



MARCELLUS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 3

Summer 2004



**Dr.
Dan
Beach
Bradley
1804 - 1873**

Dan Beach Bradley was born July 18, 1804, the son of Judge Dan Bradley and Eunice Beach Bradley. He grew up at 59 South Street in Marcellus and received his schooling here. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and learned the teachings of the church from his father and the Rev. Levi Parsons, with whom he communicated during his years in Siam. Dan graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City in 1833.

In 1834, he returned to Marcellus and married Amelia Royce, a teacher in Manlius. Dan accepted a calling in the Far East as a medical and religious missionary and he and Amelia set sail from Boston in July of 1834 on a journey that took one year. During their journey, a son was born to them that died at birth and was buried in Singapore.

Arriving in Siam in July of 1835, they endured many hardships dealing with the culture, language and ignorance. Dan befriended the future King Mongkut several years before he became king and they had many discussions of the ways of the east and west. Dan let him know that he did not approve of the King's polygamy, slavery and other local practices. Slowly King Mongkut began to accept the customs of the western world and Dan was not only

his friend but also his private physician.

Dan loved the Siamese people and made many contributions to the culture such as: vaccinations, natural science, establishment of schools, hospitals, dispensaries, leper colonies. He urged prison reform, education for women and care for the insane. He introduced many medical procedures and performed the first surgical operation in the country. In addition, he translated to Siamese the Old Testament history, spiritual songs and psalms. He taught them type setting, lithography and book binding. In 1839, he published the King of Siam's proclamation against opium which was the first public document ever printed in Siam.

Emelia (Amelia) worked with children and women and was dedicated to the mission and her family. She prepared a dictionary in Siamese, a volume of hymns, geography, grammar, arithmetic and religious tracts. She and Dan had four more children: Sophia Royce (1839-1923), Harriet (1841-1842), Cornelius Beach (1843-1936), and Emilie Jane (died 1848). Emelia died in 1845 and is buried in Bangkok.

In 1846, Dan sailed for his beloved home in Marcellus but after two years, he returned to Siam with his new wife, Sarah A. Blachly. Sarah was a music teacher and a graduate of Oberlin College in Ohio. She was the first westerner allowed inside the palace walls and was a tutor for the princesses. She and Dan had four children: Dwight Blachly, Mary Adele, Irene Bell and Dan Freeman.

Dan Beach Bradley died in Bangkok in 1873 at the age of sixty-nine. He is buried in the Protestant Cemetery with his wives: Emelia and Sarah, and his daughters: Harriet and Irene.

Information obtained from Marcellus Historical Society, Oberlin College Website, Dr. Katavut Lokaphadhana of Bangkok Christian Hospital and Onondaga Centennial by Dwight H. Bruce.

Submitted by Peg Nolan

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

- Sunday, September 12, 2004** **2 p.m.**
 Nancy Bales
 "History of Quilting"
- Sunday, October 10, 2004** **2 p.m.**
 Dr. Timothy Barstow
 "Marcellus Schools - Past, Present and Future"
- Sunday, November 14, 2004** **2 p.m.**
 Ted Fox
 "Birds and Birding at the Zoo"

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

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

**Please visit the museum and invite your
 friends to come and see our collection.
 Browse the Scrapbooks and Picture Albums.**

From The President ...

Over one hundred people visited the museum during the June 5th Open House. Among those attending the unveiling of the **Parsons buggy** were members of the Parsons family, the Village Board, Town Supervisor and Mark Wright of the Cultural Resources Council. This restoration will make it possible for future generations to enjoy the buggy and its history.

Joanne Robinson left a generous bequest to the Society and the Board voted to name the research room in her memory with a plaque which reads: **Joanne Robinson Research Room.**

In July the Society Board approved purchasing a **new sign** for the museum to be placed above the entrance door to help visitors locate the museum.

It was decided that the money from the 2004 Heritage Grant Program secured by Senator John DeFrancisco be used to convert the existing microfilm of the Marcellus Observers to CD's rather than for purchasing a microfilm reader. The papers can then be viewed and printed from our computer. This was approved by Mark Wright from the Cultural Resource Council who disperses the Grant money and by our Board of Directors. The work is in progress.

For a number of weeks I have been talking via email with Dr. Katavut Lokahadhana of Bangkok Christian Hospital in Thailand. **The Rev. Dr. Dan Beach Bradley** was born in Marcellus and went to 'Siam' as a missionary. He founded the **Bangkok Christian Hospital** and during the month of July the Hospital celebrated **Dr. Bradley's 200th birthday**, publicizing it in their newspapers and magazines. On his birthday, July 18th, a service was held in the Presbyterian Church in his memory followed by a visit to the cemetery to lay flowers on his tomb. Dr. Katavut held two seminars at Chulalongkon University, the first on the social impact of Dr. Bradley and the Siamese dictionary that he transcribed. The second seminar was on the medical works of Dr. Bradley. Dr. Katavut has given pictures to the society, which we have on display and is sending us articles published during the celebration.

Work continues on the **inventory**. It is a big job and we could use more **volunteers** on **Tuesday evenings (7 to 9 p.m.)**, **Thursday afternoons (1 to 4 p.m.)** and **Sunday afternoons (1 to 3 p.m.)**.

We will hold an Open House on **Saturday Oct. 9th from 10 to 3 for Alumni weekend.**

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

My husband Joe and I have had front row seats at the **Main Street Bridge** construction. He has taken pictures and is doing a video of the project.

Hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer!

Peg Nolan ~



Restored Parsons Buggy



The Parsons Buggy and top in 2002

[Access the Internet at the Museum](#)



Barbara Parsons Hildreth, Beverly Parsons Dann and Pauline Parsons Duckett at the June 5th presentation of the restored carriage which was donated by the Parsons family.

