



The Steadman House

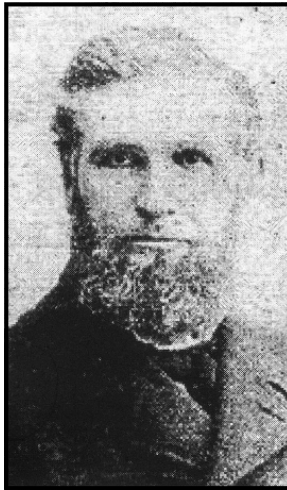
# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 20 Issue 2

Spring 2015

Marcellus Observer March 26, 1915

**George Washington Case** died at the home near Octagon school, South Hill, Marcellus, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, at 2 a.m. He was among our pioneer citizens and the respect in which he was held might have been numbered by his length of years, it was universal and sincere. Marcellus has a monument to his memory and that of Mrs. Case in their gift of our town clock. He had been assessor, justice of the peace, upright and true, a good and helpful neighbor. He was a member of Excelsior Grange and they sent flowers. He taught school in Virginia two years in early life. He was married in July, 1887 to Miss Marion Brooks, who survives, with many nephews and nieces. His family are all dead.



Two days before Christmas he suffered a severe shock, and has been unable to walk since, declining steadily, during which time Mrs. Case has given him every care and devotion in his last days.

Geo. W. Case was born in 1834 near Cedarvale, farmer and lifelong resident. He was the son of Mary and Willard Case. His father died when a young man, leaving his widow and five small children, of which Geo. W. was the youngest, then about 7 years old. The family lived in Pleasant Valley, the mother keeping a home and by dint of economy bravely caring for and bringing up her children. On the death of her husband neighbors built her a log house, and she did weaving many years.

Geo. W. went to work when 12 years old, working for a sixpence a day to help his mother. This early experience laid the foundation which developed his character and made him a self-made man in the true sense of the word. He was a man of sterling worth. He held several public offices. He had developed a devoted Christian character, having united with the Methodist church when 17 years old, and was always

a loyal supporter, living a consistent life, and he departed this life with the name of the Master on his lips. Mr. Case began a poor man and died, leaving an estate estimated at nine thousand.

The funeral was largely attended Friday afternoon, March 19, in Marcellus Methodist church, Rev. W. S. Tompkins preaching from the text, "Let me die the death of the Righteous, that my last days shall be like His." Interment was made in the old cemetery in Marcellus. Neighbors acted as bearers, Eugene and Irving Johnson, Lewis Armstrong and Jacob Schindler. Jones & Son had charge.

We have always been interested in the fact that Mr. Case had preserved a complete file of every issue of The Observer since its first issue, and he was quite proud of this, as an editor also might be. ~

*The following article is from the 1997 Marcellus Historical Society News, Volume 2, Issue No. 1:*  
**OUR VILLAGE CLOCK ... Doug Whitman**

*In late October, I had an opportunity to climb into the belfry of a historic Marcellus landmark (built in 1877-8) which has fascinated me for many years. I gladly accepted an invitation from Historical Society President, Bill Reagan, to assist with replacement of two lamps for the clock faces on the Methodist Church tower. Hearing the bell hourly, and seeing the clock's faces from my front porch day or night, have kept me punctual during my twenty-two years of Marcellus residency.*

In 1909, our village clock's cast-brass mechanism was purchased, for \$500 from the H.J. Howe, Co. in Syracuse, and donated to the Methodist Church by Mr. and Mrs. George Case, local farmers.

Made and installed by E. Howard & Company, Boston, MA, the heavy machine was hoisted with a block and tackle to the fifth floor of the Church belfry where all but the hand-crank assembly and weights still reside.



