



The Steadman House

# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 12, Issue 1

Winter 2007

THE SYRACUSE HERALD SUNDAY MORNING,  
SEPTEMBER 20, 1914

## Aged Man and Buggy Hang High Over a Steep Ravine

DENNIS TIERNEY THROWN INTO AIR  
WHEN HORSE RUNS

Perched Among Branches,  
Rescued From Perilous Position by Autoists

Dennis Tierney of Martisco isn't going to forget last Thursday afternoon in a hurry, Dennis is 70 years old and fought at the battle of Shiloh where he lost his left leg, but he never had such an experience in his life as befell him on his way home from the village where he went after tobacco and some things his wife wanted from the store.

The Martisco tracks of the Auburn & Syracuse railroad are on Dennis' way home, a few rods away toward the south, just before you get to Marcellus Falls there is a detour before coming to a closed bridge and this leads up the hill through the woods and across the tracks at Martisco. It's a pretty rough country, and at the side of the road is a slanting ravine anywhere from 100 to 150 deep.

In order to prevent automobiles or drivers from running into the ravine, a log twenty feet long and about eighteen inches wide had been felled so as to lie across the path, and this had fallen so that it extended about fifteen feet into the ravine which was overhung with trees.

Dennis was driving along toward home on Thursday afternoon, smoking his pipe and taking things easy when his horse, which was a young and spirited animal, took fright at something in the road. Maybe it was a bird - maybe it was a squirrel. Dennis doesn't know which, but anyway the horse gave a dash - toward the log and the ravine.

It might have meant a fall to the bottom of the ravine, with probable death, but it didn't. The buggy



caught in the limbs of a tree growing out of the ravine, the front wheels in some inexplicable way locked, leaving the back wheels a little distance from the ground, the front wheels about eight feet in the air, almost in the top branches of the tree, and Dennis sitting aloft on the seat of his buggy, his crutches beside him, without even his pipe, it having been knocked out of his mouth. The horse had got loose from the wagon and cantered down to the bottom of the ravine on the flat land, where he had begun peacefully grazing.

Dennis saw an automobile approaching. He drew a long breath, mustered all the strength of his lungs and shouted. The chauffeur looked around for the voice, stopped his car and called out: "Where are you?" "Here. In the tree." The members of the party alighted and gathered around. Other motorists and drivers and a few pedestrians came up. In the space of twenty minutes or so, Dennis the bird-man had collected what Marcellus might proudly call "considerable of a crowd."

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There were suggestions by the dozen. None of them appeared feasible. There was Dennis. There was the buggy. And there was the tree. The trunk was strong and there seemed no immediate danger that it would give way. Somebody suggested getting a net of some kind and having Dennis drop in, but the old soldier declared that in spite of his position, he wasn't a bird and that he wasn't in shape for a flying competition at all. Besides, where was the net? he asked. Which was a poser. He took out his jack knife while the discussion was going on and started whittling the tree. "Don't do that. It might drop with you," said somebody and Dennis desisted quickly. Someone ran to fetch Mrs. Tiemey. She came running and promptly had a fit of hysterics. "Will you look at that?" said Dennis. "Now, Mary, just stop it. Sure, I'm entirely comfortable." And he looked it.

It was just at that point that Attorney John H. Burke of Syracuse arrived with two companions, both young professional men of this city. Mr. Burke is the secondary hero of the story. "Somebody get a ladder," wailed Mrs. Tiemey "And hold it up there so the poor man can get down." "And what would you stand it on?" quoth Dennis with a disdainful glance into the depths of the ravine. There wasn't any foothold for a ladder that could be noticed.

It was then that Mr. Burke had his inspiration. "We could pull him over onto the ground backward," he suggested. And that was how they managed it. Mr. Burke and his two companions - they were Dr. Ambrose T. Lawless and Dr. Matthew L. Ryan - went to the back of the tree with the others hanging on from behind to prevent their slipping—and seized Dennis with a firm grip. He leaned backward as composedly as though he were in a rocking chair, and was drawn to safety, leaving the buggy still ensconced in the tree to be taken out later. Then the horse was hitched to it and Dennis drove away quietly and peacefully the rest of the way home.

*This article was sent to the Historical Society by Kathleen Mullin Hoar of Rochester, WI, after a visit to Marcellus this past summer. She is the great granddaughter of Dennis Tierney and a second cousin of Margaret Aherin and Elizabeth Orzesek who told her that there are different versions of the story. Her mother was Alice Brennan Mullin, part of the Tierney clan from Marcellus Falls. Dennis Tierney was a partner of Michael Lawless in the Eagle Paper Mill in Marcellus Falls (see following article). ~*

*The Marcellus Observer June 16, 1894*

***History of the Brick Paper Mill, Now Known as the Eagle Mill and Owned by Lawless and Tierney.***

THIRTEENTH PAPER

Sometime in the year 1852 after Reed and Dalliba bought the clock factory site and property, described in our last article, they commenced to build the brick paper mill, and a new dam a few rods below the old log dam. When the walls of this building were nearly up and the dam nearly completed the work came to a stand still and remained so awhile. Early in 1853 N. G. Case bought a one-third interest in the property and the firm became George Reed & Co. The work was resumed and the dam, built of wood and stone, was completed and made very firm and solid. The building was also finished and the machinery introduced. They put in a Fourdrinier machine for making white print and book paper. From some of the first products of this mill was printed a fine large family Bible by a firm in Auburn, a copy of which was shown us this week by the widow of Wm. P. Giles, who now owns it. The paper was made for it by her husband who worked in this mill from the opening most of the time till his death, about ten years ago.

