

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the past to inspire our future

Newsletter

April 2009

Marshall Historical Society
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Deansboro, NY 13328

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Website:
www.marshallhistsoc.org

Next Meeting
7.30 pm on
Thursday April 16
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.

Here we are in the month of April & the robins are back . I have seen some flocks of Canadian geese flying north & today is the first day of fishing. Guess all seems to be pointing toward spring!

The March meeting was well attended & Edward Stephenson explained his job as County Legislator for the P district. This was followed by a lively question and answer session. His district includes the towns of Augusta, Marshall, Sangerfield and the election district #1 of Vernon. He has been Legislator since January 1, 1963. He writes a column for the Waterville Times & lives in the Town of Marshall.

The Charter Renewal application has been completed, Carol & I had our signatures notarized and the application was copied and sent to Albany. Good Job Done Carol

Paris Historical Society will have your president do a program and video of the Musical Museum on Tuesday, May 5th at 6:30pm at their Historical Society Museum in Clayville.

April 16, 2009, Fred Capozzella will focus his presentation on beginning bottle collecting. There will be at least two coming from the Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club attending with examples illustrating the topics they are covering. Sounds like a very interesting program. Come and bring a friend!

Does anyone know about the Quentin McAdam Farm & buildings? I have had a request from Laurie King, 7368 McAdam Road asking about whether their house was moved from Forge Hollow? I have not started writing up this farm for my "Barns & Farm Book of Marshall" Anyone with information, please call me at 853-6887.

The Greater Waterville Area Chamber of Commerce is planning a May Fest Taste of Our Town event in the Waterville Village Green on Saturday May 16th which the Marshall Historical Society has signed up to attend. Well, John & I have two grandsons graduating that day, so I'm asking for volunteers to work in the park selling our books, hop notes etc.? Please let me know if you are available? Phone number above.

Received a Souvenir program from the Musical Museum from Mr & Mrs Charles Bauder of Geneva the other day & even though it may be a duplicate I sent them a Thank You.

Any Volunteers for refreshments for the April Meeting? Hope to see you there to learn about antique bottles. Know we have one or two to ask about their age & what they were used for?

Take care & have a Happy Easter!

Dorothy McConnell, President

HOME SOUGHT FOR HISTORIC ANVIL - A PARK IS RECOMMENDED

By Ted Townsend, 1955

Captain Julius Waterman phoned us and he barely mentioned his two buffalo, Ted and Ned.

It seems the captain has an anvil. It has a history, he points out, and he hopes suitable recognition will be given when he "unveils" his anvil for public gaze.

The anvil is 12 inches wide, 13 long and stands 19 inches high. You can almost put it in a waistcoat pocket, yet it weighs close only 800 pounds.

Waterman has been in touch with the Town Board of Marshall and he says he will donate the anvil if the board will arrange for a suitable spot to display it on a concrete foundation.

The anvil came from one of the forges at Forge Hollow, which is just a couple of miles upstream from the Waterman domicile. Big Creek, which flows from the slopes of Tassel Hill, under Main Street, Waterville and then northwest to the Oriskany at Deansboro, flows swiftly through the break in the hills at Forge Hollow, and at one time there were a dozen or more mills using the abundant water power.

Back in 1801 there were forges at the "Hollow" manufacturing articles of iron. Later furnace castings were made. Forge Hollow, at that time was quite a settlement with a church, a "merchant", and homes for mechanics. Then steam replaced water power and Forge Hollow became just a wide place in the road, being a beauty spot with a couple of limestone caves, facing the tumbling stream.

The anvil tucked away in the Waterman barn comes from an early forge. It is suggested that a small plot of ground on which a town barn once stood, and which was used to store snow fence, be used as a small park with the anvil as a centerpiece.

The land is at the edge of the Hollow at the junction of route 315 and Gridley Road.

Waterman has visions of a state historical marker at the spot, giving a brief description of the anvil from the Forge Hollow Forge.

One of the items manufactured in a forge was the hop bar used extensively through the area in the hop growing days. This was a sort of crow-bar with a bulge just above the point. Many a farmer still has a hop bar among his equipment.

We inquired as to where the twin buffalo will roam come summer. Waterman is not sure whether he will be at his old post on Route 20. He says travelers from every state in the union stopped to see "Ted" and "Ned"; in fact he thinks its one of the best attractions along the Pike. Waterman told about a herd of 19 deer which spends the evening in the cedar swamp along side Big Creek. Come breakfast time the herd moves across Route 315 to feed in the bean field alongside the highway. The beans were planted last fall by Claude Hinman. Bean vines, with pods remain in the field and the deer have been dining there regularly. Milton Wratten and Clarence Lloyd who farm it on Route 315 have also reported watching the herd.

Back to the anvil, this is the second bit of "history" owned in the Deansboro area. There is a brass cannon, presented by the Dean Brothers from which family the community acquired its name. Both cannon and anvil have in years past been used to make the necessary racket, when a celebration is in progress. Both were loaded on heavy wagons or trucks and carted to Utica, and the cannon fired in an attempt to shatter all the windows within a quarter of a mile.

