



Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 28-4

Autumn 2023

**As Printed in the Marcellus Observer
Thursday, June 11, 1936**

STORY OF CORNER STORE RECALLS MEMORIES OF OTHER DAYS

It was something over a hundred years ago that Thomas J. Field, one of the early merchants of Marcellus, looked at the site of the present Corner Store and saw possibilities. The village was still young and was not much more than a trading post in the wilderness. There is a possibility that as Mr. Field looked at the corner site from the armchair of the tavern across the street (the site of the present Catholic Church) he had visions of a thriving town. Marcellus was the main stem from Albany to Buffalo - the age-old Seneca Turnpike - and it might some day develop into a flourishing business.

Thomas J. Field purchased the land and built the store. Rough timbers were hauled from the woods and hewn into shape for the framework. When the store was finally opened, it was a wonderful addition to the town and was the center of trade for the farming community.

Mr. Field's ownership was short-lived. He failed in business and the store was taken over by Lincoln I. Chapman who kept it until 1839, when he sold it to Walter Bradley of Auburn. Later the firm was the Bartlett-Bradley Company, and this firm carried on a general merchandise store for a short time, later selling out to Isaac Bradley, who had been a clerk in the store. Mr. Bradley had the store for five years, and then built the store now occupied by Roy P. Smith & Son, and in 1844 moved into the new place of business.

The Corner Store was then vacant for a number of years. Fred Oakly, a wool buyer, rented the place for a wool storehouse and for a long time it was filled with wool. The wool market took a drop and Oakly lost his wool.

Then Gay Barber, who lived in the present Howard Ray house on Main Street, used the store as a sewing machine shop. Then it was vacant for

a few years more and then was used as a bean storage. Boys were engaged each night to sort beans.

About this time the west end of the upper story was used by Dr. Baker as a photograph gallery, and in the east end was the office of Dr. Rhodes. Later, (after the bean episode) another grocer took the west end, downstairs, and Judd Thompson made a gate in the east end. It is interesting to note that bushels of cigar clippings were found in the walls of the building when the latest remodeling project was taking place. Mr. Armstrong has preserved many of the clippings as souvenirs of other days.

Later a meat market came in and John Griffin owned the store. He sold it to William Julia. For several years, the store was run by James Reed and then it passed to William Sarr. This was followed by the possession of the store by James Sarr, then R. A. Julia. Sometime along in these years, George Hickman took the meat market and Sarr sold his interests to a Mr. VanVranken.

The possession of the store by Fred Thompson comes within the memory of almost everyone. Thompson was followed by Stephen Hunt, then Singleton and finally Dorchester & Armstrong.

The store remained unchanged for over 100 years. Old pictures show the same architecture as that of a few months ago. The present store is modern in every respect, a monument to the aggressiveness of present day businessmen. The old order is past and gone and new era has come.

What would our ancestors of a century ago think, were they to return and see the changes of today?

The Corner Store Today By John P. Curtin

As noted above, the building at #2 East Main was the site of many businesses, dating back to the very beginning of the Village. Fred Thompson ran a grocery store at this site and in more recent times, Hickman's meat and grocery store operated out of this location. The Corner Store operated here from the

Continued on page 4

EVENTS SCHEDULE

*The tentative schedule of events is as follows:
Meetings*

April 14, 2024

*Meetings are open to anyone and are held at the **Marcellus Free Library** unless indicated otherwise. A short business meeting will precede each program.*

Historical Society Officers for 2022

- President: Doug Nightingale315-673-2539
E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net
- Vice President: Chuck Paul315-673-4432
E-mail: cpaul@twcny.rr.com
- Treasurer: Patricia Sanborn315-488-3610
E-mail: pasanborn@twcny.rr.com
- Secretary: Karen Pollard.....315-673-1309
E-mail: karenpollard13@yahoo.com

Trustees and Term End

- 2026 Charlie Sanborn.....315-488-3610
- 2026 Mary Ellen Popyk.....407-494-9817
E-mail: me@maryellenpopyk.com
- 2024 Carol Armstrong.....315-673-3443
E-mail: carolart23@aol.com
- 2024 Maria Catanzaro.....315-447-0645
- 2025 John Curtin.....315-673-3660
E-mail: jcurtin2@windstream.net
- 2025 Linda Wilcox.....315-430-6073

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 Doug Nightingale at the above address or email:
djn0409@windstream.net

Newsletters are sent via e-mail rather than regular mail to members who have given us their e-mail address. 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. ~

From The President

We have had another successful year. We still receive artifacts from multiple generations. We continue to do research for people all across the United States. Our primary goal for this coming year is to try increase our membership. Unfortunately we are losing many senior members. We need to attract younger members. Have a happy Holidays.

Stay safe and healthy.

