

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the past to inspire our future

Newsletter

February 2007

Marshall Historical Society
P O Box 232
Deansboro, NY 13328

Dorothy McConnell, President
Edith Eastman, Vice President
Carol Gilley, Secretary

Trustees
John McConnell
Joanne Bolan
Dale Allen
Howard West
Anne Jasek

Next Meeting
7.30 pm on Thursday
February 15, Town
Hall, Deansboro

Join!

Provide your name
and address to the
secretary and pay the
membership fee:

individual: \$ 5.00

family: \$ 7.50

Winter has finally arrived with snow and cold. Guess we should expect it this time of the year. Yesterday, Jan. 23rd I did a program on the History of the Chenango Canal for the Kirkland Seniors.

Upcoming Events:

February 15, 2007-We shall have **AMERICAN TRAGEDY REVISITED** by Terrance Kehoe. In 1906 Chester Gillette murdered Grace Brown by throwing her in Big Moose Lake. This case has been the fascinating subject of films, books and articles ever since. This enduring story has been thoroughly researched by Terrance W. Kehoe who will present a program aided by a Power Point projector. This will be at 7:30PM and anyone desiring to furnish refreshments please call me at 853-6887.

March 15, 2007: will be **HISTORY OF AMERICAN MILKING DEVON CATTLE** by Lawrence Gilley. He has researched this breed and has some on his daughter's farm on the corner of Peck Road and State Route 12B.

APRIL 19, 2007: will be **HISTORY OF PARIS HILL FAIRS 1907-1937** by Edna Townsend. She has all the Fair programs and will tell us all about this.

Received a letter from Dale and Ruth Allen at 815 Taylor Street, Hornbeck, LA 71439. They are pretty much settled in their new home. The house is real nice and the landlord is super. The whole family was together Christmas Eve (30). Then most had dinner together on Christmas. Dale has been busy hanging pictures, putting up curtain rods, raking lawn and trimming bushes. He hasn't found time to go fishing, but hopes to soon. (Their son, Timothy, is living in their house on 12B) We shall surely miss them, but happy they are near Ruth's family.

I continue to update Alton Hinman's obituary books, that he worked on for so long.

Remember the February 15th meeting at 7:30. Hope to see you there! Bring guests and all are welcome.

Dorothy McConnell, President

50 Years ago -- February 1, 1989

The Waterville Times

One of the most dramatic incidents in the history of Waterville occurred Monday afternoon and evening, January 30, 1939, when one of the large Waterville Central School buses with 43 youngsters aboard became marooned at the Thomas Carney farm on Daytonville Road in one of the worst blizzards to strike this section in many years.

When the storm increased in intensity during the morning, members of the board of education, and Supervising Principal, Arthur A. Radley, decided to close school. The Sangerfield & Marshall Highway Superintendents were notified and their cooperation was enlisted. The fleet of buses started out at 1:15 pm, preceded in many cases by a snow plow and with an extra man with a snow shovel on each bus.

The bus on the Reservoir Road became stuck near the Stephen Manion farm. It was extricated by a Town of Sangerfield plow dispatched by Highway Superintendent, Gilbert Roberts. Another bus, driven by Marian Kellmurray, had difficulty on the west side of the Nine Mile Swamp but succeeded in completing the trip.

Soon after 4 p.m. all buses had returned except No. 6, driven by Clint Daley. The bus makes the trip on the Daytonville Road and back on Route 12. Calls to parents elicited responses that nothing

had been seen of the bus. Through Mark Melvin the bus was finally located at the Carney farm almost at the beginning of the trip and not over two miles from Waterville.

There is no phone at the Carney farm and it was not until sometime later that it was found that all 43 children were safely housed in the Carney home. Night had fallen by this time and it was realized that Mr & Mrs Carney could not possibly be prepared to feed nearly half a hundred hungry children. The board prepared to send out a quantity of food by men on snowshoes and skis.

In the meantime, George Van Swall, Marshall Highway Superintendent, and a gang of men were making strenuous efforts to get to the marooned children, but a 15-foot drift on Eastman Hill, in front of John Cleary's home, resisted every effort while the wind howled out of the east with gale force.

This plan had to be abandoned, and a plea was phoned to Michael Quillman, who lives three-quarters of a mile north of the Carney farm, to get through to the children with a sleigh, if possible, and take some of the children to relieve the congestion of the Carney house. Mr Quillman and his son, John, took 14 of the children to their home. The men with the food baskets left Waterville at 6:45 and arrived at the Carney home at 8.

They were met at Melvin's by William Cowen who had assisted Clint Daley on the bus and also assisted in taking some of the food to the Quillman farm.

Later in the evening some of the men walked cross lots to the John Condon farm on Route 12. Mr Condon hitched his team on a sleigh and by following the ridges where the snow was less deep succeeded in further relieving the crowded Carney home by taking a dozen more children. After the wind subsided, a Sangerfield plow broke through the Cleary drift and succeeded in reaching the Melvin farm. Another bus was sent out and, with the help of teams furnished by Ralph Eastman and Humphrey Hughes, the remaining children were transported back to the bus and, at 10:30pm were brought to Waterville, where they were quickly taken in and put to bed in several homes.

Bus No. 6 was freed by the Marshall highway crew the next day. Driver Daley called it, "an experience I don't care to repeat."

Daley said he and Cowen formed a line of the older children from the bus to the Carney house and made several trips carrying the smaller children as the wind blew so hard it bowled over the smaller ones. He said he received a scare when

taking count in the house to find that only 42 were accounted for. He returned to the bus and found a little girl hiding under the seat, "petrified with fear".

The men who carried the food were Ralph M. Roberts, Robert I Brome, Roger Terry, Stuart Martin and Tony Ferrucci. Those who helped break through with the plow were George Bissell, Victor Martin, Marian Kelimurray and Mehner Heidel. Others who went to the Carney home and assisted in removing the children and



washing dishes, etc. were: Miss Thelma Field, Miss Helen Cotes, Alphonzo Rienzo, William

Thompson, Harold Dempsey, Robert Blair, Charles Angier, and Charles Browne.

(Editor's Note: To our readers who are not acquainted with the old names: The Thomas Carney farm is on the site of the Richard Reuter residence. The Quillman family lived where the Earl Foley family now resides. The John Condon place is the present Richard Baldwin farm. The Mark Melvin farm no longer exists. It was at the intersection of Daytonville and Brouillette roads. The John Cleary farm is the present Louis C. Langone Jr. residence.)

Surveys of Farms

The Clinton Historical Society has launched a project to document the history of the farms of the Town of Kirkland. Dorothy McConnell is a member of the committee guiding the volunteers who are collecting photographs and information for a book to be published as the culmination of the project.

New Hartford and Paris historical societies have recently concluded similar projects.

e-mail

If you have an email address kindly inform the secretary by sending a blank email message to [<ccgilley@tds.net>](mailto:ccgilley@tds.net)

Marshall Through The Years

cost	\$ 15.00
postage and handling	\$3.00

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