



Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 29-4

Fall 2024

The Green Gateway Park Project

By John P. Curtin

In 1961, the Lower Crown Woolen Mill, which once stood at the site of the new Green Gateway, closed its doors forever. This was a significant event in the history of Marcellus, as the village had been founded upon the mill industry. However, small-town factory businesses proved to be unnecessary—impractical even—as Marcellus entered the Modern Era. This was the last major mill to be operating in the village, and many say its closing ended an era of Marcellus history.

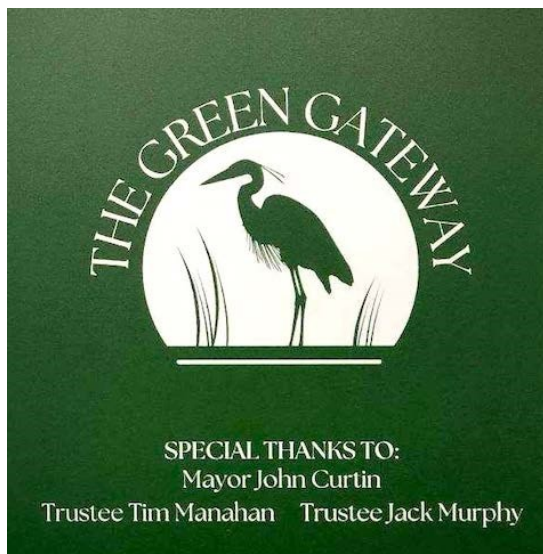
For over 50 years, the mill's structure remained standing, though it saw little maintenance, instead deteriorating painfully and slowly. The structure was finally fully demolished in 2016, but nothing more than an old and vacant industrial site remained. The future of this parcel of land, one of the first sights visitors would see entering on Route 174 from the north, was very uncertain.

In 2005, ESF student Benjamin Vilonen, under the supervision of Professor Scott Shannon and encouragement of former Mary Fred Eisenberg,

conducted a study of the land and found several potential improvements that could be made. Among these were additional fishing access to Ninemile Creek, an outdoor classroom space, and an arboretum. These plans resurfaced over a decade later, when in 2018 the Marcellus Village Board examined taking similar plans into fruition. Shortly after, Marcellus student Andrew Krammer, looking for a real-world application of environmental science content, took on the daunting project of making something of the abandoned site. With cooperation from the Village of Marcellus, the land was purchased and efforts were soon underway to both open a new park and create a new green gateway for visitors entering the village.

As the project continued, it soon became clear that plenty of potential remained within the site. New projects to improve the environments conditions and accessibility of the part were proposed, and more and more Marcellus student came to be involved with what the school district and village hope to be a continuing project.

An Outdoor Classroom space has been constructed for use by students and staff, as well as a walking path that will eventually tie into the existing creek walk originating at Marcellus Park. A lookout platform, looking underneath the North Street Bridge, is planned, as is the continued removal of invasive plants and trees, with the replacement of native sustainable plants in a planned arboretum. There has also been an effort to prevent erosion of the creek bank by the wise use of cross vanes. The entrance has been regraded, a handicapped fishing platform is planned, and a bridge has been installed that spans the school property to the green gateway.



Continued on page 4

EVENTS SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Our next official meeting is in September.

*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 2024

President: Linda Wilcox.....315-430-7693

Vice President: Chuck Paul315-673-4432

E-mail: cpaul@twcny.rr.com

Treasurer: Karen Pollard.....315-673-1309

E-mail: karenpollard13@yahoo.com

Secretary: Diane Spencer.....315-488-3610

Trustees and Term End

2026 Diane Spencer.....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.....315-430-7693

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 Mary Ellen Popyk 407-494-9817 or email:
me@maryellenpopyk.com

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

Unfortunately I have a medical condition that
is not going away. I have appointed Linda Wilcox
President to fill my term until end of December
2025, Diana Spencer Secretary and David Gallinger
as Building and Grounds.

We started projects last spring to bring the
historical society up to current standards. It has
turned into a major challenge.

We have over 10,000 pictures. Black and
white will last over 100 years and we have many in
that range. Also color pictures will last 50 years.
Both need to be scanned into the computer to pre-
serve them for ever. We have indexing to do, cata-
loging and computer input. This is just a small list of
things to do. We need Volunteers to preserve our
history. Stop in The Steadman House to find out how
to help, young and old.

