

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

No. 29

Vol. XX

7-24-98

REV. MARVIN I. FREY 1918-1992

Our connection here in Orleans County to the great and famous are often amazing. The noted song writer Rev. Marvin I. Frey is buried in the West Barre Cemetery. This song evangelist was married to Helen Parsons a local girl who grew up in the vicinity of West Barre. When he died in 1992 his final resting place became quiet West Barre nestled in the fertile farmland of his wife's parentage. Mrs. Frey was raised in a cobblestone house on Pine Hill Road in the town of Barre. Her great, great grandfather, Hon. Elisha Wright, once a member of the N.Y.S. Legislature was a founder of the West Barre Church.

Marvin Frey was a writer of many Gospel songs and choruses. He was probably best known for "Kum Ba Yah" but Christians everywhere sing his "He is Lord", "Peace Like A River", "Isn't He Wonderful" and others.

On Sunday, August 2 at 3:00 pm a service of musical tribute will be given at the West Barre United Methodist Church. Mrs. Helen Parsons Frey, widow of the composer will attend and participate. The program will consist of Frey's best-loved words and tunes.

Following the musical tribute, the congregation will be invited to walk over to the West Barre Cemetery where a new historical marker will be dedicated to Frey's memory. The marker will state in the words of West Barre minister Rev. Jack Richardson, the following:

"Kum Ba Yah" (Come By Here)
Gravesite of Rev. Marvin V.
Frey (1918-1992), composer
of Kum Ba Yah; He Is Lord,
Peace Like A River, Isn't
He Wonderful, Alleluia.

The marker will be paid for by the Orleans County Historical Association, the Orleans County Dept. of History and private donations.

Write: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from



now on". "Yes" says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labours, for the results of their labours follow them."

Rev. 14:13