

Walworth Historical Society

**March 2024
Newsletter**

Volume 48 / Number 4



2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568
walworthhistoricalsociety.org

“Photos of Walworth: Old and New” Slide Show March 18

By Bob Mogray

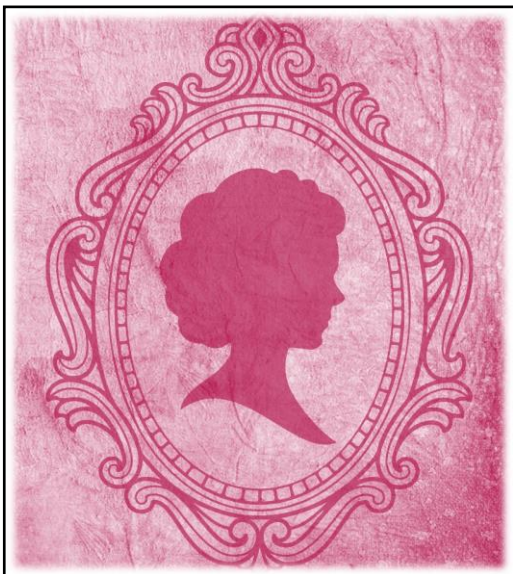


On Monday, March 18 at 7:00 PM, the Walworth Historical Society will sponsor a slide show at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park, Walworth-Penfield Road, Walworth. I will do my best to present photos of the Walworth area from the past and present. These photos are from the WHS extensive collection. We welcome participation from our guests as to their stories that pertain to any of the people and places in the slide show. This event is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

We urge our WHS members to support us by attending. Please bring a friend or two! We appreciate your participation in these programs so we can continue to have historical and interesting shows. Thank you!

Notable Women of Wayne County: April 15 Program

By Rosa Fox



Town of Huron Historian and Wayne County Bicentennial Co-Chair Rosa Fox will present a program about significant women from across Wayne County's 15 towns at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 15 at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park, Walworth-Penfield Road, Walworth.

Educators, lawyers, politicians, business leaders, religious leaders, suffragists, abolitionists, philanthropists, and others will highlight this program about women who made significant contributions, brought about change, and shook the floors - maybe breaking some glass ceilings - in Wayne County. Someone from every town is mentioned. You may be surprised to learn who they are and their accomplishments. Join Historian Fox on this journey of Wayne County women who defied the norm and broke down barriers.

NOTE from Walworth Town Historian Gene Bavis: Having worked with Rosa for several years, I can guarantee that this will be a top-notch program. Rosa has done extensive research and will give you a glimpse of some amazing women.

If you'd like to see the complete list, visit our website (click the link that says "notable list: <https://walworthhistoricalsociety.org/april-15-2024-7-pm-historic-women-of-wayne-county-by-rosa-fox/>).

Wayne County Bicentennial By Gene Bavis

WOW...what a year! I won't take space here to recap everything. The Bicentennial Website and Facebook pages are still going. We are still working on the completion of the Bicentennial Mural in Williamson. Stand by for news. There will be a dedication ceremony at some point.

Bicentennial Website: www.waynecounty200.com
Bicentennial Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/waynecounty200>

Keep these celebrations in mind:
2025 is the Bicentennial of the Opening of the Erie Canal.
2026 is the United States Semiquincentennial (250th).

Editor's note: Gene and Rosa Fox were the Wayne County Bicentennial co-chairpersons and did an amazing job that consisted of many, many hours of hard work over several YEARS. They and the many other volunteers presented many projects and events that came off like clockwork! Many thanks to Gene, Rosa and many others who made the WCB so successful!

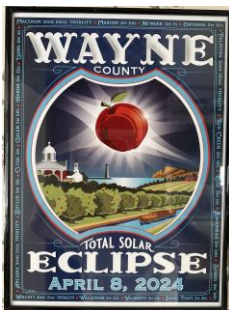
Light the Night – December 2, 2023 By Gene and Liz Bavis



The Trustees of the Walworth Historical Society believe it is important for us to participate in as many community events as possible. That is why we strive to create a float for each year's Walworth Festival-In-The-Park Parade and to have a display at our booth during the festivities.

