

# WALWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

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WHS float in the 2010 Festival in the Park Parade "Honoring those in uniform"

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

WHS Website: [www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org)

President  
V.P. / Editor  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Jessie Keymel (315) 524 - 9205  
Robert Mogray (585) 576 - 4156  
Judy McMillan (315) 524 - 4219  
Mary Jane Devlin (315) 986 - 1512

WHS Trustee  
WHS Trustee  
WHS Trustee  
WHS Trustee  
WHS Trustee  
WHS Trustee

Becky Appleman (315) 524 - 3289  
Gene Bavis (315) 986 - 1474  
Nancy Bel (315) 986 - 1164  
Joyce Finney (585) 377 - 9535  
Dorothy French (315) 986 - 1098  
Larry Ruth (315) 524 - 7936

Town Historian  
Publicity  
Genealogy  
Refreshments

Gene Bavis (315) 986 - 1474  
Joyce Finney (585) 377 - 9535  
Kathy Aeckerle (315) 597 - 6864  
Nancy Bel (315) 986 - 1164



## President's Message

By Jessie Keymel

We have a new file at the museum, thanks to Gordon Youngman and the publicity we received when the wedding picture display was in the town hall in June. We now have a growing collection of family wedding photos. If you have some you would like to add to the assortment, we will include them in this new file with a cross reference to your family history. This adds a new dimension for people doing local family research.

Rita Tucker has also gifted us some of Ken's school days memorabilia; thank you Rita for thinking of us. Thanks to Rosemary Fraser Ikewood we have a small photo of the Class of '44 and the names of her classmates. Molly Ebert Hill donated a photo directory from the Second Baptist Church and a list of the alumni of Walworth High School.

Each time I go to the museum there is something else on the desk. Please - when you drop something off, take a minute to do the paper work that will identify where an item comes from and some historic information - whether it is a photo or an item that illustrates something from days gone by. Our collections continue to grow; we have quite an assortment from **Abeel** to **Yuker**. Thank you for keeping us in mind when you come across some Walworth history.

## Festival in the Park

By Jessie Keymel

I would like to thank everyone who worked on the float, and on or in the booth during the Festival in the Park. Several units were missing from Friday's parade because of the threatening weather, but the Walworth Historical Society was there and received a trophy for the best float.

Thank you to Larry Ruth for the great idea and design for this year's float. No words were needed to get the message - the statement on the banner from the Billy Ray Cyrus song "All Gave Some, Some Gave All" said it all. The response from the audience was great. As "Flander's Field" came into full view, everyone was reverently quiet, some with tears in their eyes. The displayed boots, rifle, and helmet in the foreground brought us rushing from history into the present. It was a bold statement, **we will remember**.

Sadly, Saturday was not a very nice day and that was certainly reflected in the poor attendance and torrential rains. The shirts with the Walworth Academy design were well received, and we have received orders because they were on display at our booth.

**(Right) Roger Keymel with this year's Festival In the Park WHS float honoring those In uniform.**



## School Photo Display at Town Hall

By Dorothy French

Be sure to check out the display at the town hall during September. The display case is filled with photos of schools past and present – a timeline of schools in the Walworth area. Did you know the first school house was built in Walworth in 1804 on Center Street? This exhibit was created from our museum files. These records are a wonderful testimony to people who have donated photos or stories to the museum and to those who have created the files and update them for easy reference.

The many scrapbooks donated by Dorothy Petty's family are a wonderful resource at our museum. The years 1967 and 1968 are featured this issue.

**July 1967:** Thomas C. Armstrong resigns as Superintendent of the Wayne Central School District. He became supervising principal of WCS in 1956 and district superintendent in January 1966.

**Oct. 1967:** Clifford and Emily Huntley, life-long farm residents of this western Wayne County town, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. The couple had grown up together in Walworth and were married in 1917 at the home of Mrs. Huntley's parents.

**Oct. 1967:** Walworth Grange marks 100 years. Under Master T.G. Yeomans, it met in homes until 1875.

**April 1968:** Wayne Central Middle School dedicated to Thomas C. Armstrong.

**Oct. 1968:** Wayne Central ok's new school. The new school will be located on Canandaigua Road in the Town of Walworth. It will house grades K-5 with a capacity of 500 students.

