

Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 16 Issue 2

Spring 2011

REMEMBERING MARCELLUS IN THE CIVIL WAR AFTER 150 YEARS

Submitted by John P. Curtin with excerpts from Nine Mile Country, by Kathryn C. Heffernan

As the shadow of civil war approached, the spirit of abolitionism ran high in Onondaga County. Tradition in the Ramsden and Amidon families has it that the home of John Ramsden, Jr. on Schuyler Road was a station on the underground route by which salves were helped to escape into Canada.

Companies of Wide Awakes and Lincoln Clubs were in active existence in the county early in 1860, and voter rolls in Marcellus numbered many staunch Whigs who gave their support to the new Republican party and to the candidacy of Abraham Lincoln.

When fighting erupted after the firing on Fort Sumter in 1861, the town of Marcellus responded to the calls for troops and contributed its share to the support of the Union. Patriotism was in the air.

One company had been formed in Syracuse by Captain John G. Butler before the beginning of the war, in 1860, and was sent on immediately after the attack upon Fort Sumpter and formed a part of the 3d New York regiment, which participated in the first battle fought for the defense of the Union. Immediately upon the call for the 75,000 men in April, 1861, the 12th Regiment was raised and sent to the front, to engage at once in active service. Then followed the 101st, a regiment made up partially of Onondaga men, in the fall of 1861.

Following Lincoln's call on July 2, 1862 for 300,000 volunteers, each town in the county was asked to appoint a committee of three to cooperate in recruiting. Enlistments came in rapidly, and the 122nd Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, recruited entirely from Onondaga County, was raised in one month. Made up of ten companies, Company F was mainly from the town of Marcellus, and was organized August 15, with Lucius Moses, Captain; George W. Platt, 1st Lieutenant, and James Burton, 2d Lieutenant. The regiment was mustered into the United States service, at Syracuse, August 28, 1862.

Many of the great engagements of the war were participated in by this regiment, and it served until the end, being mustered out on June 27, 1865. The 122nd joined the Army of the Potomac just before the battle of Antietam. They fought at Fredericksburg and Gettysburg, and at the latter found itself next to the 149th, also from Onondaga. For several days after the battle they followed the retreating enemy. It came under General Grant in 1864, and, at Cold Harbor, May 31, suffered terrible losses. Out of 149 men, the regiment lost 75 killed and wounded. It then served under General Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley at the battle of Winchester. Later they returned to the Army of the Potomac to engage in the fighting at Petersburg and Richmond, and finally, to witness the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox in April of 1865. Many Marcellians were enlisted in this regiment.

The 149th New York Volunteer Infantry was a full regiment of Onondaga County men, organized at Syracuse, and mustered into the United States service September 18, 1862. Company A, of this regiment, was composed of Jewish citizens, organized in the Synagogue; Company B was a solid German company, and Company C consisted of irish, with but few exceptions. On the 23d of September, 1862, the 149th regiment left Camp White, at Syracuse, en route for the general rendezvous at the National Capital. This regiment was not only at Gettysburg, but in its many battles was the famous one of Lookout Mountain, and also in the Atlanta campaign, where it had three months of almost continuous fighting. The regiment was mustered out June 12, 1865.

The 185th New York Volunteers was the fourth complete regiment of volunteer infantry from Onondaga county, raised late in the war, and composed largely of artisans, farmers, mechanics and professional men. It was its peculiar fortune to be mustered into the service when hard fighting had to be done, which continued with little interruption to the close of the war. Composed of ten companies, this regiment was

(Continued on page 4)

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, May 15, 2011

2 p.m.

To Be Announced

Saturday, June 4, 2011 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. OPEN HOUSE - OLDE HOME DAYS

Sunday, June 12, 2011

2 p.m.

To Be Announced

No Meetings During July and August

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

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President: Peg Nolan		
E-mail: peganolan1@hotmail.com		
Vice President: Doug Nightingale 673-2539		
E-mail: djn0409@windstream.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		
2011 Mary Jane Domurat		
E-mail: mjdomurat@msn.com		
2011 Patricia Sanborn		
2012 John Curtin		
E-mail: jcurtin2@twcny.rr.com		
2012 Bob Wilson 673-2550		
E-mail: 89rw@twcny.rr.com		
2013 Joy Buffan		
2013 Jamie Johnston		
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 ...

Thank you for the prayers and cards for my husband. Joe is improving daily.

