

WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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Scouts inspect Larry Ruth's Jeep



Salute of the American Flag

Flag is folded by the scouts

Walworth Scout Troop 113



Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568

WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

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Thank You to:

- **Joyce Smith:** I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joyce Smith for all the work she has done for us as our first Genealogist. She has given her time and knowledge to helping strangers who email WHS looking for their ancestors. Thank you, Joyce, we wish you well in your new home in Florida. Because of the groundwork you have done, we will be able to handle future requests effectively.
- **Kathy Yucker Aeckerle:** Kathy will be the new guide in our Genealogy Department. Kathy is a life-long resident of Walworth and both her maternal and paternal families have been Walworth residents for several generations. Her interest in the history of our schools and her love for making family connections will serve her and us well in her new venture.
- **Becky Appleman:** Although Becky has had to give up the publicity chairmanship, she will continue to be a vital part of our Board. Thank you, Becky, for the work you have done and continue to do on our behalf.
- **Joyce Finney:** Thank you for the fine job getting the news of our Flag Day celebration and other activities into the local publications as our new Publicity Chairperson.
- **Filing Committee:** The group is still working diligently on updating our filing system. We have moved our work day to Wednesday to assure that the museum is open on our advertised day.
- **Nelson Schommer:** On the first Wednesday the museum was open we had a visit from Nelson Schommer, a former Lincoln resident. Among the items Nelson brought us was a pair of handcuffs used by his grandfather Charles Arney, when he was a town constable. He reminisced with us about his childhood in Lincoln, giving us a tour by memory of who lived where and when, and then answering many questions we had about the area.
- **Howard Triou:** Conversations with Howard have helped us with identifying photos and information about West Walworth when he was growing up.
- **Molly and Larry Hill:** They have given us photos of their families and area schools with identification. Molly and Larry have also been very helpful with information about Lincoln and West Walworth in the early days.



Who Is She?

By Jessie Keymel

So many times we get photos with no information, so please when you take pictures be sure to label them. Names are necessary and dates are very helpful. This picture of a lovely young girl soaking her feet was among Annie Balzar Young's photos. Who is the wee lass? When was the photo taken? What is the story that goes with it? Sadly, we do not have any answers, do you?

Flag Day at the Walworth Museum

Editor's Note: Due to time constraints, the full story of Flag Day at the Walworth Museum will be included in the September issue of our newsletter. For those who receive this newsletter by email, please check for more photos from this event on page 9 in the extra photo section of this newsletter. The cover photo for this newsletter contains four photos of the festivities of this event, held on Sunday, June 14.

Merchandizing in the Early 20th Century

Editor's Note: Below is a continuation of a story written by Ethel Henning, a charter member of the Walworth Historical Society, who passed away in 1997. The first segment appeared in our May issue.

A man canvassed the area collecting old iron to be recycled. No piece was too small for him to be willing to buy.

People were glad to have the scissors grinder come through the area, for he was very capable of sharpening shears, scissors, or knives.

The fish peddler who came every week was very welcome. Ward Arney lived at Bear Creek Harbor in Ontario. He fished in Lake Ontario and had a route that he traveled regularly to sell his catch. He had a big box on a wagon (later on a truck) that was filled with big chunks of ice among which he packed the fish. He delivered as far south as Jacobs Road. He brought only the best fish – big white fish, salmon, walleyed pike, and other varieties. They were so fresh they often flopped among the chunks of ice.

Of course the housewife depended on the meat man and the grocer who stopped at each home once a week. It was possible to give an order for next week's delivery if the desired item was not available immediately.

When a person realizes the limitations with this kind of merchandizing, one can appreciate the privilege of shopping in the supermarkets of the later part of the 20th century.

Visit Our Museum This Summer

There's something for everyone at the Walworth Museum, and summer is the perfect time for a visit. Youngsters can see toys played with by children not so long ago. Adults interested in genealogy have access to scrapbooks donated by Dorothy Petty, Anna May, and the Walworth Chamber of Commerce. Local cemetery records have been catalogued by Doug Churchill for easy access, in addition to obituaries and wedding/engagement information.



Our museum, shown at the left, is located at 2257 Academy Street and is open on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 – 4 PM June through September. Appointments for other days can be made by contacting Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Nancy Bel at 315-986-1164.

Ginegaw Park – Walworth’s Pride By Dorothy French

Soon after crossing Route 350 headed east towards the village, a level span of carefully manicured grass is visible on the south side of Penfield-Walworth Road. The sign by the side of the road (shown below) proclaims the area as Ginegaw Park. This town park boasts a picnic shelter, the new all-season lodge, vast athletic fields, tennis court, play areas, hiking trails, and much more. It is also the location of the annual Festival in the Park, where folks will gather on July 24 and 25 to enjoy the special events and other attractions that have been planned.

