

# Marshall Historical Society

*Looking to the past to inspire our future*

Newsletter

February 2008

Marshall Historical Society  
P O Box 232  
Deansboro, NY 13328

William Koren, President  
Dorothy McConnell, Vice  
President  
Carol Gilley, Secretary

Trustees  
John McConnell  
Joanne Bolan  
Dale Allen  
Howard West  
Anne Jasek  
Edith Eastman

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

## Next Meeting

7.30 pm on

Thursday

February 21

Town Hall,

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.

December was quite snowy and now January has been quite chilly. Reminds me of the saying "*When the days begin to lengthen, the cold begins to strengthen*" Hope you and yours had a Happy Holiday to celebrate.

## Upcoming Events:

February 21, 2008-We shall have Dr. Linda Sallet talk to us on her book "George Tucker, Spanning the Generations". Sallett met Tucker a couple years ago when she helped organize a community meeting to discuss the area's future. She was intrigued by Tucker's commitment to his community over the years and his view of giving back to others. Dr. Linda Sallett has published "Rural Renewal: George Tucker and His Life in Oriskany Falls" and will talk about his life.

March 19, 2008- This program will be "Heirloom Vegetables" by Francis Lallier. Fran has been growing these for several years & he enters them in Old Sturbridge Village, an historical museum in Massachusetts in the Fall in the annual Vegetable and Flower Exhibition. If you are a gardener, this program should interest you by following historical horticultural practices which include garden layouts, varieties, and methods of planting, cultivating, harvesting and preserving garden crops, mainly from the 1800s Please note that this meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday** (not Thursday) for the convenience of the speaker and to avoid possible conflict with church services for Maundy/Holy Thursday.

April 17, 2008- Hasn't been firmed up yet, but I'm working on a program that should interest most everyone.

This winter I have been working on Kirkland Barn & Farm book that Richard Williams and many from the Clinton Historical Society have been completing. They hope to have it published by Hamilton College this spring.

We are all saddened by the death of John Sigsbee in Iraq, who was the grandson of our members John & Gen Cornelius. Certainly our thoughts and prayers are with their extended family at this difficult time.

Remember the February 21st meeting at 7:30pm. Members and guests are always welcome. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

Dorothy McConnell, Vice-President

## The Gridley Homestead, The MacAdam Stock Farm by Dorothy McConnell

### The Gridley Homestead

The Gridley Homestead is one of the Colonial period show places in Central New York. At one time it was the home of Philo Gridley, the judge who presided over one of the most important criminal trials which ever took place in the United States. Judge Gridley was the youngest son of Asahel Gridley, a respectable farmer of Paris born on September 16, 1796; (then part of Herkimer county) He was educated at Hamilton College, in 1816, studied law & admitted to bar in 1820. Soon after, he practiced law in Waterville. From there he moved to Hamilton and served as district attorney for Madison County. In 1838 he was appointed a circuit judge for the Fifth Judicial District & moved to Utica area where he resided until his death.

### The MacAdam Stock Farm

An almost forgotten page of history should be described. On the Gridley-Paige Road which bisects Shanley Road was a farm known as the MacAdam Stock Farm. Located east of Shanley Road it was founded by Quentin MacAdam, the president and founder of the Utica Knitting Co. He was a native of the Town of Marshall and he inherited a farm at that location. He dreamed of developing a purebred herd of Holstein cattle and built large barns to accommodate them. During it's heyday probably 1904-1920, Hugh Bishopp had almost steady employment there as a carpenter together with three or four others. Beside the house and barn building and repair work, they sometimes helped with the haying in season. One project worthy of note was the moving of a house from halfway up the Forge Hollow Hill to a site among the farm group of homes. Another was the constructing of a nine-foot high wire fence to surround a pond and

wooded park for a deer enclosure - an unsuccessful venture. No tractor power on the farm - all four foot horse power, making a horse barn necessary. The interior barn equipment was the latest and best. Quentin MacAdam kept all purebred cows and big barn, pond, a fenced in deer run, and lived in the big house. Raymond Kennard said his father, Keston Kennard, tested the milk. Bob Lloyd said his father, Seymour Lloyd worked there. Quentin employed Frank Page, Maude Page's father. Hugh Bishopp was the boss carpenter to build houses on MacAdam Road. Among Quentin's hundred cattle herd some 7 dau. milk & butterfat world records were made. The cattle were in wide demand by breeders around the country. He bought more land surrounding the farm probably extending from near Forge Hollow up the hill and over and including the Walter Hoehner farm (now Peter Schachtler's farm). A farm manager and staff of farm hands operated the farm. Added to the beautiful mansion, a superintendent's house and a boarding house was built.

