



# The Walden House Tattler

*The Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley*

**Vol. 40, No. 2**

**Walden, New York**

**Fall 2020**

## Calendar 2020

Dining to Donate has resumed as Take Out Only at Franco's Pizzeria & Italian Restaurant. Now on the **LAST Tuesday of every month, coupons are required** and available on FaceBook, our website [www.thewaldenhouse.org](http://www.thewaldenhouse.org) or e-mail.

Unfortunately the balance of our 2020 scheduled programs have been postponed until 2021 due to Covid-19.

Even though we are currently unable to host regular member meetings, be assured work in the Archives and Research continues as well as Trustee meetings. Findings will be available through the *Tattler* as well as our website and FaceBook. Thank you for your patience!

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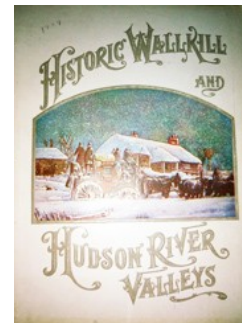
## From Barbara Imbasciani, Pres.

There are many people and local businesses that support the Historical Society. There are 2 local businesses that go above and beyond many times a year. On a monthly basis, the last Tuesday of the month from 5-9 pm **Franco's Pizzeria** supports us through a Dining to Donate program. For every patron who participates with a coupon, Franco's donates 20% to the Historical Society.

**Hannaford's Supermarket**, at the foot of Oak Street, Walden makes regular donations through their Community Bag Program. We recently received a donation of \$83.00 dollars from this program. Many thanks to **everyone** who supports and donates to the Historical Society.

## ***The Historical Souvenir Booklets of the Wallkill & Hudson River Valleys...***

are early works of local research published during the years of 1894 through 1924. Secretary, Editor and Publisher for many years was Walden's William C. Hart of Sycamore Place, located in Walden on Browns Road.



*William C. Hart / A 1909 cover example*

Headley's ***History of Orange County***, 1908, reads, "William C. Hart, a prominent agriculturist of East Walden, was born in the town of Montgomery, Dec. 18, 1843. The only son of Henry C. and Hannah Jane (Overheiser) Hart, he has resided since childhood on the well-known farm "Sycamore Place." In 1869 he married Elizabeth Mould, daughter of Hamilton Morrison and together raised two sons, Henry Melvin and Robert Clarence. Mr. Hart was member of the First Reformed Church, director of the Orange County Agricultural Society and one of the founders and Secretary of the Wallkill Valley Farmer's Association. In 1894 he originated and published the *Historic Wallkill & Hudson Valleys Souvenir Booklets*.

Here is the complete series Index directory covering 1894-1924. An abundance of local history was packed into every issue, over and above the special feature topics.

***Index of the Historic Wallkill and  
Hudson Valleys Souvenir Booklets,  
1894-1924.***

- 1894—Borden's Home Farm
- 1895—Historical
- 1896—Tributary Streams of the Wallkill
- 1897—Indian Localities and Hostilities
- 1898—Battle of Minisink
- 1899—Churches of the Wallkill Valley
- 1900—Beautiful Landscape Views
- 1901—The Wallkill Valley at Gettysburg,  
Orange County Agricultural Society,  
Mountain Drives of Mohonk
- 1902—Through the Valley of the Wallkill,  
Profusely illustrated
- 1903—Companion Volume of 1902
- 1904—Gems from the Hudson. Famous  
Horses of Orange County
- 1905—The Hudson and Wallkill Rivers. City  
of Middletown, in Art and Story
- 1906—Lake Mohonk, profusely illustrated.  
Orange Blossoms and Guests at  
Gettysburg. Walden in Profile. The  
Catskills and Queenly Hudson.
- 1907—Mohonk Snowbound. Historical  
Sketch, Wallkill Valley Farmers'  
Association, illustrated
- 1908—Hendrick Hudson's River and Half  
Moon. Vassar College. Art Collection  
of Sculpture—a charming number.
- 1909—The Centennial of the Hudson and  
Centennial of the Steamboat,  
graphically delineated and superbly  
illustrated—Old Home Week,  
Middletown. The Goshen-Bradley  
Monument, Walden and Montgomery
- 1910—"The Ideal of Child Life," charmingly  
illustrated from photographs from  
life, revealing all that is lovable in  
the versatile faces and fortunes of  
the "little people" - the Seasons in  
Art and Story
- 1911—Frontier Life—War of the Revolution,  
Anthony Wayne and Stony Point—  
Portrait of Symbolic Statues—A  
superb booklet
- 1912—Old Kingston, illustrated.  
Communications from the Spirit-land  
Historical Sketch, Town of  
Montgomery. Rare Old Engravings.
- 1913—Washington and his English  
ancestors with scenes around  
Newburgh. Old Homes of Orange  
County. Famous statues, fine art.
- 1914—Rare Historic Incidents from Gifted  
Authors, Choice Gems of Poetry. The  
History and development of the  
Automobile. Burning of the Falls  
House. The Harvest of Death
- 1915—Tom Quick the Indian Fighter. The  
Mission of the flowers. Woman's  
Suffrage. County and City work of the  
Young Men's Christian Assoc. Silent  
Cities. Rare Illustrations
- 1916—Close of Tom Quick, the Indian  
Slayer. The Seasons and Intervening  
Months with rare and beautiful  
illustrations. Historic data. Views of  
Orange Lake
- 1917—The Glory of the Mountains. Mohonk  
Lake. Geoffrey with the French  
Delegation at Newburgh May 11,  
1917. Superbly illustrated.
- 1918—Enoch Crosby, or the Spy Unmasked.  
The undaunted spy of the American  
Revolution. Mohonk Lake, the Hudson  
& Mount Beacon. Hudson by late  
historian/poet, Wallace Bruce.
- 1919—Historical Sketch Orange County  
Agricultural Society illustrated 1841-  
1919. Indian Shelter Rock of  
Shawangunk Mountains. Red Cross  
Court of Honor, Newburgh-on-Hudson.
- 1920—The Shawangunk and its environs,  
conclusion of Indian Shelter Rocks,  
Views of Lake Mohonk & Minnewaska.
- 1921—Old Roads—Mohonk in Olden Times.  
The Delaware Indians. Schuyler  
Mansion at Albany.
- 1922—The charm of the scenic beauty of  
The Hudson, The Queen of Rivers,  
viewed from the famous Storm King.
- 1923 and 1924—A vanished people, or The  
American Indian. Their mementos of  
earth, bone, and stone implements.  
Location of Wigwams, Villages,  
Trading Centers, Burial Places. Life  
story of old Pete Meigs.

