

MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

Dec 2009

President's Message

As we approach the end of 2009, we can look back on our activities with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

Our January Show-and-Tell was enlightening, as always. We were honored by the presence of our oldest member, Marian Perry. At our February program Bruce Martin spoke movingly of his World War II experiences as a bomber pilot. We heard about George Pullman in March at a program presented by the enthusiastic Neil Johnson. Mike McFarland, another Albionite, spoke about the Civil War in April, and related why and how he wrote his first novel *Rivers to Cross*.

We participated in Medina's Canal Heritage Day in August. Over twenty-five visitors toured the Museum. The fourth-grade students came to visit in October and made us feel old when they exclaimed at the seeming antiquity of our rotary phone – which is not a display item!

Our first Ghost Walks were hugely successful, memorable – and very lucrative. We also participated in Medina's Old Tyme Christmas and organized an interesting Tour of Homes which also generated some much needed revenue.

These many activities were organized and made possible by a dedicated and generous group of people. Adam Tabelski spent many hours preparing for the Ghost Walk. He also organized the Tour of Homes. Thanks to the revenue generated by those two events we can pay our utility bills for the next few months. Thank you, Adam.

Craig Lacy also deserves special thanks for his constant stewardship of the building, which this year involved the painstaking removal of mold from some of the display items.

And finally, a heartfelt thanks to the Board members for many hours of involvement and dedication.

Catherine Cooper

"Show And Tell" Meeting

Mark your calendars for Monday, January 25th – the popular annual "Show and Tell" meeting. Bring along your treasures – or your puzzles! Join us for this fun and informative evening, 7:00 p.m., Town of Ridgeway building.

Christmas Gift Idea

Still searching for that special gift? The reprinted 1880 maps of Medina would really be perfect – either for those who still live here, or for those who may have moved away. Affordably priced at \$15, these maps are being sold at the Book Shoppe and at Lee-Whedon Memorial Library.

Time To Renew Your Membership

Individual annual membership is \$15; a family annual membership is \$20.

Dues help to offset the costs of maintaining the museum, acquire needed storage materials, and provide programming throughout the year.

Why not ask a friend to join, or give a membership as a gift?

Medina Historical Society Gift Shop

- Aerial Photo of Medina.....\$6.00**
- Coffee Mugs.....\$5.00**
- Cookbooks.....\$6.00**
- Crocks (Culvert and High School)..\$18.00**
- Here's To Our Heritage*.....\$30.00**
- Magnets (Depot and High School)....\$4.00**
- Medina Books (Ceil's).....\$10.00**
- Medina Pins.....\$.25**
- Note Paper.....\$2.25**
- Photos.....\$1.00**
- Pot Holders.....\$1.00**
- Sandstone Videos.....\$18.00**
- Shelby Mills Books.....\$10.00**
- Stage Coach Ads.....\$6.00**
- 1880 Map of Medina.....\$15.00**

**Factoids About the Census
by Adam Tabelski**

Next year, 2010, the decennial census will be upon us. The idea of making a count of all the people in the land is not new. It was done as far back as the ancient Roman Empire, as recorded in the Gospel according to Luke. The first federal census of the United States occurred in 1790 and has occurred every ten years since, as stipulated in the Constitution.

The population of the Village of Medina more than doubled between the years 1870 (2,821) to 1910 (5,683). This is statistical confirmation that this was a period of rapid development within the community. The first census of Medina proper occurred in 1840, as the village was incorporated in

1832. Indeed, the entire nineteenth century was a time of substantial growth.

The population of the Village of Medina in 2010 will likely be very close to what it was in 1920 (6,011). While this demonstrates relative stability, it should be noted that the population of the village has been very slowly decreasing since 1990, when the population reached its all-time peak of 6,686 persons. In 2000, the figure had slipped to 6,415 persons. Estimates from the United States Census Bureau show the population dropping steadily in every year but one from 2000 to 2008. The population in 2008 is estimated at 6,046 persons, and if the downward trend continues, we will be slightly below that level when the 2010 figures are available.

The estimated population of New York State in 2008 is 19.5 million and the figure is 304 million nationwide. The estimated population of Orleans County in 2008 is 42,135, which is 2,038 persons lower than 2000 figure. Here can be found good evidence that while the statewide population is on the rise, thanks to tremendous growth in the New York City area, the number of persons living in many pockets of Upstate New York, particularly in rural areas, is on the decline.

