

# Marshall Historical Society

*Looking to the past to inspire our future*

Newsletter

May 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**  
**6:00 pm on Thursday**  
**May 17, Joan's**  
**Country Cafe**  
**Deansboro**

**Join!**  
**Provide your name**  
**and address to the**  
**secretary and pay the**  
**membership fee:**  
**individual: \$ 5.00**  
**family: \$ 7.50**

**Donate!**  
**Your donations to**  
**the Marshall**  
**Historical Society are**  
**tax deductible**

**Website:**  
[www.marshallhistsoc.org](http://www.marshallhistsoc.org)

**Here we are in the beautiful month of May. Sun is shining, birds are busy and people are starting to mow the lawns.**

## **Brothertown community center and museum**

**The Brothertown Indian Nation Council has informed us that June Ezold, for many years their Chairperson, died in Wisconsin on January 14, 2006, at the age of 84. Many of us met June Ezold when the Brothertown Indians visited Deansboro in 2003.**

**The Brothertown Indian Nation has invited us to contribute to a fund to create a community center and museum in memory of June Ezold and other tribal leaders.**

**At our April meeting I encouraged members to make contributions to a fund which we will send in the name of the Marshall Historical Society. Please make your check payable to Marshall Historical Society with "Brothertown Fund" on the memo line. Give your contribution to Carol Gilley, or mail it to The Treasurer, P.O. Box 232, Deansboro, 13328. Note that contributions to the Historical Society are tax deductible.**

## **Annual banquet meeting**

**Our buffet will be May 17 at 6 pm, at Joan's Country Cafe. Her usual food display will cost \$ 12.95. We plan to honor Dave Dabro for his 11 years of helping us with the Run/Walk. Members and friends are welcome. Please notify Carol Gilley at 821-6628 or Dorothy McConnell at 853-6887 that you plan to attend.**

## **Public Historians Conference**

**Your president helped plan and participated in the Association of Public Historians of New York State 2007 Spring Conference at Holiday Inn, New Hartford. Some of the workshops were "The Changing Landscape and Environmental History" by Ruth A. Moore of Clinton; "If these walls could talk", "Why and How Historians Should Collect Folklore"; "It's Not Yours: Collections, Ethics and the Public Historian."**

## **Dale and Ruth Allen**

**It was so good to see Dale and Ruth Allen back for a month's visit. I hope they will come to the banquet so we can catch up on their life in Louisiana.**

**Sincerely,**

**Dorothy McConnell**  
**President**

### THE PIPE ORGAN PUMPER

by Chet Shafer, 1926. Excerpts selected by Arthur H Sanders

The organ pumper was a figure in his time. He was just a boy, immature and awkward, whose father and mother sincerely believed his church affiliation would someday lead to sparkling accomplishments in the realms of music if not in the fields of theology---beliefs that ultimately were assiduously shattered.

The organ pumper never regarded it as such because of the discomfort in the strict necessity for wearing his best clothes to work in. He was fretted by a wide starched collar that chafed and choked him. Sometimes he wore a troublesome blouse buttoned directly into his pants, but usually he was harassed by a pair of suspenders, twisted in the back, which continually slipped down while pumping.

The pumper did not have to sing nor was he forced to sit through long fervent prayers. He had ample time to read a chapter or two of the hair raising exploits of Dick Merriwell or Diamond Jim Brady.

Remuneration for pipe organ pumping varied widely with communities and denominations. Some pumpers worked without pay, obliged by pious parents or the economical custom of church authorities to preserve a strict amateur standing.

Following an elder brother, Lynn C. Hamlin of Remsen, New York, came into the pumper's estate in the Congregational Church at Deansboro, New York. Real genius was required there in manipulations because of a squeak that his brother was the first of a long line of pumpers to overcome. The correction was made with a handle action similar to dropping from second to first speeds in a standard gear-shift car--half way down on the outside, cross over and down on the inside. After he had been coached for a full afternoon by his brother, Hamlin mastered the secret so well that he held the job for three years. Then, when he was elevated to the sextonship and a bass position in the choir, he transmitted the information to his successor.