This firm ran the mill, which was considered one of the best in the state at that time, quite successfully for a year or so, making and supplying paper for the *Albany Argus*, the *New York World* when it first started, Moore's *Rural New Yorker* and many other papers and contracts until Dalliba, who was a merchant here in the village, failed, and then the firm was reorganized and became Reed & Case, about 1854.

About this time the clock factory building was sawn in two and the parts moved to their present respective locations, the one south .... fitted up on a basement and converted into a boarding house. The new firm continued the business satisfactorily and with fair success until 1859 when a firm in Auburn, consisting of Case, Bronson & Co., who had a large contract, employing the prisoners, for making boots and shoes, under Horace Bronson, manager, failed for a large amount, which involved the firm of Reed & Case at the Falls, and caused them to fail. The mortgage given Bigelow at the purchase, was in the hands of the Cayuga County bank and they foreclosed it, and along in 1861, the property was sold, and bought in by Chester Moses for the creditors. Wm. P. Giles and Charles Austin were prominent in running the mill about this time. In about a year or thereabouts it was

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(Continued from page 3)

sold to Benj. H. Culver who went to great expense in putting in new machinery to bleach straw for making print paper of it, which was a new process at that time, and he also made wall paper, tinting some of it, and some colored wrapping paper. James Sarr helped to put in the machinery.

Mr. Culver owned and operated the mill several years and finally sold it to John F. Jones. Mr. Jones had been a heavy dealer and had owned the Genesee mills at Rochester, and when he sold out there and came to the Falls, he was reputed to be wealthy, and he put a large amount of money into property about the Falls, and was also interested in mills in Phelps and Penfield, and by spreading out quite extensively, with large expenses, he became so involved after running this mill two or three years that he called his creditors together and gave them a mortgage on a large amount of his property, and they chose Cyrus Sweet of Syracuse, then Surrogate, as their agent, and after running along awhile with this arrangement, the property was sold on this mortgage by Sweet, and bid in on the foreclosure sale by Lawless & Tierney in April, 1875. Since that time it has been owned by this firm, Tierney having a one-third interest.

They have made many changes and laid out considerable money from time to time in repairs and otherwise. They have taken out some machinery and put in some new, they built a new dam below the other, the strongest one on the stream, about eleven years ago, and the large chimney a little later, and a year or two ago a large boiler, 100 horsepower, at a cost of about \$1,000 was put in.

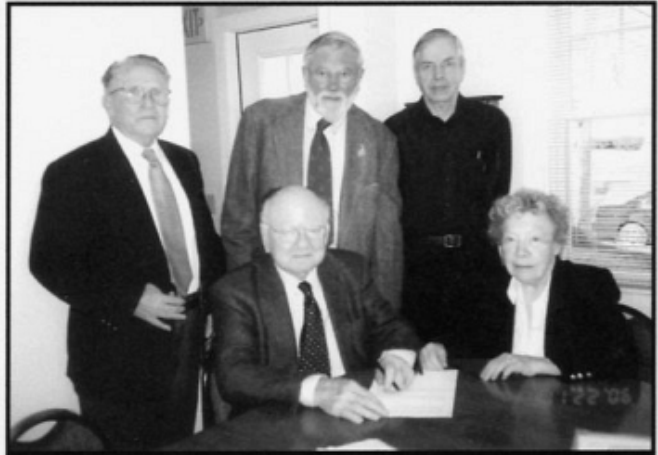
When running on full time they can make from three to four tons of heavy paper a day. They formerly used large quantities of straw, but latterly are using more rags, as there seems to be no money in straw paper. The mill is known as the Eagle mill and they are not running on full time at present, nor employing as many hands as formerly. John Giles and Wm. Hayes are the machine tenders and Mr. Lawless' sons are employed here with others. The mill is in full working order and if the times quicken up they will be ready to do larger business.

*Submitted by John Curtin*

The old Eagle Mill was sold to the Martisco Paper Company in 1959 (*Nine Mile Country p.45*). ~

#### **Museum Hours:**

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



Closing on the Steadman House at 18 North Street  
Bernie Reagan, Bruce Widger, Hollis Abbott,  
Lewis and Alma Steadman  
November 22, 2006

