

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 |
| * Scrapbook Memories 1976 | * September 18 meeting |
| * October 1 Fall Festival | * November 20 Meeting |
| * September 1 Tea Party | * 2006 Meeting Dates |
| * Journey Down Penfield Rd. Part 4 | * More News Items, etc. |

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President's Message

As responsible owners we are diligent about our museum. We polish the fingerprints off the glass show cases, mow the lawn, change the light bulbs, and do whatever is necessary to keep our building in good shape and ready for all occasions. We now have a timer on the light switch by the door, so we do not have to leave the building in the dark - a simple fix that serves us well. Our latest repair involved replacing the meeting room's north exit door. The bottom of the door had disintegrated and was catching on the sill, making it impossible to open - not good for an emergency exit. The door and casing, which were special ordered, have been installed by Clint Osterhout of Hearth and Home Builders. Thank you, Clint, for your quick response.

History of Rochester Public Market **Subject of Nov. 20 WHS Meeting**

For more than 100 years the Rochester Public Market has been a place to buy and sell locally-grown produce and other items. The history of this landmark will be the subject of the Monday, November 20, meeting of the Walworth Historical Society. Nancy Rosin, author of "The Hands That Feed Us – One Hundred Years at the Rochester Public Market", will be guest speaker. Utilizing a power point presentation, her talk will provide an overview of the market's rich history, illustrated by photographs from the Rochester Museum and Science Center, various city archives, the Irondequoit Town Historian's Office, and private collections.

The speaker has spent most of her adult life as a community activist, videographer, editor and researcher. In 1993-1994 she was awarded a grant and fellowship to produce a documentary on the history of public markets in Rochester.

The event begins at 7:30 PM with a brief meeting, followed by the program. The meeting will be held at the museum, located at 2257 Academy Street, between Main Street (opposite the Methodist Church) and High Street. For additional information about the Walworth Historical Society, contact President Jessie Keymel (315-524-9205) or Curator Kay Scott (315-524-9528).



Tools, Tools, Everywhere!

David Murdoch of Williamson was accompanied by a portion of his extensive collection of tools when he was guest speaker at our September 18 meeting.

His impressive knowledge of the various tools and their uses was informative and enlightening. Several members brought tools for him to identify.

Volunteer Needed

We need help! If you have some spare time, we have a job for you. The museum has a large number of newspaper clippings that need to be organized and put into scrapbooks (which we will provide). If you can help, call Kay Scott, curator, at 315-524-9528.

A Journey Down Penfield Road: Part Four **by Jay Taber and Friends**

WHS Nov. '06 Newsletter (page 2)

Part Four: Jay continues his narrative from the September newsletter, reminiscing about the 50+ years he and Arline lived on Penfield Road. Additional information has been added where available. This final trip segment begins at the intersection of Walworth-Penfield Road and Church Street and ends at the four corners. If anyone can add other names and dates to the story let us know.

NOTE: House numbers throughout Wayne County were changed in the mid 1970's for simplification and emergency response purposes. The numbers in parentheses are the original numbers that are no longer used. The road was originally called Town Line Road or Rochester Road.



2188 Penfield Road



2194 Penfield Road



2200 Penfield Road

2188 – (19): Known as the **Esley** house, this partial cobblestone home is located at the southeast corner of Penfield Road and Church Street. The cobblestone addition was built in 1840 and several years later another addition was built to the rear. Dr. Ernest E. Esley's office was in the home's northwest front corner. In 1933 the Esley's purchased additional property to the west of their home from Robert and Alice Bridges of 2175 Church Street (the current Pease property).

Although Dr. Esley had passed away in 1946 before we moved into our house, his widow, Mabel, still lived there with their son Ernest and daughter Marjorie. Marjorie (professionally known as Joan Esley) illustrated children's books and frequently used Walworth children as her models. Later Ernest married and continued to live there for several years.

