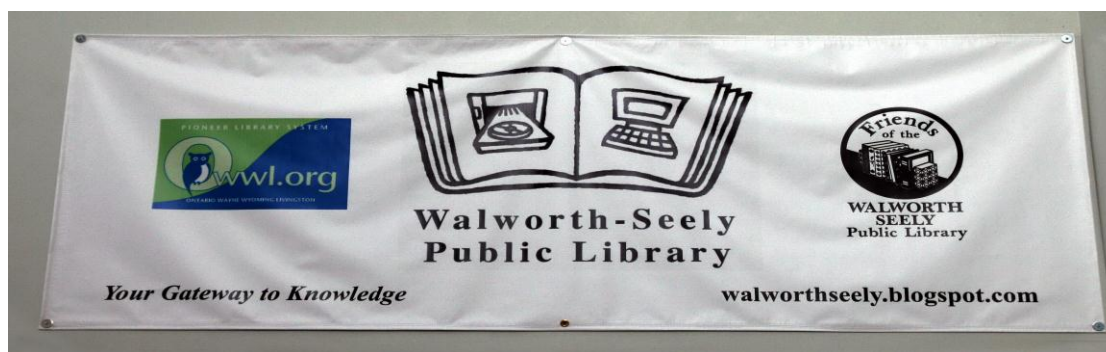


WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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Happy 50th Birthday Walworth-Seely Public Library

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President's Message By Jessie Keymel

Each year the Walworth Historical Society is required to send a report to the New York State Education Department to keep our Charter. One of the questions is: "How many paid employees do you have?" That is easy: None. Not so easy is the question: "How many hours are volunteered by your members?" It is impossible to come up with an exact number when you consider all our activities.

Each project takes many volunteers, whether it is planting Hostas, caring for the grounds or working on a special event like a garden tour or open house, participating in a parade, or sitting at a booth. Then there is the newsletter, the meetings with speakers, the genealogy searches when requested, the hosting of visitors from out of town, and children's groups checking out local history.

Each month there is a committee of four that is at the museum for at least six hours, making our collections easily accessible. During February and March this group will be joined by a woman doing research on the cobblestone buildings in Wayne County. It takes many, many volunteers to make our organization and museum successful. Another question asked is the number of visitors to the museum; 705 people signed in at our many events during 2011. THANK YOU so much for all you do as our treasured volunteers. We look forward to a busy 2012.



We Were On Display By Judy McMillan and Kathy Aeckerle

The display case of the of Walworth Town Hall was decked out for the month of December by the Walworth Historical Society with both sacred and secular remembrances of Christmases past. There were old post cards, a Santa Claus from Jack Wick's store, Monnie Churchill's felt angels, a cornhusk Nativity scene, antique candle form, toys, lots of holly and ribbons and even mica snow! It was a step back in time - no matter what your age.

WHS has reserved the display case again for the month of June to feature weddings (both past and present) of Walworth residents. If you would like to submit your photos or recommend someone, please contact Judy McMillan at 315-524-4219.

Photo (left) is of the 2011 Christmas display at the Walworth Town Hall.

March 19 Meeting: POW Camps

Have you heard stories about the Prisoners of War who worked on area family farms during World War II? There were 4 camps in Wayne County that housed Italian and German prisoners. Have you often wondered how prisoners from battles fought in the European theater came to Wayne County? Annette Harris has done more than wonder - she has investigated the stories, interviewed a former guard, and published stories on the 4 camps in Wayne County. The project began when she was asked to get information for a History At Night presentation; it snowballed from there.

On Monday, March 19, at 7:30 PM Annette will be our guest speaker. She will share her stories and details she has gathered to document another part of Wayne County's involvement in the history of World War II. Her book is titled "World War II Prisoner of War Camps in Wayne County, New York, and Their Prisoners." She will have copies of the book available for purchase at \$9.00 each including tax.

Come and bring a friend and any stories you may have to share. Refreshments will be served; it should be an interesting visit into our more recent history. Our museum is located at 2257 Academy Street. Contact Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Gene Bavis at 315-573-2768 if you need additional information.

Sunday Tea with Women of Walworth By Dorothy French

Sunday, March 18, will be an afternoon of celebrating Women of Walworth at a tea to be held at the Walworth town hall meeting room from 1:30 – 3:00 PM. This event is sponsored by the Walworth-Seely Public Library.

You will be introduced to Susan Cleveland Yeomans and her relationship to a United States president and will "meet" other women who have been a part of the Walworth community in years past. Everyone is welcome; children should be at least in the 4th grade. There is a limit of 30 people. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of Walworth-Seely Public Library. For reservations, contact the library at 315-986-1511 or walworthlibrarydirector@owwwl.org.

