

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the Past to Inspire Our Future

August/September, 2022

Newsletter

Marshall Historical Society
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Vice President & Inventory

OPEN – ANY TAKERS?

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Website:

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Next Meeting

September 15, 2022 – 6:30

Susan Murray Miller regarding her Dowsing experiences.

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.

Dear Members and Friends:

What started out as an August newsletter has turned into an August/September one! Life just seems to always get in the way.

Our August meeting was held on the 18th of the month, when we heard from Robert Taylor, a member of the Society of Automotive Historians about automobiles built prior to the 1930s, spoke about Frank Snell of Waterville, who built what was called a horseless carriage in 1900. Snell was a mechanic and a carpenter who took a real interest in working with iron and steel. Taylor said that whatever tool he needed to make the car work he fabricated himself. We learned that Snell’s family were natural mechanics. They all had remarkable mechanical ability. After Snell’s death in 1927, the vehicle he made was purchased by Claude and Vern Gleasman of West Leyden.



The inner workings of the Snell vehicle



Robert Taylor showing a slide of an early automobile which was made in Scotland.



Frank Snell taking Catherine Brainard for a ride in the automobile he built.



Robert Taylor beginning his talk about Frank Snell and his "horseless carriage" built in 1900.

We learned a lot about antique cars and their fabrication. Many, many thanks to Robert Taylor for a most interesting and instructive evening!

Coming up is a program sure to interest everyone. Susan Murray Miller will present her experiences Dowsing – not for water, as everyone thinks, although she had done that as well, but for bodies. She is a member of the American Society of Dowzers and was trained by nationally recognized Dowser Fred Hayes in 1973. She is also a member of the Herkimer Dowser's Association, a branch affiliate of the North American Dowzers Association. She has had several successes finding grave sites that were plowed under or buried. Susan has been a huge help with the Brothertown Indian cemetery, where it is believed the possible as many as 50 souls lie. She was able to locate several. She will explain how it's done and how she has perfected what she has learned. The program will be at 6:30 on September 15 at 6:30. As always, you can expect refreshments to be served.

In Memoriam

We honor the memory of Joanne Bolan and Anne Jasek, who passed away recently. They were both long-time and faithful members of the Marshall Historical Society, and while Anne wasn't able to make many of the meetings of late, Joanne was usually there. They will be missed.

I would like to bring you up-to-date on the happenings of the Brothertown Indians, among the first settlers in our area. As you know, a contingent of them was here last October and again in May, when the Historical Society partnered with them to memorialize their ancestors. They have been busy of late, particularly in the state of Wisconsin, which is where the headquarters of the Brothertown is located. On June 12 of this year, a bench was dedicated in memory of Mark Baldwin, who worked in service to the Brothertown Indians for many years, and who passed away in 2020. Mark, himself a member of the Tribe, founded the Calumet and Cross Heritage Society, an independent non-profit organization formed by Brothertown Indians and their many supporters. The mission of the organization is to preserve Brothertown Indian heritage and culture for future generations through storytelling and by educating others. I am proud and fortunate to have been invited to be a member of that Society, particularly the Historical Preservation committee. They are naturally interested in this part of the country, as their ancestors lived here until around 1850, and they are so appreciative of the property owners here who care for their ancestors on their private land. We have researched many cemeteries, including the one on which our September speaker, Susan Murray Miller, worked.

The Brothertown Indians are planning a bus trip, much like the ones taken in 1999 and 2003. The trip would be from Fond-du-Lac in Wisconsin to ancestral lands as far as Providence, Rhode Island, and then on to Deansboro. The trip would commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Samson Occom, who led the Brothertown Indians to this area in the 1700s. I will keep you posted of developments as we know them.

THE DEANSBORO BAND

With the ending of World War I, many communities began organizing special monthly parades of returning soldiers with floats and marching bands. In May, 1927, a group of enthusiastic and enterprising musicians met in the Deansboro Garage for the purpose of organizing what they called the Deansboro Community Band. Organizers of one of the first band concert were: General Committee, Peter Klotzbach; Ralph Moore; Roy McMullen; and Clark Shaver. Parade Committee: Clarence Blunt, Charles Pierce and Art Pughe; Hill Climb (for cars!) Del Pamiter, Gardner Hart, Hardie Sanders; Baseball Jay Davis, C.F. Ingersoll.