Pat Sanborn and I have been working on some family histories together and discovered some interesting information. James B. Seymour along with his father, Henry, purchased the farm on Bishop Hill Road south of the present Lee-Mulroy Road. in 1883. James was a guard at the second inauguration of President Lincoln. Searching the history of Nettie Bemus Eaton, we discovered that L.D. Paul's father, Charles, came from Coleford, England and while in England was a gardener at the Royal Palace. Pat and I both enjoy doing family research and would be happy to assist anyone that would like to do theirs.

We are busy getting the yard in order at the Steadman House and will be doing some new displays. Please come and visit and see all the new artifacts that have been donated. We will be open during Olde Home Days on Saturday from 9-3.

Have a great summer.

Peg Nolan ~

Steadman House Contributions

We are grateful to the following people for their donations of time and labor to keep the Steadman House open during the winter:

Pat and Charlie Sanborn Jean Nightingale Joy Buffan.

Steadman House Hours (Weather Permitting):

Sundays 1 to 3 pm (except meeting Sundays)

Thursdays 1 to 4 pm Or By Appointment: Peg Nolan - 673-1765 John Curtin - 673-3660 Joy Buffan - 673-1832

Steadman House Wish List

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

In Remembrance

Norma J. Tuttle - February 11, 2011 Jean E. Males - March 15, 2011 Richard C. Powell - April 5, 2011

Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:

Timatha Stone Pierce (Research)
Mary Tuthill (Furnace)
Thomas Donovan
John P. Curtin (Royalties)
Kathleen R. Fenner (Furnace)
Roger B. Grinnell (Research)
Hollis & Nancy Abbott (Furnace)

And in Memory of Helen W. Hopkins from:
Monica M Rappazzo
Barbara E. Harper

Renewed Members

Since our last newsletter with **Sustaining members** in bold print and <u>New members underlined</u>:

Dave & Sally Bailey, Bruce & Helen Baker, Dick & Nancy Baranello, John & Gerry Bednarski, Dr. Gary & Vanessa Belcher, Eugene Billington, Ron & Betsey Bond, Harold Brinkerhoff, Louis & Phyllis Budell, Bill & Kathy Bush, Victoria M. Clark, Phillip & Helen Clarke, Nancy Cole, Karen W. Conley, William & Marsha Connor, William T. Cook, Lucille Culotti, Viola Darling, Edwin & Anita Diefes, Regina Dillon, Bob & Anne Dingman, Mary Drexler, Michael W. Farrell, Kathleen R. Fenner, Barbara A. Fero, Bud & Peg Flitcroft, Metford Frost, Alan Gammon, Patricia Gascon, Sharon Gibbons, James Hamilton, Murray Helfer, Muriel Horning, Sterling Jansen, Frank Kelly, Eileen B. Kennedy, Harold Lanning, Elizabeth Lathrop, Tom Leonard, John & Carolynn Longuil, John Martens, Gene McCarthy, Kathy McLaughlin, Jim & Peg McNally, George & Sue Mezey, James & Arlene Milne, Helen Mohn, Robert Negus, Helen Newell, Linda S. Nichols, Jon Nicholson, Doug & Jean Nightingale, Joe & Peg Nolan, Marni Nolan, Jerry & Lorraine Orton, Donald & Anne Pelchy, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Perry, Leon & Julie Plochocki, Kathleen Powell, Robert, Manuela & Caroline Reagan, Pauline Reynolds, John R. Roland, C. Albert & Victoria Sabin, William Schneider, Dorothy Sennett, Donald & Betty Sherman, Dale & Joyce Sims, Kathy P. Smiley, Raymond & Janet Smith, Jeffrey&Mary Beth Smith&Family, Russell & Dorothy Snell, Garth & Gerry Snyder, Patricia Sposato, Carol Stalker, Russell & Nancy Striffler, Mr. & Mrs. Guy Swenson III, Martha Taffaro, Geoffrey P. Teeter, Don & Jan Thornton, Patricia Vile, John & Esther Weeks, Lyle & Millicent Welker, Jerry & Nina Wickett, Cliff & Sally Wilson, Karen Yuhas. ~

Membership: 379

Not renewed from 2010: 40 Business Members: 30



Recent Acquisitions

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

Jamie Johnston for November 1963 Schenectady newspapers about JFK assassination, photo of Doris Phillips; Dick Case for June 19, 1890 Marcellus Darrell Chapman for clippings of Observer: Harold Chapman; Joy L. Buffan for new DVDs for dubbing MHS cassette tapes; Barbara Patrick for photo of Harvey W. Leigh who was killed during World War II & photo of Harold E. Leigh; **Tyrone** King for items from the 1st National Bank of Marcellus, photo taken day after the Alvord House Helen Newell for Cub Scout song book, Cubmaster's pack book; Doug Nightingale for 3-Cindy Pelchy George for 2 ring binders; cheerleading photos; Patty Prioletti for 4 postcards of Marcellus; Popeye Manahan's Family for 10 Marcellians, coin holder with German coins. ~

The Good Old Days - The Year is 1910

- * The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.
- * Fuel for cars was sold in drugstores only.
- * Only 14% of homes had a bathtub.
- * Only 8% of homes had a telephone.
- * There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- * The maximum speed limit was 10 mph.
- * The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- * The average US wage was 22 cents an hour.
- * The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 a year.
- * A competent accountant could earn \$2,000 a year, a dentist \$2,500, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
- * More than 95% of all births took place at home.