(Continued on page 4)

**EVENTS SCHEDULE**

*The tentative schedule of events is as follows:*

**Sunday, May 17, 2015 2 p.m.**

To Be Announced

**Saturday, June 6, 2015 10 a.m.—2 p.m.**

***OPEN HOUSE—OLDE HOME DAYS***

**No Meetings During June, July,  
August and September**

*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 2015**

- President: Peg Nolan .....673-1765  
E-mail: peganolan1@hotmail.com  
Vice President: Kathy McLaughlin  
E-mail: mclaughlink@hotmail.com  
Treasurer: Patricia Sanborn .....488-3610  
E-mail: pasanborn@twcny.rr.com  
Secretary: Carriebeth Pottinger... .....673-3187  
E-mail: cb90009@aol.com

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- 2015 John Curtin.....673-3660  
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2015 Bob Wilson .....673-2550  
2016 Jamie Johnston.....673-1160  
2016 Harvey Eysman.....673-3933  
E-mail: heysman@windstream.net  
2017 Doug Nightingale.....673-2539  
E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net  
2017 Jean Nightingale.....673-2539  
E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net

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.  
Email address: **histsoc@windstream.net**  
Telephone: 315-673-4839

Please direct comments or questions about the newsletter  
to Hollis Abbott at the above address or email:  
habbott1@twcny.rr.com

**From The President ...**

Happy Spring -

Thank you Jim MacLachlan for going over the property with a metal detector. He found pennies from late 1800's to early 1900's. Also found a spoon and other pieces.

The 4th grade classes will be visiting the house in June to learn about Marcellus history. Anyone interested in assisting with the tours please let me know.

Students from Bishop Grimes High School are volunteering to do the spring cleanup again this year. We appreciate this very much.

June 5th, 6th and 7th Marcellus will celebrate Olde Home Days. The Steadman House will be open from 10-2 on Saturday for visitors.

Have a great summer!

*Peg Nolan*

At the April 12th meeting, the By-Laws as proposed in November 2014 and published in the Fall 2014 Newsletter were approved. A provision was included to exempt any member who has attained the age of 90 from paying dues. Therefore, if you have reached this milestone, please let us know.

Thank you. ~

**Steadman House Hours (Weather Permitting):**

**Sundays 1 to 3 pm (except meeting Sundays)  
Thursdays 1 to 4 pm  
Or By Appointment:  
Peg Nolan - 673-1765  
John Curtin - 673-3660**

**MEETING TIMES**

**Regular meetings of the Marcellus Historical Society will be at 2 pm on the 2nd Sunday of the months of April, May, October and November except when Easter or Mother's Day occurs on the 2nd Sunday - in which case, the meeting will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month.**

**Newsletter via E-mail**

Starting with this newsletter, we will not mail a copy to those who receive it via e-mail. If you have not yet advised us of your e-mail address, please do so at: **histsoc@windstream.net**. We do not publish or sell member information. ~

**In Remembrance**

**Francis P. Murphy, Jr. - January 8, 2015**

**Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:**

Town of Marcellus (Grant for Utilities)

**Kathryn Kelly**

(in memory of Dorothy Sennett)

**Bruce & Mary Widger**

(in memory of Anita Bedford Catlin)

**Bruce & Mary Widger**

(in memory of Douglas Blanchard)

**Margaret Nolan**

(in memory of Dorothy Sennett)

**Farrell's Auto Service****Robert & Margaret Shields****Friends of Marcellus Free Library****Ronald & Ann Weeks****Mary Horsington Salibrici****Mark S. Friske****The Marietta House****Robert & Martha Harris****Deborah A. Glisson****Philip & Gwen Olenych****And In Memory of Leona Wilcox****Raymond Lawless****Alice Jane Mahan****William & Martha Cole****David & Nellie Peatfield****Russell & Dorothy Snell****Timothy & Judith Pearson ~****Recent Acquisitions**

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

**James Dyer** for 2 wedding invitations;**Anonymous** for Marcellus Rotary

Club papers, Marcellus Jaycees

Newsletter 1970-71, Marcellus

Community Assoc. records; **Port Byron Library** forHistoric Marcellus & Vicinity booklet; **Marilee S.****Williams** for Fall 1932 catalog for F.W. BrowNurseries in Rose Hill;. **Cathy North** for pictures of

Santa's visit to the Steadman House in December

2014; **Jack O'Shea** for picture of 1934-35 footballteam; **Dorothy Sennett Family** for Alvord Houseprogram dated May 29, 1896; **Joy Buffan** for

