

MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

Feb 2012

President's Message

Feb is the "Love Month" and below are two articles one a love story from one of our members and another from a past President with Medina connections. Can it get any better than that?

I have some exciting news at the last board meeting we decided to have a Doll Show and Sale on June 02, 2012 which is also the weekend of the Medina garage sale. Please see Georgia Thomas if you can help.

The Board also decided to have Ghost Walk and perhaps home tour on Saturday Oct 13, 2012. More to follow but what a great date.

Love takes many forms and I know how much I love being part of the Historical Society and in turn how much you will love volunteering with some of our exciting programs

Happy "Love" Month

Next Monthly Meeting

"Slate Boards and Hot Soup"

Presented by Alice Zacher

Monday 2/27/2012

7:00PM

**Lee-Whedon Memorial
Library**

Officers 2012

President Reinhard

Rogowski

Vice President: Craig Lacy

Treasurer: Sandy Tompkins

Secretary: Shane Sia

Board: Cindy Robinson,

Georgia Thomas, Catherine

Cooper, Frank Berger

A Spring Dance

Presented by Jack Wasnock

On the 29th of April, 1958, I went stag to the "Ramblin Lou", round and squared dance, at the Gasport Fire Hall, in Gasport, NY.

When I entered the hall, there were some friends of mine. Curtis and Mary Bentley. The floor was filling up for a square dance. Curtis and Mary's set needed another couple They asked me to join them. I told them I didn't have a partner. Curtis told me there were two girls standing by the door.

The one with her back towards me, was petite, wearing a white blouse and a full white skirt with gold polka dots.

I tapped her on the shoulder and asked her to dance. The girl accepted and she was very pretty.

We introduced our selves. I don't think I impressed her very much when she out that I was not working at the time, drawing unemployment. I had been working at T. J. Liptons in Albion.

Carole was a very good dancer. She could foxtrot, waltz, do swing, Polka and cut a mean rug square dancing. We danced the night away. What more could I ask for?

When the dance was nearly over I asked her to the next dance. Carole told me that she would like too, but I had to meet her parents first. Carole drew me a map. Her home was on Sunset Drive, northwest of Lockport. The only trouble was that I lived northeast of Medina; she left several roads off the map. The next day (Sunday). I set out to find her house. After several different tries I found her house. Her mother was very gracious, but her father was very forbidding. He

sat there in the living room, reading the Sunday paper, lowering form time to time to stare at me. Any way he gave his permission for Carole to go to the dance with me.

We started dating, going to dances, double dating with Roger Stalker of Lyndonville and his girlfriend Marcia Brege of Gasport, drive in movies and ect. On Sundays, at least once a month we went to Niagara Falls and walked the American side. After going out on Saturday night I didn't have much money to spend on Sunday dates.

I was only going out with her until someone better came along. She was going out with me because I had a car.

In late spring of 1959, Carole got her driving permit, and I was teaching her to drive.

My parents had a small farm on Porter Road and every other Sunday I had to do the milking and chores morning and night. On a Sunday afternoon Carole was driving me home. We were on the School House Number 10 Road, (a dirt road at the time) when she lost control of the car. Ran over to small apple trees, coming to a sudden stop in a fence row. The car had some dents, scratches and a leaking radiator. Boy was she upset. I continued driving home.

After I finished the milking, chores and dinner, we went for a walk in dad's cherry orchard. I wanted to show her Dora Davis' small house. On the way back, to my parent's house, I asked her to marry me. She accepted. Her mother was not the least bit surprised as she knew we were getting serious.

On July 16, 1960, she became my beautiful bride.



“Mrs. President Cleveland”

Frances Folsom was born in Buffalo, N.Y. in 1864 to Oscar Folsom and Emma Harmon Folsom. Grover Cleveland was a law partner of Oscar Folsom. When Oscar died in 1875, Frances, his daughter, was only eleven years of age. It was not surprising that Grover Cleveland became her guardian. At approximately this same time, Frances and her mother moved to Medina where they lived for around three years with her grandmother Ruth Harmon.

Locally, there is an interesting, yet embarrassing story about Grover Cleveland. It seems that on one occasion when he came to visit Frances Folsom, his ward at the time, he was arrested by the Medina constable, Edmund Fuller, who recognized the Bent Family horse and carriage which had been loaned to Cleveland to drive. Fuller did not believe the story but Cleveland was finally able to convince him to go to the Depot where the ticket agent was able to identify Cleveland as

an upright, honest individual. In an article of reminiscences published in the Medina Tribune in May 1914, we find that Mrs. Harmon lived at the southwest corner of Main and Eagle Streets. The article notes that the house was rented to different tenants for many years.

In an earlier article from the Medina Tribune, dated April 29, 1886 we find this interesting bit of history: “The approaching marriage of the President and Miss Frances E. Folsom,” says a Medina correspondent of the New York Tribune, “brings to mind the fact that for some years after the death of her father, the young lady and her mother lived in this place at the home of Mrs. Folsom’s mother Mrs. Harmon. “Frankie” attended the Medina high school and was popular among her schoolmates and teachers. Although only 15 years of age, she was beautiful and at once became the belle of the young society... At school Miss Folsom was a brilliant scholar and seemed to master without particular effort the most difficult lessons and at the same time retain everything she learned. After the affairs of her husband had been straightened by his law partner, Grover Cleveland, Mrs. Folsom and her daughter returned to Buffalo to reside.”

In Buffalo she attended Central High School, where she prepared for college and so thorough was her work that she was able to enter the sophomore class of Wells College.

At the time of her graduation from college in 1885, she received a superb floral tribute from the White House conservatories.

After graduation, she went abroad in the autumn with her mother. No public announcement of her engagement to President Cleveland had been made, but the interested public felt that there was an understanding. When she landed in New York the following spring, she was met by the president’s sister, Miss

Cleveland, and his private secretary. The wedding occurred June 2, 1886, in the blue room of the White House. Many people thought the bachelor President was pursuing Mrs. Folsom rather than the daughter due to the difference in their ages. When Frances Folsom married Grover Cleveland, she was twenty-one and he was forty-nine. He was the first president to be married in the White House and she was the youngest First Lady. Quickly becoming one of the most popular First Ladies of the 19th century, Frances saw women imitate her hair style and line up by the thousands to catch a glimpse of her at the White House receptions. She would be singled out for years to come, alongside Dolly Madison, as one to imitate. Newspapers and magazines published many pictures of Frances. Possibilities for commercialization were not ignored, and unauthorized photographs and sketches of her began to appear in advertisements. To put a stop to such practices, a bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in March 1888, making the unauthorized use of the “likeness or representation of any female living or dead, who is or was the wife, mother, daughter or sister of any citizen of the United States” a crime subject to fines of up to \$5,000. The bill’s sponsor made clear that he was seeking to protect the

current First Lady Frances Cleveland, one of the few women in America then famous enough to encourage use of her likeness in testimonial advertising. Although the measure never passed, its introduction suggests a whole new phase in press attention to presidents’ wives. Our picture of Mrs. Cleveland shown on the cover, is from an unauthorized advertising card endorsing tonic called Sulphur Bitters. The label “Mrs. President Cleveland” is at least amusing. The Clevelands were also the first Presidential couple to have a child born in the White House. In all, they had five children. Grover Cleveland died in 1908 and five years later Frances Cleveland remarried, thus being the first First Lady to do that. She spent the rest of her life in Princeton, New

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership

INDIVIDUAL \$15.00/YR

Family \$20.00

PHONE: _____

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