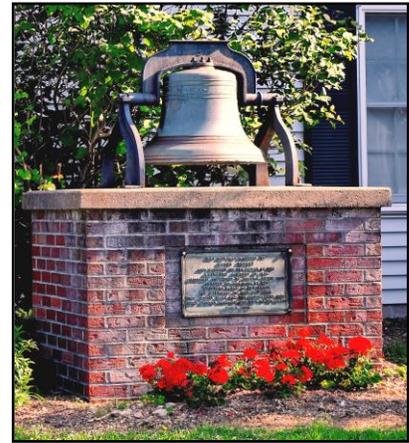


# Walworth Historical Society

**March 2025  
Newsletter**

**Volume 49 / Number 4**

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



## “Then & Now: The Pacific Hotel – 148 Years Young” By Bob Mogray



On Monday, March 17 at 7:00 PM at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park in Walworth, the Walworth Historical Society will present a FREE program that will feature information about the Pacific Hotel pictured above.

- This program is FREE and open to the public. It is all about the history of the Pacific Hotel in Walworth, New York.
- This program will be presented in slide show format. Your questions and comments will be welcomed.
- This building has stood here in Walworth for many years and we would love to hear your memories and thoughts about it.
- As with all of our programs, there will be refreshments.
- We hope to see you there and please feel free to bring a friend or two. Your support is greatly appreciated so that we can continue to present programs that reflect historical aspects of our area. Thank you very much!

**For questions or information, please contact:**

**WHS President Amber Linson (585) 402-3393 or  
WHS Vice-President Bob Mogray (585) 576-4156**

**WHS email: [walworthnyhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:walworthnyhistoricalsociety.com)**

## Wreaths Across America and WHS Open House

By Gene Bavis



**Left:** Scene from Sherburn Road Wreaths Across America.

**Center:** Pre Open House museum setting. WHS members worked hard to make the museum look great.

**Right:** At the open house, left to right, WHS Board member Judy Markowski and Walworth Town Supervisor Mike Donalty.

Walworth resident and veteran Guy Bringley started a Wreaths Across America program for Walworth three years ago. Wreaths are sponsored by local residents and organizations and placed on the graves of veterans. A ceremony is held at Walworth Cemetery with the Walworth Fire Department providing a color guard.

For the past two years the Walworth Historical Society has had an Open House following the ceremony. Using the school theme, special displays and a Christmas tree were set up. We have scheduled an open house on December 13, 2025 that will be held at the Walworth museum following the Wreaths Across America ceremony. We urge you to consider sponsoring a wreath for 2025 and attending the ceremony and our open house. More information will be provided in the newsletter.



## Bicentennial News

By Gene Bavis

YES, the Wayne County Bicentennial is history, BUT a couple of projects started during the celebration are still in progress. The HUGE mural on Route 104 in Williamson (photo below) was finally completed last fall, but we've not had the dedication ceremony. Hopefully that will take place in June (details not available at this time).



Secondly, a two-part book is in progress. Our own Amber Linson is working with the mural committee to produce a full-color book highlighting the mural and the many details contained within it. The mural was created to give a glimpse of Wayne County's history, and we packed a lot of details into this 7-panel, 120' long mural.

Part two will be a chronicle of the bicentennial projects and celebrations with lots of photos. The plan is to have the book completed by the time we have the mural dedication. It is being done as a print-on-demand-type project, so you will be able to order a copy. Each public library, town and historical society will get a copy.

**Editor's note:** Alex Heinonen has resigned from the WHS Board for health reasons. We would like to thank him for his time and service on the Board. Vaughn Pembroke will replace him and resume his duties until the end of his term.

One of the most knowledgeable people in Wayne County of Erie Canal history is retired teacher Bob Stopper of Lyons. Bob has been involved as a “boat greeter” for many years when travelers on the Erie Canal stop in Lyons for an overnight stay at the “Port of Lyons”. He’s also been active in arranging boat tours on the canal. Because of his vast knowledge, we’ve invited him to present an overview of Erie Canal history on the occasion of the 200 year anniversary of the Erie Canal opening. The program will be held at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park on Monday, April 14 at 7 PM. As always, our programs are FREE and OPEN to the public.



