

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the past to inspire our future

Newsletter

November 2009

Marshall Historical Society
P O Box 232
Deansboro, NY 13328

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

Trustees
Joanne Bolan
John McConnell
Edith Eastman
Anne Jasek
Howard West

Website:
www.marshallhistsoc.org

Next Meeting
7.30 pm on
Thursday
November 19
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.

Twenty five people attended the October 15th meeting. A lively discussion followed David Staley's power point presentation on Deansboro's old Cheese Factory. Howard West suggested that we consider placing a historic marker at the site of the old cheese factory.

On October 17th we were invited to participate in the Marshall Community Tour. Stops were made at several locations to view our township as it is today and we learned how rural it really is. Your president attended the morning session and the panorama looking down at Deansboro from West Hill was the highlight of the tour. Afterward a discussion was held at the Town Hall. This is part of a long term development plan for Town of Marshall. Later there will be specific meetings for farmers, businessmen & the like.

On October 20, 2009 your president spoke to the Waterville Women's Club on "How the Marshall Barns & Farms" book came to be. Many points were brought up such as hop picking, the canning factory, Louis Gale feed mill, and snow storm in 1939 in which Clint Daley's bus was marooned on Daytonville Rd with 43 children on board.

November 12th at the Clinton Historical Society there will be a combined meeting with New Hartford Society where there will be a meeting on the Deansboro Musical Museum at 7pm. Melville & Evelyn Edwards will bring a music box that has been in the family for years. Dorothy McConnell changed the Musical Museum video into a DVD to show.

The next meeting of our society will be November 19, 2009 with Dorothy Stacy, author & history teller as our presenter. Her program will be "UTICA'S MARVELOUS PAST". She will be highlighting some of the glories of 1840's Utica. This Power Point program will show several pictures of early Utica & explain how her book "THREE WEEKS IN UTICA" was written, which depicts life in this locality in the 1840's. The meeting is at 7:30 at the Marshall Town Hall, Deansboro. Elizabeth Hughes has offered to bring refreshments. Come and bring a friend.

The Marshall Barns & Farm book has sold about 250 copies. We ordered another 50 to have on hand. Morgan's Hardware & the Waterville Times have them in Waterville and Joan's Country Cafe, Berry Hill Book Shop and Ye Olde Canal Shoppe have them in Deansboro. I also have copies should anyone ask.

Remember the Nov. 19th meeting. Hope to see you there!

Dorothy McConnell, President

When Students Walked To and From School

By Richard Williams, Town of Kirkland & Village of Clinton Historian
Clinton Scene, Clinton Courier, October 7, 2009

Can you imagine walking six miles to attend Hamilton College in the 1890 period? Clarence William Mason did it and graduated with the class of 1892.

Mason was born on a Vernon Center farm on March 11, 1868, but his life took him far away from that rural community of Oneida County.

After early study in a one-room school, he took his secondary school training at Best's Boys School in Clinton, where he excelled as a student.

Best's Boys was a merger of the Clinton Grammar School and Dwight's Rural High School and was located at 86-88 College Street in the twilight of private schools in Clinton. Called Best's from 1875-91, it closed in 1891 as the Clinton Union School and Academy on Marvin Street was under construction. When the Union School opened in September 1893, it effectively ended the era of private secondary schools here.

Best's/Clinton Grammar School/whatever it was named, basically was a prep school for Hamilton College. Several Hamilton professors served as trustees through the years.

On his family farm Mason had many duties such as plowing and planting, cultivating crops, haying, and harvesting. Oxen provided much power for farms then and Mason became good at breaking and driving oxen for daily life.

While a student at Hamilton, Mason continued to live at home and walked back and forth each day. He played football on Hamilton's first team and was a member of Emerson Literary Society, a fraternity.

After Hamilton, he decided to become a minister and attended Union Theological Society, a fraternity in New York City. He transferred to

the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago for his last year.

Mason was called to the Congregational Church in Deansboro in 1895 because his Christian sincerity and college achievements were well known there.



In 1899 he married Gertrude Nanktelow of Westmoreland and brought her back to the manse in Deansboro

In 1904, after Deansboro, Mason went to the Congregational Church in Port Leyden, just north of Boonville, where he remained for five years. His next pulpit was at the Presbyterian Church in Jamesville until 1914.

After Jamesville, Mason's life and ministry underwent a major change.

He was sent into lumber camps in the Adirondacks by the Presbyterian Synod of New York and remained in that ministry until he retired in 1938.

