



Marcellus

Historical Society News

Volume 14 Issue 3

Summer 2009

Marcellus Shale

In several newspaper articles recently, there has been particular mention of what has been termed “Marcellus shale,” and many people have wondered if the name has its origin in the community of Marcellus. The answer, it appears, is yes.



First, what is Marcellus shale? The Marcellus Shale is a mapped bedrock unit in eastern North America – a sedimentary rock formed from marine deposits – within which is contained a large amount of natural gas and oil.

“The Marcellus is found throughout the Allegheny Plateau region of the northern Appalachian Basin of North America. In the United States, the Marcellus shale runs across the southern tier and Finger Lakes regions of New York, in northern and western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, through western Maryland, and throughout most of West Virginia extending across the state line into extreme western Virginia.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcellus_Formation)

The energy development community is drilling deep beneath the Allegheny Plateau to reach its largely untapped natural gas reserves located near the high-demand markets along the East Coast of the United States.

Marcellus shale was given its name by an American geologist by the name of Prof. James Hall, who had been appointed the New York State Geologist in 1836 and began a massive study that was published in 1843. In it, James attributed the name “Marcellus” to this shale because there was a distinct outcropping of this rock near

the Village of Marcellus, New York.

“In 1836, Hall was appointed the state geologist for the Geological Survey of New York. Assigned to the western district, he conducted studies that culminated in his massive report, Geology of New York (part 4, 1843), a classic in American geology.” (The Encyclopedia Britannica)

In the first New York State Geological Survey (begun in 1836), James Hall established the term “Marcellus Shale” in his 1839 report titled “Marcellus Shales in Seneca County.” Professor Hall also argued in 1839 against formulating geological names based on observed characteristics that may vary from place to place or need revision in the future, and in favor of location based nomenclature where, “the rock or group will receive its name from the place where it is best developed.” His arguments proved persuasive, and the location based name for this, and many of the other group names he published based on exposures in New York, were adopted in the second Pennsylvania survey, and are now widely accepted. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcellus_Formation)

“ . . . The Marcellus Shale (Hall, 1839, p. 295-296) consists of grayish black, thinly laminated shale in the basal part of the Hamilton Group, present in the east . . . ”

Prof. James Hall was and continues to be well known in the academic world of geology. In April of 1843, Hall read a paper at a meeting of the American Association of Geologists and Naturalists in Albany, New York. That paper, entitled *The Geographical Distribution of Fossils*, referenced a number of examples of Marcellus shale, and the world came to recognize the term.

(Continued on page 4)

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, September 13, 2009 **2 p.m.**

Vicky Condie
"Button Collection"

Sunday, October 11, 2009 **2 p.m.**

Bob Bitz
"Farming in Onondaga County"

Sunday, November 8, 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 Nolan673-1765

E-mail: peganolan1@hotmail.com

Vice President: Doug Nightingale673-2539

E-mail: djn0409@alltel.net

Treasurer: Hollis Abbott673-1753

E-mail: habbott1@twcny.rr.com

Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinger... ..673-3187

E-mail: cb90009@aol.com

Trustees and Term End

2009 John Curtin673-3660

E-mail: jcurtin2@twcny.rr.com

2009 Bob Wilson673-2550

E-mail: 89rw@twcny.rr.com

2010 Joy Buffan673-1832

2010 Jamie Johnston673-1160

2011 Mary Jane Domurat673-4896

E-mail: mjdomurat@msn.com

2011 Patricia Sanborn488-3610

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.

From The President ...

This has been a great and productive season. The front porch has new railings and spindles. Both front and side porches have been painted and they look great. The insulation and sheetrock have been installed in the garage.

Since January we have had 383 people sign our guest book and over fifty people have been helped with research.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time at the Steadman House. On Olde Home Days they were: Amy North, Emily North, Pat Sanborn, Charlie Sanborn, Jean Nightingale, Doug Nightingale, Mary Jane Domurat, Mary Beth Domurat, Bruce Widger, Jean Forster, Joy Buffan, Jamie Johnston, Carol Armstrong and Hollis Abbott. Jane Amidon, Tammy Sayre, Amy North and Jean Nightingale helped with the school group tours and Mary Jane Domurat, Mary Beth Domurat and Amy North were here for the class of 1954 tour in July.

2010 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Society and plans are in the works for a celebration.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and come visit us.

Peg Nolan ~

Steadman House Wish List

- 1 - Driveway Sealing (\$1500)
- 2 - Mannequins (\$90).

