



NEWSLETTER  
**Walworth Historical  
Society**  
**March 2023**  
Volume 47 / Number 4



2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568  
walworthhistoricalsociety.org 315-576-6037

*Wayne County Bicentennial Gala*  
*May 13, 2023*

**NEW YORK**  
**WAYNE COUNTY**  
1823-2023  
BICENTENNIAL  
*Gala*

**You're Invited...**  
Come celebrate  
the Bicentennial  
of the founding  
of Wayne County!

An evening of fun and celebration

Historic slide shows and displays  
Photo booth / photographer  
Guest speaker:  
John Kucko,  
Kucko Digital and WROC-TV  
Music and Dancing  
Master of Ceremonies:  
General "Mad Anthony" Wayne  
Carving Station Buffet - Cash Bar  
FIREWORKS

**Buy tickets... SCAN QR Code**

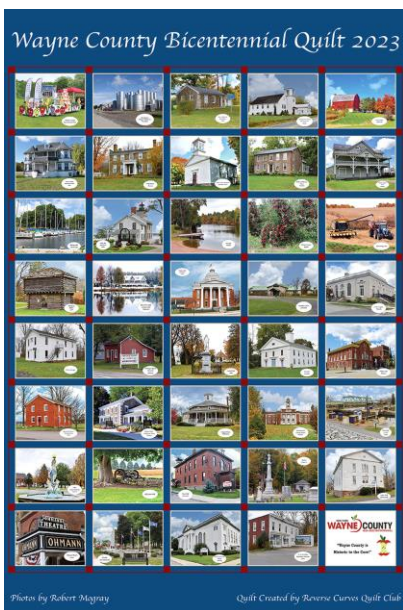


**May 13, 2023**  
**5:30pm - mingle time**  
**6:30pm - dinner**  
Ballroom at Carey Lake

Tickets on sale now  
\$50 per person  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycxj8468>  
or scan QR code

On April 11, 1823, portions of Ontario and Seneca Counties were ceded to a new entity created by an act of the New York State Legislature and named in honor of Revolutionary War hero, General Anthony Wayne. Wayne County was “born.” In 1820, the United States Census reported that the population of the seven towns which made up what is now Wayne County was 20,309. By 1830, there were 15 towns, and the population was 33,643. Walworth was divided from Ontario on April 5, 1830, and the 1830 Census report contained 1781 people.

April 11, 2023 is only about a month away. There will be “big doings” in Lyons beginning at 10:50 AM on the old Courthouse steps. At 10:58 AM and lasting for 2 minutes, there will be church (and other) bells ringing all over Wayne County. The ceremony at the Courthouse will include the reading of the official proclamation, student music performances, and the dedication of the historic marker commemorating Wayne County’s founding. From 1:30 PM until about 3:30 PM, we will have a program at the Lyons Community Center that will include remarks from New York State Historian, Devin Lander. For those who cannot attend in person, the event will be live-streamed. Check the website to find a link to it: [www.waynecounty200.com](http://www.waynecounty200.com)



If you were able to attend the Walworth Historical Society’s program presented by Rosa Fox in November, you got to see the **Bicentennial quilt**. It is currently being displayed at various events and locations all over the county. Posters (24” x 36”) of the bicentennial quilt (left) will be available in April to purchase. You will be able to get yours from the Walworth Historical Society at our April 17 meeting.

**Voices of Wayne County** was finally released just before Christmas after production delays. The Walworth Historical Society is selling them for \$25 plus \$2 tax. If you buy them from us, we earn a \$5 commission. We will have them at meetings or you can contact us to arrange to get a copy. If that isn’t possible, you can order them from the Wayne County Historical Society: [www.waynehistory.org](http://www.waynehistory.org). There is a shipping and handling fee.

The **Bicentennial Gala** is being held at the Ballroom at Carey Lake on May 13. Tickets (\$50 each) can only be purchased online. There is a link on the [www.waynecounty200.com](http://www.waynecounty200.com) website. We are pleased that John Kucko will be our guest speaker. Details are on the front cover and the website. We anticipate this event being sold out soon, so don’t delay if you wish to attend.