**Ingenious Tavern Keeper Influenced
Medinans In Early Election According to
Early Settlers
From Journal-Register March 18, 1952**

Medina's first election presented a vastly different setting than it does today. Throughout the building of the canal the population increased rapidly. There were some 700 people living within the limits of the village in 1832. The village included that part starting from the canal along the Oak Orchard Creek, to Mill St. (now Park), and west to Prospect where the west limit of the village ended. There was a small settlement

east of Oak Orchard Street and north of the canal.

Within that area there were about fifty houses, in addition to those upon the north side of the canal upon both sides of Oak Orchard Creek. It was a day of single men and every home contributed to the comfort of as many as possible.

Moore's Tavern was the first meeting place for the townspeople as they sought to bring order into the wilderness. Sylvanus Coon was looked upon as the leader until an agreement was reached that there should be some sort of government set up. At this time he declined to devote as much time as he had from his store on the canal bank. Joseph Cobb, who had provided a second public house for the settlement, was induced to take over the responsibility of herding the flock.

Following the incorporation on Mar 3, 1832, concerted efforts were directed toward forming a village government. On May 1 of that year the public house of Joseph Cobb was thronged with an overflow gathering outside eager to cast their first vote for the new village officers.

That first meeting elected Justus Ingersoll, Nathan Sawyer, Asahel Woodruff, James C. Evans and Halsted Parker as trustees. Henry Phelps was the first clerk. He was succeeded by Henry Yarrington.

Justus Ingersoll was re-elected in 1833 and again in 1835. He was appointed in the place of John Ross in 1837. Nathan Sawyer after serving his first term became village treasurer in 1834 and was re-elected to that post in 1835 and 1836. He was Medina's first attorney. Halsted Parker's name appears only twice in the records. After serving on the first board he was re-elected in 1837 for a year's term. He migrated to Michigan in 1839.

There was something that attracted men to public office. It was confidence upon the part of the people if nothing more. There was little money floating around. It was Joseph Cobb that invited a score of the most prominent men of the day, according to the late Chandler Ellicott, to a bounteous feast before the election.

"Chan" also told of an early vote for abolishing wet goods in the village, during the days of the National Hotel. The first count showed a dry vote by seven ballots. A recount was ordered. While the recount was being made Uri Moore, of the National, chained the handle down on the pump in front of the tavern. He declared that if they wanted it dry he would see to it that his well should not serve to wet their throats. The recount showed continued wet by five votes and the pump handle was unchained.

A Twist on a Christmas Classic Transcribed by Jack Wasnock

This is taken from an old *Good Old Days* magazine. The poem was recited by Mrs. Forest E. (Gladys) Weaver's brother in the early nineteen hundreds, in the cobblestone school at Childs, New York. The school is owned by the Cobblestone Society of Albion, Orleans County, NY.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Tw'as the night before Christmas,
When all through the flat
Not a creature was stirring
Not even the cat.
Above the steam-heater the
stockings were placed
In hopes that by Santa they soon
would be graced.
The children were snug in their
wee folding-bed,
While visions of Teddy bears
danced through each head.
And I, in pajamas, likewise in a
grouch-

Had gone to my patent convertible
couch,
When out on the asphalt there
rose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see
what was the matter.
A mantle of darkness enshrouded
the room,
The "quarter" gas meter had left
us in gloom,
But, after detaching a chair from
my feet,
I threw back the curtain, looked
down the street.
The arc light shone bright on the
new garbage can
Awaiting the call of the D.S.C
man,
And what did my wondering
optics devour
But a big touring car of a hundred
horse-power
With a businesslike chauffeur, so
shiny and slick,
I knew in a jiffy it must be Saint
Nick.
As dry leaves before the wild
hurricane fly
He ascended the fire escape-
nimble and spry.
I drew in my head, and was turn-
ing around,
When in through the airshaft he
came with a bound.
His coat was of broadcloth the
finest I've seen-
Though it smelled rather strongly
of fresh gasoline.
A bundle of bank notes he had in
a sack,
And he looked like a winner just
home from the track.
His cheeks were like roses, his
nose like a cherry;
He'd the air of a man who is satis-
fied-very.
A fragrant Perfecto he held in his
teeth,
While its smoke crowned his ten

