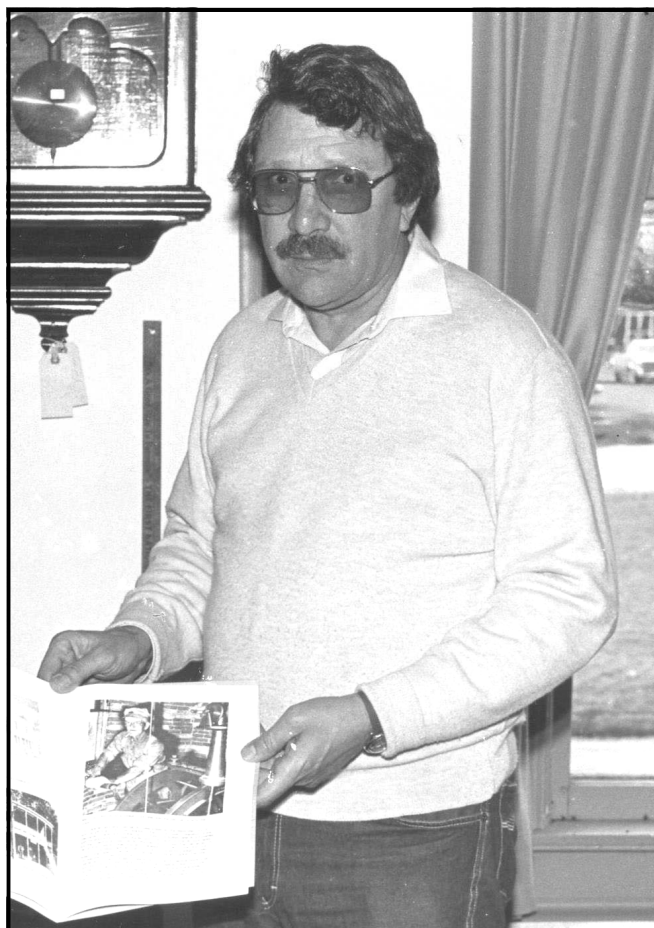




Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 18 Issue 2

Spring 2013



J. Michael Plumpton

Michael Plumpton, first president of the Marcellus Historical Society, passed away on April 28th. Over the years he served as president many times and was also the Town of Marcellus co-historian with Peg Nolan. During his tenure in 1964, the first home for the Society was established upstairs in the White Building. By 1968 the collection outgrew the space and moved to the second floor of the village hall. Michael knew much about Marcellus history and shared it with many. He will be missed.

The above picture shows Michael with a copy of the book that he compiled: "A Pictorial History of Early Marcellus". He is standing next to the Ithaca Calendar Clock that he rescued after it was discarded on Main Street by the former First National Bank.

The following article is excerpted from the Marcellus Historical Society Newsletter of February 2010:

THE CREATION OF OUR SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

By Michael Plumpton

In the Summer of 1947, when I was ten years old, my family and I went to Cooperstown. We saw the Farmer's Museum and the James Fenimore Cooper House. From that time on I dreamed about the day I could start a museum in Marcellus, NY.

In the Fall of 1959, some twelve years later, I called Lucy Sweet, the town of Marcellus Historian, and talked to her about starting a Marcellus Historical Club, that's what it was first called. She wasn't sure that there would be that many people interested. I went ahead, and made arrangements for the new group to meet at St. John's Parish Hall in January of 1960.

The Marcellus Historical Club was born. I asked Frank Griffing, a renowned senior citizen, to come and share his memories of Marcellus. It was also his birthday and we had a cake for him.

The first official meeting was on January 25, 1960. Eighteen people attended: Wallace Campbell, Eva Crysler, Ethel Feeney, Frank & Ruth Griffing, Jack Haley, Robert Harrison Sr., Helen Hopkins, Emerson & Mary Paterson, Henry Phillips, Barbara Pittenger, Michael Plumpton, Joyce & Stephen Potucek, Lucy Sweet, Kate Webb and John Withey Sr. On November 28, 1960, our name became the Marcellus Historical Society.

After creating the Marcellus Historical Society in 1960, people began to offer us artifacts for a museum. As we had no place to store or display the items, a search was started for a museum building. The Marcellus & Otisco Lake Railway station was no longer in use, so an effort was made to acquire the building. Unfortunately it could not be done at the time and the historic building was purchased by someone else and torn down.

