



MARCELLUS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 3

Summer 1999

STEVE HUNT - MERCHANT

Editor's Note: This article was printed in the Marcellus Observer in 1939.

It was at the beginning of the "Gay Nineties" that a small boy sheepishly applied for a job at the general store of James Sarr at Marcellus. Mr. Sarr looked down at the little chap, sized him up and hired him to work for 50 cents a day. His hours were from seven in the morning until the last "sitter" threw out his tobacco quid at night, usually around 11.

Thus it was that Steve Hunt got a job 48 years ago in the very store he now owns and in which he is celebrating the 16th year of that ownership. But that was many years ago and Steve has grown up. Since that time considerable water has flown under the bridge and the little 14 year old boy has followed other lines of business, only to wind up back in the brick store, the appearance of which hasn't changed in the half-century that has gone by.

Steve Hunt grew up to be a farmer, not particularly because he loved farming, but because he had an inborn urge to make money. Steve was a "dickerer." He liked to buy and sell and turn a penny. From the days when he bought a rabbit for a quarter and sold it for 30 cents, on to the days he paid \$50 for a horse and sold it for \$125, he was a born buyer and seller. He wasn't happy unless he was "a-dickerin'" with somebody.

So it naturally followed that Steve Hunt was to become a merchant. Sometime after 1910 he left the farm and took the store where Austin Wyckoff now lives. Five or six years later he bought his mother's farm and resumed the job of tilling the soil. Four years later he got a chance to buy out Fred Thompson who kept store where Dorchester and Armstrong now hold forth. He took the Thompson store and moved to Marcellus. This was in 1917.

After four years in this stand he had an offer of a salaried job with Bently and Settle, wholesale grocers, and took it, moving to Onondaga Valley.

Two years of this job and a spell at working for the county, made Mr. Hunt homesick. He wanted to get back to God's country. Just about that time he learned that Fred Schoonmaker would sell out, and Steve again had a chance to dicker. The upshot of it was, he bought Mr. Schoonmaker out and was again a country merchant. That was in 1923. Then followed five years of contentment, working among his friends.

Then came sorrow. Franklin, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Hunt died. The passing of the boy stunned the parents. Time has not yet healed the wound. Success has come from the management of the store, but the heavy hearts have not been lightened. Perfect joy will only come when the family is reunited.

Through the depression, the store of S. H. Hunt has continued to do business and expand. Customers have stood by the genial storekeeper through fat years and lean. Many can look back to times they were helped by the kindness of the Hunts. A trusted customer was always a trusted customer, and when the husband was out of a job or sick, there was little fear of going hungry, too.



So it is in commemoration of 16 years of business at the store in which he sold his first spool of thread or yard of calico, that Mr. Hunt is holding an anniversary sale. He is ably assisted by Mrs. Hunt, Roy Bennett and Paul McAvoy. It is hoped that his friends will take this occasion to call personally at the store and wish Mr. and Mrs. Hunt many more years of success, the kind they so richly deserve. ~

FROM THE GAVEL



March 7, 1999 - General Meeting

Town of Onondaga Historical Society President, Doug Nielson, gave a wonderful presentation on the Erie Canal.

April 11, 1999 - General Meeting

Dick Case gave a very interesting and enjoyable presentation on Marcellus in the 1930s and 40s.

May 16, 1999 - General Meeting

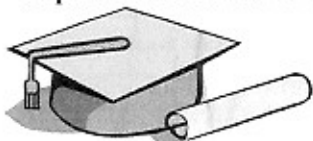
A motion was passed to donate \$100 to the Marcellus Fire Department towards restoration of their 1948 pumper-truck which they recently reacquired. Town of Onondaga Historian Jane Tracy presented a great slide show on the early history of the Town of Onondaga. ~

THIS 'N THAT'S

We have two school related items this issue:

The MCS class of 1974 is celebrating their 25th reunion at the Marcellus Olde Home Days, June 4-6. Class members are invited to come and visit Marcellus, see the craft show, attend the duck race and catch up with your class mates!!! For more information, call Kim Winter at 315 / 487-1840, or email her at <kwinter462@aol.com>. ~

John Curtin has been providing all sorts of historical information to the Marcellus web site at: <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyononda/INDEX.HTM>>



Included is a list of all Marcellus High School graduates from 1893 to 1993. The only year for which there is no

record of graduates is 1920. Does anyone have a record of the graduating class of 1920? If so, call John at 673-3660 or mail a copy to us at the Historical Society. To see the Marcellus section of this web site, scroll down to the "Onondaga Towns and Villages" section and choose Marcellus. ~

THANK YOU!

