

WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 33 Number 2 Sept. 2008



Read about our award-winning float on page 2 and 8 of this newsletter.

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

WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

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President's Message By Jessie Keymel

There were some new faces in the parade and festival this year. It was great to see several new clubs that involve the young people in our community. The Wayne Central Wrestling Boosters, Gananda Racing Aquatic Team, and Hillrise Equestrian Center joined the Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts and Walworth Recreation.

Small town America is still an important element in the make up of our diverse country. Agriculture was and still is a very important part of Walworth. Gone are many of our dairy farms and the huge orchards, but still there are many small family farms on every road in town.

Thank you to everyone who worked on the museum's float and at the booth again this year. Thank you also to Carlyle Darron for letting Junior Champion Pillar Hill Roy-Ellie ride our float. I think everyone at the parade now knows that the Holsteins were brought to the U.S.A. by the Yeomans of Walworth in 1879. Did you know they came to the farm on Penfield Road across from the ball field, just west of Orchard Street? The herdsman for the Yeomans were Anthonie Molner and Abram Pembroke; both still have descendants living in Walworth.

The Festival was a two-day event and an important coming together of people with different interests, a good mix for any active community. If you missed it, it was indeed your loss. As always at this event thoughts turn back to the Street Dances, the original annual celebration when Main Street was closed to through traffic and dancing, bingo and eating were the main events. It is hard to believe that my children hardly remember it and their children have never experienced a street dance. Another footnote in the history of our town.



Sitting in the WHS booth at this year's Festival in the Park are from left to right: Nancy Bel, Becky Appleman, Michael Scheemaker, Joan Rosette, Jessie Keymel, Alan Rosette, and Joyce Finney.

Museum Open House: October 5

Our annual open house at the museum will be Sunday, October 5, 2 – 5 PM. Visitors will be able to watch spinning and rug hooking demonstrations and get an up-close look at one or two alpacas. There will be a video slide show of pictures of past WHS events and photos of the area. And of course no WHS event is complete without refreshments!

Looking Back Through the Years By Dorothy French

(The March 1977 WHS newsletter included this story)

Tidbits from the Town Historian's File by Gene Bavis

The Class of 1912 was the first to graduate from Walworth High School. It consisted of Clifford M. Huntley and Helen M. Sawyer. Miss Sawyer died shortly thereafter on March 2, 1913.

The Class of 1913 consisted of Ruth A. Alles, Stanley Petty, Ethel J. Russell, Gladys M. Tuttle, and Robert W. Wignall.

On March 18, 1929, the voters of District #1 approved a bond issue of \$80,000 for the purpose of erecting a new school building.

On February 19, 1930, F. H. and A. D. Tuttle purchased the district bonds for \$80,056.63.

On March 1, 1930, the work of wrecking the old high school and the Grange Hall (the original academy building) began.

On September 8, 1930, the new building was opened.

On October 3, 1930, dedication exercises were held.

The Board of Education of Walworth High School for 1931 – 32 consisted of Robert W. Wignall (President), A.B. Wing, Orlie Clark, Abe Almekinder, and Frank Dedie. Mr. L. S. Neely was Principal. He also taught Math and Science. There were 7 other teachers on the faculty as well.

The school budget of Walworth High School for 1931 – 32 was \$21,300, of which \$10,500 was estimated to be state aid.

(The September 1977 WHS newsletter included this story)

September Meeting

The first meeting of the Walworth Historical Society will be held on Monday, September 26, 1977, at 7:30 P.M. at the Freewill School. Mr. Gary Walrath, curator of the Wayne County Museum, will bring items and artifacts from the museum to talk about.

(The March 1977 WHS newsletter included this story)

It is with sadness that we draw to your attention the loss of four members of our Walworth Historical Society since its inception many months ago.

The many friends of Cora Bavis, Sarah Taber, Hazel White, and Elton May miss their affection, understanding, and valued contributions toward making the Town of Walworth a delightful and interesting place in which to live.

A special Museum Fund was established in October 1976 to which memorial gifts may be given in the name of any deceased person should the family so request.

Genealogy Lines: The Life of a Farmer in 1896

By Joyce H. Smith

The museum received a box with small books and a few other items regarding Dr. Robert Morris. We did not look too closely, at that time, as to what the books contained. Early this summer we remembered the box and looked inside. This gives us an insight to the life of a farmer in 1896.

