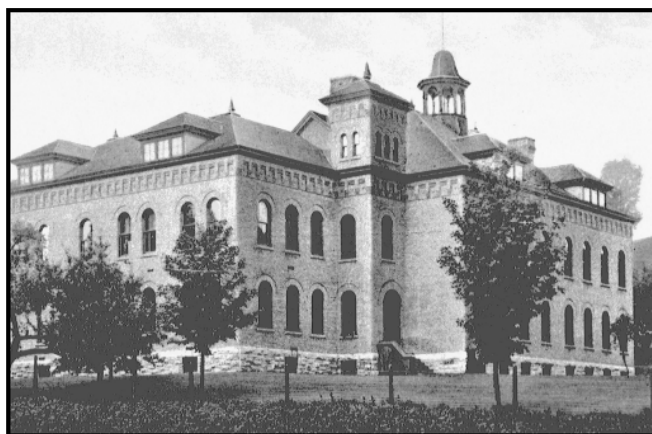




# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 17 Issue 3

Summer 2012



**West Hill School**

*Marcellus Observer July 5, 1912*

## **Class of Nine Graduated**

An interesting program and lively class of nine members of the Marcellus High School finished their course of study, associations and round of pleasures, with the formalities and fun of commencement week. The class members were:

Class Roll: Lottie Clark, Barbara H. Conroy, Augustine English, Cornella Marshfield, Helen M. O'Brien, William Quackenbush, Agnes G. Reagan, Tolman Spaulding, Flora E. Weeks.

Class Officers: President, Helen M. O'Brien; vice president, Barbara H. Conroy; secretary and treasurer, Flora E. Weeks.

Class colors, orange and black; class flower, red rose; class motto "Know Your Opportunities."

Sunday evening Alvord Hall was largely filled with the class and their friends to hear Rev. Clune, among the best known among the Syracuse clergy, give religious admonition upon this turning point in the young people's lives. The sermon was received with attentive interest, and the clergyman was thanked for his influence among our people.

Monday night was Class Cracks, a joke-cracking feast among the class members to whom each number is supposed to be as much of a surprise as to their friends assembled to enjoy the personal allusions. Each participant did full justice to his or her assignment.

The program follows:

### **Class Night**

Music.

Our Class History.....Cornella Marshfield

Our Historian.....Lottie M Clark

Address to the Juniors.....Barbara H. Conroy

The Juniors Response Marguerite Pendergast

Vocal Solo Helen Austin

Our Class Will.....Helen M. O'Brien

Presentations.....William Quackenbush

Class Declaration of Independence.....Tolman Spaulding

Vocal Solo.....Seymour Evans

Our Prophetess.....Augustine English

Our Prophecy.....Agnes C. Reagan

Chorus....."Holly, Red and Green"

Tuesday evening the Alumni banquet surpassed in attendance any yet held in the five years. That is, members and their guests only were included this time, and 105 were welcomed, and a most happy occasion it proved. Decorations in white and pink, with programs and place cards printed in gilt, gave the tables and room of the Presbyterian church a charming appearance. Following a pleasing meal, Michael J. Ryan as toastmaster introduced Lily Weeks in A Brief Chronicle, Elizabeth McCarthy, with the subject, Cheerful Service; Christiana Malcolm on Enthusiasm; Flora Weeks, Looking Backward; W. J. Matteson of the Board on Useful Living. A roll was called by classes, songs were sung, "Holly, Green and Red," written by Bessie Sweet Gallup, and a School song written by Leslie Northway, both of these being printed on the programs. Miss Helen O'Brien played nicely as an opening number, and Miss Lulu Taylor in several vocal renditions afforded much pleasure. "Holly, Green and Red" are the original school colors, for all time. Miss Gallup composed her song when an especially good ball team was successful, and the song has been very popular as well as a memorial to the esteemed authoress. Of the other song, the story of her happy wedding is told in another column of this issue of The Home Paper.

