



Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 18 Issue 3

Summer 2013

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

The Marcellus Historical Society (MHS) was founded in 1960 and is chartered by the New York State Education Department. The MHS Constitution states: “The purpose of the organization shall be: to foster the study of the history of the original Township of Marcellus, NY; to collect historical records and artifacts pertaining to the original township; to maintain a location for these materials to be preserved, displayed and available for study by the public; and to thereby keep alive the heritage of the community.”

The MHS, *operated entirely by volunteers* and governed by an elected Executive Committee of four officers and six trustees, is headquartered in the Steadman House located at 18 North Street in the village of Marcellus. In November of 2006, the membership of the MHS approved the transfer of the Steadman House as a gift from its owners, Lewis and Alma Steadman. The House was built circa 1833 by Dr. Lake I. Tefft and consists of ten rooms on three floors. The Joanne Robinson Research Room contains: census records dating from 1800 along with birth, marriage and death indices; cemetery records; family genealogies; files for local businesses, organizations and the Marcellus Central School District; over 6,800 labeled and inventoried photographs and 66 scrapbooks with more than 53,000 indexed articles. The remaining rooms display the approximately 5,000 artifacts relating to the history of the Town of Marcellus. A computerized inventory is constantly updated as additional items are donated.

Free guided tours of the house and the adjacent garage, which includes a display of agricultural artifacts, are offered Thursdays (1PM-4PM) and Sundays (1PM-3PM) except for the second Sunday from September through June when a regular meeting of the Society is usually held. The meetings, which are open to all, consist of a short business meeting followed by a program featuring a guest speaker and ending with refreshments. Tours of the House are also available by appointment. For more information, please explore our website at: mhs.villageofmarcellus.com.

For several years, the MHS has maintained a membership of over 400 individuals and 30 businesses who receive our regular quarterly newsletter. However, the dues (\$5 for individuals and \$25 for businesses) do not provide enough income to cover all of the expenses involved with maintaining the Steadman House and our collection. Membership is required for voting at our business meetings and to become a member of the Executive Committee. Members also have free access to our files and records for research - however, membership dues are not considered a donation for tax purposes. The membership records are not given or sold to other individuals or organizations.

Fortunately we do have dedicated members who regularly make donations to support the Society, but for five out of the last six years our expenses have exceeded our income - which has prompted us to conduct a major fundraising campaign to ensure that we remain financially stable. The Marcellus Historical Society is a non-profit organization as described under Section 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code and your tax deductible monetary donation will assist the Executive Committee in addressing and fulfilling the organization's mission statement by facilitating: (1) the purchasing of materials to preserve the records and artifacts, (2) the continued maintenance of the Steadman House, garage and grounds (i.e., monthly and routine expenses of supporting a historical facility), and (3) the updating of computer hardware and software. All contributions are acknowledged with a letter stating the amount and date of the donation to a legitimate non-profit organization.

Whether or not you are a member, please consider making a donation to the Marcellus Historical Society to support our “mission”. An individual who donates \$100 or more will be granted a Sustaining Membership (5 years) and a person donating \$500 or more may be eligible for a Life Membership.

Please show your support of your hometown and its history by sending a contribution to:

Marcellus Historical Society, PO Box 165, 18 North Street, Marcellus, NY 13108-0165

Thank you.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Sunday, September 8, 2013 **2 p.m.**
The Business Meeting will discuss
changes to meeting days and time
Program to be announced

Sunday, October 13, 2013 **2 p.m.**
To Be Announced

Sunday, November 10, 2013 **2 p.m.**
Annual Meeting

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 2013

- President: Peg Nolan673-1765
E-mail: peganolan1@hotmail.com
- Vice President: Doug Nightingale.....673-2539
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

- 2013 Joy Buffan.....673-1832
- 2013 Jamie Johnston673-1160
- 2014 Mary Jane Domurat.....673-4896
E-mail: mjdomurat@msn.com
- 2014 Patricia Sanborn.....488-3610
E-mail: pasanborn@twcny.rr.com
- 2015 John Curtin.....673-3660
E-mail: jcurtin2@windstream.net
- 2015 Bob Wilson673-2550
E-mail: 89rw@twcny.rr.com

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.

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

Current Membership: 374
Not renewed from 2012: 28
New Members: 3
Business Members: 32
Not renewed from 2012: 5

Please renew your membership!
We depend on dues to help maintain
our collection and the Steadman House.

