



# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 23 Issue 1

Winter 2018

One Hundred Years Ago

**Isaac A. Share**

**50 Year Member of the Odd Fellows**

Isaac A. Share was honor guest of Marcellus Lodge, I. O. O. F. Tuesday evening, Feb. 12, when in St. John's Parish House, Marcellus, a double celebration was held for the 25th, year of the institution of the Lodge and the 50th anniversary of Mr. Share as a Odd Fellow.

Mr. Share prepared the following, his lodge record for the reference of those who spoke, possibly he might have read it, but he did not take part, and it may be assumed his heart was too full for oratory. He deeply appreciates the favors and honors proffered him, and fitting event. His record follows:

This occasion is said to be in part to commemorate My being 50 years an Odd Fellow. That means 50 years since I became a member of Uncas Lodge, No. 161. As for being an Odd Fellow 50 years, I was born an Odd Fellow. My father was a very enthusiastic Odd Fellow from my earliest remembrance, and I grew up watching his interest in the Lodge, and watching how the members were looked after and cared for in sickness and sorrow, with an ever growing feeling that when I reached the age that would permit, I would become a member. I had two uncles who were Odd Fellows, and when I left the old farm to take up some other work, I engaged to work with a contractor and builder who was an Odd Fellow. I have one brother and a nephew who are members of this Lodge.

My boys were all girls, so I had no sons to join the Order, but I have one son-in-law who is a member of Marcellus Lodge, and another son-in-law who was not odd enough to become an Odd Fellow, or else he thought he was odd enough without joining the order, so he is a Mason, and Master of Morning Star Lodge. So it may be truly said that my life has been spent in an atmosphere of the principles of Odd Fellowship, and while I have never believed that the Lodge should take the place of the Church, I do believe it is a great help to a better life, for can live up to the principles

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of Odd Fellowship without his becoming a better man.

I became eligible to membership in an Odd Fellows Lodge on December 13, 1867, and was initiated in Uncas Lodge, No. 161, on February 13, 1868. So I did not lose much time after I was sufficient age before I "rode the goat". I was installed Secretary on April 8, 1869, Vice Grand October 7, 1869, and Noble Grand April 7, 1870. General E. J. Stearns was initiated while I was Vice Grand.

In those days there were five degrees instead of three, and the Lodge was always opened in the first degree. New members could in the Lodge, but could not vote or take any part in Lodge business until they had they obtained the five degrees, But so many of the new members, who did not care to hold office, but could sit in Lodge and know what was done inside a Lodge room, would not apply for the higher degrees, that the Grand Lodge made a change in the degree work, having three degrees, and a member could sit in lodge until he became a third degree member. Thereafter all initiates were ready to take the degrees as soon as possible. There was no Rebekah Lodges, but the degree was conferred by the Noble Grand on brothers and their wives. No Attention had been given to the Rebekah degree for a long time until, while I was Noble Grand, a number of brothers applied for the degree for themselves and their wives. None of the older members could confer the degree, I went to Syracuse to the D. D. G. Master, who conferred the degree on me in his parlor, and I was then prepared to comply with the brothers request and conferred the degree eight couples. My father always took the Conductors part and A. W. Keeler who was my employer, the warden. I have never forgotten the impression received at my initiation from their charges and never heard them even better.

When we came to live in Marcellus, there was no Odd Fellow's Lodge either here or Skaneateles, but when it was purposed to initiate a Lodge here, I took a card from Uncas Lodge #160 and became a charter member of the Marcellus Lodge, No. 658.

Marcellus Observer February 1918.

Marcellus Odd Fellows was established On February 7, 1893 with 19 members. By the 1950's no new members were taken and none were encouraged by the elderly brothers. Marcellus Lodge #568 was consolidated with the Americus Lodge #607 in Syracuse, New York. Thus the Odd Fellows of Marcellus no longer exists.

