

# Marshall Historical Society

*Looking to the past to inspire our future*

Newsletter

November 2008

Marshall Historical Society  
P O Box 232  
Deansboro, NY 13328

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

**Next Meeting**  
**7.30 pm on**  
**Thursday**  
**November 20**  
**Town Hall,**  
**Deansboro**

**Join!**  
Provide your name  
and address to the  
secretary and pay  
the membership fee:  
individual: \$ 10.00  
family: \$ 15.00

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

Please thank all our veterans who are serving or have served our country in the past. This is the month to honor them. Their courage, perseverance, and abiding faith are essential. As we fight the battle of life, likewise faith in ourselves is also essential. Here is a poem for you,

"Freedom" - by John Alton Robinson.

*From the Tomb of the unknown soldier to the silver-haired crowns of our fathers,  
From the shores of Tripoli to the Pacific's pearl green waters  
I wish to give tribute, a four-starred salute today,  
For our freedom and American Way.  
We take our rights for granted, but they are earned in blue-red blood,  
And courage beyond the call of duty in France's cold, wet mud.  
Beginning with the Revolution through the Saudi Arabian sands,  
Men have fought and suffered and died on foreign lands.  
So salute this Veterans' Days and many more to come.  
Through blood and guts and glory, our freedom has been won.*

## **October's Meeting**

Thanks go to Shirley Burtch, who gave a most interesting presentation on Summit Park., An entertainment center about the time of World War I. Many came by trolley to enjoy the dancing, roller coaster, boating and other forms of recreation. This was on the hill in back of what became Trinkaus Manor in Oriskany. Nothing is left of this, but happy memories and post cards.

## **November Meeting**

Evelyn Edwards will be the presenter of this night, November 20, 2008 at 7:30p.m. at the Marshall Town Hall. Her subject: Post Cards. She and her husband, Mel, have been avid post card collectors for years. She has also written books, "The Sauquoit Valley" in the Arcadia series, Images of America, and "Around Utica" in the Post Card History Series. Do we have a volunteer to do refreshments that night?

Elizabeth Hughes has volunteered her services in renewing our charter. Carol Gilley and Dorothy McConnell have been busy looking up budgets and the history of the Marshall Historical Society for the application. The renewal is due by April 2009.

Jane Buck offered her hand-made quilt for the Historical Society to raffle off on Election Day. However, her call came on Oct. 29, 2008, which didn't give us enough time to plan and to print the tickets and get volunteers to help. She was also giving one to the library for Election Day. Perhaps this is something we can look into in the future.

Remember our monthly meeting, as it will be the last one until next year. Thursday, November 20, 2008 at 7:30p.m. All are welcomed. Refreshments will be served.

Fondly, Dorothy McConnell, President

## Congratulations to the Class of 1944

*The following editorial appeared in the Academic Union, the yearbook of the Waterville Central School, in 1944 and in The Waterville times and Hop Reporter. It was written by George E. Westcott, who was the editor of the Waterville Times at that time.*

All Aboard For Berlin! Heads up! Cheer up! Hitler is on the run. The year 1944 will go down in history as one of the most outstanding. Firstly, we must congratulate the Class of 1944 and wish them the best of luck. They are stepping out into a world of strife, of hatred, and of chaos.

Secondly, 1944, will decide the result of the war. Democracy is at the crossroads and must win, or our freedom will be lost for all time. Such a condition our brave boys are fighting desperately and far from home. They now can look back and appreciate their school days as one of the happiest periods of their lives, free from responsibility, free from care, and free in expression.

Thirdly, 1944 will have another presidential election, and again Democracy is on trial. Some people suggest the elimination of election day, but no, Democracy will be stronger as a nation by abiding by the laws of the Constitution. We are tested from time to time as to our courage and our ability to carry on.

We are proud of being Americans, and we should thank God that it is so. We came very near to a basic change in our thinking - one that would substitute a standard of living, of spending and carelessness for a deeper faith of being civilized. The war has brought to the surface the meaning of civilization.

What is a civilized man? He is a man who puts himself under a personal self-discipline to gain a higher standard of right and wrong. A civilized nation is the same, but is controlled by its

majority and not by a dictator. The war, terrible as it is, brings us to the realization that material success is not enough for our standard of living, but must include our social and religious faith.

The graduating class may be handicapped by the present world unrest, but it also may be a blessing in disguise. An old sheik in India once said, "The western world does not listen. It is in too much of a hurry. To receive help and understanding, take time out from your daily duties and listen." That is splendid advice, and by so doing you will receive priceless suggestions and inspirations.

We are living in a most wonderful world that can give amazing results, if we will only be in harmony with the earth's vibrations and listen.

May the members of the graduation class reach their desire for fame as they face the future.

Members of the class of '44 who have entered the armed services of the United States are: Charles Angier, Donald Brashear, Dorman Draheim, Donald Dunster, William Duvelow, Robert Hughes, George Inles, William Jannone, Clarence Kellar, Anthony Langone, William Wedgren.

Eleven high school boys of the senior class took the Army-Navy test on Wednesday, March 15, 1944. They were: Daniel Condon, Charles Davidson, Gerald Gallup, Harry Goodson, Frank Haggerty, Charles Jackson, William O'Dowd, Charles Roberts, Ted Townsend, Hugh White, John Youngs.