Email Addresses

We would appreciate it if members would advise us of their email address so that we can contact them with information such as meeting programs and changes. This would help by reducing the need to contact members by telephone or mail.

Please send to **habbott1@twcny.rr.com**. Email information will not be given to other individuals or organizations.

HELP WANTED

We need to fill the Treasurer’s position starting in January of 2014. All of the financial records for the Society are on the computer using Microsoft Excel and Quicken. Banking is done mostly on line with Empower FCU which has a branch in Fairmount.

- Requirements:
- 1 - MHS member for a year and over 18 years old
 - 2 - Ability to balance a checkbook
 - 3 - Computer experience
 - 4 - Familiarity with Microsoft Excel helpful
- Rewards:
- 1 - No Payroll Taxes (no pay)
 - 2 - No Benefits other than friendly work environment
 - 3 - Satisfaction of volunteer work
- Contact Hollis Abbott with questions.

MARCELLIANS WANTED

Please donate your old Marcellus Yearbooks to the Historical Society. We especially need issues from 1970 forward.

In Remembrance

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Lathrop - June 22, 2013

Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:**Helen Wilmot (in memory of Michael Plumpton)****GE Foundation Matching Gift
(from Myron & Barbara Egtvedt)****Olde Home Days Committee****Pat Eisenberg (in memory of Joseph Nolan)****Margaret M. Ireland****And In Memory of Ruth Bussey Oliver****Jean & Terry Shaffer****William Fontaine and 3rd Grade Team
of McAlister Intermediate School, Suffield, CT.****Jim Palmieri & Dan Haim****Shirley & Alan Levitz****And in Memory of Elizabeth Lathrop****Jim & Peg McNally****Daniel J. Ross****Barbara R. Trotter****Carol M. Schoeneck****Florence Pottinger****Bruce & Mary Widger****Gary & Judith Kavney ~****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 and Jean & Doug Nightingale for keeping the Steadman House open during scheduled hours; Peg & Marni Nolan for outdoor flowers; Bruce & Mary Widger for Newsletter mailing; and the Village of Marcellus for lawn care. ~

Edward Parsons, RetoldA companion book to Edward Parsons' Pioneer diaries, 1831-1889By Jack Parsons

Jack Parsons of Edmonds, Washington has donated four copies of his book about his ancestor, **Edward Parsons** (1810-1889), to the Historical Society. Edward Parsons, the son of **Rev. Levi Parsons**, moved to Michigan in 1835 and kept a diary of the hardships of being a

pioneer farmer in the wilderness of Michigan.

The book is available at the Steadman House for \$25.

Renewed Members

*Since our last newsletter with Sustaining members in bold print and New members underlined: **Thomas Aherin**, Nancy Cole, John Patrick Feeney, Beverly A. Mulvaney, Jerry Orton, Barbara Randall, Frances Randall, Pauline Reynolds, Matthew Shoff, Raymond & Janet Smith, Virginia Unckless, Patricia Vile. ~*

Lifetime Members: John & Maureen Curtin, James & Laura Duncan, Joyce Murphy, Bernard & Ruth Anne Reagan, Lewis T. Steadman.