When McKinley was elected President, the anvil was pounded. The cannon is housed at the Barton Hose Fire Company.

Town and City Notebook

By Ted Townsend, December 12, 1955

Quite a few columns ago we mentioned that Captain Julius Waterman, who has a herd of two buffalo down Deansboro way, was questioning the Marshall Town Board regarding a park in the town. Now Julius didn't ask for a great big park, just the land owned by the town along Willona Creek, a step from Forge Hollow. A shed once occupied the spot and town machinery was stored there. This was torn down and the Land was vacant.

The Board okayed the project and now we have a park with a big boulder, dragged down from Fred Zweifel's farm, at the center and an anvil is cemented to the top. Come spring some trees will be planted around the edges, so the captain says.

Supervisor George Van Swall has taken a great interest in the project and is working with Captain Waterman in bringing the historic bit of metal to the attention of the residents of the area.

The anvil isn't large perhaps two feet high, but it weighs over 600 pounds. There are holes in either side so that one man with a bar can move or turn it, that is they could until it was cemented to the boulder.

The anvil came from a forge at Forge Hollow in a one-time hammer shop. It was a trip hammer affair run by water and Julius thinks the first hop bar ever turned out was heated and treated on this anvil. A hop bar is different from a crow bar. Just about every farmer in these parts has one, that is if he ever grew hops.

It takes on a bulge before coming to the point, and it was used to make a hole in which a cedar hop pole could be dropped. The poles were nigh onto 12 feet tall so you couldn't tap'em on the top. That meant the hole had to be large enough so the pole could be dropped in. The hop bar did the trick.

The shop was torn down and the anvil was moved from one farm to another. Come Fourth of July, the boys used to put black powder in a hole, hammer in a wooden plug in which a fuse had been inserted in a notch, and then touch'er off. It made a very satisfying roar, in fact Captain Waterman's father used to say, you could hear it in any part of the Town of Marshall.

The anvil made a couple of trips to Utica for celebrations and many a window around Bagg' Square vanished when the anvil was fired. One trip was made by canal boat to the big city and on the return trip, the boat pulled up at a Deansboro mill where the 600 pound bit of metal was to be unloaded. A wagon was backed down to the canal and a rope and pulley at the mill raised the anvil and then lowered it onto the wagon.

It kept right on going through the bottom of the wagon and onto the ground. Planks had to be secured and placed under it, before it could be hauled away.

The "Marshall" boys took over the cannon for these celebrations, however one day the local boys were on the shy side, and a bunch of fellows from Waterville dropped in. They started to take the anvil and a fist fight resulted.

As the "guests" from the "Huddle" were in the majority they drove off the natives and carted the anvil the 2 1/2 miles up the road to Waterville. The "new owners" took the anvil to the middle of the village and loaded it up with gun powder. The result was all the windows in the middle of town were blown out.

The anvil, was obtained by Jule Hanchett and buried in the woods on his farm. Local boys went to the farm with crow bars and pushed them down into the... *(continued over)*

ground in the fields trying to locate the metal. They came away empty handed for the anvil was just over the fence in the woods. It was dug up and buried in a woodshed, to be out of harms way.

The anvil next turned up on the Bill Landen Farm, where the work was carried on with a team of oxen. a son, Raymond worked on the Pierrpont White Estate at Crow Hill and it was next hidden in the ground on the height which overlooks the Mohawk Valley.

As owners passed away the anvil moved on and came in the possession of George Beck of Clinton. Mrs. Beck had the anvil, then George Jr., and finally it came into the hands of Captain

Read more about the Anvil at www.marshallhistsoc.org

Waterman.

The anvil was made of no ordinary iron. The story is told how it was taken to Utica to be broken up and run through a smelter. It was too tough, they couldn't get enough heat to melt it down.

The latest story from the Captain is that the anvil was used at Forge Hollow by the Remington Arms Company around 1865 to make one of their first rifles.

This story will be investigated by the Captain and Supervisor Van Swall. If true the Remington-Rand Company will be invited to take part in the dedication come spring.

Forge Hollow: once the busiest place in the Town of Marshall Waterville Times July 19, 1895

In the obituary notice of H. B. Titus in the Times of last week the writer says that Billy Titus was the originator of the blast furnace in Forge Hollow. This is incorrect as the first forge that was built in Forge Hollow was erected by Daniel Hanchett about 1800. It was

located a short distance down the stream from the caves and was known as the upper forge and Mr. Billy Titus purchased an interest in it and it was run by Hanchett & Titus. Titus sold his interest in this forge to Ansel Skinner.
(continued on the website)

Learn more about Forge Hollow in: --
Echoes of Forge Hollow
by Dorothy McConnell
\$ 10.00. Shipping and handling \$ 3.00

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