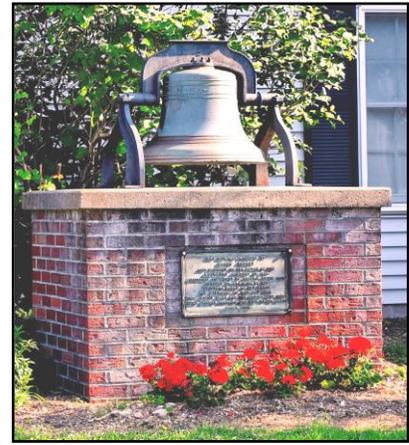


# Walworth Historical Society

July 2025  
Newsletter

Volume 50 / Number 1

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



## WHS 2025 Annual Meeting By Bob Mogray

On May 9, the Walworth Historical Society held its annual meeting at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park. There was very good attendance and we certainly appreciate and rely on the support of our members and the public! First there was a dish-to-pass meal. Then there was a short business meeting to announce future events such as the Festival-in-the-Park and the Williamson mural dedication.

This was followed by the awarding of the Community Service Award to Mike Frederes. For those who are not familiar with this award, it is 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. It is our honor this year to give this award to Mike. His family and fellow firemen were there to also honor him.

At this annual meeting were the new cow (photo below) and cow bench. These will be placed in a local spot soon. They were purchased totally with grant money. The idea was that, because we are a historical society, this might be a good way to show the importance historically of cows and the dairy industry to the Walworth area.

A short slide show was presented that depicted some nostalgic items of 1975 (50 years ago) such as the price of certain foods and what famous people were born and died then. Our congratulations to Mike Frederes and thank you to all who support us in our efforts to sponsor these events and shows. Thanks also to the members working to plan and set up tables and chairs, purchase hams, rolls, beverages, etc. Shown here are some photos of this event.



**Walworth Historical Society to Celebrate 50 Years** By Gene Bavis

It's hard for me to believe it was 50 years ago...back in the Fall of 1975 (I haven't found the exact date yet), Joe Finley, Gordon Youngman and others brought together a fairly large group of Walworth citizens to share some Walworth memory photos. That was the impetus to form a "Walworth Historical Society."

SO, as your Town Historian and Charter Member of the Walworth Historical Society, I've been promoting a celebration of our founding. It's going to happen on Monday, September 15, 2025 at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park beginning at 6 PM with a banquet. We are still working on the details of that and reservations will be required. Following the meal, we will share some of the highlights of our 50 years of preserving, presenting and promoting local history and heritage.

Would YOU like to help? We have 50 or more years of records, documents, scrapbooks, photos and MORE. We need help identifying the key points that will interest others. If you are interested in doing some of this "research" please reach out to us at [walworthhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:walworthhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or contact me [genebavis71@gmail.com](mailto:genebavis71@gmail.com) or call me at 315-573-2768.

PLEASE put this on your CALENDAR! **Monday, September 15 at 6 PM.**



**Left photo: the WHS museum on Academy Street under construction.**

**Bottom photo: a more recent picture of the WHS museum with landscaping and fall colors.**



**Thank You, Jeanne** By Dorothy French

Family and a snowless winter have beckoned Jeanne Flye to Florida. When WHS was organized 50 years ago Jeanne volunteered to serve on the board of trustees. Through the years she helped in many ways. Her latest contributions were helping with the accessioning committee and maintaining a record of obituaries of deceased members of the Walworth community. She will be missed.

## Recipes from the Past By Mary Jo Gigliotti

I answered the call last year to transcribe old diaries at the WHS. I've been working on the diaries of Clara Yuker, wife of Truman Yuker, starting in the 1930's. In the box I found a small composition book containing handwritten recipes. They are all written in a different handwriting, perhaps a gift from her mother, as the first recipe is Mother's. I thought you might be interested in seeing some of the things found in this little book. I hope you have enjoyed this peek into recipes from the past.



I found that a dover beater (right photo) is a hand rotary egg beater patented by the Dover Stamping Company,

First of all there are recipes for cookies and cakes like these:

**Sugar Cookies:** 1 1/2 cups sugar - 1 cup sour cream - 3/4 cup butter - 1 egg - 2 tablespoons buttermilk or sour milk - 1 teaspoon soda, flour to roll out as soft as possible. Mother.

