



The Steadman House

Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 15 Issue 4

Fall 2010



Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary!

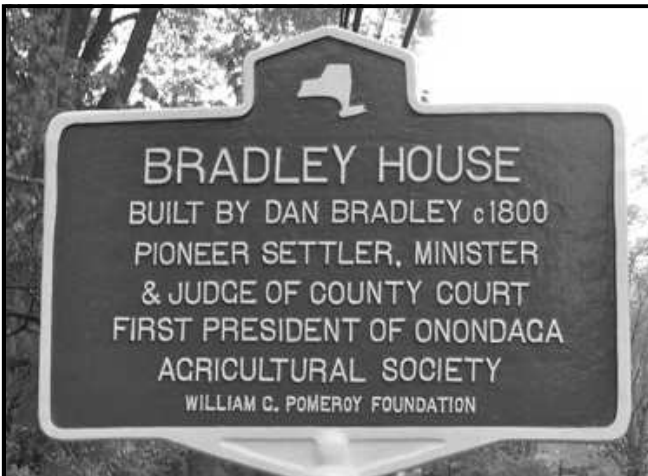


TWO NEW HISTORIC MARKERS

Following application made by the Marcellus Historical Society, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, has once again provided funding for the purchase of two historic markers, recognizing two historic homes on South Street in the Village of Marcellus. They are the Bradley House, at 59 South Street and the Moses House at 36 South Street. The Society is very much indebted to the Pomeroy Foundation for its generosity in helping to recognize historically significant sites in our community, as well as very grateful to the Village of Marcellus Highway Department for having installed the markers. *(Continued on Page 4)*

NEW SIGN INSTALLED

The vandalized sign at the Steadman House has been replaced by a new sign donated by the **Syracuse Blue Print Company** owned by the **Nye Family** of Marcellus. *(Photo by John Curtin)*



EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, November 14, 2010 **2 p.m.**

Tom Dwyer, owner of Natural Images
“A slide presentation of his photographs”

Saturday, December 4, 2010 **10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Christmas at the Steadman House

Sunday, December 12, 2010 **1:30 p.m.**

Holiday Dinner

Sunday, January 9, 2011 **2 p.m.**

To Be Announced

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 2010

President: Peg Nolan673-1765

E-mail: peganolan1@hotmail.com

Vice President: Doug Nightingale673-2539

E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net

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

E-mail: habbott1@twcny.rr.com

Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinger...673-3187

E-mail: cb90009@aol.com

Trustees and Term End

2010 Joy Buffan673-1832

2010 Jamie Johnston673-1160

2011 Mary Jane Domurat673-4896

E-mail: mjdomurat@msn.com

2011 Patricia Sanborn488-3610

2012 John Curtin673-3660

E-mail: jcurtin2@twcny.rr.com

2012 Bob Wilson.....673-2550

E-mail: 89rw@twcny.rr.com

Correspondence Secretary:

Jean Nightingale673-2539

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.

Please direct comments or questions to Hollis Abbott.

From The President ...

Over the summer we met and were able to assist a number of people in researching their family history. Thank you to Jean Nightingale and Marni Nolan for guiding the Class of 1955 on their tour of the Steadman House. On the 19th of September the society held a reception honoring Jim Dwyer for his many years of service to the village. Thank you to volunteers, Doug Nightingale, Charlie and Pat Sanborn, Pat Kinne, Jamie Johnston and Bob Wilson for hosting the event.

Be sure and take notice of the new Historical Markers placed on South Street: one in front of the Bradley House, now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Doug Blanchard, and the other at the Curtis Moses home, now owned by Mr. & Mrs. John Bromka. The markers were provided through a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation.

The first mural in the village was unveiled on October 2nd on the Nojaim building. Students under the guidance of art teachers Donna Nicholas and Tara Charles did all the work on the mural which was hung by students from Mark Hagen's Technology class.

On December 4th we will hold our Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We hope you will be able to attend.

Happy Holidays!

