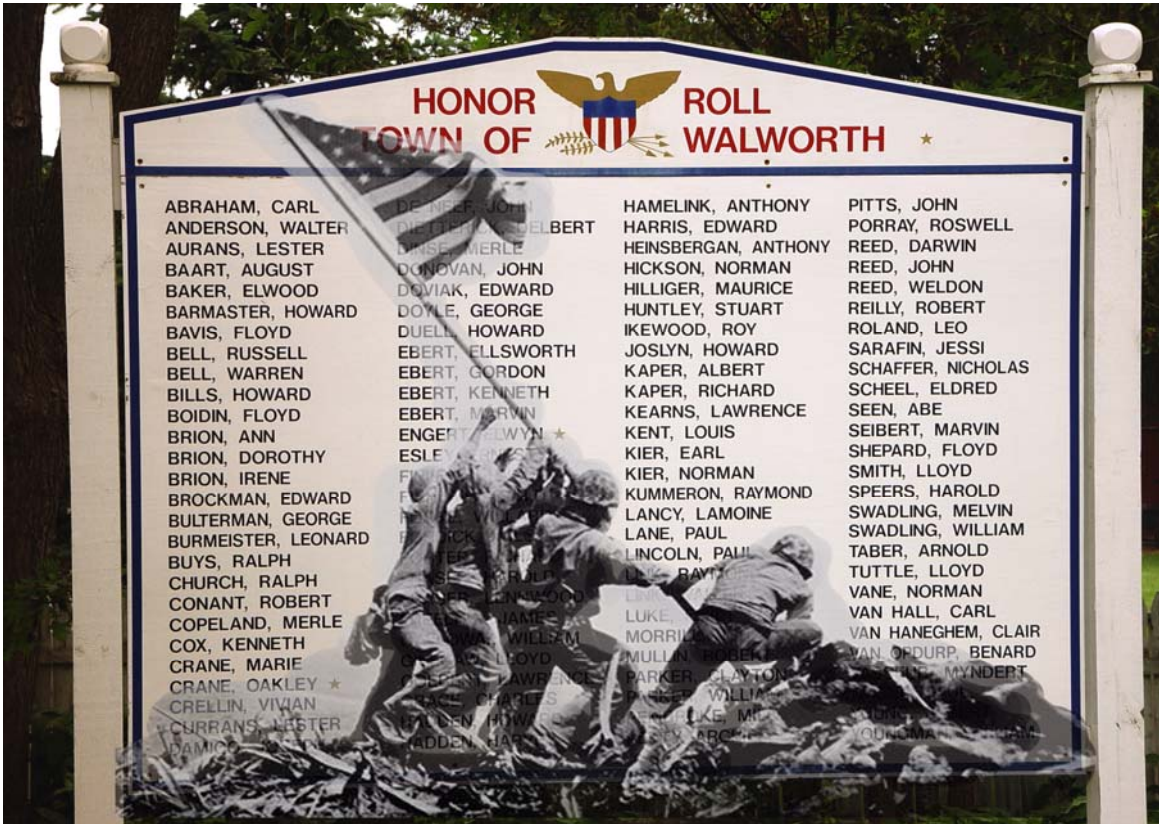


WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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Walworth Museum 2257 Academy Street

**To schedule a visit please call:
Jessie Keymel (315) 524 – 9205 or Kay Scott (315) 524 - 9528**

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER	
* President’s Message	* Curator’s Corner
* Tidbits from the Past	* WW II / Normandy
* Garage Sale	* Attendance Registers
* Anna Boynton	* 2007 Meeting Dates
* The Next Walworth Memories	* More News Items, etc.

