



# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 27-2-3

Spring-Summer

## Baker's Dam

Early settlers in Marcellus became very interested in milling operations along Nine Mile Creek because of the waterpower it generated. The first was a sawmill built in 1796, and then a gristmill in 1827. The old stone gristmill as it came to be known " . . . was built by Edward Talbot and Joseph Taylor in 1827-28, and at that time was one of the finest structures in the place. They were succeeded by Edward Talbot, father-in-law of Newton G. Case, who sold it to Beach Brothers, of Rochester, but soon took it back. Several proprietors followed, one being N. R. Shepard. It burned in May 1889. On the east side of the stream, below the bridge, Daniel Hutchinson had a distillery at an early day, and on the same side John R. Kellogg later built a larger one. On the west side was another distillery, and also a brewery operated by William Meachan, and here Isaac Benham was the principal manager for many years." For a few years, in the 1880s, Charles Hooper conducted a furniture factory on the west side of the creek, in the building now owned Scott McClurg. There was probably a natural waterfall in this area, which helped to power all of these mills.



*A Glimpse of the Pond, Marcellus, N. Y.*

Eventually, a dam was built on the creek that destroyed any natural waterfall that may have been there and very quickly a large lily pond grew to the south of the dam, extending all the way back to where the Braeside Apartments are located today. The dam came to be owned by Robert M. Baker (1847-1925) who had a saw and feed mill on the east side of the stream, beginning in 1883, lasting until 1915. It came to be known, as Baker's Dam, and Baker himself appeared to be a very creative person, as this article from *The Marcellus Observer* attests:

Continued page 4

**EVENTS SCHEDULE**

*The tentative schedule of events is as follows:*

*Meetings*

**Sept. 11, 2022**

**Doug Nightingale- Early Nightingale Family**

**Oct. 9, 2022**

**TBA**

**Nov. 13, 2022**

**TBA**

*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 2022**

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)

2022 John Curtin.....315-673-3660

E-mail: [jcurtin2@windstream.net](mailto:jcurtin2@windstream.net)

Correspondence Secretary:

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**

The Steadman House has been busy. Olde Home days we had excellent turn out both Saturday and Sunday. We finally had a return of children when the third grade classes came from the Heffernan elementary building. The children were very interested in the history of Marcellus.

We just gained a few new members who seem to be interested in promoting and recruiting new members. A new face book has been created and you will see announcements and pictures from the Steadman House.

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: 140**

**New:**

**Business Members: 15**

**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**

**James C. Milne-June 13, 2022**

**Jean Nightingale July 12, 2022**

**Cash Donations in Remembrance of**

**Jean Nightingale**

**Martin & Brenda Collard**

**Charles & Mary Jo Paul**

**Robert & Maureen Young**

**Leland & Muriel Springstead**

**Hollis & Nancy Abbott**

**J. Michael & Mary Ellen Kelly**

**Charles & Patricia Sanborn**

**Judith George**

**Eddie & Linda Pelchy**

**Judy Grier**

**Gary & Roxanne Pikarsky**

**Nightingale Mills, Inc.**

**Robena Frost**

**Gary & Linda Wilcox**

**Frederick & Mary Alfreds**

**Town of Marcellus Employees,  
Office of Town Clerk**

**Carol Armstrong**

**Our Thanks**

To Melissa Sanborn, Nicole Sanborn, Pat Sanborn, Charlie Sanborn and Doug Nightingale helping with tours during Olde Home Days.

To Pat & Charlie Sanborn, Chuck Paul, Carol Armstrong and Doug Nightingale during the time the 3rd graders from Kathryn Heffernan Elementary School when they visited in June. It was a pleasure to have children back at the Steadman House. The children had way to many questions for us to answer in the time they had to visit.



**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. ~

## Baker's Dam

The Marcellus Observer

March 6, 1890

Will Wonders Never Cease?

At the regular monthly meeting of the Fire Department on Monday evening there was shown

By the turn of century, Baker and Frank Knapp, another enterprising person in the Village, teamed up and by utilizing the power of Baker's Dam, provided a new source of power to light several homes and businesses in the Village. It was also used to power the first telephone line that ran from the Village to Marcellus Falls, serving 16 customers, another Knapp business called the Marcellus Telephone Company.

The Marcellus Observer

October 18, 1907

"Came Out of Darkness"

Marcellus wakened from the dead Tuesday night, October the fifteenth, nineteen hundred seven, and took unto itself electric lights. They were discovered several years ago, but we just heard of them and thanks to the faithful and civic pride, together with a hope of revenue justly due, of Frank W. Knapp, who has the plant we shall hereafter be able to find our way from the trolley to our homes without the aid of a dark lantern or Jim Powell's matches. The dynamo is installed in the Robert M. Baker mill, with his waterpower, and while the night Tuesday was moonlight, there is every indication that the location and power of the new arc lights will be highly satisfactory.



