



# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 16 Issue 4

Fall 2011

## Albert W. James, Marcellus Civil War Soldier

Sheila Farrington Schweitzer sent us a letter requesting that we check why her uncle, Albert Walter James, was not included in the list of Civil War Soldiers with connections to Marcellus (in the last Newsletter). We discovered that the "Arthur W. James" in the 1865 veterans records should have been "Albert W. James" and all of the Civil War records verify this fact. Sheila, who is a great-grandniece of Albert James, sent us the picture and the following obituary from *The Skaneateles Free Press*, dated December 1, 1904:

**Albert Walter James** died at the Soldiers' Home, Bath, N. Y., Saturday, November 26, 1904, aged 59 years and 2 months. He is survived by two brothers, William and Henry, and by one nephew, John Henry Withey, the son of a deceased sister. Services were held at the rooms of Hall & Stackus in Skaneateles, N.Y., on the 28th day of November. Interment in Lake View Cemetery.



Albert Walter James was the youngest son of the late Henry James and Harriet his wife. He was born September 18, 1845, at Clintonville, in the southern part of the town of Marcellus, where he resided. When a few months past 16 years of age he enlisted in Co. F, 3d N.Y. Light Artillery, and in March following he, with his regiment, was sent to the front. In April, 1862, he contracted camp fever, by reason of which on May 8th, following, he was discharged from the army and sent home. He suffered a long and dangerous illness, but under the tender and careful nursing of his mother and the skill of the late Dr. Parsons, he fully recovered his health, and with his recovery came an earnest and determined desire to re-enlist, and on November 25, 1862, he joined Co. A, 12th N.Y. Cavalry, and remained in active service until he was mustered out, July 19, 1865. For nearly three years this regiment was stationed at and near Newbern, N.C., and became noted for its brave and fighting qualities, and met and defeated the redoubtable rebel General Wheeler. In recognition of his soldierly qualities he was made orderly sergeant of his company, and subsequently became aid upon the staff of Major-General Couch.

Early in 1865 this regiment was placed under Major-General Kilpatrick's command, and for gallant services rendered during the closing months of the war, was permitted to be present at the memorable surrender of Major-General Johnson and his army to Major-General Sherman at Raleigh, N.C., April 25, 1865. From the time of his last enlistment until he was mustered out he was constantly at the front and in active service, and never asked for or received a furlough.

Entering the army at the age of 16, and in continual service until he was mustered out at the close of the Rebellion at the age of 20, he saw, and was engaged in, greater events, for one so young, than few have experienced. He never complained of the service or found fault with his superiors, but with an intense feeling of loyalty to his country he fought on until the final victory. Of his personal experiences in the army, or of his achievements, successes and reverses, he was reluctant and diffident to speak, but with a warm and loyal heart he loved to talk of the comrades with whom he served and his superiors in command; and with quivering lip he often spoke of those whom he lived to see pass their last muster. Five years ago heart trouble developed and this and a fractured ankle received a short time previously, led him to enter the Soldiers' Home at Bath, where he remained until his decease. During those last years of his life he developed a great fondness for poems of a pathetic and religious character, numerous selections of which he sent to the writer, sometimes accompanied with his comments, but oftener referred to by him as expressing his feelings, and in this manner showing his finer and nobler traits of character during the closing years of his life.

(Continued on page 4)

### EVENTS SCHEDULE

*The tentative schedule of events is as follows:*

**Sunday, November 13, 2011**                      **2 p.m.**

Gerry Orton & Peg Nolan  
"Bits & Pieces of Marcellus Falls"

**Thursday, December 1, 2011**                **6:30-8 p.m.**

Santa Claus

**Saturday, December 10, 2011**    **10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Christmas at the Steadman House

**Sunday, January 8, 2012**                      **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 2011

President: Peg Nolan.....673-1765

E-mail: [peganolan1@hotmail.com](mailto:peganolan1@hotmail.com)

Vice President: Doug Nightingale.....673-2539

E-mail: [djn0409@windstream.net](mailto:djn0409@windstream.net)

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

E-mail: [habbott1@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:habbott1@twcnny.rr.com)

Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinger.....673-3187

E-mail: [cb90009@aol.com](mailto:cb90009@aol.com)