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:**

Barbara Bradley  
 John & Beth Anne Wroe & Family  
 Town of Marcellus (grant for utilities)  
 Driver Middle School (for 4th grade tours)  
 Peg Nolan (in memory of Joseph Nolan)  
 Raymond Smith (for Class of 1950 tour)  
 Myron & Barbara Eglvedt  
 (in memory of Sue Leonard)  
 James Chamberlain (for research)  
 Village of Marcellus Olde Home Days Committee  
 Barbara R. Bailey ~



**Lewis Steadman and Peg Nolan at the Open House with c.1780-1820 American-made rifle.**

**Renewed Members**

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

Dave & Sally Bailey, Dick & Nancy Baranello, **Anita D. Bedford-Catlin**, Peggy Bye, **Michael & Tobey Casler**, **Mary Raye Casper**, Edward & Marilyn Copley, Viola Darling, **Susan Forster Fraser**, Jerry & Diane Hardwich, Gene Hares & Family, **Dr. Kathleen Mullin Hoar**, Harold Lanning, John & Carolynn Longuil, Dorothy Manilla, Joel McNally, **Paul Jr. & Hazel Morgan**, Ted & Judy Morton, Sam Murphy, Jerry & Lorraine Orton, Barbara Randall, Frances Randall, William & Annetta Riley & Family, Mr. & Mrs. Guy Swenson III, John & Esther Weeks, **John & Beth Anne Wroe & Family**. ~

**Steadman House Contributions**

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

**S. D. LaMont** for the driveway sealing in front of the Steadman House.

**Pat & Charlie Sanborn and Jean & Doug Nightingale** for keeping the Steadman House open during the summer.

**Bruce & Mary Widger** for Newsletter mailing.

**Village of Marcellus** for mowing and lawn care. ~

**Helen****Bartlett****Sherman****Memorial Bench**

To be placed at the entrance of the Steadman House

**Giles Garage**

While rearranging and making some new displays in the garage, I came upon a sign that reads “Giles Garage”. Information taped to the sign indicates that the owners were Roy and Eva Giles. The garage was located on East Main Street in what is now a double house just east of the Masonic Temple. Apparently they rented the garage to Kneeland Dorchester and Ed Shay from 1929-1935 and then sold the property to Engler. Edgar Bartlett and Glen Thompson ran the garage and then Bartlett alone. At a later date the garage was made into a double house. It was bought by Kenneth and Bessie Case and remained in their possession until Bessie (Elizabeth) Case died in 1987.

The only information I could find on Roy and Eva Giles was that they were married June 1915 in Syracuse. “Leroy” M. Giles, age 20 (perhaps should have been 30), and Eva F. Giles, age 22, are listed on the 1920 Marcellus Federal Census but the 1925 State Census lists “Le Roy” N. Giles, age 34, and Eva Giles, age 26, as living in Elbridge with Le Roy’s parents, Charles and Edith Giles. On the 1930 Federal Census, Leroy Giles, age 40, and Eva Giles, age 33, are shown in Elbridge. Does anyone have any information on these people?

*Peg Nolan*

(Continued from page 1)

Of commencement proper, Wednesday evening in the Methodist church, the only class members heard were Miss Reagan and Miss Weeks, though all appeared well and gave their friends fullest reason for congratulation. Again, Miss Parsons was heard at the organ. This is her very kind and highly acceptable favor to her Marcellus friends each year, at the organ before and at the close of this event, and ever proves a feature, attracting as no other one number of any years' program. Miss Taylor and Miss Smith both sang delightfully. President of the Board, John R. Malcolm, proffered the formal honors in pleasing manner. The address of the evening was by Principal James A. Shea of Syracuse, who satisfied the great audience, holding their close attention throughout. The program follows:

Voluntary.....Miss Phoebe Parsons

Invocation.

Vocal Solo, "When Celia Sings"—Moir.....Lulu Taylor

Salutatory.....Agnes C. Reagan

Commencement Address.....Prof. James A. Shea

Vocal Solo.....Florence Smith

Presentation of Diplomas.....J. R. Malcolm

Valedictory.....Flora E. Weeks

Postlude.....Miss Phoebe Parsons

The class hop was held Thursday night at Alvord Hall, a social event of the year and well attended. The John Muldoon orchestra furnished music, assisted by Auburn Players, and gave the best of satisfaction in new and popular numbers. The excellent music put a finish to the affair, compliments indicating that none better was ever enjoyed.

The class held a picnic Saturday at Owasco Lake. You will need ask them about that. We did not pry into such sad Sunderings. Let each relate their own finis of these happiest years, and future years will tell them each more. ~

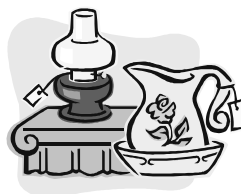
*Note: The West Hill School was built in 1892 and graduated classes from 1893 to 1937. See Newsletter Volume 8, Issue 4 (Fall 2003) for the history of the school. Copies of previous newsletters are available at the Steadman House or on the MHS website at:*

**mhs.villageofmarcellus.com**

*Marcellus Observer May 3, 1912*

The senior class of M. H. S. will present a concert by local and city talent in Alvord Hall Tuesday night, May 7. Tickets 35c and 25c.

