



MARCELLUS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 4

Fall 2005



"Dried Weeds"
John E. Drummond

John Drummond has allowed the Marcellus Historical Society to sell limited edition color prints of the above painting (pictured in black and white).

The following article was extracted from one written by Lynda Wood in the Marcellus Observer of November 3, 1976:

John Drummond is a native of Fulton and lived for many years in Marcellus. He began his art career as a package designer for Sealright, Inc. in Fulton where he was a plate and proof artist, creating containers for dairy products. From an early age, John had acquired a flair for drawing cartoons and in his senior year of high school, he sold his first cartoon to **Parade** magazine. He also won an art scholarship but World

War II intervened and after serving in the U.S. Navy, he attended Layton School of Art in Milwaukee for a year but became discouraged with their teaching methods and returned to Fulton. His next move was to New Rochelle, New York where he worked for Paul Terry of Terrytoons as a tracer and opaquer. After a year, John left to attend Marietta College in Ohio, where he studied English and drama, but discovered that most of his time was being spent "Painting stage scenery instead of acting" so he decided the theater wasn't for him.

A friend suggested that several jobs in the art field were available in Iowa so John moved again but ended up working for a department store drawing furniture. It was there that he met his future wife, Jill, a fashion illustrator with the same store, who was a native of Birmingham, Alabama and a graduate of Auburn University. In her spare time, Jill taught dancing at the Fred Astaire studio and they asked her to paint murals on the walls of a new studio. Since John had considerable experience at painting stage scenery, she asked for his help and by the time the mural was finished, they decided to marry.

Shortly after they were married, John landed a position at Iowa State College at Ames as a publications artist and in this capacity, he served as art advisor and artist for the college-owned commercial television station and the motion picture film unit. After two years at Iowa State, the couple returned to upstate New York where John joined the Heavy Military Electronics Department of the General Electric Company as a design and layout publications specialist responsible for complete art production of proposals, brochures and instruction books. The position also included the production of political cartoons for GE news media, plus slides and movies.

After eight years at General Electric, John left to return to freelance work. Jill did fashion illustration for various Syracuse stores including the Addis Co.,

(Continued on page 4)

Holiday Dinner December 11th at 1 p.m.

The annual Holiday Dinner will be held at the Marcellus Fire Station at 1 p.m. December 11th and will be catered by the Hill Top Restaurant in Skaneateles. The price is \$12. per person.

The menu is: roast beef, turkey, ziti, tossed salad, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, rolls, coffee, punch, and dessert.

*Please have your payment in to the treasurer by
December 2nd. ~*

The Marcellus Observer June 30, 1894

**BRIEF SKETCHES OF EARLY AND
LATER TIMES IN MARCELLUS**

*History of Marcellus Falls Mills Continued. The
first Saw Mill, the Grist and Flouring Mill on the
Same Site.*

FIFTEENTH PAPER

(Continuing from the last Newsletter)

Soon after the mill was put in running order, Crane sold out his interest to Zerah Shepard, and in the trade took the Dodge farm, near the Lime Ledge. The mill was a common custom mill, and drew custom for many miles about. Shepard and Platt sold out their interest to Sandford C. Parker and George Talbot about 1831. From 1831 to 1859 there were a number of owners, for the property changed hands several times. During this interval we learn that it was owned, or run, by Leonard Mason & Co., Osmond & Gibbs, Reuben Parsons and Elijah Weston, Deacon Isaac Hill of Memphis, Joel Lee and William Osmond. January 1st 1850 Wm. Osmond bought it of Hill and owned it till October, 1852, when it went back to Hill on foreclosure, Osmond losing several thousand dollars in the deal. Then followed Samuel Gilley, who run it a few years, followed by Goodell and Hibbard, until about 1859, when William F. Gere came into possession of it and run it until about 1863, when it was bought by Fisher and Burnett. They run it together about one year, and Burnett dropped out and Fisher continued to run it until 1867 and sold it to John F. Jones, who after a time sold it to Johnson and Doe.

While this firm owned it, on November 5, 1894, about noon, a fire broke out in the barn adjacent to the mill, and although the south wind was blowing a perfect gale, it swept the mill and three buildings just south of the mill, two belonging to T. Jefferson Herring, and one to Edward Steele. Also to the north the blacksmith and machine shop of Truman Eggleston, the large woolen factory that stood where the pearl barley mill now stands, and the dwelling

house on the hill still farther north, owned by Mrs. Cornelia Eggleston, widow of Hiram Eggleston. The gristmill was promptly rebuilt on a much larger scale by Byron C. Johnson, James Sarr having charge of the carpenter work, and also helped put in the machinery, the most of which came from Cortland Foundry & Machine Co. Johnson being unable to fulfill his contracts, turned over his interest to the Cortland Foundry & Machine Co., and they sold to R. B. Rollo & Rathbun Brothers. This firm sold to H. C. Smith in January, 1878, who, after running it till October 1, 1880, rented it to G. L. Wells for a year or more.

