



Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 27-4

Fall 2022

Dr. Lake Tefft

Dr. Lake Tefft, died at the residence of his son in law, Hon. George N. Kennedy, Monday afternoon at four o'clock. Dr. Tefft was one of the pioneers in the settlement of Central New York. He was born at Greenwich, in the county of Washington New York, on the sixteenth of March, 1797, and married Miss Hetty Carrington in 1823. She now survives him. After receiving his diploma as a physician he started for the west in search of a future home and place of professional usefulness. The County of Onondaga attracted his attention. After an exploration of the county, which was made on horseback, that then being the only available means of travel, he finally concluded to locate at Marcellus, at the time one of the most populous and promising villages in the county, and in 1823 he commenced the practice of his profession there. Syracuse was then a simple hamlet, in a marsh, presenting no attraction to an enterprising young man, either as a place for residence or business. Doctor Tefft continued in active pursuit of his profession up to 1850, when he retired from its arduous duties, to indulge on agriculture pursuits.

His last active participation in his duties was a delegate from New York to the International Medical Convention, held at Philadelphia during the centennial. He was in attendance upon that convention its entire sitting. Shortly after his return, his health, which up to that time had been strong and robust, began to fail and from

thence gradually declined, terminating in his death.

About the year of 1863 he removed from Marcellus to Syracuse making his home with Mrs. George N. Kennedy, his daughter and only child, where he continued to reside and where his death occurred.

In the demise of Dr, Tefft and another strand in the thread which connects us with those identified with the early settlement and developments of this county is severed. Among his professional associates and competitors were Doctors Healey, Taylor, Stearns, Porter, Beach and many others who shed luster upon the medical profession of other days by their learning skill, but among them all none were the peer of him whose death we chronicle. Today he follows, if not the last to lay down the burdens of this, and to enter into the joys and happiness promised in that other world.-Syracuse Courier

Marcellus Observer Thursday, May 13, 1880

Dr. Tefft was politically active during his life time. He was first in the Whig Party, then in The Democratic-Republican party, then in the Republican party. He was elected to one term to the state legislature in the late 1840's.

Dr. Tefft and his wife, son in law and daughter are all buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Meetings
April 16, 2023

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 Nightingale315-673-2539
 E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net
- Vice President: Chuck Paul315-673-4432
 E-mail: cpaul@twcny.rr.com
- Treasurer: Patricia Sanborn315-488-3610
 E-mail: pasanborn@twcny.rr.com
- Secretary: Karen Pollard.....315-673-1309
 E-mail: karenpollard13@yahoo.com

Trustees and Term End

- 2023 Charlie Sanborn.....315-488-3610
- 2023 Harvey Eysman.....315-673-3933
 E-mail: heysman@windstream.net
- 2024 Carol Armstrong.....315-673-3443
 E-mail: carolart23@aol.com
- 2024 Maria Catanzaro.....315-447-0645
- 2025 John Curtin.....315-673-3660
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- 2025 Linda Wilcox

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

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

Another successful year. We have gained some new members that have brought new ideas and energy to the society. We are looking forward to the new year. We have collected many new artifacts to our collection. It still amazes me that there are still artifacts that go back well over one hundred years. Our meetings will continue in the spring if all goes well. Have a happy holiday's.

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: 177

New: 3

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

Current Acquisition

Dwight Widger paper artifacts from the Eastern Society, advertising spoon from Betty Long’s Gift Shop, survey maps for the new fire house, receipts from Marcellus National Bank, business cards, survey map of the upper woolen mill and a 1979 historic building review. **Mary Ryan** school books from one of the one room school houses, arrow quiver, 1942 auction booklet of the Reagan farm on Bishop hill. **Robin Jackson** antique doll. **Mert Raner** his MCS baseball cap and jacket. **Judy Gilchrist** real teasels and wild teasels. **Kate Callahan** 1940’s MCS cheer leader megaphone, Cornwell family

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~

New Sign



Thanks to Bill Branson for donating the money to replace our sign. The old sign was falling apart due to rotten posts. Arrow Sign Company of Baldwinsville made and installed the sign. The sign enhances the Steadman House grounds.

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
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. ~

25 Years Ago

Lee honored as Priest Emeritus

St. John's Episcopal Church Marcellus held a special service last month to honor Rev. M. Dennis Lee as Priest Emeritus. The Rev. Fr. Lee served as Rector of St. John's from July 1951 to the end of August 1977.

Upon his retirement in 1977 Father Lee became Interim Priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York, serving in many towns and villages of the diocese.

While serving as Priest in the diocese, Father Lee was active in many commissions of the county and state. He served as president of the New York State Association of Mental Health Board, was chairman of the Onondaga County Commission on Aging, was vice president of the Brick House Board on Alcoholism, and in 1955, Father Lee was chosen as deputy to the Episcopal Church General Convention held in Hawaii.

Upon his retirement, St. John's gave Rev. and Mrs. Lee (Winona), his wife of 54 years, a trip to England where they visited cathedrals of England. The youth of the church also gave the Lees a check of over \$300 at that time. This was money they raised by having a Father's Day Pancake Breakfast.