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President's Message

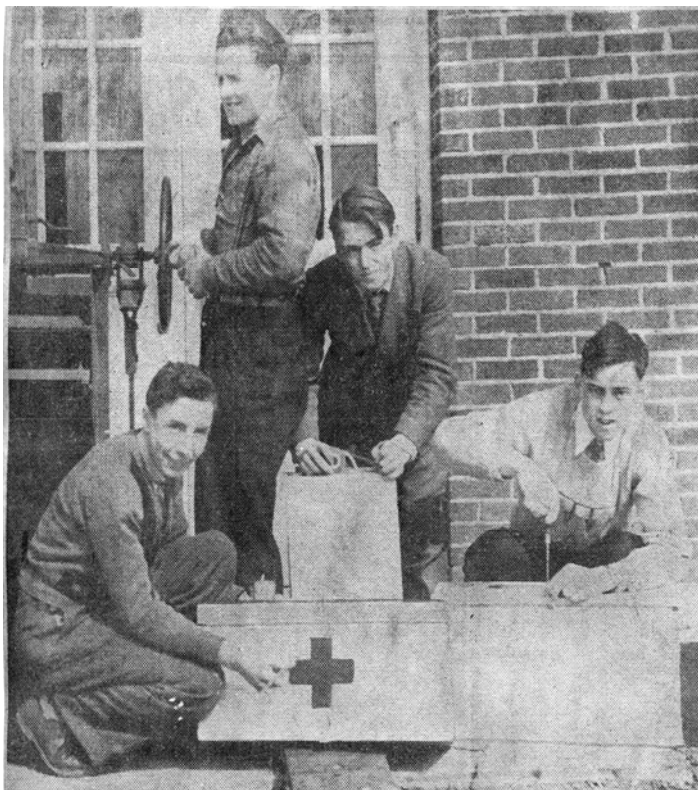
When people think of the Walworth Historical Society in the winter, they tend to think we are in dormancy. Not so! It takes work, meetings, and communications to put out the newsletter. There is always more information to be catalogued and entered, new displays to be set up, and plans for the year to be made. The museum is not always a quiet place.

On the afternoon of January 28, the visiting crowd was excited and full of questions. A den of first grade Cub Scouts came to visit. A visit to a museum is a requirement at this level in Scouting. Questions were asked: "What is that"? "How does that work"? "Did someone really bring your milk to your house every day"? The pictures of the town from the 1907 survey gave the boys a vivid image of what the town used to be, especially when they recognized some of the buildings. These visits make our work to preserve records of the past worth all our efforts.

The Boy Scouts have been a contributing force in our development over the years. Our landscape around the building was an Eagle Scout project, and several of the trees were also planted by Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. This year, as we touch on the ways World War II affected Walworth, we once again turn to an Eagle Scout project - the monument on the west lawn at the museum. This is a duplication of a board that stood in front of the Grange building during the war. Names were added as each person signed up. Do you remember the board? Is there some history about it you can add to our information?

Many times landmarks become so common place that we take them for granted and when they are gone we have trouble recalling all their details. We depend on your memories to help us preserve the history for the future.

WW II Memories to be Shared at March 19 WHS Meeting



Walworth Future Farmers of America Chapter members aid in the war effort by baling newspapers and making boxes.

Marsha Smith of Walworth will be the guest speaker at the Monday, March 19, meeting of the Walworth Historical Society, and will share memories of annual visits she has made to Normandy and the nearby locations affected by World War II. Accompanying her will be Pat Stark of Walworth, who has also traveled to that area.

Both Marsha and Pat are members of the Normandy Allies, Inc., a group founded to promote a greater historical understanding of the 1944 liberation of Normandy. In 1996, Marsha traveled to the Brittany American Military Cemetery in St. James, France, to visit the grave of her uncle, Staff Sergeant Benedict Smith, who was killed in action in Normandy in 1944.

Items and photographs from WW II will be on display, including a large amount of photographs taken by former Walworth resident Lloyd Smith of Ontario during his tour of duty as a military photographer. The event begins at 7:30 PM with a brief meeting and will be held at the museum, 2257 Academy Street (between Main and High Streets). Please help us identify the people in this photo.

Garage Sale Fundraiser?

By Gene Bavis, Town Historian and Board Member

Last time I wrote a column called "Money, Money, Money", encouraging you to renew your membership at an optional higher level of dues as one way to increase our revenue, as well as a few other suggestions that could help us. I tried to explain some of the basic issues of WHS finance. We are a small organization with many of our active members who are also the active members of other organizations as well. We are pretty successful, given the human resources we have available.

At our last Trustees Meeting, someone suggested that having a garage sale might be a good fundraiser. The Board liked the idea and thought having it in Gananda along with their community garage sale (2nd Saturday of June) might be desirable. If we do, we'll need to find someone who lives in Gananda, preferably on Waterford Road, who would be willing to let us set up on their property.

I am told that approximately 6,000 people came to shop at last year's Gananda Garage Sale. If we are going to do this we would need volunteers to collect the donations, price them, work the day of the sale, and dispose of unsold items afterwards. I think the Board will help, BUT we cannot do this alone.