**EVENTS SCHEDULE**

*The tentative schedule of events is as follows:*

**April 8, 2018 –Meeting 2PM**  
**Pete Baratta**  
**Retired New York State Trooper**

**May 6, 2018—Meeting 2 PM**  
**Janet Bednarczyk**  
**Primitive Antique Shows**

*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 2016**

- President: Doug Nightingale 315-673-2539  
 E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net  
 Vice President: Carol Armstrong 315-673-3443  
 E-mail: carolart23@aol.com  
 Treasurer: Patricia Sanborn .....315-488-3610  
 E-mail: pasanborn@twcny.rr.com  
 Secretary: Karen Pollard.....315-673-1309  
 E-mail: karenpollard13@yahoo.com

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- 2019 Jamie Johnston.....315-673-1160  
 2019 Harvey Eysman.....315-673-3933  
 E-mail: heysman@windstream.net  
 2020 Chuck Paul.....315-673-4432  
 E-mail: cpaul@twcny.rr.com  
 2020 Jean Nightingale.....315-673-2539  
 E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net  
 2018 John Curtin.....315-673-3660  
 E-mail: jcurtin2@windstream.net  
 2018 Bob Wilson.....315-673-2550  
 Correspondence Secretary:  
 Jean Nightingale.....315-673-2539

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](mailto: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](mailto:djn0409@windstream.net)

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**From The President**

December was very busy. Decorating the Steadman House for Christmas, having Santa on the tree lighting night in the village and the society having a holiday get together at the Steadman House.

We continue to have guests visit and are artifacts continue to grow. Peg Nolan continues with family research from her home. We also help with family research from the Steadman House.

Spring is taking its time this year. We are looking forward to starting our meetings again in April. We have a full schedule of guest speakers.

If you have not visited the Steadman House please take a few moments and see are many artifacts and the beautiful structure we call home.

*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: 303**

**New:**

**Business Members: 24**

**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.

**\$5. a year is a small price to pay to help preserve our history!**

**In Remembrance**

**John “Jack” Palen-February 5, 2018**

**Our Thanks for Cash Donations from:**

Roger & Dorothy Field  
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**In Memory of Leda Stopyro**

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Jack & Joan Shinnick

**In Memory of Jean Moir Miller**

James & Laura Duncan

**Marcellus Historical Society  
2017 Financial Summary**

**Beginning Balance \$29,460.12**

**Income**

Donations \$10,029.61  
Dues Rec'd \$1,962.00  
Gift Shop \$544.00  
Grants \$5,000.00  
Interest \$89.66

**Total Income \$17,625.27**

**Expenses**

Acquisitions \$486.10  
Contributions \$50.00  
Meeting Expense \$35.69  
Miscellaneous \$915.84  
Occupancy \$8,926.82  
Office Supplies \$410.05  
Postage \$513.80  
Telephone \$1,364.78  
Web Site \$290.00

**Total Expenses \$12,993.08**

**Ending Balance \$34,092.31**

**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](mailto: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 and Jean & Doug Nightingale, Carol Armstrong, Chuck Paul for keeping the Steadman House open during scheduled hours; and the Village of Marcellus for snow removal ~*

**AVAILABLE AT THE STEADMAN HOUSE**

Have you visited the Steadman House recently?

Our indexed collection (at last count) consists of:

**3,475** Artifacts

**826** Clothing articles

**743** Books

**13** Clocks

**6,921** Photographs

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

Family files and genealogies

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

**Recent Acquisitions**

**James Dyer**-Cross stitch in fame from 1838, post cards to Marcellus residents, a freight bill from the M&OL to James Parsons. **Carol Armstrong**- Odd Fellows Handbook, Marcellus Central High School commencement 1938, St. John's church pamphlet 1924-1974, 1931 Marcellus commencement program, picture of the 1931 graduating class from Marcellus, hand Bible from WWII, badge from the Marcellus Fire Department, girl scout pins and badges. **Mark Friske**-Marcellus Fire Department helmet, plague honoring Roger Friske from Marcellus Central School. **Terry O'Shea**-1934 4th grade picture, 1946 Marcellus High School baseball team. **Steadman Family**-four paintings by Marcellians owned by Lew & Elma Steadman.