In the lumber camps Mason became acquainted with another minister, the Rev. Frank A. Reed, a pilot, and flew into lumber camps to preach the gospel to the lumberjacks. Mason also got his pilot's license 20 years before Reed, who worked into the 1950's. Reed authored "Lumberjack Sky Pilot" and devoted one chapter to Mason.

A scan of the 1907 New Century Atlas for Oneida County shows a "CJMason" residence on the road from Vernon Center to College Hill, although it is uncertain if this was Mason's home farm.

Mason's walking didn't seem to slow him up at all. He had four children: Margaret, Elinor, Isabel & Mary. He served three churches and took the Bible and Christianity to lumber camps in the mountains where he flew to spread the Gospel.

Contrast Mason's odyssey and quest for learning, which required a six mile round-trip daily, with most college students today in any college in the country.

An active Hamilton alum, Mason attended his 45th and 50th class reunions and donated to the alumni fund. He spoke at a South Central New York alumni dinner in 1947. In 1951, at the age of 83, he went to a Hamilton vs. Union football game.

Mason died at the age of 89 on October 12, 1957 at the Tompkins County Memorial Hospital in Ithaca.

"Utica's Marvelous Past"

Program by Dorothy Stacy

Dorothy Stacy will present a program highlighting some of the glories of 1840s Utica. This is a PowerPoint program, developed by the author, showing several pictures of early Utica, relating interesting tid-bits of Utica history, and explaining how and why the book was written and published. It is based on research for her book, *Three Weeks in Utica*, and depicts life in this locality in the 1840s.

Dorothy Stacy was born and brought up in Utica, New York where she lived for the first half of her life. She now lives in Sauquoit with her husband, John in a 200-year-old house on 4 acres of land. She has 8 grown children and 16 grandchildren with two more on the way. Dorothy was an elementary school teacher in

Utica for 14 years before she retired in 2006. She has a Masters Degree in Reading and Elementary Education from Cortland College

Dorothy has been writing all her life. She has sold articles to a magazine in past. Her novels are *Erie Canal Cousins* (2007), *Three Weeks in Utica* (2008), and *Albany Homecoming* (2009).

The books may be ordered from Blackberry Hill Press, 2860 Mohawk Street, Sauquoit, NY 13456-3322 Phone: (315) 737-5147
E-mail: dhstacy@gmail.com
Website: dorothystacy.com

How the Marshall Barns & Farms Book came to be by Dorothy McConnell

I saw how interesting the New Hartford and Paris Farm books were. When Richard Williams decided to edit one for Kirkland, I decided to help with Post Street.

In May of 2008 I sent out 80 surveys describing my intent to write a similar book.

I did research on the active farms of today through the 1874 & 1907 Atlases, which had the names listed for each property. The 1917 American Agriculturist listed the farmers, their acreage & if they were hop raisers or dairy farmers. The Waterville Times has a June Dairy month listing farmers through the years, so my scrap books came in handy. Some farmers gave me a list of their abstracts of Title, which showed who had owned their property over the years.

I made phone calls asking acreage, number of cows, and where milk was shipped. I drove around the Township taking photos of current barns. Some sent me aerial views of their farms in years past.

Yvonne Brady helped with State Route 12 & most eastern sections of Marshall. That was a big help as the only one in that area that I knew about was Good Luck Farm, which I wrote up with my cousin's help. My father, Howard Eastman, grew up on that farm & peddled milk in the Village of Waterville. Ray Ireland, Katie Peck & Joan Stedman wrote up The

Gold Coin Farm. Gary & Mary Ann Ford wrote about their farm. Maggie Way wrote the cute story about haying on their farm. David Sullivan & his father, Pat told me about how they got started in farming. Colleen Marris borrowed photos from her sister of the barn and the chicken house, which once housed 6000 laying hens.

Over the years, I collected articles of farming interest which have been included in the book.

The book was published by Hamilton College Printing in August of 2009. The Marshall Historical Society has backed this book and has sold over 200 copies of it.

The cover design was furnished by Waterville artist Philippa Brown. Polly Blunk agreed to have us use her Marshall barn paintings. The back cover is dedicated to the memory of W. Ralph Murray, who died July 14, 2009 and who for over 50 years painted rural scenes, particularly old barns and farm houses. His wife, Mary, agreed to let us use two of his paintings, the winter scene of Barton/Cleary Homestead "January Contrasts" and spring scene, "Abandoned Farm."

Excerpts from an address to the Waterville Women's Club, October 20, 2009