

# MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

Summer 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*What a great time of year as the flowers are in bloom and the warm breezes take the chill out of our bones from a long winter.*

*Summer also brings some exciting news of improvements at the museum with our renovation of the front parlor. Ceiling repair, fresh paint, refinished floor and fireplace surface restoration brings back some of the glory of the Merritt family. Many thanks for all the hard work from Craig Lacy, Catherine Cooper, Georgia Thomas and the high school students that helped us put the room back together. Our next project will be the entrance way and repair of the bricks on the north side of the building.*

*Our annual picnic is at Glenwood Lake Pavilion on June 26th and starts at 6:00pm. Hots and Hamburgers will be provided so just bring a dish to pass and your favorite beverage for a fun evening.*

*We have some exciting events planned for the fall which include a cemetery tour, Ghost event and tea party at the museum. Along with our regular meetings which start again on the last Monday of September.*

*Have a great summer and despite the fact I don't want to rush the summer I can't wait for all the fun we will have in the fall.*

*Regards,*

*Reinhard Rogowski*

*President Medina Historical Society*



## Heritage Heroes

Congratulations to the Medina Historical Society members recognized as Orleans County Heritage Heroes for 2017!

- Richard and Shirley Nellist were recognized for their dedicated work documenting local cemetery records which forms the basis for the invaluable Orleans County Genweb online site used by genealogists and researchers. Richard serves as Ridgeway Historian and has a formidable knowledge of Ridgeway history,
- Alice Zacher, Town of Shelby Historian, was recognized for her efforts to preserve Millville cemetery and for her books on Shelby history and Shelby schoolhouses. Alice is also an active member of the Medina Historical Society.
- Jim Hancock was recognized for his work with the Medina Sandstone Society and for his indefatigable advocacy of Medina.
- Ken McPherson was recognized for his efforts to preserve the legacy of the Charlie Howard Santa School.

## “A Dry Town is a Dead Town”

A study of the local Women’s Christian Temperance Union would be fascinating. Suffice to say, the group was active and influential as the Village of Medina voted in favor of banning the production, sale and consumption of alcohol effective October 1, 1916, well in advance of the national prohibition which began January 16, 1920.

The Medina Tribune noted that three local saloons closed in anticipation of the enforced closing of all saloons on the Oct. 1 date. - Drakes’s Saloon (432 Main St.), The Tub of Blood at the north end of Main St. and the E.J. Murphy Club (122 East Center St.)

However, the Tribune reported on October 5 that 21 liquor tax licenses had been issued for the Town of Albion, 20 of those were for dealers in the village and one for the Hotel de Quarry at Eagle Harbor. The Town of Albion had the distinction of being the only jurisdiction in Orleans County where alcohol could legally be sold for a two year period, until the 18th Amendment was ratified. Middleport also had alcohol for sale.

One year after this novel social experiment had begun, Barry Murphy, editor of The Medina Monthly, conducted an impartial inquiry to determine local opinion about the experience. A set of questions was sent to local merchants, to the local factory, mills and foundries as well as to leading farmers in the area to determine whether in fact “a dry town is a dead town” which was the contention of the breweries and local liquor interests.



However, the survey found that the consensus of opinion among the businessmen was that being dry was advantageous overall as they found it easier to get bills paid; that business had actually improved as there was more money available. In his editorial, Mr. Murphy noted that there had been fewer arrests during the year, that only one drunken woman had been arrested, that the local police force had been reduced and that the Poormaster of the Town of Ridgeway had spent one-third less on charitable demands for food, clothing and coal.

Mr. Murphy’s contention was that business was quiet in every village and town that did not have war orders.

*Contributed by Catherine Cooper*

## **Fun Facts from Medina:**

June 2, 1886 Miss Frances Folsom of Medina married President Grover Cleveland in the Blue Room of the White House. Grover Cleveland was the only president to be married in the White House.

June 8, 1812 Town of Ridgeway formed from Genesee County; this included all of what is now Orleans, except 3 eastern townships.

June 12, 1825, Uri Moore married Maria Collin. They cut first blocks for embryo village of Medina to build their home and tavern.

1849 prices: Immigrants could cross the ocean in steerage for \$15, take the Hudson River to Albany for 50 cents, and an Erie Canal boat to Albion for \$5 a total of \$20.50 to a new life!

1859 Orleans County Pioneer Association organized. Richard Gordineer, former slave becomes a charter member; he was a boatman on the canal.

1852 First passenger train passed through county.

1847 Ohio lad worked as a tow-path team handler saved his money, went to college, entered politics and became our 20<sup>th</sup> president – James A. Garfield.

August 25, 1810 first settler in Town of Ridgeway Seymour Murdock.

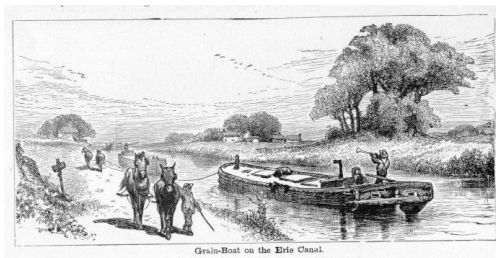
August 29, 1901 Medina, NY Day at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo.

**It is the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Erie Canal** if you check out their web site you will find that there are many events happening along the canal. I hope you can attend one of them.

Medina will welcome the Lois McClure boat in the canal basin with music, food and others activities on August 10<sup>th</sup>, hope to see you there as Medina celebrates the canals 200<sup>th</sup> too! The Lois McClure boat will be open for tours from 10 to 4, come see this unique canal craft.