Help Wanted

We are looking for *members* who are computer-literate and familiar with Microsoft Money, Excel and Word who would be willing to help maintain the many computer files required by the Society. Call Hollis Abbott at 673-1753.

Steadman House Hours:

Sundays 1 to 3 pm
(except meeting Sundays)

Thursdays 1 to 4 pm

Or By Appointment:

Peg Nolan - 673-1765 (until October)

John Curtin - 673-3660

Joy Buffan - 673-1832

In Remembrance

Francis S. Kishman - May 5, 2009

Mary H. Kishman - May 17, 2009

Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:

Norma J. Bailer (to honor Dr. Bruce Widger)

Boy Scouts Den #2 & #4 (tour)

Sharon Bratt (raffle winner)

Barry & Ellen Buffan

(in memory of Jon D. Buffan)

Cornell Women's Group (tour)

John T. Coyne (research)

Joe Duffy

Philip Hardy (research)

Barbara Parsons Hildreth

(to complete garage insulation & sheetrock)

Jeanne M. Jennings (research)

Ladies Circle I Onon. Hill Presb. Church (tour)

John & Rose Phillips

Mary Tuthill (for chimney capping)

Recent Acquisitions

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

Phyllis Gammon for Epsom Salts tin & Ocean Spray Cranberry tin; **Helen C. Newell** for family records, military lots census, MCS class of 1939 50th reunion, Crysler family genealogy, Scholars from various schools 1863-1869, various cemetery records, copies of engagements & weddings of 1950s, Pictorial Atlas of the world; **Jack Calvert** for child's chalk board easel; **Nancy Cole** for photos of Parsons family & MCS, newspaper clippings; **John Curtin** for photo of 1989 NYS Girls Champions; **Scott Flitcroft** for 1950s toy barn & accessories; **Melinda Mulroy Wax** for black & purple hat with matching muff owned by Lilly Weeks, copy of family record from Spaulding Family Bible, Marcellus Presbyterian Church booklet, American Bible Society certificate for Wm. G. Russell, obits for Grace Spaulding & Clarence Russell Spaulding, 1896 letter from Marcellus Presbyterian Church members about William Russell's death, 1896 letter to Mrs. Russell; **Roger Field** for 1838 cradle of Leonard Field, 1900 lap robe owned by Albert & Mamie Field; **Barbara Shoemaker** for 1952 Block M music and athletic letter; **John T. "Mickey" Coyne** for Marine Major General evening dress uniform; **Helen Hopkins** for picture of Hooper home - Dr. Sullivan's house, compact owned by Charlie Hopkins' great-grandmother; **Bill & Laurie Branson** for new driveway sign; **Bruce Widger** for picture of new driveway sign, pamphlets & history books; **Jeff Elderbroom** for picture; **Barbara Parson Hildreth** for Parsons Family History Vol. 1; **Joy Buffan** for 2

plate holders, Marcellus Methodist Church brochures; **Bob Atkinson** for Nightingale Mills' thermometer; **Jean Nightingale** for small mattress & doll quilt for cradle display; **Helen Clarke** for library totes; **Alan Gammon** for Kelly Avenue street signs, folding yard sticks; **Mary Tuthill** for 2 lady's dresses from 1800s, man's colonial shirt & tricorne hat, lady's straw hat, man's straw hat and plastic derby, large collection of historical flags; **Dick Smith** for 3 books by Roy Gallinger; **Joanne Murdock** for Sparton radio, old folding chair, wicker wire container, toy washing machine, child's slate board; **Don Pelchy** for Auto Club Insignia used on a Pierce Arrow and owned by Tim Lawless, 1930 Boy Scout buckle; **Buffan Family** 1954 trophy won by Ed Bartlett, Citizenship badge awarded to Ed Bartlett, several MCS yearbooks from 1930s 40s & 50s, photos of Buffan homes on Dublin Road; **Eva Brinkerhoff Travers** for 3 scrapbooks, Seneca Hunt ledger; **Helen Newell** for family histories; **Ben Yuhus** for 1892 & 1895 NY Factory Inspectors books; **Gene & Ingrid Seymour** for framed invitation to welcome King George & Queen Elizabeth to NYC; **Janet Seymour** for 3 piece black dress & crocheted horse collar. ~



John Coyne's Uniform



Chalk Board Easel



**Leonard Field's
1838 Cradle**

**Visit the
Steadman House
to see our
growing
collection**



Peg Nolan with Laurie and Bill Branson who donated the sign for the Steadman House driveway. Picture taken by Bruce Widger.

Steadman House Contributions

We are grateful to the following people for their donations of time and labor at the Steadman House:

Bill & Laurie Branson for installing their donated driveway sign.