What a Difference a Century Makes!

Submitted by Esther & John Weeks

(Continued from page 1)

organized at Syracuse and mustered into the service September 22, 1864. On the 23d they left for City Point, where they arrived via Fortress Monroe on the 30th, and were that night ordered into action. It had many important positions in the final engagements of the war, and suffered serious losses. In the desperate charge at Quaker farm, the regiment was credited with saving the day., and the regiment reached Appomattox station before Lee's surrender in April. It was discharged on June 10, 1865.

The 15th and 22d Cavalry were respectively raised and sent from this county. Besides these, Jenney's and Pettit's Batteries and a considerable portion of the 1st Regiment of Light Artillery were furnished from this county in 1861. The 3d New York Cavalry, mustered into service in August, 1861; the 10th Cavalry, December, 1861; the 12th Cavalry, November, 1862; the 20th Cavalry, September, 1863; and the 24th Cavalry, organized at Auburn and mustered in January, 1864, were in part made up by men from Onondaga county. Also part of the 9th New York Heavy Artillery. This county and Cortland furnished eight companies of the 2d Regiment of Ira Harris Light Calvary, recruited in September and October, 1864. In infantry, besides the full regiments, this county furnished a portion of the 44th New York, mustered in, in 1861; the 75th, 1861; the 86th, 1861; and the 101st, 1861. The 193d Regiment was partly raised here in April, 1865, and the 194th, mustered in, the same spring.

Thus it will be seen that, besides the filling of the complete regiments made up from this county, recruiting was going on briskly here from the beginning to the end of the war. Indeed, it began before the war broke out, and continued so long as a man was needed to complete the last great struggle with the Rebellion in front of Richmond in 1865. We have no means of determining the exact number of men furnished to the Government, first and last, by this county, but the aggregate will no doubt approximate 10,000 men. The county raised about 1,000 men over and above her quota.

During the call for militia on August 4, 1862 the Town of Marcellus was assigned a quota of 90 men who were to serve for nine months, and the County Board of Supervisors authorized the payment of a fifty dollar bounty to each recruit. Apparently, sufficient recruits failed to come forth, and the Town of Marcellus authorized a bond drive to raise money to provide a payment for such volunteers. Cumulative calls for men required persistent and energetic work in recruiting, as well a large expenditure of money in the form of bounties. Toward the end of the war, Onondaga County was borrowing money to pay individual bounties ranging from \$300 to \$1000. All in all, Onondaga County furnished a total of more than 10,000 for the war effort, and the impact on the Town of Marcellus is reflected in the decline in population from 2908 in 1860 to 2577 in 1865.

Until well after the turn of the 20th century, veterans of the local Joseph Jones Post of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) assembled in uniform on each Memorial Day to honor their fallen comrades. A camp fire on the Methodist Church lawn, military drills, speeches, and union religious services highlighted the annual celebration. The New York Volunteers continued to hold annual reunions well into the 20th century.

One of the most colorful of the veterans and one who devoted extraordinary effort to inspiring patriotism in the community and especially in the youth was Belus F. North. North updated the 1850 map of the old Village Cemetery, as well as drew a map of the old St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery on Methodist Hill, and noted and marked the graves of all the veterans. Each year around Memorial Day, it was his custom to walk from district school to district school in the area, stopping to talk to the children and to present a flag to each school. As a member of the 122nd Regiment, North kept records of the proceedings of that regiment's unions, and collected numerous clippings and pictures and other memorabilia. These he left to the Marcellus Free Library.

