

WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 36 Number 3 November 2011



Do you recognize any of the above Walworth "Characters?"
They are but a few of the "Characters We Have Known" discussion at the last Memories meeting.

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President's Message By Jessie Keymel

As part of our commitment to the Walworth Hamlet Association we have hosted occasional meetings at the museum. We also were open to visitors during their garage sale event in the village, and we look forward to being involved in future activities with the Hamlet Association.

Thank you to all the members who made it possible to keep the museum open during the summer weeks. Did you stop in and visit? We are always open to visitors by appointment. Kathy Emison took advantage of the offer and made an appointment to bring members of her family from out of state to visit when they were in town for a family event. Thank you, Kathy Aeckerle, for giving up a Saturday to host our visitors.

Our Collection Continues to Grow: The Gifts of Sharing By Jessie Keymel

Wednesday afternoons at the museum with the filing committee are usually quite busy. During a recent Wednesday Dick Eastman stopped in to help us identify a photograph taken in the early 1900's of a house on High Street. While Dick was there Keith Henry brought us several items (more about that next issue). As we talked, our conversation turned to the glass slides that Keith had already donated. Dick said you need a light table or box to view them better. Dick went home and brought back his view box, so - with white gloves and the light box that Dick donated - we were able to get a good look at the glass slides in our possession. It was an exciting day of discovery at the museum.



Left to right: Jessie Keymel, Mary Jane Devlin, Keith Henry, and Dick Eastman.

Sharing is a big part of our museum discoveries. Donna Stalker has shared photos of the Yeomans and Gardner families. Linda VerPlank of Marion has shared Walworth and school memorabilia in memory of her father, Stuart Huntley. The Walworth-Seely Public Library shared information given to them by Ray Peer of Arizona about the Palmer family of West Walworth.

We have a very good base of information about the people and their histories in our three hamlets. Thank you all so much for being so generous with your family histories; our file cabinet containing info about area families has grown considerably. Thank you for helping us continue our mission to preserve Walworth history for future generations.

We Met More "Characters" on Oct. 16 By Dorothy French

Based on the success of April's Walworth Memories program, we continued to discuss "Characters We Have Known" on Sunday, October 16, at the museum. This was the 16th program co-sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society and the Walworth-Seely Public Library. A new feature included the use of the museum's laptop and projector to show photos of the people we were remembering. Being able to put a face with a name was very helpful as stories and remembrances were shared by attendees. We are indebted to Gordon Youngman for loaning us so many of his photos and to Dorothy French and Bob Mogyay for finding, organizing, and scanning them on the museum's computer to be used for various programs.

Open House – Fall on the Farm at the Museum

By Joyce Finney



Our annual open house was held Sunday, October 2, at the museum. This year's theme was "Fall on the Farm." Irene Bierer, former elementary school teacher, presented games of yesterday to the children who attended. One of the many games Irene had was Pick-Up-Sticks. Overheard by a visitor, "I remember playing that game." An antique apple peeler was demonstrated by Roger Keymel. Inside were antique farm-related equipment, scrapbooks, photos to look at, and of course refreshments.

Left: A scene from this years WHS Open House. The kids are from left to right Hunter and Brook Hurley.

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, Joyce Finney, Dorothy French, and Jessie Keymel.

Scrapbook Memories from Mildred Reynolds

By Joyce Finney

Mrs. Harold (Mildred) Reynolds served as town historian for more than 20 years, retiring December 31, 1976. Mildred put together a large scrapbook of newspaper stories, organized by church, school, organizations, and other categories.

Summer 1951 - Walworth girl named champ of cherry pies. Barbara Clark, 16-year old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Vern Clark of Walworth, won the cherry pie baking contest at the Wayne Central School in Ontario.

Fall 1951 - Walworth farmer crowned Champion Potato Grower. Alfred J. Lewis, Walworth farmer, was crowned Wayne County's champion potato grower at the 17th annual muck potato show held at the Newark Grange Hall. Lewis has been a farmer for 25 years.

