



MARCELLUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 3

Summer 2006

Around Marcellus *by Leslie Church Kraus*



A new book entitled **Around Marcellus** by *Leslie Church Kraus* will be available in August from **Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America*** series. The following information is from their web site:

Book Description: **Around Marcellus** recounts the rich history of a community founded by strong and determined settlers. Marcellus and its neighbors Otisco and Marietta are located just west of Syracuse. Founded in 1794, the town grew largely because of its successful mills and businesses. Its history from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s is portrayed here in clear narrative and some 200 archival images from the **Marcellus Historical Society**.

Author Bio: Author, genealogist, and historian **Leslie Church Kraus** collaborated with the Marcellus Historical Society on **Around Marcellus**. A lifelong resident, she herself made history in town by becoming one of the first girls to play on the boys' Little League team. Employed by Onondaga Community College, she has written two genealogical histories and many articles for the Marcellus Observer. Her love and enthusiasm for her hometown are evident in **Around Marcellus**.

The book can be purchased from the Marcellus Historical Society and local stores for \$20. Leslie will sign the book at the museum on **Sunday, August 13th between 1 and 3 pm.**

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, August 13, 2006 1 to 3 p.m.

Leslie Church Kraus
Book Signing at the Museum

Sunday, September 10, 2006 2 p.m.

Ted Kinder
"Plans for the Property at the
Orange/Maple Street Upper Mill Site"

Sunday, October 8, 2006 2 p.m.

To be Announced

*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 2006/2007

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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 direct comments or questions to Hollis Abbott.

From The President ...

A big *Thank You* to the volunteers who helped at our Open House in June: **Heather Marvin; Joy Buffan; Doug Nightingale; Vince and Mary Murphy; and Hollis Abbott**. We had many visitors despite the rainy weather. Thanks also to those who have donated pictures, newspaper articles and other items to the museum over the summer and to **Joyce Murphy** for her on-going compilation of scrapbooks for the museum.

The work of keeping the inventory up to date continues at the museum and I want to thank **Hollis Abbott, Leda Stopyro, Joy Buffan** and **Doug Nightingale** for all the time and work they have donated to accomplish this. We have completed indexing all the pictures and at this time have **4498** numbered and in albums. The inventory information is continually being added to the computer files so that we can locate and identify all the items in the museum. This whole inventory project has been a tremendous job and we are presently concentrating on organizing our many files.

The Society has purchased a DVD/VCR recorder and a television which will allow us to view the video tapes that we have and make copies either on tape or DVD.

We are anxious to see **Leslie Church Kraus'** new book *Around Marcellus* which will be available at the museum the second week of August.

Enjoy the remainder of summer and I will see you in the Fall.

Peg Nolan ~

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

Myron Newton
Mary Tuthill
Dawnette Ingersoll
Jodell Z. McVey
Allen S. Odell

Museum Hours:

Tuesday Evenings 7 to 9 p.m.
Thursday Afternoons 1 to 4 pm
Or By Appointment: Peg Nolan - 673-1765
Bruce Widger - 673-9142
Hollis Abbott - 673-1753

In Remembrance

Raymond E. Paul - May 17, 2006

The Marcellus Observer July 14, 1894

*History of the Old Machine Shop at the Falls,
Woolen Factory, Paper Mill and Pearl Barley Mill,
Etc.*

SEVENTEENTH PAPER

Not long before the fire in 1829 which swept away the grist mill and distillery of Shepard & Platt, Salmon C. Norton bought of them a small plot of ground nearer the bridge, where the old walls now stand, with the privilege of using water from their flume and erected a machine shop on it two stories high above the basement walls and carried on business there a few years, making washing machines, etc. Near it was a small pocket furnace where various kinds of castings and some say a few plain stoves were made. The machine shop after a while came into the hands of Jonathan Eggleston who also purchased the old saw mill built by Wiard & Sands. He and his sons, Albert, Truman and Hiram, held and run the machine shop and saw mill for many years. He tore away the old saw mill and built another much better and on a better foundation. He put a blacksmith shop in the basement of the machine shop and added other fixtures. Here was carried on a large business in the machinery line. On July 5, 1861, early in the morning the saw mill was burnt and Jonathan Eggleston built on the same site another machine shop and introduced a considerable new machinery, a planing machine, turning lathes, a forge, etc., but did not rebuild the saw mill. He sawed lath, made bedsteads, straw cutters, rolls for the Salt works, etc. He was an ingenious man and ready to attempt almost any kind of mechanism. At this time Truman run the first shop, and both were burned in the great fire of 1874 and he soon rebuilt the first one on the same site and continued to carry on general machine work until about 1880 when it was again burned and was not again rebuilt, excepting the small temporary shop that still remains on the east side, the old walls remaining about as the fire left them. The shop on the saw mill site was not rebuilt.