In 1963, a well-known Marcellus business man by the name of Stephen Hunt passed away. Mr. Hunt had a passion for local history and had collected many Marcellus artifacts. He displayed them in his own makeshift museum which was in the basement of his building at 19 East Main Street, what was then known as the Hunt building. He had made no provisions in his will as to what was to be done with the collection.

(Continued on page 4)

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, May 19, 2013 2 p.m.

Jon Anderson will tell stories about the
“Early Onondaga County Sheriff’s Department”

Saturday, June 1, 2013 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE - OLDE HOME DAYS

Sunday, June 9, 2013 2 p.m.

Mary Casper
“Heroines of the War of 1812”

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 2013

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

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2013 Jamie Johnston 673-1160

2014 Mary Jane Domurat 673-4896

E-mail: mjdumurat@msn.com

2014 Patricia Sanborn 488-3610

E-mail: pasanborn@twcny.rr.com

2015 John Curtin 673-3660

E-mail: jcurtin2@windstream.net

2015 Bob Wilson 673-2550

E-mail: 89rw@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.

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

Current Membership: 365

Not renewed from 2012: 36

New Members: 2

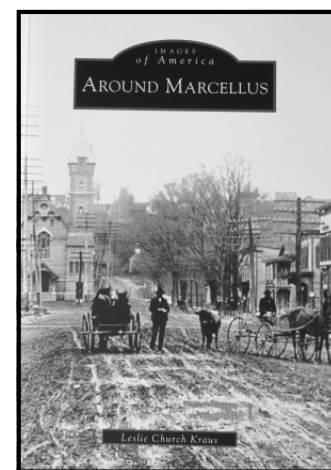
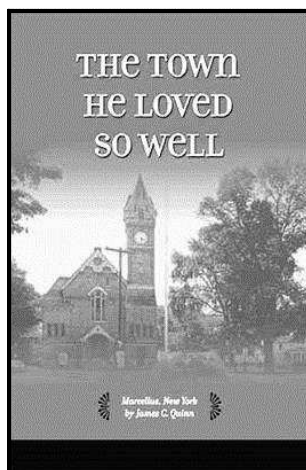
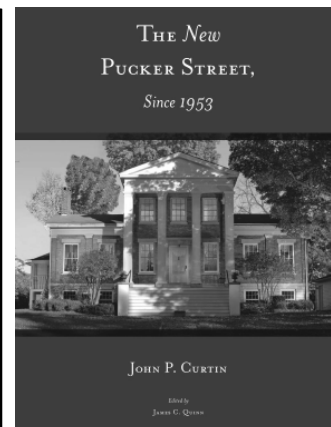
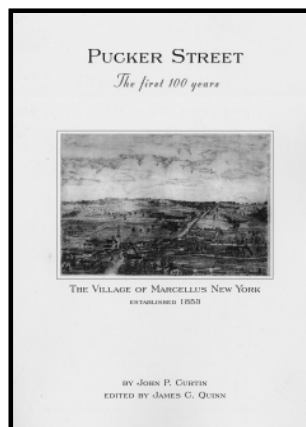
Business Members: 32

Not renewed from 2012: 5

Please renew your membership!

**We depend on dues to help maintain
our collection and the Steadman House.**

**Books available at the Steadman House
(See page 8)**



In Remembrance

Hugh L. Norris - March 7, 2013

Ruth Quinlan Vinzant - April 22, 2013

Ruth Oliver - April 25, 2013

J. Michael Plumpton - April 28, 2013

Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:

Myron & Barbara Egtvedt
Ron & Elizabeth Bond
John P. Curtin
Thomas Donovan
Doug & Cathy North & Family
Town of Marcellus (grant for utilities)
Kathleen Powell
Anna Salway
Brian, Dana & Morgan Oliver
(in memory of Ruth Bussey Oliver) ~

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 scheduled hours; **Bruce & Mary Widger** for Newsletter mailing; and the **Village of Marcellus** for plowing and lawn maintenance. ~

Thomas "Tommy" Sullivan

Tommy came to Marcellus from Ireland about 1902. He lived with his sister, Anna, and her husband, John Needham. After their deaths in the mid 1950's, Tommy remained in the home until his death. The house is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Weeks.

An electrician by trade, he wired many homes throughout the village and town. He did knob and tube wiring (two wires spread apart). He got to his jobs by putting his tools and equipment into his wheelbarrow. With the handles of the wheelbarrow supported by a leather strap across his back, he pushed it from job to job.