This energetic group, consisting of young men from all over the Town of Marshall, treated the residents of Deansboro to a concert every Tuesday. Harry Goodson remembers that these concerts, for the most part, were performed on the back of a flatbed truck in front of the general store, probably built by Don Williams, and were called Open Air concerts. Soft drinks, hot dogs, and ice cream were sold; and Art Sanders' grandmother popped a lot of popcorn which Art sold for a nickel a bag. On a good night, he made as much as \$5.00!. People either stood around, listened and applauded; or sat in their cars and honked their horns with appreciation after each number

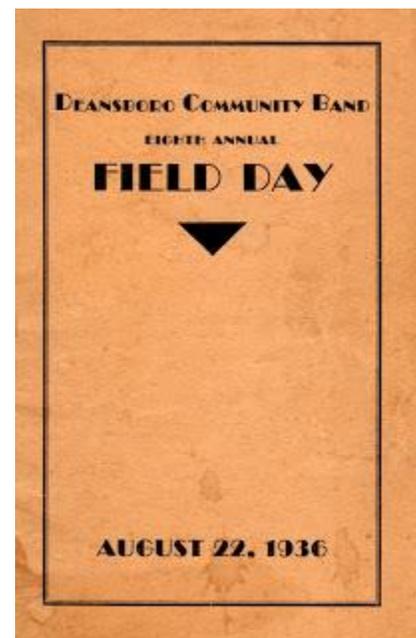
Concerts were also held on the front lawns of many homeowners. Eleanor Dawes met her husband Bob at an open-air concert in front of the Dean Homestead. He was from Clinton, so you see the band had a wide audience. They also held concerts in the Maccabee Hall, in Oriskany Falls, in the village park in Clinton, for the Paris Hill Fair and the Vernon Fair, and Waterville. The band also furnished music on past Memorial Days.

Of course, this was not the first band out of Deansboro: there is evidence there was a band as early as 1898, but nothing much can be found out about this. The later band had at least two directors: Harry M. Williams of Utica; and John Albrecht, formerly with the famous Sousa band, also of Utica. In addition, there were bylaws and officers: president, R.E. Thayer; vice president, Peter Klotzbach; secretary, O.E. Buckingham; treasurer Walter Steinmann; manager I. Weaver; librarian Raymond Thayer. At its inception, the band had 21 members, rising to 30 over the years. The picture below shows the band, but the date is unknown. Since it went from 1927 until 1941 (the last instance I could find of the Deansboro Band), most likely the personnel changed from year to year. Donald Bennett was a frequent soloist.

The concert usually consisted of a mix of classical music and favorites of the time. An example of the music offered by the Deansboro band was detailed in a Utica Daily Press article from 1931. The program included the following selections: "Cruiser Omaha (a march) by King; Stilly Night by Huff; "Empyream" by Hayes; "Sunset Limited" by Holmes; "Over the Stars" by King; "Golden Book Medley" by Kroyman; "Under the Double Eagle" by Wagner; "I'm Happy When You're Happy"; "Officer of the Day"; and "America," which concluded every concert.

The Deansboro Band also sponsored field days. The first was in 1929, which drew more than 2000 people to the hamlet. There was a parade in the morning with floats, decorated bicycles and decorated cars, a ball game in the afternoon, and a dance at Maccabee Hall in the evening. Subsequent field days were just as popular, including more attractions such as a time race, a hill climb, horseshoe tournaments, and a boxing match but always ending with dancing. To express their appreciation to the many neighboring villages which supported the field days, the band performed concerts in those villages which were well received, the band being referred to as "wide awake," "a pleasure to listen to," "delightful," and with "excellent musicianship."

The Deansboro band memorabilia and memories are courtesy of the late Bill Kennard, a life-long resident of Deansboro.





The Deansboro Band in an undated picture. Can anyone identify any of the members of the band?

From the Waterville Times 1929:

The first annual field day of the Deansboro Band drew more than 2,000 to this village yesterday. The event was a success from the parade in the morning, led by W.R. Small, followed by the band, to the dance at Maccabee Hall at night, which concluded the program. Spirited contests for men, women, children and motors were held during the day. There was but one accident. Betsy Blunt, 6 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Blunt suffered a broken leg as she was struck by a motor as she was crossing the road at the four corners late in the afternoon. She was removed to Faxton Hospital in the evening. The Clark Mills 9 defeated the Rome Senators in the ball game. The weather was ideal - no rain falling. Harold Scott of the Utica Flying Service was there with a plane to give the crowd some thrills in stund flying, and he took up passengers. The band, assisted by some of the boys from neighbor bands, furnished a most pleasing concert from 7 to 9. The day's entertainment was finished with a dance at Maccabee Hall which included a prize waltz, won by Hubbard Brandis and Helen Cotter. The band wishes to thank their friends in the neighboring towns who so generously supported them in the advertising on programs, the committees and home folks who gave unsparingly of their time and efforts to make this, their first annual field day, the success they hoped for.

