

# WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

**Volume 34 Number 6 May 2010**



Gene Bavis (left) and Dick Poulsen (right) displayed and explained different architectural styles in the area in a show at our March meeting.

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**Walworth Museum:** 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568  
**WHS Website:** [www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org)



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At the Walworth museum we are diligently working to create easy access for genealogy research.

Thanks to Joyce Hyman Smith, our first genealogist, for all her hard work creating a genealogy filing system and tracking forms for our research of individuals and families. In addition, the filing committee has updated the museum's files which contain a history of businesses, organizations, churches, schools, streets and roads, and a multitude of other topics.

Also available are:

1. Scrapbooks created by Dorothy Petty and Anna May containing local, regional, national, and international information. Each book has been indexed by Douglas Churchill.
2. One Marion and all Walworth Cemeteries: documented and indexed by Douglas Churchill.
3. Documented information of area-related deaths by Gordon Youngman.
4. Walworth Methodist Church history and membership DVD created by Douglas Churchill.
5. Genealogy research of the Jan VerDugnt and Pieter Mallefas families by Dennis DeGroot.
6. Genealogy research of the Amos, John, and Raymond Bassage families, created by Gwyn Bassage.
7. Area maps that include town and hamlet boundaries, roads, residents' names, and school houses.

Stop in and check us out. We are open Sundays and Wednesdays from June 6 through September 29, 2 – 4 PM; closed July 4<sup>th</sup> and September 5.

**B-P Reunion at March 15 Meeting**

By Gene Bavis

As many of you know, we billed the March 15 Walworth Historical Society program as the "B-P Reunion." Gene Bavis and Dick Poulsen taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies at Wayne Central Middle School. We decided in the fall of 1969 or 1970 to open the folding door between our classrooms and co-teach our classes, and at that point we became known as "B-P" by both our students and colleagues. That arrangement lasted about 15 years; during that period of time nearly 4,000 students were in our classes. The end came when the class sizes changed a bit and scheduling problems meant that our classes could no longer be combined.



**Gene Bavis (left) and Dick Poulsen (right)**

One of the topics we covered related to local history was called "Reading the Landscape" in which students made observations of architectural styles, settlement patterns, historic ruins, signs, street names, etc. Based on those things, amateur historians can learn much about an area. Once we taught these concepts, we gave our students an opportunity to practice their skills on a trip to the Wayne County Museum and back. The trip was more than a museum visit, and many students remember participating.

Dick and I had not taught together in about 25 years, so this reunion was special for us. Because I had made contact on Facebook with many of our former students, several of them attended the "B-P Reunion" program. In all there were 44 people in attendance, and the program was well received

## Here Come the Brides and Grooms By Judy McMillan

June is the month when our thoughts turn to weddings - and we at the Walworth Historical Society would like to reminisce with you about weddings of Walworthians in the past!

We are putting together a display at the Walworth town hall for the month of June. The glass display case is located in the foyer near the doors to the library. We would like to feature wedding photos of local interest. Please include pertinent information (date of wedding, names of bride and groom, names of attendants if a group photo, etc. Also include the name and phone number of the photo owner so it can be returned. Contact Dorothy French at 315-986-1098 if you have questions. Our recent displays have been a big hit. Thanks for helping make this another interesting event!

## Flat Alyssa Visits Walworth By Jane Cala

Children in Wendy Locke's third grade class at Schlegel Road School in Webster will soon be learning about the Walworth museum and library. After reading the book, Flat Stanley (the story of a young boy who was flattened by his falling bulletin board) the children were asked to make a flat version of themselves. They were asked to send the flat version to someone who lives in a different area. Gerry and Jane Cala of Johnny Lane, members of the Walworth Historical Society, were the happy recipients of Flat Alyssa, their granddaughter's flattened version of herself.

Instructions that came with the paper doll said to write up a story about the adventures the doll had while in one's possession for a month. Alyssa stayed for the month of March and was returned to school on March 30, along with a book called Alyssa's Adventures in Walworth, which contained pictures of Flat Alyssa taken at the library and museum.

The book begins with Alyssa attending the town meeting with Assemblyman Bob Oaks, where she had her picture taken with Mr. Oaks, Town Supervisor Bob Plant, Library Director Mary Zingerella, and Youth Services Specialist Liz O'Toole. After the meeting, Flat Alyssa visited the library, where she played at the train table and checked out the children's display case (which held Grandma's snowmen) and the many books, videos, and games the library has for children.



