



MARCELLUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 4

Fall 2003

Marcellus Union School



West Hill School

Marcellus Union School District was organized in 1891 by consolidating District #8 on East Hill and District #2 of Skaneateles on West Hill with District #2 in the village. The West Hill School on West Main Street was built in 1892 at a cost of \$14,375. It was formally opened on December 3, 1892 with Matthew I. Hunt as principal and was recognized by the State Department of Education the following year.

The first class to graduate was in 1893 and consisted of six women: Harriet T. Kennedy, Nellie E. Matteson, Gertrude C. Morton, Elizabeth C. Powell, Harriet M. Seeley and Florence L. Ward. Previous to this school opening any young people that wanted a secondary education went to Onondaga Valley Academy or Munro Collegiate Institute in Elbridge.

In 1895, \$3,395 was budgeted for wages for the principal and teachers with \$300 for a janitor and a \$40 salary for the clerk.

It was not compulsory at the time that children attend school. The Board of Education, consisting of James Sarr, Rollin M. Stone, G. L. Wells, E. V. Baker and Benjamin Marshfield, appealed to all families and

children to attend school and better their lives.

By 1905 there were nine teachers employed and three hundred students with Fred W. Hartwell now principal at a salary of \$1,000. Many of the students had room and board available in the village. With the completion of the Trolley lines in 1903 and the Railroad in 1904 students were able to commute from Marietta, Amber, Rose Hill and Howlett Hill. In 1909 the first women were elected to the Board of Education: Mrs. William Gallop and Mrs. George Amerman.

As enrollment grew two wings were added to the school and in 1919 sanitary toilets were installed. 1930 brought electricity and busing for students was approved in 1931. The Board of Education was directed by voters not to hire any married women in 1933.

In 1935, acting under legislation from the state that financial assistance would be available if the schools would centralize, the towns of Marcellus and Skaneateles joined with twelve small schools to form Central School District number one. Included were Marcellus, Skaneateles, Onondaga, Spafford and Otisco. At this time Philetus M. Helfer was District Superintendent and Max Molyneaux was principal.

Under the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 the district received a grant for \$238,500 to build a new school. The corner stone was laid on September 13, 1936 and the building opened in the fall of 1937, housing students from kindergarten thru twelfth grade. Today this school is the Driver Middle School and the campus has enlarged to Heffernan Elementary and the Senior High School.



West Hill School Chair

The West Hill School was demolished in 1939.
(Source: *Nine Mile Country* by Kathryn C. Heffernan)

Submitted by Peg Nolan ~

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

- Sunday, November 9, 2003** 2 p.m.
Ed White, Ph.D., Dean of Research,
College of Environmental Science and Forestry
 "Research of General Interest"
- Sunday, December 7, 2003** 1 p.m.
Holiday Dinner
 "Witter Museum video"
- Sunday, January 11, 2004** 2 p.m.
Howard Ford
 "Historic Markers of Central New York"
- Sunday, February 8, 2004** 2 p.m.
Robert Piekil
 "Stories of the M&OL Railroad"

Meetings are open to anyone and are held at the Marcellus Fire Station unless indicated otherwise. A short business meeting will precede each program.

Historical Society Officers for 2003

- President: Peg Nolan 673-1765
 E-mail: pegnolan@hotmail.com
 Vice President: Bruce Widger 673-9142
 E-mail: DrBWidger@aol.com
 Treasurer: Hollis Abbott 673-1753
 E-mail: habbott1@twcny.rr.com
 Secretary: Joyce Murphy 673-2528

Trustees and Term End

- John Curtin (2003) 673-3660
 E-mail: jcurtin2@twcny.rr.com
 Mary Tuthill (2003) 673-2990
 Tom Leonard (2004) 673-4273
 E-mail: TomLeonard35@msn.com
 Doug Nightingale (2004) 673-2539
 E-mail: djn0409@dreamscape.com
 Mary Jane Domurat (2005) 673-4896
 E-mail: mjdorumat@msn.com
 Dick Smith (2005) 673-1532

The Marcellus Historical Society,
 P.O. Box 165, Marcellus, NY 13108,
 publishes this newsletter and mails it quarterly
 to its members and advertisers. ~

From The President ...

Summer has passed and much has been accomplished at the museum. A big thank you to volunteers **Hollis Abbott, Leda Stopyro, Doug Nightingale, and Shirley Gallinger** for all their help. The inventory is progressing well, the new case is in place and the displays have been redone. A cable was run from our computer to the Village office so that we now have **internet service** which is available for anyone wishing to do research.

Among our visitors to the museum this summer were four women from **Thailand**. They were looking for information on Dan Bradley's son, **Dr. Dan B. Bradley**. How happy they were with all the information provided to them, including copies of letters that Dr. Bradley wrote from Thailand to Rev. Levi Parsons. Dr. Bradley started what is now called **Bangkok Christian Hospital**. He was physician to the King of Siam and did many things for the people, among which were: caring for the sick, preaching sermons, starting a newspaper and giving them their first smallpox vaccine. In 2004, on the *200th anniversary of Dr. Bradley's birth*, the Doctor in charge of the Bangkok Christian Hospital plans to celebrate his memory. Needless to say it was an exciting visit for me.

