



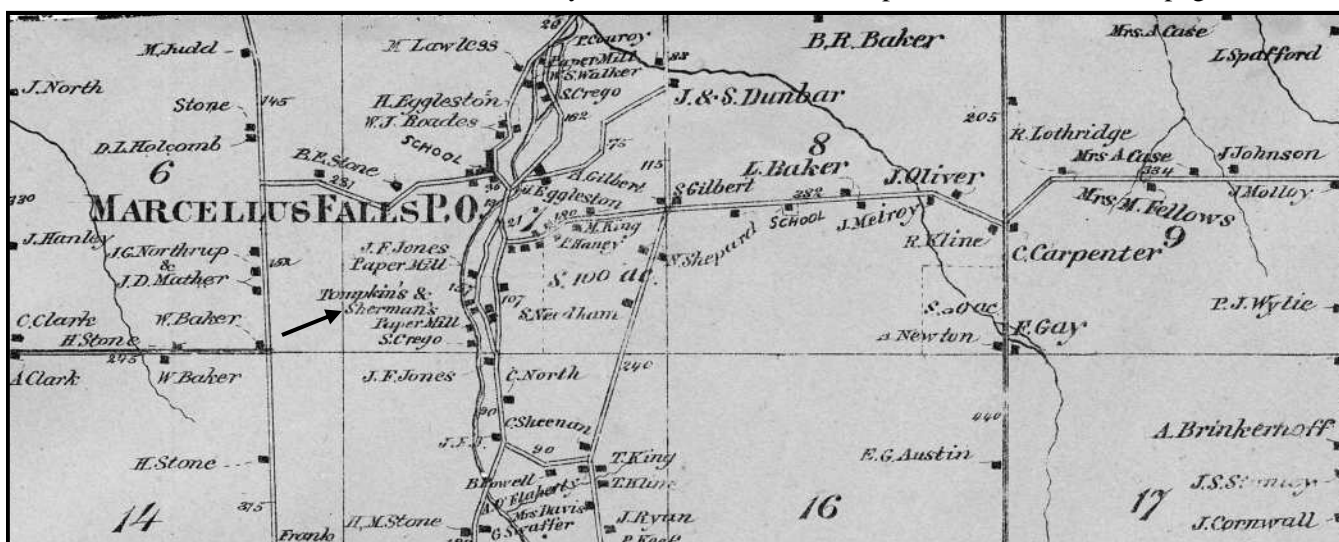
# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 14 Issue 1

Winter 2009



**The Sherman Paper Mill** was located just south of the present Martisco Paper Company. In the picture c.1865, Mrs. Bennett is in the doorway. James Sherman is in buggy and John Sherman is to his right. Martin Lowry is with the team in center. The mill is indicated by an arrow on the 1874 map below. See article on page 4.



## **EVENTS SCHEDULE**

*The tentative schedule of events is as follows:*

**Sunday, February 8, 2009** **2 p.m.**  
To Be Announced

**Sunday, March 8, 2009** **2 p.m.**  
To Be Announced

**Sunday, April 19, 2009** **2 p.m.**  
To Be Announced

If you have a suggestion for a program, 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 2009**

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**

2009 John Curtin..... 673-3660  
 E-mail: jcurtin2@twcny.rr.com  
 2009 Bob Wilson ..... 673-2550  
 E-mail: 89rw@twcny.rr.com  
 2010 Joy Buffan..... 673-1832  
 2010 Jamie Johnston..... 673-1160  
 2011 Mary Jane Domurat ..... 673-4896  
 E-mail: mjdumurat@msn.com  
 2011 Patricia Sanborn..... 488-3610  
 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.

**All of the Historical Society Newsletters are available  
 on the MHS website along with an index of articles:  
 mhs.marcellusny.com**

## **From The President ...**

Our first "Christmas at the Steadman House" was a big success. Many visitors enjoyed the beautiful trees, decorations and our collection, as well as the refreshments provided by Nojaim's.

Thank you to Barbara Clyne, Marion LaMont, Sam Murphy, JoAnne & Evan Murdock, Jean & Doug Nightingale, Tom & Tammy Sayre, and Warner's Auto Body for donating trees and decorations.

