



# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 16 Issue 1

Winter 2011

## Louis Delmar Spafford

Louis D. Spafford was born in 1872 on a farm located on the west side of what is now Northeast Townline Road near Howlett Hill Road. His parents were Luther and Sarah Spafford who, in 1876, bought the farm of James and Ann Johnson on the north side of Falls Road near Northeast Townline Road. Louis' older half-brother was Willis (Will) Spafford who acquired the farm in 1915 and remained there until his death in 1944, leaving the property to his brother, Louis. (See map and pictures on page 5).

The following obituary for Louis was sent to us by his granddaughter, Kathleen Rachel Fenner of Menasha, Wisconsin:

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*Daily Inter Lake, Kalispell, Montana, June 4, 1956*

### **L. D. Spafford, 84, Dies; Former Inter Lake Editor**

Louis D. Spafford, 84, veteran Montana newspaperman and former editor-publisher of The Daily Inter Lake, died yesterday morning at Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., where he had gone last November.

He was born Feb. 10, 1872, on a farm near Syracuse, N.Y., and as a young man came West, working on papers in North Dakota, Idaho and Montana. He had also been associated with the Bureau of Reclamation.

In Boise, Idaho, he worked on the Boise Statesman. In 1913, he came to Kalispell to manage the Kalispell Bee, a semi-weekly, for the late Fred Whiteside, state senator from Flathead County.

He went to Great Falls where, for a while, he was a member of the editorial staff of The Great Falls Tribune. He had previously worked on Miles City and Great Falls papers.

He later returned to Kalispell, and in 1917 joined the editorial staff of The Daily Inter Lake. In 1922, with William E. O'Leary, he purchased the stock of the late Dr. Albert Howe in The Inter Lake, and became senior partner in the firm and editor-publisher of the paper.

At that time, The Daily Inter Lake was in the 100 block on First Avenue East. In 1931, it was moved to the Whipps Block on Main Street and in 1948 it was moved to its present location on First Avenue West, Mr. Spafford assisting in planning and designing the new building.

Community-minded, Mr. Spafford worked untiringly for the good and success of Kalispell and the Flathead.

In 1928, with the Army Engineers he helped establish the water level in the upper Flathead Valley and in 1943 was a leader in the fight to prevent the raising of Flathead Lake.

Recognized as one of the top editors in Montana, his editorials were often quoted in other daily papers throughout the state.

"Spaff." As he was familiarly called, took a keen interest in young people and numerous successful newspapermen throughout the country received their training while working for Mr. Spafford on the Daily Inter Lake.

Although a staunch member of the Republican Party, Mr. Spafford had friends in both political parties and he editorials were always written on a constructive if critical basis.

He was a long-time member of Kalispell Elks Lodge 725 and a member of the Montana State press Association. He was a member of the Episcopal church.

He married Miss Hilma Rinaldo at Glendive in 1908. Mrs. Spafford died here in January 1955 and in July, 1955, he married Mrs. Leslie Ross in Missoula.

He retired from The Daily Inter Lake in January, 1949.

Besides his widow, he is survived by a son, Jack Spafford of Kalispell; a daughter, Mrs. Rachel Young of Raymond, Wash.; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services and burial will be at Palos Verdes Estates.

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### Facts from the Kalispell Area Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 1891 by James J. Hill as part of the westward expansion of the Great Northern Railroad, Kalispell is the largest city in Northwest Montana and serves as the county seat and commercial hub of Flathead County. Kalispell is centrally located in the Flathead Valley:

31 miles from Glacier National Park

22 miles from Hungry Horse Dam

17 miles from Big Mountain Ski resort to the north and

17 miles from Black Tail Ski Resort to the south

7 miles from Flathead Lake the largest natural fresh water lake west of the Mississippi measuring 27 miles long and 15 miles wide

7 miles from Glacier International Airport.

