

MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

Mar 2009

Tidbits

Submitted by Frank Berger

The first settlers in the Town of Yates were the Dunhams and the Roots. They came together by boat from Irondequoit Bay in April 1804 & settled at the mouth of Johnson Creek. Except for a family by the name of Walsworth, who had settled at the mouth of Oak Orchard Creek, these people constituted the entire white population north of the Ridge between the Niagara and Genesee Rivers.

Works were put up by the Holland Land Co. at the Salt Springs north of Medina as early as 1805. To facilitate access to these works the company cut two roads - one leading south to the Old Buffalo Road, the other southeasterly the Oak Orchard Road. These highways were known as the "Salt Works Road".

Mr. Samuel F. Gear built a sawmill for the Holland Land Co. on the falls in the Oak Orchard Creek in Medina about the year 1805. No roads leading to it were made before the War of 1812. Few settlers located here. The mill was not kept in repair and soon tumbled into ruins.

The first known settler in the Town of Ridgeway was Seymour Murdock who settled on the Ridge Road, June 1, 1810. At that time his nearest neighbor was at Johnson's Creek, five miles distant. The nearest store was at Batavia.

One of the early settlers in Orleans County was Amos Barret, who in the spring of 1811, bought fifty acres of land at \$3.00 per acre, one mile west of Ridgeway Corners. His family and he were guests of his neighbor, Jonathan Cobb, until he built a log house on his own lot. Mr. Cobb's house was 18'x24' in size and contained twenty-six "inmates" at the time.

The first store in Medina was opened by Sylvanus Coan in 1824, before the Canal was finished.

The Post Office was established in Medina in 1829 and the first fire company was organized in 1832. The first regular physician was Dr. Rumsey in 1829. The first attorney was Nathan Sawyer.

The creek at Jeddo did not exist until around 1827 when a ditch was cut across the Ridge at that point to drain a large swamp on the south side of the Ridge. This runoff was utilized to run a grist mill and saw mill. The town was originally known as Batesville after Orlando Bates who built the first mill.

In the year 1844, Orleans County contained 8237 cows from which 571,588 lbs. of butter and 174,721 lbs. of cheese were made. It also had 6897 horses, 68,358 sheep and human population of 19,572. At that time there were thirty-three churches, three academies, one hundred common

schools, forty-seven clergymen, twenty-six attorneys, and forty-three physicians. In 1890, works were erected by the Medina Electric Light Co. for the purpose of supplying the village with lights. It was powered with two engines and boilers of 100 H.P. each. In 1894, they supplied just over 100 customers and ran twenty-six miles of wire.

History of Newell's By Frank Berger

Editor's Note: This article was originally presented in 1993, to the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.

The company was originally founded in 1900 by Mr. Frank Beach and was located at the rear of the O'Donnell Brothers Lumber Company in Medina, New York. In 1902, Robert H. Newell joined the company and bought out Mr. Beach in 1916, renaming the company, Robert H. Newell & Co., Inc. The current owners, Bert and Joyce Raymond, purchased the business in 1973 and due to health reasons, need to sell or close it down.

The R.H. Newell Company has been addressing the tailoring needs of successful men since 1900 – proudly providing the finest fabrics, the best workmanship, and the broadest selection of styling options demanded by a very particular clientele.

Wearing a Newell shirt is like belonging to an exclusive club, the give-away is the monogram, a horizontal button hole for the lower button shirt fronts, two-holed buttons rather than four, and the codes stitched into the shirts.

The Newell club roster has in the past included many well-connected men

including: President Warren Harding, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, former CIA Director John McCole, J. Willard Marriott, John Jacob Astor, George H. Weyerhauser, and Peter Doubleday. More recent clients of note are Dustin Hoffman, Tony Randall, Bennett Cerf, Bob Hope, Nick Nolte, and 1985 Mr. Universe, Dale Ruplinge (53" chest, 20-1/2" biceps, and a 36" waist). The Olympic riding team goes wild over Newell Western and English riding shirts.

Each customer has their own pattern – not block patterns which are then graded. Each customer pattern is kept on file. The customer may request the preferred fit – snug, medium, or loose. The customer designs his own shirt style which may include epaulets, box-pleat back, collar, pocket, and cuff style. Fit is determined in 1/8" tolerance in neck sizes, unlike ready-made shirts which only vary by 1/2" and 1/4" increments in sleeve length.

