

MEDINA BUGLE

A Publication of the Medina Historical Society

October 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I sincerely hope that you and the family are doing well health wise regarding Covid-19.

We can't wait to welcome you back to 406 West Ave to explore our museum or to attend our programs and events. However unfortunately due to Covid-19 we felt it best to cancel tours, Meetings and events for the remainder of 2020.

With this in mind I'm asking our members and friends of the Medina Historical Society to consider making a donation since we have to cancel the fall events which in the past has been one of our main sources of income. The building we maintain on your behalf continues to incur heating, electricity, water and repair expenses. We will continue to do our part by applying for grants for repairs but unfortunately utility bills are usually not accepted for grants.

I know we are all burdened with expenses at this difficult time, so please understand this request is completely voluntary, but any amount would be appreciated. Please send donations to 406 West Ave 14103 or send me an e-mail and I will provide a PayPal address.

In conclusion please review the list of Board Members on the last page and let me know if anyone wants to join and or run for a current position. We will schedule a vote in November via e-mail.

Stay safe and hope to see everyone soon.

Best regards,

Reinhard Rogowski

President, Medina Historical Society

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*Mystery photo
Do you know what this is?*

*(answer appears further
on in the newsletter)*

THE BICENTENNIAL CONTINUES

We are still in the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal and October 24, 1825 was the official opening of the canal.

The canal became known as the “Eighth Wonder of the World” and soon travel on the canal was the American counterpart of the “Grand Tour.”

There are many accounts of traveling on the canal favorable and unfavorable but Americans swelled with pride as they rode on the packet boats to distant places.

Gossip traveled fast on the canal and was a constant source of news to many. Words and saying sprang up like: “spill the nosebag” instead of the beans. I like “well, I’ll be spavined!” from the diseases of the canaler’s mules. Mules were called “long-eared robins” and later “hayburners.”

A towpath driver that signed on to work his way across the state would refer to his situation as “walkin’ passage.” Expression like “low bridge” and “Brainard barrow – the new efficient wheelbarrow and while other terms and words came into being like: berm, locktender, towpath and cuddy. A shunpike was avoiding tolls.

A Hoggee was a worker that earned the lowest wage. Trippers were long-haul workmen. Fog-gang were workers that cleaned out the canal annually.

Were the main channel connected with an adjacent river, stream or other was called a sidecut. A long-level was a part of the canal that had uninterrupted passage between locks.

Canaler’s referred to themselves as “boaters” also “steersman” and “helmsman.”

When the first spade of dirt was turned for the canal one of the canal commissioners stated, “By this great highway unborn millions will easily transport their surplus productions to the shores of the Atlantic, procure their supplies and hold a useful and profitable intercourse with all the maritime nations of the world.”

“A VALIANT WOMAN” - BELVA LOCKWOOD

As our nation mourns the loss of Ruth Bader Ginsburg I think back to another woman that lead the way for her, Belva Ann Bennett McNall Lockwood a local western New York resident.

Belva Ann Bennett McNall Lockwood was born in Royalton, NY on October 24, 1830 she died on May 19, 1917.

By 10 years of age she had read the Bible through and believed it totally. She tried to move a hill and she also tried to walk on water like Peter on the local millpond. She lost a little faith as she came out of the water a soaked and muddy little girl.

She attended the district school and was always at the head of her class. A friend, Anna Williams says of Belva, “I remember Belva Bennett as the most daring and generous girl of the school.”

Belva was known for her charitable work and her support and work for the suffrage movement along with temperance. She worked with Susan B. Anthony and lectured widely.

Before Belva was fifteen she was teaching school in her district. From this experience she decided to make teaching her career. Her first term she received \$5 per month, the second \$6, the third \$7 and the fourth \$8. At 18 she married Uriah H. McNall, before a year her husband had a serious accident at the mill (McNall sawmill on Mill Rd Gasport NY). He had a long illness and left Belva a widow by the time she was 22. She had had a daughter Lura to him and during her husband’s illness and after his death she managed the mill. She was considered an excellent manager.

A year after her husband’s death Belva decided to continue her education and entered the academy at Gasport, NY. Upon completing this she accepted a local teaching position at \$12 a month. After two years she placed her daughter with her mother and entered Genesee Wesleyan College in Lima, NY. One of the ways she earned money was by writing poetry and having it published in publications.

At the age of sixteen in Middleport, NY she gave a reading of her essay. Judge Baker said, “That effort is worthy of a man” a compliment that would be far reaching.

