

Walworth Historical Society

**May 2026
Newsletter**

Volume 50 / Number 5



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

Annual Dinner Meeting Monday, May 18

By Gene Bavis

Beginning at **6 PM at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park**, the WHS will hold its annual meeting. We ask that you plan to arrive by 5:45 PM and bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

WHS will supply HAM, BEVERAGES & ROLLS.



Following dinner (sometime between 6:45 and 7 PM, our annual meeting will be called to order. We will need to elect President, Vice President, Secretary and two Trustees. The meeting typically lasts only a few minutes. Only members may vote.

Next the Community Service Award will be presented, recognizing someone for volunteer service ABOVE and BEYOND the call of duty. This year's recipient is **Patti Marini**.

The final aspect of the evening will be a brief program entitled: "1976 – FIFTY YEARS AGO!" presented by VP Bob Mogray. If you are of a certain age, this program will bring back memories. The meeting is FREE and open to anyone who wishes to attend. So, bring a friend and we hope to see you there. The WHS really appreciates your support!

Tidbits

By Gene Bavis

A gravestone cleaning, training and workshop session will be held at West Walworth Cemetery on Saturday, May 23, 2026 at 9 AM. Please contact the Walworth Town Historian or the Walworth Town Clerk for more information.

On April 5, 2026 Walworth was 196 years old. It's only 4 more years before we celebrate our Bicentennial.

The WHS is still looking for pictures and information related to Dairy Farming in Walworth. If you have anything to share, please contact Walworth Town Historian Gene Bavis (genebavis71@gmail.com or 315-573-2768).

The Towns of Marion, Butler, Huron and Rose are celebrating their Bicentennials in 2026.

Don't forget this, our National Semiquincentennial (250th Birthday). There are a lot of celebrations going on around the area.

The Landmark Society of Western New York has designated the Pierson Cobblestone House at 240 West Pearl Street, Newark as one of their "Five to Revive" historic structures. This is a direct result of John Zornow of Newark and Cynthia Howk of the Landmark Society attending Gene's cobblestone presentation on December 15, 2024 at the WHS.

Walworth Township – Early Businesses

By Dorothy French

Mrs. Elton (Anna) May had a love of history, resulting in scrapbooks and notebooks filled with information about our area. After her death, Gordon Youngman became the keeper of this data and subsequently donated them to the Walworth Historical Society. Below are excerpts from Anna's notes:



Elton and Anna May

Arriving here in 1800 from Connecticut were brothers **Stephen and Daniel Douglass** – hence Walworth's early name as Douglas Corners. Their first business enterprise was a tavern built in 1805, which supplied lodging and food to strangers who came here. In 1810 the old tavern was torn down and replaced by a much larger hotel. Stephen died in 1812 from accidental drowning; Daniel continued to run the hotel until 1826. Daniel was also a surveyor and assisted in laying out and building the road from Walworth to Ontario.

Thomas Kempshall moved here from Rochester in 1815 and built the first store where he sold general merchandise. It was located on the northeast corner in the village.

Elijah Yeomans operated a store in 1830; his brother, **Theron**, came here from Green County to help him in 1830. The two brothers continued this business for ten years. In 1840 they started an extensive nursery business at 2119 Penfield-Walworth Road.

Charles Deys and **James Whittleton** were two of the first harness makers in 1876. About 1882 **Charles Bean** set up shop in a building on Rochester Street (later 2209 Penfield-Walworth Road and the home of Charles and Bertha Pembroke). In the east side of the partial cobblestone building, he operated the harness shop and in the west end he had a hardware store. He also was a dealer in fertilizer and buggies.

In 1867 there were several carriage makers in Walworth, including **Horace G. Mason, Philip Smith, and Samuel Mack**, who was located on Rochester Street in a shed by his house.

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. Current dues can be paid at this time. 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.

Restoration of Town Historical Photos

By Bob Mogray

The Walworth Historical Society is always looking to borrow photographs or slides of historical importance. In the past, we have taken old photos of local events, buildings, homes, farms and other historically significant pictures to scan into our database at the museum. We are very grateful for these pictures, even if they are not of the best quality.

There are programs that we can use in many cases to greatly improve the quality of these photos. We will scan these old historical photos, improve them if we can, and return them to you with an improved print for your collection. Please contact me at 585-576-4156 if you have any local historical photos that we can borrow for our files. Thank you for your consideration. Below is an example of how some of these older photos can be improved.