Barbara Parsons Hildreth has donated four telescoping easels to the museum in memory of her parents, **L. Seymour and Mildred Parsons**. They are already in use and very much appreciated.

The **Historic Village Tour** was a success. Many enjoyed the horse drawn wagon ride and others the walking tour. **Special Thanks to Ted and Judy Morton** for displaying their **1913 Car-Nation car**. This car was sold by Nightingale's and remained in Marcellus all these years. Ted and Judy completely restored the car and it is beautiful! **Thanks also to Hollis Abbott, Leda Stopyro, John Curtin, Bruce Widger, Carriebeth Pottinger and Florence Pottinger** for their help on this event.

Roger Trendowski's 1868 Otisco Lake Map is on sale at the museum along with **John Curtin's "Pucker Street"**, the history of Marcellus Village. The book is also on sale at the Pharmacy, Angel Heart Gifts and the Village office..

The museum will be closed for the winter, but we will open upon request (call Hollis or Bruce).

Happy Holidays to All!

Peg Nolan ~

Election of Officers at November Meeting

The annual election of officers will take place at the November 9th meeting. The slate of nominated officers:

President: Peg Nolan
 Vice President: Bruce Widger
 Treasurer: Hollis Abbott
 Secretary: Carriabeth Pottinger
 Trustee (2006): John Curtin
 Trustee (2006): Mary Tuthill

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor. ~

Proposed By-Law Changes

The following proposed changes to the Marcellus Historical Society By-Laws will be voted on at the November meeting:

Article I, Section 1:

Delete Honorary Member category.

Article I, Section 2:

Change membership dues as follows:

Basic Membership: One year.

Individual.....\$ 5

Couple.....\$ 9

Family.....\$12

(includes children under 18)

Sustaining Membership: Five Years.

(Basic dues times 5)

Article II, Section 3:

Change term of Officers from one to two years.

Article II, Section 4:

Change "Board positions" to "Trustee positions".

Article II, Section 5:

Change references to "officer's meetings" to "Executive Committee meetings".

Replace last paragraph with

"The Executive Board of Trustees shall oversee the activities of the Society and make certain that it is functioning within its stated purpose."

Article II, Section 6:

Change "officer" to "officer or trustee"

Article II, Section 7:

Change "Executive Board" to "Executive Committee"

Article III, Section 2:

Replace with:

"Executive Committee Meetings – Shall be held at least once per year and may be called by the President or any member of the Executive Committee".

Article V, Section 2:

Replace with

"The President will chair and appoint a Collections Committee from members in good standing to oversee the operation of the museum."

Article V, Section 3:

Delete "Curator, Assistant Curator"

Article VI, Section 2:

Change amount of financial issues requiring a motion to "\$1000".

Article VI, Section 3:

Change purchases by Officers to read "up to \$100".

Article VI, Section 4:

Replace with

"Approval of a majority of the Executive Committee shall be required on any expenditure over \$100, not exceeding \$1000".

Article VI, Section 5:

Change to read "single expenditures greater than \$1000".

~

Renewed Members (*since our last newsletter*)
(Sustaining members in bold print, New members underlined):

Dick & Sandra Case, **Chris Christensen**, Marian Farmer, Carolynn Longuil, Charles & Mary Jo Paul & Family, Betty Plunkett, Steven & Lorraine Schneider & Family. ~

Membership Dues

A reminder that membership dues cover January 1 to December 31. Refer to the label on the newsletter to see the year you are paid through. ~

Internet access available at the Museum

You can now access the internet at the museum to do research. Also, the combined index for all 50 scrapbooks is available on the computer. ~

Check out the Guestbook on MHS Web Site

See what memories have been recorded and add some of your own! mhs.marcellusny.com

~

WHATSIT?

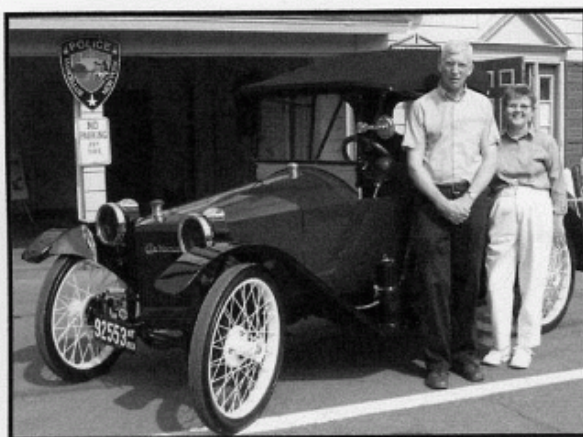
This cast iron object shown in the last newsletter has not been positively identified. Many believe that it had something to do with the M&OL railroad. What do you think? ~



Village Tour Day September 27th



Bruce Widger with the first of four wagon tours.



Ted and Judy Morton with their meticulously restored 1913 Car-Nation—*The oldest car in Marcellus.*

Holiday Dinner December 7th at 1 p.m.