Bob wrote an interesting article for the Finger Lakes Times in January as the kickoff for Wayne County’s Canal Bicentennial celebration. See our website for a copy of the article. Monthly articles will be published on the various canal towns and other related subjects. Our county historian and others are planning programs and events related to canal history throughout 2025. Liz and I are planning to attend the World Canal Conference in Buffalo in September where the replica of the Seneca Chief will be re-creating the journey of the boat that carried Governor Dewitt Clinton from Buffalo to New York City. The Seneca Chief will be in Fairport on 9/28-29/25, Newark on 9/30/25, and Lyons on 10/1/25.

**Turning Back the Pages: 1969**

(Information from Dorothy Petty’s scrapbook)

Jan.	Richard Nixon inaugurated as President. Walworth set up town offices in Grange Hall. Mary Simpson named library director. Bradshaw’s sold greenhouses. Property purchased by Frey Technologies.
March	50-year celebration: Louis and Gertrude (Bel) Duell. John Aman appointed inspector of Building and Zoning.
June	President Harry and Bess Truman celebrated their 50 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Independence, MO.
July	Emory Faulks named principal of Wayne Central School; Ronald Miller was assistant principal. Harold and Mildred Reynolds celebrated 50-year anniversary. Apollo 12 flight with astronauts Charles Conrad, Richard Gordon, and Alan Bean.
Aug.	Street Dance in Walworth. Cars filled parking lots of Don’s IGA, post office, and library. Cars parked bumper-to-pumper on roads. 400 chicken BBQ dinners sold.
Nov.	Cornerstone laid at Masonic Lodge, Walworth Lodge #254.
Dec.	\$1.7 million water system for Town of Walworth operational. Tank located on land donated by Dolomite Products. John and Norma Ikewood celebrated 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary. John owned grocery store in West Walworth; Norma was a postmaster. Charles Hack retired after 10 years as Supervisor. Succeeded by Richard Wasielewski.

**It’s That Time of Year Again** By Linda Pembroke

We thank our members and friends for their continued financial support of the Walworth Historical Society and museum. This support includes dues, donations, and memorials. As a result, we are able to present programs of historical interest, maintain and enlarge our collections, and preserve the history of our town. This is a gentle reminder that our fiscal year is May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026 and **annual dues are due**. Membership levels are noted below: Student \$5; Senior Single 65+ \$15; Senior Couple 65+ \$20; Individual \$20; Family Household \$25; Supporter \$50; Patron \$100; Life Senior 65+ \$150; Life Senior Couple 65+ \$200; Life \$250; Business \$75; and Business Sponsor \$150. Make your check payable to Walworth Historical Society and mail to: Walworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. Contact me at 585-455-7595 if you have questions.

## How Would You Get a Pony Out of a Well?

By Charles H. Pembroke

*Editor's Note: In 1990 Charles Pembroke wrote "Walworth, As I Remember". This story was not included in his book but is worth sharing with our readers.*

One day Gordon Youngman got a call for help. "A horse has fell in the well and we need help" the lady on the phone told Gordon. Gave her address and hung up. Gordon called Charlie Pembroke on the phone and I said I'll meet you over there. So Charlie and Kenneth Brown took off for the place on Ontario Center Road. When we arrived there were children crying. I went down the well and found out it was a pony not a horse.

The halter rope had gotten caught on the water suction pipe that went to the house. I handed the rope up to Ken and Gordon and, with the pony's front feet flaying at me, I turned him around in the well so his feet were away from me. I pushed the pony against the stones in the open well and held him against the stones. With Ken and Gordon pulling on the rope, we got the pony up out of the well far enough and they held him while I got under the pony. With my feet in the stone and my shoulder against the pony's rear end, I hollered "Pull". I lifted at the same time and we got the pony out of the well alive. Ken had to get his truck and took the pony to his place. He put it in the barn with other horses and cows where it was warmer.