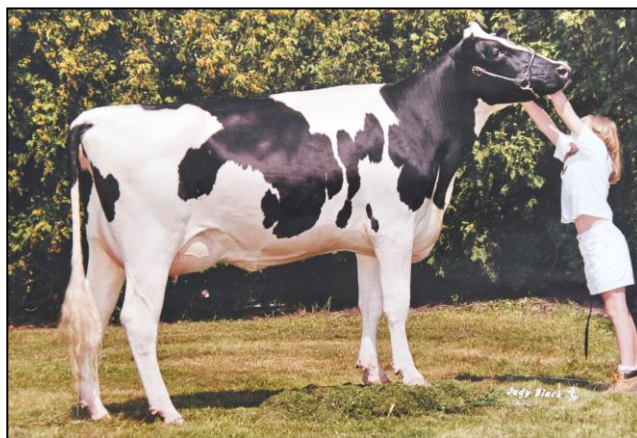
March 16 Dairy Farming Meeting/Show

By Bob Mogray

On March 16 of this year the Walworth Historical Society held a meeting at our museum on Academy Street that began with a slide show with the theme of information and photos of the local dairy farms and related stuff. This was very well attended by representatives from several of the local farms such as the Amsler farm, the Darron farm, and the Jacobs farm as well as others.

After the slide show there was an excellent discussion with the attendees about the history and operation of their farms. Much interesting information was shared and several photos were brought that we were able to borrow and scan for our records on the museum computer.

We wish to thank everyone who attended this meeting. It was a huge success. This type of support really encourages us to continue our efforts to present and record our local history. Thanks to all the attendees. Please stay tuned for more such meetings in the future.



Buzz Appleman: Milk Inspector By Bob Mogray

Ray "Buzz" Appleman has been a member of the Walworth Historical Society and the Walworth Fire Department, as well as volunteering in many other local projects and organizations. However, there are not many people, including myself, who knew that he was at one time a milk inspector. At a WHS meeting/show about the local dairy industry, it was mentioned that Buzz was many years ago a milk inspector. This was when the dairy industry was a huge and important business here and in many other areas of New York State.

Buzz has always lived in this area - first the Walworth-Marion Road, later the Walworth-Palmyra Road, and now the Walworth-Ontario Road. Buzz was about 22 years old in 1970 when he worked for the Dairy Lea Cooperative as a milk and farm inspector. He was responsible for touring his designated area farms to inspect them for the many aspects of the milk production business to ensure a quality product. He was responsible for about 50 dairy farms. Equipment had to pass strict inspections that included milking machines, hoses and related items, and storage areas. Water supplies had to be checked as well. It is interesting that Buzz even had to take classes to learn how to taste the milk to detect certain problems.



Buzz Appleman

The milk haulers would take samples of the milk from the various farms and send them to Dairy Lea in Rochester. Buzz took these milk samples to a facility in Batavia, New York for quality analysis. Reports were then given to him as to quality measurements that included the bacteria count. If the samples had a bacteria count that was too high, Buzz was responsible for getting back to the local farmers to see what steps had to be taken to correct these problems. Sometimes a Health Inspector would ride along with Buzz as he covered his dairy farm inspection route. This inspector had the authority to shut down milk production if there were serious violations.

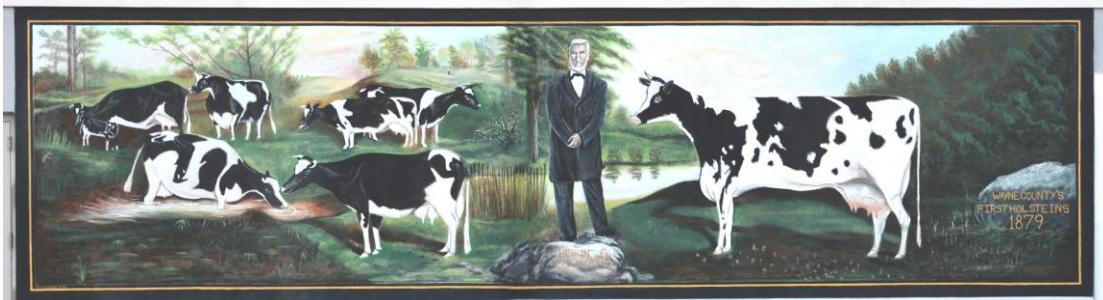
Buzz said that he learned a lot about dairy farming as well as all aspects of milk production that the average person would probably know nothing about. His main disadvantage was that he was so young compared to the older farmers, but they realized that he was serious about his responsibilities and how important it was to meet all regulations to keep their farms in working order.

Many thanks to Buzz and Becky Appleman for providing this information and for granting this interview.

A Booklet About Holstein Cows and Dairy Farming By Bob Mogray

The Walworth Historical Society is working to design and publish a booklet about the history of Holstein cows, the local dairy farming history and related topics. A couple of years ago we designed and published a booklet about the Walworth Historical Society and related subjects. Well, we are at it again. This time we will focus on the dairy industry in the Walworth area!