With the firing upon Fort Sumter, the patriotic women of Onondaga County came promptly to the emergencies of the time. An appeal to the women, through the newspapers, to provide hospital appliances and comforts was made. And the women responded, forming organizations and engaging in the systematic work of preparing bandages, lint and clothing. Many a home was stripped of every old sheet, table cloth and napkin. In April of 1861, there was a general mass meeting of representative women of the county and the Daughters of Liberty was organized, with branches formed in all the churches and throughout the county. Their efforts were truly heroic throughout the war, not only in providing material, clothing, and comfort, but also on the battlefield, as a number would become involved as combat nurses. ~

<u>Deaths of Officers and Enlisted men while in the service of the United States</u> <u>or from wounds or disease acquired in said service from April 1861 to June 1865 -</u> <u>Town of Marcellus, County of Onondaga, State of New York</u>

ALLEN, ANDREW J.—Age, 44 years. Enlisted July 30, 1862, at Amber, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co.D, 122nd NYV, August 7, 1862; discharged for disability, January 3, 1863, at Falmouth, Va. Reenlisted (Age 45), January 7, 1864, at Onondaga; mustered in as private, Co. C, 9th NYV Artillery, January 7, 1864, to serve three years; captured, July 9, 1864, at Monocacy, Md.; died of disease while a prisoner of war, September 28, 1864, at Danville, Va. **AXTEN, GEORGE.**—Age, 22 years. Enlisted, July 26, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as private,

Co.F, 122nd NYV, August 5, 1862; died of dropsy, April 3, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Falmouth, Va. **BENNETT, ELIAS.**—Age, 44 years. Enlisted, July 29, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as private,

Co.F 122nd NYV, August 5, 1862; died of disease, August 24, 1864, at Patterson Park Hospital, Baltimore, Md.

BROOM, DAVID.—Age, 20 years. Enlisted, August 6, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co.F 122nd NYV, August 11, 1862; died of disease, March 11, 1864, at Sandusky, Ohio.

CHATFIELD, **ANDREW M**.—Age, 23 years. Enlisted, October 8, 1863, at Auburn; mustered in as private, Co.D, 19th NYV, December 7, 1863, to serve three years; promoted first sergeant, date not stated; died of disease, May 8, 1864, at Fort Williamson, Va.; prior service, Co. A, Third New York Artillery; also borne as W. Chatfield.

CHATFIELD, **DAVID**—Residence Morris IL; Enlisted on May 14, 1864 as a Private. On June 21, 1864 he mustered into Co.H, 138th IL Infantry; He died of disease on August 10, 1864 at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

CULVER, ENOCH BENJAMIN—Residence Norwich CT; Enlisted on July 26, 1862 as a Coporal; On August 18, 1862 he mustered into "Co.C, 18th CT Infantry; He was killed on June 5, 1864 at Piedmont, VA. Promotions: Adjutant June 16, 1863; Intra Regimental Company Transfers: June 16, 1863 from company C to Field & Staff.

DEWITT, LEWELLYN. — Age, 19 years. Enlisted, May 4, 1861, at Syracuse; mustered in as private, Co.H, 14th NYV, May 17, 1861, to serve two years; discharged for disability, July 16, 1861; died November 17, 1861 at Marietta House; also borne Leewellon D. Witt.

EDWARDS, WILLIAM.—Age, 24 years. Enlisted, August 27, 1862, at Waterloo, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co.H, 148th NYV, September 14, 1862; wounded in action, May 9, 1864, near Petersburg, Va.; again, August 15, 1864; died of his wounds, August 16, 1864, near Petersburg, Va.

FELLOWS, **HENRY**.—Age, 23 years. Enlisted, April 23, 1861, at Marcellus; mustered in as private, Co.H, 12th NYV, May 13, 1861, to serve two years; wounded and captured, July 1, 1862, at Malvern Hill, Va.; died of wounds, July 13, 1862, at Libby Prison in Richmond, Va. (*See Page 6*)

GAYLORD, AARON C—Age, 18 years. Enlisted, July 29, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as corporal, Co.F, 122nd NYV, August 5, 1862; died of disease, July 17, 1863, at Sixth Corps Hospital, Gettysburg, Pa.

HOPKINS, MARVIN. — Age, 22 years. Enlisted, November 15, 1861, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co.G, 75th NYV, November 26, 1861; missing in action, June 14, 1863, near Port Hudson, La.; no further record.

JONES, JOSEPH.—Age, 25 years. Enlisted, August 14, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co.F, 122nd NYV, August 15, 1862; wounded in action, May 6, 1864, at the Wilderness, Va.; died of his wounds, May 29, 1864, at hospital, Washington, D.C.

KELLY, GARRET.—Age, 27 years. Enlisted, August 6, 1862, at Skaneateles, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co.K, 122nd NYV, August 12, 1862; killed in action, June 1, 1864, at Cold Harbor, Va,

LAMB, HARLOW.—Age, 33 years. Enlisted, August 13, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co.F, 122nd NYV, August 14, 1862; died of disease, March 8, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Falmouth, Va.