dollar tie like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a well
nourished belly
That shook, when he laughed, like
bowlful of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, but a
shrewd-looking guy,
And there gleamed through his
goggles a keen little eye.
He spoke not a word, but the
foxy old elf
Just walked to the mantle and
laid on the shelf
A letter, typewritten in business-
like style,
Then down the dumb-waiter he
sped with a smile.
He jumped in his car, and with
three loud "honk-honks",
He whizzed 'round the corner and
off towards the Bronx,
I opened the letter, the message I
read,
and then I crawled silently back
into bed;
For here's what I saw-with dis-
may and disgust;
"RETIRED FROM BUSINESS:
SOLD OUT TO THE TRUST."

Freewill Baptist Church Shelby Center
By Russell J Waldo

Editor's Note: The following article was transcribed one of Todd Bensley's AP U.S. History students as part of an ongoing Medina Historical Society project to compile the writings of Russell Waldo into a book.

Those who have enjoyed the Ladies Aid suppers in the former Freewill Baptist Church at Shelby Center will find the history of that edifice and the society which was responsible for its being especially interesting. The building, which was constructed in 1850 is now being torn down by its present owner. One of the evidences of its construction was discovered when the

building was razed. A huge tree stump was still in an excellent state of preservation and the piles of chips, apparently from the hewn timbers of the building still strew the ground.

The church minutes reveal that the Freewillers held their first meetings in the Calvinistic Baptist church one mile south of Shelby Center on the northeast corner of the intersection, on the present Blair farm. The next meetings were held in the school house in Shelby Center. All members were originally of the congregation of the Baptist church in Shelby Center.

The record book further shows that there were thirteen charter members, six brothers and seven sisters. Their names were: Rev. A. Draper (Formerly pastor Shelby Baptist Church) George Seely, Joseph and Sarah McCargo, John Bentley, Marylva Bentley, Ruth and Harriett Perry, Laura Draper, Caleb Stillwell, Adam Liddle, Anna McCargo and Melinda Liddle. The elders were Hiram Gilmore, E. F. Crane, Horace Perry, A. Z. Mitchell.

The church was recognized in council on January 16, 1845 and the first member received into the church on April 13, 1845 was Cadence Nobles. Other early members received with dates were: April 19th, Lillie Sanders, Mary Letts, Cyrus Allen; April 20th, Sophia Beal; April 26th, Isaac Allen, Lora Allen, Jane L. Britt; April 27th, Isaac Allen, Cadence Noble, James Britt and Lora Allen were baptized by Elder Blackmire in Oak Orchard Creek. On May 10th Margaret Shannon, Ezekiel Bentley were added to the church membership.

The church organization was registered in the Orleans County Clerk's office by Dan H. Cole on March 28th, 1849. The edifice cost \$1,400.

The same date there was another meeting held at the school house, Elder Alamon

Draper was chosen moderator, and G.W. Seely clerk. The trustees chosen were G.W. Seely for one year, L.A.G.B. Grant, for two years, Erastus Morgan for three years. G.W. Seely served his church after that election in three year terms beginning in 1863, 1876, 1879, and 1882.

The meeting selected R.S. Castle, G.W. Seely and Jermimiah Williams as a committee "to build or cause to be built a house of worship in Shelby Center". After discussing at length the different locations the meeting adjourned for one year.

Elder A. Draper was named moderator for the second meeting which elected Joseph McCargo as trustee in place of G.W. Seely whose term was one year.

Wm. S. Clark was moderator for the third meeting which elected C.S. Brooks as trustee in place of L.A.G.B. Grant.

The trustees report for March 28, 1855 showed a mortgage due Adam Jaques for \$300 and interest from February (sic) 14, 1854. Other sums due included Joseph McCargo \$69.22, Erastus Morgan \$24.62 and G.W. Seely \$10.60. Total \$86.60.

The meeting the next year showed the mortgage yet unpaid to Adam Jaques for \$300. There was due Joseph McCargo \$9.16, Erastus Morgan \$4.64 and G.W. Seely \$11.34. The report showed receipts of \$86.60 from Philip Winiger \$43.30 and Isaac Sun \$43.30.