November 1953 - Walworth plans turnout to greet new physician. The Town of Walworth is going all out on a reception for the town's new physician, Dr. William Horace Foster Newman. Dr. Newman is the first resident doctor Walworth has had in seven years.

March 15, 1962 - Gas turned on in Walworth. The Albert Bernardi family was the first to have "piped in" gas turned on for heating as well as cooking. At 10:30 AM yesterday officials of Walworth Township and of RG&E gathered in the basement of the Al Bernardi home at 885 Ontario Center Road to initiate natural gas service to Walworth.

August 1962 - New library opened in Walworth. Guest speaker, Miss Bessie Seely, daughter of Jay Seely who owned the site of new Walworth-Seely Public Library, expresses hope for future of the enterprise.

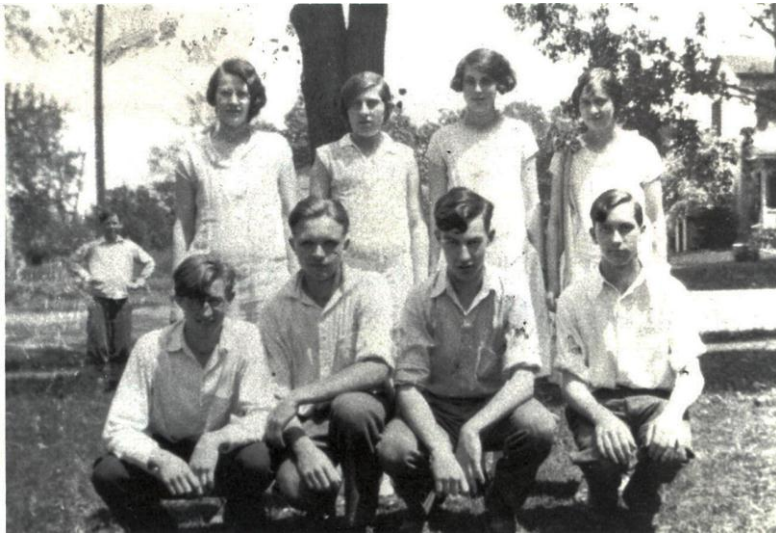
July 1967 - Ginewaw Park dedicated. A 25-acre site will be developed along the Walworth-Penfield Road as a town park and wildlife refuge. Charles Hack, Supervisor, gave special credit to Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Ginewaw who donated the first parcel of land to the project. The park will be named in honor of the Ginewaws, officials said.

Passing of Eugene Reynolds By Mary Jane Devlin

Eugene Reynolds, a long-time member of the Walworth Historical Society, passed away on October 4, 2011. Eugene's father, Harold, was a Town of Walworth Justice of the Peace and his mother, Mildred, was the town historian for over 20 years. Eugene graduated from Walworth High School in 1940 and was active in the Alumni Association. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge for 67 years. He and his family have donated many items to the museum and we have a scrapbook that was compiled by his mother during the time she was town historian. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

School Daze – District #1 By Dorothy French

Shown in this 1930 photo are members of the first graduating class of District #1 Walworth High School. The new school, located at the corner of Academy and High Streets in the hamlet, opened on September 8, 1930. In 1929 on this site were torn down to make way for this building. During the construction period, classes were temporarily held at the Grange Hall on Main Street (the former Pacific Hotel).



In 1949 schools in Walworth and Ontario centralized to become Wayne Central School District. A junior-senior high school was built in Ontario Center in the early 1950s. Walworth High School continued to be used as an elementary school until it closed in 1980.

Students in front row, left to right: Roger Pembroke, Clarence Symes, Frank Finley, and Floyd Coomber. Back row: Wilberta Arnold, Dorothy Yuker, Viola Pembroke, and Lois Wing.

Genealogy Program at the Museum By Mary Jane Devlin

Peggy Harvey, a WHS member and local genealogist, was the speaker at our September 19 meeting. Peggy did a genealogy about the Jacobs family which included extensive research. She has researched other families as well.

