



The Steadman House

Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 13, Issue 1

Winter 2008

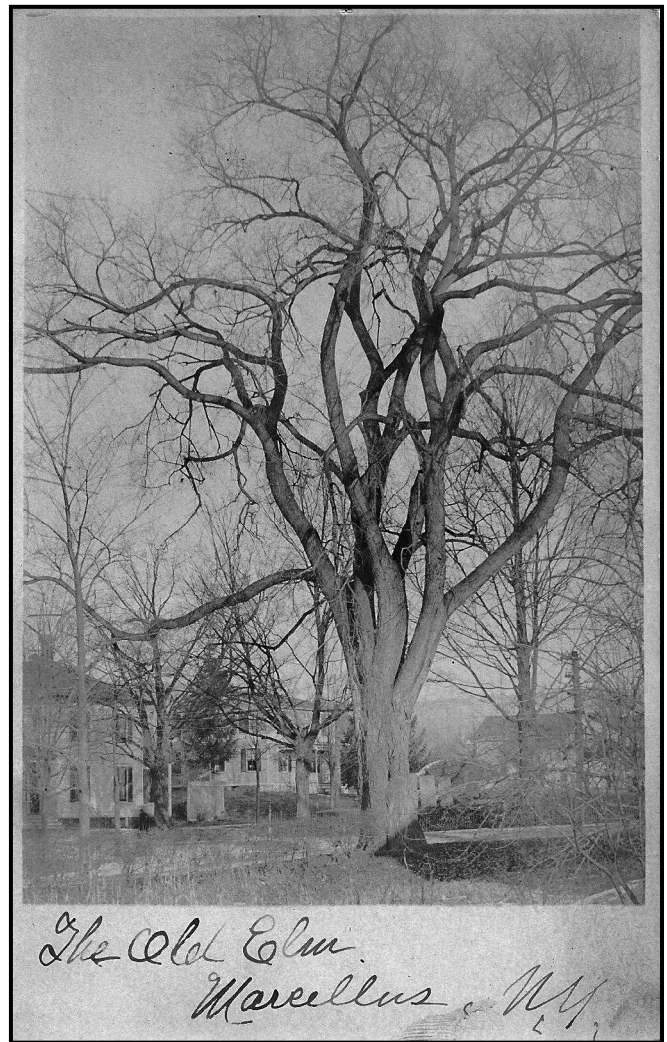
On October 31, 2007, The “Tefft-Steadman House” was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

*The Marcellus Observer
Wednesday, February 19, 1919*

Old Land Mark Gone

The old “elm tree” as it has been called many generations in Marcellus, has been leveled at last. No one in Marcellus knows the exact age of this, the great grandfather of all elm trees in Onondaga County. Probably a sapling when the redskins roamed over this section, a tender young forest king in the days of our first settlers, the old elm had grown to be a menace to public safety, and it was thought best to cut it down.

Could the old tree have spoken, what tales it could have told of old-time lovers, who whispered their vows under its boughs. Of the little children of by-gone years, whose gleeful voices rose to the topmost leafy branch as they built their dollhouses and chased Indians, and had their childish quarrels and made up and grew to be men and women. Long ago those children have gone to their last sleep, and now their children’s children, aye, it may be their children’s’ children’s’ children, are watching with round eyes as the old elm is laid low. We have bent our ear close to the ancient trunk and whispered, ‘Old tree, tell us a story’. But he only tossed his branches in the wind, and hugged his secrets to bosom, and so much of the history of old Marcellus is gone with the “old tree”.



Note: The Old Elm stood on the corner of Reed and North Streets in the Village of Marcellus. With a history dating back to a time before even the first settlers came to Marcellus, its presence seemed permanent, and surveyors often used it as a means of measuring and describing property lines. When it was cut down in 1919, Dr. Sullivan presented a bill to the Village Board for removal of the tree, itemized and totaling \$91.00, a costly amount at the time. (Photo: From the Eisenberg Postcard Collection, c1900.)

