

MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

Fall 2011

President's Message

Greetings!

Fall has arrived and the colors of the season explode around us. Things are also exploding around the Historical society and we have many exciting happening.

Saturday, Sept. 24 Ale in Autumn at the Medina Historical Society.

Monday Sept. 26, Medina Historical Society meeting at Lee-Whedon Memorial Library, 7:00 pm

Oakfield author, Julie Caton will present a program on her historical novel "White Heart". Based on true events and characters and set in the Lake Ontario area, this is a novel of adventure, intrigue as well as some romance!

Below is an article presented by Adam Tabelski titled call the Arms: How fitting as we all wish Adam the best as he goes off to serve his country

Thanks for your continued support

Next Monthly Meeting

**Medina Historical Society
September 26, 2011 at
7:00pm**

Lee-Whedon Library

Officers 2011

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Call To Arms by Adam Tabelski

One hundred and fifty years ago, young men from all across the land volunteered to help suppress a rebellion in the Southern states or, depending on their sympathies, fight for the independence of a new country, the Confederate States of America.

Barely two weeks after the surrender of Fort Sumter, there was a grand public meeting in Medina to rally support for the preservation of the Union. On April 29, 1861, a large procession comprised of marchers from every notable organization in the village set off from Moore's Hotel, on East Center Street near Oak Orchard Creek, and wound its way through downtown, past flag-draped storefronts and dwellings, to the Medina Academy, where "the old high school" now stands. From a special stage erected on the school grounds for the occasion, Arthur Newell read a proposed resolution to commit the assemblage to the cause. He asked them "to consider no sacrifice too great, no duty too arduous when necessary to perpetuate and sustain our country," and to "battle shoulder to shoulder until rebellion shall be crushed out, the enemies of our union subdued, the rights of the citizens respected, and the laws of our land obeyed." The crowd voiced its acclamation with loud shouts and cheers.

Then, in the keynote address, the jurist Noah Davis of Albion, who would preside at the trial of Boss Tweed many years later, appealed to the crowd for their support, both moral and material. Moved to contribute, more than one hundred men and women pledged a sum of over \$12,000 that day to sustain the widows and orphans of fallen soldiers. And there had not yet even been a battle.

Davis also asked for men to serve in a volunteer company that was forming in town. Many enlisted that afternoon for two years' service. Even Henry Hess, a 76-year old veteran of the War of 1812, subscribed \$100 and offered to fight if enough young men could not be found. But the men were eager, and no one had any idea how long and horrible the war would be.

Those who joined, almost one hundred recruits, fell under the command of young Captain Erwin Bowen of Medina, age 26, and they soon became Company D of the 28th New York Volunteers. By the middle of May its ranks were full, and the unit left town in a dramatic scene for what would become a remarkable tour of duty. The 28th New York saw its share of hard fighting at places such as Winchester, Cedar Mountain, Antietam, and Chancellorsville. A fair number of its men would not return home.

This was the first organized effort to raise troops in Medina for the Civil War. Others would follow. But as we mark the start of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, it is fitting that we remember how it began, and how Medina got involved.

Albion Students help rescue Poor house residents from Obscurity. (Tom Rivers Batavia News June 21,2011)

A year ago Monday, a small group of Albion seventh-graders went on a mission, searching through a wooded area overgrown with brush and small trees on West County House Rd in Albion.

They were looking for headstones, any sign of a long-neglected cemetery. The Students were joined by their teacher, Tim Archer, who leads a service-learning class for about 175 seventh-graders each year.

Orleans County Historian Bill Lattin had the class not long before and he talked about a former Alms Poor House, the precursor to the county nursing home on Route 31. That facility replaced the Alms house in 1960.

Latin told the students why the road was named countyhouse – because the county house that served the destitute residents for nearly 130 years. Lattin mentioned there was a cementary there, but had long been abandoned.

His remarks piqued the student’s interest and a few joked Archer in his visit to the site, surrounded by corn fields. They found 10 stones bearing the numbers, not names. They thought the site was a

disgrace to the residents buried there.

On Monday, a year after the initial discovery, the community and school district celebrated the dedication of the cemetery. The students, with the help for the Highway Department uncovered 66 stones. They have been reset in rows. A new marker proclaims the 130 by 140 foot site as a cemetery for the poor house. A blue and yellow historical marker also has been erected by the road, nothing the former presence of the county home, where the emergency management office now stands.

It takes away from the sadness that was here , Jane McClure of Albion said about the cleaned up property and reset stones.

She slowly walked between the rows of headstones after the service. McClure 74, was born in the poor house, back when it also had a medical center. She praised the students and the local officials for giving the residents a respectable resting place.

The highway department yanked out trees, brush and vegetation from the site that only a year ago resembled a jungle, said Jerry Gray, the highway superintendent. ‘They were poor people but they were good people’ Hudson told the crowd on a sunny Monday morning. “It says a lot about

Orleans County for helping these people who needed a helping hand.

Lattin said at least the residents were buried with a stone marker. Some of the poor in those days were buried in the local cemeteries with no stone marker at all.

Students also working on a 100 page history of the poor house. Some of their discoveries will be in that book, including the names of the residents in the cemetery.

David Callard, Orleans County Legislature chairman, noted the transformations of the cemetery grounds.

“a year ago you would not have known there was a cemetery here” he said. “Orleans County is proud of the Albion Central School District. This is the greatest examples or experiential learning that I’ve seen”.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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