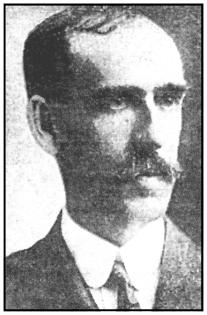


# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 17 Issue 4

Fall 2012



# Frank Wilson Knapp (1860-1939)

Frank W. Knapp was born in 1860, in Etna, Tompkins County, New York, one of 13 children born to Cyrus Knapp (c1830-1922) and Helen Wilson (c1840-1911).

He was a lawyer, having graduated from Cortland Normal School and Cornell Law College in 1893. He moved to Marcellus soon after, and became very involved in the life of the Marcellus Village community.

Frank Knapp married three times, the first to Alice L. Caulfield (1874-1906), who was a teacher in Marcellus. She was one of four children born in Oswego, New York to Unknown and Anna Caulfield, immigrants from Canada and Ireland, respectively. The marriage took place about 1894, according to the 1900 Marcellus Census, and three children were born to this couple, including Edward C. (1895-1991), Margaret C. (1897-1984), and Wilson Frank (1900-1970).

Alice Caulfield Knapp became ill when her youngest child was a small boy. To try to improve her health, Mr. Knapp took his wife to California for a long vacation. It did not help and her ailment was diagnosed as tuberculosis. She remained ill for several years, spending most of the time in bed, finally

succumbing to her illness on August 28, 1906. Her three children were then about eleven, nine and six years of age. Rev. James J. Renehan, Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church at the time, recorded her passing and apparently administered last rites of the Roman Catholic Church. She was buried in Highland Cemetery on August 30, 1906, although SFX Cemetery Records also make note of her interment in that place.

Several years later, Frank Knapp was married a second time, to Marion Pugh (1878-1926), also a school teacher in Marcellus, on August 19, 1909, in the Fairport, NY home of the bride. From this second marriage, Mr. Knapp became the father of two more children including Mable Jane (1911-2007) and John Clyne (1915-1969).

Mrs. Marion Pugh Knapp died in 1926 and Mr. Knapp, still having a number of children at home, married Lillian Blaine, also a teacher, and who had been a close friend of Mr. Knapp's sister, Helen. The marriage took place in Niagara Fails, NY, on December 14, 1927. There was no issue from this third marriage.

As Marcellus entered the 20th century, several men were foremost in the community, and one of them was Frank W, Knapp. When he arrived in the Village in 1894, he opened up a law office in a building that he bought, what was then known as the Gallup Building, on the corner of North and Main Streets. From that time, until his death 45 years later, Frank W, Knapp was involved in virtually every project that was undertaken in the Village. He organized the Marcellus Telephone Company, whose exchange was located in the Hooper Block building at #7 North Street, and early in 1903, the Village Board granted his company permission to set poles and string wires through the streets of Marcellus. These poles were used not only for transmitting telephone messages but for the installation of fire alarm fixtures as well. He organized the first electric company in Marcellus, harnessing the power of Baker's Dam on Nine Mile Creek to bring electricity to the Village in 1907. Later this local source of power was becoming inadequate and a line was extended to Camillus where electricity was obtained from power lines brought into Central New York from Niagara Falls (Heffernan 85).

(Continued on page 3)

### **EVENTS SCHEDULE**

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, November 11, 2012 2 p.m.

To Be Announced

Thursday, November 29, 2012 6:30-8 p.m.

Santa Claus

Saturday, December 8, 2012 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Christmas at the Steadman House

Sunday, December 9, 2012 1:00 p.m.

Covered Dish Holiday Dinner at the Firehouse

Covered Dish Holiday Dinner at the Firehouse (See Notice this page)

Sunday, January 13, 2013

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 2012**

metalical society officers for	<u> </u>	
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@twcny.rr.com		
Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinger	. 673-3187	
E-mail: cb90009@aol.com		
<b>Trustees and Term End</b>		
2012 John Curtin	. 673-3660	
E-mail: jcurtin2@twcny.rr.com		
2012 Bob Wilson	. 673-2550	
E-mail: 89rw@twcny.rr.com		
2013 Joy Buffan	. 673-1832	
2013 Jamie Johnston	.673-1160	
2014 Mary Jane Domurat	. 673-4896	
E-mail: mjdomurat@msn.co	om	
2014 Patricia Sanborn	.488-3610	
E-mail: pasanborn@twcny.rr.com		
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 ...

