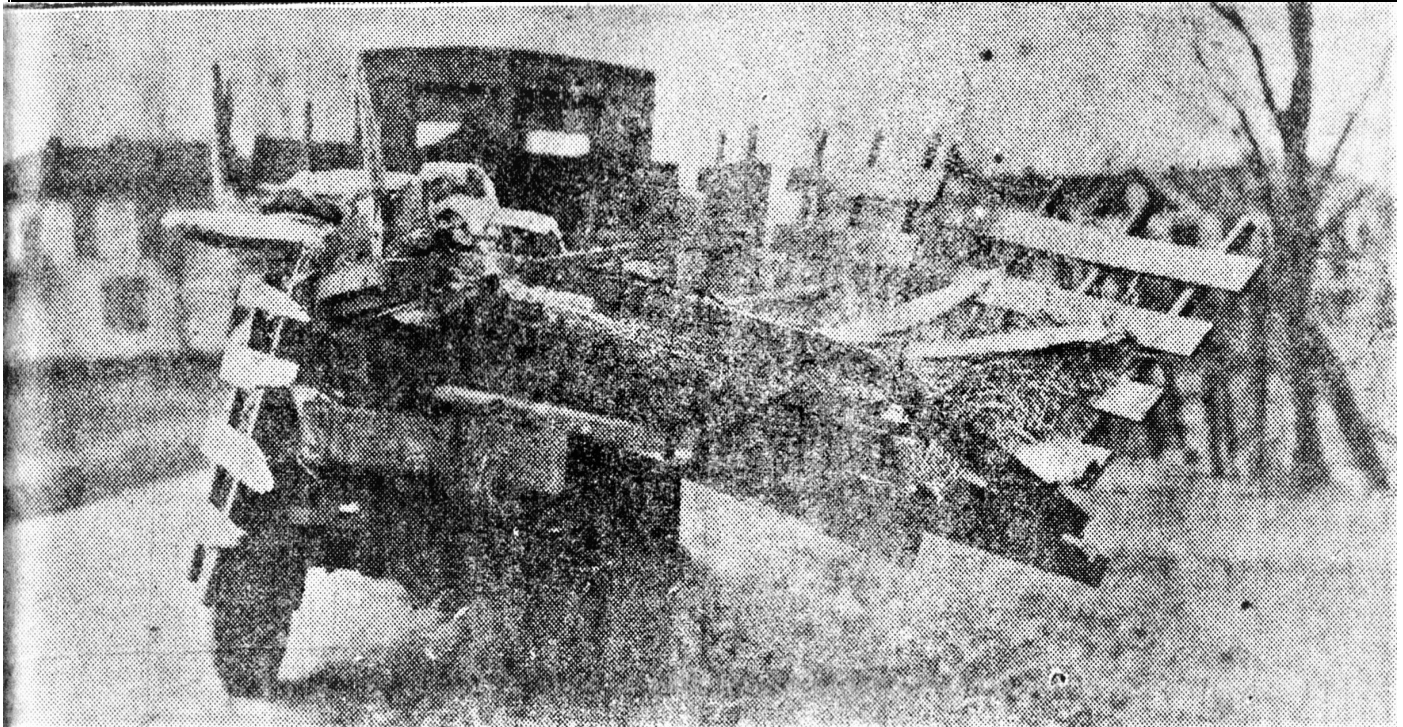




# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 26-3

Summer 2021



The truck used to carry 44 Marcellus boys and girls to Manlius for a girls basketball game after it was hit by train

## Grade Crossing Accident Appalls our Community

“Second Empire” strikes end of truck carrying 44 Marcellus youth at Kirkville Crossing. Harold Wilson killed, five in C-I Hospital, score at home injured. On way to basketball game at Manlius.

Gratitude is the single word with which The Home Paper would begin to tell the sentiment of our populace in feeble attempt to relate the awful accident of the week and of the more terrible result from which our youth were saved by the loving mercy of a gracious God. We are each one indeed grateful, and we bow our heads in solemn expression of thankfulness, humility and reverence.

