

MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

Summer 2013

President's Message

Welcome to summer

As things heat up outside it starts to slow down at the Museum after a busy winter.

However we have some exciting fall plans and below are some of the highlights.

- Historic Ghost Walk – West Ridgeway cemetery Oct 19 5 and 7 pm.
- Period Dinner at the Museum Date TBD
- Ale in Autumn Sept 28th (Accordion players to perform)
- Christmas Party for members Nov 25th

By the way if you missed the picnic at the Berger's you missed a good time. And for those that attended the music was provided by Dave Miller's cell phone who was unaware "River Dance" was playing in his pants.

Next Monthly Meeting

Monday Sept 30th 7:00pm
Lee-Whedon Memorial Library
620 West Ave
Medina NY 14103

Officers 2013

President Reinhard Rogowski
Vice President: Craig Lacy
Treasurer: Sandy Tompkins
Secretary: Shane Sia
Board: Cindy Robinson, Georgia Thomas, Catherine Cooper, Frank Berger

Take a Trip Back - Medina in 1920

The following appeared in a Historian's Scrapbook column prepared by Ciel White, former Village Historian. In the introduction, she explained that Carl Landauer of Lockport had sent her a brochure promoting Medina that had been prepared by the Medina Advertising Club. Ciel noted that George E. Arms was the Club's President, Samuel Landauer was Vice-President, and George G. Bronson served as Secretary. Landauer's Store was located at 447-449 Main Street, later occupied by J.C. Penny and currently Blissetts Specialty Shop. The 2013 Medina Historical Society calendar features photographs of Landauer's for March.

FACTS ABOUT MEDINA (Written in the 1920's)

Medina is a village of 6,000 population situated in the heart of the Western New York Fruit Belt, midway between Buffalo and Rochester. It is located on the Niagara Falls line of the New York Central Railroad, the Rochester, Lockport and Buffalo Electric Railway, the Barge Canal and the State Road known as Million Dollar Highway. Numerous other concrete roads extend in all directions. It is the center of a large rural population whose rolling farm and fruit lands make the countryside one of the garden spots of the world.

The wide paved streets of the village, shaded by immense maple trees, make the village a beautiful place in which to live and as most of the residents are homeowners there is a natural pride in keeping their homes most attractive. Shrubbery and gardens abound and the green, well-kept lawns give a delightful park-like aspect to the whole village.

Industrially, Medina is the home of three nationally known furniture factories: S.A. Cook & Co., Empire Couch Co. and the Character Furniture Shops. The A.L. Swett Iron Works, Bignall Foundry Co., Buffalo Pipe & Foundry Co., Medina Iron & Brass Co. and Medina Foundry Co. make the village prominent as a producer of iron castings, pipe fittings, soil pipe, furnace pipe, plumbing supplies and general hardware. Other industries are the Medina Stamping and Machine Co., Supreme Mfg. Co., Stocking & Gould, Johnston's Linens, Medina Woodworking and Furniture Co., Newell Shirt Co., New York Insecticide Co., White Bros. Florists; Acer & Whedon, Erie Pump & Engine Works and three large cold storage plants. The H.J. Heinz and the Snider Packing Corp. have large units here.

The Central and Union Banks with combined resources of over Five Million Dollars furnish adequate financial service. A Savings and Loan Association provides an easy

way for residents to become home owners.

Excellent and well stocked stores supply the needs of food, merchandise and retail household goods of every description. Its Main Street is considered one of the widest and most modern in Western New York. Cheap and abundant electric power is supplied by the Falls of Niagara only 40 miles to the West. The Niagara Hudson Power Co., of which the local plant is a unit, has been instrumental in the industrial expansion of the entire Niagara Frontier. Gas is supplied by the Associated Gas & Electric Co.

Medina has a new High School and three public grade schools which, together with the two new Parochial schools, extends to the youth of this village complete educational facilities. The record shows that the teaching staff ranks among the best in New York State. Many prominent and fraternal social societies are firmly established here, which together with several women's clubs devoted to study and welfare work, are cultural assets which provide for the social betterment of the community. The Handel Chorus, a very successful musical organization, has given annual musical productions of high order, such as *The Messiah*, *The Creation* and *The Crucifixion*.

