



MARCELLUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 3, Issue No 1

Winter 1998

SOME DREAMS DO COME TRUE — *Michael Plumpton*

In the Summer of 1947, when I was ten years old, my family and I went to Cooperstown. We saw the Farmer's Museum and the James Fenimore Cooper House. From that time on I dreamed about the day I could start a museum in Marcellus, NY.

In the Fall of 1959, some twelve years later, I called Lucy Sweet, the Town of Marcellus Historian, and talked to her about starting a Marcellus Historical Club, that's what it was first called. She wasn't sure that there would be that many people interested. I went ahead, and made arrangements for the new group to meet at St. John's Parish Hall in January of 1960.

The Marcellus Historical Club was born. I asked Frank Griffing, a renowned senior citizen, to come and share his memories of Marcellus. It was also his birthday and we had a cake for him.

The first official meeting was on January 25, 1960. Eighteen people attended; Mrs. Charles Hopkins, Wallace Campbell, Jack Haley, Barbara Pittinger, Kate Webb, Henry E. Phillips, Michael Plumpton, Ruth & Frank Griffing, Robert Harrison Sr., John Withey Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Potucek, Mr. & Mrs. Emerson Patterson, Mrs. Eva Chrysler, Mrs. Ethel Feeney, and Lucy Sweet. On November 28, 1960, our name became the Marcellus Historical Society. ■

LAST ISSUE TO NON-MEMBERS!

This issue is the last issue of our newsletter which will be mailed to every household in Marcellus zip code 13108. After mailing over 24,000 copies of our newsletters in the past year and a half, we will only be mailing it to our members starting with the spring (*next*) issue.

During 1998, our newsletter will be mailed out quarterly, one during each season. We will continue to run popular features such as our history contest and history articles. If you wish to keep receiving the Marcellus Historical Society News, please join today! ■

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT — *Bill Reagan*

Every two months for the past year and a half, volunteer members have folded, labeled and mailed over 2,600 copies of each issue of this newsletter. The program was originally designed as a one-year plan to increase membership. I am glad to report that the program was a great success! However, getting volunteers to continuously prepare that number of newsletters, and maintaining enough advertisers to pay for it, has proven difficult.

So, from now on, our newsletter will go to members only. We will be creating a new membership level for businesses who wish to support our organization and help to subsidize our newsletter. Every business that joins will receive ad space in each of our quarterly issues for one low membership amount. If you have a business which would be interested, please call me.

I am glad to report that we now have over \$10,000 in our New Museum Fund! This is very impressive considering that the fund is less than two years old. Our main fundraisers, the sale of afghans and our tour of historic homes in Marcellus, were very successful this past year.

Anyone can donate directly to our New Museum Fund at any time. A space for donations is now included on our order form. Anyone can also make a donation to our museum fund in memory of a friend or relative who has passed away. On behalf of the Marcellus Historical Society, I wish to thank everyone who has supported our fundraisers.

Readers of this issue will see a membership form for the Friends of Marcellus Park. This is a very important and worthwhile organization. If you enjoy Marcellus Park as much as me, I encourage you to consider joining their group. My membership form is in the mail!

It's 1998. That means that the year 2000 is just around the corner. We need to start thinking about how we want to bring in the next millennium. Such a historic event should definitely be celebrated in a significant way. If you have ideas of how Marcellus can celebrate this event, send them in to us and I'll print them here. In the meantime, I wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year! ■

Bill Reagan

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM FUND

We would like to make the community aware that donations may be made to our New Museum Fund in memory of a friend or relative who has passed away. A plaque with the names of those remembered will eventually be placed in the museum.

James A. Duncan and Laura Miller Duncan, of London, England, recently donated \$500 to the New Museum Fund in memory of Jean Moir Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cicci and Larry, Nancy and David Hart made donations in memory of Timothy Woods. We thank them for their generous donations.

