



Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 12, Issue 2

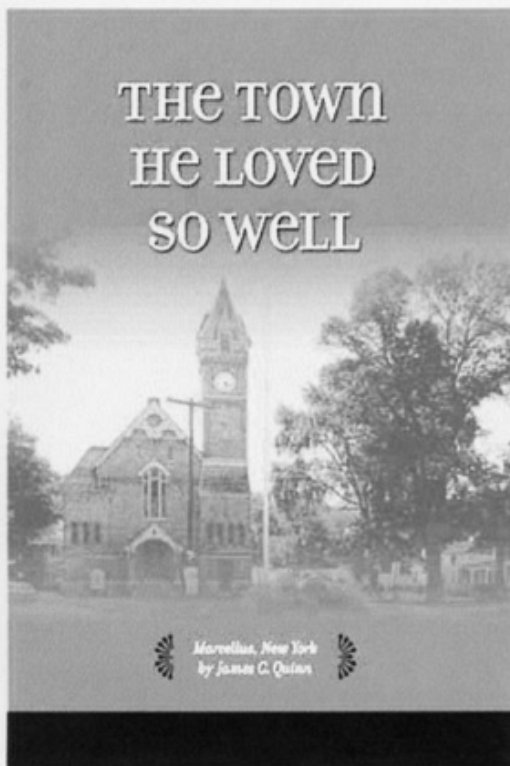
Spring 2007

The Town He Loved So Well

by James C. Quinn

Memories of life in a small American town in Central New York capture, with love and humor, the wonderful human beings who peopled its green valley and sheltering hills.

About the Book



Originally, *The Town He Loved So Well* was conceived as a work intended only for the author's children so that they might come to know the upstate village of another era during the fifteen-year period from their Papa's first memories of existence until he left for college. Like most children, his little girl and boy asked him - especially at bedtime - to tell them a story from the olden days, and he gladly complied, much as his father had done before him. Like most fathers, he wished to convey to his offspring his own roots as he emphasized the best aspects of family heritage and rural life in what their grandmother called God's Country. Especially, he wanted to preserve for his children the memory of their grandmother, who seemed to have found her paradise in this particular spot of earth carved by the great glacier as it moved south with its artistic hand millenniums before.

Somewhere during the three-year period of compiling stories from his youth, the purpose became more universally driven by the striking dedication in an earlier history of the town by his former elementary school principal: To all those who have ever called Marcellus Home. The third-person narrative intends to convey a less personal memoir so that other Marcellians might be encouraged to write of the times and, most of all, the individuals whom they have known in this special place.

About the Author

Jim Quinn, MCS Class of '59 valued his small-town education from college days through graduate school. He taught secondary English for forty years and remains an adjunct associate professor at Fordham College of Liberal Studies in Tarrytown, where he and his wife Donna live.

Details

210 pages, a quality trade paperback (soft cover) with black and white photographs, the book can be purchased from the Marcellus Historical Society, the Marcellus Library and local stores for \$20 beginning in May as well as during Olde Home Days in June. Jim Quinn will be in Marcellus during our Open House at The Steadman House on September 16, 2007 to sign the book. After meeting publication costs, Jim has allocated proceeds from the sale of his book to the Marcellus Historical Society.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, May 20, 2007 2 p.m.

Mike & Eileen Broader

**"Pleasure In Raising Animals With
A Proud History"**

Saturday, June 2, 2007 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Open House - Olde Home Days

Sunday, June 10, 2007 2 p.m.

To be Announced

No Meetings During July and August

*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 2007

President: Peg Nolan673-1765

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Vice President: Bruce Widger673-9142

E-mail: drbwwidger@windstream.net

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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.

From The President ...

On March 16th, **John and Maureen Curtin** attended the meeting of the NYS Board for Historic Preservation in Waterford, NY when the Steadman House was nominated to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Once the State Historic Preservation office signs the nomination, it goes to Washington to be listed in the National Register.