Past President Doug Nightingale

Steadman House Hours (Weather Permitting):

Dec 26th & Jan 2nd open by appointment

Sundays 1 to 4 pm (except meeting Sundays)

Thursdays 1 to 4 pm

Or By Appointment:

Linda Wilcox 315-430-7693

John Curtin 315-673-3660

The House is open for tours or browsing!

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

In Remembrance

Ruth Ann Reagan

Our Thanks for Cash Donations

Agnes Kennedy
 Kathryn Coyne
 Dan and Sue Spencer
 Roger and Joan Field

Recent Acquisitions

Marcellus Garden Club Account Book,
 donated by Kate Sparo

Stewart's Opens in the Village

Stewart's has replaced the Nojaim's grocery store which served the town for over 40 years. The new Stewart's store and gas station recently opened, striving to provide ready to eat foods and grocery items including their excellent ice cream.



Consider a Historical Society membership as a gift. Members receive our quarterly news-letter, and it supports the society and museum for generations to come.

Happy Holidays!

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy holiday and Prosperous New Year



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 Books, Prints, Cards, etc. ~

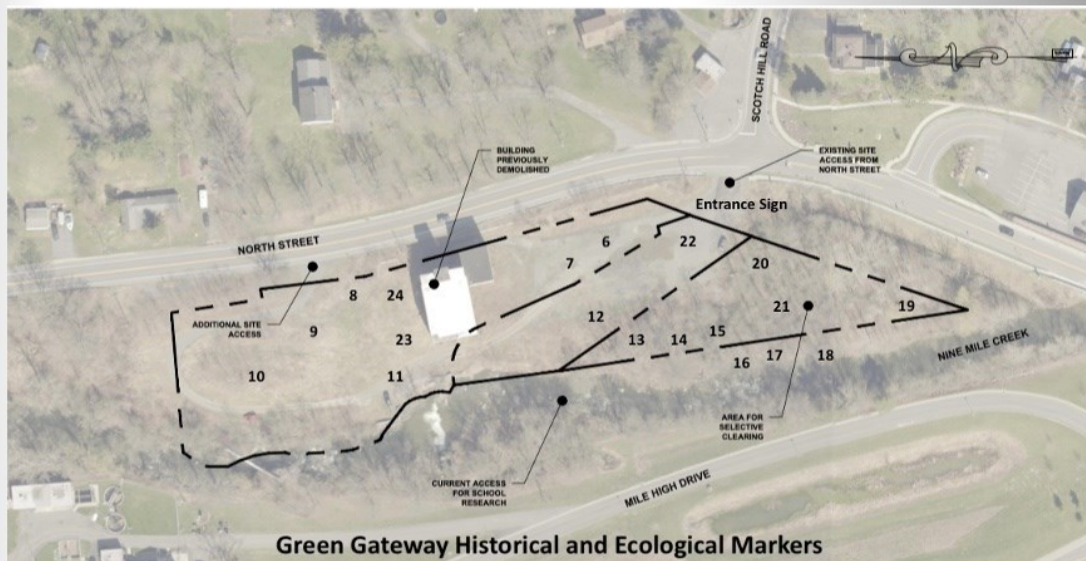
Green Gateway, continued

There has also been the addition of about 15 markers on the property, which enable a visitor to understand the historical and ecological significance of the site. A pavilion that will be a shelter to the park is also planned.

This will continue to be an ongoing collaboration between the Marcellus School District and the Village and Town of Marcellus, as well as interested community residents to create an environmentally productive, handicap accessible and welcoming community area. It will also honor both the history of the former Lower Crown Mill and the many workers, now long-gone, who helped to power what had once been the economic engine of the Village.



GREEN GATEWAY MARKERS



Green Gateway Historical and Ecological Markers

Alphabet History Quiz of Marcellus

- A ___ Owners of a large hotel.
 B ___ Innkeeper with first name of Bildad.
 C ___ Original name for South Street
 D ___ OMS named for this principal of MCS.
 E ___ Church that was physically moved.
 F ___ Previous name of Maple Street.
 G ___ Owner of a drugstore w/ soda fountain.
 H ___ An undertaker who also sold furniture.
 I ___ Lawyer son of Dan Bradley.
 J ___ Old family cemetery near Navarino.
 K ___ A lawyer who lit up the village streets.
 L ___ A General who stopped in Marcellus.
 M ___ A locally published newspaper.
 N ___ Name of a creek.
 O ___ Shape of schoolhouse on Slate Hill.
 P ___ Sold first Chevrolet in Marcellus.
 Q ___ Place for getting limestone.
 R ___ Location of a large seed company.
 S ___ Owned a bakery.
 T ___ Main road through Marcellus.
 U ___ Woolen Mill (not Lower).
 V ___ Tavern formerly Cottage Saloon.
 W ___ Owned a paint & wallpaper store.
 X ___ St. Francis Catholic Church.
 Y ___ Was wound on bobbins in the mill.
 Z ___ First name of Mr. Halzzapple who received land grant in 1792.

