

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the Past to Inspire Our Future

February 2024

Marshall Historical Society
P.O. Box 232
Deansboro, NY 13328
marshallhistory17@gmail.com

Greetings Friends:

We hope everyone is enjoying the winter while at the same time getting ready for spring, which is about 23 days away!

President

Janet Dangler

In 2023, we had a good year of programs: in May, Nick Pruputniewicz from NP Environmental gave a program about his business, NP Environmental LCC, which focuses on geothermal systems and cold climate air source heat pumps.

Vice President

Alycia Schick

In June, Cheryl Pula presented a program titled "Known but to God: The Tomb of the Unknowns." Most of us know the name "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" but as she told us, the name was changed following World War II and the Korean war to honor all military personnel who died in the line of duty.

Secretary/Treasurer

Yvonne Brady

In July, our topic was on the churches, both past and present, in the Town of Marshall. We discovered that there were several, and found out the reason those places of worship are no longer in existence.

Trustees

Joan McNamara (2024)

Janet Dangler (2025)

Yvonne Brady (2026)

Yvonne Schick (2027)

Amy Buchholz (2028)

August brought John Taibi and a program on the O&W railroad, which ran through Deansboro. The railroad began operation in 1866 until 1831 for passenger service, and 1957 for freight service. We had an amazing turnout for that meeting, thanks in part to our friends from the Limestone Ridge Historical Society.

Website:

www.marshallhistsoc.org

Next Meeting

April 18, 2024

**Have a good winter –
we'll get together soon.**

The September meeting was cancelled due to illness, but October brought a program from Troy Bishopp about the Deansboro Cemetery from 1861 when it was incorporated until the present.

Join!

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

Individual: \$10:00

Family: \$15.00

The October meeting also brought the good news of a volunteer for Vice-President – Alycia Schick. Also, Amy Buchholz and Yvonne Schick stepped forward to fill the vacant positions of Trustee. Thank you Alycia, Amy and Yvonne for agreeing to help. Many thanks go to Lawrence Gilley and Gary Ford, former Trustees, for their service to the Historical Society.

DUES ARE DUE!! GET YOURS IN TODAY!

Donate!

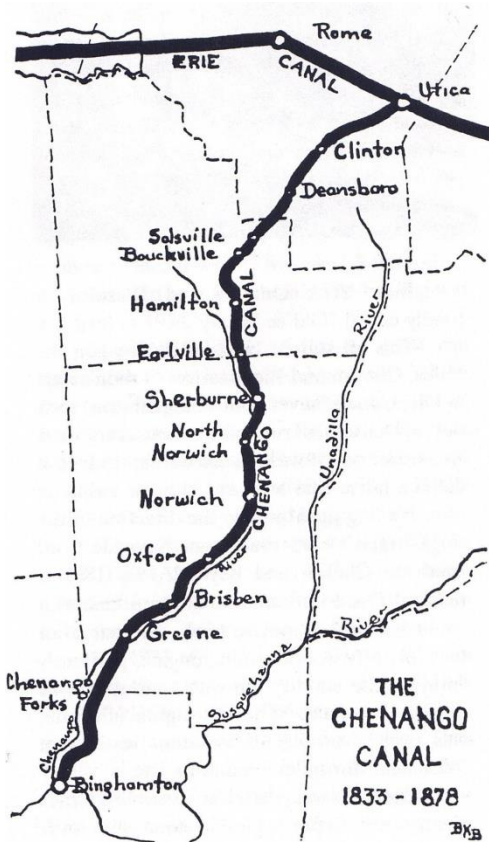
Your donations to the Marshall Historical Society are tax deductible.

We are gearing up for good presentations for this coming year, starting in April, when we will have our annual meeting. In May, James Coulthart will present a program on the story of Mohawk Airlines. In June, Sandra Garrett Salm from Vernon Center will speak about her family and how they lived in the 1800s, about which she has written several books. In September, Diane VanSlyke of the Chenango Canal Association will present a program on the Chenango Canal.

Please join us and make this year successful. And don't forget our business meeting in April!

THE CHENANGO CANAL

The history of the Chenango Canal begins with opening of the Erie Canal. The Erie Canal filled the need for cheaper and faster means of moving people and freight from place to place. Construction on the Erie Canal began on July 4, 1817 and was opened in 1825. Tolls were collected which, in ten years, amounted to \$5,000, more than covering the cost of construction. Many communities along the Erie Canal route saw increased businesses, more opportunities for employment, and soaring property values.