One of the books had records of his farm accounts. The farm was on the West Walworth-Lincoln Road; today's address would be 4893-4897 Lincoln Road. He had 88 acres.

On April 1, 1896, he took an inventory for his farm. He had 4 cows \$100, 2 heifers \$25, 2 colts \$50, 5 horses \$300, 21 sheep \$105, and 2 hogs \$25. Wagons and buggies, plows and harrows, cultivator and weeder were \$150. One plow \$10.50, seeder and cultivator \$65, mowing machine \$40, 1 scraper \$6.50, and 1 reaper \$40.

Some of the other expenses for the year were: seed corn \$3, 100 bushels of oats \$25, clover seed \$9, bean straw \$8, grinding \$1.82, making cheese \$9.79, school taxes \$12.52, land taxes \$30, 13 hens \$5.10, blacksmith \$50.30, and wages \$368.00. Wages were \$2.00 - 2.25 a week or \$18 - 22 a month. Other expenses he recorded were house and barn repairs and the record for each of his workers.

His farm income in 1896 was 1 calf \$4.50, 2 calves \$10, potatoes \$12.50, 163 lbs. wool \$22.83, 28 lambs \$56, cow \$10, 476 bushels of apples \$167.50, and 2 pigs \$19.

Sept. 15 Meeting: Civil War and a Local Author

By Dorothy French

Our next general meeting will be Monday, September 15, at 7:30 PM. Ron Matteson of Lewis Road will present a slide show on "Civil War Campaigns of the 10th New York Cavalry". It will include descriptions of the 10th Cavalry's battle campaigns, location maps, and photos.

There is a large glass-enclosed display case at our museum which is used to feature items relating to the current program offering. If anyone has Civil War-related memorabilia they could loan us for the case, contact president Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205.

The public is invited to this informative program. There is no admission charge, although donations are appreciated. Refreshments will be served.

September 15 is Part I of Ron's two-part program. Part II will be sponsored by the Walworth Seely Public Library and will be held on Sunday, October 26, from 1:30 – 2:30 PM at the town hall meeting room, 3600 Lorraine Drive. Entitled "Why Write Another Civil War Book?", it includes the details of finding letters written between his great-grandfather, Justus Matteson, and his future wife, Mary Hatch, which prompted the book-writing idea.

Ron's book will be available at each presentation for a special price of \$22.00.

Ron and Juanita have lived in Walworth since 1976 when they purchased a cobblestone house on Lewis Road. Dr. Matteson has worked in the engineering field at General Dynamics and Xerox Corporation, later joining the faculty of the Computer Engineering Department at Rochester Institute of Technology. He received a PhD in electrical engineering from Syracuse University, majoring in Computer Systems.

A "Place" in His Heart



Liz and Gene Bavis

Amid a red, white, and blue background, Liz Place of Henrietta became the bride of Gene Bavis on July 5. The newly-erected gazebo in the Bavis' front yard was the scene of their wedding. Liz' daughter, Julie Place, was maid of honor; Gene's son, Major Jeffrey Bavis, was best man; grandchildren served as flower girl and ring bearers. The Scripture readings were done by Gene's daughter, Angela Breci.

Gene and Liz asked their friends to make donations to charity instead of giving wedding gifts. Over \$3,000.00 was raised including nearly \$500.00 for the Walworth Historical Society.

Sharing Memories

By Rev. Verne Schattner (former Walworth resident now living in Cohocton, NY)

I just wanted you to know we certainly appreciated the School House Day at your Walworth Memories meeting a few weeks ago. It brought back many memories of the area. I remember going to the mill with my neighbor, Anthony Scheel, when he had his grain ground each week to feed his chickens. I also remember when the mill burned early one morning at the time the Blyths had just sold it; the new owners were naturally upset at the loss of the mill.

Mrs. Blyth was my oldest brother's first teacher in District #3. The Blyths had one son who was born at their home next to the mill. After Ray sold the mill, the family moved to Macedon village, where he was the postmaster for a number of years.

A Treasured Recipe

The delicious array of food at our annual May meeting/pot luck supper is proof our area has many good cooks. A crowd favorite was the rhubarb cake made by Nancy Bel, who said this recipe belonged to her mother, the late Bernice Nortier.

