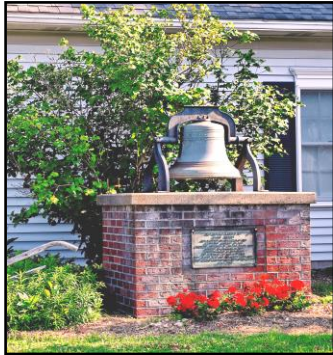




NEWSLETTER
Walworth Historical Society
May 2023
Volume 47 / Number 5



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

May 15 WHS Annual Meeting By Bob Mogray

On Monday, May 15 at 6:00 PM at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park (shown below), the Walworth Historical Society will once again host our annual meeting. It will begin with a dish-to-pass supper. The ham, rolls, butter and beverages will be provided. Attendees should bring their own table service.



There will be a short meeting to conduct a few orders of business and to make several announcements. There will be nominations for officers whose terms have expired. 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 in the Walworth area have distinguished themselves by giving of their time and effort by helping others and the community.

As we have done on several occasions in the past, a slide presentation will be shown about some of the things that happened and were important 50 years ago in 1973. This will provide a short trip down memory lane for many of us older members!

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

Some of the past recipients of the WHS Community Service Award:



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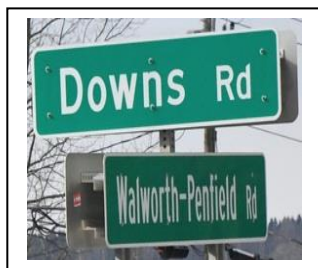
- 1 Kay Scott 1993
- 2 Hazel Bassage 1994
- 3 Bernie Porray 1997

- 4 Gordon Youngman 2000
- 5 Bill Boyd 2006
- 6 Joyce Munger 2021

Downs Road and the Downs and Phillips Families: Part 2

By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: The story continues with information about the Downs family. Thank you to WHS Genealogist Ellen Dietterick for her extensive research.



According to the 1900 United States census, Michael and Anne/Nancy (Lillis) Downs and their son John E. immigrated from Ireland in 1856, settling on a farm in Walworth. Michael was born in 1815 and died Sept. 18, 1867. John E's birth record in Limerick lists July 27, 1843 as his baptismal date. His sister Anna Bridget was born October 1851 and died 1914. John E. married Emma Reddy (1856-1935) of Palmyra when he was 33 years old. They were parents of six children: William E. (b1876); James J. (Jan. 2, 1879-Apr. 18, 1953); Thomas C. (b1882); Lillian A. (b1886); Mary E. (b1896); and Hartley (Harley?) (b1901). John died in 1937.

James J., the second child of John E. and Emma Downs, was Superintendent of the Roads in Walworth from 1918 – 1925. He married Mabel Phillips (b1860), daughter of David and Sarah Phillips. A 1927 receipt in our museum files shows that James paid \$37.22 in taxes for his farm.

Numerous members of the Downs family are buried in St. Anne's Cemetery in Palmyra, including parents John E. and Emma; their son James and his wife Mabel; and their children Beth (died in 1914), Robert, Doris, and Mary.

(To be continued: The Phillips Family)

Cory's In the Spotlight! By Mary Jane Devlin

Cory English, former Walworth resident, was pictured in the April 17 issue of People magazine. He is starring in the show "Back to the Future – The Magical Musical" which is being produced in London.



Cory's parents, Vernon and Fay English, live in Walworth and are life-time WHS members. Cory is a graduate of Wayne Central High School and studied at Sandy Stramonine's School of Dance in West Walworth. He was raised in Walworth. Now he lives in London with his wife, Sara, and their two sons.

He has performed in several Broadway shows. They include "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" starring Whoopi Goldberg; "Hello Dolly" starring Carol Channing; "Chicago" with Billy Ray Cyrus; "The Producers" and "Young Frankenstein" by Mel Brooks.

