

MARCELLUS HISTORICAL SOCIETH NEWS

Volume 3, Issue Nº 3

Summer 1998

THE MARCELLUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The first Methodist Church in Marcellus was erected above the village in 1824 on the land which is now the old part of the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. It was a simple stone building, thirty by forty feet, with no steeple. This became known as the Methodist Chapel. By 1832 the congregation had decided that their choice of location had not been a wise one. Consequently, they carefully took their building down and reconstructed their second church, from the same materials, on a site in the village across the street from where the present church now stands. Like the original, it was without steeple or bell. The pulpit stood between the two front doors, so the congregation faced not only the pulpit but the late.

By 1855 the old stone church was in need of repair and the congregation had outgrown it. They were able to acquire the point of land between West Main Street and what was then Maiden Lane (now known as Slocombe Avenue). The first brick church in the village was erected on the site now occupied by the present church. Stone from the old church was used in the foundation. The church was dedicated about September 1, 1857. On January 25, 1877 the twenty-year old church was destroyed by a fire. The congregation bravely set out to build their fourth house of worship on the old foundation, again using some of the stone from the original Methodist Chapel.

On January 3, 1878, one hundred and twenty years ago, the new church was dedicated. It cost a little less than \$12,000 to construct. The ladies provided many of the furnishings for the church through their aid society. The windows were donated as memorials. The clock which adorns the steeple was donated in 1909 by Mr. & Mrs. George W. Case, thus ending the era in which time was told in the village by the ringing of church bells.

In 1941, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Chrisler presented the church with the parsonage at 22 North Street. In 1959 a committee began a study of the need for additional space. The work of the study

culminated in a recommendation for construction of an educational building as a major addition to the church building. Groundbreaking took place on April 16, 1961 and the classrooms were ready for use on February 25, 1962. This was named Wesley Hall. Between 1964 and 1966 the classrooms in the church basement were refurbished. In 1968 the official name of the church became the Marcellus United Methodist Church. Today, the church building and its clock are one of the many well known landmarks of Marcellus.

(Excerpts from Nine Mile Country by Kathryn C. Heffernan; See our January / February 1997 issue for a story on the history of the clock.)

OLDE HOME DAYS JUNE 5th-7th!

Olde Home Days 1998 is upon us. Our Historical Society will hold its annual Olde Home Days Museum Open House on Saturday June 6th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop in and view our tremendous collection of historic artifacts from Marcellus' past.

DAYS

Marcellus, New York

We will have available, in limited quantity, the one day issue Marcellus Bicentennial stamped envelopes. These envelopes were stamped by the Marcellus post office in June of 1994 to honor Marcellus' bicentennial. They will be available for a donation of \$5 each or can be ordered by mail.

A special display of old Marcellus Fire Department uniforms will also be set up and a newly revised Historic Walking Tour Guide will be available at the museum. The guide describes many historic locations and buildings as you walk through the village. Our many books and collectibles, and the official Marcellus afghan, will also be available at the museum gift shop.

Admission is free.

THE MARCELLUS LIBRARY ... Bill Reagan

As the Marcellus Free Library's Market Day approaches, let's take a look at the history of the Library.

In the early 1900's, a local group called the Civic Club opened what was called a reading room on the second floor of the "Knapp" building. This building was located at the west corner of North and Main Streets. In 1913, a Miss Elizabeth Chapman donated items to a group of interested citizens to help create a formal library. The items included "two bookcases with shelves, a double top desk, two barrels of corals and curios, and two hundred fifteen volumes."

The group voted to organize and they applied to the New York State Board of Regents for a provisional charter. The reading room became the library's first home, free of rent. The Marcellus Observer reported that the first election of trustees took place on January 27, 1914. The Observer stated that "The Library is public, open to all, for free use of books under certain rules. There will be no charge. Individuals can become members and pay a fee of \$1.00 which goes into a fund."

As the library became more and more popular, many books were donated. Library hours were on Monday and Saturday, 7-9 p.m., and Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. The first librarian was George American, a scholar of Greek and Latin.

By 1916, the circulation of the library was greater than six thousand books and more space was needed. The First National Bank of Marcellus was planning to construct a new building on Main Street and arrangements were made to incorporate space for the library on the second floor provided that the library contributed two thousand dollars toward the cost of construction.