There is MUCH MORE going on related to the Bicentennial than we can fit in here. Please visit the website OFTEN for updates: [www.waynecounty200.com](http://www.waynecounty200.com)

**Henrietta Cub Scouts Visit Walworth** By Gene and Liz Bavis

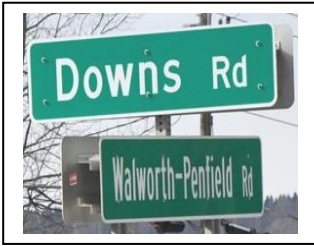
Why would Cub Scouts from Henrietta come to Walworth? Simple, two of those kids happen to be our twin grandsons, Thomas and Michael; their Mom, Julie, is one of their leaders. In 2021, Thomas and Michael were here for the first “Wreaths Across America” ceremony to be held in Walworth. Julie thought it would be nice to bring the rest of Pack 332 to participate in the 2022 ceremony. The 15 boys all got to help place the wreaths on veterans’ graves. Following the ceremony, they visited the Walworth Historical Society where Grandpa Gene had a short local history lesson for them while Grandma Liz served hot chocolate and Christmas cookies.



**April 17 Program - Walworth Memories from “Voices of Wayne County”** By Gene Bavis

Amber Linson headed up the Voices of Wayne County book project for the Wayne County Bicentennial. The Walworth Historical Society is proud to have her present a program based on the book at our Monday, April 17 meeting. The book contains about 140 stories from all 15 towns, but this program will emphasize the stories from Walworth. We expect that some of the authors of those stories will also be in attendance. We invite you to bring a friend and join us at 7:00 PM on April 17 at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park for this interesting program. Refreshments will be served.





## Downs Road and Its Families: Part 1 By Dorothy French

*Editor's Note: This begins a series of stories about the Downs and Phillips families who lived on Downs Road. Thank you to WHS Genealogist Ellen Dietterick for her extensive research.*



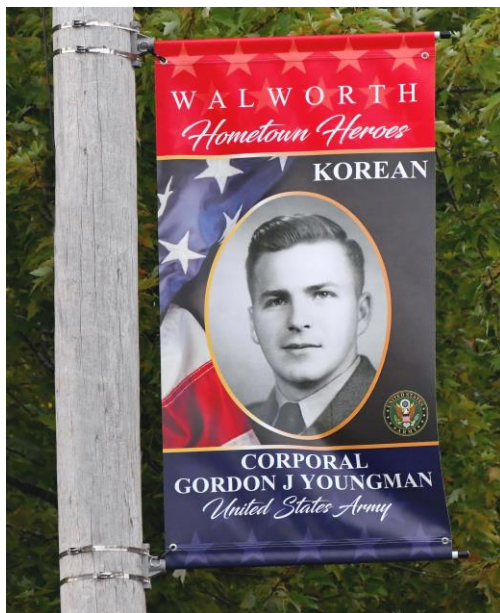
Downs Road is a short connection between Walworth-Penfield Road (Route 441) and Atlantic Avenue (Route 286). How did it get its name? An undated map at Walworth Town Hall shows two families living on an unnamed road in that area. Town Building Inspector Norman Druschel guesstimates the year between 1860 and 1870 when the map was printed. The two families were W. Downs and J. Downs. An 1876 map at our museum lists the road's name.....and thus begins this story.

According to an undated copy of "A History of the Town of Walworth" written by an unknown author, "In 1855 Great-grandfather Downs arrived from Ireland and purchased a farm near the center of the township." About the same time the author's Grandpa Phillips also settled on Downs Road. It is probable that this "History" was written by a descendant of either Maude or Mabel, daughters of David Phillips. **(To be continued: Downs Road and the Downs Family)**

## Banners for Our HomeTown Heroes By Christine Kubida

Walworth HomeTown Heroes is excited to announce that once again veteran banners (shown below) will be displayed along the Walworth roadsides beginning in May.

Started in early 2022, WHTH is now in their 3rd phase of banner unveiling, with last year recognizing 27 veterans and this year adding another 6 veterans to the list. Banners are proudly displayed in all three hamlets: Lincoln, Walworth, and West Walworth. Road and area coverage includes Lorraine Drive, Town Hall Complex, Route 441, Walworth-Ontario Road, Walworth-Palmyra Road, Academy Street, West Walworth Road, and the intersection of Plank and Lincoln Roads.



