



MARCELLUS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 2

Spring 2000

1874 MARCELLUS PAINTING READY FOR 40TH ANNIVERSARY!

We have officially released our commissioned painting of Marcellus depicting the year 1874 in recognition of our 40th anniversary. Commissioned in 1999, the painting is by Ilion folk artist James Parker with historical assistance provided by several society volunteers.

The painting depicts Main Street looking toward West Hill. Along with accurately depicting every building which was on Main Street in 1874, there are also insets showing such buildings as the Crown Woolen Mills, the old High School and much more.

The painting also features a parade on Main Street in which the marchers are carrying banners with the names of every Marcellus hamlet on them. The paintings are available in many sizes, framed and unframed as well as on shirts, hats and mugs.

Mr. Parker will be signing paintings at our upcoming museum open house and the items are also available by calling Hollis Abbott at 673-1753.

ANNUAL OLDE HOME DAYS MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

Our annual Olde Home Days Museum Open house will be on Saturday, June 3rd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Artist James Parker will be on hand to sign his paintings of Marcellus as will Columnist Dick Case, who will be signing his new book, "Forgotten Villages of Onondaga County." The book features a series of articles by Elmer Bogardus and Elizabeth Pyke which appeared in the Post Standard in 1933-34. They include Clintonville, Austin Hollow and Tyler Hollow, all in Marcellus. Many of our most recent acquisitions will also be on display as well as an expanded display of Marcellus Fire Department memorabilia. Members are encourage to bring guests to the free event to view the thousands of historic artifacts in our museum. ~

THE ROSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Editor's Note: Taken from Heffernan, Kathryn C. Nine Mile Country. Published by Visual Artis Publications, Inc. 1978. pp. 180-182. Copyright by the Board of Trustees, Marcellus Free Library, Marcellus, NY

The earliest records of the Rose Hill Baptist Church are dated April 19, 1806. However, there are indications in some historical accounts, that what was then called The First Baptist Society of Marcellus, was probably organized in the fall of 1805. One source credits the Cody family as prime movers in the organization.

The first pastor was Elder Elias Harmon and the deacons were John Kneeland and Nathan Thomson. Dr. Parsons mentions Amasa Sessions, Amasa Kneeland, John Kneeland, Warren Kneeland, Jesse Manley, Chauncey Demings, Nathan Thomson and Joshua Chandler as active male members.

In 1809 the society voted that the pastor should receive an annual salary of one hundred fifty dollars. In 1818 when Elder Worden was employed, his salary was set at two hundred fifty dollars, one fifth of which was to be in cash and the remainder in produce, principally corn and wheat. During Elder Worden's pastorate, which lasted until 1835, the church reached its peak with a total membership of two hundred seventy-nine.

Until 1816 meetings of the society were held in homes, barns and the "framed school house" at what was then called South Marcellus. In that year the first meeting house was built on a site a few rods to the southwest of the present church. This building served the congregation until 1849 when the main part of today's house of worship was erected at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars. At that time, the church had ninety-four members and a Sunday school enrollment of one hundred twelve. (Continued)

The bell tower was added in 1886 and a bell, purchased by the young people, began calling the congregation to worship. Six years later, the church was remodeled and refurnished, and on October 31, 1892 it was rededicated. The kitchen and dining room were added in 1923. In September of 1967 the church property was expanded by the purchase of a tract to the south, and in 1968 four Sunday school classrooms were added to the building.

In May of 1897 the trustees of the church were authorized to lease the land, which had at an early date been set aside as a cemetery, to the Thorn Hill Cemetery Association, which continues to operate and maintain the cemetery. On July 10, 1966 the sesquicentennial of the First Baptist Society of Marcellus was appropriately celebrated with several former pastors and the congregation's own missionary to India, Anne Droppa, participating.

The original Constitution, framed by the early leaders of the church, remains basically unchanged. However, more Biblical emphasis has been inserted in the "Articles of Faith and Covenant." Reverend Wayne A. Hansen, who resigned in late 1976, was the forty-first pastor to serve the church. ~

FROM THE GAVEL

February 13, 2000

General Meeting

Our project involving the video-taping of Marcellus seniors is being arranged. We have ordered a copy of the Marcellian yearbook for our museum to be picked up in June and plan to do this every year.



March 12, 2000 - General Meeting

The restoration of historic photographs in our museum collection is coming along well. A final meeting of the painting committee will be held. ~

April 12, 2000 - General Meeting

To date 58 photographs in our collection have been restored. The funds came from an O.H.A. grant. Artist James Parker presented his finished painting of Marcellus in 1874 and had it available for attending members to purchase. ~

May 10, 2000 - General Meeting

Not available.

BIOGRAPHY

Editor's note: This is one of a series of columns we are doing on historic Marcellus people.

