



The Steadman House

# Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 26-1

Winter 2021



Lucius Moses

### Another Prominent Citizen Dies After a Brief Illness

By the death of Lucius Moses, which came yesterday noon at his residence at No. 846 James Street, Syracuse loses another of its prominent business men. Mr. Moses's demise was the end of a long and courageous fight with an insidious disease which kept him more or less from his business for the past five months, although he was confined to his room only a few days previous to his death. His name cannot help being associated with that of William Kearney, J.B. Ginty, M. Ryan, Van Vleck Nottingham and Luke Wells, all of whom have died within the past few weeks.

Mr. Moses was one of the best known business men in this county, and was connected with many extensive business enterprises in which he was eminently successful. He was born in 1831 at Marcellus and was the son of Chester Moses, who was the owner of the woolen mills at that

place. Lucius Moses received his education in the common schools and began his business career in a land enterprise in Minnesota. He was afterwards connected with the building of the Illinois Central railroad, and remained in the passenger service of the railroad company some time after the road was completed.

At the opening of the late war he returned to his native town and enlisted with the 122nd regiment of New York volunteers and received the commission of captain. After a short service in the army he returned to Marcellus to resume the management of the Marcellus woolen mills, which were then owned by his father. During the years 1863 and 1864 he made large quantities of blue cloth for the army, and under careful management the mills prospered, and after the war he became owner of the establishment. He increase the capacity of the mills and successfully operated them for about 25 years. In 1889 the Marcellus Mills were consolidated with the Crown mills, and Mr. Moses retired from active management, but continued his connection as an officer and director. At the time of his death he was one of the largest stockholder of the concern. In The same year he purchased the residence of the late Forman Wilkinson on James street hill, and has since been a resident of this city. He became one of the extensive stockholders of the Paragan plaster company, and secretary and treasurer, and acted as general manager of the company, to which he gave much of his time. He also a stockholder in the Syracuse cycle company, Empire cycle company, Empire cycle company, Syracuse storage battery company and Syracuse improvement company.

During the 40 years of his experience in business and social life of this county Mr. Moses moved in a circle of friends and acquaintances who esteemed him sincerely for his manly and honorable qualifications and who will mourn deeply his loss. It is but just in commenting on his life to state that few men entertained such clear conceptions of business integrity. He possessed substantial judgment, an even and

Continued  
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**EVENTS SCHEDULE**

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

**No Spring Meetings**

*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 2021**

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

**Trustees and Term End**

- 2023 Charlie Sanborn.....315-488-3610
- 2023 Harvey Eysman.....315-673-3933  
E-mail: heysman@windstream.net
- 2021 Carol Armstrong.....315-673-3443  
E-mail: carolart23@aol.com
- 2021 Jean Nightingale.....315-673-2539  
E-mail: djn0409@windstream.net
- 2022 John Curtin.....315-673-3660  
E-mail: jcurtin2@windstream.net

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)

**Newsletters are sent via e-mail** rather than regular mail to  
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have not yet advised us of your e-mail address, please do  
so at: [histsoc@windstream.net](mailto:histsoc@windstream.net). We do not publish or sell  
member information. ~

**From The President**

Even thou the Steadman House has been closed, we  
continue to receive artifacts from all across the coun-  
try. We also continue to receive phone messages and  
emails for research. We miss the tours of the Stead-  
man House but we need to be safe for a while longer.  
Hopefully we will be able to have the September  
meeting.

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: 219**

**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**

**Frances Eleanor Wilson Smith February 2, 2021**

### **Covid-19**

**The executives and the board have decided to keep the Steadman House closed until further notice. All our volunteers are in the high risk age group.**

**Hopefully by Summer the doctors and scientist will have a better handle on covid-19. The newsletter will be out before next September meeting.**

**We will make a decision in the Spring after we see how the vaccines are distributed.**

Doug Nightingale

**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 plowing the snow~*

### **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](mailto: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

**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. ~

**Marcellus Historical Society  
2020 Financial Summary**

**Beginning Balance        \$33,894.01**

**Income**

Donations        \$4,110.30  
 Dues Rec'd       \$1,560.00  
 Gift Shop        \$242.70  
 Grants            \$5,000.00  
 Intinc            \$221.42

Total Income    \$11,134.42

**Expenses**

Acquisitions     \$285.60  
 Contributions    \$50.00  
 Miscellaneous    \$700.00  
 Occupancy       \$6,208.72  
 Office Supplies   \$80.97  
 Postage           \$459.56  
 Telephone        \$1,261.37  
 Web Site         \$334.00

