

# Walworth Historical Society

**May 2024  
Newsletter**

**Volume 48 / Number 5**



2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568  
[walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://walworthhistoricalsociety.org)



## **WHS Annual Meeting Set For Monday, May 13** By Bob Mogray

The annual meeting of the Walworth Historical Society this year will be **on Monday, May 13 at 6:00 PM at the Lodge in Ginewaw Park in Walworth** (shown above). 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 as well as a dish to pass.

Following dinner there will be a short meeting for nominations, elections, and a few announcements. This typically takes less than ten minutes. 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 exhibiting a high level of volunteer effort which has been a positive impact on the local community. **This year's recipient is Mary Jane Devlin (see the story on page 3).**

As we have done on several occasions in the past, a slide presentation will be shown about some of the events that happened and were important 50 years ago in 1974.

The Walworth Historical Society programs are ALWAYS open to the public, so please bring a friend or two and join us. The WHS appreciates your support for all of our shows and programs.

We hope to see you there.

## Total Solar Eclipse In Walworth

By Bob Mogray

At approximately 3:20 PM on Monday, April 8, Walworth and nearby areas experienced a total solar eclipse. If it was a more clear day it would have looked something like the photo to the right. A solar eclipse is when the moon gets between the sun and the earth and a shadow is cast on the earth's surface. Daylight temporarily turned into night and, for those with the proper vision protection, the glowing ring around the edge of the sun called the corona was visible. People traveled from great distances and gathered to witness this rare phenomenon. The last time there was a similar event here was 1925 in January. In case you plan on seeing the next total solar eclipse in Walworth, New York State, it will be in 2144.

The Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024 is now history. Do you have photos or stories to share? Our mission is to help document history. Please send them to the Walworth Historical Society:

[walworthnyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:walworthnyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)



**Fun facts:** The speed of the moon's shadow on the earth's surface was 2,344 miles per hour and there was almost 4 minutes of total eclipse.

## Melba Smith and Her 1918 Diary – Part 2

By Mary Jane Devlin

*Editor's Note: Melba Smith was born in 1899. Melba and her parents lived on Canandaigua Road and she was a student at District #8 in 1904-05. The school was also known as Freewill and was located on the northeast corner of Atlantic Avenue and Downs Road. Melba taught at the district school on Finley Road and was a faithful writer in her diary, which has been transcribed to give us a better understanding of life in 1918 - 1920. In later years she lived at 2179 Walworth-Penfield Road, the current home of Russ and Barb Kuelling. Melba died in 1971 and is buried in Baker Road Cemetery. Excerpts of her diary are printed below, thanks to Mary Jane Devlin who transcribed them.*

- Feb. 2:** A bear saw his shadow most of the time. Rae Green and I are planning on rooming together next year at Geneseo.
- Mar. 3:** I went to social over to Valentine's. I taught all week; had some stormy and windy weather.
- Mar. 9:** I attended the Book Club social but did not have a very good time. Received one vote for being the most handsome woman. Miss Farlow received the prize and Carlyle Boynton the prize for handsomest man. Saturday night and Sunday morning worked in telephone office.
- July 8:** Started for Geneseo. Bargey has gone as Red Cross nurse. Had my glasses repaired.
- July 9:** Went to classes. I am taking History of Education I, II, Nature Study I, II, Arithmetic 3.
- July 11:** Went to school, ate at dinner table. We had a can of jam which resulted in a snake joke on Florence Calhoun. She ate so much supper that her shirt came unfastened at the table.
- July 12:** I passed all of my examinations and enjoyed my work at Geneseo very much. I came home. I went to all the dances.

**WHS Community Service Award to Mary Jane Devlin** By Bob Mogray and Gene Bavis



**Mary Jane Devlin**

We are proud to announce that this year's Walworth Historical Society Community Service Award will go to Mary Jane Devlin! As a charter member since 1976, Mary Jane has been actively involved in WHS leadership and committee work for more than two decades. She served as Treasurer for many years. She has also served as a WHS Trustee since 2006 and has been an important member of the WHS Newsletter Team. She is probably the BEST proofreader that you will ever meet. In addition to that, she is a regular story writer for the newsletter. Serving on the Filing/Acquisitions Committee, she and the team record all donations and acquisitions, assign numbers and store the donations.

She took an active role in the Walworth High School Alumni Association and helped to keep it going as long as they could. While she was working as the Director of Food Service at Newark Central, she served as President of the NYS School Food Service. She served on the Reliant Credit Union Tribute Committee for several years. Mary Jane is a 50-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 1430.

Mary Jane has been on the Board of Directors at the Marion Historic Association for at least four years. She is their "Robert's Rules" expert. She is valued for her ability to keep the organization in line with non-profit requirements, voting etc., and general knowledge about organizational operation. She has also filled in as Secretary when needed.