Peggy told us how she became interested in genealogy and how to get started. She compiled a list of 25 internet sites that have information to help people who are searching for their ancestors. Following her presentation, several people had questions for her. After the meeting was adjourned, some people went to her with specific questions about personal genealogies. Following the meeting refreshments were served.

We first learned about Peggy when she attended a program at the Walworth-Seely Public Library for people interested in genealogy. The library hosts noon and evening genealogy meetings; for more information call 315-986-1511.

Watch Us Grow!

By Becky Appleman and Judy McMillan, Grounds Maintenance for WHS

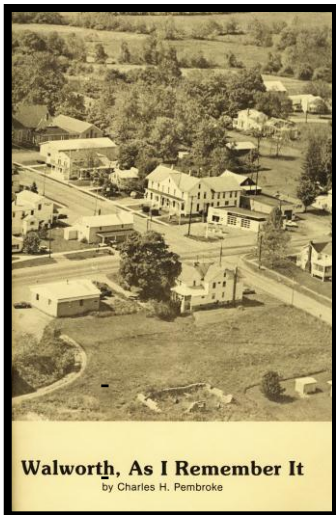
This fall some WHS members have been working on a new project for our museum grounds -- a Hosta garden. Several families donated plants and we hope (in the future) to be able to divide and sell these plants as a fund-raiser for Walworth Historical Society. Donations were made by the Haaks, Osterhouts, Englerts, M. Slocum, and McMillans. It was a joint effort - and we are excited about it. Gene Bavis brought his tractor/cultivator and enlarged the north garden and over 100 Hosta were then planted. We're hoping you'll see a lush garden starting next season. Thanks to everyone who helped!

November 21 ***Noon*** Meeting By Dorothy French

Due to several requests, we decided to schedule one of our four general meetings during the daytime instead of an evening program. Our Monday, November 21, the meeting will be held at noon at the museum. "Dotty and Friends" will do a sing-along, so bring your singing voices with you. Bread, home-made soup, and dessert will be provided by WHS members.

WHS Offers Holiday Gift Suggestions

Walworth Historical Society has many suggestions for holiday gift giving. The following items are available at the museum, 2257 Academy Street, or at the Walworth Town Clerk's office, 3600 Lorraine Drive, 315-986-1400. Sales tax is included in each price.



Booklets: "Walworth, As I Remember It" by Charles Pembroke: \$5.50 (left)

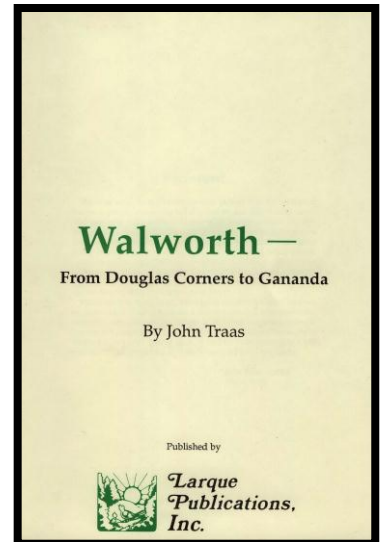
"Walworth – From Douglas Corners to Gananda" by John Traas: \$4.50 (right)

Calendars: 2005 and 2006 containing local photos \$5 each

Commemorative ornaments: \$7.50

Coverlet: Depicts area buildings (available in maroon and Williamsburg blue): \$46

Book: Wayne County history book: \$25.