Peg Nolan ~

Holiday Dinner December 12th at 1:30 p.m.

The annual Holiday Dinner, catered by Kirby Bartholomew, will be held at the ***Fire Station***. The price is \$15.00 per person. ***Please have your payment in to the treasurer by December 6th.***

Menu: Baked Ham, Stuffed Turkey Breast or Oven Roasted Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, 3 Bean Salad, Vegetable, Gelatin, Rolls, Coffee, Tea, Punch, Sugarfree pudding for Dessert ~

Steadman House Hours:

Sundays 1 to 3 pm (except meeting Sundays)

Thursdays 1 to 4 pm

Or By Appointment:

John Curtin - 673-3660

Joy Buffan - 673-1832

In Remembrance

Martin J. Sennett Sr. - September 22, 2010

Harold "Mel" Fenner - October 25, 2010

Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:

Jodell Z. McVey
 Jeffrey & Karri Elderbroom
 (Toward sign lighting)
 Richard & Frances Smith
 (In Memory of Alma B. Steadman)
 Nancy Bowman (Research)
 John White (Research)
 Barbara Parsons Hildreth
 Keith & Janine Ramsden
 Joanne Gilley (Research)
 Jim Wilkuski (In Memory of Alma B. Steadman)
 Nancy Parsons Griffith

And in Memory of Helen B. Sherman from:

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 Kathy Morrow
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Steadman House Contributions

We are grateful to the following people for their donations of time, labor and materials at the Steadman House:

Carl Nye and the Syracuse Blue Print Company for making and donating the replacement sign for the Steadman House; **Marni Nolan** for donating all the flowers for the gardens and the flower pots; **Village of Marcellus** for lawn care. ~

Annual Meeting, November 14th at 2 p.m.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Marcellus Historical Society will take place at the regular November meeting. Nominees announced at the October 10th meeting are as follows:

Trustees (three year term ending 12/31/2013)

Joy Buffan

Jamie Johnston

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. ~

Renewed Members

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

Edgar N. Buffan, **Joy L. Buffan**, Kay D. Buffan, **Donald & Doris Buschbascher**, Michael & Tobey Casler, **David Gallinger**, **John & Nancy Knowlton & Family**, **Elizabeth L. Olley**, Keith & Janine Ramsden, Eva Travers.

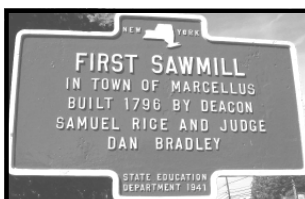
Current membership: 410 ~

Suggested Donations for Research

(reprinted from Volume 13 Issue 1)

The established rates for research using the Historical Society's documents in the Joanne Robinson Research Room are as follows:

1. No charge for members who do their own research.
2. \$5 minimum for members requesting research with higher amounts based upon time required.
3. \$5 for non-members who do their own research.
4. \$10 minimum for non-members requesting research with higher amounts based upon time required.
5. The copy charge is 25 cents for black & white copies and \$1 for pictures or color copies.



THE BRADLEY HOUSE

The Dan Bradley House, a home built about 1800 at 59 South Street in the Village of Marcellus, is one of the few architectural survivals of Onondaga County's pioneer period to remain without major structural alterations. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Homes in 1979.

Soon thereafter the arrival of the first white settlers in Marcellus in 1794, Judge Dan Bradley who had arrived in Marcellus in 1795, erected this house. He came from Connecticut, had a master's degree from Yale and became Onondaga County's first judge as well as the prosperous owner of a sawmill and a significant amount of property in the southeastern part of the Village. There is even more notoriety in the Bradley family. The judge's son, Dan Beach Bradley, whose mother died while giving him life, was the first medical missionary to Siam during the reign of Mongkut – the very same king who became famous in the musical "The King and I." The missionary died in Bangkok in 1873.

When Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Webb took ownership of the house in 1950, they completed necessary restoration, and it remains meticulously maintained to this day. Built in the Federal style, lumber for Bradley's dwelling was felled on his extensive lands and worked in his mill. The house is an example of "brace-frame" construction, when the outside walls support the weight of the roof. This was deemed "a very ambitious undertaking and an urbane house for the frontier, where log houses were still the common dwelling." Surrounded by ancient trees, the house is furnished in keeping with the era in which it was built, and furnished in the taste and period of its this prominent pioneer, including its spacious plan of two interior chimneystacks. The original 12 over 12 poured glass windowpanes, seven fireplaces, and a cellar kitchen with a flagged hearth and the original crane and bake oven, are among the architectural features of the structure. In addition, the cornices, which detail the roofline and the dentil mouldings, which are carried across the gable ends, are original.

After years of dedicated effort in restoring the house and researching its origins, Kate and Steve Webb brought about the nomination of their home to the National Register of Historic Places. The Division of Historic Preservation of New York State placed the residence in nomination. This was followed by inclusion of the house on the National Register in 1979, following approval by officials of the federal government, who administer the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Dan Bradley sold one hundred seventy five acres from his farm and the two-story house to Captain John Sanford, on March 28, 1828, who conveyed it to J. Clausen Platt in 1860. Bradley then moved to a smaller house, at 13 South Street. There he died in 1838. His son, Isaac, lived in the house at 13 South Street until his death in 1904.

Remaining in the Platt family until 1909, the Dan Bradley House was long known as the "old Platt place."

When Edwin E. Barney of Syracuse purchased the property from the Platt Estate in 1909, his brother Frank, a well-known Auburn artist, painted scenes of The Dan Bradley House and its surroundings.

Much of Dan Bradley's land described in deeds dated 1796 to 1798 adjoins the present house lot as Marcellus Park. The Marcellus Historical Society owns his Yale College diploma and has this on display at The Steadman House.

The current owners of the Bradley House are Douglas and Beverly Blanchard.

THE MOSES HOUSE

The Curtis Moses House, a Greek Revival style house was built about 1838 at 36 South Street in the Village of Marcellus. The house is a lovely example of the Greek Revival Period, surrounded with trees, with a sweeping command of the grounds from the front steps. Built about 1838 by Curtis Moses, a Marcellus merchant and Town Clerk, this home was also the main house of a large farm that dominated the southwestern part of the Village. The house was constructed of locally manufactured brick, is painted white, and the kitchen, as was common in some houses of that period, was originally in a raised basement with a dining room with floors made from the brick. The house has wide plank floors of mahogany, a Belgian marble fireplace in the dining room and a curving flight of stairs made from cherry. The massive but graceful Ionic columns, signifying its Greek Revival style, support the projecting portico. The attic windows are evident in the plain entablature. The windows are the original, 6 over 6, and the entrance has rectangular transom light above. Several stone hitching posts remain on the property, two of which are visible in the accompanying photo.

Curtis Moses' brother, Chester, was the owner of the Moses woolen mills, which later became known as the Marcellus Woolen Mills and after consolidation with other local mills, the Crown Mills Company. Curtis Moses sold the house in 1853 to George Reed, co-founder of the Eagle Paper Mill in Marcellus Falls. Today, the house at 36 South Street is a private residence, and the exterior is visible from South Street, a public road in the Village.

The current owners of the Moses House are John and Sondra Bromka - aka "Bells & Motley". ~

Submitted by John P. Curtin



The Steadman House and Plaster Mill signs were erected in 2009.

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

The Marcellus Observer April 21, 1894

***Marcellus History Continued, Village Settlers, First
Frame Dwellings, etc.***

FIFTH PAPER

James C. Millen and sons were the first permanent settlers in the northeast part of the town. He and most of the family shortly after locating there died of Typhus fever, which was quite prevalent and fatal at that time. Next came Seth Dunbar, grandfather of Mrs. C. L. Rich, who located where Mr. Rich now lives and Robert McCullough, who located where the brick house now stands and occupied by M. Finlon. Parley E. Howe and Samuel Hayes, settled southwest of the village on the Skaneateles road. Howe on the place now owned by John Mulroy. The present dwelling was built by his son Dean.