Fun Facts about the canal:

November 4, 1825 Governor DeWitt Clinton on the Seneca Chief boat hoisted a green and gold cask to his shoulder and poured water from Lake Erie into the Atlantic Ocean! The mixing of the waters – westward expansion began! The Seneca Chief returned to Buffalo with a barrel of seawater. 18 aqueducts were built to carry the CANAL over rivers and valleys. 83 locks were built to raise or lower the boats on their way.



Canvas White was sent by Governor DeWitt Clinton to study canals in England. He invented a type of waterproof cement used in the canal construction.

Famous travelers on the canal: the Marquis de Lafayette and Charles Dickens.

The Grand Western Erie Canal cost \$7,143,789 to build and by 1883 had earned seventeen times that amount in total revenues.

Boats on the canal:

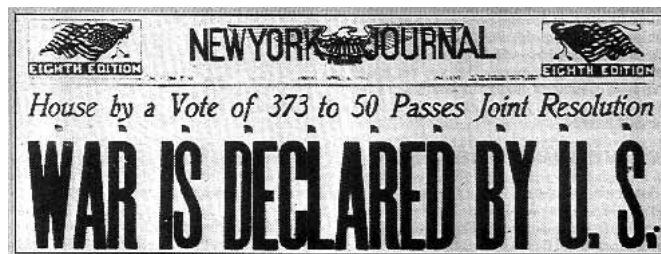
- Bullhead Freighters – carried flour and grain,
- Line Boats – carried both people and freight.
- Scows – carried lumber,
- Ice Breakers- were used to lengthen the boating season.
- But the “queen” of the canal were the Packet Boats they only carried passengers, as many as 100 at a time. They were 80 feet long and 14 feet wide. After dinner narrow beds were folded down for the night.

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Stay tuned for more fun facts about our remarkable canal....

## Centennial World War I:

We entered WWI on April 6, 1917 - it was an 86 to 6 vote in the United States Senate that sent our troops to Europe and war. Woodrow Wilson had tried to keep our nation out of the war but circumstances changed and we went to the aid of our Allies with much needed provisions and manpower.



Medina native Howard Hinckley was mustered into Company F of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NY National Guard – the unit stationed at Medina’s Armory. Upon called to duty the unit was designated as the 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry with the 27<sup>th</sup> Division. The men went to Camp Wadsworth in South Carolina for basic training. This group was sent to the Hindenburg Line September 27, 1918, where they were under heavy artillery fire and gas concentration. It was here Medina native Frank Bloom was killed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion led by Capt. John S. Thompson joined them in the breaking of the Hindenburg Line.

John S. Thompson was born in Canada and came to the states as a young man settling in Orleans County and living at 216 Park Ave. in Medina. He married Edith Hill in 1914. He started his career in 1898 when he enlisted in the 29<sup>th</sup> Separate Co. NY National Guard. He was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup>



Lieutenant in 1907. He served as a Captain and Major in WWI seeing action in the Somme offensive and in the Dickebusch Lake and Scherpenberg in Flanders.

He served in the 108<sup>th</sup> as a Colonel for eleven year and in 1930 was promoted to Brigadier General and commanded the 54<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.

He received two division citations for bravery in actions and was awarded the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross, Purple Heart, Silver Star for gallantry in action and Belgian Croix de Guerre with Palm. He retired from service in 1937 as a Major General.

His civic interests included serving on Medina Village Board, Director of Medina Savings and Loan, organized the James. P Clark Post of American Legion serving as 1<sup>st</sup> Commander, a charter member of Lincoln Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars, he was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Medina, Royal Arch Masons, Genesee and Commandery and Knowlesville Grange. And in 1926 served as the

president of the National Guard Association of NY, he was the first vice-president of the National Guard Association of the United States in 1927.

On November 4, 1930 he was elected as our assemblyman and represented Orleans County until the time of his death in 1948 (1875-1948).

Stay tuned for more of Medina’s finest information in coming Bugle issues...

*Contributed by Georgia Thomas*

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY (\$20.00/YR)  
INDIVIDUAL (\$15.00/YR)

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: MEDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION AND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

MEDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ATTN: MEMBERSHIP CHAIR  
406 WEST AVENUE  
MEDINA, NY 14103

## Maple Apple Torte recipe

350° 20- 25 min.

Lightly greased – pie/torte pan

Mix together:

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup white sugar

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup Maple sugar

*(from Medina Farmer's Market – Nice Farms)*

1 cup flour (can be gluten free flour)

2 teas. Baking powder

$\frac{1}{2}$  teas. Salt

In bowl mix and add to flour mixture:

1 teas. Vanilla

2 lg. eggs – beaten

2 cups peeled and well chopped apples

1 cup chopped walnuts

Pour into pan and bake

Serve with whipped cream and drizzle with  
Maple syrup

For that extra touch – whip cream and use  
Maple sugar to sweeten!

## MEDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Officers 2017

President: Reinhard Rogowski

Vice President/Treasurer: Craig Lacy

Secretary: Shane Sia

Membership: Gail Miller

Newsletter: Georgia Thomas

### Other Board Members

Catherine Cooper

Barb Filipiak

Cindy Robinson

Kay VanNostrand

### UPCOMING EVENTS

PICNIC – June 26 at 6:00pm

at Glenwood Lake Park

North Gravel Road

Next regular society meeting

September 25, 2017

Lee-Whedon Library, 620 West Ave.

Also, coming in the Fall:  
Cemetery tour, Ghost event and  
Tea Party at the museum.