Doug Nightingale

Steadman House Hours (Weather Permitting):
Sundays 1 to 3 pm (except meeting Sundays)
Thursdays 1 to 4 pm
Or By Appointment:
Doug Nightingale-673-2539
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, September, 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.

Current Membership: 177

New: 3
Business Members: 15

Remember: 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.

\$10. a year is a small price to pay to help preserve our history!

In Remembrance

In Memory of Lois Messe

John & Candance Marsellus fund
From the Central New York Community Fund

Our Thanks for Cash Donations

Buranich Funeral Home

Roger & Dorothy Fields

Hollis & Nancy Abbott

In Memory of Joyanne Long

Michael & Jacquelin Sennett

A Question ??????

Marcellus Central School has been trying to find what the C. stands for in Katherine C. Heffernan's name.

Anyone who knows and can prove what the C stands for please phone or email us. We have been trying thru our records at the Steadman House with no luck.

Recent Acquisitions

Lanterns from the M&OL railroad from the **Muldoon** Family.

Paper work of John Bednarski from his son **Chris Bednarski**.

A Whitfields baseball uniform from **Dan Curley**.

Area photo's of the Town of Marcellus taken by George Linderman, donated by **Sharon & Ben Wiles**.

Wanted:

Member(s) of the Historical Society to help produce the **Quarterly Newsletter**. An interest in researching appropriate articles and a knowledge of Microsoft Office programs helpful. The Society files and computer at the Steadman House are available for researching and compiling the newsletter (Microsoft Publisher software is presently used).

Contact Doug Nightingale at 315-673-2539 or email djn0409@windstream.net ~



Ask a friend to join our Society to help preserve the Steadman House and Marcellus History.

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, Doug Nightingale, Linda Wilcox, and Chuck Paul for keeping the Steadman House open during scheduled hours; and the Village of Marcellus for mowing the lawn~

AVAILABLE AT THE STEADMAN HOUSE

Have you visited the Steadman House recently?

Our indexed collection (at last count) consists of:

3,475 Artifacts

887 Clothing articles

814 Books

13 Clocks

7,010 Photographs

68 Scrapbooks with **55,427** referenced items

Family files and genealogies

Gift shop with Afghans, Books, Prints, Cards, etc. ~

Corner Store



1930s until 1970 and until recently housed several apartments as well as the offices of Roche Plumbing among others.

In August 2023, Chad Clark, who is also the proprietor of the Village Tavern, remodeled the corner store into an ice cream and deli sandwich shop. Improvements to this area of the Village



also included the removal of brick pavers and the installation of stamp-crete, which matches that at 2-6 East Main by the Village, and has been welcomed by many residents and nearby businesses, since it continues some very successful outdoor Sidewalk Café dining. welcomed by many residents and nearby businesses, since it continues some very successful outdoor Sidewalk Café dining.

Cornerstone Family Chiropractic



Dr. Michele Goldych Founder and CEO of Cornerstone Family Chiropractic has renovated the old bank and moved her practice to 24 East Main Street.

We are open:

Tuesdays from 7:30am – 12:00pm & 2:45pm – 5:30pm

Thursdays from 7:30am – 12:00pm & 2:45pm – 5:30pm

Saturdays from 8:30am to 10:00am

75 Years Ago

Two Residents at Hearing

Board Members Go Ahead With Plans for Village Safety

At a special hearing of the Village Board dealing with the new parking laws to be established in the village, the large and imposing number of two people were again present to help the board in their decision to benefit the people that elected them to office.

It is with reluctance that this story is written insofar as so few people are interested in the situation. Most stories of news are written to please and hold the interest of all the subscribers. Some may not care to look at it and others will, and to those who do we will give a few of the details that were brought up at the hearing.

As many of you know, the notice of the hearing was published in the Observer to advise the people that the Board would meet on Nov. 9 to do something about the parking situation in the growing town of Marcellus. Parking will be restricted on many of the busy corners as far back as the village board or policeman think necessary. Suggestions were made to block in the parking areas on Main Street and other designated places so that all people might have a chance to park their cars for an allotted time and that all the space might be used. After the ordinances goes into effect, sometime this month, there will be available to these people who are shopping, a parking area in the rear of the fire house.

Of vital importance to all the taxpayers of the Community will the addition of from 3 to 5 dollars added to their assessments when the appointment of a new officer on full time pay is established to carry out the new laws. The purchase of a new car for him, the upkeep and insurance to cover both the patrolman and the car will amount to many thousands of dollars a year.

As was brought out at the hearing, if we place a value on life this will be cheap protection against the wildness and utter disregard that is shown our laws. When a community sees dangerous practices going on every day then the community must act. If the people themselves cannot foresee the dangers then it is up to the public officials to step in and uphold the duties of their

office to protect it's citizens.