The records did not reveal what these sums were due for. The last meeting mentioned elected John Vincent as trustee.

Among the pastors who served this church, dates not known, were Rev. Henry Blackmore, Rev. Alanson Draper, Rev. Wm. Clark, Rev. P.S. Barker, Rev. Charles Cook, Rev. H. Perry, Rev. S. Bathrick, Rev. Wm. Young, Rev. A.Z. Mitchell, Rev. D.L.

Whiting, Rev. M. Blackmore, Rev W. H. Peck, Rev. Mr. Moon, Rev. Mr. Butterfield, Rev. Mr. Cook, Rev. Mr. Kettle (1890), Rev. Mr. Baker, Rev Mr. Kenningham. Rev. Kettle was clerk of the 1890 meeting.

The Sunday school was organized in 1850 with G.W. Seely as Superintendant (sic). There were thirty-six members in the early 80's.

Among the trustees who served the church during its years of activity were the following with the terms they served: Philip Winniger was elected in 1857 and served only one term, C. C. Richtmeyer was elected for only one term in 1860. Peter Richtmeyer was elected for only one term in 1862.

William Neal, grandfather of Mrs. Earl Ross, was elected different terms 1865, 1878, 1881, 1886, 1891. Warren Vreeland was elected for one term only of two years in 1865, E.B. Simonds father of Dr. Grant Simonds was elected for one year in 1865 and full terms in 1877, 1880, and 1884.

William Best was elected in 1869 and again in 1875. William Drake was elected for three years in 1870. John Smith was elected for three years in 1871. Avery Blair was elected for one term in 1872 and again in 1887. James Coleman was elected in 1873. Cephas Jones was elected in 1874 and again in 1885.

The 1890 meeting changed the meeting date to the last Saturday in December. The following trustees were elected: George Weidrich for one year, John Neal for two years and David Bentley for three years. There seemed almost a break in the society at that time, the fact borne out by Shelby Center correspondents for the Register for the period.

Rev. J.R. Griffith was chosen pastor in November 1895 at a time when finances would hardly permit of hiring a pastor and

when the society seemed sure to be abandoned. The next month the meetings were changed from annual to monthly. Henry Fritcher was chosen trustee.

John Wesley Gregory and Sarah Gregory became members on January 4, 1896. November 17th, 1896 was donation night for the pastor and donations consisted quite largely of provisions with a modest sum of money given. Three days later the Shelby and Barre Sunday School Association held its annual meeting in the church.

Originally the choir loft was above the entrance way. Two huge wood stoves heated the room. The boys found it their duty to carry in a supply of wood. Three pews were upon either side of the pulpit at the beginning. Later the choir was moved to the platform.

An early pew occupant list included the following:

S. E. Corner pulpit, 1. G.W. Seely, 2. J. Williams, 3. A. Coon, East aisle, 4. Wm. Nobles, Pulpit to door 6. C. Richtmeyer, 8. S. Allen, 10. L.A.G.B. Grant, 12. Wm. Dubois, 14. Ed. Harigan, 16. Grant 18 and 20 east aisle vacant.

East side center aisle 15, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, unoccupied, Door to pulpit 13. Grant, 11. Grant 9. E. Stillwell, 7. A. Liddle, 5 Front pew vacant. West side center aisle 44 front pew center vacant. 42 J. McCargo, 30, 28, 27, 26, 25, vacant. West aisle, 31 T. Aldred, 35, R. Hallock, 43. C. S. Brooks, 29, 33, 37, 39, 45, unoccupied. Southwest corner pulpit, 46. P. Small, 47. John McCargo, 48. C. Bentley.

The names included in this brief church history will reveal many well known family church affiliations who were very active not only in the life of Shelby Center but Medina as well. Descendents of many of these early families are living both in Medina and Shelby Center.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

**MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER
PAYABLE TO:**

NAME(S):

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**

PHONE:

MEMBERSHIP DUES: _____

ADDITIONAL DONATION: _____

E-MAIL:

TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

Medina Historical Society
406 West Avenue
Medina, NY 14103
Phone: (585) 798-3006
<http://historicmedina.nytreasures.org/>