Frank Knapp began generating electricity from waterpower of Baker's Dam in 1907. He hired Tommy to run wires and maintain them for sixteen village street lamps plus a few homes and businesses.



For a time, Tommy had a store on Slocombe Street, located on Chuckle and Winnie Kelly's property. He sold radios and other electrical goods.

I remember Tommy - he would come down to the village to do his shopping, attend church and other functions. He was a pleasant man, always had a smile and loved to visit. He passed away in 1972 and was laid to rest in St. Francis cemetery.

Submitted by Peg Nolan ~



Frank B. Mills Seed House at Rose Hill
Painted and on loan by Anna Salway

Recent Acquisitions

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

Bruce Widger for DVD of Grange activities & area farmers; **Michael Farrell** for Upstate Alumni Journal - Dr. Roger Daly; **Barbara Spain** for photo of Marcellus Band at 1941 July 4th parade, Big M notepad, Morning Star Lodge booklet 1862-1994; **Peg Nolan** for several post cards of Marcellus; **Carol Morrison** for several photos including building of Otisco Lake Dam; **Florence Pottinger** for Christmas decorations; **Anna Salway** for loaning her painting of the Mills Seed House; **Carolyn Longuil** for Norris Funeral Home thermometer, Chris Bailey Wheaties box; **Jacob Schneider Family** for 1943 WW II article on War Bond Frolics & Auction, 3 quilts made from Crown Mills material. ~



Mills Seed House display
at the Steadman House

No One Can Please EVERYBODY
But We Try

(Continued from page 1)

Lester Norris, the executor of Hunt's estate, had spoken to Steve several times about the collection and Steve had verbally indicated to him that he wanted the collection to go to the Historical Society. Thanks to Lester, the bulk of the collection came to us in early 1964.

At about the same time, the Marcellus Town Board offered the Historical Society use of the two rooms on the second floor of the town hall, which at that time was in the White Memorial Building at 18 E. Main Street. We voted to accept the town's offer and with some help, our first museum became a reality. ...

After opening the new museum, people began donating artifacts to us on a regular basis. It wasn't long before we outgrew the two rooms. In 1968, the Village Board offered to allow us to use the much larger second floor of the village hall at 6 Slocombe Ave. On April 21, 1968; we voted to move our museum to that location.

Note: The museum collection was relocated to the Steadman House in 2007 after Lewis and Alma Steadman gifted their home to the Historical Society. ~

Marcellus Observer June 9, 1960



One Hundred Years Ago in Marcellus

The Marcellus Observer June 13, 1913

Marcellus P.O. Safe Robbed.

"They've blowed it into smithereens" is the greeting which Postmaster Edward V. Baker gave to Patrick Heenan, mail carrier, as these two first met at 6:30 o'clock Tuesday morning in the postoffice. They are among our earliest risers summer and winter, and after cleaning up, fires built, they wait for Edw. Rosser to drive up to the door with the mail pouches from Martisco. Soon assistant Maude de Coudres arrives, and this morning the next move was Mr. Haker's getting the first car to Syracuse to report

the loss.

The door face was crumpled and bent on its hinges and swung wide open, while all the flanged inner part of the doors with its fireclay filling lay tumbled out on the floor, with the tin money tills, drawers, and papers. The front center of the top was sprung four inches high. Way across the room was found bits of wool used in packing the crevices about the door which scattered with the blowing. Four blankets and lap robes lay stretched on the floor the litter on them. These were still wet, used in covering the safe before the blast, stolen from barns at F. A. Thompson's, W. B. Dye's and Dr. Lowell's, and E. I. Blake's. Tools were taken from Dwight Baker's shop two chisels and a sledge from Blake's. The postoffice occupies the corner store of the Knapp block at Main and North streets. Entrance was made by jimmying a lower sash of the window facing North street, and the safe stands under it. Yet lights in this window were not broken nor glass in the call boxes six feet at the side. The haul is said to be about \$1,000 worth of stamps, all kinds, and \$250 in cash and cheques.