### Trustees and Term End

2011 Mary Jane Domurat.....673-4896

E-mail: [mjdomurat@msn.com](mailto:mjdomurat@msn.com)

2011 Patricia Sanborn.....488-3610

E-mail: [pasanborn@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:pasanborn@twcnny.rr.com)

2012 John Curtin.....673-3660

E-mail: [jcurtin2@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:jcurtin2@twcnny.rr.com)

2012 Bob Wilson .....673-2550

E-mail: [89rw@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:89rw@twcnny.rr.com)

2013 Joy Buffan.....673-1832

2013 Jamie Johnston.....673-1160

Correspondence Secretary:

Jean Nightingale.....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.

Please direct comments or questions to Hollis Abbott.

### From The President ...

How quickly the summer and fall have passed. We are looking forward to the Holiday season and decorating the house for Santa's visit on Dec. 1st and Open House on Dec. 10th. Please plan a visit during the holidays and see the house all decorated.

A bit of history has been added to the Town Hall on Main Street. Once again the building has the identity of the First National Bank (see below). The bank was established in 1910 and remained the First National Bank until 1956 when it merged with the First Trust and Deposit Co.

Another wonderful addition to Main street is the mural painted by the high school art students on the east side of the Town Hall (see page 6). A big thank you to Art teachers Donna Nicholas and Tara Charles and to Mark Hagen and the tech students for installing the mural.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Peg Nolan ~*



### Steadman House Hours (Weather Permitting):

**Sundays 1 to 3 pm (except meeting Sundays)**

**Thursday Afternoons 1 to 4 pm**

**Or By Appointment:**

**Peg Nolan - 673-1765**

**John Curtin - 673-3660**

**Hollis Abbott - 673-1753**

### Sarah Hettinger

Sarah A. (Thompson) Hettinger died October 9, 2011. She would have been 100 years old on November 16, 2011.

Many of you will recall that Sarah served as the Marcellus Town Clerk from 1966 through 1977. She was a dedicated and conscientious town official who strived to provide excellent customer service relations for residents of the town. Sarah was also known as being devoted to her family as well as being a kind and supportive friend and neighbor.

*Submitted by Joy L. Buffan ~*

### In Remembrance

**Sarah A. Hettinger - October 9, 2011**

**Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:**

Mary Tuthill  
 Joe & Peg Nolan  
 (in memory of Frances M. Thorpe)  
 Mary Jane Murphy  
 (in memory of Frances M. Thorpe)  
 John T. Coyne (Research) ~

**Steadman House Contributions**

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

**Tom & Marilyn Schneider** for a dozen new folding chairs for use in the Steadman House. (This is a correction from the last newsletter).

**Pat & Charlie Sanborn, Jean & Doug Nightingale and Joy Buffan** for their time and labor in keeping the Steadman House open this summer.

**Bruce & Mary Widger** for Newsletter mailing.

**Village of Marcellus** for mowing and lawn care. ~

**Annual Meeting, November 13th 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 9th meeting are as follows:

Officers (two year term ending 12/31/2013)

President: Peg Nolan

Vice President: Doug Nightingale

Treasurer: Hollis Abbott

Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinger

Trustees (three year term ending 12/31/2014)

Mary Jane Domurat

Patricia Sanborn

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. ~

**Steadman House Wish List**

- 1 - Help with wheelchair lift repair costs.
- 2 - Top coating for the driveway & parking lot.
- 3 - Security Cameras..

**Renewed Members**

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

Carol Piper, Barbara Randall, Frances Randall, Lauren D. Rowe, David J. Rudari, Reno & Jane Rudari . ~

**Membership : 400**

**Not renewed from 2010: 26**

**New Members this year: 19**

**Business Members: 31**

**New book available at the Steadman House**

# FAREWELL, OLD GIRL

*And Other Stories of the Great Outdoors*

By J. Michael Kelly

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Before he retired in 2007, J. Michael Kelly spent 36 years on the reporting staff of The Syracuse Newspapers, the last 16 of them as the full-time outdoors scribe at The Post Standard. As a part-time freelancer, he has sold more than 2,000 magazine articles, most of them on outdoors subjects.

Kelly has won numerous writing awards, including 23 first-place honors for his newspaper and magazine columns and features in the New York State Outdoor Writers Association.

