

MARCELLUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 2, Issue Nº 6

November/December 1997

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICT TO BE CONSIDERED

At the October 27, 1997 Marcellus Village meeting, Marcellus Historical Society President, Bill Reagan, submitted a request on behalf of the Marcellus Historical Society that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus consider the creation of a Historic Preservation District for the Marcellus Village center. This request was overwhelmingly approved by the general membership present at the October 5th meeting. The actual request is as follows:

In accordance with Article 9, Sections 3 and 4 of the Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Marcellus, the Marcellus Historical Society would request that:

Whereas the Marcellus Village center has witnessed, in recent years, the demolition of many of its historic buildings;

Whereas the Marcellus Village center is one of the few villages in the State of New York that truly has a Main Street, rather than a major state highway as its Main Street;

Whereas the Marcellus Historical Society would like to preserve the character of the Marcellus Village center and;

Whereas property values in historic preservation districts tend to appreciate considerably;

the Marcellus Historical Society would request that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus:

- Actively pursue National Register District status for the Marcellus Village center.
- Create an Historic Preservation District for the Marcellus Village center.
- Actively pursue passage of a local landmark preservation ordinance for the Marcellus Village center.
- Enact a 12-month moratorium on demolition and new construction in the Marcellus Village center, excepting minor structural changes such as fencing, storage sheds, etc.
- Direct the Code Enforcement Officer of the Village of Marcellus to not issue permits for demolition and/or new construction in the Village center, excepting minor structural changes such as fencing, storage sheds, etc.

The proposed historic district would include about fifty buildings in the village center, which includes Main Street from the bottom of East Hill to the bottom of West Hill. Ninety percent of these structures are commercial buildings.

This request would, if approved, give the residents of the Town and Village of Marcellus a say in what their village center will look like in the future. The request will not prevent businesses from expanding and progressing, but rather it would put the control over the destiny of these historic buildings and our Main Street into the hands of the people of Marcellus.

The Historical Society wants to see the historic character of one of the only true Main Streets left in Central New York preserved, and we believe that this is a step in the right direction.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT...



As the previous article states, I recently submitted a request on behalf of the Marcellus Historical Society that the Marcellus Village Board of Trustees consider creating an Historic Preservation District in the village center. This is a very important first step in an existing plan to preserve and restore our Main Street.

And, as was recently reported in the October 15, 1997 Marcellus Observer, the Village of Marcellus has applied for a \$350,000 grant from the Environmental Bond Act which will be used for the environmental restoration of the Lower Crown Mill. Our present village administration has been working very hard to save this extremely important piece of local history.

The intention of our historic preservation request is to give Marcellus residents a say in what the Marcellus Village center will look like in the future. The Historical Society would rather see our historic buildings restored to their original splendor than replaced with modern buildings, thus retaining the historic and charming character of our Main Street.

The Marcellus Village Board of Trustees would like to know how the entire community feels about our request. Anyone wishing to express their opinion on the future appearance of the village center is encouraged to write to the

Continued next page

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT ... continued

Marcellus Village Board at 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, NY 13108.



Don't miss this year's annual Holiday dinner! Eighty people attended last year and had a great time. Our annual election of officers will also take place on December 7th. Look for details about the catered event in this paper.



Just a reminder, the end of the year is near. That means it is time for all basic historical society members to think about renewing their membership. I hope that our members have been pleased with the society's accomplishments this year including: our successful Tour of Historic Marcellus Homes; museum open houses; special tours of the museum for children; the publication of a new local history book, Marcellus Through The Years; the reprinting of the Centennial History of Marcellus; a historical tour of the Driver Middle School; and, of course, our monthly meetings and historical presentations.

A membership renewal form is located on the last page of this paper. I wish everyone a safe and

happy holiday season!

Bill Keegan RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Recent Acquisitions will appear in our next issue.



HISTORIC MAIN STREET

As Marcellus Village officials consider the Historic Preservation Ordinance proposed by the Marcellus Historical Society, let's take a brief look at some of the historic buildings which are located in the village center:

- 1 Slocombe Ave. The Methodist Church, built in 1877 after the previous church burned.
- 2 Slocombe Ave. Originally a residence, built circa 1835, now the home of the Marcellus Free Library.
- 6 Slocombe Ave. Presently the Marcellus Village Hall and Historical Society Museum, it was the first village firebarn, built in 1888.
- 1 West Main Street The Catholic Church, built in 1867.