When any Marcellus Historical Society member passes away, the Society makes a \$25 donation to the New Museum Fund from its general fund. Since the inception of this program, donations have been made in memory of Stanley Impson, Agnes Welsh, Eugene Van Camp, Mary Woods and Tim Woods.

The following people have also made donations to our New Museum Fund: Peter Cole Jr., Mary Macholl Heer, Robert Mahan, Sarah Dempsey in memory of Agnes Welsh, Sidney Tuthill in memory of Stanley Impson, and the Marcellus Grange in memory of Mary Woods. ■

DO YOU KNOW...

Because, as a child, she often hurried up West Main Street to school, not knowing whether she would be late, Mrs. George Case was inspired with the idea of donating a clock to be placed in the Methodist Church tower. From the time of its installation in 1909 until the opening of the Central School on Reed Parkway in 1937, the clock served to hurry the dawdlers and reassure the early birds, as they climbed the hill to the old school. ■

(Excerpted from "Nine Mile Country" by Kathryn C. Heffernan, for sale at the Marcellus Free Library.)

BOOK BINDING & ANTIQUES

James Meyer, The Book Binder, will speak on the history and styles of bindings at our February 1st meeting. He will also give free appraisals for binding repairs on any books brought to the meeting by members.

For our March meeting, members are invited to bring in one or two antiques or special items from their past to share with everyone. If possible, bring in something for which its use is not obvious—so members can try to guess what it is. Some recent museum acquisitions will also be on hand for viewing. ■



MARCELLUS HISTORY CONTEST

Dan Briggs of Marcellus solved our last riddle with the correct answer of the Marcellus Park and received a gift certificate compliments of Brian's Creekside Inn for two spaghetti and meatball dinners.

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 February 28, 1998. 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:

People, paper 'n coal she did take,
Eventually right to Otisco Lake.
With a hiss and puff and mighty roar
Until nineteen fifty-nine, no more.

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

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We wish to thank the following people for donating historic items to be added to our museum collection:

Marie Banky for several old photographs and World War I medals and helmet which belonged to Charles Wilson. Hollis Abbott for an antique typewriter and ice skates which belonged to Esther Walker. Eleanor Coville Williams for a "Marcellus in W.W.I" book. Betty for a Mulroy Dairy milk bottle. Mrs. Carol Nightingale McElmurray for a pair of knickers which belonged to her uncle Louis Nightingale and for a kilt made by Mrs. John Nightingale from cloth manufactured at the Crown Woolen Mill. Clarissa Amidon for scrapbooks containing many newspaper clippings. Marty Sennett for photographs taken in 1971 of the Marcellus Village center. Ray Masters for a very old photograph of Marcellus Hardware when it was on W. Main Street. *(More in our next issue.)* ■

Test Your Knowledge of Marcellus History

- A) The old high school which was on West Hill was built in 1872, 1882 or 1892?
- B) The Driver Middle School was finished in 1927, 1937 or 1947?
- C) The K.C. Heffernan Elementary School was built in 1952, 1962 or 1972?
- D) The present Marcellus Senior High School was built in 1956, 1966 or 1976?
- E) The Kasson Road school was finished in 1959, 1969 or 1979?
- F) The first schoolhouse in Marcellus opened in 1796, 1806 or 1816?

Answers: A) 1892 B) 1937 C) 1962 D) 1966 E) 1969 F) 1816

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Time To Renew!

In December we reached an all-time high of 761 members! This is fantastic! About fifty people have taken advantage of our five-year sustaining membership level so far. Joining at this level locks in your dues for five years and you don't have to worry about renewing each year.

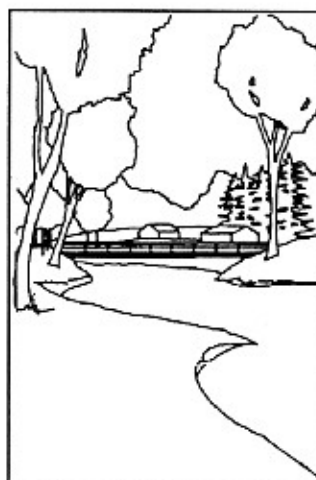
Speaking of renewing, the time is here for all non-sustaining members to renew their membership. All of those memberships expired December 31st. Several hundred of you have already renewed. If you support our many programs please renew your membership today, a form is printed on the last page of this paper. Remember, only current members will receive our newsletter from this day on. We thank each and every member for your support! ■

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

THANK YOU!