Where has the summer and fall gone - hard to believe that November is here already. We have begun decorating the House and getting things ready for Santa's visit on Nov 29th. Our open house will be Dec. 8th from 10:00 until 3:00. We hope to see everyone there!

We will have a covered dish Holiday dinner on Dec. 9th at 1:00 at the fire station. Meat and drink will be provided.

Through the winter months we will continue to be open (weather permitting) for tours and family history searches.

Thank you to the village workers for all their help: mowing the lawn, picking up leaves, picking up large artifacts for us and plowing our driveway and parking lot.

Happy Holidays to all!

Peg Nolan ~

### **December 9th Covered Dish Dinner**

The Holiday meeting will be a covered dish dinner at the Firehouse. The Society will provide meat, drink and table settings. Carriebeth will be coordinating the donated dishes so please call her at 673-3187 to let her know what you can bring.

Steadman House Hours (Weather Permitting):
Sundays 1 to 3 pm (except meeting Sundays)
Thursday Afternoons 1 to 4 pm
Or By Appointment:
Peg Nolan - 673-1765
John Curtin - 673-3660

### **Renewed Members**

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

Bill & Betty Bailey, Johanna Duffy & Wendell Buckman, Bill Falcheck, James R. Hettinger, Jim & Jean Reagan, Neil & Diane Schneider, Joanne Sedgwick, Peg Shields. ~

Current Membership: 396 Not renewed from 2011: 27

New Members: 24 Business Members: 34 Not renewed from 2011: 3 New Business Members: 4

### In Remembrance

Eva Travers - September 1, 2012

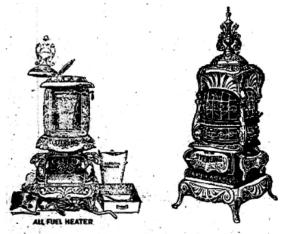
(Continued from page 1)

Knapp's company, the Marcellus Lighting Company, was eventually merged with Empire Gas and Electric, the predecessor of the New York State Electric and Gas Company. Knapp was responsible for building several homes in the Village, including his own at #2 Reed Street, a structure that remains a landmark in the Village today. He had a special interest in the success of a local library and in 1913, helped to found what is today the Marcellus Free Library, making available the second floor of his building on Main and North to serve as a repository of books. He served as Village Clerk for almost fifteen years, was involved in the Marcellus Presbyterian Church and other community organizations and seemed to embody the energy and the enthusiasm of the early 20th century. He was "... a man ahead of his time, one with great vision" (Heffernan 84), who loved his adopted community and served it well. When the community needed a "man for all seasons", Frank W. Knapp came forward, and his ambition became a legacy for future generations.

Death claimed Frank W. Knapp on March 17, 1939, survived by his wife, Lillian Blaine Knapp, all five of his children, as well as three sisters and four brothers. Lillian Blaine Knapp died on May 30, 1959 at the home of Miss Helen Knapp in Glenwood, Florida. Frank W. Knapp was buried from his Reed Street home, and interred in Highland Cemetery in Marcellus on March 20, 1939, a man recognized by his community as a prominent citizen and devoted family man.

(Contributed by John P. Curtin and Peg Nolan, with recognition to Kathryn Heffernan and Mary Kelly Hogan, whose writings on Frank Knapp were instrumental in compiling this story). ~

Marcellus Observer, Friday Dec. 6, 1912



Cold Weather Is Upon Us

### **Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:**

James R. Hettinger

Kathleen Kinane Khouri (MCS Class of 1964) Robert & Alice Mahan

Carriebeth Pottinger (MCS Class of 1964) John & Margaret Rino (MCS Class of 1964) Several Anonymous from MCS Class of 1964

Diantha Neinfeldt (Research) Mary Tuthill John T. Covne

Bishop Grimes Activity Account Ronald & Louise Buckman~

### **Steadman House Contributions**

We are grateful to the following people for their donations of time, labor and materials at 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. ~