**Apple Fritters:** 1 1/2 cups flour - 3 teaspoons baking powder - pinch salt - pinch sugar - wet with milk to a batter - 1 cup of ground apples - fry in spider in hot Crisco-like pancakes - cover while frying - Eat with syrup. Carolyn Frowley

I had to do some research to figure what a spider was. Originally, a spider was a cast iron skillet with 3 legs (like a spider) that sat above the open fire but more recently it was any cast iron skillet.

Then there are recipes for salad dressings and pickles like this one:

**Salad Dressing:** Put 1 egg - 2 tablespoons sugar - 1 teaspoon salt - 2 teaspoons dry mustard - 1/8 paprika or cayenne pepper - 1/4 cup vinegar - 3/4 cup Wesson oil into a mixing bowl but do not stir then take 1 cup cold water, put part in a small dish set over the fire, take the water left, stir in 4 tablespoons corn starch, now stir in the hot water, cook slow stirring constantly until it boils clear then add to the ingredients in the mixing bowl and beat briskly with a dover beater. Jessie Kline

And then there were recipes like this:

**Baking Powder:** 1 pound pure cream tartar - 1/2 pound bicarbonate soda - 1/4 pound corn starch - Sift several times. Minnie Jones

**Pain Killer:** 1/2 oz. gum Myrrh - 1/2 oz. camphor gum - 1/2 oz cayenne pepper - 1/4 oz. opium - 1 pt alcohol. Mother



### In Memoriam – Mary Jane Devlin By Dorothy French

Mary Jane Devlin crammed a life-time of accomplishments in her 90 years until her passing on May 2. Her long-time affiliation with WHS began as a charter member in 1975. She served as president, long-time treasurer, board trustee and member of the newsletter and acquisition committees. She excelled at proofreading our newsletter in addition to submitting stories about her family and the house she and Arnold built. Mary Jane also was a member of the Marion Legion Auxiliary Unit 1430, a past president of N.Y.S. School Food Service Association, and the Marion Historical Society. Travelling and camping were her passions and she had visited all 50 states. She was predeceased by her husband Arnold and is survived by three sons - Mark, Paul, and Bruce and their families.

## My Childhood and Then Some (Part 1) By Vaughn Pembrook



Growing up was different for me. Some of the tasks I did as a kid growing up in a small rural community were different enough - then add the fact my dad was Charlie Pembroke, a real character to say the least. Back to my different tasks.

On winter nights when returning from trouble calls to the family business, if the four corners of Walworth were snow or ice-covered, Dad would stop the truck. He and I would sand the intersection with a hand shovel and get sand from a box on the northwest corner. That was not just our task but anybody who thought the intersection needed attention. To change bulbs I had to shimmy up a ladder swaying on a cable that held the stop light. No signage, no flashing lights - just my butt swaying with cars driving around, turning under my ladder.

I used to ride on the back step bumper of my dad's truck sometimes up to school or if trouble was local. This was about ¼ mile. My Uncle Bob in Marion and I jumped on a railroad engine that was dubbed the Marion Peanut. I don't know if this was a family term or local. This train ran from the main lines in Newark to Marion village. There were maybe 2 or 3 cars plus the engine.

**Left: Vaughn Pembrook**

I shot billiards at a very young age in my uncle's pool hall which was more like a social club for senior citizens who could still climb the stairs to the second floor. My Aunt Peg did not approve of me being up there with the older gents due to language that may be used. Then she must have thought who my father was and said "The heck with it; very well may be better". There was an old teacher (Lewis Neely) who took care of me up there if my uncle wasn't around. He took my brother Burton and me sailing in a small sailboat on Sodus Bay.

When I was about 12 my grandfather, Jake Pembroke, allowed me to shoot his 12-gauge double barrel shotgun. He threw his hat up in the air and said to shoot it. I followed it up and down and when it hit the ground I pulled the trigger. My grandfather laughed and said "I meant in the air". He wore that holey hat for a while, telling the story and laughing again.

I used to stop into the feed store in the Walworth Grange building. The winter brought the old men to the store to swap stories and smoke a nickel cigar around a kerosene heater. If I stayed long enough my grandfather would give me a penny or two to get candy at Youngman's Store. As I am now old myself this would be a way to get the kid out so they tell of something I should not hear.

**(to be continued)**

## Spring Cleanup at the Museum By Liz Bavis

On the evening of April 14 members of the Walworth Historical Society and volunteers from the community met for yard clean up around the museum. We weeded, trimmed bushes, moved some of the hosta plants and spread a trailer load of mulch that was donated by Paul Luckman. We appreciated the community members who came to help especially the older Boy Scouts and their dads.