Back issues were available at the end of production in 1924 for purchase at \$5 for the full set. We occasionally find them for sale online today for \$30 and up.

*The Historical Society has a few extra issues. We plan to sell them as a fundraiser at a later time. Look for a listing from us in the future .*

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## Archives & Donations...

**Thank you to Trustee, Lisa Melville McIver** for a donation of two men's ties in their original box from Walden's Ted's Toggery, formerly of 60 Main Street.

**Thank you to Teresa Boggess** who has donated a lovely needlepoint-covered Queen Anne style piano bench that belonged to Dotty Corsa of Walden.



## Thank You, Rev. John Walden

The Historical Society recently received a package from Rev. John Walden from Harrogate, England. Rev. Walden has been collecting Walden memorabilia for a number of years and has been downsizing his collection. He has sent us a number of interesting items over the years and this time is no exception. His most recent contribution included this beautiful cast aluminum plaque from the early Walden Airport.

None of our current trustees had seen one like this before. The Walden Airport, later called the Newburgh-Walden Airport, was located near Routes 208 and 17K, first opened on Memorial Day 1931 and remained open until June 30, 1960.



*~Plaque from the Walden Airport*

The Walden Airport had 2800 feet of unpaved grass runway that was later extended to 3200 feet with a second runway added later. It was owned and operated by Earl Tillson of Tillson's Garage who was a pilot. The airport lands became a golf course in 1993. There is a wonderful 12-page account of this airport in June Simpson's *Orange County Airports, Past and Present*.

Rev. Walden's recent items included a booklet of GI Blue Stamps issued by the Walden Thruway Market, many postcards and a receipt from E.C. Evans Mftg. and Dealer in Well Sinking and Pumping Machinery. Many thanks to Rev. Walden.

Exciting stories from the airport include visits by world-renowned Harold Gatty and Wiley Post, early aviators, who visited our airport in July of 1931 after their 8-day round the world flight. Ms. Simpson's book states 5,000 people were in attendance that day. Walden Airport was also home base for WWI flying ace, Egon Pelzeder, who moved to our area as a flight instructor sometime after being honored as a hero in his native Austria.

If the name Egon Pelzeder sounds familiar to our readers, it should! We featured Egon along with several other notable people buried at Wallkill Valley Cemetery by 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Elementary School students dressed for their parts who gave brief biographies. More info on Egon on pages 5 & 6.



## ***The Jacob T. Walden House: Then...***

To accomplish the purchase of the Walden House, a committee consisting of Mr. Willis Dittman, Mr. Hal White and Mrs. Mary Kidd through tireless efforts of a village-wide appeal were able to raise the \$6,000 needed to purchase the property. One year later, in March of 1959, the Society took title to the Walden House.

It was proved by Robert Eurich & committee that the frame section (most of the house is stone) had been torn down and replaced with a kitchen wing of brick at the rear of the house.



