

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the Past to Inspire Our Future

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

President

Janet Dangler
fernata07@twcny.rr.com

Vice President

Alycia Schick
Alycia859@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Yvonne Brady
ybskyline@gmail.com

Trustees

Janet Dangler (2025)
Yvonne Brady (2026)
Yvonne Schick (2027)
Amy Buchholz (2028)
Brian Brewer (2029)

Website:

www.marshallhistsoc.org

Next Meeting

June 19 at 6:30 –

**Farmin' It – presented by
documentary filmmaker
Dennis Dewey**

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:

May, 2025

On May 15, we discussed the Condensery which was on Route 315 next to the railroad tracks, and briefly explored the history of condensed milk and how a plant which meant so much to many people in Deansboro came to be. We also talked a little about the milk strike in the 1930s. The Condensery opened in 1902 as the United States Condensed Milk Company; changed over the years to be known as Mohawk Milk Company; and finally emerged as Hinman Farm Products, Inc. before it closed its doors in 1983, leaving a “hole in the community.”

To continue our exploration of milk, next month filmmaker Dennis Dewey, along with Janice Reilly, will present his film “Farmin’ It” on dairy farming in Oneida County. Included is the history of farming and how it has changed. This informative and entertaining documentary covers farms from small holdings to large farm operations. The interest should be intense - dairy farming is one of Oneida County’s biggest industries, supplying 1/3 of the milk produced in New York State. Also, you’ll see some familiar faces who are interviewed about their dairy operations. Janice Reilly and Dennis Dewey are both volunteers at the History Center. Janice has presented her talk on farming to the Marshall Historical Society.

The meeting begins at 6:30 on June 19 at the Town Hall. Bring a friend or neighbor to the showing of this documentary; you’ll never again take that jug of milk at the grocery store for granted - so much hard work goes into the production of safe, wholesome milk.

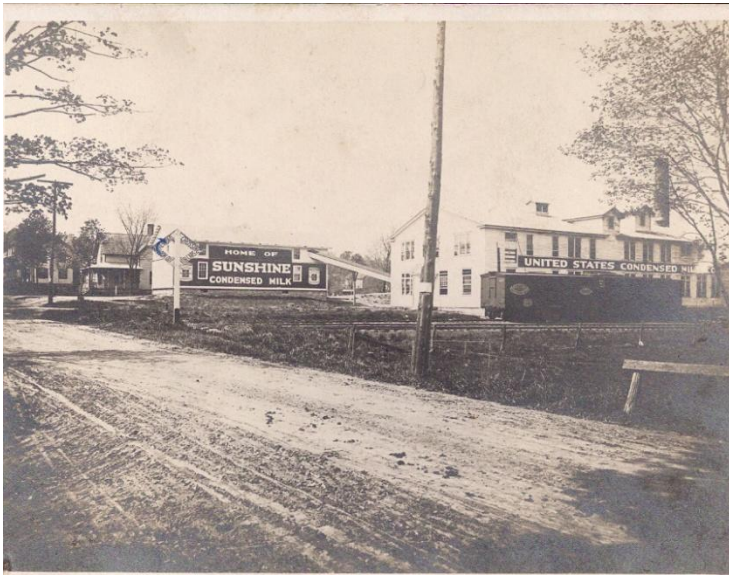
We re-elected the slate of officers at our May meeting; Brian Brewer is our new Trustee, taking the place of Joan McNamara.

Be sure to mark June 19 on your calendar. This is a presentation you won’t want to miss.