Rhubarb Cake

- A. Spray bottom and sides of 9x13 pan; dust bottom of pan with flour
- B. Mix together and place in pan:

1 ½ cups brown sugar	1 teaspoon vanilla
½ cup shortening	2 cups flour
1 teaspoon soda added to 1 cup sour milk	1 1/3 cups rhubarb, cut into small pieces
1 egg beaten	
- C. Topping: Mix together 1 teaspoon cinnamon and ½ cup brown sugar; spread over cake batter.
- D. Bake 30-32 minutes at 360 degrees. May take a few minutes longer, depending on oven temperature.

Next Walworth Memories Program Planned

By Mary Jane Devlin

The next Walworth Memories program is planned for Sunday, September 28, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Walworth Historical Society museum, 2257 Academy Street, Walworth. This program is co-sponsored by the Walworth–Seely Public Library and the historical society. The topic will be Weather.

Do you remember the big snow storms of the 1940's or the ice storms, when there was no electricity for days? Tell us of your memories of a wind burst, or hail storm or cold spell. How did you cope with these weather-related problems? Remember heat waves before air-conditioning? We want to hear about your experiences.

We have a nice collection of remembrances on topics that were discussed at other Walworth Memories programs. These are all categorized and available at the museum. Refreshments will be served.

We hope to see you at the museum on Sunday, September 28, at 2:00 p.m.

School Memories

By Lois Wing Bulterman Ouzts

Editor's Note: Lois Wing was a Walworth resident from 1922. She married George Bulterman and they had 3 children. After her children were married and her husband passed away, she moved to South Carolina and remarried.

I remember in June 1930, Dorothy Yuker, Wilberta Arnold, Viola Pembroke, Lois Wing, Frank Finley, Clarence Symes, Roger Pembroke and Floyd Coomber graduated from the Methodist Church because their high school building had been torn down during Christmas vacation and desks for all the grades and high school moved to the Grange Hall. A new building was being built.

In 1932 the Alonzo Wing family (with children Lois, Radah, and Ralph) moved into a home at 202 Walworth-Marion Road owned by Mrs. MacMurray, who lived in the stately mansion built by T. G. Yeomans, immortalized on gift stationery by the Walworth Historical Society. She also owned the plot of land called by the school kids, "the park", where they liked to eat lunch or sit under the beech tree to while away the noon hour, shelling nuts when they were ripe. My brother kept that park mowed when Mrs. MacMurray thought he was old enough.

Three of my grandchildren (David, Jr.; Dara Anne; and Nicole) had a chance to spend a year in Mrs. Dorothy Yuker Petty's grade. I think I'm the last living member of the class of 1930 and I'm 94. The first to pass on was Frank Finley. He was too young to die but I never heard if it had something to do with World War II. It was early in that era.

I remember when my daughter, Bethany Jane Bulterman, and Mary Jane Cauwels burned their hard-worked-over lesson papers in our burn barrel on the farm at 202 Walworth-Marion Road after school was out of session for the year. Now it is 2637 Walworth-Marion Road, the home of Kevin and Barbara Heald.

The Year Was 1974

By Joyce Finney

The information below appeared in Dorothy Petty's 1974 scrapbook.

January: Richard Breen, manager of Breen's Market in Palmyra, is selling gasoline cheaper than other nearby stations. The self-service station on Route 31 can offer regular gasoline for 37.1 cents for regular and premium at 40.1 cents per gallon. This price is about 10 cents below the competitors.

February: "New Gas Plan Could Ease the Chaos". The mandatory alternate-day gasoline distribution plan announced by Governor Malcolm Wilson does offer the prospect of retrieving some order out of the chaos that has reigned at many gas stations in many parts of the state.

March 1: The Postmaster General launched new postal rates warning that strong economic pressures could drive rates even higher. The new rates are: 10 cents for 1st class letters, 13 cents for airmail and 8 cents for postcards.

April: The Barbie doll turns 16 years old. She has looked the same for all those years.

May: Walworth will continue its town hall search. The Walworth Town Board is studying at least five possible sites.

May 24: Duke Ellington dies at age 75. The Ellington band was one of the greatest.