**March 18 "Photos of Walworth Old and New"** By Bob Mogray

On Monday, March 18, the Walworth Historical Society sponsored a free slide show "Photos of Walworth Old and New" in which I attempted to display some new and old photos of the people, places and events in our area for the past several decades. The Pacific Hotel building (**below**) is a good example. There was very good attendance despite some weather that was less than great. There were also some great questions and comments as the show progressed. The WHS and I appreciate the support of our members and the community. Hopefully we can schedule more of this type of program in the future. There will also be a shorter slide show presentation at our annual meeting on Monday, May 13 at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park. It will feature a 50-year look back to what things were like in 1974. Thanks again for everyone's support.



**Pacific Hotel early 1900's (old)**



**Pacific Hotel apartment building 2024 (new)**

**Remembering.....Charles D. Tuttle** By Dorothy French

The Tuttle family is well known in the Walworth area. Their descendants married into other families including Lawrence, Briggs, Carter, Huntley, Hall and Reynolds. Below are four generations of the Tuttle family involving Charles D. Tuttle.

- Charles' grandparents were L. DeLoss and Mary (Knapp) Tuttle. They had three children: DeWitt A. (Minnie Reynolds), **Frank H.** (Eleanor/Ella Briggs), and Mary (Charles C. Lawrence).
- Frank and Ella had two children: **Charles D.** and Gladys.
- **Charles D. Tuttle** was born March 6, 1891 in Walworth and died December 9, 1973 in Florida at age 82. He married 18-year-old Iva Briggs June 4, 1913 and they were parents of two children: Dr. Lloyd D. (Elinor Nestor) and Melba (Lester Hall Carter). Lloyd was a doctor and Melba was a clinical instructor of student nurses at a NJ hospital. Following Iva's death on January 6, 1952 in Walworth, Charles married Ethel, the widow of George J. Frowley, Jr.

The Tuttle family lived at 3647 South Main Street in the 1930's – 1950's. In 1911 the home was owned by U. W. Sherburne, who used the big barn in back to sell Model T Ford cars; the dealership moved to Palmyra in 1920. During the mid-1950's and 1960's the house was the home and office of Dr. William H. F. Newman and his family. Charles owned 300 acres of farmland on Ontario Center Road, Macedon, where he raised Holstein cattle. He was a long-time member of Walworth Grange, Walworth Baptist Church and Masonic Lodge #254 of Walworth.

The Tuttle family remains close even in death. Buried in Marion Cemetery are Charles and Iva, DeWitt and Minnie, Frank and Ella/Eleanor, and L. DeLoss and Mary.



**Undated photo: Charles, graduate of Boston College**



**1913: Charles & Iva wedding**

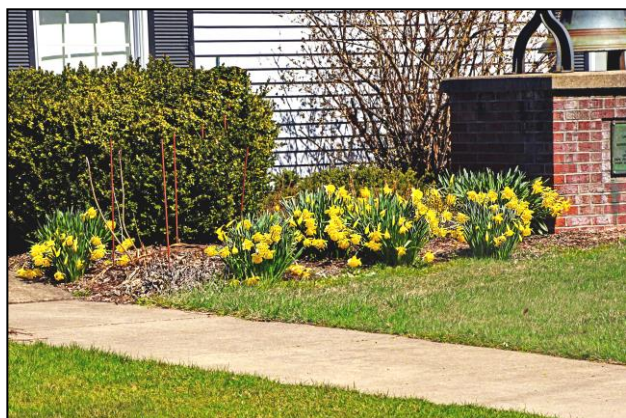


**Undated photo: Charles and Iva's children**



**Undated photo: Ethel Tuttle**

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**The daffodils at our museum made an appearance just in time for the solar eclipse. By the time this newsletter is published, they will probably be finished blooming for this year already.**

## Peter Cauwels – Traveling Farm Butcher By Marge Crane Erb

*Editor's Note: During the 1940's Walworth resident Peter Cauwels was hired by area farmers to butcher their animals. Below is Marge's story about Peter's visit to her family's farm on Lincoln Road in West Walworth. Marge currently lives in Marion and shared this story with Peter's daughter, Mary Jane Cauwels Devlin.*



**Peter Cauwels**

Everyone had a story to tell about this strong, capable man - not only about his work ethic but his knowledge of all things related to farming. He could work and talk at the same time, so farmers and their families looked forward to Peter Cauwels coming to help. If you were a shy little kid, you would stay back and observe the butchering process, or yank on your dad's hand to ask a question. As a young girl living on the farm, I didn't want to witness the activities of the scheduled day.

Pete would drive in with a huge bottled-gas tank on the back of his truck. Also on the truck was a watering trough that would then be filled with water. While the water was heating, the animal was butchered, gutted, and placed in the trough. I would watch him get out his carving tools and other paraphernalia. He often would start to sharpen the knives, the skills he used were very fascinating to the young boys. He could make those knives sing.

