



MARCELLUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 2, Issue No 5

September/October 1997

MEMORIAL DAY ADDRESS... *Bill Reagan* (Part Two)



Two Marcellians lost their lives while serving in the Korean War. They were Clifford Cronk and Daniel Welch.

Clifford Cronk was killed in action in Korea in 1951, at the age of 20. The son of Mr. & Mrs.

Arlington Cronk, Clifford attended Marcellus Central School and enlisted in the Army when he was 17. Along with his parents, Clifford was survived by four brothers.

Daniel Welch was in the Marine Corp. He was killed in action in the Korean War in March of 1953 while serving in the 2nd Marine Tank Battalion.

Corporal Welch Road is named in his honor. Among those he left behind was his sister, Julie Karlik. Twenty one years after Daniel's death, his nephew, her son, Richard Karlik of Marcellus, was killed in an accident in South Carolina while serving in the Marines. Rick joined the Marines upon graduating from Marcellus High School and had been in almost four years when he died in 1985. He was in the same graduating class as Rick. He had many friends in school and his death was a great loss.

I also spoke recently with Hugh Dawson and Tom Gilmore. Marcellian Hugh Dawson served in the Air Force in both World War II and Korea. Hugh flew dive-bombers in the Pacific while serving in the Marine Corp during World War II. He had enlisted prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. In 1946 Hugh was commissioned to 2nd Lieutenant in the reserves and in 1952 he was recalled to serve in Korea through 1954. After 28 years of service, he retired a Lieutenant Colonel. Hugh recently had the honor of carrying the Olympic torch. Perhaps one of the men whose names are this monument may have also shared such an honor.

Marcellus resident Tom Gilmore served in the Vietnam War. Tom is the present Commander of Ralph Share American Legion Post 297. Tom was drafted into the Army in 1969 while working at

Priest Chevrolet and fought in Vietnam in 1970 and 71. He was stationed in the Demilitarized Zone for twelve months and served on an armored reconnaissance unit. These units consisted of several tanks and were known as "moving fox holes." They were responsible for patrolling areas within the D.M.Z.

Two Marcellians were killed during the Vietnam War. They were John Rodney Bass and David Driver.

The brother of Marcellian Eileen Kennedy, John Rodney Bass was on his way to Vietnam on June 4, 1964 when he was killed at the age of 30 in an air crash in the Philippines. Rodney, as he was called, was a pilot in the Air Force's 13th Bomb Squadron and had served in Japan for a year before going to the Philippines. He was checking the skills of another pilot who had been on a leave of absence, when the plane went down, killing both men. Rodney also left behind his wife, Diane Schmuckmeir, and their three children, Kim, Kristen and a son, John Rodney the third, who was born after Rodney was killed.

David Driver was a Lieutenant in the US Navy when he was killed in 1969 at the age of 26 at McChord Air Force base in Tacoma, Washington. He was the son of Chester S. and Maxine Driver and brother of Nancy. Our middle school is named after Chester. David was killed in the crash of a Navy jet. His father had died just 6 years earlier. David was an outstanding high school athlete who graduated from Marcellus Central School in 1961. He received an appointment to Annapolis where he graduated in 1965. David had been involved in combat in Vietnam and had returned to the United States only recently before his death.

One Marcellus High School graduate was killed during the Persian Gulf War. Patrick Kelly Connor had lived in Marcellus just a short time before going off to war in Desert Storm. He was a United State Navy Navigator / Bombardier. Patrick was on a mission off the shore of Kuwait on February 2, 1991, when his A-6E radioed that it was under hostile fire. The jet never made it back to the carrier. After an intense search, his jet was never found. At the age of 25, he was declared missing in action. Patrick was survived by his

Continued next page

parents, Bill and Marsha, and two brothers, Jeff and Scott. As with all veterans killed in action, Patrick's death was a devastating loss to his family.

The most recent Marcellus veteran to lose his life while in the service was Michael Jones, the son of Beverly Blakeslee. Michael was 29 years old when he lost his life while serving in the Air Force in North Carolina. He had served in the Marines for three years, then attended college before going into the Air Force. During an Air Force investigation, Mike and another pilot were instructed to imitate a maneuver which had caused another jet to crash in Indiana, when their jet crashed. When Michael was killed on April 28, 1992, he left behind a wife.