Submitted by John Curtin ~

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, February 10, 2008 **2 p.m.**

Dr. Edward Kantor
"Breweries of Syracuse"

Sunday, March 9, 2008 **2 p.m.**

To Be Announced

Sunday, April 13, 2008 **2 p.m.**

To Be Announced

If you have a suggestion for a program for one
of our meetings, please contact
Doug Nightingale

*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 2008

President: Peg Nolan.....673-1765
E-mail: pegnolan@hotmail.com
Vice President: Doug Nightingale.....673-2539
E-mail: djn0409@alltel.net
Treasurer: Hollis Abbott.....673-1753
E-mail: habbott1@twcny.rr.com
Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinger.....673-3187
E-mail: cb90009@aol.com

Trustees and Term End

2008 Mary Jane Domurat.....673-4896
E-mail: mjdumurat@msn.com
2008 Dick Smith673-1532
2009 John Curtin673-3660
E-mail: jcurtin2@twcny.rr.com
2009 Bob Wilson.....673-2550
2010 Joy Buffan.....673-1832
2010 Jamie Johnston.....673-1160

Correspondence Secretary: Joyce Murphy..673-2528

The Marcellus Historical Society,
P.O. Box 165, 18 North St., 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 ...

The **Steadman House** was placed on the **National Register of Historic Places** on October 31, 2007.
Go to the following web site to see the listing:

www.nps.gov/history/nr/listings/20071109.HTM

The Dan Bradley House on South Street was listed on the National Register in 1978.

In December we enjoyed a lovely Holiday Dinner and we thank **Bob Wilson** for making the arrangements.

A big Thank You to **Bruce Widger**, **Mary Tuthill** and **Tom Leonard** for their years of service to the Society. We welcome **Jamie Johnston**, **Joy Buffan** and **Bob Wilson** as Trustees and **Doug Nightingale** as our new Vice President.

The **Town of Marcellus** has allocated \$5000 to the Historical Society this year. We thank them and will use this money to help pay our insurance and utility costs. The **Village of Marcellus** is providing \$2500 in services to the Society which includes complete lawn maintenance, garbage, water and sewage expenses and the plowing of the driveway and parking lot. We appreciate their support.

Tom and Marilyn Schneider have made a donation of materials and labor to light up the sign and flag pole in the front yard. Thank you - I hear it is very nice and I can't wait to get back and see for myself.

Much has been accomplished in the past year. These projects have happened because of dedicated volunteers and generous donations.

The Board and Volunteers are dedicated to preserve this house, our history and our wonderful collection. The Steadman House hours are indicated below and volunteers are always welcome to help with the many projects.

Thank you to all the Volunteers and Board for all you are doing while I am away.

Peg Nolan ~

Steadman House Hours (weather permitting):

Thursdays 1 to 4 pm

Sundays 1 to 3 pm (except meeting Sundays)

Or By Appointment:

John Curtin - 673-3660

Bruce Widger - 673-9142

Hollis Abbott - 673-1753

In Remembrance

Julia Pepperman - January 17, 2008

Donations

Our thanks to the following people for cash donations:

Friends of Marcellus Library
Optimist Club of Marcellus
Robert & Alice Mahan
Craft Club
Town of Onondaga Historical Society
Roger & Joan Field
Myron & Barbara Egtvedt
Margaret Brooks
Dr. Bruce & Mary Widger
Hollis & Nancy Abbott
Gary & Diane Schoonmaker
James & Laura Duncan in memory of
Jean Moir Miller

Note: The Historical Society is now registered with the GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program so that GE employees or retirees may have their donations matched..

Research Rates

The Historical Society has established the following rates for use of the **Joanne Robinson Research Room**:

- 1- No charge for members who do their own research.
- 2- \$5 minimum for members requesting research with higher amounts based upon time required.
- 3- \$5 for non-members who do their own research.
- 4- \$10 minimum for non-members requesting research with higher amounts based upon time required.
- 5- The copy charge is 25 cents for black & white copies and \$1. for pictures or color copies. ~

The Marcellus Observer, April 17, 1879

In New Quarters

The new building that has been in course of erection on North St., is now occupied by Mr. Hooper. 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. Mr. Hooper has been in this village for nearly a score of years, and has served the people to their numerous wants with entire satisfaction. Goods can be purchased here at less than Syracuse prices, while none but the best material is used in their construction.

Note: The site is now a vacant lot since the 2004 fire.

*See **Hooper Furniture at the Steadman House***

Steadman House Contributions

We are grateful to the following people for donating their time, labor and materials on projects at the Steadman House:

Van Derhoof Roofing Co., Inc. for repairs to the second floor roof around the chimney.