Thanks also to the volunteers: Jean Nightingale, Joy Buffan, Pat Sanborn, Charlie Sanborn, Pat Kinney, Hollis Abbott, Bruce Widger, Janet Warner, Jamie Johnston, Tammy Sayre, Doug Nightingale, Dick Smith, Thomas Bingham and Mary Jane Domurat. We look forward to decorating the house again next year and welcome donations of additional artificial trees.

Thirty four people enjoyed the Holiday Dinner at the Legion Hall on December 7th.

Thanks to Tom Schneider Construction, Inc. for repairing the gable over the front portico

We have a big selection of used books for sale as well as items from the Gift Shop during our regular hours (see below).

Among the recently donated artifacts are: two paintings by Wilbur Hoyt - one of the Paper Mill and another of the Barley Mill; the official government document appointing John Seymour as Postmaster in 1895 - given by Frank Withey; and a "specking" tool used by Helen Hopkins in the Woolen Mill.

Again "**Thank You**" to all and I am looking forward to Spring and having the Bell Tower erected and more projects completed.

*Correction from the Fall 2008 Newsletter:* The donation for the **Bell Tower** is from the family of the late **Lawrence C. and Eleanor (Bartlett) Buffan**.

Peg Nolan ~

### **Steadman House Hours:**

**Sundays 1 to 3 pm (except meeting Sundays)**

**Thursdays 1 to 4 pm**

**Or By Appointment:**

**John Curtin - 673-3660**

**Joy Buffan - 673-1832**

**Bruce Widger - 673-9142**

**Hollis Abbott - 673-1753**

**Winter hours subject to weather conditions**

### **In Remembrance**

**Christine Heer - December 19, 2008**

### Recent Acquisitions

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

**Richard and Frances Smith** for chair used at the Jones & Uttley Funeral Home; **Marcellus United Methodist Church Gift & Thrift Shop** for multiple strings of Christmas tree lights & ornaments; **Barbara Barry** for book titled "Hutchinson's Physiology & Hygiene"; **Vicky Sabin** for books; **Sam Murphy & Marion LaMont** for Christmas tree & decorations; **Barbara Clyne** for Christmas tree & decorations; **JoAnne & Evan Murdock** for Christmas tree, District 11 & 12 school records, 1848 wedding gown belonging to Ruth Shay Gusser, Village Zoning map; **Jamie Curtin** for Phillip Engler's bible & 1945 US Navy graduating class; **Pat Spears** for 1947 Funk & Wagnall's dictionary; **Tom & Tammy Sayre** for wreath for garage, **Audrey Loewer** for Boy Scout Troop #266 scrapbook; **Cathy North** for books; **Marion Ossit** for 1945 Marcellus Observer, 1870-80s Christian Hollow map; **Sam Murphy** for 1984 Fireman's jacket; **Ronald Annable** for 1950 Champion Basketball team picture and sweater; **Bernie & Louisa Manor** for braided rug; **Frank Withey** for John M. Seymour's certificate of appointment as Postmaster in 1885; **Rosemarie Hudgins** for booklet "Shortlines of CNY" including Martisco & Otisco Lake Railroad and Skaneateles Shortline; **Wilbur Hoyt** for paintings of A.V. Smith Barley Mill & Martisco Paper Mill, Austin Marble drug bottle; **Helen Hopkins** for specking tool used at Crown Mill; **Charlie & Pat Sanborn** for plastic storage bins; **Marcellus Library** for books; **Nancy Olney Richards** for Youth chair (cane seat replaced by Bruce Widger). ~



Jones & Uttley Chair



Youth Chair

### Donations

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

**The Family of the late  
Lawrence C. & Eleanor (Bartlett) Buffan  
(for Bell Tower)  
Robert & Alice Mahan  
Roger & Joan Field  
James & Laura Duncan  
(In Memory of Jean Moir Miller)  
Barbara Parson Hildreth  
(for Garage insulation & sheetrock)**

### Steadman House Contributions

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

**Village Highway Department** for plowing the driveway and parking lot.

### Steadman House Wish List

- 1 - Help with cost of the Tefft room floor (\$1747).
- 2 - Repairs and capping of all the chimneys to keep water and animals from entering the house.
- 3 - Complete the insulation of the garage and the required covering of the north wall with sheetrock.
- 4 - Repair of railings on the front porch.
- 5 - Mannequins (\$90).