~

## **EVENTS SCHEDULE**

*The tentative schedule of events is as follows:*

**Sunday, February 13, 2011** **2 p.m.**  
To Be Announced

**Sunday, March 13, 2011** **2:30 p.m.**  
At the Marcellus Library, 32 Maple Street  
 "From Muscles to Motors on the Farm - Henry Ford and the Great Tractor Wars 1910-1930"

**Sunday, April 10, 2011** **2 p.m.**  
At the Marcellus Library, 32 Maple Street  
 "Traditional and Historical Songs of New York"

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 2011**

President: Peg Nolan..... 673-1765  
 E-mail: peganolan1@hotmail.com  
 Vice President: Doug Nightingale..... 673-2539  
 E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net  
 Treasurer: Hollis Abbott ..... 673-1753  
 E-mail: habbott1@twcnny.rr.com  
 Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinger..... 673-3187  
 E-mail: cb90009@aol.com

### **Trustees and Term End**

2011 Mary Jane Domurat ..... 673-4896  
 E-mail: mjdumurat@msn.com  
 2011 Patricia Sanborn..... 488-3610  
 2012 John Curtin..... 673-3660  
 E-mail: jcurtin2@twcnny.rr.com  
 2012 Bob Wilson ..... 673-2550  
 E-mail: 89rw@twcnny.rr.com  
 2013 Joy Buffan..... 673-1832  
 2013 Jamie Johnston..... 673-1160

Correspondence Secretary:  
 Jean Nightingale ..... 673-2539

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 ...**

Because of Joe Nolan's illness, there is no column from Peg for this issue.

**Please notice that the March and April meetings will be held at the Marcellus Library.**

**Special Thanks to Joyce Murphy** for serving as our Secretary for many years and then as Correspondence Secretary from 2004 to 2010. Over the past several years Joyce also compiled many scrapbooks for the Historical Society of clippings relating to Marcellus.

### **Steadman House Wish List**

- 1 - Help to pay for replacing the furnace.
- 2 - Top coating for the driveway & parking lot.
- 3 - Security Cameras.
- 4 - New Folding Chairs.

### **Steadman House Hours (Weather Permitting):**

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

**Thursdays 1 to 4 pm**

**Or By Appointment:**

**John Curtin - 673-3660**

**Joy Buffan - 673-1832**

**Five hundred eighty two visitors registered at the Steadman House in 2010.**

### **Membership Dues**

If the date on the address label of this newsletter does not read **2011** or later, then it is time to renew your membership. We will send one reminder before the May newsletter, at which time non-current members will be removed from the membership list.

We rely on dues to help pay our bills and to maintain our collection and the Steadman House. Our dues are less than most historical societies in our area and we depend strictly on volunteers for everything - including hosting house tours, cleaning, office work and odd jobs.

Our quarterly newsletter is mailed to all members and the address list is not used for other than Marcellus Historical Society purposes.

Thank you for your support.

## **In Remembrance**

**Harold Chapman** - November 8, 2010

**Robert C. Atkinson** - January 2, 2011

**Helen W. Hopkins** - January 12, 2011

**Doris S. Kelly** - January 27, 2011

### Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:

Robert & Alice Mahan  
 Anne Dingman  
 Boy Scouts (Tour)  
 Roger & Joan Field  
 Lynn Buckley (Research)  
 Hollis & Nancy Abbott  
 Peg & Joe Nolan  
 Mary Jane Murphy  
 Hazel Morgan (Research)  
 Mary Beth Theetge (Research)  
 James & Laura Duncan  
 (In Memory of Jean Moir Miller)  
 Reagan Companies  
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### And in Memory of Helen W. Hopkins from:

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 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cudworth  
 Sam & Ann Buranich  
 Marilyn Hopkins & Daughters  
 Sandra Patrick  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Schneider  
 Alice L. Swan  
 JoAnne & Evan Murdock

### Renewed Members

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

Brian & Debi Abbott & Family, Mark & Lynn Abbott & Family, Mike Brilbeck, Kathy Coyne, Tim Coyne, Harvey & Donna Eysman, Elizabeth Foster, **Mark Friske**, **Thomas & Joanne Gilley**, Nancy Parsons Griffith, Beverley Haney, Tyrone & Sylvia King, James Lozott, Jean E. Males, Paul Jr. & Hazel Morgan, Evan & Joanne Murdock, Francis P. Murphy Jr., Carriebeth Pottinger, Florence Pottinger, **Patricia & Charles Sanborn**, Sheila Schweitzer, **Dr. Margaret Sennett**, James Jr. & Betsy Shake, Ruth Slovenski, Richard & Frances Smith, James H. Stone II, Leda Stopyro, Bill & Ruth Vinzant, Roberta M. Welsh, Leona Wilcox, Bob & Kay Wilson, David Wilson.

