

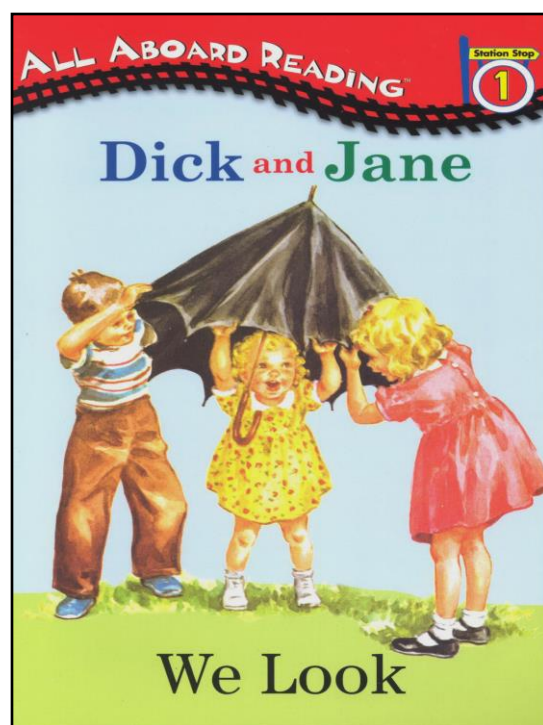
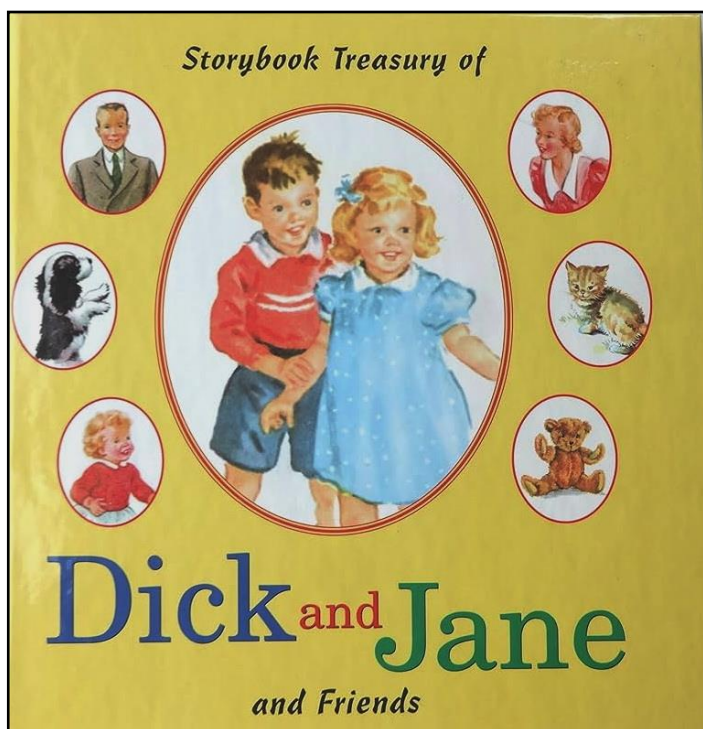
# Walworth Historical Society

November 2023  
Newsletter

Volume 48 / Number 3



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



**Soup with Dick and Jane** By Gene Bavis with help from the presenter, Cindy Russell

(Lunch and a program about the Dick and Jane books that many of us learned to read.)

On Monday, November 20 at the lodge in Ginegaw Park (Walworth-Penfield Road, Walworth), a variety of homemade soups along with crackers and bread will be served at noon. Beverages and desserts, too! Lunch is FREE. Following the lunch (about 1 PM), retired teacher Cindy Russell from Newark will share the story about these interesting books. Below is what she had to say about the program.

Dick, Jane, their family, friends and pets were part of growing up for over 85 million people who learned to read from the 1930s through the 1960s. They remain just about the only characters in the history of American primary education whose names have become household words. The primers that made these characters familiar to almost everyone have come to represent mid-century American culture, as well as collectors' items. The program will be a nostalgic look at the history of these classic readers through the years, illustrated through the presenter's collection of original books from the first published Dick and Jane primer in 1930 to the last multi-ethnic edition in 1965.

