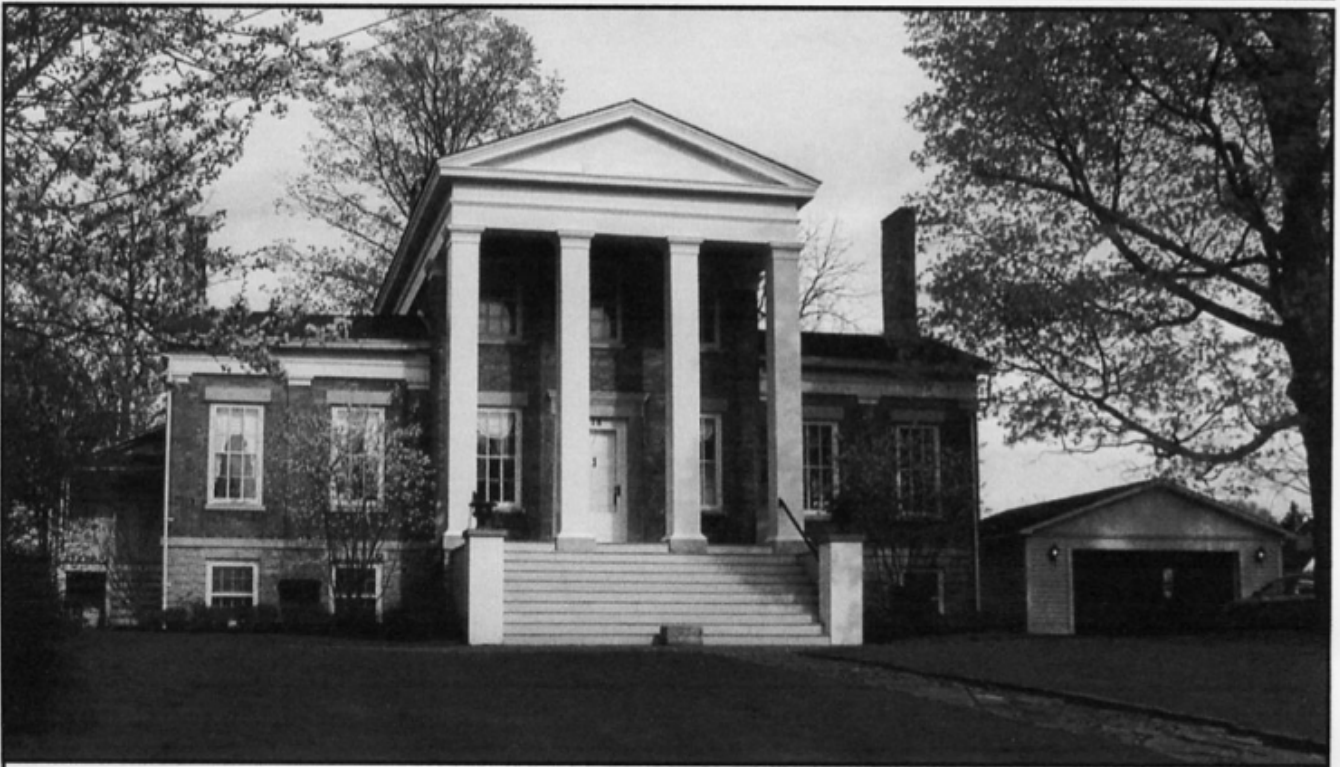




# MARCELLUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 4

Fall 2006



The Steadman Home at 18 North Street

### Historic Home Donated to Marcellus Historical Society

Lewis T. and Alma B. Steadman, former residents of Marcellus and now living in Lake Bluff, Illinois are the owners of the historic Tefft House, located at 18 North Street in the Village of Marcellus. They have recently announced that they are gifting this property to the Marcellus Historical Society.

18 North Street was the home of Dr. Lake I. Tefft who settled in Marcellus in 1823, and practiced medicine in the community. He acquired the property about 1827, and built the house in the 1830s where he and his family lived and he tended to farming as well as his medical profession. On April 1, 1864, Tefft, because of ill health, sold the property and moved to Syracuse where he remained until his death in 1880.

The property had been sold to Robert F. and Mary Rhodes North and for several years they and their family occupied the house and farmed the land. The property was sold to Thomas Hill in 1880 and then to Jonathan Chrysler in 1881, pieces of it sold off to other individuals in the years to come.