Sustaining Members: Hollis & Nancy Abbott, Thomas Aherin, Jane C. Amidon, Carol Armstrong, Dolores J. Austin, Terrie Bean-Minero, Chris Bedford, Anita D. Bedford-Catlin, Daphne Bedford-Goldacker, Harvey Bell, Betty Black, Doug & Bev Blanchard, Russ & Eva Briggs, Tom Brilbeck, Johanna Duffy & Wendell Buckman, Joy L. Buffan, Donald & Doris Buschbascher, Priscilla Carmody, Michael & Tobey Casler, Mary Raye Casper, Chris Christensen, John & Elsa Church, Doug & Clara Clark, Vicki & Mike Conde, William & Marsha Connor, James & Vera Costello, John T. Coyne, Robert & Myrtle Crysler, Catherine D'Angelo, Beverly Parsons Dann, Frank & Janis Debevic, Edwin & Anita Diefes, Mary Jane L. Domurat, Lyn Duffy, Myron & Barbara Egtvedt, Brian Eisenberg, Pat Eisenberg, Peter Eisenberg, Tom Eisenberg, Cathleen Gallinger Ellinger, Charlie Faching, Michael W. Farrell, Helen Fenlon, Kathleen R. Fenner, Phyllis Fenner, Roger & Joan Field, Janet Fisher, Jean Forster, Susan Forster Fraser, June Frawley, Mark Friske, David Gallinger, Alan Gammon, Elizabeth Garn, John & Elizabeth Gibson & Family, Judy Gilchrist, Thomas & Joanne Gilley, Jim & Peg Girard & Family, Joyce Glover, Linda Greenfield, Nancy & Philip Griffith, James R. Hettinger, Barbara Parsons Hildreth, Anne B. Hill, Dr. Kathleen Mullin Hoar, Terry Hoey, Sharon Hunter, Janet Schwartz & Steve Jennings, Ivelyne Eysenburg & Robert Julia Sr., Mary Ann Kaveski, Gary & Judy Kavney, Helen Kennedy, John & Nancy Knowlton & Family, Zilpha Lambert, Ray & Kathy Leubner & Family, Richard & Serena Linck, Mary Mahagan, Robert & Alice Mahan, Mary McGreal, Jodell Z. McVey, Doug Miller, Paul Jr. & Hazel Morgan, Martha Mulroy, Joanne Murdock, Bill & Joyce Nesfeder, Doug & Jean Nightingale, Peg Nolan, Doug & Cathy North, Allen S. Odell, Elizabeth L. Olley, John Palen, Chuck & Mary Jo Paul, John & Rose Phillips, Leon & Julie Plochocki, James & Donna Quinn & Family, Keith & Janine Ramsden, William J. Randall, Jim & Jean Reagan, Rick & Kriston Reagan & Family, Bill & Donna Renner, William & Annetta Riley & Family, Melanie Mulroy Robinson, Lauren D. Rowe, Gretchen S. Rusk, Victoria Sabin, Mary Horsington Salibrici, Patricia & Charles Sanborn, George & Bev Schmidt, Art Scotti, Nancy Seeley, Dr. Margaret Sennett, Gene & Ingrid Seymour, Kurt Sherman, Peg Shields, James H. Stone II, Helen Snell Strich, William & Rebecca Tallman, Geoffrey P. Teeter, Mary Tuthill, Richard Tuttle, Virginia Unckless, Dale Vidler, Harriette Waldburger, Melinda Mulroy Wax, Patty Weisse, Kathy Whitehead, Bill & Janet Whyland, Jerry & Nina Wickett, Dr. Bruce & Mary Widger, Ben & Sharon Wiles, Midge Woods, Sally Odell Wroe, John & Beth Anne Wroe & Family, Karen Yuhas, Jana Carey & Ben Yuhas & Family. ~



Marcellus Observer October 7, 1955

Dr. John L. Rury, left, and Dr. Vernon E. Roth, are shown in the consultation room at the new Medical Center on Orange Street, Marcellus.

Dr. Vernon E. Roth

Dr. Vernon E. Roth was a physician in Marcellus for thirty-five years, coming to Marcellus in 1933. Dr. Roth was born in Shelby, Mich., and came to New York State at the age of nine when his family moved to Clifton Springs. He was a Phi Beta Kappa at Syracuse University and graduated magna cum laude from the SU School of Medicine in 1932 after which he spent one year as a resident physician at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse.

He had his first office on North Street in the house that later became the Methodist Church Parsonage (at the corner of Paul Street). After buying the house on Reed Street, he made an office there and his wife worked as his receptionist and nurse for some time. During WW II, he served in the Army Medical Corps with the rank of Major. For many years he specialized in obstetrics but he gave this up to practice general medicine.

In 1955 Dr. Roth built the Marcellus Medical Center on Orange Street and in time, Dr. John Rury and Dr. Lance Osadshey joined the practice. He was active in town and village affairs, and served for many years as Town Health Officer and School Health Officer. He was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, a medical honor society, Alpha Kappa Kappa Medical Fraternity, the Onondaga Medical Society, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of General Practice and in 1960 he was asked to present a paper to the International College of Medical Practice in Salzburg, Austria.

For many years he was on the staff of St. Joseph's

Hospital and later on the staff of Community Hospital. In 1969, due to his health, Dr. Amado S. Santos took over his practice.

Dr. Roth died February 26, 1969 and was laid to rest at Highland Cemetery. His wife, Thelma Donaldson Roth, passed away in 1972. They had one daughter and three grandchildren.

