

Walworth Historical Society

**November 2024
Newsletter**

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

Anchors Away for Arnold Devlin By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: Seventeen-year-old Arnold Devlin enlisted in the United States Navy shortly after his April 9, 1947 birthday. During his tour of duty, which included the Korean War, Arnold wrote letters to his mother, Iva, of Macedon. She saved some of the letters and eventually gave them to Arnold's wife, Mary Jane Devlin. Below are snippets from these letters.



11/07/1947 – Memphis, TN: I got paid \$15 and bought shoes, two hats, neckerchief, 3 boxes of soap, a comb, and a pack of razor blades and have \$4.00 left over.

01/12/1948 – Oakland, CA: We left to go to Muir Island and I am aboard the USS Merapi. It is a freighter and only 70 serve on it. It only does 12 knots (*Editor's Note: 13.81 miles per hour*).

02/21/1948: We docked in Sasebo, Japan and then left for Tsingtao, China. They were teaching me and my buddies how to run a winch.

04/24/1948 – Honolulu, HI: Going to Pearl for an Admiral inspection. I took my progress test for Seaman First.

05/27/1948 – Oakland, CA: We are leaving the States for China. We got about 12 passengers this trip.

05/27/1948 – Sept. 1948: The USS Merapi docked in Japanese and Chinese ports. Many weeks were at sea.

Left: Arnold Devlin 1947

09/09/1948: We are going out for gunnery practice. I will have to fire the 3" 50 (indicates 30 caliber bullet pushed by 50 grains of black powder). I hate that because it makes so much noise that you can't hear for a week. We are going to leave here September 21 for training in Guam and then back to Bremerton, Washington.

09/28/1948 – Just off Guam: We had to set condition which is war time cruising. All ports, all hatches close down and there was to be no lights on above deck.

10/19/1950: We are in Sasebo, Japan with the fleet. There are 100 ships. It took 25 days to get here from the States.

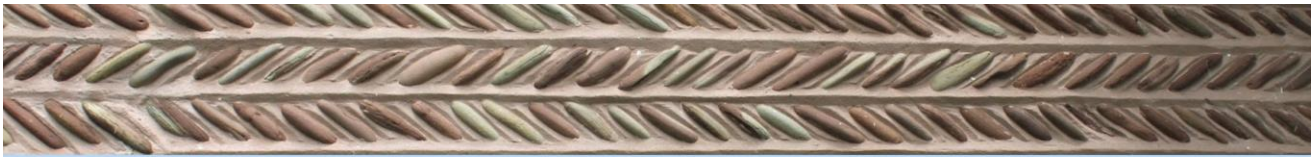
12/25/1950: Everybody who was supposed to get discharged before July 1951 has got to stay for one year. (*Editor's Note: The Korean War started June 1950. President Harry S. Truman made the decision to postpone the discharge of all eligible military personnel. Arnold would have been eligible for discharge on February 1, 1951; his new discharge date was February 1, 1952*).

04/10/1951: We have made two trips. The first was to Formosa and another island. The next was to Pusan where we stayed about four days. We gave the Army quite a lot of chow and about ten ships too. Sasebo, Japan: We were gone 15 days the last trip. I went ashore last night for the first time in almost a month.

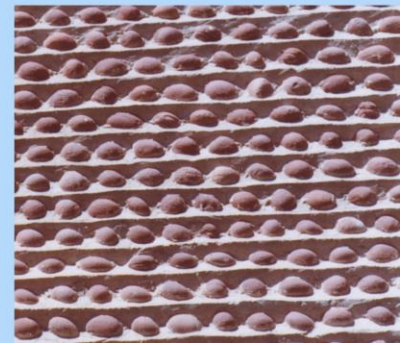
Editor's Note: Following his February 1, 1952 discharge, Arnold returned home to Macedon. On May 7, 1955 he married Mary Jane Cauwels. In 1965 they built their home at 2447 Walworth-Marion Road where they raised three sons, Mark, Paul and Bruce. Arnold passed away November 8, 1990.

Soup and Stones By Gene Bavis

Cobblestone masonry is SO COMMON to our area that we take it for granted, but it is UNIQUE. 94% of all cobblestone structures in the WORLD are within 80 miles of Rochester, NY and Wayne County has MORE than any other county.