We also think it is our obligation to decorate a tree in the park for the Light the Night Program. The Walworth Recreation Department does a great job of pulling the community together for an evening of celebration each December.

For 2022 and 2023 the Walworth Historical Society decorated 2 trees. One (**left photo**) was done by the Walworth Home Town Heroes Committee, a subcommittee of the WHS. They won second prize! The other tree (**right photo**) celebrated the Holstein cattle brought to Walworth in 1879 by Theron G. Yeomans. The tree has wooden cut outs of Holsteins, small milk pails and cowbells. We didn't place in the top 3, but we are proud of it.



This is a poster of the total eclipse that will occur on April 8, 2024. If you would like a copy, please contact the Wayne County Historical Society. They also have the image as a magnet.

Soup with Dick and Jane By Gene Bavis

In 2018 we began scheduling our November programs at noon instead of in the evening AND we started serving homemade soup first. The first two programs had clever names (at least I thought so): "Soup and Suffrage" (2018) and "Soup and Spiritualism" (2019). Due to the pandemic, we didn't have lunch meetings in 2020 or 2021. We started again in 2022 with a Bicentennial program and in 2023 we thought "Soup with Dick and Jane" would be a clever title.

On November 20, about 40 people enjoyed 5 kinds of delicious homemade soups. Cindy Russell, a former teacher from Newark, then shared the story of how many of us (about 85 million) learned to read in primary grades. Students used the Dick and Jane series of reading books from the 1930's into the 1960's. She displayed many of the books from her personal collection. The program and the soup were well received. We'll do "Soup and ???" again on November 17, 2024.



Above: Cindy Russell



Walworth Historical Society Seeks Nominees for the Walworth Community Service Award

Each year since 1990, the Walworth Historical Society recognizes an individual, couple or group who has made a significant contribution to the community through their volunteer efforts. These folks have gone above and beyond usually having volunteer commitments to more than one organization. Fire/EMS departments, school boards, food pantries, scouting and youth groups, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, churches, historical societies, etc. have benefitted as has the whole community. The services should be volunteer work and not part of their regular job.

If you know a person from Walworth or associated with Walworth organizations who is deserving of such recognition, please send a summary of their contributions to the Walworth Historical Society, PO Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. Please include your name and contact information so that we might contact you for more information if needed. Deadline for nominations is April 1. Please mark "Community Service Award" on the envelope. You can also email us at: walworthhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

To see a list of previous recipients, go to: <http://walworthhistoricalsociety.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Community-Service-Award-Recipients.pdf>

HomeTown Heroes Celebrate a Successful Year By Christine Kubida

Walworth HomeTown Heroes closed out 2023 with another successful year under their belt. Excitedly WHTH added more tribute banners to the roadsides in all three hamlets, with the year-end total of 43 banners. In the Spring, WHTH held a Benefits and Perks night at Ginegaw Lodge that welcomed service members and their families to an evening of dinner provided by Heintzelman's BBQ Pit, Peppino's Italian Eatery, and Sunny's Donuts & Café. Conversation included information about the benefits and perks their service time has awarded them.

In July WHTH held an Independence Day Give-Away that was open countywide and provided the random drawing winners to receive a one-of-a-kind handcrafted wooden American flag (**middle photo: Jay Frind - GWOT Navy on the right in the photo**) created by J. Sherwin Construction.

In the Fall WHTH hosted a Veterans Day ceremony at the Walworth fire hall on November 11 that honored residents of Walworth and the surrounding townships. The evening was well attended and stories of service, strength, and comradery filled the evening wherein WHTH, with the help of New York State Representative Brian Manktelow, presented all service members and attending families with a custom certificate thanking service members for their service to our great nation on behalf of Walworth. Guest speakers and presenters were Brian Manktelow, Ontario American Legion Commander Jimmy Gallaher, Town of Walworth Supervisor Michael Donalty, Newark Squadron Civil Air Patrol, and Town of Walworth Justice Daniel Majchrzak. The 2023 event was proudly supported and sponsored by Walworth Fire Department, Mark's Pizzeria, and Walworth Tops Supermarket.