Each piece is cut separately with a hand knife in the manner of Old World craftsmen. The twenty-four pieces are then sewn on single-needle lockstitch machines. It gives the shirt an exceptionally strong seam (approximately thirty-two stitches to the inch) that won't unravel. No double-needle sewing is found on a Newell shirt.

Every R.H. Newell detail, from linings to thread to buttons, is carefully selected for function and distinctive quality. Monogramming often identifies our customer tailoring. Some are perfected by stitching cams, but many are still done by hand. There is no extra charge for a monogram at R.H. Newell, up to four letters. The customer designs his shirt and we fit it properly. The pattern is

on file and orders can be made at any time with adjustments.

Ms. Bonnie L. Mundion has worked at Robert H. Newell & Co., Inc., for fifteen years. During this time she has managed the business: taking care of the books, billings, purchasing, payroll, and marketing. Ms. Patricia A. Charache has worked at Newell for eleven years starting as a seamstress and now currently plant manger and assistant draftsperson to Mr. Bert Raymond. Between the two of them, they have the skills and experience to run the company.

Local Generosity
Submitted by Catherine Cooper

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the Medina Tribune, March 4, 1909.

One day last week a young couple got off the train, who – but we are getting ahead of our story and as it is a story of so much interest and one in which our local business men figure so conspicuously that every person in town will be glad to read it, we have succeeded in securing permission to print the story in full, only, of course, omitting names.

It seems that these two young people, Jack and Helen, had only been married a few months. Helen's parents were formerly residents of Orleans County, but several years ago, on account of her mother's health, have moved to Los Angeles, Cal, while Helen was very young. The change proved beneficial at first but only for a time and Helen was soon left without motherless and a few years later, lost her father. At that time, her Aunt Hester, who is one of our most highly respected citizens, wanted Helen to come East and make her home here,

but Helen had a good position in an office in Los Angeles and preferred to remain there, partly, no doubt, owing to the fact that there was a young man in the case, which fact, did not develop until later.

Those two young people had long been sweethearts and were only awaiting the opportunity to marry. About a year later, Aunt Hester received an announcement of the their marriage and a long letter from Helen, saying that Jack had at last received the promotion they had been waiting for and that they had bought a pretty little cottage and furnished it complete and were very happy in their little nest.

In order to do this, they had been obliged to go rather heavily into debt, but with Jack's excellent position and their determination to economize, they expected to be out of debt in a few years.

A few weeks ago, however, Aunt Hester received a letter from them stating that Jack had met with an accident which laid him up in the hospital for several months and finally necessitated a severe operation, which while successful, had made him so weak that he would be unable to do anything for a living for some time to come. In the meantime, the expense of his illness and the operation had taken all of their ready money and the mortgage on their home had been foreclosed ad they had lost practically everything they had in the world.

“Poor dears,” said Aunt Hester, “to think of their being away off there, all alone, and in such trouble.” And as fast as the mails could carry it, a letter went speeding westward, with money enough for immediate needs, and enough more to bring them here and offering Jack his choice of a business or a farm as a

wedding present, if they would only come back here to Medina and cheer her remaining days, as she had no children of her own and also gently hinting that she intended willing them her property, anyway, as Helen was her only near relative. So that really brings us back to the beginning of our story and explains the arrival of these two young people.

They alighted from the train, travel-stained and weary and were met by Aunt Hester who had driven in from her farm, but had no intention of taking them back with her that night. "No indeed," said she, after a cordial welcome, "What you need is rest," and led the tired and hungry travelers to the Walsh House, where they enjoyed an elaborate supper and were afterward shown to comfortable rooms by the genial landlord, Mr. Walsh, who made their short stay so pleasant that there will always remain a bright spot in their memories, recollections of their first meal and night's rest in their new home. They were very much surprised to find a hotel of such high class outside of the large cities and were especially pleased with the luxurious private baths, of which there are eight in this hotel.

After an appetizing breakfast next morning, Aunt Hester proposed that they start out a once to procure a complete outfit. "The basis of a house," she said, "is a bit of mother earth so we will go to the office of Warren Ensign. He controls village property that is most desirable and always has excellent bargains on hand. It will be worth your while to know him, for if you ever want to engage a reliable man to collect rents or take charge of your property, he is the party to call on. While I propose to furnish you a cozy village home, so that I can have the pleasure of calling on you frequently, your source of income will

be a fine farm, which I have in mind for you, a short distance outside the village."