Later, **Rosalee Amorasa-Wills** and sons Al and Chris boarded men from the Newark Developmental School. In 1992 **Jim and Kimberly LeMay** purchased the property from Rosalee. It is now also home to their daughter, Lindy.

2194 – (17): A garage and gas station were previously located here. When we moved here in 1950 **Anna and Elton May** owned the greenhouses and a floral shop which they later sold to **Charlotte and Milton Bradshaw**. A 1959 hail storm did considerable damage to the greenhouses. The business was eventually discontinued and the buildings were not used for several years.

Robert Pekarsky lived there for a period of time. **G. Melin** purchased the property in July 1980 and sold it to **Francis and Gregory Frey** of Frey Holding Company in January 1990, who renovated the building for their business, **Frey Technologies, Inc.** Francis sold his interests to Gregory in July 1998.

2200 – (15): **Anna and Elton May** and daughter Esther moved out of their house at the time we moved into ours across the road in 1955. Elton, always quick with a quip, shouted over that he felt the neighborhood was going to pot and they had to move! Elton's mother, Mrs. William (Jennie Clark) May, lived in the upstairs apartment. **Milton and Charlotte Bradshaw** and their children Bonnie, Cheryl, and Grant were the next owners. The May's and Bradshaw's eventually traded houses, and the May's moved to 3706 Main Street where they had a small garden.

Later **Mary Lou and Jesse Zeck** and children Jason and Melissa lived there for several years until **Stuart Hotchkiss** bought it. His daughter lived there for a time. In 1993 current owner **Aaron Johnston** bought it and

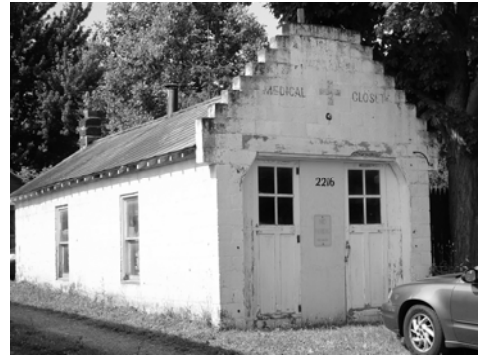
lived in the first floor apartment for a short period of time. After the Zecks moved out, the upstairs apartment was renovated and has been rented until the present day.



2204 Penfield Road



2212 Penfield Road



2216 Penfield Road

2204 – (13): Gertie and Louis Duell and daughters Burnice, Eleanor and Arlene lived here. Gertie's brother Ernest Bel and his family lived next door (see #2212). The house was a double when the Duells purchased it about 1925; renovations continued for many years.

At the time when we moved across the road, there was a long porch on the front of their house. The Duells sat there at night and Arline and I often went over to visit with them. Later, they put aluminum siding on the house and cut the porch size down, although they still continued to sit there on warm summer evenings. In June 2002 **Charles Caradonna** purchased the property from **Ronald Meier**.

2212 – (9): This house is located next to the first fire house. **Chris VanBortel** purchased the property in November 1992 from **Tom and Patty Allen**. Chris has done extensive interior remodeling and believes the siding on the north side is the original clapboard.

Chris has a deed dated 1881 showing the property belonged to the **Chase family**, who sold it to **Stephen A. Taber**. In 1896 **Esther Hoyt** willed the property to the 2nd Baptist Church of Walworth, who transferred it to executor **Stephen Taber** two years later.

George Kress purchased it in 1903; after his death, his wife Alice sold it to **William and Lillie Crane** in 1918. The **Chapman family** (Stuart, Jean, and an older brother) lived there before it was sold to **Bernard H. and Nellie Bel** in 1937. Ten years later, their son **Ernest and his wife Iona**, parents of Leighton and Ernestine, became owners.

