

Walworth Historical Society

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Newsletter

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Lincoln Grange Celebrates 150 Years By Dorothy French

During 1874 and 1875 several Granges were organized to serve the farmers and the rural population in Wayne County. Among them are Eureka #46 (Lyons), Lincoln #122, and Newark #366. Fast forward to 2024 and these Granges will soon be observing their 150-year anniversaries. Grange members organized an exhibit at the August Wayne County Fair. According to Carol Bailey, Historian, New York State Grange, a joint celebration will be held later in 2025.

Lincoln Grange #122 began February 16, 1874 as Ontario Center Grange but in 1896 moved to Lincoln where many members lived. They leased the Kennedy and Hatch building located at the northeast corner of Lincoln and Plank Roads (present site of the Lincoln Fire Department). Their meeting place was the second floor rooms. Incorporated in 1905, the Grange purchased the lot, store and hall from Arthur Hatch and his wife. The following year a cheese factory was constructed adjacent to the store and in 1909 an addition was added to the cheese factory.



Top: In 1926 fire destroyed the cheese factory and store and the Grange purchased the former Methodist Church at 4953 Lincoln Road because "It was vacant and to remove a not to respectable dance hall from the community." Following extensive renovations, it soon became the new home of Lincoln Grange and was used for socials, dinners, dances, and sewing circle meetings.

Maple trees were planted on the grounds in memory of Veterans of World War I. This location remained the Grange's meeting place until it was sold in 1973 and remodeled into a home.

Bottom: Various bands, including the Henderson Brothers, Jacobs Brothers and Burkwit Brothers, played at the dances.

Lincoln residents who have served as president of the Wayne County Pomona Grange include Irving Walz (1955 – 57 and 1969 – 71), Emil Luke (1971-1973), Robert Earlandt (1993-1995), and Ron Ryan (1995-2003). Current president is Brian Campbell and secretary is Donna Walz.

Other long-time names associated with Lincoln Grange include Burdick, Burrows, Church, Esley, Jacobs, Place, Sabin, Sharp, Strobeck, Walz and Welker.

Lincoln Grange currently meets every third Saturday at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Fire Department building, the site where the Grangers first met 128 years ago.



Left to right circa 1950's: Lincoln Grange members include Lazetta Tietz, Don Henderson Sharon Ann Schultz, Ken Henderson, and Peter Hamelink, all of Lincoln. The Henderson Brothers and Sharon Ann performed at the Palmyra Fair in 1954. They won the National Grange Talent Contest in 1959.



On Sunday, October 6 the Walworth Historical Society will host its fall open house from 2-4 PM at the museum located at 2257 Academy Street (**left**). Our theme will center around the 75th anniversary of the Wayne Central School District. On April 29, 1949, our school district was formed through the centralization of several smaller districts across Wayne and Monroe Counties. Nineteen common and two union-free school districts within the towns of Ontario, Walworth, Macedon, Williamson, Webster, and Penfield came together to create what we now proudly call the Wayne Central School District.

We will have past yearbooks and pictures of school gatherings through the years on display. Maybe a few retired Wayne Central teachers will be there to reminisce with you. During the 2024-25 school year there will be updates on the history of our school district. The graduating class of 2025 will be the 75th graduating class of the Wayne Central School District.

As part of our afternoon open house we will have musical entertainment at 2:30 PM presented by Allen Hopkins. We are approaching the 200th anniversary of the completion of the Erie Canal and Allen will present songs about the canal. Allen has spent his 50-year career researching, polishing and presenting Erie Canal songs. He has led the Flint Hill Folk at the Genesee Country Village and Museum for 45-plus years. He is co-founder of the Rochester's Golden Link Folk Singing Society. Allen performs in period garb and plays canal-era antique instruments. He will be sure to entertain and inform you with his songs.

We will have light refreshments for you to enjoy. This event is free and open to the public. Share information about our open house with friends and neighbors and invite them to join us.



Wayne County WHO Meetings

By Gene Bavis

Many of you have heard me talk about WHO (not what)...it's our Wayne County Historians Group that meets six times a year. Our last meeting was Wednesday, August 21 at noon at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse/Grange on the south east corner of Route 31F and Canandaigua Road. Anytime you'd like to "pop in" to any of our meetings, you are more than welcome. If you wish to attend a WHO meeting, please contact Gene Bavis at genebavis71@gmail.com or call 315-573-2768.