Submitted by Peg Nolan

Dr. John Rury, age 32, joined Dr. Vernon Roth's medical practice in 1955. He was from Baldwinsville and a former GI who was a resident physician at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. He practiced in Marcellus for about eight years and then returned to St. Joseph's. Later he was chosen for the "Who's Who" of Medical Specialists while practicing in Plattsburg, New York.

Marcellus Observer Jan. 1955, June 1963
Baldwinsville Messenger March 1971

Dr. Roger G. Daly moved to Marcellus from Minoa in 1962 and had his office at 42 East Main Street. He was a native of Ellenburg Depot, Clinton County, and a graduate of Syracuse University and the Upstate Medical Center in 1955. After an internship at St. Joseph's Hospital, he served as a Captain in the Medical Corps, serving two years in Germany. Dr. Daly ended his practice in Marcellus in March of 1975.

Marcellus Observer July 1962, March 1975

Dr. Lance Osadhsey joined Dr. Vernon Roth's medical practice in 1966. He was a native of Homer, New York and a graduate of Upstate Medical School in Syracuse. Before coming to Marcellus, he was an intern at Packard Hospital, in Sayre for a year and then joined the U.S. Army as a captain and battalion surgeon for the 82nd airborne division of paratroopers.

Marcellus Observer November 1966

Dr. Amado S. Santos took over Dr. Roth's practice in 1969. He was a native of the Philippines and graduated from St. Thomas College in Manila. He did his residency and post-graduate work in St. Louis and Milwaukee and also attended Queens College in Kingston, Ontario before coming to Community-General Hospital in 1967. Dr. Santos also opened an office in Solvay and then in Camillus before retiring from private practice in 2004.

Marcellus Observer Feb. 1969, Feb. 1990, June 2004



Marcellus Observer February 20, 1948

Stories of Marcellus Business

By Roy A. Gallinger

Many Advancements in Farm Machinery Noted At Nightingale's, After 60 Years in Business

It was 60 years ago—in the year 1883 to be exact—that William Nightingale, Jr., father of the present Nightingale brothers, looked over the plot of ground a mile south of Marcellus and decided that a grist mill on that spot would serve the farmers of the community.

The place didn't look like it does today. About where the mill stands was an old tannery, and a house stood on the site of the present house. Today, part of the original house has been pushed back and is now a shed, directly back of the house. The rest of the structure was remodeled into a home, and it was there that the Nightingale family of children was born.

William Nightingale, Jr. (his father was William, Sr.) died about 20 years ago, and many times he has told that during the first year of operation the profit of the grist mill was a dollar a week. William Nightingale's father, William, Sr., originally built a sawmill on the creek bank at what now is the Bryden-Schmidt property on Cherry Valley Turnpike, and that was long before even oil lamps were invented. Indeed, the elder Nightingale was first in these parts to purchase an oil lamp and a gallon of coal oil.

In the history books the name of Florence Nightingale, the famous nurse of long ago and the founder of the Red Cross, is hailed with the honor due one of her accomplishments. This writer learned for the first time that the famous Florence Nightingale was a first cousin of William Nightingale, Sr., the man who built the sawmill by the creek, therefore would have been a third cousin to the present generation of Marcellus Nightingales.

When William Nightingale, Jr., died a score of years ago, the three sons; John, Merson and Harold

took the mill over. Merson had been associated with his father before the elder Nightingale died, and now his two brothers joined him in the business. All three boys had a thorough understanding of the milling business and each had served his time in the hard, muscular work connected with it.

Although ambitious and imbued with the urge to expand, the boys were a level headed trio and started slowly. With the coming of the tractor they saw an opportunity to serve the farmers better, so built a garage and took on a tractor dealership. Other lines followed as the boys saw the need of them, until today a farmer can stop at Nightingale's and fill most of his farm needs, besides having his grist run through and filling up with gas.

With the coming of oil heat the Nightingales were quick to seize this opportunity. They already had gasoline connections and were one of the leading gas dealers in the county. This led to the easy acquisition of oil contracts, and today they have become an outstanding fuel oil source for this part of the county.

