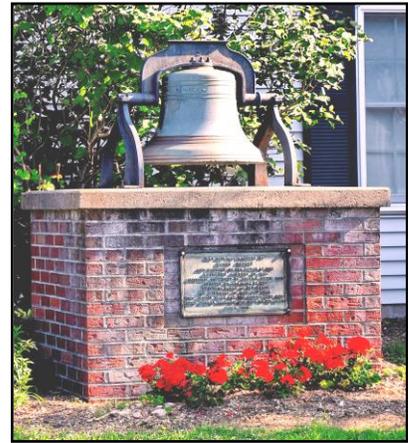


# Walworth Historical Society

**September 2025  
Newsletter**

**Volume 50 / Number 2**

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



## Walworth Historical Society to Celebrate 50 Years

By Bob Mogray



**WHS museum soon after construction**



**Recent photo of the WHS museum**

Back in the Fall of 1975 on September 11, 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.” **That was 50 years ago!**

Gene Bavis, Walworth Town Historian and charter member of the Walworth Historical Society, came up with the idea for a catered banquet to celebrate our 50-year founding. This is going to happen on Monday, September 15, 2025 at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park beginning at 6 PM with a banquet. **This will be open to the general public. Please note the information poster on page 2 of this newsletter. It includes the menu and reservation contact information.**

Following the meal, we will share some of the highlights of our 50 years of preserving, presenting and promoting local history and heritage with a slide presentation. We need help identifying the key points that will interest others. If you have any ideas about any key Walworth events of the past 50 years, please reach out to us at: walworthhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or contact Gene Bavis at: [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.**

## Save the Date: November 17

By Dorothy French

Our popular annual “Soup and .....” event will be held Monday, November 17 at the Ginegaw Park Lodge. The event is free and open to the public. It will begin at noon with a lunch of homemade soups, crackers, breads, beverages and desserts.

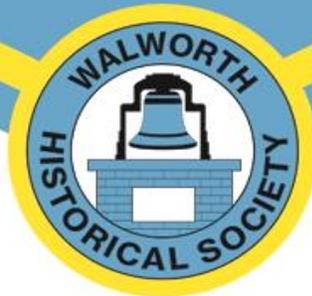
This year’s theme is **“Soup and Friends”**. It will be highlighted with a 1:00 PM presentation by historian David Bruinix, who will talk about the history of the 1816 Farmington Quaker meetinghouse and its role in local history. An all-volunteer group has been working to save and preserve the building to create not only a museum but a cultural learning center.

This program is a collaboration between the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse, the Red Jacket Community Library and the Victor Farmington Library.

The Walworth  
Historical Society's  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Banquet Celebration

**Monday  
September 15,  
2025**



**6:00 PM**

**Program @  
7:00 PM**

Join us at the Ginegaw Park Lodge  
off Lorraine Drive in Walworth, NY

**Menu:**

London Broil  
Chicken French  
Oven Roasted Potatoes  
Ziti with Rosa Cream Sauce  
Grilled Vegetables  
Garden Salad  
Fresh Fruit  
Rolls & Butter  
Beverages  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake

**Admission: \$30 per person**

PRE-SALE AVAILABLE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 8TH

Mail admission cost to:

**Walworth Historical Society**

**P.O.Box142**

**Walworth NY 14568**

Include names of attendees

The Walworth Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization who relies on its members to preserve the history of Walworth, NY.

Come join us in celebration of 50 years of historical preservation.

**We hope you will join us to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of  
the Walworth Historical Society!**

**WHS October 5 Open House** By Gene Bavis



Our annual open house at the museum is scheduled for Sunday, October 5. It will begin at 2:00 PM with ample time to tour the exhibits.

At 3:00 PM visitors will enjoy a musical ride through time – part history, part comedy, and all fun - thanks to the Biscuit Brothers and their “Music, Mischief & Time Travel” program. You will enjoy two musicians, one magic mandolin-powered time machine and countless laughs.

The Biscuit Brothers will transform the museum into a lively 1850s tavern - complete with sing-alongs, toe-tapping 19th-century tunes, and stories from a bygone era. Then they leap to the present for original Erie Canal songs from their hit Fringe Festival show.