Spring Clean Up at the Museum

By Bob Mogyra

Every year about this time, members from the Walworth Historical Society volunteer their time to meet at our museum at 2257 Academy Street to clean up the interior and the grounds around the building. This year there will be two dates for this clean up.

Please join us on Saturday, April 28, and Saturday, May 5, from 9:00 am until noon on both days to help keep our museum looking great on the inside and outside. If you can only make one of the dates even for an hour, your help is greatly appreciated. The old saying that "many hands make light work" certainly applies here. There will be yard work, possible painting, dusting, washing cabinets, vacuum cleaning, window washing, and other activities.

So, if you are available on either of the above dates and times, please stop by at the museum to lend a helping hand. If you can help at other times, please let us know.

We Ate, We Sang, We Laughed

By Judy McMillan



Dotty and Friends

The Walworth Historical Society decided to have a different type of general meeting on November 21 by scheduling a noon gathering and serving lunch. Several members provided a variety of delicious home-made soups and desserts. In attendance were people of all ages from young children to young senior citizens! We had a wonderful time.

Our entertaining guests were a group called "Dotty and Friends." led by Dotty Ludeke, a retired music teacher from the Pal-Mac School District. This energetic group of women has been involved in music for many years - either teaching music in schools or singing in church choirs or with the Canaltown Chorale. Mary Gwen Todd, a former music teacher from Gananda, was their accompanist. Their songs were from the 1930's, as well as children's songs. All who attended agreed that it was great fun.

Civil War and the War of 1812

By Mary Jane Devlin

We are looking for memories or items from the Civil War era or the War of 1812. We do have some letters, diaries and memorabilia at our museum, but we would be happy to have more. According to a diary written by J. D. Kipp, fifteen men went from Walworth to the War of 1812 and 205 courageous men went out from Walworth to help put down the Great Rebellion. We have very little information about the men who helped in the Civil War.

We only know of two men who went to the War of 1812. Abner Chase, husband of Mercy, was born 1780 and died in 1858. He is buried in West Walworth Cemetery.

The other man was Enos Palmer, husband of Elizabeth, who lived from 1785 until 1868. He is also buried in West Walworth Cemetery.

If you have anything you are willing to share, we will copy it and return all originals to you. If you have memories that have been passed from previous generations, we will tape them as you tell them and send you a manuscript of what was said.

Update on the Yeomans Paintings

By Gene Bavis

We have been reporting progress on the restoration of two paintings of Holstein cattle. The herd was brought to Walworth by Theron G. Yeomans in 1879 and painted by Clara Billings Yeomans. Last May, we unveiled the first painting all restored, but unframed. We reported then that we intended to apply for a grant to get the second painting restored. We have successfully applied for two grants that will cover the cost of restoration of the second painting and framing of both paintings. Both paintings are currently at West Lake Conservators being framed. We intend to unveil them at our May meeting.

Happy 50th Birthday to Our Library By Dorothy French

The Walworth-Seely Public Library celebrated its 50th birthday on Sunday, February 12, and we were proud to be a part of this momentous occasion. Speakers included Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle and town officials, in addition to our Town Historian and WHS trustee, Gene Bavis. Gene spoke of our positive work relationship with the library and the importance of saving and sharing historic mementoes. WHS vice-president Bob Mogray and his trusty camera took many photos during the festivities.

One of the highlights was the recreation of a ribbon-cutting ceremony from the library's open house on August 19, 1962. The ribbon was held by Kathy Duell Emison and Kathy Triou Howe and cut by Miss Bessie Seely, whose father was Jay Seely, previous owner of the building. Fifty years later, the two Kathys held another gold ribbon as Congresswoman Buerkle did the cutting honors amid applause from the audience. The photo is on the cover of this newsletter.

Among the more than 125 8mm movies Charles Pembroke donated to the museum was the film he shot of the library's 1962 grand opening ceremony. WHS has converted this to a DVD and it was shown during Sunday's birthday party. There was considerable interest in the film as attendees attempted to recognize people's faces and makes/models of automobiles. Several years ago a group previewed this film and was able to identify many of the 1962 attendees. On Sunday several more names were added to the list.

The two sheet cakes seen on the front cover of this newsletter, were decorated with a photo of the 1984 library building and signage and the current facility and signage at the town hall complex. Also on display was the original sign that was attached to the front of the first library and is now the property of the Walworth Historical Society.



Walworth Town Hall lobby display case

During the month of February, the 50+ year history of Walworth-Seely Public Library was on display in the town hall lobby.