We wish to thank Jerry and John Curtin for their efforts in installing two new windows on the front of our museum. ~

HUMOR FROM THE OLD DAYS!

Editor's Note: This is a new feature we are trying out. Some of you may have heard this joke before, but maybe not for some time now. If you know a good story or joke from the old days, please mail it to us.

A young couple about to be married were looking for a home in the country. After satisfying themselves that they had found a suitable one they started back to their home in town. During their return journey the young lady was very quiet and seemed to be in deep study. The young man noticed this silence and asked her the reason for it. She replied, "Did you notice a 'W.C.' (meaning a water closet) around the house anywhere?" Not having seen one, the prospective bridegroom wrote the landlord asking him where the "W.C." was located. The landlord did not understand what "W.C." meant but after thinking it over he came to the conclusion that it stood for Westley Church. He promptly wrote the young man as follows:

My Dear Sir, I received your letter Wednesday and am very sorry for the delay in answering same. However I'm pleased to advise that the "W.C." is situated about six miles from the house I rented you and is capable of seating 200 people. The distance is unfortunately rather far, but if you are in the habit of going regularly you would be glad to know that a great many people bring their lunch with them and make a day of it which makes it more enjoyable. Others cannot spare the time and take cars, arriving there just in time. The last time my wife and I went was three years ago and we stood up all the time. It also may be interesting for you to know that a bazaar is going to be held to raise funds with which to furnish the "W.C." with plush seats as this has been a long felt need.

Yours very truly....

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 or write.

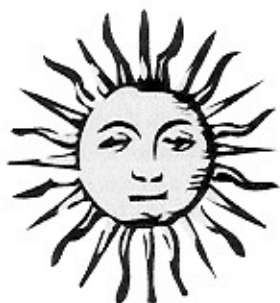
- * Firemen in action.
- * Town or village work crews.
- * Past Marcellus politicians.
- * School buses.
- * Past school teams.

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSES

The special May open house at our museum was enjoyed by those who attended.

The open house was held in response to a request made by the Marcellus Park as part of their "Weave a Community" event and a special display on the woolen mills was set up.

Our annual Olde Home Days open house at the museum will be held on Saturday, June 5th.



Located above the village hall at 6 Slocombe Ave., the museum has been cleaned and straightened and a new display on Girl and Boy Scout uniforms and memorabilia has been set up and arranged by Mike Plumpton, Peg Nolan and Hollis Abbott.

The museum houses thousands of historic artifacts from Marcellus' past. Also new on display this year will be several dozen freshly bound scrapbooks which have been donated to the museum over the years.

Our gift shop will also be open and we hope to sign up more new members as we have each year in the past during this event.

If you would like to help out at the open house, please give us a call, otherwise, we hope that you'll stop by and visit. ~

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MARCELLUS HISTORY

- The first saw mill in Marcellus was built in 1785, 1795 or 1805?
- The first grinding mill opened in 1800, 1810 or 1820?
- The first general store opened its doors in 1796, 1806 or 1816?
- The first tavern in town poured its first drink in 1796, 1806 or 1816?
- The first woolen mill opened in 1802, 1812 or 1822?

Answers can be found in our Member Business Directory in this newsletter.



WISH LIST / ITEMS NEEDED

Having more articles of historic clothing than places to safely store them, we are in desperate need of cedar chests for the museum. We also need book cases to store the many books we have received. If you can donate either of these items, new or used, please contact us. (See page 4 for phone numbers.)

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Since our last issue, 120 more people joined our society, bringing our total membership to 467.