Cory English as himself (left) and as Dr. Emmett Brown (right)

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

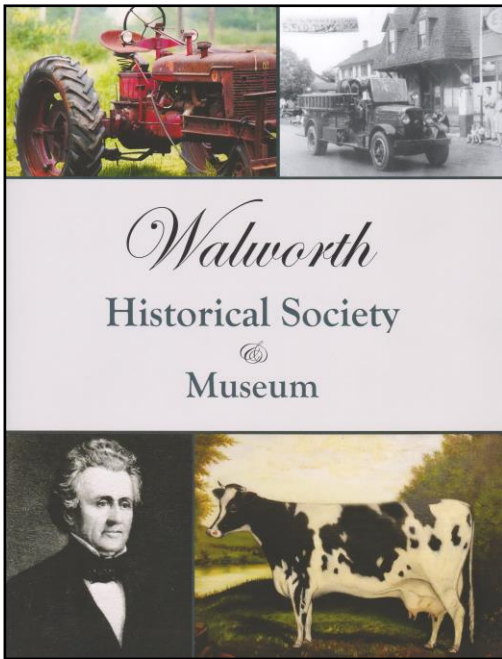
.....we thank our members and friends for their continued financial support of the Walworth Historical Society and museum. This support includes dues, donations, or memorials. As a result, we are able to present programs of historical interest, maintain and enlarge our collections, and preserve the history of our town. This is a gentle reminder that our fiscal year is May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024 and **annual dues are due**. Membership levels are noted below:

Student \$5; Senior Single 65+ \$15; Senior Couple 65+ \$20; Individual \$20; Family Household \$25; Supporter \$50; Patron \$100; Life Senior 65+ \$150; Life Senior Couple 65+ \$200; Life \$250; Business \$75; and Business Sponsor \$150. Make your check payable to Walworth Historical Society and mail to: Walworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. Contact me at 585-455-7595 if you have questions.

Read All About Walworth and WHS By Amber Linson

We are pleased to announce the completion of the Walworth Historical Society's magazine project. Thanks to the ARPA funds awarded to us by the Town of Walworth, we were able to print this keepsake for your enjoyment. After months of work, the 44-page magazine was printed and distributed to every residence in Walworth. Filled with information about both the historical society and the museum, the magazine is a taste of the history that the organization works to preserve. It's hard to believe that the historical society has been up and running for almost 50 years and, with so much information collected over those years, narrowing down the contents we wanted to share was quite the task.

The pages contain a little history about each section of the town, many photos of Walworth through the years, and information on our genealogy abilities. Our memories collection is also highlighted with stories about Dr. Esley, the Walworth Ambulance, and muck farming to name a few. We made room for a word search for fun and brought attention to those roads named after Walworth families. We also included some of our favorite newsletter articles!



We couldn't write about the historical society or the museum without a heavy emphasis on the work of volunteers who keep us afloat. Everyone from the trustees to the spring cleanup crew are volunteers. Without volunteers, we wouldn't be able to continue preserving and sharing the history of Walworth.

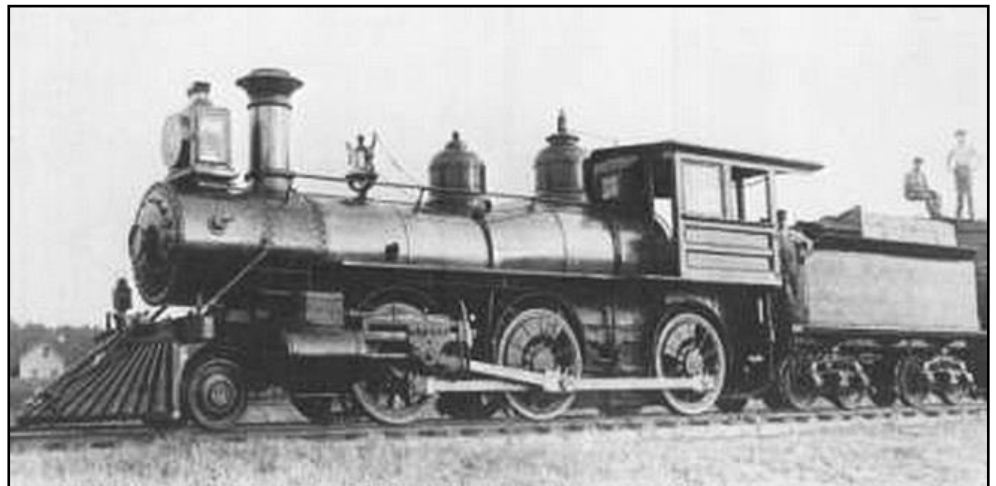
We knew we couldn't include everything. However, we packed in as much information as we could, but there is so much more to Walworth's history. We hope that you come visit us at the museum to view our collections and continue reading the newsletters for the tidbits that we print each year. And if you see a request for volunteers, give us a call. We would love to include you in any of our many projects from programs to exterior and interior cleanup and organization.