Marcellus Library Centennial timeline and history. ~

**Current Membership: 335****Not renewed from 2014: 32****New: 3****Business Members: 28****Not renewed from 2014: 5****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; **Bruce & Mary Widger** for Newsletter mailing; and the **Village of Marcellus** for snow plowing and lawn maintenance.*

**Ceiling Replaced**

The ceiling in the Steadman House second floor bedroom has been replaced by Tom Schneider Construction, Inc. ~

**Renewed Members**

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

Dave & Sally Bailey, Bruce & Helen Baker, **Terry Ballantine**, John & Gerry Bednarski, Harold Brinkerhoff, Phyllis Budell, Bill & Kathy Bush, Kathleen Carroll & Family, Bob & Richelle Ciota, **Doug & Clara Clark**, Victoria M. Clark, Phillip & Helen Clarke, Patrick & Sarah Cox, Viola Darling, Paul Decapio, Regina Dillon, **Lyn Duffy, Harvey & Donna Eysman**, John Patrick Feeney, **Mark Friske, Jim & Peg Girard & Family**, Gene Hares & Family, Jennifer Kavney Harvey, Sterling Jansen, Jamie L. Johnston, Gary & Judy Kavney, J. Michael & Mary E. Kelly, **Pamela Kiel**, Mike & Martha Lollis, **Jim MacLachlan, John Martens**, Kathy McLaughlin, **Jim & Peg McNally**, Sue Mezey, James & Arlene Milne, Ted & Judy Morton, Beverly A. Mulvaney, Jim Murphy, Philip & Gwen Olenych, Mary Jean Patric, **Chuck & Mary Jo Paul, Kathleen Powell**, William J. Randall, Robert & Manuela & Caroline Reagan, **Melanie Mulroy Robinson, Mary Horsington Salibrici**, William Schneider, Joanne Sedgwick, **James Jr. & Betsy Shake**, Matthew Shoff, Jeffrey & Mary Beth Smith & Family, Russell & Dorothy Snell, Garth & Gerry Snyder, Leda Stopyro, **Helen Snell Strich**, Martha Taffaro, Clinton & Sara Tallman, **Melinda Mulroy Wax**, Ronald & Ann Weeks, Millicent Welker, **Bob & Kay Wilson, David Wilson.** ~

**This is a non-profit organization supported by dues and donations!**

Yearly dues cover the *calendar year* and if your dues are not paid by the *end of March*, we must drop you from the membership list and the newsletter mailing. If there is a question about dues, please send an e-mail to [histsoc@windstream.net](mailto:histsoc@windstream.net) or leave a message on 315-673-4839.

*(Continued from page 1)*

A single linkage-rod extends from the top of the clock mechanism, to the tower's sixth floor where its rotation is transferred through a gearbox and more linkage to each of the four sets of clock hands. *(Supporting the central gearbox is a board from the clock's original shipping crate stenciled: "H. J. Howe; Care E. V. Baker {Postmaster}; Marcellus Onondaga Co. N.Y.")*

For \$50, Marcellus resident, Edgar Bartlett built the six-foot wooden clock faces, and three-foot hands with iron balance rods, and installed them on the belfry 64 feet above the ground. On Tuesdays and Fridays, Mr. Bartlett, D.F. Coon, or Fred Woodbridge maintained and wound the clock. They climbed on crude ladders through the belfry chambers housing the clock's 145-pound running-weight and 800-pound striking-weight.

In the early 1960's, the Methodist Church donated its landmark clock to the Village of Marcellus, and Mr. Mel Corp assumed primary responsibility as the last person to wind the clock's huge weights by hand.

Perched high above the clock's faces, on the seventh (*and top*) floor of the belfry, is the 40-inch wide by 36-inch high cast-bronze bell made in 1876 at Troy, NY by the Meneely & Kimbrcly Foundry. *(Since the belfry was constructed in 1877-8 as part of the original church structure, I'm assuming the M&K bell was installed in it at that time.)*

From installation to 1909, the bell was rung by pulling a rope extending down five floors to the church vestibule. The rope was connected to the 6-foot, 3-inch great-wheel on the bell's West side. A manual pull-rope is still used to ring the bell for special occasions, but now it operates a striking mallet rather than rocking the huge bell North and South in its massive cast iron suspension cradle. The bell's large clapper still hangs within its vessel.

