



NEWSLETTER
**Walworth Historical
Society**
September 2023
Volume 48 / Number 2

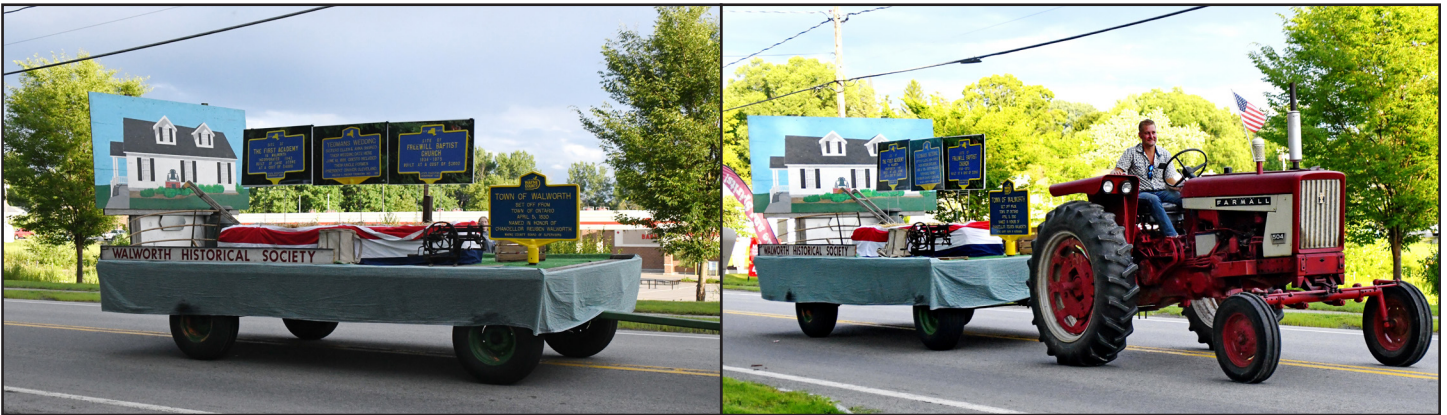


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Walworth's Festival-in-the-Park and Parade By Alex Heinonen

On July 21 – 22 the Walworth Lions Club and the Town of Walworth sponsored the 33rd annual Festival-in-the-Park at Ginegaw Park. This year's parade theme was Wayne County's Bicentennial Celebration. The parade showcased local fire departments, floats, organizations and businesses. The Towpath Fire and Drum Corps provided music for the many spectators lining Main Street and Walworth-Penfield Road.

Saturday's events consisted of a series of booths, games for the children, bounce house and abundant food. There were pony rides, water spray sponsored by the Walworth Fire Department, puppet show, and entertainment by the Community Band. This was climaxed by Disney's "Light Year", an outdoor movie, followed by a spectacular fireworks display.



Walworth Historical Society won two trophies for the parade - Best Float and Best Tractor. Featured on the WHS float was the new historical marker. The marker was placed at the town hall to commemorate the formation of the Town of Walworth from the Town of Ontario in 1830. The marker was placed in a prominent position with photos of other distinguished historical markers located throughout the town. This was the result of many helping hands.



The above three photos were taken at Keymel's where the float was assembled.

Town Historic Marker By Gene Bavis

As a part of the Wayne County Bicentennial celebration, the Wayne County Board of Supervisors authorized the purchase of 16 historic markers, one for the county and one for each town. These markers commemorate the creation of each town and the county as a legal entity. They give the founding date, what entity it was divided from and the origin of the name. These markers are a permanent reminder of our Bicentennial.

On Thursday, August 3 prior to the Walworth Town Board meeting, a brief dedication ceremony was held at the town hall. In attendance with recognition certificates were State Senator Pam Helming and Assemblyman Brian Manktelow. Pictured here are Senator Helming, Assemblyman Manktelow along with the Town Board members and Town Historian/Bicentennial Co-Chair Gene Bavis. Stop by the Walworth Town Hall to see the marker.



Torch Relay Passes Through Walworth By Gene Bavis

The Wayne County Bicentennial conducted a 200-mile, five-day torch relay as part of the year-long celebration. On August 14 (day one), the relay began at the Wayne County Fair, traveled through Macedon into Walworth and on to Ontario. Day one was about 33 miles. The participants included our WHS President Amber Linson, our Town Clerk Aimee Phillips, and former Town Councilman Vaughn Pembroke.