If you didn't receive a magazine, please let us know. We have some extras that we can give out. Also, if you have friends, family, or neighbors who are not members, please encourage them to join. Because of members like you, we are able to keep the museum running and to preserve the artifacts we collect. So, let us take this opportunity to say "Thank you!" You make it possible for us to do what we love and we appreciate you.

Enjoy your magazine, Walworth!

The Newark-Marion Railroad By Becky Appleman

At our March 20 meeting we hosted a program and slide presentation by Caryn Devlin (left below), the Marion Town Historian. This program was entitled "Newark and Marion Railway". The railway was chartered in 1900 and continued in service until 1984 when the owners stopped using the line. This line was used for daily passenger travel as well as produce and manufacturing transport. The program was very interesting and very well attended. Refreshments were served following the presentation.



Fourteen More Banners! By Becky Appleman

Our HomeTown Hero's banner program is again underway for this year's season. We have 14 new banners which brings our total banner display for this year to 41. Our 2023 new banners are currently out to production and will soon be back and ready for our Walworth Highway Department crew to display for the ensuing year. As you drive around the Walworth hamlets please take note of our local heroes! Thank you to the Walworth Highway Department for all their help with this project.



In Memoriam: Robert G. Turcotte

By Mary Jane Devlin

Bob was a Charter Member of Walworth Historical Society. He was an active and involved member, making book shelves for our main meeting room as well as building a cedar closet in our upstairs area and helping with other projects.

He received our Community Service Award in 2009 (left). Bob grew up in the West Walworth area. He was an active member of the West Walworth Fire Department for more than 50 years and served wherever needed. He and his wife, Helen, drove people to doctor's appointments and to get groceries or to take them a meal. He retired from Gleason Works in Rochester. Bob attended the Veterans tribute last November at the Walworth Fire Hall (right). Our sympathies are extended to his family.



President's Message By Becky Appleman

After completing our Walworth Historical Society's magazine and having it distributed, we can finally take a breath after our hard work and numerous meetings involved in bringing this all together. We owe a special thank you to Amber Linson for the layout work and for Bob Mogray for the photos appearing throughout the magazine. Thanks to everyone who participated in bringing this magazine to print.

On April 17 at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park we hosted a presentation by Amber Linson, who spoke about Walworth stories that appeared in the recently-published book, Voices of Wayne County. See page 7 of this newsletter.

We were invited to share a table at the Friends of Walworth-Seely Public Library's book sale at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park from April 25-April 28. We had available for sale the Voices of Wayne County book and the Wayne County Bicentennial quilt booklet and poster, as well as other WHS merchandise. We also had our bicentennial magazine available at no cost, thanks to a grant received by the Town of Walworth.

Our annual meeting and election of officers will be held at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park on May 15 at 6:00 pm. We are returning to our "dish to pass" dinner at 6:15 and we will be announcing this year's recipient for our Community Service Award. Please join us for dinner and Bob Mogray's special "look back" slide program of 1973 events and prices. Join us for this fun event!

Don't forget - our spring cleanup at the museum is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, at 9:30 am, with a rain date of May 13. If you can help for a short time it will be appreciated.

If anyone has an idea for a program, please let one of our board members know so we may look into scheduling different programs of interest.

Our Collection By Jessie Keymel

We have on display a pen and ink map that shows the names of the settlers' homes and businesses before 1860. The map has been stored in a mailing tube in our attic, which contains many other historic treasures. Look for more information about the map in a future issue.

Memories: An Interview with Kate Chamberlin

By Dawn Russell

Kate was born in North Hampton, Massachusetts on July 20. Her dad was a salesman and her mom was a stay-at-home housewife. Kate has one brother. While growing up, she and her family traveled to many different states due to her dad's employment.

Kate earned her BA degree at West Chester State College, Pennsylvania. She traveled to Bermuda and also spent a semester abroad in Spain. When she was teaching she traveled to Hawaii, San Francisco, and Reno. Kate went to the University of Rochester to obtain her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education with areas of concentration in Reading and Spanish. She met Dave, her husband-to-be, while attending the University of Rochester. Kate was employed at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf as a secretary for two departments.