In 1962, with \$795 in donations from the Marcellus Rotary and Citizen's Clubs, the clock's original weights were removed and electric motors installed to drive its running and striking mechanisms. The conversion was contracted to the Bert Rogers firm from Harrisburg, PA, by then Mayor, Lester Norris. The Rogers firm removed the hand-crank mechanism and weights from the tower.

Now, a large metal mallet connected to the clock's striking mechanism rings the bell on the hour. Electric lights illuminate the four clock-faces at night. Modern ladders have replaced the old ones used for climbing through the tower chambers to maintain the clock, bell, strike mallets and lights.

Since electrification, annual maintenance has continued to be performed by the Rogers firm from Harrisburg, and routine maintenance by Lester Norris, Ray Lawless and George Haggett.

Following Mr. Haggett's recent death, the village has made arrangements with Bill Reagan and Doug Whitman who are now providing routine care and time adjustments when needed. ~

*Notes: Doug Whitman died in 2011 and this year Bill Reagan completed his twentieth year of setting and maintaining the clock as a volunteer. John Holmes, a village employee, has now taken over the job.*

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*Marcellus Observer September 6, 1946*

### **Last Marcellus Blacksmith Quits**

With the auction of the machinery and tools of Frank Miles, Marcellus will lose its only blacksmith. Mr. Miles will enter another business.

In the days of horses, blacksmith shops were plentiful. Each village had at least two, and they were scattered over the rural districts as well. In these places gathered village men and children, the former to talk politics and about the weather, and the latter to watch the sparks fly from the anvil and the brawny smith pound the shoe into shape for the waiting hoof.

With the advent of the automobile, the blacksmith shops became machine shops or garages. The horseshoer loaded his forge and his anvil onto a truck and drove about the countryside shoeing horses on the farm. But soon this business began to peter out too, as few farmers bothered to have their horses shod for farm work.

For several years the Miles shop has discontinued the shoeing of horses, and Mr. Miles had devoted his time to welding and iron work, two jobs at which he is expert. His shop has been a scene of activity at all times, and he has usually had more work than one man could do. The class of work he turned out drew customers from Syracuse and other places who insisted that he do their work.

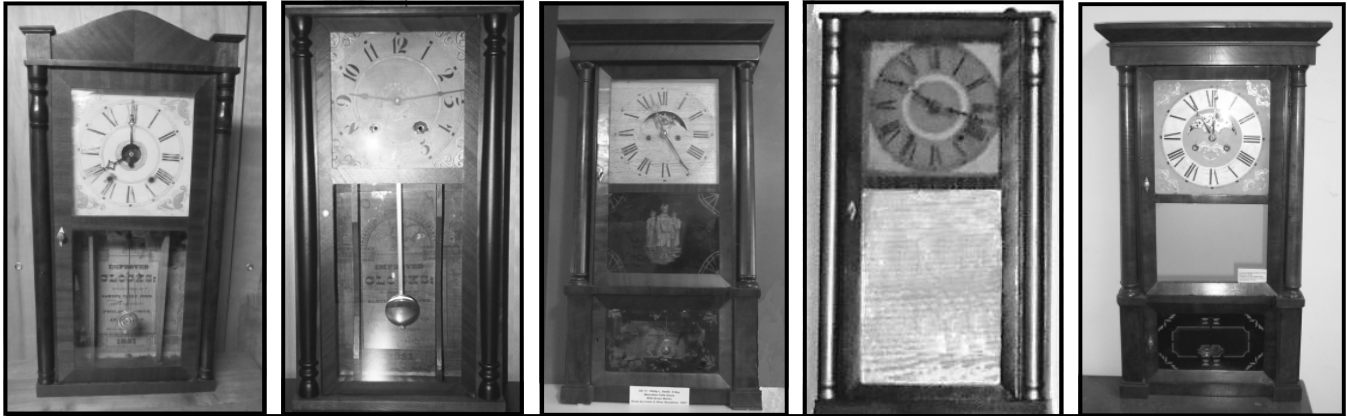
Since John Wybron gave up his shop a few years ago, Mr. Miles has been alone in the local field. Mr. Wybron was also a first class mechanic in that line and did a large amount of precision work for out-of-town concerns. Recently John sold his tools and has since been employed at the school. ~