LAMPHERE, ALVAH.—Age, 18 years. Enlisted, July 26, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co.F, 122nd NYV, August 5, 1862; died of disease, December 15, 1862, at Alexandria, Va.

REED, CHARLES.—Age, 22 years. Enlisted, September 4, 1864, at DeWitt, to serve one year; mustered in as private, Co.C, 185th NYV, September 19, 1864; died, January 21, 1865, at hospital, City Point, Va.; also borne as Reid.

SENET, HENRY G.—Age, 22 years. Enlisted, July 26, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as corporal, Co.F, 122nd NYV, August 5, 1862; promoted sergeant, March 1, 1863; returned to ranks, May 1, 1864; wounded in action, March 27, 1865, at Petersburg, Va.; died of his wounds, April 8, 1865, at Washington, D.C.

SMITH, OREN J.—Age, 22 years. Enlisted, August 9, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co.F, 122nd NYV, August 11, 1862; killed in action, May 6, 1864, at the Wilderness, Va.

SPRINGSTAD, **AUSTIN**.—Age, 20 years. Enlisted, August 3, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co.F, 122nd NYV, August 5, 1862; died of disease, November 13, 1862, at Hagerstown, Md.

Sources: Town of Marcellus 1865 Census compiled by John P. Curtin 15 April 1996;

New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center, NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs (http://dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/civil/rosters/);

American Civil War Research Database (http://www.civilwardata.com/). ~



Henry H. Fellows was the son of Harry Fellows Mary McCulloch and His paternal Fellows. great grandfather was Obil Fellows and his maternal grandfather was Robert McCulloch. He was born August 30, 1837 in the brick house on what is now Falls Road between

Frank Gay Road and NE Townline Road in Marcellus.

In 2000, Peg Nolan transcribed all of the handwritten letters from Henry and his brother, George, from 1854 to 1862. They are available at the Steadman House along with memorabilia of the Civil War. Following are excerpts from one of the last letters from Henry probably written on June 18, 1862:

"I hear there has been quite an excitement in Marcellus about my being killed at the Battle of Fair Oaks. I saw the name of Henry Fellows, but I think he belonged to a Term. Regiment. I heard Zeke Sarr say that Mrs. Egleston cried one afternoon over it, but you can tell them I am all right yet and I hope to see this thing through all right. I hear they have sent for the sick ones, that were sent home from the 12th. If you see Mack Veeder you can send those shirts by him, I guess as he will come on the boat and cars nearly all the way to the Regiment. He may receive orders before this reaches you. But I hardly think he will as the Lieut. who is going after them only left yesterday. We have great times here getting Hoe Cake. They are just gay but they cost 10 cents apiece, so a person can't afford to get more than one or two a day. Once in a great while we can get hold of a canteen of milk, for which we have to pay from 25 to 30 cts. but I find it pays cost to have a good cup of Hoe Cake and milk once in a while. It is a change from Hard Tack and coffee. I drew a new pair of pants yesterday and I must go on a hunt for a pair of suspenders, for I packed up my others in the box before leaving Upton Hill. Reinforcements keep coming here from all parts. The 101st are across the river in Keameys Division. Heintzlemans "Camps De Armies" ?? One Div, from McDowalls Army came yesterday, they are across the river on the advance. The Siege of Richmond is going to be one nearly equal to Sebastopol?? and if the Rebs done "Skedaddle" there is going to be some fighting, but I have an idea they will "Hunt their Holes" when the

Dirt Digger gets up within a mile or so of their works. They have a great dread of the Steamer Shovels as they call them. Yesterday there was considerable artillery firing going on and I heard today it was to find out the position of the Rebels Masked Batteries. Our pickets advanced and drove in the Rebel Picket and then the Artillery shelled the woods and drew the fire from their Forts. They have the range on them now and when they get ready to advance, M and Secesh will have to look out. As it is near dinner time I shall have to be making tracks for camp or I shall lose my "Bean Soup" which is no small item. I assure you if I hear any news this afternoon, I will write more, but write a little oftener so I can tell whether you are dead or sloped.

> Respects to all Yours

To G.C. Fellows Esq.

H.H. Fellows"

Business Member Directory Please Patronize These Businesses

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	repair and more, Mike Johnson, Owner.
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John Fium	ara
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in our Business Member Directory.

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

Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, May 15th, 2 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE:

Saturday, June 4th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

INSIDE:

- * Marcellus in the Civil War
- * Marcellus deaths in the Civil War
- * Henry H. Fellows
- * The Good Old Days (1910)
- * Recent acquisitions

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