The Walworth Historical Society urges members and guests to join us. Please share this message with anyone who may be interested. FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC..

## **President's Message**      By Amber Linson

I am pleased to report that the "Dairy" themed Fall Open House was a success. We hosted around 50 guests who were treated with ice cream, butter and cheese, as well as demonstrations on how butter and ice cream were made in the past. The children who were in attendance were particularly impressed with the hands-on butter making demonstration. Not only did they get to witness the magical transformation of liquid to solid by their own manual efforts, but they got to sample the creation after the job was done. The simple fascination they expressed brought much joy to all Board of Trustee members.

We also made a great effort to clean up, reorganize, and build displays in the museum so that those in attendance would have the ability to wander the building and really get a taste of not only the dairy experience, but also the Walworth experience. We were pleased to receive many comments of approval from those who entered the building during the open house.

This praise has energized us to not only make efforts to open the museum more often for our members and neighbors to enjoy, but to also refresh our displays and cycle our large collection more frequently. In fact, we are planning another open house for December 16, in conjunction with the Wreaths Across America ceremony, in which we will have fresh Christmas and veteran displays for your enjoyment. We are excited with our new momentum and hope to continue this momentum into next year as well.

All of these efforts could not be done without the dedicated Board of Trustees and WHS volunteers who invest their time and energy into preserving and sharing the history of Walworth. However, let's be honest: the majority of those who have been caring for this history are getting older. And, while we would like to keep them forever, that is simply not possible. Therefore, we need to not only preserve our history, but plan for our future. And this planning involves increasing our volunteer base and searching for future trustees who can carry the passion of the past and present trustees.

To open opportunities for museum and historical society involvement, the Board of Trustees has established committees dedicated to different aspects of what we do. From Building and Grounds to Community Outreach we take on a dedicated approach to each effort that directly impacts our purpose. By doing this we are able to see exactly where we can use additional help from volunteers.

Most recently, we have recognized a need for an individual to help us when we bring in and accession new items. This wouldn't take much time for an interested individual and would greatly help the efforts of the Filing Committee who meet twice a month to keep our collection up to date. If you have the ability and time to help us, please reach out to Jessie Keymel, the Filing Committee Chair.

In closing, as we enter the colder weather, the WHS hopes all our members and neighbors find ways to keep warm and time to reminisce with friends and family while wading into the history of our area. And, if you have time on December 16 at 1 PM, please join us at the museum for refreshments and see our special exhibits following the Wreaths Across America event.

### **2024 Roadside Tribute Banners**

by Christine Kubida



As Walworth HomeTown Heroes (WHTH) reaches the end of its second year in action they are excited to announce that yet another round of Roadside Tribute Banners is being offered to the Walworth community for display in the upcoming 2024-2025 year.

Applications are available for completion either online or in person. In-person applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office at the Walworth Town Hall. Online applications can be completed by visiting:

<https://form.jotform.com/hthwalworth/2024veteranbanner>

Please contact Mike Kunzer via email at [hthwalworth.kunzer@gmail.com](mailto:hthwalworth.kunzer@gmail.com) or call (585) 355-3158 for questions or assistance regarding:

- Completing or getting an application
- Seeking additional information about Walworth HomeTown Heroes
- Wanting to get involved with WHTH
- Making a donation to WHTH



## The Preservation of Our Tree By Amber Linson

Almost two years ago the Board of Trustees had to make a decision on what to do with the copper beech tree that for over 150 years grew on the property which became the historical society's in the 70's. That tree was one of many Theron Yeomans planted during his lifetime in Walworth. A couple of the original copper beech trees are now gone or severely decaying. There are, however a few healthy ones that stand stately as a remembrance of the Yeomans Nursery's actions in the mid 1800's.

However, we were not willing to let this olden giant face obscurity as it, along with everything else in our collection, has historical importance. We then turned from simple removal to preservation and entrusted the processing of the copper beech to a man we know as "Texas Dave." Dave was able to salvage many planks from the trunk (**below, left**), which is surprising because we were not sure how far the decay went into the trunk.