Work is being done at the Steadman House. **Jean Nightingale** and I have been washing the windows and **Hollis Abbott** contracted to have 3M UV film put on all the aluminum storm windows. In the coming weeks the wooden storm windows will be taken down, scraped, painted and covered with UV film.

Thank you to **John Curtin** for arranging to have **Jake Weinheimer** clean and seal all the wood floors at the Steadman House and to **John Curtin, Jamie Curtin** and **Doug Nightingale** for assisting in this big undertaking. John is also taking care of hiring people to fill in the pool and grade the area.

Doug Nightingale has investigated security systems and we have decided to use Doyle Security Systems. This system will cover fire, burglary, and water and will be installed in the next few weeks. Thank you, Doug.

Work will begin soon to make the house handicapped accessible and although that project will not be completed by Olde Home Days, **the Steadman House and the Museum will be open on June 2nd.** Space in the driveway at the house is limited but parking is available on Reed Parkway and at the rear of the house via Paul Street (look for signs). Moving the Society's entire collection from 6 Slocombe Ave. to 18 North Street will not be accomplished by Olde Home Days.

If you can help by **volunteering** on June 2nd for the Open House, please let me know.

Peg Nolan ~

Museum Hours:

Thursdays 1 to 4 pm

Or By Appointment: Peg Nolan - 673-1765

Bruce Widger - 673-9142

Hollis Abbott - 673-1753

In Remembrance

Henry R. McCarthy - January 27, 2007

Edward P. Zych - April 21, 2007

**Donations in memory of
Fred Eisenberg**

*With appreciation to the
following people for their
generosity:*

Irving & Nancy Casler
 Elisabeth W. Burton
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 Betsy Whitmore
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 Dorothy McMahon
 Susan & Bruce Lande
 Beverley & Daniel Sapochetti
 Deborah Tracy

~



Fred Eisenberg



Alma and Lewis Steadman

Honoring Commitment to Community
 Marcellus Olde Home Days 2007



Olde Home Days has special significance for the Marcellus Historical Society this year. In recognition of their selfless commitment to Marcellus, the Olde Home Days Committee 2007 will honor two special families, the Steadmans and the Eisenbergs. It was because of the remarkable generosity of Lewis and Alma Steadman that the Marcellus Historical Society acquired its new home at 18 North Street. In addition, it was the special friendship that former Mayor Fred Eisenberg and his wife, Pat, had with the Steadmans, as well as their enthusiastic efforts on the Society's behalf, that helped to finalize the transaction.

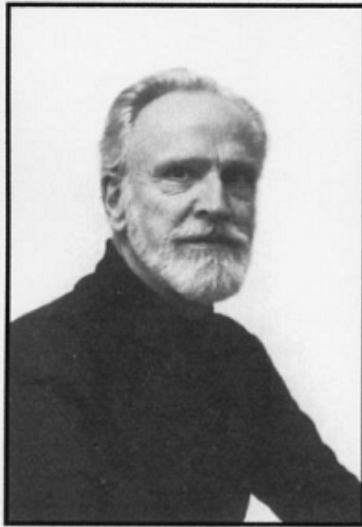
The acquisition of what is now called The Steadman House presents an excellent opportunity for the Marcellus Historical Society to fulfill the mandates of its New York State Charter – to preserve the artifacts, history and records of the Town and Village of Marcellus – as well as display its collection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

Lewis and Alma Steadman were also selected as Grand Marshals for the Olde Home Days Parade this year, along with Pat Eisenberg representing her husband, Fred, whose sudden passing in January saddened the entire community. Prior to the parade, a memorial service to honor Fred's memory and his role as one of the founding members of the revised Olde Home Days is also planned.

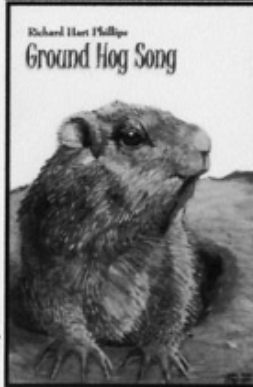
We can all be justly proud of such citizens, whose concern for Marcellus, its history and its future, is yet another example of selfless commitment to community.

