

MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

Winter 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2017 is rapidly coming to an end and what a great year it has been. The programs and events saw overflow attendance bringing a good deal of history to life with wonderful speakers and presentations. Please join us for our final program **Nov. 29th-(Wed.) Polish Christmas Eve Celebrations. Presenter: Fr. Czeslaw Krysa, St. Casmir's Church, Buffalo. The program starts at 7:00pm at the Lee-Whedon Library and includes our year end Christmas celebration.**

I want to thank our MHS Board Members for their hard work and commitment to keep Medina history alive for you and for future generations. I would like to thank our membership for your support over the years and in the years to come. The Society is the repository of Medina, Ridgeway and Shelby history for future generations and assure you we take this responsibility seriously.

This is also the time of year when we remind you, our members, to renew your membership with the Society. As you may know, the Society Board is comprised only of volunteers, so there are no staff salaries to pay. Your dues keep the doors of the museum open for you and future generations to enjoy.

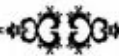
Do you have a story or perspective to share? Please contact us if you do.

MHS has an important—and we think fascinating—series of programmatic initiatives planned for 2018, all of which will focus on using history to help us better understand today's current history.

Please stay in touch! We'd love to hear your thoughts about what MHS is doing. My best wishes to you and your family during the upcoming holidays.

Sincerely,

Reinhard Rogowski
President, Medina Historical Society



Items Recently Donated

Newell Tea Service

This fine silver tea service came from the home of Natalie Newell Callaghan. We believe it was presented to her father, George A. Newell (1846-1933) by the Alert Hose Company in October 1886. Mr. Newell was a prominent Mason and businessman. The family lived at 127 West Center St., Medina.



Irving L'Hommedieu Desk

Irving L'Hommedieu (1865-1931) was born in Shelby and lived in the family home at 12008 Maple Ridge Rd. He became a lawyer, served as Village Attorney and as Village Postmaster. He was also State Senator from 1903-1906. A very active Mason, he also served as County Historian. He lived at 215 West Center St. and at 219 West Center St. The desk was donated by Mary Kosbab on behalf of her aunt Verna Garrett Sutherland.



Daniels Cemetery Sign

Each year, local communities benefit from Eagle Scout projects. This spring, Nick Bogan of Medina made and installed a very attractive sign for the previously unmarked Daniels Cemetery. In addition, Nick researched the history of the cemetery, and of the families buried there. He was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout for this fine project.



Located on Rt. 63, north of Rt. 104, the Daniels Cemetery has about 250 burials. It was in operation from 1816-1886, but later burials are recorded, the most recent being in 2001. Many members of the following families are buried there: Clark, Daniels, Flowers, Handy, Hunt, Parker, Sawyer and Weld.

The cemetery is situated on land that was owned by the Daniels family. Grosvenor Daniels was an early settler. Born in New Hampshire in 1793, he moved to this area in 1815 and secured a lot from the Holland Land Company. At that time, there was no settlement between Ridgeway Corners and Lyndonville.

Once established, Daniels became an affluent farmer. Active in the militia, he rose to the rank of Brigadier General. He died in 1877, at the age of 85.

Contributed by Catherine Cooper

Centennial World War I

With this being a Centennial year of World War I and Veteran's Day in November, I would like to quote from the Downton Abby series because I think it applies, I hope you agree with me.

In the series the Earl of Grantham had his household gather in the great hall on the 11th month, the 11th day and at the 11th hour; the date and time we mark Veterans Day today. I think this was well written and bears repeating...

“I think while the clock strikes we should all make a silent prayer to mark the finish of this terrible war and what it means to each of us. Let us remember the sacrifices that have been made and the men who will never come back and give them our thanks.”

Contributed by Georgia Thomas



NOTE: See also page 4 article on the Lost Battalion

It is the 200th Anniversary of the Erie Canal

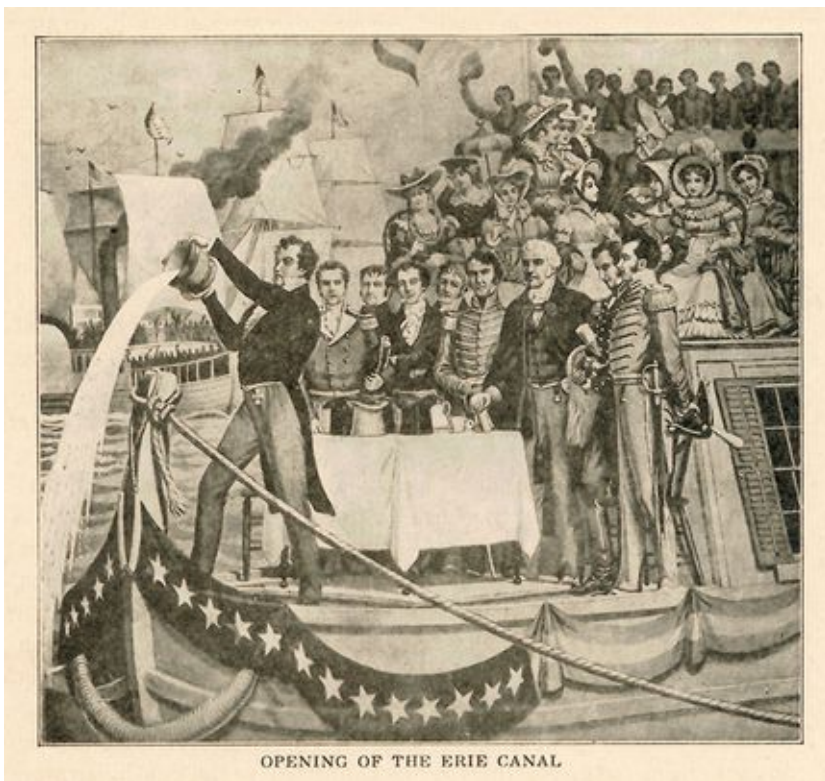
and stories of things that happen on the canal are always interesting. I think one of those stories is about Lars Larson and the Norwegian settlement....