Mr. Steadman's parents, Prof. Robert F. and Calista Anne Steadman, acquired the property and the house in the winter of 1934 and it was in this house that Lewis Steadman grew up, attending the new Marcellus school that was built on what is today Reed Parkway. It was at this school that he met his future wife, Alma, daughter of William and Alma Bailey of Marcellus.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**EVENTS SCHEDULE**

*The tentative schedule of events is as follows:*

- Sunday, November 12, 2006**                     **2 p.m.**  
Lewis T. & Alma B. Steadman  
 Their home at 18 North Street
- Sunday, December 10, 2006**                     **1 p.m.**  
Holiday Dinner
- Sunday, January 14, 2007**                     **2 p.m.**  
Anne Dougherty  
 "Sheep Rearing, Wool Gathering, Weaving and Spinning in the 21st Century"

*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**

- President: Peg Nolan ..... 673-1765  
 E-mail: pegnolan@hotmail.com
- Vice President: Bruce Widger ..... 673-9142  
 E-mail: drbwidger@alltel.net
- Treasurer: Hollis Abbott ..... 673-1753  
 E-mail: habbott1@twcny.rr.com
- Secretary: Carrieth Pottinger .... 673-3187  
 E-mail: cb90009@aol.com

**Trustees and Term End**

- 2006 John Curtin ..... 673-3660  
 E-mail: jcurtin2@twcny.rr.com
- 2006 Mary Tuthill ..... 673-2990
- 2007 Tom Leonard ..... 673-4273  
 E-mail: TomLeonard35@msn.com
- 2007 Doug Nightingale ..... 673-2539  
 E-mail: djn0409@alltel.net
- 2008 Mary Jane Domurat ..... 673-4896  
 E-mail: mjdomurat@msn.com
- 2008 Dick Smith ..... 673-1532  
 E-mail: dfsmith@mycidco.com

Correspondence Secretary: Joyce Murphy..673-2528

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.

**Annual Meeting, November 12th at 2 p.m.**

The annual meeting of the Marcellus Historical Society will take place at the regular November meeting. Trustee nominees for the three year term ending 12/31/2009 are John Curtin and Mary Tuthill. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor. ~

**From The President ...**

How blessed the Historical Society and the people of Marcellus are! **Lewis and Alma Steadman are donating their beautiful historic home at 18 North Street to the Society.** What an honor for us to be able to preserve this house for years to come. The Executive Committee recommends that the membership approve the acquisition at the November 12th meeting.

I am very excited and looking forward to moving our collection into the house and having it open to the public. There is much planning to be done before we can move and we will be setting up committees to deal with different aspects of the transition. We will want more volunteers to assist in this undertaking so let us know what you feel you can contribute. There will have to be fund-raising events and the need to pursue grants and other sources of income.

During the past few months we have been organizing more research material at the museum. The family history files have been indexed and entered in the computer. Other files have been organized and put into protective sleeves.

Thank you to the Board for all they have done and continue to do.

**Happy Thanksgiving**

**Peg Nolan ~**

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

**Robert and Alice Mahan  
 Carolyn Mucci  
 John T. Coyne  
 Katherine V. Handy**

**Museum Hours:**

**Thursday 1 to 4 pm (Weather permitting)  
 Or By Appointment: Bruce Widger - 673-9142  
 Hollis Abbott - 673-1753**

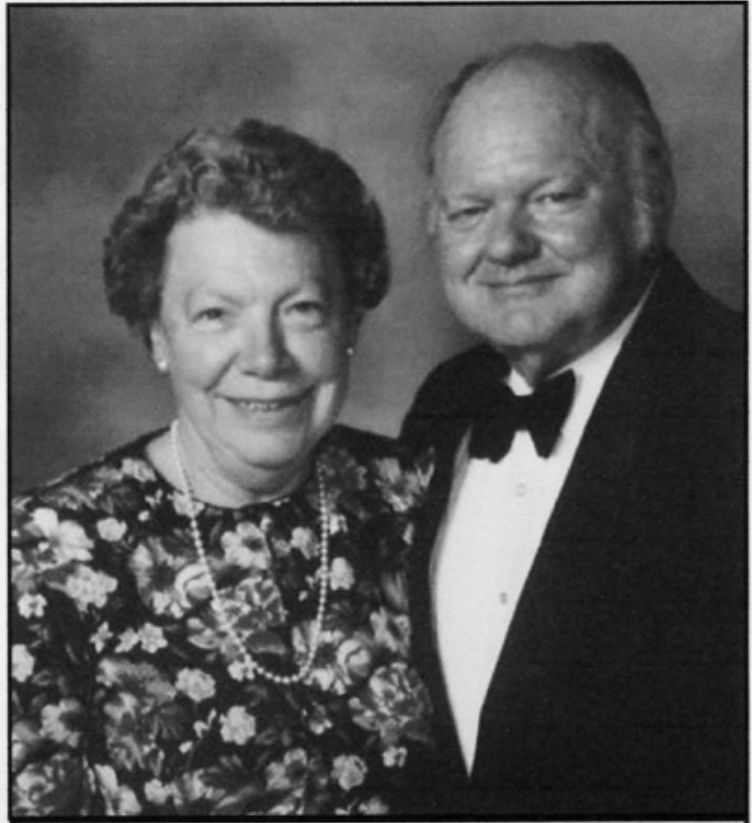
**Internet access available at the Museum**