Under Frank Knapp's chairmanship, the library raised the necessary funds with the help of a bazaar held at Parson's Hall on the first three days of March in 1917. The bazaar featured a country store, where groceries, fancy work, candy and even a prize-winning calf could be purchased. The event raised over fourteen hundred dollars. Adding in cash on hand and money from subscriptions, the library had enough to acquire their new space. The cost of construction exceeded estimates, however, and the library responded by pledging an additional five hundred dollars.

Later that year, the library was moved to the second floor of the new bank building at 24 East Main Street. In 1920, the board filed a request for a permanent charter, which was not received until January 28, 1941. In 1922, electric lights were

installed and in 1923 the first financial assistance was received from the village government.



In 1933, the library acquired the Smith residence on Slocombe Avenue and moved to its present location on June 7, 1934. Originally the home of the Gasper family, the house was built in the early 1800's.

In 1948 the library signed its first formal contract for village and town funds for support. The Library joined the new Onondaga Library system in 1961.

Steps to form the Friends of the Marcellus Library were taken in 1967 and in 1968 the group began fund raising for the library. The organization is active to this day and has been a vital part of the Library's development.

By the early 1970's, the library needed more space and in 1975 plans were drawn for an addition to the rear of the building. In 1976 the library spent three months in a storefront before reopening in December in its refurbished building with a new wing. Today, the library is a member of the Onondaga Public Library System with the ability to access systems across the country to meet the needs of its borrowers.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I wish to encourage everyone to come out and enjoy Olde Homes Days 1998, rain or shine. The music, bands, market day, antique car show, craft show and sale, museum open house, duck race and many other events are too fun to miss. So, come out June 5th - 7th and enjoy! And have a safe and happy summer!

Bell Krops

FRANK GRIFFING, 1879 - 1974

.. J. Michael Plumpton

Probably one of the people who gave the most to our local history, was very much a unique man named Frank Griffing.

Frank was born in Borodino, in the Town of Spafford, on January 25, 1879. The son of a blacksmith, he attended a one-room school

throughout all of his schooling.

As a small boy, he helped his father around the blacksmith shop when he wasn't in school. Frank's mother died in 1885 when he was six years old. Four years later his father remarried, as Frank put it, a very good mother to him. Frank always spoke very highly of her.

After the wedding, they moved from Borodino to Sennett, near Auburn, not far from a small cemetery. His father operated a blacksmith shop in that area for a short time. In 1890, they moved to Marcellus where his father then had a shop across the street from where Best Step Floors is today.

Frank quit school when he was 13 years old to work in the woolen mills for \$3.60 a week. That

ended his formal education.

After a year or two, he guit the mill and worked on farms until he learned the shoemakers trade. Iis grandfather and uncles were shoemakers before him and his father had also done some

shoemaking.

Frank learned to make shoes with soles and heels held together with wooden pegs, as was the method used in those days. The pegs were about one quarter inch long and about the thickness of a match stick. We have some of these, which Frank's family gave us, in our museum. Frank worked on the cobbler's bench his great-grandfather had used, it is still in his granddaughter's possession.

As time went on, Frank learned the horse trade and made harnesses and collars by hand. In later years he opened a hardware store on the main floor of the Oddfellows hall on North Street. I remember Frank as being a very pleasant man. He always had something pleasant to say about people.

Frank wrote a small column for the Marcellus Observer called "Memories of Marcellus" off and on from 1955 to 1965. He told some 291 stories. Most were his own memories and some were from scrapbooks or diaries which people loaned to him.

If everyone today would sit and jot down some of their memories or stories which they recall, it vould help us to keep our local history alive for auture generations, as Frank's column does. From time to time we might print some of his memories here as well as some of our own.

FROM THE GAVEL 🚊



April 5, 1998 - General Meeting

A motion was passed to mail out membership renewal postcards to the members who have not yet renewed for 1998. The Society will have its annual Olde Home Days Museum Open House and volunteers were being sought to help in the gift shop. Sidney Tuthill will arrange for society members to march in the annual parade. Mike Kelly gave a fantastic presentation on the history of Nine Mile Creek and of fishing the same.

May 3, 1998 - General Meeting

Society President, Bill Reagan, introduced a new program which we are getting started, the Historic Markers Restoration and Placement Project. The goal of the program is to restore the N.Y. State historic landmark and direction markers within the village to their original colors and to get date placards installed on historic buildings within the village. The Village of Elbridge and several others have already done this. The date placards will be made available to homeowners when the program is underway. Guest speaker Barbara Spain gave a wonderful presentation on heritage organizations and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

We have many great historical presentations and events lined up for the rest of this year!