The Civic affairs of the village are ably administered by a Mayor and

six Trustees. While in very recent years a new City Hall has been built, parks purchased and equipped and streets paved, it has all been done without bond issue – unusual in the affairs of any community. There is an excellent water system, sewerage, motorized Fire Department and police protection. The three parks are equipped with wading pools, tennis grounds, play grounds, and baseball fields. There is maintained the Boys and Girls Community Service with paid Secretary under whose auspices there is conducted a summer camp on the shore of Lake Ontario, twelve miles to the North with suitable buildings, culinary arrangements, teachers and swimming instructors, all of which available to the children of the community.

The Medina Advertising Club, the sponsor of this folder, is an organization of over 100 local members organized for the purpose of promoting the commercial and industrial activities of the community.

(From the Hellert Scrapbook, submitted by Catherine Cooper)

Submitted by John Wasnock from the Medina Tribune June 27, 1889

Monday evening near the village of Oak Orchard, the victim of Cora, the thirteen year-old daughter of John Grimes a well to do farmer of that place, and the murderer, Eugene Emory, a farm laborer, aged about forty years.

That evening Emory went over to Mr. Grime's house and took tea with the family. After tea Mr. and Mrs. Grimes and younger daughter drove to the home of Mr. Grimes father, leaving their two little sons and a brother of Mr. Grimes, aged about seventeen, at home with Cora and Emory. During the early part of the evening the couple sat on the stoop and conversed. At times there seemed to be a discussion, in which the girl was harsh and indifferent, while Emory's manner was pleading and conciliatory.

As the evening grew cold Cora arose to go into the house for a wrap. Emory evidently thought that she was trying to evade him for he asked her not to go, but without explaining she ran into the house. Emory became wild with rage and when she came out there were hot words in which she was heard to say that he could not dictate to her. In an instant Emory had picked a piece of plank and struck the girl a terrible blow on the shoulder and head. As she sank upon the stoop with blood gushing from a ghastly wound, boys on the lawn rushed forward but Emory swung the club about his head and shrieked "Get out, or I'll kill you" Panic stricken they fled, but as they turned to look, saw Emory strike the poor victim awful blows about the head with a piece of round fence rail about two feet long and four inches in diameter.

The girl was heard to shriek once as the fiend struck her that was all. Mrs. Sarah Baker a near neighbor, was the first to arrive on the scene. The girl was not quite dead, but expired a few minutes after the distracted mother arrived. She did not regain consciousness. The back of her head was literally crushed in by the terrible blows from the heavy club; these was a ghastly wound on the right side of her head and the blow on the forehead had inflicted a wound which would of itself have been fatal and had broken the bridge of her nose. The ugly weapons with which the murder was committed lay in the yard covered with blood.

An alarm was given and a party started in pursuit of the murderer, who fled north across the field's and through the woods. Treats of lynching were made and had he been caught he would undoubtedly have been strung up to the nearest tree. He succeeded in eluding his pursuers and the next morning, went for protection, to the Officer Prussia of Gaines, told his story and gave himself up. The officer procured a rig, took him to Albion and delivered him to Sheriff Searle, to whom he confessed his crime and said: "I have killed the sweetest girl who ever lived. I loved her desperately, and killed her because she was ugly to me"

Emory, the murdered, was born in the town of Carlton and have lived in this county all his life, Last July he engaged as a farm hand for Mrs. Mills in the NE part of ridgeway, after working for her until April 01, he hired out to James Rutherford, a neighboring farmer, but owing to some difficulty, only remained until week before last. Since that time he has lived in the family of

William Grimes and also Elmer Axtell, both of whom are neighbors to Mr. Rutherford. He has been married but he and his wife not lived together for some years.

Tuesday night Emory was taken before Justice Ramsdale, of Albion, and entered a pleas of not guilty to the crime of murder, and his examination will be held as soon as the coroner's jury shall have completed their labors. A post mortem examination was made and Coroners Munson after empaneling a jury, adjourned the inquest until the morning at 10 o'clock. The funeral of the murdered girl took place at two o'clock.

(Taken from Orleans County Obits)

Question:

Does anyone have the correct formula for mixing cement to be used with Medina Sandstone? I know there is a sand to limestone mixture.

Post the answer on the Historical Society Facebook site.

Fact: Did you know the class of 1963 celebrated their 50th year reunion last weekend (June 22, 2013) Georgia Thomas a board member was the chair person and from what I hear a great time was had by all.

Medina Historical Society and
Museum Membership
application:

Name:

Address:

—

E-mail:

Phone:

—

Individual: \$15

Family: \$20

Special talents you would like to
share:

_____ Willing to serve on Board or
as an officer

Mail to: 406 West Avenue, Medina,
NY 14103