Pat & Charlie Sanborn & John Curtin for replacing the railings & spindles on the front porch.

John Curtin for repairing the front steps and painting the front and side porches.

Peg Nolan for installing the garage insulation.

Pat & Charlie Sanborn for installing the garage sheetrock.

Village Highway Department for installing the Steadman House Historic Marker.

Renewed Members

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

Jacob & Wendy Amidon & Family, Betty Black, **Sharon Bratt**, Peter & Ethel Cole, Karen W. Conley, Edward & Marilyn Copley, Mary Drexler, Barbara A. Fero, **John & Elizabeth Gibson & Family**, **Philip Hardy**, Terry Hoey, Ivelyne Eysenburg & Robert Julia Sr., Mary Ann Kaveski, John & Carolynn Longuil, Tim & Kerry Manahan & Family, Martha Mulroy, Helen Newell, **John & Rose Phillips**, Melanie Mulroy Robinson, John R. Roland, **Gretchen S. Rusk**, William Schneider, Steven & Lorraine Schneider & Family, **Gene & Ingrid Seymour**, Eva Travers, **Melinda Mulroy Wax**, Jerry & Nina Wickett, Cliff & Sally Wilson, **Jana Carey & Ben Yuhás & Family**.

Current membership: 414 ~

(Continued from page 1)

“Mr. Hall then commenced reading a paper upon The Geographical Distribution of Fossils, illustrating his subject by a large number of specimens” .

(Albany NY Evening Journal, April 28, 1843)

In the 1850s, when whale oil used for lighting, became less available, the United States went through an energy crisis, although on a much smaller scale than today. Soon after, the emerging petroleum industry became the primary source for lantern fuel and later, the striking of natural gas wells in the northeast part of the United States brought this valuable fuel within measurable distance of the great industries situated in this region of the country. This helped to spark an interest in Marcellus shale.

“This recalls the prediction of Mr. Henry Wurtz, the eminent chemist, made seventeen years ago, that natural gas will be found in a belt following the outcrop of the great gas bearing beds (the principal of which is the Marcellus shale), at such a distance from their outcrops as will give a depth of about 400 feet to the bed. Professor Wurtz, as long ago as 1860, urged the use of natural gas in the region of which the great gas well at West Bloomfield, Ontario County, N.Y., was the center.” (Auburn, NY Weekly, Sept 15, 1887).

“The Baldwinsville Gazette says: ‘An opinion seems to have gained ground that east of Skaneateles lake in Marcellus and Spafford, and perhaps east of Otisco lake in Otisco, oil exists, on account of the rock formations is in the towns named, which include Marcellus shale, . . . In the neighborhood of Borodino some indicates of petroleum are apparent. This locality is in Spafford . . . It is reasonable to assume that oil does exist in good supply in several localities within the limits of our county. It is one of the most remarkable counties for the study of geology in the United States.” (Syracuse Daily Journal, June 25, 1897).

As the 20th century unfolded, the demand for energy continued unabated, but the interest in “Marcellus Shale” was overshadowed by the easier accessibility of other domestic as well as foreign oil and natural gas sources. In the 21st century, however, an even greater interest in domestic sources of natural gas and oil has provided renewed interest in the Marcellus shale.

“Forget the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Forget the continental shelf. The hottest place to drill for fossil fuel these days is upstate New York. We kid you not. It turns out the Empire State sits on top of a

veritable gold mine of natural gas - enough, by some estimates, to supply the entire country's needs for two years. It has been locked away for millennia in a geological formation known as the Marcellus shale, which was previously considered impractical for drilling. But advances in technology and sky-high gas prices have changed the economics. Now, energy companies are fanning across a swath of upstate, from the Catskills to Lake Erie, snapping up drilling rights to millions of acres. Some predict the sinking of thousands of wells over the next few years. Not to get carried away, but New York just might have hit a major, history-making jackpot. The gas rush has the potential to pump billions into the upstate economy, which sorely needs the boost. It also promises cheaper, environmentally friendly fuel for the energy-hungry New York City area - and should contribute toward weaning America off foreign oil, in the bargain." (New York Daily News, August 17, 2008)

In Marcellus today, there is an outcropping of Marcellus shale along Route 174, south of Slate Hill Road (the reason for the name). In addition, an old photo of what was called Nose Hill in 1915 - what we know as the Gorge Road today - also appears to be Marcellus shale. Another photo, from 2004, shows the "Nose" all covered up. In the years ahead, as the demand for cheaper and more local sources of fuel increases, we might see the "Nose" uncovered and the landscape of Central New York significantly changed as well.