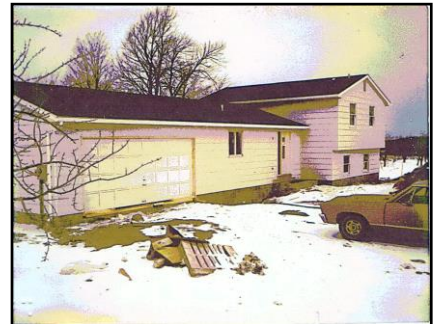


Kate married David Chamberlin (left) on August 15, 1970. They have been married 52 years. They moved to Orchard Street in Walworth in 1972. Their house was built by Dick Schultz. They have raised three children and two grandchildren, referred to as Team A and Team B. They have nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. While raising their children, Kate was employed at the Rochester Museum and Science Center as an instructor in the Youth Program. She also was a substitute teacher in the Wayne Central School District and later was a teacher at Teddy Bear Trail Nursery.

Kate has fond memories of Walworth. Years ago when the Walworth Fire Department would have their chicken barbecue, someone from the fire department would drive up Orchard Street and cluck like a chicken through the bull horn. She then knew that the chicken barbecue was to start. When Kate was president of the Walworth Garden Club and the members were planting bushes around the flag pole at the firehouse, her friend Anna Youngs called loudly from the club house "Lunch!" Her memory of Youngman's store was a big, fluffy white cat sitting in the front window with a keg of nails nearby, and Marlene Youngman making sodas at the soda fountain.

Another memory of Kate's occurred while doing story time at the Walworth Festival-In-the-Park. She was wearing a hat and a long, flowered skirt. The firemen were demonstrating a water hose display nearby and the water ended up spraying her. Later she went in the dunking booth and was dunked - not really sure it was the ball being thrown at the switch or someone pulled the lever and down she went, but it was fun.

Photo on the right is the Chamberlin home on Orchard Street



Kate has been sewing since she was four years old and first learned the blind straight stitch from her mother. She still uses the Singer French Secretary sewing machine her parents bought her 50 years ago. Seven decades later she was doing the same blind straight stitch on a crazy quilt top for a family friend. Kate was Scout leader for her children while they were growing up. In 1985 Kate became blind; her children were 11, 9 and 4 years old at the time. She was friends with Edie Pasquini, whom she had met through Scouts. Edie emotionally supported Kate when she became blind and still does to this day. Edie would visit Kate once a week and they would laugh and cry together, forming a life-time friendship. Kate calls Edie her Angel Incarnate.

Kate learned how to read Braille, both in English and Spanish, by being self-taught from the books she ordered. She visits a Braille room online two times per week for support and encouragement from one another. Being blind hasn't stopped Kate. She volunteered at the Freewill School library, mentoring children one on one. She had a student who was blind and she taught that child to read Braille. Alice, a media specialist, encouraged Kate to start writing. Kate wrote stories for [Good Dog!](#), [Organic Gardeners](#) and [Threads](#) magazines. Kate went on to write three books. Her book "The Night Search" is a twin vision book, meaning it has Braille pages in it also. Kate was a newspaper columnist for the [Wayne County Star](#) for several years and for the [Wayne County Mail](#). She loved writing the columns.

Continued on next page



Kate (left) has owned six guide dogs. All of them had the middle name of Grace which was taken after her own middle name. Her current dog is named Tulip Grace. Kate developed "Feely Cans and Sniffy Jars", which takes blind awareness beyond just identification and into appreciation of a blind person's abilities. She believes when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade.

The screen reader on her computer has enabled her writing skills as an author. Kate enjoys audio and reading Braille, blogging and e-mailing with her grandchildren. She and her husband enjoy walking in their neighborhood and inside on the treadmills during bad weather. She still loves to garden, sitting on a skateboard, moving along and pulling the weeds. Kate has adapted to her blindness in an extremely positive and productive way. In Walworth, Kate feels a sense of community with people knowing her and being so very nice.

Honoring Our Fallen Heroes on Memorial Day By Amber Linson

Organized by Councilman Alex Kelly of the Walworth Town Board, the Town of Walworth will be hosting a Memorial Day parade and ceremony on Monday, May 29, and all are welcome to attend. The parade will start at the Walworth fire hall at 11 am and will end at the Walworth town hall, taking the route of Church Street, to Walworth-Penfield Road, to Lorraine Drive.

The Memorial Day ceremony will begin at 12 pm in front of the Walworth Memorial Monument at the town hall. Conducted by the American Legion Post #428 Commander, Jimmy Gallaher, the ceremony will honor those fallen servicemen who were killed as a result of their service to our great nation.

