

Why does Medina have a Hall of Fame?

Two hundred years ago settlers were beginning to move into the heavily forested regions where Medina is located now. A waterfall on Oak Orchard Creek became a power source for the first sawmill in the area. These early pioneers found stone suitable for building foundations along the creek.

A decade later the famous Erie Canal was being constructed between the Hudson River and Lake Erie. The intersection of the canal and the creek was a perfect place for a village and "Medina" was born.

As the canal was dug through Orleans County, workers found sections of stone very near the surface. In 1837 John Ryan opened the first commercial sandstone quarry adjacent to the canal in Medina. Thus began a local industry that would grow tremendously for the next 80 years.

At the turn of the century there were 50 quarries covering 2,000 acres located between Medina and Holley in Orleans County. These quarries employed as many as 1,200 workers and immigrants to the U.S. from Ireland, Poland, Italy, Germany and England came to this region to earn "good money". A stonebreaker could earn four dollars a day!

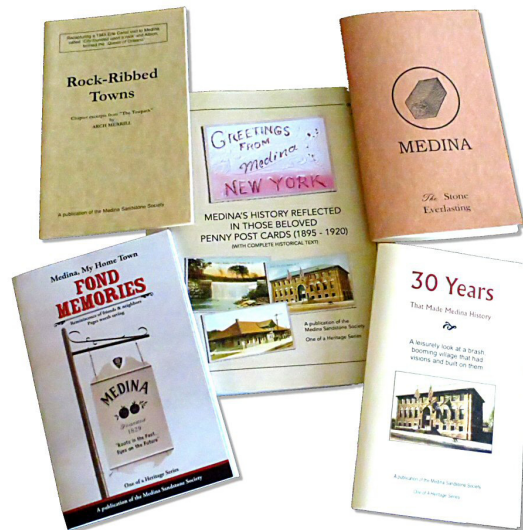
Stone from these quarries provided paving stones and curbing for the streets of Buffalo, Rochester, Cleveland and New York City. But more importantly a portion of the stone was used to create structures large and small - homes, churches, civic buildings, monuments and more.

The Medina Sandstone Hall of Fame seeks to identify where these structures are located and give special recognition to the most significant based on their architectural beauty and other criteria. We hope to increase appreciation for this important product of Medina's and Orleans County's history.

Founded in 2004, the Medina Sandstone Society today is a New York State not-for-profit corporation with the purpose of serving as a viable community asset to aid local programs.

The Sandstone Society has engaged in a wide variety of activities, including:

- Understanding the renowned stone itself.
- Fostering community support and esteem, supporting local projects and celebrations.
- Establishing the Hall of Fame.
- Encouraging historic preservation.
- Marking special sites with sandstone tablets.
- Using grants and gifts to protect structures.
- Publishing texts and books of local interest.
- Honoring special citizens with awards
- Saluting Medina's status as an Erie Canal port.
- Sponsoring "walking tours" of historic sites.
- Recruiting associates called "Stone Cutters"
- Establishing a Medina civic endowment named the Sandstone Trust.



Consult our website to learn about and purchase books. They're also offered at local book stores.

www.SandstoneSociety.org

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Medina Sandstone Society

Sandstone Hall of Fame 2015

Appreciating the
*"extraordinary
ordinary"* that
surrounds us in
western NY and
beyond.

Quote by Bill Lattin, retired County Historian



2014 Hall of Fame inductees

The Hall of Fame is located in Medina City Hall,
600 Main Street. Open weekdays from 8:30-4:30.

List of Nominees

* *indicates inductee in the Hall of Fame*

2013

Orleans County	Buffalo
St. John's Episcopal	St. Paul's Cathedral
Clarendon Old Stone Store	H.H. Richardson Complex
Mt. Albion Monument	St. Louis Church
Hillside Cemetery	Connecticut Street Armory
Pullman Church	Other
Medina Armory/YMCA	Belhurst Castle
St. Marv's Church	St. Stephen's Church
Medina Railroad Station	"Million Dollar Staircase"
Medina City Hall	Genesee County Jail
	Rochester
Charlotte Lighthouse	Brockport Civil War Tower
St. Bernard's Seminary	Hamlin Beach Structures

2014

Orleans County	Other
Albion Presbyterian Church	Sonnenberg Manor
"Robin Hill" Smith home	St. Peter in Erie, Pa
St. Rocco's in Hulberton	St. Luke's in Jamestown
	Prendergast Library
	Buffalo
Buffalo Crematory	Delaware-Asbury Church
Olmsted traffic circles	

2015

Orleans County	Buffalo
St. Mary's R.C. in Holley	"Martin Manor" residence
Batavia	St. Patrick's Friary
Richmond Library	

The Medina Sandstone Society is proud to recognize these exceptional examples of Medina sandstone construction that are such an important part of our region and our nation's past and its future!

Inductees in the (3rd annual) 2015 Hall of Fame

Connecticut St. Armory

Buffalo, NY

The Connecticut St. Armory in Buffalo N.Y. was constructed from 1896-1899 to house the 74th Regiment of the New York National Guard. A massive building



encompassing an entire city block on Buffalo's west side, the armory was built from plans and drawings submitted by Cpt. Williams Lansing of the 74th Regiment. The architect was Isaac

Perry, State Architect, and the principal contractor was C. Berricks & Sons of Buffalo.

The Armory at the time of construction was the largest of its kind in the United States. It contains 280,362 sq. ft. and had the largest unobstructed floor space in the world. It is a superb example of Richardson Romanesque Architecture, and is entirely made of Medina Sandstone.

Even though heavily damaged by fire in 1982, the building stands today completely restored and provides a home to Army and National Guard units.

Martin Manor

395 Linwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY



At the height of Buffalo N.Y.'s phenomenal growth as the "Queen City" of the Great Lakes circa 1900, a private home was

built in one of Buffalo's most fashionable neighborhoods. The wealthy owners created a solid and commanding 8000 sq. ft. structure made of Medina Sandstone.

The private home fell into disrepair during the succeeding decades until a major restoration and renovation was started in the 1950s. Today's owners, Mr. Peter S. Martin and Margaret W. Paroski, M.D. have spent the past 26 years restoring this residence to its original grandeur, both inside and out.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

in Holley, NY



The Catholic community in eastern Orleans County was growing rapidly in the late 1890's when talk of building a new church was whispered among the parishioners. Father James McCarthy launched the actual construction when he became pastor in 1902.

Dedicated on December 24, 1905, the Holley Stand-

ard newspaper printed this description: "The new church is a beautiful structure of brown sandstone from our local quarries. It occupies a central and attractive site on the west side of Main street opposite the High school. The main building is 120 feet long from east to west and 34 feet wide. At each corner of the front are battlement towers, and a large stone cross surmounts the peak of the roof. The architecture is dignified, impressive and churchly." Today the church is 110 years old and that pride is still apparent in this beautifully maintained sandstone church.

St. John's Episcopal Church

East Center St., Medina, NY



St. John's church began as St. Luke's Mission, a result of a rapidly growing village and a group of men who felt that spiritual guidance was needed. The year was 1827 and the Erie Canal was bringing progress along its path.

Construction

was started in 1832. Medina Sandstone, quarried from the banks of the Erie Canal was used to construct this amazing structure. It is believed to be the first building in Medina constructed of Medina Sandstone. The building was completed, except for the tower, in 1838. It is known for its inclusion in Ripley's Believe It Or Not, for being "the church in the middle of the Road".