We have had several meetings to gather information on this subject. On March 16 there was a slide show and discussion at our museum about Holstein cows, the dairy industry, and local farms. This meeting helped to provide information that will be used in this new publication. Hopefully this booklet will be available later this summer. More information will follow as we get closer to finishing this project.



My Journey to Walworth

By Jessie Keymel



Jessie Keymel

My journey to Walworth on January 1, 1954 started at the railroad station in Oban, Scotland, 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 another train ride to Rochester, New York 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). Then north to Penfield-Walworth Road. A right turn took us to the first driveway - 206 Penfield-Walworth Road, a chicken farm.

Our ride from Rochester passed 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 "Scotty" worked as a plumber and electrician for Charlie Pembroke. He wrote a memo in his day book: "The sun is shining, the roads are clear and the snow is still here." Where we came from snow arrived 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. She also could see a couple of chicken houses and a small outhouse for summer use when the well went dry - certainly different than being in a new housing development and surrounded by old friends and family.

My brother and sister attended elementary school in Walworth. I waited on the corner of Route 350 to catch the bus to the new Wayne Central High School. I found out afterwards that the bus route was 27 miles long, transporting students from Walworth to middle and high school in Ontario Center. 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 to town and north from Sherburne Road to Ontario Center. And then there is Gananda. Many farms and orchards have disappeared and now Byrne Dairy and Gas Station light up the quiet crossroad.



In Memoriam: Malora Ebert Hill

By Dorothy French

Affectionally known as Molly, Malora Ebert Hill passed away February 4, 2026 at the age of 94. Molly and her husband Larry were well known in the Lincoln area. She graduated from Walworth High School where she enjoyed cheerleading. For many years Molly was a child care provider.

She and Larry were married for 72 years and lived on Albright Road in a home Larry built in 1958. Larry was a well-known band leader in the 50's to the 90's. "Larry and the Music Makers" played for square dances and at many area locations. After Larry's death in June 2021 Molly donated his piano accordion to the museum in 2022. She is survived by their son, Kevin, and numerous other relatives.



Our April 20 Program By Gene Bavis

On April 20, former Ontario Town Historian Liz Albright (left) presented a history about the Town of Ontario to around 25 members and guests at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park.

The Town of Freetown was established when a law in the NYS Legislature was passed on March 27, 1807 dividing it from the Town of Williamson. BUT, according to the wording in the document, it was not to take effect until April 1, 1808. In the meantime, on February 12, 1808, another law was passed changing the name from "Freetown" to "Ontario." On April 20, 1829 (197 years ago), another law was passed by the legislature dividing the southern part of the town and creating a new town by the name of Walworth to take effect on the "first Monday of April next." That date would be April 5, 1830.

Liz's presentation included many historic photos as she highlighted the early settlers, the War of 1812, transportation, agriculture, industry, education and more. Thank you Liz for an excellent show!

President's Message By Amber Linson

In terms of membership and budget, another year is almost done at the Walworth Historical Society. Our fiscal year runs from May to April. That means we need a new budget and need our members to renew their memberships. It also means that our annual meeting is coming up on May 18. These meetings are both a celebration of the past and a glimpse into the future as we elect new board members and officers, present our community service award and enjoy a program put together by Bob Mogray to top off the wonderful potluck dinner.

This year, I am not seeking to continue in the roll of president but am instead stepping aside for someone else to take the wheel. We have a few exciting items in the works, and I am hopeful that the next president will bring them all together. It has been a fun and overwhelmingly educational endeavor, and I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to get to know Walworth and its roots over the last few years.

If nothing else, the importance of a historical society and the preservation of history has been solidified for me. Those original members who gathered to form the historical society in the 1970s had the right idea. Stories, actions, day-to-day life are unique for each person, family, home, village, town, county, etc. If not kept safe, these stories and events will be forgotten and lost to time. But they are a part of our identity and a source of our pride whether we know them from our childhood, or we came to know them as adults. We are often being catapulted into the future by modern technology. However, when we take a moment to slow down and remember the past, we remember to be a part of our communities, to reach out to friends and family, to stop and smell the flowers, and to be proud of all our achievements.

Our historical society continues to find ways to celebrate our past and we are always open to welcoming visitors, volunteers, and members. We know the memories and stories we hold are too important to keep to ourselves, and over the years we have found and welcomed volunteers who feel the same way and eventually become board members and officers. Please keep your interest in what we do and the unique story of Walworth. You are always welcome to join us at our meetings and programs as we love to both share and listen. Consider donating family items rather than discarding them, and help spread the word about your historical society. You never know where our next volunteer, board member, or officer will come from.