Yesteryear Businesses in Walworth – Part 3 By Dorothy French

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

*** 1892 ***

Name	Business	Name	Business
Baker, J. W.	General Store	Mack, S.	Blacksmith
Bean, Mrs. Henry	Dressmaker	McLouth, John	Painter/Paperhanger
Bean & Sawyer	Harness maker	Morse, C. A.	Produce dealer
Benson, J. W. & Son	General store	Ramsley, William	Blacksmith
Brown, William H.	Blacksmith	Robie, Fred	Shoe store
Bruger, Thomas	Blacksmith	Rodenberger, Dr. E. M.	Doctor
Chase, Gilmore	Hay and straw dealer	Stiger, Miss Mary	Dressmaker
Chase, Mrs. Gilmore	Millinery	Shult, Luther	General store
Elliot, Charles	Watch maker	Stuart, G. H.	Nursery man
Freeman, L. & Son	Pacific Hotel	Taber, S. A.	Agricultural implement dealer
Hall, W. L.	Lime Kiln	Teers & Hamm	Dressmakers
Haney, Edgar D.	General store	Tuttle, L. D.	Real Estate
Hathaway, Mortimer	Hairdresser	Yeomans, A.	Real Estate
Gould, R. D.	Florist	Yeomans, Albert	Fertilizer dealer
Kipp, John Dennis	Tannery operator	Yeomans, T. G. & Son	Fruit evaporator
Lee, George	Meat market	Yeomans, T. G. & Son	Nursery men
Lewis, Dr. Fred	Doctor	Yeomans, T. G.	Coal dealer

Remembering...Anna Balzar Youngs By Dorothy French

*"A feisty lady very knowledgeable about investments,"
Anna Balzar Youngs was characterized as a woman in a man's world.*

Born April 19, 1909 to Peter and Ona Balzer, Anna and her parents moved to Walworth in the 1930's. When John Craggs purchased a mill in 1862 it became known as Craggs Roller Mill. It was located in Macedon on Walworth-Palmyra Road between Mill and Pond Roads in an area called the Huddle. In 1930 the mill was sold to Peter Balzar. Assisted by his daughter Anna, Peter manufactured Daisy Pastry Flour at the mill from 1930 until his death in 1944. Anna continued to run the mill until she retired on September 25, 1957. When Anna worked at the mill she dressed like a man and reportedly used language unbecoming to a woman.

One of Anna's responsibilities was to drive her father's horses with a load of flour to the Daisy Flour Mill in Ellison Park, Penfield (later the site of a restaurant by the same name). Anna loved to travel; her last voyage to England was on the Queen Elizabeth II and her return was on the Concord. She would later tell she started out driving a horse and cart and ended up on the Concord.



Anna Youngs: 1984



Craggs Roller Mill: prior to 1930 fire

Anna only owned the mill for a few months before it burned. There were several fires at the mill and it was rebuilt each time. After the mill dam broke in the late '50's, Anna wanted to rebuild the dam but New York State stepped in; it was reported it would cost too much to have it done according to state specifications, although it would have been a beautiful spot for a park. The mill was torn down several years ago, leaving a grassy area to mark the spot of a bustling business.

Anna was very particular about attending the Walworth United Methodist Church on Communion Sunday and planned her wardrobe right down to the proper hat and gloves. One time there was a collection for a particular need and she was livid that her clean hands had to touch that filthy money before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

She was also a fun-loving person. The story has been told that Anna and a friend were at the Hotel Sellen in Palmyra when she asked her friend to hold her purse. Anna then lifted one leg, straddled the staircase, and slid down the banister to the first floor.

Anna was a charter member of the Walworth Historical Society, active in the Eastern Star in Walworth and Palmyra, and a member and past-president of the Walworth Chamber of Commerce.

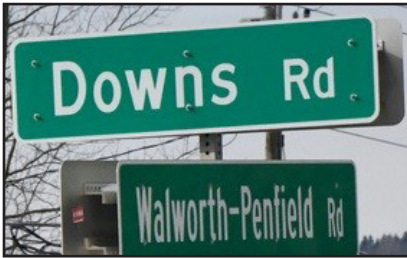
Anna married Rex Youngs on April 2, 1945 in Macedon. They lived at 3542 Walworth-Palmyra Road. Rex was a WW I veteran and retired New York State canal lock operator; he passed away December 17, 1982 at age 88. Anna died January 9, 2004 in Philadelphia, PA at age 94 and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester. She was survived by a stepdaughter, Vera.