David Stalker - Persian Gulf Army 2nd from right



Closing out the year, WHTH participated in the Town of Walworth Parks and Recreation Light The Night annual tree decorating contest. Using creativity and bringing a unique touch to the traditional Christmas tree, WHTH painted their tree red, white, and blue. It was blanketed with clear string lights coming to an apex at the top of the tree wherein they placed an American Eagle and a star. For the 2nd year in a row WHTH placed 2nd in the contest.

Additionally, on December 16 while half of the committee attended and supported Guy Bringley in his annual Wreaths Across America project, the other half of the committee delivered holiday dinner baskets and toys to many families within the Town of Walworth (**right photo: Colleen Ranous - GWOT Navy**) as part of our 1st annual "We Care: Thank You for Your Service" project. We Care was proudly sponsored by del LAGO Casino, Wegmans, Mark's Pizzeria, Alpco Recycling, and Franke's Tree Farm.

WHTH would like to thank the following businesses for their support and participation in making 2023 a success: Alpco Recycling, Mark's Pizzeria, del LAGO Casino, Wegmans, Town of Walworth, Constellation Brands, Eastern Shores Associates, Heintzelman's BBQ Pit, Howard Hanna's Darlene Maimone, Walworth Tops Supermarket, J. Sherwin Construction, Peppino's Italian Eatery, Save-A-Lot Ontario, Sunny's Donuts & Cafe, Walworth Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, Walworth Fire Department, Newark Squadron Civil Air Patrol, Kittelberger Florists, and Franke's Tree Farm.



Autograph Books on Display By Judy McMillan

Our current display at the town hall features old autograph books from by-gone Walworth people. They are fun to browse. The autograph hound was given to me in 1957 by former classmates as our family was relocating to another state.

Here are several samples:

"I wish you much, I wish you mighty...I wish my pajamas were next to your nighty. Now don't get excited and be misled...I mean on the clothesline, NOT in bed." 1944.

"Love is like Scotch snuff, one pinch and that's enough!" 1896.

"Your love is like the blooming rose. Because your cheeks, it's beauty shows." Cora Clark, Sept. 12, 1895.

To Laura: "May your joy be deep as the ocean and your sorrow light as its foam." Lillian Russell, Sept. 24, 1889.

"Hells-bells...I can't think of anything to say." Doc Esley, 1908.

Travel Adventures Program By Gene and Liz Bavis

In October 2023 we (Gene and Liz) decided to take a 7-day, 6-night, 7-museum tour of New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. It started with our plan to attend a concert in Chateaugay, NY on Friday, October 6. This is prime leaf-looking season, so Gene suggested that we drive through the Adirondacks to get there. But first, we thought it would be nice to revisit the Northeast Classic Car Museum in Norwich, NY. That was day 1.

The next day took us into the Adirondacks with a stop at Great Camp Sagamore, the summer home of the Vanderbilt Family and then on to the concert that evening. On the third day we visited Shelburne Museum in Vermont and then on to Bennington to visit Liz' cousin. Day 4 was a drive to Triverton, RI to visit another cousin. After breakfast on Day 5, we drove to and spent the day at Mystic Seaport, CT. After another good night's sleep in our small motorhome, we visited the Mark Twain House in Hartford, CT and the Shaker Museum in Hanover, MA. Day 7 was a drive to Butler, NY where we attended the Wayne historians meeting at the Butler Church Museum before arriving home. FUN times and about 2000 photos were taken. Another "Bavis Adventure!"

So, what to do with all those pictures? We like to share, so we created a slide show for the Senior Citizens group that meets each Wednesday at the Lutheran Church in Webster. As long as we had done all that work, we thought that maybe some people in Walworth might like to see it also. Although we didn't have a great turnout on December 10, those who came seemed to enjoy the tour.