The following people are new members or have renewed or extended their membership:

Dr. & Mrs. Gary Belcher; Bill & Peg Bell; Ginny Boyce; Mike Brilbeck; Aken & Joan Brill; Louis & Phyllis Budell; Harold & Marge Chapman; Chris Christensen; Dorothy Christensen; Martha Cole; Will & Marsha Connor; Paul Costello; John & Maureen Curtin; Viloa & Hugh Darling; Hugh C. Dawson; Lee Ann Dipaola; Arlene DeRito; Mary Jane Domurat; Lyn & Joe Duffy; Gary & Jean Eichelberger; Donald E. Fish; Esther Marie Forster; Betty Foster; Phyllis & Alan Gammon; Maureen Germain; Hubert B. Hall; Charles & Helen Hopkins; Bert & Phyllis Hunt; Homer & Betty Hunt; Mrs. Francis Kennedy; Lizzie Lathrop; Scott Lawson; Micky Lilly; Alice MacDonald; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph MacFadden, Jr.; Anne McCarthy; Mary Ann McElroy; Thomas McGraw; Dorothy C. McRobbie; Helen Mohn; Carol & Eric Morris; Evan & Joanne Murdock; Robert Murphy; Florence M. Odell; Don & Anne Pelchy; John & Rose Phillips; Richard & Doris Phillips; Martin, Carol, Nicole & Shannon Piper; Thomas Posecznick; Robert L. Post; Ronald & Joyce Ramsden; Robert & Manuela Reagan; Tom & Kathy Reagan; Gretchen S. Rusk; Margaret L. Ryan; Patricia A. Sanborn; Isabell Sawtell; Eleanor & Bill Schneider; Russell & Dorothy Snell; Garth & Gerry Snyder; Mrs. Harriet Spinks; Helen Tierney; Sid & Mary Tuthill; Richard W. Tuttle; Francis Vile; Dan Weeks; John & Gloria Weeks; Janet Whyland; Bruce & Mary Widger; Eleanor Williams; Bob & Kay Wilson; Dave & Linda Wilson; Carl Wood. ~

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of meetings, speakers and events is as follows:

Saturday, June 5.....10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Annual Olde Home Days Museum Open House.

Wednesday, July 14.....7 p.m.
Field trip: We will be meeting at the Camillus Octagon House on West Genesee Street where we will be treated to a tour of the historic house.

Wednesday, August 11.....7 p.m.
Ralph Sims, Camillus Historical Society President, will speak on the history of Camillus which is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

Wednesday, September 87 p.m.
Chris Fesko will speak about and show her popular video "What's new on the farm."

Sunday, October 3.....2 p.m.
To be announced in next newsletter.

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

Historical Society Officers

President: Bill Reagan463-4160
Vice President: Sidney Tuthill673-2990
Treasurer: Richard Smith673-1532
Secretary: Joyce Murphy673-2528
Cor. Secretary: Kathleen Reagan673-3365

Trustees and Term End

Don Kilcoyne 1999
Bruce Widger 1999
John Curtin 2000
Peg Nolan 2000
Michael Plumpton 2001
Tom Reagan 2001

The Marcellus Historical Society, P.O. Box 165,
Marcellus, NY 13108, publishes and mails this newsletter
quarterly to all of its members and advertisers.
Editor: Bill Reagan, 315 / 463-4160.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

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

Mrs. Kay Arthur for a Marcellus Athletic sweater which was given to her husband, Coach George, for the County Championship in 1950. ~ Susan Wood and Colleen Pozzi of "The Book Cellar" book store in Solvay for a minutes book covering 1830 to 1903 from the Marcellus District Schoolhouse Number 12, which was in Marietta. ~ Flossie Pottinger for several dozen wonderful old photographs of Marcellus views including parades, Main Street, old houses, people, school buildings, buggies and even an L. D. Paul Lumber truck. ~ Bob Warner for a Howlett Hill Church 175th anniversary booklet and a photo of the church. ~ Robert L. Post for a green stamp booklet from the Amber Garage. ~ Peg Nolan for two cookbooks and a Paul Real Estate pen. ~ Inez Case Searle for C. H. Fuller, Marcellus eye glasses. ~ Mr. & Mrs. John Chrysler for a Marcellus Park brochure and a Dorchester & Armstrong matchbox holder. ~ Mary Spaulding Menapace for old newspaper articles. ~ The estate of Mable Cates for an Otisco Lake plate. ~ Michael Plumpton for an antique weather vane which was on his barn and a D. J. Chrysler carpenter's apron. ~ We also received a Red & White cola can and a United Methodist Church women's cookbook. ~