Cobblestone Masonry Program by Gene Bavis – November 18, 2024
FREE lunch at noon followed by the program. Open to the public.
At the Lodge in Ginegaw Park, Penfield Road, Walworth



This topic has been studied by many architectural historians over the years and The Cobblestone Society in Albion, NY has been created to tell the story. Not only do they have a museum, they also have an extensive database listing each known structure in the world. Several years ago, Seneca County Historian Walt Gable did a program about it, but when I saw it this spring, I realized it needed updating and I also wanted to emphasize Wayne County cobblestone structures.

On Monday, November 18, I (Gene Bavis, Walworth Town Historian) will present my version of “Cobblestone Masonry” following a FREE lunch of soup & crackers, bread, beverages & desserts. Lunch will be served at NOON at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park, Walworth-Penfield Road, Walworth and the program will begin around 1 PM. The program and lunch are open to the public, so please invite your friends to join you.

Below are examples of local cobblestone homes.



Gary McKee home on Walworth-Ontario Road

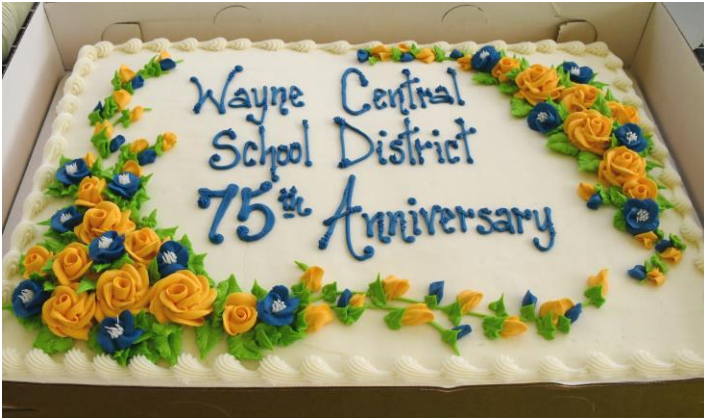


McMillan home on Walworth-Ontario Road

October 6, 2024 WHS Open House By Bob Mogray

On Sunday, October 6 the Walworth Historical Society held its 2024 fall open house. The theme centered around the 75th anniversary of the centralization of the Wayne Central School District. One of the big hits of the open house was our collection of old yearbooks. There was very good attendance for this event. Allen Hopkins performed live music about the Erie Canal under a tent provided by the Walworth Lions Club.

We are approaching the 200th year anniversary of the completion of the Erie Canal. Allen performed in clothing of that period as he sang and played guitar, banjo, squeeze box, and harmonica. This provided a dual theme for the open house. There was also a cake from Tops bakery to help celebrate. Jim Switzer from the Town of Ontario Historical Society was also on hand to donate a poster he had created showing a map of the Wayne Central School District circa 1949 with photos of schools and buildings of that era. Below are some photos from the open house.



Staples Reward Program By Bob Mogray



Years ago Dorothy French opened an account with Staples in their Rewards program. With this account the WHS could turn in used printer ink and toner cartridges to accumulate points that can be used to reduce the cost of purchases of materials we need. She managed this project for many years and during that time saved us over a thousand dollars. Thank you Dorothy so much for all of your efforts.

Recently Chris Bray has taken over this most worthwhile endeavor. Please give her your spent ink and toner cartridges to help the Walworth Historical Society buy supplies.

Honoring Gene Bavis By Liz Bavis

At the Youth Power Dinner on October 8 Gene Bavis (**left in photo**) was honored by the Seneca Waterways Council of Scouts of America for his outstanding service and leadership to the community. Assemblyman Brian Manktelow (**right in photo**) introduced Gene to those attending the dinner. Brian went on the say that Gene has had a passion and commitment to his community his entire life. Gene has always had a passion for history and was one of the founding and charter members of the Walworth Historical Society in 1975. He has served on the board of trustees and has been town historian for 33 years.



He taught social studies at Wayne Central from 1969 to 2000. During those years he influenced 1,000s of students who even today will comment on things they remember from his classes.

Gene was active in Scouting. He was Scoutmaster for Troop 113 in Walworth. He held several positions for Finger Lake Council and played a role in the merger of Finger Lakes Council with Otetiana Council to form the present day Seneca Waterways Council. He attended five National Jamborees as well as the trip to Philmont in 1992. He was camp director at Babcock Hovey for four years. Through his encouragement, his son Jeffrey is an Eagle Scout, his twin grandsons are active in a scout troop in Henrietta, and his step-daughter recently earned her Wood Badge Training Award.

