

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the past to inspire our future

Newsletter

November, 2017

Marshall Historical Society
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Janet Dangler

Vice President & Inventory

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Ruth Melvin (2018)

Bill Koren (2019)

Amy Buchholz (2020)

Gen Cornelius (2021)

Gary Ford (2022)

Website:

www.marshallhistsoc.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017

Lady Liberty: The Story of the Statue of Liberty

Cheryl Pula, presenter

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.

Greetings Members and Friends:

Unfortunately, the visit from the Brothertown Indians, which was tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in November, was cancelled until the Spring. Although the weather here cooperated, they decided that next April or May would be better for their group. So you will be kept updated on the exact date of the visit. Hopefully, many will be able to make the trip!

Last month, we enjoyed hearing all about the collection of books - some dating back to the 1700s - belonging to Professor Booknoodle, AKA John DeForest. He explained how the binding of books progressed throughout the years, and pointed out the differences in fonts in the various volumes. Some books were passed around to the group for examination, while others were deemed too fragile to be handled. Many thanks to John - that is, Professor Booknoodle - for an interesting evening. Gen Cornelius provided the refreshments: delicious apple spice cake, pumpkin bars and cider.

She may be the most recognizable symbol of American freedom, a gift from France to the United States, a colossal woman with a torch in New York City Harbor. But whose idea was she? How was she constructed? On November 16, Cheryl Pula, New York Mills Village Historian, will present the program *Lady Liberty: The Story of the Statue of Liberty*. The answer to those questions and more will be revealed in what is sure to be a fascinating program. Cheryl is also reference & research librarian at New York Mills library. She served as reference librarian at Dunham Public library, head of adult services at Utica Public library, and was the head of the lending department at Mid-York library. Amy Buchholz will provide refreshments.



Edie Reile donated a map of the Town of Marshall to the Society, dated probably at the turn of the 20th century (around 1900). She said she and John purchased it at the Bouckville Antique Fair and later had it framed. John Reile was the supervisor of the Town of Marshall for many years. We plan to have it hung in the meeting room.

The October 14 meeting of the Association of Public Historians of NYS at the Congregational UCC, hosted by the Town of Marshall Historical Society went very well. Thanks to all of you who helped!

Enjoy the rest of the fall weather - if it ever stops raining - and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!!

Conversation with Clifford Small- January 18, 1987

What do you remember of life in Deansboro?

Well, I was born in this house where I live now, and I've lived here ever since. (*Note: Mr. Small's house is now owned by Bob and Maureen Gray on Route 315*)

How were you affected personally about the Depression?

Well, those days, people didn't depend on Welfare. I remember some people - they lived right over there - they'd work on the roads for the Town of Marshall in the summertime. And then in the wintertime they didn't have work. So they'd get their groceries from the store and charge their groceries. And in the spring they'd get work so they'd go and pay for the groceries. Of course, nowadays you have to pay cash to buy groceries. People didn't make as much fuss back then as they do now over things. There was a fellow named Tad Hughes; used to sell feed, and we bought feed off the cart: \$80 a ton; and we got between 70-80 cents a hundred (weight) for the milk. We sent it to Dairyman's League.

That was the milk plant uptown?

The Dairyman's League was Borden's in Waterville; our milk went to Waterville.

Was the milk plant in Deansboro running at the same time?

Yes, but Hinman's was running it, I think. It used to be called the Mohawk Condensed Milk Company. Around 30 people used to work there, and they made canned condensed milk. That was 'way back - I would think in the teens. Mr. Mapes used to be superintendent, and he lived right across the road from the plant in Deansboro (in the stucco house). They used to ship the milk on a train. The train came at 11:00. They shipped the milk in cans. The train would stop there, they put a plank there, and would roll the cans over the plank onto the train. It went to New York.

Where was the canal?

The canal ran back of the store. Then it burned down. But there was a hanger came out over there where they would lift the freight up out of the boat and took the freight upstairs into the window of the store.

When did the railroad stop?