*Submitted by Peg Nolan*

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**The Marcellus Village speed limit in 1910 was 8 miles per hour.**

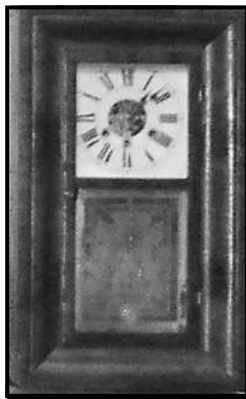
### Historical Society Clock Collection at the Steadman House



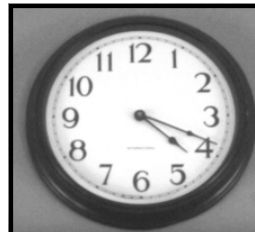
All of the above clocks were made by Philip L. Smith who had settled in Amber by 1829 and later in the mid 1830's had established a clock factory in Marcellus Falls. Starting on the left: 1) Amber clock made in 1831 with 30 hour wooden works by Samuel Terry in Connecticut donated by Lewis Steadman; 2) Amber clock made in 1831 (original works missing) given by Stephen White; 3) Marcellus Falls clock with 8 day brass works donated by Lewis & Alma Steadman; 4) Marcellus Falls clock with 30 hour wooden works donated by Jean Stone Hughes; 5) Marcellus Falls clock with 8 day brass works purchased by the Historical Society.



Sessions Wall Clock from the Corner Store



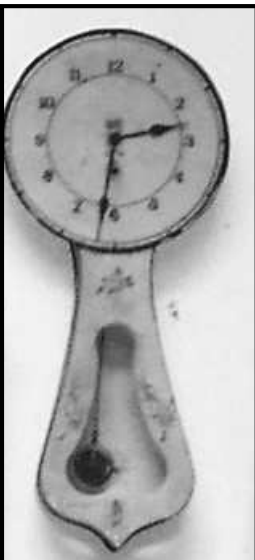
M. Welton OG 30 hour shelf clock



Original MCS clock From the Driver Building Donated by John & Betty Henderson



Regulator wall clock Used in Steve Hunt's Grocery Store



Banjo shaped clock made in Howard White's clock shop Given by Florence Pottinger

Ithaca Calendar clock from the Marcellus Bank Rescued from the curb by Michael Plumpton

Reference: "AN EMPIRE IN TIME  
CLOCKS & CLOCK MAKERS OF UPSTATE NEW YORK"  
By G. Russell Oechsle—Helen Boyce  
& Collaborators

Waterbury 8 day beehive shelf clock with alarm Given by Mary Woods



**Fifty Years Ago in Marcellus**

*Marcellus Observer January 21, 1965*

**John A. Murray**

John A. Murray of 10 Bradley Street, died Saturday, while shoveling snow at his home. He was 79.

Mr. Murray, a native of Tillicoultry, Scotland was employed as a masseur at the YMCA for 22 years until his retirement a few years ago.

Mr. Murray was the first Scoutmaster of the Marcellus Boy Scouts when the unit was organized 59 years ago. He was a member and elder of the First Presbyterian Church, Marcellus, and a member and past master of Morning Star Masonic Lodge 524.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Helen Anderson Murray, and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Tuesday at the Norris Funeral Home, Rev. Keith Shinaman officiating. Burial in Highland Cemetery, Marcellus. ~

*Marcellus Observer January 28, 1965*

**Marcellus School Board to Receive Bids on New High School**

The Marcellus Board of Education is receiving construction bids on February 2nd for a \$1,990,000 senior high school.