He and his wife, Chickie, live in Marcellus, NY, where they can enjoy their two grown children, five grandkids and a gregarious English springer spaniel named Daisy.

**ALWAYS BE SINCERE  
WHETHER YOU MEAN IT OR NOT**

(Continued from page 1)

No more will the bugle's shrill notes  
 Command him again "to saddle,"  
 Or wake him from his peaceful sleep—  
 Fight again his country's battles.  
 Long years ago were his battles  
 O'er with the soldier of the Gray;  
 This brave old soldier of the Blue  
 We here have laid to rest to-day.  
 For time has called another comrade  
 From those whose ranks are thinning fast,  
 And soon, too soon, will come the day  
 They'll all be numbered with the past.  
 By the side of her who bore him,  
 To him whose heart was ever true,  
 We 've laid at rest her youngest boy  
 This brave old soldier of the Blue.  
 The long, low roll of the muffled drum,  
 As on they go to the grave,  
 The story tells of brave young hearts  
 Their life blood gave the Nation t'save.  
 So rest in peace in Lake View green,  
 'Mid silent homes of comrades gone,  
 From Sentry hear the counter-sign,  
 "Abide with me! thy work is done."

(Dated November 28, 1904 and signed "W").

Note: Sheila Schweitzer is of the opinion that the "W" may have been Albert's brother, William, and the author of the poem. ~

### More About Marcellus Civil War Veterans

Sheila Schweitzer also mentioned that another relative, Wellington Bessey, was a Marcellus native and should be listed with the Civil War Veterans. We found that Wellington Bessey was on the 1850 Marcellus census as the son of Warren Bessey. Warren Bessey should have been listed among those who died during the war.

Their records of service in the New York Volunteers states:

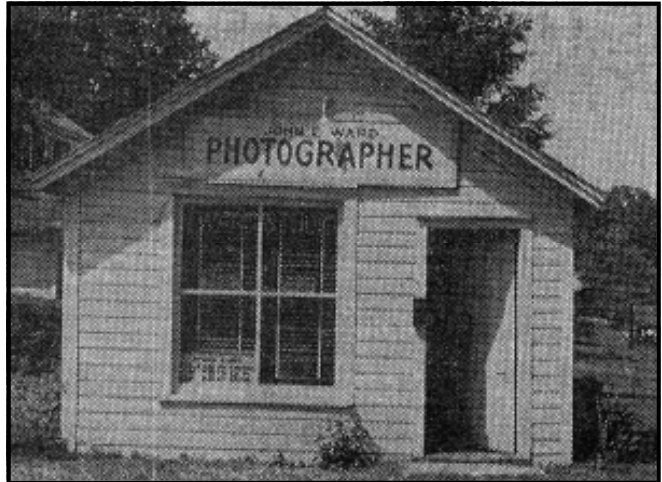
#### Second Provisional Cavalry

**BESSY, WELLINGTON.**—Age, 19 years. Enlisted, July 13, 1863, at Syracuse; mustered in as private, Co. A, Fifteenth New York Cavalry, August 8, 1863, to serve three years; transferred, June 17, 1865, to Co. A, this regiment; mustered out with company, August 9, 1865 at Louisville, Ky.

#### One Hundred and Twenty-Second Infantry

**BESSY, WARREN.**—Age, 39 years. Enlisted, July 29, 1862, at Marcellus, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. F, August 5, 1862; died of disease, December 17, 1862, near Falmouth, Va. ~

### Marcellus Observer, August 1, 1958



#### **John Ward Moving Out of Photo Studio**

John Ward, Marcellus photographer is terminating his photographic business at the little store pictured above at 10 Slocombe Street where he has been in operation since 1947.

In the meantime John will have his equipment at his home on Dublin road for limited use.

The building which is almost a hundred years old will be torn down some time this month.

According to Frank Griffing's articles in the Observer, John Grimes owned this building which was north of the Observer Building on North Street and moved it to Slocombe Avenue next to his house (west of the firehouse). He operated a shoe business, did shoe repair and made custom made boots and shoes. Later the store was used by Tommy Sullivan who sold radios and other electrical items. After WW II, John Ward opened his photography shop in the building.