Recent Acquisitions

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

Michael Plumpton for 2 Boy Scout Handbooks; **Harold Chapman** for picture and newspaper clippings of West Hill School; **Tim Aherin** for 1/2 gallon and 1/2 pint Mulroy Dairy cartons; **Janice Clark** for hay hook and hay fork tines; **Janet Smith** for 12 Marcellians; **Mary Tuthill** for child's riding tractor & miniature toy tractor; **Regina Dillon** for 11 pieces Crown Mill wool; **Judy Gilchrist** for horse blanket, Mills Seed House bags, feed bags, seed bags; **Vernon "Bud" Bush** for yard stick from Priest Chevrolet; **Bob Post** for Amber Congregational Church book 1824-1999, WW II Minox German Spy Camera; **Phyllis Fennier** for Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes, Robert Stevenson's Child's Garden Verses used at MCS First Grade.

And our thanks to the following people for cash donations:

Mary Tuthill; Vito W. Lucchetti Jr; Janet & Bob Warner for donation of labor, time and parts to repair the Parsons' Carriage. ~

In Remembrance

Glen T. Schram Sr. - June 17, 2004
Lawrence "Cliff" Buffan - June 20, 2004
James E. Murphy Sr. - June 30, 2004
Alice E. Hunt Waters - July 11, 2004
Robert D. Stalker - July 24, 2004

The Marcellus Observer June 23, 1894

BRIEF SKETCHES OF EARLY AND LATER TIMES IN MARCELLUS

History of the John Herring Paper Mill at the Falls

The next site north of the brick paper mill is the one known as the Herring mill site. Here was the first paper mill built on Nine Mile creek and one of the oldest in the state. It stood a little south of the present old wall and about opposite T.J. Herring's present dwelling. As near as we can learn it was built by a man by the name of Cone in 1806. How long he owned it is uncertain but when Mr. John Herring came here from Rutland, Vermont, about 1816 he bought this mill property of Simeon Chapman and it was ever afterwards known as the Herring mill and was looked upon for many years as one of the early landmarks of this region. Mr. Herring was a practical paper maker. We were recently shown at his son's, T.J. Herring's, what would have been called when new a beautiful book printed in 1814 entitled the *Life of Jesus Christ*, the paper of which he made in Rutland, Vt., before coming to the Falls. At this early day, paper was made by the hand process in single sheets and dried on poles. All kinds of print, writing and wrapping paper were made here in the Herring mill. The writing paper was sized. The paper was made from rags gathered from all parts of the country, the rags being formerly brought here and sorted in the mill which gave employment to a large number of hands. This work is largely done now in connection with tinshops. The paper was sold all over the country and some of it in New York city. For many years Col. Daniel Pierce, father of Alonzo Pierce, was in the employ of Mr. Herring and traveled about the country selling paper, blank books and supplying the merchants of Central New York, often going as far west as Canandaigua and northeast as far as Watertown, and he took groceries, tea, coffee, sugar and rags in return and came back loaded down after a two or three week's trip.

The hand process was used in this mill until 1832, when Mr. G.W. Ryan came here from Shortsville and put into this mill the first machine used on the stream and he run it for a year or two when he left this mill to operate another mill above where Sherman's now is for himself. Herring's mill was run along quite successfully until February 1852 when it caught fire in the rag room one night and burned to the ground, very little being saved from it. The old tavern and shed just north of it were burned with it. The tavern had been kept for a number of years by Anson Tinkham but at the time it was burned it was used for a boarding house. Mr. Herring did not rebuild again partly on account of the expense of putting in machinery and partly because he thought the state of business did not warrant it. And yet soon after or during war times there came a harvest time for paper makers. Mr. Herring died in 1862 in his 84th year. He reared a family of eight children of whom T.J. Herring is the only one now living. He was born at the

Falls in a plank house, a sort of palace in its day, in 1822 and is now past his three score years and ten, but quite infirm from the effects of paralysis. He enjoys a joke or story however on early times as well as the liveliest one.

The site lay idle for several years after the fire until about 1870 when it was sold by the heirs of John Herring to John F. Jones, who, in the winter of 1874 built the wall now standing, a little north of where the old mill stood, designing it as the foundation of another paper mill. A large amount of work was done in preparing for and building this wall, but the men were a good while about it. M. J. Lawless furnished the stone from a quarry on his farm.

John Doyle was one of several masons who worked on the wall. But in the complication of Mr. Jones' many interests and the large extent of his business, the work on this undertaking never got any further than the foundation, and there it has remained idle ever since. Many have no doubt wondered as they have passed by, whether there had not sometime been a fire there, or for what purpose the wall was built. It is still a good site for some milling interest.

...Submitted by John Curtin

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

Dave & Sally Bailey, Pat Blackler, Russ & Eva Briggs & Family, **Dr. Leone Buffan**, Jay F. Buffan, Tim & Mary Clark & Family, Marsha Connor, Pat & Mary Dailey & Family, Beverly P. Dann, Barbara A. Fero, Elizabeth Foster, Susan Forster Fraser, Philip Hardy, Steven Wm. Mack, Pierre & Mary Montague, Doris Phillips, Leon & Julie Plochocki, Matthew Shoff, Russell & Dorothy Snell, Harriet Spinks, Helen Snell Strich, Saunda E. Thomas, Eleanor Winslow. ~

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Next Meeting:
Sunday, September 12th at 2 p.m.

INSIDE:

- * *Dr. Dan Beach Bradley*
- * *Restored Parsons Carriage*
- * *Joanne Robinson Research Room*
- * *Marcellus Observers on CD*
- * *History of Herring Paper Mill*

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Museum Open House:
Saturday, October 9th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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