- 1 East Main Street The Presbyterian Church, built in 1851, the third church on the site.
- 13 East Main Street The American Legion Building, originally a general store, built in 1840
- 14 East Main Street The Woodbridge Building, (with the white columns), built in 1835.
- 16 East Main Street The White family home, built in 1840.
- 19 East Main Street Presently a liquor store.
 Originally the site of the first frame building in
 Marcellus, and a wagon shop, the present building was constructed by Curtiss Moses in 1830.
 It has housed many general stores in the past 167
 years, including Stephen Hunt's. The facade is
 constructed of bricks which were manufactured in Marcellus.
- 18 East Main Street The White Memorial Building, built in 1810. It housed a saddle and shoe shop and a clock shop among other businesses.
- 24 East Main Street Presently the Marcellus Town Hall, built by the First National Bank in 1916.
- 30 East Main Street The Daniel Bradley house. Parts of this building were originally constructed in 1797, making it the oldest existing frame structure in village.
- 40 East Main Street The Colonial Pines Apartments, built in 1870.
- 46 East Main Street Presently the Masonic Temple, originally built by Edward Talbot as a residence in 1835.

Now let's take a brief look at some of the buildings we have already lost:

- The Marcellus and Otisco Lake Railway Station, built on Station Lane circa 1900, torn down in 1964.
- The Powell House Hotel and Restaurant, built about 1828, torn down in the early 1950's.
- The original Alvord House Hotel, built in 1815, burned down in 1973.
- The home of Dr. Israel Parsons which was on the corner of East Main and Orange Streets, torn down in the 1950's for a gas station. Beautiful houses were also torn down to make room for the building on North Street which used to house Steven Chevrolet.
- The original Marcellus High School which was on West Main Street, built in 1892 and torn down in 1939. And School House Number 2 which was on South Street.
- The Upper Crown Woolen Mill which was on the corner of Orange and Maple Streets, built in 1848 and torn down in 1986.

Let's work to preserve the beautiful architecture and heritage of our community. ■

THANK YOU!

For the success of our historic home tour, we wish to thank Larry & Janet Bednarczyk, Lewis & Alma Steadman, Russell & Robin Jackson, Gary & Jean Eichelberger and Phil & Sandy Ragovin for including their homes on the tour. We also thank Dick Case, Kay Kerr and the Garden Club, Bob Wilson and the Marcellus Volunteer Firemen who provided traffic control, Mayor Eisenberg, Police Chief Lathrop and the Marcellus Police Department, Mauren Kantor, Jan Debevic, Jim & Arlene Milne, and all of the volunteers who helped on the tour.

SOCIETY RECEIVES \$1,000 DONATION FOR MUSEUM FUND

The 1997 Marcellus Olde Homes Days Committee has made a very generous donation of \$1,000 to our New Museum Fund.

The committee, made up of Cathy Marsden, Tom Dillon, Mary Ryan Carlton, Kate Demers and John Curtin, decided that a portion of the proceeds from the successful event should be used to benefit the community. After setting aside a safety-net for next year's celebration, the committee designated a total of \$4,000 to be awarded to deserving organizations.

The criteria used in making the decision was: the organizations that seemed to be in the most need, and the organizations that would benefit the most people. Four organizations were chosen, and each received \$1,000. The other groups were the Friends of Marcellus Park; the Village of Marcellus, to be used toward restoration of the village clock faces; and the Town of Marcellus, for Marcellus Park improvements.

The Marcellus Historical Society thanks the Olde Home Days committee for their generous donation and for supporting our goal of obtaining a new museum.



The Marcellus Olde Home Days Committee, standing, Tom Dillon, Kate Demers, Cathy Marsden, John Curtin and Mary Ryan Carlton. Recipients, seated: Bill Reagan, Marcellus Historical Society President; Pat Koloski, Chairman, Friends of Marcellus Park; Fred Eisenberg, Mayor, Village of Marcellus; Jim Sheridan, Town Councilor, Town of Marcellus.

IN MEMORY OF...

Former Society President, Stanley Impson, passed away on September 12, 1997. Stan served as vice-president of our society in 1988, 1989 and 1990 and was President in 1991 and 1992.

Born in Marcellus, Stan worked for the United States Post Office for twenty years. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, a food pantry volunteer and a founder of the Marcellus Doll House & Miniatures Club.

Stan was a loyal and dedicated member for many years. About four years ago, he painted the entire museum interior all by himself. Stan was a pleasure to talk to and he enjoyed reminiscing about local history very much. Stan is survived by his wife, Ruby, and many other relatives. He will be missed.

Society member Eugene Van Camp passed away on October 2, 1997. He had retired from the C.A. Reeve Paint Company in 1991 after more than forty years. He was a native of Heuvelton, St. Lawrence County, and lived in Rose Hill for 37 years. Eugene is survived by many relatives, including his wife, the former Evelyn Barry, and son Tim, each of whom are society members.

FIRST ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR A HIT!

Our first annual house tour, which was held on September 20th, was a hit with everyone who attended. Two-hundred and ninety tickets were sold for the tour of five historic Marcellus homes.

Society President, Bill Reagan, said that the rain didn't prevent people from coming out to enjoy the tour. "Over one-hundred tickets were sold in the first twenty-five minutes," stated Reagan.

Comments overheard on the tour included: "I never realized that Marcellus had so many beautiful, historic homes" and "It is such a privilege to be able to see the inside of these beautiful houses!"