During the fall of 1881 the mill was enlarged and remodeled and the roller process was introduced, it being the first of the E. P. Allis System east of Rochester at an expense of about \$10,000. Ten rollers nine inches by eighteen inches, were introduced, rendering it 125 barrel capacity. After this general remodeling, later on the capacity was increased to 200 barrels in twenty-four hours by the addition of six sets of rollers nine by thirty inches with other corresponding purifiers, etc. February 1, 1882, the copartnership of H. C. Smith & Co. was formed. This firm carried on a large business for nearly ten years, running the mill a great deal of the time night and day, employing twelve hands. C. F. Scheffer was principal bookkeeper for several years, and the late Harvey Wells, first miller, and T. J. Devan of Utica, general traveling agent. They also employed a considerable part of the time, two millrights to keep in thorough repair the machinery, and to introduce from time to time such new machinery as they might need to keep abreast of the times and the demand.

They had facilities to use all the wheat grown in the vicinity, which supplied about one-fourth of their need, and the balance was brought by railroad from the western part of the state, Buffalo, Toledo, Detroit and Duluth, Minn. Along at first they used all winter wheat but the demand for hard wheat increased so rapidly that they began to run about one-third of the time on Minnesota hard wheat, making the best quality of Minnesota patent flour. Their custom work and exchange system covered a territory of six to ten miles. The local trade, including Syracuse, took about half of their product, and the remainder was distributed along the line of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad.

Submitted by John Curtin ~

(Continued from page 1)

Dey Brothers and the former Edward's Department Store to help support their three daughters. John then enjoyed teaching commercial art at BOCES in Auburn where he stayed for eight years before freelancing again. During his sixth year at BOCES, he participated in a teacher exchange program which enabled the family to spend a year in England while he taught at Bristol Polytechnic. They enjoyed the experience and found that the scenery - similar to upstate New York in some ways - offered many painting opportunities.

Back in Marcellus, John concentrated on his watercolors and traveling to art shows from Rochester to Florida and occasionally Greenwich Village to display his work. He has sold his cartoons over the years to **The New Yorker**, **McCall's**, **Good Housekeeping**, **American Legion**, **Boy's Life**, **Parade**, **TV Guide** and many others. He has taken courses at Syracuse and Columbia Universities and has demonstrated his post-Impressionist technique at the New York State Fair, the Skaneateles Art Guild, Associated Artists, and other art groups.

Submitted by **Hollis Abbott** ~

John Drummond currently resides in Weedsport, NY.

Recent Acquisitions: *We wish to thank the following people for donating items to the museum collection:* **Alice Swan** for 1905 YWCA Cookbook; **Alan Gammon** for pick-axe head (corrections from last issue); **Victoria Morrocco Clark** for 2 albums of pictures and negatives; **Jan DeBevic** for clothes; **Linda Greenfield** for pictures; **Joy, Kay & Ed Buffan** for 3 school band concert records, L.D. Paul ruler; **Joyce Murphy** for old fashioned wood heating stove, Story A Day book; **MCS Class of 1955** for reunion paper weight; **Joy Buffan** for 1939 town basketball team picture; **John Curtin** for 4 candy, cigar, cigarette boxes; **Sue March** for box from 4-H club; **Hugh & Joyce Norris** for framed map of Village Cemetery, white romper suit, child's white skirt, doll skirt; **Peg Nolan** for Dorchester & Armstrong advertising mirror; **Martha Eggers** for 30 Robert Earl Baker pictures of Baker & Spinks families, bible records, D.C. Baker business forms; **Carol Jansen** for 20 photos of area rural schools; 1934 soil maps of Onondaga County. ~

Wanted: Old Marcellians

The museum is missing many old Marcellians if you have any that you would like to donate.

Donations: *Our thanks to the following people for cash donations:*

Dorothy M. Bartlett; Robert L. Dunstone. ~

Renewed Members: *(since our last newsletter) (Sustaining members in bold print, New members underlined):* **Olin Bockes**, Bud & Peg Flitcroft, Dorothy Martens, Kathy McLaughlin, **Chris & Michele Molinari & Family**, **Kenneth Murphy**, **Bill & Joyce Nesfeder**, **Suzan Rury**, Gretchen S. Rusk, Lucinda W. Skinner. ~

Current membership: 412

Membership Dues

A reminder that membership dues cover January 1 through December 31. Newsletters are not sent to members who have not renewed by the end of March. The label on the newsletter indicates the year dues are paid through. ~

Internet access available at the Museum

The computer at the museum can be used to access the internet for family research. Also, the indexes for 31 photo albums and 50 scrapbooks are available on the computer. ~

Business Member Directory **Please Patronize These Businesses**

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**Call Hollis Abbott at 673-1753 to include your Ad
in our Business Member Directory.**

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

Non-Profit Organization
 U. S. Postage Paid
 Marcellus, NY 13108
 Permit Number 18

Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com

Next Meeting (Election of Officers):
Sunday, November 13th at 2 p.m.

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

Postal Customer
 Local

INSIDE:

- * *Artist John Drummond*
- * *Marcellus Falls Mills*
- * *Election of Officers*
- * *Annual Holiday Dinner*

~ GIFT SHOP & MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM ~

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

Join Our Society Today!

\$5/Person ~ \$9/Couple ~
 \$12/Family (includes children under 18)
 Basic Membership = 1 yr.. ~ Sustaining = 5 yr.
 (Multiply dues by 5 for sustaining membership)
 Number Joining? _____ New Members? _____

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City: _____

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 Otisco Lake Map 1868 \$10
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 Index to Nine Mile Country; Names and more \$ 5
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Order Form

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Marcellus Historical Society	Shipping	\$ _____
PO Box 165	Dues	\$ _____
Marcellus, NY 13108	Total Enclosed	\$ _____