Mike Van Beveren for installing a stove pipe box on the chimney in the Tefft Room.

Tom & Marilyn Schneider for installation of wiring and lights for the flagpole and sign in the front yard.

Steadman House Wish List

- 1 - Replacement of the floor in the Tefft room (\$800 - \$1000).
- 2 - Removal of the large tree in back yard (\$1300).
- 3 - Repairs to one chimney and capping of all the chimneys to keep water and animals from entering the house.
- 4 - Complete the insulation of the garage and the required covering of the north wall with sheetrock.
- 5 - Purchase of an additional dehumidifier (\$220).
- 6 - Acrylic panels to cover the exposed stone wall on the lower floor (\$96).
- 7 - Repair of railings on the front and side porches.
- 8 - Bell tower in back yard for the bells in our collection.

Renewed Members

*Since our last newsletter with **Sustaining members in bold print** and New members underlined:*

Timothy Aherin, Timothy & Kathryn Barstow, **Anita D. Bedford-Catlin**, Victoria Clark, William & Martha Cole, Mary Jane L. Domurat, **Myron & Barbara Egtvedt**, **Linda Greenfield**, James Hamilton, **Gene Hares & Family**, Helen Hopkins, Muriel Horning, Phyllis Huckle, Jamie L. Johnston, Tyrone & Sylvia King, Patricia Kinne, Elizabeth Lathrop, Mary E. Lorusso, James Lozott, Kathy McLaughlin, Sue Mezey, Mary Montague, Edwin & Gladys Nelson, Doug & Jean Nightingale, Joe & Peg Nolan, Marni Nolan, Ruth B. Oliver, Jerry & Lorraine Orton, Jim & Cindy Pollard, **Jim & Jean Reagan**, William & Eleanor Schneider, Sheila Schweitzer, Richard & Frances Smith, Patricia Sposato, Leda Stopyro, Eva Travers, Bob & Kay Wilson, David Wilson.

Current membership: 424

Reminder: Membership covers the calendar year and the newsletter is discontinued if dues are not paid by March 31st. ~

Brief Sketches of Early and Later Times **in Marcellus by Rev. A. Roe**

The Marcellus Observer, September 15, 1894

Name and Nickname of the Village. Some Other Old Stores, Etc.

TWENTY-SIXTH PAPER

Marcellus village undoubtedly took its name from the name of the town. Quite early, it seems to have been designated as Nine Mile Creek. Later on, by a singular circumstance, it received and went for a long time by the nickname "**Pucker Street.**" As the story goes Mrs. Chloe Thomas when a young lady, boarded at Rufus Lawrence's on East Hill. She went down to the village one day in company with Adam Baker. They were on horse-back. Having completed her purchases and being ready to return, she mounted her horse but could not find her escort and had to call to him by name, "Ad-a-m." On reaching home she was relating her adventure and expressed her mortification at being obliged to call for Adam right in the middle of "**Pucker Street.**" It is said that the name so tickled the four Lawrence brothers who lived near together that they mounted their horses, rode through the town, waved their hats and shouted "**Hurrah for Pucker Street.**"

Probably but few will remember the singular origin of this expressive nickname. Mrs. Thomas afterward lived on the farm, owned by the late Jerry Curtin, the wife of John Thomas, and there died and was buried in the family cemetery on that farm. She was one of the pioneers of Onondaga and came to this county about the year 1802. We are indebted to Mrs. Angeline A. Griffin and Mrs. P. P. Parsons, relatives of Mrs. Thomas for this reminiscence.

In continuing the mercantile history of the village, we note among the next early stores, two that stood about where the Methodist church now stands, and facing east. One a considerable larger than the other and used as a general store and the others as a drug store or doctors' office, for the doctors mainly dealt out the drugs in those days. Dr. Humphrey, father of Dr. F. Humphrey, who has been quite celebrated for his "Humphrey's Homeopathic Specifics," had an office here and later **Dr. Tefft**, who built the house now occupied by George H. Smith. The larger store was occupied by Joseph Olmstead, who also had a potashery near where the new school building stands. These stores were afterwards moved off to give place for the church. The larger one is now occupied as a dwelling, by Mrs. E. A. Searl.