Thanks to the efforts of the Walworth Historical Society's HomeTown Heroes Committee and the Walworth Highway Department, banners will be displayed on the light poles at the town hall for Staff Sergeant Oakley Crane, killed in action during WWII, and Lance Corporal Alexander J.N. Menzies, killed in action during the Vietnam War. These banners, and the banners of many other servicemen from the Town of Walworth, will remain up until Veterans Day 2023, so that we may recognize the faces of those who chose to serve for our freedom.

We hope that you will join us for this ceremony to honor our fallen heroes. If you have any questions, please reach out to Councilmen Alex Kelly of the Walworth Town Board.



Staff Sergeant Oakley Crane (left) and Lance Corporal Alexander J.N. Menzies (right)

On April 11, 2023, the joyful noise of bells all over Wayne County at 10:58 in the morning kicked off the official celebration of the Wayne County Bicentennial. Ceremonies and programs were held in Lyons that day. Photos (below) are also posted on social media, in print media, and on the Wayne County bicentennial website: www.waynecounty200.com. You can even watch a video of the ceremony and the after-lunch program.

On May 13, the Bicentennial Gala will take place at the Ballroom at Carey Lake. The deadline for reservations is April 30.

The first installment of the Historic Music Series will be held at the Ohmann Theater in Lyons on Thursday, June 15 at 7:00 PM. It is FREE and open to the public. Details are included on the bicentennial website.

A 48-page Wayne County bicentennial magazine was produced by the *Finger Lakes Times* in March. Extra copies were purchased by the Bicentennial Committee to distribute to the public. It contains tidbits of local history as well as information about bicentennial events including the Torch Relay which will be held August 14 -18. Information about signing up to run can be found on the bicentennial website. Copies of this magazine are available free of charge at the Walworth-Seely Public Library. They will also be available at Walworth Historical Society events and at the Farmer's Market as long as supplies last.

We are seeking runners for the Bicentennial Torch Relay on August 14 – 18. For more details and how to sign up, please visit the bicentennial website. Click “events.”

Family Fun Day is scheduled for August 19 at the Wayne County Fair. As details develop, they will be shared on the bicentennial website, www.waynecounty200.com.



May 23 Veterans and Perks Night

By Becky Appleman

A Veterans and Perks Night will be hosted by the HomeTown Heroes Committee and the Walworth Historical Society. This event will take place at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park on Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be provided by Heintzelman’s BBQ Pit, dessert by Sunny’s Donuts and Cafe and drinks by the HTH Committee. We currently have 21 veterans, along with family, speakers and committee members, who will be attending. Guest speakers will be veterans Dave Dube and John Nadig from the Veterans Administration, in addition to speakers from Wayne County Behavioral Health Network and from Suicide and Addiction Prevention Services. A mobile crisis van will be present.

There is still time to register for this FREE event. Deadline is May 5. Information or questions may be directed to Hthwalworth@gmail.com. Join us for this informative and free event!



April 17 “Voices of Wayne County” Show

By Bob Mogray

On April 17 Amber Linson (left) presented a show at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park from the book “Voices of Wayne County” which was her idea and project. This meeting was well attended and she did a great job sharing many Walworth-area related stories from this book which is on sale for \$27.00 including tax. This book contains many other stories from each of the 15 towns in Wayne County. This is a very unique book because it has personal stories from local authors that might have been lost forever if they were not captured in this publication!

Ringing in the Bicentennial

By Jessie Keymel

Did you hear the church bells ringing in Wayne County on April 11 at 10:58 in the morning? They were the beginning of the Bicentennial Celebration of Wayne County's 200th year. The bells in the United Methodist Church in Walworth were rung by members of the Darron family; their great-great-great-grandfather helped raise the bell when the church was built in the 1860/70s. The bell in the West Walworth Zion United Methodist Church was rung by four generations of the Bill Boyd Family (right).

Do you have any bell-ringing stories or photos you would like to share? Every church has stories.



Back row left to right: Ryan LeMay (Lyn's son), Bill Boyd, Lyn Boyd-Bauer (Bill's daughter)
Front row left to right: Ryan's twin sons Silas and Jace LeMay

2023 WHS Calendar of Events

May 6	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
May 29	11:00 AM	Veterans Day parade
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 Soup with Dick & Jane Cindy Russell Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec 2	6-8 PM	Light the Night Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec 11	2:00PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum

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



Officers and Trustees

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Vice-President	Bob Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156
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WHS Trustee	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205
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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
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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