

# WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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**Walworth Historical Society Festival in the Park Float for 2006**

**The Walworth Museum Hours: June through September  
Sundays & Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

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

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## **President's Message**

### **The Roof Is Done - Hurrah!**

After much research, discussion, worrying and everything else that goes with a big, expensive project taken on by a small volunteer group, the roof of the museum is done. Clint Osterhout of Hearth and Home, completed the job in two weeks in spite of the weather, and it looks great. Fifty percent of this project was paid for by your direct donations. Thank you for your faith in us.

### **WHS Was There**

July 21, 2006 - what a great night for a parade. Did you see the float entered by our Historical Society? The back drop of the float was a realistic painting of our museum, done by Larry Ruth. Farm implements and a bell on the 'front lawn' were a preview of our October 1 Fall Festival. This year and last, we shared a booth with the Friends of the Library at the Festival in the Park. Members manned the booth both Friday night and Saturday. Friday evening is always busy after the parade, and the new loose-leaf notebook, compiled by Robert Mogray, with copies of photos from our collection generated quite a bit of interest. Saturday it rained until early evening. It was not a good day to gather interest in our museum or society, but we were there in the middle of the town's annual celebration.

### **W H O**

Walworth Historical Society hosted a meeting of W(Wayne) H (Historical or Historian) O (Organization) on August 10. WHO consists of town historians, historical society officers and other interested parties. The county historian, Peter Evans, and the director of the Wayne County Museum, Joe O'Toole, also attend.

At these meetings, we share our calendar of events, tell about projects each group is working on, and discuss county-wide projects. We occasionally have a speaker, such as someone from the Landmark Society or Preservation Society, or someone to share information about a specific project.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 11 at Ontario at 12:00 noon. Bring a sandwich or lunch of your choice. Beverages and dessert are provided by the hosts.



**Museum roof being replaced**



**WHS float in Festival Parade**



**The WHO Meeting**

## Memories of a 100 Degree Day

By Mary Jane Devlin

As the weatherman was predicting our first 100 degree day in over fifty years, I was thinking back to that day in June 1953.

I was going to Rochester Business Institute and riding in a car that was not air conditioned. The school was on Clinton Avenue in Rochester, and it was not air-conditioned either. We hoped for a little breeze with all the windows open. That was a half-day and then we rode home and I got in another car that was not air-conditioned and drove to Newark to work at Montgomery Ward's store where I tried to sell winter coats to the very warm public, because that three-story store was not air-conditioned either. And it was hot.

Hardly anyone had a pool and the only swimming was at Sodus Point or a park in Rochester. When we cooked or baked, which we did almost every day, the house just got hotter and we hoped it would cool down at night with the windows open. If we went to a movie or for a ride to visit family or friends, we ate our supper first at home and then went to our destination.

If we were really lucky, we went to have an ice cream cone at a store. Hardly anyone had a freezer big enough to store a half-gallon of ice cream. Sometimes we would walk to Youngman's Variety Store and have ice cream.

Everyone we knew lived in the same conditions and we would sit on the porch or under a tree at night to cool off. Those were the good old days.

Does anyone have a memory they would like to share? Please contact us.

## A Journey Down Penfield Road: Part Three by Jay Taber and Friends

***Part Three:** Jay continues his narrative from the May newsletter and heads west on Walworth-Penfield Road. 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 Rochester Road.

**Right of Way/Teresa Drive/Orchard View Estates:** In 2004 the right of way between #2151/53 and #2139 became Teresa Drive, one of the entrances to Orchard View Estates subdivision which is being developed on property formerly owned by George and Carrie Wignall.

**2139 – (44):** The house was originally located at #2119. It was moved here when George and Carrie purchased acreage and the house in 1905, and decided to build their home on the site. Before the sidewalks were redone, cracks were visible in the concrete from the move.

It was home to Bill and Jenny VanLare and daughter Cornelia; Bill worked for George Wignall. From May 1955 until May 1956, Mary Jane Cauwels and her new husband, Arnold Devlin, rented the house for a year.

Later it was home to Leon and Violet Skorinko and their three daughters, JoEllen, Cindy, and Celia. (Note: The Skorinkos later asked Harold and Richard Schultz to build them a raised ranch at #2097; they lived there for several years.)

Warren and Sandy Fernaays, and children Tara and Norman purchased it in the early 1970's. It remained in the Fernaays family until June 1999, when it was sold to Doug Tierson.

**2129 – (50):** Bob and Bertha Wignall lived in the next house since I can remember. They were married in July 1920. The house was built in 1922 for them as a wedding gift and they lived with George and Carrie (Bob's uncle and aunt) next door at #2119 while it was under construction. Records show that George and Carrie conveyed this property to Bob and Bertha on March 10, 1952.

