

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the past to inspire our future

Newsletter

October, 2017

Marshall Historical Society
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President

Janet Dangler

Vice President & Inventory

John DeForest

Secretary/Treasurer

Yvonne Brady

Trustees

Ruth Melvin (2018)
Bill Koren (2019)
Amy Buchholz (2020)
Gen Cornelius (2021)
Gary Ford (2022)

Website:

www.marshallhistsoc.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017
Curiosities in the Book World
Professor Booknoodle

Join!

Provide your name and address (and email, if applicable) to the secretary and pay the membership fee:

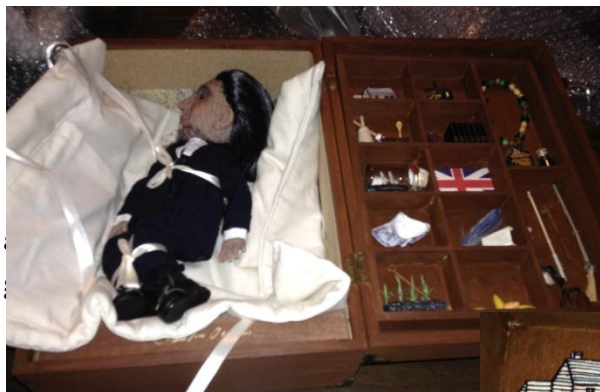
Individual: \$10:00

Family: \$15.00

Donate!

Your donations to the Marshall Historical Society are tax deductible.

The Historical Society has received a complementary Samson Occom doll, especially commissioned by the Brothertown Indian Nation in Wisconsin. The limited-edition (20), hand-made doll commemorates Occom's mission trip to England in 1765. It's hard to describe the doll and its accompanying shadow box, containing items summarizing Occom's life. It is on display (behind glass) in the meeting room of the Town Hall and if you get a chance, you can see him there; or come to the next meeting October 19. Below are some pictures of the doll and the shadow box, which don't begin to do them justice. His clothes are especially fascinating, as they are



meticulous, accurate representations of clothing worn in the 17th century. The detail in the entire set is amazing. We are so grateful that these lines

of communication between us and the Brothertown Indian Nation remain strong and unbroken. As the first settlers in the Town of Marshall, the Brothertown Indians are very important and special to us.

The 2017-18 budget was passed at the September 21 meeting, and the slate of officers was approved. Many thanks to Gary Ford for agreeing to serve as Trustee, and to Ruth Melvin who is filling out the term of Anne Jasek, who asked to be removed from the Trustee list. Thank you to Joanne Bolan, who has completed her tenure as Trustee, and thank you Anne for your years of service. We appreciate you all!

Forge Hollow was a once-thriving, prosperous community in the Town of Marshall. The first white settler (according to the 1860 Gazetteer) was David Barton in 1792. He first settled in land on the Brothertown Patent (on West Hill) and was obliged to move.

Forge Hollow was notable for its forges - hence the name. It used ore from Clinton and later scrap iron to turn into farm tools. The first forge was built in 1801 by Daniel Hanchett, John Winslow, Thomas Winslow and Ward White. It was located a short distance down the stream from the caves and was known as the upper forge. In 1808, Hanchett went into partnership with Skinner. The last forge man and blacksmith was Yemmans Phinney. Hunkerford & Daniels operated what was called the lower forge. As a side note, the curve on Route 315 going in known as Daniel's Nose.

Forge Hollow was also known for its grist mills and saw mills; near the old stone school house was the Mowery Tefft sawmill, and further upstream was the grist mill, operated by Isaac Jones. There was a blast furnace, originated by Andrew S. Pond and later operated by Billy Titus. Forge Hollow also boasted a Universalist church, a furniture store, run by M.L. Lyman, at least two hotels or public houses, shop and a school. Willona Creek (or Big Creek or the West Branch of the Oriskany Creek) provided water for the grist mills and sawmills. A plank road extended from Waterville through Forge Hollow to Deansboro, later replaced by a hard macadam road.

Yes, Forge Hollow was a important, busy place, where Town business was conducted in either Donohue's Hotel or the Ryan Building, and was bustling until the Chenango Canal was opened in 1837, followed by the railroad in 1867.

Even though Forge Hollow has declined - the forges and mills are gone - it is still celebrated for the cave-pocked limestone cliffs over which a spring bubbles to a pool below. In fact, one of the largest caves in Central New York can be found on the highway near Forge Hollow. In the same area, plenty of horsebone rock can be found. In 1885, a scorpion fossil was found in the caves, and appeared in a exhibit in the American Museum of Natural History. This fossil is associated with the fossil Eurypterid, the oldest fossil in New York State. Today, one can see bicyclists stopping by for a cool drink, or people filling water jugs with the spring water from the "hollow." In the wintertime, water drips down the fact of the cliff, forming huge icicles.

INTRODUCING...Kate Loftus Welch

Kate Loftus Welch lived in Forge Hollow virtually all her life - she was bought here as an infant, taught school at Forge Hollow, Brothertown, Hanover, and the Cobblestone school on Paris Road. From 1898 to 1938 she wrote a column for the Waterville Times called *Along Willona Creek*, filled with news of her neighbors as well as observations of nature. She lived in the house now owned by Mary Beth and Bob Vandenberg, which she called "the house by the side of the road." Her cousin, Tom Barnes of Connecticut, compiled her poems and writings into two volumes, both of which are available at the Deansboro Library and Reading Center.

October on Willona

Once more the haze of autumn day
Rests on Willona's vale
And far on high through bluest sky
The little cloud ships sail,
And softly, sweet the twilight fleet
Drops down her purple veil.

Now dazzling bright the morning light
Comes streaming o'er South Hill
Where brown nuts fall from tree tops tall
Dear little hands to fill
Around where old, sweet shadow fold
The schoolhouse by the mill.

-Kate Loftus Welch

From *The Poet of Forge Hollow: The Poetry and Seasons of Kate Loftus Welch* compiled and edited by Thomas Barnes, ©1997