

MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

June/July 2016

Dear Fellow Members,

As the grass grows so it seems does our activity at the Museum. Currently we are updating our exhibits and rotating our collection and soon we will display some wonderful items we just received from the estate of Doctor Roach who was a longtime resident at 508 Park Ave.

While you are anticipating the warm summer days consider joining us for the Annual Heirloom Herbs event on June 18th from 1:00-3:00pm. This educational event is free to the public and a perfect way to learn about adding some herbs to your garden. Also please plan to join us at the Glenwood Lake pavilion for our yearly summer picnic on Monday June 27th at 6:00pm. Hots and Hamburgers will be provided so just bring a dish to pass along with a place setting and your favorite beverage and join us for some fun.

I would like to thank our members for their commitment to preserving history and for their involvement this past winter with regards to our programming. Please check our website (www.historicmedina.org) for a summary of any events you might have missed.

Currently we have 78 members with a goal of reaching 100 by the end of year. If you have not paid for 2016 please consider doing so today as your support is needed and appreciated.

Best wishes

Reinhard Rogowski, President

A Bit of Information on Glenwood Lake

This placid lake was formed by damming Oak Orchard River. The river flows north, passing under the Erie Canal then tumbles down a waterfall (Medina Falls) before slowing its course in Glenwood Lake. Paddle south from the launch site to see Medina Falls. The dam is at the northern end, near the launch.

The Lake is located directly behind Boxwood Cemetery on Rout 63. It is popular for flatwater paddling and canoeing and well as fishing. Fishermen will find a variety of fish including pumpkinseed sunfish, northern pike, crappie, catfish, smallmouth bass, black bass, bream, bluegill, largemouth bass, black bullhead and carp here. Whether you're fly fishing, bait casting or spinning your chances of getting a bite here are good. So grab your favorite fly fishing rod and reel, and head out to Glenwood Lake.

Don't forget our annual picnic at Glenwood Lake on Monday, June 27 at 6:00 pm.

Officers 2016

President: Reinhard Rogowski
Vice President/Treasurer: Craig Lacy
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Membership: Gail Miller
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Cindy Robinson
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STORY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Catherine Cooper

The Internet has truly transformed local history and genealogical research. We have all served our time searching through volumes and poring over microfilm. Now, so much material is immediately available at any time from the comfort of our homes and at the touch of our fingertips.

The Orleans County section of Rootsweb is truly amazing as it contains full census and cemetery listings. Many of the cemetery listings have additional details, such as parents or spouses names, a treasure trove for the genealogist.

Site address:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyorlean/

Digitization is transforming access to historical records, particularly to local newspapers. The NYS Historic Newspaper project provides free online access to a wide range of local newspapers throughout the state, simply click on a county to browse the titles available.

Site address: www.nyshistoricnewspapers.org

Locally, access to Medina newspapers from 1865 – 1945 is available online, either through the NYS Historic Newspapers site or through the Lee-Whedon Memorial Library website.

Site address: www.leewhedon.org

Click on Research and Resources, then on online library collection. You may narrow your search by adjusting the range of dates of newspaper on the left. When searching for a

person, it is best to use quotation marks e.g. “Edward Smith” or “Ridgeway Hotel”. Your results will show in red on the pages, simply zoom in, the text will load and focus. You may also print your findings.

When searching for ladies, bear in mind that their names were often presented without their first name: Mrs. Edward Smith, or Mrs. E.W. Smith.

Have fun!

HEIRLOOM GARDENS

Gail Culver

Located outside of the historical society museum is a raised bed herb garden. The frame for this garden was built and installed last year by the Medina FFA and was planted by members of our historical society.

The colonial kitchen garden was planted outside the back door, so these vital herbs were at the ready. In addition to using the herbs fresh, many plants were bound together in bunches and hung upside down to dry from the kitchen rafters. Dried roots were stored for later use. Tinctures and decoctions made from plant leaves and stems were administered in liquid form.

The colonial garden of yesteryear was a celebration of heritage as plants made their way from the “old world,” to the “new world.” There were also many herbs already native to North America when the Pilgrims arrived. Colonial gardens were made by very practical colonists and as a result were designed around needs rather than aesthetics, though these gardens were still truly beautiful.

Square or raised ne gardems popular and often placed in close proximity to the home to allow for easy access. In fact, many were located right outside the home kitchen. Live fences from

hedges and shrubs or quaint pickets were used to protect gardens from wind and animals.

Colonial kitchen gardens also included narrow rectangular beds full of medicinal and seasoning herbs. Herbs were frequently mixed in with fruits and vegetables. Fruit trees were used as focal points within the garden design too. All of these plants were commonly used for food preservation, healing and fabric dye.

Throughout colonial New England, on rural farms and in small villages, the dooryard was the focal point for many daily projects. Generally sited to receive the warm southern sun, and protected by the barn and other outbuildings from bitter northwest winds, this area was used for such activities as washing clothes, making soap and candles, chopping wood and processing meat. The colonial woman's dooryard garden, along with her larger vegetable gardens, was expected to provide many of the foods, flavorings, medicines and chemicals necessary for a largely self-sufficient household with little cash. Plants such as madder and wood were used to dye cloth, southernwood and pennyroyal served as insect repellents, basil and sage improved and sometimes masked the flavors of food.

Since most households were isolated from medical care, herbs such as yarrow, angelica, feverfew and valerian were used to treat common ailments or aided in childbirth.”

For more information and answers to your questions, be sure to attend our Heirloom Garden program at the museum on Saturday, June 18 from 1-3 pm.