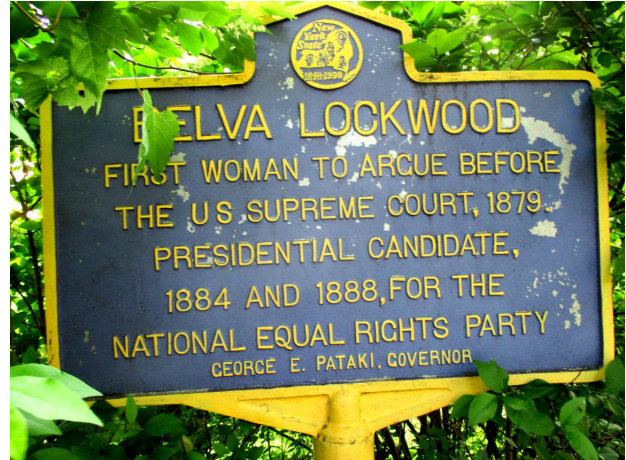
In college she was in the second class that had admitted women. She graduated with honors on June 27th, 1857.

Belva was elected preceptress of Lockport Union School a position she held for four years. She then went to Gainesville Seminary in Wyoming Co. NY. Going on to Hornellsville, Steuben Co. for a year, then she purchased the Seminary building in Owego, NY and had a school for young ladies until 1866. She then took a trip to Washington DC, New York, Chicago, and Harpers Ferry and back to Washington DC.

In Washington she hired the expensive Union League Hall to start a school. While teaching she continued to learn about our government and law.

On March 12, 1868 she married again to dentist Ezekiel Lockwood, they had a daughter Jessie who died at about 20 months of age. They resided in Washington, DC.

Belva did not cease working because of the loss of her daughter but she went on to help others with a petition for a prohibitory law in the District. She got signers for petition for the Arnell bill for equal pay for federal workers – women were grossly under paid. The Universal Franchise Assn. (women’s rights)



owes much to Belva, from her lectures and management. The enfranchisement of women was presented to Congress with the Territorial Bill (S.594) that was mainly written by Belva.



Belva began studying law at the National University Law School. She became a formidable lawyer. Belva petitioned to practice before the Supreme Court and at first was denied because she was a woman. She persevered and was admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of the United States of America on March 3, 1879.

In 1884 Belva ran for President on the Equal Rights Party against fellow New Yorker Grover Cleveland. Naturally she lost but it is interesting to note that she carried the entire Electoral vote for the state of Indiana. She ran again in 1888 and again lost but she ran!

There is so much more to this woman's life and if you want to read more I recommend the book: Belva A. Lockwood by Gasport native Julia Hull Winner; you can obtain it at Niagara county Historical Society in Lockport, NY.

I will close with this quote from Ms. Winner:

“One can only say in conclusion that this valiant woman contributed so greatly to the cause of woman's rights as well as spanning careers as teacher, educator, lawyer, lecturer, wife and mother that she left a challenge to those who follow! She lighted a torch which is burning still.”

MOTHER'S RECOUNTING OF 1918

During this time of Covid – 19 pandemic I am reminded of my Mother telling of the Great Pandemic of 1918.

Her oldest sister caught it first and it spread thru her family. The doctor came to the house then and he checked in on his “little family” (as he called them) often. His most long lasting advice was to “scald” the dishes after washing them. So from that time on before we washed the dishes we put the kettle on to boil and as the dishes sat in the drainer we poured the scalding water over them.

I don't ever remember not doing this until we got an automatic dish washer. The one good point was the dishes almost dried themselves with the scalding water.

Back to the epidemic, Mother recounted that the newspaper carried long lists of those that had died. She went on to tell of the neighbors all about dying and whole families wiped out. How when she went back to school how much smaller the classes were from the loss of fellow students. Mom told of how the factories were short handed and how stores closed. She told of the long recovery before life was back to a new normal, as she put it. She did say that the one point they all learned was (the new word to them) hygiene and keeping clean both self and home. As her Mother's words were “cleanliness is next to Godliness” and their home reflected it.



I think the thing that stayed with me from her stories was the great sorrow of that terrible time!

THE MEDINA TRIBUNE.

MEDINA, N. Y. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1918.

These news items were selected from P.1 and P.5 of the Medina Tribune, October 24, 1918, just at the height of the Spanish flu outbreak. Local servicemen killed or injured, deaths from flu, shortage of labor in the fields, gas rationing, schools closed. And ghostly echoes of today: the exhortation to wear masks, and even non-scientific cures.

ABOUT THE COUNTY

There are 25 cases of Spanish influenza in Holley, which has resulted in three deaths.

