

# Marshall Historical Society

## *Looking to the Past to Inspire Our Future*

July, 2024

Marshall Historical Society  
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Yvonne Brady (2026)  
Yvonne Schick (2027)  
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### **Website:**

www.marshallhistsoc.org  
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### **Next Meeting**

**August 15, 2024 – 6:30**

**Age of Your House –**

**Maureen Boscoe**

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### **Join!**

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

Individual: \$10:00

Family: \$15.00

**HAVE YOU PAID  
YOUR YEARLY DUES?  
GET YOURS IN  
TODAY!**

### **Donate!**

Your donations to the Marshall Historical Society are tax deductible.

Greetings Friends:

We had a fascinating evening July 18 exploring land grants – patents – with Town of Kirkland Historian Dick Williams. Land grants started in the Colonial Period. The King of England owned all the land in the realm, including the New World. He delegated a lot of it, however, to his friends who were appointed as governors of the land grants, who in turn parceled the land out to their friends. These were parcels of 20,000 acres here, 30,000 acres there. There wasn't a lot of oversight of the patents, but there was some graft and corruption. For example, the governors required a third of the land for themselves. This was in the 1620s, long before the Revolutionary War. By 1683, ¾ of the land was owned by 10-11 men. The Dutch who settled around what is now New York City called the land grants manors (one may have heard of Cosby Manor Road?) or patroons, and they were 16 miles long. There were 40 patents in Oneida county. It's important to remember that grants were not deeds. After the Revolutionary War, in 1779 a law was passed by the New York State Legislature in 1779 called the Confiscation Act. That meant that any Loyalist – those loyal to the Crown – had their land confiscated and sold to New York. Over the course of many years, the grants, or patents, were sold off.

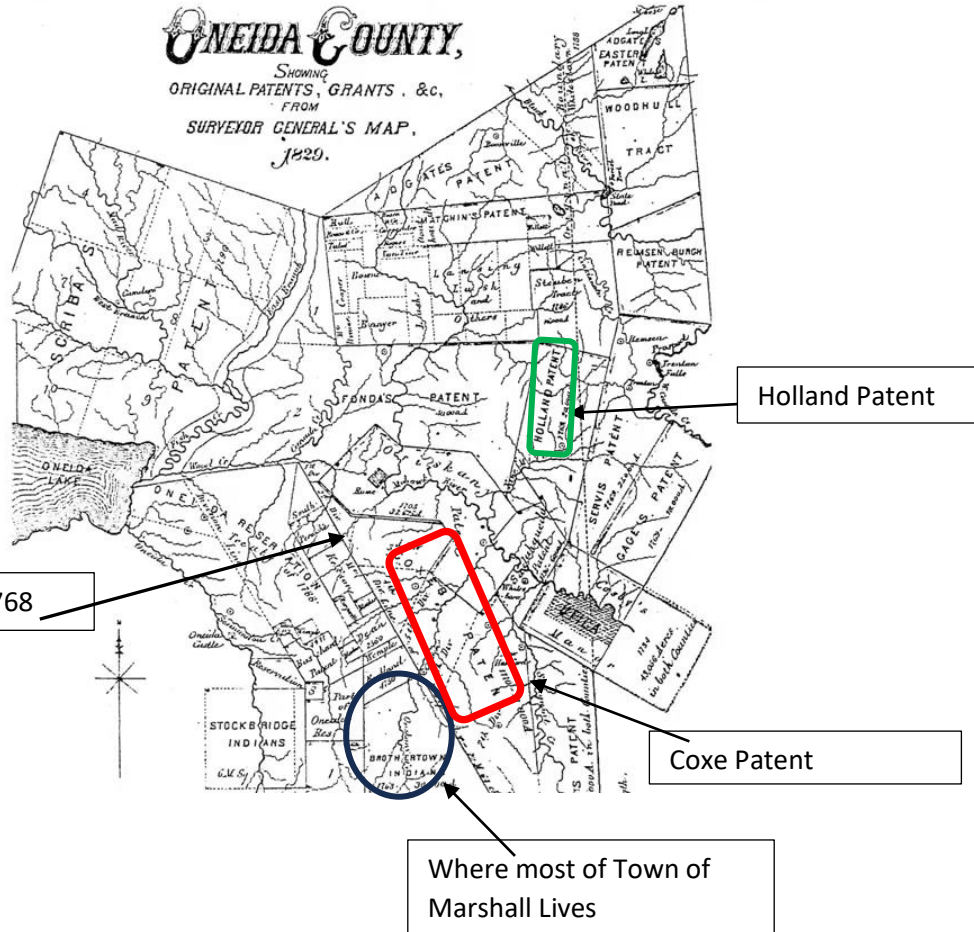
A patent we may be familiar with is the Coxe patent, named after the Coxe family. That patent goes from southern New York, through the Town of Kirkland, to the Line of Property of 1768, which was established so that the settlers would keep to the east of that line, and the Indians would keep to the west. Therefore, most of the Town of Marshall is on former Oneida Indian, and then Brothertown land.

I think we are most familiar with Holland Patent just north of us, which is named after a land grant given to Gerrit Boon, a representative of the Holland Land Company, hence the name.

It would be safe to say we learned a lot by Dick's talk and by the many maps he showed us. Below is a sample of one.



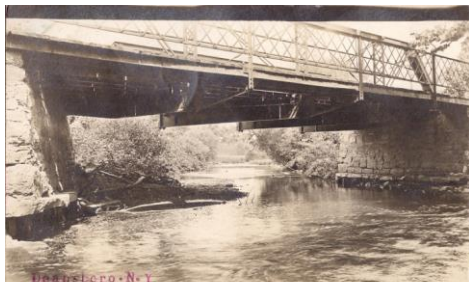
Have you ever wanted to find out how old your house is? There are many ways to go about that, and Maureen Boscoe will tell us how at the August 15 meeting at 6:30 – “The Age of Your House.” She has lots of ideas to share and many resources which will help when the question pops up, “How old is this house anyway?” Come and bring a friend for an enjoyable evening. Refreshments will be served.