Craggs Roller Mill: 1958

Downs Road and Life on the Phillips Farm: Part 4 By Dorothy French

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



According to an undated copy of “A History of the Town of Walworth” written by an unknown person, about 1855 the author’s Grandpa Phillips settled on Downs Road. It is probable that this “History” was written by a descendant of either Maude or Mabel, daughters of David Phillips. The author described life on the farm in detail.



The Phillips family house was a large limestone home located at 4371 Downs Road. It was a meeting place for all the young people. Current owners are Joel and Danielle Hoose. More info about this beautiful home and previous owners will be published in a future issue.

In 1876 the author’s Grandfather Downs married and took his bride to the farm he bought from his father on Downs Road. There they raised their six children.

Nearly all their food was grown on the farm, and it was canned, dried or stored for the winter. There were many fruit trees especially apples which were dried each year for winter use. Often times their apple harvest was their only cash crop. Later Uncle William Downs operated a dry house, enabling the family to secure a quantity of dried apples from him each year. Fowl and livestock were raised on the farm, including pigs and cattle for butchering.

The author included several of her Grandmother Downs’ recipes, including hickory nut cake and snow pudding. Of special interest were the instructions to make soap: 3 pints of warm water, 1 can Babbitt’s potash, ½ lb. borax dissolved in water, 3 tablespoons of ammonia, and 6 lbs. of grease strained through a cloth.

A highlight of the women’s lives would be when the dressmaker arrived, staying a few days to make the Sunday-go-to-meeting dresses for the ladies. “Thus as the needles flew so did the chatter.”

Winter months were just as busy as summertime. Clothes had to be made for all members of the family. The farm wives made the overalls, shirts and frocks for their men folk. Odd pieces of cloth were saved to be made into quilts. Neighbors gathered at a home for the day to tie quilts. “A lot of quilt tying was accomplished but also a good bit of visiting and laughter was enjoyed.”

The district school picnics were a highlight of the year. Grandmother Downs always made a three layer white cake with lemon or chocolate custard filling, topped with whipped cream. Games and races were played in the afternoon and everyone had a grand time.

Once a year before winter set in several farmers went together into Rochester to sell potatoes, squash, eggs, butter and fowl. They travelled together because of the danger on the roads, especially a section in a woods approaching Penfield noted for its many hold ups. Grandfather Phillips was eagerly awaited home as he brought staples and perhaps – if things sold well – a special treat for all. He purchased sugar by the barrel, salt, coffee, green tea, and, of course, tobacco.

There were homemade cures for many ailments. To cure a sore throat salt pork was wrapped in flannel and tied around the neck. Wintergreen, rhubarb, and charcoal were used for distressed stomachs. Sulphur and molasses were taken as a spring tonic. Dr. Chase’s medicine book was an old standby and if suggestions didn’t help then it was time to go for the doctor.

The visits of the peddlers was another aspect of life on the farm. There were three particular peddlers who visited the farm. Jacob Soloman was a very strict Orthodox Jew and would eat only food cooked in dripping pans, never a frying pan that had contained animal fat. His car had racks on the top for carrying fowl and other bulky items of produce which he took in trade for his merchandise. It was truly a hardware, drygoods, and notion display all rolled into one.

Sweezey, often called “The Tin Peddler”, had a wagon similar to Jacob’s. He carried a good supply of lamp globes and wicks which were always a popular item.