**Membership at end of 2010: 413**

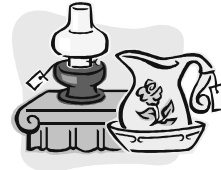
**Not renewed from 2009: 29**

**Business Members 2010: 33 ~**

### Steadman House Contributions

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

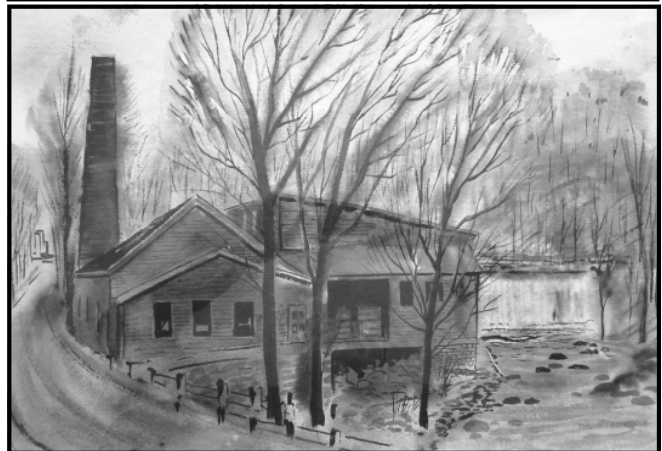
**Tom Schneider** for repairing the sign lighting and having the gutters on the east side of the house replaced; **Joy Buffan** for candy canes & candles for “Santa” night; **Village of Marcellus** for plowing the driveway and parking lot. ~



### Recent Acquisitions

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

**Carol Armstrong** for numerous Christmas ornaments & decorations; **Marcellus United Methodist Church Gift & Thrift Shop** for several Christmas ornaments & decorations; **Virginia Hall & Skye Cole** for spinning wheel; **Jack Calvert** for 2 Mulroy Dairy quart bottles; **Joanne & Thomas Gilley** for book “Memoirs of Rev. James M. Cook” by Theodore D. Cook; **Jean Nightingale** for Christmas decorations & picture stand; **Don & Betty Sherman** for David Lawrence’s painting of the paper mill (see below); **Norma & Richard Tuttle** for book “Hurlbut’s Story of the Bible” with partial Parsons’ family genealogy; **Dwight Widger** for classic car magazine July 2008; **Robert Shields** for Rotary badges & banners; **Peg Shields** for pins of old firehouse & Baltimore Woods; **Dick Smith** for booklet “House Looks On”. ~



**David Lawrence’s painting of the Paper Mill**

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

*The Marcellus Observer August 11, 1894*

*The Plaster Mills, "Bill Town," "Austin Hollow," The  
 early Mills, School House, Morgan's Factory, Etc.*

**TWENTY-FIRST PAPER**

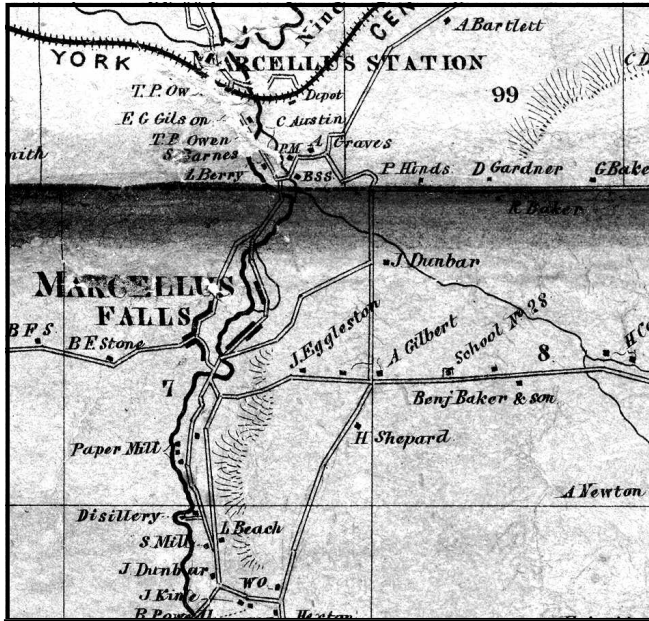
There was in an early day, not long after the discovery of plaster, several plaster mills in town. One in this village near the head of the feeder, one at Amboy, one near Sweet's crossing and another in Austin Hollow near the town line. Austin Hollow was once quite a lively place. Here was one of the first grist mills of the town, also a saw mill, distillery, a wagon shop in which was a turning lathe for turning hubs, wooden bowls, etc. and where lead pipe was drawn, a school house and several dwellings. Tradition says the place was first called "Bill Town" perhaps because Dr. Bildad Beach and William Chatfield built the grist mill and saw mill there. This was some years previous to 1820. The dam for the water-power was a little south of the bridge, diagonally across the creek, and the mills were run by water from a flume extending across the present road that leads to Marcellus Depot, there being no road laid out then from the top of the hill to the depot, and they were located north of the road, the grist mill on the west side of the flume and the saw mill on the east side. There was considerable business done at these mills, for many years. In 1826 Perigo Austin moved here and bought these mills, and afterwards quite a tract of land in the vicinity. He had charge of the mills and run them for several years and finally turned his grist mill into a plaster mill, and here he and others, to whom he rented it, ground and sold large quantities of plaster each year, and people came from ten to twenty or more miles for it. Among those who worked in the grist mill as early as 1821 was Abner Maynard, father of Phoebe Eggleston and widow of John Eggleston.