**Nov. 1968:** "Freewill" chosen as new school name. Votes were tallied and the name Freewill Elementary School, submitted by Mrs. Hazel Bassage, topped the list. This name has particular significance since the new school is located near the former Freewill school house. Mrs. Bassage was presented her \$5.00 award at a middle school assembly. More than 150 entries were received in the contest.

**Walworth Memories: October 17**

By Dorothy French

Holiday Memories is the theme for the next Walworth Memories program, which will be held on Sunday, October 17, from 2 – 3:30 PM at our museum, 2257 Academy Street. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> Memories program co-sponsored by the Walworth Historical Society and Walworth-Seely Public Library.

Join us for an afternoon of reminiscing. What are your favorite memories about the holiday season, whether Christmas or Hanukah? Did you have a tree that you cut yourself from the woods near your home? When times were tough, what presents seemed most precious? What recipes became family favorites when served year after year? Holidays in times past were more simple and meaningful than today's commercial onslaught.

Come to share your memories as we walk back in time. Bring your photographs of holidays in Walworth. As always, refreshments will be available.

**WHS to Co-Sponsor Author**

By Lisa Wemett

On Tuesday, November 9, author Mary Morton Cowan will present "Researching and Telling History." The Walworth Historical Society and the Friends of the Walworth-Seely Public Library are co-sponsoring this program with the library. The event will be held from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the Walworth Recreation Room on the lower level of the Town Hall, 3600 Lorraine Drive. Adults and students in grades 6 and above are encouraged to attend. A reception for the author will be held following the talk.

Mary is the author of "Captain Mac: the Life of Donald Baxter MacMillan, Arctic Explorer." Her novel for young people, "Ice Country: One Boy's Adventure in the Arctic with Commander Donald MacMillan," was her first work about this intrepid Arctic explorer. Mary will share an in-depth look at how her books are created from research in primary sources to the final manuscript for the publisher. Registration is required for this free program by calling the library at 315.986.1511 or sending an e-mail to [walworthlibrarydirector@owwl-pls.net](mailto:walworthlibrarydirector@owwl-pls.net). Find the Walworth-Seely Public Library's events on Facebook and RSVP on the corresponding event's page.

The speaker for the Monday, September 20, meeting of the Walworth Historical Society is Irene Bierer, a former elementary teacher. Her topic will be "Children's Games of the Nineteenth Century." Children and adults are invited to attend and participate in these games.

People of all ages enjoyed games galore in the 1800's for all sorts of gatherings. Attendees will experience some of the indoor and outdoor recess and indoor types of games; in addition, Irene will demonstrate other games using volunteers. Research has shown that some games popular in the 1600's were still played two hundred years later.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting which begins at 7:30 PM at the Walworth Historical Society Museum on Academy Street. For more information, contact President Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205 or Town Historian Gene Bavis at 315-986-1474.

**School's in Session on Oct. 3**

By Dorothy French

The school bell will be ringing on Sunday, October 3, when the teacher (aka Jay Taber) calls his "students" to attention. Jay is a WHS charter member and former Wayne Central School teacher. He will be holding class as part of our annual Open House from 2 – 5 PM at the Walworth Historical Society's museum.

Pictures of area schools, which were used at the town hall during September, will be displayed, in addition to photos of school children taken at their district schools. The public is invited to join in the festivities. The usual delicious refreshments will be served. The museum is located at 2257 Academy Street. For additional information, contact Jessie Keymel at 524-9205 or Nancy Bel at 986-1164.

**Wear Walworth Proudly**

By Jessie Keymel

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

We have taken the center of the coverlet showing a picture of the Academy School and had an embroidered emblem designed with the words "Walworth, NY, founded 1829" surrounding it. Golf shirts are (\$20.00), a tee shirt (\$15.00), or a cap (\$13.00) from the Walworth Historical Society.

To place an order, contact Nancy Bel at 315-986-1164. All Stitched Up, a Walworth business, is making this possible for us. The turn around - from the time ordered to delivery - is about one week.

