

The Steadman House

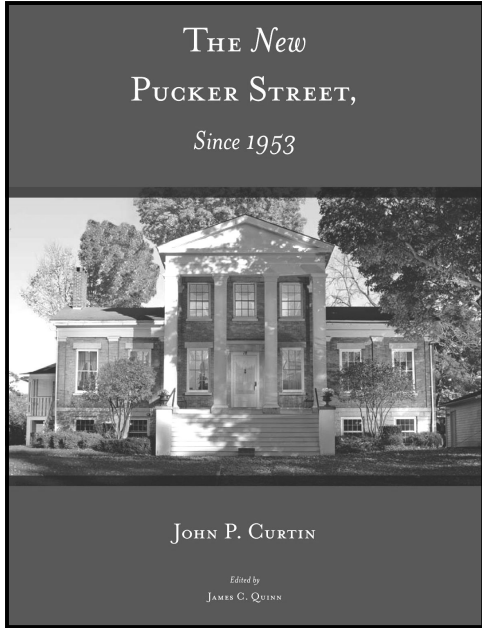
Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 13, Issue 2

Spring 2008

The New Pucker Street, Since 1953

by John P. Curtin, edited by James C. Quinn



About the Book

A companion book to *Pucker Street, the First 100 Years*, this second volume continues to document the civic activity of the community of Marcellus from 1953 to the present. On the cover is The Steadman House – an enduring symbol of the community’s history, but also announcing its presence in the 21st century. Its steps and pillars are inviting and seem to announce that Marcellus, while retaining its authenticity, is ever adapting to change, responsible change that is reflected in the lives and accomplishments of its citizens, young and senior.

The New Pucker Street documents many of the changes that have taken place in Marcellus since the celebration of the Village Centennial in 1953. In the last fifty years, the traditional picture of Marcellus as an agricultural and milling community changed. Many old homes and buildings in the Village have fallen to the wrecker’s ball, while other landmarks have been remodeled to a former glory. As more families moved to the suburbs after the war, there would be an increase in the population dramatically changing the make-up of the native people – reflected particularly in the school population. In the

next fifty years, the role of government would change, as more services would be provided, and an aging infrastructure required attention by elected representatives.

The next fifty years would see the emergence of the “greatest generation.” When the young men returned to Marcellus after the war, they were joined by equally involved women of that generation, and in the words of President George H. W. Bush, “did the work of democracy day by day, every day in their hometown”, helping to build bridges to the 21st century – ones that their own children, grandchildren and great grandchildren would follow.

The New Pucker Street also details some of the issues facing an American village in modern times, and it contains an epilogue, highlighting some lessons that might be learned from the past – ones that might serve as guidelines for what lies ahead.

The New Pucker Street portrays Marcellus like many small towns across America – as home – a place where many people stay, and to which many people return. They return because it is home, and they always feel welcome.

Details

374 pages, a quality trade paperback (soft cover) with black and white photographs, the book may be purchased from the Marcellus Historical Society, local merchants, at the Marcellus Village Hall and at the Marcellus Free Library for \$28.00, beginning in May. The book may also be purchased at local bookstores and on line at <http://www.trafford.com/07-3039>. During Olde Home Days, John Curtin will be at the Marcellus Historical Society Open House at the Steadman House on June 7, 2008 to sign the book. After meeting publication costs, John has allocated proceeds from the sale of his book to the Marcellus Historical Society. ~

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, May 18, 2008 **2 p.m.**

John Curtin

“The New Pucker Street, Since 1953”

Saturday, June 7, 2008 **9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Open House - Olde Home Days

Sunday, June 8, 2008 **2 p.m.**

John Powers

“The Secret Service“

No Meetings During July and August

If you have a suggestion for a program, please contact Doug Nightingale

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 2008

President: Peg Nolan 673-1765

E-mail: pegenolan@hotmail.com

Vice President: Doug Nightingale 673-2539

E-mail: djn0409@alltel.net

Treasurer: Hollis Abbott..... 673-1753

E-mail: habbott1@twcny.rr.com

Secretary: Carriabeth Pottinger..... 673-3187

E-mail: cb90009@aol.com

Trustees and Term End

2008 Mary Jane Domurat..... 673-4896

E-mail: mjdomurat@msn.com

2008 Dick Smith..... 673-1532

2009 John Curtin 673-3660

E-mail: jcurtin2@twcny.rr.com

2009 Bob Wilson..... 673-2550

2010 Joy Buffan..... 673-1832

2010 Jamie Johnston 673-1160

Correspondence Secretary: Joyce Murphy..673-2528

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.