As of today's date, veterans honored as part of the WHTH Banner Program are: Robert Anderson, Warren Bell, Mackenzie Bigley, Lewis Brown, Richard Carley Jr., Jason Carney, Marie Crane, Oakley Crane, Aaron Fernaays, Justyn Franklin, Donald Goebert, Alfred Kunzer, Theron Kunzer, Ronald Lawrence, Joe LeMay, Robert Lockemeyer, William Meiers, Alexander J.N. Menzies, Alexander Murrell, Benjamin Pickett, Joseph Pickett, Stanley Porterfield, David Price, Gordon Reed, Paul Rogalski, James Schmitt, Robert Turcotte, William Underhill, Eugene VanDeWalle, Raymond Welker, Frederick Wright, Gordon Youngman, and William Youngman.

For more information on how you can reserve a banner for your veteran please contact WHTH committee member Mike by email at [hthwalworth.kunzer@gmail.com](mailto:hthwalworth.kunzer@gmail.com). You can also follow us on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/whthny/> or <https://walworthhistoricalsociety.org/hometown-heroes-banner-project> to stay up to date and learn about the other endeavors we offer as a part of our overall program.

## In Memoriam – Leighton Bel By Jessie Keymel

Life member Leighton Bel passed away on February 3, 2023. We have lost another chapter of our Walworth history. Leighton grew up at a Walworth-Penfield Road home located next to the original fire hall before there was a stop light at the four corners. He attended Walworth Elementary and later the new Wayne Central High School, where he graduated in 1956. After his years in the U.S. Army, he came back to Walworth and married his childhood sweetheart, Nancy Nortier. As a teenager he worked at Don's IGA in Walworth. He spent his early working career in the grocery business where he perfected his talent as a butcher. Following his first retirement, he became a cross-country truck driver, often times accompanied by Nancy.

Leighton was predeceased by his daughter, Terri Dae Bel. He is survived by his wife, Nancy (Nortier) Bel, their children Lee (Julie), DeeAnne (Lee) Monroe, Lori Ann Bel, and Terri Ann Source; 13 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren and his sister, Ernestine Rogers, and her family.

## Memories: An Interview with Sharon Schultz Boyd By Dawn Russell

Sharon was born on August 4, 1945 at Genesee Hospital in Rochester. Her parents were Charles and Florence Schultz. She has two siblings: David and Darlene. Her family lived on Canandaigua Road until Sharon was three years old. Her uncle, Dick Schultz, built Sharon's parents' house on Lincoln Road, later named West Walworth Road. This is where Sharon and her family grew up.

Sharon's father worked at Kodak as a machinist. He also fixed cars on his property, not charging anything if the owner couldn't afford it. Sharon remembers one time when her father was working at Kodak that he had to stay from start to finish for a certain job to be done and shipped out: it was film of Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon. Sharon's mother was a homemaker and later in life, with the encouragement of her sister-in law, Helen Schultz, decided to care for Newark State School women. Later her mother worked at Xerox.

Sharon attended Walworth Elementary School. She remembers in kindergarten her class would pull out cots for rest time because they had kindergarten full days. She also remembers going to Youngman's soda fountain after school being such a treat. She had many friends such as Ron Porray, Bonnie Taber, Larry DeMinck, Joanne Johncox and Eileen Hack to name a few.



When Sharon was ten years old she used to stand in front of the family's big window and play pretend guitar on a broom. Her parents decided to buy her an acoustic guitar. She took lessons from Gary McKee. Her father found an organization called Stars of Tomorrow for kids who were talented. Sharon played her guitar for this organization with others (Left photo: Left to right: sister and brother Nancy and Gary McKee, and Sharon Boyd.) at many venues and earned her own money at a very young age. She enjoyed going to the Grange with her Grandma Welker, while watching her grandma play piano and the Grange people marching around. Sharon was part of a local group who won a National Grange Talent Title. When Sharon was 13 years old she joined a band with the Henderson brothers. The band was named "The Henderson Brothers and Sharon Ann". They played in many places and were well known. They were also the opening band at the Utica War Memorial for Johnny Cash. (Sharon Boyd and Johnny Cash (Middle photo))

Sharon attended Wayne Central High School, which then was grades 7-12 in the same school. She had many friends through school; her best friend was Judy Briggs. Sharon was very musical. She played the bassoon for one year and she also played the tympani drums. She was a foreign exchange student, living in England. While in England, she met the Queen Mother. Sharon went onward to college at Oswego State College, coming home every weekend to play in the band. While attending college at the University of Rochester during the summer she went to her best friend's wedding, and the next day started dating Bill Boyd. Sharon and Bill married in 1965 and have been together for 57 years.



