



Walworth Historical Society

November 2025 Newsletter

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

Soup and Friends: November 17 By Gene Bavis

On Monday, November 17 at NOON, members and friends of the Walworth Historical Society will gather in the Lodge at Ginegaw Park to enjoy a variety of homemade soups. This tradition started a few years ago (then interrupted for a couple of years by COVID) but was brought back in 2022. Volunteers create some wonderful homemade soups. Last year we had 6 choices. Bread and butter, crackers, beverages and desserts are also provided. This, as most Walworth Historical Society events, is FREE of charge and open to anyone who is interested. Please invite a friend and join us for a good lunch, some fellowship and an interesting program.

Following lunch (around 1 PM) our guest speaker, Dave Bruinix of the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meeting House will present a program about the "Friends" (AKA Quakers or "Society of Friends"). Here is what Dave told me that he would include in his presentation:

"I cover the history of the 1816 Farmington Quaker meetinghouse and its role in the underground railroad and abolition, their influence on the Seneca Falls Convention and how they helped the Seneca People retain their ancestral homelands after the 1838 Treaty of Buffalo Creek included an order to remove them to Kansas and beyond. It's a story of how common everyday local farmers and tradesmen made a difference on a national scale. Additionally, I talk about the all-volunteer group that has worked to save and preserve the building to create not only a museum, but a cultural learning center."



1816 Quaker Meeting House



Soup ready to serve at last year's meeting

Event announcement: Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, December 13, the Wreaths Across America program will take place at the Walworth Cemetery on Sherburne Road. The program begins at noon with several short speeches and the laying of wreaths on the graves of veterans to honor their service.

Walworth Historical Society Celebrates 50 Years By Gene Bavis

On Monday, September 15, 2025, the Walworth Historical Society commemorated its 50th anniversary with a special dinner and celebration held at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park. The event was attended by 64 guests, reflecting the strong support and community spirit surrounding the society.

Liz Bavis, assisted by Chris Bray and several others, thoughtfully decorated the tables in the Lodge. Shiny gold placemats and black napkins featuring the 50th anniversary motif created a festive atmosphere, complemented by fall-colored flowers arranged in vases. Guests enjoyed a meal catered by North Coast Catering, and the Walworth Tops Friendly Markets generously donated a beautiful cake for the occasion.

The celebration was marked by the attendance of local Assemblyman Brian Manktelow. During the evening, he presented President Amber Linson with a New York Assembly Proclamation, formally recognizing the Walworth Historical Society's valuable contributions to the community over the past five decades.

To conclude the evening, Bob Mogray and Gene Bavis prepared and presented a slide show. This retrospective highlighted memorable events and notable individuals who have been part of the society's journey during its 50-year history, providing guests with a meaningful and nostalgic look back at the organization's legacy.



Becky and Buzz Appleman



WHS President Amber Linson (left) and Assemblyman Brian Manktelow (right)

Info Sharing By Chris Bray

Quite often, one of the board members arrives at the museum ready to work and we discover something left on our doorstep. While we always appreciate donations, we have rules that must be followed. As a non-profit organization, it is necessary to have paperwork showing where items come from. Therefore, it would be a great help for you to attach a note with the giver's name PRINTED with some sort of contact info. Thank you for understanding.

Some folks question our need to have people "sign in" to our events. As a non-profit, we must "prove ourselves". We are required by law to show how many people come to our museum or programs. So, when we ask you to print your name and some sort of contact info, please know that we aren't just trying to be intrusive. We truly do appreciate your attendance and hope you can understand that we aren't planning to pressure you with a sales pitch.

Erie Canal Bicentennial By Gene Bavis

On July 4, 1817 digging began in Rome, NY to create one of the very first public works projects...the Erie Canal. It was completed in 1825 and on October 26, 1825, Governor Dewitt Clinton set out from Buffalo on a boat named the "Seneca Chief" for New York City. On board was a keg of Lake Erie water to be dumped into New York harbor signifying the "Wedding of the Waters."

