



# The Cobblestoner

"A little journal published erratically by the Cobblestone Society bespeaking pertinent projects and events"

## In This Issue

- Privies, and more.....1
- Babbitt Bell.....2
- Garden Tour..... 3
- New in Gift Shop.....3
- Legacy Society.....4
- Members.....4
- Monument.....5
- Akeley Fox.....5
- Event List.....6
- Donations.....7



## Privies: From Primitive to Pretentious

The Cobblestone Museum is pleased to present its First Friday Event on July 7 beginning at 6pm, entitled, "Privies: From Primitive to Pretentious-An Outhouse and In-House Tour." This fun and entertaining trip down memory lane will be led by C.W. Lattin, who served 40 years as the Cobblestone Museum Director. The "potty trail" includes eight stops altogether, highlighting historic outhouses, indoor commodes, chamber pots and much more.

The oldest building on the Cobblestone Museum property is actually an outhouse. Built in the Federal Style in 1830, it was originally used at the first bank built in Orleans County, located at corner of NYS Routes 279 & 104. Another historic outhouse on the tour was once situated on the property of Gov. Rufus Bullock, Govern-

nor of Georgia during the Reconstruction following the Civil War. The Bullock family has strong local roots and Gov. Bullock retired and lived in Albion. He died and was buried here in 1907.

The Cobblestone Museum's Farmers Hall has a Greek Revival Outhouse that seats five! It's really remarkable with plastered walls and wallpaper. The outhouse at the Print Shop is in the East Lake Style with interior paneling. The water closet in the 1834 Universalist Church lobby was for men only.

Make plans to join us, rain or shine, for this First Friday event. Remember to wear comfortable shoes and clothing, and be sure to bring your sense of humor. Regular admission rates will apply. (See website for details.) Reservations are strongly encouraged!

## Can You Help Us With Our "This Place Matters" Campaign?



because...



## Schoolhouse Bell Restoration and Dedication



Saturday, August 19th is a day of commemoration and celebration. The Cobblestone Society and friends are gathering at the former Gaines District #5 Cobblestone School to celebrate the enduring legacy of Honorable William Jenks Babbitt by ringing the school bell he gave to the school in 1849. Many years silent, the bell will now ring once again to remind all who will hear it of the remarkable legacy of a true Orleans's pioneer.

Babbitt arrived in "Genesee Country" in 1810, and following the War of 1812, he moved his family to what would become Gaines. He became the area's first blacksmith, established the first brickyard in Gaines, supplying the brick for most area buildings. Babbitt was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1815. In 1816, he worked to get the Ridge Road designated as "The Post Road" by NYS, and served as the first postmaster of Gaines.

Babbitt pushed hard to get the Town of Gaines to be set apart from Ridgeway and recommended its naming after War of 1812 hero General Edmund Pendleton Gaines. Today Gaines contains most of Carlton and Barre. In 1831, Babbitt became the Town of Gaines Supervisor and then served the district in the NYS Assembly.

The enduring legacy of William Babbitt is perhaps best remembered with the 1849 building of the Gaines District #5 Cobblestone Schoolhouse, which he superintended. Mr. Babbitt purchased the bell for the school at a cost of \$20. The gift of the bell served the community well until the closing of the school in 1952. Over the years, the supporting structure for the bell gave way and the bell dropped down making it unusable. In response, the Orleans County Historical Association offered financial help and Gaines Historian Al Capurso spearheaded the efforts to have the bell tower structure restored. With their help, the once familiar sound of the clanging of the schoolhouse bell will once again greet museum visitors.

The rededication ceremony will take place the schoolhouse at 11am on Saturday, August 19.

## Board of Trustees

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Director: Doug Farley

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## New T-Shirts Are One-of-a-kind!



Special thanks to print shop volunteer David Damico and volunteers who handcrafted an assortment of new T-Shirts for the Gift Shop. Also, thanks to C.W. Lattin who created the sketch of the 1834 Cobblestone Church that was used as a template to print the shirts. Two work sessions were held this Spring and many volunteers worked to “weed” (cut-away) excess material from each template before it is applied to individual shirts. Stop by to see these one-of-a-kind “masterpieces.” No two are exactly alike!

## Pat Greene to Teach “Sunday Painters Class”



The Cobblestone Museum is pleased to offer a special art lesson entitled, “Sunday Painter’s Class” on Sunday, July 23 from 1-5pm at the Museum’s Danold’s Room. This fun & educational lesson is being

taught by representational artist, Patricia Greene of Medina. Pat, a lifelong art enthusiast, is an art graduate of Buffalo State College and a 2009 GO ART! recipient. Pat has displayed her paintings in several local galleries and exhibits.