Finally, the stack of processed wood has been stored where it will have to remain for at least 2-3 years to dry before we can do anything with it. The day we get to bring it out and begin working with it to make tables, benches, a gavel, and who knows what else is one we will wait for with anticipation.

This task could not have been accomplished so easily without the help of many. However, special recognition is owed to the Walworth Highway Department for their help in moving the monstrous trunk and a stack of lumber to its place of processing and then temporary home. Highway Superintendent Kevin Switzer and his team (**below, right**) deserve our thanks.



**OPEN HOUSE:** December 16 from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM at the Walworth Historical Society museum. Check out the displays related to Christmas and veterans while enjoying some refreshments. This is scheduled to coincide with the Wreaths Across America program. We urge you to attend the ceremony at the Walworth Cemetery and then come to the museum for refreshments and fellowship.



### Town Hall Display Case

By Gene Bavis

The Walworth Town Hall Display Case currently contains a display of Wayne County milk bottles including bottles from Maple Shade Dairy (Walworth) and Amsler's Dairy (Lincoln). We invite you to stop by and take a look.

## General Gordon Granger Program

By Gene Bavis

The Walworth Historical Society was pleased to have Town of Sodus Historical Society members Bruce Farrington and Jim Paprocki (**below, right**) share the story of both Gordon Granger and Michael Joy (for whom the Hamlet of Joy was named) at our September 18 program.

Most of us had never heard of Juneteenth until a few years ago when it was proposed that a new national holiday be established to celebrate it. General Granger, born in Joy (Town of Sodus) was the individual who delivered the news to the enslaved people of Texas on June 19, 1865 that they had been freed about two and half years earlier by President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. A historic marker was installed and dedicated at Granger's childhood home on June 19, 2023. The Wayne County Bicentennial Committee produced a rack card about General Granger. Copies are available but it can also be viewed on the Bicentennial website:

<https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/DocumentCenter/View/9435/General-Gordon-Granger-PDF>

Photos, descriptions and some video links related to Gordon Granger can be found on the Historic Sites Database:

<https://waynehistorians.org/Places/site.php?site=1205>



*History told through song.  
Enjoy a FREE Concert.*

**Sunday, Nov. 5**

**History of Rock n Roll  
Ohmann Theatre  
Lyons 6:30pm**

**Todd Hobin**



[WayneCounty200.com](http://WayneCounty200.com)

Musical Performance and History! Free and Open to the public.  
Doors open at 6:00 pm.

THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE  
ROBERT G. BOEHLER FOUNDATION AND THE MANY GENEROUS  
SPONSORS OF THE WAYNE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL.



## Bicentennial Update By Gene Bavis

The Wayne County Bicentennial Celebration is nearly over. Our Heritage Music Series has been tremendous! There is just one more program. On Sunday, November 5 at 6:30 PM at the Ohmann Theater in Lyons, Todd Hobin will present "The History of Rock n Roll" in story and song. The program is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC thanks to support from the Boehmler Foundation and the Wayne County Bicentennial Sponsors.

There are still many interesting tidbits of Wayne County and the Bicentennial on the website [www.waynecounty200.com](http://www.waynecounty200.com)

AND if you need a Christmas gift, please consider purchasing a copy of Voices of Wayne County edited by our own Amber Linson. Copies are available (\$27 including tax) from the WHS at meetings or contact one of our Board members.



## Remembering The Military By Jessie Keymel

During World War II a group of local residents formed a Boys in Service Club. The group's mission was to send Care packages and correspondence to the men and women from the Walworth area who were serving in the military. Members created this window display (**below, left**) at Ray Pembroke's Red and White Store (**below, right**) which was located on the southeast corner of Main Street and Walworth-Marion Road. Thank you to Gordon Youngman for giving us this 1942 photo.

Eighty years later we continue to remember our military, thanks to local Christmas tree farms. As we prepare this newsletter, we think of our military families and their separation during the Christmas season. Since 2005 farm-grown Christmas trees have been donated to troops and military families in the United States and overseas through Trees for Troops.