Lewis Steadman, owner of the house at 18 North Street, which was included on the tour, stated that he thoroughly enjoyed participating in the tour and that the tour was a great success.

The tour raised over \$2,600 for the New Museum Fund, including money donated by local columnist Dick Case. Case sold his book, "Good Guys, Bad Guys, Big Guys, Little Guys," during the tour, and generously donated all of the proceeds to the museum fund. Plans are already underway for next year's tour, which is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 20th, from 12:00 to 5:00 P.M. Mark your calendar, it will also be an event you won't want to miss!



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MARCELLUS HISTORY CONTEST

Katie Kelly solved our last riddle with the correct answer of, "the first framed house in the village" and received a gift certificate compliments of Brian's Creekside Inn for a spaghetti dinner.

How to play: Read the riddle printed on the mailer page. 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 November 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. ■

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RICHARD NOJAIM

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Since our last issue, 48 more people joined our Society, bringing our total membership to 731. The following people have renewed or extended their membership or joined for the first time: Marlene Alisanski; Jane C. Amidon; Dorothy Bartlett; Christel Bauer; Ruth Seeley Bauer; Bill & Ginnie Boyce; Harold Brinkerhoff; Kaye White Brown; Michael & Tobey Casler; Phillip D. & Helen Clarke; John & Ruth Crysler; Richard, Christine, Megan & Matt Denno; Paula Golden; Barbara Grzasko; Raymond & Christine Heer; Francis & Agnes Kennedy; Bob & June Laird; Jim & Dorothy McMahon; Kevin, Carol & Eric Morris; Evan & Joanne Murdock; Kate Norman; Mike & Kari O'Brien & children; Richard Pelchy; Martin, Carol, Nicole & Shannon Piper; James, Donna, Tara & Sean Quinn; John Roland; Garth & Gerry Snyder; Harriet J. Spinks; Melanie & Richard Synakowski & children; Eleanor Williams.

Test Your Knowledge of Marcellus History

- A) Edgar Bartlett and Eber Engler secured a Ford dealership for Marcellus in 1924, 1934, or 1944?
- B) Earl Bush opened his Dodge Plymouth agency in Marcellus in 1924, 1934, or 1944?
- C) James Pilot opened a Chevrolet dealership in Marcellus in 1916, 1926, or 1936?
- D) The village speed limit was set at 8 mph in 1909, 1919, or 1929?
- E) Route 174, from Route 20 to Marcellus Village, became the first paved road in the town in 1902, 1912, or 1922?
- F) Main Street received its first pavement in 1902, 1912, or 1922?

VUZMELS: 9) 1634 P) 1634 C) 1619 Q) 1606 G) 1605 U 1615

HOLIDAY DINNER DECEMBER 7TH

Our annual Holiday Dinner has been scheduled for Sunday, December 7, at 1:00 P.M. A dinner featuring stuffed turkey with all of the trimmings, coffee and dessert, will be catered at the Marcellus Fire Station on Slate Hill Road. A special presentation honoring Pearl Harbor Day will begin at approximately 2:30 with guest speakers Ray & Louise Lollis, Hugh Dawson and Ray Paul, all World War Two Veterans. Eighty people attended last year's event. Reservations and payment in advance are required for the dinner which is \$10 per person. Call Tom & Kathy Reagan at 673-3365.

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, January 42:00 p.m. Speaker TBA.

Sunday, March 1......2:00 p.m. Speaker TBA.

Sunday, April 52:00 p.m. Speaker TBA.

[Meetings are held at the Marcellus Fire House]



Marcellus Historical Society

Officers

President:	Bill Reagan 463-4160
Vice Pres:	Sidney Tuthill 673-2990
Treasurer:	Richard Smith 673-1532
Secretary:	Joyce Murphy 673-2528
Cor. Secretary:	Kathleen Reagan 673-3365

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(1997)
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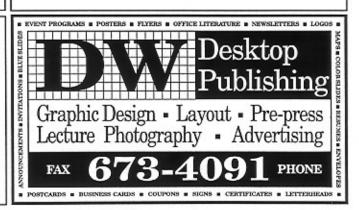
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INSIDE ...

- Historic Preservation District to be considered.
- Will our next newsletter be your last?
- Historic Main Street Buildings.
- Meeting Schedule.
- History Contest!

This Issue's Riddle

Ninteen thirty six, the year
It did formally appear.
Near Marcellus' center found,
Water, trees and land abound.
Full of nature, beauty, charm,
'Twas a part of old Platt farm.

Hint: Answers can be found in our publication "Marcellus Through The Years."

See Ad page for last winner and how to play.

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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.

MANAG.

- Official Marcellus Afghans; green or cranberry, \$45 each.
 Marcellus Through The Years, 1794 1996; a chronological history with photos, \$5 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/Ist book -\$1.00/each additional;50¢/postcard set or pin)

Membership Form

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 Sustaining (5-Years)

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Make Check Payable and Mail To:	8	Total \$	5