All of the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces deserve our recognition as the heroes which they are. It is through the sacrifice of these neighbors, friends and relatives that the United States of America remains the greatest country in the history of the world - a country whose people enjoy more freedoms than anywhere else on earth. In countries all over the world, the freedoms of people are repressed - it is not uncommon to see men, women and children holding machine guns on street corners. The rights of their citizens are nonexistent.

But here, the citizens of the United States remain free. We have freedoms which we take for granted, but are unseen in many other parts of the world. Freedoms which exist because of a Constitution and Bill of Rights written over two hundred years ago, and defended to this day by the great men and women who serve in the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. It is with great respect and appreciation that we remember our veterans and the sacrifices which they made in the name of our great nation, especially those men and women who were killed or declared missing in action. As citizens of the United States, it is our duty to make sure that our veterans who made such sacrifices are never forgotten. *(Part one of this address was printed in our last newsletter.)* ■

WANTED: YOUR FAMILY HISTORY!

We are looking for family histories or trees that have Marcellus ties to add to our archives collection. If you done a family history, of any size, we would appreciate having a copy of it sent to us at PO Box 165, Marcellus, NY 13108. This even includes very recent ones that may only go back one or two generations. Some day, your descendants may call on us for this information! ■

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT — *Bill Reagan*

I would like to call special attention to our Marcellus Historic House Tour which is taking place on Saturday, September 20th.

Tour chairpersons, Maureen Kantor and Jan Debevic, have spent considerable time this spring and summer organizing what promises to be a fantastic afternoon! Five great historic homes have been lined up for the tour along with plenty of extras including columnist Dick Case, who will be selling and signing copies of his book at one of the houses, and donating all of the proceeds to our New Museum Fund!

Also on the tour will be four vintage cars for viewing, door prizes, refreshments, a tour of the Marcellus fire house and the Marcellus Historical Society gift shop featuring a fine selection of items. Look for more information on the tour throughout this issue! Remember, all proceeds from the tour benefit our New Museum Fund!

About the New Museum Fund; We have one of the most substantial local history collections in Central New York. Our collection includes approximately 2,000 artifacts, 2,000 photographs, 80% of all Marcellus Observer Newspapers printed from 1879 to present day and many other wonderful items! We are striving to obtain a new, larger location for our museum which can be open to the public regularly. All money raised for the New Museum Fund goes into an account dedicated toward obtaining and remodeling the new museum.

Anyone can make a donation to the New Museum Fund at any time by mailing it to: Marcellus Historical Society New Museum Fund, PO Box 165, Marcellus, NY 13108.

With regard to our newsletter: We will only be mailing this paper to our members after the end of the year. So, if you wish to keep receiving the Marcellus Historical Society News you must join! If you are currently a member, remember that dues expire at the end of the year for all non-sustaining members.

Once again, I would like to thank all of our members and the Marcellus businesses that advertise in our newsletter for your support. You make it all possible! ■

Bill Reagan



Test Your Knowledge of Marcellus History

- A) The Saint Francis Xavier Church was built in 1847, 1867 or 1887?
- B) The Methodist Church was built in 1837, 1857 or 1877?
- C) The Presbyterian Church was built in 1851, 1871 or 1891?
- D) The Saint John Episcopal Church was built in 1881, 1891 or 1901?
- E) The Rose Hill Baptist Church was built in 1849, 1859, or 1869?
- F) Marcellus Village was incorporated in 1833, 1853 or 1873?

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AUTUMN OPEN HOUSE AT MUSEUM

The next open house at our museum has been scheduled for Saturday, October 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A very special display of Phillip L. Smith Marcellus Clocks will be set up for all to enjoy. The clocks, manufactured from 1833-4 in Marcellus Falls, feature unique painted glass doors and beautiful woodwork. Amazingly, we have been able to locate several of the 163 year old locally made clocks. This will be a display you won't want to miss! ■

COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

We are having a covered dish luncheon as part of our October 5th meeting. Everyone attending is asked to bring a dish to pass which would serve 12 people. It can be a main dish, vegetable, salad or Jell-O. Coffee and tea will be provided and our officer's will provide the dessert and rolls. Everyone attending should also bring their own table service. Note that the luncheon starts at 1:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Richard Smith who will reminisce about the 1930's in Marcellus. ■

CENTENNIAL HISTORY AVAILABLE

The Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus, 1878, has been reprinted by the Historical Society. This is the third printing of the book which details the first one hundred years of Marcellus history. We are very fortunate that this book was written in 1876 and it is available through our gift shop on page 10, at the Marcellus Village Hall and at our Historic Home Tour. ■

PHOTO SEARCH

We are looking for photos of the following historic events or scenes in Marcellus to add to our collection. If you have any which you can donate, or loan to us to copy, please call Bill Reagan.