*Above: Residence of Miss Walden, 1830, at Walden, N.Y., now the home of George A. Galloway (from an issue of Historic Wallkill & Hudson River Valleys Souvenir Booklet).*

*Below: As the house appeared in 1958 (covered in stucco) when purchased by the newly formed Historical Society & in 2018.*



The first major repair after the purchase was a new shake shingle roof. Later on, once the stucco was removed from the entire exterior, the beautiful stone walls we see today were revealed.

But now it's that time again and the Trustees are looking to replace the shake shingle roof with another material, preferably metal. Estimates are being gathered with our hope that members and community will aid us with the cost.

## ***The Jacob T. Walden House: ... Now***



\* \* \*

## **Class Rings**

Here is a Walden High School Class Ring from 1941. The Society is collecting photos of the class rings, all years, from Maybrook, Montgomery and Walden and will continue with Valley Central at a later time. If you have a ring available to photograph, please do and send to: [gyeaple@adprose.org](mailto:gyeaple@adprose.org) or to [4hswwv@gmail.com](mailto:4hswwv@gmail.com)





## Thank you, Robert Score!

We are very grateful to talented artist, Robert Score, formerly of Walden, who has donated several original art prints to the Society for sale.

We have three of his original designs. Bob, as most of you know, was scheduled to present a live art showing of his amazing pen and ink drawings depicting the surrounding areas. The program unfortunately had to be canceled due to Covid-19. So in place of the showing, Bob has offered these beautiful prints which we are excited to offer to you.



~Walden Station (2 available)



~Iron Bridge, Montgomery (3 available)

Pictured are sections of his three full size drawings, each measuring 10" x14" unframed. These will be offered for sale at \$25 each. We thank Bob so much for his generosity!

Please contact the Historical Society through Anita Vandermark at 845-778-7772 or Barbara Imbasciani at 845-220-6606 for prints. Quantities are very limited as noted under each!



~Montgomery Railroad (3 available)

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## More on Egon Pelzeder



Photo from the Historical Society Archives shows the military funeral of Egon Pelzeder, October, 1931.

We know Egon Pelzeder was given an impressive & well-attended full military hero's funeral by the American Legion and was buried at the Wallkill Valley Cemetery

A walking team from the Society, knowing the recorded Section and approximate location, has not been able to locate his stone. A *New York Times* article on the tragic crash taking his life and those of two young students follows on page 6 (mistakenly states Montgomery Airport).



# PILOT AND TWO BOYS KILLED IN AIR CRASH

12-Year-Old Lads of Freeport,  
L. I., Passengers as Craft Falls  
at Montgomery, N. Y.

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## FATHER OF ONE SEES END

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Augustus Simone Taking Son, With  
Chum, to Goshen School When  
They Halted for Plane Ride.

*Special to The New York Times.*

MONTGOMERY, N. Y., Oct. 11.—A pilot and his two passengers, both 12-year-old boys, were killed here today when the plane in which they were flying caught fire in the air and crashed on the Montgomery Airport, about ten miles from Newburgh.

Augustus Simone of Freeport, L. I., father of one of the boys, Carl Simone, witnessed the accident. The pilot was Egon Pelzeder, an Austrian war aviator and formerly flying instructor at Roosevelt Field for the German-American Flying Club. The other passenger was Nicholas Sanrocco, a friend of Carl's from Freeport.

Sergeant Edward Dougherty of the State police, stationed at Monroe, at once sent troopers to investigate the accident and notified Lieutenant Tremaine Hughes, air officer of the State constabulary, who flew to the scene with inspectors for the Department of Commerce from Roosevelt Field.

The wrecked craft, a three-place, open-cockpit biplane, was owned by the Tillson Flying Service.

From spectators the police learned that Pelzeder had been using the plane for some time and that it had taken off well and was apparently flying safely. Suddenly watchers saw smoke belch from the cockpit and then flames. Pelzeder turned quickly as if to land and the machine fell, out of control. Other spectators reported that the plane crashed first and then burst into flames.

*Special to The New York Times.*

FREEPORT, L. I., Oct. 11.—Mrs. Augustus Simone, whose son, Carl, was killed in an airplane crash at Montgomery, collapsed this afternoon when she learned of the accident.

Her husband, who operates a bus line in Freeport, left here this morning with his son and Nicholas Sanrocco to drive to Goshen, where Carl was to have entered the Salesian School. The Sanrocco boy is the son of Antonio Sanrocco, who is employed by Mr. Simone.

When the three left home this morning, so far as their friends knew, they had no intention of visiting an airport. It is believed here that the boys saw the flying field as they were driving by and persuaded Mr. Simone to let them fly. The Simones live at 13 Eleanor Place.

The Sanrocco family, in which there are two other children, live at 81 Shonnard Avenue. No word had been received late tonight from the father of the Simone boy concerning the accident or how the boys came to be flying.