If anyone can correct or add to this information, please let us know.

*Submitted by Peg Nolan ~*

### Marcellus Observer, November 24, 1911

If only turkey birds were wise  
 they'd read the sporting pages,  
 Discovering there the secret rare  
 of lengthening out their ages.  
 By training down instead of up  
 they'd so reduce their meat  
 That when Thanksgiving day comes round  
 they'd not be fit to eat,  
 And when the buyer came along  
 to talk with Farmer Jones  
 He'd say, "Why, I these birds can't buy ---  
 they're only skin and bones!" ~

## Propositions on Election Day One Hundred Years Ago

**Marcellus Observer, October 27, 1911**

ELECTION NOTICE.  
EXCISE PROPOSITIONS.

There will be submitted to the voters of the town of Marcellus, N. Y., at the General Election, to be held Tuesday, November 7, 1911, the following questions, viz:

QUESTION 1.

Selling liquor to be drunk on the premises where sold. – Shall any person be authorized to traffic in liquors under the provision of sub-division one of section eight of the liquor tax law, namely, by selling liquor to be drunk on the premises where sold, in said town?

QUESTION 2.

Selling liquor not to be drunk on the premises where sold. – Shall any person be authorized to traffic in liquors under the provisions of sub-division two of section eight of the liquor tax law, namely, by selling liquor not to be drunk on the premises where sold, in said town?

QUESTION 3.

Selling liquor as a pharmacist on a physician's prescription. – Shall any person be authorized to traffic in liquors under the provisions of sub-division three of section eight of the liquor tax law, namely, by selling liquor as a pharmacist on a physician's prescription in said town?

QUESTION 4.

Selling liquor by hotel-keepers only. – Shall any person be authorized to traffic in liquors under sub-division one of section eight of the liquor tax law, but only in connection with the business of keeping a hotel, in said town, if the majority of the votes cast on the first question submitted are in the negative?

SETH D. BAKER  
GEORGE H. SLOCUM  
Commissioners of Election  
W. S. CONNLEY, Town Clerk.

YEA and NAY

**Marcellus Observer, November 3, 1911**

The people who failed to defeat our local water works system, are now trying to defeat license.

The people who were opposed to starting a National Bank in our Village are opposed to License.

The dealer who will not handle butter, bread, cigars nor anything else made in town is opposed to license.

The people who opposed an electric light system are opposed to license.

These people are opposed to everything that don't help increase their bank account.

Show them that you are in favor of keeping this Village in line with other Progressive villages by voting yes on all four questions and put them to sleep for two years more.

Marcellus License Committee

**Marcellus Observer, November 3, 1911**

**NO NO NO NO**

**Vote "NO" Four Times!**

On Question No. 1, "No Saloon."

**Vote No**

On Question No. 2, "No Liquor Store."

**Vote No**

On Question No. 3, "No Drugstore License."

**Vote No**

On Question No. 4, "No Hotel License."

**Vote No**

**TO VOTE NO LICENSE VOTE "NO."**

Vote against the breeding places of anarchy.

Vote against the debauching of manhood.

Vote against the disrespect of womanhood.

Vote against the damning of boyhood and girlhood.

Vote against an open road to hell.

**Vote "NO" Four Times!**

**Marcellus Observer November 10, 1911**

**King Booze Wins**

IN THREE OF OUR TOWNS – RESULT IN OTHERS OF COUNTY – EIGHT WET, FIVE DRY.

"Yes," "We want our toddy." Said voters on election day from 70 to 100 more of them than those who said "No." not because of depraved appetite, not by fear of losing favor or prosperity, but to save their fellow man from the demon alcohol. This the result in both districts of Marcellus, which in 1909 was carried by license by only 4 votes, this year by over 70.....

In Marcellus the aggressive campaign put forth by the No-License workers has perhaps never been equaled. For months back space has been paid for in these columns for argumentative, persuasive and educational matter, with ads at the close which made us look like a hand bill. But pshaw! They want their toddy. The license men also published articles and ad space the last few weeks, equally as glaring and evidently more suitable reading. The fight against liquor has been carried into churches at every available service for months, special meetings held with able speakers, local advocates have contributed strongly by participation, poll workers were aplenty, diligent, securing every vote. No stone was left unturned. Unbiased minds predicted a "no" vote of 100. But agitation had simply prodded their demon from his easy throne for a good day's work.