Submitted by John Curtin ~

Poetry Books by Richard Hart Phillips



Doris Phillips has given the Historical Society copies of two books of poetry published by her late husband, Dr. Richard Hart Phillips. Dr. Phillips was a graduate of the University of North Carolina, New York University School of Medicine and Duke University. He was a professor of psychiatry at University Hospital for 40 years. The books are available at the museum and can be purchased for \$5 each. ~



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

Bill & Carol Abbott, Margaret Aherin, Thomas Aherin, Timothy Aherin, Bruce & Helen Baker, Dave Ball, Joyce Beak, Dr. Gary & Vanessa Belcher, Pat Blackler, Harold Brinkerhoff, **Richard A. Brown**, Louis & Phyllis Budell, Kathleen Carroll & Family, Harold Chapman, Victoria Clark, Phillip & Helen Clarke, Philip & Kathleen Coccia, William T. Cook, James & Vera Costello, Kathy Coyne, Catherine D'Angelo, Beverly P. Dann, Andrew & Louise Dawson, Regina Dillon, Mary Drexler, Francis Eibert, Barbara A. Fero, Elizabeth Foster, Alan & Phyllis Gammon, Pat Gascon, Judy Gilchrist, Nettie Gilmour, **Russell & Joyce Glover**, Mary Lou Haney, Mary Lou Haroian, Helen Hopkins, Phyllis Huckle, Sterling & Ruth Jansen, **Gary & Judy Kavney**, Eileen B. Kennedy, John & Nancy Knowlton & Family, William Kolceski, Janet Linderman, James Lozott, Raymond & Dora Masters, Jim & Peg

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Current membership: 329 ~

The Marcellus Observer July 21, 1894

The Old Carding Mill, The Old Stone Saw Mill, Distillery, Paper Mill, etc. EIGHTEENTH PAPER

We find but very few who either remember or know that there was in an early day a carding and clothing dressing establishment near the bank on the west side of the creek north of the bridge, below the pearl barley mill. This was before the road was laid out through the hollow to the Camillus line. It must have been built about 1810 or 1812 and was one of the first in this part of the country and served a good purpose for a number of years, until over-shadowed by the Rhodes mill above, which went into operation about 1821. It was run sometime by Major Lyman Cook. The dam run diagonally across the stream a little below the old bridge, a wooden structure, built by Henry S. Platt. After it was given up as a fulling mill this building was taken down and the timbers put into the house on the hill, now occupied by Widow Giles and her son, John. Some of the timbers of the dam can still be seen when the water is low.

Just below this site, where the Phoenix paper mill now stands, there was built about 1828, by one Tuttle, a lumber merchant of Auburn, a stone saw mill. It was run by water, and the dam that furnished the power was built by Tuttle near where the present dam now is. The building he put up was quite a good size, high building, and he put in four gangs of saws, using water and sand to do the work. A slow but sure process. The stones were obtained from the Split Rock quarries and drawn over, and down the hill when the old road was open from near where C. L. Rich now lives to the creek by Charles Colman's present residence. This stone saw mill did an

extensive business for a number of years. They cut the stone almost any thickness, and they were used for window sills, window caps, water tables, step stones, and grave stones or monuments. The Randalls, of Cortland, came here for their building stone and drew them across the country before railroad times. The American hotel of Jordan and other buildings there were trimmed from these stones. Some of these stones may be seen in various places about here and in some of the old cemeteries. Isaac Godfrey succeeded Tuttle and the works were run by his sons, Arnold and Hiram, for four or five years, but after a while the business didn't pay as cut stone could be obtained cheaper, and it was closed out and the property went into the hands of Leonard and Merritt Mason, who turned the building into a distillery and made additions to it. This distillery was run by the Masons several years. Their hog yard was on the west side of the creek.