**Thank You!**

The list of people who helped at Santa's visit to the Steadman House follows: Charlie & Pat Sanborn, Jamie Johnson, Carrie Beth Pottinger, Carol Armstrong, and Doug Nightingale.

Also, thanks to the people who attended the holiday get together at the Steadman House. Many remembrances of past years were shared. All enjoyed the afternoon.

Special thanks for decorating the Steadman House for Christmas: Charlie & Pat Sanborn, Carol Armstrong, Chuck Paul, Doug Nightingale and Nicole Sanborn with helping taking the decorations down and putting them into storage.

**Memories of Marcellus**

By Frank Griffing

November 19.1964

The first services according to the Episcopal form of worship were held in the upper room of the school house, which stood in the rear of the Presbyterian Church. These continued until 1837, when a church was built on the corner of Main and North St.. This building which was destroyed by fire in 1866 was replaced at the same location.

The church of St. Francis Xavier was organized soon after the arrival of the first immigrants from Ireland in 1848. For many years the services were held in the "Old Corner Tavern" and on this site in 1867 was erected the present church.

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**Donations Kindly Accepted**

As we all know, owning a home there is always something to do. Shortly after the new year we noticed the blower for the upstairs furnace was not working properly. We called Murray's Heating & Air Conditioning to find out what was wrong with the blower. They found that the blower motor was seized. The furnace being over twenty-five years old and we could not get parts for the furnace we decided to get quotes for a new furnace.

The executive committee decided to replace the furnace. Murray's replaced and removed of the old furnace at a cost of \$2600.00 plus,

Also, we finally had the maple tree removed from in front of the Steadman House. The cost to the society was \$300.00 more than quoted because the original contractor could not remove the tree so we decided to use the contractor used by the village.

We are asking for any donations to defray some of these costs.

Doug Nightingale  
President

Continued

Our New England ancestry coming from a land of schools felt the great importance of education, and from the little log school house, the facilities have gradually increased until we have our present High School, ranking in its class among the first in the state.

The stream known as Nine Mile Creek, rising in Otisco Lake, and containing many picturesque falls which furnish unlimited water power, is a great natural advantage, the value of which cannot be estimated. On both its banks for several miles are manufacturing plants, some of which have been increased to many times their first capacity. It is unquestionably to these manufactories that the growth and business activity of the place is largely due.

The Marcellus and Otisco Lake Railroad, not yet fully completed, has opened a direct route to Otisco Lake. This sheet of water with banks sloping down one thousand feet to the water's edge, is described by travelers as unsurpassed in loveliness and as resembling in the sublimity and grandeur of its scenery the famous lakes of Switzerland.

## Memories of Marcellus

By Frank Griffing

November 5, 1964

I have a little book of a historical sketch of Marcellus written for the Eastern Star sometime between 1905 and 1910 and written by Hester Clearwater Schoonmaker and Mary Knapp Davenport. Mrs. Schoonmaker came to Marcellus and taught school and later Fred Schoonmaker. Mrs. Davenport taught school in Dryden, N/Y. before her marriage.

Nestled among the hills and lakes of "Old Onondaga", amid natural surroundings that charm with their simplicity & awe with their grandeur lies the beautiful village of Marcellus. Hence in earlier days one of "The Five Great Nations" held undisputed sway. The winding streams and mirrored lakes, the wooded hills and rocky glens echoed only to the Indians tread, or to the wild Iroquois tales of legendary lore off repeated to eager listeners by the evening's firelight glow.

The stillness here was not disturbed when, on the fourth day of July 1776, the bell in the old State House at Philadelphia proclaimed Liberty throughout the land, for it was not until the last years of the eighteenth century that a band of surveyors marked into square miles these forest lands, then a part of the military tract assigned by the State of New York to the Revolutionary soldiers. To the surveyors we are indebted for the historical names so common in this locality, and may it not be possible that the Roman General Marcellus, in his siege of the great walled city of ancient Syracuse met with no greater difficulties than did the first settlers from the New England states in the town which bears his name.