The park’s history began prior to its dedication as a town park in 1967. Between three and four acres of cropland had been donated earlier by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ginegaw. Clarence was born in Walworth and became a fruit farmer. He also had dairy cattle on the farm, which was located at the northwest corner of Routes 441 and 350. Later their farmhouse became a nursing home operated by his second wife, Jean. The Walworth Chamber of Commerce subsequently purchased adjoining land from the Ginegaws to bring the total park area to 25 acres. The Chamber, represented by president Norman Soucy, then turned the deeds over to Charles Hack, Town of Walworth Supervisor, on May 3, 1967.

Supervisor Hack signed the final Greenspan papers with Bernard Porray, chairman of the Wayne County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services, and reported “This is the first federal grant ever awarded this town.” The town received a check for \$1,681 from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Greenspan Project; Ginegaw Park was the first project to be undertaken in Wayne County.

According to a May 4, 1967, story in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, the Federal government, under its conservation program, would finance work on 14.2 acres. This area would be developed under the Greenspan program, which returned money to the municipality who expended funds in accordance with government approval. The efforts of past Chamber president Donald Brockman, who had worked on the project since its inception in 1957, helped secure the land and the grant from the Greenspan Project Fund.

Dredging of the natural drainage ditch was accomplished to form a small pond. A bird sanctuary, nature trails, picnic facilities and a camping area were originally planned, according to the newspaper story.

Dedication ceremonies were held July 6, 1967, with Bernard Porray as master of ceremonies. A newspaper account reported that “Two C of C members helped make the ceremony seen and heard. Donald Huntley supplied the farm wagon which served as a platform. Charles Pembroke operated the Walworth Fire Department ambulance, which provided power for the PA system.” A photo shows Stuart Huntley operating a backhoe tractor during the ground-breaking ceremony.



Ginegaw Park increased in size during the 1990’s and now stretches from Penfield-Walworth Road to Sherburne Road via Lorraine Drive. In 1992 Joe and Lorraine Finley sold their Sherburne Road homestead to the town as the 58-acre site for the new town hall/library complex. The Finleys put all the monies paid for the property into a trust fund to be used for educational purposes for the benefit of the Town of Walworth residents.

Fast forward to 2009: As the population of our town grows, so has the need for recreational areas. We are fortunate to have several town parks that offer a multitude of uses. These parks are under the jurisdiction of the Town of Walworth’s Parks and Recreation Department. Jackie VanLare is the Department’s Director.

WHS Museum Clean-up

by Bob Mogray

Every year on a certain predetermined Saturday we ask that those WHS members who live in the area and have the time, meet at the museum to work together on a group clean-up of the inside of the building and also work on the grounds outside. On May 2 volunteers showed up to meet the challenge.

They pitched in to clean the glass display cabinets, the displays, windows, counters, carpets, and floors. The vinyl siding around the museum entrance was washed and the lawn was mowed. At a later date other volunteers cleaned the bathrooms and kitchen, the curtains were washed and ironed, and gardening chores were done.

The WW II veterans' sign to the west of the museum was prepped and touched up with paint. WHS board member Larry Ruth has suggested this sign be moved to an indoor location to protect it from the elements as it is starting to show serious signs of wear. He has talked with Supervisor Bob Plant, who has agreed to have the sign moved to the town hall.



The WHS wishes to thank those who gave up their Saturday morning to help with the museum clean-up. Every year we encourage anyone who is able to stop in and lend a hand. We are always in need of assistance on many clean-up projects.

If you are interested in participating with museum clean-up and other projects, please call any officer or board member. Soon we will be posting a list on the board in the museum hallway of jobs that need to be done.

Thanks again to those who helped in this year's clean-up. Some of the volunteers appear in the photo shown at the left.

Thanks to Our Contributors

By Mary Jane Devlin

The Walworth Historical Society has received many contributions of memorabilia recently. Thanks to Diane VanderKamp, Nancy Bel, Kathy Aeckerle, Lois Enter, Larry and Molly Hill and Nelson Schommer. We have received handcuffs used in Lincoln, dolls, books, pictures (including a class picture with graduates in their caps and gowns), scrap books, etc. These items will be on display at the Museum in the near future.

Who Is "Rosie the Riveter"?

By Mary Jane Devlin

Many of us who grew up during World War II probably have heard of "Rosie the Riveter". If you don't know who she is, we have an outstanding program planned to enlighten you! And, even if you have heard of her, you will enjoy hearing more about her and sharing memories of those times.

Following a brief meeting, Bob Marcotte, a Managing Editor and columnist for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, will be our speaker for the Monday, September 21, program meeting. Bob has done this program for other organizations in our area and comes highly recommended. He has written several books about history.

The program will be at the museum on Academy Street in Walworth at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. We hope you can come to hear this dynamic speaker.

