

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the Past to Inspire Our Future

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Next Meeting

**July 16 – Eastern
Rock/Hansens/Heidelberg
– Max Sykes**

Join!

Provide your name and
address (and email, if
applicable) to the secretary
and pay the membership
fee:

Individual: \$10:00
Family: \$15.00

**HAVE YOU PAID
YOUR YEARLY DUES?
GET YOURS IN
TODAY!**

Donate!

Your donations to the
Marshall Historical Society
are tax deductible.

Greetings Friends:

June, 2026

The Musical Museum, a world-class museum of antique musical instruments was right in the center of Deansboro from 1948 to 1995. By then, Arthur Sanders and his wife Elsie were getting along in years; the founders, Art's parents Esther and Hardie Sanders, had passed away, and the agreement with others to run the museum didn't work out, so the decision was made to auction off the contents of the museum and the land it was on - including the diner - in September, 1998.

The history of the museum was detailed in the May 21 Historical Society meeting, with lots of comment from the audience. The collection actually began in the 1930s, when Arthur and his father Hardie collected music boxes, and everything expanded from there. The museum, started in 1948 with 35 cents admission, put Deansboro on the map, as busloads of people came from all over to "crank, play, and enjoy" the wonders in store for them.

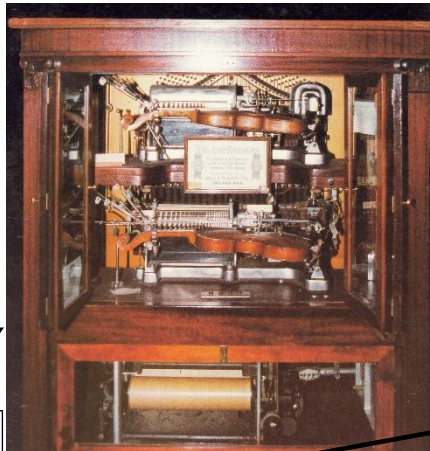
The talk included some of the many amazing antique musical instruments in the museum, from the Welte Mignon automatic piano; to the Violano Virtuoso - a truly awesome piece of equipment that combines violin and piano through the use of magnets, motors and switches; and to the mechanical birds in gilded cages music boxes. These were wooden forms covered in real bird skins and feathers, and levers, bellows and gears inside the base operate the bird song as well as the beaks and wings.

Our June meeting was held on Tuesday, June 16, instead of the usual Thursday, due to a conflict with the presenter, local artist Tim Pryputniewicz. Tim showed us much of his artwork, and discussed his techniques. He specializes in pen and ink drawings, sometimes coloring the completed work with coffee or soy sauce. He also paints lovely watercolors. Tim hails from Paris Hill and now lives in Clinton.

Many of the items were for sale, including greeting cards which were very popular, and full-sized paintings. One was of a tree, colored with soy sauce and very striking. Another was a drawing of a man's face in a tree, based on one which resembled that which he saw in Hamilton, NY. His drawings and greeting cards can be found at the Artisan's Corner in Clinton. His works are on display all over the area.

Next month will bring Max Sykes from Oriskany Falls to talk about the quarry in the southern part of the Town of Marshall referred to as "Eastern Rock" but which is actually Heidelberg Materials. The meeting will be July 16 at 6:30.

Here are some pictures from the May and June meetings. First up: the **Musical Museum**.



The Welte-Mignon automatic piano

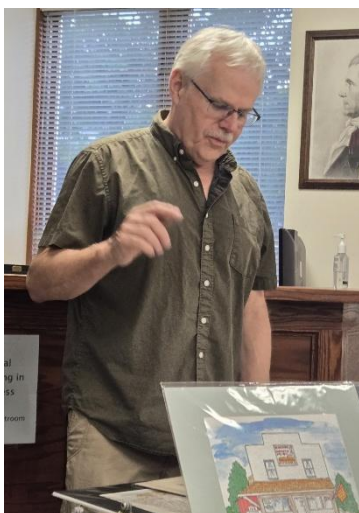
Violano Virtuoso

Bird Cage music box

Musical Museum ca. 1960



Tim Pryputniewicz displays some of his art work



We are looking forward to Max Sykes' presentation on Eastern Rock/Heidelberg Materials in July, and in the mean time we thought we'd give a little preview.