**New WHS Laptop Computer and Video Projector** By Bob Mogray

For the last 14 or 15 years the Walworth Historical Society has been using a laptop computer and video projector to put on shows and programs. These locations include our museum, the Lodge at Ginegaw Park, and various remote locations such as fire halls, banquets, and The Gardens in order to promote our local history.

Last year this equipment succumbed to old age as the laptop programming and its connection to our video projector would no longer work. After numerous failed attempts to correct this problem, it was decided to purchase new equipment that would include modern upgrades. These were obtained from Best Buy as they both were on sale.

The first test of these new devices will be at the WHS 50-year celebration banquet on September 15 at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park. We hope they will provide an excellent quality upgrade with a program that will show some of the memorable events of the last 50 years in Walworth. Hope to see you there!



**All About Postage, E-mails, and Our Newsletter** By Bob Mogray

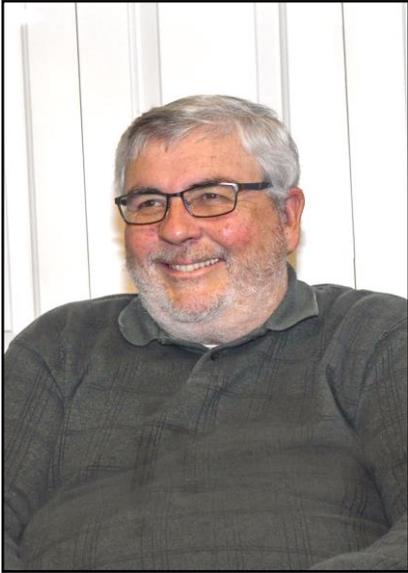


Way back in 1903 the price of a regular postage stamp was **2 cents** (left)! This price lasted until July of 1932 when the price increased to **3 cents**. My earliest memory of the cost of a stamp (when I was a teenager) was **4 cents**. Fast forward to July of 2024 when the price increased to **73 cents** and as of July of 2025 the price is now **78 cents**.

The whole point of this short history lesson is that we are trying to save as much money as possible as we publish our newsletter and send out other mailings. We are asking our members who get this newsletter by U.S. Postal Service to switch to an e-mail newsletter if possible. For these members, if you are interested in doing this, please contact me at: [robert.mogray@gmail.com](mailto:robert.mogray@gmail.com) or call me at 585-576-4156.

**This will be greatly appreciated!**

## My Childhood and Then Some (Part 2) By Vaughn Pembroke



If I broke a bicycle or anything metal I would head off to Pete VanHanehem's garage. He would not take time to do it right then but would fix it in a day or so. Warren Bell helped out later with car problems. There was always a "Hi Vaughn" from either Warren, Betty or both when you went by the service station. In my small town you did not go far without someone saying "Hi" by name because back then we knew almost everyone in town.

A great time would be to get a cherry coke from Gordie or Katie and sit on the steps in front of my great uncle's barber shop. Wayne Merril, an old fiddle player from West Walworth (Forrest Hill), would come over, maybe Larry Hill and they would play music with my Uncle Ray. Those free moments are priceless memories now. The local boys played football, baseball, and soccer on the lawns near the elementary school. Some basketball and tennis were played on the Center Street court.

In the 1980's beavers built a dam to the east of Sam McKee's place. This simple dam was about 20 feet wide and maybe 12 to 16 feet high. It was constructed in a ditch that was blasted and dug out of shale. The shale from the ditch was piled on both sides of a trench. Beavers simply built between the sides of the trench up to the top of the removed shale, creating a pond from McKee's to almost Smith Hill Road. At its widest it was maybe 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile.

I worked in Bradshaw's green house with Grant moving plants in the spring to the yard for sale from the store. We played basketball on the tennis courts on Center Street. We played tennis there when we were in our teens. Grant Bradshaw and I got 200 names together to request the school gym be opened in the wintertime so we could play recreational basketball. Stan Weller opened the school for us to play. I never knew if he was paid or not. It would not surprise me if he wasn't compensated for this.

