

## ***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!

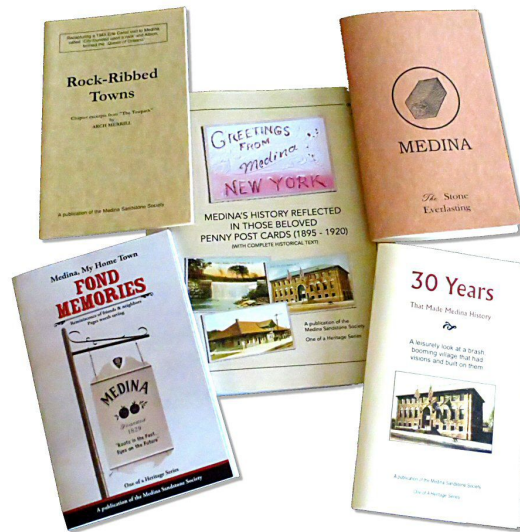
Stone from these quarries provided paving stones and curbing for the streets of Buffalo, Rochester, Cleveland and New York City. But more importantly a portion of the stone was used to create structures large and small - homes, churches, civic buildings, monuments and more.

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.
- Establish and maintain the Sandstone 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](http://www.SandstoneSociety.org)**

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

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***Medina Sandstone Society***

# ***Sandstone Hall of Fame 2018***

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

*Quote by Bill Lattin, retired County Historian*



*2017 Hall of Fame inductees*

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

*Hall of Fame plaques are manufactured and installed courtesy of  
Takeform Graphics, Medina, NY ([www.takeform.net/](http://www.takeform.net/))*

## List of Nominees

\* indicates inductee in the Hall of Fame

### 2018 Nominees / Inductees

St. Joseph's Cemetery  
Chapel in Albion, NY  
Granchelli Home (Front porch) in Medina, NY  
St. Mary's RC Church in Canandaigua, NY  
First Baptist Church in Holley, NY

**St. John's Episcopal Church** in Clifton Springs, NY

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Olean NY  
Olbiston Apartments in Utica, NY

### 2013-2017 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

#### 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 Presbyterian / Lofts**

#### Other Locations

Belhurst Castle in Geneva, NY  
Charlotte Lighthouse  
**St. Bernard's Seminary** in Rochester  
**Holy Sepulchre Cemetery** in Rochester  
"Million Dollar Staircase"  
Brockport Civil War Tower  
Genesee County Jail, Batavia  
Hamlin Beach Structures  
**Sonnenberg Manor** in Canandaigua, NY  
**Richmond Library** in Batavia  
St. Mary's in Batavia, NY

**First Lutheran** in Jamestown, NY  
St. Luke's in Jamestown  
**Prendergast Library** in Jamestown, NY  
Zion Episcopal Church in Palmyra, NY  
**Emma Flower Taylor Mansion** in Watertown, NY  
**St. Peter Cathedral** in Erie, Pa  
St. Peter's Lutheran in Sanborn, NY  
Christ Church in Rochester, NY  
First Methodist in Dunkirk, NY

# Inductees in the (6th annual) 2018 Hall of Fame

## Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church / Lafayette Lofts

Buffalo, NY

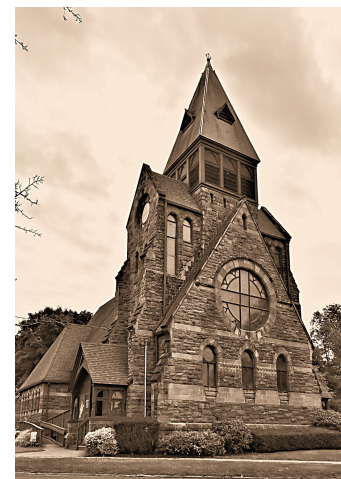


With a history of worship beginning in 1832, the congregation of Lafayette Presbyterian Church erected the present church at the corner of Lafayette and Elmwood Avenues in 1894. Designed by the architectural firm of Lansing and Beierl, the church is another sterling example of the use of Medina Sandstone in the Romanesque Revival style with a large cruciform floor

plan and an attached rear chapel. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. More recently, the rear of this historic building has been repurposed into Lafayette Lofts, offering a number of modern living spaces, a Culinary Center, and office and meeting spaces without compromising the original architectural design and beauty. It is a great example of historic preservation at its best.

## St. John's Episcopal Church

Clifton Springs, New York



St. John's Episcopal Church was first established in 1807 by the Rev. Davenport Phelps. The congregation occupied several buildings between then and 1874. It became apparent by 1874 that they needed a bigger building to accommodate the growing congregation. They chose architects William Potter and R.H. Robinson of New York to design and the

B.C. Dean Company of Buffalo to build it. It's Belgian Gothic style makes this edifice remarkably unique. The church was built of Medina Sandstone, which was brought by barge from Medina via the Erie Canal to Port Gibson and transported by wagon or sleds to the build site.

If you visit Clifton Springs and drive down Main Street, heading east and look up, you'll see this beautiful Sandstone Church silhouetted on the horizon, welcoming you to this historic village.

## James Prendergast Free Library

Jamestown, NY

James Prendergast, son of Jamestown's founder, passed away in 1871 at an early age. But his desire to establish a "free library" was seen through to completion by his parents, Alexander and Mary Prendergast. The Prendergast family gifted the completed Library to the city of Jamestown in memory of their son.

Architect A.J. Warner of Rochester was given \$65,000 to design and build the 127' x 100' structure that was completed in 1891 after eleven years of effort. The sturdy looking building was built of rock faced Medina sandstone in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The use of contrasting gray and red sandstone, curved arches over the entrance and a lovely turret on the southeast corner give the library a uniquely enchanting appearance.

In the 1960's an expansion and modernization project added 16,500 square feet to the library, but the Medina sandstone south side entrance and interior rooms remained largely unchanged and still retain all the charm that the Prendergast family would have appreciated.



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!