

Walworth Historical Society

March 2026 Newsletter

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

March 16 Dairy Farming Program By Bob Mogray

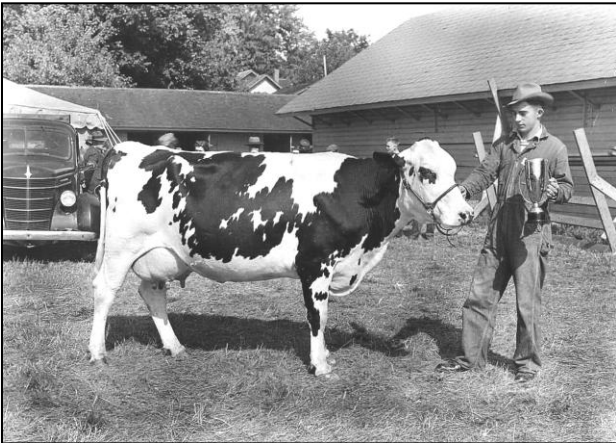


On Monday, March 16 at 7:00 PM, the Walworth Historical Society will present a slide show program “Dairy Farming in Walworth” at the museum on Academy Street. This will augment the efforts by the WHS to call attention to the historical importance of the dairy and agriculture industry to the survival of many area farmers and the community.

As always, this event is FREE and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and we hope to see you there, so please mark your calendars. We need and greatly appreciate your support.

Already some may have seen the cow bench shown below right photo with Russ and Barb Kuelling demonstrating it at last year’s WHS 50-year celebration banquet. There may be more benches and cows on display soon in the Walworth area.

There are also plans in the works for an information booklet with stories and photos of how important the dairy industry and agriculture were to the Walworth area.



Top left – Bernie Porray raking hay at his farm on the Walworth-Ontario Road

Middle left – 1942 photo of Carlyle Darron with prize-winning cow at the Palmyra fair

Bottom left – Dairy farm barn on the corner of Finley and Walworth-Ontario Roads



Walworth Maple Trees By Judy Markowski

In 1976 I received a Maple tree from the Walworth Lions Club. I had mentioned this a couple of times to members of the Walworth Historical Society, but I wasn't sure that they knew exactly what I was talking about. Hopefully this story will clarify it.

As many of you who are my age know, we begin to sort out old boxes of pictures and papers from the past. Well, I've been doing that and I found some proof of my story! I found this article about my tree. It is nice to know that at least one piece of paper that I saved is useful. The article is from April 29, 1976, when the trees were delivered and planted. I came home that day and my tree was lying at my garage door. I made sure that it was watered and planted it the very next day.

Below is the article and a photo of my tree. Did anyone else get a tree on that day? Do you know of anyone else who might have gotten a maple tree delivered to them? If so, please let me know at: judym27@aol.com. Thank you.

Maple Trees Making Comeback In Walworth

WALWORTH — Once, hundreds of mighty Maples lined the roadways of this area, all grown around the 1870s in the nursery of T. G. Yeomans, early Walworth civic leader.

At this start of this bicentennial year, a century later, a dozen of these syrup producing shade trees remain. They line a flatland area on the south side of Walworth-Marion Road, less than a mile east and downhill of the hamlet's Four Corners. They front the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Huntley. Besides being much involved this year with bicentennial events as Chamber of Commerce president, Mr. Huntley is an ancestor of Yeomans.

Now the Maples are making a return. Drenching rains couldn't keep Walworth Lions Club members from planting new Maples throughout the community as their bicentennial project. They expect by next week to have 50 young trees planted in parks, by the Chamber headquarters, fronting the Professional Building and on lawns of area homes.

Wearing many hats and scoring several firsts, Yeomans was town clerk, postmaster, Walworth justice and town supervisor. For two years he served in the State Assembly. Wayne County sent him as a delegate to the Republican presidential nominating convention in 1884.

In the 1870s, Yeomans, who had vast orchards and a nursery business, traveled to Europe where he selected Maple rootings and 38 Holstein cattle for his Walworth acreage. His was the first Holstein herd in Wayne County.

As his trees prospered, he sponsored a civic improvement project. Residents were offered



ALL THAT REMAINS now from hundreds of Maples planted in Walworth in the 1870s from Yeomans nursery stock are these trees along Walworth-Marion Road just east of Walworth hamlet. The rest have been cut down. (Courier-Journal photo)

trees, Yeomans Maples, and a \$25 prize was posted for the person who planted the most trees within a half-mile of the hamlet, or on public property.