I used to ride my bike to Hilton's to play baseball. Harlan Gerald Hilton III was a pitcher and I was team catcher. At Harlan's house we had neighbors that played with us. Steve Sharpe, David Furnner and Danny Duval were some of boys that played there. In Walworth village we had lots of kids to play different games. Milford's, Dan Spencer, John Weaver, Youngman, Spencer's from north of town, Ron, Terry, Brett Brockman, Dave Martin, Clem Ginegaw, Bob Pembroke, Keith Souden, Chip Flemming, Hedgepeth, Schenk, and Ralph Carr to name some. We played kick the can, hide and go seek, capture the flag and tag. There were the merry-go-round on the playground, swings, and slides on the elementary school grounds. We sledged downhill on Scott's hill and ice skated on ponds located east of town at the foot of the hill. Fred Ennis skated with us. We got our skates from Ginegaw's Sport Shop in an old barn in Walworth hamlet across from the hardware. We also sled downhill at Myrna Conant's when we were smaller guys not big enough for the big hill (Scott's hill).

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

The 2025 Festival-in-the-Park, sponsored by the Walworth Lions Club was the 35<sup>th</sup> year of this event! It was held on July 25 and 26. After some last-minute redesigns, the Walworth Historical Society displayed our float in the parade (left photo). The parade was well attended as people lined the parade route through the town and down to Ginegaw Park. The parade theme this year was "200 Years of the Erie Canal".



Friday night and Saturday the Walworth Historical Society had displays and more (right photo) under a tent provided by the Walworth Lions Club. Thanks to those who worked in this tent. Also to add to the celebration was a cruise night, bingo, 5K race, food concessions, cornhole tournament, miniature golf, and fireworks.

## How I Came to Walworth By Christine Wacenske Bray

My mother (Radah Jean Wing) was born in October of 1920 in Rochester, NY. Soon after, her family moved to a farm at 2637 Walworth-Marion Road east of Boynton Road. She and her older siblings, Ralph and Lois, graduated from Walworth High School. Grandpa (Alonzo) was on the school board and tended bees.

My Dad (Elmer Wacenske) grew up on his family's farm in Fairport. He and mother met at one of the regular weekend Walworth Fire Department's round and square dances held in the upstairs of what is currently American Pool Supply but used to be the Walworth fire hall. They wed in June of 1941 and held their reception at the Walworth farm. Uncle Ralph moved to Connecticut for college, married and raised five sons. Aunt Lois married George Bulterman and took over the farm at some point while mother and daddy started their family. Grandma and Grandpa bought a house in Rochester, but continued enjoying the country life when visiting.



**Left:** June 1941 - The back of the Walworth house at 2637 Walworth-Marion Road. Left to right: William and Catherine Wacenske, newlyweds Elmer and Radah (Wing) Wacenske, and Genevieve and Alonzo Wing.

**Center:** Left to right - Genevieve and Alonzo Wing with their children, Lois and Ralph.

**Right:** October 17, 1964 wedding of Dave Bulterman and Sylvia Tripi. Left to right: grandfather Alonzo Wing, Sylvia, Dave Bulterman (the Wing's grandson), and grandmother Genevieve Wing.

Fast forward and my folks decided country life was best for them too. To save money, Daddy remodeled the chicken coop out back on the Walworth farm. It's still visible from the road. He, Mom, and my older five siblings lived there while Dad built our house on County Line Road in Ontario, NY. By that time, Lois and George had all four of their kids in the big house, so there were plenty of farm hands. Dad finished our house just in time for my birth in August 1954, but we remained close to our family on the farm until it was sold around 1977.

Aunt Lois' daughter Esther and her husband also lived briefly in the chicken coop while building their home on Hall Center Road in Marion. Then George and Lois' youngest son, David Bulterman, and his wife Sylvia took over the main house while she and George lived in the coop. After Grandpa passed, Grandma moved in as well. When the Bultermans moved to Clayton, NY appx. 1980, they sold the property to Kevin Heald and his family.

People often talk about walking to town along a road shaded by huge maple trees. We grew up attending the Walworth street dances. Grandma was a devout Baptist and got us involved with their very active youth group. Grandma rode a float in an early Festival-in-the-Park parade. She lived to see 107 and still had all her nuts and bolts! She was a legend for sure. What wonderful times we had playing and working on that old farm along with our cousins and their children. That's one farm building that got more than its share of use!

I moved to Walworth as an adult when my kids were 9 and 12 years old. Mother and I each bought a lifetime membership to the Walworth Historical Society to support preserving the memories of small-town living. I hope you will too.