A.V. Smith  
Barley Mill



Wilbur  
Hoyt  
Paintings

Martisco  
Paper Mill

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

*The Marcellus Observer June 2, 1894*

### ***Brief History of the Sherman Paper Mill.*** ELEVENTH PAPER

Further down the stream we come to what is now known as the Sherman paper mill property. It may not be generally known that in an early day the first powder mill on the stream was built here by Jephtha Cossit somewhere about 1812, at least it is said that some of the powder made here was used in the war of 1812. Boys were boys in those days about 1816-17 as well as now, for we learn that sober men like Thomas Rhodes and the late Wm. J. Machan when boys used to have their vest pockets full of this powder at times and came near being blown up once or twice, and Morris Cook, brother of Sydney Cook Esq. of Camillus, did get the hair burnt off one side of his head which badly disfigured him and afterwards probably hastened his death by a cancer coming on the burnt spot. The building was afterwards converted into a linseed oil mill. John Herring, father of Thomas Jefferson Herring, who came here in 1816 at one time owned and run this mill and afterwards sold the site to Robert F. Vantine and John Reynolds who put up the present main building for a grist mill. John Steele, father of Henry Steele, who came here in 1819 hewed the timber for this building. Mr. Steele had a great reputation for hewing timber. They did not get so far as to grind flour in this building but did for some time grind corn in the ear, and later there was a threshing machine put in and run by water power and for a few years farmers would bring their wheat there and have it threshed, and cleaned by a fanning mill, also run by water, and then they would carry the grain to the grist mill below, the one that was burnt, that stood where the H. Cordenio Smith & Co. mill now stands, and have it ground the same day, which on a smaller scale, was equal to the modern feats of the West. In fact as we proceed we shall see that the Falls was the center of the business of the town for many years, containing much of the life and enterprise of the community in the early days. This building was afterward converted into a paper mill by Absalom Herring, uncle of T. J. Herring, who made paper there a few years when he sold it to George W. Ryan who was a paper maker by trade, and came from Manchester, N.Y., near Shortsville. Previous to coming here, he made the paper for the original Mormon bible of Joe Smith, a copy of which was formerly owned by T. J. Herring, and which was lent

out to somebody who forgot to return it. It has been lost some time and it is hoped it may yet come to light not as being very valuable as a lamp of life, but as a curious relic.

Mr. Ryan after holding and running the mill for about a score of years, sold it to Plato B. More. By him in 1865, it was sold to the Sherman Brothers, who came here just after the close of the war. I. N. Sherman was a practical paper maker and L. D. Sherman was a good mechanic and looked after the mechanical part of the work, so they were well prepared to operate the mills. The mill was considerably run down and in need of repairs and improvements and to facilitate this they sold out after a year or so half of their interest to S. D. Tompkins and the firm became Tompkins and Shermans. In the winter of 1866-67 there was a general time of overhauling and repairing and new machinery was put in the mill so that the property was greatly improved and the capacity for making paper was doubled or increased from one ton to two tons of paper per day. The repairing was done by James Sarr. Then followed an era of good times in paper making.

About 1870 the Sherman Brothers bought out Tompkins and the firm continued to be Sherman Brothers till the death of L. D. Sherman, in September last and now the mill is owned and run by I. N. Sherman. Improvements have been made from time to time so that now when the mill is run in full force it can make two and one-half tons per day, consuming about four tons of straw per day or 1,200 tons per year. Making common straw paper in this region has received a set back by reason of the superior or larger facilities of the West. For this reason Mr. Sherman has turned his attention more of late to making an improved quality of water proof paper used largely by butchers and fish men. This paper brings a better price and is likely to be in great demand, especially in New York City and the east, where he ships most of his paper. This mill is now in good repair and eleven hands are employed. Machine tenders, Byron D. Sarr and Augustus Austin, Engineers, Teddy Coyne and Thomas Thornton, Firemen, Charles Coleman and J. R. Sherman, Bleachmen, Mark Haney and John O'Shay, Cutter tenders, Mrs. Mary Bennett and Miss Frances Eggleston, Teamster Daniel Coleman. ~

