the main meeting room at Walworth Town Hall.

Oakley Crane was born in Webster on March 15, 1922 to Harry and Barbara Crane and was baptized on Easter Sunday 1937 in Lincoln Baptist Church. The family lived at 891 Atlantic Avenue near Lincoln Road from June 14, 1926 until June 8, 1943. He graduated from Webster High School in 1938 and worked in Rochester as a typesetter prior to his enlisting in the U.S. Army on November 1, 1942 at age 20. Overseas service began November 1943 and he served in the Aleutians, North Africa, Italy and France.

Continued on next page



Oakley was a paratrooper in the 1st Regiment, 1st Special Service Force, U.S. Army. He was wounded on the Anzio Beachhead in Normandy May 25, 1944 and later returned to his unit to continue serving. The location of Oakley's remains are unknown because this U.S. Army staff sergeant, age 22, was killed September 17, 1944 by a land mine in Normandy. He is memorialized in Rhone American Cemetery, Draguignan, France, and was posthumously awarded the WWII Victory Medal and Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters. His sister Marie was a Corporal in the Women's Army Corps, stationed in Paris, France with the U.S. Army.

Left photo: Oakley's memorial cross in Normandy



Elwyn F. Engert was born 1918 in Walworth to Frank (Franklin) and Matie (Marie Albright) Engert. His siblings included Carrie, Girtie, Floyd, Ransford, Flossie, and Adam. According to a federal census, family residences included Burrow Road, Walworth (1920); 53 Harris Road, Webster (1930); and Walworth (1940).

Elwyn attended Ontario High School. His October 16, 1940 draft card listed his address as Ontario. He later moved to 392 Clinton Avenue South in Rochester and was employed at Art-in-Buttons, Inc. He enlisted January 23, 1942 at Fort Niagara. Elwyn was a Technician Fifth Grade, 3rd Armored Division U.S. Army when he was killed in action on July 11, 1944 at the Battle of Saint-Lo, France. Elwyn is buried in Normandy American Cemetery in France and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Left photo: Elwyn's grave marker in Normandy

Editor's Note: Information for this story was obtained from: 1.) WHS museum files; 2.) Steve Yuschak, Walworth resident and member of American Legion and Veteran of Foreign Wars; 3.) Barbara Schultz Hallberg, Oakley's niece; and 4.) Ellen Dietterick, WHS genealogy researcher.



Funeral Practices of the 1800's Program By Bob Mogray

On Monday, September 19, at 7 PM at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park, Ruth Williams of Henrietta spoke to our historical society on the topic of funeral practices of the Civil War era. Ruth touched on the mid-1800's topics of death, widows, widowers, cemeteries, and embalming. She also talked about the stages of mourning and what was appropriate for grieving widows and widowers to wear.

Ruth explained the social guidelines for the amount of time that was considered proper for mourning children, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. The concept of beautiful garden cemeteries was explained and photo examples were shown. Ruth even had information on the cost of funeral services in the mid-1800's. There was very good attendance for this program. We wish to thank Ruth Williams for some very interesting entertainment about a subject that is not often presented. Shown here is a photo of Ruth in her period-appropriate clothing.

Left photo: Ruth Williams

Walworth Historical Society Gets ARPA Grant from the Town of Walworth By Gene Bavis

The Town of Walworth recently received over \$900,000 from the American Rescue Plan. The town allocated some of these funds to help businesses and non-profits who were affected by the pandemic. On October 6 the Walworth Historical Society (photo by Deb Heinonen) was one of four organizations to receive a portion of this money. The West Walworth Fire Department, Lincoln Fire Department and Western Wayne Ambulance Inc. also received funds.

A major need for the Walworth Historical Society is to expand our membership base and to get more people actively involved in our important mission: To 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.



The major portion of the funds will be spent to produce a booklet that will be mailed to every household in the Town of Walworth. The booklet will consist of some basic history of the town, lots of photographs, and tidbits of local history that we hope everyone will enjoy. Of course, it will encourage people to join and support our mission. Hopefully, we will make a compelling argument for support as we believe that collecting, preserving and displaying local history is extremely important.

A solid membership base is necessary to maintain the work we have been doing since 1975. Work on this project has begun, but if you'd like to volunteer please contact any Board Member. We hope to have the content and layout completed by January, so that it can be printed and distributed in March. Most of you reading this are already members. Please help us recruit new members and volunteers.

Filing Committee and Volunteers By Jessie Keymel

The Filing Committee has been busy this month. We were visited by the new owners of land located on the eastern edge of the Walworth hamlet. They have spent time looking at different maps and other information to learn about the property and its uses. The search continues and we expect to hear what has been discovered as they look back into the history of this property.

Our second week, following the WHS board meeting, brought a volunteer mother and son team. Amber, Anthony and our team have rearranged the grouping of the tables in the museum, giving more room to view the display cases and a better work area. Thanks to Anthony, items collected and accessioned during the past few months were moved upstairs. The glass case on the east wall has been emptied and is ready to display new donations. As you enter the meeting room a table dedicated for new donations has been added. It includes the required forms the donor needs to complete for each gift. This will help the filing committee to accession new items and put them in the glass show case for display.

Thank you, Anthony, for vacuuming, sweeping and spending your community service time at the Walworth Historical Society's museum. We are grateful to you and your Mom for volunteering to help us..

President's Report By Becky Appleman

As summer winds down and fall shows its vibrant colors and crisp days we move forward toward the upcoming holiday season. The museum's gardens have been weeded one last time. Our museum's meeting room has been cleaned and reorganized. Items have been moved upstairs for storage and we begin to make plans for next year's programs. All suggestions for programming are welcome.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with upkeep at the museum this year. Thanks to our young "weed warriors" for all their work and to Ed Stalker for trimming the bushes. A special thanks to Alex Heinonen for mowing. Thanks to the crew who cleaned and reorganized the meeting room and all the volunteers who worked behind the scenes. It takes a whole crew to keep our museum in good condition and we appreciate all the help.