- Marcellus businesses which no longer exist.
- Village peddlers selling their goods in the old days.
- Photos of Marcellus policemen or cars.
- Photographs of the old Marcellus paper mills.

LOOKING FOR MARCELLUS CLOCKS

We are trying to locate as many Marcellus clocks as possible. The clocks were made in Marcellus Falls in 1883-84 by Phillip L. Smith. So far we have been able to locate nine of them. If you have a Marcellus clock in your possession or know someone who does, please let Bill Reagan know. ■

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We wish to thank the following people for donating historic items to be added to our museum collection: Leda & John Stopyro for an R.J. Murphy half-pint milk bottle. Kate Norman for photos of the old Lawless home before and after the fire. Bruce & Mary Widger for autograph books from the late 1800's and antique spice cans. Joe Murphy for Crown Woolen Mill envelopes. Gerry Muldoon for a Marcellus Grey's photo. Jackie Riley for framed pictures. Kay Kershaw for a postcard and bobbins from the woolen mill. The family of Hazel Hammond for books and newspaper articles. Helen Hopkins for antique, handmade knit socks, a photo of Harold Waters, and newspaper clippings. Naomi Pratt for donating 40 books from the early 1800's library collection of the Platt family. ■

HISTORIC HOMES REGISTRY

The **Marcellus Historic Homes Registry** is being undertaken by the MHS to: *collect and preserve information about historically significant homes in Marcellus; promote preservation and appreciation of Marcellus homes; publish the history of selected Marcellus homes in book form; include historic Marcellus homes on MHS Tours and; promote general interest and appreciation of our rich local history.*

The MHS has developed guidelines and forms to help you research and register your home. Use of the forms will ensure that everyone submits similar basic information -- and additional data is encouraged if you know it.

What qualifies a home for registry? The registry is open to every home (*new and old*) within the Township of Marcellus, especially homes relating to residents or events that have contributed (*or may contribute in the future*) to local history! This definition includes your home, and every other home within the township.

Everyone in the Marcellus Township wishing to register their home should request printed guidelines and forms from Doug Whitman, who will coordinate the project (673-4091) — a \$3 fee for printing & mailing is requested. Lists of resources and other data are printed in the guidelines to help you with the information on the forms. So, please request an information packet and enjoy your research! ■

Anyone who previously obtained the forms should send completed copies to us or call if they need help.

THANK YOU!

Let's thank those members who have volunteered regularly to spend two hours, when they have been able, preparing this and previous M.H.S. Newspapers for mailing. Thank you Dick & Fran Smith, Tom & Kathy Reagan, Tom Leonard, Hollis Abbott, Bruce Widger, Mike Plumpton, Dan & Susan Reagan, Helen Tierney and Doug Whitman for his design and layout skills. We couldn't mail this paper without your help. If any of our other members would like to donate an hour or two to help prepare our next newspaper for mailing, please call Bill Reagan.

Thank you also to Brian and Christina Gordon of the Creekside Inn for their generosity in donating prizes for our regular History Contest feature. ■

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Since our last issue, 13 more people joined our Society, bringing our total membership to 683. The following people have renewed or extended their membership or joined for the first time:

Charles Bliss; Kathy Boudreau & Jonh Joyce; Mike Brilbexk; Tom Brilbeck; Dr. Louis & Gretchen DePaul; Lee Ann DiPaola; Adam & Lauren DuBeau; Roger A. & Joan Field; Linda Greenfield; Art & Nancy Hudson; Don & Jean Kilcoyne; Suzie & John McClurg; Dorothy C. McRobbie; Pierre & Mary Montague; Chuck & Mary Jo Paul; Alyssa Reagan; (*More will appear in our next issue.*) ■



GET WELL SOON!

