

Marshall Historical Society

Looking to the Past to Inspire Our Future

Marshall Historical Society
P.O. Box 232
Deansboro, NY 13328
marshallhistory17@gmail.com

President/Treasurer

Yvonne Brady
ybskyline@gmail.com

Vice President

Alycia Schick
alycia859@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Janet Dangler
fernata64@gmail.com

Trustees

Yvonne Brady (2026)
Yvonne Schick (2027)
Amy Buchholz (2028)\
Brian Brewer (2029)
Janet Dangler (2030)

Website:

www.marshallhistsoc.org

Next Meeting

**September 17 – Elijah
Wampy, a Brothertown
Indian – Joanne Gilles**

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:

August, 2026

On the 20th of August, we welcomed Patty Louise, Owner, Editor and Publisher of the Waterville Times, who spoke on the history of printing in the United States. Her talk was very interesting and engaging, and I hope I covered most of the salient facts.

Patty spoke mainly of the value of newspapers during the Colonial period, especially the time leading up to the Revolutionary War. Of course, that was before the Internet or even radio or TV. As a result, the only way the colonists would know what was happening in their communities is by newspapers. They weren't free but were handed from person to person.

The first printing press in the New World came from Great Britain, brought across the Atlantic Ocean by Elizabeth and Joseph Glover in the 1630s. They intended to have a printing business in the Colonies. However, Joseph Glover died during the voyage but Elizabeth, after getting herself and her children settled in Boston, opened a printing business in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She published the first book in America, *The Bay Psalm Book*: out of 1700 published only about 11 copies remain. Upon Elizabeth Glover's death, the printing press was donated to Harvard University.

Other printing establishments sprang up: among them were The Boston Newsletter in 1704; The Hartford Courant in 1764; and the Pennsylvania Gazette, which was founded in 1768 and flourished under Benjamin Franklin's guidance.

The Declaration of Independence was printed for distribution to the colonies by John Dunlap, official printer to the Continental Congress, in 1776. The original parchment document is at the National Archives exhibition hall. Interestingly enough, although the copies we see today show all the signatures of the 34 delegates of the 13 colonies, the copies Dunlap made then did not show any signatures except for that of John Hancock, president of the second Continental Congress, because of fears of treason brought forth by the British government.

Copies of the Declaration of Independence, which were printed by Yvonne Schick at the Hamilton College printing department, are available at the Historical Society for a nominal fee.

Thank you, Patty, for a really interesting and informative evening.

Our September 17, we will hear about the life and times of Elijah Wampy, a Brothertown Indian, who is buried in the Old Burial Ground in Clinton. The presenter is Joanne Gilles of Clinton, who has done a wealth of research about one of the first settlers in this area. Don't miss it!

CHEESE FACTORY

Just before Oriskany Creek on the left going south on Route 315 was the Deansboro Cheese Factory, owned by F.H. VanVechton. The factory was built in 1883 and was operated from 1886 until 1891, when a fire broke out. The fire was discovered to have been set by two disgruntled farmers whose milk, which was sent to the factory, was found unsatisfactory. Around 12,000 to 13,000 pounds of cheese were destroyed, and while the loss on the building was considerable, it was partially insured. Therefore, it was rebuilt that same year.

The cheese factory produced only two sizes, large round wheels weighing 30 pounds and 60 pounds, under the management first of James D. Kelly and then of J.H. Gazlay. Gazlay was also in charge of the cheese factory on Peck's Corner (corner of Peck Road and Shanley Road). During the months of May through November, when the cheese factory was open, around 700,000 pounds of milk were received, and over 66,000 pounds of cheese were manufactured.

In 1901, the stock holders of the company met to discuss the future of the factory. At that meeting, G.B. Northrup, J.D. Kelly, Ralph Lombard and John Toole were elected directors. Apparently, the future of the Deansboro Cheese Factory was not very bright, as the next mention is of the building being purchased by Robert Hadcox in 1903. He intended to install an engine and other machinery for the manufacture of self-opening farm gates, using a patent held by George S. Patrick.

The National Gate Company, Hadcox and Patrick's enterprise, went out of business in 1916, and in 1919 there was a concerted effort by members of the Dairyman's League to reopen a cheese factory in that location which did not come to fruition. The building burned in the early 1920s, sat unused for several years, and finally disintegrated.