The computer at the museum can be used to access internet sites for family research.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Lewis Steadman and Alma Bailey were 1943 graduates of Marcellus High School and following their graduations from Syracuse University, were married in the house at 18 North Street on May 11, 1946. The couple moved to Detroit where Lewis took a job with the Ford Motor Company, and Alma, after attending Wayne State College, earned a Masters Degree and became a teacher of Latin. They moved from there to Washington D.C. where, from 1948 to 1951, Lewis worked in the Patent Office while attending George Washington University Law School. Following graduation, the couple moved to Chicago where Lewis began a successful practice as a patent attorney and where, although semi-retired since 1998, he still practices law.

Meanwhile, in 1947 the property at 18 North Street was sold by Robert F. Steadman to Dean and Mrs. Wesley C. Clark, who resided there in the 1950s and 1960s, altering the front entry of the house - styling it after those found in the South, with stairs leading on both sides of a porch.



**Alma and Lewis Steadman**

The house went through a succession of owners for the next thirty years, and when it became available, Lewis and Alma Steadman purchased the property in 1996 in celebration of their 50th anniversary. Since then they have been busy with restoration projects - most significantly, the replacement of the four grand columns for the front portico, which had been removed in 1890. Mike O'Brien of Marcellus meticulously crafted these, using early photos as his guide and erecting them on bases of limestone found in the yard.

The home of Lewis and Alma Steadman is a fine example of a Greek Revival style house. It stands out as one of the exceptional village houses in terms of architectural integrity. It is also significant because it is made of brick, which was an uncommon building material in rural New York. Some suggest that the brick was imported from England and used as ballast on the ship, sailed up the St. Lawrence River and then down the Black River as far as possible before being hauled overland to Marcellus. Others say that the brick could have been made in Marcellus, as was the case with the American Legion Hall, the construction of which dates from an approximate time period.

The Steadmans with their attention to detail and authenticity have restored the entry to the grandeur it was intended. When Mr. Steadman lived in the house in the 1930-40's, the front porch had a tin roof over it - the remains of this are still faintly visible against the brick. The front door has a full stone surround with flanking stone pilasters and a projecting stone cornice. Many of the six-over-six double hung windows have original sash and narrow stone sills and flat stone lintels. The home is constructed on a 3' thick foundation of native stone with the interior walls being of 1 1/2" plaster and a single 30' tree, 12 by 16 inches thick, beam supporting the roof. Random widths of pine paneling comprise the flooring, still in use today. Indoor shutters add charm to the living quarters. The home features 6 fireplaces (3 with marble liners and one on the lower level with the original crane), a carved circular staircase with cherry baluster and railing and elaborate Greek Revival style moldings which are featured on the exterior and then replicated around the door frames, windows and fireplaces. The Steadmans have furnished the home with period pieces as well as with artifacts from Marcellus. They have on display an original painting of the house done by Ruth Reed Cummings, and a Philip L. Smith clock locally made ca. 1833.

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

The acquisition of the Tefft House presents an excellent opportunity for the Marcellus Historical Society to fulfill the mandates of its New York State Charter - to preserve the artifacts, history and records of the Town and Village of Marcellus - as well as display its collection of artifacts and historic documents. With its nearness to the Marcellus Central School campus, the Society is also afforded the opportunity to fulfill another of its charter's educational mandates - to foster the study of history.