On September 24, 2025 a replica of the Seneca Chief, after being built by volunteers over several years at the Buffalo Maritime Center, left Buffalo to recreate Clinton's trip to New York City. It was scheduled to arrive there on October 26, 2025 to celebrate it's 200th anniversary. The Seneca Chief's frame was made of white oak and much of the rest was cypress. To make this construction as authentic as possible, even the bolts used in the framework structure were forged with the Buffalo Maritime Center's own equipment

Liz Bavis and I were able to see the Seneca Chief leave Buffalo while we were attending the World Canal Conference. As the boat went along the canal it made 28 stops including Newark, Lyons and Clyde. Liz and I went to each Wayne County location where local committees had various celebrations. Also at each location, a white pine tree was planted in honor of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Nations who view the white pine as a "Tree of Peace."

A special treat was found in Lyons. Since mules were often used to tow the boats, the Lyons committee arranged to have a mule brought to the ceremony. The bottom photo shows the Seneca Chief and a mule, in reference to the famous mule Sal in the popular song "Low Bridge" published by Thomas Allen in 1912. This is an incredible project that was brought together by many volunteers.

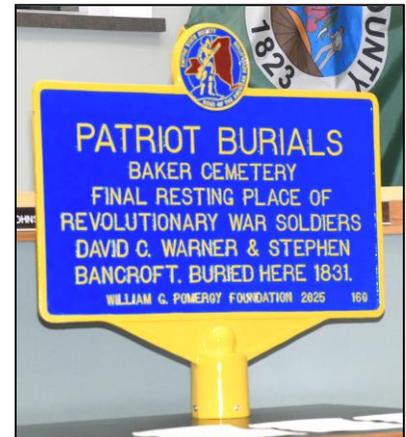
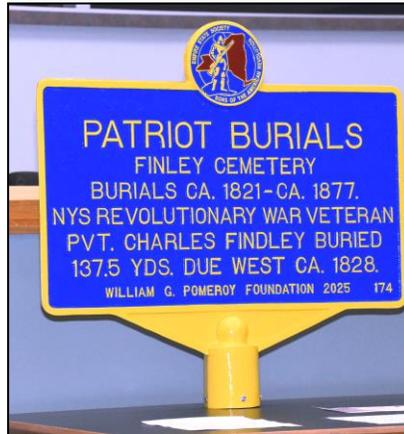
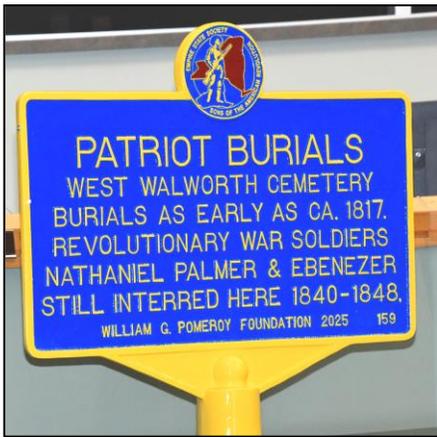


Honoring Revolutionary War Patriots in Walworth By Gene Bavis

In the spring of last year, the Town of Walworth, through its Town Historian's Office, partnered with the Sons of the American Revolution to apply for three Pomeroy Foundation Patriot Markers. These markers, which feature a distinctive logo different from the familiar New York State historic markers, are part of a program established by the Pomeroy Foundation in collaboration with the SAR. The initiative aims to honor Revolutionary War veterans who are interred in cemeteries throughout the state.

Walworth is the final resting place of six Revolutionary War patriots. Their graves are located in Baker Cemetery, West Walworth Cemetery and Finley Cemetery. The individuals honored through this program are Stephen Bancroft (1753 – 1831), Charles Findley (1739 – 1828), Daniel Matthewson (1749 – 1832), Nathaniel Palmer (1764 – 1840), Ebenzer Still (1766 – 1848) and David C. Warner (1758 – 1831).

On Thursday, October 23, a ceremony was held at the Walworth Town Hall to pay tribute to these six patriots. During the event, the community gathered to recognize their service and to dedicate the newly awarded markers. The Walworth Highway Department will be responsible for installing the Patriot Markers at the appropriate cemetery sites in the near future.