**Look for Flat Alyssa**

Several weeks later Flat Alyssa visited the Walworth museum. There she checked out the lovely quilt that shows the dry house that was on Grandma and Grandpa's property long ago, and the many old artifacts belonging to the museum. She sat in an old school chair that had a drawer on the side to hold the chalkboard and chalk the children used when practicing their writing and math long ago. She had her picture taken by the town historian's door, the quilt, and the museum sign on the outside of the building. She was also photographed by the t-shirt that asks the question, "Where the heck is Walworth?" This picture was used on the cover of the book that went back to school.

Before returning to school, Flat Alyssa helped at the Friends of the Library book and bake sale at the end of March. By the time she returned to Webster, she was wiser about where Grandma and Grandpa live, and also very tired. We hope the real Alyssa will visit the museum soon.



## **WHS Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Dinner, and Award: May 17** By Gene Bavis

On Monday, May 17, the Walworth Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and pot luck dinner at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park (Penfield Rd, Walworth) beginning at 6:15 PM. Attendees are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to pass. Ham, rolls, and beverages will be provided by the Historical Society. Following dinner, a short business meeting will be held and election of officers and trustees will take place.

Following the meeting, the Walworth Historical Society will present the Community Service Award to Quilts for Kids, a local organization that has a mission of providing quilts to children in Third World countries who have been hospitalized. During surgery, each child is wrapped in a quilt and they take it home with them. Previously post-surgery children were wrapped in paper and plastic due to lack of blankets. The group is affiliated with the Zion West Walworth United Methodist Church.



**Quilts for Kids Ministry**

As of November 2009, members have made more than 385 quilts and given them to Rotoplast International, an organization that does free cleft palate surgeries for children. Other quilts have been sold to support the group. The program for the evening will be about their work. Attendees are encouraged to donate colored (no white, please) cotton fabric to Quilts for Kids. The members of the group also make quilts, table runners and placemats that are sold to finance their mission, so please consider purchasing something from them at the program. Co-leaders are Kim Valone and Linda Saxton.

Since 1990, the Community Service Award is given annually to a person or organization, suggested by our membership, to honor Walworth residents or organizations who have given of their time to enhance the quality of life of others.

### **A Little Info About Us**

The Walworth Historical Society is a volunteer organization established in 1975. Our chartered purpose is to collect, preserve, and display items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the Town of Walworth and its environs. Donations are tax deductible as we have 501(C)3 status. Our newsletter is published six times a year. The newsletter committee includes Bob Mogray, editor; Gene Bavis, Mary Jane Devlin, Dorothy French, and Jessie Keymel.

### **35 mm Slide Projector Needed** By Bob Mogray

There have been several times in the recent past where it would have been very beneficial to have had a 35 mm slide projector for viewing slides at the museum. Sometimes people come to the Historical Society with old slides for us to keep or copy. At this time we do not have a dedicated slide projector to use for this purpose. We are asking our membership to keep their eyes open for one of these 35 mm slide projectors and - if one is available at a garage sale or if anyone knows of one that is available and in good working order - please notify me or any officer or board member.

## **Turning Back the Pages to 1959**

By Dorothy French

Welcome to 1959, a year mixed with library, entertainment, weather-related, and military news. Events of local and national interest were captured by the Wayne County Mail, and are reprinted with their permission.

- Mar. 13 Residents of Livingston, Monroe, and Wayne Counties will have free access to libraries in all three counties, effective March 2.
- Apr. 3 Pat Torpey, country music singer and guitarist, will emcee and star in a variety show presented by Ontario-Williamson-Walworth World Inside Chapter.
- May 22 Walworth was pounded with hail stones, some as large as a quarter. Heaviest damage was in the village, where Milton Bradshaw's greenhouse on Penfield Road suffered \$5,000 loss in broken windows and plant damages. Seven window panes on the south side of Walworth Methodist Church were broken. Roads were covered with green leaves, sliced from the trees. There was extensive damage to farmers' crops.
- June 5 A sodium fluoride clinic was held June 22 - 24 at the Walworth Elementary School.
- Oct. 30 Crane-Engert Post, American Legion, will hold a memorial service on Nov. 11 in front of the Grange Hall, where a monument will be unveiled listing the service men of Walworth who served during World War II.
- Nov. 20 Sharon Ann Schultz and the Henderson Brothers (Donald, Kenneth and Lenny) won the National Grange Talent Contest in California. They previously had won the Lincoln Grange contest.
- Dec. 18 At a joint meeting of school and town librarians, arranged by Wayne County Library Services, discussion centered around current and future ways the libraries can work together to further the growth of children through reading. Representing Walworth was Mrs. Clifford (Emily) Huntley.