The “Sunday Painter’s Class is designed for all levels of artists. Remember to wear a smock or appropriate clothing and bring a photo you would like to work from. Other options will be available including landscape and still-life. Each student will complete a painting to take home. Class size is limited so enroll early at [cobblestonemuseum.org](http://cobblestonemuseum.org) or call (585) 589-9013. The cost for Cobblestone Society members is \$40 and non-members will pay \$45. Canvas boards, brushes, oil paints, odorless spirits and carry-home box will be provided.

## Cobblestone Museum Plans Garden Tour for Sat. July 22

Join us for a fun & relaxing full-day garden themed trip around Cobblestone Country with several stops that are sure to please our local gardeners and history buffs.

- **Air conditioned motor coach with tour guide, Sue Starkweather-Miller. Departing Cobblestone Museum at 8:30am.**
- **Sara’s Garden-Brockport with 20% discount in garden store.**
- **Stroll the beautiful gardens of Alma and Jeanette Riley along the Erie Canal.**
- **Cobblestone Adventure with tour and presentation on “The Language of Flowers” by Dee Robinson. View the Victorian Mourning Art Collection of hair woven to resemble flowers.**
- **A delicious lunch will be served by Paula Nesbitt at Vintage Apple Garden with time for shopping.**
- **Tour the beautiful Raven Ridge Gardens of Shirley Bright-Neeper.**
- **Complimentary wine tasting at LynOaken Winery**
- **Experience an Amish Market in Cobblestone Country.**
- **Ice Cream and homemade fudge on your own at Watts Farm.**
- **Bus returns to Cobblestone Museum at 4:30pm.**

The cost of the trip for Cobblestone members is \$65 (\$75 for non-members.) Deposit required to hold seat. Full payment required by July 14.

**Call early for reservations (585) 589-9013. These trips are very popular and fill up fast!**



**Many thanks to our new and renewing members since our last issue of *Cobblestoner*.**

**Individual**

Sandra Brown  
Linda Cantor  
Margaret Ciechanowiz  
Meredith Minier  
Danette Oakes  
Corey Orlop  
Liz Morrisey  
Anna Murray  
Beverley Reeves  
Christine Sartwell  
Cheryl Smith  
Joy South

**Family**

Kim Ball  
Ed & Cathy Baranowski  
David & Judy Boyle  
David & Nelda Callard  
Darcy Beeman & Chris Chester  
Jeff & Clara Martin  
John & Connie Mosher  
Joan Page  
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Jack & Debbie Batchellor  
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**Life Members (making additional contributions)**

Bonnie Howlett  
Bruce Rex

**Cobblestone Museum Legacy Society**

*The Legacy Society - Providing for the Cobblestone Museum's Future*



The Legacy Society recognizes and honors friends who have provided for the Cobblestone Society & Museum by including the Society in their estate and financial plans. Legacy gifts of every amount help ensure that the Cobblestone Museum's

tradition of promoting life-long learning through innovative programs, exhibitions and collections continues for future generations.

Anyone can become a member of the Legacy Society simply by letting us know that they have remembered the Cobblestone Society & Museum in their will or other planned giving arrangement. You are eligible for complimentary membership in the Legacy Society if you:

- Include the Museum in your will or living trust
- Designate the Museum as a beneficiary of your retirement plan
- Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity
- Designate the Museum as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy
- Designate the Museum as a beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust

Gifts can be designated for the Cobblestone Museum's general purposes or restricted to a specific area, such as endowment. In appreciation of their efforts on behalf of the Museum, Legacy Society members receive our newsletter, *The Cobblestoner*, invitations to special programs and events, complimentary admission to the Annual Dinner held each year in November, and special recognition at that event, as well. There are no dues or fees associated with membership.

*For additional information about membership in the Legacy Society or to discuss a potential planned gift, please contact Douglas Farley, Museum Director, at [director@cobblestonemuseum.org](mailto:director@cobblestonemuseum.org) or call 585.589.9013. All inquiries are confidential and without obligation.*

## Cobblestone Monument to be Restored



*By Richard F. Palmer*

I was recently driving along State Route 370 through the Village of Meridian when I looked up and was surprised to see a cobblestone monument in the local cemetery. Taking a closer look I discovered it was in disrepair. It is normally up to the family to maintain monuments. But in this case as probably as well as most others, there are no descendants.