W. J. Matteson, suffering neuralgia was sitting up. Mrs. Matteson was awake helping him, and at 2 o'clock she told Wat she heard some kind of an explosion. Harry was awakened, and they watched from the darkened window in their home across from the postoffice a long time. The hotel piazza lights were on and it was not dark, still they were unable to decide whether the postoffice curtains were up or down. Seeing nothing in their long wait, they gave it up. Several others tell of hearing some noise, but none were alarmed. If the gang had not laid low a half hour or more, the Mattesons would have seen them come out. The curtains were all found down. Sheriffs and detectives in squads have visited all points since. It is Mr. Baker's last week as postmaster, and a sorry farewell reception.

Clues.

A city paper had it that Wat saw a red lantern moving in the postoffice and this allayed his suspicions, concluding that the red light was the flash he had seen earlier. If Wat had seen a red light in the postoffice – well, Wat don't know what a red light means, anyway.

A member of the Owl Club saw four men in front of the hotel at 2 o'clock. The "bugglars" hardly made a dress parade up past the Alvord House piazza lights just before they sent up the balloon.

Along late that night, somebody heard somebody whistle from Maple street along the cemetery fence, and an answering whistle came from over in front of Reed's, but this Pinkerton-Burns disciple "paid no attention to it".

An auto with four men in it was seen to drive up in front of the postoffice. Of course they came in an auto and kept her puffing till they made the run.

A near neighbor reported that he had seen a man passing his window, no, "sneaking past" his window. Everett Higgins "owned up", he did the sneaking on an errand to the Presbyterian church, of which he is janitor. ~

*Marcellus Observer May 9, 1913***School Meeting Smallest in Years.**

Tuesday night the annual meeting of the school district Marcellus and Skaneateles, was held in the High school room. L. E. Parsons was chosen chairman; L. A. Share, clerk; F. L. Day and C. M. Woodford, tellers, and the trustees elected were L. E. Parsons and J. E. Woodbridge, and R. D. Dorchester to fill vacancy. The budget was adopted, as shown. Reports were read by Treasurer Woodford, and a librarian's report by Prof Ruland, both accepted, and other routine business perfected. The matter of purchase and placing of a Lincoln memorial bronze tablet in the building was discussed. Mr. North and Dr. Sauber and others speaking on it. It was resolved to give the matter into hands of Prof. Ruland, who will push the cause among pupils and public, the columns of our paper offered him in which to urge subscriptions. The meeting adjourned.

It was noted as the smallest school meeting ever held, only sixteen being present. We think their names should appear as a tribute of faithfulness. Besides those mentioned above were: Mrs. Gallup, Mrs. Woodford, Mrs. Mackenzie, J. R. Malcolm, Wm. Nightingale, Peter Dunlop, Edgar Bartlett, C. Wood. Messrs. Woodbridge and Dorchester were not present. The budget as adopted is:

EXPENDITURES.

Teachers' salaries	\$6875
Coal	360
Janitor	450
Clerk	60
Incidental Fund	400
Library Fund	50
Office Rent	10
Insurance	80
Maturing Bond	650
Interest on Bonds	234
Refinishing walls and woodwork	<u>250</u>
	\$9419

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.

Public Money	\$1350
Edn. Dept. Academic Fund	150
Tuition Moneys	500
Foreign Tuition	700
Bank Stock Tax	80
Balance to raise by Tax	<u>6639</u>
	\$9419

At a Board meeting held last week Thursday night bills were audited, Messrs. Annable, E. V. Baker and North spoke for the Lincoln tablet matter, it was voted to refinish certain walls of the school much in need, during vacation, and a sum named in the budget for this work; also there will be placed protecting screen on the rear windows nearest the ballgrounds. Other routine business followed, as to teachers' contracts, etc. Eight changes are expected in September, new contracts being now filed for all but two of the positions. ~

Marcellus Observer July 4, 1913

Commencement in Marcellus furnished the usual happy occasions, gratifying to all concerned. The week's affairs began with the baccalaureate sermon by Dr. Sauber, and Monday Class night, commencement was Wednesday evening, Class dance Thursday night and a picnic at Owasco lake Saturday.

The class was five in number: Margery Dye, president; Leora M. Case, vice-president; Marguerite K. Pendergast, secretary; Clifford A. Abbott, treasurer, and Anna Weeks. The colors were green and white, all schemes in decoration, printing, etc., following this, the flower the white rose, and motto, "Labor Conquers All Things".

