



The Steadman House

Marcellus Historical Society News

Volume 29-2

Spring 2024

Marcellus Old Home Days - A History and Revival

By John P. Curtin

The Marcellus Olde Home Days, which were reactivated in 1995, are actually an expansion of the 1994 Town of Marcellus Bicentennial celebration. When the Bicentennial ended in 1994, it was the desire of many in the community that a similar celebration be continued every year, reviving in a sense, the Olde Home Days that were once held in Marcellus in the 19th and early 20th centuries as well as the Firemen's Field Days conducted by the Marcellus Fire Department in the mid and later 20th century.

Since the celebration has been revitalized, it has become very popular and quite successful. This is due, in large part, to the support that has been shown by the entire Marcellus Community, business, governmental, organizational, and individual.

In 1995, the Olde Home Days Committee was organized, and the Bicentennial Committee was disbanded. The remaining monies in the Bicentennial Treasury were transferred to the Olde Home Days Committee. This was "seed money" and in that first year of celebration (1995) did not generate very much revenue. In fact, it just about broke even.

As the years progressed, the Marcellus Olde Home Days became, for the most part, successful and profits that were generated as a result of the celebration were funneled back into the community in the form of donations to local non-profit organizations that seemed to be in need of some assistance.

Since 1995, the Marcellus Olde Home Days has donated monies to groups such as the Friends of Marcellus Park, the Marcellus Historical Society, Marcellus Central School District, the Marcellus Free Library, the Marcellus American Legion, Marcellus Youth Soccer, and to the Village of Marcellus and the Town of Marcellus to pay for improvement and beautification efforts in the community. In making donations, the Olde Home Days Committee also wanted to make sure that a significant amount of revenue would remain in the Treasury, insuring a successful celebration in the following year.

In one devastating year, 2006, because of disastrous weather, the Olde Home Days Committee was able to use its contingency funds to help fund the celebration and make significant improvements

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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.*

Also, the trustees and board will be meeting monthly through the summer for coordination and growth opportunities. The public is welcome to attend. The next meeting is Thursday, July 18 at 1:00pm.

Historical Society Officers for 2024

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.....315-430-7693

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.

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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

Spring has been very active. A class of 6th graders came to the Steadman House the first week of May. They raked and clean up the yard, as well as helped dust, clean the class cases, and get rid of the cob webs in the house. The second week of June we had five classes of 3rd graders tour the house. Both events went very well. During Olde Home days we had 18 people tour the house on Saturday, and Sunday we had 17 people tour the house. The Trustees met in May and June to discuss events coming forward. They decided to meet once a month to coordinate up coming events and to talk over events we may want in the future.

Have a safe and happy Summer.

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

Our Thanks for Cash Donations

Mary & Gary Salibrici

Diana Spencer

Ed & Karen Pollard

Margaret Shields

Karol Woythal

Recent Acquisitions

We wish to thank the these people for donating the following:

John Curtin donated his file cabinet with research papers

Doug Nightingale donated five Marcellian yearbooks

Joyce Potucek donated scrap books & school pictures

Thomas Petro classroom photos from 1957-1987 were given by **Linda Rice**



Trustee Linda Wilcox describing military artifact

Third Graders Visit The Steadman House

The third graders visited us over the course of a week, and enjoyed learning about the many things in our museum. The tours concluded with them learning about the bells from the schools and mills from the past, with one of the bells being rung to demonstrate how incredibly loud they are!



Mrs. Machlachlan's 3rd grade class

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

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.

