



The Steadman House

Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 19 Issue 3

Summer 2014



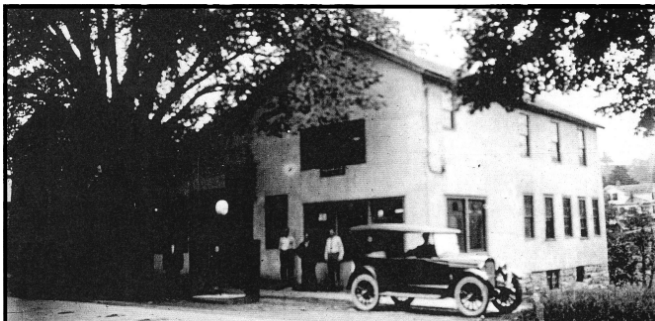
19-21 North Street

Samuel C. Hooper came over from Gloucestershire, England with his family and other friends in 1848 when but a young man, twenty-nine years old. When he came here there was not a house on the west side of North Street from the corner, where formerly the Episcopal church stood, and was burnt down twice, till we come to Horace Stone's place. There were one or two houses on the other side of the street.

Hooper took over the furniture and undertaking business of N. C. Hoyt. He built a home and shop on the site of what would become a Chevrolet dealership on North Street (now the Parker Building at #19), where he manufactured furniture and coffins. Later he moved his shop to the block at 9-11-13 North Street that would bear his name, but he and his wife, Clara, continued to live in the house that he had built (Heffernan 38).

Where the Marcellus Hardware Store now stands, there once were a number of blacksmith shops, dating back to the 1880's and before. Eventually, the blacksmith shop went to Roderick Smith and then to Samuel Pilot and later evolved into the James Pilot shop (MO, October 25 1907).

In 1916, James Pilot converted his blacksmith shop on North Street into a garage. He and his wife, Alice, secured a franchise as an authorized Chevrolet dealership and when they were old enough, his sons, Horton and Clayton, worked in the business.



In 1956 the Pilot Chevrolet Company, then owned by Clayton Pilot, undertook an ambitious building program. The large home, built by Samuel Hooper, to the north of the garage was torn down, and a smaller dwelling was moved from North Street to a site well to the rear of the Pilot property. The garage, originally a blacksmith shop, was converted into a modern showroom, offices, and an enlarged service area (Heffernan 134).



In September, 1957, Clayton Pilot died and on January 1, 1958, Pilot Chevrolet was sold to John J. (Jack) Priest.

On January 11, 1973, Steven M. Weiss purchased the Chevrolet dealership in Marcellus from Jack Priest and the agency became known as Steven Chevrolet. Steven Chevrolet remained at the site on North Street until about 1983, when the dealership folded and the building was abandoned.

In 1999, the building which became an eyesore after the Chevrolet dealership left, and one that housed everything from an auto repair shop to the Big East sports store to a furniture store, was purchased by Chris Parker. After extensive renovations and rehabilitations, Parker has been able to convince a number of businesses to relocate to the building which thrives today and is fully occupied.



Submitted by John Curtin ~

See related articles on Page 4

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, September 14, 2014 1 p.m.
Covered Dish Picnic at the Fire Station

Sunday, October 12, 2014 2 p.m.
"Early Marcellus Falls Businesses"

Sunday, November 9, 2014 2 p.m.
Annual Meeting

No Meetings During July, August and September

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 2014

President: Peg Nolan 673-1765

E-mail: peganolan1@hotmail.com

Vice President: Kathy McLaughlin

E-mail: mclaughlink@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Patricia Sanborn 488-3610

E-mail: pasanborn@twcny.rr.com

Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinger... 673-3187

E-mail: cb90009@aol.com

Trustees and Term End

2014 Tom Leonard..... 673-4273

E-mail: tomleonard35@yahoo.com

2014 Doug Nightingale..... 673-2539

E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net

2015 John Curtin..... 673-3660

E-mail: jcurtin2@windstream.net

2015 Bob Wilson 673-2550

2016 Jamie Johnston 673-1160

2016 Harvey Eysman..... 673-3933

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.

Email address: histsoc@windstream.net

Telephone: 315-673-4839

Please direct comments or questions about the newsletter
to Hollis Abbott at the above address or email:
habbott1@twcny.rr.com

From The President ...

During the month of June we had the pleasure of the second and fourth grade classes tour the Steadman House. Thank you Pat and Charlie Sanborn, Amy North, Jean Nightingale and Kathy McLaughlin for being guides.

The trim on the house has been painted, a major job taken care of and it looks great.

We have been busy with visitors, research and various projects around the museum. In May a number of students from Bishop Grimes school spent a Saturday cleaning up the yard and they did a wonderful job.

The MCS class of 1964 is planning a visit to the Steadman House as part of their celebration for their 50th class reunion.

We will be having a picnic on Sept. 14th at the fire station. Please bring a dish to pass. The meat, drink and place settings will be furnished. It would be appreciated if you could confirm coming by calling and leaving a message at 673-4839.

Peg Nolan

Current Membership: 361

Not renewed from 2013: 38

New: 8

Business Members: 27

Not renewed from 2013: 7

New: 2

MEETING TIMES

Regular meetings of the Marcellus Historical Society will be at 2 pm on the 2nd Sunday of the months of April, May, June, October, November and December except when Easter or Mother's Day occurs on the 2nd Sunday - in which case, the meeting will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

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

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 **histsoc@windstream.net**.

In Remembrance

Louis Budell - June 6, 2014

Lucille Culotti - July 30, 2014

Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:

Chris Bedford
 Philip & Gwen Olenych
 Kathleen Carroll & Family
 Kathleen Powell
 Carriebeth & Florence Pottinger
 (in memory of Mary Jane Domurat)
 John T. & Rosemary C. Coyne
 Marcellus Olde Home Days Committee
 Nancy R. McCain
 Judy J. Gilchrist
 Charlotte G. Kinney ~

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; **Peg & Marni Nolan** for outside flowers; **Bruce & Mary Widger** for Newsletter mailing; and the **Village of Marcellus** for lawn maintenance. ~

Additional Building Offered to MHS

The Historical Society is running out of space and there is no room to accept large artifacts. Many items must be stored out of sight beneath display cases and in closets. The farm equipment and tools in the garage cannot be properly displayed or demonstrated to the over 250 students that visit our facility every spring or the nearly 500 yearly visitors to the Steadman House.

The owner of the former lumber yard property behind us is willing to give us a two story 20' by 60' wooden structure (see insert) but we must arrange for moving it to the rear of our property. Woodford Bros. has quoted a price of \$54,355. that includes all the excavating and installation of a pressure treated foundation required for the move. We will also search for estimates from other contractors to do the job but we need the opinion of our members for this important decision.

If it is decided to go ahead, we will set up a pledge account exclusively for this purpose to see if sufficient funds will be available.

Please email your ideas or comments to:

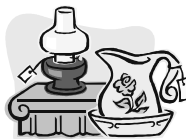
peganolan1@hotmail.com
 or telephone 315-673-1765.

Thank you.

Peg Nolan

**Recent Acquisitions**

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



Beverly Mulvaney for MCS class pictures 1950-1955 & 1960-1962 & 1949 grade school, many obituaries, "Gone But Not Forgotten" booklet (in memory of Jack Crysler), many other artifacts, H. R. Matteson ad, "Historic Marcellus & Vicinity" booklet, Christmas card from Allen V. Smith, postcard of J. E. Woodbridge building (in memory of Blanchard Crysler); **John Feeney** for MCS 1956-1958 & 1960-1962 pictures, 1956-1958 & 1960-1962 report cards; **James M. Murphy** for items from his father's business: coal and produce scale, bar to open chute on railroad car; **Sally Wilson** for items that belonged to Ruby Heath (her grandmother): 4-piece bed skirt, driving coat, 3 petticoats, 3 blouses, 2 pantaloons; **Dick Case** for "The World of Wooden Bobbins", 2 copies of "Gone But Not Forgotten", file on Ruth Reed Cummings; **Cindy Piekil** for 1920's wicker baby carriage; **Mickey Coyne** for 10 yearbooks 1940's - 1960's, 1930 commencement booklet; **Charles Paul** for 1942 Marcellus History pamphlet sponsored by Citizen's Club; **Judy Roach** for 4 bolts cloth for country store, dress form, blue plaid dress on form, bolt white cloth; **Pamela J. Kiel** for L. D. Paul apron; **Peg & Jim McNally** for framed pictures of John Ward at his Slocombe Street shop & Powell House sign on Main Street; **Faith Bailer Stopyro** for 7 yearbooks; **Judy Roche** for Murphy Dairy half pint bottle, Onondaga Milk Producers quart bottle; **Mary & Meghan Smith** for pictures of Henry Rozwold, WW II veteran & Joseph Rozwold, WW II Navy veteran; **Sharon Sweeney** for MCS 2-piece majorette uniform (early 1960's); **Helen Newell** for picture of the Baldwin Saddle Tank Train with Henry Welsh engineering (3rd engine owned by the M&OL), late 1800's black jet collar & waistband & wristband (worn by Helen in 1948 Syracuse Centennial), family histories for Brewer, Taylor, William Ryan, Mary Case, Helen Crysler, John Pople, Elmer Hunter & George Cames, Borodino band of late 1800's, postcard of "Summer Sunday in Old Spafford", pictures of Henry F. Slater Jr. cemetery monument and Maude E. & Henry Slater Sr.; **Ronald Annable** for 4 WW II ration books, class of 1952 Senior trip to NYC, Lester Norris with steam engine at Canandaigua; **Laurie Britzke Egan** for 2 Marcella A. Fenlon scrapbooks; **Anna Salway** for picture "A Soldier's Boot". ~

Marcellus Observer June 10, 1965

Memories of Marcellus by Frank Griffing

I have a tintype of four men, taken in 1898. They are, from left, seated, James Pilot and Fred Griffing; standing, Herbert Newell and W. J. Mattison. In those days they were together a great deal. They played cards together and other outings.



James Pilot was a blacksmith and when I came to Marcellus in 1899 his father, Samuel Pilot, had a blacksmith shop where Priest Chevrolet is on North St. Later on, James operated the shop and later he turned his shop into an auto garage and acquired the Chevrolet agency and began selling cars and servicing them.

As soon as his two boys were older, they worked with him. Horton died, but Clayton carried on and opened up the Chevrolet garage in Skaneateles where Kennedy is now. James' wife, Mrs. Pilot, was a big help to him a number of years in the office. James used to play in the Marcellus Band. At one time, the band practiced in a room over Pilot's blacksmith shop.

My brother, Fred Griffing was a blacksmith. He learned the trade of my father and their shop was down on East Main St., near the bridge. After my father died, Fred operated the shop, and then later he had a shop in the basement where Mary Wybron now lives.

Later he worked for a man who built truck bodies. Fred died in 1942.

Herbert Newell, father of Louis Newell, worked in the upper Crown Mill, put the warp on the beam. I believe they called him the dresser.

W. J. Mattison, Carrie Corp's father, was a tinsmith for White & Mattison, and in the old days made lots of tin milk pails, tin pitchers and dippers.

Wat, as we called him, was a great man and a leader among men. As a boy, I used to like to be in his shop. He used to play ball with the old Marcellus Greys and played in the band. Wat was post master one time.

Submitted by John Curtin ~

**CAUTION - Be Sure Brain is Engaged
Before Putting Mouth in Gear!**



Marcellus Observer December 7, 1967

This 1916 Model 490 Chevrolet was the first sold by the late James Pilot, who converted his blacksmith shop into an auto agency in Marcellus. The ancient three-door touring car has passed into the possession of the Marcellus Historical Society under the terms of the Pilot will and will become a permanent part of the Society's display. It was originally sold to Charles Bishop who later sold it back to Pilot's. Then it was sold to Albert Bishop who later swapped it back to Mr. Pilot, who decided to keep it. ~

Note: The Historical Society subsequently sold the car and its present owner is unknown.

One Hundred Years Ago in Marcellus

Marcellus Observer July 17, 1914

YOUR DOLLARS

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Community.

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your friends
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the
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building up,
and the
Houses
I have
for sale.

Lots from \$200 to \$300.

Our motto: Marcellus for a HOME all the year round.

EDMUND REED.

Marcellus Observer July 16, 1930

The Two Bike Boys Set Record

225 Hours, Stop Wednesday Midnight

The boys stopped at 12:07 Thursday morning after a continuous ride of 225 hours and 7 minutes, establishing a world's record for endurance bicycle riding. They are seemingly no worse for the long grind. A fitting celebration closed the eventful contest.

Marcellus has captured a world's record! Marcellus smiled a week ago when two boys began on an endurance bicycle ride. To-day that same Marcellus is cheering with a pride that comes once in a lifetime. The two youthful heroes, Stanley Bartlett, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bartlett, and Martin Sennett, son of Mrs. James Dillon, have done what they said they would do, break the then-existing record for endurance bicycle riding.

It was no easy task. The record was given as 107 hours. When that time was almost reached a city newspaper hurriedly called the starter, Town Clerk Clement Armstrong, and informed him that a mistake had been made and the record was not 107 hours but a little over 175 hours. It was a blow to the Marathon riders. It would have been a blow to grown men, but to boys it was more than that. Many another would have quit, but the Marcellus boys looked at each other, gulped something down in their throats and mutely expressed confidence, one in the other.

It has been that way all through. The confidence and pal-ship of these two lads has been nothing short of touching. When the time came for the change of riders, there was no hesitation. The other boy was present as the big town clock tolled the hour, be it daylight or the hours past midnight when Marcellus was asleep. The change was made, silently and without comment, and the relieved lad would wend his weary way to his home and bed to catch up a little strength for the next grind. Neither faltered, neither "renigged" – each took his trick like the little hero he was.

Monday night, a few minutes before 10 o'clock, Martin Sennett rode slowly down Main Street. In the road stood Stanley Bartlett ready for the final change before the falling of the world's record. The younger lad slowed down the bicycle and threw his right leg over the cross bar. His companion placed his foot on the right pedal and gracefully threw his leg over the seat. As he became seated the other boy slid off. It was nothing new to them, long practice had made this little act a sort of second nature. It was the only physical contact the boys had, and who knows but at

that moment a whispered word of confidence was exchanged.

A few minutes after 10 a crowd of citizens had gathered on the sidewalks laden with firecrackers and other noise makers, donated by Newell Bros. and C. W. Jones. The minutes rolled slowly. Men held their watches in their hands – two minutes, three, four, five minutes. THE WORLD'S RECORD WAS BROKEN!

Then came the din. Fireworks, auto sirens, yelling of hundreds of voices, rockets – cheering. A huge bonfire burst out in the public square fed by boxes and barrels from behind every store in town. The street shone like day. Enthusiastic autoists formed a parade and drove the streets, continually blowing horns and cheering. Others drove cars on the sidewalks until the Mayor, fearing accidents, advised them to keep in the road. The Engine House was thrown open, and the siren sang out into the cool night air. Firemen answered the alarm, only to join with the merrymakers around the bonfire. Residents, aroused, came to the corners from all directions.

Far into the night this was kept up. It was long after midnight when the crowd began to leave the scene, but in time the streets became quiet and the citizenry returned to their homes.

Still later on in the night, long after the cheering throng had found the warm comfort of their beds, a silent form crept out to the middle of the deserted street. Soon a boy on a bicycle appeared and as he reached the other, he threw his leg deftly over the crossbar. His companion slid into the saddle and turned the wheel into South Street. The cheering was gone, burnt fire-crackers lay in the lonely street – but Marty Sennett turned his boyish face to the silent stars and rode into the night.

Submitted by John Curtin ~

Renewed Members

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

Dick & Nancy Baranello, John & Gerry Bednarski, **Tom Brilbeck**, Peggy Bye, Bob & Richelle Ciota, Catherine D'Angelo, Patricia Gascon, **Tim & Debbie Golic**, J. Michael & Mary E. Kelly, Pamela Kiel, Sue Mezey, James & Arlene Milne, Jim Murphy, Donald & Anne Pelchy, **Christopher & Patricia Poole**, Kathleen Powell, Barbara Randall, Frances Randall, Mora Sanders, Matthew Shoff, Dale & Joyce Sims, Mr. & Mrs. Guy Swenson III, Ronald & Ann Weeks, Cathy Wilder. ~

Origin of the “Mustang”

In trying to determine the origin of the name, Mustang, as the mascot (logo) for the Marcellus Central School District, a number of alumni have responded and as well as completed research in *The Marcellus Observer*.



Clint Tallman, Class of '61, doesn't remember the year, but he said someone, possibly Coach Skye, decided Marcellus should have a nickname. So, all of the students submitted names, a few were selected, and the whole school then voted. The “Mustang” received the most votes.

Peg Ward McNally, Class of '55, noted that in the mid 1950's, there were a number of schools being merged: Camillus and Warners, etc. into West Genesee; Jordan and Elbridge, etc. into Jordan-Elbridge. Each of them were new schools with mascots (logos), such as the “Eagles” at J-E, and the “Wildcats” at West Genesee. It was felt that Marcellus should also have a mascot. The students submitted names, a few were selected, and the whole school then voted. “Mustang” received the most votes. The year was probably 1955, 1956 or 1957, according to Peg.

Bob Snyder, Class of '57, in his research, noted that there was a contest and he submitted the nickname, “Marauders.” In his conversation with Jack Kreischer, who was in the 6th grade at the time of the vote, (and Jack has, according to Bob, a vivid memory) remembers the selection of “Mustang” as the school nickname. Both he and Art Birchmeyer, now deceased, submitted the name “Mustang” as their choice for a nickname. That name was selected as the winner but neither received recognition, as with six grades of students eligible to enter the contest, there were probably multiple winners from the 400+ potential contestants who submitted entries. Jack thought, as does Bob, that the name selection was decided by either a faculty group of more likely, by the Principal Chester S. Driver.

Patty Stopyro Sanborn, Class of '57, discovered two references from her research in *The Marcellus Observer* and they are as follows:

Friday, November 11, 1955 – page 3 – *School Spirit is evidently on the upsurge. A contest to give the team a nickname, efforts to provide added transportation for away games, increased spectator interest, and attempt to form a band – all of these*

things point to a powerful resurgence of that spirit necessary for a winning team.

This is the first reference in *The Marcellus Observer*, to the idea of having a contest to provide a nickname for a Marcellus athletic team.

Friday, February 3, 1956 – page 6 – *The Marcellus Mustangs, playing their best game since the 48-46 victory over Skaneateles on December 9, swamped Skaneateles 64-49 Friday night. As early as the opening period, the Mustangs showed their superiority not only in the scoring column, but also in rebounding, defense and general hustle.*

This is the first reference to the team nickname to appear in *The Marcellus Observer*.

In all likelihood, a contest was probably held in December 1955 and from the results of that contest, the nickname, “Mustang,” was chosen.

An interesting postscript follows. Joe Delaney, Class of '57, and his classmate, Jim Kaveney, upon graduation from MCS brought the name, “Mustang,” to the college that they attended in the fall of 1957. Today, the State University of New York at Morrisville has, as its mascot, the “Mustang.”

Submitted by John Curtin & Pat Sanborn

Marcellus Observer May 1, 1914

Attorney F. W. Knapp is among the latest to purchase a new auto, an Overland. The Overland has been advertised extensively in these country papers, which we have no doubt, has had an effect in interesting, if not in clinching deals, toward placing many of the cars among the residents of our community. This machine is as common as any seen in use hereabouts.

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Marcellus Historical Society
P.O. Box 165, 18 North St.
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Non-Profit Organization
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 Marcellus, NY 13108
 Permit Number 165

Web Site Address:
mhs.villageofmarcellus.com

Address Service Requested

NEXT MEETING:
Sunday, October 12th, 2 p.m.

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

Postal Customer
 Local

INSIDE:

- * *19-21 North Street*
- * *Additional Building Offered to MHS*
- * *The Two Bike Boys Set Record*
- * *MCS "Mustang" mascot*
- * *100 Years ago in Marcellus*

~ 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
 Nine Mile Country by Kathryn Heffernan..... \$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 \$13
 Farewell Old Girl by J. Michael Kelly \$15
 Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus \$20
 Ruth Reed Cummings Prints \$ 8
 Jan Debevic Prints.....\$10-\$13
 Official Marcellus Afghans: 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
 Package of 10 note-cards picturing Marcellus..... \$ 5
Shipping: \$3 per book, \$4 other.

Name: _____

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Zip: _____

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