Time and roadways took a toll of the original Maples but now, a hundred years later, they're being replaced.



From the Archives By Chris Bray

The first meeting of the Walworth Historical Society was held in 1975.

On Monday, September 25, 1977 at 7:30 PM at the Freewill School, Mr. Gary Walrath, curator of the Wayne County Museum will bring items and artifacts from the museum to talk about.

Editor's note: A few years later in 1989, the Walworth Historical Society would have its own museum, shown here with construction in progress.

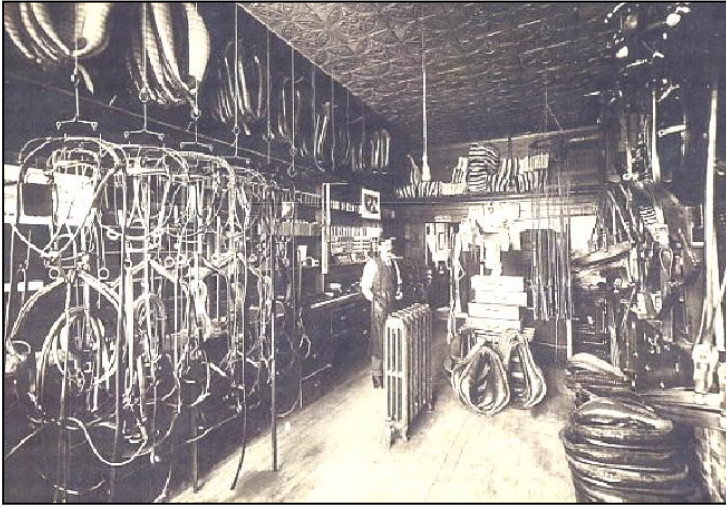


Early Walworth Businesses: Harness Makers By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: Mrs. Elton (Anna) May had a love of history, resulting in scrapbooks and notebooks filled with information about our area. After Anna's death, Gordon Youngman became the keeper of her collection and subsequently donated them to the Walworth Historical Society. Below are excerpts from Anna's notes of 1958; updates have been added in italics.

1876: Charles Deys and James Whitleton were two of the first harness makers in Walworth.

1882: Henry Charles Bean had a harness shop over Fred Robie's store – one of two stores located on the southeast corner of Main Street and Walworth-Marion Road. After the 1910 fire which leveled the two stores, Henry set up a shop in a building on Rochester Street in the former Charles Pembroke home (*now 2209 Walworth-Penfield Road*). In the east end of the building, he had the harness shop and in the west end he had a hardware store. He also was a dealer in fertilizer and buggies. At the firemen's carnival in 1927 Henry died from a heart attack.



Early harness shops in Walworth looked similar to the one shown left above. A sample of harnesses on the right above.

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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Signage: Grid House Numbering System/Road and Traffic</u>
6/20/1974	Houses will be numbered according to grid system proposed by Wayne County Planning Board.
5/1/1975	Assessor John Aman is given permission to purchase black plastic numerals and send them to residents by July 1. This would guarantee uniform numbers throughout the town.
12/4/1975	Walworth was the first town in Wayne County to adopt new numbering system.
12/4/1975	Assessor John Aman will first warn people they must get their numbers installed. Then the Post Office can refuse to deliver mail if the numbers still aren't installed.
2/3/1994	Authorized Patrick McManus to construct and install house number intersection signs for Lincoln Fire District at cost not to exceed \$100. (An Eagle Scout project).
5/24/1956	Town Board requested Wayne County Superintendent of Highways and New York State Traffic Commissioner for permission to erect traffic signs at the entrances to the hamlet of Walworth, designating a speed limit of 30 miles per hour.
7/19/1990	Highway Superintendent Dan Keyes suggested slogan for sign "Welcome to Walworth, the Gateway to Wayne County."
8/16/1990	Town Board approved purchase of 12-13 signs at approximate cost of \$50 per sign.

Transportation Memories from Robert W. Wignall

Editor's Note: Source – undated information written prior to 1981 and found in museum files. Robert W. and Bertha Wignall lived at 2129 Walworth-Penfield Road.

Prior to the invention and development of the automobile, transportation for the inhabitants of Walworth and its environs was quite a problem. Our location was ideal as a quiet country village on a hill surrounded by some of nature's most beautiful scenic drumlins, valleys, woodlands, and farms. But getting away from the area, whether for business or pleasure, was a problem.