Starting in July, Mary Tuthill will present a program entitled "Voices From The Civil War" on Wednesday night, July 8th at 7:00 p.m. The program is centered around a woman and a doctor who each served in the Civil War and the letters which they wrote.

On Wednesday night, August 12th at 7:00 p.m., Society President Bill Reagan will present a slide show entitled "Historic Marcellus, Past & Present Views." The show features past and present day photographs, taken from the same angle, of many historic sights in Marcellus. It is an expanded version of the presentation given last year.

Marcellus native and Syracuse Newspapers columnist Dick Case will be our guest speaker on Wednesday night, September 9th at 7:00 p.m.

And don't forget that our Second Annual Tour of Historic Marcellus Homes will be held on Sunday, September 20th from noon to 5 p.m. Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to tour five historic Marcellus houses. Check our August newsletter for details.

And check our meeting and events schedule (pg. 5) for details on the locations of all events.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

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

The Marcellus Central School for an original ceiling light fixture which was used in the Driver Middle School. The Plumpton family for two antique garden insect dusters and a hand drill and bit set. Mitch Amidon for donating the Crown Mill Shops sign which was in the lower Crown Mill parking lot. Helen Paul for donating a cannon which belonged to Clayton Pilot as a boy and which he displayed at Pilot Chevrolet for many years. Joyce Murphy for a racing jacket used by Mike Furgeson. Marion Ossit for a small wooden level.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Since our last issue we gained 15 new members for a total of 602. The following people are new members or have renewed or extended their membership: Richard H. & Ruth S. Avery; Craig & Jennie Baker; Dave, Donna & Alexa Ball; Christal Bauer; Joyce Beak; Barbara Bishop; Mrs. William Blair; Mike Brilbeck; Dick Case; Martha Cole; Thomas & Barbara Corey & Family; Jim & Vera Costello & Family; Pat & Mary Dailey & Family; Jan & Frank Debevic; Louis DePaul; Lauren Dubeau; John & Regina Dillon; Gary & Jean Eichelberger; Lillian P. Epp; Maureen Germain; Linda Greenfield; Edward & Colleen Guerin & Family; Ellen M. Guptill; Steve, Patty & Samantha Head; Edward & Janet Heinrich; Terry Hoey; Art & Nancy Hudson; Matthew & Kristen Hudson & Family; Bill & Rebecca Johnstone; Katie Kelly; Kay Kershaw & Family; Donald & Jean Kilcoyne; Richard & Nancy Kissane & Family; Rosemary Klug; Scott Lawson; Ann Ligmal; Ralph & Nancy Locke; Carolynn Longuil; Dorothy Martens; Timothy & Janice McCarthy; Carol Nightingale McElmurray; Thomas McGraw; Paul Jr. & Hazel Morgan; Marie Newell; Florence M. Odell; Raymond E. Paul; Richard Pelchy; Richard & Doris Phillips; Shirley Pierek; Leon & Julie Plochocki & Family; Lovilla Plumpton; Karen R. Pollard; Robert L. Post; Stuart & Jane Raleigh; Ronald & Joyce Ramsden; Dominick & Monica Rappazzo; Bernard & Ruth Anne Reagan; Dan & Susan Reagan; Jim & Jean Reagan; Lew & Martha Robinson; Gretchen S. Rusk; Victoria Sabin; Phyllis G. Schofield; Dr. Margaret Sennett; Mr. & Mrs. Martin Sennett; Jim, Betsy & Christopher Shake; Mark S. Siersma; Robert P. Siersma; William A. Siersma; Lucille Slater; James E. Smith; Ray & Janet Smith; Lewis & Alma Steadman; Gen Tracy; Evelyn Van Camp; Dan Weeks; Sally Wilson; Mr. & Mrs. David A. Winkworth; Suzanne L. Witmer; Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Wolicki & Family; Marion Hall Zink.

THANK YOU!

We wish to thank the former Marcellus Recycling Committee for their generous donation of \$400 to be used for our Historic Markers Restoration and Placement Project. The funds were raised from the sale of recyclable materials contributed by Marcellus residents while the recycling program was running. The committee, made up of ten local volunteers, formed in 1989 and dissolved when Onondaga County took over the recycling. Funds were also donated to Baltimore Woods and the Marcellus Free Library.

An update on donations made to our New Museum Fund in memory of Timothy Woods; the total amount donated is now \$870. This is a wonderful tribute to Tim. Anyone may make a donation to the New Museum Fund in memory of a loved one. Donations to the museum fund of \$100 or more are recorded in a special book. ■



WE TRY OUR BEST ... BUT...

