

MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

Summer 2011

President's Message

Greetings!

Summer warmth and vacations are finally here and winter is a distant memory. Memorial day has passed and our next Holiday is the 4th of July. What a great time to reflect on our freedoms and remember those past glory years and the many great celebrations Medina has celebrated. Below are two articles submitted by Craig Lacy that reflect our traditions and celebrations.

Hope many of you were able to attend the Mix and Mingle sponsored by the Orleans County Chamber of Commerce on May 18th which included the a tour of the Bent's Opera house and Dave Miller's traveling glass slide . It was a great night that included future plans for a clock tower in Rotary Park.

Thank you for your continued support.

Next Monthly Meeting

**Medina Historical Society
June 27, 2011**

**7:00pm Annual Summer
Picnic**

Officers 2011

**President: Cindy Robinson
Vice President: Craig Lacy
Treasurer: Sandy Tompkins
Secretary: Shane Sia
Board: Chris Tompkins,
Georgia Thomas, Catherine
Copper**

New Editor Reinhard Rogowski

I am very excited to be the new Editor and relatively new member of the Medina Historical Society. I look forward to working with all our members and welcome any new ideas, story submissions, interviews or just to talk about the great history of our area. Please contact me via cell at 585-317-7457 or e-mail rogowski@rochester.rr.com

Fr MEDINA HITCHING POST
DAYS #13
By Russell J. Waldo
Originally published on May 28, 1952

Probably no town in the United States has ever given a more rousing welcome to returning soldiers than Medina gave to the returning boys of 1898 on September 13 of that year. When they left on May first of the same year, it was believed that no greater appreciation could be showered upon them. Their return even outdid their leaving.

A huge demonstration of welcome was planned immediately upon knowing the boys were to return and early on that morning the people began to decorate their homes and business places and by noon the village was one mass of flags and bunting everywhere.

The vast program for the welcome home of Co. F. 3rd N.Y. Volunteers was headed by Mayor Fred L. Downs, president of the day. Seely A. Cook, Albert J. Hill, Michael Slack and W. Babcock were named vice presidents of the event. The Company was scheduled to arrive in Medina about 3 pm and a handbill was printed and delivered to every home with the following instructions:

“When the train leaves Rochester the general fire alarm, 10 strokes, will be rung as a signal for business places to close, all organizations to assemble and committees to finish their work. “Half an hour later, at five strokes of the alarm the parade will form on Main Street in front of the G.A.R. Hall. At four strokes of the alarm, the line will march via Center Street and West Street to the station. Immediately on arrival of the train a salute of 29 guns will be fired and every bell and whistle will sound for fifteen minutes.”

The parade was scheduled to form in the following order of march: Marshall

of the day Major Henry M. Starr, his aide was I. O. Pixley; officers of the day included the village alderman, visiting officials followed by the 29th Separate Company Band. Immediately following them was Company F, 3rd N.Y. Volunteer Infantry with Captain Sanderson A. Ross commanding.

Next in line was the Veterans Marshall Band, the Hood Post G.A.R., Col H. Bowen commanding, the Medina Fire Departments followed with Chief Joseph Brady and assistant H. Milton Seeley, the companies included the Alert Hose Co., foreman I. L’Hommedieu, the Protectives, foreman Charles Fletcher, the Gorman Hose Co., foreman Michael McGrath, the Citizens Hook and Ladder Co., foreman W. B. Murphy.

The Brockport Band preceded the Volunteer Relief Fund Committee and the High School Boys Brigade. The infirm and disabled soldiers were provided carriages.

The line of parade was down West Avenue to Park Avenue, then to Catherine Street, over Catherine to Center, Center to Main and Main to Park Avenue. The column then countermarched on Main Street to the Odd Fellows Hall where a banquet was tendered to the volunteers and the Hood Post G.A.R. The invocation was by the Rev. Robert L. McFarlane. The rations were served by the ladies of Medina and Major Fred L. Downs delivered the address of welcome home to the returning boys.

Following the banquet an informal reception was held at the Armory to which children were necessarily excluded because of space.

The day closed with huge bonfires, balloon ascensions and a huge display of fireworks throughout the village during the evening.

That day was chronicled in history by the local press as one of the most gala

days Medina had ever witnessed. It was also pronounced one of the proudest days in the village history, “as the village had reason to be proud of its boys who returned home after having passed through all the exposures of camp life and the dread and dangers of fever and although they were not permitted to rush forward to the firing lines in Cuba, they showed in bronzed faces what they could and were willing and anxious to have done had they been called to front lines” is a quote from the Register’s editor.

