

Marshall Historical Society
Looking to the past to inspire our future

Newsletter

Marshall Historical Society
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October, 2018

Greetings Members and Friends:

We had such an interesting program in September on the 20th! Jim Ford gave a talk on Madison Lake; and Lake Moraine, a mad-made lake. It was accompanied by a power-point presentation. His enthusiasm with his subject was overwhelmingly apparent.

Lake Moraine was constructed as a "feeder" for the Chenango Canal, which opened in 1836. It was originally called Madison Reservoir, but the name was changed in 1912, due to the fact that, although the lake continued to be a water source for the Erie Canal, many cottages were built at the lake, which became very popular. Many of us remember, with varying degrees of pleasure, taking swimming lessons at Lake Moraine.

By contrast, Madison Lake is a natural lake, carved by a glacier and existing for several centuries before the earliest settlers arrived. In places, it is 100 feet deep. There are numerous drop-offs, which can take the unsuspecting swimmer or fisherman by surprise. In the 1800s, Madison Lake boasted many amusements, such as a merry-go-round, and two hotels. But the property went into disrepair before the far-seeing Town of Madison purchased the property in 1984 as a town park. Mention was made of the roller skating rink, which many of us remember. It was part of the Lewis Pavilion built in 1893, and which burned in 1969.

In October 18, Elizabeth "Perk" Stalter, Historian of the Town of Brookfield, will present a talk on Craine Triple Wall Silos, many of which can be found locally. The silos were invented in 1906 by William Craine, who emigrated from the Isle of Man in England around 1850 and settled in Brookfield. His company grew and his sons later operated it in Norwich, There will be plenty of pictures and stories about this remarkable and enterprising family. The meeting will start at 7:00 in October, due to the Senior dinner which is happening just before, so if you want to go to the dinner, you'll have plenty of time to cross the hall to the meeting room in the Town Hall and enjoy the story of William Craine and his family.

At our annual September business meeting, we approved the slate of officers: Janet Dangler, President; John DeForest, Vice President/Librarian; and Yvonne Brady, Secretary/Treasurer. We welcomed Lawrence Gilley as Trustee until 2023, replacing Ruth Melvin, whose term ended this year. Amendments to the By-Laws was voted on, including at least 5 members present to make up a quorum as opposed to 10 now in the By-Laws; having business meetings three times a year instead of every month; and the dates and times of the business meetings to be worded as "as determined by the officers and Trustees."

President

Janet Dangler

Vice President &

Inventory

John DeForest

Secretary/Treasurer

Yvonne Brady

Trustees

Bill Koren (2019)

Amy Buchholz (2020)

Gen Cornelius (2021)

Gary Ford (2022)

Lawrence Gilley (2023)

Website:

www.marshallhistsoc.org

Next Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 18

7:00 p.m.

Craine Triple Wall Silos -
Elizabeth "Perk" Stalter
Town of Brookfield
Historian.

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.



September 20 was Jim Ford's birthday, and he was presented with a cake may especially for him. You may notice that the decorations resemble Lake Moraine.

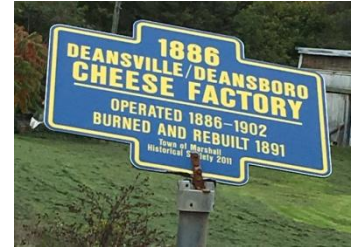
You can pick up Jim's latest book, **Our Treasured Lakes**, about Lake Moraine and Madison Lake at the Superette. A copy is in the Deansboro Library as well. It is a fascinating look at a fascinating subject. Thanks, Jim!

CALENDAR

Thanks to the hard work of Yvonne Brady, the 2019 Calendar had been sent to the printer and will be ready to purchase for Christmas or Hanukkah gifts. Each month of the calendar shows at least two pictures of historic Town of Marshall, and also recent pictures around the area, each captioned. More about the proposed cost will be forthcoming - we wanted to get it to the printer as soon as possible - but a calendar with local historic pictures? Priceless!

CHEESE FACTORY

Just before Oriskany Creek going south on Route 315 toward Waterville was the Deansboro Cheese Factory on the left, owned by F.H. VanVechton. The factory was built in 1883 and was operated from 1886 until 1891, when a fire broke out. The fire was discovered to have been set by two disgruntled farmers whose milk, which was sent to the factory, was found unsatisfactory. Around 12,000 to 13,000 pounds of cheese were destroyed, and while the loss on the building was considerable, it was partially insured. Therefore, it was rebuilt that same year.



The cheese factory produced only two sizes, large round wheels weighing 30 pounds and 60 pounds, under the management first of James D. Kelly and then of J.H. Gazlay. Gazlay was also in charge of the cheese factory on Peck's Corner (corner of Peck Road and Shanley Road). During the months of May through November, when the cheese factory was open, around 700,000 pounds of milk were received, and over 66,000 pounds of cheese were manufactured.

In 1901, the stock holders of the company met to discuss the future of the factory. At that meeting, G.B. Northrup, J.D. Kelly, Ralph Lumbard and John Toole were elected directors. Apparently, the future of the Deansboro Cheese Factory was not very bright, as the next mention is of the building being purchased by Robert Hadcox in 1903. He intended to install an engine and other machinery for the manufacture of self-opening farm gates, using a patent held by George S. Patrick.

The National Gate Company, Hadcox and Patrick's enterprise, went out of business in 1916, and in 1919 there was a concerted effort by members of the Dairyman's League to reopen a cheese factory in that location which did not come to fruition. The building burned in the early 1920s, sat unused for several years, and finally disintegrated.



Bridge - 1906

Fast forward to 2008: The DOT proposed a bridge replacement project over Oriskany Creek, but before that could be started, archaeologists from the New York State Museum's Cultural Resource Survey Program were dispatched in October of that year to conduct shovel test excavations,

searching for evidence of prehistoric or historic sites. Since the cheese factory, and later the National Gate Company were in that location, the search was extensive.



bridge 2016

The archeologists found numerous artifacts that are typical of historic and roadside litter, but most noteworthy was the discovery of the remains of the Deansboro Cheese Factory. The shovel tests partially uncovered a stone masonry slab that may have been the factory's entrance, and revealed the outlines of the building's foundation. Other artifacts recovered from the shovel tests were architectural (nails, bricks, lumber fragments and window glass); and general items such as brackets, hooks, bolts, pulleys, rods, bars and a large padlock.

David Staley, New York State archeologist and project manager for the Cultural Resource Survey Program presented the findings of the dig at the Marshall Historical Society in October, 20, 2009. A memorial plaque was installed at the site in 2012. The bridge replacement was completed in 2016.