The recent service honoring Father Lee was attended by many "old timers" who came back for the service to honor this very special man and his wife.

The Rev. David B. Joslin, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Central New York was also in attendance for this special occasion. Bishop Joslin also celebrated the sacrament of confirmation at this time and to give thanks to Father Lee for his service to the diocese.

The service was followed by a delicious ham dinner, prepared by the women of St. John's for all in attendance. Some of the parishioners spoke of their special memories of the Lees. Father and Mrs. Lee were presented with a special framed drawing of St. John's and were given a picture album of his time served there and a video of the special service.

Press-Observer November 5, 1997

75+ Years Ago

Keglers Ready To Roll First Games Monday

Pins will be dropped for the first game of 1946 season of the Marcellus bowling league at 7 PM Monday at St. John's alleys. Because of devotions being observed in St. Francis church there will be no games bowled on the St. Francis alleys Monday, but the league will utilize both alleys starting on Tuesday.

In past years it has been the custom of the league to use the handicaps established by the bowlers during the previous season for the first 15 games of the new season. This will be impossible this year, because of the war, so new handicaps will have to be established for each bowler. The handicap for the first game will be determined by taking three-fourths of the difference between the bowlers score and a score of 200. His handicap for the second game will be three-fourths between the average for the two games and 200 and a like procedure follows for the third game. The handicap resulting after three games have been bowled will not change until the following week. Thereafter the handicaps will be computed weekly by the league secretary, Mahlon Horsington, and posted in each alley.

Bowling, including charges for the league prize fund, will cost 40 cents a game. Because of the high operating expenses involved in opening the alleys this year, the alleys need to be guaranteed a full roster for each match. If a team bowls with less than five men, they will be required to pay 90 cents for each man they are short. Two-thirds of this amount goes to the alleys and one-third to the league prize fund. It will be left to the members of the individual teams to decide how this money is to be raised. At their discretion it can be made the responsibility of the man who doesn't show up, or a fund within the team can be established to cover the charges. There are expected to be but few occasions when teams are unable to produce five men for a match.

Marcellus Observer Friday, November 8, 1946

This was the first time the men starting bowling again since the end of WWII.

Memories of Marcellus

This week I will tell you what I know about the building where the Marcellus Supply Co. is. **Currently the Boises Café.** The building was built about 1879 after the other one was destroyed by fire when St. John's Church burned where the Post Office is now. **Currently where Grow hill flooring is today.** The building was a two and 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 white washing 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 others. The Odd Fellows bought the building from Dr. 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 seven feet and raise it up about seven feet and put the cement blocks under it, making it a three story building. Will Wright had charge of the carpentry work, William Williams did the plastering, Watson Mattson put in the plumbing and steam heating.

As I remember the cost of remodeling the building was about \$14,000. Carpenters and masons were paid 75 cents per hour. It would cost three times that today.

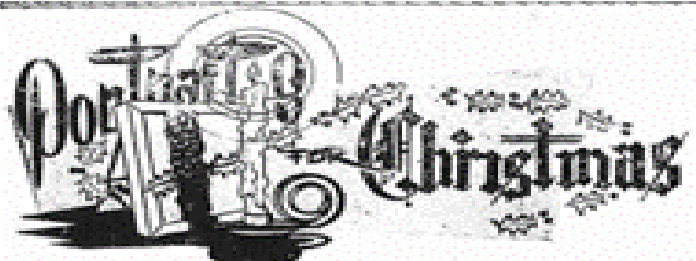
Griffing and Curtis moved in the North Store in 1918 and Thomas Shay and Patrick Waters opened a meat market in the South Store. Will Ramsey had a market, Peter Carroll had a market, and Glen Jordan had a market. In 1923 Griffing and Curtis rented the South Store and cut an arch joining the two stores into one. In 1932 Griffing bought Curtis out and he operated the hardware until 1949 when he sold out to Marcellus Supply Co.. In 1953 Roy Webb bought the building from the Odd Fellows.

Frank Griffin

Marcellus Observer April 13, 1956



75 Years Ago



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Marcellus Observer Friday, December 12, 1947

Baltimore Ridge



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 19 South St., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-1013

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

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 quarterly newsletter.**

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 \$15/Family per year (includes children under 18)
 Sustaining membership = 5 years (dues x 5)
 Number joining? ____ New Members? ____

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 Pucker Street by John Curtin.....\$26
 The Town He Loved So Well by James Quinn.....\$20
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 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
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 Ruth Reed Cummings Prints.....\$8
 Jan Debevic Prints.....\$10- \$13
 Official Marcellus Afghans: blue.....\$45
 Marcellus, When Wool was King, Pictorial.....\$ 5
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 Index to Nile Mile Country; Names and more.....\$ 5
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Make Checks Payable To: Total \$ _____
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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

NEXT MEETING :

April 16, 2023 2PM

INSIDE:
***Dr. Lake I. Tefft**
***Baltimore Ridge**
***25 Years Ago**
***75 Years Ago**

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