



The Steadman House

Marcellus

Historical Society News

Volume 24 Issue 4

Autumn 2019



Edward V. Baker

Stricken with an attack of heart disease at 7:30 o'clock Monday evening while celebrating his golden wedding anniversary, Edward V. Baker, a Civil War veteran, former county treasurer, former assemblyman and former supervisor from Marcellus, died at 2 o'clock this morning at his home on South St. in Marcellus. He was 74 years old.

It was during the height of the festivities that the fatal attack came. An informal reception had been held at the home in the afternoon and another followed in the evening. Mr. Baker fell ill just previous to the latter affair. Although his condition was not thought serious, he was unable to take part. There were scores of guests from out-of-town at the early reception and it was remarked by many that both Mr. and Mrs. Baker looked to be in excellent health.

Mr. Baker held his own until yesterday when

he began to sink fast. Many members of the family who had come to the home for the reception remained over when his condition did not improve and they were at the bedside this morning when the end came.

Born at Onondaga Hill, May 4, 1841. Mr. Baker was the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Baker, pioneer settlers of that locality. The younger Mr. Baker's early occupations were those of a blacksmith and a farmer. He enlisted in the Civil War in 1862 and served for three and one-half years. He was mustered in here as a member of Company F, One Hundred Twenty-Second New York Volunteers. He was wounded at the famous battle of Cold Harbor, being incapacitated for some time.

Returning from the war Mr. Baker went to his home, which was in the township of Marcellus. His first official position was as county treasurer, to which he was elected in 1885, serving until 1887. In 1891 he was elected supervisor from that place and served for eight years. From 1894 to 1896 he was chairman of the board of supervisors. In 1900 he was elected to the State Assembly and served two terms. He was again elected to the Board of Supervisors after that and in 1909, when he moved to the Village of Marcellus, he was made postmaster, serving until 1913.

Since then Mr. Baker has been practically retired, though active and able to be about despite his advanced age. He was married 50 years ago Monday at the Methodist Episcopal Church at Marcellus to Julia De Coudres, eldest daughter of the late Thomas and Ann Shepard De Coudres, who survives him. Of the four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Baker, two are living in Marcellus, Charles De Coudres Baker and Edward V. Baker, Jr.

Mr. Baker was a member Morning Star Lodge No. 521 F. and A. M., and Morning Star Chapter O. E. S. He was commander of Joseph Jones Post G. A. R. No. 358 of Marcellus.

As a political leader Mr. Baker was one of the best known in the county, and his reputation extended through out the state. His death marks the passing of

Continued page 3

EVENTS SCHEDULE

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

April 12, 2020

*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 2019

- 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 Sanborn315-488-3610
E-mail: pasanborn@twcny.rr.com
- Secretary: Karen Pollard.....315-673-1309
E-mail: karenpollard13@yahoo.com

Trustees and Term End

- 2019 Charlie Sanborn.....315-488-3610
 - 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
 - 2021 John Curtin.....315-673-3660
E-mail: jcurtin2@windstream.net
 - 2021 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

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

Another year has past. Where does the time go. We
have had many visitors from many states. It surprises
us, the artifacts and memorabilia that still exists
from the late 1800's and early 1900's. We look for-
ward to next year and what may come our way to
add to our collection.

We ask anyone that has not visited the Steadman
House please do. You will be surprised at the size of
are collection of artifacts from Marcellus.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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: 259

New:

Business Members: 21

**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

Robert J. Wilson November 20, 2019

Continued from page 1

of the “Old Guards” in the county. Mr. Baker always being a staunch Republican. In the Belden-Hendricks fight here many years ago, the Marcellus leader aided the present leader of the Republican party here.

The late James J. Belden recognized in Mr. Baker a strong fighter, and often directed his attacks on the country leader. He was a member of the Republican County Committee for many years, was a dominant factor in the political life in his home town.

His political career began upon his return from the Civil War, when he took a prominent part in the political affairs of Marcellus, holding many town offices. His next appearance was as county treasurer from 1884 to 1887, and two years later became a member of the Board of Supervisors, being chairman from 1894 to 1896. In 1900 he was elected to the Assembly from the First District triumphing over Democratic opponent P. S. Thornton, by 1,321 votes. He served on several important legislative committees at the time, namely the on Internal Affairs, Trades and Manufactures and General Laws. In 1901 his victory over G. L. Hoyt, Democrat, was even greater, than that of Mr. Thornton, the preceding year, receiving a plurality of 2,750 votes.

The custom that members of the Assembly in this county should not serve more than two years was in vogue and Mr. Baker retired from active political life to become postmaster of the town of Marcellus.

The funeral will be held Saturday afternoon with services at the Marcellus M. E. Church at two o'clock. Burial will be at Highland Cemetery Marcellus.

Syracuse Journal March 22, 1916

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, Jean & Doug Nightingale, Carol Armstrong, and Chuck Paul for keeping the Steadman House open during scheduled hours; and the Village of Marcellus for mowing the grass~

Attention !!!