Our soup and bread luncheon will be held on November 21 at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park at 12:00 pm. After lunch our speaker, Rosa Fox, will bring us up-to-date on bicentennial events for next year. We hope to see many of you at our November 21 program. Keep updated with our article about our HomeTown Heroes Project. Enjoy the autumn season.



HomeTown Heroes Project By Becky Appleman

The HomeTown Heroes project with the Walworth Historical Society and the Town of Walworth was created to recognize the veterans in our community. This first year we had 27 banners on display in Walworth, Lincoln and West Walworth. The cost is \$175.00 and the banners will be displayed for two seasons from approximately Memorial Day through Veterans Day. After Veterans Day, the banners will be removed and stored by the Walworth Highway Department until next year.

This is a great way to honor your veteran. The application period will close on February 28, 2023 to give us time to prepare for next year's additional banners. Applications are available at our town clerk's office, on the WHS website walworthhistoricalsociety.org or by contacting Becky at 315-524-3289. You may leave a message and I'll return your call.

This year we will be recognizing our veterans at a commemorative celebration on Thursday, November 3 at 6:30 pm at the Walworth Fire Department on Church Street. All are welcome.



Wayne County Bicentennial Updates By Gene Bavis

Whew! What a whirlwind we have going on! Since our last newsletter, the Bicentennial Sponsorship Committee reached out to many larger businesses in Wayne County to become Bicentennial sponsors. To date we have raised over \$70,000 of the approximate \$120,000 needed to support the MANY projects and events we have planned for 2023.

The Voices of Wayne County book was supposed to have been released on October 11, but due to production problems, got delayed twice. The Bicentennial Committee is confident that we will have the book done in time for holiday giving, but as of this writing cannot give you the exact date. The books are \$25 each plus \$2 sales tax. WHS earns \$5 for each book sold. Contact Gene Bavis (genebavis71@gmail.com or 315-573-2768) if you'd like to buy one.

A huge Bicentennial Mural has been started in Williamson. It is located on the Thatcher building across from McDonald's on Route 104. The mural will include as many important elements of Wayne County history as we can fit in. When completed, there will be a complete description of the mural available online. The Mural Mania folks who are doing this project have always promoted murals as "Art With a History Lesson." Absolute true here!

April 11, 2023 is the official kick off. A BIG ceremony will be held that day in Lyons. At 11 AM we are planning a 2-minute bell ringing ALL OVER Wayne County. If you are associated with a church or other building that has a bell, please let us know who to contact about this.

May 13, 2023: The Bicentennial Gala will be held at the Ballroom at Carey Lake. This will be a classy event with a fabulous dinner and program as well as dancing. John Kucko has agreed to be our keynote speaker. AND there will be fireworks. Ticket information and more details will be announced in January.

Daily Facebook and Instagram postings continue. If you use either of these social media formats, we strongly urge you to follow us. Bicentennial Minutes are being released each Thursday. They can be found on YouTube via our website. There are several other projects that I don't have space to mention or describe.

We feel that the Wayne County Bicentennial will be the most comprehensive county-wide celebration to be found anywhere in New York State and probably far beyond. (Yes, we ARE bragging!). Check out our website: www.waynecounty200.com

Editor's Note: This newsletter is the last one for 2022. Since the current newsletter committee was formed in 2006, we have published 90 issues and these have included over 1080 stories and articles. My thanks to this committee and all of those who contributed stories, information, and helped in any way. Our next issue will in March of 2023. Have a great rest of 2022 and holiday season that will soon be upon us!

Do You Recognize These Old Houses? By Mary Jane Devlin

These photos were taken in 1907 by a railroad company for a proposed spur to Walworth. The surveyors who came took pictures in West Walworth, Lincoln, and Walworth of houses, barns, fruit dry houses, cider mills, a roller mill, and cheese factories. Pictures of churches, the Pacific Hotel, Walworth Academy, stores, Masonic Hall, Macabee Hall and orchards were also taken.

These original photos were found in an attic in Westfield, Massachusetts by a relative of Electa Wilson, who lived on Atlantic Avenue at the time. The relative gave them to Electa who donated them to the Walworth Historical Society while Kay Scott was president. Now a committee is trying to establish where these houses are or what happened to them. This is the third pair of houses that have been in our newsletter. We had some suggestions of where the other four houses might have been and we checked them out. We appreciate people taking the time to let us know their suggestions, but none of them proved to be the actual houses.



If you have any information about either of the two houses pictured, please contact someone on the Curatorial Committee: Jessie Keymel, Dorothy French, or Mary Jane Devlin. Here are pictures of two more houses that we could not find.



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

2022 WHS Calendar of Events

Nov. 3	6:30 PM	HomeTown Heroes Celebration Walworth Fire Hall
Nov. 21	12:00 PM	General meeting / Soup Rosa Fox: "Tidbits of Wayne County" Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec. 3	6-8 PM	Light the Night Ginegaw Park
Dec. 12	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS museum

Officers and Trustees

President	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
Vice-President	Bob 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	Alex Heinonen	(585) 451 - 5884

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
Genealogy	Ellen Dietterick	(585) 200 - 4685
Grounds	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
HomeTown Heroes	Christine Kubida	(585) 455 - 4359
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

Email members extra photos

All photos on this page are from the Lincoln Fire Department's 75-Year anniversary/open house



All photos on this page show fall colors in the Walworth area.