Railroads were the first method of travel, but they were at some distance - either in Ontario or Percyville (Walworth-Palmyra Road (below left) where the station was a grocery store and a coal and lumber yard.) The station was used by dairymen from miles around who brought their milk early each morning for transport. This was also the method of getting to the city for folks wanting to spend an hour there.

Those who did not have their own horse-drawn transportation could get the stage (right below) out of Walworth and return in the afternoon by the same method. The horse-drawn stage also provided the merchants in Walworth with a method of getting their supplies from the station.

Electric trolleys were the next method of travel available to country folks. The Rochester-Sodus Bay Line was established about the turn of the century. It followed the Ridge Road to Sodus village and then onto Sodus Point. It crossed the highway 21 times from Sodus to Sodus Bay.

A few years later the Interurban line was built from Rochester to Syracuse, stopping at most of the villages between. Users from our area would board the car on Route 31 at either Palmyra village or Yellow Mills. There were stables available at both places where horses could be left for the day.



Percyville Station



Horse-drawn stage similar to the ones actually used



In Memoriam: Lyle Bassage By Dorothy French

Walworth native Lyle Bassage passed away on December 3, 2025. Lyle was a teacher at State Road Elementary School in Webster for 35 of his 36 years in education. His local roots include membership at Walworth United Methodist Church where he shared his love of music.

He is survived by his wife Jean, daughters Dawn (Duane) Kittleson and Denise (Scott) Bickers and 3 grandchildren. Lyle was a life-time member of the Walworth Historical Society, as was his mother, Hazel (Howard) Bassage.

It's That Time of Year Again When Dues Are Due

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, or memorials. As a result, we can present programs of historical interest, maintain and enlarge our collections, and preserve the history of our town.

If you have already responded, we thank you. If you haven't, this is a gentle reminder that our calendar year is May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026 and dues are due very soon. Membership levels are noted below:



Individual: \$20	Family Household: \$25	Senior Single (65+): \$15	Senior Couple (65+): \$20
Student: \$5	Supporter: \$50	Patron: \$100	Life: \$250
Life Senior (65+): \$150	Life Senior Couple (65+): \$200		
Business Volunteer: \$100	Business Curator: \$250	Business Historian: \$500	

Make your check payable to Walworth Historical Society and mail to: Walworth Historical Society, 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568.

So Many Ways to Volunteer!

By Chris Bray, WHS Secretary

Our fiscal year is ending and a new year begins!

Election of Officers: That means we need to elect new officers and trustees. President, Vice President, Secretary, two Trustee positions need to be filled.

President: It is NOT necessary that you live in Walworth if you hold the position of President and your commitment is only one year. You need to commit to holding monthly meetings, keeping track of motions made and voted on, and ensuring we are in order.

Liaison to HomeTown Heroes: Agrees to also attend all their meetings and report what goes on to the rest of us.

Trustees: Commit to a three-year term.

Much of our decisions/discussions take place via email, which helps speed up our monthly meetings as we simply report outcomes. If you would be willing to hold a position, please immediately contact Gene Bavis or Linda Pembroke. We really are desperate for helpers.

Membership: If you are not a lifetime member, please renew your annual membership NOW. Keep in mind - being a life member means you don't have to worry about this yearly chore. Our fiscal year is May 1 - April 30, so annual dues should be paid by the end of April 2026 for the coming year. If you are terminated for non-payment but decide to re-join January 2027, those dues are only good until April 30, 2027. Please don't make life difficult for our treasurer.

Worker Bees Needed: Lastly, we are in dire need of volunteer helpers. There are so many things that need to be done, and so few people with the time and ability to help. Younger folks have jobs and children. Retirees like to travel. We understand. I have committed to being at the museum every Wednesday for 3-6 hours, so anyone who needs to work on something there can have access. I would love to have your company. We have faces in pictures that need names; photos need to be placed in albums; postcards need to go into albums. New donations need to be documented. Displays need to be rotated. Our files need some attention.

We could use people who are computer literate and knowledgeable with all this modern equipment. The list goes on and on. If you have a few hours to donate, we can use you. I am retired, so can adjust my schedule to meet others. Contact me anytime via phone or email!



April 20 Program: Town of Ontario History By Gene Bavis

On Monday, April 20 at 7 PM the Walworth Historical Society will host former Ontario Town Historian Liz Albright (left) as she presents a history of the Town of Ontario. The meeting will be held in the Lodge at Ginegaw Park off Walworth-Penfield Road in Walworth. It is FREE and open to anyone who is interested in attending.