Thanks to archival information at our museum, we were able to show pictures of the building at 11 Marion Road when it was known as Jay Seely's tinsmith shop, through its renovation as the Walworth Reading Room, and finally as a chartered library.

Congratulations to Library Director Mary Zingerella and the library as this community resource celebrates its 50th birthday. At the 1962 grand opening ceremony, Lorraine (Mrs. Joseph) Finley, President of the Board of Trustees, stated, "*The door to any library represents the golden opportunity for knowledge.*" Fifty years later, that is still true.

Walworth Memories April 15 By Joyce Finney

The 17th Walworth Memories program will be held on Sunday, April 15, at the town hall meeting room from 2 – 3:30 PM. The program is co-sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society and the Walworth-Seely Public Library. The theme is "Mom's Home Remedies," which should provide much laughter and many unusual "recipes." According to our mothers and generations of women before them, chicken soup was a magic cure-all for colds. Whatever the ailment, there was a home-made remedy for it. Bring your home remedy stories and share them with others. Refreshments will be provided by Friends of Walworth-Seely Public Library. For additional information, contact the library at 315-986-1511 or WHS President Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205.

Community Service Award Nominations Needed By Bob Mogray

Since 1990, the Walworth Historical Society has chosen to honor an individual or group of people to receive its Community Service Award. This award is given at our annual business meeting in May. Every year we ask you for help and a chance to express your opinion as to which person or group may deserve this award.

If you know of a deserving person or group who has stood out in the Walworth area with a reputation of giving and serving our community, please contact WHS President Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 by April 1. This year the award will be given at our meeting on Monday, May 21, at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park. We welcome your help and suggestions.

Mr. Lincoln's Army By Gene Bavis

On Monday, May 21, the Walworth Historical Society will hold a pot luck dinner and annual meeting at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park, beginning at 6:15 PM. Following the brief meeting that will include election of officers, we will present our Community Service Award to an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to our community.

Our featured speaker for the evening will be Preston Pierce, Ontario County Historian. Dr. Pierce will tell us about "Mr. Lincoln's Army." The program tells the story of how the Union Army was recruited, expanded, and changed to fit the needs of the Civil War. The story is told through documents and images typically found in local and state government archives, as well as those family researchers may encounter in personal files or local historical societies. This will be an EXCELLENT program, so please save the date.

Bradshaw Daughters Visit Museum By Mary Jane Devlin

Recently Bonnie Bradshaw Jones Campbell of Virginia and Cheryl Bradshaw Nieves of Walworth visited our museum to share some memories. They are the daughters of Milton and Charlotte Bradshaw, who bought the home and greenhouse at 2200 Penfield-Walworth Road from Elton and Anna May in 1955.

Bonnie shared a story about their dog and the school bus. They had a dog named Peppy, who would walk uptown and wait for the school bus at the Baptist Church. Peppy would get on the bus and ride around the block, then get off the bus with the Bradshaws. One time the girls were not on the bus but Peppy got on the bus at the church anyway. The bus driver stopped at their home to let the dog off the bus. Traffic stopped both ways while the dog got off the bus.



Cheryl had a pet brown chicken that wore a blue ring on his leg. She and a girlfriend dressed the chicken in boxy shorts and a baby bonnet and put the chicken in the stroller for a walk. As they approached the home of Mrs. Ralph Young, the chicken flew out of the stroller and into the Young's cellar via an open window. The girls asked Mrs. Young if they could go in the cellar to retrieve Cheryl's pet. They found the chicken – still wearing a baby bonnet – sitting on a shelf among Mrs. Young's canned goods.

Wally Joslyn, Charlie Pembroke and Milt Bradshaw went to Clyde to bring back Walworth's first ambulance. The guys were in the back of the ambulance, playing dead. When the ambulance drove over the old bridge between Lyons and Newark, the back door fell off. They arrived in Walworth with the door not attached, but in the back of the ambulance.

Cheryl Bradshaw Nieves and Bonnie Bradshaw Jones Campbell

School Daze – District #1 By Dorothy French



An alert reader notified us of an error in our November issue. We incorrectly identified members of the first graduating class of District #1 of Walworth High School. With apologies, we list the students as follows in this 1930 picture: front row, left to right: Floyd Coomber, Frank Finley, Clarence Symes, and Roger Pembroke; back row: Lois Wing, Viola Pembroke, Dorothy Yucker, and Wilberta Arnold.