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. ~

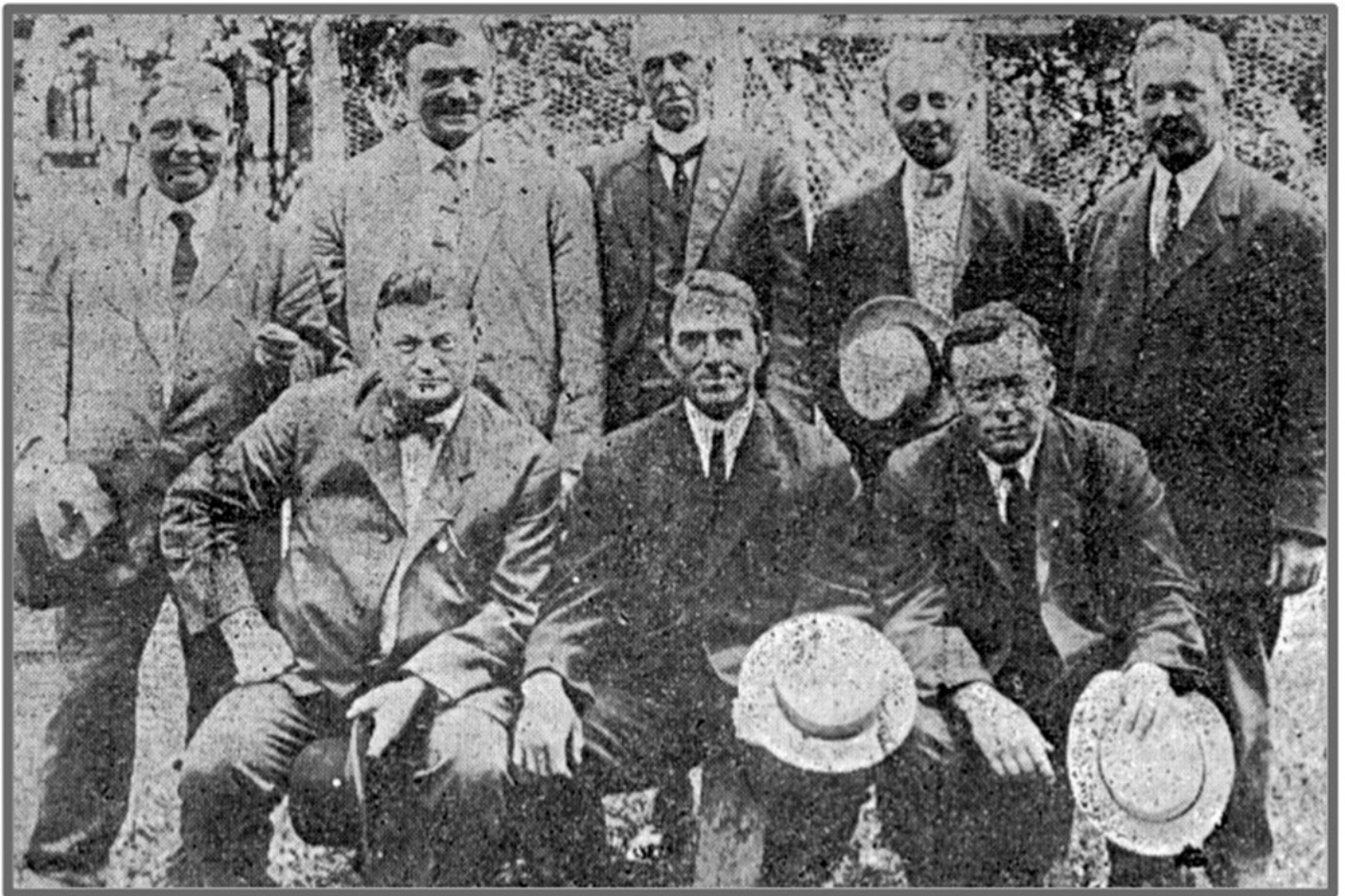
Marcellus Olde Home Days, continued

to Marcellus Park, which had been severely affected by terrible storms.

There are a number of reasons why the Olde Home Days celebration are so successful, and chief among them is the fact that it is a great sense of family that is engendered and that everyone in the community looks forward to each year. It was originally called Home Days because people travelled home to meet up with family and friends. It continues to be a reunion of sorts that also helps to kick-off summer fun after months of dreary weather and being indoors. In 2019, for the first time since it was reactivated in 1995, the Olde Home Days Committee began the process of having the Marcellus Rotary take over the celebration of the event, and it continued

to be very popular in the Marcellus community and quite successful as well. COVID caused the OHD Celebration to be postponed for two years, but it returned in 2022 and promises to be as enjoyable as ever with each passing year.

