

# WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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A summer night at the Walworth Museum

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## President's Message

By Jessie Keymel

Well, summer has started and we have had the museum open for several Sundays and Wednesdays already. I would like to thank those who have already spent time at the museum and those who will be sitting there in the future. Sitters during June were Judy and Larry McMillan; Dorothy French, Jane Cala, and Gail Houghtaling; Joyce Finney; and Ed and Donna Stalker.

We are closed on holiday weekends, including July 1 and September 2. If you have family visiting on these days or at any other time and would like to visit the museum there is always someone willing to host visitors. Sundays in July you will find Joyce Finney and Marlene Slocum, Joyce Smith, Mike and Susie Jacobs, and Gordon Youngman at the museum. The schedule for August and September includes: August 5, Nancy Bel; August 12, Mike and Diane McEwen; and August 26, Mary Jane Devlin. On September 9 John Havranek will be sitting at the museum; this will be his first time - would you like to join him?

This leaves four open dates: August 19, September 16, 24, and 30. Call me at 315-524-9205 if you can sit at the museum one of these dates. Sunday afternoon in the museum means you can browse, visit and get to know about our town. This would be an opportunity to invite your friends to join you and learn what a wonderful history resource our museum is. Hours are from 2:00 till 4:00 pm, a nice relaxing way to spend an afternoon.

Wednesday afternoons we are also open for visitors. These days are covered by Kay Scott, our curator; this is when she gets a lot of her work done. This year so far she has had other members working with her. Mary Jane Devlin, Joyce VanHanehem and Mary Earlandt have spent time on Wednesdays working on different projects. If you would like to help I am sure Kay would welcome you. Call her at 315-524-9528.

Sunday and Wednesday are the days published as open to the public. Often if you go past the museum you will see cars there at other times. Stop in, you will be welcome.

## Going, Going, Gone.....



Do you remember the commemorative plates offered by the Walworth Historical Society in the mid 1970's? They were called "School Day Memories" and featured the two schools on Academy Street along with the dates 1842 – 1929.

Three of these plates were discovered during a recent inventory at the museum. Surely they now are a collector's item! The plates are \$25 each and available by calling Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205.

## WHS Website Update

Work is continuing on setting up the website for the Walworth Historical Society. We are nearing the end of the item preparation phase and will soon be submitting these items to Heather Keenan who will be actually posting this site for us. Within two months we want to have all of the information and design items finalized and submitted for installation. As soon as things are finalized, we will make the announcement and include instructions for use etc.

## Lorraine Finley Honored with Award



**WHS president Jessie Keymel (left), presents Lorraine Finley (right) with Community Service Award**

Former resident Lorraine Finley was presented the Community Service Award at the May 21 annual meeting of the Walworth Historical Society in recognition of her volunteer work during the 1960's and 1970's in Walworth and Wayne County. In presenting the plaque to Lorraine, President Jessie Keymel noted the key role the honoree played in the establishment of the Walworth Reading Room and the Walworth-Seely Public Library. May 21 was officially declared Lorraine Finley Day in Walworth by the Walworth Town Board, according to a proclamation read by Suzi Hawkins-Mance, Walworth Town Board Councilman.

Mary Zingerella, WSPL Library Director, reminisced about Lorraine's visit to the library earlier in the day and her amazement at the growth of the library since receiving its charter in 1962. Mary noted Lorraine was the first president of the Wayne County Library System, predecessor of Pioneer Library System, and read a congratulatory letter from PLS Director Jennifer Morris.

A thank you letter from the WSPL Library Board was read by Board President Ellen Dietterick. Town Historian Gene Bavis reminisced about Lorraine's tenure on the Wayne Central School Board and noted the rapid growth period experienced by the school system during that time.

Lyle Bassage spoke of Lorraine and her husband Joe's high regard for education, referring to the scholarship fund they established in 1992 for Walworth students. As of June 2007, 52 scholarships have been awarded and approximately 240 students have applied (see story on page 6).

Family friend Richard Roland shared a scrapbook of memories of Lorraine and her late husband, Joe. Richard proudly introduced his granddaughter, Kaitlyn Scott, who modeled the gown Lorraine wore when she and Joe attended the 1962 inauguration ball for Governor Nelson Rockefeller. Other remembrances were offered by Mary Jane Devlin and Leighton Bel. **More photos of Lorraine are available on page 8 of this newsletter.**

Officers and trustees were elected at the annual meeting; the story appears in the next article.