Top three photos: The newest three Patriot Burial markers to be placed in local cemeteries noting the graves of Revolutionary War veterans

Bottom left photo: Walworth Town Historian Gene Bavis presenting the latest three Revolutionary War burial markers to be installed

Bottom right photo: Sixth generation Charles Findley relative Brooke Finley attending the dedication

My Childhood and Then Some (Part 3) By Vaughn Pembroke



In winter we also played different board games at various places: Risk, Monopoly, Life, Chinese Checkers, checkers, and some vibrating football game. Grant and I had small slot cars on a large track in his basement. It was maybe 3 or 4 boxes of track together. In the summer time we sometimes used crates to roll down sets of rollers that Milt Bradshaw used for moving plants in and out of greenhouses.

When I was 12,13,14 Dad transferred a lot of houses to natural gas which was then available in town. My job when I was available was to cut and thread pipe. Ken Brown, Dad and I worked getting fittings from the notorious truck full of shit that only Dad knew where it was. Now looking at my shop, I'm just like him. What a mess I have.

The Bernie Porray years were so wonderful. Mr. Russell and Bernie Porray were our baseball coaches. It was wonderful to play. Almost all are happy thoughts now. We did not win big but we weren't losers either. We played in Walworth at the lot by the old dance hall and in West Walworth on the second bend on Route 441 just before the creek. I think Ray Welker was a coach and maybe Kunzer for those guys. We played against Marion behind the elementary school on Main Street. We had hats, team shirts, pants, and maybe even socks. I never forgot the rides in Bernie Porray's truck to these games. Imagine if you will a team of boys in the back of an old Chevy truck riding four miles on roads to play ball. No seats or seat belts. Not a cap on the truck. No one died. We drank water from the same jug sometimes.

Another community thing we did was the recreation program run by Joan Wicks. We would do arts and crafts with popsicle sticks in the basement of the school. Readers Digest books turned into a door stop. There were drinks and playground time. Some programs had us on a bus driven by George Frey and Betty McKee to Sodus Point for swim lessons from the Red Cross. There was far more time on the bus than swimming. We would stop at Orbaker's on Route 104 for ice cream. I don't remember how often maybe only the last trip of the year.

Mrs. Johnson was my kindergarten school teacher. I ran away from this class at least twice - once to my grandfather's house and once with Orley Clark. He was plowing a field next to the professional building. I rode on his lap as a 5 year old. Miss Fuller was my first grade teacher. I probably was the reason she never married. 2nd grade teacher was Mrs. Petty. She brought in eggs that incubated into chicks - kind of magic to me then. 3rd grade teacher was Mrs. Geoff. 4th grade teacher was Mrs. McCellan. I don't remember my 5th grade teacher. 6th grade teacher was Mr. Ruoff and Mr. Scully. Others I remember were Mr. Weller and his gym class, Mrs. Hyman and Erica Worth playground monitors, Mrs. Armstrong school nurse, Stanley Almekinder and Mr. Nortier building maintenance, Mr. Trombetta music, and Mrs. Giles and Mrs. Patrick school lunch ladies. The people who drove school bus that I knew on a first name basis were Milt Bradshaw, Betty and Sam McKee, Kermit Jones, Judy Gibbs, Mr. Jesse, George Frey, and Floyd Petty.

The kids in town walked to school. We were allowed to go home for lunch. Lunch money equaled a dish of ice cream at Gordie's. My plan was to take my lunch money, tell teacher I was going home and use the money for ice cream and then return to school. Who would know? Against gaining huge sums of money from my ice cream purchases, Gordie tells my father of my new lunch routine. On the third day, guess who was waiting for me and he wasn't there for ice cream? Marion was too far to go for Freeman's ice cream place but he knew Dad as well, so I had to give up on that idea and eat my lunch in school.

[This is the third and final part to this series. We wish to thank Vaughn Pembroke for this informative and personal account of his early life here in Walworth. We welcome similar stories from any of our members. If you are interested, please contact any of our officers or Board members listed on page 8 of this newsletter.](#)

WHS Open House: Biscuits, Biscuit Brothers, and More By Bob Mogray

Our annual open house at the museum was held on Sunday, October 5 with absolutely fantastic weather. It began at 2:00 PM with our guests having time to tour the exhibits inside the museum. In honor of our guests, the Biscuit Brothers, there were homemade biscuits with jam, fruit, and honey available to sample.

At 3:00 PM, visitors enjoyed a clever and entertaining musical ride through time, thanks to the Biscuit Brothers and their "Music, Mischief & Time Travel" program. These two musicians were great performers with one playing the mandolin and the other playing the guitar. Throughout the musical performance, there was humorous banter that included many local references. There were also sing-alongs, 19th-century tunes and Erie Canal songs. These two gentlemen put on a very entertaining hour show.



