

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the past to inspire our future

Newsletter

February 2012

Marshall Historical Society
P O Box 232
Deansboro, NY 13328

Dorothy McConnell,
President
Yvonne Brady, Vice
President
Carol Gilley, Secretary

Trustees
John McConnell
Edith Eastman
Anne Jasek
Howard West
Francis Lallier

Website:
www.marshallhistsoc.org

Next Meeting
7.30 pm on
Thursday
February 16,
2012
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.

Trust you all had a Happy Holiday and are enjoying this open winter weather. Don't know how long it will last, as it's still winter. (As the days begin to lengthen, the cold begins to strengthen.)

Our November 17, 2011 meeting with Jack Henke was very interesting. We learned about the latest book that the Brookfield school had printed, "Seventeen." This helps us with a proposed book of our own. Although there has been no action yet due to my cataract operations I hope to get at it soon.

Our thanks to Jack Henke for his donation of a Deansboro CCC Camp brochure dated 1940. This is the first time that we had seen one, so very happy to get this.

The February 16, 2012 meeting will be at the Town Hall, Deansboro at 7:30 PM at which time Dick Williams will tell us about his new book, "Along Oriskany & Big Creeks." His book is the story of the Oriskany from its source to the Mohawk River. Included are sections on the geology, the history, the economy, the fishing, the flowers, the trees and the wild animals. Come and hear about his self-publishing this book. Refreshments will be furnished by Yvonne Brady.

You know about Roxy (Tefft) Druse being hanged for murdering her husband. Just recently James M. Grenier has published a book, "Last Woman Hanged: Roxalana Druse." James M. Grenier is a history teacher at West Canada Valley Central School and is the Herkimer County Historian. He resides in Herkimer and is currently working to preserve the old county jail that once housed Roxalana Druse. We bought this book and both John and I have enjoyed reading it.

Upcoming Events

March 15, 2012. Cheryl Pula will discuss "Mrs. O'Leary's Cow and the Chicago Fire." It sounds like an interesting topic. May I have a volunteer for refreshments that night?

April 19, 2012. Jim Ford will present a program entitled "Mott's beginnings and the apple industry in Bouckville. Jim has written many books about the Madison Lake area and I am sure this will be of equal interest to our local area.

Well, that's all for now. Remember to keep smiling.

Fondly,
Dorothy McConnell, President

Another Day Another Dollar The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Catskills

By Diane Galusha

The first CCC Camp was Camp Roosevelt opened in Lurey, Virginia on April 17, 1933.

In New York State 210,000 enrollees at 161 camps developed public campgrounds, built hiking, skiing and horseback riding trails, established game refuges, built dams to create swimming areas and waterfowl breeding sites, constructed fire headquarters for conservation department Rangers, conducted stream restoration and erosion control work and helped farmers implement soil conservation practices.

They also planted more than 221 million trees and did whatever they could to protect these seedlings and the surrounding forests by eradicating insects and disease hosting plants, erecting 19 fire lookout towers, building 392 miles of access roads and 1207 pond to provide water for fighting forest fires.

They were paid \$30 a month with \$25 sent home for their families. Only unmarried, unemployed males aged 18-25 were eligible to apply. Preference was given to those families on relief "with no discrimination shall be made on account of race, color or creed."

Camps were little villages, usually with five 40-men barracks buildings, a mess hall, toll house, a garage for a dozen or so trucks and tractors, water and sewage facilities, streets and sidewalks, a recreation hall, a camp store, and an education building where enrollees could take classes in everything from photography to plumbing to prepare them for life after CCC. Many camps put out their own mimeographed newsletters. (In November 2011, Jack Henke gave the Marshall Historical Society a copy of Deansboro's CCC Camp newsletter of 1940.) Other camps were located in Brookfield, DeRuyter, Georgetown and Sherburne.

Interview with Chuck Thompson 9-24-2003

by Dorothy McConnell

CCC Camps were being built throughout the country and Chuck was looking for a job. He and his brother worked there in Deansboro when the CCC Camp was built. The buildings were of prefabricated material bolted together. The two CCC Camps that Chuck remembers were located in Deansboro and Georgetown. Chuck's younger brother served in the Georgetown area like the army. Deansboro's CCC Camp was just south of the Buster Hughes Farm. The Civilian Conservation Corps built roads, etc. to keep kids

busy, a little pay and help the parents. Chuck was not active in Deansboro's CCC Camp. He only helped build it in 1937. There were 6 or 7 buildings that housed up to 150 persons. This has remained one of the most popular of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's new deal programs, where the unemployed did needed conservation work. Now the side of the CCC Camp are three homes on the curve before Gary Ford's on State Route 12B going towards Oriskany Falls.