The donated trees are cut and wrapped ready for delivery. The Christmas tree growers bring them to a drop-off farm where they are picked up by a host trailer provided by FedEx. Since 2005 the National Christmas Tree Association and FedEx have partnered to deliver the trees to 60-80 military bases in the United States and overseas. The trees are donated by tree farms and their customers. Check it out at [info@TreesForTroops.org](mailto:info@TreesForTroops.org). It is a great way to contribute to a soldier's family Christmas.



## From Our Collection - America's Symbol of Freedom By Jessie Keymel

There are many United States flags in our collection. The flag that is currently flying over our museum grounds was presented to the Walworth Historical Society by Congressman Frank Horton on the occasion of the dedication of the new museum building. The flag had been flown over the Capitol of the United States on July 4, 1989.

Please take time to read the story of the flag hanging in the frame in our meeting room. This flag was raised at the top of the United States Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan on May 10, 2014, and presented to our historical society by Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery R. Bavis on his return to the United States.

The largest flag in our collection is 12 feet by 24 feet. It was displayed on the front of the Pacific Hotel to welcome President Grover Cleveland when he came to Walworth for his nieces' double wedding on June 10, 1891. There are 40 stars on this flag.

When a veteran of the United States Armed Forces dies, there is often a flag draped on his coffin. This flag is given to the family in appreciation of time spent serving in the military. We have the flag that draped World War I veteran George Frowley's coffin when he died in 1935. The family of Howard Barmaster, WW II veteran, donated his last flag and his Army uniform to our collection. Sadly, we also have a flag that was left at the town hall in 2004 with no information about it.

The question is often asked what to do with an old or damaged flag? The local American Legion Posts have made it easy; they will dispose of flags properly. You can drop your flag at the American Legion Post #428 at their building at 6180 Knickerbocker Road, Ontario; there is a filing cabinet at the back door that has a drawer just for old flags. American Legion Post #1430 has a red, white, and blue mailbox outside their building at 4141 Witherden Road, Marion, that is dedicated to collecting old flags. When the Posts schedule a ceremony for the disposal of flags all those dropped off will be included in the ceremony.



## A Very Dairy Good Day By Liz Bavis

Our open house was on October 1 with a theme of dairy farming. We were blessed with a sunny day and had over 50 people stop by to see the exhibits. The exhibits were set up inside the museum and also outside under a tent donated by the Lions Club.

Thanks to Larry DeMinck, Deb and Alex Heinonen and Roger Keymel we had a display of early milking equipment and other farm tools. Gene Bavis brought his collection of Wayne County milk bottles which was how milk was packaged and then delivered in past years. The museum had a collection of butter churns and butter molds so people could see how things were done in the past. Chris Davis from Newark-Arcadia Historical Society brought his collection of early dairy-related packaging that was made by the Bloomers Brothers in Newark. The packaging company produced and sold various cardboard containers from 1899-2001. His collection included a number of ice cream cartons from various locations around the United States including Cuba, New York and some from Oklahoma.

Pat Chakalus from Ontario shared her knowledge of picnic practices of the 19th Century, when often times people would gather in a wooded grove or cemetery for a Sunday afternoon picnic. She had samples of various sandwiches that might have been part of the picnic, including cucumber with dill, ground ham and pickle, and brown bread with baked beans to name a few. Other items that might be included were cold chicken, ham or fish, hard boiled eggs, pickles, different jellies with crackers and desserts.

To round out our dairy theme we made ice cream and butter. Under the watchful eye of Roger Keymel we churned two batches of ice cream for visitors to enjoy. Liz and Gene Bavis took over the butter making and, with the help of some visiting kids, we churned about a pound of butter. One young man came back later and when he saw it in the bowl his expression was..."Wow! It really is butter!" We also had Cabot cheese with crackers and ice cream cups donated by Alex and Deb Heinonen.

I would encourage people to visit your local Wayne County historical societies and museums. They have a wealth of information about local history and have informative and entertaining programs that are free and open to the public. You don't have to be a member to attend these programs but by joining it helps support these very important organizations.



