

# MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

June 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It has been a good year so far with exciting programs and our on-going restoration of our museum at 406 West Ave. But rest assured we will do our best to continue making this a great year. However as you enjoy reading this newsletter we can use your help remembering our history. I know from time to time old papers long-forgotten are found. Old stories handed down from generation to generation are remembered. Old relics stored safely away in some attic or basement are unearthed. Old friends and relatives who long ago left the Medina area to live elsewhere may themselves have papers, stories and relics dealing with the Medina Region. These, my friends, would be the kind of source material we would like to have for the Bugle. I'm sure Georgia Thomas, the editor of the Bugle, would be happy to have any information you might have dealing with early Orleans history, and I am sure that all the people of this region would be eternally grateful for your interest and cooperation in making the Medina Historical Society a very worthwhile organization.

So as we together continue to preserve history let us appreciate our past and look forward to the future.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely yours,

*Reinhard Rogowski*

*President, Medina Historical Society*



Lois McClure coming to Medina again!

## MEDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Officers 2018

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

Saturday, June 16, 2018

**Town of Shelby Bicentennial**  
Activities all day (see details on pg.3)

Monday, June 25, 2018 at 6:00 pm

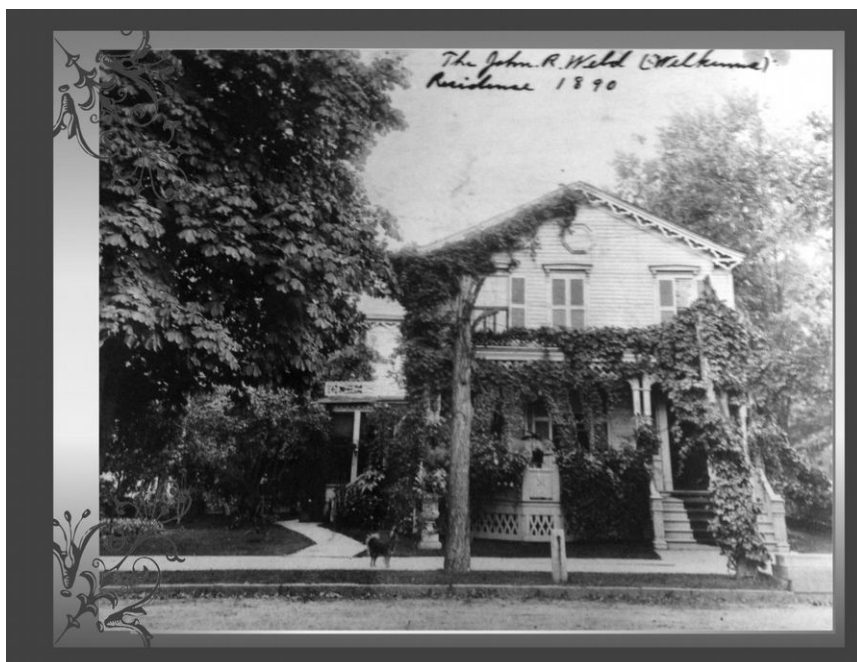
**Picnic at Glenwood Lake**  
Hot dogs and hamburgs provided  
Bring a dish to pass

August 11 and 12, 2018

**The Lois McClure and the Corning  
Glass Barge in the Medina Canal Basin**

## 129 West Center Street

As you stroll through the Canal Village Farmer's Market on a Saturday morning, consider the image of this delightful home which once stood on that site, 129 West Center St.



Apart from its attractive appearance, the house had a rich history.

It was built by Asa P. Stanford, brother of Leland Stanford, Governor of California, U.S. Senator and founder of Stanford University. Asa Stanford came to Medina in 1848. He and John Ruggles Weld started a flour milling business. Mr. Stanford left Medina soon after and moved to California where he was involved in railroad development along with his

brother. At one time a millionaire and president of the Central Pacific Railroad, he apparently made and lost several fortunes in his lifetime and died penniless in 1903.

John Weld then purchased the home. His daughter Emeline married George Kennan, the famous writer, traveler, expert on the Siberian exile system, and co-founder of the National Geographic magazine. Kennan lectured extensively but regarded Medina as his home. The house was named "Welkenna" and was furnished with items from their travels. It was described as "a home of rare beauty and comfort, with blue curtains, green drapery, Batik hangings, cloisonné and rice sets of white bronze". A Japanese room was simply furnished with blue cushions on the floor and embroideries on the walls.

The Kennans welcomed many visitors at their home, David Fairchild, Ida Tarbell, George Frost Kennan as well as local groups, the Medina Tuesday Club and local postal employees.

George Kennan died in 1924. Emaline continued to live there until 1940. It was later owned by Pearle Gotts and remodeled to contain six apartments. Mrs. Gotts owned the Maple Leaf Restaurant on East Center St. for many years and was also involved with the Half-Moon Restaurant in Ridgeway. She owned thoroughbred horses, operated a Riding Academy and raised Pug dogs. She met the Duke and Duchess of Windsor at one of the dogs shows she attended.

She sold the property to the Shell Oil Company which operated a gas station at the site for several years. The 1974 Directory lists the Liberty National Bank Drive-In at the site.

*Contributed by Catherine Cooper*

## As we continue to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Erie Canal...

*Article contributed by Georgia Thomas*

With this being the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal its fun “digging up” history of the canal, I was reading in New York Archives Magazine (Spring 2018) an article about Daily Bread by Amy Halloran and thought I would share her take on our canal.