There are activities on Main Street in the Village and in the Town Park on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the first weekend in June. Crafter booths on Main Street in the Village, and concession stands, games, live music and amusement rides in Marcellus Park, as well as a great parade on Saturday highlight the weekend. Each year, the Marcellus Olde Home Days honors an outstanding individual(s) or a group as the Grand Marshals of the huge parade that takes place on Saturday and the celebration ends on Sunday with the ever-popular Duck Race on Nine Mile Creek.



1914 Parade Committee

Top Row: John Stewart, John E. Griffin, Dr. John Parsons, Frank D. Powell, James Hogan

Bottom Row: Edward J. Dillon, Patrick J. Kelly, and David J. Lawless

Other Executive Committee Members Missing From Photo

F. A. Thompson, J. H. Weidman, Edward Reed, George Ammerman



Olde Home Days shares wealth with local groups

The Marcellus Olde Home Days Committee recently doled out \$1,000 each to four Marcellus groups. The money came from proceeds from the 1997 Marcellus Olde Home Days celebration which was held last June. Old Home Days Committee members standing, from left to right, were Tom Dillon, Kate Demers, Cathy Marsden, Chairperson, John Curtin, Treasurer, and Mary Ryan Carlton. Recipients seated, from left to right, were Bill Regan, president, Marcellus Historical Society, Pat Koloski, chairman, Friends of Marcellus Park, Fred Eisenberg, mayor, village of Marcellus and Jim Sheridan, town councilor, town of Marcellus.

Missing from photo, Frank "Brud" Wilson, Marcellus Town Supervisor



Fred Eisenberg



Alma and Lewis Steadman

Honoring Commitment to Community
Marcellus Olde Home Days 2007



75 Years Ago

Relic of St. Francis Xavier to be Venerated at St. Francis Church Here

As the relic of St Francis Xavier starts its travel through the Syracuse Diocese, the first stop will be in Marcellus. On Saturday afternoon at 3:00 in St Francis Savior Church the relic, which is the Saints right forearm, will be venerated.

St Francis was known as “the apostle of the Indies”. A 16th century figure, he was born in Spain and was a professor of philosophy at the University of Parish. There he met St Ignatius Loyla, the founder of the Jesuit order.

He went into foreign missionary work and his biographers claimed that he converted at least 700,000 persons to Catholicism before he died in 1552 at the age of 46. He worked in the Far East, notably in Japan. Two months after his death on the coast of China, his body was found to be in a state of nearly perfect preservation, church sources say. The church, they say, has regarded this as an authentic miracle.

The Marcellus Observer
Friday, October 28, 1949

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 ~

Memories of Marcellus

Mrs. Fellows Writes Briefly on Early Societies in Marcellus

The first “social or literary society” to be formed in Marcellus was formed by the ministers of the village and was called the “Lyceum”. Discussions of present day topics, literature and history were heard.

At about the same time the singing schools were started, there was much talent in Marcellus- leaders as well as for chorus work. Everyone learned to read music by note, the key being given by the leader on pitch pipe or a tuning fork. The best music of the day was sung and a concert was given at the end of the season. The instruments used by these groups were the base vio, violin, melodiam; later came the organ.

All this was a great help to the church choirs. In the Presbyterian Church the choir was in the gallery in the rear of the church. There was a great many people in the choir. Miss Cornelia Oakley of East Hill and Mr. John Q Sweryyr played the melodiam.

Later when the pipe organs were put in the churches they were used. The organists who played for a number of years were; Mrs. Phoebe Parsons, Miss Lorali Bradley, Mr. Lottie Ball Marshfield. Miss Bradley was noted for improvisations. Miss Mattie Cliff played a long time in the Episcopal Church. Miss Parsons was gone for a number of years teaching in a southern college and would always upon return in the summer give a delightful concert in the church. Miss Parsons and Mrs. Marshfield gave piano lessons and many in this town started their musical career from these women. Very lovely and were nice musicians. When Miss Parsons passed away a niece of hers wrote a beautiful tribute to her “A minstral gone home”.

The Marcellus Observer
Friday, May 13, 1949

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.vanderhooffroofing.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
 www.truevalue.com/nightingale
 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:**
- *Olde Home Days**
 - *3rd Graders Visit Steadman**
 - *Marcellus Memories**
 - *75 Years Ago**

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