## Officers and Trustees Elected at Annual Meeting by Judy McMillan, WHS Secretary

The annual meeting of the Walworth Historical Society was held on Monday evening, May 21, at the Walworth Town Hall. It was a wonderful dinner meeting with a great variety of foods. John Traas offered the blessing, and 54 members and guests enjoyed the delicious smorgasbord meal. A brief business meeting was held after the dinner. The following slate of officers and trustees was approved for the new year:

**President** - Jessie Keymel      **Vice-President** - Robert Mogray      **Secretary** - Judith McMillan

**Treasurer** - Mary Jane Devlin      **Trustee** - Roger Keymel (succeeds Marcia Englert)

**Trustee** - Becky Appleman

This year our honored guest was Mrs. Lorraine Finley, who was presented with the WHS Community Service Award. (See story on page 2 of this newsletter.)

**Tidbits from the Scrapbook of Anna May** By Joyce Finney

March 1941.....100 students at Walworth High School protest the resignation of their band instructor, Mrs. Theron Forbes. They marched through the school corridors and the streets carrying signs. School was closed for two days as students protested. The reason for the protest was an unsettled dispute over whether she should receive \$50 additional yearly salary. She only received a \$25 a year increase and all other eligible teachers received a \$75 raise.

July 1945.....New York City.....13 killed, 20 hurt when an Army B-29 crashes into the Empire State Building hitting the 79th floor during heavy fog. Police said death toll might exceed 15. Scores of people were injured.

April 19, 1947... Edward Lonneville and Geraldine Reynolds were married at the Walworth Methodist Church. Also on the same day Clarence Seavert and Janet Kaper were married.

August 1947....Old Home Day was celebrated by Baptist congregation in Walworth. There was a parade with floats, decorated bicycles and doll carriages. Also a concert by the Walworth band and music by Charles Pembroke and His Hillbillies. A pageant was presented depicting history of the church.

June 1961.....The main business section of Walworth was threatened with serious fire loss as firemen battled a roof blaze in the Walworth Grange Hall building that also housed the Post Office and a feed and grain store, barber shop and apartment. Estimated damage was about \$2,000.

**Festival-in-the-Park Activities**

My how time flies! Here we are at Festival-in-the-Park time again. July 19, 20 and 21 are the dates of this year's Festival at Ginegaw Park. The theme this year is "Walworth and the Civil War"; this should be a good topic for us to build a float around. Times were hard at home. When the able-bodied men were gone to fight for the cause, women, children and elderly citizens were left to carry on at home. If you would like to help build a float telling this story call Jessie and Roger at 524-9205. We will be bringing all our ideas together, on a hay wagon, during the week of July 16, ready for the parade Friday, July 20.

The Historical Society will again share a booth with the Friends of the Walworth-Seely Public Library. We will be setting up on Friday afternoon so that we can be open before and during parade time Friday evening.

Gene Bavis has volunteered to do a "Whats' It" table; he and Liz Place will be manning the booth Friday evening. Saturday booth sitters are: 12:00-2:00 Donna Stalker and Susie Jacobs, 2:00-4:00 Nancy Bel and Joyce VanHaneghem, 4:00-6:00 Mike and Diane McEwen and Joyce Finney, and 6:00 until take down Judy and Larry McMillan with Roger and Jessie Keymel. If you are not on the schedule and are at Ginegaw Park, please consider stopping in to give the sitters a break.

This is a good opportunity for us to bring the Walworth Historical Society and our mission to the public. We hope you all enjoy the festivities and the time spent visiting your neighbors. Thank you for your support at this time and throughout the year.

**Newsletters by E-mail**

In an effort to save money on postage and mailing supplies, the newsletter committee will be contacting many of the members to see if they would mind receiving their newsletters by e-mail instead of conventional mail. Since we are now publishing a newsletter every two months, the savings on these items would add up over the course of a year if a significant number of members could subscribe. So, if you wish to give this a try, please call Bob Mogray at 315-986-1124 ([rmogray@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rmogray@rochester.rr.com)) or Dorothy French at 315-986-1098 ([dfrench5@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dfrench5@rochester.rr.com)). If someone tries this and it doesn't work out, they can always change back to the conventional mailing system but we would appreciate it if you would at least give it a try. Thanks.

## **A Tribute to Irma: The History of Bills Road (Part 1 of 2)**

*Prior to her passing last year, Irma (Barmaster) Wyse and her friend Mary Jane Devlin enjoyed memorable times together. Their conversations frequently included memories of West Walworth and Bills Road, resulting in this list of former and current residents. Irma lived on Bills Road her entire life except for a short period of time.*

*Additional information was compiled with help from long-time residents Norman Druschel and Inez (Welker) Ickewood and many others. Our thanks to everyone who helped. If you have memories of Bills Road that you would like to add to this file, please contact anyone listed on the front of this newsletter.*

**Note:** In the early 1970's the numbering system was changed. The first number is the old number and the second number is the new address. If there is only one number, the house was built after the new numbering system started.