Mary Tuthill, wife of our Vice President, Sidney, is recuperating from heart bypass surgery. We're glad to report that she is doing fine! Sid is also doing well since his recent heart bypass surgery. Please send Mary a get well card at 3 Wilson Drive, Marcellus. ■

MARCELLUS AFGHANS AVAILABLE



The Official Marcellus Afghans are once again available. They made their debut in 1994 for the Bi-centennial and were sold-out in a very short time. Because many people have requested one since the first offering, we have decided to produce them again as a fundraiser for our new museum.

The afghans measure 68-inches high by 50-inches wide, are available in cranberry or green and make wonderful gifts. The price is the same as in 1994...\$45 each. You can order them now on page ten of this newspaper, or purchase them at the Marcellus Village Hall or at our Historic House Tour. ■

ASK THE HISTORIANS

Send any questions you have about the history of Marcellus to "Ask The Historians" in care of this paper.

Q. Where did Orange Street get its name? - M.D.

A. Folklore has it that the Scottish who came in the 1880's to work in the woolen mill at the corner of Orange and Maple Streets weren't particularly happy about the road directly behind the mill being named Limerick Street and the next road up being Dublin Road, both named for the Irish. So, in order to have their homeland represented, the street in front of the upper mill was named Orange street, and the street facing the lower mill was named Scotch Hill Road.

Q. I heard that a bell used to be on the roof of the Crown Woolen Mill which stood at the corner of Orange and Maple Streets. Why was it there and where is it today? - B.R.

A. There was a large bell on the tower of the upper woolen mill. It was used to call the mill employees into work each morning. Tradition also states that the night-watchman was required to ring the bell once every hour so that the mill owner knew he wasn't sleeping. Thanks in large part to Lester Norris, the bell is now part of our museum collection. ■

MARCELLUS HISTORY CONTEST

Mary Losky solved our last riddle with the correct answer of "Marcellus Fire Department" and received a gift certificate compliments of Brian's Creekside Inn for a dinner for two.

How to play: Read the riddle printed below. If you can solve it, mail your answer to the Marcellus Historical Society at PO Box 165, Marcellus, NY 13108. Entries must be postmarked by September 30, 1997. The winner, drawn at random from all correct entries, will receive a gift certificate from the Creekside Inn and will be announced in our next issue.

This issue's riddle:	The first in the town,	In the year '96,
	Of logs t'was built not.	In moved Dr. Beach.
	One day t'was torn down,	His home he had picked,
	But a sign marks the spot.	But he gave not a speech!

(Hint: Answer can be found in our publication "Marcellus Through The Years.") ■

MEETING & EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative speaker and presentation schedule for our upcoming meetings is as follows:

Saturday, September 20 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Marcellus Historic House Tour. Starts at the Marcellus Fire Station.

Sunday, October 5 1:00 p.m.
Covered Dish Luncheon will be held and the guest speaker will be Richard Smith and his memories of Marcellus in the 1930's. Members are asked to bring a dish and their own place setting.

Saturday, October 25 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Autumn Museum Open House featuring a display of Marcellus Clocks. At the museum, second floor of the Marcellus Village Hall, 6 Slocombe Ave.

Sunday, November 2 2:00 p.m.
Guest speaker Agnes Miers will provide a presentation on the Martisco Paper Mill featuring a slide show and samples of products produced at the mill.

Sunday, December 7 2:00 p.m.
Pearl Harbor Day. Our guest speakers will be four Marcellus veterans from World War II, Ray and Louise Lollis, Hugh Dawson and Ray Paul.

[Meetings are held at the Marcellus Fire House unless indicated otherwise]

Marcellus Historical Society

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RICHARD NOJAIM

Marcellus Historical Society
1997 Tour of Historic Homes
Saturday, September 20 — 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tickets \$7.50

*Tickets available at our September 10th. Society meeting. Available the day of the tour at the Marcellus Fire Station - Quantity limited.
Included on the tour: Door prizes, tour of the fire station, refreshments, historical society gift shop, four vintage cars and columnist Dick Case!
Proceeds benefit the Marcellus Historical Society New Museum Fund.
Note: Low-heel footwear only! No interior photography. Tour held rain or shine.*

Our first ever Marcellus Historic Homes Tour will be held on Saturday, September 20, from 11 - 4. It promises to be an event you won't want to miss!