1930:

The Second annual field day of the Deansboro band proved to be a real success. Nearly 1500 people thronged the village streets Saturday to witness the parade and races. The opening feature was the parade led by Supervisor William R. Small and the band. Many gaily decorated cars and floats made up the procession. Prizes were offered for the best decorated car and the funniest and the judges had a hard time making their selection. The award for the best decorated car was given to Clarence Tolhurst of Clinton. The car was

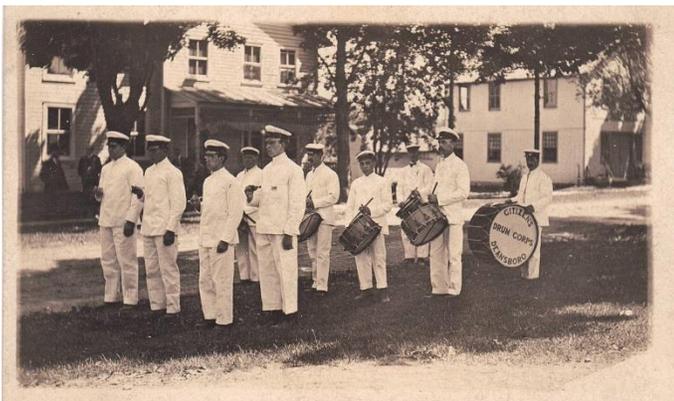
bedecked with huge baskets of gladiolas and attracted a great deal of favorable comment. Honorable mention was given to Benjamin Smith of Deansboro. The funniest car proved to be a 1912 Buick driven by "Amos and Andy." This fresh air taxi also attracted considerable attention. It was driven by the Misses Alice and Alia Grower. An "Amos and Andy" driving a team of mules was given honorable mention. Grant Shaver and William Bishopp were the drivers. Two other groups were considered by the judges, and for organizations floats the Home Bureau and the Traveller's Clubs were mentioned. In the historical floats the judges decided that the oxcart at one time owned by Plumb Loomis was worthy of mention as well as the barouche owned by Seymour Lloyd. The judges were Howard Miller, Deansboro; Dr. O. J. Pollard, Oriskany Falls and T. H. Townsend, Waterville. The hill climb, a one and two-tenths mile climb, was won by Storey Brothers in a Chevrolet roadster in 1:56.54. In the class for cars under \$1,000 while the McRoric Sautter Motor Car Company of Utica captured the free-for-all in an Oakland Knight in 1.43. In the secret time race Clarence Lloyd of Deansboro and the entry of the Deansboro Feed & Lumber Company under Driver Gallup finished in a tie.

Deansboro Event Proves Big Success in Deansboro Utica Daily Press - 1936

Success marked the annual field day of the Deansboro Band Saturday. Deansboro won at softball from New York Centrals of Utica, 9-8; Waterville baseball team won from Whitesboro, 10-5; and the Waterville Textile team of the Oneida-Madison league defeated an all star outfit 4-1. In the horseshoe contest Joseph Billings, Jr., Oriskany Falls defeated B. Randall of Utica. A parade and dance were also included in the day's program. Frank Peterson, 68, was seriously injured during the ball game when a bat slipping from the hands of a player struck him in the head. He was taken to Faxton Hospital, Utica, for treatment. It is feared his skull was fractured.

Deansboro Band to Hold Concert

The second of the Tuesday night concerts by Deansboro band, led by John H. Albrecht - will be offered this week with these numbers: "American Eagle;" "Simple Aveu," - Thome; "Fort Gay" (march) - Huff; "Water Lillies," (waltz) - King; "The Cadet's Own," (march) - Laurendeau; "The Silent Rose" - Herbert; "Three Rings March" - Talbot; "Evening Shadows" (serenade) - King; "Beatrice Band" (march) Laurendeau; "Rifle Rangers" (march) King; "America" - Carey. The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m. - **Utica Daily Press, 1940**



1927

1932 – can anyone identify the young leader?