Shelburne Vermont Museum (round barn style)

WHS website: walworthhistoricalsociety.org



Mark Twain house & museum, CT

page 5

WHS March 2024 Newsletter

Wreaths Across America and 2023 Open House By Liz Bavis

On December 16 Walworth and communities across the United State participated in the Wreaths Across America program. The program began in 1992 when the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine had a surplus of wreaths. That year 5,000 wreaths were sent to Arlington National Cemetery to be placed on the graves of soldiers. Since that humble beginning, Wreaths Across America was established as a nonprofit in 2007. This past year over 3 million wreaths were placed at over 4,225 participating locations across the United States.

In 2020 local resident Guy Bringley presented the idea to the Walworth community of having a wreath-laying event at our cemeteries. It was met with enthusiasm. Due to the pandemic the first ceremony was delayed until December 2021 when 145 wreaths were placed at 5 different cemeteries in Walworth. At the opening ceremony at the Sherburne Road cemetery, Guy Bringley and Town Supervisor Mike Donalty spoke of the contributions of our veterans. A color guard from the Walworth Fire Department was present (**left photo**). Wreaths for each of the service branches were placed on frames by area Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and members of two DAR groups. Afterwards area residents took wreaths and placed them on veterans' graves in the five cemeteries (**right photo**). The Walworth Historical Society would like to thank Guy Bringley for bringing this program to our town.



Following the ceremony guests were invited to the Walworth Historical Society's museum. Over 50 residents came to enjoy refreshments and conversation and to see displays related to veterans and Christmas (**photos below**). There was a display of different military uniforms owned by the museum as well our military artifacts. Another display showed food preparation for Christmas past and present. A favorite display was antique toys which WHS members had played with when they were kids. Another display showed artifacts that highlighted life in Walworth. Linda Pembroke decorated our tree with over 100 antique Christmas postcards from her collection. Liz Bavis set up a lighted Christmas village with a farm scene and buildings related to farming. Dawn Schwind provided materials for kids of all ages to make ornaments to take home. We look forward to December 14, 2024 when we will again participate in a Christmas open house and Wreaths Across America program.



President's Message By Amber Linson

Back in December, the WHS Board of Trustees mailed a letter to our members and friends in which we requested donations for a project to update and expand our storage system. We hoped to raise at least \$1,000 to increase our shelving space and to purchase archival boxes used to preserve collection items. This campaign was necessary as our collection has grown to well over 1000 items and our preservation efforts were stretched to their limit.

Well, I am so grateful to report that we have received nearly \$3,000 from 30 generous members! With these funds we have been able to begin purchasing shelving and storage boxes (**left photo**) which we needed to organize the collection. The archival boxes are especially important for the preservation of books, scrapbooks, diaries, and family treasures made of paper. Without the boxes the paper will degrade faster than if they are stored in the boxes. I personally feel relieved every time we place a family album or Bible into an archival box as I know it will make these items last longer.



As we have been updating our collection database, and as we intend to organize every piece in the collection, these generous donations give us a huge boost to our organization's goals. So, to those members who responded to our call for help we would like to express a warm thank you. We will continue to do our best to preserve the artifacts precious to Walworth and the families who have called this wonderful town home.

For those of you who want to offer additional help to the WHS, we have many opportunities for volunteers of any age. For example, our collections committee needs help with accessioning, filing and refreshing displays. They meet on the first and second Wednesday of every month between 1 and 3 pm. Anyone is welcome to help. If you are good with organization and have a little extra time on your hands, please stop by and see us. We would love to have your help.

Again, THANK YOU to the individuals who helped kick start our archival project. It's generous people like you (and our volunteers) who keep this not-for-profit organization afloat!

Wayne Central To Observe 75th Anniversary By Jim Switzer

On April 29, 2024 the Wayne Central School District will observe the 75th anniversary of the centralization of 21 common and union free school districts within the towns of Ontario, Walworth, Macedon and Williamson in Wayne County and the towns of Webster and Penfield in Monroe County.