### **Starting at West Walworth Road – South Side**

- 7/684 Al and Betty Kunzer and children Jeff, Robert, Gay, Susan, Guy and Amy. Then John and Marilyn Wilson and children John and Marilyn.
- 11/676 Ida and George Druschel. Then Fay and Louise Druschel and children Norman and Marilyn. Now vacant but owned by Norman and Rita Druschel.
- 27/650 Gordon and Blanche Anthony and daughters Nancy and Karen. George died in approximately 1967. Blanche then married George Westerman. The house has recently been sold to James Speranza.
- 29/644 Mrs. Edna Jacobs, a piano teacher from Penfield, rented ½ house to various people including Mary Jane and Arnold Devlin and John and Joan Rodas. Mrs. Jacobs then sold property to Donald and Beverly Evankovich. David and Helen Devlin then purchased it and lived there with their children Martin and Suzanne. Now owned by Gerard Fly, Jr.
- 33/634 Owned by Fay and Louise Druschel. House was vacant for a number of years and since has been torn down and replaced with a new home which is owned by James and Tanya LaForty, grandson of Fay and Louise Druschel.
- 43/616 Owned by Rogers family before Johnny and Alvina Kent and their children. Now owned by Steven Philp.
- 45/612 Clarence and Elfleda Druschel (brother and sister); now owned by David Amish.
- 49/600 Glenn and Agatha Bills and children Charles, Marvin, Donald, Esther, Elizabeth, Harvey and Howard. Their daughter Elizabeth and her husband Gerald DeMoff then lived there with their children. Glenn was a school bus driver for Walworth High School. Now owned by Wendy Updyke. Bills Road was named for the Bills family.
- 590 Elizabeth Jones: no house, property only.
- 588 Kim Greenberg.
- 580 Keith Ludwig.
- 572 David Bradstreet.
- 71/564 Richard and Katherine Zingler.
- 554 Built as a handicap-accessible home for Charles Bills, who was injured in a swimming accident in 1957, son of Glenn and Agatha Bills. Now owned by Steven Schnepf.
- 83/544 Stanley and Sharon Burke; then Jennifer Smith.
- 87/534 Terill and Diane MacAuley; then Joseph Lynch.
- 91/526 Robert and Sharon Lemmey.
- 516 Terry Hadley.
- 506 Craig Sadvik.
- 107/494 Donald and Patricia Palermo; she passed away in 2004 or 2005. Now owned by James Knieser.
- 111/486 Frank and Rosemary Sgabellone.
- 115/478 Edward and Laureen Williams; now owned by Charlene Benner.
- 121/470 Robert and Barbara Dewey; now owned by Randy Watkins.
- 125/454 Fred Richberg; sold to Carroll and Joan Fulton and their daughter Gail. Now William Flick lives there.

- 424 Steven and Debbie Philp and sons Jason, Scott, and Steven.
- 420 Gordon and Betty Nenno.
- 139/412 Kenneth and Jean Marie Albert; now owned by David Staerr.
- 143/404 Michael and Bertha Drojak, Frank Lana.
- 147/396 Robert and Marie Foltz; then James Schmitt.
- 151/388 Frank and Greta Karpinski (both deceased); sold to Jo Ann Colburn.
- 155/380 Richard and Linda Maus.
- 159/372 Lawrence and Pearl LaRue; then Mark Bakuzonis.
- 203/300 Homer and Evelyn Gath and children Linda and Robert; now Christopher Ecker.
- 223/264 Frank and Bertha Anders and son Graydon. They sold to Charles Catalano and his wife, who sold to Jerry and Suzanne Briggs and their children Michael, Matt, and Marcie; now David Parods.
- 254 New home: Mark Pieroni.
- 244 William Walters.
- 230 Frank Svatek.
- 210 Dan Lettro.
- 261/200 Leo and Mary Lou Kennerson; then Linda Martin, Robert Jacobs; now Earl DeLong.
- 273/170 Lynn and Dorothy Amsler and children Debbie and Steven; now Robert Sure.

(to be continued)

### **Four Students Receive Finley Scholarships**

By Lyle Bassage

Joe and Lorraine Finley together made a wonderful team. They both loved Walworth and served their community unselfishly. The results of their numerous endeavors will surely benefit their hometown for years to come. They both valued education and thus created the Joseph and Lorraine Finley Scholarship Fund. It was created in 1992 for the purpose of helping Walworth residents who desired to pursue their education beyond high school. Working cooperatively with the Rochester Area Community Foundation, 52 awards have been made to this date. In recent years, four such awards have been made annually.