Eastern Rock/Heidelberg Materials

Heidelberg Materials started out as a local quarry operated by F.E. Conley of Conley Stone Co. and Sidney Putnam, later called Putnam and Juhl, and the operation was done mostly by hand. The Chenango Canal had opened in 1834, and proved helpful to the quarry. This was probably located where Nassimos gas station is now. It closed in 1836, and was reopened by Bardrof, Davis, and Chapman.

As business expanded, a charter was granted by the Secretary of State, and it was incorporated in 1921 into the Utica plant of Eastern Rock Products, Inc., but was carried on as a separate corporation, Peerless Quarries. That continued until 1929, when Peerless Quarries filed a "notice of voluntary dissolution" and merged into Eastern Rock, Inc. Peerless Quarries supplied limestone for the Congregational Church in Oriskany Falls, the Masonic Temple in Waterville, and locks on the Chenango Canal.

1967, an offer to buy Eastern Rock Products was made by Koppers Co., of Pittsburgh. Still known as Eastern Rock, the influx of new capital enabled the company to further improve the operation. Through the 1970s and 1980s, the company continued to grow. In 1988 another bid for the purchase of Eastern Rock was made by a company named Beazer; then in 1990 it was purchased by Hanson Aggregates, one of the largest producers of aggregate material in the country, and the name was changed.

The name was changed again when the quarry became known as Heidelberg Materials. Max Sykes will know the date the change took place and many more details about the operation of the quarry. This will be a fascinating look into a business that has become world-wide. Don't miss it!

COLD SPRING BREWERY

One of the most prominent businesses in the Town of Marshall in the early 1800s was the making of whiskey. Gin and vodka were also produced, according to Phillipa Brown, but mostly whiskey, hence the name "Whiskey Hollow." Many distilleries were located on what was called Mill Street just outside of Waterville, the first part of present-day Route 315, called Buell Ave. Water power was used from the east branch of the Oriskany Creek (Big Creek), and the distilleries used water from a cold - 47-48 degree - spring which ran up the hill going into Waterville next to Mill Street; still there but filled with silt. There were also grist and saw mills in the area, but the greatest business was to turn barley, corn, or potatoes into spirits.

According to accounts, the temperance movement, which was to become stronger around 1860, was in its infancy in those days. As a matter of fact, when the First Baptist church was built (1800-1901), the workers, according to contract, received "one gill and a half of good rum per day" as part of their wages. Later, though, as the temperance movement grew, the distilleries were closed and instead of barley and corn, hops were grown, ushering in a new business: brewing beer.



Back in 1802, Amos Osborne built a stone building on Mill Street which was a distillery for many years. After the distilleries were closed, the building was sold to E.S. Peck Co., who converted it into a brewery which was named Cold Spring Brewery. That was approximately 1865. The company was made up of three principles: Edwin Peck, George Hubbard and John Yale, as well as many workers. They worked hard to make Cold Spring Brewery a "first-class brewery with everything in fine running order, and capable of producing ale of the most excellent quality."

An "experienced brewer" (un-named) from New York was employed, and the ale produced reportedly was very good. Besides being available by the barrel or cask for hotels and restaurants, half-casks could be obtained for family use.

According to the 1896 History of Oneida County, the brewery closed in 1894. A further mention of E.S. Peck & Co. was concerning the opening of a new hotel on the corner of Mill Street and Main Street, Waterville. This apparently was another venture of Messieurs Peck, Hubbard, and Yale, as the on the announcement of the hotel they were listed as "formerly with Cold Spring Brewery." The hotel was opened around 1880 and was called the American, later Ye Olde American Hotel, which closed in 1964.



Thanks to all who remembered their annual dues! We appreciate your generosity more than you know - you help keep the Historical Society going.

The Town of Marshall will observe the 250th birthday of the United States on July 11 and 12. On Saturday the 11th, there will be a display of historical items in the meeting room of the Town Hall. Pictures, artifacts, memories – they will all be there waiting for you.

See you in July!!!