**LEARN TO COMPLAIN WITHOUT SUFFERING**

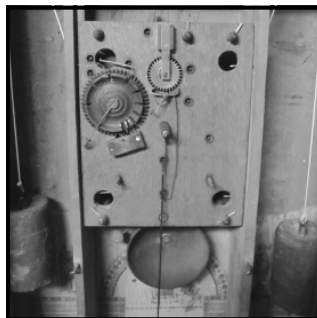


## **Recent Acquisitions**

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

**Helen Newell** for Scrapbook of Engagements & Weddings, misc. obituaries, Sheppard & Newell pictures, ink bottle & slate piece from Shepard Settlement School, 2 berry baskets, 1904 storybook "Chuggins", 5 notebooks of newspaper clippings, fountain pen, Caines/Crysler/Henderson/Bush/Redway/Nicholas/Crawford/Newell/Spinks/Stalker family histories, maps, obits, books "The Odyssey of Homer" & Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration", photo album, war ration book; **Unknown Donor** for American made rifle c.1780-1820; **Mary Widger** for autograph book belonging to May Murphy; **Peg & Marni Nolan** for outside flowers; **Peg & Jim McNally** for 2 potted plants in memory of Joe Nolan; **Michael Farrell** for 1916/17 picture of Onondaga County Supervisors; **Michael Plumpton** for "The Rise of Rose Hill" article from Plank Road magazine; **Phil Thrall** for box crank telephone; **Dorothy Herold-McCarthy** for 1937-1939 school bus records, Six-Town Picnic by Barbara Bandall Spain; **Ron Annable** for Annable pictures; **Jean Stone Hughes Family** for property drawing for treatment plant addition, book "Just for Fun", Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus, Shelter Valley Farm account books for 1890-1900 & 1897-1906, Jim Stone newspaper articles, Rollin Stone's rocking chair, handmade square head nails, ice skates from 1800s, buckle-on ice skates, items from James Stone's Farm, screwdriver with leather strap, small tin frying pan, horse blanket pins, horse collar, seed planter, handmade medicine cabinet, curry brush for horses, horse hoof cleaning tool, horse bits, horse harness, horse straps, MCS yearbooks for 1935 to 1938, Jim Stone's office chair, wrapping paper & string holder, wagon tongue and neck yoke, metal sale signs for butter and brown eggs, 2 black lace scarves; **Lewis Steadman** for 1831 Philip L. Smith clock (with wooden works) made in Amber; **Betty Corp Foster** for 1st place Triple Trio Medal from 1941 Public School Music Association National Competition in Atlantic City; **Florence Pottinger** for Modern Priscilla and The Home Arts Magazines from 1938 & 1935; **Agnes Myers** for pair of glasses; **Norma Oliver** for 6 pictures of MCS faculty members; **Unknown Donor** for several pictures of Marcellus area; **Hollis Abbott** for wood stove lid-lifter;

**Joyce Potucek** for pictures, written material, cobbler's bench with shoe forms & tools, harness bench & horse collar and other artifacts belonging to her grandfather, Frank Griffing; **Kelly Johnson** for 27 old school books that belonged to Thomas, Ruth and Helen Dunlop; **Jim Hettinger** for 1896 picture of Baker Hill School. ~



**Philip L. Smith clock  
with wooden works  
made in Amber  
Donated by  
Lewis Steadman**



**Horse Harness from Jim Stone's Farm  
Donated by the Jean Stone Hughes Family**

### **Frank Griffing**

Frank Griffing was born in Bordino in 1879 and his family moved to Marcellus in 1890. In 1895, he learned shoe-making from his uncle and in 1898 he brought his grandfather's cobbler's bench to Marcellus (see picture at right). His weekly column "Marcellus Memories" appeared for many years in the Marcellus Observer. Frank died in 1974 at age 95. *Note: See Peg Nolan's article in Volume 6, Issue 1 of the Newsletter (Winter 2001).*

## **Veteran Shoemaker Is Third Generation in Same Business**



Frank Griffing, Marcellus harness maker, shoe repairman, hardware store owner and welfare officer in the town. Griffing shown working at an old cobbler's bench used by his grandfather 100 years ago. Mr. Griffing has been in business about 40 years.