Ken called the veterinarian to come and give the pony a shot so he wouldn't get pneumonia. He kept the pony at his place for a week and the people finally came to get the pony. They never offered him one cent for the vet bill or anything for keeping it and making sure it didn't get sick. Ken always said, "Well, we didn't let him die and that is a blessing to me."

## Suggestions Needed for Community Service Award

By Bob Mogray

Since 1990, the Walworth Historical Society has chosen to honor an individual or group of people to receive its Community Service Award. This award is given at our annual business meeting in May. Every year we ask you to express your opinion as to which person or group may deserve this award. If you know of a deserving person or group who has stood out in the Walworth area with a reputation of giving and serving our community above and beyond what is expected by their profession, please submit their names and qualifications to Walworth Historical Society, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568 by March 31. If you need more information, contact WHS President Amber Linson at 585-402-3393 or WHS Vice-President Bob Mogray at 585-576-4156. We welcome your help and suggestions.

[Also, we are looking for volunteers to transcribe and digitize old diaries that are in our possession. If you are interested please contact one of the above people. We really need help with this project.](#)

## Soup and Stones

By Gene Bavis

On Monday, November 18, 2024 nearly 60 people came to our Soup and Stones luncheon/program at the Ginegaw Park Lodge. Attendees enjoyed their choice of 8 homemade soups.

I believe we had a great turn out because this topic is unusual and many people wanted to know more about it. After I heard that some people were unable to attend on November 18, I scheduled a second showing at the museum on December 15 where another dozen or so people got to see the program. I presented it again to a group of senior citizens in Webster on December 18. I've been invited to do five more programs with several more pending. I have done a number of revisions and updates including customization for upcoming audiences.

Scheduled showings open to the public will be:

- Saturday, March 29 at 2 PM at the Newark-Arcadia Historical Society
- Sunday, May 18 at 2 PM at the Webster Museum
- Saturday, July 19 at Heritage Square in Ontario





**Light the Night** By Gene Bavis



Each year the Walworth Recreation Department hosts a wonderful community event called “Light the Night”. Ginegaw Park is decorated with lots of lights and community organizations and businesses are invited to decorate a Christmas tree. This year the Walworth Historical Society tree was decorated using the 75th Anniversary of the Wayne Central School District as our theme. Objects related to school and images of old Wayne Central yearbooks covered our tree. There was a GREAT community turn out.

**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.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Housing Construction</b>
01/08/1987	Assessor John Aman reported that 83 single family homes were built in 1986, 29 of which were in Gananda.
11/19/1992	1993 Homearama will be held in Gananda areas of Fairway 5, Drumlin Top, and the Woodlands.
1/19/1995	John Aman reported that 276 building permits were issued in 1994, of which 76 were single family homes in Gananda and 26 in the remainder of Walworth township.

**Officers and Trustees**

President	Amber Linson	(585) 402 - 3393	amberlinson@gmail.com
Vice-President	Bob Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156	robert.mogray@gmail.com
Secretary	Chris Bray	(315) 576 - 5002	cbray.n.lsnnyder@gmail.com
Treasurer	Linda Pembroke	(585) 455 - 7595	l.pembroke585@gmail.com
WHS Trustee	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205	makeymel@gmail.com
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	Judy Markowski	(585) 755 - 2889	judym27@aol.com
WHS Trustee	Vaughn Pembroke	(585) 781 - 4317	thepembrokes@gmail.com

**Committees and Chairpersons**

Newsletter	Bob Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156	robert.mogray@gmail.com
Genealogy	Ellen Dietterick	(585) 200 - 4685	ellenmaried@yahoo.com
HomeTown Heroes	Christine Kubida	(585) 455 - 4359	hthwalworth@gmail.com
Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768	genebavis71@gmail.com

**Thanks for the Memories, Gordie** By Dorothy French



Gordon Youngman (left) passed away February 2. During his 96 years, Gordie's life revolved around his family, business and a multitude of Walworth organizations, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church, Ambulance, Fire Department, and Chamber of Commerce.

We are especially grateful for his dedicated involvement with the Walworth Historical Society. He served as our first president when we organized in 1975 and later as a trustee. Through the years he donated many items of historical importance, including scrapbooks originally assembled by Anna May. Gordie attended many of our 29 Walworth Memories programs and contributed valuable information about our town as he lived it. Many of his stories are included below.