After Ernest's death, granddaughter **Patty Allen and her husband Tom** moved in to take care of Iona and eventually bought the house in 1986. Patty thought the people in the neighborhood didn't know each other as well as they might, so she organized a pig roast and invited everyone nearby as well as her customers (she operated a beauty parlor in the house). She did this for several years and even continued hosting the pig roast after they moved to Macedon.

2216: Loan closet/1st fire house: This was Walworth Fire Department's first fire house and was home to the chemical cart. The property was purchased in 1929 when the department was established. It was later used as a medical loan closet for wheel chairs, beds, commodes, crutches and other related items. The loan closet is now located at the town hall. **David and Andrea Kords** purchased the building in March 2004.



2218 Penfield Road



3719 Walworth-Palmyra Road

2218: 2nd fire house: When another fire truck was purchased in 1950 it became apparent that a larger fire house was needed, and the fire department purchased land to the east of #2216 from the **Walworth Grange**. A water cistern, storing 25,000 gallons of water for fire protection, was also constructed under the floor of the new building. Current owner **William Thompson** purchased it in March 2002.

3719 Walworth-Palmyra Road/corner Penfield Road: In the 40's this area at our four corners was a park, where the school band concerts were held. **Stanley VanHoover** purchased this vacant corner lot in 1948 and built a gas station containing an office and car-repair bay; there was one Esso gas pump. The second car-repair bay was added sometime later.

Warren Bell worked part-time evenings and weekends for Stanley. When Stanley left in 1958 he leased the building to Radley Oil Company of Marion. Warren rented the building from Radley for two years before purchasing it from Stanley in 1960 and it became a Sinclair station. Warren added the storeroom to the north, raised the roof to the south, and added the large window.

In 1984 the property was sold to Albert Schreiber who operated it as a repair shop and gas station. In August 1991 **David Villa** purchased it and it became a Volkswagen repair shop.

The property has been operated by Warren and Betty Bell under these names: Bell's Sinclair Service, Bell's Esso Service, Bell's Exxon Service, and Bell's Mobil Service. The property has been vacant for approximately three years and is currently for sale by Warren and Betty.

Editor's Note: We hope you have enjoyed Jay's journey. We are always on the lookout for historical information of local interest. How about writing about your street or neighborhood.

Researcher "Digs" Cemeteries

Thanks to the Herculean efforts of a Walworth resident, in-depth documentation now exists for cemeteries in Walworth, West Walworth, and Marion.

Douglas B. Churchill of Walworth-Ontario Road admits he started this project because he couldn't locate the tombstone of a friend who was buried in a Marion cemetery. This quest led to numerous visits to area cemeteries, conversations with caretakers, and the review of old records - resulting in the compilation of several books.

Walworth Village Cemetery: Also known as Sherburne Road Cemetery. South side of Sherburne Road, south of Walworth village, short distance from Walworth-Palmyra Road. Four books include: minutes from Nov. 1884 – 1991, burials from 1851 – 2004, deeds from Nov. 1884, and ledger from 1944 – 1972. Cemetery established April 18, 1851. Information was obtained from Rick Darron, sexton.

Another book covers six Walworth cemeteries and related information:

- **Baker Cemetery:** ½ mile west of Walworth township on Route 441 near Baker Road. Incorporated December 14, 1869. Burials listed alphabetically and by lot number. Names of veterans, burial locations, and service records. Map, indentures, certificate of incorporation, and introduction to Hoffman essay from 1963. Information was obtained from Jean Johnson.
- **Finley Cemetery:** Located behind a home at 4381 Walworth-Ontario Road/County Route 208, north of Walworth village. Burials listed alphabetically.
- **Freewill Cemetery:** Atlantic Ave., Route 286, seven tenths mile west of Routes 286 and 350 intersection on north side of road. Two maps list burials by row and layout by lot. Also known as Walworth Center Cemetery. Established December 1849. Information was obtained from Jean Johnson.
- **Gould/Walworth Central Cemetery:** Atlantic Ave./Route 286, 2.3 miles west of Routes 350 and 286 intersection on north side of road. Burials listed alphabetically and by row. Names of veterans and their service records. Burial map. Cemetery established October 1883. Winfield Steel provided a map.
- **McCreery-Arnold Cemetery:** East side of Route 350/Ontario Center Road, 2.5 miles north of Route 441. Burials listed alphabetically. Typed and photo copies of 1822 and 1825 indentures and 1990 Hoffman Essay Paper.
- **Lusk/Finley School House Cemetery:** Finley Road, appx. 3 miles north of Walworth village and two tenths mile from Walworth-Ontario Road/County Route 208, near former school house on north side. Due to extensive poison ivy growth, cemetery didn't receive a personal visit from Doug. Available information documented and organized by row. Hoffman essay. Established approximately 1830.