**Frank Griffing's  
Cobbler's Bench  
Donated by  
Joyce Potucek**



**Harness Bench and  
Last horse collar  
made by  
Frank Griffing**

### **Coon Family History**

Daniel G. Coon was born in Jefferson County and came to Marcellus about 1842. He joined partners Norton, Parker and Olney in running a distillery at Marcellus Falls. At a later date he bought out Norton and Parker and the business became Coon and Olney. The distillery was a successful business for 25 years. In 1853 he bought what became known as the "Coon Farm" on South Street. He was elected trustee of the village in 1853 and elected President of the village in 1858, 1859, 1874, 1878, 1879 and 1880. He and his wife, Betsey Barney Coon, remained in the home until their deaths: his in 1893 and hers in 1896.

Their son, Daniel DeForest Coon was born in Marcellus in 1848. He attended Marcellus schools and Cazenovia Seminary. Upon finishing school, he went into the cheese business and then the drug business. After a couple of years, he went into farming on the 130 acre family farm on South Street. In 1899 he constructed a dam across the brook on his property for harvesting ice. He started "Spring Brook Ice" to sell for private and business use. In later years, Coon's Pond became a skating rink for village residents. Daniel DeForest Coon and his wife, Lucy Rhodes Coon had a son, Daniel Rhodes Coon, who bought the homestead in 1924 and continued farming and truck gardening.

In 1925, Daniel Rhodes Coon started Coon's Greenhouse and sold all kinds of plants and flowers. Daniel Rhodes Coon died in 1931 and upon Daniel DeForest Coon's death in 1938, the business became Coon and Masters and later, Clarence, the son of Daniel Rhodes Coon and his wife, Ella, bought out his uncle (Masters) and ran the floral business.

Clarence Coon sold the business to William Crysler in 1955 and in 1957, the business closed and Clarence took the greenhouse down. Clarence worked at Norris Funeral Home for 50 years, retiring in 1985. He was also superintendent of Highland Cemetery, past chief of the Marcellus Fire Dept. and a member of the Marcellus United Methodist Church. Clarence died in 1988 and is buried in Highland Cemetery. His widow, Lulu, and son, Daniel, live in Marcellus today.

*Submitted by Peg Nolan*

### **One Hundred Years Ago in Marcellus**

*Marcellus Observer August 16, 1912*

#### **Chase Valley**

**(near present Tanner and Cedarvale Roads)**

Owing to the drouth the corn crop in this section is practically a failure, much of the corn planted lying dormant in the ground until the recent rains came. The second cutting of alfalfa was very light. Potatoes promise a good crop and cabbage, though late, looks well. ~

**THERE'S NO REASON FOR IT -  
IT'S JUST OUR POLICY**

### **Business Member Directory** **Please Patronize These Businesses**

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Specializing in commercial and residential property clean-outs and Dumpster Services.

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#### **CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**

##### **BELLOWS CONSTRUCTION SPECIALTIES, LLC**

Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, General Construction and Historical Renovations. Karen Yenny Bellows, Owner.

Email: [bellowsconstruction@earthlink.net](mailto:bellowsconstruction@earthlink.net) (FAX 476-6552)

213 West Adams St., Syracuse 13202.....476-4719

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 PO Box 228, 4331 Slate Hill Rd., Marcellus 13108..... 673-2076

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 2527 Cherry Valley Tpke. Marcellus 13108 (FAX 673-1864) .... 673-4858



**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

**New Web Site Address:**  
**mhs.villageofmarcellus.com**

Address Service Requested

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Sunday, September 9th, 2 p.m.**

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

**INSIDE:**  
 \* *West Hill School Class of 1912*  
 \* *Giles Garage*  
 \* *Frank Griffing*  
 \* *Coon Family History*  
 \* *100 Years ago in Marcellus*

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 Local

### ~ GIFT SHOP & MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM ~

#### **Join Our Society Today!**

\$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? \_\_\_\_

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 Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus ..... \$15  
 Olden Day Stories by Lawrence F. Mahoney ..... \$10  
 Otisco Lake Community by Roger Trendowski ..... \$23  
 Otisco Lake Map 1868 ..... \$10  
 Farewell Old Girl by J. Michael Kelly ..... \$15  
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 John Drummond "Dried Weeds" Print ..... \$10  
 Official Marcellus Afghans: cranberry,blue,green .... \$45  
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 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.*

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