At the hearing on Tuesday when the opportunity arrived for those who have spoken to us so often about the existing dangers to come forward and voice their views and suggestions, they did not attend and we think a vote of thanks should be given to the men who so concern themselves over the safety and welfare of our children.

Marcellus Observer Friday, November 12, 1948

Memories of Marcellus

In the good old days in the gay 90's about 1895, I worked for a man by the name of David Olmsted down at Taunton. He had a milk route, he had about ten cows and bought milk from another farmer. He would up about 4 o'clock. I would take care of the horses and milk five cows and eat my pancakes and be on the road to the city by five-thirty. I was 16 years old and I got \$8.00 per month and board for the winter and the next summer I got fifteen dollars a month. Those were the good old days you hear some tell about.

Milk sold for five cents a quart. Laboring men got a \$1.00 a day for ten hours work so a man could buy 20 quarts of milk for a days pay. Today milk is twenty-two cents a quarter and a man can buy 50 quarts or more for the same days work.

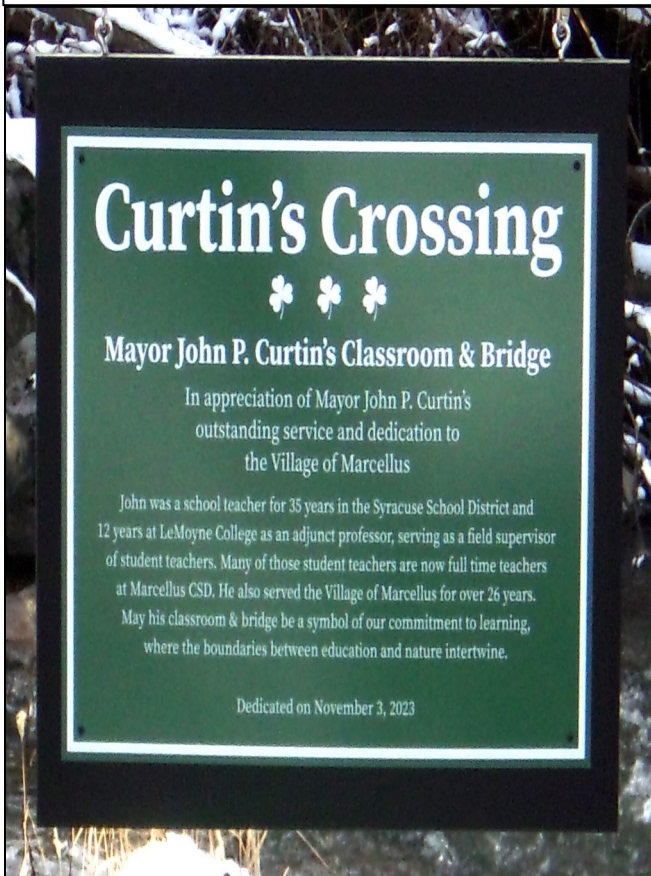
Milk was peddled in open milk cans and the carrying can held four quarts. The cover was a one quart measure. We would measure what the family wanted and dump it in their container sometimes a pail or a kettle or milk pitcher. In some cases I would have to look up a dish in their house.

There were lots of nice people. In cold weather some of the families would have coffee for me. I would get home about eleven o'clock and take care of the horses, eat my lunch and get the other team of horses out and plow or mow hay until 4 o'clock and then come in and milk the cows and do the rest of the chores.

People should use more milk than they do. The most complete food that you can buy and also the cheapest food.

Frank Griffing
Marcellus Observer April 27, 1956

Curtin's Crossing



The above picture is the bridge that connects the Marcellus High School Campus to the park located where the lower woolen mill was located. A deserving honor for John Curtin.

100 Years Ago

"The Third Alarm"
 At Parsons Hall, Matinee, 3:45
 Night, 7:45
Tuesday, October 16th

**Let's
Go.**

The most stupendous exhibition of twentieth century realism ever flung upon the screen.—
 A colossal drama of the heart and soul of America that glorifies and immortalizes the firemen of the nation and their loyal wives, sons and daughters! Its very flames will burn an everlasting impress on your soul!