Sharon's Uncle Dick built her and Bill's house on Plank Road in 1967. They raised their two children, Paul and Lyn, in that house and live there today. While raising their children, Sharon decided to go back to college at St. John Fisher. She formed a band with her friend Marcia Freer called "We Two Plus Two" to earn money for college. Sharon graduated from St. John Fisher but, while still in college, she became a full-time Director of Program for Monroe County Long-Term-Care Ombudsman. Later she would work for the Alzheimer's Association as senior vice president. She retired in 2010.



Sharon is very active in her church - the West Walworth Zion United Methodist Church - and is a life-long member. She is pianist, choir director, and adult Sunday School teacher. She has a special love for intellectually-disabled persons. She is on the board of Wayne ARC and on the ARC of New York Board of Governors.

(Left: Sharon and her husband Bill) In their retirement they love to go camping. Two years in a row they went camping across country, visiting national parks.

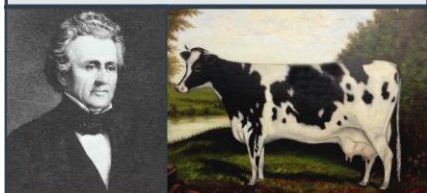
Sharon says Walworth gives her a sense of community and, when she has been away for a bit, it's a feeling of coming home when she returns.



## Coming Soon To a Mailbox Near You By Amber Linson



*Walworth*  
Historical Society  
Museum



In October 2022, the Walworth Town Board awarded \$6,000 to the Walworth Historical Society from the American Rescue Plan Account (ARPA) funds. This was done to boost the efforts of WHS after the coronavirus pandemic slowed the forward movement of the organization. The Town Board was pleased to recognize the importance of preserving history and sharing it with the community.

In an effort to increase membership and awareness, the historical society is using those funds to print and distribute a magazine (left) to the residents of Walworth. Compiled by the WHS Board and a small group of volunteers, the magazine will go to print in March and will be mailed in April. We are pleased that every Town of Walworth household will receive a copy.

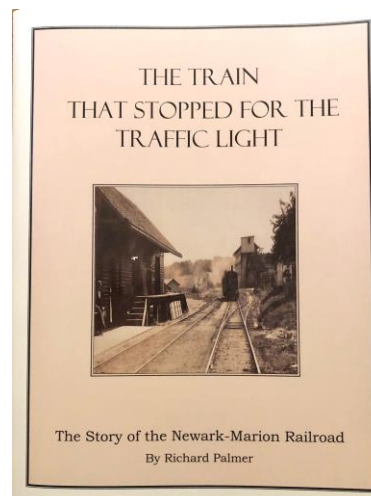
With over 40 pages, which contain samples of what can be found in the museum and information about the board and volunteers, this magazine will surely accomplish its purpose of spreading awareness of the historical society and the Walworth museum. Furthermore, aside from being a keepsake full of Walworth history, this magazine will hopefully inspire those who were unaware of the historical society and museum to visit, volunteer, and become members.

## Newark-Marion Railway Program: March 20 By Caryn Devlin

Marion Town Historian Caryn Devlin will present a program on "The Newark and Marion Railway" on Monday, March 20 at 7:00 PM. The Newark and Marion Railway was first chartered in 1901 and continued in service until 1984 when the Ontario Midland discontinued the service on this line. Come find out all that happened in between!

I will have copies of "The Train That Stopped For The Traffic Light" by Richard Palmer for sale for \$15.00 including tax. To reserve your copy, email [marion.ny.historian@gmail.com](mailto:marion.ny.historian@gmail.com). Checks should be made to Marion Historic Association.

Bring a friend and join us at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park. Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!



There was a great turnout for the Walworth Light the Night event. The Walworth Historical Society was fortunate this year to have two Christmas trees. The first tree was decorated with red apples which represented the apple orchards and dry houses that were prevalent in Walworth. Red beads, bows and snowflakes also adorned the tree.

The second tree (left photo) was decorated by the Walworth HomeTown Heroes Committee with red, white and blue lights. It also included photos from all of our banner veterans; the photos were made into ornaments to go along with our flag decorations. We also added small American flags as a finishing touch. This project was fun and also highlighted all the veterans from our banner program. WHTH received second place in the decorating contest. The night was a huge success and was fun for all in attendance.