In 2019 Gene and a team of interested people began planning the 2023 Wayne County Bicentennial. As a result of this planning they were able to complete over 32 projects that spread the word about the rich history of Wayne County.

Gene has dedicated his life to education, Scouting and the community.

Turning Back the Pages – Walworth Town Board Minutes By Dorothy French

A review of town board minutes (1855 – 2005) reflects the growth and information of our Walworth township.

07/21/1994: George Schaller reported that, due to the dry weather, water usage in the six western Wayne County towns is restricted.

03/18/1999: Highway Superintendent Mike Frederes reported that from 3:30 AM on March 4 to noon March 7, 600 man hours were worked due to blizzard conditions. Highway Department employees worked 20 straight hours on March 4.

Melba Smith and Her 1919 Diary – Part 4 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 Lewis Road. Melba taught at Finley Road district school 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.

1919

- May/Jun:** Weeded onions for Carlyle Boynton. Picked strawberries for Howard DeWind.
Aug. 16: I passed everything - Music III, Drawing II, Literature 2, Sewing.
Aug. 24: Saw "Birth of the Race" at Rialto in Geneseo.
No Date: Hired out to teach school in Finley District. Went to class picnic. Learned to row a boat. Rode on roly coaster, injured nose.
Sept 2: School. 26 pupils. Rode home with Ike Massielye.
Sept. 3: Rode home with Charles Tuttle.
Sept. 4: Ordered books: current events, normal Instructor and primary plans.
Sept. 8: Walked all way to school. "Farm and Home" came.
Sept. 9: Walked to school. Mother picked beans and pears at farm. Sent for record certificate.
Sept. 22: Had a ride to school nearly every day. Books came for children. Borrowed an egg from Mr. Wignall and Bob chased A. Y., G. W., & C. K. for cooning grapes. (Some chase).
Oct. 6-7: Attended teachers' conference with Mr. McMurray, Ethel R., Susan E., and Mr. Cole.
Oct.13: Sent for book one dollar. Wesley H. waited for me to ride on coal wagon with him Wednesday.
Oct. 18: Had a ride to school and home with A. G. Clark. Got 2 lbs. of sugar.
Oct. 25: Grange fair. Misses English, Burrows and Mr. Cressey, Orman and myself went to see the "Merchant of Venice" at the Lyceum.
Nov. 3: Jack K. took Edith M. home from church. Called truant officer for several students.
Dec.: I worked up a short program for Christmas. I gave the younger ones each a drawing tablet and crayolas. The older girls a handkerchief, boys a pocket comb. The school gave me a lavalier for Christmas.
Dec. 25: I sewed during most of my vacation.

December 14 Open House and Wreath Laying By Liz Bavis



Wreaths Across America program 2023

On Saturday, December 14, the Walworth Historical Society will hold its **holiday open house** following the Wreaths Across America program at the Walworth Cemetery. The **Wreaths Across America program** begins at noon at the cemetery with several short speeches and the laying of wreaths on the graves of veterans.

We have joined forces with Guy Bringley to advertise this event to the community. A recent posting from Guy states: "Walworth, we are fully funded with a big jump on next year. Thanks to some large donations from the Lions Club, David Chilson and others, along with great support from the community. Volunteers are always welcome. Hope to see everyone at the Walworth Town Cemetery on Sherburne Road on December 14 at noon."

The historical society is thrilled with the community's involvement. As this is an ongoing project supported by the historical society, please remember to look for Fall 2025 updates. We encourage you to continue supporting this event by purchasing a wreath.

Following the Wreath Laying, we invite the community to visit the Walworth Historical Society on Academy Street at 1:00 PM for refreshments of cookies, hot cocoa and coffee. We will have special displays for your enjoyment.

Early Walworth Businesses: Milliners/Dressmakers/Hairdressers

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 are excerpts from Anna's notes of 1958; updates have been added in italics.

Millinery Shops

1892: Mrs. Gilmore Chase and Miss Ella Hamm each had a millinery shop at 3701 Main Street.

1912: Miss Josephine Tears located her shop at that site.