The visit resulted in interesting Jack in some very desirable village property and an engagement was also made for a drive into the country to view some farm property, in which Mr. Ensign offers some rare bargains. "The title of any property secured through Mr. Ensign will always be clear," said Aunt Hester, "owing to his experience and ability."

"For your drive into the country," remarked Aunt Hester, "you will want one of Geo. Snell's stylish rigs. He keeps the best horses and most up-to-date turnouts to be found anywhere and has easy riding rigs and horses that can be driven by either ladies or gentlemen with pleasure and safety. They are reasonable in price and by courteous treatment of customers he has forged to the front until he does the leading business in this line in town. He has a large trade among the commercial travelers who have found by experience that they can save both time and money by using rigs from this Livery. He also has a large and commodious Drive Barn and you will find it a good idea to leave your rig there when in town instead of hitching on the street and taking chances of a runaway caused by automobiles or trolleys." A visit to the stable proved to Jack that Aunt Hester was right and so pleased were the young couple with the turnout furnished them by Mr. Snell that they declared they would always do their livery business with him.

"The first thing to look after," said Aunt Hester, "should be the furnishings for your home." Thereupon, Helen energetically declared that she had read so much about Holdredge, Hartt & Hill in the Tribune which Aunt Hester had been sending her for years, that she

wanted to go there. The result was that they were ushered into such a bewildering display that the girl was puzzled, at first, how to make a selection but with the help of the firm who are recognized as authorities on fine furniture she soon decided on a fine parlor suit and a bedroom suit (the latter is a beautiful golden oak); to these she added a dining room set, with all the accessories and didn't forget a conventional writing desk for "hubby." She was very much surprised that Medina had so far advanced to afford such an up-to-date housefurnishing [sic] establishment as the "three H's," so that in addition to the foregoing furniture they were able to supply their needs in the line of carpets, rags, and curtains at prices considered below those quoted in the cities. They also found here an assortment of fifty different patterns of dinner wear [sic] ranging in price from \$5.50 per 100-piece set to \$75.00 for their finest grade Haviland. Many other items might be enumerated but a visit to their large store would satisfy the most exacting, where you would find any of their large staff always in a hurry to wait on you, but never wait on you in a hurry.

"A pretty good start," said Aunt Hester, "and now we will go to Curtis & Wilson's Hardware Store." Here it was that Helen's housewifely instincts had full play in marvels of kitchen apparatus. There is not an establishment in this part of the state that carries a more complete and comprehensive stock of household furnishings. Every possible piece of kitchen furniture from a tin dipper to the latest improved cooking range, is here in all styles and varieties. "If Helen fails to accomplish wonders in the culinary art, it will not be for lack of superior cooking utensils," remarked Aunt Hester with a pleasant smile. They also found at this enterprising store a complete stock of

paints, varnishes, floor stains, etc., with the necessary brushes for applying them.

"By the way," said Aunt Hester, hardware always reminds one of plumbing, heating, and sheet metal work. While we are here we had better arrange with Curtis & Wilson about these important details of your new home." They found it unnecessary to go further to find a complete stock and competent workmen, and with an expressed desire on the part of the proprietors to see that all work was properly installed with a view to making it perfectly sanitary. This firm has a reputation for doing only the finest work and hiring only careful and skilled mechanics thereby guaranteeing absolute satisfaction on every job.

Aunt Hester waxed philosophical after leaving this store. "Never neglect your larder," she said, for that adjunct to housekeeping controls masculine temper. To that end you must patronize grocers on whom you can depend for honest goods. For many years Miller & Gotts have enjoyed the reputation of being perfectly reliable and have the entire confidence of the people. You will find them careful dealers always fully stocked with everything in the line of staple and fancy groceries, no stale or shelf-worn goods there, while their prices are always the lowest. That excellent coffee you drank this morning," said the old lady, "was their famous Chase & Sanborn brand. It is the best 25-cent coffee sold anywhere. They have a large trade in the Chase & Sanborn 30-cent and 35-cent coffee. They have no superiors."

In the next issue we shall get back to the plight of Jack and Helen, and the pontificating of Aunt Hester.

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**FAMILY (\$20.00/YR)
INDIVIDUAL (\$15.00/YR)**

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PAYABLE TO:**

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MEDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION
AND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER
TO:**

ADDRESS:

**MEDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ATTN: MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
406 WEST AVENUE
MEDINA, NY 14103**

MEMBERSHIP DUES: _____

PHONE:

ADDITIONAL DONATION: _____

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TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

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