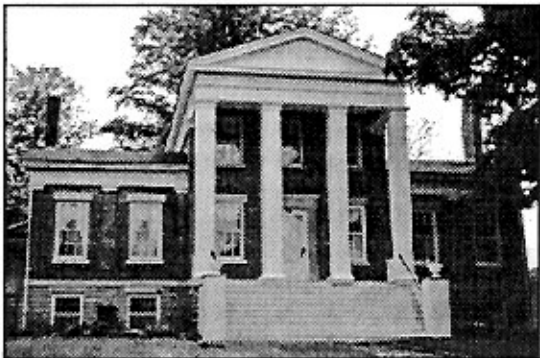
Five beautiful Marcellus homes have been lined up for the tour. Our featured homes are those owned by: Lewis and Alma Steadman, who recently purchased the Dr. Lake Tefft home at 18 North Street and are busy restoring this stately brick home that was built in 1827; Larry and Janet Bednarczyk, the "Old Moses House," at 2515 West Seneca Tpk., which was built in 1817 of post and



"Old Moses House," 2515 West Seneca Tpk.

beam construction; Russell and Robin Jackson at 2599 West Seneca Turnpike, once the home of William Bangs who came to Marcellus in 1801 and built the farm home in the early 1800's; Phil and Sandy Ragovin's home at 2781 West Seneca Turnpike which is said to have been a tavern and may have been the sight of William Bang's marriage to Roxanna Hall in 1803; and the home of Gary and Jean Eichelberger of 4418 Frank Gay Road, a late 1800's totally restored farm house brimming with collectibles. Gary will also display his 4 vintage cars during the tour.

You can start or end the tour at the Marcellus Fire Station where refreshments can be enjoyed along with a guided tour of the fire house. We will also have our gift shop set up with a fine selection of items available and door prizes will be given out to lucky ticket holders.



Steadman home, 18 North Street

Tickets are \$7.50 and they can be purchased in advance at the September 10th Society meeting or on the day of the tour at the Marcellus Fire Station. A limited number will be sold. Proceeds from the tour benefit our NEW MUSEUM FUND. For further information



Ragovin home, 2781 West Seneca Tpk.

please call Jan Debevic at 673-9447 or Maureen Kantor at 673-5462. Please mark your calendar and join us for this very worthwhile fund raiser! ■



Eichelberger home, 4418 Frank Gay Rd.



Jackson home, 2599 West Seneca Tpk.

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INSIDE ...

- Historic Homes Tour In Marcellus!
- Marcellus Clock Display Coming!
- Memorial Day Address Part Two.
- Meeting schedule.
- History contest!

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The following collectibles can be purchased from the Marcellus Historical Society at open houses, or by mail order. Some are also available from local merchants and at the town & village halls. For mail orders, use the form below.

- Official Marcellus Afghans; green or cranberry, \$45 each.
- Marcellus Through The Years, 1794 - 1996; a chronological history with photos, \$6 each.
- Marcellus 1794 - 1994, When Wool Was King; a collection of photos, \$5 each.
- A Pictorial History of Early Marcellus; 53 photos, \$5 each.
- Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus, 1878; \$15 ea.
- Index to Nine Mile Country; \$5 each.
- 1960's black & white postcards; featuring the four churches and post office, \$1/set.
- Color postcard of Talbot-Case home; \$1 each.
- Marcellus Bicentennial Mugs; \$3 each.
- Official Marcellus Pins; \$5 each.

(Prices include Tax. Shipping add \$4.00/Afghan; \$2.00/mug; \$2.00/1st book -\$1.00/each additional; 50¢/postcard set or pin)

Membership Form

Please Check One Box: NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Category (Check Box)	Basic (1-year)	Sustaining (5-Years)
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 ea.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 ea.
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 ea.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 ea.
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4 ea.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 ea.
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$12	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60
Number of people joining _____		

(Please indicate membership dues at right.)

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QTY	ITEM	COST/EA.	TOTAL
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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 Mr. Richard Smith, Treasurer
 P.O. Box 165
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