*Submitted by John Curtin*

*See the photograph and map on page 1.*

*Take the "Steadman House Tour" at:  
[mhs.marcellusny.com](http://mhs.marcellusny.com)*

*Marcellus Observer July 8, 1949*

**Erminnie A. Platt Smith,**  
**Onondaga County Most Famous Woman**

Erminnie A. Platt Smith was born in Marcellus, N.Y. April 26, 1839, the daughter of Joseph and Ermina Dodge Platt. She received her education at Troy Seminary, now Emma Willard School, and married early Simeon Smith of Jersey City, which place became her home, endearing herself to its people, who were always proud of her endeavors in the field of science.

She had four sons, educating them in Europe, while she studied at the School of Mines in Freiburg, Saxony, and graduated there.

Being much interested in geology and kindred sciences, she became an authority on minerals and gems, published various articles, her collection of such gathered from all parts of the world, was the largest in this country at the time of her death in 1886.

On account of this work she was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Science, the first woman to be so honored. She was leader of the geological and geographical section.

In 1880 she became much interested in the Indians of New York State and visited them under appointment of the Bureau of Ethnology of Smithsonian Institute. She lived among them, studied their habits and folk-lore, the result being the compiling of a Dictionary of phrases and a book of myths in the Iroquois language, which was published after her death. She did a similar work with Tuscaroras and Mohawks. She so endeared herself to them that the Tuscaroras adopted her into the White Bear clan, with all heathen rites and ceremonies, giving her the name of Katie-tie-sta-knost, meaning "Beautiful Flower".

The dictionary contained fifteen thousand classified words, six thousand of the Tuscaroras, three thousand of the Onondagans, one thousand each of Oneidas, Senecas, and she was just beginning her work with the Cayugas when she died. She also translated the Lord's Prayer and certain portions of the Bible.

She was a member of the Association for the Advancement of Science, The English Anthropological Society, also the American Anthropological Society, and Secretary of the American Anthropological Society at the time of her death: a Leader of Sorosis, and honored by many societies.

In 1879 she founded an organization which gained

national reputation – The Aesthetic Society of Jersey City, composed of people well known in the world of art, music, literature, science, and eminent divine. She was a most gifted woman. Major J. W. Powell, paying this tribute, most enthusiastic ethnologist of her time, and Horatio Hale said she was as merry and unaffected as if she had not pursued studies which in ethnology alone would make any man famous. J. W. B. Hewitt, of the Bureau of Ethnology, who was associated with her and who published the material she left, after her death, paid her this tribute: "a superbly gifted scholar as well as the splendid qualities of her ennobling and womanly soul, radiant with the hope and faith in the blessed immortality".

She passed away in 1886 having accomplished much in a short space of time. She was always most generous of her talents, contributing to all worthy causes.

After her death the Aesthetic Society of Jersey City created a fund to be used each year giving two graduates of Vassar College, one in geology and one in mineralogy, "The Erminnie A. Smith" prize. ~

*Submitted by Peg Nolan*

**Renewed Members**

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

Brian & Debi Abbott & Family, **Hollis & Nancy Abbott**, Mark & Lynn Abbott & Family, Dr. Gary & Vanessa Belcher, Ron & Betsey Bond, Edgar N. Buffan, Kay D. Buffan, Bill & Kathy Bush, **Vicki & Mike Conde**, Jeff Guerin, Helen Hopkins, Phyllis Huckle, Tyrone & Sylvia King, Patricia Kinne, Tom Leonard, James Lozott, Dorothy Martens, **Mary McGreal**, Mary Montague, Robert Negus, Jon Nicholson, Doug & Jean Nightingale, Joe & Peg Nolan, Marni Nolan, **Ruth B. Oliver**, Donald & Anne Pelchy, Patricia & Charles Sanborn, Sheila Schweitzer, **Art Scotti**, Richard & Frances Smith, Leda Stopyro, Helen Tierney, Lyle & Millicent Welker, Bob & Kay Wilson, David Wilson.

