



MARCELLUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 3

Summer 2000

OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

- Dinner to Celebrate Occasion -
- Plans For New Museum Ready-

That's right, the year 2000 is the 40th anniversary year of the Marcellus Historical Society. The Society was founded in 1960 by Michael Plumpton. This issue of our newsletter features the minutes from our first meeting and a list of the founding members.

We are holding an anniversary Dinner in honor of the occasion and everyone is invited. Charter members have been invited and will be presented with certificates. And, if everything falls into place in time, we anticipate that we will finally present the preliminary plans for our new museum building. ~

Marcellus Historical Society 40th Anniversary Dinner

1 PM Sunday, September 10, 2000
Marcellus Fire Station

Bring a dish to pass and your own table service
Meat and beverage will be provided

**Please RSVP to Kathleen Reagan
at 673-3365 by Sept. 6th.**

THE CREATION OF OUR SOCIETY AND MUSEUM... Michael Plumpton

Editor's Note: The following story first appeared in our Spring 1998 issue.

In the Summer of 1947, when I was ten years old, I went with my family to Cooperstown. There we saw the Farmer's Museum and the George Fenimore Cooper House. From that time on, I dreamed about the day I could start a museum in Marcellus, NY.

In the Fall of 1959, some twelve years later, I called Lucy Sweet, the Town of Marcellus Historian, and talked to her about starting a Marcellus Historical Club, that's what it was first called. She wasn't sure that there would be that many people interested but I went ahead, and made arrangements for the new group to meet at St. John's Parish Hall in January of 1960.

The Marcellus Historical Club was born. I asked Frank Griffing, a renowned senior citizen, to come and share his memories of Marcellus. It was also his birthday and they had a cake for him.

40 YEARS!

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
OF PRESERVING THE
HISTORY OF MARCELLUS!

The first official meeting was on January 25, 1960. Eighteen people attended. (See their names in the minutes following this story.) On November 28, 1960, our name became the Marcellus Historical Society.

After creating the Marcellus Historical Society in 1960, people began to offer us artifacts for a museum. As we had no place to store or display the items, a search was started for a museum building. The Marcellus & Otisco Lake Railway station was no longer in use, so an effort was made to acquire the building. Unfortunately it could not be done at the time and the historic building was purchased by someone else and torn down.

In 1963, a well known Marcellus business man by the name of Stephen Hunt passed away. (Cont.)

Mr. Hunt had a passion for local history and had collected many Marcellus artifacts. He displayed them in his own makeshift museum which was in the basement of his building at 19 East Main Street, what was then known as the Hunt building. He had made no provisions in his will as to what was to be done with the collection.

Lester Norris, the executor of Hunt's estate, had spoken to Steve several times about the collection and Steve had verbally indicated to him that he wanted the collection to go to the Historical Society. Thanks to Lester, the bulk of the collection came to us in early 1964.

At about the same time, the Marcellus Town Board offered the Historical Society use of the two rooms on the second floor of the town hall, which at that time was in the White Memorial Building at 18 E. Main Street. We voted to accept the town's offer and with some help, our first museum became a reality.

Those who helped included: Maynard Clark, Les Shaw, Bob Masters, Robert Harrison, myself and some others I can't recall at the moment. We constructed shelves in the new museum with lumber from the upper Crown Mill which was given by the Moir family. We had a good time getting ready to move in.

Maynard Clark built a storage closet to hold items which we did not wish to display at that time, but as any man knows, the women in the group had the last word. Mabel Hollenbeck and some of the other ladies found some pictures which we had placed in the closet and they made us hang them up.

After opening the new museum, people began donating artifacts to us on a regular basis. It wasn't long before we outgrew the two rooms. In 1968, the Village Board offered to allow us to use the much larger second floor of the village hall at 6 Slocombe Ave. On April 21, 1968; we voted to move our museum to that location and that is where the museum remains today.

Men such as my father John Plumpton, Roy Bennett and Dick Pollard among others, built tables for the few display cases we had at the time. Mary Bennett and Doris Matteson scrubbed the whole floor on their hands and knees just before the opening day.