Our Collection Continues to Grow By Jessie Keymel

In mid-December I received a call from Mary Frederes, who asked me to come to their home and pick up some information she had on District School #8. The school was also known as Freewill and was located at the northeast corner of Lewis Road and Atlantic Avenue.

Ed Stigel, a trustee at school #8, had given Stanley and Mary Frederes the school records for safe keeping. They have kept this trusted treasure in a special place in their home until now. Mary handed over a steel box with receipts and other records from the daily operation of the school.



Also wrapped in an old newspaper was a book containing the minutes of the trustees from the first meeting to organize the school in 1851 until it closed in 1947. What a wonderful, complete 96-year glimpse into the daily activities of a district school, including the names of teachers and the number of students. The book is very fragile and special care has to be taken to view any of the information in it. We have in our museum collection a photo of the last group of children, including most of their names, who attended the school in June of 1947. Thank you so much Mary and family for preserving these important documents.

As with so many gifts of this type that we receive, it opens other questions. What happened to the records from the other district schools? Do they still exist? Are they in your attic or basement? Are they safe?

Memories from Charlie By Dorothy French

A letter, written February 21, 1989, recently surfaced at our museum. It was addressed to Town Historian John Traas from Charlie and Bertha Pembroke of Dunedin, Florida. In it Charlie shares some memories of when he lived in Walworth, including a prank he pulled on Dr. E. E. Esley.

“On the 9th of April, 1927, I was operated on for osteomyelitis and was on crutches for two years. When Doc Esley came to take out the stitches, I hooked up a Model T coil to the door knob. When the doctor grabbed the door knob, it really shook and he got a funny feeling in his arm. I then yanked the wire loose and shoved all the equipment under the bed. I don't think he really knew what happened.” Charlie continued: “We are having a great time in Florida. We have done a lot of playing music in nursing homes and senior citizen get togethers.”

If you would like to read more about Charlie and his remembrances of Walworth people, places and organizations, you'll find interesting reading in his book, “Walworth, As I Remember It.” It is available at our museum or the Walworth Town Hall for \$5.50, including tax.

Thank You, Mary By Jessie Keymel

All good things must sometime come to an end. It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to Mary Zingerella when she retires this month as Library Director of the Walworth-Seely Public Library – a position she had held for the past 13 years. We're happy for her because she will be able to spend more time with her family and pursue one of her favorite hobbies – genealogy. We're sad because WHS will no longer have access to her enthusiastic interest in all things related to history.

The Walworth Historical Society has enjoyed our partnership with the library. Through the years the library and museum have co-sponsored numerous events – the most successful being Walworth Memories. In 2003 it was Mary's idea to initiate this program; to date 16 sessions have been held. Several years ago Mary began a Genealogy program at the library; noon hour and evening programs are held for everyone from budding genealogists to experienced researchers. Happy Retirement, Mary, and thank you for helping us keep history alive and interesting.

The Library Board is inviting members of WHS to a reception on Thursday, March 8, from 6 - 6:30 PM at the town hall meeting room to say farewell to Mary as she begins her retirement.

The Linn To The Rescue By Dorothy French

The very loud noise emitting from a huge vehicle was a welcome sound to snow-bound Walworth residents, especially during the winters of the 1950's through the early 1980's. The noisy culprit was the Linn, a large 1937 truck with tracks on the back, a box for the workers, a huge V-shaped snowplow on the front, and wings on each side. It was powered by a Cummings diesel motor with top speed between 5 – 8 miles per hour.



When the conventional snowplows or bulldozers couldn't open a snow-clogged road, the Linn was called into service. During a September 2008 Walworth Memories program, Dan Keyes, former Highway Superintendent for the Town of Walworth, remembered the January 1966 snowstorm as the worst blizzard here; roads and schools were closed for more than a week, with snow drifts higher than 2nd story windows.

Dan said the Linn was good for dirt roads but slipped on asphalt. It took four men to run it: the driver, one man on the front plow, and a wingman on each side of the back. Some of the men who worked on it were Stuart Huntley, Harold Siegel, Johnny Kent, Harold Kessler, and Steve Swadling. According to Dan, Case Anderson (pictured to the left) logged the most hours on the Linn.

Dottie DeMay, an employee of the Town of Walworth Highway Department, recently gave us a picture of Case and a newspaper copy of his obituary. Case (his real name was Cornelius) was a 30-year employee of the town, working as a truck driver and an assistant to the Town Superintendent of Highways. Born in Brighton, Case moved his family to Lincoln where they resided until moving to West Walworth in 1940. He died suddenly on June 18, 1964, at age 63 at his home in West Walworth. We are indebted to Dottie for providing this information.