**Thank You, Nancy**

By Jessie Keymel



**Nancy Bel**

Nancy Bel has been a tremendous help at the museum. She is in charge of scheduling the volunteer time on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2 – 4 PM during June through September. Have you taken your turn sitting at the museum this year? If you can spend some time there this month give her a call at 315-986-1164 as she still has openings. It is nice to have meetings at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park, but it means members do not come to the museum to visit and cannot appreciate all the hard work done by the various committees.

Nancy is our refreshment hostess at all our events. Our activity calendar appears on the back page of this newsletter; if you can donate cookies or brownies for an upcoming event, contact her. The golf and tee shirt sales are another chore that Nancy has taken over. Hats and tote bags are also available with Walworth written on them. Thank you, Nancy, for everything you do on behalf of the Historical Society.

*Editor's Note: Although Rev. and Mrs. Schattner now live in Cohocton, they continue to keep in contact with us. Rev. Schattner occasionally will share memories of Walworth. His family lived on Ontario Center Road near Eddy Road, two miles south of Routes 441 and 350 intersection.*

Located 20 miles east of Rochester, N. Y. District Number 3, Macedon, New York, was a one-room school that would hold about 20 children, from first through the eighth grades. The school was closed about 1942. There was just one teacher for the eight grades. School started at 9 A.M., ended at 4 P. M.

There was one janitor; I was the janitor for four years - the salary being thirty dollars a year. My duties were to open the school each morning, clean or sweep the floor, erase and wash the blackboards each day. There was no well, so we had to walk about one-half mile to get water from a neighboring home. Usually one other boy went with me to help carry the pail of water, which had to last the entire day, warm weather as well as the colder days.

In the fall and winter a fire had to be started in the stove located at one side of the school. During the weekends, we also kept the fire going, so we had to go each day to do this. There was no electricity in the building, so the darker days made it more difficult to do the lessons.

There was recess each morning and afternoon for fifteen minutes. We could go outside to play games and get some exercise. We had one hour at noon for our lunch period. Most students brought their own lunch as it was too far to walk home for it. We also had lunch pails with a Thermos bottle with something warm in it to drink. At the recess and noon time, weather permitting, we played games outside. Some of the games were the following: (1) prisoner's goal, (2) stop light, (3) kitty ki over.

In the winter we played fox and geese. On a nearby hillside we could ride our sleds and ski down the slope. There were snowball fights among the boys, if there were enough students who wanted to play. Arbor Day was always observed each spring, being one of the state rules. The school yard was raked and cleaned and a tree was always planted.

A Christmas program was well planned, inviting the parents and friends to attend. Being held in the evening, we had to use kerosene lamps for lights. At Easter we had contests for dying the Easter eggs. On Valentine's Day we exchanged valentines. Spelling bees were held quite often, a good way for learning how to spell. We began each morning with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the singing of one of the patriotic songs, the hanging of the flag on the top of the school. Each Friday afternoon, the closing period, we had to recite a poem we had learned.

Warm meals were made quite often in the winter months. Each student would bring an item of food to be heated on the stove, and shared by everyone. Boiled eggs were always one of the items that everyone liked. There was no bus service of any kind so each one had to walk, warm days and cooler days. Some days it was well in the low teens, with lots of snow to walk through, as the snow plows were not too frequent on the country roads.

There were three boys in our family who attended this school, all eight grades. Each one of us also went on to graduate from high school, four miles each way still without any bus service. We were also privileged to be able to go on to college and graduate school. One became a United Methodist minister serving in one area for more than fifty years. Two of us became chemists and worked and retired from the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York. We have all stayed in the same area, our home area where we were raised.

For myself, I do not regret one moment of having gone to the one-room district school, having just one teacher, and enjoying the good times we had with our fellow neighbors. Some students are still living, and I keep in contact with them. I had two teachers the eight years I attended. One passed away just 4 years ago, at age 100. My first teacher, also a lady, was a cousin to my second teacher. Their names were Marjorie Dillon Hansen, and Alice Dillon Hosenfeld.

Alice Hosenfeld visited me about 5 years ago, at that time she was in very good health.