Bob and Bertha had two children – Janice Wignall Mitchell and Robert L. In the mid-50's Bob and Bertha moved back into "the big house" to care for George and Carrie, and they rented their home to Howard and Hazel Jeffery and later three young men.

Ed and Mary Simpson and their girls – Jean and Barbara – also lived there. They moved to 28 Church Street in July 1964 after the deaths of the senior Wignalls, and Robert and Bertha returned to #2129. Robert died in 1981 and the following year current owners Dave and Martha Lynch purchased the property from his widow. Their children, Joanna, Adam, and Elizabeth, were raised there.

**2119 – (56):** George and Carrie Wignall purchased approximately 150 acres on both sides of Penfield Road in 1905, and completed construction of their home in 1910.

Much of the area to the north was planted with apple trees. A dry house and coopering shed (where barrels were made to transport the fruit to market) were built in this area. Many area residents worked on the fruit farm during harvest season.

After their deaths, a three-day auction was held to dispose of all household and farm equipment. The property was sold September 1964 to Harold and Helen Schultz and their three children, Wayne, Diane, and Kevin; they previously lived around the corner at 28 Church Street.

In July 1975, Harold and Helen sold the house and acreage on the north side of the road to George and Sara Heller and their children – Anne Marie, Jennifer, Kevin, and Vicki – of 32 Orchard Street. The Hellers sold 14.42 acres in 1998 to Peter Duda of Trident Development. They later sold the remaining acreage to Phil Nothnagle, who re-sold it in September 2002 to Orchard View Development, LLC, consisting of Peter, Tony Evans and Roman Dopilka.

In September 1991 the Hellers sold the house to its current owners, Sonny and Dorothy French.



**2139 Penfield Road**



**2129 Penfield Road**



**2119 Penfield Road**

Our trip now crosses Penfield Road and we return east.

**2100 - (61):** Across the road from #2119 is #2100. The land from the east of the professional building to Church Street was part of the Wignall farm and planted as sweet cherry and apple orchards for many years.

In early 1971, 14 acres were purchased from Harold Schultz by Robert J. Stanton, Esquire, and Thomas C. Stevens, D.D.S. On a portion of that land the Walworth Professional Building was erected and opened for business on November 1, 1971.

Original occupants of the building were: 1) Law office of Robert J. Stanton, Esquire, 2) Dental office of Thomas C. Stevens, D.D.S., 3) Walworth Insurance Agency owned by Ronald Buyck, and 4) Walker Realty owned by Gordon Walker.

On the upper floor, the law office owned by Robert Stanton had several associates over the years including Earl Ledden, Jay Walsh, Wayne VanDerByl and Christopher Mumford. Chris eventually purchased the practice and operated it there until he moved his office to Ontario. At various times the space has been occupied by Sterling Realty, Out Serv, McDonald/Albrecht Counseling, and Abundant Heart Home Care.

The dental office in the south end of the upper level is still occupied by Dr. Stevens, who purchased the building in 1985.

The north end of the lower level was occupied by Walworth Insurance Agency for 29 years and is presently occupied by attorney Denise Munson, Esquire. The south end of the building was initially occupied by Walworth Medical Futures, a group formed by local citizens to encourage a physician to practice in the town. Through the U.S. Public Health Service, Gary Lamphere, M.D., and Mark Goldstein, M.D., were here for two-year periods and then the practice was sold to Martin Jenzer, M.D., who was here for 8 years.

The practice was then sold to Dr. Dufner and a group of physicians from Newark Wayne Hospital. For the last ten years, the space has been rented by Beth Platt Associates, a medical billing agency. Other occupants of the lower level over the years have been Al Kaper Builder, Maritz Motivational Co., and Russell C. Campbell Co.

Stanton and Stevens sold 2.9 acres of the back portion with frontage on Church Street, to the Walworth Fire Dept. in 1973 for construction of a new firehouse.

The remainder of the land between the professional building and the gas station was sold to Roman Dopilka of Connecticut in 2003. He also co-owns the area being developed on the north side of the road as Orchard View Estates.

**2166:** When we moved here there was a vacant lot at the corner of Penfield Road and Church Street. On May 14, 1969 Harold and Richard Schultz sold the property to Seaway Stations to be used for a gas station. Seaway later merged with United Refining of Warren, PA, who operates it as a Kwik Fill/Red Apple gas station/convenience store.

*To be continued*



**2100 Penfield Road**



**The Walworth Fire Department**



**2166 Penfield Road**

**We're Doing It Again....Walworth Memories**  
**Part 2 will be October 29**

Due to numerous requests and the overwhelming response to last Spring's Walworth Memories, a second program has been scheduled to reminisce about "Walworth Businesses..past and present". This also includes the areas of West Walworth and Lincoln.