Please direct comments or questions to Hollis Abbott.

From The President ...

I hope everyone has been enjoying this wonderful spring. The flowers and bushes are extra beautiful this year. Within the hour of my arrival home I took a drive down North Street and saw our sign and flag pole beautifully lit up - thank you Tom and Marilyn.

We have been busy at the Steadman House adding new displays and getting things ready for the coming months. Thank you Hollis, Jean, Doug, John and Joy for all the volunteer hours you have given. A number of students from the Bible Study Club spent two days cleaning up the yard. They did a great job and we very much appreciate what they have done.

Marcellus is very fortunate to have this beautiful house and wonderful collection. Please come visit us and if possible become a volunteer for a couple of hours a week.

Have a great summer!

Peg Nolan ~



This picture shows the wedding dress of Myrtle Seymour who married John Withey on June 12, 1907 in Marcellus. It was given by their granddaughter, Sheila Farrington Schweitzer, and is on display, along with many other wedding dresses, in the Tefft Room at the Steadman House.

The Historical Society has a need for more mannequins to display our large clothing collection. ~

Steadman House Hours:

Tuesdays 7 to 9 pm

Thursdays 1 to 4 pm

Sundays 1 to 3 pm (except meeting Sundays)

Or By Appointment:

Peg Nolan - 673-1765

John Curtin - 673-3660

Bruce Widger - 673-9142

Hollis Abbott - 673-1753

In Remembrance

Francis Vile - January 18, 2008

Lucinda Skinner - February 13, 2008

Robert E. Reynolds - April 29, 2008

Hugh B. Darling - April 29, 2008

Renewed Members

Since our last newsletter with **Sustaining members in bold print** and New members underlined:

Brian & Debi Abbott & Family, Mark & Lynn Abbott & Family, **Thomas Aherin**, **Jane C. Amidon**, Jacob & Wendy Amidon & Family, Dave & Sally Bailey, Bruce & Helen Baker, **Chris Bedford**, Dr. Gary & Vanessa Belcher, Eugene Billington, Mike Brillbeck, Harold Brinkerhoff, **Judith G. Bryant**, Louis & Phyllis Budell, Edgar N. Buffan, Kay D. Buffan, **Priscilla Carmody**, Kathleen Carroll & Family, Dick & Sandra Case & Family, Harold Chapman, Phillip & Helen Clarke, Philip & Kathleen Coccia, Peter & Ethel Cole, Karen W. Conley, William & Marsha Connor, William T. Cook, Edward & Marilyn Copley, **James & Vera Costello**, Kathy Coyne, Catherine D'Angelo, Beverly Parsons Dann, Andrew & Louise Dawson, Regina Dillon, Mary Drexler, **Joseph & Lyn Duffy**, Helen Fenlon, **Harold & Phyllis Fenner**, **Janet Fisher**, Bud & Peg Flitcroft, Elizabeth Foster, **Susan Forster Fraser**, Alan & Phyllis Gammon, Patricia Gascon, Sharon Gibbons, Nettie Gilmour, **Tim & Debbie Golick**, Beverley Haney, Sterling & Ruth Jansen, **Eileen M. Kauffman**, Frank & Doris Kelly, Eileen B. Kennedy, **Zilpha Lambert**, Tom & Sue Leonard, Richard & Serena Linck, Janet Linderman, Steven Wm. Mack, Dorothy Martens, Gene McCarthy, Jim & Peg McNally, James & Arlene Milne, Helen Mohn, Paul Jr. & Hazel Morgan, Robert Negus, Jon Nicholson, Florence M. Odell, Mary Orzesek, **John Palen**, Kevin & Kelly Pangman, Donald W. & Anne Pelchy, Leon & Julie Plochocki, Carriebeth Pottinger, Florence Pottinger, Richard & Kathleen Powell, **James & Donna Quinn & Family**, Ron & Jackie Ramsden, Robert & Manuela & Caroline Reagan, Bill & Donna Renner, Robert & Pauline Reynolds, Dorothy C. Ringwood, C. Albert & Victoria Sabin, **Edward & Nancy Schwarz**, Martin & Dorothy Sennett, James Jr. & Betsy Shake, Helen Sherman, **Peg Shields**, Dale & Joyce Sims, Kathy P. Smiley, Raymond & Janet Smith, Jeffrey & Mary Beth Smith & Family, Glen & Sue Snell, Russell & Dorothy Snell, Charles & Nancy Snyder, Harriet Spinks, Geoffrey P. Teeter, Helen E. Tierney, John Tierney, Richard & Norma Tuttle, Patricia Vile, Bill & Ruth Vinzant, John & Esther Weeks, Roberta M. Welsh, Jerry & Nina & Samantha Wickett, **Dr. Bruce & Mary Widger**, Bonnie Wilson, Cliff & Sally Wilson, Eleanor Winslow. ~

