



The Cobblestone
Society & Museum

Presents

Christmas Tour of
Historic Homes

Saturday, December 2, 2017

2:00 - 7:00

Come Experience the Heart of Cobblestone Country!





Christmas Tour Sites

A. Cobblestone Museum Ward House
14393 Ridge Road, West, Childs

B. Theresa Ames-Cobblestone Home
14268 Ridge Road, Gaines

C. Orleans Chapter DAR House-Greek Revival
249 North Main Street, Albion

D. Harriette Greaser-Queen Anne
31 East State Street, Albion

E. Pullman Memorial Universalist Church
10 E. Park Street, Albion

F. Mike and Nicki McFarland-Eastlake
16 S. Clinton Street, Albion

G. Ted and Brenda Benjovsky-Italianate
349 South Main Street, Albion

H. Mary Lou & Barbara Ames-Country Farmhouse
14395 East County House Road, Albion
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A. Ward House
14393 Ridge Road West, Childs
Owner: Cobblestone Society and Museum

No written records survive regarding the Ward House; however it is believed to have been constructed around 1840 by



local mason, John Simmons, under the direction of John Proctor. What is known is that the property remained under Proctor's ownership until 1861 and was likely intended to serve as a parsonage for the church.

The house was constructed in the Federal style with a hipped roof; the raised basement level gives the impression of a split-level esque bottom floor. The original house was an 18' x 24' structure built of fieldstones set in the Gaines Pattern; the quoins were cut from local sandstone. An extension was added to the north side of the house in the late 19th century, sided with vertical tongue and groove, and the porch supported with a fluted Colonial Revival column. The front door is in the Italianate style with cut glass windows, but is not original to the house. The interior is decorated to reflect the 1880s.

Following John Proctor's ownership, the house was sold to Benjamin and Mary Ann Woodburn Dwinnell. Mary Anne was the aunt of New York Tribune well-known editor and abolitionist Horace Greeley, who held the mortgage until 1863. The home functioned as a private residence until 1975, when the property was purchased by

the museum from Mrs. Inez Martyn Ward.

“Christmas Past” is the theme of the Ward House décor. Since the home was inhabited from the 1860s until 1952, we have used natural elements and vintage decorations to depict the different eras of Christmas that would have been celebrated over the years. Take note of Victorian décor in the dining room and a mid-19th century touch in the kitchen and living room. Special thanks to Debbie London of Bloom’s Flower Shop in Albion for her generous assistance in decorating the Ward House.

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B. Burgess/Ames Cobblestone
14268 Ridge Road, Gaines
Owner: Theresa Ames

Noah and Polly Burgess were two of the earliest settlers in Gaines, coming in 1809. Noah was ill when they arrived on the frontier, and it was Polly, with the help of Elizabeth Gilbert, who built the Burgess' log cabin. The Burgesses ran a



tavern in their home, and Polly set out the first apple orchard in the town.

The Burgesses built their large, impressive Greek Revival cobblestone home in 1844. The name of the builder, partial costs, and the date of the construction agreement for the building were found in legal actions recorded in the Surrogate's records after Noah's death. On March 29, 1844, Noah Burgess made an agreement with his son-in-law, David Hall, to build a house. In the agreement David Hall described the form, size, and materials of which the house would be built. The house was built, but alterations, additions and improvement revisions were made as the house was being built. Mr. Hall billed the estate of Noah Burgess in 1847 for the following costs \$580.71 for materials and carpenters and joiner's work \$278.19 for materials and mason's work, and \$263.37 for other work and services.

The home was built with small, rounded, water-washed stones of various sizes and colors. The mortar joints are beaded, on the east side the depressed hexagonal pattern was used.

Theresa Ames acquired this most impressive cobblestone residence around 11 years ago. It is one of the best examples of Greek Revival architecture in Orleans County and a primary example of cobblestone masonry. During the present owner's occupancy a great deal of major restoration work has been undertaken. As she notes: "It is a work in progress." The front hall with its bold Greek revival entrance and curved staircase are architectural features to be remembered.

Likewise the front room has handsome and unusual bold Greek Revival work. Throughout the entire house one cannot help but be impressed with its artistic and charming décor.

At this time of year, seven beautiful Christmas trees are decorated with a special collection of mostly handblown and crystal ornaments.