The Charles Barrons owned the large brick homestead. They sold it and I do not know the new owners or who lives there now.

The MacAdam monument is located at the foot of the main drive of the Deansboro Cemetery. Quentin MacAdam. is buried in the family plot.

For some years the farm was a beautiful and successful estate during MacAdam's life. His helper, Oscar Gridley, did not share his interest and as his heir, gradually dissolved the farm operation. Much of the farm is owned by Fred Zweifel. Bob Rockwell, Richard Weaver, and the Stockbridges all are neighbors. The area makes up a very pleasant group of homes and a small neighborhood.

## Gridley Homestead at Forge Hollow (*excerpts*)

by Paul Draheim

The Press Scrapbook. March 15, 1952

The more than 125-year-old Gridley Homestead, located about one-eighth of a mile off the Deansboro-Waterville road at Forge Hollow, is one of the Colonial period show places in Central New York.

The Gridley Homestead property, in the Gridley family for more than 150 years, became the possession of Fred Zweifel on December 1, 1951, when he purchased the buildings and lawn from Mrs. Marion Losee, who before her marriage was a Gridley. Zweifel already owns the adjoining farm land.

The Gridley Homestead mansion comprises 11 large rooms. It is located in the center of a large park-like area which has been beautified by numerous rock gardens and fishing ponds which in reality are small lakes.

It is of Colonial architecture, constructed of brick and covered with a tile roof.

One of its features is a large circular staircase which leads from the reception hall to the second floor. Originally there were two large fireplaces. The one remaining is that in the living room.

Attached to the main building is the servants quarters. This addition was erected several years after the mansion.

Two large fountains which continue to spout water after years of service, assist greatly in making the property one of the most beautiful in the area.

### The Gridley Homestead, 7355 MacAdam Road



2008-01-28 Photograph: L C Gilley



2008-01-28 Photograph: L C Gilley

### **Fifty Years Ago**

The Waterville Times, November 7, 1990

Miss Laura Young of Deansboro, who has been doing research on the Dicksville School, reports she has found school records dating 1834. The school building, which was sold recently by Sims Wratten to Mrs. Mary Angier of New Hartford, was originally a church used by the Brothertown Indians. It was sold by Asa Dick to School District #12 in 1839 for \$370. One of the preachers, when it was a church, was Samson Occom, a missionary to the Brothertown Indians, [who] is commemorated on a State Historical Marker at the site.

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**The History Around Us: Central NY, Hamilton College, and the Underground Railroad.**  
(discussion) January 30. 4.15-6:30 pm Emerson Gallery, Hamilton College.

**Celebrating Unsung Heroes and Unsung Places in Photographs.** February 12. 4.15pm Science Auditorium, Room G02, Hamilton College

**Heroes and Hard Times: A Black Folk History.** (musical performance) March 6. 4.00 pm Filius Events Barn. Hamilton College

Three exhibitions of photographs and political satire at the Emerson Gallery, Hamilton College

- **Unsung Heroes: African American Soldiers in the Civil War**
- **Emancipation and Denigration: Thomas Nast Pictures Black America**
- **Uncovering the Path to Freedom: Photographs of the Underground Railroad**

**Emerson Gallery 859-4396**

**Income to 12/31/2007**

Donations	1.00
Dues	147.50
Interest	19.04
Sales	100.00
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Total income	267.54
Excess expenditure	213.96
	481.50

**Expenditure to 12/31/2007**

Goods for sale	25.00
Insurance	351.43
Office	105.07
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Total expenditures	481.50