Other gift ideas available at the museum:

- **Commemorative plate:** Depicts the Walworth Academy: \$25.
- **Memberships:** Student \$5, Individual \$10, Joint or Family \$15, Supporting \$25, Corporate or Business \$30, Sponsor \$50, Patron \$100, Life Membership \$150, and Benefactor \$150
- **Clothing and tote bags:** Available in many colors and sizes from All Stitched Up, a Walworth business. They feature the embroidered logo "Town of Walworth, Founded 1829." Prices include golf shirt \$20, T-shirt \$15, cap \$13, and tote bag \$13. The turn around - from the time ordered to delivery - is about one week. Contact Nancy Bel at 315-986-4781.
- **Donations:** Walworth Historical Society donations are tax deductible; we are a 501(C)3 not-for-profit organization. The WHS mission is to preserve the past for the present and the future; financial support is appreciated to help achieve this goal. For additional information, contact Jessie Keymel, 315-524-9205 or Dorothy French, 315-986-1098.

The Roads of Lincoln: Part 6 By Mary Jane Devlin

Join us as we travel throughout the Lincoln area on the many roads leading to and from the hamlet. This project was originally started by Ethel Henning. In 1973, house numbers were changed county-wide; the new numbers and Ethel's information were combined in 2009. The * indicates the name of residents as of 1973. If you can provide more information, please contact me at 315-986-1512.

Old #	New #	Lincoln Road – Going North from Atlantic Ave. (continued)
232	4572	* Herbert & Mabel Smith, Marlene & Joyce
227	4581	* James & Florence Pick
178	4680	* Gino Affronti residence
177	4681	* Philip & Virginia Garzone. Ansel & Elizabeth Anthony, Gordon & Helene. Gordon & Blanche Foote, Anthony. John Sr. & Mary Foote & John Jr. Augusta Foote (John's daughter-in-law). Henry Foote (official in Kodak Australia). Ora Foote. John Jr. & August Foote (adopted Willard & Blanche)
	4702	Luzetta Tietse. Old maid. Small house.
167	4703	Albert & Louise Engert, Ralph, Erwin, Mark; large dairy farm. Julia Miller (nursing home). * Frank & Nancy Affronti, Frank Jr., Gino, Rosale, 2 more.
146	4742	* Nikolas & Milada Dramchak. George & Ida Reed, Blanche

Old #	New #	Lincoln Road North of Jacobs Road Intersection
	4745	
142	4750	* Frederick & Nancy Kier
137	4759	* Edward & Pearl Wisnies. Sara Printer. Edward & Elizabeth Newman & Marie. Marlene & Ruth Erhman, John, Barton, Margory.
136	4760	* William LeFrois
128	4796	* Lynn Pugsley
127	4799	* Fredric "Skip" & Patricia Lang; gun shop & sporting goods store. Kimerly, Kelly & Krista. Herb & Judy Vine
106	4820	* Douglas & Margaret King
98	4836	* Howard DeNise
93	4843	Richard & Ruth Beech, 1825 – Daniel & Elizabeth Smith. Clarence Freeland. * Harold & Ethel Pugsley, Marie, Ida, Weldon, Lynn, Audrey, Lloyd, Janet, Joyce (all were born in Vance house). Gordon & Blanche Anthony. Lloyd & Janet Pugsley. Frank & Helen Cass. Hartsen Bell, Jr. Ruth Bushwood.
81	4863	* Peter & Paula Carr
75	4873	* Lloyd & Janet Pugsley
67	4893	Dr. Robert & Frances Morris, Donald, Rexford; family doctor. Their side of house: Art & Jenny Johncox, Carl, Wilson: started a trucking business, operated a large dairy farm. Taken over by Floyd & Alta Amsler, Richard, Robert, Gary, Carol. Richard & Anita Amsler, Chad, Heidi. Gary & Susa Amsler, Shannon, Jennifer, Sean Crittenden.
	4895	Lloyd & Janet Johncox Pugsley
65	4897	* Floyd Amsler
42	4940	District #10. Jane Dinse taught the first 4 grades and Otila Burrow the 5 th through 8 th grades. * Kimber and Jane Burkhart.
35	4953	Late 1890's was a Methodist Church that later became a Grange Hall. Many enjoyable evenings spent there. Ethel Hennings' mother received a 50-year palm for the many active years. James & Angela Gefell, Kathlyn, John, Amory.
31	4961	* Daniel Lynn. May Risley. Ezra & Cora Church, Vivian, Rheta, Robert, Doris, Lucille, Ruth, Kenneth, Ethel Pugsley. Isaac Jr. & Rhet Anderson, Keith, Gayle, Sally. Paterson
	4966	* Baptist Parsonage
29	4967	Charles Webb. Floyd & Mabel Kier. Art & Connie Hammond, Betty & Dorothy. * Herman & Gladys Albrecht, Warren, Larry, Sue. Harry & Jen Davidson
	4976	* Lincoln Baptist Church & parsonage
20	4992	1926 George & Gertrude Baker. Steven & Ruth Swadling. *Elwood & Bessie Baker, John, Patricia, Richard.
16	4996	20's & 30's: Mertie Church. Peter Tower. Fred & Jane Dinse. Early 50's – Russell & Jeannette Brush, adopted Kathy & Margaret. *Richard & Clara Blankenburg, Ellen & Lisa.