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**The New York Times**

Published: October 12, 1931

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# FIRE ALARM STATIONS

WALDEN, N. Y.

| No. | LOCATION                         | No. | LOCATION                         |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| 14  | Ulster Ave., opp. Didsbury Prop. | 46  | Seeley and Lafayette Sts.        |
| 15  | Woodruff St., Wall. Mac. Works   | 47  | N. Montgomery and Liberty Sts.   |
| 16  | Capron St. and Bergen Ave.       | 54  | Orchard St. (High Bridge)        |
| 17  | Ulster Ave. and James St.        | 55  | Walden High School, Orchard St.  |
| 18  | Pleasant and Albany Aves.        | 61  | Hillcrest Ave. and Pond Road     |
| 19  | Bergen Ave. and Bank St.         | 62  | Orchard and Pine Sts.            |
| 23  | Highland Ave. and Jessup St.     | 63  | Main and Walnut Sts.             |
| 24  | Highland Ave. and Woodruff St.   | 64  | Gladstone and Millard Aves.      |
| 25  | East Main St. (Boulevard)        | 65  | Walnut St. and Rifton Place      |
| 26  | East Main and Elm Sts.           | 67  | Walnut St. and Kelmour Ave.      |
| 27  | Valley Ave. and William St.      | 68  | Riverview and Prospect Sts.      |
| 28  | Spence Engineering Co.           | 72  | Main and Orchard Sts.            |
| 35  | Oak and Water Sts.               | 73  | Orange Ave. (Overhead Bridge)    |
| 37  | Thruway Market                   | 74  | Orange Ave. and Coldenham Road   |
| 41  | Center and First Sts.            | 75  | Orange Ave. and John St.         |
| 42  | Montgomery and Walker Sts.       | 76  | Scofield and Church Sts.         |
| 43  | Montgomery and Wait Sts.         | 78  | Coldenham Rd., opp. Ruckle Prop. |
| 45  | McKinley Ave., S. Montg. St.     | 83  | Sherman Ave. and Union St.       |
|     |                                  | 84  | East Ave. and Hill St.           |

## ORANGE COUNTY MUTUAL AID — 1-2-3

**SPECIAL SIGNALS** — 2-2-2 denotes Chief's Call. 1-1-1 — Out-of-town fire. 1-1-1-1 denotes recall — fire out. 1-1-1 — At noon, denotes daily test. Weekly box tests on Saturdays immediately after the daily noon test.

**How To Send In An Alarm** — First break the glass in Key Guard. Open the door and pull down the hook wire, then let go. After sending in an alarm remain at the box until the arrival of the firemen so you may direct them as to the location of the fire.

**Rural Districts** — In sending in an alarm, you should give the name, location, and the nearest route from Walden to get there.

**To Report A Fire By Telephone** — Call the operator by the usual way and say "Fire." Tell the operator where telephone you are using and the location of the fire. If it is impossible for you to stay at the telephone on account of the proximity of the fire, give your address to the operator.

STANLEY EVANS, Chief Engineer, Walden Fire Department

This is one of the last Fire Alarm Station cards listing alarm numbers in Walden. For many years our local Volunteer Firefighters had to count the number of blasts from the Walden Municipal Building horn to know the location of

a fire. Volunteers would race to the location and meet the driver of the fire truck at the scene.

**No matter how you are called today,  
we thank all of our fearless  
Firefighters everywhere!**



**~Trustees 2020~**

Patricia Eisley-Treasurer  
Richard Hoyt  
Barbara Imbasciani-President  
Lisa Melville McIver  
Sandra Magill  
Marcus Millspaugh  
Susan Millspaugh  
Nancy Ohlmer-Secretary  
Howard Oldrey  
Mary Slater  
Anita Vandermark-VP  
Gail Yeaple-Editor  
Open  
Open

Benjamin Franklin, in his autobiography of many years ago included this daily time schedule he set for himself and referred to as his Scheme. Time well spent; it bears reprinting!

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>THE MORNING.</b>                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Question.</i> What good shall I do this day? | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \end{array} \right\}$ Rise, wash, and address <i>Powerful Goodness!</i> Contrive day's business, and take the resolution of the day; prosecute the present study, and breakfast. |
|                                                 | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \\ 11 \end{array} \right\}$ Work.                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>NOON.</b>                                    | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 12 \\ 1 \end{array} \right\}$ Read, or overlook my accounts and dine.                                                                                                                        |
|                                                 | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{array} \right\}$ Work.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>EVENING.</b>                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Question.</i> What good have I done to-day?  | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \end{array} \right\}$ Put things in their places. Supper. Music or diversion, or conversation. Examination of the day.                                                      |
| <b>NIGHT.</b>                                   | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{array} \right\}$ Sleep.                                                                                                                              |

Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley  
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