

Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 37 Number 5 May 2013

Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568
WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

Board of Trustees Meetings: Mondays, 7:00 PM at the Museum: June 17, August 19, and November 4.

Open House Hours: The museum is open June, July, August, and September on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 PM. Contact Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205, Judy McMillan at 315-524-4219 or Nancy Bel at 315-986-2765 for an appointment for other times.

May 20, 2013 – WHS Annual Meeting, Recognition Dinner, and Program by Gene Bavis

Please join us as we gather at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park at 6:15 PM for our annual potluck dinner. Ham and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

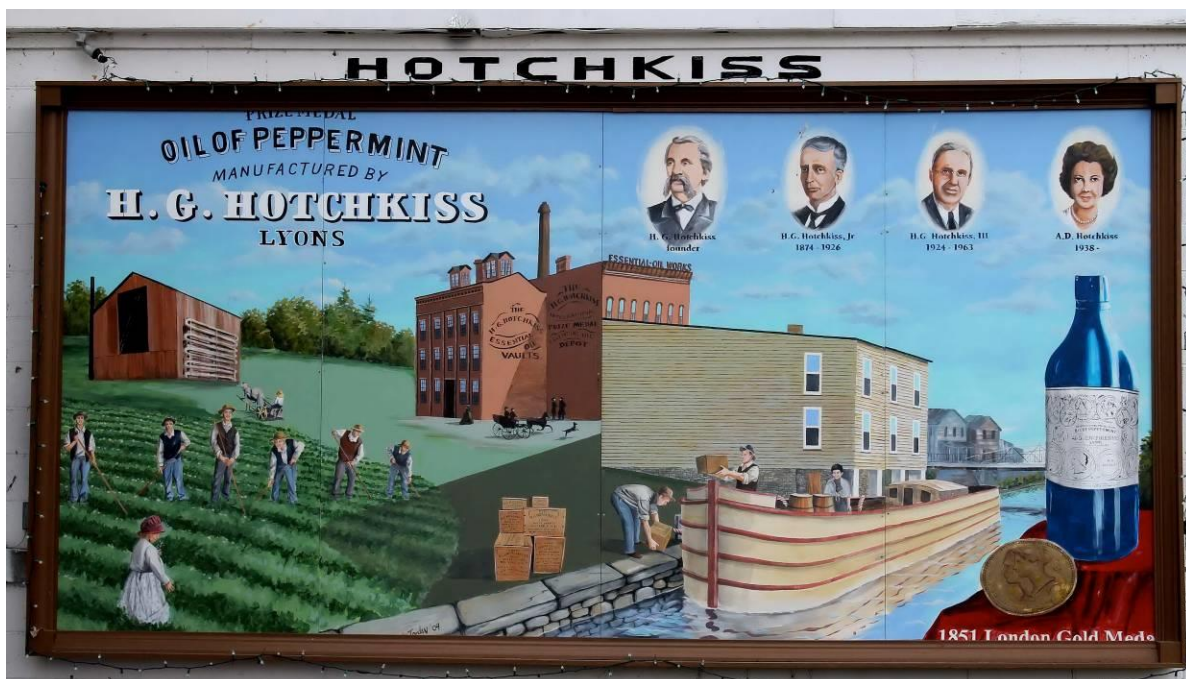
Following dinner (around 7:15) we'll hold our annual meeting and elections. Next there will be a presentation of our Community Service Award to a person who has contributed much to our town. A short program about the Hotchkiss Peppermint Oil Business will be presented by Patricia Alena, President of the Lyons Heritage Society.

The following is borrowed from the Wayne County Historian's website:

The H.G. Hotchkiss International Prize Medal Essential Oil Company was founded by Hiram Gilbert Hotchkiss in 1839 in Phelps, New York. By 1841, the business had been moved to Lyons to be nearer the Erie Canal.

It was found that Hotchkiss oil was purer than any other oil available. The oil sold for more per pound than any other, and the Hotchkiss Essential Oil Company became the largest of its kind in the world. It was said that travelers on the Erie Canal could always tell when they were nearing Lyons -- they could smell the peppermint.