JAMES SARR

James Sarr was born in Cayuga County, May 2, 1831, a son of William and Sarah (Van Waggoner) Sarr. William was born in 1803 in Sullivan County, went to Skaneateles in 1822, and from there to Otisco, later removing to Marcellus, where he died in 1882. His father, John, was a Revolutionary soldier.

Our subject was educated in the public schools and at the age of fifteen came to Marcellus, where he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for several years, then began building. He built the Methodist church at Marcellus, the Episcopal church (since burned), the large grist mills, located at the Falls, also the Crown Mills, a fine brick edifice which will rank among the largest in the county, and has also put up many structures in different parts of the county.

After building for about twenty-five years, he retired and engaged in the sale of general merchandise, which he has followed for the past sixteen years, having the largest and oldest business in the town of Marcellus.

Mr. Sarr has served on the School Board for sixteen years, and also as justice of the peace. He has been deeply interested in education and it was largely through his efforts that the new school building and high school department were established. The structure is a fine one, and the school is graded into eleven departments. Mr. Sarr's efforts in behalf of this school are highly appreciated by his townspeople, and he has been elected president of the Board of Trustees. He married first Alice Carr, and had four children: William H. Robert J. Frank L., and Nellie A. Mrs. Sarr died in 1885 and he married second Mrs. Julia Jackson. ~

(Note: James Sarr died in 1901).

From:

Onondaga's Centennial, Gleanings of a Century, edited by Dwight H. Bruce (Volume II). The Boston History Company, Publishers, 1896, pp. 210-211

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our total membership for 2000 is currently 519.



Below is a list of new and renewed members since our last issue. If you have any questions about this list, please contact Hollis Abbott at 673-1753. To join or renew, please use or photocopy the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. ~

Bill & Carol Abbott; Margaret Abrahamson; Dorothy C. Aitchison; David & Sally Bailey; Bruce R. Baker; Craig & Jennie Baker; Timothy & Kathryn Barstow & Family; Sandy & Judy Battaglia; Elaine Becker; Christopher M. Bedford; John & Gerry Bednarski; Dr. Gary & Vanessa Belcher; Dorothy Baker Blair; Doug & Bev Blanchard; Elizabeth Bond; Russ & Eva Briggs & Family; Mike Brillbeck; Akin & Joan Brill; Kaye White Brown; Louis & Phyllis Budell; Lawrence C. Buffan; William H. Buffan; Dr. John F. & Eunice Calvert; Priscilla Carmody; Harold & Marge Chapman; Keith & Pat Civil; Charles & Victoria Clark; Phillip & Helen Clarke; Lois Clay; Phil & Kathleen Coccia; Martha Cole; William & Marsha Connor; Edward & Marilyn Copley; John & Jean Corbett; James & Vera Costello & Family; Kathy Coyne; Jeff & Lisa Crysler; Lucille Culotti; Duane R. Cummings; Catherine D'Angelo; Hugh & Viola Darling; Andrew & Louise Dawson; Hugh C. Dawson; Arlene M. DeRito; John F. & Regina Dillon; Mary Jane L. Domurat; Fred & Pat Eisenberg; Lillian P. Epp; Barbara A. Fero; Donald E. Fish; Bud & Peg Flitcroft; Sara H. Fogarty; Kathleen Forster; Elizabeth Foster; Alan & Phyllis Gammon; Gary & MaryLee Gates; Jim & Peg Girard & Family; James & Cheryl Gonzalez & Family; James Hamilton; Beverley Haney; Edward & Janet Heinrich; Charles & Helen Hopkins; Bert & Phyllis Hunt; Homer & Betty Hunt; Mr. & Mrs. Gary W. Kavney; Frank & Doris Kelly; Katie Kelly; Eileen B. Kennedy; John & Kathy Keyes; Tyrone J. King; Francis & Mary Kishman; Richard & Nancy Kissane & Family; John & Nancy Knowlton & Family; Don & Jane Kozlosky; Elizabeth Lathrop; Scott Lawson; Carolynn Longuil; Joe, Sue & Helen Macfadden; Jim & Grace Maynard; Anne K. McCarthy; Timothy & Janice McCarthy & Family; Glenn G. McPherson; Dorothy C. McRobbie; David & Sandy Mealy & Family; Pierre & Mary Montague; Paul Jr. & Hazel Morgan; Virginia Mulroy; Stanley Munro; Evan & Joanne Murdock; Joe Murphy; Vincent & Mary Murphy; Francis P. Murphy Jr.; Robert Negus; Marie Newell; Peg & Joe Nolan; Anne F. Palmer; Len Paradise & Family; Donald W. & Anne Pelchy; Julia Pepperman; Shirley Pierik; Carrie Beth Pottinger; Florence Pottinger; Richard & Kathleen Powell; Stuart Jr. & Jane Raleigh; Ron & Joyce Ramsden; Frances Randall; Bernard & Ruth Anne Reagan; Patrick Reagan; Robert & Manuela Reagan; Bill & Donna Renner; Robert & Pauline Reynolds; Victoria Sabin; Mrs. Isabel Sawtell; William & Eleanor Schneider; Dr. Margaret Sennett; Martin & Dorothy Sennett; James Jr. & Betsy Shake & Family; Kurt