Dressmakers

1892: Four women were dressmakers: Miss Josephine Tears, Miss Ella Hamm, Miss Mary Stiger, and Mrs. Henry Bean. Miss Tears and Miss Hamm had a shop together (*3701 Main Street*). Mrs. Bean was living on Rochester Street (*2203 Walworth-Penfield Road*) where she did her dressmaking.

Hairdressers

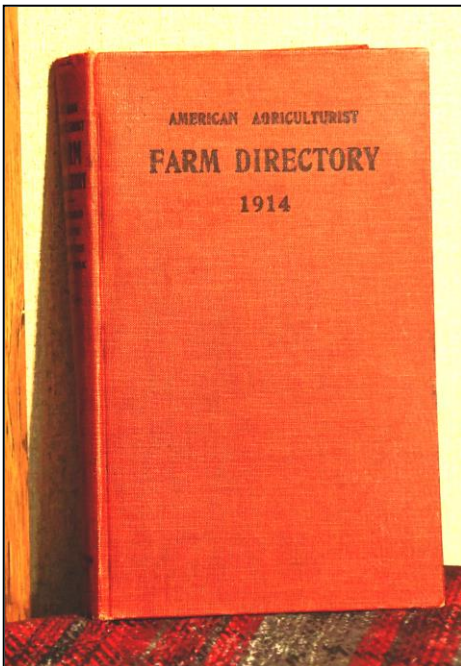
1892: Mortimer Hathaway was a hairdresser.

1944: Irene Degroot opened a beauty shop in the area formerly occupied by the U.S. Post Office in the Pacific Hotel/Grange Hall (*3713 Main Street*); she closed the shop in 1947.

1914 American Agriculture Farm Directory

By Jessie Keymel

Hidden in plain sight or on the bookshelf on the south side at the east end of our museum's main room are two copies of a 1914 farm directory. The farm directories were published by the American Agriculturist, a weekly agricultural newspaper with weather, crop and market reports, news about farm, activities, and up-to-date information on farming practices. All this is included in a subscription that costs \$1.00 a year, The American Agriculturist was started in 1842 and is still available in many specialty farm magazines for \$35.00 a year.



Our Farm Directory lists every farm in Ontario and Wayne Counties. A map was included, which we have enlarged and mounted to make it more reader friendly. The listings include details about the farms and their families. Walworth (population 2,187) township begins on page 377, starting with "Abraham, Charles F. farmer bds L C. Saas rd 1 Walworth H37" and ending with "Yuker, Truman H. (Clara) 2 ch farmer O 54a rd1 Walworth H46 B T". Each listing includes the owner, marital status, wife's name, number of children, occupation, and number of acres farmed. Therefore, Truman and Clara Yuker had 2 children, farmed, and owned 54 acres on RD1 in Walworth; H46 is his location on the map and B T tells us his phone is with Bell Telephone.

Page 9 has explanations and lists abbreviations to tell us a lot about life in Wayne County in 1914. The abbreviations include nine different telephone companies, whether the land is rented or owned, and who resides in the house including maid or housekeepers. I looked up George Millen. He did not own property at that time, but he was a farm hand and lived in a rented home; his family and the phone company he used were listed.

Everyone was listed: physicians, pastors, teachers, storekeepers, milliners, blacksmiths, millers, farm hands, builders, and all the assorted occupations that are necessary to keep a village growing. These two books sit in the middle of our collection, unnoticed, but a great source of knowledge for those looking for past family residents in our busy little town in 1914.

President's Message By Amber Linson

Well, it's fall again and we had a wonderful open house October 6. There was live Erie Canal music on our lawn by Allen Hopkins and inside the museum were updated displays that reflected the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Wayne Central School District. We appreciate everyone who attended our programs and open houses and encourage all our members to join us for these events. In the upcoming months we have a program in November and an open house in December.

The November 18 program will be "Soup and Stones." Come join us for lunch at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park at noon (a variety of soups will be provided for you to choose from) and a presentation by Gene Bavis on the cobblestone structures in our area. Wayne County is home to numerous cobblestone structures and Gene will be telling us all about them.

December 14 we have decided to partner with Wreaths Across America for an open house. Last year was the first year we joined the Wreaths Across America event. It was such a nice gathering that we hope to do it every year. We will have snacks and drinks at the museum as well as updated displays and activities for you to enjoy while warming up after the ceremony at the cemetery.