The H.G. Hotchkiss Company was sold in 1982 to an Indiana company, which continued to operate in Lyons until 1990, when they moved back to Indiana. The long, successful history of the H.G. Hotchkiss Company made Lyons the peppermint capital of the world for many years.



President's Message

By Jessie Keymel

We are getting ready for a busy summer at the Walworth Historical Society's museum. We need to make sure our grounds and building are presentable. There are many chores that need to be done each year. We have scheduled two Saturdays to do clean-up projects: April 27 and May 4 from 9 – 12 noon. If you cannot come and work with us, you can pick a chore from the "To Do" list that can be done at another time.

The clipboard is ready for you to sign up to spend 2 hours, from 2 until 4, at the museum on a Wednesday or Sunday from June 2 until Sept 29. To schedule your choice, call me at 524-9205 or Judy McMillan at 524-4219. Thank you for your help; it is important that our museum is open and ready to share our history with everyone.

WHS 2013 Community Service Award Winner Is Dorothy French



Dorothy French

Each year the WHS selects an outstanding individual or group to receive the Community Service Award. We are proud to announce that this year's recipient is our own Dorothy French. Since she and Sonny moved to Walworth in 1991, the name Dorothy French has come to symbolize the word volunteer. Dorothy served as a trustee of the Walworth-Seely Public Library from 2000 - 2009. A charter member since 2003, she has been a very active volunteer for the Friends of the Walworth-Seely Public Library. She has also been extremely active in the Walworth Historical Society and is a current board member.

Dorothy always volunteers for committees, helps with baked goods, writes many articles, helps to organize the newsletters, and helps anyone who needs it. Dorothy has worked several years at the WHS museum, sorting and filing the many items and tons of papers and documents at the museum so that things can be found quickly and easily.

Dorothy is part of the genealogy group that meets several times a year, has helped with publicity for future events, takes photos for the newspapers and the newsletter, and is the most organized person we have ever met. Dorothy and her husband Sonny live in Walworth and we feel that we are very fortunate to have them here and to be a part of our organization. Congratulations to Dorothy French for receiving this award. It will be officially presented to her at the WHS Annual May meeting on May 20th at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park.

Scrapbook Memories

By Joyce Finney

We are indebted to Walworth native and long-time school teacher Dorothy Petty, who compiled more than 30 scrapbooks through the years. We are honored to be the custodian of these scrapbooks and to share their contents with our readers.

April 1941 - Walworth Carrier Delivers Newspapers by Pony. Claire Reynolds, 16, Democrat and Chronicle carrier boy in Walworth, assures speedy delivery to patrons by delivering the paper by pony.

June 1945 - Youth Gains Class Honors. According to Thomas C. Armstrong, principal of Walworth High School, Jay Taber, son of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Taber, is named valedictorian of the senior class.

May 1953 - Mr. & Mrs. Peter Billings Observe 50th Wedding Anniversary: A borrowed surrey containing a bride in a long white dress and white hat and a young farm lad in a black suit and a high starched collar drove up to the hitching block at the Methodist parsonage in Palmyra on May 13, 1903. The parson stood in the doorway awaiting the arrival of Miss Susan Cook of Marion and her bridegroom-to-be, Peter Billings of Walworth.

November 1953 - A reception welcoming Dr. William Newman to Walworth is being planned for November 30 at the Walworth school building. Dr. Newman will open his office in Walworth on December 1st. This will be the first time in seven years that Walworth has had a resident physician.

Wedding Photos Needed

By Judy McMillan

"...and what is so rare as a day in June - then if ever come perfect days." Walworth Historical Society is again celebrating the month of June and love and marriage by displaying photos of local couples in the town hall display case. So far we have displayed over 40 local couples' wedding photos. Do you have one to share? Please contact Judy McMillan at 524-4219 or Dorothy French at 986-1098 if you wish to participate. We can scan your photo and immediately return it to you for safe-keeping. We will then retain the copy for our archive files. Hope to hear from you.



