

# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 22 Issue 2

Spring 2017

# Lewis Tilden Steadman, Sr. Marcellus Historical Society Benefactor



September 26, 1926-March 27, 2017

Lewis Tilden Steadman, Sr., age 90 passed away peacefully at home in Lake Bluff, Illinois, on March 26, 2017. He was surrounded by his loving children Carol, Lewis Jr. and his wife, Holly, and Robert, and his adored grandchildren Scott (Katie) and Ben. Lew was eagerly anticipating the arrival of his first great-grandchild Liam Cunningham Steadman on April 13, 2017. He is also survived by his brothers Robert and Richard, and sister Calista, and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. His brother James predeceased him. Lewis was the beloved husband for 64 years of the Alma Bailey Steadman. He was born in Chicago and grew up in Marcellus, NY where he met Alma at Marcellus High School. After Lew survived a bout with polio, he and Alma were married upon graduation from Syracuse University in 1946. Lew worked as an Engineer at Ford Motor Company in Detroit and then received his J. D. Degree from George Washington University while working full time at the U.S. Patent Office. He then joined the intellectual property firm of Charles W. Hill (later Hill, Steadman & Simpson), becoming a Managing Partner. Lew worked for more than 50 years as a renowned patent expert, winning major litigation for his long-time clients in the U.S., Australia and Japan. Most recently he was counsel at Rockey, Depke, Lyons & Kitzinger. Lew and Alma moved to Lake Bluff in 1953 where he served as Village Board President from 1971-79 and was a Board Member of the Zoning Board and the Armour Woods Association. Lew was a long-time member of the Union League and Metropolitan Clubs in Chicago and the Knollwood Club in Lake Forest. Lew and Alma loved to travel, taking their first "around the world" trip in the summer of 1962. They delighted in spending time with family in Hilton Head, S.C. and Puerto Rico. They also had a lifelong passion for collecting American antiques. Then in 1996, Lew purchased the house at 18 North Street in Marcellus, NY, where he had grown up and married Alma, as a 50th wedding anniversary present. Together they restored the house, originally built in 1836, and in 2006 they donated it to the Marcellus Historical Society for use as a museum. Lew's dry wit, his intellectual curiosity and his generosity in sharing his knowledge with those around him leaves a huge hole in our lives. Lew was devoted to his family and loved history, golf, sports cars, bourbon oldfashioneds, and traveling the world. He will be very much missed by all who knew him. The family also wishes to extend their profound gratitude to his devoted caregivers Pelagio Cantillas and Orlando Castillo. The family service was private. Contributions in Lew's memory may be sent to the Marcellus Historical Society, P. O. Box 165, Marcellus, NY 13108.

# **EVENTS SCHEDULE**

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Marcellus Old Home Days

Marcellus Old Home Days Open House 10AM-2PM

# Next Meeting September 5, 2017 2PM at the Marcellus Library

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 2016**

2019 Jamie Johnston	673-1160
2019 Harvey Eysman	673-3933
E-mail: heysman@winds	tream.net
2017 Carol Armstrong	673-3443
E-mail: carolart23@aol.c	om
2017 Jean Nightingale	673-2539
E-mail: djn0409@windstream.ne	t
2018 John Curtin	673-3660
E-mail: jcurtin2@windstream.net	
2018 Bob Wilson	673-2550 -
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 Doug Nightingale at the above address or email: djn0409@windstream.net

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**

This spring has been a slow attendance at the Steadman House. I think the weather has a lot to do with attendance. Our meetings have been well attended thanks to Kathy for good speakers. We look forward to the second graders (6 classes) coming to visit us in June. Many of the kids talk their mom and dad into bring them back to the Steadman House. The class of 67' and the class of 82' from Marcellus High School will visiting us this summer. Have a great summer.

Doug Nightingale

# Steadman House Hours (Weather Permitting): Sundays 1 to 3 pm (except meeting Sundays) Thursdays 1 to 4 pm Or By Appointment: Doug Nightingale-673-2539 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, September, 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.