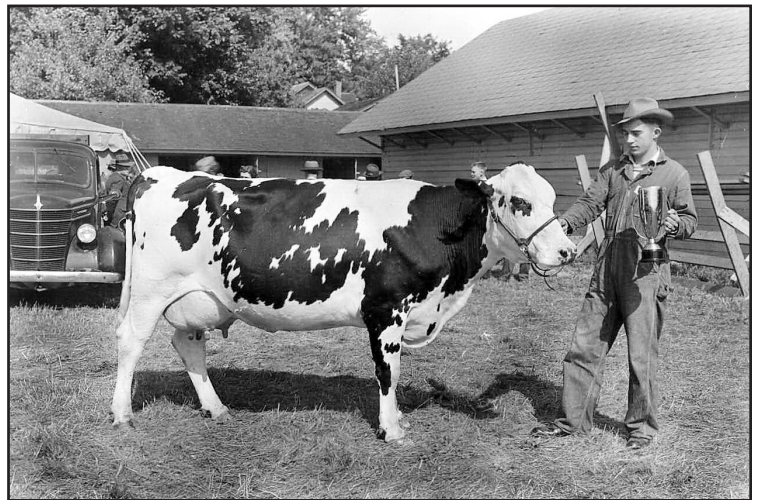
David Levy, known as “Little David”, carried his wares on his back in a large pack. The pack had straps which he put his arms thru and – with a big heave – he hoisted it to his back and was off to the next house. His merchandise was strictly in the dry goods line. He also provided news from Rochester and of other families where he had made steps along the way. News of babies, deaths, marriages and illness were of main concern to all.

Little money was used in any of these transactions with the peddlers. Instead they traded their goods from the farm for the peddlers’ wares.

October 1 Open House at the Museum By Liz Bavis

Dairy farming has been an important part of Wayne County and Walworth history. In 1879 Theron Yeomans brought the first herd of Holstein cows from the Netherlands to Walworth. This enhanced the dairy industry in Wayne County as this new breed was renowned for milk and butter fat production. Dairy farming continues to be an important part of the farming industry in Wayne County today.

Join us on Sunday, October 1 to see displays of farm tools, try your hand at butter making and see a display of the many different products available today that are made from milk. To keep with our dairy theme ice cream will be served. Because planning this event is a work in progress check our website for updates on activities that day. walworthhistoricalsociety.org



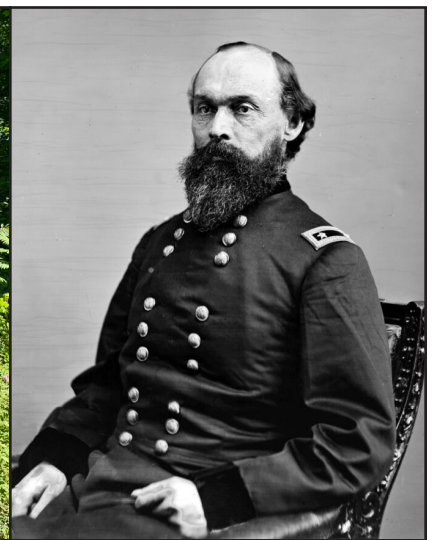
Carlyle Darron age 16. Date 9/24/1943

General Gordon Granger Program September 18 By Gene Bavis

On Monday, September 18 at 7 PM at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park, Bruce Farrington and Jim Paprocki will present a program about General Gordon Granger and his connection to our new national holiday known as Juneteenth. Many of you already know that General Granger was from the hamlet of Joy in the Town of Sodus.

Jim and Bruce were the driving forces behind getting a Pomeroy Historic Marker placed in front of Granger's childhood home. That marker was dedicated on Juneteenth 2023.

The program is FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC. Refreshments will be served. Please join us!



President's Message By Amber Linson

So far it has been a busy year for our Walworth Historical Society, and we are looking for volunteers to help accomplish everything we have in mind. From some new and exciting event ideas to annual building and grounds cleanups, the WHS is looking to open our doors to residents and members who want to help. We have restructured and purposefully left space on each committee for WHS members to get involved.

Building and Grounds Committee Chair Gene Bavis has room for 1 or 2 individuals who are interested in not only working to maintain the museum and the property which surrounds it, but also think forward to how the museum will expand into the future. Displays and Collections Committee Chair Jessie Keymel could maybe use 1 individual who is interested in managing and organizing the collection or helping to put together interesting displays for our community to enjoy.

President's Message (continued from page 5)

Membership and Community Committee Chair Liz Bavis has room for a few individuals who want to help develop and execute ideas on how to share our history with the community through programs, presentations, celebrations, and social gatherings. If you are a hospitable person, then this is an excellent committee for you. Newsletter Committee Chair Bob Mogray could use 1 more member to help come up with stories, interview residents, and learn the newsletter process so that the newsletter can continue for years to come.