A truck carrying 44 Marcellus boys and girls was hit by a flyer on the N. Y. C. at Kirkville Monday evening at 7:45. Harold Wilson was

killed, five boys lie in C-I hospital, one of them seriously, with both legs broken, one near the hip and at the knee; another boy’s knee cap injured and a score are at home cut and bruised and still in bed.

News first reached Marcellus Kenneth Spaulding to his brother C. T. Spaulding. Fannie Wilson next phoned her family that Harold was killed. Other word filtered on that one was killed and several hurt, and of the narrow escape of all. The Home Paper asked The Post Standard to favor with news as quickly as learned, and inform anxious throngs the names of six and the injuries of each.

The half dozen seriously injured were taken in ambulances, others came to Syracuse terminal at o’clock by Oneida line trolley and by trolley home. Some were brought by auto drivers who hurried to inquire or assist.

Joseph LaRose is worst hurt, his left leg broken near the hip, the right twice broken below the knee.

Continued  
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## **EVENTS SCHEDULE**

*The tentative schedule of events is as follows:  
Meetings*

**No meetings for the fall of 2021.**

*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 2021**

President: Doug Nightingale .....315-673-2539  
E-mail: [djn0409@windstream.net](mailto:djn0409@windstream.net)

Vice President: Chuck Paul .....315-673-4432  
E-mail: [cpaul@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cpaul@twcny.rr.com)

Treasurer: Patricia Sanborn .....315-488-3610  
E-mail: [pasanborn@twcny.rr.com](mailto:pasanborn@twcny.rr.com)

Secretary: Karen Pollard.....315-673-1309  
E-mail: [karenpollard13@yahoo.com](mailto:karenpollard13@yahoo.com)

### **Trustees and Term End**

2023 Charlie Sanborn.....315-488-3610

2023 Harvey Eysman.....315-673-3933  
E-mail: [heysman@windstream.net](mailto:heysman@windstream.net)

2021 Carol Armstrong.....315-673-3443  
E-mail: [carolart23@aol.com](mailto:carolart23@aol.com)

2021 Jean Nightingale.....315-673-2539  
E-mail: [djn0409@windstream.net](mailto:djn0409@windstream.net)

2022 John Curtin.....315-673-3660  
E-mail: [jcurtin2@windstream.net](mailto:jcurtin2@windstream.net)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:histsoc@windstream.net). We do not publish or sell  
member information. ~

## **From The President**

We have had a consent flow of visitors since we  
opened the Steadman House on July 2. We will  
keep the house opened until we feel it is not safe to  
do so. We have been putting the artifacts that we  
have received this past 18 months into our inventory.  
Please keep the pictures and small artifacts coming.  
It is amazing that artifacts still exist from over hun-  
dred years ago.

Stay safe and healthy.

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: 219**

**New:**

**Business Members: 21**

### **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.

**\$10. a year is a small price to pay  
to help preserve our history!**

## **In Remembrance**

Mary Widger June 30, 2021

### Covid-19

**The Steadman House opened July 2, 2021. All visitors have had their shots.**

**I consulted with our Trustees and the majority agree we should not have meetings this fall.**

**Our hope that we can have meetings in the spring 2022.**

**Enjoy your fall with your family and friends.**

Doug Nightingale

### Attention !!!

**\$10/ Person per year—\$15/Couple per year  
\$15/Family per year (includes children under 18)  
Sustaining membership = 5 years ( dues x 5 )**

The Board of Trustees have agreed that dues need to rise. At the November meeting, those attending voted to raise dues. The changes will go into effect as of January 1, 2020. The changes are above.

For those who have paid for multiple years your dues will not be raised until you have to renew at the end of the years you have paid.

We will notify those of you that receive the newsletter by email when your dues are due by email.

If you have any questions our phone numbers and emails are located on page 2 of the newsletter.

Doug Nightingale

President

### 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](mailto:djn0409@windstream.net) ~

**Ask a friend to join our Society to help preserve the Steadman House and Marcellus History.**

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

### AVAILABLE AT THE STEADMAN HOUSE

Have you visited the Steadman House recently?