SO...this is a request for HELP! Wanted: Someone to chair this committee as well as a few people willing to help with the tasks involved. Many hands make light work! If we had a dozen volunteers, nobody should be overburdened, and we'd have the potential to raise several hundred dollars in a day. Contact Jessie Keymel or Gene Bavis if you are willing to help with this. If we get the volunteers we need, more information requesting donations, etc. will be in the next newsletter.

WHS Website Update

We are working with Heather Keenan of Gananda to set up a website for the Walworth Historical Society that anyone with internet access can visit and learn about us. We have the general layout and design finished. Also, the access topics are chosen and set up. The largest amount of work is to prepare the information that can be accessed on the site and we are about half-way finished with that task. Some of the areas that will be available are: History of the WHS, WHS Calendar of Events, Officers and Board of Trustees, Photo Gallery, Newsletters, etc. I had underestimated the amount of time and work needed to gather all of this information. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will be ready with this material for Heather to finish this up for us.



Nancy Bel

Thank You, Nancy

Nancy Bel is one of the many dedicated members who unselfishly volunteer their time to help wherever and whenever needed. As Hospitality Chairperson, Nancy ensures that delicious refreshments are available and attractively presented at our activities. In addition, she serves as trustee of the Walworth Historical Society. Nancy and husband Leighton became life-time members of the Walworth Historical Society in 1985 and are long-time Walworth residents. Their extensive knowledge of the area and people has been helpful when planning events or researching information. We are grateful for their willingness to serve.

150th Anniversary Celebration

On September 24, 2006, the West Walworth Zion United Methodist Church celebrated its 150th anniversary.

In 1856, a time when small villages were self-sufficient, Rev. David Fischer held services in homes within the community. Ten years later a building was purchased. The cobblestone part of the present church was built as a “select school of academy” in 1842, and has been a place of worship for the past 140 years. (The marble stone with the date of the original building is in our Museum).

Planks of hemlock on blocks of wood served as seating for the dedication service September 9, 1866. Since then there have been many additions and updates to accommodate a growing congregation. The congregation is currently changing the lower level to make more useable space.

About 1909 the congregation of the West Walworth Evangelical United Brethren Church changed their worship service from German to English. In 1968 the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged, and became the United Methodist Church.

When you walk in the main door to the sanctuary you can see the rope to the bell which still calls the faithful to worship. The inscription on the bell reads “to tell of Thy loving kindness in the early morning and of the truth in right season”. The message is just as important today as it was in 1894 when it was purchased.

Some of the information in this article was taken from the “History 1856 – 1978” in the 1978 directory of Zion United Methodist Church. The history was written September 19, 1976, by Rev. Neil Arnold to celebrate the 120th Anniversary. Other sources include an oral history by Edna Jacobs and 1948 History of the N.Y. Conference of the Evangelical Church.



The West Walworth Zion United Methodist Church

Tidbits from the Past

The information in Dorothy Petty's scrapbooks continues to provide us with a window to the past. This information has been compiled by Joyce Finney.

1893 The Town of Walworth had 11 school districts. Each school had one teacher for a total of 477 students.

1922 Lloyd Tuttle and Joseph Finley will be featured in the annual dramatic production of Walworth High School. "Polishing Pappa", a comedy, will be produced by the senior class.

1922 Eastman Theatre and School of Music opened.

1933 Hazel Pembroke and Howard Bassage were married by Rev. C. T. Boynton.

1933 Dr. & Mrs. Ernest E. Esley's son, Dr. George Esley, age 30, was killed in an auto accident while returning from an early call west of Sodus.

1933 Donald W. Cragg was appointed principal of Walworth High School.

1934 John Downs (one of Walworth's oldest residents) celebrated his 91st birthday in July. Mr. Downs was born in Ireland and came to the United States at the age of 11. The trip took 6 weeks on a sailing vessel. Mr. Downs still takes care of his 8 acre farm.

1938 Charles Pembroke and Bertha VanHouter were married by Rev. Paul Huyett in December. They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hack.

1940 Stanley VanHoover and Lois Fredenburg were married by Rev. Paul Huyett at the home of the bride's parents.

1944 Charles Buckley, acting Walworth Postmaster, died unexpectedly on June 2 at the age of 61.

1941 John Traas and Doris Smith were married on June 28.

1941 George Frowley, organist at the Walworth Methodist Church, was honored for 58 years of service.

1943 Jay S. Seeley died in September at his home at the age of 90.

1945 Betty and Barbara Soudan have an unusual Sunday School attendance record. They had perfect attendance for 15 years and received their award from Sunday School Superintendent Howard Bassage.