Some exciting news for you - The Walworth Historical Society will be 50 years old next year! We are planning an event to celebrate with you and other community members. Please keep an eye on our website, newsletter and Facebook page for details. If you have any celebration ideas or if you want to help us in setting up the celebration, please let us know. We always welcome volunteer involvement. Our history is your history.

Speaking of volunteering, I want to thank some wonderful people who have offered to help us with our transcribing project. Susan Herrman, A. and B. Prevost, Christine Bray, and Mary Jo Gigliotti have all offered to transcribe various artifacts that contain cursive writing so that we can preserve them for future generations in a way that makes them more accessible. They have a tough job in that spelling, grammar, and pencil writing fading over time makes the transcribing a bit of a challenge. Their involvement is another aspect of our efforts to elevate our collection and share it with everyone.

We are always looking for ways to involve you and our neighbors in the society through events and volunteering. If you have any interest in getting involved, please reach out. We are excited to hear from you!

Officers and Trustees

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WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768	genebavis71@gmail.com
WHS Trustee	Liz Bavis	(585) 802 - 0380	liz.bavis48gmail.com
WHS Trustee	Christine Kubida	(315) 455 - 4359	hthwalworth@gmail.com
WHS Trustee	Alex Heinonen	(585) 451 - 5884	aheinonen@rochester.rr.com

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Newsletter	Bob Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156	robert.mogray@gmail.com
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Electronics & Media	Amber Linson	(585) 402 - 3393	amberlinson@gmail.com
Bylaws & Policy	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768	genebavis71@gmail.com
Genealogy	Ellen Dietterick	(585) 200 - 4685	ellenmarried@yahoo.com
HomeTown Heroes	Christine Kubida	(585) 455 - 4359	hthwalworth@gmail.com
Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768	genebavis71@gmail.com

2024 WHS Calendar of Events

- Nov. 11 6:30 PM Board of Trustees
WHS Museum
- Nov. 18 Noon Free Lunch Program:
"Soup & Stones"
Cobblestone Masonry
Gene Bavis
Ginegaw Park Lodge
- Dec. 9 6:30 PM Board of Trustees
WHS Museum
- Dec. 14 Noon "Wreaths Across
America"
Ceremony- Walworth
Cemetery
1-3 PM Open House
WHS Museum

2025 WHS Calendar of Events

- Jan. 13 6:30 PM Board of Trustees
WHS Museum
- Feb. 10 6:30 PM Board of Trustees
WHS Museum
- Mar. 10 6:30 PM Board of Trustees
WHS Museum
- Mar. 17 7:00 PM Program: "Pacific Hotel:
148 Years Young"
Ginegaw Park Lodge
- Apr. 14 6:30 PM Board of Trustees
WHS Museum
- Apr. 21 7:00 PM Program: "Erie Canal"
Bob Stopper
Ginegaw Park Lodge
- May 12 6:30 PM Board of Trustees
WHS Museum
- May 19 6:00 PM Annual Meeting
Pot luck dinner
Community Service
Award
Ginegaw Park Lodge
- June 9 6:30 PM Board of Trustees
WHS Museum
- Sept. 15 7:00 pm Program: TBD
Ginegaw Park Lodge
- Nov. 17 Noon Program: TBD
Soup and Show
Ginegaw Park Lodge

"Early Automobilmism" Show Was a Success

By Bob Mogray



On September 16 at a Walworth Historical Society sponsored event at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park, the attendees were treated to an excellent program by Sharon Leahy (**above photo**) about early cars in America circa 1900. The attendance was very good and her audience was very interested in the trials and tribulations that the early car owners suffered and enjoyed. Many thanks to Sharon and to those who showed up to support her and the WHS.



The HomeTown Heroes program of displaying local military veterans' images on banners is wrapping up for this year. Stay tuned for this program to continue next year. Many thanks to Christine Kubida, Mike Kunzer, and their team. This really honors these local brave men and women.

**The Walworth Historical Society
would like to thank our sponsors:**

- Walworth Wine and Spirits**
- John M. Bodak Snowplows**
- The Walworth Lions Club (tent)**

To contact us by email: walworthhistoricalsociety.com

Thank you to Reliant Federal Credit Union for printing this newsletter.