The new school is located on the present campus. Preliminary grading of the site and installation of storm water lines for the project started last November under a \$68,000 contract with Avon & Fowler, Inc. This work is well underway and will be completed early this spring. The architects, Clark, Clark, Millis & Gilson of Syracuse, N.Y. have designed the building to harmonize with the present high school and elementary school, both of which are located on the same campus. Consisting of three wings, each connected by entrance lobbies, the building totals 75,000 square feet and will house 620 students. It is designed for expansion to 1,000 students by the the addition of twelve (12) classrooms and a shop area. ~

*Marcellus Observer February 4, 1965*

**Firemen Plan New Building**

The Marcellus Fire department is planning a new firehouse, according to fire department officials.

Preliminary plans have been under way for two years and recently the architectural firm of Quinlevan, Pierk and Krause have been brought into the picture and preliminary sketches have been made.

Present plans call for the erection of the new firehouse on Slate Hill Rd. next to the Village garage.

Under the plans now being considered the present firehouse on Main St. would be retained and would house one fire truck. The other trucks would operate out of the Slate Hill Rd. facility.

Estimated cost of the new structure would be a little under \$100,000. ~

**One Hundred Years Ago in Marcellus**

*Marcellus Observer May 7, 1915*

**Many Hope For Service Here.**

One million new patrons will receive the benefits of the rural delivery system, beginning with the fiscal year commencing July 1<sup>st</sup>.

There are roads not served with a half dozen or more living on them and individuals who have to go long distances to get their mail. The R. F. D. proven out now, this service should extend to the front of every home on a route. There is no just reason why a family remotely located should not have service the very same as houses on a main road. They pay the same taxes and postage. Those not having perfect service should band together and protest. ~

**It's the root of All Evil.**

If you value your friendships don't borrow money, don't lend money, don't advise others how to invest their money. ~

**Please renew your Business Membership or become a new member for \$25 a year (includes your listing in the directory below). Mail to the address on page 2 or Call Patricia Sanborn at 488-3610 for more information.**

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**There are Three Sides to every Story  
- - - Yours - - - Mine - - - and the Facts!**

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

Non-Profit Organization  
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 Permit Number 165

**Web Site Address:**  
**mhs.villageofmarcellus.com**

Address Service Requested

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Sunday, May 17th, 2 p.m.**

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

- INSIDE:**
- \* *George W. Case*
  - \* *The Village Clock*
  - \* *Last Marcellus Blacksmith*
  - \* *Steadman House Clock Collection*
  - \* *50 Years Ago in Marcellus*
  - \* *100 Years Ago in Marcellus*

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Join Our Society Today!</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$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? _____</p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Available Collectibles</u></b></p> <p>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                      Nine Mile Country by Kathryn Heffernan..... \$20                      Centennial History of the Town of Marcellus ..... \$15                      Olden Day Stories by Lawrence F. Mahoney ..... \$10                      Otisco Lake Community by Roger Trendowski ..... \$23                      Otisco Lake Map 1868 ..... \$13                      Farewell Old Girl by J. Michael Kelly ..... \$15                      Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus ..... \$20                      Ruth Reed Cummings Prints ..... \$ 8                      Jan Debevic Prints.....\$10-\$13                      Official Marcellus Afghans: blue, green..... \$45                      Marcellus, When Wool Was King, Pictorial ..... \$ 5                      Marcellus Through the Years; Chronology, photos... \$ 5                      Index to Nine Mile Country; Names and more..... \$ 5                      Package of 10 note-cards picturing Marcellus..... \$ 5  <i>Shipping: \$5.</i></p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Addr: _____</p> <p>City: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>E-mail: _____</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Qty</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Item Description</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Cost Ea</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Make Checks Payable to:</b>      <b>Total</b>      \$ _____  <b>Marcellus Historical Society</b>      <b>Shipping</b>      \$ _____  <b>PO Box 165</b>      <b>Dues</b>      \$ _____  <b>Marcellus, NY 13108</b>      <b>Total Enclosed</b>      \$ _____</p>	Qty	Item Description	Cost Ea	Total																																								
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