

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!

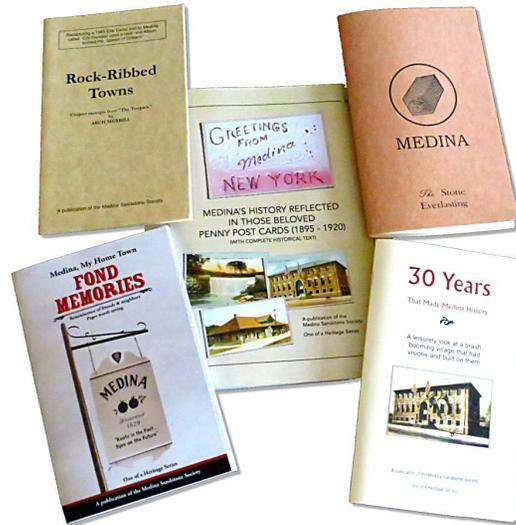
Stone from these quarries provided paving stones and curbing for the streets of Buffalo, Rochester, Cleveland and New York City. But more importantly a portion of the stone was used to create structures large and small - homes, churches, civic buildings, monuments and more.

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

Medina Sandstone Society and Trust
P.O. Box 25
Medina, NY 14103

Printed October 2017

Medina Sandstone Society

Sandstone Hall of Fame 2017

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

Quote by Bill Lattin, retired County Historian



2016 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

2017 Nominees / Inductees

St. Mary's in Batavia First Methodist in Dunkirk
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester **First Lutheran in Jamestown**

2013-2016 Nominees / Inductees

Orleans County

Albion Presbyterian Church
 "Robin Hill" Smith home
 St. Rocco's in Hulberton
St. Mary's R.C. in Holley
St. John's Episcopal
 Clarendon Old Stone Store
Mt. Albion Monument
Hillside Cemetery
Pullman Church
Medina Armory/YMCA

St. Mary's Church
 Medina Railroad Station
 Medina City Hall

Other

Belhurst Castle
 St. Stephen's Church
 "Million Dollar Staircase"
 Genesee County Jail
Sonnenberg Manor
 St. Luke's in Jamestown
 Zion Episcopal Church in Palmyra, NY
St. Peter Cathedral in Erie, Pa
 Christ Church in Rochester

Buffalo

St. Paul's Cathedral
H.H. Richardson Complex
St. Louis Church
Connecticut Street Armory
 Buffalo Crematory
 Olmsted traffic circles
Delaware-Asbury Church
"Martin Manor" residence
 St. Patrick's Friary
First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo

St. Michael's RC Church
 Lafayette Lofts

Charlotte Lighthouse
St. Bernard's Seminary
 Brockport Civil War Tower
 Hamlin Beach Structures
Richmond Library in Batavia
 Prendergast Lib. in Jamestown
Emma Flower Taylor Mansion in Watertown, NY
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Sanborn, NY

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

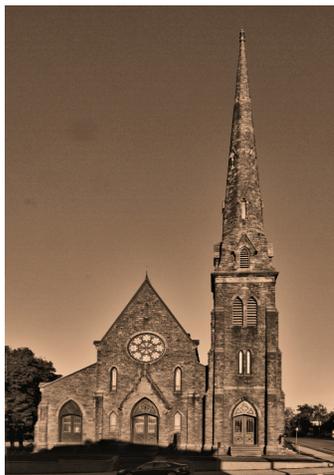
Hall of Fame plaques manufactured and installed courtesy of Takeform Graphics, Medina, NY

Inductees in the (5th annual) 2017 Hall of Fame

First Presbyterian Church

Albion, NY

The First Presbyterian Church is a beautiful example of rose colored Medina Sandstone. The church commissioned famed Architect Andrew Jackson Warner from Rochester, New York to come up with a design for the new Church.



It is rumored that the building committee told the architect they wanted a building like his First Presbyterian Church he built in 1871 in Rochester, but with a steeple taller than the Albion Baptist Church. The steeple was to be 175 feet, taller by 15 feet. Construction began in 1874 and completed and dedicated in 1875 and for over 140 years the bells in the majestic bell tower have been calling worshipers to service every Sunday.

Richmond Memorial Library

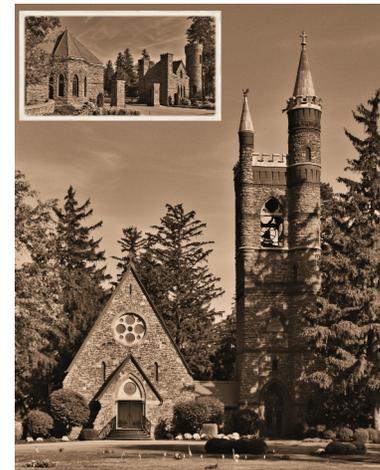
Batavia, NY

The Richmond Memorial Library is a beautiful example of light gray Medina Sandstone and red Albion stone. The style is Richardsonian Romanesque and was designed by Rochester architect James Cutler. The Richmond Library employs the style of two-tone sandstone in a random ashlar pattern with a battered foundation and a steep gable roof. Mrs. Mary Richmond donated a piece of land at the rear of the family property and construction of a library began on July 11, 1887 and was dedicated on March 12, 1889. Mrs. Richmond donated \$ 24,000 towards the cost and insisted on using local labor to build this magnificent building. The library was named after her son Dean Richmond, Jr., who died in his youth. Mrs. Richmond, noted for her charity, then donated the library to the Union Free School District. The Richmond Library is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was registered on July 24, 1974.



Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

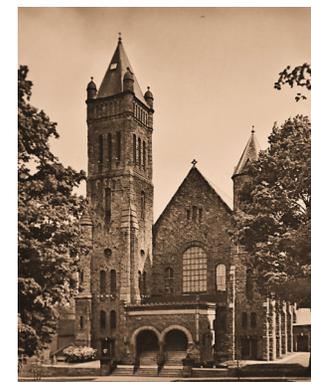
Rochester, NY



All Souls' Chapel, designed by noted architect Andrew Jackson Warner, was built in 1876, and has become the centerpiece of the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester, N.Y. The small but graceful building features a steep slate roof, supporting hammer beams, and exquisitely designed stained glass windows featuring the 14 Stations of the Cross made in Roermond, Holland. A companion 100 ft. bell tower built in 1886 houses a six crypt mausoleum, the final resting place for the Bishops of the diocese including Bishop Bernard McQuaid, the founder of the cemetery. The Chapel as well as the two gate houses and 1.36 mile stone wall surrounding the cemetery are all made of beautifully preserved and restored red Medina Sandstone.

First Lutheran Church

Jamestown, NY



First Lutheran congregation was organized by Swedish immigrants in 1856. The construction of their present beautiful cathedral made entirely of red Medina sandstone was started in 1892 and completed in 1901. It is a magnificent structure and includes a 153 foot tall bell tower which still functions today. The congregation takes great pride in maintaining the beauty of the church which dominates the city's skyline. Many internal and external improvements and restorations have occurred over the years. The interior includes a historic 1901 Hook and Hastings pipe organ rebuilt in 1955, two tiered seating, and numerous beautifully detailed stained glass windows.