“They left Norway on August 7, 1825; it took the settlers 98 days of stormy seas to arrive in New York Harbor. There were 53 people on the sloop “Restoration” and when it arrived in New York Harbor the U.S. Customs seized the sloop for exceeding the number of people considered safe for passage. It should be noted that President John Quincy Adams pardoned them. The “sloopers” had purchased land in Kendall. They then sailed up the Hudson and took a packet boat on the then “new” canal. But, Mr. Larson had to stay behind in New York City to sell the sloop and finish up business, it took longer than he had realized and while he could sail up the Hudson and get to Albany winter had set in and the canal had frozen, that was in the years before they drained the then shallow canal. Not to stop Mr. Larson, the sturdy Norwegian that he was, he obtained ice skates and skated the length of the canal to Kendall area and joined his fellow settlers.”

This is from the writing of former County Historian Arden McAllister – some of us were lucky enough to have had Mr. McAllister as our history teacher at Medina High.

The official day for the “Wedding of the Waters”

On November 4, 1825 Governor Clinton’s flotilla sailed past Brooklyn, through the Narrows and on to Sandy Hook, NJ where he held aloft a green and gold cask and poured water from Lake Erie into the Atlantic Ocean!



It was a banner day for a young nation and the beginning of “empire” building.

Gold medals and souvenirs were sent to President John Quincy Adams and his father, the former president, John Adams, and also Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Madison and Mr. Monroe.

The “Seneca Chief” the packet boat that brought Gov. Clinton along the canal then went back to Buffalo with a barrel of seawater to continue the “Wedding of the Waters.”

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

The Lost Battalion is the name given to nine companies of the United States 77th Division, roughly 554 men, isolated by German forces during World War I after an American attack in the Argonne Forest in October 1918.

The battalion suffered many hardships. Food was short, and water was available only by crawling under fire to a nearby stream. Ammunition ran low. Communications were also a problem, and at times they would be bombarded by shells from their own artillery.

(excerpt from Wikipedia article)

Private Krotoshinsky's Experience

Written by Abraham Krotoshinsky, runner for Whittlesey, who broke through the German lines with the message that rescued the "Lost Battalion".

"As a member of the Lost Battalion, my experiences were as follows:

For five days and nights Major Whittlesey and Captain McMurtry had been sending out messengers in the attempt to get information back to the balance of the 77th Division. Every messenger sent back was either captured or killed by the Germans. Major Whittlesey called for volunteers and I was chosen.

I started at sun-up on a gray, gloomy day, already weak from lack of food and already convinced that death would be the only outcome. I didn't care. After five days of being fired at, hope was gone, and all I wanted was peace. Yet there must have been a spark of hope that kept me going.

My worst experience of the day came early in the morning. I was lying just behind the German lines concealed beneath some bushes when a German officer walked by and accidentally stepped on my fingers. I managed to stay quiet, but it took a great deal of effort. It was several hours before I could leave my place of concealment.

All day I was under heavy fire. Every minute I thought they would get me, I expected death, but I thought of it only as a physical thing, nothing more. I thought of nothing but the necessity of getting that message through. Home, friends, memories, those things one thinks of in less dangerous places were all forgotten. I was kept busy retracing my route and making detours in the effort to throw the Germans off the track.

At nightfall I stumbled into a deserted German trench. For a moment I lay quiet trying to regain some strength and to discover where I was. Then I heard American voices, and not having the password of the day began shouting, "Hello, Hello." After several minutes of this a scouting group of Americans found me and took me to headquarters where I delivered my message, giving the position and condition of the Battalion.

I was then given food and medical attention and ordered to return that night as an escort with the relief troops. We reached our command next morning, where we received a tremendous welcome from our despairing comrades. I had been gassed and wounded and was sent to the hospital. Upon my return I was informed by my Commander that I had received the Distinguished Service Cross. This was later presented to me in France."

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

Polish Tea Cakes recipe



½ cup butter
½ cup sugar
1 egg yolk, slightly beaten (save the egg white)
1 cup flour
½ teas. Salt
½ teas. Vanilla
½ cup fine chopped nuts
½ cup jam

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg yolk – mix well. Add flour sifted with salt. Mix well and roll into small balls, slightly beat egg white and roll balls in it, then roll in fine chopped nuts. Place on parchment paper lined cookie sheet and press down the center of cookie with “thimble” – or end of wooden spoon. Bake in 325 degree oven for 5 minutes – remove and press down center again and return to oven for 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from oven and fill center with jam (your choice) while still warm.

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

November 25th – the Historical Museum will be open during the downtown Olde Tyme Christmas festivities.

On November 29th 7:00p.m. at the Lee-Whedon Library we will learn about Polish Christmas customs. We hope you bring a friend and come out to join us!

← In honor of Polish Christmas, a cookie recipe from former Society President John Wasnock.