Jay Taber, Gordon Youngman, and Bernie Porray comprised the first scholarship committee. Gordon remains on the committee and shares the selection process with Kathy Emison and myself. Their discussions and approved process led to the selection of four high school seniors who will attend a school of higher learning this fall. Jacob Keymel, Jamie Boerman, Jenna Boerman, and Amy Sansone are the recipients for 2007 and will each receive \$1,250 to be used towards college expenses next year. We all wish them well in their future educational experiences.

Jacob will be attending Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua. Jamie and Jenna have both been accepted at four-year universities in the Buffalo area. St. John Fisher College will be Amy's new home when the fall semester begins. We must all be thankful to the Finleys and their generous support to students desiring an education. In reality, once the inquiring minds of students have been fulfilled we will all benefit. Both Joe and Lorraine possessed the wisdom to understand the importance of this fundamental concept.

### **Curator's Corner**

By Kay Scott

I am attempting to be at the museum every Wednesday from 2 – 4 PM. Back operations are not fun, especially when one cannot twist or bend for 6 months! Thanks to Joyce Van Haneghem, all the inventory of donated items is now in the computer and, of course, there is a hard copy stored at another location. This consists of 723 items.

Again, we are very grateful to all the people of the area who have given us items for display. Please remember to keep us in mind when cleaning out your homes. Our main collecting wants are items from West Walworth, Lincoln and Walworth.

## **Genealogist Position Filled**

By Gene Bavis

We are pleased to announce that Joyce Hyman Smith has agreed to accept the position of Genealogist with the Walworth Historical Society. If you recall, we posted a help wanted notice in the last issue of the WHS News asking for someone who would be willing to help us organize and maintain our genealogical records.

Of the many calls or e-mails we get, genealogy-related questions are the most common. Joyce will begin by reviewing what is currently in our files and create an index for it. Then we hope to expand the index to give the locations of other known information. For example, we know that the Wayne County Historian's office has over 400 genealogies that are quite extensive as well as about 8,000 family files with bits and pieces of information. We are sure that some of those files are Walworth-related, so we hope to include their information in our index. Other neighboring historians and historical societies probably have information too.

When someone contacts us, we can say that "so and so" also has a file that may include some information on your family. If you have a family history in any form (complete or in various stages of development), we'd like to include YOU in our index, especially if it's Walworth related.

Our mission is to assist researchers in any way that we can, so even if we don't have anything in our files, it's nice to be able to tell them where they might find information. In the long run we all benefit. Of course, if you do have a genealogy that you'd like to share with us or pictures of Walworth residents, we would love to have them. A long term goal will be to get as much in electronic format as possible so that we can send it via email. We also want to work with other groups to develop a more comprehensive index. Welcome, Joyce, and thanks to all of you for supporting the WHS.

## **Thank You, Joyce Van Haneghem**

By Kay Scott, Curator



Joyce is a very willing and computer-knowledgeable volunteer and a member of the Walworth Historical Society. She has entered on a spreadsheet the inventory of donated items to the museum, including catalog number, description, size, where located in the museum, and the donor's name. This has been a large undertaking and we are very grateful to Joyce for handling it so expeditiously and with a joyful nature - especially when she has difficulty, at times, reading the curator's handwriting!

This will be a continuing process and Joyce has agreed to come in from time to time to keep the file up to date.

**Photos of Lorraine Finley's visit to Walworth at the WHS meeting**



**WHS Calendar Changes**

Be sure to note the two changes on our activity calendar below.

The Fall Festival/Open House date has been moved to Sunday, October 14, from October 7.

The next Walworth Memories will be Sunday, October 28.

**2007 Events Calendar**

Save this schedule and mark your calendar for meetings and activities planned during 2007. All events will be held at the museum, 2257 Academy Street, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome.

**Note: New information is bolded and italicized.**

<i><u>Date</u></i>	<i><u>Time</u></i>	<i><u>Subject</u></i>
Fri., July 20	7 PM	Festival in the Park Parade; parade starts on Main Street near High Street and ends at Ginegaw Park. Theme: Walworth and the Civil War 5 PM until?: visit our booth at the Park.
Sat., July 21	12 – 8	Ginegaw Park: visit our booth
Mon., Sept. 17	7:30 PM	General Meeting: Laurel Wemett and old cookbooks
Sun., Oct. <b>14</b> * <i>(formerly 10/7)</i>	2-5 PM	Fall Festival: self-guided tour of Walworth area. Starting point is WHS Museum.
<b>Sun., Oct. 28</b>	<b>2 – 3:30 PM</b>	<b><i>Walworth Memories. Subject: Farming (methods and displays)</i></b>
Mon., Nov. 19	7:30 PM	General Meeting: Program TBD

Board of Trustee meetings for the remainder of the year will be Aug. 20, Sept. 24, and Nov. 26, at 7 PM at the museum.

The museum is open during June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM; other times by appointment. Contact Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Kay Scott at 315-524-9528.