WHILE THE MOVEMENT for the construction of the Chenango Canal began quite spontaneously it was stimulated and later directed by a group of prominent New Yorkers known as the Committee of the Chenango Canal. Headed by Colonel Reuben Tower, this group included Fortune C. White, Moses Maynard, Apollus Cooper, Ammi Doubleday, Hazard Lewis and three leading citizens from Chenango County. After eight years of hard promotional work these men persuaded the state in 1833 to construct the Chenango Valley's first highway.

Therefore, the people who lived in places not directly on the route of the Erie Canal petitioned the Legislature in 1824 for a survey for a canal that would connect their communities to the Erie Canal. The initial reports were favorable, but experts pointed out that the project was too expensive to be practical. It failed time and time again in either the State Assembly or the Senate, but finally the Legislature disregarded studies which showed the Chenango Canal to be unprofitable, and authorized construction on February 23, 1833, via An Act for the Construction of the Chenango Canal.

Work started on the canal in 1834, "from Binghamton up the valley of the Chenango River and then to the Erie Canal, via Oriskany Valley." It covered 97 miles from Utica to Binghamton, and paralleled the course of the Oriskany Creek through the Town of Marshall. The canal featured 116 locks at \$8000 apiece, and cost over \$2,000,000 initially. The locks were intricately hand-fitted without using mortar, and are in remarkable condition today. The stone for the locks came from either the quarry in the Town of Marshall near Oriskany Falls or the one in North Norwich.

From the start, not including the Legislature's tardy response to the construction of the canal, there were problems. First there was a disagreement over the location of the northern part of the canal, until Utica was settled upon over Rome. Then there was disagreement over the worker's pay - \$11 a month. Mostly Irish immigrants, they lived in

shacks along the canal route. One was on Route 12b, where the Civilian Conservation Corps was housed in the 1930s, detailed in last month's newsletter. It was from here that the so-called Paddy's (or Patties) Rebellion took place, protesting the low wages. The State was forced to call out the militia (the equivalent of today's National Guard) to subdue the rioters, some of who were drunk and disorderly and whose wives swung long cotton stockings filled with rocks against the perceived enemy. The militiamen rode into Oriskany Falls, where the rioters marched through the village, carrying an Irish flag. The Rebellion was soon quelled. It is hoped that the workers were given higher pay.

In October of 1836, the canals were filled with water. However, the Chenango soil is so porous that flooding was caused in neighboring homes. The canal was then drained and lined with clay. The first boat left Utica on May 6, 1837, with a Mrs. Bently from Oriskany Falls aboard who traveled from Utica to Norwich. Along one bank was a tow-path, where the horses or mules pulled the crafts.

The Chenango Canal averaged about four feet deep. The surface width was 42 feet, and the base only 26 feet wide. As a result, canal boats were limited in size. The most common boats were the freight barges or bullheads. An important article of trade was iron ore, which was mined at the Franklin Iron Works outside of

Clinton and carried to Norwich. A lot of the freight over the years was coal, which was the source of more money in tolls than any other item. Grain was also carried along the canal, as well as thousands of tons of lumber and wood products, lime from the quarries along the route, and hay, dairy and foodstuffs. Passengers were a vital part of the traffic in the Chenango Canal. The boats that carried them were called packet boats which were pulled by horses (the freight barges were pulled by mules).

The Chenango Canal transformed the settlements along its path, and they flourished. Many new businesses and occupations developed as a result. In Deansboro, a tavern that served the people traveling on the canal was the building behind the Superette, now torn down. Records of inventories, sales, storage, and canal shipments dating back to 1836 were discovered in the Superette after it was hit by a truck which lost its brakes coming down West Hill Road in 1957. The Chenango Canal ran right behind the store, and there used to be a hook at the back where boats would stop, hook up, and get whatever they needed. The old wheel and hook were still there after the accident. Also, there was much opportunity for employment on the canal, as a lock tender, toll collector, and crew members. Romance Wyatt, the last known Brothertown Indian in this area who lived on Route 12b across from the Signal Trailer Park, was at first a driver and then was promoted to steersman. A canaller had to fight his way along the towpath and at the locks. It is said that young Wyatt never picked a fight, but when forced into one he always came out on top; when he had a black eye the other fellow had two.