Mr. Hayes located on the farm now owned by P.S. Thornton, though he soon moved west and was succeeded by Dr. Elisha Chapman, father of Lincoln and Simon B. Chapman, in 1805. On the H. Armstrong district south of the village the settlement was begun by Capt. Russell Taylor and Messrs. Whitney and Bennett. The northwest part of the town and parts near, in the town of Skaneateles were settled by Henry S. Platt, Simon Pells and Solomon S. Steele, Mr. Platt located on the Perry Clark farm, Mr. Pells on the farm south of John D. Symonds, and Mr. Steele on the Glover farm, and later came several families of the Shepards, and the name Shepard Settlement is still retained. Near them located Thomas North, sr., (grandfather of the late Justus North) and some of his sons and a family by the name of Dodge on the Nicholson place.

A family by the name of Curtis were the first to settle at Nine Mile creek as the place was at first called, where Marcellus village now is, but they were mere squatters and soon moved farther west.

The first permanent settlement made in this village was by **Hon. Dan Bradley**, father of Isaac Bradley and Deacon Samuel Rice in the fall of 1795. Dr. Elnathan Beach joined them in the following winter of 1796. Major Martin Cossitt located in the village in 1798. Winter was the most favorable time for the moving of families and goods, for the snow being protected by dense forests, gave months of good sleighing and ample time for long journeys by sleighs, so that for a long succession of years, there was to be seen on the road in the winter season, an almost unbroken procession of loads of goods and people drawn either by oxen or horses, accompanied by herds of cows, to settle this great wilderness.

The early inhabitants mostly came from the New England States, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. As we have seen, settlements were made in different parts of the town and in localities quite remote from each other from 1794 and later on. Settlements being once made prepared the way for accessions; and accordingly we find that the population increased quite

rapidly from year to year by the constantly incoming tide of immigration from the East. The region of Thorn Hill was settled in 1799. David Earl, Eleazer Burns, Nathan Turner and John Wiltsey arrived there on March 1, of that year. They came in company from Washington county, in sleighs. Their families and the more necessary articles of furniture were drawn by several horse teams, and their goods by a number of yokes of oxen. David Earl bought and cleared his farm, lived and died upon it. His son William Earl succeeded, living thereon, and dying at an advanced age, and was succeeded by his son Shepard Earl, which is noted as a rare instance in this town of perpetuity of title, and absolute residence, in the conveyance of a farm to the third generation.

It is a matter of some surprise to note in regard to the early inhabitants of this town that not only have their possessions passed into the hands of others, but even their names have become almost extinct among us. Of the first settlers of this village, the names of Rice and Cossitt are no more, and but one family of the Bradley name remains with us - Isaac Bradley. Although Capt. Martin Godard came to Marcellus with a family of nine sons, yet not a Godard is to be found among us. Of more than a thousand acres on our East and West Hills that belonged to Col. Bigelow Lawrence, not an acre is now held in the name of Lawrence. Only one family is left here who hold the name - Gad Lawrence of this village.

The original inhabitants of Marcellus were mostly men possessed of comfortable means and hence were able to pay cash for their farms, and had money left for other purposes. Some bought on half credit. This made a very healthy financial farming community. In the original town not more than two and perhaps not more than one of the soldiers, located on the lot he drew by reason of his service in the war. With these exceptions all others purchased their farms. The founders of the town were a sober, industrious, economical class of people.