A December 2, 2011 story in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle provided more information about the Linn. It was developed in 1917 by Holman Harry Linn and for more than 30 years the Linn Manufacturing Corp. of Morris (Otsego County), NY produced tractors for logging companies, pit miners, dam projects, and rural towns. The tractors also could be equipped with a V-shaped plow attachment that had 16-foot wings capable of plowing a road in a single run. At first, a wing man huddled in a small shed attached to the dump box and raised and lowered the wing plows with control levers. The levers were later operated from the cab. Cleats were attached to the tracks to prevent sliding on the snow and ice-covered roads.



"Our" Linn is now on display in the Tired Iron Tractor Museum in Cuylerville, near Leicester, NY, on Route 20A. The museum is open on weekends mid-June through mid-October. Dan said the plows have been removed. It served its purpose and is now indeed tired iron.

The Walworth Linn

Commemorating the Civil War

As the sesquicentennial of the Civil War is upon us, Palmyra native and author George Contant will talk about his book, Path of Blood, the True Story of the 33rd New York Volunteers, on Tuesday, March 27, from 6:30-8:00 PM at the town hall meeting room. This event is co-sponsored by the Walworth-Seely Public Library and the Walworth Historical Society.

George will tell that Company B was principally recruited from Palmyra, will relate his journey to write the book, and share some of the stories he learned during his research. Copies of the book will be on sale for \$19.95. For every book sold, George will donate \$2.50 to both the library and the historical society.

Signs of the Times By Dorothy French

Last fall Walworth resident Keith Henry visited our museum to bring us two advertising signs of local interest. Keith is shown holding a sign advertising Herland Wray's blacksmithing business. WHS president Jessie Keymel is holding a Michelin tires sign from Elton May's garage. We are indebted to Keith for his continued contributions to our museum. Herland's shop was located behind his home on High Street; Keith lived in Herland's house in later years. This photo of Herland was taken in 1975 during a visit to Gordon and Katie Youngman's Walworth Hardware Store. The photo of Elton's garage, located at 2194 Penfield-Walworth Road, was taken in 1920. It later became a floral shop with adjacent greenhouses owned and operated by Milton and Charlotte Bradshaw. In January 1990 Greg and Francis Frey renovated the building for their business, Frey Technologies, Inc.



(top): Elton's garage



(Right): Keith and Jessie holding signs



(top): Herland at Walworth Hardware

Walworth Historical Society 2012 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Subject	Location
Mon., Mar. 19	7:30 PM	General Meeting. Program: "Four POW Camps in Wayne County" by Annette Harris.	Museum
Tues., Mar. 27	6:30-8 PM	Author George Contant reviews "Path of Blood, the True Story of the 33 rd New York Volunteers." Co-sponsored by WHS and Walworth-Seely Public Library	Town Hall mtg. room
Sun., Apr. 15	2-3:30 PM	Walworth Memories: "Home Remedies". Co-sponsored with WSPL.	Town Hall mtg. room
Sat., Apr. 28	9 – noon	Spring clean up	Museum
Sat., May 5	9 – noon	Spring clean up	Museum
Mon., May 21	6:15 PM	Annual meeting, pot luck supper, election of officers. Community Service Award. Program: Mr. Lincoln's Army" by Preston Pierce.	Lodge at Ginegaw Park
Tues., July 24	6:30 PM	Decorate float for Festival parade	Keymels
Fri., July 27	7:00 PM	Festival in the Park: parade and booth	Line up at 6:00 PM
Sat., July 28	3-8 PM	Festival in the Park: booth	Ginegaw Park
Mon., Sept. 17	7:30 PM	General Meeting. Program: TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 7	2-4 PM	Open House. Subject: TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 21	2-3:30 PM	Walworth Memories. Subject: TBA. Co-sponsored with WSPL.	Museum
Mon., Nov. 19	1:00 PM	General Meeting. Program: TBA	Museum

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: Mondays: 7:00 PM at the Museum. April 16, June 18, August 20, and November 5.

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 315-986-4781 for an appointment for other times.

March 2012 WHS Newsletter Bonus Photos

(All photos on this page are from the 50-year Walworth-Seely Public Library celebration)



(left): Wegmans cake close-up

(below): A library display and a special painting



(above): Mary Zingerella narrates a story



(right): Display at Walworth Town Hall

**(bottom left): US Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle
(second from left)**



Members of Friends of WSPL



Walworth water tower



Evening at the Walworth Town Hall



Walworth Fire Hall and new ambulance base



Walworth Apartments on Church Street



Walworth Hardware decorated for Christmas



Building the Walworth Laundromat 1987