Riding on the Chenango Canal wasn't perfect. Travel was action-packed: The crews were often rough and tumble; the passengers had to be aware of an upcoming bridge, so they could duck down or be swept overboard or injured; children often hid along the banks and tossed rocks into the water along the boat to splash those who were on the deck. There was the danger of sinking or of fire. Washouts were common during rainy times. Those, and muskrats and eels, slowed traffic while awaiting repairs. Packet boats were given the right of way but, since the locks were only wide enough to allow one boat a time, sometimes there was competition to see whose boat went first, often culminating in a fight between the crewmen of each boat. On the other hand, the canal was perfect for ice skating in the winter. In the summer, fishing was popular, as were swimming and boating.

Yes, the Chenango Canal was popular with merchants and passengers alike. But all that freight and toll money did not even begin to cover the cost associated with keeping the canal open. The total cost was \$6,871,208.82, and the income for the same period was \$744,021.11. The reality never came close to the predictions of the canal's supporters. So, in 1874, a referendum stopped the state operation, and the canal was closed after 41 years. Locks in Utica were sold in 1881 to build the Oriskany Battlefield monument in Rome. Others went at auction for five to six dollars apiece. The foundations of some homes are built of stone taken from the locks.

By the time the railroad came through in the 1860s, the Chenango Canal was almost forgotten. Ironically, the first railway engine was brought to the valley by way of the canal. However, passengers liked the comfortable ride of the trains (no worry about being splashed!) and the speed with which they could travel was attractive. The canal, and later the railroad were windfalls for Deansville (later Deansboro) for many reasons, most particularly due to shipping hops and grain, and receiving the all-important coal. The railway's importance was highlighted when land was purchased for the new condensery, called the United States Condensed Milk Company and later the Mohawk Condensed Milk Company, near the railroad in 1902.

We can still see remnants of one of the best constructed canals in New York State in various places, especially the locks, although the banks and culverts are still visible. Driving along the pleasant country roads bring reminders of the area's first highway – the Chenango Canal.

Many thanks to Ken McConnell, Barry K. Beyer, and the Chenango Valley Historical Society

DEANSBORO HOME BUREAU / DEANSBORO DOERS

The Deansboro Home Bureau was founded around 1905, when a group of women in the Town of Marshall formed an organization for sociability and recreation as well as learning new skills. They called themselves the Cornell Club. In 1923 that disbanded and became the Hill and Dale Club. The first president was Miss Jessie Youngs, who gathered 35 women to her home on what is now Route 315 where the Blakelys live. The original group pre-dated the Home Bureau, which didn't come to Oneida County until 1921.

At the second meeting, 100 women showed up. Dues were 10 cents a meeting. Those who attended were enthusiastic, sociable, and eager to learn. The programs were obtained from Cornell University and featured such necessary projects as canning, baking, caning chairs, sewing, dressmaking, and cooking, things that are important for everyone.

When the Home Bureau came to Oneida County, the Hill and Dale-ers decided to sign up with the state-wide group. They then became the Deansboro Home Bureau. The local Home Bureau carried out what their mandate was from the beginning: work, sociability, and recreation, but more extensive work was asked from them in the area of food conservation, which program was started during World War I.

Still, the women continued lightheartedly. They hosted card parties, community meals, and other activities. In 1925 in conjunction with the Chenango Improvement Association, the local chapter erected signs on the entrance to the hamlet on Route 12b both south and north. The attractive signs which proclaim "Deansboro, on the Chenango Trail Greet You," gladden the hearts of many who pass by.

In 1972, the Hill and Dale Home Bureau was called the Deansboro Doers. They held an auction and recipe night in February, and bus trips to places like Toronto, Boston, and Philadelphia were organized. The Deansboro Doers had progressive dinners, picnics, and held a Christmas party and June Banquet, as well as carrying on their commission. They learned picture framing, dress making and tailoring, and cooking dishes from other cultures. In 1987, all ties with the Home Bureau were severed, and they became Independent Homemakers, but still known as Deansboro Doers. That group disbanded in 2006, but continued to meet and contributed to Home Ec. scholarships for a Waterville graduate until 2009.

THE HOME BUREAU CREED

To maintain the highest ideals of home life; to count children the most important of crops; to so mother them that their bodies may be sound, their minds clear, their spirits happy, and their characters generous:

To place service about comfort; to let loyalty to high purposes silence discordant notes; to let neighborliness supplant hatreds; to be discouraged never:

To lose self in generous enthusiasms; to extend to the less fortunate a helping hand; to believe one's community may become the best of communities; and to cooperate with others for the common ends of a more abundant home and community life:

This is the offer of the Home Bureau to the homemaker of today.