Finance Committee Chair Linda Pembroke has a big job of managing the finances and coming up with new ways for us to supplement the income of this 501(c)3 organization. If you love finances, contact Linda. Contact me, Amber Linson, if you want to volunteer on our Electronics and Media Committee. This is perfect for tech savvy/social media savvy individuals who want to improve the look of our website or help us decide how to upgrade our computer equipment.

There is no better way to learn about the history of Walworth than to get involved with the historical society. All of us are eager to share any interest in ideas you may bring to the table. Let anyone of us know if you are interested in joining a committee.

Wayne County Bicentennial News By Gene Bavis



It's been quite a year! We've been planning a variety of activities, publications and commemorative items for almost 4 years. Our BIG day was Founders Day on April 11 in Lyons (the actual 200th anniversary of the passage of the law creating Wayne County). Next was the Gala celebration with nearly 500 guests at the Ballroom at Carey Lake here in Walworth on May 13. By the time you read this the 166th Annual Wayne County Fair, the Torch Relay and Family Fun Day will be history.

There are a few more things to come! A Heritage Music Series began on June 15 and continues through the Fall. Here are more details (a printed card is available with all of this information and more):

September 17 – 1 PM until 6:00 PM at Gates Hall in Pultneyville

This event is MORE than just 2 of the musical performances. It's a commemoration of the Civil War with displays, speakers, re-enactors and ending with a ceremony conducted by the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society at the Civil War monument in Lakeview Cemetery at 6 PM located not far from Gates Hall. The two musical performances are Don Dwyer doing Civil War songs at 2 PM and the Excelsior Cornet Band, an authentic period band performing at 4 PM.

October 14 at 2 PM - The Remarkable, Irresistible Erie Canal at Sodus High School

This is an outstanding 90-minute program of music and stories about the Erie Canal.

October 22 at 2 PM – The Fiddlers of the Genesee at Marion High School

This popular local group of musicians will share songs of a traditional nature.

November 5 at 6:30 PM – Todd Hobin and the History of Rock'n'Roll at the Ohmann Theater in Lyons

Todd is an amazing composer, conductor and performer who will share this history with us.

These programs are FREE and open to the public thanks to a grant from the Boehmler Foundation and the Wayne County Bicentennial Sponsors.

As always, the details are available on www.waynecounty200.com

The poster for the Wayne County Bicentennial Heritage Music Series (1823-2023) features a circular logo with musical instruments. Below the logo, the text reads 'Upcoming Fall Events'. The events listed are:

- Sunday, September 17** at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. **Don Dwyer** **Music of the Civil War Revisited** and **Excelsior Cornet Band** Pultneyville Centennial Park
- Saturday, October 14** at 2:00 p.m. **The Remarkable, Irresistible Erie Music and Story Telling** Sodus High School Performing Arts Theater
- Sunday, October 22** at 2:00 p.m. **The Fiddlers of the Genesee** Marion High School
- Sunday, November 5** at 6:30 p.m. **Todd Hobin and the History of Rock 'n' Roll** Lyons Ohmann Theater

At the bottom left is the Wayne County Bicentennial logo, and at the bottom right is a small text block: 'The Heritage Music Series is presented in partnership of the Wayne County Historical Society and the Wayne County Bicentennial and is made possible by a grant from the Robert G. Boehmler Community Foundation and through the generous contributions of our Wayne County Bicentennial Sponsors and other Bicentennial donors.'

Memories From the Huntley/Yeomans Families By Donna Huntley Stalker

The roots of a tree anchor it, support it, and give it strength – just as the leaves enable it to grow and flourish. Sadly, the Yeomans copper beech tree that was on the museum grounds is gone, but the Huntley family has found a parallel with their family history. They feel that their children are the base of their tree, stretching their growing arms towards Heaven and that they - the parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and so forth - are the roots of the Huntley family tree.

On July 29 three Huntley children and their spouses (Judy and Kenny Casler, Rob and Karen Huntley, and Donna and Ed Stalker) met with WHS members Dorothy French, Mary Jane Devlin, Liz O'Toole, and Patti Corney to donate a collection of Huntley/Yeomans memorabilia to the Walworth Historical Society. Rob and Karen had been housing numerous items since his parents, Bill and Lee Huntley, had passed; Bill is the son of Wesley Yeomans Huntley of Long Island and Marion; Lee is the daughter of Manley and Florence Cornell of Walworth.