Current membership: 269 (61 not renewed)

Donations

Our thanks to the following people for cash donations:

Thomas Donovan
Chuck & Mary Jo Paul
 (For a second dehumidifier)
Elinor & Clifford Abrams
 (In honor of Bruce Widger)
Jacob & Wendy Amidon

Steadman House Contributions

We are grateful to the following people for donating their time, labor and materials on projects at the Steadman House:

Village of Marcellus for plowing the driveway and parking lot during the past winter.

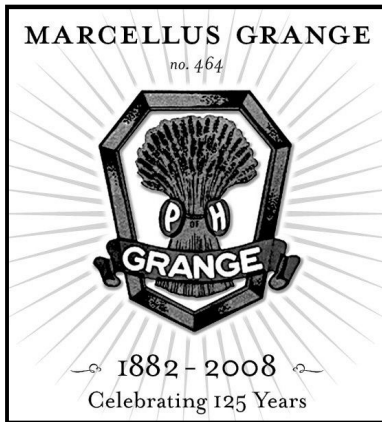
Steadman House Wish List

- 1 - Replacement of the floor in the Tefft room (\$800 - \$1000).
- 2 - Removal of the large tree in back yard (\$1300).
- 3 - Repairs to one chimney and capping of all the chimneys to keep water and animals from entering the house.
- 4 - Complete the insulation of the garage and the required covering of the north wall with sheetrock.
- 5 - Acrylic panels to cover the exposed stone wall on the lower floor (\$90).
- 6 - Repair of railings on the front and side porches.
- 7 - Bell tower in back yard for the bells in our collection.
- 8 - Paving of the driveway and parking lot.
- 9 - Contributions for the eventual roof replacement.

All of the Historical Society Newsletters are available on the MHS website along with an index of articles: mhs.marcellusny.com

Most of the Marcellus Observers from 1879 through 2007 are available on CDs at the Historical Society and on microfilm and CDs at the Marcellus Library.

Reminder: Membership covers the calendar year and the newsletter is discontinued if dues are not paid by March 31st. It is important that we have your correct address since the newsletter is sent via bulk mail and cannot be forwarded unless you make special arrangements to have it sent via first class mail.



On December 29, 1882 West Onondaga Subordinate Grange #464 received its charter from National Grange. There were fourteen charter members with the names of Ball, Durant, Adams, Stevens, Cornwell, and Higgins. Family names listed in later years of membership include Dorchester, Baker, Olney, Curtis, Henderson, May, Bartlet, Springstead, Hamilton, Coon, Freeman, Harrison, Black, Steele, Gallinger, Gooden, Lader, Sweet, Chapman, Crysler, Oliver, Tripp, Brown and Munro.

The Grange was formed following the Civil War as an assist to farmers who were struggling with the economic restlessness and discontent resulting from economic changes of the time. It became the social and progressive thinking media of many communities. The Grange claims success in controlling the railroad monopoly costs restricting shipment of crops. It was influential in obtaining Rural Free Delivery of the US Mail throughout the country. An

insurance program for farmers became one of many local advantages. Dances, dinners, farming practices, and education filled many a meeting discussion. Grange was the first secret society to include women into full and equal membership.