The annual holiday dinner will be held at the Marcellus Fire Station at 1 p.m. December 7th and will be catered by the Hill Top Restaurant in Skaneateles. The price is \$11.50 per person.

The menu is: roast beef, ham, ziti, tossed salad, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, rolls, coffee, tea, and desert.

A video of the Witter Museum will be shown.

Please have your payment in by November 28th. ~

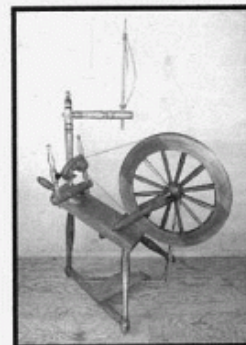
National Forest Tree Planting

The Marcellus Historical Society was among those honored by the Village of Marcellus with the planting of 150 trees in Caribou-Targhee National Forest by the National Arbor Day Foundation in celebration of the Marcellus Village Sesquicentennial. ~

Recent Acquisitions

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

Betty Black for District #8 reading book, arithmetic book, Cornwell pictures, Onondaga Centennial book; **Bob Post** for Gypsum found in Marcellus Falls—used in making plaster; **Kathy Whitehead** for 2 chairs from West Hill School (*see front page*); **Barbara Egtvedt** for Murphy Dairy quart milk bottle, Picture of Woodford home, Pearse Bros. pint milk bottle; **Michael Plumpton** for Post Cards of Marietta, Amber, Otisco Lake, Nine Mile Creek, Marcellians, music book, Marcellus Union payout book.; **Bill Reagan** for 1938 Map of Marcellus; **John Davis** for 9 copies of Otisco Lake paper "Clarion"; **Michael Lollis** for 1943 Post Standard articles on Soldiers visit to Marcellus; **Florence Pottinger** for Bonnet, 1913 Pocket Calendar, Ration Books and Tokens; **Mary Tuthill** for Village Cemetery map, street map, miscellaneous booklets; **Jack Calvert** for Painting of Barley Mill in Marcellus Falls; **Don & Betty Sherman** for Map of Marcellus and Village Cemetery; **Jan & Frank DeBevic** for Small Spinning Wheel (*at right*); **Doug Blanchard** for Bank given out by First National Bank of Marcellus; **J. Roy Dodge** for Marcellus Post Card of Reed Ave.; **Carol Abbott** for Maroon velvet dress from late 1930's-1940; **Barbara Parsons Hildreth** for 4 telescoping easels; **Joyce Murphy** for MFD Aux pictures, Girl Scout pins, 1940's eyecup and thumb guard, baby's hospital ID bracelet, personalized handkerchief; **Mark Clark** for a certificate of the Marcellus Golf League Charter Members 1962. ~



1915 New York Census

John Curtin has completed transcribing the 1915 New York Census and it is available at the Museum and at the Library. ~

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Marcellus Historical Society
P.O. Box 165
Marcellus, NY 13108

Non-Profit Organization
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 Marcellus, NY 13108
 Permit Number 18

Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com

Next Meeting:
Sunday, November 9th at 2 p.m.

Postal Customer
 Local

INSIDE:

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- * *Election of Officers*
- * *Changes to By-Laws*
- * *Holiday Dinner*
- * *Tour Day Pictures*

(The date on the label is the
 Year your dues are paid through.)

~ GIFT SHOP & MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM ~

Please use this form or a copy of it to join the society and to order our historic collectibles.

<p align="center">Join Our Society Today!</p> <p align="center">\$5/Person ~ \$9/Couple ~ \$12/Family Basic Membership = 1 yr. ~ Sustaining = 5 yr. (Multiply dues by 5 for sustaining membership) Number Joining? _____ New Members? _____</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Available Collectibles</p> <p>Pucker Street—The first 100 years.....\$26 Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus.....\$20 Official Marcellus Afghans: green, cranberry, blue. \$45 Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus\$15 Otisco Lake Map 1868\$10 Marcellus, When Wool Was King, Pictorial\$ 5 Marcellus Through the Years; Chronology, photos \$ 5 Index to Nine Mile Country; Names and more.....\$ 5 New Colored Postcards of Marcellus\$ 1 Postcards(5), 1960's B&W, 4 churches, post office \$ 1 Package of 10 note-cards picturing Marcellus.....\$ 5 T-Shirts: Child, \$6; Adult, \$7 (2X, \$9) Specify Size Sweatshirts: Adult; S,M,L, \$11 (2X, \$13) Specify Size Hats, \$7; Tote Bags, \$8 Shipping: \$2 per book, \$4 other</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Addr: _____</p> <p>City: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Order Form</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Quantity</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Item Description</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Cost Ea</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>Holiday dinner</td> <td>11.50</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Make Checks Payable to: Total \$ _____ Marcellus Historical Society Shipping \$ _____ PO Box 165 Dues \$ _____ Marcellus, NY 13108 Total Enclosed \$ _____</p>	Quantity	Item Description	Cost Ea	Total	_____	Holiday dinner	11.50	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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