Class night as participated in by members, made up a program of much enjoyment to a large audience, in Alvord Hall. Miss Weeks had the history, and Mr. Abbott the history of the historian. Miss Dye read the will, Miss Pendergast made the prophecy and Mr. Abbott again prophesied for the prophetess. Miss Case addressed the Juniors and Violet Welch made the response for them. Charlotte Dye and Charles Riley sang. Of course these numbers by the class provided merriment, abounding in hits and originality, and the class quite sustained history and prophecy and will of the good kind, for the alumni.

The commencement program follows:

Voluntary - Miss Phoebe Parsons.

Invocation - Rev. F. J. Sauber.

Essay and Salutatory, "Child Labor"- Leora M. Case.

Vocal solo, "Farewell to Summer"- Lulu Taylor.

Essay, "Woman Suffrage"- Anna Weeks.

Essay, "Preservation of the Forest"- Margery A. Dye.

Vocal solo - Helen Austin.

Oration, "Progress of Agriculture"- Clifford A. Abbott.

Essay and Valedictory, "Discovery of South Pole"- Marguerite K. Pendergast.

Presentation of diplomas.

Postlude - Miss Phoebe Parsons.

The faculty, Board and clergy gave the usual dignity to this occasion and the Presbyterian church was filled with admiring friends. Miss Parsons was, as usual, much enjoyed, her annual presentation always a rare and most welcome treat to her home people, who, with class and school interests generally, quite appreciate her willingness to play.

No dinner was given this year by the alumni, but the class were nicely recognized with their plans, revenues, etc. and have the general congratulations and well wishes of the community. ~

Renewed Members

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

Jane Amidon, Dave & Sally Bailey, Bruce & Helen Baker, Dick & Nancy Baranello, **Chris Bedford**, **Daphne Bedford-Goldacker**, John & Gerry Bednarski, Dr. Gary & Vanessa Belcher, **Harvey Bell**, Ron & Elizabeth Bond, Harold Brinkerhoff, Louis & Phyllis Budell, Kathleen Carroll & Family, **John & Elsa Church**, Victoria M. Clark, Phillip & Helen Clarke, Karen W. Conley, William T. Cook, Kathy Coyne, Tim Coyne, **Robert & Myrtle Cryslar**, Regina Dillon, Mary Drexler, Lyn Duffy, **Myron & Barbara Egtvedt**, Harvey & Donna Eysman, Bud & Peg Flitcroft, Elizabeth Foster, Alan Gammon, Patricia Gascon, Sharon Gibbons, James Hamilton, Beverley Haney, Gene Hares & Family, Sterling Jansen, **Gary & Judy Kavney**, Kathryn Kelly, Eileen B. Kennedy, **Zilpha Lambert**, Elizabeth Lathrop, Robert Lee, Tom Leonard, John & Carolynn Longuil, John Martens, Kathy McLaughlin, Jim & Peg McNally, Sue Mezey, James & Arlene Milne, Helen Mohn, **Joanne Murdock**, Robert Negus, Jon Nicholson, **Doug & Cathy North**, Barbara Patrick, Donald & Anne Pelchy, Carriebeth Pottinger, Florence Pottinger, Kathleen Powell, **James & Donna Quinn & Family**, Robert, Manuela & Caroline Reagan, John R. Roland, William Schneider, Dorothy Sennett, James & Edith Seymour & Family, James Jr. & Betsy Shake, Ruth Slovenski, Kathy P. Smiley, Jeffrey & Mary Beth Smith & Family, Russell & Dorothy Snell, Garth & Gerry Snyder, Patricia Sposato, Mr. & Mrs. Guy Swenson III, Martha Taffaro, Janice C. Thornton, Bill Vinzant, Roberta M. Welsh, Dr. Bruce & Mary Widger, Bob & Kay Wilson, Cliff & Sally Wilson, David Wilson. ~

Marcellus Observer July 11, 1913

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Marcellus Historical Society
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NEXT MEETING:
Sunday, May, 19th, 2 p.m.

(Your dues are paid through
 Dec. 31st of the year on the label.)

INSIDE:

- * *J. Michael Plumpton*
- * *Tommy Sullivan*
- * *Post Office Safe Robbery 1913*
- * *School Meeting 1913*
- * *Commencement 1913*

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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? ____

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
 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
 Ruth Reed Cummings Prints \$10
 John Drummond "Dried Weeds" Print \$10
 Official Marcellus Afghans: cranberry,blue,green \$45
 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.

Name: _____

Addr: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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

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