## **WHS Museum Clean Up Dates**

By Bob Mogray

This is an urgent plea for help!! The first two Saturdays in May (May 1 and May 8) between 9 AM and noon have been designated for the spring clean up at our museum at 2257 Academy Street. There will be inside jobs (cleaning the display cases, sweeping, dusting, vacuuming, washing windows, and organizing). There will also be many outdoor things to do (raking, trimming bushes, painting, and window cleaning). You will need to bring rakes, shovels, and other garden tools.

We need as much help as we can get. If you can join us even for just an hour, your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

## **Wear Walworth Proudly**

By Jessie Keymel

Have you ever wished you could purchase a shirt or cap that would show people you were from Walworth? Now you can.

We have taken the center of the coverlet showing a picture of the Academy School and had an embroidered emblem designed with the words "Walworth, NY, established 1829" surrounding it. You can purchase a golf shirt (\$20.00), a tee shirt (\$15.00), or a cap (\$13.00) in the color of your choice from the Walworth Historical Society.

To place an order, contact Nancy Bell at 315-986-1164. She will have several sample items on display at the May 17 meeting and also at the July 23-24 Festival in the Park. All Stitched Up, a Walworth business, is making this possible for us. The turn around - from the time ordered to delivery - is about one week. WHS board members already have their shirts in quite a variety of colors.

## **Membership Dues are Due** By Mary Jane Devlin

The Walworth Historical Society operates on a May 1 to April 30 fiscal year. Your membership dues are due May 1 unless you are a Life Member. **There is a red dot on your address label if you owe dues as of May 1.** Members who receive their newsletter by e-mail will receive a separate notice. If you have questions about when your membership expires, please contact the treasurer at 986-1512, or check your membership card.

There are several categories of membership in WHS: Student \$5, Individual \$10, Joint or family \$15. Supporting \$25, Corporate or Business \$30, Sponsor \$50, Patron \$100, Life \$150, Benefactor \$150. By choosing to join at a higher level of membership, you will enable us to continue to expand our program presentations and add to our collection of historical items, as well as restore and preserve the items that are already in our collection.

Please pay dues at the May 17 annual meeting or send your check to the Walworth Historical Society at the address listed on the front of this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support.

## **Open House Sitters Needed** By Jessie Keymel

As the summer season quickly approaches, we are looking for volunteers to sit at the museum during our open hours. It is an important part of our mission to make our collections of Walworth history available for everyone.

We have a list of duties and other information posted on the bulletin board; this will be helpful when you take your turn at the museum. As there is no phone at the museum, we suggest you bring your cell phone; any questions you may have can be answered with a quick call to a board member whose names are listed on the volunteer check list on the bulletin board. Names are also listed on the front page of our newsletters; extra copies are located on the desk in the meeting room.

The museum will be open from 2 until 4 PM each Wednesday and Sunday from June until the end of September. Nancy Bel is coordinating this year's scheduling; please call her at 315-986-1164. Nancy is also our hospitality chairperson and is always looking for cookie makers and help for the refreshment table for our meeting nights.

## **Childhood Memories Meeting** By Bob Mogray

On Sunday, April 18, at the main meeting room of the Walworth Town Hall, the 13<sup>th</sup> installment of Walworth Memories was held. It was co-sponsored by the Walworth-Seely Public Library and the Walworth Historical Society. The topic was all about "Childhood Memories". As expected, it was very well attended. Gene Bavis served as moderator, Dorothy French recorded comments on a laptop computer, and Mary Jane Devlin assisted in note taking.



There were many stories of childhood from Gordon Youngman, Gene Bavis, Helen Schultz Triou, Lyle Bassage, Jay Taber, Larry Hill, and many others. Noted also were three generations of the Youngman family in attendance. Brothers Gordon and Bill Youngman, Bill's son Rick Youngman and daughter Lisa Youngman Blaakman, and Lisa's daughter Holly Blaakman were there. It was great to see new members Duke and Mabel Risley also; Mabel shared a memories letter from her sister, Martha Lewis Michener of Oklahoma City, OK.

Many of the stories were very funny and were told about family and summer adventures. Many discussions echoed the concept that there wasn't much money back then and most of the kids had to make their own fun.

### **Walworth Memories meeting: April 18th**

Refreshments were provided by the Friends of Walworth-Seely Public Library and everyone seemed to have a very good time. We thank all of those who participated and we hope to get as good a turn-out at our next Walworth Memories session, Holiday Memories, which will be held on Sunday, October 17, at the WHS museum.