***Note: From John P. Curtin's PUCKER STREET: "The forces of temperance were far from dead, however, and the issue would be brought up again and again until Marcellus finally went dry in 1914." (page 122) ~***



### Recent Acquisitions

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

**Betty Black** for 1943-44 & 1944-45 MCS Handbooks, Post Standard newspaper articles about Split Rock explosion, Lindberg flight, attack on Pearl Harbor and history of Erie Canal in Syracuse (*correction from last newsletter*); **Charlie Sanborn** for 2 Christmas tree stands, 2 albums, picture frames; **Beverly Crysler Mulvaney** for picture of Blanchard Crysler & Frank Rice working at Marcellus Olde Home Days; **Rusty & Glenn Snell** for pictures of the building of Route 20 at Route 174 & Valley Inn taken by Don Snell; **Ray & Janet Smith** for Post Standard papers of the death of President Kennedy in 1963, Blizzard of 1966, shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in 1968, Man on the moon in 1969; **George Schmidt** for pictures of Nightingale's sawmill & gas pumps, Valley Inn, Tyler Hollow; **Howard & Ann Cary** for historic newspapers & documents; **Jessica Amidon Wiers** for 1994 MCS commencement program; **Marty & Carol Piper** for Guernsey Pharmacy 1967 calendar; **Jim & Margaret McNally** for District #3 book - agriculture, Crown Woolen Mill brick; **Daryl & Agnes Meyers** for numerous church articles, various school pictures & articles; **Bruce Widger** for pictures of 2008 Olde Home Days parade; **Peg Nolan** for J. Michael Kelly's book "Farewell Old Girl", 9-Mile Trout Fishing Guide pamphlet; **Bill & Eleanor King** for 1955 class picture New York trip, war ration book, scrapbook clippings MCS sports, cheerleaders bell (below); **Pat & Charlie Sanborn** for 9/11 pictures and memorial program; **Town of Marcellus** for Community Council Ledgers for 1947 to 1978, survey map of Lot 53; **Faith Bailer Stopyro** for MHS memorabilia; **Jean Nightingale** for 5 picture frames; **John Curtin** for picture of Walsh house at 9 Orange Street; **Bill Schneider** for 1944 newspaper; **Peg & Jim McNally** for one of the last envelopes made by

the Martisco Paper Co.; **Betty Black** for 1874 map, The First Church 1801-1881 book, Centennial History of Marcellus book, Historic Marcellus booklet; **Kelly Rossiter** for 7 1950's-1960's yearbooks; **Peg & Bud Flitcroft** for 5 shoe cobbler forms, Christmas decorations. ~



Town  
Hall  
Mural

### Business Member Directory Please Patronize These Businesses

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**PETER R. HAKES, ESQ., ATTORNEY AT LAW**

General Practice, Located next to Nightingale Mills  
Email: phakes@hakeslawoffice.com (FAX 673-0925)  
4080 South Street Rd., PO Box 41, Marcellus 13108 ..... 673-9390

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

**THIS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
It Wasn't Meant to Be  
But That's the Way it's  
Turning Out**

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

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

**Web Site: mhs.marcellusny.com**

Address Service Requested

**NEXT MEETING (Annual Meeting):**

**Sunday, November 13th, 2 p.m.**

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

**INSIDE:**

- \* *Civil War Soldiers*
- \* *Store on Slocombe Avenue*
- \* *1911 Election Day Propositions*
- \* *New Book by J. Michael Kelly*
- \* *Santa at the Steadman House*
- \* *Christmas at the Steadman House*

Postal Customer  
 Local

**~ GIFT SHOP & MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM ~**

**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? \_\_\_\_

**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  
 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 ..... \$10  
 Farewell Old Girl by J. Michael Kelly ..... \$15  
 Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus ..... \$20  
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 John Drummond "Dried Weeds" Print ..... \$10  
 Official Marcellus Afghans: cranberry,blue,green .... \$45  
 Marcellus, When Wool Was King, Pictorial ..... \$ 5  
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*Shipping: \$3 per book, \$4 other.*

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