West Walworth Cemetery: West side of West Walworth Road/County Route 316 across from two churches. Burials by alphabet and lot number, veterans' list of burials and military records, cemetery sketch, maps from original records, photocopies of original burial and site records, names of lot owners in Permanent Fund, and notes of May 1878 organization. A "Book of By-Laws and Minutes" from May 14, 1940, to April 10, 1989, was recently completed. Information was provided by Norm Druschel, sexton.

Marion Cemetery: Entrances on Main and Buffalo Streets in Marion village. Burials listed alphabetically; section devoted to veterans' info; map; photo of impressive Soldiers' Monument. Doug worked with Dorothy Blied, sexton, for 18 months on this project.

Doug admitted that research for the Marion Cemetery began in October 2004 and was completed in February 2006. Walworth Village Cemetery research took place from April to September 2006, while West Walworth Cemetery was done June through September 2006.

He has donated copies of the Walworth books and CDs to the Walworth Town Clerk, Walworth-Seely Public Library, and the Walworth Historical Society. The library and the WHS museum also have a copy of the Marion cemetery book and CD. He has given a copy of the Marion book and CD to the Marion Town Clerk and Town Historian.

Wayne County Historian Peter Evans has a complete set of records from both towns. This information is also available on U.S. Gen Web pages, with the exception of the newest books about the six Walworth cemeteries and West Walworth "Book of By-Laws and Minutes".

A well-deserved thank you goes to volunteer researcher Doug Churchill, who realized the need to document this information and did it.

1976

Note: this information was compiled by Mary Jane Devlin from Dorothy Petty's scrapbooks

America's Bi-Centennial: It was the year 1976, and America was celebrating its bi-centennial. In Walworth, we celebrated by publishing a Directory of businesses and organizations. We had a bi-centennial weekend with a gala parade, talent show, inter-denominational church service, a band concert, and a street dance.

There were games and races for everyone to enjoy. Walworth also celebrated with a bi-centennial ball, which was held in the Freewill Elementary cafeterium. Awards were given for costume design and authenticity. The Walworth Bi-Centennial Committee had a "Little Princess" contest, which was for all 8-year old girls.

School News: Walworth Elementary had a Heritage Day, with pupils participating in one-room-school activities, and watching demonstrations of wood splitting, soap and candle making, quilting, and weaving. They also participated in making ice cream, dolls, and clay pots, and competed in colonial games. Children in Mrs. Petty's class wrote bi-centennial stories. Laura Hammond retired as secretary of Walworth Elementary School and Sam McKee retired from bus driving after 13 years. Debra Bills was named Wayne Central salutatorian, and Linda Crane was named Valedictorian.

Church News: A capital fund drive was launched by Walworth 2nd Baptist Church. They wanted to raise \$28,000 to reset some of the stones and do new drainage and painting. Zion United Methodist Church marked its 120th anniversary with a homecoming-supper for former pastors and their wives. Ground-breaking was held for New Life Bible Church on Atlantic Avenue.