The society, whose search for its own museum and location has been long and patient, is deeply indebted to and grateful for the generosity of Lewis and Alma Steadman. In addition, the enthusiastic efforts of former Mayor Fred Eisenberg and MHS attorney, Bernard Reagan, in helping to finalize the property transfer must be acknowledged. We can all be justly proud of such citizens, whose concern for Marcellus, its history and its future, is yet another example of their selfless commitment to community.

Marcellus and the Tefft House at 18 North Street have always been a welcome home for Lewis and Alma Steadman - an emotion that is strongly echoed in their remarkable generosity to the community.

Submitted by John Curtin



North Family ca. 1870s



Rear View



Steadman Home in the late 1930s



North Side



Clark Residence in the 1950s and 1960s



Aerial view



Main Floor Parlor



Front Door and Staircase



Main Floor North Room



Main Floor South Room



Lower Floor North Room



Lower Floor South Room

**Holiday Dinner December 10th at 1 p.m.**

The annual Holiday Dinner will be held at the Marcellus Fire Station at 1 p.m. December 10th and will be catered by Lou Alfieri from Auburn.

The price is \$11 per person.

Menu

Baker Ham with glaze sauce  
Oven Roasted Turkey  
Meatballs  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Macaroni and Sauce  
Baked Beans  
Gelatin Salad  
Relish Tray  
Chef Salad  
Rolls and Butter  
Dessert  
Beverage

*Please have your payment in to the treasurer by  
December 1st. ~*

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

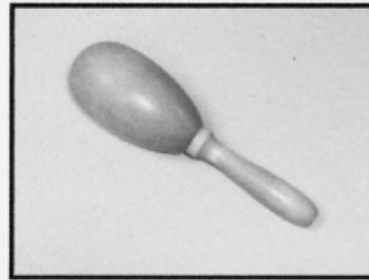
Frank & Helen Kennedy, **John T. Coyne, Dr.**  
**Kathleen Mullin Hoar**, Dale & Joyce Sims, Lucinda  
W. Skinner, Kathy P. Smiley, Glen & Sue Snell,  
Roberta M. Welsh.

**Current membership: 394 ~**

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

**Helen Hopkins** certificate for Harold & Bob Waters  
sponsored on World War II Monument in  
Washington; **Tim Dudley** for L.D. Paul folding yard  
stick; **Donna Logue Hamblin** for U.S. Navy World  
War I dress overcoat belonging to Donald Garrison  
Logue who served on the USS North Carolina;  
**Florence Pottinger** for scrapbooks; **Karen Robinson**  
for 1952 Methodist Church plate; **Janet Linderman**  
for 1874 Sweet Atlas of Onondaga County; **Fran  
Randall** for Geography book used by Dorothy  
Randall, Webster's Dictionary, 1957 Olde Home  
Days bulletin, 1963 Dedication Program for the Post  
Office; **Joyce Murphy** for James Murphy's hat  
collection, calling cards for MCS Class of 1954, song  
book from District #8 school; James Murphy Fire  
Department memorabilia; **Sally Odell Wroe** for 1850  
framed map of New York State; **Mary Widger** for  
wooden sock darning egg. ~

1952  
Methodist Church  
Plate



Wooden  
Sock Darning Egg

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8 West Main St., PO Box 195, Marcellus 13108 ..... 673-2092

**PETER R. HAKES, ESQ., ATTORNEY AT LAW**

General Practice, Located next to Nightingale Mills  
hakeslaw@hotmail.com (FAX 673-9390)  
4080 South Street Rd., PO Box 41, Marcellus 13108 ..... 383-6970

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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 (Annual Meeting):**  
**Sunday, November 12th at 2 p.m.**

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

Postal Customer  
 Local

**INSIDE:**

- \* *The Steadman Home*
- \* *Election of Trustees*
- \* *Annual Holiday Dinner*

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Basic Membership = 1 yr. ~ Sustaining = 5 yr.

(Multiply dues by 5 for sustaining membership)

Number Joining? \_\_\_\_\_ New Members? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Addr: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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<i>Shipping: \$2 per book, \$4 other.</i>	

Qty	Item Description	Cost Ea	Total
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<b>Make Checks Payable to:</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>Marcellus Historical Society</b>	<b>Shipping</b>	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>PO Box 165</b>	<b>Dues</b>	<b>\$</b> _____
<b>Marcellus, NY 13108</b>	<b>Total Enclosed</b>	<b>\$</b> _____