Total Expenses   \$9,380.22

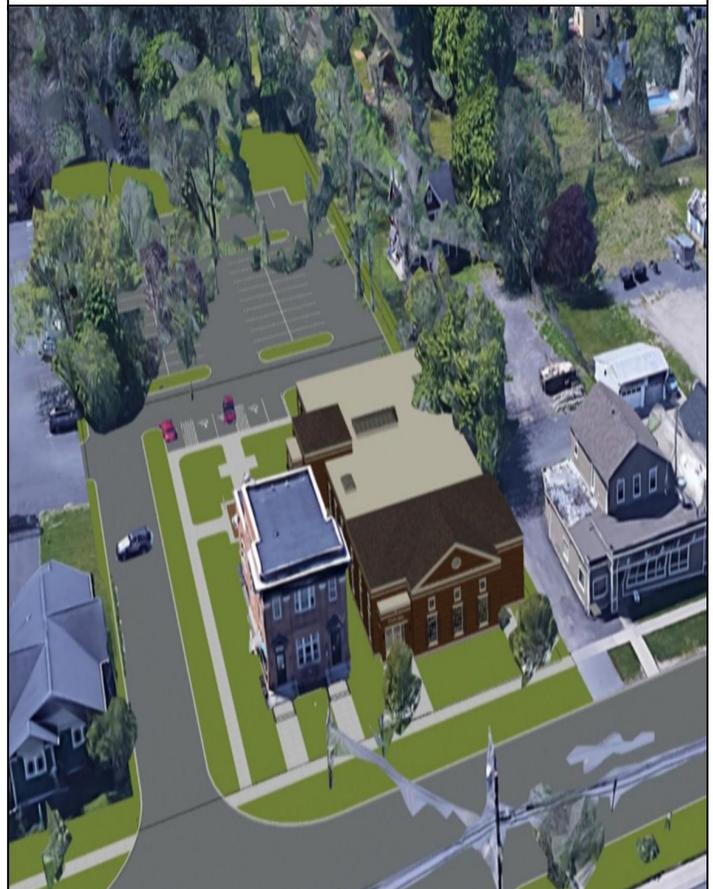
**Overall Total    \$1,754.20**

**Ending Balance        \$35,648.21**

**Recent Acquisitions**

**Mickey McHugh** Lawless family artifacts. **Judy Gilchrist** Jackson family pictures and artifacts. **Cynthia Stevenson** business books and artifacts from the Upper Woolen mill as well as photos and negatives from Lawrence Davies. **John Bromka** paper work of Art Wilson's pertaining to Marcellus Central Schools. **Susan Lewis** business ledger from Upper Crown Mill as well as photos and paper artifacts of the woolen mill.

**Future Home of the  
Marcellus Town Hall**



**Lucius Moses**

deliberate temperament , a firm self reliance and unwavering persistence. He knew the golden rule by heart and his dealings made its application a governing principle. In the commercial world his obligations were never once compromised and in social life he was true to himself, and therefore true to all men. An a employer of men he maintained his relations with those dependent on him with dignity and kindness. He was an enthusiastic sportsman and seldom missed an expedition each year to the Monroe Marsh club’s preserves in Michigan. His home life was an exceptionally happy one, for his tastes were domestic and he only laid aside its pleasures one or two evenings in the week to meet his friends in the whist room at the Citizens club, of which he was a charter member and director. He was connected with several other organizations and was a thirty second degree Mason. He was Married in 1866 to Emma Richardson of Auburn, and is survived by his widow and one son Lucius I Moses.

Arrangements for the funeral have not been made.

The Syracuse Post Standard  
Monday, January 13, 1896

**75 Years Ago**

**Burning Of St. Francis Xavier  
Mortgage Thrills Parishioners**

Absolutely free from debt font the first time in 77 years, the membership of St. Francis Xavier church of Marcellus is rejoicing this week, following an unheralded announcement and burning of the church mortgage last Sunday.

The mortgage was burned at a coffee hour last Sunday afternoon, and the match was touch to the mortgage by 5 year old Susan Sheridan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Sheridan. Tears came to the eyes of many of the older members as the flames destroyed the last evidence of debt against their beloved church.

Former-mayor M. J. Thornton, who has been trustee of the church for nearly 50 years, reviewed the history of the church, pointing out the improvements made over the years, including the new cemetery, the \$30,000 hall, the new organ,

and seats and floors. Mr. Thornton has been with the church its years of debt and few understood more fully the importance of the ceremony than did the man who had been a leader for so many years.

Frank Lawless showed a note, made February 10, 1869, exactly 77 years ago to the day, for \$1000. This note was part of the money paid for building the church, and was Signed by Rev. Francis Purcell, John Glover, Thomas B. Murphy, Patrick Hickey, William Garnett Jeremiah Curtin, Thomas Kyne, Cornelius Shean and Michael Lawless.

Rev. Daniel Hartnett who has served the parish for 12 years, and who is largely responsible for the cancellation of the church debt, was presented with a spiritual bouquet by Dr. M. W. Sullivan, general chairman of the Coffee Hour and President of the Men’s Club, in appreciation of the pastor’s work in clearing up the debt.

Mrs. Mary Wybron, representing the women of the parish, also spoke, and a musical entertainment was provided by “Four Men and a Wren” featuring Miss Mary Dolan as soloist. Miss Marcella Cashin gave some quaint Irish recitations.