Eventually I talked the Cato Rotary Club into taking it on as a service project. But since they did not have the expertise to do so, the Cato Town Board, under whose jurisdiction this cemetery falls, decided to hire a contractor to do the work. So restoration work is slated to start soon on what may be the only cobblestone monument - at least in upstate New York. It dates to about 1840, during the zenith of cobblestone construction in Upstate New York. Serious hairline cracks have developed over time on the upper part of the monument and the foundation needs to be reconstructed. Once the work is completed I plan to apply to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to have a historical marker erected.

The work is slated to get underway soon. A close-up inspection of the upper part of the monument reveals the structure was carefully constructed of round and smoothly worn stones, probably carefully select-

*Buffeted by more than 175 years of harsh central New York climate, the Kimball cobblestone monument in Meridian Cemetery still stands as a testament to the durability of cobblestone masonry.*

ed from the shoreline of Lake Ontario, some 12 miles to the north, and hauled to Meridian by wagon. This was common practice at the time as several cobblestone houses were built in this region. The stones were mortared in patterns by a highly skilled stone mason.

The lower part of the Kimball family monument, which essentially supports the cobblestone portion, consists of four square marble slabs fastened by iron clips forged at a local blacksmith shop. The marble tablets are engraved with the names of the family of Robert G. Kimball, an early pioneer of this area. They are his wife, five sons and two daughters, most of whom pre-deceased him by many years.

The Cato town board should be commended for beyond what is normally expected, as such municipalities are only responsible for cosmetically maintaining abandoned or nearly abandoned cemeteries - mostly mowing the grass once or twice a year. This cemetery was originally maintained by an association but eventually under jurisdiction of the Town of Cato.

*Editors Note: Mr. Palmer is a member and good friend of the Cobblestone Museum. He writes a blog about Cobblestone architecture and makes frequent additions to his pictures and articles organized by county. His work can be viewed at [cobblestonestructures.blogspot.com](http://cobblestonestructures.blogspot.com).*



### **Akeley Fox Returns**

The Cobblestone Society is pleased to "welcome home" its restored red fox mounted by Carl Akeley. A native of

Clarendon, New York, Akeley established himself as one of the most influential taxidermists in the history of the United States. His major works exist in museums throughout the country.

The red fox was mounted by Akeley at the age of 16 and was procured for him by Francis Harling of Albion. The

mounted fox diorama represents one of Akeley's earliest works still existing in Orleans County. This amazing diorama was donated to the museum in 1979 by John Seager, great-grandson of Francis Harling, in memory of his parents Agnes Harling Seager and John Seager.

The Museum worked with taxidermist and conservator George Dante of New Jersey alongside two conservators from the Museum of Natural History in New York to have the piece fully restored to its original beauty.

A reception with the Clarendon Historical Society will take place at the 1834 Cobblestone Church this fall.

# 2017 Cobblestone Event Schedule

## ***Privies: From Primitive to Pretentious—An Out-House and In-House Tour, Friday, July 7, 6-8pm.***

Join historian C.W. Lattin as he offers an informative and entertaining tour of the Society's eight historic outhouses and in-houses. Regular admission rates apply.

## ***Cobblestone Garden Tour, July 22 8:30am-5pm***

Join us for a fun & relaxing full-day garden themed trip around Cobblestone Country with several stops that are sure to please our local gardeners and history buffs. Sue Stark-weather Miller will be tour guide on the bus with stops at several locations including: Sara's Garden in Brockport, the Riley Garden along the Erie Canal, the Raven Ridge Garden of Shirley Bright-Nepper, and stops at Vintage Apple Garden for an included lunch, and LynOaken for complimentary wine tasting, and much more.



## ***Sunday Painters Art Class-Sunday, July 23, 1-3pm***

Medina artist Pat Greene and Museum Curator Bill Lattin have planned a one-day painting lesson where you will have the opportunity to be a "Sunday Painter" and walk away with your own masterpiece! Class cost \$40 for Cobblestone Members and \$45 for non-members.

## ***Story Hour with Children's Author Cynthia Cotten, Saturday, August 12, 11am***

Join local author Cyndy Cotton who will share some of her experience and read from her stories about her stone house and life on the Erie Canal. Kids are free for this great family event.



## ***School House Bell Dedication-Saturday, August 19 at 11 am***

Join us on this special occasion to dedicate the restored Babbitt Bell. Free admission.

## ***Orleans County Heritage Festival Activities at the Cobblestone Museum - September 9, 10 & 16, 17***

Experience family fun on both weekends of the Festival, complete with a Cobblestone Scavenger Hunt and a hands-on cobblestone art project for kids. Remember our new admission policy: Kids are free with accompanying adults! See website for full details.

## ***Cobblestone Tour of Homes- Saturday, September 30***

An old tradition is back for 2017, The Tour of Homes is a self-drive tour of several area homes with many open-houses to be enjoyed along the way. Admission TBD.