The Valentine's Day display of wedding photos at the Walworth Town Hall.

WHO?

By Gene Bavis

WHO stands for Wayne Historians Organization. Founded in 1999, WHO is a loosely organized collaboration of municipal historians and historical societies. We meet 6 times a year; each meeting is hosted by a different historical society.

Our goal is to share information and to help each other solve problems. At a recent meeting someone asked about insurance for their collections, so those of us who had some experience working with agents shared our thoughts. Less than a year ago, there was some discussion about organizing a genealogical society, and this past October the Wayne County New York Genealogical Society was founded. I believe the large turnout for our March program on barns can be attributed to the networking opportunities through WHO.

The June 12 meeting of WHO will be hosted by the Walworth Historical Society. The meeting begins at noon when everyone shows up with a bag lunch. We'll supply beverages and dessert.

Staples' Rewards

By Dorothy French

We are participating in Staples' Rewards program. You can help us by donating your used toner and ink cartridges. The Rewards check we receive will enable us to purchase office supplies for the museum. Bring your donations to any event at the museum.

Another "Bavis Adventure" in Wayne County

By Gene Bavis

The Walworth Recreation Department will sponsor a "Bavis Adventure" bus tour to Heritage Square in Ontario, the Sodus Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Pultneyville on Wednesday, July 24. The cost is \$20 per person. We'll also stop at Orbaker's in Williamson where you'll be responsible for your own lunch. Look for the information and registration materials in the summer edition of Walworth Town Topics or contact me at 986-1474 or 573-2768.

Rich Hoven Draws 47 People on a Snowy Night

By Gene Bavis



Our March 18 program was about hand-hewn barn building and was presented by Rich Hoven of Clyde. We had made arrangements to use the Town Hall meeting room because we thought his program would be of special interest to the community. The day arrived and as the afternoon turned into evening, the wind and snow got worse and worse. I was worried! Despite those conditions, 47 people turned out to an excellent program. President Jessie Keymel commented, "I've never seen so many men at a Walworth Historical Society meeting."

Rich brought a large collection of tools, pieces of wood and old barn parts. He explained the process of building a barn in the 18th and 19th centuries by showing the tools and pointing to how things were fitted together. The program was well received and several people mentioned that they learned a lot by attending.

Rich Hoven

The Last of the Civil War Vets By Charles H. Pembroke

Editor's Note: In 1990 Charles Pembroke put together a pamphlet of his memories and called it "Walworth....As I Remember It." This story was one of several that were not included, but it is appropriate to share it during the current observance of the Civil War years.

South of Walworth on the west side of Main Street lived two Civil War veterans - namely Teddy Barker and two houses down was Hiram McKee. I will first tell you about Teddy Barker; he was a small man, but sure loved to go fishing with his neighbor, John Plyter. John lived next door in the Tom Armstrong home. They would pack up a lunch and - with their long bamboo poles sticking out the back of the surrey - head for the canal or the Mill Pond or maybe Haak's Pond on Daansen Road.

We, in school, tried to get Teddy Barker and Hiram McKee to come to our History Class to give a talk on the Civil War, but they both refused to come. Teddy Barker was related in some way to the Harry Conant family, but I never knew how. Mrs. Barker stayed at Myrna Conant's after the death of Teddy. They never had children.

Hiram McKee was put in Libby Prison in Washington, D.C. or Virginia. He and his buddy broke out of jail and made arrangements to meet at a certain spot when they got across the lines. Hiram made it, but it must be his buddy drowned, as he never showed up at the meeting spot. As far as we know Hiram high-tailed it for home by riding the rails, etc. When I first knew Hiram McKee, he lived in the cobblestone house north of Walworth, where his great-grandson and family now live [4090 Walworth-Ontario Road.].