**Left:** Late summer 1954. Group family photo.

**Right:** 2008: Left to right – siblings Lois Bulterman, Ralph Wing, and Radah Wacenske

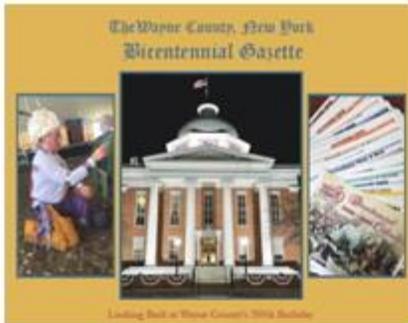
The Bicentennial has been completed and documented with 2 books...one about the Williamson mural and one about the Bicentennial OR a combined version. There are options for soft or hard cover versions. The WHS is going to be given a complementary copy of the combined book.



# Bicentennial Mural & Gazette



## High-Quality Print-on-Demand Books

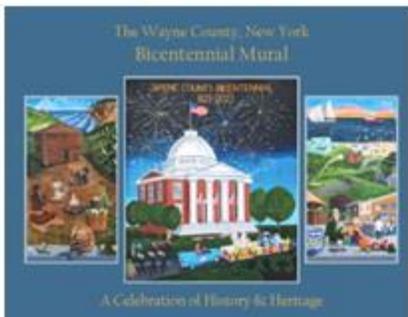


The Bicentennial Gazette is available in **softcover only for \$10** plus 8% tax, and shipping and handling.

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## Vice-President's Message

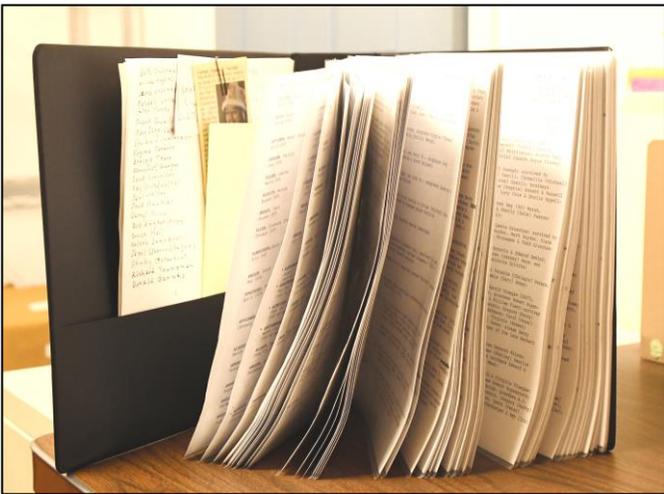
By Bob Mogray

We are right in the middle of our busy season for the Walworth Historical Society. We have participated in the Festival-in-the-Park by designing and entering a float as well as having a booth Friday night and Saturday. The accessioning work at the museum is continuing thanks to the WHS volunteers. We have held programs on the Pacific Hotel and the Erie Canal. Our annual meeting was a success as we honored Mike Frederes with the Community Service Award. Also in the works are the plans for our 50-year celebration banquet. We will also have a fall open house on October 5 at the museum. There have been several workshop meetings as well as our regular scheduled meetings. We plan on having another of our popular "Soup" meetings at the lodge in Ginew Park.

Please check our calendar on page 8 of this newsletter for the full schedule for the rest of 2025. Many thanks to all the volunteers for attending the meetings and working so hard on all of our projects. **We are always looking for more individuals to join the WHS and help us.**

## Gordie Youngman's Famous "Death Book"

By Bob Mogray



Most of the Walworth Historical Society's officers and board members have for many years heard references about the book that Gordie Youngman had been keeping that kept track of information about the people of Walworth who had passed away. It was commonly referred to as his "death book".

After Gordie himself had passed away, his daughter Marlene procured this book and has generously donated it to the WHS. We greatly appreciate this historical collection and it is now at our museum. Thanks to Gordie and his family.