The Box in the Farmhouse Attic By Virginia Pavay Wignall

Editor's Note: Virginia and Robert Wignall live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Their roots and memories, however, remain in Walworth, as evidenced by this story.

Not far from Lake Ontario, atop one of western New York's many glacial drumlins, sits the tranquil village of Walworth. It was here my father-in-law Uncle George Wignall, grew fruit and root crops for some 60 years. George and Carrie married in 1897. In a few years, they acquired 120 acres adjoining the village and built their life-time residence. This beautiful Victorian structure was far removed from what one would normally classify as a typical farmhouse. It had large front and back porches, and a side porte-cochere for carriage arrivals. The interior was spacious, even by 1906 standards; thirteen rooms adorned with varying kinds of wood trim, natural oak front stairway, stained glass, gas lighting, and central vacuuming system. On the third floor was a 1500 square foot attic, reached by a rear stairway from the kitchen. The farm itself, comprising acres of orchards, woodlands, and open fields, contained an enormous rambling barn, carriage and equipment shed, dry house for apples, maple syrup plant, chicken coops, and homes for up to five tenant families.

This is where my story begins, with my father-in-law (young Rob) as a lad of twelve years. In 1906 his father was dying from TB. His mother, unable to cope with a sick husband and two children, sent Rob to live with George and Carrie in their spacious new home, as they had no children of their own. Rob assumed his visit temporary, never imagining it would evolve into a life-time stay. Instead, he would mature, marry, raise two children, and eventually die there in 1981 at the age of 87. Rob quickly adjusted to the routine of farm life. After college years at Cornell, he returned to share with George and Carrie the full responsibility for running the business. He never chose to be a farmer, but felt obligated to them for their generosity in raising and educating him. In 1920 he married Bertha and they moved into a newly-built home on the farm, a wedding gift from his aunt and uncle. As the family grew, the children would daily run between the two adjacent houses. The farm provided endless opportunities to explore. On rainy or wintry days, the attic of the big house was where they could usually be found.

What a glorious place it was – lighted by windows on all four sides, with lace curtains adding a touch of elegance. Here a child's imagination could literally run wild, allowing hours of uninterrupted pleasure. The attic was amply filled with everything imaginable: furniture, lamps, china, glassware, pictures and paintings, pottery, antique tools, and implements, equipment for making cheese and cider, spinning and yarn-winding wheels, clocks, trunks, old guns, antique toys and games, costumes, books, musical instruments, old letters and postcards, scrapbooks, picture albums, stereopticons, quilting frames, fabrics, advertising tins – a veritable antique shop! There was also a magnificent walk-in closet preserving all manner of vintage clothes – hoop skirts, wedding dresses, suits, coats, bathing suits, ladies' and gentlemen's hats, gloves and walking sticks, as well as quilts, handmade blankets, and linens. Had nothing ever been thrown away?