Top: Officers
1998

Middle:
Officers 1992



Middle: Recipe
Auction-J. Roberts

Bottom: Pie Sale-
E. Jones, R. Evans,
M. Jones

Below are some newspaper clippings about the Home Bureau/Deansboro Doers. You can see that the group combined a lot of hard work and learning with fellowship and fun. Our former president, Dorothy McConnell was a member, as were lots of Deansboro Doers who found their way to the Historical Society.

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday afternoon, March 3, In the church parlors of the Congregational Church. The meeting opened with the singing of "America The Beautiful." Miss Maude Page, recent delegate to Ithaca during Farmers' Week, gave an interesting report of her visit. This was followed by a talk by Mrs. O. Bush of Utica on the subject, "The Arrangement of Furniture," illustrated by lantern slides. **Waterville Times, March 10, 1927**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** held their annual banquet on Thursday evening, March 3, 1927 at the Congregational Church house. Husbands and friends were guests, and about ninety were present. The tables were decorated with the national colors and a fine supper was served, the young sons and daughters of the members acting as waiters and waitresses. **Waterville Times, March 10, 1927**

The **Deansboro Hillandale Home Bureau** held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday afternoon, November 2nd. at the home of Mrs. Frank Gruman. A special feature of the meeting was the exercises held for the dedicating of the markers erected by the Deansboro Home Bureau. The erection of these markers was a special community project of the **Home Bureau**, working in cooperation with the Chenango Trail Association. The Chenango Trail is a road extending from the Thousand Islands to Binghamton. An Association has been formed for the promotion and beautifying of this trail. Two markers have been erected, one at the South end of the village and one at the north end. The exercises closed with the singing of America. A vote of thanks was extended to the committee for their work in securing the markers. An interesting health talk was given by Miss A. Ruth Jones of Utica. The special Christmas meeting of the Home Bureau will be held on Thursday afternoon, December 1st. The Chenango Association consists of about 500 members. The **Deansboro. Home Bureau** wish to extend their thanks and appreciation to Peter Klotzbach, Will Patterson and Ed Patterson for their work in erecting the new markers for the village. **Waterville Times, November 10, 1927**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** has been thrilled this last week, as we have among our members a bride, Mrs. Charles E. Watson. We find that intermingled with the prosaic lessons on nutrition, cooking, serving, etc., that love and romance still hold their place. Mrs. Charles E. Watson was at one time president of our unit and has been for many years an active member. **February 16, 1928**

The third and final lesson on "Foods for Feeding the Teeth", was given last week at a meeting of the **Deansboro Home Bureau** with 30 members present. **Ilion Sentinel. March 24, 1938**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** unit met Thursday, January 11, at the home of Mrs. Edward Richards for an all day meeting. Forty were present. After a short business meeting, music and singing were enjoyed. The second lesson on "Economic Cooking" was given with Mrs. Earl Smith and Mrs. Carl Diehl as leaders. **Utica Daily Press, 1940**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** unit will meet in the Methodist Church parlors Thursday. Miss Jonas, county Home Bureau leader, will present the first lesson on "Refinishing Furniture." **Utica Daily Press, 1940**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** unit will hold a public card party Friday evening. May 3, at the home of Mrs. Edmund Richards. Prizes will be given the winners and a door prize will also be presented. Refreshments will be served following the playing. **1940.**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** unit is sponsoring a cotton mattress making project this week. The sessions, which began Tuesday and will conclude Friday, are being held in Maccabee Hall. A total of 12 mattresses are being constructed by residents of the community. The cotton is supplied by the Federal government as a means of making use of surplus cotton supplies in the south. **Waterville Times, September 18, 1941**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** will meet Tuesday at 1:00 with Mrs. Hubert Bishopp for the first lesson on dressmaking. **Utica Daily Press, 1942**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** unit heard a talk on children's diseases recently by Mrs. Rosanna Giemza, public health nurse. The meeting was held in the Deansboro school. **Waterville Times February 20, 1947**

On Thursday, a lesson on bedside care was given at the Deansboro school by Miss Connoley under sponsorship of the **Deansboro Home Bureau. Clinton Courier, October 14, 1947**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** will sponsor a card party in the school auditorium at 8:30 Friday for the benefit of the Polio Fund. Refreshments will be served. Donations of 50 cents will be appreciated. **Utica Daily Press, January 14, 1952**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** will hold its first annual "Achievement Day and Open House," May 27, 1954 in the Methodist Church rooms in Deansboro from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend. Bake goods will be on sale and tea will be served. **Clinton Courier, May 20, 1954**