Answers bottom right ~

The History of the Town Clock

Because, as a child, she often hurried up West Main Street to school, not knowing whether she would be late, Mrs. George Case was inspired with the idea of donating a clock to be placed in the Methodist Church tower. From the time of its installation in 1909 until the opening of the Central School on Reed Parkway in 1937, the clock served to hurry the dawdlers and reassure the early birds, as they climbed the hill to the old school.

(Excerpted from "Nine Mile Country" by Knlhryl C. Heffemall, for sale at the Marcellus Free Library.)



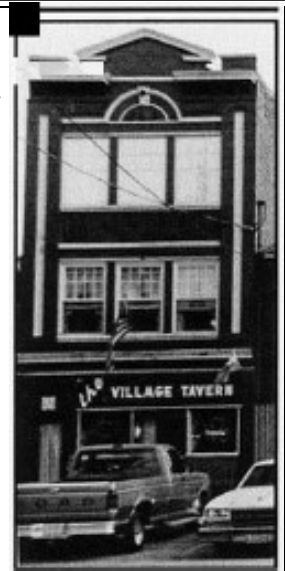
Answers to quiz:

Alvord, Beach, Cherry, Driver, Episcopal, Factory, Guernsey, Hooper, Isaac, Jackson, Knapp, Lafayette, Marcellus Observer, Nine Mile, Octagon, Pilot, Quarry, Rose Hill, Schanzle, Turnpike, Upper, Village, Woodbridge, Xavier, Yarn, Zacharias.

History of the Village Tavern

In the period after the Civil War, John Duggan's Cottage Saloon, situated on the site of the present Village Tavern, served fish fry and beer on Fridays for a nickel, and in 1910 underwent a major renovation. While a new three-story structure was built around it, the Cottage Saloon continued to be open for business. When the exterior was completed, the interior was renovated. Upon Duggan's death, his son took over the business, advertised in 1914 as "C.B. Duggan's Hotel, a metropolitan barroom". As was commented later that Mr. Duggan had completed rebuilding his place of business "just in time for prohibition". During prohibition, Edward Williams had a grocery in the building and in 1938, Louis Newell reopened the old Cottage Saloon under the name of Newell's Grill. The New York State law, after

the repeal of prohibition, banned use of the term "saloon". To qualify for a liquor license, certain requirements specifying the serving of food had to be met. Thus, the terms "grill" and "tavern" came into common usage. In 1959, Edward Sennett became proprietor, and Newell's Grill became Sennett's Village Tavern. In 1978, Sennett sold the business to Betty Manning, and in 1984, the Village Tavern became the property of Gary and Kate Demers. In 2004, the business was sold to three individuals: Greg Strait, Jackie Strait, and Ray Nesci. Chad Clark became the current owner in 2012, making many updates to the building and atmosphere of the Tavern.



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 Mary Ellen Popyk at 407-494-9817 or me@maryellenpopyk.com.



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, 13108315-673-7333

Books

That's What She Read Bookshop & Boutique
 16 East Main Street
 Marcellus 13108
 Thatswhatshereadbooks.com315-494-1075

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

CONSULTING

OPTIMAN CONSULTING ASSOCIATES
 5711 W. Genesee St.
 Camillus 13031.....315-314-7382
 Jamie@optimumca.com

DENTAL SERVICE

Marcellus Smiles Family Dentistry
 Jennifer Merry, DMD
 Taryn Jirousek, DMD
 www.marcellusmiles.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 Electric 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
 4068 South Street Rd., Marcellus 13108.....315-673-2001

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>
_____	_____	_____	_____
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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 :

- INSIDE:**
- *Green Gateway**
 - *Stewarts Opens**
 - *History of the Village Tavern**
 - *Marcellus History Quiz**
 - *History of the Town Clock**

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