What is now the Powell Hotel on the corner of

Main and Orange streets was built by Harvey Rhodes about 1828 for a store and he, after occupying it as a general store a few years moved to Syracuse. Hugh Humphrey followed him in the store and built the wing part for a dwelling. Later on, Dan Hutchinson used it for a grocery store and the property with some land north of it was finally sold on foreclosure by Hezekiah Shepard. The Episcopal church lot was taken from this property. This store building has undergone many changes and had several occupants since, and has recently been considerably enlarged and is now owned and used as a hotel by Bernard Powell.

On the opposite corner, now owned by Dr. I. Parsons, was once a large, long store, formed by the union of two buildings, facing to the south, put up and owned by Sanford C. Parker, Esq., who also owned the Parsons house. Here he continued to run a store while he lived in the village and he was succeeded by Henry J. Sherwood for several years, who afterward moved to Camillus. Then came Edwin Talbot & Ball. Afterward the late D. G. Coon and others kept grocery here, and it finally came into the hands of Dr. Parsons, who moved off the buildings, one part becoming the front of John Daye's present residence, just a little to the north, and the other part the rear of Wm. Julia's house. ~

The Marcellus Observer, September 22, 1894

Further History of the Old and Late Stores and Merchants in Marcellus

TWENTY-SEVENTH PAPER

As early as 1816, there was a small store with a deep double cellar in the yard between the N. G. Case house and the mill. It was occupied for a number of years by Razemond Kellogg.

The Sayre store building was once known as the Dalliba Store. Sanford Dalliba having owned and occupied it several years, and probably built it. Thomas Walker carried on a shoe store there for a score and more years, closing out in 1881. Alfred Rockwell was in partnership with him a while and when Mr. Walker bought out his interest, he moved to New York for a few years, and on returning had a shoe shop, first in an old building on the Alvord House lot, and then in the White building till he removed to Geddes, where he now works at his trade though quite advanced in years. George Rosser worked for Mr. Walker quite a number of years, and John Grimes some seventeen years and he is now the veteran cobbler of the village, pegging away day and night.

After Mr. Walker closed out business, Sidney Slocombe used this building for a hardware store five or six years and was followed by John Blynn who occupied it for furniture for about a year, after which Yahn Brothers opened a meat market for a few months, since which time it has been used successfully for a bakery by Mrs. H. E. Hermance and Mrs. Keamey and is now unoccupied.

The store now owned by James Sarr is quite an old store and was built by Curtis Moses in 1830. It took the place of a wooden building, which was previously used as a ___ and wagon shop and later for several years as a store situated, on the same site. Moses built both the dwelling and store. The brick for the store were made on the James Dunlap place, north of his house, and Dunlap's house, also built by Curtis Moses, was built of brick from the same yard. The mason who laid the brick afterwards was quite prominent as a builder in Syracuse. Moses continued for some years in this store until he moved to Syracuse. He was succeeded by Sherman Bosworth for three or four years and Bosworth by Moses Brothers & Benj. Clark. They carried on a yeast cake factory in connection with the store for a while in the old "bee hive" building, in the rear of John Grimes shoe shop. This "bee hive" building was built by Addison Farnham for a butcher's shop but not being long used for that purpose was occupied by Smith Brothers for a time as a place for brewing beer, and then for making yeast cakes. When Clark went out of the firm, it became Moses Brothers. After Frank Moses died, Irving Moses continued the store until he sold to James W. Reed who was in business here for several years and then he was succeeded by the late John Brill who came here from Manlius Station in February, 1884, and continued the business with his son, W. F. Brill, until his death, May 20, 1886. His son conducted the store for a year or so, and then sold the stock and rented the store to C. Chrysler, who after a few months sold out and moved to Michigan. The Fenn sisters then came in with millinery for a short time, and then the Kelly brothers, Robert and Eugene opened a grocery store and continued it nearly a year. In the spring of 1890, James Sarr bought the store and dwelling and is now in full possession and doing a good business and is the veteran merchant of the village.