Hiram held many town offices, one of which they used to call Poor Master or Overseer of the Poor. He also was Path Master, before the job was called Road Commissioner, or now Highway Superintendent. After Hiram moved from the farm, the first house I can recall is the one north of Stanley VanHoover's, but has since burned down. He then moved north of Walworth in the old Chester Hoffman home, which has been torn down as it was in dilapidated condition when Chet lived there. From there he moved to the little house next to the Baptist Church and it was there that his wife died. He then moved in with his son Marshall where he died in 1936. He had a pure white beard. He was married to the sister of U. W. Sherburne of Walworth and Leon Sherburne of Fairport. At one time Leon Sherburne lived down Sam McKee's lane on the north side of the lane. That house has been destroyed also.

March Newsletter Correction

In our last newsletter, there was an article "In Memoriam-Jane Havranek," Unfortunately, we had an incorrect photograph with the article. This was not a picture of Jane but of another member. We wish to apologize for this error. Our deepest sympathy to Jane Havranek's family. We are very sorry for the mistake.

Visit Several Historic Sites & Museums in Palmyra, Newark & Lyons By Gene Bavis

Many of my former students and friends follow my wife Liz and me on Facebook as we travel around the United States. Liz likes to call our trips "Bavis Adventures," so we thought we'd invite **YOU** to join us for a **Bavis Adventure in Wayne County**.

This adventure will begin at the Walworth Historical Society at 2257 Academy Street in Walworth at 8 AM on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. Participants will need to bring a bag lunch and provide their own transportation (we will help facilitate carpools). There is a \$15/person fee to be paid in cash upon arrival. This will cover the admissions and donations to our host museums. Participants will receive an information packet with directions and map. Because of museum capacities it is necessary to limit the size of groups, so pre-registration is required and will be limited to the first 25 people. We plan to return to Walworth around 5 PM.

Our itinerary is as follows:

Aldrich Change Bridge and Erie Canal Aqueduct in Palmyra
Alling Coverlet Museum in Palmyra
Newark-Arcadia Historical Society Museum in Newark
Hoffman Clock Museum in Newark
Walking tour of murals in Lyons - we'll eat our bag lunches in the town square
Hotchkiss Building Museum in Lyons
Wayne County Historian's Office in Lyons
Museum of Wayne County History in Lyons

Each site will have representatives give us a brief overview and facilitate our tour. The information packet will contain information about each site including contact information. One of our goals is for you to return to some or all of these sites to spend more time, and perhaps you will take your friends and family with you on your next visit.

To register, please contact Gene Bavis at gbavis@rochester.rr.com or call him at 315-573-2768.

Our Collection Continues to Grow By Jessie Keymel

Last year, when the Boy Scouts celebrated their 100-year anniversary, we wanted to honor them in a display at the town hall. We had to go to the community for Walworth Scout memorabilia as we had none at the museum. We now have items from Troop 113 from the 1940's. Gil Smith, who now resides in Canandaigua, lived in Walworth as a young boy and attended Walworth High School. He was a Boy Scout and a 4H member. Gil has given us a collection of items, patches, etc. from the time he spent in Walworth. He also included a Bible, presented to him by Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Wignall of the Methodist Church.

David Palmer of Webster became the custodian of items pertaining to the May family over the generations. He has given some of these items to be added to our collections. They include a wedding picture of Jennie May dated October 3, 1894, and a class photo taken at the Eddy Road School when Elton May was a student. We will keep these items in the May family file to be available to anyone doing genealogy research.

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 or have paid in advance. 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 315-986-1512, 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; Patron \$100; Life \$150; and 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 annual meeting in May 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.

Liz and I traveled to Florida, Georgia and Alabama for about 20 days this winter. Because we love history, architecture, art, and music, we spent most of those days exploring cultural heritage tourism opportunities. I could share a long list of places we visited and things we did, but for now I'd like to focus on two places: Colquitt, GA and Dothan, AL. We had read in some guidebooks that both of these places had several murals, so we decided to go see them. When we arrived in Colquitt and saw the peanut mural, we were hooked. It has a "WOW" factor. We met a very nice lady who stopped while we were photographing the mural. She gave us a brochure and became our tour guide. She was proud of her community's art. We then went to Dothan where we took a walking tour to see their murals. That was quite a day!