1945 PFC Donald A. Fillmore died. He was killed during the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium on January 7. He had attended Walworth High School and was a member of the Walworth Methodist Church.

1946 Dr. Ernest E. Esley died on September 28 at the age of 76 after a short illness. The community mourned the loss of a friend, a helper and a needed physician.

1947 Walworth Methodist Church members celebrated their church's 75th anniversary. The Pastor is the Rev. Peter VanDuren.

Anna Boynton

By Carlyle Boynton and Gene Bavis

I recently saw a little book written by Rev. Carlyle Boynton, a native of Walworth. In the early part of the book he talks about some of his memories of growing up here including a section he calls "Our Munn." Following are some excerpts:

Now a more complete introduction of our next door neighbors, who were Frank and Anna Dumond. They had no children of their own, which left a big place in their hearts for the children of their neighbors. To us children he was "Ank" and she was "Munn." Munn and our mother were like sisters in their love. No uncle and aunt could love us children more than they did. How we loved to go over to Ank's and Munn's!

The winter my mother died, they had sold their house and it was a serious concern where they would go to live. Who first suggested it, I never knew. Perhaps it was the combination of circumstances that presented the suggestion. Ank and Munn must find another house in which to live. My father must find a "mother" for his family. They could move into our house; their furniture could be stored in our attic and Munn could be our foster mother. So it came to be. We could no longer have our very own mother. Munn would be the nearest to that as any other possible one. My father could better bear his sorrow with the comfort of having his home and family together. Frank died in 1927. Munn lived as our mother until her last sickness in the year of 1958, giving fifty years of her life to an orphaned neighbor family. "Greater love hath no man than this!"

When I was born in 1946, my parents (Ray & Etta Bristol-Bavis) lived on Main Street at the west end of Center Street, just south of Anna Boynton (Carlyle's "Munn"). Anna was a widow, and her sister Maggie Tellier lived with her until she passed away (probably in the early 50's). When I was only 2 or 3, I lost 3 out of my 4 grandparents within the span of about a year, and my mother's father lived in Michigan, so I essentially had no grandparents. Anna Boynton became my adopted "grandmother." I would go next door to visit her and she always gave me cookies. I guess she even adopted my mother as kind of a "daughter." When she passed away in 1958, I was named in her will along with her other grandchildren, and my mother also got some of her things, such as her china and a Roseville Donatello jardinière. I still have the jardinière, and my daughter now has the china. My parents bought the house, and in 1959 we moved next door. We lived there until we built the "new house" just north of town in 1963.

Preservation of Attendance Registers

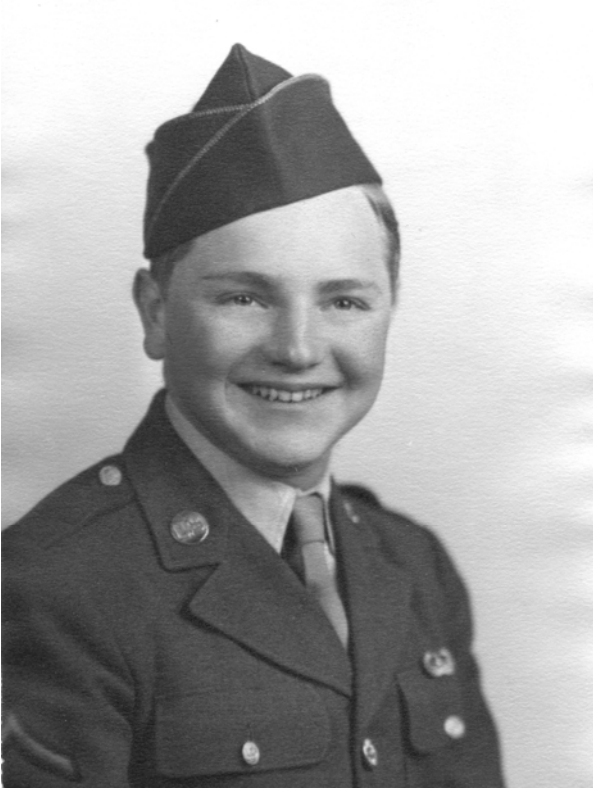
As noted in our January 2007 newsletter, we received a grant of \$500 to preserve Walworth School District #1 attendance registers from 1903 to 1912. Brown's River Records Preservation Services quoted a price of \$2100 to do all the registers. Walworth Historical Society trustees voted to use \$500 toward this preservation project. We are now in the process of determining which registers to send to Brown's River.

