



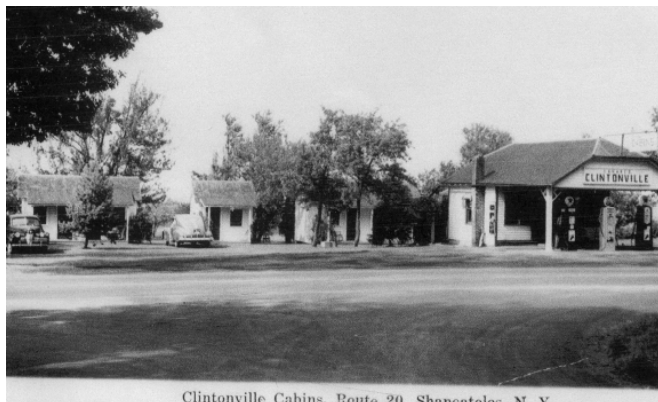
The Steadman House

Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 18 Issue 4

Fall 2013

CLINTONVILLE



Clintonville Cabins, Route 20, Shandalees, N. Y.

Sheila Farrington Schweitzer, who grew up in Clintonville, asked us if we had a picture of the Clintonville Post Office but the only one we found was a postcard of the gas station and cabins owned by Ernest Hares.

Sheila has given the Historical Society many pictures and newspaper articles about Clintonville and the following notes and memories of the area.

“That property (referring to the above photo) and the Ernest Hares house, prior to his owning it, belonged to the Henry James family (my great-great-grandparents) who came from Somerset, England in 1842 and bought it from, I am pretty sure, the Cody son, who ran the tavern and stagecoach stop hotel in Clintonville. Ernest Hares bought it at probably the estate auction when Henry James died in the early 1900's. After Ern and his wife died, it came to his daughter, Annie Hares Frost (wife of Fred Frost) on Rose Hill Road in Clintonville. It was rented for a few years and then sold. I remember a beautiful house inside as a kid. The rooms upstairs were many and laid out like a hotel, leading us to believe the house was actually used as the hotel for the stagecoach passengers.

Speaking of the Clintonville Post Office, oddly, just a day or two ago, I came across an obscure note someplace on the Internet saying it had closed in 1836 - way too early for any pictures to have been made. My great-grandfather, Augustus Seymour, in 1940, said he remembered when the old stagecoach tavern

was still around and once went there to a dance. I figure that was around the end of the Civil War but I was never able to find anyone amongst our old neighborhood years ago who had ever seen a picture of it. I know my grandparents never had one. I can just remember, as a kid, going up to the site of the old post office with Grandma Withey, to pick lilacs up there for the cemetery. There were still a few remains left then. Of course, you never think of taking photos for posterity at that age. So little of the old Clintonville, sadly, is left.

There used to be near the old barn of Ern Hares, on the corner of Rose Hill Road and Route 20, an old smokehouse, built by Henry James at some point in the 1850 or 1860's which was used by generations of Clintonville neighbors to smoke their hams and bacons. I can remember growing up in the 1940's and 1950's being over there when we and such folks as the Witheys and Frosts and others used it. Sadly, it has long gone now. ...

Of course the old story about the Clintonville Home Guard during the Civil War, practicing in the fields between Ern Hares and the hill leading down towards Tyler Hollow happened. My great-great-grandfather, Melvin Seymour, was a bugler in the little Army. His son, my great-grandfather, Augustus Seymour, was 13 when the War started and there is a story he tried to run off to

(Continued on page 4)



Ernest Hares (on left) in front of his house with either Fred Frost or his brother, Gilbert Frost. Fred Frost Married Ern's daughter, Annie Hares Frost. (c.1930-1940)

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, November 10, 2013 2 p.m.

Nancy Rynkiewicz

Owner of *Everyday Art* at 4 Slocombe Ave.

Thursday, December 5, 2013 6:30-8 p.m.

Santa Claus at the Steadman House

Saturday, December 7, 2013 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Christmas at the Steadman House

Sunday, December 8, 2013 1 p.m.

Covered Dish Holiday Dinner at the Firehouse

Next Meeting April 13, 2014

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

Trustees and Term End

2013 Joy Buffan 673-1832

(Joy resigned September 9, 2013)

2013 Jamie Johnston 673-1160

2014 Mary Jane Domurat 673-4896

E-mail: mjdomurat@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.

From The President ...

We are coming to the end of another productive year. Many artifacts and written research items have been contributed and volunteers have donated over sixteen hundred hours this past year. New this year is our **Country Store** located in the garage. It is set up with a pot belly stove, checker game on a wooden barrel and a number of interesting artifacts from stores of long ago. The garage will be closed during the winter because it is used to store outdoor items until spring.

We are looking for pictures and artifacts relating to the **Kasson Road School**. Also, please donate your **old Marcellus Yearbooks** to the Historical Society. We especially need issues from 1970 forward.

The house is being decorated for the Holiday Season and we do hope you will stop in and see the beautiful trees and decorations. **Santa** will be at the Steadman House on Dec. 5th and we will have our **Holiday Open House** on Dec. 7th. Our **Holiday Dinner** at the Fire Station will be Dec. 8th at 1 pm. Please bring a dish to pass - meat, drink and place settings will be provided.

From all of us at the Historical Society, we wish you a **Very Happy Holiday**.

Peg Nolan

CHANGE IN MEETING MONTHS

At the October meeting, members voted to have regular meetings in the months of April, May, June, October, November and December. There will be no meetings during January, February, March, July, August and September.

The meetings will continue to be at 2 pm on the second Sunday of the month except when Easter or Mother's Day occurs on the second Sunday - in which case, the meeting will be on the third Sunday of the month. ~

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

Members are being asked to give us their email address so that we can contact them with information such as meeting programs and changes. Please send to habbott1@twcny.rr.com.

Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:

Edward & Janet Heinrich
 (in memory of Elizabeth Lathrop)
 Billy Vinzant
 (in memory of Beatrice Ruth Quinlan Vinzant)
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 Carriebeth Pottinger
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 Mary Mahagan
 James & Donna Quinn
 Bill & Betty Bailey
 John & Janet Seymour
 Laurie & James H. Stone II
 Keith Edgerton
 Joanne Sedgwick
 Ruth Anne Reagan

~

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 lawn care. ~

Renewed Members

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

Bill & Betty Bailey, Peggy Bye, William & Martha Cole, Viola Darling, Keith Edgerton, Edward & Janet Heinrich, Dr. Edward M. Kantor, Daniel Olenych, John & Janet Seymour, William & Rebecca Tallman . ~

Current Membership: 385

Not renewed from 2012: 25

New Members: 3

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.

Annual Meeting, November 10th at 2 p.m.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Marcellus Historical Society will take place at the regular November meeting on the 10th. Nominees announced at the October 13th meeting are as follows:

Officers (two year term ending 12/31/15)

President: Peg Nolan

Vice President: Kathy McLaughlin

Treasurer: Patricia Sanborn

Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinger

Trustees (three year term ending 12/31/2016)

Jamie Johnston

Harvey Eysman

Trustee for the remainder of

Joy Buffan's term ending 12/31/2013 and

Patricia Sanborn's term ending 12/31/2014

Tom Leonard

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. ~

December 8th Covered Dish Dinner

The Holiday meeting will be a covered dish dinner at the Firehouse. The Society will provide meat, drink and table settings. Peg Nolan will be coordinating the donated dishes so please call her at 673-1765 to let her know what you can bring. ~

Marcellus Observer August 25, 1950

TOWN BASEBALL TEAM TO PLAY FORMER MARCELLUS GRAY'S IN YEARS MOST THRILLING GAME.

In a charitable game last year for the Lou Gehig Foundation, the Marcellus Town Team played a ball team comprised of former players of the Marcellus Grays. So much fun was had by both teams that the players decided to make this an annual affair. The teams will clash in what promises to be the most thrilling game of the season (some say even greater than the Series) on Sunday August 27th at the High School Field at 2:30 p.m.

As in former years the pitching for the Grays will be well taken care of by Tom O'Shea, Art Horsington, and Jack Martin, with Don Shea, Ed Burke and Arthur Hyatt completing the battery.

Two Syracuse hospitals have been notified and rooms are being held until after the game to take care of any of the old timers that may develop charley horses, skinned ---- and any other accidents that may happen to men out of practice.

It should prove to be a grand game, so if you would like to see a top team and puffing and huffing grey headed youths giving their all, be sure and be at the field promptly at 2:30 p.m.

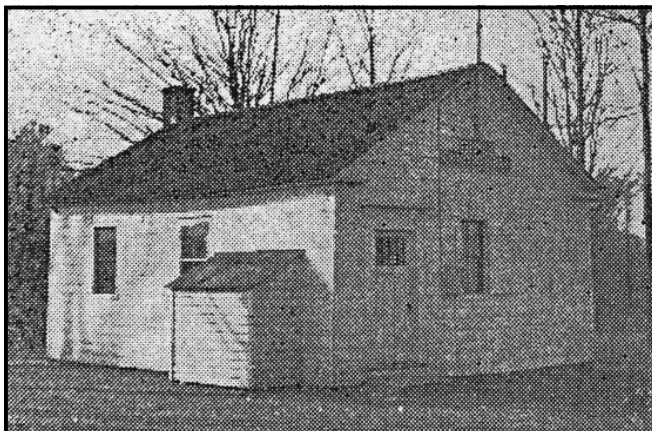
It'll be a thriller. ~

Submitted by Peg Nolan

(Continued from page 1)

join up the regular Army preparing in Syracuse to go South. At 13, you could join as a drummer boy, with your parents' permission. Perhaps, fortunately, for him, his parents got wind of his intentions and he was stopped. I suspect he had some part in the Home Guard as my brother, Raymond, was given a pair of very old drumsticks by our Grandma Seymour Withey in Clintonville which was said to belong to Augustus. Augustus made his home with John and Myrtle Seymour Withey in later years, passing away in 1940 at age 92. An old diary kept by the Henry James family tells a little about the Home Guard. They evidently had meetings to organize it in the old Tyler Hollow Schoolhouse. Apparently, they voted to provide themselves with uniforms and some were ordered. Comically, it seemed they spent more time arguing about the color the shirts should be than about the actual plans to save the hamlet in case of attack from the Confederates. There used to be an old story when we were kids (no idea if it is true or not) about the Home Guard having a canon for defense of the neighborhood. About the time the Confederates got as far North as Gettysburg (so the story went) the Home Guard, somewhat disorganized by then and with dwindling numbers, decided it might be better to disband, and buried the canon somewhere on the hills of Clintonville. Again, have no idea if there is any truth to this story, but as kids, we had dreams of digging it up and bringing it back to its former glory.

The first school in Clintonville was a log house across the road from the John Withey house on Route 20. Melvin Seymour taught here, I am guessing possibly prior and during the Civil War time. No idea when it was abandoned but it was replaced by what we now refer to as the Clintonville Country



Clintonville Country School

School. The picture below was taken the last year or two before the school centralized and we were sent to Skaneateles. I think June, 1951, was the last time it was in operation."

Sheila Farrington Schweitzer ~



Clintonville School about 1950

Front Row:

Cheryl Harvard, Paul Jennings, Sheila Farrington

Back row:

Gary Wiggers, Florence Jennings, Ernie Hares, Jr.,
Bruce Bishop, and Mrs. Flora Smith.

Notes

From Kathryn C. Heffernan's *Nine Mile Country*:

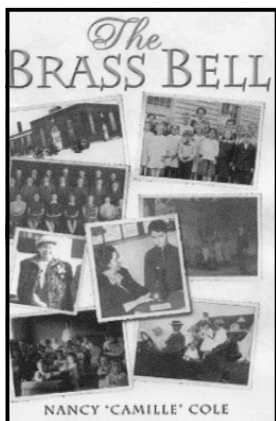
"Clintonville, probably because of its location on the Skaneateles and Hamilton Turnpike, had a post office before one was opened in either Marcellus Falls or Thorn Hill. In addition to Cody's Tavern and the post office, a tailor shop and shoe shop served the people of the area and the travelers on the turnpike. The post office was discontinued in 1836, probably about the time the Thorn Hill office opened."