The program will be held on Sunday, October 29, from 2 – 3:30 PM at the museum, 2257 Academy Street, and is co-sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society and Walworth-Seely Public Library.

Attendees are encouraged to come with photos and memories. Information is especially needed about nursing homes, farms, dairies, and cottage-type industries that operated from owners' homes. The museum's computer has scanner capability for copying documents that are family treasures. Refreshments will be served.

**Afternoon Tea Planned for Sept. 14**

Personal invitations to an informal tea have been sent to some senior citizens in all three hamlets in our community. It is our hope to have a pleasant afternoon, sharing and identifying photos with friends. A nice cup of tea and a little desert is a great way to spend a couple of hours in the afternoon with friends who have a common interest. We can make coffee too. If you would like to join us on Thursday, September 14, from 2 until 4 and did not receive an invitation, please call Jessie (524-9205) or Kay (524-9528); you will be welcome. If you need a ride we will transport you.

**Museum Sunday Sitting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Volunteer</u>
Sept. 3	Closed: Labor Day weekend
Sept. 10	Stephanie Craft and Dawn Groell
Sept. 17	Need volunteer(s)
Sept. 24	Need volunteer(s)

Call Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 if you can help on either the 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Curator's Corner**

We are still working on cataloging Anna May's scrapbooks and they should be on display in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, a package arrived from Colorado Springs with a little child's tea set, some World I and II sheet music, and two diplomas from the Walworth Academy dated 1913 and 1914. These are signed by many old-time names from Walworth including Dr. Ernest Esley. The work of inputting inventory in the computer continues and will for some time.

**Come Celebrate Fall on the Farm on October 1;  
Gananda Schools Learn About Agriculture**



Our annual open house and fall festival this year continues with an agricultural theme. Come to the museum on Sunday, October 1, from 2 – 5 PM for displays, including farm tractors and related advertising memorabilia, quilting, rug hooking, and refreshments.

This is an excellent lead into the New York Harvest Week for New York Kids, sponsored by Gananda Parent-Teacher-Student Association. The event, to be held during the week of October 2 throughout schools in the Gananda Central School District, will help educate students about local agriculture. Several events have been planned at the schools, including the sale of apples purchased from local farm markets as a fund raiser. The fifth grade students will be visiting the Rochester Public Market and the cafeterias will daily serve one locally grown fruit and vegetable.

**Sept. 18 Meeting: Tool Collection**

The speaker for our Monday, September 18, meeting will be David Murdoch of Williamson. A retired machinist, David has always been fascinated with tools and their uses. Old tools from the 1800s and early 1900s have taken up a great deal of time in his retirement.

David says he is not an expert but has spent many hours researching some of his interesting finds, and will be bringing some of his research books. He will bring a selection of his tool collection to share with us, and invites attendees to bring old tools for identification. Tools manufactured by D.A. Bartonear, a Rochester company, are a particular favorite of his. David recently presented a program to the Wayne County Antique Dealers Association.

The event begins at 7:30 PM with a brief meeting, followed by the program. The meeting will be held at the museum, which is 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 or museum curator Kay Scott.

## Memories of Marjorie

The next time you visit our museum, check out the display case containing information about Marjorie (Joan) Esley.

Marjorie was born in Walworth, the daughter of Dr. Ernest and Mabel Esley. Their partial cobblestone home at the southeast corner of Penfield-Walworth Road and Church Streets was also Dr. Esley's office.

Local resident Winnie Pease fondly remembers Marjorie, and recently shared her memories:

*"Marjorie's main vocation was as an artist and illustrator, a very talented one. While she was still living in Walworth she decided to write a children's book based on an event that had happened in her family. It is a charming story, titled "The Visit", and written under her first name, Joan Esley. Instead of illustrating it herself, she had her close friend, Eloise Wilkin, do it.*

*Many times Marjorie would use Walworth's children as models when she would be drawing children. She would have them pose in various positions so she could accurately depict the actions she was illustrating. My son, Christopher, posed for her several times."*

## 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.

<b><u>Thurs., Sept. 14</u></b>	2 – 4 PM	Afternoon Tea Party for Ladies and Gentlemen
<b><u>Mon., Sept. 18</u></b>	7:30 PM	General meeting; David Murdoch and his collection of old tools
<b><u>Mon., Sept. 25</u></b>	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting
<b><u>Sun., Oct. 1</u></b>	2-5 PM	Annual open house and Fall on the Farm Festival
<b><u>Sun., Oct. 29</u></b>	2–3:30 PM	Walworth Memories. Part 2, Businesses Past and Present; co-sponsored with Walworth-Seely Public Library
<b><u>Mon., Nov. 20</u></b>	7:30 PM	General meeting; History of Rochester Public Market
<b><u>Mon., Nov. 27</u></b>	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees meeting