Marcellus Historical Society Member Business Directory

*Our member businesses help support
this newsletter. Please support them!*

ANTIQUES

WHITE & WHITE ANTIQUES & INTERIORS, 18 E. Genesee St., Skaneateles, NY 13152. Stephen and Beverly White685-7733

AUTOMOTIVE

WARNER'S AUTO BODY, 2650 Pleasant Valley Road, Marcellus. 24-hour towing. Bob Warner, Owner673-3521

AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRONICS, Two locations:

2560 Pleasant Valley Road, 673-9602; 3021 W. Seneca Turnpike, Ron Miller, Owner673-1101

BAKERY

THE PASTRY PALACE, 14 W. Main Street, Marcellus673-9941

BEAUTY / FITNESS

FIRST IMPRESSION, 2 East Main Street, Marcellus. Paul Mitchell products, Sherri Wagner, owner685-7733

THE DARK SIDE TANNING, 22 W. Main Street, Marcellus. Open M-F 8am-9pm; Sat 8am-8pm; Sun 9am-5pm673-0884

BOOK BINDING

JAMES MEYER, THE BOOK BINDER, 26 East Genesee Street Rd., Auburn, NY 13021. Commercial and private book binding and restoration. FAX and Phone.....258-3930

CHIMNEY SERVICES

ADVANCED CHIMNEY SERVICES, Chimney lining, gas Logs, cleaning, inspections, repairs, full service, insured.....437-4225

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

END BAR FOUNDATIONS, P.O. Box 574, Cazenovia, NY 13035. Poured walls, fully insured. Bob Barrows.....662-7818

JOBS UNLIMITED, 1 Maple Street, Marcellus. Appliance repair and more. Mike Johnson, owner.....673-2747

W. F. SAUNDERS & SONS, P.O. Box A, Nedrow, NY 13120. Over 100 years of service. All types of sand, gravel, stone and transit & mixed concrete. NYS approved materials.....469-3217

Answers to Test Your Knowledge:

a) 1795 b) 1800 c) 1795 d) 1796 e) 1812

DENTAL SERVICES

EDWARD M. KANTOR, DDS, 28 1/2 East Main Street, Marcellus. Comprehensive dental services. Hours by appointment. FAX...673-2252, Phone.....673-3102

FIRE, SMOKE & WATER CLEANUP

LOSS RECOVERY SYSTEMS, INC., Cleanup after any type of insured property loss. Estimates prepared and work performed by staff personnel. CEO, Leonard J. Paradise. Member MFD.....451-9111

FLORIST

IVY & LACE, 1 North Street, Marcellus. Flowers and gifts. Anita Williams, owner.....673-4923

FLOORS / CARPETS

FUNERAL SERVICES

NORRIS FUNERAL HOME, INC., 33 North Street, Marcellus. Over 100 years of service to the families of Marcellus.....673-2017

RYAN FUNERAL HOME, 44 East Main Street, Marcellus. Serving all faiths - Pre-Arrangements - Family owned.....673-2345

GIFTS / CRAFTS

ANGEL HEARTS GIFTS, 16 East Main Street, Marcellus. M-F 10-6, Saturday 10-4. We have beanie Babies.....673-9457

THE CHOCOLATE PIZZA COMPANY / A TOUCH OF SPICE, 37 South Street, Marcellus. Famous chocolate pizza, chocolate covered potato chips, made right in Marcellus.....673-4098

DEBEVIC HOMESTEAD, 2527 West Seneca Turnpike, Marcellus. Art & craft gallery. Open May - December, weekends 12-5 and lots of by-chance-times. Frank & Jan Debevic.....673-9447

PEDIGREED PLANTS, 8 Reed Avenue, Marcellus. Mary Lou Grant, owner. Gift shop with large assortment at affordable prices. Operating for 20 years.....673-1889

GRAPHIC DESIGN

DW DESKTOP PUBLISHING, 5 First Street, Marcellus. Business literature, graphics, lecture slides.....673-4091

HARDWARE

HEALTH

FAMILY PRACTICE MEDICINE, 28 1/2 East Main St., Marcellus. From birth to old age - body, mind and spirit. Hours by appointment. 24 hour coverage, Saturday hours available.....673-4906