In our last issue's business directory, we inadvertently printed Reagan Insurance's FAX number instead of their business phone number. Their business number is 673-2094. ■

Test Your Knowledge of Marcellus History

- A) The Village Hall, the former fire barn, was built in 1888, 1898 or 1908?
- B) The present Village Tavern was built in 1890, 1900 or 1910?
- C) The Town Hall, the former Key Bank building, was built in 1917, 1927 or 1937?
- D) The Marcellus Hardware opened at its present location in 1939, 1949 or 1959?
- E) The Marcellus Pharmacy building was constructed in 1962, 1972 or 1982?
- F) The present Key Bank building was built in 1981, 1985 or 1989?

YURMGUS: Y) 1888 B) 1610 C) 1613 D) 1626 E) 1635 L) 1682

MARCELLUS HISTORY CONTEST

Evelyn Van Camp solved our last riddle with the correct answer of "The First Constable" and received a gift certificate compliments of Brian's Creekside Inn for two spaghetti 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 June 30, 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:

It employed many people
In village and town.

I'm sure its demise caused just
Some of them to frown.

Competition too much then,
In '55 closed down.

Quickly now, send your answer,
You may win this round.

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

HISTORIC HOME TOUR COMING!



Plans are in high gear for our second annual Tour of Historic Marcellus homes. This major fund-raiser is scheduled for Sunday, September 20th from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour

at the Marcellus Fire Station. Prices remain the same as last year (\$7.50) and all proceeds will benefit our New Museum Fund. Over \$2,600 was raised last year.

This year's tour will combine homes of historical significance with a modern home and a property with an exceptional outdoor setting. We feel that this fine selection will be of great interest to many people. So mark your calendars and treat yourself to a glimpse of life in Marcellus from the early 1800's right up to 1998. Anyone interested in helping with the tour can call chairpersons, Jan Debevic (673-9447), Maureen Kantor (673-2462), or Arlene Milne (673-3386). ■

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY! LOVILLA PLUMPTON JUNE 29!

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Sunday September 20th Noon - 5 p.m. Second Annual Tour of Historic Marcellus Homes!

Meetings are open to anyone 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	
Don Kilcoyne	
Bruce Widger	(1999)
John Curtin	
Peg Nolan	(2000)

The Marcellus Historical Society, P.O. Box 165, Marcellus, N.Y. 13108 publishes and mails this newspaper quarterly to its advertisers and members, and once a year to the homes of everyone in Postal Zip Code 13108. Design, layout and masters, compliments of DW Desktop Publishing - 315/673-4091. Bill Reagan, Editor - 315/463-4160.

