



MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

January 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Did you know that New Year's cards were once nearly as common and popular as Christmas cards?

While Christmas was at first a religious and then a family holiday, New Year's Day was long a traditional occasion for visiting one's friends and exchanging good wishes. It was also a purely secular holiday, celebrated and enjoyed by people of all religious persuasions. At the turn of the nineteenth to the twentieth century, holiday postcards were all the rage. They were an easy and inexpensive way to send greetings, requiring little more than a penny stamp, a scribbled address and a sentence or two—not so different from an email or a text message, except that they were hand-delivered by a postman, not sent electronically via the Internet.

Well consider this my postcard way of saying Happy New Year and wishing you the best in 2020.

However, I do wonder how we will manage to collect and preserve the electronic greeting cards and messages that so many people favor today and if it will still be possible to access them and view them a hundred years from now.

As we start 2020 I do want to thank the Museum Board and the members for all the hard work and dedication you have shown to the Medina Historical Society and invite you if you have not already to please renew your membership by sending in the enclosed renewal form or renewing at our Monthly meeting on the last Monday of the Month.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our meeting and our upcoming events.

Respectfully,

Reinhard Rogowski

President, Medina Historical Society

From our glass plate photo collection



EARLY MEDINA
By Russell J. Waldo
Originally Published On July 8, 1943

A suspension bridge was built across the canal in 1833, of iron. This created a great deal of interest and bridge builders came from a considerable distance to study this unique bridge.

The Medina and Darian Railroad was incorporated in 1836 and tracks laid as far as Akron. The north terminal of this railroad was back of Main and south of Center Street where they brought shipments for the canal and returned with cargoes brought in on the canal. This road went south to somewhere around Starr Street, on to the south, crossed Shelby Street and thence south to somewhere around Oak Orchard Street to the woods yet standing west of Salt Road and thence south toward Akron. The cars upon the line were drawn by horses. The rails were of wood with strips of steel upon the top. This venture did not pay out and was eventually abandoned.

At this time there were in Medina four churches, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and Episcopal. Services were being held occasionally by the Roman Catholics in village cabins. There were two grist mills, a brewery, tannery, one carding and clothing dyeing mill, a shingle factory, ten dry goods stores, three taverns, a high school and seminary for the ladies, and a printing office. There were close to 250 buildings in the area.

The year 1897 found Edward Munson president of the schools, John J. Ryan was secretary. The board was composed of Rev. McNab, M. A. Bowen, Irving L'Hommedieu, Michael Slack, George A. Bowen, Albert J. Cole, Roswell Post. There were five school buildings with two more determined upon to cost twenty thousand dollars. The high school at the head of Pearl Street was under the direction of Professor Henry Pease. He was assisted in the academic department by Jessie Burlin, Helen P. Deland, Mary E. Phillips, and Harriett Lousenberry.

Central School was in the same building with the following staff of instructors; Mary D. Blood, first grade; Myra Posson, second grade; Kate L. Ryan, third grade; Constance A. Bowen, fourth grade; Ella N. Colby, fifth grade; Francis C. Clifford, sixth grade; Francis M. Wallace, seventh grade; and Ada Bennett, eighth grade. Oak Orchard Street school was staffed with Hattie E. Pruddon, first grade; Fannie M. Whittleton, second grade; Alethe Barlow, third grade; Margaret Lenahan, fourth grade; Melinda C. Smith, fifth grade.

Teachers at Laurel Hill school were: Margaret Ryan, third and fourth grades; Kate Tuohey, the first and second grades. At Eagle Street Mary V. Casey taught first and second grades; Mary A. Ryan the third and fourth grades. In the Elizabeth St. School, Carrie Sutter taught first and second grades; Inez Shisler the third, fourth and fifth grades.

Ground was broken that year on the Central Grounds, near the present building, for the erection of a complete school building of two floors and attic. The assembly or high school room was located upon the first floor with a seating capacity of one hundred and fifty scholars; and also a well equipped library room to accommodate the district library. Upon this floor was the principle's office and cloak rooms.