Our indexed collection (at last count) consists of:

**3,475** Artifacts

**887** Clothing articles

**814** Books

**13** Clocks

**7,010** Photographs

**68** Scrapbooks with **55,427** referenced items

Family files and genealogies

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



### New Housing Development



New road between Hall Ave and Platt Road off of South street to Baltimore Ridge.



Clearing of the land for Baltimore Ridge housing in the Village of Marcellus.

### Recent Acquisitions

**Paul Wilkes** post cards from early 1900's of the bridges of the Marcellus Falls and a post card of Marcellus High School on west hill.

### Future Home of the Marcellus Town Hall



### Grade Crossing Accident

James O'Shea has the knee cap broken on his left leg, Eddie LaRose has two bones of his left hand broken, back and internally hurt, Edward Masters badly bruised, James Bessey head injuries, he was unconscious an hour. The last three are in a ward together, the first two in a adjoining room.

Of those at home several are in bed, Tommy Coyne the worst hurt, and Charles Black not clear mentally as yet.

The trip was made to enjoy a tie game of basketball between girls' teams at Manlius. Marcellus won 8 to 6 unaware of the accident. Players and other rooters filled a dozen or more autos besides the truck load, and as they did not arrive, the game had proceeded. It was going on Principal Helfer was telephoned of the accident but he refrained from informing the players. A big trick of the County Milk Producers had been hired because it had pneumatic tires for better comfort. The driver is said to have remarked that he drove slowly over bad places not to shake up his load. He seemed cautious. He saw the gates were up, red lights on them, freight cars obscured his vision of the oncoming train. But he seemed to have used as much discretion as anyone might. The gates being up was all the assurances anyone might require to proceed unless one should go out on the tracks and look as we all ought to do but do not.

Early question arose as to why the load were at Kirkville Crossing, it developed that a detour was made that way. The direct route is by Minoa, Fayetteville, but the bridge is down at Manlius Center. Other autos went by Valley, Jamesville and the Pen Hill and Principal Helfer talked with the truck driver of this route. The latter knew of the hills and sensibly chose the flat route by

### Our Thanks for Cash Donations

Keith Ramsden

Marshall Fike

Mary M. Salibrici

Kirkville. He had a young man friend on the seat with him.

Harold Wilson the only child killed, could never have known what happened. The smile of joy that was on his face before the train thundered down upon him is still there, tempered now with the look of perfect peace that comes only to those whose souls rest with their Maker. Wednesday he lay in the white casket surrounded by beautiful tributes from grieving friends and relatives.

Rival schools who had contended against Marcellus in basketball sent their sympathy in the form of fragrant blossoms. So let him sleep covered with the blossoms as pure as his own little life. The little sacrifice to possible to possible negligence may be the means of saving many lives in the future.

Private funeral services were held at 2 o'clock Thursday in the Wilson home on North street, with a public funeral an hour later in St. John's church. Six chums, Boy Scouts, served as bearers, Austin Woodford, Vernon Hyatt and Joseph Thornton, who were passengers on the truck, and Leon and Burton Gustin and Richard Cook. The rest of the troop formed an escort of honor from the house to the church and later to Highland cemetery. Services were conducted by Rev. Walter E. Cook, pastor of St. John's church.

Among those on the truck who escaped serious injury were: Bertha Smith, Adelaide Smith, Betty Helfer, Sadie and Mable Wright, Ethel and Dorothy Hicks, Margaret Anderson, Gertrude Olney, Margaret Malcolm, Alice Waite, Lila Armstrong, Fannie Wilson, Alice Thornton, Marian Masters, Miss O'Reilly; Seymour Parsons, Rollo Wicks, Joseph Thornton, William Rhodes, Vernon Hyatt, Austin Woodford, Paul Clark, Francis Kelley, Venor McLaren, Henry Phillips, Kenneth Spaulding, Harold Powell, John Dunlop, Charles Black, Edward Seeley, Paul McAvoy, Clarence Newell, Arthur Wilson.