November 12, 1964

Gradually these difficulties were overcome and the population increased. It was not however until that first great channel of communication afterwards known as the Seneca Turnpike was opened that the tide of immigration began. The building of this State road from Albany to Canandaigua, cutting its way through the dense

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Forest to a width of four rods, surmounting hills that seemed almost impassable barriers was one of the great engineering feats of those days, and with its accomplishment began an era of growth and prosperity never since equaled in local history.

The stages each drawn by four horses heralding their approach from the summit of the hills on either side by a blast of trumpets, were the great connecting link with the outside world. Many passengers, some of them men of more than passing note have here sought shelter and rest. A room in the old hotel is still pointed out as the one occupied by General Lafayette when in 1825 he made his triumphal tour of the country.

The life and power brought about by the completion of the Seneca Turnpike continued well up to the time of the opening of the New York Central Railroad, then it was that Syracuse became the centre of trade and travel, the smaller towns were doomed to become only suburbs of the great commercial centre. To Marcellus the change was shown for a time in comparative inactivity and apparent decay, yet from this seeming inactivity has developed the pleasant and prosperous village of today.

No sooner were the hardy pioneers firmly established in their log cabin homes than they turned their attention to the question of public religious worship. In 1802 the Presbyterian Meeting House, so called, was built, replaced by the present church in 1850. That this church was established on a firm and true foundation, its life of over a hundred years is an enduring testimony. The village cemetery, once part of the church yard, with stones dating back over one hundred years, has resting within its confines today many fold more people than walk the neighboring streets.

Methodist Hill was the name given to the height of ground where the Roman Catholic cemetery now is, and where the first Methodist chapel was erected, probably soon after the society was organized in 1823. The site and building have since several times been changed, with the result that the present brick structure occupies a commanding position in the centre of the village.

One Hundred Years Ago

**THE “TURIBOL WEATHER”**

The weather of 1913-14 was characterized by big snowfall and extreme low temperature, but the winter of 1917-18 will be the talked about for years to come. Commencing in November snow has not been off the ground since. Benjamin Williams, superintendent of Skaneateles lake reservoir and Syracuse pipe line, has furnished “The Rambler” with statistics showing that the snow fall in this vicinity was 7 inches in November, 35 inches in December and 30 inches in January—a total of 72 inches or six feet. Some snowfall for half the winter! That the bear saw his shadow last Saturday—Candlemas day—was most evident. It was a clear and distant shadow, but with indications of milder weather, the mercury showing temperature about freezing point. There was quite a turn around Saturday night and Sunday and all day Monday zero temperatures prevailed, with most keen and cutting wind. The weather continues the leading topic of conversation and interest. To Wednesday night there was continuous wind and snow storm. Drifts stalled the trolley and steam cars throughout Central New York, car schedules were broken up and travel almost abandoned. The mercury recorded 15 to 20 degrees below zero.

Marcellus Observer Thursday, February 7, 1918

We think we have it bad.

**What is Candlemas Day?**

**Candlemas** is a Christian holiday celebrated annually on February 2. It celebrates three occasions according to Christian belief: the presentation of the child Jesus; Jesus' first entry into the temple; and it celebrates the Virgin Mary's purification (mainly in Catholic churches).

**Important Notice**

**Please check the year just above your name on your newsletter label. If it reads 2017 your dues are only paid thru 2017 and your 2018 dues are now due.**

**Please remit your payment for 2018 dues so we can continue sending your newsletters. If you have any questions about dues, please send an e-mail to**

**histsoc@windstream.net**

**or leave a message at 315-673-4839.**

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- Index to Nile Mile Country; Names and more.....\$ 5
- Package of 10 note-cards picturing Marcellus.....\$ 5
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**Marcellus Historical Society**  
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**\*\*\*\*\*NEW Website Address:\*\*\*\*\***  
**[www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org](http://www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org)**

**NEXT MEETING :**  
**April 8, 2018 2PM**  
**May 6, 2018 2PM**

**INSIDE:**  
**\*Memories of Marcellus**  
**\*Isaac A Share**  
**\*One Hundred Years Ago**

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