On January 1, 1928 the local name was changed to Marcellus Grange as the village was the central meeting place, and the post office of most members. Marcellus Grange was meeting twice a month in Parsons Hall.

In 1932 a lot was purchased at 15 West Main Street and a hall was built. Members, aided by a local contractor, supplied all the labor and material for the building. On February 25, 1933 the Grange building was dedicated and the 50th anniversary was celebrated by members and friends. The mortgage for the building was burned in 1948.

There are four levels of Grange membership: Local (Subordinate), County (Pomona), State and National. A local member takes four degrees based on teachings of agriculture. Each of the other levels includes another degree. At each meeting there is an open Bible and all members salute the American Flag. At present there are 244 Granges in New York State. The Granges in Camillus, Skaneateles, Mandana, and Shepherd Settlement have closed and are now members of Marcellus Grange.

In 1928 a Juvenile Grange was formed for children ages 5 to 14. They elect the same officers and hold meetings following parliamentary procedure, the same as the Subordinate Grange. Later the name was changed to Junior Grange. The State and National Grange supply guidelines and projects. Juniors earn merit badges for their efforts. Each summer the New York State Grange sponsors a week long camping experience for the Juniors.

All Granges in the county are part of Onondaga Pomona Grange. They meet four times a year at different Grange halls. New York State Grange and National Grange each meet once a year, and each has its own headquarters building. Each Grange has committees for Legislation, Community Service, Family Activities and Sports. The emphasis this year is Emergency Preparedness, Health Care, and Local SPCA. There are also writing, photography, craft and cooking contests for all ages.

Marcellus Grange today is oriented to providing community service. Each year dictionaries are given to the third grades of Marcellus and South Onondaga schools; Marcellus third graders visit Fesko's Discovery Center for a day of learning about agriculture. For the past eleven years ladies have met at the Grange hall every Thursday from October through April to make sleeping bags for the homeless. Ninety bags were made this year and given to the Salvation Army and Rescue Mission. Inside each bag is placed handcrafted mittens, hat and scarf, plus toiletries, socks, sweater and a devotional book. In addition, about thirty people from the community make baby quilts, preemie hats, lap robes, shawls, procedure dolls, and also walker, wheelchair and catheter bags, which are given to agencies within the county. Marcellus Grange has received State and National recognition for their Community Service reports.

Marcellus Grange meets the second Friday evening of each month. Everyone is welcome to become a Grange member - Please ask a member. The current officers are: Master, Mary Widger; Overseer, James Hamilton; Lecturer, Ed Nelson; Steward, Earl Brothers; Ass't Steward, Richard Bailer; Chaplain, Gladys Nelson; Treasurer, Bruce Widger; Secretary, Roberta Harrison; Gatekeeper, Charlene Woods; Ceres, Connie Bealer; Pomona, Elsie Harrison; Flora, Eleanor Grinnell; Lady Ass't. Steward, Valorie Woolley.

Submitted by Bruce & Mary Widger ~

Marcellus Grange 125th Anniversary

At the Marcellus Grange 125th Anniversary celebration on April 20th, membership awards were presented to Bruce Widger for 65 years, Elsie Harrison for 60 years, Jim Hamilton for 60 years, and Janet Linderman for 50 years. ~

Congratulations to Leda Stopyro on the celebration of her 90th birthday on April 22nd.

Brief Sketches of Early and Later Times in Marcellus by Rev. A. Roe

The Marcellus Observer, Saturday, September 29, 1894

Further History of Old and Late Stores and Merchants in Marcellus TWENTY-EIGHTH PAPER

The building next to the Marquises store, now owned by Mark Haney, is an old building nearly or quite four score years old, and was originally built for a store by Joseph Goodwin, father of the late Miles Goodwin, who occupied it sometime as a store.

Since which time it has changed owners and occupants many times. For many years, it was used for a dwelling by different ones, viz, Addison Famham, S. M. Griffin, A. W. Beach, and possibly others. In 1874, J. V. Palmer opened a drug store in the front part, and Dr. Richards, who afterwards moved to Rochester, was somewhat interested with him awhile. He was a physician here, coming from Camillus, and had an office at his residence, where Mrs. Searles now lives. Later Mrs. Bicknell had a millinery store in this building, and later still Dr. Northway had an office in it. It has since been used for a saloon, hotel and dwelling.