Weddings: Rena Heinrich became the bride of William Bulman; Caryn Campbell of Ontario became engaged to Mark Devlin. Lena Affronti and Vincent Catalano joined hands. Christine Thompson and Terry Raymond and Susan McKee and John Neubauer also were married.

Anniversaries: Doris & Carlyle Darron celebrated their 25th anniversary. Mr. & Mrs. Lee Jacobs, formerly of Jacobs Road in Lincoln, celebrated their 50th anniversary with a party at the Union Hill Fire Hall. Lawrence and Eva Goebert also celebrated their 50th anniversary, as did Loyde & Leona Bassage.

Wayne County: The county planned a \$1.2 million infirmary in Lyons. Palmyra Aqueduct Park and Swift's Landing Park were both opened to the public. Newark laid a cornerstone for a new Masonic Temple. Alling Coverlet Museum of Palmyra opened on July 4. Joseph Finley was elected president of the Family Counseling Service Board of Directors. McCurdy's stores closed.

Deaths: We lost Lewis S. Neeley, Marguerite Bowen, Matthew Brown, Ora Sweet, Richard Kier, Esther Forman, Marie Brion, Agatha Bills, Cora Bavis, Frank Kaufman (a unicyclist), Carl Esler, Clarence Roland, Gladys VanHaneghem, Jacob Pembroke, Gary Allen, and Sara Taber.

Tea for More than Two



A pleasant September afternoon of tea and photos was shared by senior citizens from West Walworth, Williamson, and Walworth. There's nothing like a photo to bring to mind memories of good times from the past. We hosted this get-together for the purpose of identifying photos from our archives.

Left: Radah Wing Wacenske (seated) and Jessie Keymel, Joyce VanHaneghem, and Nancy Bel (left to right) enjoyed looking over photos belonging to the museum.

Fall Festival at the Museum

On Sunday, October 8, the Walworth Historical Society held a fall festival. About 65 people attended to enjoy delicious home-made pies and cookies. The weather was threatening rain, but it held off until after the festival.

Mary DeMinck had a display of canning equipment, Gene Bavis displayed a wide variety of milk bottles and other milk delivery items. Roger Keymel proudly showed his alpacas and a 1948 Farmall "C" tractor. Mike McEwen brought a 1951 row-crop Model "A" John Deere tractor. Sonny French drove his prize-winning 1933 Chevrolet roadster car. There was apple-peeling equipment which fascinated the students who attended. Judy and Larry McMillan had a wonderful display of crocks and jugs in an antique storage cabinet.

Marcia Reybrouck spun loose wool into yarn and Caryn Devlin demonstrated her rug hooking talents. She also had many rugs on display. Some were of her own design and others were purchased with the design printed on a burlap and linen backing.

There were several scrapbooks on display for people to browse through. We also had a complete set of Walworth cemetery records which have recently been donated by long-time Walworth resident Douglas Churchill. Many people enjoyed looking up information about family.



The above are scenes from the WHS open house held on October 8th

Curator's Corner

The scrapbooks from Gordon Youngman have been entered into the inventory. And of all the wonderful discoveries, the last book I looked at is full of the pictures we have been trying to accumulate of veterans from Walworth! Anna May accomplished a wonderful thing for us and for the future by putting this book together. There are 55 pictures in the book and, while not everyone is from Walworth, the majority of the names are on the memorial that has been replicated on the lawn at the museum.

Another package arrived from Janice Wignall Mitchell which included a picture of her as a child (cir:1930) and also the actual dress she is wearing in the picture! Also included were toys from the Wignall and Franke families.

We are most grateful for all the items Janice has sent. And we owe a huge thank you to Gordon Youngman for accumulating and saving all the artifacts he has given to the museum.

2006 Calendar Dates

Save this schedule and mark your calendars for meetings and activities planned during the remainder of this year. All events will be held at the museum.

<u>Mon., Nov. 20</u>	7:30 PM	General meeting; History of Rochester Public Market
<u>Mon., Nov. 27</u>	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting