

Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 20 Issue 3

Summer 2015

Fifty Years Ago in Marcellus

Marcellus Observer February 4, 1965



Former Observer Owner Recalls 'Old' Marcellus

Roy Gallinger, who owned and edited the Marcellus Observer for more than 20 years was persuaded to write the following column for the first issue of the Observer under the new ownership of the Skaneateles Press..

It was the 25th of March,

1924, that my family moved to Marcellus from Syracuse—and it was May 25, 1925, that I became associated in the public life of the village as reporter, part-time printer, trouble shooter and assistant editor of the Marcellus Observer.

The day after our arrival as residents of Marcellus, the biggest snowstorm in the memory of even the oldest citizen came to block traffic in or out of the village for seven days—and in these seven days, I learned about Marcellus, and became acquainted with many of its citizens. We shoveled snow—snow that had piled four feet deep on the roads.

That was back in the days of "D.D." Coon, Arthur Hackford, Fred Williams, Phil Schanzle, Billy Kilcoyne, Ward Curtis, Steve Hunt and many others of that day—men whose names bring back memories of village life as it was lived 40 years ago, back in the days of the village band, firemen's dances, oyster suppers, the Old Home Days, the GAR parades and the old M&OL railroad.

I am reminded of the day I sat in the Observer office and a fine-appearing young man came in. He was wondering whether there would be room enough in the village for another doctor. Unlike the present day, Marcellus at that time had three doctors, Dr. Parsons, Dr. Weidman and Dr. Lowell. Dr. Weidman and Dr. Parsons were getting along in years, while Dr. Lowell, a bachelor, held forth in his room in the Alvord House.

The young man had talked with his two elder

physicians, who were glad to welcome him, and through their persuasion Dr. Joseph Walsh became one of our neighbors, and until he died a few years ago, was the most needed man in the village. He could be seen on the road all hours of the day or night, driving to the bedsides of his patients. At one time he was stricken and was advised by his peers in the medical profession to slow down. But Dr. Walsh could not turn a deaf ear to the call of that which he had chosen as his duty. He died at the age of 56.

I can recall those men who taught our children—P.M. Helfer, Max Molyncaux, Chester Driver and others; the clergy, all of whom I called my friends. Then there was Roy P. Smith who had the paint and wallpaper store; Thomas E. Mowry and his sister, Lillian, who operated the Observer; Horace M. Stone, the lawyer and legislator, who was one of our foremost citizens and Charlie Jones who, with the late "Judge" Fred Uttley, shared the undertaking duties of the village with W. S. Conley.

Many of us will recall with a touch of nostalgia the old Six-Town Picnics, when a thousand or more farm families gathered at Heath's Grove on Otisco Lake, to listen to speeches of a political nature and to hear the town band. To my mind comes the unforgettable Gene Wicks, "The Sage Up South," whose refreshing column appeared weekly in the Observer. I recall that Gene wrote his column in longhand, and it was my duty to set it in type each week, but everybody loved that homey column, written by a farmer who foretold the weather by the use of a hog milt, was not afraid to speak out on politics—or, in fact, anything else.

Our band, which I had the honor of directing, was formed in 1926 and was made up of farmers, merchants, mill workers and others. Many of us will recall Pete and John Murray, cornetists; Al Harding, French horn; Charlie Jones, tuba; Pete Dunlop, baritone; John Seguin, drummer; Orlo Wicks, cornetist; my two brothers, Lorne and Victor, trombonists; the two "Doc" Springsteads, father and son, tuba players, and a number of others whose names have slipped past me. How proud we were of

(Continued on page 4)

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, October 11, 2015

2 p.m.

To Be Announced

Sunday, November 8, 2015

2 p.m.

Annual Meeting

No Meetings during 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 2015

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.

Jean Nightingale.....673-2539

Correspondence Secretary:

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

Newsletters are sent via e-mail rather than regular mail to members who have given us their e-mail address. If you have not yet advised us of your e-mail address, please do so at: *histsoc@windstream.net*. We do not publish or sell member information. ~

From The President ...

A big thank you to Pat and Charlie Sanborn, Amy North and Jean and Doug Nightingale taking the second and fourth grade classes on tours of the Steadman House in June (see pictures on page 3).

Thank you to Hollis Abbott for the great work he does on putting the newsletter together and getting it out to members, and to Bruce and Mary Widger for helping getting it ready to mail.

We have had a number of visitors to the house doing research this summer. Among them visitors from as far away as Minnesota and Texas. It is a pleasure to meet these people and assist them in finding their ancestors. While doing research I learn more about Marcellus history too.

We still have need for volunteers, especially for outdoor work. Students from Bishop Grimes came in the spring and cleaned out all the weeds but weeds keep coming back. There is always cleaning to do in the house also.

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer.

Peg Nolan

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

MEETING TIMES

Regular meetings of the Marcellus Historical Society will be at 2 pm on the 2nd Sunday of the months of April, May, October and November 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.

Renewed Members

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

Dick & Nancy Baranello, <u>Robin & Steven Bolewski</u> & <u>Family</u>, Catherine D'Angelo, James Hamilton, <u>Joe Horsington</u>, <u>Janet Linderman</u>, <u>Pat Marcel</u>, Daniel Olenych, Barbara Randall, Frances Randall, <u>Mora Sanders</u>, **Kurt Sherman**, Mr. & Mrs. Guy Swenson III, Cathy Wilder . ~

Current Membership: 350 Not renewed from 2014: 22

New: 8

Business Members: 28 Not renewed from 2014: 5

Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:

Robin & Steven Bolewski
Virginia Unckless
(in memory of Gene Rowland)
Marcellus Olde Home Days Committee
John & Rosemary Coyne
Ed & Leslie Rapson (research) ~

Our Special Thanks to Bill Reagan for his many years of volunteering the maintenance of our website and to the town and village for hosting it.

Recent Acquisitions

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

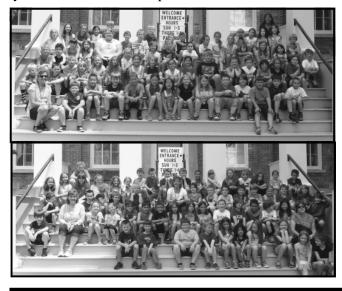


James Dyer for Judgement paper rendered in favor of Curtis Moses; Kelly Kershaw for pictures of plaster wall at Woodbridge Building; Ed & Karen Pollard for Mulroy Dairy plastic milk cap; Pat Marcel for 3 Marcellians; Kathy McLaughlin for Robert McHale census records & pictures of Marcellus Olde

Home Days float; **Nancy Knowlton** for 2 Marcellus postcards; **Robert Coomber** for 1917 yearbook; **Dick & Nancy Brass** for Regulator wall clock used in Slate Hill School (above). ~

Remember: this is a non-profit organization supported by dues and donations!

Yearly dues cover the *calendar year* and if your dues are not paid by the *end of March*, we must drop you from the membership list. ~



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 maintenance. ~

Origin and original meaning of the common terms "Highway" and "Turnpike"

Going back in time to "Old England" when all roads were mud, when it rained and dust when it didn't, an elevated road was built just for the Royal family to use. This ran along side the "lower" road the commoners used. Hence this "higher" road became known as the "Kings Highway" and in time as all roads were improved by getting them "up" out of the mud, all roads became known as "Highways". The earliest roads in colonial America were all built by private concerns and were therefore toll roads, meaning a toll was taken to pay for them. Every few miles there was a tollgate where the toll had to be paid. The tollgate was a horizontal pole or 'pike' pivoted on a post that turned to open when the toll was paid. Hence these roads became known as "Turnpikes".

Source: Lafayette Historical Society newsletters. ~ Submitted by Peg Nolan



Tours by 2nd Grade (left) and 4th Grade (above).

(Continued from page 1)

that band, as it played Friday nights in the village park, or marched ahead of our firemen!

There are still many who will remember the first fire engine to be owned by the village. I was honored as one of the members of the fire engine committee and met agents of various manufacturers. Finally a decision was made and a date set for the arrival of the new fire fighter at the M&OL station.

The great day came and as the old yard engine puffed into the siding, it was greeted by hundreds of men, women and children. The band was there, and as the old locomotive crossed the road to the yard the musicians struck up the march rehearsed for the occasion — Number 10 in the red book! As the flat car rolled onto the siding, a hundred men and boys climbed on, bent on helping to loosen its moorings. Then, when the papers were all in order, Ed Bartlett twisted the crank and the motor started.

With the band ahead, and Ed on the seat of the shining new fire engine, the parade back to the fire hall started. By the time the red fire truck reached Orange St., there were so many men and boys on it, in it, or clinging to it, the engine could hardly be seen. It was a great day for Marcellus! A hundred box cameras snapped the pictures of that great event for posterity, pictures still in existence.

And so went village life of that day. The fire department grew and with it the village. The bank, headed at that time by our good friend, William S. Spaulding, contributed greatly to the growth of the community. New streets were laid out and new homes sprang up, as more and more city people became our neighbors.

Today, the old timer who has been away from Marcellus for a few years, has trouble placing the landmarks of yesterday. I visited the village a few months ago and was taken for a ride around the old familiar scenes by our former neighbor, Roy Bennett. Roy pointed out new streets, new homes, and new faces. Even the faces of those we knew a score of years ago seemed changed. The kids who used to hang around the old Observer office are now married and have families of their own. Art Campion, who often appeared when there were papers to be folded or news items to write, is gone—Art Campion, who loved everybody! John Murray, one of the nicest persons we ever knew, left us just a few days ago. Fred Woodbridge, village clerk and a member of the old band, has also gone, as has Clayton Pilot, Art Schanzel, Steve Hunt, "Barney" McManus, and many of those we used to meet on the street and who were our friends.

I remember Cecil Olcott of Marietta, now a minister, whom I knew long before either of us came to the community we both learned to love. Rev. Olcott was a former musician, a brilliant cornetist, and we played together in bands in Syracuse many years ago. Now and then I read about him in the Observer, and recall how we used to walk from Bellevue Heights in Syracuse down to band practice several miles downtown.

Marcellus is growing, after seeming to stand still many years. But to the old timer who lived in and loved the village, the picture of the Marcellus of yesterday will always stand out in memory, as clearly as it did back when the Marcellus Observer was the old "Gunwad" of days gone by. May it always remain "The Gunwad" in the hearts of the people of a wonderful community!

Notes: Roy Gallinger died in Norwich, NY on December 23, 1971 at the age of 81. Articles about Roy appeared in the Historical Society Summer 2003 Newsletter, Volume 8 Issue 3, which can be seen on our website and at the Steadman House. ~

Marcellus Observer February 4, 1965

Memories of Marcellus

By Frank Griffing

Edmund Reed started publishing the Marcellus Observer in April 1879. His first printing office was in the old Hooper home that Pilot bought when they enlarged the garage where Priest Chevrolet is now.

Then later he moved into what was called the Hooper block, where the Fountain is on North Street. The Observer was printed there until Henry Steele moved over on Slate Hill Road.

Now the Observer office beginning February 1st is back in the old Observer office next to the Fountain.

The Marcellus Observer will be printed by the Skaneateles Press.

Ed Reed sold the Observer to Sykes and Rogers, then Carey Roe bought the Observer in 1889. Cary Roe's father was a retired M.E. minister so Andrew Roe helped his son publish the Observer. Rev. Roe wrote some history of Marcellus and this is now in the Marcellus Library in book form. Mrs. Stephen Webb assembled clippings that Rev. Roe wrote in old Observers and she has done a very nice job. If anyone is interested in old history it would pay them to borrow the book.

I used to be in the Observer printing room when I was a boy 10-12 years old. The printing always fascinated me.

Will Raymond worked there, he was ten years older than I was but I liked him. He left Marcellus and went down on the Hudson.

Three girls I remember worked at the observer, Alice Bake Wright and two Smith girls. One married Fred Schmidt and the other married Frank Nightingale.

In those days type was set by hand, it was fun watching them pickup the letters and place them in a metal stick held in the left hand.

C. A. Roe sold the Observer to Thomas Mowry in 1905. Mowry printed papers for Camillus, Elbridge, Jordan and Otisco Valley. I could write a lot about Thomas Mowry but I don't have the space this time

Mowry died in 1931 and Roy Gallinger published it with his son John becoming editor in 1938 and Bob associate editor in 1939.

Warren Buck, William Scheurer and Joseph Ivery bought the paper from Roy Gallinger. John King bought out Scheurer and Ivery's interests and then Buck and King sold to Henry Steele in August 1954.~

Marcellus Observer June 3, 1965

Historical Society Will Open Museum June 12

The Marcellus Historical Society will open its new museum Saturday, June 20, in the White Memorial Building on Main St., and has invited the people of the area to visit this page from the Village's past.

According to Jack Haley of the Historical society, the museum will contain articles from a history dating back to 1794, when Marcellus was one of the earliest communities settled in Onondaga County. Several other communities were settled at approximately the same time, as the land was a military tract given by the government as partial payment to its Revolutionary War veterans.

The museum will occupy the entire second floor of the White Memorial Building, which is headquarters for the town of Marcellus. Mrs. Carrie Corp, town clerk, has her offices on the ground floor.

"The Historical Society ... would like to thank the Town Board for giving us space in the town hall for our museum." Mr. Haley said. He said the Society was particularly appreciative because not only was the building centrally located, but it was appropriately one of the oldest buildings in Marcellus.

He said that there were many items donated for the museum from the home of the late Stephen Hunt. Other items have been given by Crown Woolen Mill, as well as by many interested residents.

"It is one of the functions and desires of any

historical society," Mr. Haley said, "to stimulate interest and pride among the residents in their particular community."

"We especially hope that the youngest and newest members of the community will find interest in the museum and a broader understanding of historical values. It has taken nearly 200 years to make Marcellus the fine community which it is, so that we can proudly call it our town." ~

Marcellus Observer June 24, 1965

Memories of Marcellus

By Frank Griffing

Riding over to Elbridge, we go over the Limeridge Rd. and my thoughts go back to the days when there were lots of stone walls used for fences. Some of them are still standing, and some are tumbled down.

It was a big job to pick those stones off the land so the farmer could plow. And an even bigger job to haul them on a stone boat with a team of oxen to where the fence was being built.

A man with know-how was needed to lay the stone so they would stay. How square and straight the men laid those stone fences in those days. They laid cobble stone walls and fences and over the other side of Elbridge I see that a cobble stone barn still stands in good shape.

On Jake Simonds old farm, I saw a straight rail fence. In the old days we had lots of them. Also lots of crooked rail fences. And I have seen stump fences when the farmer cut the woods to make land for the crops he had to dig out the stumps so the land could be plowed. He hauled them with oxen and made fences.

Men had to be good rugged men to do the hard work. The Marcellus town superintendent some years ago had a stone crusher and the road gang used lots of the stone wall fences and crushed them and spread them over the town roads.

Down in Homer on my grandfather's farm, they had flat stones like flag stones and the stone walls were laid up with them. They made nice straight and square fences. I remember climbing on them and walking on them when I was a teen age boy

I worked two summers for George Stucky on West Hill. George and I pulled down some rail fences and hauled them up by the house and it was my job to saw them up with a buck saw so they would fit in the cook stove.

Farmers don't do the hard work today that we had to do on the farms years ago. ~

One Hundred Years Ago in Marcellus

Marcellus Observer June 25, 1915

GALA COMMENCEMENT WEEK.

Green and gold, the class colors of the Senior Class, Marcellus High School, are in evidence this week. The Yellow Rose as class flower predominates, cheery and bright. The Class Motto is "From Camp to Field," the more appropriate as one contemplates its full meaning. The community manifests its usual interest, personal and as a public, in the events of the week.

The class roll in Marcellus includes eleven members: Anna Loretta McNally, Clara Mulroy, Carrie Matteson, Margaret Collins Knapp, Amy G. Jones, Mary Joanna Curtin, Julia Rose Hellganz, Merle C. Waite, Thelma G. Spaulding, and two young men, Norman L. Woodford and Louis Gooden.

The Baccalaureate sermon Sunday evening attracted a congregation filled with lively interest in the young people of the class, who sat in a body, and the compliment, encouragement, admonition covered in the sermon spoke volumes to them, met response in the minds of older friends and admirers, and was spoken of in highest terms, a credit to Rev. Walter E. Cook of St. John's church, where the event was held.

Monday was class night, held in St. John's Parish House. Much is made these latter days of Class Night, or day, when members have out their fun, preceding the stately commencement.

Commencement had an ideal setting in Parson's new hall, with the speaker, Rev. Tompkins, the entire faculty, the Board of Education and Class of 1915 all assembled on the roomy stage, while every seat of the hall was filled and many standing. Green in boughs, branches and ferns livened the scene, with yellow roses intermingled, the class colors. The motto hungagainst the rear wall.

The Senior Class ball is given in Alvord Hall this Friday evening. Saturday is held the High School picnic at Owasco lake, the customary resort for this occasion. The trip to be enjoyed by the entire school as guests of the class. ~

Marcellus Observer July 2, 1915

SCHOOL NOTES

The Baker District School meeting held Tuesday night had been heralded, with aroused sentiment, and a large number, 35, nearly all, attended. All but two voted against the proposition to unite with Marcellus Falls district. The latter sought the change and had caused the petition to be circulated. This was signed,

but signers voted differently. Being by ballot, none knew who cast the two ballots in favor.

It is brought out that there are about sixteen pupils in the district now, six or seven attending The Falls School, others at Marcellus High School. The latter has been paid \$400 some years back and at time has had 20 pupils from Baker District. The number varies. Last year the amount was increased to \$450.

The large school convenience of the trolley, etc., weighed against the smaller school, distance, the upand-down-hill for these pupils. The Spafford and Haynes houses were most distant, three miles or more. What is the distance between the trolley line and the school house? ~

Marcellus Observer July 2, 1915

SOME CENSUS FIGURES

The following figures show the population of the various towns in the First Assembly District of Onondaga county for **1910** and **1915**. *Figures from the 2010 census have been added for comparison*.

	<u>2010</u>	<u> 1915</u>	<u> 1910</u>
Camillus	24,167	3,031	2,642
Cicero	31,632	2,679	2,475
Clay	58,206	2,661	2,431
Elbridge	5,922	3,039	2,980
Geddes	17,118	9,471	5,959
Lysander	21,759	4,628	4,509
Marcellus	6,210	2,927	2,826
Otisco	2,541	1,005	1,066
Salina	33,710	3,208	3,980
Skaneateles	7,209	4,619	4,274
Spafford	1,686	1,082	1,064
Van Buren	13,185	2.410	3.200

Business Member Directory Please Patronize These Businesses

3021 W. Seneca Tpke., Marcellus, 13108......673-7333

WARNER'S AUTO BODY	NIGHTINGALE TRUE VALUE www.truevalue.com/nightingale
Bob Warner, Owner 24 Hour Towing (FAX 673-9207)	4068 South Street Rd., Marcellus 13108
2650 Pleasant Valley Rd., PO Box 201, Marcellus 13108 673-3521	
CLEAN-OUTS and DUMPSTER SERVICES R. J. FROST COMPANY, LLC	HEAVY EQUIPMENT SALES & REPAIR S & S TRACTOR PARTS, INC. Heavy Equipment Sales & Repair (FAX 673-4967)
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2388 Otisco Valley Rd., Marietta 13110	
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BELLOWS CONSTRUCTION SPECIALTIES, LLC	Risk Management and Investment Services www.ReaganCompanies.com (FAX 673-1121)
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Marcellus Historical Society P.O. Box 165, 18 North St. Marcellus, NY 13108-0165

*****NEW Website Address:****

www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, October 11th, 2 p.m.

INSIDE:

- * Roy Gallinger's 'Old' Marcellus
- * Frank Griffing's Observer Memories
- * Historical Society Museum in 1965
- * Frank Griffing about "Fences"
- * "Highways" and "Turnpikes"
- * 1915 Commencement Week
- * 100 Years Ago in Marcellus

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Number Joining? New Members?	City: Zip:		
Available Collectibles			
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Pucker Street by John Curtin\$26			
The Town He Loved So Well by James Quinn\$20	E-mail:		
Around Marcellus by Leslie Church Kraus\$20	Oter Bear Description Cost Fo Total		
Nine Mile Country by Kathryn Heffernan\$20	<u>Qty</u> <u>Item Description</u> <u>Cost Ea</u> <u>Total</u>		
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			
Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus\$20			
Ruth Reed Cummings Prints\$8			
Jan Debevic Prints \$10-\$13			
Official Marcellus Afghans: blue, green\$45			
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