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**C. Orleans Chapter DAR House
Greek Revival
249 North Main Street, Albion**

Built circa 1845, sitting on a spacious shaded lawn, the stately red brick Patriots House served as a residence for the Lee, Tousley and Church families until 1929. At that time, it was purchased by Emma Reed Webster for the Orleans Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. The Orleans Daughters invite you to visit the Greek Revival building that serves as their chapter house and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Orleans Chapter was organized on June 8, 1925, and received their Charter on June 11, 1926. By the year 1928 membership had grown and overflowed private homes as meeting places. Realizing the need, Emma Reed Webster offered to buy a substantial house and give it to the Chapter, the maintenance to be controlled by a corporation. On June 14, 1929, this brick residence was purchased from the Church Family. Some remodeling was done to make a large meeting room. The beautiful period woodwork was left intact and the house is graced with period furniture, antiques, and a large collection of artifacts.

Take a nostalgic tour of the DAR Home and learn about Christmas traditions. In the kitchen enjoy the aromatic gingerbread theme and take time to appreciate the quintessential train running under the Christmas tree.

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**D. Harriette Greaser- Queen Anne
Presbyterian Manse
31 East State St., Albion**

The Presbyterian Manse was built in 1894 and served as a parsonage for many years as well as offices for the church until purchased by Philip and Harriette Greaser in 1987. This stately residence exemplifies Queen Anne style architecture. Prominent architect Andrew Jackson Warner of Rochester designed the Presbyterian church as well as the manse.

The exterior of the manse is pressed brick with sandstone trimmings from Goodrich & Clark Stone Company, an active local quarry in the late nineteenth century. The original roof was gray slate tiles and was eventually replaced with

an asphalt roof. The manse was the first to have all electric lighting in Albion; no gas lines were installed, and the original cooking stove in the kitchen was a coal-burning iron cook range.

Interior details, distinctive of Queen Anne style, include a cathedral window in the staircase and an oriel window (bay window) on the west side of the second floor as well as in the tower on the west side. A variety of beautiful woodwork adorns the home. Golden oak woodwork is found throughout the downstairs and the staircase wainscoting panels are quartered sawn oak. The kitchen, hallway, and bathroom have red birch woodwork and the wood ceiling in the kitchen is maple. Upstairs is found cucumber wood, a type of poplar wood which has a green line running through the boards. The floors are oak downstairs and maple upstairs.

The oak woodwork in the living room has always been painted ivory. Walls were originally sand-finished in pastel colors, but these were later wallpapered by the church. After the Manse was purchased by the Greasers in 1987, the dining



room, entry, living room and library were papered with Bradbury & Bradbury art reproductions of the late Victorian William Morris tradition. The Greasers covered the worn wood floors of the entry and downstairs bathroom with marble squares. The attic is spacious and a room is partitioned off for a small bedroom.

Be sure to take note of the beautiful landscaping on the manse property. Plantings of hedges and trees were installed by Stedman's Nurseries of Newfane, NY in 1988.

The Presbyterian Manse is festively decorated for the holidays, with the assistance of Homestead Wildflowers of Albion.

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E. Pullman Memorial Universalist Church 10 E. Park Street, Albion

The building was designed by Solon S. Beman in the style of Old English Gothic with Richardsonian Romanesque features. Its long, low horizontal profile outside and its arrangement and general layout inside anticipate modern architectural trends several decades later. Beman found rough hewn



locally quarried Medina pink sandstone complimentary to the simple forms and heavy proportions of the Richardsonian style.

The result is a compact, centralized building with a tower reminiscent of that over the crossing of Richardson's Trinity Church (1872) in Boston. Beman's use of unpolished stone pierced by unmolded windows that reveal the thickness of the fabric, added to the overall composition of distinct units unified by strong horizontality and subordination to the crossing tower conform to Richardsonian tradition. The main entrance is made of a series of stone moldings, with oak plank doors and decorative wrought iron hinges. Like many Richardson churches, exterior massiveness and sobriety give way to spaciousness and color on the interior.

The interior dimensions and curved ceilings are those of a chapel, yet the church can seat 400 (700 with the wide East-side doors opened to the parlor). Inside the main entrance door are bronze bas relief medallions (plaques) designed by sculptor Carl Rohl-Smith – one of Emily Caroline Pullman, the other of James Lewis Pullman. Most of the woodwork and cabinetry are of quarter-sawn golden oak in a dark stain. The church sanctuary contains 41 stained glass windows by Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company of New York. The three windows facing west in the west transept are made of high quality hand-rolled glass. The large window depicts the resurrection of Jesus Christ and is signed by Tiffany. In the crossing directly above the pulpit is a ceiling stenciled with blue and gold designs on canvas from which hangs a 45-branch electrolier. The church houses a pipe organ with stenciled gold leaf pipes. To the east, off the sanctuary, are the church parlors, classrooms, kitchen and dining room.