This thrilling picture is put on under the auspices and for the benefit of the
Marcellus Fire Department

Matinee—admission	25c
" children under 12 years if accompanied by an adult of his or her family will be admitted for	10c
Night—Admission	35c
" Children under 12 years	20c

Marcellus Observer October 1923



Business Member Directory
Please Patronize These Businesses

AUTOMOTIVE

FARRELL'S AUTO SERVICE, INC.
 #7106043 - Dave Farrell, Owner
 State Inspections, General Auto Repairs, Oil Changes, Brakes
 3021 W. Seneca Tpke., Marcellus, 13108.....315-673-7333

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

BELLOWS CONSTRUCTION SPECIALTIES, LLC
 Email:Karen@BellowsConst.com
 213 West Adams St., Syracuse 13202 (FAX-315-476-6552)....315-476-4719

VAN DERHOOF ROOFING CO., INC.
 Roofing, Siding, Gutters, Windows, Trim and now SOLAR
 Over 75 years in business "Since 1939" www.vanderhoofroofing.com
 145 Ainsley Dr., Syracuse 13210.....315-475-9541

DENTAL SERVICES

Marcellus Smiles Family Dentistry
 Jennifer Merry, DMD
 Taryn Jirousek, DMD
 www.marcellussmiles.com
 info@MarcellusSmiles.com
 19 South St., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-1013

FUNERAL SERVICES

BURANICH FUNERAL HOME, INC.
 Visit us at our website: www.buranichfuneralhome.com.
 5431 W. Genesee St., Camillus 13031.....315-487-2412

PLIS FUNERAL HOME INC.
 James M. Plis Jr.
 Pre-Need, SSI and Medicaid Planning. www.plisfuneralhome.com
 33 North St., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2017

RYAN FUNERAL HOME
 Mary Ryan Carlton Helping Families since 1955.
 Serving all faiths ~ Pre-Arrangements ~ Locally owned.
 44 East Main St., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2345

Gift Shop
 The Wren's Den
 2756 West Seneca Turnpike
 Marcellus 13108
 Unique Electic Gift Shop.....315-952-5954

HARDWARE

CALLEY'S HARDWARE
 From hand and power tools to paint, rakes and shovels -
 Your hometown hardware store has it. www.calleyshardware.com
 15 North St., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2121

NIGHTINGALE MILLS ACE HARDWARE
 www.truevalue.com/nightingale
 4068 South Street Rd., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2001

Heavy Equipment Sales & Repairs

S & S TRACTOR PARTS, INC.
 Heavy Equipment Sales & Repair (FAX 673-4967)
 New & Used Undercarriage Parts and Crawler Machine Parts.
 2500 Station Lane Marcellus 13108.....315-673-1075

INSURANCE & INVESTMENT SERVICES

REAGAN COMPANIES
 Risk Management and Investment Services
 www.ReaganCompanies.com (FAX 673-1121)
 8 East Main St., PO Box 191, Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2094

LEGAL SERVICES

REAGAN & DAILEY, ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 Bernard L. Reagan & Mary Reagan Dailey (FAX 673-3438)
 Estate Planning and Probate
 marydailey@reagananddailey.com
 18 East Main St., PO Box 196, Marcellus 13108.....315-673-4864

PHYSICAL THERAPY

REBOUND SPORTS & ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICL THERAPY, PC
 E-mail: go2reboundpt@gmail.com
 Hours: Mon, Wed 7 am -7 pm, Tue, Thu 8 am - 8 pm, Fri 7 am - 6 pm
 37 South St., Marcellus 13108 (FAX 673-2008).....315-673-1007

RESTAURANTS/TAVERNS

THE MARIETTA HOUSE
 We are History! Same name business and site since 1830. Weddings -
 Banquets - Friday, Saturday Dining 5 pm. www.MariettaHouse.com
 2819 Marietta Rd. (Route 174), Marietta 13110.....315-636-829

Sand & Gravel

Smith Sand & Gravel, Inc.
 2650 Otisco Valley Rd.
 Marietta 13110.....315-636-2010

**Become a Business Member of the Historical Society
 for \$25 a year and have your business listed in our
 quarterly newsletter.**

~ GIFT SHOP & MEMBERSHIP ORDER FORM~

Join Our Society Today !

\$10/ Person per year—\$15/Couple per year
 \$15/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
- Nine Mile Country by Katherine 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 (Autobiography).....\$15
- Ruth Anne Reagan Prints of Marcellus.....\$20
- Ruth Anne Reagan Prints Framed.....\$28
- Ruth Reed Cummings Prints.....\$8
- Jan Debevic Prints.....\$10- \$13

- Marcellus, When Wool was King, Pictorial.....\$ 5
- Marcellus Through the Years; Chronology, Photos...\$ 5
- Index to Nile Mile Country; Names and more.....\$ 5
- Package of 10 note-cards picturing Marcellus.....\$ 5
- Shipping: \$10

Name: _____

Addr.: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Cost Ea.</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Make Checks Payable To: **Total \$** _____
Marcellus Historical Society **Shipping \$** _____
PO Box 165 **Dues \$** _____
Marcellus N.Y. 13108 **Total Enclosed \$** _____

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

*******NEW Website Address:*******
www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org

NEXT MEETING :

April 14, 2024

- INSIDE:**
- *Corner Store**
 - *Marcellus Memories**
 - *Curtin’s Crossing**
 - *Cornerstone Family Chiropractic**

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