Gordie was one of eight children of Ezra and Ida Youngman. The family lived in the second house east of the post office on Walworth-Marion Road. He remembered when he and his brother Bill borrowed their mother's big granite pans and used them for sleds in the wintertime. The neighborhood boys mowed lawns with a push mower for \$.15 each time. For 15 or 25 cents they collected trash on their carts and dumped the contents into the cellar of the old dry house on High Street.

As they became older, the boys thought smoking was interesting. They bought corn cob pipes for \$.25 cents at Charlie Buckley's hardware store, removed the corn silk off ears of corn, pushed the silk into the pipe, lit the contents, inhaled and thought their mouths were on fire! Gordie also earned money by picking berries and cherries at the Keymel, Young and Ginegaw farms. During the night the boys hid in the Wignall's cherry trees; the next morning they were sick from eating so many cherries.

He admitted the dirtiest job he ever had was working at the pea vinery located at the northeast corner of Rt. 441 and Canandaigua Road. The smashed pea vines were put on an elevator using a pitchfork. The smell was terrible as they rotted on stacks 8-10 feet high. Gordie also helped thresh beans in the summer - he said he was coughing up dirt and blowing it out of his nose for a week.

When he was 12 years old Gordie was hired by Joe Finley to work in his store one hour before school (he got permission from the school principal to be late), ¾ hour during lunch hour, and then after school. One of his jobs was to mix gasoline and motor oil to clean the floor.

Prior to 1946 Gordie and Harold Schultz operated McKee's Maple Shade Dairy at 4172 Walworth-Ontario Road, pasteurizing milk and making chocolate milk and a fruit drink. After one year they declined the right to purchase the dairy; a law had changed and a dairy could now deliver anywhere and was not confined to specific areas.



**Gordie with Katie at Walworth Hardware**

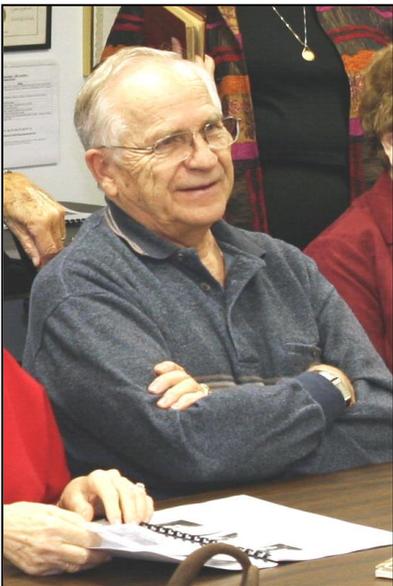


**Gordie also at Walworth Hardware**

Gordie married Kathryn (Katie) Luke in 1949 and they purchased the ice cream parlor on the west side of Main Street from Joe Finley. In 1950 Gordie and Katie purchased the building at 3698 Main Street north of Wick's Hardware and relocated the ice cream business there. They renamed it Youngman's Variety and moved to the building's upstairs apartment. Shortly afterward, in 1952 Gordie received his draft notice to serve in the Korean War in the Army Counter Intelligence Corp. Joe and Lorraine Finley took back the store until Gordie returned home in 1954 and resumed ownership of the business.

In 1972 the Wick family sold the hardware store to Gordie and Katie and they operated the two businesses for six years as two stores. There was a passage way between the two stores, making it more convenient for customers. The variety store and ice cream fountain closed in 1976 to make way for the expanding Walworth Hardware. In 1978 it was decided to close out most of the variety store and make the majority of the two stores hardware related. In 1990 they sold the business to their daughter and her husband, Marlene and Steve Hall, who operated it for 21 years.

As a volunteer ambulance driver Gordie answered a call to a home on Route 350 during sub-zero temperatures and a snowstorm. He said it took a long time to thaw out his ears because he had to drive with his head out the window to see the road. Gordie and Charlie Pembroke answered many of the ambulance calls as they worked in town and were usually available. Gordie volunteered with the ambulance for 27 years.