Where the Pearl Barley mill now stands there was first a tannery, bark mill and shoe shop, built about 1816-18 by Henry S. Platt, and afterwards run by his son, Henry S. Platt, jr., and then by Platt & Botsford. The building was of moderate size, the upper part was used for bark and storage, the lower part for the tannery. About 1821 the upper part was transformed into a carding and cloth-dressing establishment, and it drew custom for many miles around. People brought their wool here to have it

carded into rolls to be spun and woven at home and then again brought it to be dressed. After a little time Mr. Platt furnished the means and John Rhodes, father of Thomas Rhodes, and his son William put in machinery for making cloth. The machinery came from Oneida county, and consisted of a sixty spindle jenny, looms, shuttles, etc. The mill was run for custom work, carding and cloth dressing, and they also made cloth from the wool for sale. They run the mill together until 1826 when Mr. John Rhodes died, at the age of 66 years. In the meantime the vats of the tannery were extended southward, and a new building was put up further south for a shoe shop. After the death of Mr. Rhodes, William Rhodes and Casper C. West run the mill a few years, when Thomas Rhodes bought out Mr. West and he and his brother run the mill four years quite successfully, and in 1834 Thomas sold out his interest to his brother, Robert.

William and Robert continued the business until William sold out to James Edes. The firm then became Rhodes & Edes for a few years, until Robert Rhodes bought out Edes and ran the mill alone until his death in 1855, at the age of forty-three years. Wm. Brown, his son-in-law, succeeded him and run the mill awhile, and in the settlement of the estate, Judge David Munro, who held a mortgage on the property, sold it on foreclosure, and it was bought in by William and Thomas Rhodes in the interest of the heirs, and afterward sold to Mrs. Bright. Wm. J. Bright, her husband, had not had it long before it was burned, about 1860. He soon rebuilt and equipped it again as a factory, making some changes in the machinery so as to turn out not only cloth but knit goods, army socks, etc. A shoddy picker was put up on or near the saw mill site and was connected with the factory, and some shoddy goods were made, and sometimes it was shipped in the bundle. In a few years the machinery was taken out and shipped elsewhere, and the property came into the hands of John F. Jones, and was converted into a paper mill, and had not been run long as a paper mill, before the great fire of 1874 occurred and these buildings were consumed with the large number of others at that time.

Jones sold out the site to B. C. Johnson for \$400, who built the south part of the present barley mill building, and Edward Johnson who succeeded him, added the north part, George A. Eggleston doing the work. Mr. Johnson was successful in making pearl barley, introducing some modern improvements, or a

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

new process, and he added to his power a cable line, the privilege of which he obtained of Truman Eggleston from his temporary building, built after the fire. After running the pearl barley mill a while he sold out to G. L. Wells for some \$13,000 and removed to Zanesville, O., where he carried on the same business. The business was continued here by Smith & Wells until the failure in 1892.

After the pearl barley mill came into the hands of Wells it was enlarged a story and remodded, a new water wheel put in, a new stone race, etc., at a total expense of some \$6,000, making it the best equipped barley mill in the state. The capacity is 100 kegs of 100 pounds each per day. They employed five hands and F. G. Wells was for a long time the foreman. The sales ran as high as \$50,000 per year. Since the failure of the mill has been mainly idle, and is now closed.

...Submitted by John Curtin ~

Renewed Members: (since our last newsletter) (Sustaining members in bold print, New members underlined): Louis & Phyllis Budell, Kathleen Carroll & Family, Philip & Kathleen Coccia, Karen W. Conley, Jeff & Lisa Crysler & Family, Andrew & Louise Dawson, Bob & Anne Dingman, Joseph & Lyn Duffy, Russell & Joyce Glover, Donald & Patricia Hayes, Kristin Keegan, Mary E. Lotusso, Pat Marcel, Kathy McLaughlin, Paul Jr. & Hazel Morgan, Florence M. Odell, Elizabeth L. Olley, Leon & Julie Plochocki, **Lauren D. Rowe**, Jeremy Sadler, James Jr. & Betsy Shake, Matthew Shoff, Russell & Dorothy Snell, Leona Wilcox.

Current membership: 388 ~

Recent Acquisitions: *We wish to thank the following people for donating items to the museum collection:* **Bill Nesfeder** for pictures of museum; **Jan DeBevic** for manikin wig & hand, house tour & history information; **Terry Hoey** for slides from Yorker Club; **Dale Vidler** for cream separator; **Harold Chapman** for picture of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Marble & Arthur Marble, Books: Knitting for Defense & Men's Sweaters at Work & Play; **Joy Buffan** for Mustang towel, 1967 commencement book, graduation tassel, various pictures; **Florence Pottinger** for various pictures; **Elizabeth Young** for Observer & newspaper articles; **Jim Thorpe** for First National Bank bag; **Jane Amidon** for Hiram Reed account books, H. Reed postcards, papers of Jonathan Reed 1810 & Rhoda Reed 1841, Mrs. L. Cummings antique ads; **Leona Hardy** for picture of West Hill

School, note from Cora Cline; **Joyce Murphy** for 70 year old baby dress, beaded purse, baby bib, Girl Scout ring, 1950's Future Home Maker pins, business cards from Smitty's Garage & Jacob R. Schneider & Son, Norris Funeral Home lead pencil; **Fran Randall** for Women's uniform MF Aux & man's jacket' **Dick Smith** for pictures. ~



Cream Separator

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Marcellus Historical Society
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Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com

Next Meeting:
Sunday, September 10th at 2 p.m.

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

Around Marcellus Book Signing:
Sunday, August 13th - 1 to 3 p.m.

Postal Customer
 Local

INSIDE:

- * *New Book: Around Marcellus*
- * *More on Marcellus Falls Mills*

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 Index to Nine Mile Country; Names and more \$ 5
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