June 10: Walworth Methodist Church auctions 102-year old pews. The church will use proceeds of the sale for remodeling. A quarter-mile long string of cars lined the Walworth-Penfield Road for the auction at the old Walworth Fire Hall. The pews sold for a disappointing amount of \$4.00/\$5.00. The church had hoped to earn between \$35 and \$40 for the 16 and 8 foot-long pews. Other donated items were also sold.

July: Dizzy Dean dies at age 63...one of the greatest pitchers in baseball history.

August 26: Charles Lindbergh dies at age 72. Eight days before his death from cancer, Lindbergh took his last flight to Honolulu. He wanted to die in the place he loved most in the world.....on the island of Maui in Hawaii, where he had built a home for his retirement.

September: The 133 year old fire-damaged 1st Baptist Church of West Walworth was demolished. Another church will be built on the property where the old one once stood. The church was severely damaged by fire on May 8, 1973. Arson was suspected.

December 31: Governor Hugh L. Carey is sworn in as Governor of New York State.

Shop For a Cause: Deadline is Sept. 19

By Becky Appleman

There are only a few more days left to purchase a Shop for a Cause coupon and help the Walworth Historical Society. Purchasing a \$5.00 coupon entitles a shopper to save between 10% and 20% at any Macy's department store on Saturday, September 20.

It's a win/win for everyone! Macy's gives us the coupons. We sell them for \$5.00 each and keep the money. This coupon then entitles the purchaser to a 10% - 20% shopping discount on September 20 on all men's, women's and kids' apparel, fine and fashion jewelry, bed and bath items, housewares, frames, luggage, china, crystal and silver, all kitchen and personal care electrics and technology items. Also there is a 10% discount on all regular and sale furniture, mattresses, and rugs. In addition, everyone who opens a Macy's charge account on September 20 receives an additional 20% off their purchases.

This offer EXCLUDES cosmetics and fragrances as well as designer handbags and designer shoes. Please check with the store if in doubt before your purchase.

Tickets can be purchased from any WHS officer or trustee; names and phone numbers are listed on the front page of this newsletter. Reminder: the deadline to purchase a coupon is September 19.

WHS Float in the Festival in the Park Parade

Our award-winning float was true to this year's "Agriculture in Walworth" theme. The banner on the front of the float proclaimed that the Yeomans of Walworth brought the first Holsteins to the United States in 1879. Roger Keymel is shown driving the tractor that pulled the float. The photo on the cover of this newsletter shows the banner and Roger.

Herdsmen of the Hour was Jim Hamman who tended Pillar Hill Roy-Ellie, a junior champion of the Wayne County Fair and Wayne Black and White Show. The heifer and hay wagon were on loan from Carlyle Darron. See the photo below for a close up photo of Jim and Ellie. The fresh produce was provided by Louie Bell and Anita Amsler.

Also riding on the float were Rhode Island Red chickens owned by Larry Pospula.



Jim Hamman and Ellie



The float and the first place trophy

2008 WHS Events Calendar

Save this schedule and mark your calendar for meetings and activities planned during 2008. 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>
Mon., Sept. 15	7:30 PM	General Meeting: Speaker: Ron Matteson of Walworth. Subject: Part I (Civil War Campaigns of the 10 th New York Cavalry). Part II (Why Write Another Civil War Book?) will be Sun., Oct. 26, at the town hall meeting room.
Sun., Sept. 28	2-3:30 PM	Walworth Memories, co-sponsor with library. Subject: Weather. Location: Museum
Sun., Oct. 5	2-5 PM	Open House
Mon., Nov. 17	7:30 PM	General Meeting; subject to be announced.

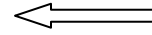
The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, November 10, at 7 PM.

The museum is open during June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM. It is open other times by appointment by contacting Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205.

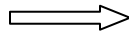
September 2008 WHS Newsletter Bonus e-mail Photos



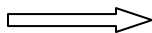
This year's WHS prize winning float seen from the back side as it approaches the judge's stand.



An aerial view of the early days of Orchard Street in Walworth. This was taken in the mid 1970's.

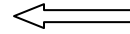


Bertha and Charlie Pembroke. This photo of Charlie and his wife was taken at the Walworth Fire Hall in the 1970's.

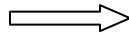




Warren and Betty Bell in a photo taken in Gordie Youngman's store in 1989



The former Stalker's store in West Walworth. This photo taken in 2006.



Lyle and Jean Bassage in a photo taken at Gordie Youngman's store in 1984.