She still survives at an advanced age at her son's, George A. Egglestons. Mr. Maynard lived awhile on the south side of the road, south of the mills. Afterwards Shadrack Austin lived there, and there his seven children were born. His widow is still living in the Hollow eighty-four years. The plaster mill was operated by different parties besides the Austins, by Samuel Brown, and Lyman Smith awhile. Then by Joseph S. Platt, (afterwards sheriff) several years, who sub-let it to Paul Owen and Humphrey Case, then Skinner and Drake run it awhile until the great freshet in 1865, caused by the breaking away of the

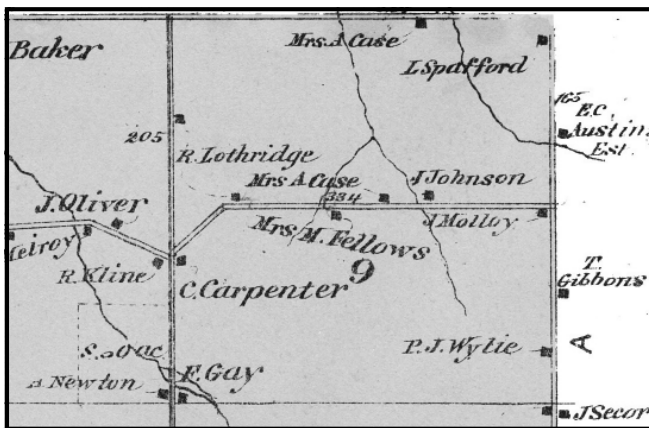
state coffer dam above Marietta, which swept down the stream with great velocity, destroying bridges and mill property in its course and taking this dam so completely away that it was never rebuilt. The wagon shop stood right on the corner or point between the two roads. A little north, under the hill as we go towards the depot was a distillery which Lyman Cook built and run for a few years. Near it were two lime Kilns, built by Joseph S. Platt, where both quick and water were burned. The remnants of the kilns are still visible. The school house is C. J. Morgan's present shop in the rear of his house, and was first a dwelling for several years, and stood a little south of its present location, and then was transformed into a school house where for many years promising children were given a start in their educational training. Here George Crysler and Elias Talbot of Syracuse taught school, also Mrs. John W. Fulmer, and she that was Mrs. John VanVranken, the Misses Caroling and Sarah Brooks, Miss Phillips, and Lucy Graves, now Mrs. C. B. Way of Camillus. The school house was again turned into a dwelling by Z. Berry, and afterwards sold to John F. Jones, who in the spring of 1871 let the present occupant, C. J. Morgan of Syracuse, have the house and lot. He repaired and used the house as a dwelling awhile. He immediately built a temporary undershot wheel, and he and his son built a flat boat and erected a loose stone dam which gave him a five feet head for his wheel, and in a few months circular saws and turning lathes were set in motion by this new and original water-power. Mr. Morgan was then 51 years old, and an expert in almost every kind of mechanical work. His business so increased that his little water-wheel was not sufficient for his machinery and he therefore built a larger one, 6 feet in diameter by 5 feet long, so as to use all his head of water, which wheel is still in use and doing good work. For the few years he did general wood work and employed part of his time in gumming saws, until he discovered a new process of turning tinnerns mallets, which were soon sought after from far and near, and he acquired the reputation of manufacturing the best mallet in the market. He also discovered a new process of shipping crosscut saws by means of a narrow strip of wood in which is cut a slot, called the Morgan saw guard, of which he makes several sizes to suit the large saw dealers throughout the United States. Mr. Morgan is quite a genius in his way, is well preserved and but few of his age can surpass him in mechanical invention. He is now making a specialty in furnishing paper mills, the