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**F. Mike and Nicki McFarland- Eastlake
16 South Clinton Street, Albion**

This home at 16 South Clinton St., Albion, NY was built in 1885, owned by Lewis R. Rogers, a dealer in wholesale produce. Built in the Eastlake Style, the house is red brick with foundation block of Medina Sandstone. The front porch has a flat roof, fronted by a center gabled facade with Ogee design and inset fish scale siding. There are two stained glass window panels on either side of the front entry. The foyer door to front hall and staircase is flanked by frosted, etched glass sidelights. Floors in the foyer hallway and formal parlor (at right of Hall) are a parquet pattern of maple, walnut and cherry hardwoods.

The dining room is somewhat more formal as columns were



added around 1906-1909, as well as dentil molding and some paneling around dining and parlor windows. This flooring is oak. Fancy fretwork of the same era tops the wide doorways to dining, parlor and living room (left of hall). This room has painted pine plank floors, Eastlake mantel, Minton tiles and slate hearth.

A smaller room, with a fairly recent under-stair full bath, was probably used as a downstairs bedroom. This room led to a back porch that is probably different from an original open porch, as it is more like a sun room. The second door leads into the kitchen.

The kitchen and butler's pantry are mostly the original layout. A dumbwaiter from the original washroom in basement was closed off at some point. A curved servant's stairway leads to the upper back hall and attic stairway. To the left is a fairly large room that possibly accommodated 1 or 2 servant girls. (Now it is a laundry and powder room.)

Down another hallway is a full bath and linen cupboard. Of the four bedrooms off the main hallway, three lead into each other. The fourth was closed off to make more closet storage. At the front of the hall is a bay area with two window seats. In the 1930s, 40s and 50s, there were two small apartments on either side of the upper hall, but these were outfitted rather simply, so they were easy to reconfigure to an original plan, despite various home owners and boarders. A small two story barn was built in the early 1900s, most likely to accommodate an automobile.

Vintage décor for the holiday season includes a musical theme with antique sheet music in a chain on the Christmas tree.

“We love this home and have tried to keep its Victorian and Eastlake flavor and lived-in comfort, as well. In fact, the house seems to enjoy it all, too!”

~Nicki & Mike McFarland

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**G. Ted and Brenda Benjovsky-Italianate
349 South Main St., Albion**

The land upon which this Italianate style home sits was purchased in 1814 by Joseph Hart, one of the early settlers in Orleans County. A log home was first erected on the property and then another home that was eventually moved to a new location a few lots north. The current home was built by William V. N. Barlow in 1876 and took seven years to complete. Barlow also built the Albion Courthouse. With six bedrooms, the home served as the Friendship Manor Bed & Breakfast from 1990 until 2008 when the Benjovskys purchased it as their family home.



Upon entry into this classic and stately gem, you'll find that the interior has been maintained as well as the exterior. Pass through the open porch and glass vestibule and you will find a hardwood floor of alternating walnut, cherry and maple, and a large Lakeland Style staircase. The hardwood floors and natural woodwork continues throughout the East and West parlors complete with fireplace and one-of-a-kind woodworking detail. One of the early owners installed a fireplace that was imported from Europe. Improvements have been made to the home over time, the most recent was a restoration of the front porch.

Not surprisingly, the Benjovsky family's favorite time of the year is Christmas. When they first moved into the home they allowed each of their four children to have a Christmas tree in their rooms. Over the years they have added a tree to every room in the house and a couple outside, making 23 in total. The tree in the living room is the special family tree as it is decorated with ornaments made by each of the children when they were younger as well as new ornaments chosen by them every year.

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**H. Mary Lou and Barbara Ames (owned by Warren Seager)- Country farmhouse
14395 East County House Road, Albion**

"We have been invited to be part of this tour to share our extensive Christmas décor with you. Both personally and professionally, the Christmas season is our favorite time of year.

At a time when our world is full of uncertainty, worry and



violence, we welcome you to take a moment to escape reality and stop in to experience "the magic of the season" at 14395 East County House Road. For the young and old, the halls of our farmhouse are decked from head to toe, featuring years of Christmas collectibles, as well as, 20+ full size trees, each carrying their own theme. Even the scrooge at heart will find pleasure in just a peek through our winter wonderland. Our flower shop, Homestead Wildflowers etc. will also be open for viewing. The shop is housed in a quaint 1814 barn complete with a brick summer kitchen, old pig stall, now used as a workroom, hand hewn beams throughout and much more. Best viewing will be at the end of the tour as daylight fades."

*~Mary Lou Ames and Barbara Ames
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*Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year
from the Cobblestone Museum!*