I recalled that we have some murals in Wayne County, so when I returned home I did some checking. I discovered that we have more than I thought, AND that there was a website called "Mural Mania." The dream of Noel Dobbins, from Lyons, was to have 50 miles of murals in the Erie Canal Corridor. When he died in 2007 his dream was mostly fulfilled. Today there are at least 24 murals stretching from Macedon to Syracuse (a distance of about 75 miles). In addition to the canal corridor, there are a few along the Seaway Trail in Wayne County. I just learned of a gentleman who is working on a proposal to expand the Erie Canal Corridor murals from Albany to Buffalo in preparation for the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal in 2025.

Mural mania is based on "the preservation of history through community art." Who doesn't enjoy a pretty picture? If it's historically based, it can also be educational. It's a win-win deal. I have joined Mural Mania and will be working with Mark DeCracker of Lyons and others to promote more murals all over Wayne County. At the moment there are 7 of our 15 towns that have NO murals. Walworth is one of them, but I've got ideas! Mark and I believe that Wayne County has a shot of becoming nationally recognized as "THE" mural county of the nation. We think it will only take about 20 to 25 more murals to gain that title. We believe murals will do the following: help develop community pride, provide history lessons, give us some great artwork to look at, and bring visitors to our area. Mural samples are shown below.



New This Issue!

This issue of our newsletter is being sent electronically to all members who have given us their e-mail address. This will enable us to save on postage, copying, and envelopes. If members do not wish to receive via e-mail, they should contact Bob Mogray at 585-576-4156 or rmogray@rochester.rr.com

May 4 Museum Clean-up By Bob Mogray



On Saturday, May 4 there will be a museum clean-up day. This will be from 9:00 am until noon. Many hands make light work so please stop at the museum. There will be light cleaning inside of the museum and some grounds work outside, weather permitting. We really need your support on this project to help keep our museum looking great. If you have any questions, please call Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205. Hope to see you there!

Part of the museum clean-up crew a couple of years ago.

What Are They Watching? By Dorothy French



File photo: We can identify the people but not the occasion or date. Can anyone help us? Stu Huntley and several others thought this might be a flag raising ceremony with Frank Horton, held in the early 1970's.

Standing, left to right: Dorothy Hack, Anne Walczyk, Lisa Youngman, Patrick VanDerKamp, Emily Huntley, Bertha Wignall, Lucy Franke, and Mildred Reynolds.

Front row: James VanDerKamp, Marjorie Esley, Leland Franke, Robert Wignall, and Harold Reynolds.

Music Makers of the 1960's and 1970's By Dorothy French



File photo: During the 1960's and early 1970's Larry Hill and the Music Makers Band performed at many area events. Left to right: John Duffy of Greece played the harmonica; Eddie Merrill of Newark played banjo, rhythm guitar, and lap steel guitar; Larry Hill of Lincoln played banjo bass and cordavox; Glenn Hyman of Walworth played the drums; and Owen Bassage of Ontario played bass and rhythm guitar. The photo was donated by Larry and Molly Hill.

Sharing Memories and Looking for Information

By Dorothy French

The April 14 Walworth Memories program was a combination of sharing memories of disappearing landmarks and a request for information. Landmarks mentioned were Walworth High School, the Bills Block, West Walworth and its stores, the pea vinery, Pacific Hotel, the Knights Order of the Macabees' building, and the Gould house.

Brad and Deb Strang of Mill Road, owners of the property on Walworth-Palmyra Road where Craggs Roller Mill is located, came in search of information about the pond and the grain and feed mill. Attendees were able to share information about the area, which is known as the Huddle. The Strangs were invited to visit the museum at a future date to gather data from our files.