Somewhere about 1843 George W. Ryan succeeded the Masons, who failed here in 1842. Quite a number of prominent business men lost heavily by them. Mr. Ryan turned the distillery into a paper mill, and after running it a short time he took in George Reed as a partner, who continued with him till about 1848, and then he retired from the firm. In the meantime some improvements were made and a deep race was dug out, which considerably increased the water power. After running along a few years more, the mill was burned down November 11, 1851.

The fire caught in the office from a neglected stove when the mill was shut down for repairs. The loss to Mr. Ryan was very heavy, including the mill, fixtures, and a very large quantity of rags. Some estimate his loss as high as \$60,000, with only a small insurance. And yet he commenced to rebuild in the following January. Ira Shoudy was the boss carpenter. The building did not cover so much ground as the present one, but was higher and more substantially built. After it was completed and refitted he ran along a few years more and failed for quite a large amount, about the time of the great panic in 1857. He made an assignment to Isaac Bradley who succeeded in settling up the affairs in a satisfactory manner, and paid a per cent to the creditors, of whom James H. Benedict of New York, was the largest one. Asa Wilcox, Mr. Ryan's son-in-law, afterwards took the mill and run it about a year and failed, and he was succeeded by Lucian Moses and J. W. Herring, and in a short time there came a wonderful freshet and swept down through the mill taking some of the foundation,

and making a wreck of the lower part of it, and they abandoned it and sold out to the Culvers. Benj. H. Culver was the chief manager and he built it all over and made additions to the building and put in a large amount of new machinery for making white print paper out of straw, also to make straw board. James Sarr was one of the chief workmen. He put in an iron bleaching vat, large and high, heated by steam, and when it was tested it blew up and terribly shattered the new building some of the pieces of the head of it were thrown a half mile. After running a few years Culver sold out to John F. Jones. ~

The Marcellus Observer July 28, 1894

The Phoenix Mill Continued. -

Nineteenth Paper

Mr. Jones had not run this mill long before it burned down, in April, 1868. He very soon commenced to rebuild and put up the present buildings, larger on the ground than the former one, but not as expensive. The double machine room is very large, being 60 by 100 feet. James Sarr had charge of the carpenter work. The present high and substantial chimney was also put up at this time, and Robert Hawkins of Auburn, who built A. M. Seymour's Centennial store at the Falls, was the principal mason. The chimney is 107 feet high, with double or hollow walls, bound together a good part of the way up, and so built that the top can be reached by steps ascending from the inside. The mill continued in the hands of Mr. Jones for a few years after being newly equipped and was run by him until his general failure in 1875, when he made an assignment to Cyrus Sweet, and he sold it to the McIntyre Coal Company. They sold, or rented it to one Robinson, who run it a year or two, and then Dr. Barber took it and run it a while, and it went back into the hands of the McIntyre Coal Company, and was bought of them by M. J. Lawless in the fall of 1878.

Mr. Lawless has run this mill since that time. It goes by the name of the Phoenix mill. He has made some changes, repairs and improvements from time to time, and put in some new machinery, and recently has changed the double machine into a single one. Latterly he has used more rags and less straw than formerly. He has now rented it on trial to W. H. Flaxington, and William Barber, of Syracuse. George (?????) will be the foreman, having as (helpers) John A. Kelly, jr., Michael Reynolds and John Allen. They will start up in a few days.

(Continued on page 6)