From the modest beginning of 60 years ago, the Nightingale Mills now has several major departments, with competent men managing each. The fuel oil and gas department is handled by James Ryan; the pump department by Roy Edinger; the farm machinery department is managed by John Nightingale, Jr.; tires and accessories are the department of Horace Crysler; Merson Nightingale is in charge of the mill; Harold the garage and John is busy keeping the accounting department functioning. Each man has the assistants necessary for his job.

Besides the multitudinous stock of farm tools and gadgets, Nightingales carry phosphate, cement, lime, wallboard, poultry litter, paints, nails, hardware, tools, rope freezers, refrigerators, and a hundred other articles. They also do welding, thawing of frozen pipes and repairing of almost every kind.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment that has grown to be one of the leading businesses of Marcellus. It employs 20 people, most of them local. Not once has the firm marred its name for fair and honest dealing, and even though it has grown large the owners have not lost their connection with the farmer, the man who tills the soil. Customers are still called by their first names and their families are known to the Nightingales. This democratic spirit prevailing in a large business of this kind can only strengthen the bond of trust and friendship between customer and owner, and has much to do with the Nightingale success story. ~

Submitted by Peg Nolan

One Hundred Years Ago in Marcellus

Marcellus Observer October 24, 1913

For a Library

All persons interested in a public library are asked to meet in the front room of the Knapp block, directly over the Postoffice, Monday evening, October 27th, at 8 o'clock. The gift of books from Mrs. George Chapman of Chicago, which has been placed in this room, and the sum of nearly \$25 which is on hand are the results of efforts thus far. What to do with these and the other gifts which have been promised and what further steps to take toward a definite library organization for our town will be discussed at this meeting. If you are the least bit interested in this project, which has so great a civic value, come to the meeting and give the matter your loyal support. ~

Recent Acquisitions

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



Shinaman Family for Marcellus Observers, Presbyterian Church 175 years, 1958 class pictures, newspapers, Rev. Levi Parsons' minutes of 1846 General Assembly; **Beth Battle** for her

photo of teal display for 2013 APHNYS conference; **Michael Plumpton Family** for many books, files, documents, photos, kerosene lamp shade, magazine rack, box camera, MFD helmet, Grandfather Purchase's cane, Purchase Family History; **Eugene Rowland** for Whitfield's Grill token; **Joyce Murphy** for MFD Annual Banquet program & letter; **Beverly Mulvaney** for 1960 program "Sing Out, Sweet Land", Baccalaureate Service 1961, Commencement 1961, Agnes Mather article on Marcellus Falls Post Office, pencil from Matteson Heating & Plumbing, MCS pencil 1957-58 basketball season, Lovina Matteson photo album, barley mill photo, envelope mailed to Mrs. Blanchard Chrysler; **John P. Feeney** for 1922 St. Francis Holy Name Society photo, photos of Jim Reagan, John Feeney Jr., Ethel Feeney, Marcellus Greys, Nancy Blanchard house; **James Dyer** for photos of 1937 MFD, Marietta school, F. A. Lyman deed from Isaac Bradley to I. G. Kellogg, Emily Holmes postcard, 1909 postcard to Mrs. John Spaulding, 1811 letter written by Sam'l Chapman, Marcellus ; **Nancy Cole** for her book "The Brass Bell"; **Hazel & Paul Morgan** for photos of 45th reunion of Class of 1943;

J. Michael Coyne for Glover Family History, John Ennett Thornton/Kathryne Elizabeth Cosgrove History, Split Rock Explosion article, Marcellus Observer Bicentennial Scrapbook, Empire Magazine "Roots - Ireland's Legacy to Syracuse", book "A House Looks On", Alvord House Fire article, Centennial History of Town of Marcellus; **Amber Spain-Mosher** for Letters & samples of wool material from Crown Mills 1935-1960; **Mr. & Mrs. John Weeks** for Dress form mannequin; **Roy Dodge** for 2 Marcellus Lodge ribbons. ~

**Keep Your Eye on the Ball
Your Shoulder to the Wheel
Your Ear to the Ground
Now, Try to Work in that Position.**

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Please Patronize These Businesses

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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 Address:
mhs.villageofmarcellus.com

Address Service Requested

NEXT MEETING:
Sunday, September 8th, 2 p.m.
Discussion of changes to meeting times

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

Postal Customer
 Local

- INSIDE:**
- * *Request for Support*
 - * *Dr. Vernon E. Roth*
 - * *Nightingale Mills*
 - * *Edward Parsons book*
 - * *100 Years ago in Marcellus*

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