



Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 22 Issue 3

Summer 2017



Frank Wilson Knapp born Etna New York May 16, 1860 the son of Cyrus & Helen Wilson Knapp and passed away March 17, 1939 in Marcellus.

Frank graduated from Cortland Normal School in 1884 and was a commissioner of education in Cortland County for a number of years. He graduated from Cornell in 1893 and came to Marcellus in 1894 to practice law.

Frank had his law office in the Gallup Block which was located on the corner of North and Main streets. He also sold Life and Home Owners Insurance. He purchased the Gallup Block as well as built a home at 2 Reed avenue (Dr. Vernon Roth's).

Frank was one of the organizers of the Marcellus Telephone Company in 1903. The telephone office was located at 7 North Street in the Hooper

Block Building. At the end of 1903 there were 50 subscribers at an annual fee of \$12.00. The Marcellus Telephone Company was sold to Finger Lakes Telephone in the early 1920's.

Frank brought electricity to the Village of Marcellus by building a small power plant at Bakers Dam the sight of Robert Bakers sawmill. The power plant provided power for 16 street lamps as well a few businesses and homes in the center of the village, between the years of 1906-1907. In 1907 the Village Board granted Frank Knapp a 5 year franchise to provide electricity the street lights of the village, With the village growing, the power plant was adequate. Frank

had a power line constructed between Marcellus and Camillus to hook up with the power lines of Niagara & Mohawk who acquired power from Niagara Falls. Frank also helped to install flashing signal lights at Main and South Streets as well at Main and North Streets in 1926. Marcellus Electric Company was later sold to New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) who provides electricity and gas of today.

Frank helped organize the First National Bank of Marcellus in 1910. He was Vice-president of the bank until he was elected Chairman of the Board in 1932. The bank was located where the current Town Hall is located. He also helped organize the Marcellus Free Library in 1913. The library was located on the second floor of the Gallup Block Building next to Frank's law office. He was Mason and Past Master of the Marcellus Lodge. He built a number of houses on Bradley Street and helped build the first sewers in the village: one on Bradley Street that connected to Marcellus High School on west hill to do away with the outhouses and one on Reed Avenue. He also helped with planning a Village Sewer System in May 1929. Even with all these activities Frank was the Village Clerk for fifteen years.

Marcellus would not be what it is today without men like Frank Knapp.

Research from Nine Mile Country by Katherine Heffernan, Pucker Street by John Curtin and the Marcellus Observers.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

September 10, 2017
 Director of Marcellus Free Library
 Jake Widrick
October 8, 2017
 Clyde Ohl
November 12, 2017
 TBA
 Elections

*Meetings are open to anyone and are held at the **Marcellus Free Library** unless indicated otherwise. A short business meeting will precede each program.*

Historical Society Officers for 2016

President: Doug Nightingale 315-673-2539
 E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net
 Vice President: Kathy McLaughlin
 E-mail: mclaughlin_k@hotmail.com
 Treasurer: Patricia Sanborn315-488-3610
 E-mail: pasanborn@twcny.rr.com
 Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinge.....315-673-3187
 E-mail: cb90009@aol.com

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 2019 Harvey Eysman.....315-673-3933
 E-mail: heysman@windstream.net
 2017 Carol Armstrong.....315-673-3443
 E-mail: carolart23@aol.com
 2017 Jean Nightingale.....315-673-2539
 E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net
 2018 John Curtin.....315-673-3660
 E-mail: jcurtin2@windstream.net
 2018 Bob Wilson.....315-673-2550
 Correspondence Secretary:
 Jean Nightingale.....315-673-2539

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

The summer was cool but we had many visitors at the Steadman House. All visitors say the same thing, we can not believe all the artifacts that you have on display. Many come back at a later date to spend more time browsing. I would like to thank all who have donated artifacts this summer and those who wanted to donate items but were too large for us too except. It has been a challenge some weeks to keep the Steadman House open because of family health issues. We enjoy the people who stop and talk about the past as well as the future events of the village and town. Hope to see you at our meetings in the Fall.