### Annual Meeting, November 11th at 2 p.m.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Marcellus Historical Society will take place at the regular November meeting. Nominees announced at the October 14th meeting are as follows:

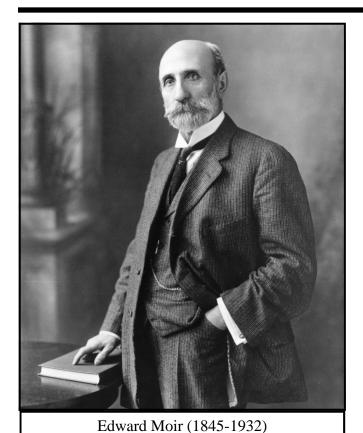
Trustees (three year term ending 12/31/2015)

John Curtin Bob Wilson

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. ~



**Country Store Display** in Steadman House Garage



### Marcellus Observer Wednesday, Septermber 7, 1932 Beloved Mill Owner Passes to Reward

Edward Moir, president of Crown Mills, Marcellus, died here Aug. 26, after an illness of some time

Mr. Moir was born in 1845 at Tillacoultry, Clarkmananshire, Scotland. He was the son of John MacFarland Moir, who, like generations of his family before him, had been engaged in the woolen business in Tillacoultry, Alva, Devonside, Dovonvale, and other centers in the Forth District. The family emigrated to Canada when Edward as ten years old and settled at Galt, Waterloo, Province of Ontario.

In his 19<sup>th</sup> year Edward was apprenticed in the small woolen mill at Galt, where his father had been engaged. A few years later the Moirs built a small mill at Waterloo which they operated for some time, and later Edward took a position with the Paton Manufacturing Co., at Sherbrook, of which his brother-in-law, Andrew Paton, was head. With William Paton, Mr. Moir purchased a mill at Peterboro, Ontario, called the Auburn Mills, which continued under their joint ownership until the death by drowning in 1873 of Mr. Paton. Mr. Moir transferred his activities in 1876 to Cornwall, Ontario, where he operated a mill.

### Came to United States in 1884

He moved to the United States in 1884, a change in climate for his wife's health having been recommended. Mr. Moir's first position in the United States was with the Crown Mills, in Marcellus, which he operated for the Crown Mills Co., eventually purchasing that mill.

He bought the Chester Moses Mill in 1890. These two plants at that time consisted of only 20 looms; Mr. Moir increased the equipment to 108 looms and 16 sets of cards, and brought the production up to 15,000 pieces annually. He was constantly planning to enlarge his manufacturing facilities. He employed and housed over 300 workers. It was Mr. Moir's proud boast that he never had a labor dispute in his mills.

While he was known as one of the best woolen manufacturers in the country, he was equally renowned for his knowledge of raw material markets. He was a recognized authority on wool. He activities in the promotion of an ad valorem duty on wool, consistently and vigorously prosecuted for over 30 years, brought him into the political limelight, and while he found himself opposed successfully by the wool growing and worsted spinning interests, he continued to labor for the attainment of this ideal. It was his conviction that the duties, as imposed under the successive Republican administrations, were not framed in the interest of either the wool-growing industry or the consuming public, and he was as outspoken as he was convinced.

### **Expert on Tariff Laws**

Although Mr. Moir left school when he was 12 years of age, his knowledge of tariff legislation was profound and complete. His familiarity with import and consumption statistics since the days of free wool, was unequalled.

Although Mr. Moir left his native land when a mere boy and became a citizen of the United States many years ago, he manifested an active interest in affairs in the old country, maintaining close touch with the principal wool manufacturers there, and making a number of trips to the scene of his boyhood.

### **Had Many Home Interests**

Mr. Moir was president of Marcellus Village when the water system was installed. He was a tireless worker and took great interest in the affairs of his adopted village. For several years he held the position of president of the local Board of Education and was for a long time a trustee of the Presbyterian Church. (Continued from page 4)

Edward Moir has done much for Marcellus. Nearly every worker in the town has at some time or other worked for him and he was highly respected by his employees. He built homes and took a personal interest in their welfare.