An article about Clintonville by Elizabeth Pyke in the October 14, 1934 Syracuse Post Standard's series of *The Forgotten Villages of Onondaga County* quotes Gene Wicks as saying: "No doubt, many people think that the new Cherry Valley road was once a stagecoach route. This was true from Auburn to Clintonville, but from here the way led toward Otisco Lake and Amber, then over Oak Hill to Billings Corners, just south of Otisco Center, to Vesper and Tully." The Historical Society has a copy of the series of articles from *The Forgotten Villages of Onondaga County* which were combined in a book edited by Dick Case in 1999.

Visit the Joanne Robinson Research Room at the Steadman House to see more pictures and articles about the Clintonville area. ~

The Brass Bell

by *Nancy Cole*



Do you wonder where the time went—the 'Olden Days'—the good old days? Why is it that days gone by are the "good" ones, the ones we wish we could relive? I decided to ask this question of people who attended Cherry Road School in Westvale from 1926—the year its doors opened—through 1952, the year my Great Aunt Marion Parsons retired as principal. I wanted to know why they still get together to reminisce about those days with Miss Parsons. After all,

these had been harsh times—the Great Depression, and World War—not events one would expect to be the best of times. But somehow they were the good old days for everyone I spoke with. Emotion has a way of leaving an imprint on the soul, mix that with a strong leader and a teaching staff more like a family than a school, and no one forgets. Early on in the research for my book project I discovered the woman I thought of as my Aunt Marion was in fact everyone's Miss Parsons. Nearly 70 years has passed since she retired as head of the school; it's been 40 years and more since her death.

There were many unanswered questions and after I finished researching and writing **The Brass Bell**, I continued to discover what I hadn't known about, like the Parsons' Room at the Steadman House. I learned that the Parsons have deep roots in Onondaga County, Western Syracuse and the surrounding villages— including Marcellus,

My family moved to Marcellus from Westvale in 1956. I like to say I went kicking and screaming, broken-hearted to leave my home, the old family farmstead, Cherry Road School, and my Aunt Marion. Writing **The Brass Bell** has been a way for me to say thank-you to the woman who made a difference in my life and the lives of so many who still live in the old neighborhood, in Camillus, Marcellus and Skaneateles. Many came forward to offer their help, to share their memories of those days and that woman. Now complete, the book captures a moment in time through the shared words of the people who were there. Call these stories the good old days—times that couldn't be forgotten and are now chronicled in **The Brass Bell**.

The book is now available at the Marcellus Historical Society's Steadman House. It is 256 pages in length and features over 100 pictures. The cost is \$25.—a portion of the proceeds go to the Historical Society and also to the Solvay Geddes Historical Society.

Nancy graduated from Marcellus High School in 1967 and is also an alumnus of the University of Oregon. She lives in Portland, Oregon, where she writes full-time. ~

American Legion Ralph Share Post 297

Ralph Share Post #297 of the American Legion began with twenty WW I veterans applying for a charter in 1919. The Post was named to honor Ralph Share who was the first Marcellus native to be killed in World War I. The Charter being granted, the first officers were elected Jan. 2, 1920: E.C. Knapp, Commander; Fred Hyatt, Vice President; E.A. Harding, Secretary-Treasurer. Due to business, Knapp had to resign and Fred Hyatt became Commander with Harry Welsh elected Vice President. The Soldiers Memorial at the point in front of the Methodist Church was dedicated in 1926 in memory of the soldiers that made the supreme sacrifice. Every year Veterans gather here on Veteran's Day and Memorial Day to honor these fallen heroes.

In 1943 the organization purchased the Coyne Block, the present location. They remodeled the building, making a large meeting room and a kitchen on the main floor and then remodeling the upstairs as living quarters for the care taker. For many years the Legion has sponsored a Girl Scout troop, provided flags for scout troops and sending two high school students to American Legion Boy's State. For Memorial Day a flag is placed on all veterans graves at the Village cemetery, Highland and Catholic cemeteries. The Marcellus Historical Society has one room at the Steadman House dedicated to all Veterans with uniform displays and artifacts going back to the Revolutionary War. ~

Submitted by Peg Nolan

Marcellus Observer August 4, 1944

Announcement is made this week of the purchase of the William Coyne milk route by the Mulroy Dairy of Marcellus. Mr. Coyne has operated the business successfully for 21 years, but the help shortage has made it necessary for him to give up the route and devote his time entirely to farming

The Mulroy Brothers have one of the best equipped and managed pasteurizing plants in the state, according to the report of the Health Department. A new bottler has been recently installed at the dairy, and the plant is under city inspection, insuring the best possible product for the Mulroy customers.