Peter Evans, Wayne County Historian, will be the guest speaker at two sessions of the genealogy program offered by Walworth-Seely Public Library. Peter will detail the services his office provides and describe what resources are available. Even if you do not have a need for a search in Wayne County, you may find some tips to use in the counties you need to search. The programs are scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, at 6:30 PM and Wednesday, November 17, at noon at the library, 3600 Lorraine Drive, located in the town hall complex.

**District #10 School and Other Memories**

by Mrs. Larry (Molly Ebert) Hill

I have many fond memories of attending school at District #10 which was located on the east side of Lincoln Road, between Plank and Burrows Roads.

The building was divided into two rooms. The “little room” housed children in grades 1 – 4. Students in grades 5 – 8 occupied the “big room.” Between the two rooms at the front of the building were common facilities, including two chemical toilets. A partition divided the two rooms, but could be slid aside to make a big area.

We carried our lunches to school, but occasionally Mrs. Otila Burrows, the teacher in the “big room,” would provide delicious meals. My favorites were Spanish rice and mashed potatoes topped with kidney beans. During recess the students would play baseball or kick the can.

Before school buses were available, the students walked to school. My parents, Norma and John Ebert, lived on Albright Road and I walked to District #10 for all eight years. I remember a winter night in 1938 when a severe snowstorm prevented the students from walking home. Mr. and Mrs. Irving White, owners of the store at the southeast corner of Plank and Lincoln Roads, invited my girlfriend and me to spend the night. He gave us ice cream cones, and later heated bricks to keep our feet warm in bed. When the storm subsided the next day, my dad came with a horse and sleigh to take us home. During another snowstorm the Ebert family was snowed in for four days; it took the big Linn snowplow to open the roads.



For grades 9 through 12, I attended Walworth High School on Academy Street. I walked to the corner of Albright and Plank Roads, where a green school bus – driven by Glenn Bills – would take the students to school. The red school bus was driven by Herm Young. There were only two buses for the entire Walworth/West Walworth/Lincoln school district. I graduated from Walworth High School in 1948, a member of the next-to-the-last class to graduate from WHS before Walworth and Ontario schools were consolidated into Wayne Central School District.

*Editor's Note: According to current owner Mrs. Kimber (Jane) Burkhart, the school was built in 1888. Her husband, Kimber, purchased it in 1955 and remodeled the inside.*

The above photo was taken in 1936 of students in the “little room” at Lincoln District #10 school. Their teacher was Mrs. Elsie Brion. Note the children in the front row are sitting on orange crates, while a picture of George Washington looks over them. The water jug was located behind the easel. This photo was donated by Mrs. Larry (Molly Ebert) Hill.

**Front row, left to right:** Betty Damico, Larry Kier, and Beverly Gilbert.

**Middle row:** Geraldine Ebert (sitting at left end), Lloyd Pugsley, Audrey Byron, James Bushwood, and Molly Ebert (sitting at right end).

**Back row, standing:** Vincent Damico, Gladys Lasch, and Edward Anderson.

On Tuesday, July 15, Grace and Russell Smith from Michigan visited our museum. Mrs. Smith had been in contact with Town Historian Gene Bavis and me regarding her great-grandfather, George Boynton. After some searching, a Boynton file was located at our museum containing genealogy and history on the Boynton family.



**Grace and Russell Smith**

Mrs. Smith arrived in Walworth with great interest in our museum and our town history. After touring our museum, we reviewed each other's research on the Boynton family and made copies to enhance each of our genealogy and history files. Grace located us via our website, and the Smiths are now WHS members. Joining us at the museum was WHS president Jessie Keymel.

When last I saw Grace and Russell, they were headed to Lakeside Cemetery in Ontario to locate the grave of George's son, Lorenzo, and then on to Sodus Point. We hope they had a wonderful trip.

### **The Rosencran House**

By Barbara Allen Wixon

*Editor's Note: The following information was shared by Barbara in 2008; she now lives in Farmington. At an October 2006 Walworth Memories it was reported the Rosencran's lived at 3199 Walworth-Palmyra Road in the Huddle, an area south of Walworth village and north of the curve in the road. The house was a stage coach stop and tavern.*

My parents, Ralph and Florence Allen, always told us our house was an old hotel. It was run by a family known as the Rosencran's. I believe there were two sisters. One did the cooking and the other tended bar, but I have no proof of this.