Fast forward to 2008: The DOT proposed a bridge replacement project over Oriskany Creek, but before that could be started, archaeologists from the New York State Museum's Cultural Resource Survey Program were dispatched in October of that year to conduct shovel test excavations, searching for evidence of prehistoric or historic sites. Since the cheese factory, and later the National Gate Company were in that location, the search was extensive.

The archeologists found numerous artifacts that are typical of historic and roadside litter, but most noteworthy was the discovery of the remains of the Deansboro Cheese Factory. The shovel tests partially uncovered a stone masonry slab that may have been the factory's entrance, and revealed the outlines of the building's foundation. Other artifacts recovered from the shovel tests were architectural (nails, bricks, lumber fragments and window glass); and general items such as brackets, hooks, bolts, pulleys, rods, bars and a large padlock.

David Staley, New York State archeologist and project manager for the Cultural Resource Survey Program presented a program of his findings at a Historical Society Meeting in 2008.



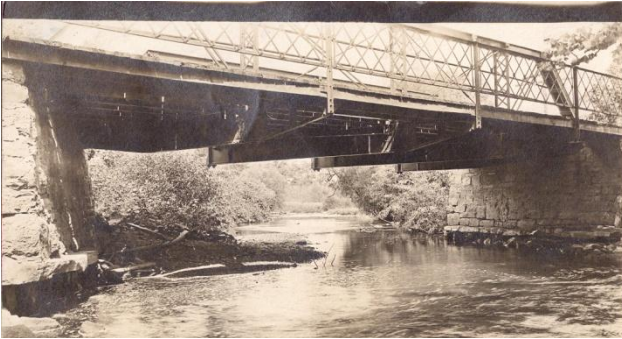
Cheese Factory on Rt. 315 heading toward Waterville – note the bridge in the background

MORE ABOUT THE BRIDGE

In February of 2015, there was an open meeting in the Marshall Town Hall, called by the Town Board. At this meeting, interested residents of the Town of Marshall were informed by the NYS Department of Transportation that

seven bridges would be reconstructed over the next three years, and that two of the bridges were in the Town of Marshall: the bridge over Oriskany Creek just outside of Deansboro; and the bridge over Big Creek in Forge Hollow. Work began with the Oriskany Creek bridge in March, 2016. Construction of the bridge over Big Creek began in the summer of 2017.

The bridge over Oriskany Creek was first built in the 1809. A newspaper article in the Waterville Times stated that the bridge was becoming a source of alarm, particularly for hop growers who routinely transported heavy loads of hops to and from the village.



bridge over Oriskany Creek - 1908



bridge over Oriskany Creek - 1936

It was later reconstructed in the 1930s and repaired in 1971.



Bridge reconstructed in 2016 heading north towards Deansboro.



Forge Hollow bridge

The Waterville Times, 1895 - The new bridge (the one opened in the early 1900s) will be ready for travel as soon as the filling at each end is done. There is considerable *inquiry* for the highway commissioner as the people are anxious to use the bridge. This bridge is a panel truss bridge with an eighteen-foot driveway and a five-foot sidewalk. This foot bridge was paid for by money contributed by people living in this vicinity. The bridge as a whole presents a fine appearance. The cost was \$800, the foot bridge being \$75 additional. This does not include the cost of the abutments.

1971 - Curbing sections will be installed in Waterville and Deansboro. Drainage will be improved and the Route 315 bridges over Oriskany Creek and Big Creek will be repaired.



We have all often admired Oriskany Creek; some have taken advantage of the trout that can be fished from that creek. However, we know that there is a big disadvantage as well: flooding. Here are some pictures from recent flooding in Deansboro: on the corner of Route 315 and California Road in 2011, and uptown Deansboro in 2021. No pictures, but we all remember the devastating flooding in Forge Hollow on Halloween, 2019.



CONGRATULATIONS ALCYCIA!



Heartfelt Congratulations to Alycia Schick, Historical Society Vice-President, on her receipt of a 2026 Publication and Digital Media Award, presented by the National School Public Relations Association. Alycia earned a Merit Award for her feature story “Building Tiny Connections from the Start,” which highlights the commitment Holland Patent School District, where she is an employee, has for its Early Childhood education program. Alycia also received an Honorable Mention for her feature story “Field Goals Achieved” which was selected for the cover of *Country Folks*.

In addition, she earned a Merit Award for the Golden Knight’s Spotlight Series, a social media campaign highlighting Holland Patent School District employees.

We’ve all admired Alycia’s artistic talent, and are very proud of her! This is a very well-deserved honor!