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: 298

New:

Business Members: 24

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

Diane Pearce Harwich

Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:

**Stephen & Diane Potucek
Barbara Randall
John & Beth Wroe
MCS Alumni Association
Charles & Mary Jo Paul—Fence for Well
Janet & Lawrence Bednarczyk—Antique Show**

And in Memory of Lewis T. Steadman

**Robert E. Andrews
Ruth I. Slovenski
Jane C. Amidon**

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 ~

Telephone and Electric Service

F. W. Knapp, of the Marcellus telephone exchange, is constructing for the Onondaga Paper company, the Lawless mills at The Falls, a telephone line which is to be for the exclusive use of this company. The N. Y. C. station at Martisco has heretofore been on their line, with both the two Lawless residences and with the new plan the mills and residences will have this private line. This makes four direct wires to The Falls, the A. V. Smith phones, one to Steele's residence and also connecting with the yards at the village, a general party line and now this one for the Lawless's. Twenty or more homes over East Hill, Marcellus, are to have electric light service, a line to be constructed by the Marcellus Lighting Co. Thus Niagara power still further extends into country sections to serve as a public, convenience. A. B. Belden has been among the most persistent in urging Mr. Knapp to build this line, and patrons secured by him and others leads to the project. It will go at least as far as his residence at Town Line road and probably on to Leonard Norris. It is only a matter of time when this service will be extended further on this road, and this example will be followed until lighting wires extend over our entire section, serving all with light as they are now served with telephones.

Marcellus Observer Friday June 30, 1916

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. ~

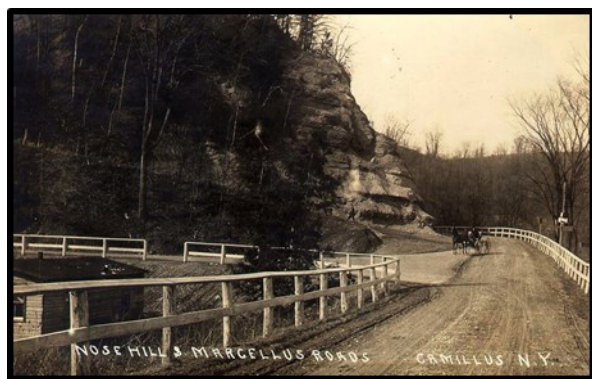
The Marcellus Observer – April 8, 1908 Old Cave Hole Destroyed

The old cave at Marcellus Falls known for decades past in the history of this locality, and which has been entered at its mouth and its wonders known by every boy with any spirit of adventure for years past, has suffered at the progress of work on the new State Road. The mouth of the old cave was a nose in the side hill directly below a house and formed a romantic appearance, and no traveler has been taken past without pointing out the hole just large enough for a body to squeeze into it, and surrounded with growth forming a weird experience for youth, and yet nothing compared it is always stated, to the marvels soon within. It is said a natural stairway is one of the natural formations and to follow the windings afforded in passage makes quite a trip to the venturesome spirits who undertake it.

With the coming of the State Road, the survey has tended to straighten the highway to do which the nose at this point had to be cut away, back some eight to ten feet, and thus shows at the bottom of the steep, bare incline now seen there a ragged hole perhaps two or three feet high and some twenty feet along the highway, the old cave exposed in part to view, which is of interest to any passerby.

So the old cave is still to be entered, by this wide gaping hole, but the romanced of squeezing through the little aperture to venture upon the sights within are forever gone.

Many a reader of our paper will recall a visit to the old cave.



The Marcellus Observer – Oct 16, 1879

A cave of apparently large size has been discovered two miles south of Camillus. A party are making arrangements to fully explore and we await further developments.

Marcellus Bulletin Board – May 2017

Marcellus Fables - True or False: I have always heard that there used to be an entrance to underground caves some where along the gorge road. I also heard that it was sealed off when someone determined it was too dangerous for people to enter. Anyone know anything about that?