## ***Story Hour with Children's Author Gerry Stafford, Saturday-October 7, 11am***

Gerry Stafford will share some of her experience and read from her story, "Young Canaler," about life on the Erie Canal. Kids are free for this great family event.



## ***Cobblestone Country Quilt Show and local Artisan Craft Sale-Sunday, October 1***

Shop for the holidays at this special event, which will feature quilts created by local quilters and crafts made by local artisans! Shop local! See website for regular admission.

## ***Cobblestone Ghost Walk-Sunday, October 8, 1-5pm (Last Tour Begins at 4pm)***

Be prepared to meet fascinating local characters of the past; such as John Proctor (known as "Paul Revere of the Ridge") and famous abolitionist Horace Greeley, and others on this Ghost Walk! Tours every 20 minutes from the Cobblestone Church. \$10/person (Members \$7). Space is limited! Must pre-register by calling (585) 589-9013 soon!



## ***Holiday Shoppe in our Gift Shop-November 3-5, 1-5pm***

Start your Christmas shopping with Cobble the Museum Mouse at the Gift Shop. Many great seasonal items will be in stock and ready for purchase. While shopping; be sure to enjoy a complimentary Cobble Cookie!

## Thank You!

Special thanks to our friends who have made donations to the Cobblestone Society since our last *Cobblestoner*. Many people kindly donated materials, finances, in-kind services, or artifacts to help the Museum continue to grow. (We apologize in advance if we have left anyone off the list. Please let us know so we can correct this oversight. )

Albion Central School District  
Ken Bieber-The Weed Man  
Jim Bonafini  
Russ Bosch  
Shirley Bright-Neeper  
Kenny Capurso  
David Damico  
Grace Denniston  
Bill & Betty Greene  
Jane Harissis  
Bonnie Howlett  
Melissa Ierlan  
Grace Kent  
Sue Starkweather-Miller  
Pat Morrisey  
David Oakley (Brigden Memorials)  
Cheryl O'Donovan  
Orleans County Habitat for Humanities  
Joan Page  
Diane Palmer  
Bruce Rex  
Susan Rudnicki  
Judy Spencer  
Tom Zangerle



### “Amazing Things Are Happening at The Cobblestone Museum”

*By Jim Bonafini, President*

As we approach the summer, the Cobblestone Museum is undergoing a period of renewal with several restoration projects underway, and the unveiling of our new logo. Visitors are still welcome, and several groups, including school children, enjoy tours of the museum. In mapping out the future of the Museum, the Board of Trustees is evaluating the concept of an Orleans County Tourism “Welcome Center at The Cobblestone Museum”. This concept opens several opportunities to share resources and to take advantage of beneficial partnerships with other organizations throughout the community. We are grateful for all the interest the Museum is receiving and hope to see a continued increase in visitors, memberships, and encouragement from our loyal supporters.

## WANTED

### Docents

*By Sue Bonafini, Volunteer Coordinator*

We currently have 18 volunteers on the roster who serve as docents for the Museum, but more individuals are needed. These volunteers guide visitors of all ages throughout the complex.

Some of our docents have a passion for one building in particular, so they are especially valued when groups come to visit. Others train to become knowledgeable about the collections within each of our buildings. These docents are needed to accommodate our “walk-in” guests, who can choose to tour any one building, any two, the cobblestone structures, or the entire complex.

If you or someone you know would enjoy learning about our historic collections and engaging with the public, I ask you to please direct them to me. I can be reached at [volunteers@cobblestonemuseum.org](mailto:volunteers@cobblestonemuseum.org) or (585) 589-9013 and I will gladly discuss this volunteer opportunity.

The Cobblestone Society Museum  
PO Box 363  
Albion, New York 14411

585.589.9013  
www.cobblestonemuseum.org



*The Cobblestoner*

## Renew Your Cobblestone Membership Today!



Please consider renewing your membership with The Cobblestone Society! All members receive a 10% discount in the gift shop, free admission to the museum, and access to *The Cobblestoner*. If you are currently a member and have moved or would like to receive information via e-mail, consider updating your contact information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Individual - \$20.00     Family - \$30.00     Patron - \$100.00     Corporate - \$250.00
- I am a new member     I am renewing     I am a life member updating my information
- I would like to receive updates on museum events and programs via e-mail
- I would like to receive future copies of *The Cobblestoner* via e-mail
- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

Feel free to ask us if you have a question about your membership renewal. (585) 589-9013 or [director@cobblestonemuseum.org](mailto:director@cobblestonemuseum.org)