At the time, many of us thought that we had more space than we could ever fill. How wrong we were! Our collection has once again outgrown its allotted space and we are hoping to move into a larger building.

Over the years, many other people have helped

with the museum. During Stan Impson's term of office, he painted all of the walls in the museum. Stan passed the gavel to Bill Reagan in 1996 and supported the updates and changes in museum displays that Bill spent many hours doing in his first year as President. Stan passed away last year and we still miss him. ~

MINUTES OF OUR FIRST MEETING - JANUARY 25, 1960



A group of people interested in the possibility of forming a Marcellus Historical Club met at St. John's Parish House in Marcellus to discuss the matter.

Michael Plumpton and Lucy Sweet conducted an informal discussion. There seemed to be sufficient interest and enthusiasm, so it was decided to have another meeting Feb. 24th in the Parish House. Michael Plumpton was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

Minutes of the (first) meeting were taken by Mrs. Ruth Griffing.

The 18 people present were Mrs. Charles Hopkins, Wallace Campbell, Jack Haley, Barbara Pittinger, Kate Webb, Henry E. Phillips, Michael Plumpton, Ruth Griffing, Robert Harrison, Sr., John Withey, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Potucek, Mr. & Mrs. Emerson Patterson, Mrs. Eva Crysler, Mrs. Ethel Feeney, Frank Griffing, and Lucy Sweet.

Refreshments were provided by Michael Plumpton and Lucy Sweet. ~

FROM THE MUSEUM

Work continues at the museum. We have received mylar covers to put on the books to preserve them and will be indexing them. Also, more work is being done on photographs and scrapbooks. Anyone that would like to volunteer time at the museum, we are there at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays evenings. If anyone would like to visit the museum at this time you are welcome or can make an appointment and we will open it at anytime. ~

BEST WISHES SIDNEY

Sidney Tuthill has been in the hospital and is recuperating at his daughter's home in Cortland. Send cards to 7 Douglas Street, Cortland, NY 13045. Get well soon Sid! ~

OFFICERS & TERMS SERVED

1960 - 2000... *Compiled by Bill Reagan*

(11) Presidents and Terms Served:

Michael Plumpton, 17; Leslie Shaw, 2; Lovilla Plumpton, 3; Richard Tabor, 4; Roy Bennett, 2; Mary Bennett, 2; Eva Kopplin, 2; Kenneth Preiser, 2; Stan Impson, 2; Bill Reagan, 4; Peg Nolan, 1 ~

(15) Vice Presidents and Terms Served:

Jack Haley, 2; Ethel Feeney, 1; Robert Masters, 1; Leslie Shaw, 3; Lucy Harrison, 1; Amelia Clark, 4; Harold Critlenden, 1; Bernice Pollard, 3; Sidney Tuthill, 11; Doris Haggett, 1; Lovilla Plumpton, 4; Michael Plumpton, 4; Mary Bennett, 1; Stan Impson, 3; Bruce Widger, 1 ~

(7) Secretaries and Terms Served:

Lucy Sweet, 26; Doris Mathieson, 2; Kenneth Preiser, 1; Kay Kerr, 3; Bob Negus, 1; Gail Banks, 3; Joyce Murphy, 5 ~

(9) Treasurers and Terms Served:

Lucy Sweet, 18; Ann Tuck, 2; Mary Bennett, 4; Katherine Reagan, 2; Richard Tabor, 1; Eleanor Winslow, 1; Helen Tierney, 5; Richard Smith, 6; Hollis Abbott, 1 ~

(2) Correspondence Secretaries and Years

Served: Doris Haggett, 12; Kathleen Reagan, 3 ~

(37) Directors / Trustees and Years Served:

Robert Masters, 1; Maynard Clark, 3; Wallace Campbell, 2; Robert Harrison, 8; Amelia Clark, 3; Jack Haley, 3; Michael Plumpton, 13; Alice Thompson, 2; Lovilla Plumpton, 6; Dwight Schuyler, 10; John Plumpton, 9; Ruth Gallinger, 3; Mary Bennett, 4; Richard Pollard, 1; Richard Tabor, 11; Ruth McManus, 3; Ann Tuck, 4; Roy Bennett, 1; George Haggett, 14; June Fellows, 1; Doris Haggett, 3; Kenneth Preiser, 3; Katherine Reagan, 4; Doris Mathieson, 3; Florence Brock, 7; Mahlon Horsington, 5; David Mosher, 9; Gail Banks, 2; Bob Negus, 5; Don Kilcoyne, 4; Bruce Widger, 4; Peg Nolan, 4; Tom Reagan, 4; John Curtin, 4; Sidney Tuthill, 1; Richard Smith, 1; Mary Jane Domurat, 1. ~

FROM THE GAVEL

May 10, 2000 - General Meeting.

We will invite the Mayor & Supervisor to our anniversary dinner and to present the village and town of Marcellus each a copy of our new historic Marcellus painting. Jane Amidon provided a nice talk on antiques and old barns.



June 14, 2000 - General Meeting.

About 100 people toured our museum during Olde Home Days. A Christmas house tour is being discussed. Our guest speaker was Bob Wilson who did a nice presentation on flags and memorials.

July 12, 2000 - General Meeting

Preliminary drawings of our new museum are being worked on. Our guest speaker was Amy Samuels who gave a very interesting program entitled "Privies Past and Present." ~

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our total membership for 2000 is currently 543.

Following are the new members as of press time. If you have any questions about this list, please contact Hollis Abbott at 673-1753. To join or renew, please use or photocopy the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. ~ Mrs. Katherine Arthur; Bill & Peg Bell; Donald & Doris Buschbascher; Peter W. Cole; Frank & Janis DeBevic; Joseph & Lynwood Duffy; Lori R. Dupuis; Suzanne Durgee; Susan F. Fraser; Hubert B. & Earline Hall; Art & Nancy Hudson; Joseph & Ann Lignal; Mike & Martha Lollis & Family; Ted & Judy Morton; John Roland; Gretchen S. Rusk; Don & Val Shoudy; Joy Siersma; Mark S. Siersma; Robert P. Siersma; William A. Siersma ~

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We wish to thank the following people for donating these items to our museum collection: Old local postcards, Edward G. Dunn; Allen V. Barley Mill cookbook, Peg Nolan; Jayncee memorabilia, darning tools, pins from various local organizations, ink bottle, record cabinet, carpenters miter box used by Lyle Kinane and Marcellus Fire Department Auxiliary memorabilia, Jim & Joyce Murphy; 1948 wedding gown worn and given by Fran Randall who also donated a going away suit and hat; oak rocking chair, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mahan; three navy uniforms, Erwin Rice; Wicklys Woods book, Frank Gay Road sign, old bottles, First National Bank ruler, 1919 Marcellian, wooden thread spools and magazines, Elsie Harrison; old wash tub, Margaret Aherin; photos, old news clippings, and James family history, Sheila Schweitzer; Crown Woolen Mill envelope and key, Scott Lawson; File cabinet, Jerry & Anne Ferro; 1958 wedding gown, Mrs. Jack Burns; railroad magazine, gavel used by Civil War veterans, MCS recipe book, 1968 Marcellian and slides of Marcellus, Dick Tabor; word processor, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Palen; Marcellus postcards, Karen Southard, MCS cheer-leading megaphone and block M letter belonging to Judy Pelchy, Karen Pollard; Marcellus photographs, Betsy Bond; 1991 Marcellus Jr. prom booklet from Jennifer Murphy. ~

EVENTS SCHEDULE

*The tentative schedule of meetings,
speakers and events is as follows:*

Sunday, October 82 p.m.

General Meeting
Speakers TBA in Marcellus Observer.

Sunday, November 12.....2 p.m.

General Meeting
Speakers TBA in Marcellus Observer.

Sunday, December 3.....1 p.m.

Holiday Dinner
Speakers TBA in Marcellus Observer.