Rob, Karen, and their neighbor Beth Hoad, former Palmyra historian, had enjoyed months of reading articles and original poetry of Edith Huntley and Clara Yeomans, pouring over documentation to prove that Wesley was eligible to enroll in the Sons of the Revolution. They looked at pounds of pictures, a very old painting of the Gordon coat of arms, and lovely handmade coverlets. They decided that the most appropriate place for these artifacts would be back in Walworth. The exception was the coverlets, which are now at the Alling Coverlet Museum in Palmyra.

Our museum now has a very old painting of the Gordon coat of arms. Lee Huntley, a talented artist in her own right, made color copies but had not been able to complete a new oil version before her death. The Huntleys were part of the Gordon Clan and fought bravely with them. They were allotted land and the Huntley castle in Scotland, which is still standing in part but sadly in disrepair.

Two handwritten copies of the Huntley family tree, beginning with Andrew Huntley following down to Stuart and Donald, are now museum property. We can trace the root of their tree from Andrew back to John Huntley and the Huntleys who first settled near Old Lyme, Connecticut – a stone's throw from Mystic Seaport. The trees clearly show the Huntley and Yeomans ties.

Hundreds of pictures came with Rob. All present enjoyed seeing them and sharing stories about the past generations. Seeing their ancestors as young ones, even babies, brought laughter and a few tears. As time did not allow for labeling all the pictures and deciding locations, it was agreed to give Donna a small (?) assignment: figure out who all of these people are. There is also a large folder of paperwork for her to read and digest.

By passing along our family tree, our books, papers, and photos we hope to nourish the future branches of the Huntley/Yeomans family trees.



*Huntley Cousins.
Standing: Rob.
Sitting (left to right): Donna and Judy*

Donate to the WHS By Gene Bavis

A couple of things that I'd like to mention. I think MOST of us who are members of the WHS donate funds (mostly our annual dues) because we believe it is important to preserve history in our local community. Many of us are Life Members which means that we don't have to pay dues. That's great, BUT please consider making a donation now and then as you can. Also, if you can join/pay annual dues at a higher than minimum level, that strengthens our financial position. AND of course donations in any amount can be made at any time by anyone. We can even accept them via PayPal now.

Here is something you might not be aware of. If you are 70.5 years old and have a traditional IRA investment, you are required to withdraw a RMD (required minimum distribution) each year and pay income tax on it. UGH! Did you know that if you have your financial advisor/institution send a payment directly to a non-profit organization that you don't have to pay income tax on that amount? For the past several years, I've been able to reduce my income taxes by giving away much of my RMD. I've been fortunate to be able to do that, and I know many of our seniors need that money to live on. I'm sharing this because I suspect some of you, like me, can afford to do this and might not have known about it. Talk to your financial advisor. I am always willing to share what I know if you contact me.

<u>Level of Membership</u>	
___ Student	\$ 5.00
___ Individual	\$ 20.00
___ Family	\$ 25.00
___ Sr. Single 65+	\$ 15.00
___ Sr. Couple 65+	\$ 20.00
___ Supporter	\$ 50.00
___ Life	\$250.00
___ Life Sr. 65+	\$150.00
___ Life Sr. Copl 65+	\$200.00
___ Patron	\$100.00
___ Business	\$ 75.00
___ Bus. Sponsor	\$150.00

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



2023 WHS Calendar of Events

Sept 18	7:00 PM	General Meeting Gordon Granger Program Ginegaw Park Lodge
Oct 1	2-4 PM	WHS Open House Cattle & Dairy Farming 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	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum

Officers and Trustees

President	Amber Linson	(585) 402 - 3393
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	Liz Bavis	(585) 802 - 0380
WHS Trustee	Christine Kubida	(315) 455 - 4359
WHS Trustee	Judy Markowski	(315) 524 - 8649
WHS Trustee	Alex Heinonen	(585) 451 - 5884

Committees

Building & Grounds	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768
Displays & Collections	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205
Membership & Community	Liz Bavis	(585) 802 - 0380
Newsletter	Bob Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156
Finance	Linda Pembroke	(585) 455 - 7595
Electronics & Media	Amber Linson	(585) 402 - 3393
Bylaws & Policy	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768
Genealogy	Ellen Dietterick	(585) 200 - 4685
HomeTown Heroes	Christine Kubida	(585) 455 - 4359
Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768