With approval of voters on April 29, 1949, an order of centralization was adopted. Nineteen common school (rural) schoolhouses and the Ontario and Walworth Union Free schools (high schools) were formally joined to create the Wayne Central School District, according to Jim Switzer, school district clerk for 33 years, retired.

The original boundary lines of the rural district school houses were combined, which is why the boundaries of the school district now extend into all of irregular portions of roads and townships. In 1972 six square miles of the original school district were ceded – by public referendum - to create approximately 50% of the new Gananda Central School District. With approval of a similar cession vote by voters of the (then) neighboring Palmyra-Macedon Central School District, the boundaries of the school district changed again to the territory now served by the 3 districts.

The first official school year of Wayne Central was 1949-50. The first graduating class entered in September 1949. The first commencement was in June 1950. The 75th anniversary of Wayne Central School District will be April 29, 2024 but the 74th commencement will be in June 2024.

2024 WHS Calendar of Events

March 18	7:00 PM	“Photos of Walworth Old & New” Bob Mogray Slide Show Ginegaw Park Lodge
April 11	12:00	WHO meeting (WHS Hosts) WHS Museum
April 15	7:00 PM	“Historic Women of Wayne County” by Rosa Fox Ginegaw Park Lodge
April 17	4:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum (Budget Meeting)
May 13	6:00 PM	WHS Annual Dinner Meeting Ginegaw Park Lodge
June 10	4:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
June 30	2 – 4 PM	Summer Open House WHS Museum
July 23	6:30 PM	FIP Float Decoration Keymel’s Barn
July 26	6:30 PM	FIP Parade & Booth Ginegaw Park
July 27	3 – 8 PM	FIP Booth Ginegaw Park
Aug. 12	4:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
Sept.16	7:00 PM	Program TBA Ginegaw Park Lodge
Oct. 6	2 – 4 PM	Fall Open House WHS Museum
Oct. 14	4:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
Nov. 18	12:00 PM	Soup Program TBA Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec. 9	4:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
Dec. 14	1 – 3 PM	“Wreaths Across America” Open House WHS Museum

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

Our Collection By Jessie Keymel

A visit to Boerman’s Furniture Farm and Antiques on Ridge Chapel Road in Marion resulted in a valuable find – the diaries of Thomas E. Dadswell.

Alice Doyle and a friend went to Boerman’s to look for old chairs to cane during the winter months. Their purchases that day included a couple of diaries from a familiar name - Thomas E. Dadswell. As they began to read them they became so interested they returned to Boerman’s and purchased the remainder of the diaries. The collection of 46 diaries from 1865 until 1924 is a record of Thomas’ activities and jobs then.

In February of 1902 there was a “big snowstorm and gale,” The mailman could not continue his route. The snow was packed hard; drifts were 4 - 10 feet high and only allowed foot traffic. This information is from the notes Mrs. Doyle made and was included with the diaries. As I read her notes from the days following the storm, she listed the people who came to help clear the road. Later in the season the road had to be repaired and the local men hauled in sand and gravel. They worked to improve the road as maintaining it was the job of the land owners at that time.

Information about Thomas: He served in the United States Army according to the 1883 Military History of Wayne County. Thomas Dodswell (sic) July 28, 1862, Inf. Co. A; on detached service at 2nd Corps Hospital at date of general discharge June 4, 1865. Thomas is mentioned in The 111th New York Volunteer Infantry by Martin W. Husk (A Civil War History). He is also mentioned in The 1914 American Agriculturist, on page 307. Both of these publications are in Walworth Historical Society’s collection.

We thank Alice Doyle for her most valuable gift and Donna Klaeyesen for taking time to read and translate several of the diaries. Our collection includes diaries from other families. Call me at 315-524-9205 if you can volunteer some time to transcribe them.

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 Diatterick	(585) 200 - 4685
HomeTown Heroes	Christine Kubida	(585) 455 - 4359
Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768