The canal opened in 1836 and closed in 1878. The railroad opened in 1866 and closed in 1957. We used to have about five passenger trains each way each day. In 1945 they took the passenger trains away, and it was just freight up until 1957. The first passenger train used to leave in the morning at 7:30. Mr. Mapes, he rode on the train, and Will Small, Supervisor, used to ride on that train, and one of the Recor girls and Mary Goodson (Lloyd) and Esther Sanders, and different ones used to take that train. Bill Bishopp used to take that train to go to school. Dorothy Blandings - she used to go on it.

What changes have you seen in Deansboro from the Depression on?

Well, things have deteriorated. We used to have two feed mills; we had a rail road station; we had a Condensary; and we had a Harness Shop. Fellow named Bill Cross ran it and then Joe Stearns ran it. It was right

across from the Condensery; and Charlie Earl ran the store on the corner, and across from that in the Hotel, Bob Applegate ran a grocery store (during the Depression). Then where Hinman's garage is, J.C. Davis and C.W. Dexter used to run the store there; and up above there, where the whole building is torn down there was a drug store there. Hamlin used to run it. When he died, a fellow by the name of Bishopp ran it. Four stores. And two churches! Until we united with the Methodist church in Oriskany Falls, we used to have our own pastor. We used to have around 80 in church on Sunday morning,

Those were the focal points, then, of the community.

Churches. We had sheds out back, we had dime socials. You could get a pretty good meal for 10 cents.

We had an ice cream parlor, too. Emma Keyes ran the ice cream parlor, and that was right across from garage down there. And we had four places that sold gasoline in Deansboro: now there isn't any. We don't have anything now in Deansboro: everything has gone down the tubes; nothing comes in new.

We're interested in the changes to the roads; this road in particular (Route 315). How has that changed over the years?

This road was built, I don't know, somewhere about 1910 or somewhere around there. A fellow name Mr. Gates used to run the steam roller. He boarded at a house down the road, and he didn't like it: all they had to eat was salt pork. So he came up here and boarded with my mother.

What about the red barn that says Deansboro on it, right on the curve as you come into Deansboro?

That's where they made the electricity. There was a dike there. And the dike ran up where they sell apples now. And the water came down and ran the water wheel, and we had electricity; and our electric bill was \$1.05 a month. The electricity came as far as where the Youngs live. And then about four or five of the farmers around here - they went in and paid for the poles and the wires and everything to run it up as far as Wratten's (*Gallaghers*), and if anybody wanted to hook on to it, they had to reimburse the people who had already paid for it. We had electricity. Albert Minter is the one who wired the house and that was back in, I don't know, maybe around 1912. It was a lot of fun: I used to want to go around and turn the lights on at night-time.

Mr. Small, where did you go to school?