Mr. Coyne has enjoyed a good business during the 21 years he has delivered milk here, and his customers regret the contingency that has forced him to give it up. ~

Submitted by Peg Nolan

TACT:

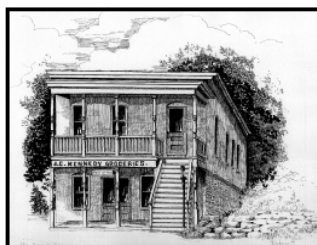
*The art of making people feel at home
when you wish they were.*

Jan Debevic Prints

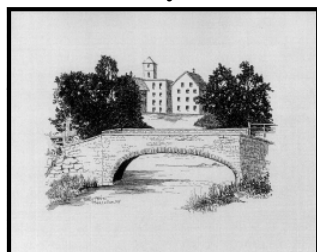
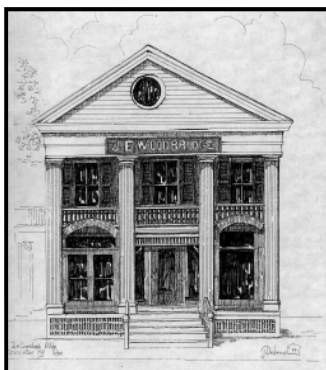
Jan Debevic has given the Historical Society four of her original drawings of Marcellus scenes. Copies of these drawings are available at the Steadman House for \$10 to \$13.



Steadman House



Kennedy Store



Mill Scene

J. E. Woodbridge

Recent Acquisitions

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

Janet Seymour for newspaper clippings; **Cathy North** for lower hall decorations; **Jim & Peg McNally** for George Arthur's 2 Captains chairs; **Brian Kershaw** for information on homes sold by Jean Loss; **Frank & Jan Debevic** for store grabber, Christmas tree, vintage decorations, greens, tree lights; **Jan Debevic** for 5 original drawings of Marcellus (see above), punch bowl & mugs; **Evelyn & Earl Hudson** for wool buggy shawl, postcards from early 1900's & 1940's - 1960's; **Ed Pollard & Diana Spencer** for 1970 football poster, 1971 Royal Wild West Circus poster; **Geraldine Joyce** for picture of Marion Parsons Hall & Theodore Hall; **George & Marilyn Stoughten** for case of copy paper, histories of York, Seymour, Gambell, Masters, & Ryan families; **Marjorie Springstead Slater** for pictures and histories of Julia, Springstead, & Reed families; **Pat & Gene Seymour** for c.1875 quilt made by Hattie Eldridge Griffing; **Dick Tabor** for newspaper articles, historical society pictures, scrapbook; **Evelyn Hudson** for postcard of 1914 Wright Builders parade float of replica house on Reed Street; **Jeanne Overend** for 7 1980's Marcellians. ~

One Hundred Years Ago in Marcellus

Marcellus Observer September 6, 1913

The annual meeting of the W.C.T.U. will be held with Mrs. E. W. Coville next Thursday, September 11, at 3:00 o'clock. Reports of the year's work will be given by officers and sup'ts, election of new officers, also interesting items on temperance will be added. All members are requested to pay their dues, which are 50c a year. Anyone wishing to join the society or attend the meetings will be gladly welcomed. A 20c supper will be served to which the public is invited. ~

Marcellus Observer October 3, 1913

One Skaneateles farmer recently sold 1,000,000 teasels for \$2,000 and another farmer took over \$1,200 for his crop. ~

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

Non-Profit Organization
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 Permit Number 18

Web Site Address:
mhs.villageofmarcellus.com

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NEXT MEETING:
Sunday, November 10th, 2 p.m.
Annual Meeting

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

Postal Customer
 Local

INSIDE:
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 * *Jan Debevic Drawings*
 * *American Legion Post #297*
 * *100 Years ago in Marcellus*

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