The building on the corner of Main and Cherry streets was built by Thomas J. Field, one of the early merchants here. He had not occupied this store long before he failed in business, and the building passed into the hands of Lincoln Chapman, who was somewhat involved in the failure of Field. Walter Bradley came into possession of it later on though Moses and Dalliba occupied it four or five years after Field and then moved into the Sayre store. Then came Bartlett, Bradley & Co., from Auburn about 1839 and carried on a general store for a short time, and they were succeeded by Isaac Bradley, who had been a clerk for his partners some three years previous in Auburn. Mr. Bradley conducted the store here five years and then moved into what has long been known as the DeCoudres store, which he built, it being completed about 1844.

Peter Thompson, his father-in-law, came from Skaneateles and superintended the work, and he was assisted by J. C. Sayre. Mr. Sayre moved here soon after, and later built the old school house on Cherry street, and also the Presbyterian church. Mr. Bradley carried on a drug store, also a general store in this new building nine years, and then exchanged the property with Hamilton White of Syracuse, for some Oswego county lands.

This store was then occupied by Greenman & King as a drug store and patent medicines. They carried on a large business, and kept several teams on the road selling medicines. Isaac Bradley was an important factor as bookkeeper and financial agent. Job Moses and John Lyman were traveling agents. Moses afterwards lived and died in Rochester. John Lyman is now living in Syracuse and said to be wealthy. Caleb Cowles, jr. succeeded the above firm and carried on a drug store a while or until he failed, and was succeeded by John North who did not carry on the business long before he gave it up and was succeeded by Thomas DeCoudres, who came here from Dryden, Tompkins county, a man successful in business and universally respected, who conducted the store about twenty-five years either alone or in partnership with his son, Henry, until his death, and later with his son, Fred, until his own death in 1885. Not long after his death the firm became DeCoudres & Baker for a year or two. Then DeCoudres & Son for several years until they closed out the business and moved to Syracuse.

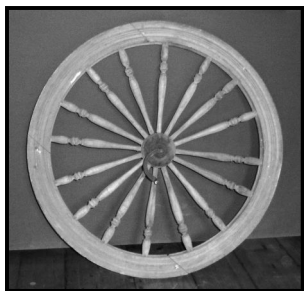
After Isaac Bradley left the corner store, it was occupied for some years by different parties for different purposes when it was not vacant. Along during the war it was used to store wool, sort beans, for tobacco and cigar making, etc. John Griffin occupied this store for several years, and then it came into the hands of William H. Julia who took in J. W. Reed as a partner for a year or so and then J. W. Reed ran a market and grocery store awhile, and finally W. H. Sarr took the grocery part and R. A. Julia the market part. After a year and a half, James Sarr succeeded W. H. Sarr, until he moved across the way in the Gallup Block, and R. A. Julia continued some years until succeeded by Hickman & Walsh, and they by George Hickman, the present proprietor. Sarr was followed by M. B. VanVranken, and he by VanVranken & Thompson, and they by F. A. Thompson, the enterprising dealer now in the "little corner grocery," as he calls it. ~

Submitted by John Curtin

Recent Acquisitions

We wish to thank the following people for donating items to add to our collection:

Keith Edgerton for wooden wheel from Upper Crown Mill (see below), postcard of Lower Crown Mill, checkbook & ruler from First National Bank; **Pepperman Family** for drawing of Pepperman house at 25 South Street (see below); **Downtown Decorations Inc.** for Marcellus Street Banner; **Marcellus Library** for framed Dan Bradley diploma from Yale in 1789, and for Marcellians from '69, '73, '76, '80, '81; **Joyce Abbott Sims & Hollis Abbott** for 1909 "Songs That Never Grow Old" songbook; **Hollis Abbott** for 1961 Polaroid camera; **Jane Cummings** for map of Village cemetery lots original owners, brass easel & painting by Ruth Reed Cummings, dresser, trunk painted by Ruth Reed Cummings, tan hat, pictures of Onondaga County Warchest Committee 1918 & Bishop Huntington & John L. Sullivan, five Reed farm account books, Daboll family pictures, two Cummings candy boxes, drawing & painting books & paint & paint brushes used by Ruth Reed Cummings; **Marie Caines** for "Country Folks" paper of Aug 23, 1976; **Beth Battle** for listings of local cemeteries, Class of 1953 program; **Jean Nightingale** for telephone & fudge box from Cummings Candy; **Carl Thorpe** for 1940 Onondaga County Supervisors book; **John Curtin** for copies of Marcellus Observer pages from 1890 to 2007; **Peg & Joe Nolan** for dress form mannequin; **Bob McManus** for map of county & town roads & school districts; **Don Barber** for history of Barber, Rimmington & Owens families. ~