The little guys, teens, and dads had to carry the water, fill the big tub to heat for the start of the butchering. Hosting farmers' wives started days previously and early in that morning to get the big pot of potatoes peeled, the butter churned, the jars of vegetables from summer canning up from the cellars. Any beets, carrots, and squash still in the fields would have been gathered by the kids. Wives of friends and helping farmers brought their specialty dishes to pass. Plus the baking had gone on for days to get the pumpkin, apple, and cherry pies ready for the day. The girls usually ran errands for the men or worked in the kitchen with the women.

Pete would slice off some meat and someone would take it into the house to be cooked for lunch. Usually by noon you would hear the pump handle outside. The men would wash up. Dad would tell me to go get the hearts, kidneys or whatever from the butchering. I didn't want to see them hanging from the barn beams, so would walk as slow as I could toward the barn. Well, Pete was there every time. When he saw this tiny girl (I couldn't even get a drink from the house sink, couldn't reach the faucet) Pete would ask why I was there and I would whisper what dad said. Pete would tell me to stay put and hold the pan and he would be right back with the organs. I took it to the house to Mom and then found a spot out of the way so I could listen to the farmers talk.

After all was done and the fire for the heater out, Pete would again sharpen his knives and the sound of the metal against metal is one that I can recognize today. He was like an entertainer to us kids, his movement so precise and fast you were always sure you missed part of his process.

After the water was bailed out of the tubs and finally able to tip out the rest, Pete would wipe it down. Then the strength of the men was tested as they helped Pete wrap it up and prepare to go home. The butchering was done. The meat would be cut up later. The women would can or it would be taken to Webster to the cold storage where families rented space for their winter stash. Butchering done for the men and children, the women ended the day by cleaning up, washing, and starting the canning process. The next day was full of preserving the meat. The family could expect to eat well come winter.

Pete, a one man show, a one man butcher shop, a friend, would be coming back sometime the following Fall to start the process over again. Meanwhile he would work for farmers shops, farmers stores, etc. to feed his own family. Pete Cauwels – a necessary addition to the farmers, shops, stores, and families in the 1940's.

**WHS Holds the WHO Meeting** By Gene Bavis, Walworth Historian and Chairman of WHO

For the past 25 years or so, municipal historians (appointed by town or village boards) and representatives of the historical societies have been meeting 6 times each year to share information. The group is called the Wayne Historians Organization (WHO). We take turns hosting so the WHO members get to visit most of the museums in Wayne County.

April 11 was Walworth’s turn to host. It was Wayne County’s 201st birthday. The WHO members bring a sandwich and the host supplies beverages and desserts. Meetings typically last about 2 hours and each participant shares what’s going on in their town and/or ask others for advice on various topics. Sometimes a special guest is invited to share some tidbits of information that would be helpful to the group. Wayne County is unique because few, if any other counties in New York State have regular meetings of historians and historical societies.

One of the important announcements was about the upcoming APHNYS Region 11 meeting to be held on April 20 in Macedon. APHNYS (Association of Public Historians of New York State) is the official statewide organization for municipal historians. Some of us WHO members are hosting the April 20 event. I’ll report on it next time.

During my tenure as WHO Chair, I have encouraged “cross pollination” of our various historical societies, meaning that I think people should visit and support other groups. If you attend our Walworth programs, you will often see people from other towns in attendance. Likewise, Liz and I often attend programs presented by other historical societies.



**Wayne County Bicentennial News** By Gene Bavis

Wayne County Bicentennial Co-Chair

*Editor’s note: I would like to thank Gene Bavis (shown below) and Rosa Fox for all of the many, many hours and days they spent to make the Wayne County Bicentennial an incredible success.*



YES, the Wayne County Bicentennial is technically over, but we are still working on a couple of things. Most of you are aware of a mural that is being painted on the Thatcher building in Williamson. Two of seven panels were completed last fall. Final designs for the remaining panels are done and painting will begin soon. This time, the painting will be done on a special material called “Evolon.” It is like painting on canvas and putting it up like wallpaper. Detailed descriptions and educational materials will be prepared to go with the mural. A ceremony will be held when it is complete.

We are also working on a souvenir piece highlighting the wonderful celebrations that occurred in 2023 here in Wayne County. We will let you know when it is available and how you might get a copy.

AND, the Wayne County Bicentennial website and Facebook page are still active.

Website: [www.waynecounty200.com](http://www.waynecounty200.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/waynecounty200](https://www.facebook.com/waynecounty200)

**Our Collection** By Jessie Keymel

We have received two donations to add to our collection of books written by Arch Merrill. The new books are “Our Goodly Heritage” and “Pioneer Profiles.” The addition of these books brings our collection of his books up to eight. The first six books were gifts from the Wignall family and belonged to Robert W. Wignall.