The building that has been known for two or three years as the Cash Store was built by Joseph Taylor and son George about the year 1840. The masons were Freeman Amidon and Joseph Hall. The brick

were made in a yard then upon the place, now owned by Rev. W. R. Cobb. Before the building was completed, the town committee in the Harrison Tippecanoe Campaign used a part of it as their log cabin headquarters. Some of the older inhabitants will remember those times with interest _____ that was wrought out and drawn by several yokes of oxen to the great political meeting held in Syracuse that fall. Ira Bishop, father of William Bishop, was captain of the Marcellus procession. During this fall, George Taylor's health began to fail and he, in company with Albert Lawrence, went to the West Indies and died there. N. G. Case bought out his interest in the store in 1841 and the firm became Taylor & Case for the next six years, and in 1847, they sold to William Colton. He soon formed a co-partnership with Joseph Taylor and the firm was known as Colton & Taylor for a year or more or until they became somewhat involved, when N. G. Case bought them out. In a short time, he took in Edwin G. Talbot as partner and they continued the business for about three years, and then sold the stock to George Talbot, of Centerville, Mich., and shipped the goods to him. The store was unoccupied for a while and in the meantime, Case and Talbot were engaged in a flour and feed store in New York City. Then came Samuel R. Ball, and brother John, who were in time succeeded by Hezekiah Shepard and Ball, and they by James Chase and brother John for a time. Not long after them, by some changes in business relations, the store passed into the hands of Reed & Case.

Soon after this, Joseph S. Platt became one of the firm, and the firm ere long sold out to Platt Brothers. After a year or two, from some embarrassment in business, they sold out to M. E. Case & Co. This firm continued for about two years when M. E. Case assumed the whole business and continued it until her death, in December 1870. The firm then became N. G. Case & Sons, who carried on quite a large business until February 1890, when the business was again closed out. The store remained idle a while since which time it has been known as the Cash Store, first under the firm name, Wells, Cornwell & Co, then Wells, Croxson & Co., and now as the Cash Store simply, owned by W. H. Thompson of Syracuse, largely under the management of F. A. Hathaway.

Submitted by John Curtin ~

All of the Historical Society newsletters are available on the MHS website along with an index of articles:

mhs.marcellusny.com



Recent Acquisitions

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

Ruth Roberts Slovenski for MCS handbooks for 1938-39 & 1939-40 & 1942 Commencement book, Presbyterian Church 166th anniversary booklet; **Helen Hopkins** for 2 suede brushes; **Ian & Glenda Harnacker** for an 1894 parlor organ (see above); **Charles Schneider Family** for school bell; **Joyce Murphy** for 1979 Fire Dept advertisement, D.J. Chrisler bill sheets; **Ken Clark** for First National Bank blotter; **Kathy Keyes** for many Christmas decorations; **Fran Randall** for 2 albums of old postcards; **Bob Wilson** for 1996 MFD street guide; **Lance Reagan** for 1980 MFD street guide, 1979 Marcellian, AT&T pamphlet, railroad map; **Karen Robinson** for 1913 postcard of Main Street bridge; **David & Nellie Peatfield** for 7 card file cabinets; **Bonnye Bond** for Potter Redway family history; **Linda Cole** for electric hairdryer from Charm of Marcellus; **Bob Post** for folding rocking-chair. ~

The Marcellus Observer, November 13, 1879

Words of Wisdom

A clear conscience can rest easy on a bed of granite, while an evil one would be uneasy on a bed of swansdown. ~

Business Member Directory Please Patronize These Businesses

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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
 Email: hakeslaw@hotmail.com (FAX 673-9390)
 4080 South Street Rd., PO Box 41, Marcellus 13108 673-9390

REAGAN & DAILEY, ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Bernard L. Reagan & Mary Reagan Dailey (FAX 673-3438)
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**Visit the Business Room at the Steadman House
 to see our Marcellus Business mementos.**

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

Marcellus Historical Society
P.O. Box 165, 18 North St.
Marcellus, NY 13108

Non-Profit Organization
 U. S. Postage Paid
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 Permit Number 18

Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, February 10th, 2 p.m.

(If the date on the label is 2007 -
 This is your last newsletter until dues are paid.)

INSIDE:

- * *National Register of Historic Places*
- * *The Old Elm Tree*
- * *Village Nickname "Pucker Street"*
- * *Old Marcellus Stores*
- * *Hooper Furniture*

Postal Customer
 Local

~ 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? _____

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: \$3 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	\$ _____