I loved the quote, “The Erie Canal forged a path for Amber Waves of Grain.”

Amy wrote about the grains that were grown in the Hudson Valley and the struggle of farmers getting their crops to market and how the canal enabled them to do so.

I think the thing that stuck my “fancy” best was her acknowledgement of the part that flour merchant Jesse Hawley played in the making of the Erie Canal. He is often an overlooked visionary in our history. He went bankrupt and while in debtors prison he wrote letters to newspapers urging the development of a waterway across New York State. Ronald Shaw wrote a book telling of Jesse called, “Erie Water West,” “Jesse Hawley is the first hero of the narrative, said Gerard Koeppl in “Bond of Union: Building the Erie Canal and the American Empire”

Jesse Hawley went from Connecticut to western NY and became a first grain merchant; he was also a failure at it too, because of poor roads and lack of good waterways. History tells us that while Jesse sat in debtor’s prison for 20 months he wrote lots of letters for an across state waterway. He sent them to The Genesee Messenger and they were published under the pen name of Hercules.

Governor DeWitt Clinton did not originate the idea of the canal but he did “pick up the torch” and making the canal happen!

Jesse Hawley’s vision for the canal was “necessary for America’s future.” Jesse pointed out how canals helped improve commerce in Europe. Jesse studied maps, and learned about canal systems. At first, the letters were thought that of a maniac, but eventually the Hercules letters reached DeWitt Clinton and the idea became a reality.

I love this quote from Hawley’s second letter, “Nor do I conceive the idea to be vain, or even incorrect, in saying, that it appears as if the Author of nature, in forming Lake Erie with its large head of waters into a reservoir, and his having formed this Limestone ridge into an inclined plane, had in prospect a large and valuable canal, connecting the Atlantic and continental seas, to be completed at some period in the history of man, by his ingenuity and industry!”

*The canal proved to be an empire builder, and New York State became the Empire State. So, let’s give a nod of credit to a flour merchant/visionary named **Jesse Hawley!***

### **SHELBY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION on June 16**

- Town Hall will open at 9:00 am. There will be a slideshow presentation along with various historical displays. Refreshments will be served.
- There will be four booklets available featuring self guided driving tours of our town which highlight various points of interest. The Shelby Volunteer Fire Co will be open. They will be serving hot dogs. East Shelby Fire Co. will feature a mini car show and will also be serving refreshments.
- A fashion show, “Fashion Through the Ages” will be presented at 2:00 pm at the Oak Orchard Elementary School. The show will feature fashions from 1818 to 2018.

## Interesting notes on WWI

*Articles contributed by Georgia Thomas*

As we continue with the centennial of World War I, I thought it would be nice to “hear” from one of our own.....

In Alonzo Waters own words: (he wrote his history for his family and they shared it with us at Medina Historical Society and Museum. We have his uniform and a notebook of letters etc.)

From his history:

“I was employed by this firm (Hills and Colburn) with an office in the S.A. Cook Building until April of 1918 when I was included with several other draftees of the county and sent to Fort Dix, NJ. There I became a part of Battery 308 Field Artillery, 78th Division and in June sailed with the outfit to France. After a few weeks of training our first active service was in the Meuse - Argonne offensive. I was wounded in action on October 23 of that year and sent to a base hospital. The war concluded on Nov. 11 but it was not until February 1919 that I returned to the United States as casualty and was discharged.”

Alonzo received the Purple Heart – from the paperwork:

July 27, 1932 War Department:

The Secretary of War directs that a Purple Heart, engraved with the name of the recipient, be issued to: Alonzo Waters, on account of wound received in action Oct. 23, 1918 while serving as Pvt. Co. E. 308th F.A.



*Took them a bit of time to give him his medal - didn't it!*

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This is the centennial of World War I and I think this is worthy of note:

In 1923 State Historians James Sullivan and Alexander C. Flick began collecting information from local historians and communities about their contribution to World War I. The state legislature passed a joint resolution for publication on New York in the Great War but there was never any funding for the project. But, the state historians collected 34.4 cubic feet of documents!

Today, through a grant from the Gerry Charitable Trust, the Archives Partnership Trust is digitizing seventy documents from the collection representing ten counties from all corners of the state. The digital collection will be available later this year.

# 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



## **This Summer on the Canal Coming to Medina!!**



The Corning Glass Barge on August 11 and 12th 2018, the Glass Barge is part of the Bicentennial Celebration 1825 – 2025 of the Erie Canal.

*In 1868 the Brooklyn Flint Glass Company relocated to Corning, NY via the waterways of N.Y. Rob Cassetti of Corning Glass stated, “The 1868 trip on the Hudson River and canal system of New York State launched 150 years of glass innovations in Corning. The glass inventions and technology developed in Corning have shaped the modern world from the first electric light bulb for Thomas Edison and the inventions of optical fiber for telecommunication to the glass used in modern flat screen displays. The success of the company led to the opening of the Corning Museum of Glass.*

This occasion will be honored by taking innovation developed by CMoG – namely our patented electric hot shop and mobile hot glass programming – back to its roots, that notable journey along New York States waterways.”

This will be a 4 month journey of the barge with stops along the canal and Medina is lucky to be part of it! The flotilla will include the Lois McClure and the 1930 tug W.O. Decker a “small-but mighty tug.” The Lois McClure will have displays of the 524 miles of shipping history on the canal from New England, New York and points west, spreading commerce and ideas in development of our nation.

Tickets for on board demonstrations are free – go to [cmog.org](http://cmog.org)