An enormous triumphal arch spanned Main Street in front of Bent’s Opera House Block. This was covered with evergreens. Above the center arch were the words, “Welcome Home”. Upon one panel was May 1, 29th Separate Co., N.G. Sept. 13 Co. F. 3rd N.Y.V.I. A cannon and flagstaff occupied positions on the top with stands of arms on either side and a shield with the letter “F” hanging in the center. At night the arch was lighted with incandescent lights, making one of “the most handsome decorations ever constructed” according to the Medina papers.

From the depot and all through the line of march the returning boys received a great ovation. The crowd which lined the streets through which the soldiers marched had eyes only for the tanned faces of the Medina boys who were returning. They were proud of their perfect step which they had gained thorough months of practice drilling in the fields of Camp Alger.

The people cheered themselves speechless; they threw their hats into the air, waved their canes and sang songs. These boys were hungry for real food and welcomed the tables in the Odd Fellows rooms which had been spread with all the delicacies which the boys would appreciate after their weeks from their homes.

Not to be overlooked were the girls, dressed in their best attire as they

escorted their husbands and sweethearts along Main Street following the banquet and before the informal reception in the Armory. They cared little if the faces were unshaven, the hands covered with grime or clothed in flannel shirts. The boys were home.

Out of the 104 men in the Company, 85 participated in the festivities of the homecoming celebration. The remaining 19 were in hospitals or home on sick furloughs. Those too ill to be brought home and confined to hospitals were James Ford, Charles Beck, Frank Chichester, W. C. Foster, John Ross, Marvin Cain, William O. Ames, Earl Timmerman, William Doctor and Lewis Sheldon.

H. F. Welton was in charge of the welcome home event and J. W. Cooper and F. E. Colburn designed the arch.

The list of volunteers who left Medina included: Captain Sanderson A. Ross; 1st Lieut. J. S. Brainard; 1st Sergeant T. H. Agnew; Sargs. A. E. Reynolds and Algernon B. Shattuck; Corporals Edward Culver and Burt Griswold.

The company included; L. J. Skinner, Martin Smith, Eugene Chaffee, Edward Doody, William Gallagher, James Garvey, Nathan Gilbert, Harmon Goodsell, Fred Grant, Louis Nichols, Peter Shibilski, Harry Underhill, Burt Miller, Sidney Bartlett, William Mace, Ervin Thurston, Sherman Peckham, Albert Peckham, Frank Mace, Phillip Russell, Frank Begole, Wilbur Prescott, John Young.

Also, James O’Shea, Frank Chichester, George Chichester, Leslie Tanner, Earl Timmerman, Arthur Waldner, E.J.Poler, James Suningham, Jay Sanborn, James Cromwell, Henry Pogel, Warren L’Hommedieu, Howard Seeley, James Hoy, James Ford, James Gallagher, Richard Kelly, Leon Blount, Anthony Chaykowski, Frank Spicer, Michael Yablonski, Wilbert Watson,

Edward Coon, Garry Tiffany, John F. O'Brien, Timothy Mulchey, Edward Gotovia, Louis Sheldon, Daniel Slattery, Marvin Cain, James Cuningham, Jay Sanborn and James Cromwell.

Also, Frank Mitchell, Frank J. O'Brien, Otto C. Fredericks, Oliver Teft, William G. Adams, Floyd Foster, William Dewey, Floyd Phippany, William Horan, James Casey, Harry Herndorf, Andrew Petty, William Griffin, William Walker, Charles Wienke, John Kelly, Jerry Crane, Ernest Bowen, William Cronk, Arthur Beals, Fred Bean, Edward Lavell and John Slosson.

After leaving Medina, the company went to Camp Black near Hempstead, L.I., from which they left for Camp Alger near Donloring, V.A. At this camp the men contracted measles and typhoid fever and were confined to the company hospitals for extended periods. Two officers were reduced to the ranks because of failure to return to camp at night after receiving an evening pass out. These orders were read upon the drill grounds by Captain Ross.

Also after leaving Medina, Captain Ross checked his list of men and found that he had 86 instead of 84 and was required to return two to Medina to await later additions to the company. Shortly before the company left Medina, Captain Ross received a telegram from his headquarters to leave an armorer and a private as the nucleus of a new company to be formed. He was also asked to name a recruiting officer and named Major Henry Starr who began his duties as recruiting officer immediately.