By 1915, Robert Baker decided to sell his mill and dam, and by 1917, the dam and the old flume were no longer practical and the area fell into neglect.

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### Baker's Dam



The Marcellus Observer – January 1915  
 Robert M. Baker has operated his sawmill and power on Nine Mile Creek in Marcellus since 1883. He has now sold the property to his nephews Robert and Dwight Stone.

In January 1955, with ice covering the old pond, two young boys were playing outside down near the creek, about 150 feet above the old Baker Dam. One of them fell in and it took some time before firemen found the body down near the bridge. He was just five years old. According to Peg Nolan, Lester Norris told her that Wally Pepperman, who owned much of the property now occupied by the Braeside Apartments, blew up the dam soon after-probably in the spring.



Continued page 6

JANUARY 14, 1955 Published Weekly—10

**Ice Affects Habits**

East Hill residents Onondaga Hill second-grade Coach Corp. last Friday to learn the service on that announcement by the bus leaving Marcellus will be discontinued the 9:00 p.m. and leaving Syracuse.

East Hill Line the morning will Marcellus and the 11 be the 8:10 leaving which run is being main line through morning trip on the leaves Marcellus at he last in the evening at 12:10.

**son and sted by Stone**

Marcellus and vicinity Monday with the Sheriff's Department Albert E. Stone The resignation of local Deputies, Arf Hewlett Hill and Navarino an incident at a which appears to possibly or inadequately Syracuse news-dis-

**OFFICIALS TO M WATER AUTI**

**Creek Claims Thompson Boy**

Dean Thompson, 5, son of Jess and Barbara Byron Thompson of 26 E. Main St., met death Tuesday evening as he fell through the ice of Nine Mile Creek about 150 yards above the old Baker dam.

He had been playing in the area with 3 year old Varnum Kenyon, a neighbor, who ran to tell the parents of the happening.

Officer Frank Fugh and Marcellus Fire Department were called, as were Amber, Conitius and Sisanatic Departments.

A diver was sent from Baldwinsville Wednesday and the boy was found just before noon on Wednesday, in the race-way below the dam.

Besides the police and fire department personnel, many area citizens aided in the search. Coffee was served until 2:00 a.m. Tuesday by the Eastern Star and helpful neighbors.

Friends may call at the Nevris Funeral Home Thursday night 7 to 9 p.m.; Friday 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

Services Saturday at 9:00 at the Funeral Home, 9:30 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church.

Burial will be in St. Francis Cemetery.

### Baker's Dam

Today the dam is now in ruins, with only a few rocks remaining from the western wall, the dam having been destroyed following that tragic drowning in 1955.

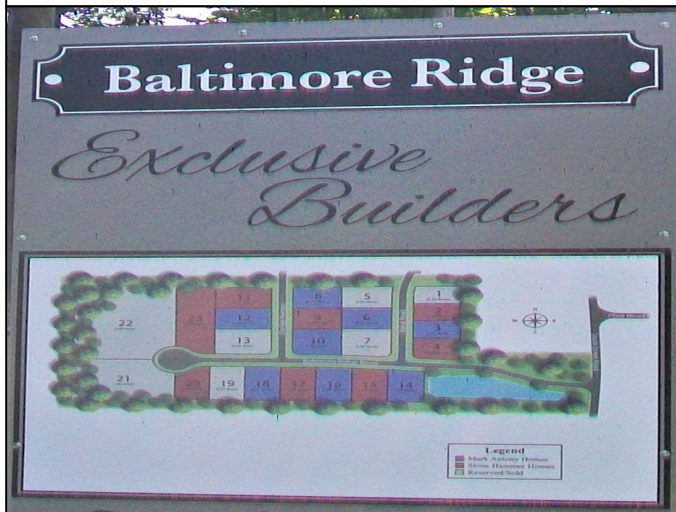


From 1955 to the present, the creek began to reclaim the land, and the area became a wilderness of trees, swampy, overgrown and neglected – virtually inaccessible – until now!

With the completion of the Village creek walk project in the summer of 2017, plans are in place to remove the wilderness of trees and vegetation and expose the old ruins, perhaps with an historic overlook noted at the site.

Baker's Dam is certainly a significant part of Marcellus' history and the completion of the creek walk will help us to remember that past.