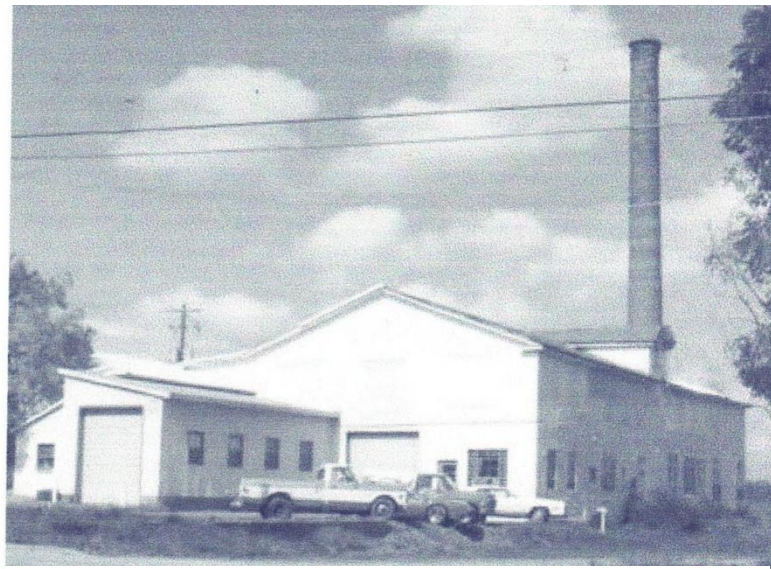
IN MEMORIAM

Dave Georgius, an active member of the Marshall Historical Society, passed away May 15. I can still see him walking his dog. We will miss having him (and the dog) at our meetings. Sympathy is extended to his wife, Betty Hughes. They were both the inspiration behind the addition to the Depot for the Historical Society. Peace be with you, Dave.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Max Townsend, who gave us such a great tour of the Lincoln-Davies Museum a few years ago. He is sure to be missed as well.



United States Condensed Milk Company 1908



Hinman Farm Products – c 1970



Interior of the Mohawk Condensery - undated



Condensery - 1902



ADELAIDE FOOTE GREENHOUSE

Around the same time plans were being made to build a condensery in Deansboro in 1902, and the Blanding Feed and Grain Company was underway, another little-known business was just starting up: Adelaide Foote's Greenhouse.



Miss Foote lived with her family on Mill Street (2673 State Route 315) with her parents, Orin and Mary Foote, and her sister and two brothers. She was a great-granddaughter on her mother's side of John Failing, who allegedly was held captive for four years during the Revolutionary War by an Indian tribe in 1776 and subsequently sold to a British officer in Canada for whiskey (he walked to his home in St. Johnsville). She was also Carol Barker Koren's (and her sisters') great-aunt, their mother Minerva Foote Barker's sister. Her husband's name was John. Mrs. John (Minerva) Barker's father was Oren Foote. He built the flat-roof homes in town, for example the former Deansboro Hotel and the house next to it. Many of us remember Mrs. John Barker's son, J. Oren, who ran a TV and Appliance center in the center of Deansboro, which was formerly the Hamilton House, where his family lived: Oren Jr.; Joan, Carol (Koren) and Sandy; and later was operated as an antique shop called Ye Olde Canal Shoppe, started by the late Joan Barker Benedict and her husband Allen.

From a relatively early time, Adelaide Foote was recognized for her skill in landscaping and her eye for color and decoration, and she transferred these attributes to opening a greenhouse at the Mill Street location. The greenhouse was built in 1902, and at first she intended to provide only roses and carnations but later branched out to all floral varieties. In later years, she drew up plans for a large extension to the greenhouse, added an iron gate in front of the main house, changed the heating from steam to a hot water system, and had a driveway built from the road to the greenhouse, with the result that the enterprise was called "a credit to the community."

Miss Foote supervised the growing of the flowers and shrubs around the McAdam (Brothertown) Stock Farm on Gridley-Paige Road, which was known for the breeding of pure, prize Holstein-Friesian cattle. Several varieties of orchids had been transplanted, and she experimented with various other beautiful wild growths. She also was a judge at many garden club exhibits and competitions. But outstanding among the flowers in her gardens were dahlias, with stalks up to 5 feet high and some blossoms six inches across, of all colors which, Miss Foote asserted, were grown from seeds from California.

Adelaide Foote placed an advertisement in the The Deansboro Holler in 1922 for her greenhouse which reads, "Rouge up your house and ground with some flowers." She offered geraniums, vincas, petunias, verbonas, pansies and more for window boxes, lawns and gardens. The ad went on to state that Miss Foote also conducted a "magazine subscription agency," where patrons could subscribe to a magazine of his or her choice.

That same year, a fire broke out in the Feed & Lumber Company, which threatened the greenhouse; however, quick action by the fire department saved the building from ruin.

The business was so successful that at one point, Miss Foote commented that rumors she was going out of business were "much exaggerated." She was very much in demand as a speaker and expert on horticulture, and there were many reports that her business was steady and growing.

Miss Adelaide Foote became ill in 1937 and was taken to Rome Hospital. I could not find an obituary for her, but mention was made in 1938 that the property was sold to Clement and Emily Smith, who planned to operate a green house. The next transaction was in 1943, when the Smiths moved to Main Street, Deansboro – at 2791 State Route 12b - into the house now owned by Betty Hughes and Dave Georgius. They moved the large greenhouse, which had been at the back of the house on Mill Street, with them. Dale Tuttle Lints, who lived there as a girl, tells me that a smaller greenhouse located in the front of the garage was later moved to 12b. The Tuttle family lived there until the 1960s, then the Lewis Brood family; and then the Willard Marsh family. Chad Seifert, who now owns the property, showed me around his back yard where, he said, the outline of the former greenhouse could be seen. He could find no remaining dahlias, though.