Several bushes have been planted on the north side of the building to help fill in that area. Judy McMillan and her granddaughter Lucy helped inside the museum with dusting and rehangng the curtains that Judy washed. They also brought the flower arrangements for the potluck supper at the Lodge. There is still more to be done this summer so keep an eye out for a request for more help needed. We also want to thank Alex Heinonen for keeping the lawn looking so great with his frequent mowing.

An African proverb says "It takes a village to raise a child" but this is also true with volunteer organizations in a town/village. Everyone's help is needed.

**Editor's note: This photo was taken soon after the April 14 museum cleanup and it looks great!**



## Coming to America and Walworth By Jessie Keymel

My journey to Walworth started at the railroad station in Oban, Scotland on January 1, 1954, with an overnight trip to a pier in Liverpool, England. There we boarded the HMS Ascania, our home for the next ten days as it crossed the Atlantic to New York City. From Pier 52 we entered a large open building where we were processed under the banner M (our last name was Menzies). Then on to Grand Central Station for a train ride to Rochester, NY, where we were met by my mother's cousins. After a meal and rest at their home, our journey continued by car down Route 31F to Ontario Center Road (Route 350) and then north to Walworth-Penfield Road (Route 441). A right turn took us to the first driveway - 206 Walworth-Penfield Road, a chicken farm.

Our ride from Rochester was past many farms and open fields deep in snow. Kate Horne and Albert Crisp, my mother's aunt and uncle, owned the farm. They welcomed us and, as sponsors, they had assured we wouldn't become a financial burden to the state.

We certainly changed their quiet life as we settled into our new life. My father worked. He wrote a memo in his day book "The sun is shining, the roads are clear, and the snow is still here." Where we were from, snow came at night and was often gone before the day was over.

My mother stayed at home. Her view from the kitchen window was an open field of snow, a couple of chicken houses and a small outhouse for summer use when the well went dry. This was certainly different than being in a new housing development, surrounded by old friends and family.



My brother and sister attended elementary school in Walworth. I waited on the corner of #350 to catch the bus to the new Wayne Central School to go to high school. I found out later than the bus route was 27 miles long, transporting students from Walworth to middle/high school in Ontario Center. There were a lot of changes in our new life.

Walworth is always the same. WRONG! Since 1954 homes line the Penfield-Walworth Road all the way into town, north from Sherborne Road to Ontario Center, and then there is Gananda. Many farms and orchards have disappeared and now Byrne Dairy and Gas Station (left photo) light up the quiet crossroad.

## 2025 Walworth Festival-in-the-Park By Bob Mogray

Just a reminder that the Walworth Festival-in-the-Park will be held on July 25 and 26. The Walworth Lions Club will sponsor this event, now in its 35<sup>th</sup> year. On Friday, July 25 at 7:00 PM there will be a parade that will start on Walworth-Palmyra Road, turn west onto Walworth-Penfield Road, and proceed into Ginegaw Park. The theme of this year's Festival is "The Erie Canal" (left photo below) in honor of the 200 year anniversary of its completion. As always, the Walworth Historical Society will have a float in the parade, so please come to watch all of the vehicles and marchers in the parade and support all of the organizations participating.

On Saturday, July 26, there will be concession stands, displays and demonstrations (right photo below) and a whole lot more at Ginegaw Park. Thanks to the Walworth Lions Club for sponsoring this as a family event for our local community and as a fund raiser. We hope to see you there!