FUNERAL SERVICES	LANDSCAPING / NURSERY
NORRIS FUNERAL HOME INC., 33 North Street, Mar., Over 100 years of service to the families of Marcellus	HILLSIDE GARDENS, 2768 West Seneca Turnpike, Marcellus Landscaping, nursery, garden center, Patrick J. Koloski 673-2005
RYAN FUNERAL HOME, 44 East Main St., Marcellus. Serving all faiths, pre-arrangements, family-owned. Mary Ryan Carlton	LEGAL SERVICES MOSS & POPOV, Attorneys and Counselors at Law, 8 West Main Street, P.O. Box 195, Marcellus, John A. Moss, Jr., Richard Popov, FAX: 673-9247, Phone:
GIFTS / CRAFTS A TOUCH OF SPICE, 19 South Street, Marcellus. Famous chocolate "pizza," chocolate-covered potato chips — produced right here in Marcellus	REAGAN AND DAILEY, Attorneys at Law, 8-12 East Main Street, P.O. Box 196, Marcellus, General legal services, Mary Reagan Dailey: FAX: 673-4856; Phone:
ANGEL HEART GIFTS, 16 East Main Street, Marcellus. M-F 10-6, Saturday 10-4. We have Beanie Babies673-9457	JOHN YUHAS, JR., Attorney and Counselor at Law, 22 East Main Street, Marcellus
DEBEVIC HOMESTEAD, 2527 West Seneca Turnpike, Marcellus, Art and craft gallery. Open May - December, weekends 12-5 and lots of by-chance times. Frank & Jan Debevic	MANUFACTURING MARTISCO PAPER CO. INC., 4747 Rte. 174, P.O. Box 198, Marcellus, 100% recycled paper. Maker of "Bogus" for economical packaging and product protection. FAX: 673-4963; Phone:
PEDIGREED PLANTS, 8 Reed Avenue, Marcellus, Mary Lou Grant, Owner. Gift shop with large assortment at affordable prices, operating for 19 years	PRODUCT REPLENISHMENT SERVICES OSBORNE ENTERPRISES, 3165 Amber Rd. Marcellus. Interactive home shopping program that provides products and services to
THE QUILTING SHOPPE, 2162 Lawrence Road, Marcellus. M-F 10-4; Sat, call. Custom orders, alterations/repairs, dressmaking, machine quilting, quilted clothing, Elaine Lyon	your doorstep. Call for more info
GRAPHIC DESIGN DW DESKTOP PUBLISHING, 5 First Street, Marcellus. Business literature, brochures, graphics, lecture slides	COLDWELL BANKER FIRST PROPERTIES, Licensed real estate sales agent representing buyers and sellers. Maureen Kantor. Home: 673-2462, Office:
GROCERY NOJAIM BROS. SUPERMARKET 27 East Main Street, Marcellus, FAX: 673-9084, Phone:	VERNA LANG REAL ESTATE, 8 West Main Street, Marcellus, Land and residential sales. Serving the Marcellus area for over 40 years Wm. Lang, Broker
HARDWARE MARCELLUS ACE HARDWARE, 15 North St. Marcellus, Toro, Ace paints, general hardware. Open 7 days per week	YUHAS REAL ESTATE, 22 East Main Street, Marcellus. We are buyer's agents, seller's agents, appraisers and real estate consultants
NIGHTINGALE MILLS TRUE VALUE, South St. Rd., Marcellus Feed mill, general hardware	RECREATION MARCELLUS LANES, 4325 Slate Hill Road, Marcellus. A 39-year history of providing Marcellus with family fun: bowling, breakfast, ice cream
FAMILY PRACTICE MEDICINE, 28½ East Main Street, Marcellus, From birth to old age - body, mind and spirit. Hours by appointment. 24-hour coverage - Sat hours available	RESTAURANTS ALVORD HOUSE 5 East Main Street, Marcellus. Fish dinners every Friday night
MARCELLUS PHARMACY, 11 East Main Street, Mar 673-3071	BRIAN'S CREEKSIDE INN, 67-69 North Street, Marcellus. A fine local family restaurant. M-Th 11-11, Fri-Sat 11-midnight,
NEW HEALTH NATURAL PRODUCTS, 36 E. Genesee Street, Skaneateles. Our sixth year providing high quality natural products at deep discount prices	Sun 1-10
SKANEATELES FOOT & ANKLE CENTER, 27 Fennell Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152, Sebastian Bentivegna, DPM, Hours by appointment, FAX: 685-6076, Phone:	Lake, Dinner 5-10p (11p Fr & Sa), Ask about Sunday Brunch! Monday is our day off
THERAPIST/CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER, 1/2 Orange Street, Marcellus. Licensed individual & family therapy for relationship problems, ADHD, domestic violence, depression, anxiety, panic	days per week, M-S 6:30-2; Fri 6:30-9; Sun 8-1
attack, seperation and divorce	Marcellus. Christine Smith, Owner
INSURANCE	MARCELLUS VERERINARY HOSPITAL, 4240 Slate Hill Rd., Marcellus, Full small animal services, Hours by appointment,
JAMES P. REAGAN AGENCY, INC., 8-12 Main Street, Mar. Complete line of Personal and Business Insurance, Bonding & Financial Planning. Hours M-F, 9am-5pm, Phone/Fax 673-2094/673-4866	24-hour client emergency service

Marcellus Historical Society News

P.O. Box 165

Marcellus, MU 13108

Non-Profit Organization U. S. POSTAGE PAID Marcellus, NY 13108 Permit Number 18



- Olde Home Days June 5th -7th
- Frank Griffing
- Methodist Church
- Marcellus Free Library

Postal Customer Local

_	GIFT S	HOP /	MEMBERSHIP	ORDER	FORM -
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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, \$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; \$2.00/1st book -\$1.00/each additional;50¢/postcard set or pin)

Membership Form

Please Check One Box: New MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL

Category Basic Sustaining (5-Years) (1-year) (Check Box) Individual □ \$5 ea....... □ \$25 ea. Senior...... □ \$4 ea...... □ \$20 ea. Family...... □ \$12...... □ \$60 Patron...... \$25...... \$125 Number of people joining

(Please indicate membership dues at right.)

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