## Diaries Via Time Travel

By Mary Jo Gigliotti

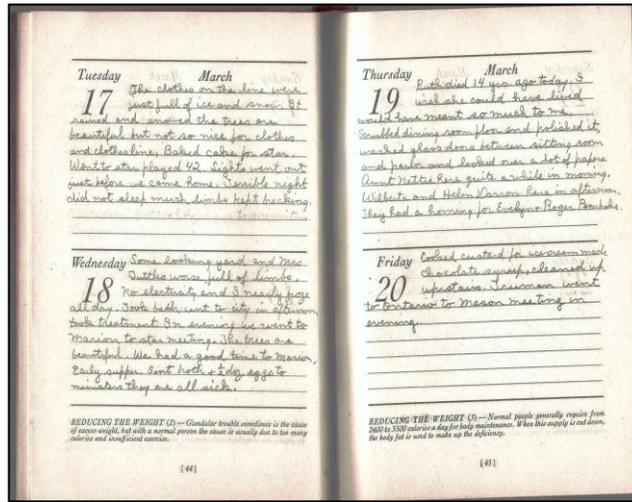
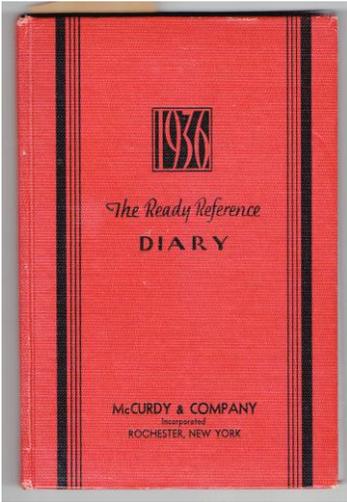
I have been transcribing diaries donated to the WHS for a year. Diaries are fascinating looks into the daily life of the past. I was interested in the history of diaries so I found an interesting book by Alexandra Johnson in the Internet Archive. Samuel Johnson defined the word diary in his dictionary as "an account of the transactions, accidents and observations of every day." Diaries have existed almost from the beginning of writing. They exist on cuneiform, hieroglyphics and wooden tablets. She mentions many famous diarists including Pepys, Boswell, and Anne Frank. She even mentioned Rev. Robert Shields who documented every 5 minutes of his life for 25 years filling 91 boxes of diaries.

On the other hand, there is the rest of us. Ten million blank diaries are sold annually between October and December and most are abandoned by mid January like most New Year's resolutions. I remember getting a diary for Christmas when I was in eighth grade. I wrote in it a few weeks and then .... How about you?

Clara Yucker, on the other hand, kept a diary for many years and wrote in it daily. Her first diary that we have is 1935. She bought her diaries for many years at McCurdy & Co. in Rochester (top of page 8). They are nice hardbound red books. Even the books are interesting time capsules of the day. They include tidbits of advice and information like first class postage costs (3 cents per ounce) or beauty secrets like "lovely skin is possible only when based on internal cleanliness. Good digestion, freedom from constipation, and exercise are necessary." Or budget planning for your weekly income of \$25 to \$150.

Clara wrote every day in pencil in very readable script about her daily life. She included housework, baking done, visitors, and places she and her family went. Boring, you think? No, rather she presents a clear look back at what life was like in the 1930's. A lot of her time was taken up by washing and ironing - no dryers. When it rained, wash had to be hung on porches and in neighbor's attics. She had a "cook boy" but she did a lot of cooking. On March 21, 1936, she "baked cake and cherry pie for us, 2 lemon pies for Mason meeting, made ice cream for shower."

continued on next page



Her husband was in the Masons, the Grange and Mail Carriers Association. She was active in the Ladies Aid, Eastern Star, church and Sunday School. They played a card game called 42. I looked it up - 42 is a trick-taking domino game.

She and her husband took "treatments" in Rochester. I still haven't figured that out. The WHS has many of other diaries in need of transcription. If you can read handwriting, you too can do a little time travel.

**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**

Sept. 8	6:30 PM	Board Workshop WHS Museum
Sept. 15	6:00 PM	WHS 50 <sup>th</sup> Banquet Lodge at Ginegaw 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> David Bruinix Soup & Friends Lodge at Ginegaw Park
Dec. 8	6:30 PM	Board of Trustees WHS Museum

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

- Walworth Wine and Spirits**
- John M. Bodak Snowplows**
- Goat Crazy Roofing**
- Carey Lake Construction LLC**
- Crossroads Automotive**
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**Thank you to:**

**Reliant Federal Credit Union for printing this newsletter.**

**The Walworth Lions Club for the use of your tents.**

**Dana Luckman for mulch donation.**