Submitted by John Curtin



### Our Thanks for Cash Donations

**James & Lisa Mather**

**Marietta House**

**Beverly Mulvaney**

**In Memory of Leda Stopyro**

**Kathy Whitehead**

**In Memory of John & Elsa Church**

**Arthur Scotti**

**Business Member Directory**  
**Please Patronize These Businesses**

**AUTOMOTIVE**

**FARRELL'S AUTO SERVICE, INC.**  
 #7106043 - Dave Farrell, Owner  
 State Inspections, General Auto Repairs, Oil Changes, Brakes  
 3021 W. Seneca Tpke., Marcellus, 13108.....315-673-7333

**CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**

**BELLOWS CONSTRUCTION SPECIALTIES, LLC**  
 Email:Karen@BellowsConst.com  
 213 West Adams St., Syracuse 13202 (FAX-315-476-6552)....315-476-4719

**VAN DERHOOF ROOFING CO., INC.**  
 Roofing, Siding, Gutters, Windows, Trim and now SOLAR  
 Over 75 years in business "Since 1939" www.vanderhoofroofing.com  
 145 Ainsley Dr., Syracuse 13210.....315-475-9541

**DENTAL SERVICES**

**Marcellus Smiles Family Dentistry**  
 Jennifer Merry, DMD  
 Taryn Jirousek, DMD  
 www.marcellusmiles.com  
 info@MarcellusSmiles.com  
 19 South St., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-1013

**FUNERAL SERVICES**

**BURANICH FUNERAL HOME, INC.**  
 Visit us at our website: www.buranichfuneralhome.com.  
 5431 W. Genesee St., Camillus 13031.....315-487-2412

**PLIS FUNERAL HOME INC.**  
 James M. Plis Jr.  
 Pre-Need, SSI and Medicaid Planning. www.plisfuneralhome.com  
 33 North St., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2017

**RYAN FUNERAL HOME**  
 Mary Ryan Carlton Helping Families since 1955.  
 Serving all faiths ~ Pre-Arrangements ~ Locally owned.  
 44 East Main St., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2345

**HARDWARE**

**CALLEY'S HARDWARE**  
 From hand and power tools to paint, rakes and shovels -  
 Your hometown hardware store has it. www.calleyshardware.com  
 15 North St., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2121

**NIGHTINGALE TRUE VALUE**  
 www.truevalue.com/nightingale  
 4068 South Street Rd., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2001

**Heavy Equipment Sales & Repairs**

**S & S TRACTOR PARTS, INC.**  
 Heavy Equipment Sales & Repair (FAX 673-4967)  
 New & Used Undercarriage Parts and Crawler Machine Parts.  
 2500 Station Lane Marcellus 13108.....315-673-1075

**INSURANCE & INVESTMENT SERVICES**

**REAGAN COMPANIES**  
 Risk Management and Investment Services  
 www.ReaganCompanies.com (FAX 673-1121)  
 8 East Main St., PO Box 191, Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2094

**LEGAL SERVICES**

**REAGAN & DAILEY, ATTORNEYS AT LAW**  
 Bernard L. Reagan & Mary Reagan Dailey (FAX 673-3438)  
 marydailey@reagananddailey.com  
 18 East Main St., PO Box 196, Marcellus 13108.....315-673-4864

**PHARMACY**

**MAIN STREET PHARMACY OF MARCELLUS INC.**  
 James D. Cataldi, RPh, Owner/Pharmacist  
 Enjoying our 18th year serving Marcellus and surrounding communities.  
 Thank you for shopping local! Open M-F 8:30am-6:00pm, Sat 8:30am-12:30pm  
 11 East Main St., Marcellus 13108 (FAX315 -673-4668)...315-673-2410

**PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**REBOUND SPORTS & ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICL THERAPY, PC**  
 E-mail: go2reboundpt@gmail.com  
 Hours: Mon, Wed 7 am -7 pm, Tue, Thu 8 am - 8 pm, Fri 7 am - 6 pm  
 37 South St., Marcellus 13108 (FAX 673-2008).....315-673-1007

**RESTAURANTS/TAVERNS**

**THE MARIETTA HOUSE**  
 We are History! Same name business and site since 1830. Weddings -  
 Banquets - Friday, Saturday Dining 5 pm. www.MariettaHouse.com  
 2819 Marietta Rd. (Route 174), Marietta 13110.....315-636-8299

**Stables**

**Century Stables & Farm**  
 4753 Limeledge Road  
 Marcellus 13108.....315-439-7287  
 jmather@twcny.rr.com

**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
- 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 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 (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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Addr.: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Cost Ea.</u>	<u>Total</u>
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**Make Checks Payable To:** Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Marcellus Historical Society** Shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**PO Box 165** Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Marcellus N.Y. 13108** Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**\*\*\*\*\*NEW Website Address:\*\*\*\*\***  
**[www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org](http://www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org)**

**INSIDE:**  
**\*Bake’s Dam**  
**\*Baltimore Ridge**  
**\*Marcellus Town Hall**

**NEXT MEETING :**

**Sept. 11, 2022 2PM**

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