"The Care of Woolens" and "Housecleaning Made Easier" will be discussed Oct. 19 by Mrs. DeForest Ingersoll at a meeting of the **Deansboro Home Bureau** unit in her home. Mrs. Wilham Vedder and Mrs. Daisy Pughe will discuss "Family Life." Ten women participated in the program, which featured the decorating of water glasses and ash trays with floral designs. Last Thursday. Mrs. Miller taught a class in textile painting at a meeting in the home of Mrs. Harry Goodson. Plans are being made to obtain sets of paints and start the production of Christmas presents. **1954**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** met at the Congregational Church House on Thursday evening. Mrs. Ruth Steinman presided. After the business meeting, Mrs. James Blatt gave a talk on "Short Cuts to Housecleaning." **Waterville Times, April 14, 1955**

The **Deansboro Home Bureau** held a party in the Methodist Church parlor on Thursday evening, Oct. 13, 1955, honoring Mrs. Sanford Dickson and Mrs. Daisy Pughe for their many years of faithful service to the unit. Each received a gift of Jewelry and a life membership in the unit. A delicious luncheon was served at 7 o'clock. After a short business meeting which followed, the guests were welcomed by Mrs. Walter Steinmann, unit chairman, and Mrs. Nichols Sango gave the invocation. The unit History was read by Mrs. Harry Goodson Jr. **Clinton Courier, October 1955**

Annual Department Awards, Senior High Home Economics Award, **Deansboro Home Bureau**, \$25. Esther Weaver. **Waterville Times, June 29, 1994**

RECIPIES FROM THE DEANSBORO DOERS – 1995

BAKED CAVATELLI – Joanne Bolan

2 ½ cups wagon wheel or corkscrew macaroni

12 oz. Italian sausage links, sliced 1/2"

¾ cups chopped green onion

2 cloves garlic minced

1 (15 oz.) can tomato sauce

1 (14 oz.) jar spaghetti sauce with mushrooms

4 oz. mozzarella cheese shredded (1 cup)

1 t. Italian seasoning, crushed

¼ t pepper

Prepare pasta according to package directions, In large skillet cook sausage until no pink remains. Remove from skillet, drain fat, reserving 1 T. Cook green onions and garlic until tender. In a 2 qt casserole, combine cooked pasta, sausage, onion mixture, tomato sauce, spaghetti, HALF the mozzarella cheese, Italian seasoning, pepper, toss gently to combine. Bake covered in 375° oven for 25 minutes, sprinkle with remaining mozzarella, bake 5-10 minutes more or until heated through.

BROCCOLI PUFFS – Josie Roberts

2 (10 oz.) packages or large bag chopped broccoli

2 cans golden mushroom soup

1 (4 oz.) package cheddar cheese, shredded
½ cup milk
½ cup salad dressing
2 beaten eggs
½ cup bread crumbs – seasoned
2 Tablespoons butter

Cook broccoli (do not add salt). Drain and place the chopped broccoli in a casserole. Stir together the soup and cheese. Gradually add the milk and dressing, beaten eggs, and butter. Blend and pour over broccoli. Sprinkle the bread crumbs over the top. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

FRUIT CONDIMENT – Emma Jones

1 large (29) oz. can fruit cocktail
1 can pineapple chunks
2 cans mandarin oranges
1 box lemon pudding (not instant)

Drain all fruit, save juices. Make pudding according to directions except use fruit juice in place of water. After pudding is cooked, cool. Combine the fruit with pudding.

HARVEST POTATO CASSEROLE – Mary Ann McMullen

6 cups frozen hash browns, thawed
1/3 cup onion chopped
2 cups sour cream
½ t salt
¼ t pepper
1 lb little smoked sausage links
1 cup shredded cheese

Combine all ingredients except sausage and cheese. Put in 13x9x2 baking dish. Arrange sausage links on top of potato mixture. Cover. Bake at 350° for 35 minutes or until bubbly. Sprinkle the shredded cheese over top. Bake uncovered 5 minutes more.

VALENTINE BUTTER COOKIES – Alice McMullen Yoxall

2 cups butter softened
2 cups sugar
3 eggs
1 T. vanilla
6 cups flour
2 t. baking powder

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla and mix well. Gradually add flour and baking powder. Shape with cookie press. Bake on ungreased cookie sheets. Decorate with sugar if desired. Bake at 350° for 8-12 minutes. Yield: 18-19 dozen 1" cookies.