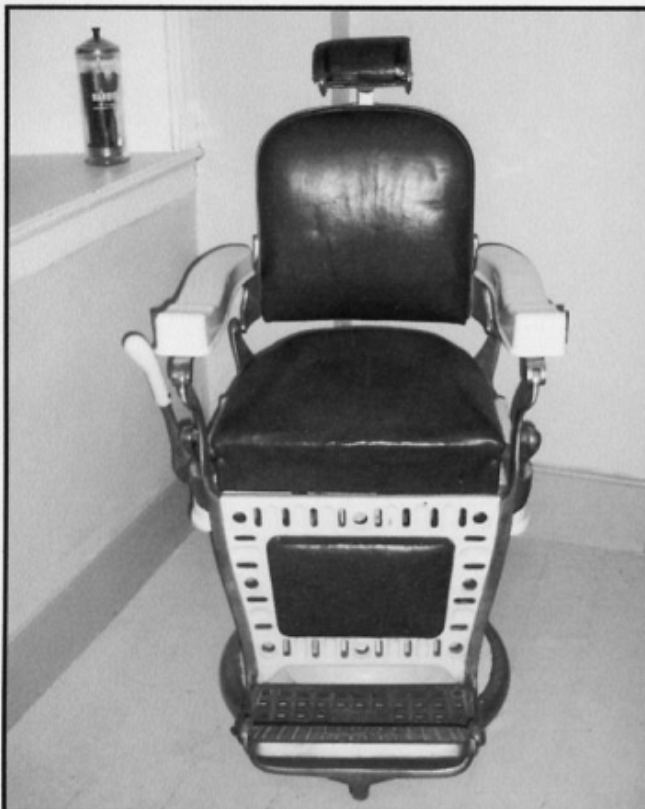
(Continued from page 5)

The next industry run by water below the Phoenix paper mill, before coming to the plaster mill was a small wooden bowl factory located somewhere along the bank, before the bank the water was turned into a race, where wooden bowls of various sizes were turned out by machinery by a man by the name of Smith. He received the singular appellation from some of "thousand legged" Smith, it is said, because he had very crooked legs. This was before 1820 long before the road was laid out and it was not in operation very many years.

Submitted by John Curtin ~

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

Mary Widger for knitting book; **Manahan Family** for George "Popeye" Manahan's barber chair (see below), cash register, razors, numerous pictures; **Joyce Murphy** for advertising items from Jacob Schneider, Perry's Creekside Quilts, W.F. Saunders; **Doris Phillips** for Poetry books by Richard Hart Phillips, map of Marcellus, Mulroy milk bottle carrier; **Dick Tabor** for Lincoln White obituary and funeral program; **Lewis Steadman** for arrowhead he found in his yard on North Street. ~



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

**Tom Donovan, Martin & Dorothy Sennett,
Regina Lee, Mary Tuthill,
Marcellus Study Club (Carol Argus, Pres.),
MCS Senior High Faculty & Staff,
Mary Lou Haroian, Judy Gilcrest**

~

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

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 Marcellus, NY 13108
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Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, May 20th at 2 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE:

Saturday, June 2nd: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

Postal Customer
 Local

INSIDE:

- * *The Town He Loved So Well*
 By James C. Quinn
- * *Olde Home Days*
- * *Richard Hart Phillips' books*
- * *More on Marcellus Falls Mills*
- * *Popeye's Barber Chair*

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\$5/Person ~ \$9/Couple ~

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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: _____

Available Collectibles

Pucker Street by John Curtin	\$26
Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus.....	\$20
John Drummond "Dried Weeds" Print	\$20
Around Marcellus by Leslie Church Kraus.....	\$20
The Town He Loved So Well by James Quinn	\$20
Official Marcellus Afghans: cranberry,blue,green ..	\$45
Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus	\$15
Otisco Lake Map 1868	\$10
Marcellus, When Wool Was King, Pictorial	\$ 5
Marcellus Through the Years; Chronology, photos	\$ 5
Index to Nine Mile Country; Names and more	\$ 5
New Colored Postcards of Marcellus.....	\$ 1
Postcards(5), 1960's B&W, 4 churches, post office	\$ 1
Package of 10 note-cards picturing Marcellus.....	\$ 5
<i>Shipping: \$2 per book, \$4 other.</i>	

Qty	Item Description	Cost Ea	Total
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Make Checks Payable to:	Total	\$ _____
Marcellus Historical Society	Shipping	\$ _____
PO Box 165	Dues	\$ _____
Marcellus, NY 13108	Total Enclosed	\$ _____