**Current Membership: 321** 

New:

**Business Members: 25** 

# 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.

\$5. a year is a small price to pay to help preserve our history!

#### In Remembrance

Dr. Bruce Widger-March 6, 2017 Lewis T. Steadman-March 26, 2017

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

Philip & Gwyn Olenych Alice Jane Mahan John & Patricia Palen Daphne Goldacker Marcellus Rotary Club Janet Schwartz Reagan Companies Marietta House Mary Mahagan

And in Memory of Lewis T. Steadman

Philip & Suzanne Henderson Howard & Tena Tessler Hollis & Nancy Abbott John & Virginia Anderson

# **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, Carol Armstrong, Chuck Paul for keeping the Steadman House open during scheduled hours; and the Village of Marcellus for removal of brush and mowing the lawn ~

# **Antique Show**

The antique show on May 20th was very successful. The vendors were quite happy with sales and of course the great weather. At this time we still have not gotten the total attendance numbers. The historical society also had a table and we did very well selling our books from our gift shop.

I hope this may become an annual event. Janet Bednarczyk put a lot of time an effort into making the show a success. She did all the work.

Our heart felt thank you.

#### .Lew Steadman

I only new Lew for about ten years. He was a great man with a big heart. Lew and Alma dearly wanted the historical society to do well with their new home. They would visit the house every time they came to town. Unfortunately we lost Alma in 2010. Lew visited every year until last year when he was ill. Lew kept in contact with Bernie Reagan so he knew what was going on in Marcellus.

The Marcellus Historical Society wishes to send our deepest condolences to Lew's Family.

#### Wanted:

Member(s) of the Historical Society to help produce the **Quarterly Newsletter**. An interest in researching appropriate articles and a knowledge of Microsoft Office programs helpful. The Society files and computer at the Steadman House are available for researching and compiling the newsletter (Microsoft Publisher software is presently used).

Contact Doug Nightingale at 315-673-2539 or email djn0409@windstream.net ~

# **AVAILABLE AT THE STEADMAN HOUSE**

Have you visited the Steadman House recently? Our indexed collection (at last count) consists of:

3,475 Artifacts

826 Clothing articles

743 Books

13 Clocks

6,921 Photographs

68 Scrapbooks with 55,427 referenced items

Family files and genealogies

Gift shop with Afghans, Books, Prints, Cards, etc. ~

## One Hundred Years Ago

#### War And The Farmer

#### **For Shorter Hours**

Farmers join the short day and holiday plan. 24 sign names to an agreement now in The Observer office pledging to consider eight hour a legal day work and stop all work Saturday noon from May 1. This plan will be printed in next issue.

# The Farmers Story

I protest against all this gratuitous advice to the farmers. The farmer is perfectly capable of running his own business.

No class of people work harder or as long hours, and where do you find people more saving? City people have an idea that anyone can farm, and proceed to give advice. But as one remarked when he tried it and moved back to the city, "Farming is the biggest gamble I ever tried."

There would be just as much sense for a farmer to presume and tell a merchant how to run his business. Twenty years ago a good cow brought \$18 to \$20, feed cheap. A man could be hired for \$20 and a boy for\$9. Yet know with cows bringing \$80 to \$100, feed out of sight, men \$35 to \$45 and a boy almost as much, hear the cry when the price of milk goes up.

It is not nature for hens to lay in the winter. They must have the most intelligent care to get a few eggs. Yet here the boycott because a farmer won't buy 90 cents worth of feed for 60 cents a dozen for eggs. No matter if every acre of land is planted, if we have such weather as last year, crops will be short and prices high.

Before setting a price for the farmers, better get after the sugar, oil, implements and other combines and the middle man.

Talk thrift to the city man.

Watch the crowd waiting for a car to ride a few blocks. Only 5 cents. Look at the movies-all crowded. The money wasted would buy all the products needed.