*Meetings are open to anyone and are held at the Marcellus
Fire Station unless indicated otherwise.*

Historical Society Officers

President: Peg Nolan.....673-1765
Vice President: Bruce Widger.....673-9142
Treasurer: Hollis Abbott.....673-1753
Secretary: Joyce Murphy673-2528
Cor. Secretary: Kathleen Reagan.....673-3365

Trustees and Term End

Sidney Tuthill, 673-2990..... 2000
John Curtin, 673-3660..... 2000
Michael Plumpton, 673-3453 2001
Tom Reagan, 673-3365 2001
Mary Jane Domurat, 673-4896..... 2002
Dick Smith, 673-1532..... 2002

The Marcellus Historical Society,
P.O. Box 165, Marcellus, NY 13108,
publishes this newsletter and mails it quarterly
to its members and advertisers and annually
to everyone in Marcellus Zip Code 13108.

Editor: Bill Reagan

THIS 'N THAT'S

A big thank you to Janet Warner for making our new Marcellus Historical Society banner. Another big thank you to Jim Thorpe for loaning us his trailer for our float in the Olde Home Days Parade. ~

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Mary Sennett for information on the National Economy Store. Eddie Williams owned the store before Herbert Wickham. Mr. Wickham opened the store on July 22, 1922 and in time changed the store to the Market Basket which he closed in 1935. Coral and Muriel came to Marcellus in 1936 and took over the management of the Market Basket. They moved the location to the other side of the street and remained in business until 1954.

In 1938 Louis and Clarence Newell reopened the old location of the store, which long ago housed the old Cottage Saloon, under the name of Newell's Grill. Louis sold the business to Edward Sennett and the name was changed to Sennett's Village Tavern in May 1959. The Village Tavern still operates today. *This information came from Marty Sennett, Nine Mile Country and an article on Herbert Wickham in the Marcellus Observer on July 24, 1935. ~*

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

You can advertise your business right here for one low price per year. For information contact our president, Peg Nolan at 673-1765. ~

Marcellus Historical Society Member Business Directory

*Our member businesses help support
this newsletter. Please support them!*

ANTIQUES

WHITE & WHITE ANTIQUES & INTERIORS, 18 E. Genesee St., Skaneateles, NY 13152. Stephen and Beverly White..... 685-7733

AUTOMOTIVE

WARNER'S AUTO BODY, 2650 Pleasant Valley Road, Marcellus. 24-hour towing. Bob Warner, Owner 673-3521

AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRONICS, Two locations:

2560 Pleasant Valley Road, 673-9602; 3021 W. Seneca Turnpike, Ron Miller, Owner..... 673-1101

BAKERY

THE PASTRY PALACE, 14 W. Main Street, Marcellus.. 673-9941

BEAUTY / FITNESS

FIRST IMPRESSION, 2 East Main Street, Marcellus. Paul Mitchell products, Sherri Wagner, owner..... 685-7733

THE DARK SIDE TANNING, 22 W. Main Street, Marcellus.

Open M-F 8am-9pm; Sat 8am-8pm; Sun 9am-5pm..... 673-0884

BOOK BINDING

JAMES MEYER, THE BOOK BINDER, 26 East Genesee Street Rd., Auburn, NY 13021. Commercial and private book binding and restoration. FAX and Phone258-3930

CHIMNEY SERVICES

ADVANCED CHIMNEY SERVICES, Chimney lining, gas logs, cleaning, inspections, repairs, full service, insured 673-3669

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

END BAR FOUNDATIONS, P.O. Box 574, Cazenovia, NY 13035. Poured walls, fully insured. Bob Barrows662-7818

JOBS UNLIMITED, 1 Maple Street, Marcellus. Appliance repair and more. Mike Johnson, owner..... 673-2747

W. F. SAUNDERS & SONS, P.O. Box A, Nedrow, NY 13120
Over 100 years of service. All types of sand, gravel, stone and transit & mixed concrete. NYS approved materials469-3217

DENTAL SERVICES

EDWARD M. KANTOR, DDS, 28 1/2 East Main Street, Marcellus. Comprehensive dental services. Hours by appointment. FAX...673-2252, Phone 673-3102