Mr. Moir was a past master of the Masonic Lodge at Cornwall, Can., having held this honor over 50 years. This summer a banquet was held at Cornwall in his honor and he was presented with a gold Past Master's medal which he prized very highly. There are perhaps not more than three men in the Dominion who have had the honor that has been bestowed upon Mr. Moir by his fraternal associates.

Marcellus has lost a fine, public-spirited citizen; one who was far-seeing and who had the interests of his town at heart. His record is one to which we can point with pride.

### His Kindness a Great Asset

This paper owes Mr. Moir a dept of gratitude because it was Mr. Moir who, many years ago, assisted the late editor in getting a start in Marcellus. Mr. Mowry always held Mr. Moir in the highest esteem and spoke highly and sincerely of the worth of the deceased. Mr. Moir was a true friend to many.

Submitted by Peg Nolan ~

### **Recent Acquisitions**

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



Mr. & Mrs. Martin Piper for large mirror from Guernsey's Drug Store; Florence Pottinger for wash bowl and pitcher, small crock, glass washboard, metal washboard, old iron, ice tongs;

**John Yuhas** for 7 environmental inventory maps; John Davis for pictures of Davis Family, picture of Clara Davis Tearoom, Davis Grove ticket to social party, folding yardstick from E.L. Blake Co., scales, 1946 radio, Clara L. Davis' Cortland Normal School diploma; James Dyer for Bonneur Co. bottle, Presbyterian Church postcard, 1813 indenture between Amasa Sepions & Daniel Kellogg, old indenture, 5 letters written between 1837 and 1848; Michael Plumpton for homemade wooden child's rocking horse, 1940s clothes basket from Frank Griffing's store, child's 1960s metal Checker Cab, Cox/Stewart Family history, Kinyon Farm history, pictures of: Lower Crown Mill (1911), Marcellus Falls Post Office, Plaster Mill ruins, Smith Barley Mill, Martisco Paper Mill, falls behind Paper Mill,



1963 Historical Society picnic, Steve Hunt, Lucy Sweet, Mike Plumpton, Mrs. Pittenger; Joyce Potucek for butter churn & paddle, cabbage shredder. Ruth Phillips Griffing's mandolin; Eugene Rowland for picture of Crown Mill with huge flag; Anna Salway for small wooden bowl, store glass cookie jar display, metal teakettle, chicken feeder tray, 2 handkerchiefs; Peg Nolan

for Central New York pictorial history, plastic apples, Girl Scout tie, man's tie, Nojaim Bros. store telephone directory, MCS Mustang pin, girl's silk white dress, stoneware whiskey jug; Don & Helen Newell for Pilot Chevrolet ashtray, shortbread cookie tin, Quaker Oats can, Barnum's animal crackers 85th anniversary, Oxheart peanut butter, Argo starch, Babo, Brillo pads, Tetley budget tea, Rawleigh allspice cans, Swan soap, Worcestershire sauce, 2 Rite cracker cans, obituaries from: Marcellus, Amber, Shepard Settlement and Skaneateles, Spafford book by Capt. George Knapp Collins, Bush Family history records, Redway/Newell/Crysler history, James Redway diary notes, wire chicken with 3 wooden eggs, Barnum's animal cracker tin, Premium cracker tin, Rexall first aid tin, Spinks genealogy, Radway genealogy, United Methodist Church pamphlets, Cemetery records, Gypsy outfit; Janet Warner for 13 wooden apples; Elsie Harrison for 5# butter crock, Lucy Gay Harrison's school bell (above), Clark's Onondaga History Vol. 2, Class of 1919 commencement, 1935 First Presbyterian Church bulletin, 1902 Board of Supervisors journal, Marcellus WW I, MFD 1957 Olde Home Days celebration, Congress bottle opener, Phillies cigar box; George Ireland for 8 Marcellians from 1933 to 1940, Horace Ireland's 1940 class picture; John Curtin for Cummings Candy box, miscellaneous business receipts 1920s-1940s; Ann Pelchy for Carl H. Buhl WW I medal, WW I Marcellus book; Barbara Cole Shoemaker for pictures & pamphlet of MCS 1951 Senior Class play cast, MCS 1952 Baccalaureate program & Graduation invitation, Class of 1952 40th Reunion; Judy Fittipaldi for woolen material from mill; Cvnthia Stevenson for 2 1906 Marcellus maps, map of New York Counties, 1934 Crown Mill blueprints. ~