SKANEATELES FOOT & ANKLE CENTER, 27 Fennell Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152. Sebastian Bentivegna, DPM. Hours by appointment. FAX...685-6076, Phone.....685-FEET

HOME, GARDEN & LANDSCAPING

HILLSIDE GARDENS, 2768 West Seneca Turnpike, Marcellus. Landscaping, nursery, garden center. Patrick J. Koloski.....673-2005

SYBILLA DECORATING, 14 South Street, Marcellus. Home and garden coordination, color consultations, historical wallpaper and fabric, custom stencils.....673-1469

INSURANCE

REAGAN / MAHER AGENCY, INC., 8-12 East Main Street, Marcellus. Complete line of Personal and Business Insurance. Bonding & Financial Planning. Hours M-F 9-5. FAX...673-4866, Phone.....673-2094

LEGAL SERVICES

REAGAN & DAILEY, Attorney at Law, 8-12 East Main Street, P.O. Box 196, Marcellus. General legal services. Mary Reagan Dailey. FAX...673-4856, Phone.....673-4864

MANUFACTURING

MARTISCO PAPER COMPANY, INC., 4747 Route 174, Marcellus. 100% recycled paper. Maker of "Bogus" for economical packaging and product protection. FAX...673-4963, Phone.....673-2071

REAL ESTATE

YUHAS REAL ESTATE, East Main Street, Marcellus. We are buyers agents, sellers agents, appraisers and real estate consultants. Phone.....673-1028

RECREATION

RESTAURANTS

CREEKSIDE INN, 67-69 North Street, Marcellus. A fine local family restaurant. M-TH 11-11, Fri-Sat 11-midnight. Sundays 1-10.....673-3430

VETERINARY & PET SERVICES

BUBBLES - N - BOWS GROOMING SALON, 19 North Street, Marcellus. Christine Smith, owner.....673-4225

LAKE COUNTRY VETERINARY CLINIC, 2527 Cherry Valley Turnpike, Marcellus. Servicing your large and small animals. Wayne Beilman, DVM, Peter M. Kraai, DVM.....673-4858

MARCELLUS VETERINARY HOSPITAL, 4240 Slate Hill Road, Marcellus. Complete small animal services. Hours by appointment. 24-hour client emergency service.....673-2025

To advertise your business here,
call Bill Reagan at 463-4160, or
email at <breaganl@twcny.rr.com>

INSIDE...

- * **New members.**
- * **Events schedule.**
- * **Museum open house.**
- * **Steve Hunt - Merchant.**
- * **Humor from the old days.**

**Postal Customer
Local**

(If your label says "1998" please renew your membership.)

~ GIFT SHOP ~ MEMBERSHIP ~ ORDER FORM ~

Please use this form, or a copy of it, to join the Marcellus Historical Society and to order society collectibles. Some collectibles are also available at society events and at the Marcellus Village Hall during business hours.

Join The Society Today!

**\$5 per person, \$4 per senior citizen,
\$12 per family (Children under 18.)**

Basic Membership = 1 yr. / Sustaining membership = 5 yrs.
(Multiply dues by 5 for sustaining membership.)

Number joining? _____ New member? _____

Collectibles:

- ~ Official Marcellus afghans; green, cranberry or blue; \$45
- ~ Images of America, Otisco Lake Community; \$17
- ~ Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus, 1878; \$15
- ~ Marcellus Through The Years, 1794 - 1996;
Chronological history with photos; \$5
- ~ Marcellus 1794 - 1994, When Wool Was King;
A collection of photographs; \$5
- ~ A Pictorial History of Early Marcellus; 53 photos; \$5
- ~ Index to Nine Mile Country; \$5
- ~ Marcellus bicentennial mugs; \$4
- ~ 1960s black & white postcards; set of four; \$1
- ~ Color postcard of the Talbot-Case home on Main Street; \$1

Prices include tax. Shipping add \$4.00 per afghan; \$2.00 per mug;
\$2 first book, \$1 each additional; 50 cents per postcard set.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Quantity	Item	Cost Each	Total
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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Make check payable to and mail to:
Marcellus Historical Society
P.O. Box 165
Marcellus, NY 13108

Total: \$ _____
Shipping: \$ _____
Dues: \$ _____
Enclosed: \$