***Editor's note:** We would like to thank Amber for her time and efforts as WHS President. She has done a great job in addition to her personal busy schedule with her family at home, school classes, and her service to Walworth as Deputy Supervisor. She has done much to organize the museum, design several booklets, be a major contributor to the Wayne County Bicentennial celebration, and begin a revamping of our inventory system. Thanks again, Amber.*

In Memoriam: Joyce Hyman Smith By Dorothy French

Joyce Hyman Smith passed away January 20, 2026 at age 91. A graduate of Walworth High School in 1953, Joyce later moved to Cooperstown but returned to Walworth upon her retirement in 2004. She enjoyed working at our museum, using her extensive research capabilities. Joyce requested no funeral or memorial services but donations could be made to either the Baptist or Methodist Churches in Walworth.

Grocery shopping sure has changed during my lifetime. Back in the 1980's we would take out-of-state relatives to see the huge Wegmans store in Webster. I fondly recall my grandmother (Genevieve Wing) bragging that she had shopped at the ORIGINAL Wegmans Grocery. She referred to when Mr. Wegman drove door-to-door in Rochester with horse and buggy!

As a child, I watched my mother scour the grocery ads that came in the Sunday newspaper. There was one for every local store and she at least glanced through them all. In the end, her shopping would be done at two stores - whoever had the best prices on what she needed that week. Of course we kept a list of what we were getting short on or something one of us was craving. However, Mom was in charge of coming up with a meal plan for the week, based on what we had in stock and what she could glean on sale. For example, her shopping list would include roast beef, fresh carrots and coffee from the A&P in the village of Webster. Then at the Super Duper in Ontario (left below) she'd buy ground beef, Campbell's tomato soup, Palmolive dish soap, deodorant and toothpaste.

Naturally, she noted what the sale prices were and clipped any necessary store coupons. Then, she dug through an on-going envelope of manufacturer's coupons to pull out what she would use that week. It was a real chore! There were a lot of details on the coupons that were adhered to and we were constantly weeding out any coupons that would soon expire.



Stay with me now - there was NO shopping online and generally things were paid by cash. We did, however, have delivery service. The milk man came with a regular order from the dairy each week. Mom could also occasionally grab something extra then. Everyone had a milk box located near the main house entrance. It was maybe a foot square, usually metal inside and out, with insulation between layers. That's where our milk was left for us. The milk bottles were glass with paper lids and needed to be taken inside quickly if the weather was hot. The delivery truck had huge blocks of ice to keep things cold. In the summer the driver rewarded us by knocking off a chunk of ice for us to suck on! It was like heaven.

Also, the bread man came. We usually got specialty items like rye or pumpernickel breads, but they had doughnuts, cookies, etc. as well. The Fuller Brush Man came on Mondays with all sorts of brushes for hygiene and housecleaning uses. I'm sure he also carried various liquid supplies too but they never impressed me. There was also a monthly guy who brought hygiene, medicinal and cooking products. Darned if I can recall the name of that company now - Watson maybe? Anyhow, he had all sorts of spices and cures for what ailed us.

We had our neighborhood Avon lady. A few women gathered at someone's house for coffee, tea and a snack while the Avon distributor showed what was new. That was a real social event with free samples and a chance to smell all the new fragrances. Remember too that there were the meat markets, bakeries, dairies, drug stores, gift shops and farm markets for shopping. We went to the shoe store for shoes and the dress shop for fancy clothes. Now-a-days we can get most everything in one store, but that just wasn't the case when I was little. Sometimes that's a good thing and other times not. For example, often I grumble about not being able to find an employee for help at the store. Or worse, I found one but they don't know anything about the products! At the specialty stores the workers knew everything they needed to know about items they stocked.

Need a new pair of shoes for church? They would measure your feet and let you (and mom) pick a style. Then they brought you what you wanted in the proper size and helped get it on for you to model. Recently, I went to a current-day shoe store - up and down four aisles looking at what they had. When I found something of interest, I dug below the shelf for the right box in my size. Then I headed halfway across the store to a seat where I could try them on. No help. I bought three totally different shoes - going back and forth repeatedly all the while juggling purse and boxes. There were no available carts!

To be continued.....

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.lsnryder@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

May 11	6:30 PM	WHS Board Workshop
May 18	6:00 PM	WHS Annual Meeting Ginegaw Park Lodge
May 23	9:00 AM	Gravestone Cleaning West Walworth Cemetery
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
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:**

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

**Walworth Wine and Spirits
Crossroads Automotive
John M. Bodak Snowplows
Eastern Shore Insurance Agency**

Thank you to:

Reliant Federal Credit Union: newsletter printing
The Walworth Lions Club for the use of their tent
**Thank you to our business sponsors and to the
members who pay dues at a higher level.**