**\$10/ Person per year—\$15/Couple per year
\$15/Family per year (includes children under 18)
Sustaining membership = 5 years (dues x 5)**

The Board of Trustees have agreed that dues need to rise. At the November meeting, those attending voted to raise dues. The changes will go into effect as of January 1, 2020. The changes are above.

For those who have paid for multiple years your dues will not be raised until you have to renew at the end of the years you have paid.

We will notify those of you that receive the newsletter by email when your dues are due by email.

If you have any questions our phone numbers and emails are located on page 2 of the newsletter.

Doug Nightingale

President

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 ~

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. ~

Our Thanks for Cash Donations

**Judy J. Gilchrist
Mark Friske
John & Rosemary Phillips
John T. O'Shea
Eddie & Asia Murphy**

In Memory of Capt. Steven Cox

John & Maureen Curtin

75 Years Ago

Soldiers Write Appreciation of "Overseas Edition"

If one could follow the course of the 300 Observers that leave this office each Friday, he could compile an interesting story from all parts of the world. Boys on the snowbound shores of Iceland and in the sweating jungles of the South Sea Islands; boys in Europe and Australia and in Africa, waiting for mail call to bring them some word of that far-off land they call Home. Now and then the editor gets a letter from boys he knew at home, letters radiant with joy over some little incident he has just read in the "Gunwad." This week we publish an unusual letter—unusual because it is not from a hometown boy, but from a group of men who have never seen our town, but have become acquainted with it through the columns of a buddy's "Gunwad." The letter reads

Somewhere in France
October 7, 1944

Mr. Roy A. Gallinger, Editor
Marcellus Observer
Dear Sir,

Perhaps it may seem a little unusual to receive a letter from non-subscribers, but we are taking the liberty of expressing our admiration for your overseas edition of the Marcellus Observer.

As you have probably heard, our access to the paper is through your son, Bob, who is a very close and part of "The Gang." Most of the fellows in this outfit do not receive papers, and for that matter not even personal mail for weeks at a time, and we get enjoyment out of your paper, since we find the news so human and well written. By this time we are practically acquainted with most of the town's characters so as to refer to them by their first and nicknames.

Your editorials and non-personal items are well written and edited. We probably get the most kick out of "Aunt Cora's" column, which should completely satisfy and boost morale of "hometown" soldiers in the service. These things, which to the average reader might seem so simple, are the things that "us boys" over here appreciate and enjoy most of all.

Under wartime condition, with manpower and material shortages, publishing a paper must be a big job. We hope that "the wheels will continue to grind," and that "our" paper continues to get here with the same speed with which it has been coming. More power to you, here's wishing you success and good fortune in your undertaking.

Lt. Feliz
Cpl. Harrigan
Cpl. Rehder
Cpl. Hennessey
Cpl. Wilson

Marcellus Observer Friday, October 27, 1944

100 Years Ago

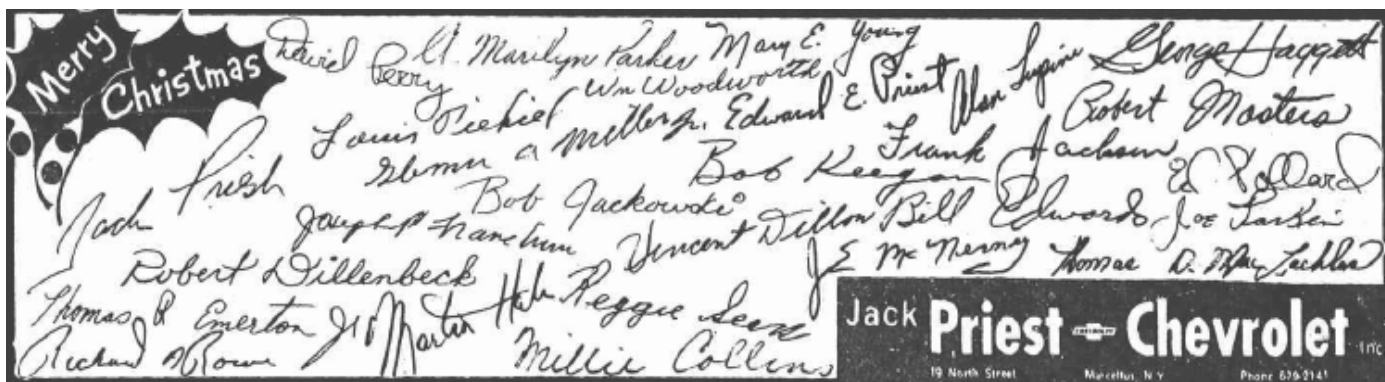
Marcellus Flour and Feed Mill is purchased this week by G. S. Starkweather from Fred E. Williams, including the barn but not the apartment house nor the garage adjoining.

This is the site of the Old Stone mill, a landmark for a century. Williams built a concrete structure after a fire, a few years ago, and he constantly been adding improved facilities, machinery, flume, heating, scales, etc.. The new comer intends to push the business in a way to attract business from a wide field, with big stocks, right selling, and accommodation for the public to its lines of grinding and trading.