July 24 and 25 Festival in the Park – A Community Event By Dorothy French

The first Festival in the Park was held in August 1986. Twenty-three years later it has evolved to become an annual event for our community – thanks to the hard work and dedication of many people and organizations.

On April 19 the Walworth Historical Society and Walworth-Seely Public Library co-sponsored a Walworth Memories program entitled “Street Dances and Such”. The near record number of attendees spent almost two hours reminiscing about dances and other events held at various locations in our area.

A scrapbook at our museum details information about the Walworth Chamber of Commerce and the street dances, which were the brainchild of Dr. W. H. F. Newman. The dances were hosted by the Walworth Chamber of Commerce beginning in 1954 as a way to bring the community together and to earn money for individual organizations or groups. Main Street between Church Street and the four corners was shut down and became a gathering place for residents and former residents to meet.

Several attendees told how the street dances morphed into the Festival in the Park. In the mid 1980's, a committee - consisting of Elaine Leasure, Marlene Hall, Gloria Rowe, Andrea Kords, and Marcia Englert - began planning for a festival to be held at Ginewaw Park. This group continued to coordinate the event for five or six years, and then decided it was time for someone else to take over. Eventually it was realized there was a need to have a place where organizations could have a booth, the event would be free for the community, and there would be things for kids to participate in at no charge.

And that's how the Lions Club took ownership of the event in 1991. It is their major fund raiser each year, and enables them to support scholarships at Wayne and Gananda High Schools, Dollars for Scholars, the Walworth Food Pantry, Caring Friends, the Eastern Service Workers, eye screening, glaucoma screening, and diabetes, and provide glasses and hearing aids to individuals in need.

This year's event will be a two-day affair on Friday and Saturday, July 24 and 25, at Ginewaw Park on Penfield-Walworth Road. One of the highlights will be Friday night's parade, beginning at 7 PM. Walworth Historical Society's float will encompass this year's theme of “Going Green”. Look for our booth at the park on Friday evening and on Saturday and stop in to say hello.

The Walworth Lions Club, in conjunction with Walworth Recreation Department, has planned free numerous events to encourage community participation, including concerts, a movie, bingo, 5K race/walk, Civil War Encampment, State Police demos, car show, and physical activities for young and not-so-young. Of course, the event wouldn't be complete without the outstanding fireworks display on Saturday evening. A full schedule of events is available at the town hall or by contacting Bill Boyd at 315-524-9047 or e-mail bboyd2@rochester.rr.com. It will also be published in local newspapers.

In May 2006, the Walworth Historical Society presented Bill Boyd with its Community Service Award in recognition of his many years serving as chairperson of this event. Bill and his committee have worked hard this year to put together a family-oriented event that brings the community together. Hope to see you there!

Bob Turcotte: Community Service Exemplified By Joyce Finney

On May 18 the annual meeting of the Walworth Historical Society was held at the museum with an overflow crowd in attendance. Prior to the meeting a delicious pot-luck dinner was enjoyed by all.

Following dinner WHS President Jessie Keymel presented the Community Service Award to Robert (Bob) Turcotte of West Walworth, a man who has made a difference in the community. Jessie commented that “We are living in a community where we still have good neighbors and Bob, as well as his wife Helen, are always willing to help others.” It might be driving someone to an appointment, mowing a lawn, taking a meal to the sick, or checking in on elderly neighbors to see if all is well or not well. Jessie also jokingly referred to a quote from Bob in his 1954 Wayne Central School yearbook: “I can resist anything but temptation.”

Bob has been a volunteer fireman in the West Walworth Fire Department for 50 years. Chief Peter Marini said that "Bob is the type of volunteer who is committed to making a difference. He wasn't willing to 'just belong' - he has been an active line or social officer for 42 years in the department".

Walworth Town Supervisor Bob Plant presented Bob a copy of a Proclamation declaring May 18 "Bob Turcotte Day". Several of Bob's family members attended the meeting including two of his four children (Janice Ridgeway and Patty Hecht) and three of his nine grandchildren.



Bob Turcotte

Bob worked for Gleason Works for over 40 years. He served in the Korean War and in the European Theatre in Austria. Bob served on the Wayne Central School Board for several years. He is a "field trip taxi driver" for his grandchildren and never misses a concert, dance recital or play involving the grandchildren.

Mary Jane Devlin and Bob Mogray put together a program entitled "A Glimpse of West Walworth". This was a slide show presentation (using our new projector and laptop computer) showing pictures of West Walworth as it looked many years ago, plus some current photos. Mary Jane explained the pictures and gave a little history of them; several attendees contributed additional information. Many hours went into putting this wonderful presentation together. Thank you, Mary Jane and Bob.