A special thank you goes out to our secretary, Joyce Murphy, who has taken the minutes from all of our meetings since we were formed in 1960, and typed them into a computer. Joyce then printed out a complete, bound set of all of our minutes.

Thanks also to Mary Jane Domurat for her wonderful work writing "Marcellus Memories" for the Marcellus Observer. The column appears in the paper every week and brings back many memories for everyone. ■



MARCELLUS PARK

— Pat Koloski

Anyone driving east on Platt Road and looking left can see one of the truly beautiful sights in all of Marcellus, Marcellus Park.

Created in April of 1936, it became a park through the Onondaga County Board of Supervisors and public works programs.

On thirty acres of land, the Platt farm, various facilities were constructed including shelters, rest rooms, tennis courts and a wading pool. In 1960, as a result of construction of Lee Mulroy Road, sixteen acres were added to the northeast corner of the park. This land was part of the right-of-way for the former Marcellus and Otisco Lake Railway.

There have been three footbridges that have spanned Nine Mile Creek. The original bridge was destroyed by ice and floods in 1961. A wooden cable bridge was built to replace the original footbridge. It truly added to the "feel" of the park. In 1972, the current steel bridge replaced the cable bridge.

Today, Marcellus Park hasn't changed much. There is plenty of parking and more rest rooms have been added. Within the park there are many beautiful settings for a picnic or leisurely walk. Beach volleyball courts, horseshoes and tennis also take up areas at Marcellus Park.

So, next time you're driving down Platt Road, either east or west, take time to look or even stop in at one of the most beautiful areas of our history in Marcellus. ■



FRIENDS OF MARCELLUS PARK MEMBERSHIP FORM

We Invite Everyone to Join!

Annual Dues: \$2 individual; \$5 family

Send dues and completed form to:

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Address: _____

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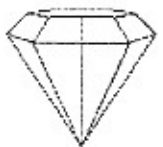
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THANK YOU!

The Marcellus Historical Society thanks Brian & Christina of the Creekside Inn for regularly donating the prizes for our history contests.


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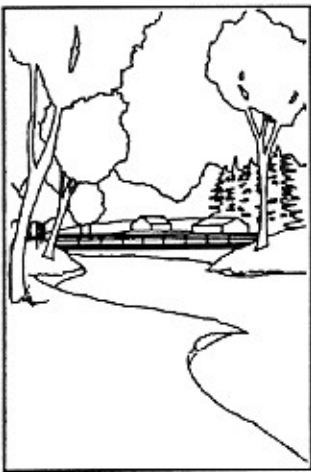
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(See membership form on page 3)



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NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Since our last issue, 30 more people joined our Society, bringing our total membership as of December to 761. The following people have joined for the first time or renewed or extended their membership:

Margaret Aherin; Gail Banks; Daniel & Michele Beeles; Louise Berry; Betty Black; Lawrence C. Buffan; Kathleen Campbell; Willis H. Carrier II; Mable Cates; Shirley Criswell; Lucille Culotti; Catherine D'Angelo; Robert & Anne Dingman; Joyce E. Doig; Mary Jane Domurat; Edward P. Dunn; Anne Dunphy; Myron & Barbara Egtvedt; Pat & Fred Eisenberg; Helen Fenlon; Henry Flitcroft; Sara H. Fogarty; Rita Foster; Mr. & Mrs. Alan Gammon; Sharon H. & Mrs. Thomas W. Gibbons; Joyce Glover; Raymond & Christine Heer; Helen Hendry; Charles & Helen Hopkins; Phyllis Huckle; Bert & Phyllis Hunt; Sterling & Ruth Jansen; Isabell Jessmur; Dorothy Johnson; The Kehew - Cahill Family; Winifred Kelly; Tyrone J. King; Kevin & Leslie Kiniry; Mary Helen & Frank Kishman; Ed & Glad LaRose; Clayton & Elizabeth Lathrop; Edward Lawson; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Leonard; Serena Linck; Lois E. Locke; Joe & Sue Macfadden; Alice T. Mahan; Bob & Alice Mahan; Mr. & Mrs. James Maynard; Mr. & Mrs. Henry R. McCarthy; Jack & Anne Mitchell; Helen Mohn; Edward & Mary Ellen Montague; James & Joyce Murphy; Vince & Mary Murphy; Robert Murphy; Jon Nicholson; Hugh Oliver; Elizabeth Orzesck; Alice Palen; John & Rose Phillips; Carrie Beth Pottinger; Florence Pottinger; Carol B. Reagan; Bill, Joanne & Alyssa Reagan; Bob & Mauela Reagan; James & Kathleen Reagan; Bob & Pauline Reynolds; Lauren D. Rowe; Margaret L. Ryan; Isabel Sawtell; Glen Schram; Arthur Scotti; The Scroggs & Swenson Family; Richard & Frances Smith; Garth & Gerry Snyder; Nancy & Charles Snyder; Linda Stock; Joe & Nancy Stopyro; John & Leda Stopyro; Helen Tierney; Sidney & Mary Tuthill; Francis Vile; Harry & Harriette Waldburger; Roberta Welsh; Doug Whitman; Bruce & Mary Widger; Midge & Tim Woods. ■

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.

- Shops, stores and businesses on Main Street
- Farm scenes or scenes of the countryside
- Photos of Marcellus bands
- Photographs of local clergymen
- Photographs of former political office holders

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, February 1 2:00 p.m.
James Meyer, The Book Binder, will speak on the history and styles of bindings. He will also give free appraisals for binding repairs on any books brought to the meeting by members.

Sunday, March 1 2:00 p.m.
Treasures of the past. Members are invited to bring in one or two antiques or special items from their past to share with everyone. Some recent museum acquisitions will also be on hand for viewing.

Sunday, April 5 2:00 p.m.
Outdoorsman, writer and Marcellus native J. Michael Kelly will be our guest speaker.

Sunday May 3 2:00 p.m.
Town of Skaneateles Historian Barbara Spain will be our guest speaker.

Saturday June 7 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Annual Olde Home Days Museum Open House.

Wednesday July 8 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday August 12 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday September 9 7:00 p.m.

Sunday September 20 .. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Second Annual Tour of Historic Marcellus Homes!

Meetings are open to everyone and are held at the Marcellus Fire Station unless indicated otherwise.

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

Trustees & Term End

Mike Plumpton	(1998)
Tom Reagan	(1998)
Don Kilcoyne	(1999)
Bruce Widger	(1999)
John Curtin	(2000)
Peg Nolan	(2000)

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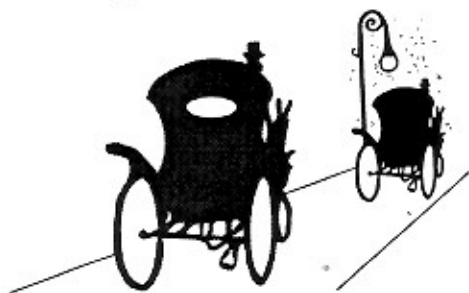
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INSIDE ...

- Schedule of events
- Friends of Marcellus Park
- Is this your last newsletter?
- Some dreams do come true.
- Time to renew membership!

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- GIFT SHOP / MEMBERSHIP / ORDER FORM -

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.
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$12	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60
Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125
Number of people joining _____		

(Please indicate membership dues at right.)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

QTY	ITEM	COST/EA.	TOTAL
_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
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Donation to New Museum Fund \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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