This was the 19th program co-sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society and the Walworth-Seely Public Library. Judy Markowski, president of the library board, invited us to visit the library and see the changes that have been made to make the library a welcoming place, including a renovated community room. She noted the library isn't just for books and there are many other forms of reading and learning available. Jessie Keymel, WHS president, emphasized the importance of documenting the history of our area by having these get-togethers. Refreshments were provided by the Friends of Walworth-Seely Public Library.

Walworth Historical Society 2013 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Subject	Location
Sat., May 4	9-noon	Spring clean up	Museum
Mon., May 20	6:15 PM	Annual meeting, pot luck supper, election of officers, and community service award. Program: Peppermint Industry in Lyons.	Lodge at Ginégaw Park
Tues., June 11	8-5	Field trip to Palmyra/Newark/Lyons	LV museum 8 AM
Tues., July 23	6:30 PM	Decorate float for Festival parade	TBA
Fri., July 26	7:00 PM Parade	Festival in the Park parade (theme: Historic Walworth). Booth at the park	Line up at 6 PM
Sat., July 27	3-8 PM	Festival in the Park: booth	Ginégaw Park
Mon., Sept. 16	7:30 PM	General Meeting: program TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 6	2-4 PM	Open House: subject TBA	Museum
Sun., Oct. 20	2-3:30 PM	Walworth Memories: subject TBA	Walworth Town Hall
Mon., Nov. 18	1:00 PM	General Meeting: Bill Lesniak: "Historic Markers and Sites in Wayne County"	Museum

Officers and Board members

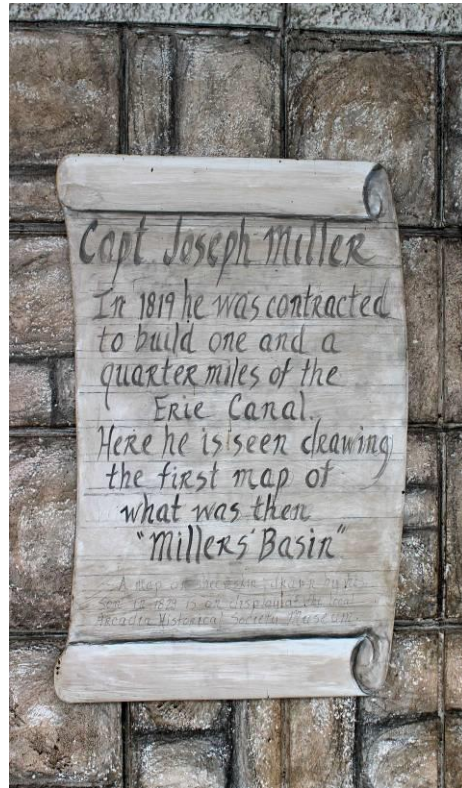
President	Jessie Keymel	(315) 524 - 9205	WHS Trustee	Larry Ruth	(315) 524 - 7936
VP/Newsletter	Robert Mogray	(585) 576 - 4156	WHS Trustee	Marlene Slocum	(315) 524 - 5416
Secretary	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219	Town Historian	Gene Bavis	(315) 986 - 1474
Treasurer	Mary Jane Devlin	(315) 986 - 1512	Publicity	Joyce Finney	(585) 377 - 9535
WHS Trustee	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289	Genealogy	Kathy Aeckerle	(315) 597 - 6864
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis	(315) 986 - 1474	Refreshments	Nancy Bel	(315) 986 - 2765
WHS Trustee	Nancy Bel	(315) 986 - 2765	Grounds	Becky Appleman	(315) 524 - 3289
WHS Trustee	Dorothy French	(315) 986 - 1098	Grounds	Judy McMillan	(315) 524 - 4219

Membership Information

Student	\$ 5.00
Individual	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 15.00
Supporting	\$ 25.00
Corp. or Business	\$ 30.00
Sponsor	\$ 50.00
Patron	\$ 100.00
Life Member	\$ 150.00
Benefactor	\$ 150.00

Mission Statement: 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. We are a not-for-profit organization with 501(C)(3) status and donations are tax deductible.

May 2013 WHS E-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos



All photos on this page are murals from other areas.

Scenes from the Walworth area