The Walworth Historical Society wishes to thank the Biscuit Brothers for this clever and interesting production. Thanks also to our guests for their support.

President's Message By Amber Linson

It has been an interesting year for the Walworth Historical Society. We had a wonderful 50th anniversary banquet in September. A big thank you to North Coast Catering for the delicious meal they delivered and to Tops for their donation of another delicious cake to top off the night. Gene Bavis and Bob Mogray also did a stellar job on their presentation of highlighting our Historical Society over the past 50 years. Overall, it was a wonderful night.

We also hosted our annual open house in October. Unfortunately, it was not as well attended as it has been in years past, but we nonetheless enjoyed entertainment on the lawn by the Biscuit Brothers. Trustees Mary Jo Gigliotti and Linda Pembroke did an excellent job of organizing new displays for the event and Liz Bavis set up some delicious refreshments, which of course involved biscuits and gravy. Yum!

Aside from the events, the WHS has been working on keeping our museum up to date. As our hosta garden had become too difficult to maintain, we unfortunately needed to hire a landscaper to remove the garden and seed the area. I am happy to report that it looks much better and will be far easier for us to care for the property.

Additionally, we continue to work on organizing the collection. Many items we had in the museum had not been recorded in our old database and thankfully Christine Bray and Mary Jo Gigliotti have been relentless in their efforts to accession those items and help us identify and catalog them. Linda Pembroke, Mary Jo, and I continue to build and organize the inventory, and we now have over 15 shelves organized into archival quality boxes. It has been quite the task to date, but we continue to work through it. We maintain the mindset that one of the most important aspects of our collection is the memories that the items hold. This is why it is so important that items donated to the museum are identified by the donor and their provenance or the history of the item, and are recorded for our records.

That is our year in a nutshell. We have celebrated Walworth's history with programs, banquets, and an open house; maintain the museum that houses our collection; and continue to work towards archiving the collection to a point where the items can be preserved for future generations. For 2026, we are excited to be working on a Holstein History, which will include many actions we hope to involve you. In the coming months, my hope for you is that you can make memories with friends and family as you celebrate the holidays. Have a Happy New Year WHS members!

Windows to the Past:
A Story Behind One of Lincoln's 150 -Year- Old Farm Houses By Anna Di Domenico

In the hamlet of Lincoln sits an old farm house on Plank Road. To most it looks like any old wing and gable with its dark shutters, white siding, and enclosed porch. However, looks can be deceiving as this house has many stories to tell, but first let me share mine.

In 2021 my boyfriend and I began looking for a house. Our timing was poor and our hopes were high, but we knew one day we'd have something close to being our dream home. After trudging through more than 25 houses and losing countless bids, we finally closed on 599 Plank Road three years later: an 1875 farm house near the Monroe-Wayne County border. Being the history nerd that I am, I sifted through old records not expecting to find anything exciting. I suspected it was some long-forgotten farmer's house with barely any public records. Shockingly, I discovered the original families were much more than that. Many of them came from lines of early settlers who established the current area.

Although I could not track down any 1875 records stating who built and lived in the house, the 1904 Walworth map shows the land was at one time owned by Gardner L. Tiffany. The Tiffany family owned an abundant amount of land around the Lincoln hamlet. According to an article on nygenweb.net, the Tiffany's were fruit farmers who specialized in growing and evaporating fruit. Gardner's father, Hiram Tiffany, was rumored to have one of the "finest orchards in Wayne County." However, by 1914 Gardner was no longer in possession of the Plank Road land. According to the 1914 American Agriculturalist Farm Directory, Wilbur Leaty became the owner. The Leaty's hold quite the reputation in the Rochester area. Wilbur's parents, Jacob Leaty and Mary Curtice, wed in 1873 and moved to Lincoln Road where they started their farm. Both parents came from a long line of farmers.



Left: 599 Plank Road house



Right: 1980's aerial view

Wilbur's father, Jacob, was born in Switzerland and came to the United States as a baby. His parents settled in the town of Webster, where they had their own farm. Jacob carried on the family business on Lincoln Road. He harvested crops such as Dakota red potatoes and corn. According to local newspapers, Jacob was active in the community and was a highway commissioner during the 1890's.