**Current membership: 420 ~**

**Reminders:**

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

***Newsletters are sent via bulk mail and cannot be forwarded unless arrangements are made in advance to send via first-class mail.***

**Marcellus Historical Society Sustaining Members**  
**(Members who join for five years at a time)**

*The following are members who have supported the Society with extended memberships:*

Gerd Aasgaard, Bill & Carol Abbott, Hollis & Nancy Abbott, Thomas Aherin, Dorothy C. Aitchison, Newt & Ann Allen, Jane C. Amidon, Carol Armstrong, Robert C. Atkinson, Dolores J. Austin, Chris Bedford, Anita D. Bedford-Catlin, Daphne Bedford-Goldacker, Doug & Bev Blanchard, Russ & Eva Briggs & Family, Richard A. Brown, Judith G. Bryant, Joy L. Buffan, Donald & Doris Buschbascher, Priscilla Carmody, Mary Raye Casper, Chris Christensen, John & Elsa Church, Vicki & Mike Conde, James & Vera Costello, John T. Coyne, Andrew Crowley, John & Maureen Curtin, Frank & Janis DeBevic, Joseph & Lyn Duffy, James & Laura Duncan, Keith Edgerton, Myron & Barbara Egtvedt, Harold & Phyllis Fenner, Roger & Joan Field, Janet Fisher, Kareta Flanagan, Jean Forster, Rita Foster, Susan Forster Fraser, William H. & June Frawley, Mark Friske, David & Lisa Gallinger, Jim & Peg Girard & Family, Russell & Joyce Glover, Tim & Debbie Golick, Linda Greenfield, Philip Hardy, Gene Hares & Family, Mary Lou Haroian, Raymond P. Heer, Murray Helfer, Barbara Hildreth, Dr. Kathleen Mullin Hoar, Jean S. Hughes, Janet Schwartz & Steve Jennings, Eileen M. Kauffman, Gary & Judy Kavney, Helen Kennedy, Zilpha Lambert, Ray & Kathy Leubner & Family, William Lucchetti, Mary Mahagan, Robert & Alice Mahan, Dorothy Manilla, Mary McGreal, Jodell Z. McVey, Phil & Toni Mezey, Ted & Judy Morton, Evan & Joanne Murdock, Joyce Murphy, Francis P. Murphy Jr., Bill & Joyce Nesfeder, Doug & Cathy North & Family, Kari O'Brien, Mike O'Brien, Allen S. Odell, Ruth B. Oliver, John Palen, Chuck Paul, Doris Phillips, John & Rose Phillips, Michael & Deborah Plochocki, James & Donna Quinn & Family, Bernard & Ruth Anne Reagan, Jim & Jean Reagan, Lauren D. Rowe, George & Bev Schmidt, Sheila Schwartz-Zych, Edward & Nancy Schwarz, Art Scotti, Dr. Margaret Sennett, Paul Sheridan, Kurt Sherman, Peg Shields, Lewis T. & Alma B. Steadman, Mr. & Mrs. William G. Tallman, Mary Tuthill, Harriette Waldburger, Melinda Mulroy Wax, Polly Weigand, Kathy Whitehead, Bill & Janet Whyland, Dr. Bruce & Mary Widger, Sally Odell Wroe, Joan R. Zukowski. ~

Ask a friend to join our Society to help preserve the Steadman House and Marcellus History.

**Marcellus Observer July 10, 1879**

**Knowledge and timber should not be much used until they are seasoned.**

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**Marcellus Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 165, 18 North St.**  
**Marcellus, NY 13108-0165**

Non-Profit Organization  
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**Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com**

**NEXT MEETING :**

**Sunday, February 8th, 2 p.m.**

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

**INSIDE:**

- \* *The Sherman Paper Mill*
- \* *Erminnie A. Platt Smith*
- \* *MHS Sustaining Members*
- \* *Recent Acquisitions*

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The New Pucker Street, Since 1953 by John Curtin ..\$28  
 Pucker Street by John Curtin.....\$26  
 The Town He Loved So Well by James Quinn.....\$20  
 Around Marcellus by Leslie Church Kraus.....\$20  
 Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus.....\$20  
 Ruth Reed Cummings Prints.....\$10  
 John Drummond "Dried Weeds" Print.....\$10  
 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  
*Shipping: \$3 per book, \$4 other.*

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

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Qty	Item Description	Cost Ea	Total
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