During the business meeting the election of officers was held. Re-elected for one-year terms were Jessie Keymel, President; Bob Mogray, Vice President; and Judy McMillan, Secretary; Mary Jane Devlin was re-elected for a three-year term as Treasurer. Trustees re-elected for a three-year term were Nancy Bel and Joyce Finney. Also serving on the Board of Trustees are Becky Appleman, Gene Bavis, Dorothy French and Larry Ruth.

Scrapbook Memories By Joyce Finney

(The following appeared in Dorothy Petty's scrapbook for the year 1992)

- Jan. 3** The old Farmers Almanac celebrates 200 years. It is the oldest continuously published periodical in the United States.
- March 11** "Winter storm cripples area" & "It kept snowing." By the weekend, most areas had at least 20" of snow.
- March 27** Telephone Company Switches Walworth Numbers. New York Telephone transferred 575 of its customers from the 597 Palmyra exchange to 986 Macedon exchange.
- April** Mr. Potato Head celebrates his 40th birthday.
- April** First Academy Apartments, 3655 High Street, have 26 apartments subsidized by the non-profit C.A.S.H.
- May 17** Lawrence Welk dies at 89.
- November** New Walworth Town Hall/Library opens for business. The new facility is at 3600 Lorraine Drive.

Good-Bye from Joyce Hyman Smith

My last day in the Walworth area will be July 15. I will be living in Kenneth City, Florida. If you are in the Tampa or St. Petersburg's area, please contact me. To each of you, thank you and may you enjoy each day!

Joyce Hyman Smith

Farming in 1914 vs. 1999

By Jessie Keymel

Several years ago Ellery Schrader gave Roger Keymel an American Agriculturist farm directory from 1914. It covers towns in both Ontario and Wayne Counties. The directory is arranged in eight different categories, including how many acres are owned and/or rented by a farmer, what crops are raised, how much livestock is on the farm, and how many children are under age 21. It even records if there is a home phone and what telephone company services the area. This book, which is now in the museum, has been a great help with local family research.

The population of Walworth in 1914 was 2,187; this includes the hamlets of Lincoln and West Walworth. There is a map in the back of the book, divided into areas identified by numbers that correspond with the numbers on each piece of property in the directory.

Some statistics about agriculture in Wayne County:

	<u>1914</u>	<u>1999</u>
Dairy Cows	35,684	3,395
Potatoes (acres)	9,280	3,295
Corn (acres)	911,653	45,000
Vegetables (acres)	1,049,202	8,000
Tobacco (acres)	150	-

The 1999 statistics were part of an Agriculture Today Program that Dave Revelle gave at a meeting in 1999. The huge number of dairy cows reflects the fact that many families were self sufficient by having their own cows for milk, butter and cheese. Many of the smaller farms were "truck farms" that raised vegetables; the farmers took the produce to market or sold it to their neighbors and local stores. It would be interesting to know just where the tobacco was sold; no one is growing it in Wayne County now. I guess it is cheaper to buy the cigarettes, or is it with today's prices?

Walworth Historical Society 2009 Events Calendar

Save this schedule and mark your calendar for meetings and activities planned during the remainder of 2009. All events will be held at the museum, 2257 Academy Street, unless otherwise specified. All programs are free, although donations are gratefully accepted.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Tues., July 21	6:00 PM	Decorate parade float; location the Keymels
Fri., July 24	6:00 PM	Festival in the Park parade; booth at Ginegaw Park
Sat., July 25	3:00 – 9 PM	Booth at Ginegaw Park
Mon., Sept. 21	7:30 PM	General Meeting. Program: "Rosie the Riveter" by Bob Marcotte, <u>Democrat and Chronicle</u> columnist.
Sun., Oct. 4	2-5 PM	Open House to celebrate museum's 20 th anniversary.
Sun., Oct. 18	2-3:30	Walworth Memories, co-sponsor with library. Theme: "Births, Weddings, and Funerals" – the cycle of life.
Mon., Nov. 16	7:30 PM	General Meeting. Program: "Walworth's Cobblestones" by Ron Matteson, Judy McMillan, and Gene Bavis

Board of Trustee Meetings, 7:00 PM: Aug. 17 and Oct. 19.

Open House Hours: The museum is open during June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM. Contact Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 for an appointment for other times.

July 2009 WHS Newsletter Bonus e-mail Photos

(WHS Flag Day Photos)



WHS members at Flag Day



Walworth Scout Troop 113



Walworth scouts in a flag folding ceremony



Star section and each stripe is cut from the flag



Scout troop 113 salute as flags burn



Refreshments at the museum



Bob Plant gives award to Bob Turcotte



Mike McEwen helps clean up the museum lawn



Grover Cleveland peony in 2007



Grover Cleveland peony in 2009



1932 photo donated by Howard Triou



Class of 1947 photo hanging in the museum