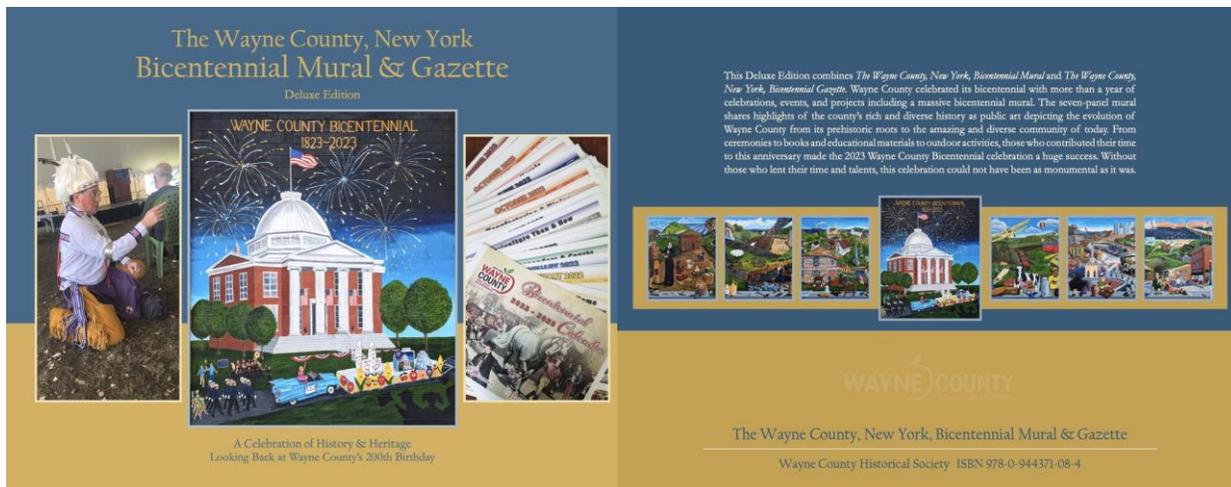
## Bicentennial News By Gene Bavis

This all began on November 14, 2018 when Wayne Historian Organization (WHO) members gathered to brainstorm ideas for the 2023 Bicentennial Celebration of Wayne County's founding. I was honored to be appointed as a Co-Chair of this project in April 2019. Over the past several years, I have written numerous WHS newsletter articles telling you about past and upcoming events and projects associated with the bicentennial. Most recently it's been about the 2000 square foot bicentennial mural in Williamson.

I am SO PROUD of all the things that were accomplished during the course of this celebration of Wayne County's history and heritage. The last major project was completed on June 10, 2025. For the last 6 months or so, our own Amber Linson worked with a "book committee" consisting of Gene Bavis, Rosa Fox, Caryn Devlin, Perry Howland, Jean Bell and Linda Bell to write and illustrate a detailed book about the Bicentennial Mural AND the celebration itself. As we worked through this project, we were reminded of all that had been accomplished, and I still sit here in amazement. I am also in awe of Amber's skills as a designer. When you get to see this book, I am pretty sure that you will love it and want to own your own copy.

There are three options for the book(s). One will be the "Deluxe" edition of the Wayne County, NY Bicentennial Mural & Gazette, a FULL COLOR hard cover book containing over 150 pages of content and photos describing the mural in great detail, and also the bicentennial itself (Gazette). Each historical society and public library in Wayne County will get a copy, and they will be offered for sale to the public through the Wayne County Historical Society. As of this writing, ordering details and pricing is not available, BUT check the Walworth Historical Society website ([www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org)) and a link will be posted when it's available. Option two is to just purchase the mural part of the book and option three is to just purchase the gazette (the story of the bicentennial celebration) portion.

Sadly, the timing of our newsletter release is such that many of you will not receive your copy of the newsletter prior to the last public gathering of the Wayne County Bicentennial...Sunday, June 29 at 2 PM at the First Baptist Church of Williamson. This last event will be the Mural Dedication and Book Unveiling. In our next newsletter, I will share a report and some photos with you.



## Looking Back – Harness Shops By Dorothy French

In the mid 1950's Mrs. Elton (Anna) May documented this information about the businesses operating in early Walworth. In 1876 Charles Deys and James Whittleton were two of the first harness makers in Walworth.

Charles Bean had a harness shop over Fred Robie's shoe store at the four corners in about 1882. He was burned out of the store two times. Then Charles set up a shop in a building on Rochester Street (Walworth-Penfield Road) about three places down from the four corners now owned by Charles Pembroke. In the east end of this building he had the harness shop and in the west end he had a hardware. He also was a dealer in fertilizer and buggies. At the firemen's carnival in 1927 he died from a heart attack. He was better known to all Walworth people as Hank Bean.

## Turning Back the Pages to 1960 By Dorothy French

The following news items appeared in the Wayne County Mail editions during 1960:

- Feb. 12:** First mass movement of employees is now working in the research plant of the Haloid-Xerox Company on Phillips Road, Webster.
- Feb. 12:** Walworth Reading Room was well received. For the first time, Wayne County Library System is bringing books to an unserved area.
- Feb. 19:** Loblaws Grocery Store in Panorama Plaza, Penfield, offered 100 free S&H Green Stamps with coupon from current newspaper and \$5 purchase.
- Feb. 26:** Blizzard caused closing of Route 104 east of Ontario. Fire trucks responding to chimney fire on Downs Road couldn't get passed stalled cars on the road; some emergency vehicles were stuck in the snow and had to be dug out.
- May 13:** New numbering telephone system is in effect for users in some Wayne County areas, consisting of 2 letters, 5 numbers (Ontario letters were LA4, followed by the 4 numbers of the telephone subscriber.)
- May 27:** First new roller coaster to be erected in New York State in more than 33 years is now operational at Roseland Park, Canandaigua.
- Sept. 16:** Direct distance dialing began in 12 Wayne County towns, including Ontario, beginning Sept. 25.