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

### Marcellus Observer August 30, 1912 Attention

During the past week so many complaints have been made against bicycle riders on the sidewalks that it has become necessary for the village trustees to consider the advisability of rescinding the privileges granted bicycle riders unless the owners and riders recognize the restriction imposed and cease to be a nuisance and menace to the public that the complaints indicate. On and after September 1st the ordinance will be rigidly enforced and no riding whatever on the sidewalk will be allowed unless they do what the regulations call for. Your rights are on the middle of The sidewalks belong to the the roadway. pedestrians. The bicycle rider has simply been given the privilege to ride thereon while he respects the rights of pedestrians.

Board of Trustees.

### Marcellus Observer August 30, 1912 OBSERVER-ATIONS

Marauders paid a late visit to fruit trees down North street recently. More unpleasant than the thieving was the language heard. The husband informs us and said to publicly state that the house is now provided with a first class revolver and orders given to shoot into the crowd on its next visit. The law would justify this and shooting is just what every owner ought to serve on thieving trespassers. It is as much stealing to take apples as to steal a horse. This medicine for prowling gypsy bands would clear them from the country.

The village officials can please all residents who take the trolley at Sheehan's by cutting two to half a dozen branches from the apple trees near the shelter. Not many to cut. All of them are low, but only a few require the "low bridge" dodge to escape them. This is out of the corporation, too. Why will not the owner of this spot accept this as a hint and engage a highly commendable 15 minutes cutting off these few sprigs.

### Marcellus Observer, November. 8, 1912

A Kansas Editor Says:

Most anyone can be an editor. All the editor has to do is to sit at a desk six days in a week, four weeks in the month, and 12 months of the year, and "edit" such stuff as this:

"Mrs. Jones, of Cactus Creek, let a can opener slip last week and cut herself in the pantry."

"While Harold Green was escorting Miss Violet Wise from the church social last Saturday night, a savage dog attacked them and bit Mr. Green on the Public Square."

# Marcellus Observer November 1, 1912 This Beats Them All The I.H.C. Low Lift Spreader

### Especially Useful in an Election Year!

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	PETER R. HAKES, ESQ., ATTORNEY AT LAW
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www.welchconstructioninc.com E-mail: welchcon@centralny.twcbc.com	Email: phakes@hakeslawoffice.com (FAX 673-0925)
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PO Box 228, 4331 Slate Hill Rd., Marcellus 13108673-2076	REAGAN & DAILEY, ATTORNEYS AT LAW
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	Hours: Mon, Wed 7 am -7 pm, Tue, Thu 8 am - 8 pm, Fri 7 am - 6 pm 37 South St., Marcellus 13108 (FAX 673-2008)
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612 Cherry Rd., Syracuse 13219263-1335	, , ,

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

New Web Site Address: mhs.villageofmarcellus.com

Sunday, November 11, 2 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING (Annual Meeting):** 

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

Non-Profit Organization

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year your dues are paid through.)

### **INSIDE:**

- \* Frank W. Knapp
- \* Edward Moir
- \* Holiday Events
- \* 100 Years ago in Marcellus

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Number Joining? New Members?	City: Zip:	
Available Collectibles		
The New Pucker Street, Since 1953 by John Curtin \$28	Phone:	
Pucker Street by John Curtin\$26	Qty Item Description Cost Ea Total	
The Town He Loved So Well by James Quinn \$20	<u>Qty Item Description</u> <u>Cost Eu Total</u>	
Around Marcellus by Leslie Church Kraus\$20		
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	· _ · · _ · _ · _ · _ · · _ · · _ · · _ · · _ ·	
Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus\$20		
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Index to Nine Mile Country; Names and more\$ 5	PO Box 165	
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Shipping: \$3 per book, \$4 other.		