I agree with Frank Cahoon. When Roosevelt begs to go and hundreds of just such daredevils that bear a charmed life—one of whom is worth more as a soldier than ten boys made to go and afraid—why turn down such men for petty politics and send our boys to take care of themselves and you will find more patriotic mothers.

Continued

# Farmers Tired of Unsought Advice

In answer to all sorts of appeals from people living in the more thickly settled sections of the state, appeals principally from the residents of the large cities who are urging the farmers to produce more than they have in the past, and who, incidentally, are handing out all sorts of advice, the average farmer will tell you that it is "getting on his nerves," says B. A. Steele of Baldwinsville.

The Rural New Yorker editorially sums up the situation when it says: "How in common sense can we (referring to the farmers) raise more crops with less help than ever before on the farm? Why can we not get the help? When can we adopt the eight hour day? Who will work on a farm 14 to 16 hours a day when he can find employment at eight hours anywhere and secure time and half for overtime? The farmers hours are eight in the morning and eight after dinner and he will tell you that he pities the consumer if the eight hour law is ever adopted on the farm."

"Some seem to have the idea." continued Mr. Steele, "that the farm crops can take care of themselves."

Marcellus Observer Friday, May 4, 1917

#### **Onondaga County Farms**

Following is a summary of agricultural conditions of Onondaga county as developed by last week's census:

Number of farms, 5,628; number of hired men last year at this time, 3,025; number of hired men now, 2,502; number of additional help needed for farm work, 1,807; number of school boys wanted, 1,094; number of additional help needed for household work, 159; number who could use school girls, 15; eggs set or incubated, 1916, 780,021; eggs expected to be set or incubated, 1917, 711,416; corn for grain, 1916, 12,752 acres; corn for grain, 1917, 18,003 acres; corn for silo, 1916, 12,630 acres; corn for silo, 1917, 13,973 acres; oats, 1916, 30,717 acres; oats, 1917, 34,000 acres; alfalfa, 1916, 35,279 acres; alfalfa, 1917, 38,719 acres; cabbage, 1916, 4,147 acres; cabbage, 1917, 6,312 acres; potatoes, 1916, 10,346 acres; potatoes, 1917, 13,941 acres.

Marcellus Observer May 4, 1917

# One Hundred Years Ago

Joseph Matteson's passing occurred Wednesday, May 30, 1917 at the family home., where he had made his home with his son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Watson J. Matteson since the death of his wife nine years ago. His usual strength failed about a year ago, he has been confined to the bed since then and his last hours were quiet sleep, the passing without consciousness, peaceful and of comfort to all who loved him.

He was the third of a family of nine, 5 sons and 4 daughters of Schuyler and Merinda Matteson.

He was born Feb. 19th, 1839 at Cortland, N.Y. He came with his parents to Sempronius, to a farm on which he lived until his marriage to Diana A Cuddeback Jan. 1, 1865. Soon after the marriage they came to Marcellus, where he entered the employ of White and Smith, Hardware and tinners. Three years later he purchased the interests of J.Q. Smith in that business and entered the partnership under White and Matteson which continued until the death of W.B. White in 1898, when the present firm of J. Matteson and Son was formed, with son Watson J., who now succeeds to the business. He faithfully assisted in attending to the store and duties, gradually failing in activities until his last sickness. During this he has been quite helpless and has been given the best of care by the attentive and loving family, Mrs. W.J. Matteson having devoted herself to his comfort unceasingly during this time, neighbors and friends fully recognizing her untiring faithfulness. In fact, the father relied on her for his every want, he would not let others do for him in anyway, and she has met every demand with strength which would have given way except for her patience and love for the fine old character whose every request was cheerfully granted.