These records contain many names that are prominent in Walworth history, such as Baker, Dedie, Duell, Osterhout, Reynolds, Hurley, Ebert, Boynton, Tuttle, Taber, Petty, Daansen, Pembroke, and Henning. In addition to attendance records, the students' parents' names, birthdates, and other information are included. There are also trustees' reports, and teachers' contracts.

We are hoping that some members will choose to donate so that we may have more of these historic documents preserved. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so donations are tax deductible, if you itemize your expenses on your income tax forms.

We will be applying for more grants to help us with this preservation project.

Next Walworth Memories: March 25



Walworth veteran Bill Youngman circa 1944

What do you remember about World War II?

Please join us for an afternoon of sharing memories about the war and how you were affected. Were you a member of the military, or did you do your part on the home front by having a victory garden or serving as a Civil Defense volunteer? Do you remember the air raid drills? We want to record these memories before they are lost forever.

The next Walworth Memories get together will be Sunday, March 25, 2 – 3:30 PM at the Walworth Town Hall meeting room. Attendees are welcome to bring military memorabilia for display and conversation. Transportation can be provided by calling 315-524-4219.

This event is co-sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society and the Walworth-Seely Public Library.

A Glimpse of Our History

By Kay Scott, Curator

The following is an excerpt taken from a history written by J. D. Kipp of Walworth in 1925.

In 1788 the Seneca Indians sold 2,600,000 acres in central and western New York to Massachusetts for less than one half cent an acre. From 1788 to 1795 this section was in the Town of Canandaigua and in the latter year was set apart as the Town of Williamson. In 1807 the present Towns of Walworth and Ontario were set apart as Freetown. Afterwards changed to Ontario and in 1823, Walworth (Douglas Corners) became a part of Wayne County which was formed from Ontario County and on April 20, 1829, this town was named WALWORTH in honor of Chancellor Reuben Walworth.

To be continued with some history about J. D. Kipp and some remembrances from people who knew him.

Let's Visit Bills Road

Beginning with the May newsletter our travels will take us to Bills Road, a less-than-two-mile-long stretch of pavement that begins at West Walworth Road and ends at Monroe-Wayne County Line Road. If you live on Bills Road or know a former resident, contact Mary Jane Devlin at 315-986-1512 so we can include this information.

Curator's Corner

We are privileged and grateful to be the custodian of a Purple Heart awarded to Lloyd Ginegaw for injuries he received during World War II. Lloyd spent his youth in Walworth and graduated from Walworth High School. He entered active service in the Army of the United States on February 11, 1943; place of entry was Ft. Niagara, NY.

Lloyd was a squad leader in combat infantry and fought battles in Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. On February 3, 1945, he was wounded in action in Germany and was treated at a Paris hospital.

He received a Purple Heart, a Presidential Citation, and many other medals for his service to his country. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant from Company B-9th Infantry Regiment, Army of the United States. His Honorable Discharge Certificate states that it is awarded "as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service to his country".

Lloyd was discharged on October 28, 1945. He passed away on November 4, 1987, at the age of 65.

Editor's Note: This information was given to us by Lloyd's only brother, Harold Ginegaw of Walworth. Harold passed away on February 21, 2007. We are grateful to the Ginegaw family for their devotion to community and country.

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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Mon. Mar. 19	7:30 PM	General Meeting: Marsha Smith's visits to Normandy
Sun., Mar. 25	2 – 3:30 PM	Walworth Memories, co-sponsored with library; at town hall meeting room; subject: WW II
Sat., May 5	9 AM – 12	Spring Clean Up Day
Mon., May 21	6:15 PM	Pot luck supper, annual meeting, election of officers. Program: TBD
Fri., July 20	7 PM	Festival in the Park Parade; ends at Ginegaw Park. Theme: Walworth and the Civil War
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. 7	2-5 PM	Fall Festival: driving tour of Walworth
Mon., Nov. 19	7:30 PM	General Meeting: Program TBD

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.