Wilbur's mother, Mary, was a descendant of one of the first pioneer families in Webster, New York. According to a 1972 Webster Herald article by Harold Dill, the Curtice family moved to the area in 1817 and helped clear, farm, and establish the land. Mary's second cousin, the Curtice brother, became one of Heinz Ketchup's biggest rivals as they were one of the first to preserve ketchup and other canned goods.

Although not much more was recorded on Mary and Jacob, Wilbur and his wife, Effie Warren, continued to contribute to the community and farm fruit. They produced everything from apples, cherries, peaches and pears. In the September 25, 1942 Webster Herald, Wilbur's pears are talked about highly. The Leaty's were also dedicated members of the Lincoln Baptist Church, serving in many positions throughout the years. They had one son named Elwyn who moved to Williamson, not leading a life in farming. However, his son, Jan Leaty, opened up a garden center and was a plant supervisor at the Curtice-Burns food plant. Although there is no mention of how involved the Leaty's were with the Curtice Brothers business, one cannot help but wonder if they contributed in some way as they seemed to be very generous.

By the 1950s, the house was sold to William and Till Boyd. It was sold again in 2004, and then to my boyfriend and I this year. In the 150 years that this house has been standing, it has been renovated and changed, but it always seemed to be cherished by its owners as not many families have occupied it.

Today, apple and cherry trees continue to grow on the land. They are not the original, but it's nice to see the land continuing to thrive. If you told me three years ago that I would own a house with such rich pioneer history, I wouldn't believe you. What's important is we worked hard for this house, just like its previous owners. Although we are not farmers, we plan to continue to help this house stand and maintain the land around it. Houses have walls and windows, but no souls. The people who occupy them are the souls and we cannot wait to continue this house's legacy.

WHS Officers and Trustees

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WHS Trustee	Judy Markowski	(585) 755 - 2889	judym27@aol.com
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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

Nov. 10	6:30 PM	Board Workshop WHS Museum
Nov. 17	Noon	Program: David Bruinix Soup & Friends Lodge at Ginegaw Park
Dec. 6	6:00 PM	Light the Night: Ginegaw Park
Dec. 8	6:30 PM	WHS Board Meeting
Dec. 13	Noon	Wreaths Across America Sherburne Rd. Cemetery

2026 WHS Calendar of Events

Jan. 12	6:30 PM	WHS Board Workshop
Feb. 9	6:30 PM	WHS Board Meeting
Mar. 9	6:30 PM	WHS Board Workshop
Mar. 16	7:00 PM	"Dairy Farming in Walworth" WHS Museum – Bob Mogray
April 13	6:30 PM	WHS Board Meeting
Apr. 20	7:00 PM	"History of Ontario, NY" Ginegaw Park Lodge Liz Albright
May 11	6:30 PM	WHS Board Workshop
May 18	6:00 PM	WHS Annual Meeting Ginegaw Park Lodge
June 8	6:30 PM	WHS Board Meeting
July 13	6:30 PM	WHS Board Workshop
July 24	7:00 PM	FIP Parade & Festival
July 25		Festival in the Park
Aug. 10	6:30 PM	WHS Board Meeting
Sept. 14	6:30 PM	WHS Board Workshop

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

**ALPCO Recycling
Carey Lake Construction LLC
Goat Crazy Roofing**

**Walworth Wine and Spirits
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Thank you to:

**Reliant Federal Credit Union: newsletter printing
The Walworth Lions Club for the use of their tent
Dana Luckman for mulch donation
Tops for cake donation
Peter Fadden for Patriot Markers**

2026 WHS Calendar of Events Continued

Sept. 21	7:00 PM	"Mora Car Company" Ginegaw Park Lodge Steve Heald
Oct. 4	2-4 PM	WHS Open House WHS Museum
Oct. 12	6:30 PM	WHS Board Meeting
Nov. 9	6:30 PM	WHS Board Workshop
Nov. 16	Noon	Meeting: "Soup and School" Ginegaw Park Lodge
Dec. 5	6:00 PM	Light the Night: Ginegaw Park
Dec. 12	Noon	Wreaths Across America Sherburne Road Cemetery
Dec. 14	6:30 PM	WHS Board Meeting