The supper was served by the Altar Society, With Mrs. James Dolan in charge of the committee.

Marcellus Observer

Friday Morning, February 15, 1946

**Our Thanks for Cash Donations**

- Judy Gilchrist**
- George Schmidt**
- Hollis & Nancy Abbott**
- Roger & Dorothy Field**
- Farrell’s Auto Service**
- William J. Farrell**
- Arthur J. Scotti**
- Mark S. Friske**
- Kathy Coyne**
- Beverly Mulvaney**
- Linda A. Wicks**
- Daphne B. Goldacker**
- Estate of Jane C. Amidon**
- Town of Marcellus-Grant for Utilities**
- Reagan Companies**
- Marietta House.**

**50 Years Ago  
Marcellus Ramblings  
Horace Stone**

Every village, hamlet, and town had his own industry years ago. I've seen our town lose several in my short time here, which is a half century, come to think of it ??? We've lost 2 paper mills, 2woolen mills, a saw mill, a flour mill, our home ice industry, the cider mills, the theater, the shoe maker, the harness maker, the pearled barley industry, Milo Morgan's Crate Factory, Dwight Barkers Wood Working Shop, Matteson's tinware Mfg. Co., the M.M.&O.L. railroad, Auburn & Syracuse Electric Railroad (Trolley), the blacksmith shop, Bartlett's Durant Auto Agency, Bartlett's Star Auto Agency, Bush's Dodge & Plymouth Agency, Hill Bros. Auto Repairs, Gillett's Ford Agency, Schanzel's Bakery (they had a large bakery route). There properly are more that I'm not remembering at present, such as Murphy's Produce & Coal Co., Woodford's Coal Co..

Before my time, there were several quarry's operating in several capacities, such as building stones, hitching posts, stepping stones, steps and porches, mill stones, animal troughs etc.. The plaster mill used to be below the last Lawless Paper Mill almost to the water falls that come down in front of the Lawless home, it was on the Gorge road north of what was Martin Gleason's Saloon, on the westside of the road, across the creek where the M.M.&O.L. road was laid on top of the extinct Lime Kiln that furnished the material that the plaster was made from, (I don't know when the hair was added to the plaster). Up on the hillside was a quarry above the kiln, the stone came down off the hill on a gravity powered cable and bucket arrangement, which also helped convey the burned stone or lime to the plaster mill. This mill was still standing up to the time that the gorge road was widened a few years ago.

Above was known as the Martisco Paper Mill, you will note a dam, this is the site of the Sherman Paper Mill. This mill went out in the thirties, almost across the road, maybe a bit to the southeast, the present gorge road goes over the foundation of the Marcellus Clock Co..

They made a very good quality wooden works wall clock, one of the good folk at the falls had

one ticking off the time to the correct business the last I visited their place of business. A bit farther south was another dam, which was blown out as of no use, it was a pretty place when I was a youth, it was just north of our Village disposal plant, which is built in my grandfather's lower pasture (which ruined a very pretty spot of my childhood). This was the Powder Mill dam, (the house where the Perl family lives was always known as the Powder mill house). I don't know when or for what the Gun Powder was used. I do know that there are gun powder storage warehouse over near the N.Y.C. railroad tracks that the Lawless brothers used to store paper in. Then at the same location there used to be a Distillery that was owned and operated by Clarence Coon's ancestors, heard tell it was best d - - ed whiskey you could buy for 50 cents a gallon ( the stuff would still be nearly 50 cents a gallon today if it weren't for the nearly \$16.00 per gallon taxon it now). Next mill south is standing yet in a sad state, it was the largest best, up to date mill of the Crown Mills, and it had up to date new machinery in it when it went out of business mostly due to low tariffs. They made an extremely fine woolen cloth, from the finest virgin wools from all over the world. (They employed about 350 people). The upper mill is farther south on Nine Mile Creek, at Orange and Maple streets and now owned by John Moir, who has a sales outlet for cloth, crockery and other products, of which I don't know what, as I haven't been down to visit, and for which I feel rather guilty in we've been friends for years.

Press-Observer  
Thursday, January 29, 1971

**Business Member Directory**  
**Please Patronize These Businesses**

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 marydailey@reagananddailey.com  
 18 East Main St., PO Box 196, Marcellus 13108.....315-673-4864

**PHARMACY**

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**Re/Max Masters Amber Spain-Mosher**  
 2 Scotch Hill Marcellus, New York 13108.....315-579-4555  
 amberspain@remax.net  
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 www.lakecountryvetclinic.com lakecountryvetclinic@hotmail.com  
 2527 Cherry Valley Tpke. Marcellus 13108 (FAX 673-1864)..315-673-4858

**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](http://www.marcellushistoricalsociety.org)**

**INSIDE:**  
**\*Lucius Moses**  
**\*75 Years Ago**  
**\*50 Years Ago**

**NEXT MEETING :**

**Hopefully September 2021**

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