**All photos on this page are from the Walworth Historical Society Open House on October 1.**

**Remembering..... Harold Reynolds** By Dorothy French

Genealogy is a wonderful and rewarding hobby. Thanks to an unknown genealogist, the Reynolds family has been documented back to 1795 with the birth of Ira Reynolds in Massachusetts, the great, great-grandfather of the late Harold Madison Reynolds of Walworth.



**Left: Harold Reynolds. Undated photo**

**Right: Reynolds farm, 3973 Walworth-Ontario Road**

**Follow us as we trace Harold's ancestors:**

- **Ira Reynolds** married Samantha Bond and they were parents of ten children. The ninth child was Madison. Ira and Samantha lived in Walworth at the time of their deaths.
- **Madison Reynolds** was born June 6, 1837 in Sardinia, NY and died February 22, 1929 in Marion. He married Sophia Carmon; they had six children. In 1891 they moved to Marion from Walworth, where they had managed the Pacific Hotel. Madison was the last of the Civil War veterans in Marion and is buried in Marion Cemetery.
- **Carmon Reynolds** was the fifth child of Madison and Sophia Reynolds. He was born February 6, 1870 in Sardinia and died July 25, 1923 in Marion. Carmon married Lena Lounsbury in February 1895 in Walworth. Lena was born 1875 in Walworth and died 1953 in Walworth. They are parents of **Harold**, Beatrice, Frank, Carl, Marjorie, and Vincent. Carmon's in-laws were Levi A. Lounsbury and Carrie Braman. Carrie was educated at Walworth Academy and later taught at area district schools. In later life Levi and Carrie lived with Harold and Mildred Reynolds.
- **Harold Madison Reynolds** was born January 11, 1896 in Marion and died 100 years later on December 18, 1996 in Walworth. He married Mildred L. Smith on August 27, 1919 in Union Springs, NY. Harold and Mildred celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1984. They lived at 3973 Walworth-Ontario Road their entire married life. Harold retired from farming in 1967. His 20-year political career began in 1945, when he (an enrolled Republican but endorsed by the town's Democrats) was elected justice of the peace and member of the town board by 18 votes.

Mildred was born March 23, 1897 in Union Springs and died October 10, 1985 in Walworth. She was a former school teacher and did substitute teaching at Wayne Central School. Mildred served as Town of Walworth Historian from 1947 – 1976 and kept meticulous records about our community. This information is a wonderful record of our town's history.

(Continued on next page)





Harold and Mildred were parents of three children: Albert Eugene, Claire, and Geraldine Reynolds. Eugene died October 4, 2011; his wife Mabel died December 17, 2006. Claire (also known as Dutch) married Eunice and was a veteran of the Army Air Corps. He died October 13, 2009 and is buried in Palmyra Cemetery. Geraldine married Ed Lonneville. She passed away October 31, 2017; Gene preceded her in death on October 26, 2013. Geraldine and Ed are buried in Walworth Cemetery.

The Reynolds family members still remain close. Buried in Marion Cemetery are Madison and Sophia, Carmon and Lena, Harold and Mildred, and Eugene and Mabel.

**Left: Harold and Mildred Reynolds, 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 1964**



### Light the Night

On December 2 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM the Town of Walworth Parks and Recreation Department will host the annual "Light the Night" FREE family holiday celebration. It will be at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park and will feature decorated trees, Santa Claus, hot chocolate, cookies and much more!

### In Memoriam

We regret to announce the passing of Betty (Garlock) Youngman. Betty was a graduate of Walworth High School Class of 1947 and worked at Buckley's General Store many years ago. She is survived by her husband, Gordon Youngman, and her family.

### 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 and Chairpersons

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

### 2023 WHS Calendar of Events

Nov 20	12:00 PM	Homemade soup served FREE
	1:00 PM	Dick & Jane book history with Cindy Russell at Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec 2	6-8 PM	Light the Night Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec 11	2:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
Dec 16	1 - 3 PM	Cemetery Veterans Wreath Ceremony follow-up at the WHS museum with refreshments

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