**Gordie at the WHS museum.**



**Gordie and Betty**



**Gordie receives award at Veterans' Celebration 2023.**

Gordie joined the fire department in 1950 when there was only one fire truck (open in the back where men could ride). The first "alarm" was a bell on top of the original fire house (later the loan closet) at 2216 Penfield-Walworth Road. Some calls for assistance were received at several businesses and homes, including Gordie's hardware store and his home. Gordie said fire calls with Charlie Pembroke were always strange. The fire department was called to property on Ontario Center Road where a colt had fallen into a 40 foot well. Using a ladder, Charlie climbed into the well and wedged his way underneath the colt. Gordie and Ken Brown pulled on a rope, and up came Charlie with the colt on his shoulders. See story on page 4.

Gordie outlived two wives. Several years after Katie's passing, Gordie married Betty (Garlock) Brown and they moved to Greece. He is survived by daughters Marlene Hall and Kathy (Rory) Fernaays and step-daughters Jan (Al) Harradine, Sue (Gus) Gringer, Gayle (Duane Benjamin) Garrand, Lynne (Bill) Bennett, Karen (Randy) Smith and their families. Services were held February 19 at the United Methodist Church, followed by a small reception at the church. Interment was at the convenience of the family.

Through the years Gordie has been our "go to person" when we were looking for information. He kept records of area interest and maintained a "death book", a collection of obituaries of local residents. The data gleaned from these sources has been valuable to researchers. Although his final years were spent in Greece, he never forgot his roots in Walworth. He will be missed but not forgotten. His legacy lives on.

### 2025 WHS Calendar of Events

Mar. 10	6:30 PM	Workshop WHS Museum
Mar. 17	7:00 PM	<u>Program:</u> "Pacific Hotel: 148 Years Young" Ginegaw Park Lodge
Apr. 14	7:00 PM	<u>Program:</u> "Erie Canal" Bob Stopper Ginegaw Park Lodge
Apr. 21	6:30 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
May 12	6:30 PM	Workshop 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
July 14	6:30 PM	Workshop WHS Museum
July 22	6:00 PM	FIP float prep Keymel's barn
July 25-26		Festival in the Park
Aug. 11	6:30 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
Sept. 8	6:30 PM	Workshop WHS Museum
Sept. 15	6:00 PM	WHS 50 <sup>th</sup> Banquet K2 Brewery
Oct. 5	2:00 PM	Fall Open House WHS Museum
Oct. 13	6:30 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum
Nov. 10	6:30 PM	Workshop WHS Museum
Nov. 17	Noon	<u>Program:</u> TBD Soup and Show Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec. 8	6:30 PM	Board of trustees WHS Museum

### President's Message By Amber Linson

With a new year comes new activities for the Walworth Historical Society. We will be busy with programs, the organization of our collection, a Walworth-wide community project, and our 50th anniversary. As a non-profit organization, we need volunteers to make all of these things happen.

In the past we have asked for help with gardening, transcribing hand written artifacts, and decorating for the holidays. A few of you have offered help with these items and we greatly appreciate your efforts. With so much on our plate this year we have more opportunities for you to get involved. If you are interested in helping to plan our 50th anniversary banquet, please reach out to historian Gene Bavis. With your help, we will have a wonderful celebration at K2 Brewery, former Freewill School on Canandaigua Road in September.

Additionally, our Community Service Award presentation is coming up at our annual meeting in May. If you know of an individual or organization who goes above and beyond regular duties to help out in our community, please reach out and let us know. We truly enjoy presenting these outstanding individuals with recognition of their efforts, and are pleased to keep the record of their work for future generations to look back on.

We are always asking for volunteers, but we recognize that some just want to enjoy history with us, and that's ok too. Come to the Ginegaw Park Lodge on March 17 to enjoy a program about the Pacific Hotel which has been a staple in Walworth since the late 1800s. After that, you can join us again in April for a program on the Erie Canal. That program will be held on April 14 at the Ginegaw Park Lodge. We try to make sure that we cover a range of topics so there is bound to be something for everyone.

It should be an exciting year. We will see you in March!

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

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

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