paper plug. His son J. M. Morgan is in partnership with him, and they are putting in new machinery that they may be able to keep up with their increasing orders. The firm name is now C. J. Morgan and Son and they are known as the Marcellus Falls Paper Plug Manufacturing Co. ~

*Note: Austin Hollow was in the Town of Camillus just north of Marcellus Falls but probably more closely associated with Marcellus than Camillus. See the 1860 map below.*



**Austin Hollow** was the subject of one of a series of articles in the Syracuse Post Standard in 1933 and 1934 titled **"Forgotten Villages of Onondaga County"**. **Dick Case** did a compilation of these articles in 1999 and the book is available for reference at the Steadman House.



1874 map of the northeast corner of the Town of Marcellus showing the location of homes of Luther Spafford and James Johnson (see story on page 1).

House built by James Johnson in the 1840s and home to the Spaffords from 1876 until the 1940s. It was renovated and sold to Warren and Esther Walker in 1948 and now is owned by Brian and Debi Abbott.



Walker home in the 1960s



Abbott home renovated in 1996

**Marcellus Historical Society**  
**2010 Financial Summary**

**Income**

Donations	7,824.00
Dues Recd	2,881.00
Gift Shop	1,509.53
Grants *	7,128.00
Other Income	125.09
Investment Income	<u>98.26</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$19,565.88</b>

**Expenses**

Acquisitions	428.24
Bank Charges	24.00
Contributions	50.00
Meeting Expense	46.43
Miscellaneous	3,484.70
Occupancy	8,938.45
Office Supplies	844.79
Postage	474.18
Preservation	19.99
Telephone	<u>881.17</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,191.95</b>

**Grand Total** **\$ 4,373.93**

*Marcellus Observer March 4, 1998*

**If Only I was Irish**

*by Glen T. Schram*

If only I was Irish, I'd give this world a spin  
 And do my very best to change this mess we're in  
 I would call my friends from near and far  
 And we would hold a meeting at Dillon's Bar  
 We would do the thing that must be done  
 Like raising hell and having fun  
 If only I was Irish  
 If only I was Irish, I am sure I would find a way  
 To celebrate Saint Patrick's, each and every day  
 And I would drink that good old Irish wine  
 Then go to O'Brien's Inn to dine  
 And when dinner is over and day is done  
 I will bow my head and tell Saint Patrick  
 I did it just for fun  
 If only I was Irish  
 Yes, if only I was Irish.  
*(Our Friend, Glen T. Schram Sr. died in 2004 at age 93)*

\* - A grant of \$5000 was from the Town of Marcellus for utility and insurance costs at the Steadman House. A grant of \$2128 from the Pomeroy Foundation enabled us to purchase two Historical Markers (included in Miscellaneous Expenses) which were installed in the Village.

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**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 13108-0165**

Non-Profit Organization  
 U. S. Postage Paid  
 Marcellus, NY 13108  
 Permit Number 18

**Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com**

Address Service Requested

**NEXT MEETING :**  
**Sunday, February 13th, 2 p.m.**

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

**INSIDE:**

- \* *Louis Spafford*
- \* *Austin Hollow*
- \* *Glen Schram's poem*
- \* *2010 Financial Summary*
- \* *Recent acquisitions*

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 \$12/Family per year (includes children under 18)  
 Sustaining Membership = 5 years (dues x 5).  
 Number Joining? \_\_\_\_ New Members? \_\_\_\_

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

Addr: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Available Collectibles**

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  
 Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus ..... \$15  
 Olden Day Stories by Lawrence F. Mahoney ..... \$10  
 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  
 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  
 Colored Postcards of Marcellus..... \$ 1  
 Package of 10 note-cards picturing Marcellus..... \$ 5  
*Shipping: \$3 per book, \$4 other.*

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

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