Surviving are one son, Watson J., one daughter, Mrs. J.C. Park who lives at Oswego, four granddaughters, Mrs. Melvin Corp (nee Carrie Matteson), Hester Matteson, Ruth and Helen Park; five grandsons, Joseph, Harry, and Robert Matteson, John and Joseph Park; also a brother Luzerne of Auburn and a sister, Mrs. Mary Thayer of Moravia.

Four grandsons acted as bearers Joseph and Continued

Harry Matteson, John Parks and Melvin Corp, with Charlie Dye and James Warne.

"Uncle Joe" was every boy's friend. He just naturally loved everybody, old and young, and they returned it. No one ever heard anybody say a word against him and he never had an ill thought toward the world. The word liberal is lacking in telling of his purse, he supported church and community in all ways during his active life, with free hand. But his light was hid. He was never showy, never did for effect, his every act was sincere and true. He loved children and young people clung to him to enjoy his youthful fun making. He was joker. A practical joker too, and tales are told innumerable of his originality. He loved his garden, he liked to tell of past experiences, his tastes were simple. It was a pleasure to enter the store, in my day, to give and take the daily greeting. His sickness has created constant inquiry about town. The latter days proved his vast patience. He loved his home, and for this reason the family chose to hold his funeral there instead of from the Methodist church, of which he was an early supporter. The Methodist church was full Memorial Day, I came out and saw the wreath on the door, and crossing saw Wat, and said with choking voice, "Well, Dad's gone." That is all, but the character, a true type of old citizenship, leaves with all who knew him a memory of manhood which they sincerely cherish. It is a comfort to have known by, to have known "joe Matteson"

> Marcellus Observer June 1, 1917

# **Recent Acquisitions**

Two Marcellus Band jackets and one band hat from Barbara Toman. A baby carriage from Beverly Piekiel.

# **Special Thanks**

Nightingale Mills for donating the mulch for the gardens at the Steadman House. Charlie and Pat Sanborn and Doug and Jean Nightingale for flowers at the Steadman House.

# Martisco Paper Mill

In 1852 George Reed and Sanford Dalliba erected a paper mill and new dam at Marcellus Falls. The next year N. G. Case joined the firm of George Reed &Co.

They manufactured white print and book paper and the establishment was considered one of the best mills in New State, supplying many of the leading dailies in the country.

In 1854 the firm became Reed and Case. In 1861 The mill was purchased by Benjamin H. Culver, who put in machinery to bleach straw for manufacturing print paper, a new process at the time. He sold the mill to John F. Jones.

John F. Jones was a famous paper maker of his day. He imported the first wood pulp grinder in the western hemisphere. These grinders came from Holland. The advent of the wood pulp grinder revolutionized the source of supply for raw material. It was used in the manufacturing of all kinds of paper—millions of tons per year.

In 1874 Michael Lawless purchased the mill and gave it the name Eagle Mill. In later years the mill was named Onondaga Paper Co.. The mill stayed in the Lawless family until 1961.

Above from Historic Central New York Written by Wallace Hamilton Campbell

In 1961 Frank Fernandez, Floyd Petosa and John Martino bought and changed the name to Martisco Paper Company. The did extensive upgrades to the mill. They raised the roof, put in an exhaust fan, new paper cutter and conveyer belts to move the paper. They ran the mill until 1990, when they sold the mill to Darryl and Agnes Meiers. Darryl ran the mill until it was closed in 2006

I worked at the mill from 1972 to 1983. It provided a living for about 15 to 18 people for many years. My father-in-law Dick Pelchy worked there for 50 years. Dick's family worked for the Lawless family and Martisco paper for a total of 140 years.

Driving by the mill, now that it has been torn down, leaves a large void. The mill provided many people over the years a place of employment whether it was part time or full time. Life goes on, but seeing the mill standing my whole life, but now gone, looks very unusual.

Doug Nightingale



Martisco Paper 1964



Martisco Paper 1985



Gone May 2017

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\*\*\*\*\*NEW Website Address:\*\*\*\*\*
www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org

**NEXT MEETING:** September 10, 2017

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

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