We were married in 1960. By then, George and Carrie were gone and my in-laws had moved to the big house. Their own treasured items had been added to the collection of family memorabilia in the attic. As our children grew, we often traveled from Maryland to Walworth. The highlight was always a trip to the attic. Each exploration unearthed new treasures and we felt surrounded by family history and memories. Returning home, our car was always full – children, luggage, fresh produce, and at least one grape pie – a Finger Lakes specialty. Yet we always managed to leave a little trunk space for a few treasures from the attic. Over the years we accumulated a large collection. Rob eventually retired and sold the farm property and the big house. They still took most of the attic contents to their smaller home. Our kids became teenagers, but continued their trips to the new attic.

Shortly after this move I uncovered THE BOX. Among all the far more valuable attic collectibles, I realized this was something very special, for it contained a window into the story I have told. King Melchior in the Menotti opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors," also had a box. He sang, "This is my box, this is my box; I never travel without my box." One could visualize a handsome creation of rare woods encrusted with jewels, a priceless gift for the Christ Child. In contrast, our box is small and quite ordinary: constructed of solid oak with a simple brass latch and carrying handle. Two tiny hinges read: "WIZARD – L. E. Grammes & Sons, Allentown, PA." The lid's interior is papered with a colorful advertisement which reads "Lakeview Seed Co., Rochester, NY."

Inside this box was a folded letter, dated March 1907, which 12-year old Rob wrote from the farm to his mother and sister in the city – just a few months before his father succumbed to TB. He tells of his intention to sell "horseradish and seeds" (from this very box) to save money for a typewriter. He asks them to locate his prized collection of marbles. His life and future had forever changed! Though never formally adopted by George and Carrie, Rob's devotion and loyalty to this loving couple resulted in his inheritance of the farm and all their possessions, including the history-filled attic. He gave the box to me and we keep memories alive by prominently displaying it, along with the letter and a small arrangement of pretty dried flowers. We hope it will remain with our children and grandchildren for generations to come – the curious little box from the farmhouse attic!

Our New Sidewalk By Becky Appleman

At our Fall open house, WHS board members discussed the deteriorating condition of our sidewalk and voted to get it repaired before winter conditions set in.

On October 12 and 13 contractor Jim Oesterich brought his saw and tools and began the process for removing the broken sidewalk. He framed and prepared for the concrete fill. On Thursday afternoon our new sidewalk looked great, but on October 15 when Jim was to finish up we were faced with an all-day rain, thus delaying our clean-up plan. On October 17 Sonny French and Joe Englert (along with Joe's backhoe) returned to the museum and removed the old sidewalk debris that was left and did a final clean-up. Jim returned later in the week and added stress cuts to help prevent cracking.

We now have a new sidewalk from the town sidewalk back to where the ramp starts. This new sidewalk will make it much easier for wheelchair access.

Thanks to Jim for a good job and a special thanks to Joe and Sonny for the clean-up work.



Sonny French and Joe Englert



Jim Oesterich

**Walworth Historical Society
2011 Events Calendar**

Date	Time	Subject	Location
Mon., Nov. 21	Noon	General Meeting. Soup and a Show. Dotty and Friends Sing A Long. Home-made soup, bread, and dessert provided by WHS.	Museum

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: Mondays: 7:00 PM at the Museum. November 7.

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.