Located upon the second floor were six well-equipped class rooms, one of which was the chemical and scientific laboratory. Five courses were taught consisting of four years each. These classes were English course, Classical course, Latin-German course, Latin-Scientific course and Modern Language-Scientific course. This was developed to give Medina the best of schools with the opening of the new school facilities.

The Fortnightly Club was flourishing in 1897 having been organized in 1891 under the leadership of Lavina M. Parish, who served as its president since its formation. The membership was limited to twenty-five ladies who were elected by ballot. The officers that year were L. M. Parish, president; first vice president, M. E. Phelps; second vice president, Alice Gatchel; secretary and treasurer, Lena Bowen, corresponding secretary Pearl Timmerman.

The Shakespeare Club organized through the efforts of Miss Minnie Childs in 1887 formed a small reading circle of young women, who at their fortnightly meetings read and studied Shakespeare. In 1898 the privileges were extended to men and the Medina Shakespeare Club was duly organized. Prof. J. H. Gilmore of Rochester was among the early speakers who delivered a series of parlor lectures before the club.

The death of Miss Minnie Childs in 1889 cast gloom over the club and meetings were then held at the home of Lewis J. Ives instead of the regular meeting place at the home of Hon. Henry A. Childs. Miss Charlotte Acer was elected president in 1890 and continued in office until 1894 when she left Medina.

After the death of her daughter, Mrs. Henry Childs carried on her late daughter's work and to her generosity and forethought the club and about 500 of its friends were indebted for much Shakespeare literature. The Club officers in 1897 were Mrs. M. A. Bowen, president; Mrs. H. A. Childs, vice-president; Miss Louise Ives, secretary, and Mrs. H. J. Luther, treasurer. Although Shakespeare did not continue indefinitely as the subject of the lectures and discussions the name was retained throughout the club's life.

As we continue to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Erie Canal...

These stories are from, "Orleans County Historical Association - Appetizer Dessert Cookbook" – don't buy it for the recipes buy it for the history! The Book Shoppe carries it.

From Arad Thomas' "Pioneer History"

Lansing Bailey settled west of Albion in 1811 he recounted:

"In the summer of 1816, I heard a man's voice hallooing in the woods south of my house. I went out to see what was going on. Saw several men there inquired what they were about. One of them said they were going to make us a canal. I laughed at them, and told them they would hardly make water run uphill between here and Albany. I added, it would be as long as I would ask to live, to be able to see such a canal as they talked of it in operation. How little did I then know of what men could perform aided by intellectual cultures and public wealth..."

"Canaller" was the name that was given to the men that worked on the canal and one of the meals they ate was, "black rock turkey." Now it wasn't black or turkey but rather it was salt pork sliced and fried and the fat then made into white gravy. The fried pork was placed over biscuits or bread and gravy poured over. It wasn't heart healthy but very filling and gave energy needed for the hard labor of the day.

The canal brought many people here but one of the strangest ways to travel on the canal was by Lars Larson... 53 Norwegians came to America on the boat "Restoration" they left Norway on August 7, 1825 it took 98 stormy days of travel to reach New York City. U.S. Customs seized the sloop because it exceeded the number of people considered safe for passage. The "Sloopers" had purchased land in Kendall – Norway Rd. They sailed up the Hudson and then took a packet boat on the then new canal. Mr. Larson stayed behind to sell the sloop and finish up business and then he took a boat to Albany. It was now winter and the canal was closed and iced over but that didn't stop Mr. Larson he bought a pair of ice skates and "skated" the canal to Kendall and his fellow Norwegians and new home.

We are still in the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal and for those of us that were lucky enough to get the 2020 calendar of the canal I think quoting the first page of the calendar is worth it - so here goes:

"Travel America's oldest continuously operating canal system – by boat, kike, car or on foot – and you will quickly discover that you are tracing a fundamental part of our nation's history. Carved in stone and poured in concrete, the canal preserves the stories of the visionary and hardworking men and women who sought to unlock the continent for people seeking a better life in America. It preserves the spirit of those who toiled together to build a waterway network that would serve generation upon generation."