The first frame house in this village was erected by Dr. Elnathan Beach from Cheshire, Connecticut, in 1796, on nearly the same place where now stands the dwelling of James Sarr. The second was built by **Judge Dan Bradley** and now stands in a good state of preservation between the dwellings of Thomas Rhodes and Mrs. A. Wells, and was long known as the widow Sophia Ball house, and is now the oldest dwelling in the village. The third house was the old tavern that occupied the corner where St. Francis Xavier's Catholic church now stands and was last owned and occupied by that denomination for church purposes. It was erected by Deacon Samuel Rice and for many years kept by him for a tavern. ~

Submitted by Hollis Abbott

Steadman House Wish List

- 1 - Top coating for the driveway & parking lot.
- 2 - New Gutters for east side of house (about \$600).
- 3 - New Folding Chairs.
- 4 - Security Cameras.

Recent Acquisitions

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

Bruce G. Harvey for Upper Mill dam removal documentation; **Family of Helen Bartlett Sherman** for white boot roller skates, **Judy Gilchrist** for feed sacks, old reading & school books, Spanish-American War memorabilia (belonged to Clermont J. Jackson), WW II C-rations (belonged to Roy Amidon), Clermont & Mary Jackson glasses, sheep shears, shooting trophy, Masonic organization books, Mortimer Jackson farm ledger, button hook, baby undershirt, Mary Jackson Eastern Star membership, Clara Amidon Jackson's nurses box; **Peg Nolan** for lady's petticoat, doll; **Harriet E. Johnson Pople** for enameled roasters; **Jane Ryan** for picture of Grandmother Carrie Beebe; **Kay Kershaw** for Mulroy pin, J. Fred Woodbridge school certificates 1898-1902, MCS mascot, autograph book, photo albums 1920-1940s, Marcellians, 1935 MCS trigonometry book (Rita Shay), songbook (Frances Shay), poems 1915-1917, Dolly's ABC book given Frances Shay 1903, Marietta School Dist. 12 report cards, newspaper clippings, Marcellus Rest Home, Marcellus Lunch menu, several grade school pictures, 1936 graduation picture, Marcellus Town tax collector certificate, Marcellians, autograph book, glasses, Bear Claw quilt from Ellen Shay's 1898 marriage, early 1900s Postcard quilt, quilt made by Ellen Shay, Woolen Mill wool quilt, quilt made from Frances' dresses by her mother, quilt made by Grandma Lyden, woven rug; **Jacob Amidon** for 1967 football schedule (from his dad, Mitchell); **Patrick Cox** for USMC uniform worn in Iraq; **Karen Robinson** for Onondaga County Convention 1924, Olde Home Week pin 1925; **Gertrude & William J. Bartlett** for Claudine Bartlett's drawing of Marcellus United Methodist Church, WW II 5th Air Force's Commanding Officer's Letter of Commendation to Mrs. Edgar Bartlett on the awarding of the Air Medal to her son, Wm. J. Bartlett, Observer photo of Bartlett Motors personnel during WW II, Marcellus United Methodist Church photo, books concerning WW II & Vietnam Wars, **Minerva Kepler & Karol Kepler Wothal** for seed scale, store lamp, Wedgewood pitcher, 1860 baby slippers (Helen Mather), clay pipes, shoe stretcher, shoe molds, wood shoe nails, 3-leg fireplace skillet, oil lamp base; **Peg Shields** for snowshoes; **Scott Flitcroft** for MCS Mustang banner, NFL Ford punt, pass & kick winner's badge, Troop 266 badge & kerchief, red MCS Mustang pencil; **Joy Buffan** for 1950s Spalding basketball; **Karen Pollard** for 2 bobble head football players; **Anonymous** for 4 crock pots. ~



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

Non-Profit Organization
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 Permit Number 18

Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com

Address Service Requested

NEXT MEETING (Annual Meeting) :
Sunday, November 14th, 2 p.m.

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

INSIDE:

- * *New Historic Markers*
- * *Christmas Open House*
- * *Holiday Dinner*
- * *Marcellus History Continued*
- * *Recent acquisitions*

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 Number Joining? _____ New Members? _____

Name: _____

Addr: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Available Collectibles

The New Pucker Street, Since 1953 by John Curtin.. \$28
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