This wooden wheel from the Upper Crown Mill was given by Keith Edgerton and is on display in the business room. If you know how it was used, please let us know.



This drawing of the Pepperman house at 25 South Street was given by the Pepperman Family.

The Marcellus Observer, February 5, 1880

Want Mutual Satisfaction

The following advertisements are taken from a morning contemporary:

"The gentleman who sat down on a cream pie in a Market street car is known to the lady who had just purchased it, and even though he may have no regard for the hungry orphans for whom it was destined, he is urged to at once remit \$1.50 and the expense of this advertisement to the business office of this paper, to save the exposure which will follow of his disgusting conduct."

Right underneath it this Janus of a journal evidently accepts the money of the other side, as the subjoined will testify:

"If the slightly intoxicated lady who allowed a gentleman to spoil a \$10 pair of beaver pants by placing a lot of slush, wrapped in plain paper, on the seat he was about to occupy, does not immediately remit that amount to the care of A.B., at this office, a full account of the affair will shortly be given to the press."

San Francisco News-Letter.

Business Member Directory

Please Patronize These Businesses

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John A. Moss, Jr. & Richard Popov (FAX 673-9247)
 8 West Main St., PO Box 195, Marcellus 13108673-2092

PETER R. HAKES, ESQ., ATTORNEY AT LAW

General Practice, Located next to Nightingale Mills
 Email: hakeslaw@hotmail.com (FAX 673-9390)
 4080 South Street Rd., PO Box 41, Marcellus 13108.....673-9390

REAGAN & DAILEY, ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Bernard L. Reagan & Mary Reagan Dailey (FAX 673-3438)
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 2527 Cherry Valley Tpke. (Rt. 174 & Rt. 20) Marcellus 13108...673-4858

**Call Hollis Abbott at 673-1753 to include your Ad
 in our Business Member Directory.**

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

Non-Profit Organization
 U. S. Postage Paid
 Marcellus, NY 13108
 Permit Number 18

Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, May 18th, 2 p.m.

(The date on the label is the
 year your dues are paid through.)

OPEN HOUSE:

Saturday, June 7th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Postal Customer
 Local

INSIDE:

- * *John Curtin's new book*
- * *Grange Anniversary*
- * *Old Stores in Marcellus*

~ GIFT SHOP & MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM ~

Please use this form or a copy of it to join the society and to order our historic collectibles.

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? ____

Name: _____

Addr: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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
 Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus \$20
 Ruth Reed Cummings Prints..... \$10
 John Drummond "Dried Weeds" Print..... \$10
 Official Marcellus Afghans: cranberry,blue,green.... \$45
 Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus..... \$15
 Otisco Lake Map 1868 \$10
 Marcellus, When Wool Was King, Pictorial..... \$ 5
 Marcellus Through the Years; Chronology, photos .. \$ 5
 Index to Nine Mile Country; Names and more..... \$ 5
 New Colored Postcards of Marcellus \$ 1
 Postcards(5), 1960's B&W, 4 churches, post office.. \$ 1
 Package of 10 note-cards picturing Marcellus..... \$ 5
Shipping: \$3 per book, \$4 other.

Qty	Item Description	Cost Ea	Total
_____	_____	_____	_____
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Make Checks Payable to:	Total	\$ _____
Marcellus Historical Society	Shipping	\$ _____
PO Box 165	Dues	\$ _____
Marcellus, NY 13108	Total Enclosed	\$ _____