The Marcellus Observer – April 9, 1959

Hank Steele . . . heard a rumor the Moore boys had found a cave in the woods between Limeledge and the pipeline (behind Christensens) so we had to go see . . . not a very big cave but apparently had been there a long time as one date readable scratched on the wall was 1871 . . .

Marcellus Bulletin Board – May 2017

Barbara O'Connor Thompson – I lived on Glover Rd as a kid. We rode our bikes down to the "dugout" (as it was called back then), which was the continuation of Lawless Road albeit a dirt road heading downhill. We have been in the caves but they were very tight and very wet.

Marcellus Community Bulletin Board – May 2017

Beth Bergin – The dugout! I didn't think anyone else called it that - we had to walk down to the bottom to catch the bus for school - There were caves under close to where the waterfall came off the Lawless property - I remember them the same as you do Barbara, small and tight

Story By John Curtin and Peg Nolan

Memories of Marcellus **By Frank Griffing**

Edmund Reed started publishing the Marcellus Observer in April 1879. His first printing office was in the old Hopper 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 in Skaneateles 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. I wish to thank everybody that sent me birthday cards and I will keep them to remember those who sent them.

Marcellus Observer Thursday February 4, 1965



Gloria Weeks and Phil Thrall presenting a check of \$3900.00 from the Marcellus Alumni Association to President Doug Nightingale. Also to the right, is Mert Raner's #10 basketball uniform given by Phil.



Above is the fence donated By Chuck & Mary Jo Paul that surrounds the hand dug well found in the back yard of the Steadman House last summer.

Recent Acquisitions

The Yorker Club research writings on village houses and pictures from the Marcellus Central School. The Marcellians and class pictures from Mary Ramsden from Keith Ramsden. Mert Raner's basketball uniform from Phil Thrall.

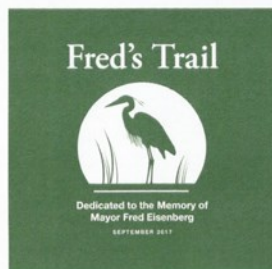
Special Thanks

Chuck and Mary Jo Paul for donating the money for the fence we put around the well in the back yard. Robert Sanborn for covering the area that the squirrels were using to get into the side porch roof. Charlie Sanborn for getting the fence and installing the fence around the well.

Community Celebration Creek-walk Dedication

When:
September 16, 2017
1pm to 3:30pm
Ceremony @ 2:30

Free ice cream
Food for sale
Live Music 🎵



Where:
McClurg Parking Lot
60 East Main Street

Park at the Library
or Marcellus park
and
walk the trail!

*Dedicated to the of Memory of Mayor Fred Eisenberg
September 2017*

To both commemorate and dedicate the completed trail, a community-wide celebration is planned for September 16, 2017 in back of the McClurg Building parking lot, from 1 pm to 3:30 pm, complete with live music, free ice cream and food for sale. We urge the community to park in the Village or at the Marcellus Library or Marcellus Park and walk the trail to the McClurg Building and join us as we dedicate the trail, about 2:30 pm, to the memory of the one who started it all, whose vision has now been realized – Mayor Fred Eisenberg.



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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

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 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 Katherine Heffeman.....\$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 (Autobiography).....\$15
 Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus.....\$20
 Ruth Anne Reagan Prints Framed.....\$28
 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 Nile Mile Country; Names and more.....\$ 5
 Package of 10 note-cards picturing Marcellus.....\$ 5
 Shipping: \$5

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Addr.: _____

City: _____

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Email: _____

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Cost Ea.</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Make Checks Payable To:
Marcellus Historical Society
PO Box 165
Marcellus N.Y. 13108

Total \$ _____
Shipping \$ _____
Dues \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

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

www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org

NEXT MEETING :
September 10, 2017

INSIDE:

- * *Frank W. Knapp*
- * *Marcellus Creek Walk*
- * *Old Cave Hole*
- * *Memories of Marcellus*
- * *Telephone And Electric Service*

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