Submitted by John Curtin ~

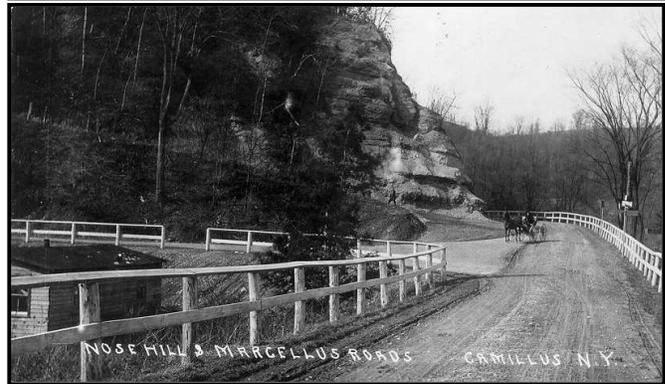
Rev. A. Roe Papers

Rev. Andrew Roe was the pastor of the Marcellus Methodist Episcopal Church from 1885 until 1887 and returned to Marcellus after his retirement. In the 1890s, he compiled a history of Marcellus which was published in 90 weekly installments in the *Marcellus Observer* from March of 1894 to December of 1895 under the title "In Times Gone By - Brief Sketches of Early and Later Times in Marcellus by Rev. A. Roe". His son, Cary A. Roe, was the editor and publisher of the *Observer* from 1887 to 1906. Many of those *Observers* were not preserved but Mrs. Susan Edwards May saved copies of the articles in a scrapbook which was given to the Marcellus Free Library. All of the papers have now been transcribed by John Curtin, Peg Nolan and Hollis Abbott and are available on the Historical Society computer. Many have appeared in the Newsletter since 2002.

Source: Kathryn C. Heffernan's "Nine Mile Country". ~



Route 174



SUMMER RAFFLE

**Marcellus Historical Society 50/50 Raffle
Drawing Sept. 13, 2009**

Donation: \$5 each

Fill in reverse side and return by Sept. 10 to:

Marcellus Historical Society

PO Box 165

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Drawing Sept. 13, 2009**

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The Marcellus Observer, July 3, 1914

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 Submitted by Peg Nolan ~

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

Marcellus Historical Society 50/50 Raffle
 Donation: \$5 each

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone number _____

Marcellus Historical Society 50/50 Raffle
 Donation: \$5 each

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone number _____

Village Clock Anniversary

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the installation of the Village Clock in the steeple of the Marcellus United Methodist Church. The clock was donated by Mr. & Mrs. George W. Case and the four faces, numbers and hands were constructed by Edgar M. Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett was the mayor of Marcellus from 1953 to 1955 and was the owner of Bartlett Ford Motors Sales and Service as well as a member of several community organizations.

Submitted by Joy Buffan

Notes: Doug Whitman wrote an article for Volume 2, Issue 1 of the Newsletter in 1997 entitled "Our Village Clock" which is available at the Steadman House. Also read about the clock in John P. Curtin's "Pucker Street, The first 100 years" and "The New Pucker Street, Since 1953" and Kathryn C. Heffernan's "Nine Mile Country". ~

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PETER R. HAKES, ESQ., ATTORNEY AT LAW

General Practice, Located next to Nightingale Mills
 Email: hakeslaw@hotmail.com (FAX 673-9390)
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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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 Permit Number 18

Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com

Address Service Requested

NEXT MEETING :
Sunday, September 13th, 2 p.m.

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

INSIDE:

- * *Marcellus Shale*
- * *Rev. A. Roe Papers*
- * *Village Clock Anniversary*
- * *The Air Dome*
- * *50/50 Raffle*

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Please use this form or a copy of it to join the society and to order our historic collectibles.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Join Our Society Today!</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$5/ Person per year ~ \$9/Couple per year ~ \$12/Family per year (includes children under 18) Sustaining Membership = 5 years (dues x 5). Number Joining? _____ New Members? _____</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Addr: _____</p> <p>City: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p>																																								
<p><u>Available Collectibles</u></p> <p>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</p> <p><i>Shipping: \$3 per book, \$4 other.</i></p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Qty</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Item Description</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Cost Ea</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Total</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Make Checks Payable to: Total \$ _____ Marcellus Historical Society Shipping \$ _____ PO Box 165 Dues \$ _____ Marcellus, NY 13108 Total Enclosed \$ _____</p>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Cost Ea</u>	<u>Total</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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