Immediately after the company had volunteered a patriotic meeting was called in Bent's Opera House on April 29th. The purpose of the meeting was to provide for the wives and families of the boys until adequate provisions could be made by the government. Speakers included Mayor Fred Downs, LeRoy

Skinner, John Ryan, Stanly E. Filkins and T. H. Armstrong. The amount of contributions were measured in shares and individuals purchased as high as 100 shares. Those purchasing 100 shares included Stanley E. Filkins, S. A. Cook & Co., Mahar Bros., A. L. Swett, T. A. Burk and E. L. Pitts. Purchasers of 50 shares included G. A. Beach, and H. A. Childs. 40 Shares included M. and J. Slack and Solomon Barnes. 25 Shares included Landauer Brother, E. H. Davey and I. H. Geballe. 20 shares included C. H. Turner, D. D. Holdridge, Fred C. Catery, G. M. Frary, F. H. Hurd, G. A. Newell, Wm. Mackey, E. W. Tripp, H. Bowen, J. C. Tillman, James Florey and Watson Barry. 10 shares included C. N. Hood, Fred M. Ives, Louis Adler, C. M. Chase, Walter O'Mallery and W. P. Curry

JULY 4TH, 1902
By Russell J. Waldo
Originally Published On July 2nd,
1942

Medina residents have enjoyed some very rousing celebrations on July Fourth yet few living today can recall one with more elaborate plans than the celebration of July 4, 1902. Upon that day the A. D. Rich hook and ladder company Middleport were guest of the L'Hommedieu Hook and ladder company of Medina. The Allen lot on Park Avenue was provided with seats for the very large crowd who wished to hear the exercise of the day.

The parade, which was started by the fireball at ten o'clock, went up Church Street to Oak Orchard Street then to Main Street for the main portion. Starr Street was to have been used although the improvement on the street caused a change in the program. The street along which the parade traveled was lavishly decorated with flags.

The day's program started out with a salute of guns fired at daylight. Then all was quiet until nine o'clock when the Tonawanda Indians held a War Dance at the corner of main and Center streets. This was repeated at ten o'clock at the corner of Pearl and Main.

The parade formed at 10 o'clock and was under way at then thirty. The following is the order of the parade. Major Henry M. Starr marshal; Watson Whipple and I. O. Pixley assistants. Following were the Village Board of Trustees then the executive committee of the day. The Twenty Ninth Separate Company Band followed, the grand

Army of the republic and other veterans of the Civil and Cuban Wars. Then came the Tonawanda Indian Band.

Next in line was James P. Gallagher, Chef engineer of the Medina Fire Department and J. P. Bradley assistant chef. Then the A. D. Rich Hook and Ladder Company of Middleport, L' Hommedieu Hook and Ladder Company, Gorman Hose Company, Downs Hose Company, Fire team and hose wagons, Fusiliers, The Gasport and Yates Drum Corps.

The bignall Company headed the industrial section of the parade with an elaborate display of their products. This float was followed by the D. W. Wright Shoe Company of Orient street whose float was the old lady and the shoe with her numberless children. This was conceded to be the best float in the parade.

The Central Foundry float displayed what Medina was doing in the soil pipe line. The Medina Furniture Company was a Display of their line. The Medina Steam Laundry Community float was a gayly decorated carriage Gleason Brothers represented the cigar interests of Medina. This was followed by the Star Steam Laundry.

D. D. Holdridge had an elaborate display of furniture for his float. Mackey's meat market displayed the sort of meat he sold. Volshow and Smith Clothiers followed, Mahar Brothers furniture manufactures, had an elaborate display of their line of upholstered furniture. Butts and Slack's float displayed more soil pipe. Then there was Miller and Gotts grocers; C. A. Fassett displayed what could be done by way of Grillwork in his display.

W. I. O'Brien four in hand with meat market attached was one of the features of the parade. There was also Hauman the brewer. H. LeB Harts floats displayed a good line of groceries. This was followed by the German-American Brewing Company then F. J. Frary's

grocery float, Earnest Reynolds horse mobile was another feature attraction of the parade.

Brainard's bakery was next in line followed by H. T. Krompart's music display. William Boyd's float was a load of the finest coal ever drawn through the Medina streets. Then Platts Brothers marble dealers, then William Smith dealer in sand and lime.

Followed the parade was eating by all whatever they could find it. At 1:30 the attention of all was directed to the Allen lot upon Park Avenue. Here Music was furnished by the Twenty Ninth Separate Company Band followed by prayer by rev. F. T. Latham. Singing was enjoyed by the Medina quartette, address by the president of the day W. B. Robbins reading the Declarations of Independence by Rev. G. A. Fratzer of Middleport Universalalist Church. Then more singing by the Medina quartette. The feature of the days speaking was by the Hon. S. Wallace Dempsey of Lockport.

The sports program which started at 3 o' clock did credit to the committee with the following results. He seldom had occasion to spend money on his keep or board and lodging were invariably offered freely among those who came to hear him. He supplied his own horse, saddle and other traveling equipment.

INDIVIDUAL (\$15.00/YR)
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<http://www.historicmedina.org/>

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