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**B**ack in February of 2015, there was an open meeting in the Marshall Town Hall, called by the Town Board. At this meeting, interested residents of the Town of Marshall were informed by the NYS Department of Transportation that seven bridges would be reconstructed over the next three years in New York, and that two of the bridges were in the Town of Marshall: the bridge over Oriskany Creek just outside of Deansboro; and the bridge over Big Creek in Forge Hollow. Work began with the Oriskany Creek bridge in March, 2016. Construction of the bridge over Big Creek began in the summer of 2017.

The bridge over Oriskany Creek was first built in the 1809. A newspaper article in the Waterville Times stated that the bridge was becoming a source of alarm, particularly for hop growers who routinely transported heavy loads of pickers to and from the village. It was later reconstructed in the 1930s and repaired in 1971.



bridge over Oriskany Creek - 1908



bridge over Oriskany Creek - 1936



bridge over Oriskany Creek - 2016

**IN MEMORIAN**

Ed Bennett, who died recently, spent a lot of time beautifying the McAdam Stock Farm when he lived on Gridley Paige Road. A lot of the next article is from his memories. Thanks, Ed!



## THE McADAM STOCK FARM/GRIDLEY HOMESTEAD

At the turn of the 20th century, off Gridley-Paige Road on McAdam Road, just beyond the intersection with Shanley Road, was a showplace, a farm of about 500 acres where pure Holstein-Friesian cattle were bred. The farm, which started out as a modest 70-some acres, had been owned by generations of Gridleys, from Nodadiah, one of first settlers, whose son Asahel Gridley built the brick main house, painted white, to Josephine Gridley, widow of



Joseph Gridley. It was Josephine McAdam Gridley who, in 1900, sold the property to her brother, Quentin McAdam. Although he grew up in Deansboro in the Town of Marshall, McAdam lived in Utica and was treasurer and general manager of the largest cotton milling concern in the world, Quentin McAdam & Co., which eventually became the Utica Knitting Company.

Quentin McAdam was an ambitious person - he joined the knitting mill at age 16 and was running it little more than 10 years later - and he started right out to make the Gridley property, which was at that time

called the Brothertown Stock Company, the outstanding farmstead it was to become. New barns were built, more land was purchased, and repairs and modernization were made on the old buildings. The farm had its own fire department, complete with helmets, in the first part of the long barn (now converted into a home).

Once the outbuildings were complete, McAdam, with the help of E.B. Van (or Von) Heyne as business manager, purchased 20 purebred Holstein-Friesians. Among them were four daughters of what was then the greatest sire of the breed; and included the famous Sadie Vale Concordia, who broke the world's record of 7 and 30



day milk and butter production. Many more successful cows came in succession, giving Brothertown Farms world-wide fame. Everything was done on an up-to-date scale, including an automatic watering system for the stock. Nothing was more important than the cattle breeding business. Wonderful care was given to those animals. It is reported that a nine-week old bull, with impeccable parentage, sold for \$4,000, a price unheard-of at that time. The farm was one of the best of many outstanding farms at that time, with the land being cultivated as skillfully as the livestock was treated. Eventually, there were 100 head of cattle, young and old. The calf barn was "ablaze with electric light at night...looking like the busy marts of trade."

Over the years the acreage increased, as more and more neighboring farms were purchased. Besides the manor house were about six homes for the workers on the farm, creating a unique community. Once the stock farm was dissolved, the houses became private homes on a dead-end road - McAdam Road. Joanne Bolan, who lived up there, remembered it as a social kind of place where you knew and valued your neighbors.



Early in his ownership of the estate, Mr. McAdam set about to beautify the acreage. Surrounding the manor were acres of tilled, fertile farmland, as well as woodland and parks. At one time there were bridges over a trout brook, and deer enclosures; and today one can see the remnants of what was formerly an orchard of over a thousand apple trees. There were also 21 pools and waterfalls of different sizes, some of which still can be admired.

Florist Adelaide Foote of Deansboro had the supervision of the flowers and shrubs around the homestead. A large variety of plants were stocked, and almost every wildflower which can flourish in this climate were planted. Also, Miss Foote experimented with several varieties of orchids.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Quentin McAdam lived on South Street, Utica, during the heydays of the Brothertown/McAdam stock farm, the McAdams spent weekends and most of the summer months at the homestead, overseeing the farm. The farm was a beautiful and successful estate during their tenure there.

Quentin McAdam died in December, 1918, and his sister Josephine Gridley, who lived in the Gridley Homestead, passed away 18 hours after her brother's death. McAdam's nephew, Oscar Gridley, son of his sister Josephine, who was groomed to succeed his uncle, did so. By 1923 he divided his time between his home in Utica and the knitting company, and the McAdam Stock Farm; however, his heart was not in the running of the farm: he did not have his uncle's passion for the animals and the land; he spent less and less time there. Eventually, the stock was sold and the farm dissolved. For a while, Mr. & Mrs. John Losee of Richfield Springs (Mrs. Losee was Oscar Gridley's sister) lived in the Gridley Homestead; now most of the land is possessed by the Zweifels, and the homes are privately owned.

It was a beautiful place, and still is. The sad thing, in the late Ed Bennett's opinion, who grew up on Gridley Paige Road, is that no one knows it is there and few remember its former glory. The pools and the waterfalls, not to mention the existing vegetation, are worth the trip to Gridley Paige Road to enjoy the view.



Part of what used to be homes lived in by workers on the McAdam Stock Farm; now private homes.