#### **ALPHABET HISTORY QUIZ OF MARCELLUS**

- A \_\_\_\_\_ Owners of a large hotel.  
B \_\_\_\_\_ Innkeeper with first name of Bildad.  
C \_\_\_\_\_ Original name for South Street  
D \_\_\_\_\_ DMS named for this principal of MCS.  
E \_\_\_\_\_ Church that was physically moved.  
F \_\_\_\_\_ Previous name of Maple Street.  
G \_\_\_\_\_ Owner of a drugstore w/ soda fountain.  
H \_\_\_\_\_ An undertaker who also sold furniture.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ Lawyer son of Dan Bradley.  
J \_\_\_\_\_ Old family cemetery near Navarino.  
K \_\_\_\_\_ A lawyer who lit up the village streets.  
L \_\_\_\_\_ A General who stopped in Marcellus.  
M \_\_\_\_\_ A locally published newspaper.  
N \_\_\_\_\_ Name of a creek.  
O \_\_\_\_\_ Shape of schoolhouse on Slate Hill.  
P \_\_\_\_\_ Sold first Chevrolet in Marcellus.  
Q \_\_\_\_\_ Place for getting limestone.  
R \_\_\_\_\_ Location of a large seed company.  
S \_\_\_\_\_ Owned a bakery.  
T \_\_\_\_\_ Main road through Marcellus.  
U \_\_\_\_\_ Woolen Mill (not Lower).  
V \_\_\_\_\_ Tavern formerly Cottage Saloon.  
W \_\_\_\_\_ Owned a paint & wallpaper store.  
X \_\_\_\_\_ St. Francis .....Catholic Church.  
Y \_\_\_\_\_ Was wound on bobbins in the mill.  
Z \_\_\_\_\_ First name of Mr. Halzapple who received land grant in 1792.

(Answers on page 6) ~

#### **Internet access available at the Museum**

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



**At the January 14th meeting:**  
**Leda Stopyro** was presented with a plaque in honor of her dedicated volunteer work for the Society.  
 And, **Anne Dougherty** shows **Kathy Whitehead** how to spin wool into yarn.



**Marcellus Observer Items from long ago:**

April 17, 1879

"The **Union School** commenced on Monday, the usual number of scholars are in attendance. **L. N. Mogg** is principal, assisted by **Miss May Clift** and **Miss Alice Woodford.**"

**Mr. Hooper** erected a new building on North Street. "It contains a full stock of Walnut, Ash and Soft Wood, Parlor, Dining and Chamber Furniture of all descriptions also a complete line of Undertaking Goods."

New Tin Shop opened by **M. G. Case & Sons.**

**J. H. Powell** - Express Wagon from Marcellus to Syracuse on Thursdays.

**George Hunt** - proprietor of Navarino Hotel.

April 24, 1879

**Library** set up in White Building.

**Marcellus Falls** - "The District school will commence on Monday, April 28, with **Miss Butterfield** of Camillus and **Miss Laura Walker** of this place, as teachers."

**Marcellus Stone Mill** - Custom Grinding.

**Thos. Walker** - selling Boots & Shoes.

**Dell Wood** - Merchant -Tailor.

**J. G. Holmes** - Attorney & Counsellor at Law.

**C. A. Peck** - Barber, Hairdresser, also dealer in Fine Cigars and Tobacco.

May 1, 1879

**An old farmer**, who was always boasting how folks used to work in his young days, one day challenged his two sons to pitch on a load of hay as fast as he could load it. The challenge was accepted, the hay wagon driven around and the trial commenced. For some time the old man held his own very creditably, calling out, "More hay! more hay!" At length, struggling to keep on the top of the disordered and ill-arranged heap, it began to roll, then to slide, and at last off it went from the wagon and the old man with it. "What are you doing down here?" cried one of the boys. "I came down after more hay", answered the old man stoutly.

**From The Skaneateles Free Press:**

We received last Saturday the first number of the **Marcellus Weekly Observer**, **Edmund Reed**, Editor and publisher. The paper presents a very creditable appearance, containing a well made local department and other acceptable features. It should receive a cordial support from the people of Marcellus.

**Henry W. Post, M.D.** - Physician and Surgeon.

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*Submitted by Peg Nolan & Hollis Abbott ~*



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

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**Current membership: 414 ~**

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

**Eileen Kennedy** for pictures, newspaper articles, Marcellus memorabilia; **Bill Nesfeder** for pictures of 1994 Bicentennial Parade; **Mary Widger** for darning egg made from gourd, pattern tracer; **Ed Machool** for Nelson H. Gaunt order forms for chickens; **Kathy McLaughlin** for history of the Kenyon & Hayden families; **Michael Plumpton** for Masonic Bible and apron; **Barbara Spain** for Onondaga County map; **Karen Richards** for 4 booklets about Marcellus. ~

**Answers to quiz on page 4:**

Alvord, Beach, Cherry, Driver, Episcopal, Factory, Guernsey, Hooper, Isaac, Jackson, Knapp, Lafayette, Marcellus Observer, Nine Mile, Octagon, Pilot, Quarry, Rose Hill, Schanzle, Turnpike, Upper, Village, Woodbridge, Xavier, Yarn, Zacharias. ~

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**Sunday, February 11th at 2 p.m.**

(The date on the label is the  
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**INSIDE:**

- \* *Dennis Tierney lands in tree*
- \* *History of the Brick Paper Mill*
- \* *Early Observer Items*
- \* *Alphabet History Quiz*

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

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Cost Ea</u>	<u>Total</u>
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_____	_____	_____	_____
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