

**MARSHFIELD, 1896  
BOOK 712, PAGE 272**

**REGINALD AUBREY FESSENDEN  
Historic Trans-Atlantic Two-Way Broadcast  
First Radio Broadcast**

A Canadian born engineer by the name of Reginald Aubrey Fessenden conducted the first two-way trans-Atlantic radio broadcast in 1906 between his Brant Rock Station and Scotland. Later that year on Christmas Eve, in the Brant Rock section of Marshfield, on property owned by Mrs. Olive Blackman, radio broadcast history was made.

Fessenden produced a radio broadcast which included music and the religious hymn “Silent Night” which was heard by ships as far away as the Caribbean.

The 420 foot radio tower known as the “Fessenden Tower” was dismantled in 1917. However, the base on which it stood remains today along with a plaque memorializing the event.

Fessenden had previously worked for the National Weather Bureau and as chief chemist for Thomas Edison. After moving to New London, Connecticut, he had a successful career in underwater sound.

Fessenden’s achievement in 1906 continues to be recognized by the Town of Marshfield, Plymouth County and other national organizations.

**Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.  
and Robin L. McGonagle**

**From the “Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection”**