**Coming Soon to a Theatre Near You** By Bob Mogray

WHS has been planning to convert Charlie Pembroke's old 8 mm movies to DVD since they had been donated to us a few years ago. Recently we have received a grant from the Hoffman Foundation and will use the money for this purpose.

We probably won't be able to do them all but hopefully most of the movies that are in the best condition will be transferred to the DVD format, making viewing and editing easier and more accessible to more people. These old acetate-based films degrade over time; by transferring them to digital media, it will preserve them for generations to come. The goal is to have this project completed by the end of 2010.

These old movies were taken of Charlie's family, friends, and the many places and events in and around Walworth. They are priceless historical items. When this project is completed, we will be able to show them at various meetings. Many thanks to the Pembroke family for their generous donation.

**Tiger Cubs Visit Museum** By Liz Bavis

On March 23 a group of Tiger Cubs from Pack 167 visited the museum along with their leader, Dan Bogel. We started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and learned it was written by Francis Bellany of Mt. Morris. WHS President Jessie Keymel and Liz Bavis told them about the early history of Walworth and showed them some of the museum's collections. Liz talked to them about some of the names of the streets - High Street, Academy Street, Church Street and Orchard Street and asked them if they knew how some of the names were picked. They figured out where the names came from and several boys thought it would be fun to have a street named after them. We showed them the stereoscopic viewer, the old post office mail boxes, some of the children's toys, the butter molds and the bi-centennial quilt. There were a number of questions generated from the pictures on the quilt. One of the favorite things the boys liked was the head and horns from Yeoman's Holstein bull.

The parents were amazed at the collection of Dorothy Petty's scrapbooks and the fact they had been indexed. Several parents expressed interest in returning when the museum is open to read articles related to their families. The boys left knowing more about the town they lived in. It is our hope that as they continue to grow and learn they will have an interest in the history and people of the town they live in.

**Yes, We Can (S)can**

We continue to enlarge our file of photographs, thanks to those who have given or loaned us pictures of people, places and things. The good news is you do not have to give up the photographs unless you want to donate them to the museum. We have the capability to scan them into our computer. If you loan them to us for a short time we can copy them and then return them to you, or we may be able to copy them on the spot if you have the time to wait. Photos don't have to be old to be important. To share your photos, contact Bob Mogray or any WHS Board Member listed on the front cover of this newsletter.

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**Membership Information for Fiscal Year May 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011**

**Check the appropriate category:**

_____ Student	\$ 5.00	_____ Sponsor	\$ 50.00
_____ Individual	\$ 10.00	_____ Patron	\$ 100.00
_____ Joint or Family	\$ 15.00	_____ Life Membership	\$ 150.00
_____ Supporting	\$ 25.00	_____ Benefactor	\$ 150.00
_____ Corporate or Business	\$ 30.00		

*Thank you for helping us to continue our mission of preserving history for the future.  
(see reverse side)*



**Grandpa and Grandma Dinse**

Do you recognize these people? The back of the photo identifies them as Grandpa and Grandma Dinse. Contact an officer or trustee (listed on the front page of this newsletter) if you can give us information about them.

**Walworth Historical Society  
2010 Events Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sat., May 1	9-noon	Spring clean up	Museum
Sat., May 8	9-noon	Spring clean up	Museum
Mon., May 17	6:15 PM	Annual meeting, pot luck supper, election of officers, community service award.	Lodge at Ginegaw Park
Tues., July 20	6:30 PM	Decorate float for Festival parade	TBA
Fri., July 23	6-9 PM 7:00 PM	Booth at Festival in the Park Parade (line-up at 6 PM)	Ginegaw Park Parade route
Sat., July 24	3-9 PM	Festival in the Park: booth	Ginegaw Park
Mon., Sept. 20	7:30 PM	General Meeting: Program TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 3	2-5 PM	Open House. Subject TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 17	2-3:30 PM	Walworth Memories: Holiday Memories	Museum
Mon., Nov. 15	7:30 PM	General Meeting. Subject TBA	Museum

**Board of Trustee Meetings:** Mondays: 7:00 PM at the Museum. June 21, August 16, and November 1

**Open House Hours:** The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street and is open June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM. Contact Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Nancy Bel at 315-986-1164 for an appointment for other times.

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Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Make check payable to: Walworth Historical Society and mail to P. O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_



## May 2010 WHS Newsletter Bonus e-mail Photos

All of the photos on this page are from our Memories meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>. See the article about this meeting on page 6 of this newsletter.





All of the photos on this page are from the March WHS meeting at the Lodge at the Walworth Town Park. See the story about this meeting on page #2 of this newsletter.