Arch Merrill was a long-time Rochester journalist and historian. He wrote a column for the “Democrat and Chronicle” newspaper from 1939 until 1972. In 1943 he compiled his columns into a book called “River Ramble.” Arch started this journey looking for the source of the Genesee River and following it through two states and five counties to Rochester and Lake Ontario.

You too can journey through histories of people and places in our area. When you have been entertained reading some or all 23 books written by Arch you will be amazed at the history you have learned about our corner of the world. The daily tidbits we get from John Kucko on Facebook regularly remind me of Arch Merrill’s adventures. If anyone has or knows of the location of other volumes, please contact any WHS officer or board member (see page 8).

## A Story About the 15's By Dorothy French



*Editor's Note: There was great attendance for this meeting. The WHS officers and board greatly appreciate the support of our members and the public!*

FIFTEEN Women, FIFTEEN Wayne County towns, and April FIFTEEN – all of these were combined in an informative program by Rosa Fox (**left**), Town of Huron Historian and Wayne County Bicentennial Co-Chair. Rosa's extensive historical knowledge and research skills were used to present "Notable Women of Wayne County."

The program highlighted 15 significant women and gave attendees a brief biographical sketch of their backgrounds from 15 towns in Wayne County. The program was at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park and concluded with refreshments.



**(right photo)** After Rosa's show, WHS ex-President and current trustee Jessie Keymel gave everyone a smile as she demonstrated some vintage clothing items from the WHS collection. They include a mink wrap, stylish hat and jacket!

## President's Message By Amber Linson

Well, it's that time of year again! As the weather gets warmer and the flowers start blooming, we here at the historical society are gearing up for our annual meeting. Every year, we hold our elections at the Ginegaw Park Lodge. Everyone is invited to attend. We serve a pot luck dinner and during the meeting members are asked to vote. Entertainment is provided by our vice-president/photographer, Bob Mogray. During this meeting, we also present our Community Service Award to an individual who has given Walworth their time in an effort to support organizations who work so hard to make our town a wonderful place to live. What's better than free dinner, entertainment, and an award? Come join us on Monday, May 13, at 6 pm. All we ask is that you bring a dish to pass and your own place setting, as we don't want to do the dishes after the meeting!

However, before we can enjoy dinner with all of you, we need to do some spring cleaning and prepare for our June Open House. Dusting, sweeping, weeding, and mulching is on the agenda for May 11 at 9 am. Many hands make light work, so bring your friends and family to help us make your museum spick and span! This is an excellent opportunity for high school students or scouts who need community service hours. If you plan to help, give me a call. If I hear from five or more people, then I'll make sure we have donuts, coffee, and juice for our helpers to enjoy. No, I am not trying to bribe you. Promise.

In other news, we are pleased to announce that we will be rolling out a Business Sponsorship program. Moving forward we hope to spotlight local businesses that value historical preservation. All businesses, small and large, will have the opportunity to join. In future newsletters you will start seeing mention of businesses that decided to become WHS sponsors. The funds which we receive from this campaign will directly impact continuous preservation of our history. This campaign is beginning mid-April. We are looking forward to introducing you to our newest sponsors.

(Continued on next page)

As you know, we have been updating our collection database. While this process is slow going, and it occasionally feels as though we are running at top speed while standing still, it is so rewarding as we refresh displays, and optimize organization and preservation. However, I have noticed that we have not recently received many items for our collection. Don't get me wrong, our collection and filing committee is not sitting idle. All I am saying is, if you have an item or items that you find special to your family's or Walworth's history, and you don't want to keep it for whatever reason, please bring it to us for preservation. We would love to receive your item, hear and record the story behind it, and keep it safe for future enjoyment by all. If you have something to donate, please reach out to any one of our trustees and we will set up a time to have you come in to meet with us.

Finally, we have decided that rather than having regular open hours, we will open upon request and will hold semi-quarterly open houses. This way we can refresh displays between open houses and make sure there is something new for you to see every time you come visit us. Our next open house will be held on June 30, 2024 2-4 PM. More information on our activities can be found on our website or on Facebook, and as always we are happy to chat with anyone who has questions about our organization, our collection, or our local history. And, our door is always open to those who wish to volunteer their time to the preservation of Walworth's history. Have a great day. See you in May!

**2024 WHS Calendar of Events**

May 11	9:00 AM	Spring Clean-up WHS Museum
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 Allen Hopkins Music
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

\*(FIP) Festival-in-the-Park

**Museum Clean-up Day**

This year the WHS will hold our annual clean-up day at the WHS museum at 2257 Academy Street in Walworth on **Saturday, May 11 at 9:00 AM**. If you have a couple of spare hours, we would greatly appreciate your help as we clean the museum inside and the grounds outside.



**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

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