## Walworth HomeTown Heroes Recognition-Celebration By Bob Mogray



On November 3, 2022, a combination veterans' recognition-celebration ceremony was held at the Walworth Fire Department. This was co-sponsored by the Walworth HomeTown Heroes Banner Committee and the Walworth Historical Society. Past veterans and currently active service members were given certificates to show respect and gratitude for their service.

Many local veterans were able to attend. Assemblyman Brian Manktelow was on hand to present certificates to the veterans. The photos left are from this event. Last year, the first of the Walworth HomeTown Heroes banners were installed on utility poles in the area and more will be on display this year.

WHS President Becky Appleman and WHTH Banner Committee member Christine Kubida and many others have spent many hours organizing this celebration and the banner displays. Our thanks to them.

## November 21, 2022 Program By Bob Mogray

On November 21 of last year, Rosa Fox, Town Historian of Huron, was the guest speaker with a program called "Tidbits of Wayne County." This was a very interesting show that related stories from around Wayne County, many of which were from her postings for the Bicentennial Facebook page. She and Gene Bavis are the co-chairs of the Bicentennial Committee.



For this program a variety of homemade soups was served along with bread, crackers, beverage, and dessert. This type of November soup/program held at the Ginegaw Park Lodge has worked out well for a couple of years and hopefully will continue each year. This year there were five kinds of soup served and many of the guests commented on how much they enjoyed the soup and Rosa's program.

The Walworth Historical Society wishes to thank all those who attended this event, Rosa Fox for her interesting and informative show, and those who volunteered to make the soups. We hope to see you not only at our November 2023 soup program but also at some of our other shows and meetings throughout the year. The schedule is included on page 8 of this newsletter and on our website at [www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org).

## WHS Annual Meeting: 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. The meeting is on May 15 at 6:00 PM at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park.

Each 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 volunteering and serving our community, please submit names and qualifications to Walworth Historical Society, PO Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568 by March 31. This meeting is open to the public and will include a dish-to-pass meal. We will provide the ham, rolls, and a beverage. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass and their own table service.

At this May 15 meeting we also elect officers. This year one of our members is retiring from the Board and we will need a volunteer to replace her. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact WHS President Becky Appleman at 315-524-3289 or WHS Vice-President Bob Mogray at 585-576-4156. We welcome your help and suggestions.



## President's Report      By Becky Appleman

Walworth Historical Society members have been busy working on our magazine to be distributed soon. We have all contributed much input and valuable information. This contains much information about our organization, town, and people, as well as tidbits of local history and "Then and Now" photos from Walworth. Watch your mail box for this fantastic magazine. Fun information for all!

We will soon be scheduling our annual spring cleanup of the museum grounds. If you are able to donate even an hour to help weed, trim and put down mulch we would love to have you join us. We coordinate with Boy Scout Troop 113 and schedule this event on the first or second Saturday in May, depending on our weather. This is always a fun get-together work day. We usually finish around 12:00 and lots of cleanup gets done. Come join us for an hour!



The Civil War-era drum (left) was in need of repair after it was used in the Festival-in-the-Park parade. I contacted my friend, Paul Wilson, of the Towpath Volunteers for information as to whom we might find to complete the needed repairs. He offered to look at the drum and eventually was able to make the needed repairs based on his vast knowledge of such equipment. Four rod tensioners were added for stability, so the rope edge is now only for decoration. It is still missing four rim hooks which are unavailable for this era's drum. We have a very nice Civil War era drum and it was recommended that it should only be used for display. Thanks to Paul for the repair work.

The WHTH committee is currently working on a Veteran Perks and Benefits program for May 23 at 6:30 PM at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park. There is still time to register your veteran. We have two speakers scheduled, one from Wayne County and one from New York State. Food will be provided by Heinzelman's BBQ Pit. We currently have nine new banners to add to the 27 we displayed last year. We are also accepting nominations for our "Love A Veteran" program. The WHTH committee will sponsor a veteran to go on an Honor Flight to Washington, DC. All this information is available on these websites: <https://www.facebook.com/whthny/> or <https://walworthhistoricalsociety.org/hometown-heroes-banner-project>.