FIRE, SMOKE & WATER CLEANUP

LOSS RECOVERY SYSTEMS, INC., Cleanup after any type of insured property loss. Estimates prepared and work performed by staff personnel. CEO, Leonard J. Paradise. Member MFD ..451-9111

FLORIST

IVY & LACE, 1 North Street, Marcellus. Flowers and gifts. Anita Williams, owner673-4923

FLOORS / CARPETS

FUNERAL SERVICES

NORRIS FUNERAL HOME, INC., 33 North Street, Marcellus. Over 100 years of service to the families of Marcellus.....673-2017

RYAN FUNERAL HOME, 44 East Main Street, Marcellus. Serving all faiths ~ Pre-Arrangements ~ Family owned.....673-2345

GIFTS / CRAFTS

ANGEL HEARTS GIFTS, 16 East Main Street, Marcellus. M-F 10-6, Saturday 10-4. We have beanie Babies.....673-9457

THE CHOCOLATE PIZZA COMPANY / A TOUCH OF SPICE 37 South Street, Marcellus. Famous chocolate pizza, chocolate covered potato chips, made right in Marcellus.673-4098

DEBEVIC HOMESTEAD, 2527 West Seneca Turnpike, Marcellus. Art & craft gallery. Open May - December, weekends 12-5 and lots of by-chance-times. Frank & Jan Debevic673-9447

PEDIGREED PLANTS, 8 Reed Avenue, Marcellus. Mary Lou Grant, owner. Gift shop with large assortment at affordable prices. Operating for 20 years.....673-1889

GRAPHIC DESIGN

DW DESKTOP PUBLISHING, 5 First Street, Marcellus. Business literature, graphics, lecture slides673-4091

HARDWARE

HEALTH

FAMILY PRACTICE MEDICINE, 28 1/2 East Main St., Marcellus. From birth to old age - body, mind and spirit. Hours by appointment. 24 hour coverage, Saturday hours available 673-4906

SKANEATELES FOOT & ANKLE CENTER, 27 Fennell Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152. Sebastian Bentivegna, DPM. Hours by appointment. FAX...685-6076, Phone685-FEET

HOME, GARDEN & LANDSCAPING

HILLSIDE GARDENS, 2768 West Seneca Turnpike, Marcellus. Landscaping, nursery, garden center. Patrick J. Koloski.. 673-2005

SYBILLA DECORATING, 14 South Street, Marcellus. Home and garden coordination, color consultations, historical wallpaper and fabric, custom stencils..... 673-1469

INSURANCE

REAGAN / MAHER AGENCY, INC., 8-12 East Main Street, Marcellus. Complete line of Personal and Business Insurance. Bonding & Financial Planning. Hours M-F 9-5. FAX...673-4866, Phone 673-2094

LEGAL SERVICES

REAGAN & DAILEY, Attorney at Law, 8-12 East Main Street, P.O. Box 196, Marcellus. General legal services. Mary Reagan Dailey. FAX...673-4856, Phone..... 673-4864

MANUFACTURING

MARTISCO PAPER COMPANY, INC., 4747 Route 174, Marcellus. 100% recycled paper. Maker of "Bogus" for economical packaging and product protection. FAX...673-4963, Phone 673-2071

REAL ESTATE

YUHAS REAL ESTATE, East Main Street, Marcellus. We are buyers agents, sellers agents, appraisers and real estate consultants. Phone..... 673-1028

RECREATION

RESTAURANTS

CREEKSIDE INN, 67-69 North Street, Marcellus. A fine local family restaurant. M-TH 11-11, Fri-Sat 11-midnight. Sundays 1-10 673-3430

VETERINARY & PET SERVICES

BUBBLES - N - BOWS GROOMING SALON, 19 North Street, Marcellus. Christine Smith, owner..... 673-4225

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MARCELLUS VETERINARY HOSPITAL, 4240 Slate Hill Road, Marcellus. Complete small animal services. Hours by appointment. 24-hour client emergency service 673-2025

To advertise your business here,
email Bill Reagan at <breagan1@twcnv.ny.us>