Camp Improves 7004 acres of NY Farm Lands
 Big Area Under 5-Yr. Supervision by CCC Contract
 Chenango Trail Newsletter, September 1940

Since being established in its present site, as a soil conservation camp, Company 1238 has entered into contracts with farmers of the area involving 7004.0 acres of land, Mr. Frank, Camp Superintendent announced.

Assigned to soil conservation work, the Company performs varied tasks in its line of duty, which, as a whole, it to preserve the soil and its moisture content. Farmers, hearing of the activities of the CCC through local agencies, apply for aid in rehabilitating their farms and land, paying no money at all except the cost of any materials involved, Mr. Frank explained.

When the farmer and the particular CCC project enter into contract, one of the stipulations is that the farmer shall carry out the Government's recommendations as to proper conservation of the soil and moisture, for a five-year period.

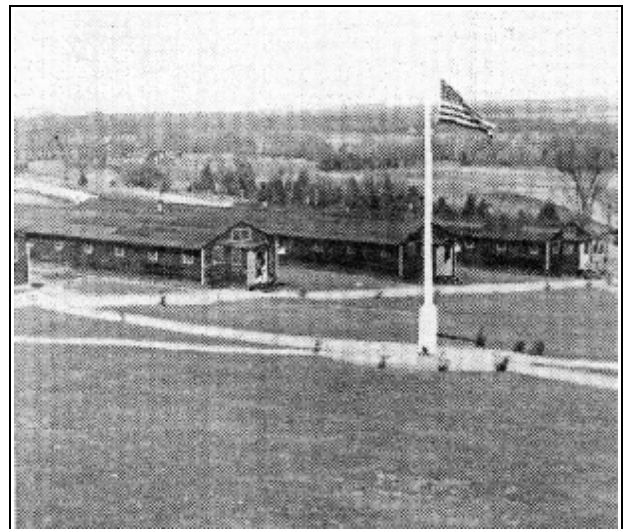
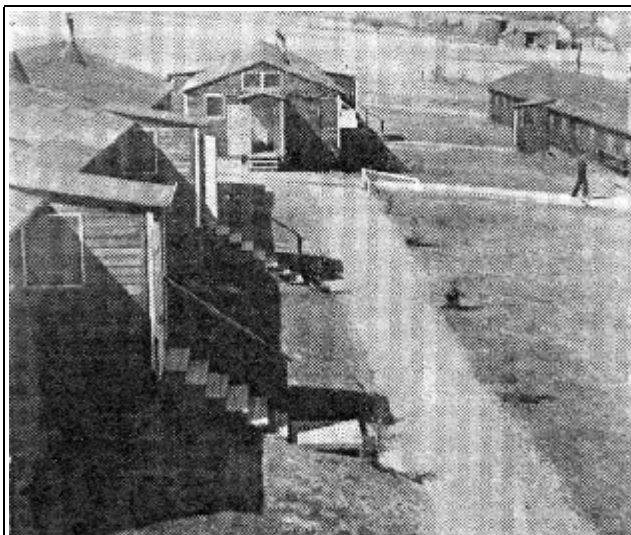
From December first, 1939, to August first of this year, the accomplishments of Company 1238 have been imposing. Mr. Frank quoted the following figures: In that period of time, the Company as erected 1321 rods of fence, or over four miles. In

the same period, 19,295 feet of diversion ditch have been dug, and 1,885 feet of outlets.

21.8 acres of contour furrows have been constructed in eight months, plus work on 147.3 acres of hedge-rows. 81.99 acres of land were planted and 30 acres of land were planted and 30 acres timber stand improved. 337 man-days were expended in surveys, and 1500 man-days were spent in emergency work. On top of all this 343 acres of brush were removed from farm-land.

Soil conservation work, in addition to the work above, often calls for bridge construction, stream bank protection, bank sloping, dam-building, construction of seeded and woody outlets, water spreaders, wild life planting and other work.

Although the CCC is primarily an organization for the employment of jobless men, and the training of green youth for the economic world, the value of the work done by the CCC is great, Mr. Frank said, and it is a fact that the work worth doing in the present area is practically endless, except that it is up to the Government to determine whether or not some other area is not in greater need of aid.



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There is a copy of the Chenango Trail
Newsletter on the website.

Last Woman Hanged: Roxalana Druse
by James M. Greiner
can be obtained by writing to

The Hanging of Roxy Druse
Sinners and Saints – Stories of Upstate New
York, p. 75. By George W. Walter
was reprinted in the March 2011 newsletter of
the Marshall Historical Society.

Last Woman Hanged
318 Margaret Street
Herkimer, New York 13350

Walter records that Roxalana Druse grew up in
the Town of Marshall where her parents, Mr.
and Mrs. Teft, farmed. “During the first ten
years of her life, Roxy went to school and
learned the three R's. She played about her farm
home and did chores for her mother.”

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Society with family and friends near and far. It
is available on the web at

www.marshallhistsoc.org/nl.html