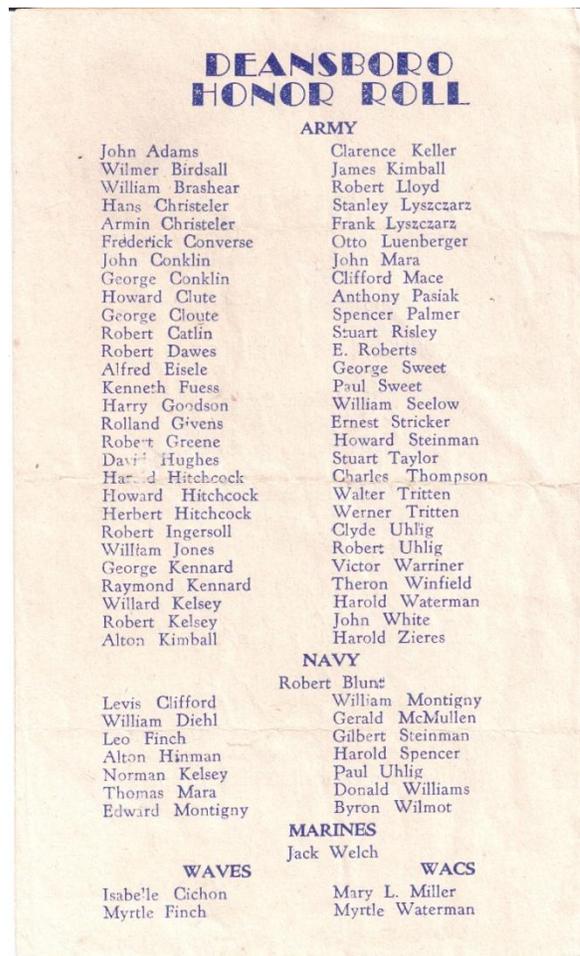
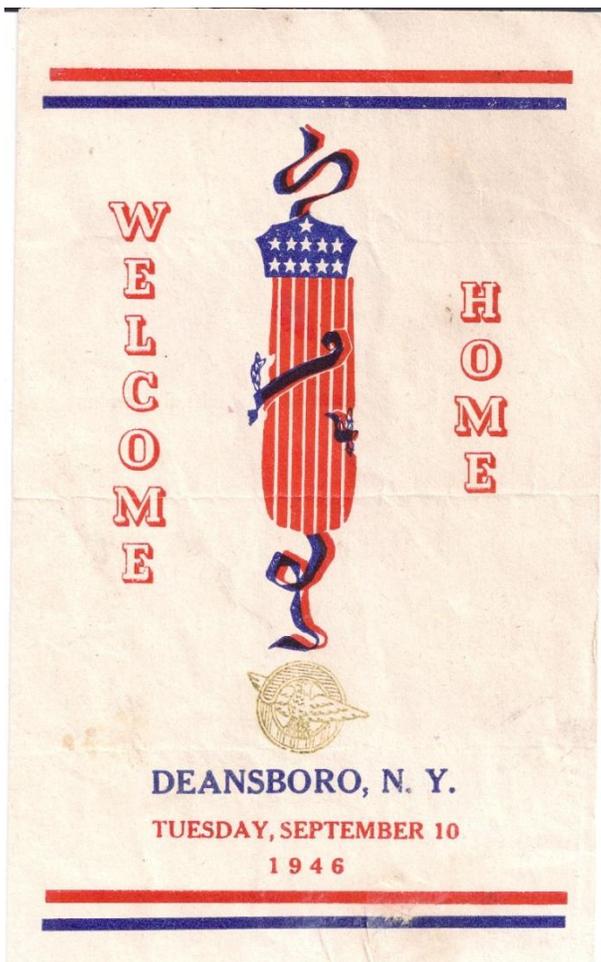
I went to Waterville, but first I went to a little district school (on the corner of Rt. 315 and Burnham Road). And our school tax was about \$5 a year. And the teacher - Josephine King was the teacher - she got \$5 a week teaching school. Then we united with Deansboro schools and went there. Then that school burned down in 1931. They built the other school, and we had two years of high school down there. Mr. Blau was the principal and Mrs. Daley was a lady teacher, and Claribell Stafford. Then we united with the Waterville School, and when we united with the Waterville School, they said your tax bill will never be over \$9 a year; and now it's up in the 100s.

One thing we had was an awful good ball team. We used to have the ball field down Rt. 315, after you cross the bridge, turn left, along the creek (*the flat behind Macari's house at 2671 State Route 315*). Of course, it's all changed now. We used to have ball games down there Saturdays. I used to sell tickets down there. And we did have as high as 2000 on Saturday afternoons. Wilfred Ingersoll was manager of it. And we played Oneida

Limited, Knights of Columbus in Utica, and Randall Davis used to pitch; Earl Chesebro played; Kes Kennard played on it; we had Bob Washburn from Bouckville; Ted from Bouckville; Red McLaughlin from Oriskany Falls; Dutch Hennessey played: we had a good team.

And we used to have very good entertainment. We used to have Chautauqua electric courses in the Macabee Hall. And the season ticket was five electric courses. The whole electric course was \$1.60. They came from Chautauqua County, near Buffalo.

A lot of changes!



Program from a celebratory dinner held in 1946 at Macabee Hall to honor returning service people from World War II. The dinner was co-chaired by Frank Seelow and Gardner Hart. Many thanks to Jan Kennard Kelly for sending this to us.