As you may recall, the Town of Walworth was originally part of the Town of Ontario until we became a separate town on April 5, 1830. Liz served as Town Historian for about 20 years and has vast knowledge about Ontario history. Please bring a friend and join us for what promises to be an interesting evening. As usual, we'll have some light refreshments.



Ontario Elementary School



Former Ontario Manufacturers Hanover Bank

Soup and Friends By Gene Bavis

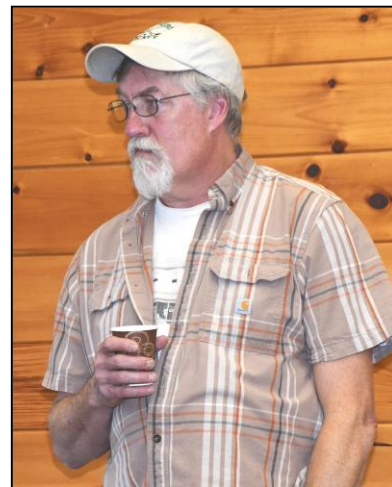
On November 17, 2025 members and friends of the Walworth Historical Society gathered in the Lodge at Ginegaw Park to enjoy a variety of homemade soups (below left).

Following lunch, our guest speaker, Dave Bruinix (below right) presented a very interesting program about the "Friends" (AKA Quakers or "Society of Friends") associated with the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse and how they played a significant role in social reforms. This included abolition and the underground railroad, women's rights and Native American rights. He also shared the fascinating story of how the 1816 Meetinghouse was brought back from the brink of disaster after years of neglect. Within the next few months, it should be open for the public to see.

The work of the historians at the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse is amazing and very interesting and I urge you to check out their website: <https://farmingtonmeetinghouse.org/>



WHS website: walworthhistoricalsociety.org



Message From the Vice-President By Bob Mogray

Well, here we go again! It's a new year and as you can see on page 8 we have some events planned for 2026! The one main item that is very important to us is to get **a few more volunteers to help with our projects**. If you are interested, please contact me at: robert.mogray@gmail.com. We need more people to help at the museum and with the future events. Thank you.

Hopefully we will soon get some better weather. As we start another year, I would like to thank those who have contributed time and effort submitting articles for this newsletter. Anyone can contribute a story about any aspect of life here in the Walworth area by contacting an officer or trustee listed on page 8. This is a great way to share your Walworth experiences with everyone. We also encourage you to share any old photos of Walworth places and events. We would copy them for our records and return them in a timely manner. Below are examples of photos that have been shared with us in the past. [Have an excellent spring. The next newsletter is scheduled for early May.](#)



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 at our annual business meeting. This year the award will be presented on Monday evening, May 18 at 6:00 pm at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park. Each year we ask for nominations of a person or group from Walworth deserving of this award. If you know of an individual(s) who has stood out in the Walworth area with a reputation of volunteering and serving within our community, 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. We welcome your help and suggestions.

Wreaths Across America By Gene Bavis

For the past four years Walworth has been one of the American Towns that has participated in the national Wreaths Across America program, thanks to the leadership of Guy Bringley.

The mission of the program is: Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom. Our volunteers are the beating heart of the program and work year-round to share this important mission and inspire others to join. (The mission statement is from the Wreaths Across America website:

<https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/>)



We urge you to support our local efforts by purchasing a wreath (or more) for the next ceremony which will be held on 12/19/26. Click on the link to donate to the WALWORTH campaign

https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/social/NYWVCW-WalworthVillageCemetery?Sid=163759&fbclid=IwY2xjawFXtGlleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHdx_ZFIJ0Xtn6v123JxK9Y-4q0axnYNagrXOacY_ztllNd5ngRI3F3cTdQ_aem_4kYnA6-2pY1UEs_OMhjQiA

Photo: Left to right - Members of Walworth Fire Department color guard: John O'Toole, Liz O'Toole, Mary Pat Maciuska, Frank Maciuska, Patrick Schmidt.

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.lsnnyder@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

2026 WHS Calendar of Events

Mar. 9	6:30 PM	WHS Board Workshop
Mar. 16	7:00 PM	"Dairy Farming in Walworth" WHS Museum – Bob Mogray
Apr. 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	F-I-P Parade & Festival
July 25		Festival in the Park
Aug. 10	6:30 PM	WHS Board Meeting
Sept. 14	6:30 PM	WHS Board Workshop

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 Marker Research.
Markers supplied by the Pomeroy Foundation.

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. 14	6:30 PM	WHS Board Meeting
Dec. 19	Noon	Wreaths Across America Sherburne Road Cemetery

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

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