If you are into shirts and caps there is an
Erie Canal store on line: Shop.eriecanalway.org

Remember that our canal is: "The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor"

And if you are a photographer of the canal every year there is a contest for photos of the canal that they use on the calendar – good luck maybe you will submit a winning photo! Submit to:
www.eriecanalway.org

Now for some interesting facts (and I quote):

"There are 57 locks on the NYS Canal System: 35 on the Erie, 11 on the Champlain, 7 on the Oswego, and 4 on the Cayuga-Seneca. Lock numbers sometimes skip in sequence due to changes between initial designs and construction. The Erie Canal has a Lock 28A and 28B but no Lock 31, the Oswego is missing Lock 4, and Champlain has no Lock 10."

"From Rome to Waterford, the Erie Canal is part of the canalized Mohawk River, which flows through the scenic Mohawk Valley. Eight movable dams between Schenectady and Fort Plain regulate the flow of water; the gates are closed in summer to form navigable pools and pulled out in winter to allow the river to flow freely."

I thought it would be interesting to find out if our members or friends have a memory to share about the canal - so if you do please mail to: Medina Historical Society and Museum 406 West Ave. Medina, NY 14103 and maybe in a future edition of the Bugle you will see your story!

Medina Historical Society and Museum goal for 2020 is 100 members.

That doesn't sound like a lot considering the population of Medina. One would think that fellow Medinaian's would want to support their museum that preserves their past for future generations. So if you are a member please get a friend to join too! Or, better yet buy them a membership as a gift! Your membership pays for heat, lights and water, plus archival supplies to preserve items. Costs? \$15 single, \$20 Family - mail to 406 West Ave. Medina – and remember January is renewal month!

On the last Monday of the month there is always an educational/interesting program to go to at Lee-Whedon Library at 7:00pm. In January we have “**Show and Tell**” where we bring an object from the past and we get to guess what it is or learn its history.

February 24th is “**Our American Cousin**” the life of Dorothy Roberts Cox of Medina.

March 30th is **Company F Memorial: “The Creative Process”** to obtaining the monument that is in front of the YMCA.

April 27th is “**The Battle of Gettysburg: Analysis**”

That's a starter for your calendar!

Now for upcoming events to watch for:

In the Spring we will have our annual “Tea” for members and their guests – this event is limited to 36. It's a “donation project” – (we suggest \$20 but we happily accept a larger one!) Plus we have a “little history” talk to enhance our afternoon – so put **May 16th 3:00pm** on your calendar and stop into The English Rose Tea Shoppe to make your reservations.

The first weekend in June (6 – 7th) is our “**Wedding Show**” the museum will be open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and 1pm to 4pm on Sunday for you to view wedding gowns of the past. Cake and punch will be served - a “free will donation” will gratefully be accepted – the larger the better for us to keep preserving these items. Hope to see you at one of these events!

From the recipe box at the museum:

Sour Cream Sugar Cookies

1 ½ cups white sugar

2 eggs

½ cup butter

1 cup sour cream

1 tea. Soda

Add flour enough to roll.

That's it! No directions, no amount of flour, no baking temperature or time, old time recipes can be challenging! The only way we know this is a cut out cookie is that it says “enough flour to roll.”

If you try it please let us know how successful you were – thanks!

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



MEDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers 2020

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

Thanks to Craig Lacy
and Georgia Thomas
for their articles in this issue!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 27, 2020

Annual Show and Tell

Bring your treasures, share your stories

February 24, 2020

"Our American Cousin" The Life of Dorothy Roberts Cox, Medina

Presented by Catherine Cooper

March 30, 2020

Company F Memorial: The Creative Process

Presented by Brian Porter, Sculptor

April 27, 2020

The Battle of Gettysburg: Analysis

Presented by Gary Kinal

Historical Society website
www.HistoricMedina.org