## Oren Barker

Art Sanders – 2008

John Bristol Barker was born July 13, 1872, and died July 12, 1954. (one day too soon). During his very busy 81 years he installed plumbing in nearly every house in the area. He designed and built the water system in Deansboro in 1895 and maintained it until 1950.

He married Minerva Foote. In 1904 they had a son, John Oren Barker, who was stricken with polio at age six. This was a deadly incurable disease in 1910. John and Minerva sent Oren to a special clinic for several years. They saved his life but his hip and leg joints never developed and he spent his life in a variety of wheel chairs.

It is not known where or how Oren learned "Readin', Ritin' & Rithmetic" but he did learn electronics when it was new and mysterious. He started selling and repairing radios and progressed to a thriving business in electric washers, refrigerators, coffee percolators and

television sets. His car was fitted with special levers for clutch and brake so he could drive. During our high school years-1934 thru 1941- we helped him deliver washers and refrigerators with his curious little box-trailer with its single swivel wheel hooked to his rear bumper.

Oren was a good person, honest and respected by young and old. A few of us spent many Friday evenings sitting around in his shop or on his porch swapping jokes and stories-often with Dixie cups from Thayer's Ice Cream Parlor next door. He married Laverna Smith and they had four children-Oren, Jr., Joan, Carol and Sandra. Oren died in 1967 at age 63.

Minerva Foote's sister, Adelaide S. Foote, owned a large glass greenhouse and had a flower business on Route 315, just below the "dyke" or water feeder for Fred Nelson's feed mill across the road.

## Conversational Memories (subject to correction)

Art Sanders – 2008

This area of Oneida Territory was loaned to a group of friendly Christian Indians - survivors of various tribes in Connecticut and Long Island. They called themselves "Brothertons" and the settlement was named Brothertown in 1783.

The "Four Corners" of Deansville, now Deansboro, was in the right place at the right time. The Chenango Canal was completed in 1832. The Waterville to Utica Plank road was opened in 1840. The NY & W Railroad was started in 1867, and by 1884 there were eight trains stopping each day. A cooper shop - barrel factory - was built in 1870. Sunshine Condensed Milk Company started in 1902 with 20 workers. A cheese factory started in 1883. Nearby Forge Hollow had a commercial forge in 1810 operated by Daniel Hanchett, making hoes

and plow points.

In the earlier days there was no post office. The Post Rider was met by an elder and the mail was distributed on the spot. When the need for a Post Office arose, it was two bookshelves in a corner at GB Northrup's General Store. When politics became Democratic, it was moved across Route 315 to A.D. Van Vechten's store. Great confusion in mail deliveries caused by poor handwriting, resulted in mail being sent to Dansville, N.Y. near Rochester, so the name was changed from Deansville to Deansboro in 1894. About this time, Evan Jay Davis built his little post office on canal bank land adjoining his home and he and his son, Jay Evan Davis, ran it for years.

The Deansville Record Print Shop did a lot of

job printing and also published the Oriskany Valley Gazette until 1901. This building was probably the old Waterville to Utica Plank Road toll collecting booth, which was moved back over near the little stream which flows at the side of Walt's Body Shop and under the road and between Benedicts and Dale Allen's . This was a "waste weir" for the Chenango Canal and fitted with laid-up stone sides. The Print Shop was near Dale Allen's side of the weir, and near the elbow at the back of this plot.

Al Benedict's house was originally a hotel, operated by a Mr. Hamilton. But George I Hovey, who owned several acres of land on the corner of West Hill Road and Route 12B, built a larger hotel, called the Hamilton House, with Mr. Hamilton running it.

There was a dress-making shop across from the Congregational Church, operated by Mrs. Jefferson Hewitt who employed five girls. The house and barn next door was a blacksmith, wagon and wagon-painting shop. The house across the road had a large barn which was Nathan Park's Tin Shop, supplying pans, pails, syrup-boiling-pans, ladles and "suds- buckets".

A schoolhouse was erected in 1830, south of the present Town Hall, which served until the new Deansboro Union School two-story

schoolhouse was built in 1883. This had all the grades through senior high. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire in 1930. The original schoolhouse became a storage barn, which was bought by Arthur R. Skerritt and moved to the location of Sehn's garage. Skerritt raised the roof one story higher and used it as a blacksmith shop.

The Macabee Hall was built in 1897 as a meeting place for KOTM-Knights-of-the-Macabees, who also installed a wide concrete sidewalk in front with the initials of members at the corners of each slab. This building was used for dances, early silent movies, fund-raising dinners and even Marshall Town Hall, and later a restaurant which burned.

Concerned residents developed a Volunteer Fire & Hose Company as early as 1885. When D.W. Barton offered land and money, the Barton Hose Company was formed in 1895. Plumber, John Barker was in charge of buying used hydrants and pipes and valves and finding help to install everything. Deansboro Water Company was capitalized at \$100,000 in 1896 as a stock company with 12 hydrants and valves, a mile of water main, a reservoir up on West Hill Road, and 300 feet of one-inch hose on a wheeled cart.