"Soup and Stones: Cobblestone Masonry" A Program by Gene Bavis

In 2018 we started having our November programs at noon instead in the evening AND we started serving homemade soup before the meeting. 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. I think I have another clever one: "Soup and Stones."

On November 18 at noon we will again serve a wonderful lunch consisting of a variety of homemade soups with crackers and bread AND of course dessert! This will be held at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park on Walworth-Penfield Road in Walworth. Following lunch (around 1 PM), the Walworth Town Historian (ME) will present a program about Cobblestone Masonry. Look for MORE details in our next newsletter. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.



In Memoriam: Nancy Granger

By Dorothy French

Nancy Granger, long-time West Walworth resident, passed away April 27 at age 94 in Macedon. In death she joins her husband, Harold, who was born in West Walworth and died January 24, 2019. The Grangers were long-time members of the Walworth Historical Society. During their retirement they worked for Camp Denali in Alaska for 8 summers. Nancy is survived by her children Alan (Nancy) Granger, Shelly (Curt) Kenyon, Laurie Finn, Melanie (Jim) Frauel, and Cindy (Jeff) Casper, 14 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, and a brother, Tim (Sue) Scott. She was predeceased by a grandson, Juan. Services were held at the West Walworth Zion United Methodist Church where they were life-long members.

2024 Walworth/Macedon National Night Out

By Bob Mogyay



National Night Out is an annual event planned to encourage a positive relationship between community members and those who protect our community such as fire departments and ambulance squads. This year's National Night Out was held on August 6 from 6:00 until 8:00 PM at the Gananda High School. For years this event was started, organized and sponsored by Steve and Tyler MacNeal of Mac's Pizza Shack. This year it was hosted by the Macedon Center Volunteer Fire Department. Even though there was a steady rain drizzle, that did not stop the local organizations and attendees from showing their support. Included here are photos of this event from a couple of years ago.



Bicentennial Mural in Williamson

By Gene Bavis

If you travel Route 104 in Williamson (across from McDonald's) you will see that progress is being made on the Bicentennial Mural. Two of seven panels were completed in 2023 (below). Work began in June on the other five. Completion is expected by the end of August and a ceremony will be scheduled to celebrate this Bicentennial project, probably in September. Watch for details in local papers.



Our September Program: Early Automobilm By Gene Bavis

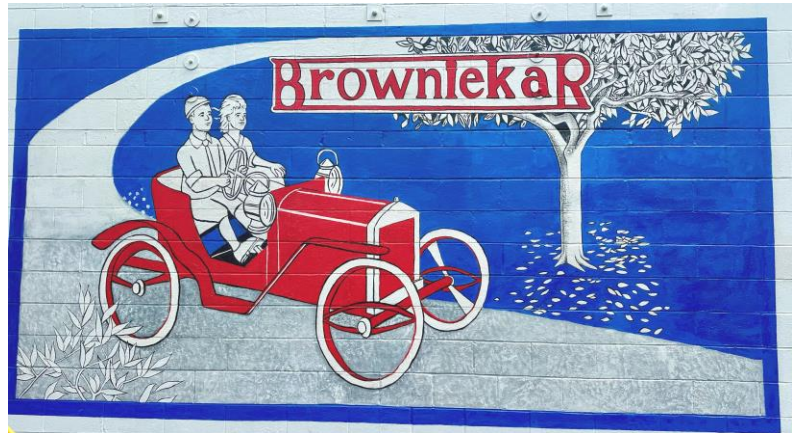
Sharon Leahy of Newark will present “Early Automobilm,” sharing some of the interesting events that occurred in the late 1890’s and early 1900’s with respect to the beginnings of our fascination with the “horseless carriage” in this part of New York State.

The presentation includes the competitive nature of early manufacturers who each wanted to show how their particular car could out-perform (endurance events) all the others and also a bit about the early automobile clubs. Did you know that New York State has had over 200 different car manufacturers, including one in Newark?

This program will be held on Monday, September 16 at 7 PM in the Lodge at Ginegaw Park, Walworth-Penfield Road, Walworth. It is FREE and OPEN to the public. Bring a friend and enjoy an interesting program.



Sharon Leahy



BrownieKar Mural in Newark

A Unique Gift Item at the Festival Tent By Bob Mograv



Fan front



Fan back

As mentioned in the article about the Festival-in-the-Park on the next page, the Walworth Historical Society was able to distribute a hand-held fan. The fan was free of charge to the visitors who stopped by our tent during the festival.