George D. Harris, a prominent building contractor of Albion, died Monday at his home, 43 Platt Street, of Spanish influenza.

Ernest Harris died at Camp Dix on Saturday, October 6, of influenza. The remains were brought to Lyndonville for burial in Lynhaven cemetery.

The death of Irving Earl Whittleton, age 37 years, occurred at the family home in Ashwood N.Y, Saturday, of Spanish influenza, followed by pneumonia.

Another plan has been adopted by Albion merchants to help out the farmers. Instead of closing their stores, all merchants and employees physically able will on Wednesdays and Saturdays report at the farm Bureau office at 7:30 a.m. and the farmers needing help will call there.

In Batavia, Health Officer Le Seur decided that the great quantity of leaves laying on the streets and lawns could be made to help in the combat against Spanish influenza as the carbon and smoke created by the burning of the leaves would kill the influenza germs. At the Mayor's request, the Fire Chef announced Tuesday as the day for citizens of the city to rake up and burn the fallen leaves to create a big smoke.

LOCAL BREVITIES

Hon. Irving L'Hommedieu is ill with influenza.

Dr. Jay J. Walker returned Thursday from a visit to his brother, LaVerne A. who has been seriously ill with Spanish influenza at Cornell Camp, Ithaca. He reports the patient recovering.

Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Kingsley have received word from their son, Sgt. L. Rockwell Kingsley, that he had recovered from his illness and left the hospital and immediately upon his return to the Barracks, had been sent overseas.

Ernest Gillmeister, in a recent letter to his brother Herman, says there has been a decrease of 800 in the number cases of "flu" in that camp. (Camp McLellan, Alabama)

Information has been received here of the wounding in France on September 6 of Pvt. Stephen Smith of Stork St., he is a member of Company "F".

Private John Litchfield, of this place, has been missing since August 15, according to a War Dept. message to his mother, Mrs. John Litchfield, received Monday. Litchfield was 22 years old and came from England with his family seven years ago. He was formerly a member of Company "F" of Medina and saw service on the Mexican border.

With the American armies in the field, it was learned today, October 21 that Lieutenant John A. Stevens of Albion, N.Y., reported dead after fighting at Chateau Thierry, is an unwounded prisoner in Germany. Stevens destroyed his first enemy plane the day he was shot down.

The rural schools throughout the county, as well as the village schools, have been closed on account of the epidemic.

Hot lemonade is recommended as good for the Spanish influenza epidemic.

Over a ton of peach pits were collected and shipped to Buffalo by the Red Cross Society. The pits are used as the raw material for making the best grade of absorbent charcoal which is used in the gas-mask respirators for absorbing the deadly gases in the air at the German front.

Drs. Rogan and Gowan are confined to their residences by sickness.

OUR CITIZENS SAFEGUARDED

The work of safeguarding citizens during this prevailing influenza epidemic is progressing satisfactorily. An office has been opened in the Community Rooms, Cook Building, with Dr. Emily F. Swett in charge, where reports of all cases are received and recorded. Everything possible will be done to prevent or limit the spread of the malady and the various boards and organizations are co-operating royally. It is urgently requested that all cases of destitution and temporary need be reported, in order that relief may be extended and suffering prevented.

Several nurses have offered their services and are already on duty. The ladies of the Red Cross Chapter have made a number of protective gauze masks which are for free distribution to those who will use them intelligently. It is a source of satisfaction that our businessmen are co-operating in this matter and have equipped their employees with masks.

The influenza germs can enter the system only by way of the mouth and nose. Protect yourself against the person who may thoughtlessly cough or sneeze in your presence and see that he is similarly protected. The gauze mask will help. These masks should be washed every day in very hot, preferably boiling water and they should always be worn with the same side next to the face, for obvious reasons.

The control of the epidemic is largely a matter of individual attention to details. There should be thorough cleanliness of houses, premises, utensils, clothing and person. It is a crime to spit on the streets, and a misdemeanor to cough or sneeze with mouth uncovered. Crowds should be avoided. Also, avoid stirring up dust. Use soap and water freely.

To access the Medina newspapers online:

https://www.nyshistoricnewspapers.org/titles/places/new_york/orleans/

MYSTERY PHOTO

This is a picture of the aircraft watch station that was atop the Journal-Register building from 1941-1945.

That's Bill Franchell standing watch.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**No in-person events scheduled due to
COVID-19**

**Online election of Board Members
November 2020**

Thanks to Craig Lacy, Georgia Thomas
and Catherine Cooper
for providing articles in this issue!

Historical Society website
www.HistoricMedina.org