Sherman; Doug & Sue Shields; Peg Shields; Lucinda W. Skinner; Lucille Slater; Kathy P. Smiley; Raymond & Janet Smith; Jeffrey & Mary Beth Smith & Family; Russell & Dorothy Snell; Charles & Nancy Snyder; Garth Snyder; Mrs. Harriet Spinks; Roger Spofford; Patricia Sposato; Robert & Carol Stalker; John & Leda Stopyro; Nancy A. Stopyro; Russell & Nancy Striffler; Blanche Adkins & Robert Sweet; Carolyn M. Terrill; Helen E. Tierney; Evelyn Van Camp; Francis Vile; John & Esther Weeks; John & Gloria Weeks & Family; Roberta Welsh; Jerry & Nina Wickett & Family; Leona Wilcox; Eleanor Williams; Bob & Kay Wilson; Dave & Linda Wilson; Katherine Wilson; Carl Wood ~

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLDER WHEN...

- You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the questions.
- You turn out the lights for economic reasons instead of romantic ones.
- You have too much room in your house and not enough in the medicine cabinet.
- The best part of your day is over when your alarm clock goes off. ~

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

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

Jeannette Gilmour for a coat which Florence Schanzle Gilmour had made from wool manufactured at the Crown Woolen Mill and a Christian Commandee uniform owned by Nelson Gilmour. Joyce Murphy for old phonograph records. Leona Wilcox for loaning a scrapbook to copy. Lulu Coon for a First National Bank bag. Glen Schram for a coppler hammer. Michael Plumpton for a double-bladed ax used by Claud Purchase and for cookie cutters, a wire soap-saver and an antique water dipper. Dick Strauss for a DeForest Mosier account book dated 1903 which he found in Peru, NY. ~

EVENTS SCHEDULE

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

Saturday, June 39 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Olde Home Days Museum Open House,
at the museum, 6 Slocombe Ave.

Artist James Parker will be at the museum signing the new Marcellus 1874 painting we are selling as a new museum fundraiser. Columnist Dick Case will be at the museum signing his new book "Forgotten Villages of Onondaga County."

Wednesday, June 14.....7 p.m.

Robert Wilson, Chaplain, American Legion Ralph Share Post will present "Memorials and Other Tributes."

Wednesday, July 12.....7 p.m.

Amy Samuels of the Onondaga Cooperative Extension will present "Finger Lakes Watershed Control, also called "Privies, Past & Present."

Wednesday, August 9.....7 p.m.

To be announced.

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

Historical Society Officers

President: Peg Nolan.....673-1765
Vice President: Bruce Widger.....673-9142
Treasurer: Hollis Abbott.....673-1753
Secretary: Joyce Murphy673-2528
Cor. Secretary: Kathleen Reagan.....673-3365

Trustees and Term End

Sidney Tuthill, 673-2990..... 2000
John Curtin, 673-3660..... 2000
Michael Plumpton, 673-3453 2001
Tom Reagan, 673-3365 2001
Mary Jane Domurat, 673-4896..... 2002
Dick Smith, 673-1532..... 2002

The Marcellus Historical Society,
P.O. Box 165, Marcellus, NY 13108,
publishes this newsletter and mails it quarterly to its members and advertisers and annually to everyone in Marcellus Zip Code 13108.

Editor: Bill Reagan

THIS 'N THAT'S

Does any one have information on or knowledge of the National Economy Store which used to be located on Main Street where the Village Tavern is now? If so, please call Peg Nolan or Bill Reagan. ~

We are looking to acquire a "candlestick" telephone for the museum to go with the crank box and ringer we have. If you have one available, please call one of our officers. ~

STORIES FROM THE MUSEUM

Editor's Note: This is a series on the history behind some of the thousands of historic items in our museum.

In our collection at the museum we have the Civil War cap, a small trunk carried during the war and many letters written to and by Henry H. Fellows. The letters have been transcribed and are available to the public to read. Henry Fellows was the second son of Harry and Mary Fellows.

He enlisted in the 12th Regiment of New York Volunteers as a private on May 13, 1861. On July 1, 1862 he was wounded four times at the Battle of Malvern Hill and died on July 13, 1862 while a prisoner of war. He is buried at the Marcellus Village Cemetery.

Contributed by Peg Nolan. ~

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 White 685-7733

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