This unique item helped to help keep people cooler in the hot weather. It was designed and ordered by Christine Kubida. She did a great job! The fan is shown here, both front and back.

2024 Festival-in-the-Park By Bob Mogray

On Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27 the Walworth Lions Club sponsored the 34th annual Festival-in-the-Park. The FIP Parade was held on Friday night and the Walworth Historical Society was happy to participate with a float. The theme this year was a difficult one: "Volunteer More in 2024." As it turned out, we won the trophy for the Best Float.

A photo of our float is shown on Page 8. A few more pictures from the parade are shown below. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked on the float.

The Walworth Historical Society also manned a booth in Ginewaw Park on Friday night and Saturday afternoon and evening. Several books with Walworth and Wayne County information were available for sale and other photo books and items were on display. Because it was such a hot day, we offered free custom hand-held fans to anyone who wanted one. These fans had photos of our museum, as well as our email address and other pictures. They were designed and ordered by Christine Kubida. See the article on the previous page for photos of this fan.

We all appreciate the efforts of the Walworth Lions Club for organizing this event every year. A lot of work and time go into the festival planning and preparation. Also, thanks to all the organizations who participated.



Left:
**Lincoln
Fire Dept.**



Right:
**Walworth
Fire truck**



Left:
**Towpath
Volunteers
Fire & Drum**



Right:
**Wayne
County
EMS WN-5**



Left:
**WWA
Medic 25**



Right:
**Henry
Wallace
drives a
toy fire
truck, built
& owned
by David
Davis.**

President's Message By Amber Linson

We here at the Walworth Historical Society continue to plug along on projects meant to strengthen the potential for preservation of our history. We had a wonderful time at the Festival-in-the-Park and are grateful for the Lions Club's annual effort to celebrate here in Walworth. It was a nice break from accessioning and organizing our collection, and we are pleased with the trophy we received for our float.

We also want to thank the Lions Club for this year's theme of "Volunteer More in 2024." For years we have been discussing the decrease in volunteerism within our community. We know this issue doesn't just impact our organization, but also everyone from the fire departments to the Friends of the Library and of course the Lions Club itself. We hope that the spotlight the Lions Club placed on this issue will help bring volunteers back to all of our organizations.

Speaking of opportunities to volunteer, we are looking for individuals who can read cursive! Now, we understand that this may sound like a silly request, but the fact of the matter is that cursive is being utilized less and less every school year that passes. This means that the generations to come will not be able to understand items such as hand-written journals which we have in our collection. Additionally, many of these journals have been written in pencil and this means that the older they get the more faded the writing becomes. We do not want to lose these items to time as they are full of interesting details about the lives of our ancestors and should not be simply preserved as eye candy. Therefore, in order to make the items accessible, we need volunteers who are willing to read and type the contents so that we may print them for the enjoyment of future generations. As we have PLENTY of opportunities for this project, the more volunteers, the merrier. So, please send us an email if you want to help.

Keeping it short this time around, let me just remind you that we have some wonderful upcoming events which we hope you will come and enjoy with us. On September 16, join us at Ginegaw Park for a presentation on early automobilism conducted by Sharon Leahy. This will be especially interesting for all of you car enthusiasts out there. Then, join us for our annual open house on October 6 at the museum. We will have displays focused on the school districts which combined to become Wayne Central in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the district. There will be entertainment by Allen Hopkins who will be performing Erie Canal songs in celebration of next year's 200th anniversary of the canal system which was built between 1817-1825.

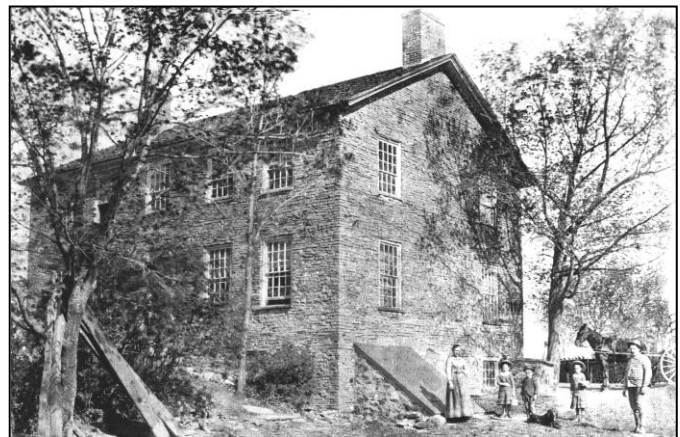
We can't wait to see you for our fall events. Don't forget - "Volunteer More in 2024!"