**The Rosencran House**

There were five bedrooms in the house, where the men who delivered the mail stayed. They usually came from Ontario on their way to Palmyra, where the mail arrived by train. They rested their horses in the barn and either took a fresh horse or stayed the night and continued on their way the next day.

When we put down wall-to-wall carpeting in the living room we found small holes in the floor where the tap holes went down to the cellar. There was a dumb waiter in the kitchen, plus a pass-through cupboard. The dining room on the other side of the kitchen was rather large. We had a table that easily accommodated 15 people.

We always joked that our house was the community house as our mailing address was Walworth, it was located in the town of Macedon, we voted in Macedon Center, our telephone was Palmyra, and we went to school in Ontario. Now the kids go to school in Gananda.

I wonder what secrets Victor and Darlene Werlau found when they remodeled the house. I would love to see it sometime, as we lived there so long. Mom and Dad moved in during the late 1930's, and we sold it in 1977.

## Volunteers Attend Workshop By Mary Jane Devlin

On August 4, Kathy Aeckerle, Jessie Keymel and I attended "Introduction to Historical Records," a training session presented by Gail Fischer of New York State Archives Department.

We learned that a record is not necessarily a newspaper, a file, a report, or anything on paper. We are the custodians of information. Newspapers are highly acidic, may destroy other types of paper, and are not an official record.

There are over 800 Hoffman Foundation papers on file at the County Historian's Office. These papers were written by high school students about Wayne County topics that interested the students. There were scholarships offered to the best papers. There is an index at the Historian's website which is [historian@co.wayne.ny.us](mailto:historian@co.wayne.ny.us).

We learned that scrapbooks that are donated should be kept intact and indexed if possible. There are certain records that should be denied public access.

We will be using our notes to upgrade some of our procedures and policies.

## Class Photo Project Complete By Mary Jane Devlin

The restoration of the Walworth High School class photos is now complete. The Walworth High School Alumni Association voted to give money to the project and, with that and many other donations from interested people, the project was completely funded by donations. Village Frame Shoppe in Macedon did all the restoration work at a discounted rate because of the owner's interest in historic photographs.

Lyle Bassage recently approved using some of the money that was donated in his mother's memory to restore some other old photos. We have restored a picture of his Mom, Hazel Bassage, and her brother Bob; a picture of Mr. Carlton Norris, who was one of the first school principals at Walworth; a sampler; a 1931 Walworth Academy grades 1-12 photo; and a graduation diploma from 1901.

We recently received a copy of the 1944 class photo from Rosemary Fraser Ikewood. We are currently evaluating this donation and will have it on display in the near future.

Thanks to everyone who contributed in some way to this project.

## **Walworth Historical Society 2010 Events Calendar**

| <b>Date</b>    | <b>Time</b> | <b>Subject</b>                                                                                | <b>Location</b> |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Mon., Sept. 20 | 7:30 PM     | General Meeting: Program "Children's Games of the 1800's by Irene Bierer                      | Museum          |
| Sun., Oct. 3   | 2-5 PM      | Open House. School theme                                                                      | Museum          |
| Sun., Oct. 17  | 2-3:30 PM   | Walworth Memories: Holiday Memories. Co-sponsor with Walworth-Seely Public Library            | Museum          |
| Mon., Nov. 15  | 7:30 PM     | General Meeting. Program: "Life in the Walworth Area, As Viewed in Charlie Pembroke's Movies" | Museum          |

**Board of Trustee Meetings:** Mondays: 7:00 PM at the Museum. November 1

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



# September 2010 WHS Newsletter Bonus e-mail Photos

(Photos from the 2010 Festival in the Park Parade)



**(Other scenes from around the Walworth area)**



**A house that used to be at the 4-corners Walworth**



**The gazebo at Ginegaw Town Park**



**An old mill at the Huddle area of Walworth**



**Bernie Porray's former barn how it looks today**



**Walworth Ladies Auxillary a few years ago**



**Christmas time at Walworth Hardware mid 1990's**