October 2011 WHS Newsletter Bonus e-mail Photos

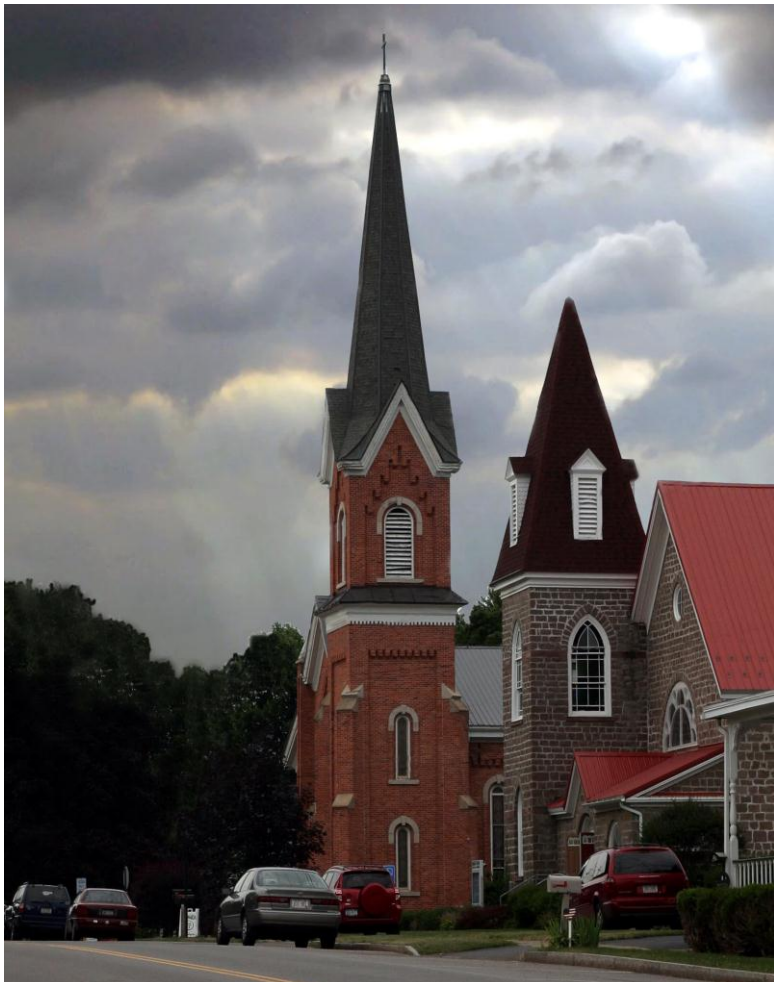
The photos on this page are from the WHS Open House on October 2 of 2011.



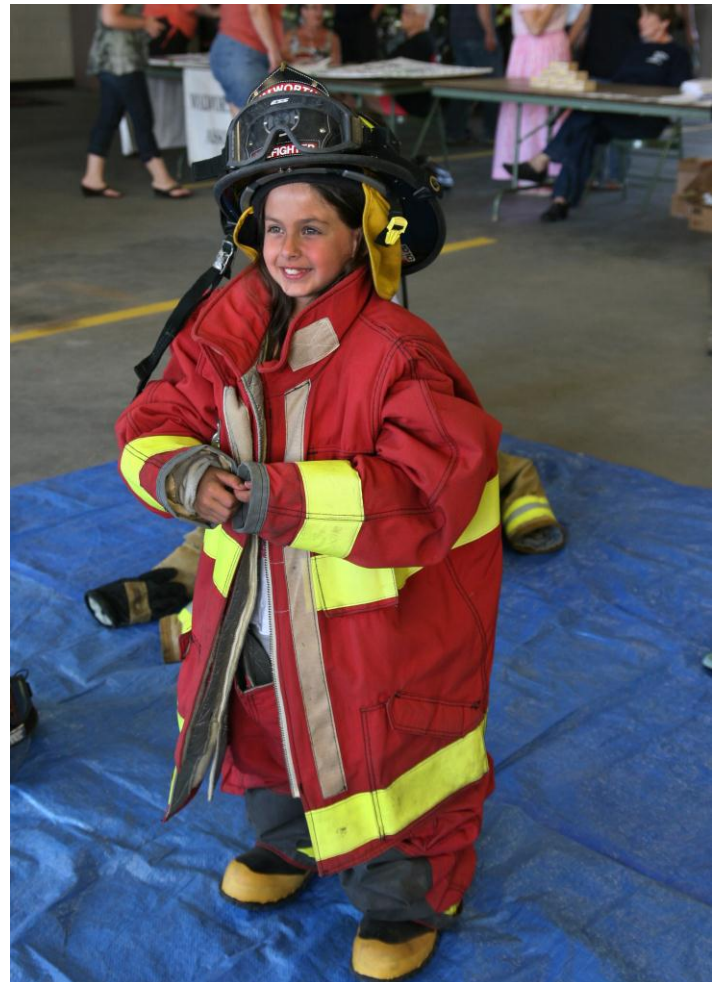
The next two pages contain various photos around the Walworth area