The WHS Needs Your Photos By Bob Mogray

Once again we are asking our members to share your photos of local people, buildings and events from the past in order to add them to our collection. These pictures do not need to be in tip top shape because we have programs designed to improve the quality of photos by modifying the color, contrast, and sharpness of older images.

We would like to borrow these photos in order to scan and possibly improve them if needed. We will return them to you and, for the ones that need improving, print this improved image for you at no charge.

Seen below is an example of an older photo that was loaned to us and later returned to the owner. We were able to improve the quality with various photo processing programs.



Town of Walworth – Its Beginnings By Dorothy French

Thanks to the perseverance and knowledge of former town historian John Traas, the history of the Walworth area has been preserved in booklet form. In 1989, John authored "Walworth – From Douglas Corners to Gananda;" the booklet is available for \$4.50 at our museum or at the town clerk's office. Some tidbits of information:



Earliest known history: The area consisted of wooded hills and lowland swamps. The area was probably inhabited by Seneca Indians. In 1799 the four Millet brothers (Andrew, John, Samuel, and Daniel) journeyed from Connecticut to become the first settlers in the Walworth hamlet. They built crude log cabins. Brothers Stephen and Daniel Douglas of Connecticut arrived here in 1800. Stephen built the first frame house on the southwest corner of our four corners. For a number of years the area was known as Douglas Corners.

To Be Continued

Left: John Traas

Memories from Martha Lewis Michener By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: This information was written by Martha Lewis Michener, oldest daughter of Jay and Margaret Lewis, and given to us by Martha's sister, Mabel Lewis Risley, of Walworth. In 2010 Martha shared these memories of life on the family's Lewis Road farm.

I Remember:

- Doing our school homework by the old kerosene lights and the Aladdin lamps.
- Walking to the country school at the end of the road (corner of Lewis Road and Atlantic Ave.) in the winter time. We bundled up to stay warm.
- Moving into Grandma Lewis' home. That place was so big.
- Visiting the outhouse with the old Sears catalogs.
- Growing pinto beans and other vegetables on the muck land and the many heads of cabbages we harvested.
- Setting fire to the squash vines in the cherry orchard with my brother Dick. That night we were sent to bed without supper. We never did that again.
- Going to Palmyra on a Saturday night to see a good western movie or to the park and listen to a band concert.
- Knowing that Grandpa Lewis went to the hospital because he was sick. When he came home to live out the rest of his life in somewhat comfort, us kids didn't get to see him. His funeral was held in the room beyond the living room in Grandma Lewis' home. My Grandpa Lewis was laying there like he was just asleep. I was around 12 years old.

"What I remember about the farm: it fed us well and we learned to work."

Early Walworth Businesses: Blacksmith Shops By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: Mrs. Elton (Anna) May had a love of history, resulting in scrapbooks and notebooks filled with information about our area. After Anna's death, Gordon Youngman became the keeper of her collection and subsequently donated them to the Walworth Historical Society. Below is an excerpt from Anna's notes of 1958; updates have been added in italics. Additional information was obtained from "Walworth, As I Remember It" authored by Charles Pembroke.

Main Street: Alex Burns operated a blacksmith shop in 1872, Tom Brewer in 1892 and John Wright in 1905. In 1915 Allison Franks had his shop at 3696 Main Street next to his house (*property now owned by Randy and Kathy Emison*). In 1920 Allison rented this shop to William May and took over the hardware store (*now New York State Sitepower*) on the north side of the Franks' house. William kept up the blacksmith business until 1923, when he started to construct a larger building by adding on to the Ransley's shop on Rochester Street (*2194 Penfield-Walworth Road*) where Elton and Anna May lived. He died before his new shop was finished. John Wright rented the blacksmith shop.

2024 WHS Calendar of Events

Sept. 16	7:00 PM	Program: Early Automobileism / Sharon Leahy 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	Free Lunch Program: “Soup & Stones Cobblestone Masonry” Gene Bavis Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec. 9	4:00 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
Dec. 14	Noon	“Wreaths Across America” Ceremony- Walworth Cemetery
	1-3 PM	Open House WHS Museum



Above photo: Walworth Historical Society float in the 2024 Festival-in-the-park parade. Riding on our float in the back section were Alastair Barletta and his grandmother, Deb Heinonen. The front young ladies and the young gentleman were part of the Miles family of High Street in Walworth.

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