A son, Keller, 22, will be associated his father in the business.

George Snyder of West Hill, Marcellus and of the Seltz Building, Syracuse, was the real estate dealer in the sale.

Marcellus Observer Wednesday October 15, 1919



December 4, 1969

75 Years Ago

Little Damage Done Here by Hallowe'eners

A junk car, toppled over on Principal C. S. Driver's lawn, and a few scattered corn stalks in the center of the village, were all that was left Wednesday morning to show that the night before was hallowe'en. The school house was intact, neither mill burned down, cemetery monuments are still in place and not a single building or ashcan in town moved from its foundations. Either the present generation is growing soft, or, as one business man points out, the goblins, banshees and lumber-toters of former years are all in the army.

It was noisy all right. Hallowe'eners ran and yelled until the early hours of the morning. Residents expected to wake up and the village resting somewhere near Marietta or Camillus. The junk car mentioned above was pushed over every street in the village by a mob of about teen-ager, before a satisfactory spot was found in which to deposit it. What use Prof. Driver could have for such a car is not known us, but there it lay Wednesday morning.

It was a beautiful night. One could scarcely blame the kids for staying out. Local police kept the celebrators in line in a creditable manner, allowing them plenty of leeway, but keeping them from doing actual damage. The junk car was returned to its owner several times during the evening when it was met by the police as it was being trundled along, but finally the kids stole a march and got to its final "destination."

In the early evening the fire men were sponsors of a "kiddie parade" and party at the Engine House. It was the largest costume parade ever held in the village, and all the colors imaginable

were present. After the march the kids were invited to the firemen's rooms where they literally guzzled gallon after gallon of cider and hundreds of fried cakes. Allen Haley was the chairman in charge.

Marcellus Observer Friday November 3, 1944

**Merry
Christmas
&
Happy New Year**

Recent Acquisitions

Ronald Schneider for books on central New York and Marcellians. The **Waterman family** for records of the Marcellus bands. **Judy Gilchrist** for a wooden stool, compass, addicator and a hog scraper from the Jackson family. **MaryJean Thornton Patric** post-cards of early 1900's of the village. **Dr. Edward Kantor** a painting by Dr. Joseph Centrone. **Raymond Farrington** in honor of John Withey a framed Civil War Regiment from central New York.

75 Years Ago



THE nearness of Yuletide is unmistakable. Whether snow festoons the fir trees or whether earth still awaits its mantle of white, woods and fields, city and town breathe Christmas and its spirit of kindness.

We sincerely hope that the Christmas season of 1944 will be richer for you, fuller, and more satisfying than for many a year, and thank you for twelve months of very pleasant relations.

HUNT'S STORE



GOOD CHEER! There's nothing quite like it. And good cheer is an affair of the heart. It cannot be withheld and hoarded to gain added value with the days or years. Good cheer must be spent!

Let us all radiate good cheer this Christmas of 1944, for there are reasons enough for good cheer if we but pause to reflect.

Merry Christmas greetings from all of us to all of you.

Finger Lakes Telephone Corp.



WHAT stancher tree than the oak, and what stancher friends than ours? Each year at Christmastime we realize more keenly than ever that our success in this community is deeply rooted in the firm soil of friendship.

In this spirit of appreciation we send our sincere good Christmas wishes to you and to all those dear to you.

L. D. PAUL, Inc.

Marcellus Observer Friday December 22, 1944

75 Years Ago



Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight! Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine, Christmas in lands of the palm-tree and vine; Christmas where snow-peaks stand solemn and white, Christmas where corn-fields lie sunny and bright.

MULROY DAIRY



There's a joy in the heart That sets Christmas apart, To make it a day of all days. And may its true peace And good will never cease To bless you in manifold ways.

Alvord House



EVER THAT SAME STAR

The wise men saw it over the hills of old Judea . . . it glows in the Christmas sky tonight, though clouds may obscure the heavens. It is a beacon of hope in a world in which there is ever so much room for improvement.

Our Christmas greeting to every man, woman and child in this community . . . a greeting as warm and hearty—we hope—as if it were made to each in person with a friendly smile and a shake of the hand.

Merry Christmas!

First National Bank

Marcellus Observer Friday December 22, 1944

Business Member Directory Please Patronize These Businesses

APPLIANCE REPAIR

JOBS UNLIMITED

Appliance repair and more, Mike Johnson, Owner . 2809 Route 174, Marietta 13110.....315-673-2747

AUTOMOTIVE

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 marydailey@reagananddailey.com
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Real Estate

Re/Max Masters April Spain-Mosher

2 Scotch Hill Marcellus, New York 13108.....315-579-4555
 amberspain@remax.net
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**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 Heffeman.....\$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
- Official Marcellus Afghans: blue.....\$45
- 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: \$5

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 :

April 12, 2020 2 PM

INSIDE:

- *Edward V. Baker**
- *100 Years Ago**
- *75 Years Ago**
- *50 Years Ago**

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