Train No. 41 due at the crossing at 7:45 was on minute late that night. With nothing but the glare of its headlight straight ahead and its roar to warn of its approach, it is said to have dashed over the crossing at an estimated speed of between 65 to 70 miles an hour as it struck the truck load of merrymakers.

The Marcellus Observer Wednesday, March 23, 1921

## Memories of Marcellus

This week I will tell you what I know about the building where the Marcellus Supply Co. is. (Current location of Rusty's Diner.) The building was built about 1879 after the other one was destroyed by fire when St. John's Church burned where Post Office is now. (Currently Crow Hill Hardwoods.) The building was a two and a half story, the first was half underground and half above. The building had a porch on the front with stairs each side going down to the basement. The steps in the center led up to the top story. People lived at various times in the basement and sometimes different ones had a store in the basement. I know Bernie Randall had a harness shop down there and Nelson Gaunt had a fish market there at one time.

A man by the name of Buell had a shop I remember he filed saws there. I remember Cook Abbott lived there. He went around whitewashing ceilings. Ed Taylor had a laundry upstairs. I believe Mrs. Taylor had the Telephone Exchange.

The third floor was used for lodge rooms. The Iron Hall was up there, also the Good Templars had their meetings and some others that I don't remember. The Odd Fellows bought the building from Dr. John Parsons in 1917. They paid him \$3,000 for the property. They had Charles Stevens of Skaneateles tear off the front porch and move the building about seven feet and raise it up seven feet and put the cement blocks under it making it a three story building. Will Wright had charge of the carpenter work, William Williams did the plastering, Thomas Sullivan did the wiring, Watson Matteson putting in the plumbing and steam heating.

The building was built a man by the name of Fulmer. As I remember the cost of remodeling the building was about \$14,000.

Griffing and Curtis moved in the North Store in 1918 and Thomas Shay and Patrick Waters opened a meat market in the South Store. Will Rumsey had a market, Peter Carroll had a market, and Glen Jordan had a market. In 1923 Griffing and Curtis rented the South Store and cut an arch joining the two stores into one. In 1932 Griffing bought Curtis out and operated a hard-

ware until 1949 when he sold out to Marcellus Supply Co.. In 1953 Roy Webb bought the building from the Odd Fellows. He then opened the arch and had both stores in one.

## 75 Years Ago

### Fierce Wind Topples Trees; Causes Fire

Storms, accompanied by a terrific wind in various sections of the township, wreaked havoc here Monday. East of Marcellus the wind followed a narrow path across the fields, spreading lumber that had been piled on a building lot on the farm Springstead farm, and "bringing down large limbs of trees in front of the Averill Clark farm and the James Sawtell home. The falling limbs hit the power line on East Hill, cutting off lights. Linemen worked all night repairing the damage.

At the Nightingale Mill a large elm was blown over, breaking a power line and causing the wires to fall against the steel roof of a warehouse, setting fire to the wooden rafters underneath. It was not until James Stewart of the lighting company cut the wire that the firemen could extinguish the blaze. The damage to the building was negligible, Nightingale officials say. In the excitement surrounding the Nightingale fire, someone mistakenly called the fire department a second time. Firemen drove as far as the Cornwell place before the mistake was discovered.

The Marcellus Observer Friday, July 5, 1946

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**Become a Business Member of the Historical Society for \$25 a year and have your business listed in our quarterly newsletter.**

## ~ GIFT SHOP & MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM~

### Join Our Society Today !

\$10/ Person per year—\$15/Couple per year  
 \$15/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  
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 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.....\$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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**Make Checks Payable To:**  
**Marcellus Historical Society**  
**PO Box 165**  
**Marcellus N.Y. 13108**

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Dues \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Marcellus Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 165, 18 North St.**  
**Marcellus, NY 13108-0165**

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

**[www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org](http://www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org)**

### **NEXT MEETING :**

**No Meetings for the fall of 2021.**

### **INSIDE:**

**\*Train Accident**

**\*New Housing in Village**

**\*Memories of Marcellus**

**\*Marcellus Town Hall**

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