## President's Message By Amber Linson

Welcome to another year with the Walworth Historical Society! We had a wonderful time at our annual meeting in May and now have a few new trustees to introduce. Mary Jo Gigliotti and Vaughn Pembroke have accepted the seats previously filled by Jessie Keymel and Alex Heinonen. While we are sad to see Jessie and Alex go, we are confident that Mary Jo and Vaughn will be big assets to the Historical Society. We are pleased that Jessie will continue her involvement and send her many thanks for everything she has done to preserve the history of our town. Alex is staying involved as well and continues to maintain the museum lawn. Their contributions make everything we do so much easier.

We have not had a chance to send out our sponsorship invitations but would like to thank Shawn Jennings of Goat Crazy Roofing for signing up to sponsor the WHS at the "Historian" level. Sponsorships of any level help us to ensure that we can continue preserving artifacts, presenting programs, and generally keeping the lights on at the museum. Mr. Jennings signed up without receiving a letter of request, and we especially value that commitment to our community.

On another note, I can update you that the organization of the collection now includes over 1500 items. I have reported in the past that this is a tedious process that sometimes feels like an endless adventure. But realizing how much we have done brings a sense of pride to those of us who keep showing up to care for the collection. A special thanks from me goes out to Linda Pembroke, Mary Jo Gigliotti and Chris Bray who have played the biggest roles in organizing this collection. From accessioning items that were found in the museum without any identifying provenance to finding them a safe space in our searchable storage, these ladies have had loads of patience and dependability which makes a project like this much easier to volunteer to accomplish. So, thank you, ladies.

As I say every time, we are always in need of volunteers. If you love to organize, we have a volunteer opportunity for you. Love to garden, we have a volunteer opportunity for you. Love to work with electronics, we have a volunteer opportunity for you. Just want to learn a little more about Walworth, we have a volunteer opportunity for you. Or maybe you want to transcribe diaries that are 100 years old, well you know. This is a good opportunity for students to earn credit for community service. Reach out, get involved, and see how rewarding it can be to help your historical society.

Have a nice summer!

### WHS 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.lsnyder@gmail.com
Treasurer	Linda Pembroke	(585) 455 - 7595	l.pembroke585@gmail.com
WHS Trustee	Mary Jo Gigliotti	(585) 752 - 7438	mgigliot@brockport.edu
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	ellenmarried@yahoo.com
HomeTown Heroes	Christine Kubida	(585) 455 - 4359	hthwalworth@gmail.com
Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 573 - 2768	genebavis71@gmail.com

### 2025 WHS Calendar of Events

July 14	6:30 PM	Board Workshop WHS Museum
July 15	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	Board Workshop WHS Museum
Sept. 15	6:00 PM	WHS 50 <sup>th</sup> Banquet Lodge at Ginégaw Park
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	Board Workshop WHS Museum
Nov. 17	Noon	<u>Program:</u> TBD Soup and Show Lodge at Ginégaw Park
Dec. 8	6:30 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum

### **A Few Boy Scout/Girl Scout Projects From the Past**

By Dorothy French

**9/3/1992** Town Board approved Ken Wolfe's request to erect 30' flagpole at new building site on Lorraine Drive as part of his Boy Scout Eagle project.

**3/3/1994** Approved planting of flowers around town hall/library complex by Melissa Ryan of Girl Scout Troop 633 as part of the Silver Award requirements.

**5/5/1994** Boy Scout Nathaniel Ruth authorized to perform clean-up project at Lusk Cemetery on Finley Road for his Eagle Scout requirements.

**1/5/1995** Joseph Abeel, Troop 113, sought approval for Eagle Scout project to survey trees in hamlet and make recommendations to the town.

**4/17/1997** Jared Banke proposed erecting lighted sign at entrance to Lorraine Drive and Sherburne Road for his Eagle Scout project. Final approval would be given when costs are known. Sign will be for town announcements. Project was approved 6/19/1997. Town Board agreed on 11/20/1997 that sign should be placed at Lorraine Drive and Walworth-Penfield Road intersection for better visibility.

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

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

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