## Yesteryear Businesses in Walworth – Part 2      By Dorothy French

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

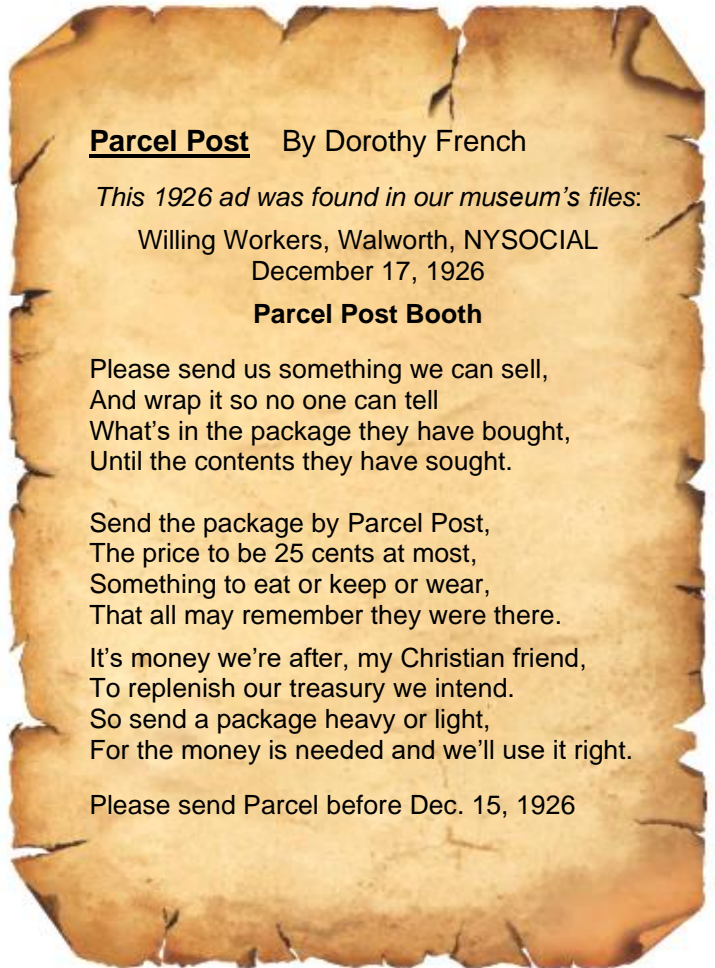
\*\*\* 1867 and 1877 \*\*\*

Name	Business	Name	Business
Buckley, J.	Cooper Shop: 1877	Monfort, Daniel	Shoe maker: 1877
Cragg, John	Saw mill and grist mill: 1867	Smith, Philip	Carriage maker: 1867
Deyo, Charles	Harness maker: 1867	Traux, Burous	Blacksmith: 1867
Eddy, Nathan	Postmaster: 1867	Trumble, George	Hotel proprietor: 1867
Fillmore, William H.	Cigar manufacturer: 1867	Whittleton, James	Harness maker: 1867
Mack, Samuel	Carriage maker: 1867	Yeomans, Eliah	Nursery man: 1867
Mason, Horace G.	Carriage maker: 1867	Yeomans, Theron G.	Nursery man: 1867
Missmore, Daniel	Grocer: 1867	Yeomans, Theron G.	Cooper shop: 1877

**To Be Continued**

### 2023 WHS Calendar of Events

Mar. 20	7:00 PM	General meeting: "Newark-Marion Railroad" (Caryn Devlin) Ginegaw Park Lodge
Apr. 10	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
Apr. 17	7:00 PM	General meeting: "Preserving Memories" (Amber Linson) Ginegaw Park Lodge
May ---	9:00 AM	Spring clean up WHS Museum
May 15	6:00 PM	Annual meeting: Election of Officers, Community Service Award, 1973 trivia show, dish to pass dinner Ginegaw Park Lodge
May 23	6:30 PM	Veterans' Perks & Benefit Night program Ginegaw Park Lodge
June 12	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
July 18	6:30 PM	Decorate the parade float Keymel's
July 21	7:00 PM	Festival-in-the-Park parade WHS booth after parade Ginegaw Park
July 22	2-9 PM	Festival-in-the-Park booth Ginegaw Park
Aug 14	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
Sept 18	7:00 PM	General Meeting TBA Ginegaw Park Lodge
Oct 1	2-4 PM	WHS Open House WHS Museum
Oct 9	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
Nov 20	1:00 PM	General meeting TBA Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec 2	6-8 PM	Light the Night Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec 11	2:00PM	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



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