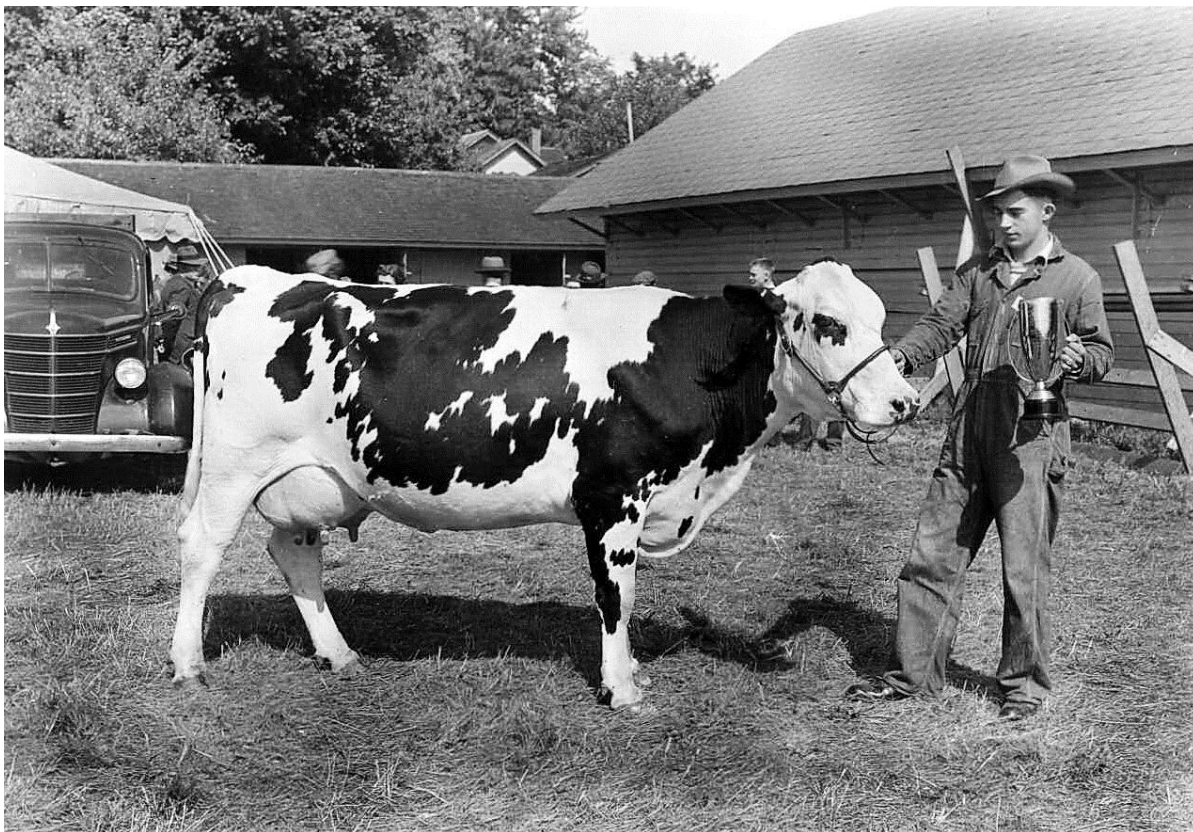
A barn on Walworth-Ontario Road



Walworth Churches



A young firefighter at the WFD Open House



Carlyle Darron 16 years old



Dick Roland with guitar and amp



Larry Hill on the banjo