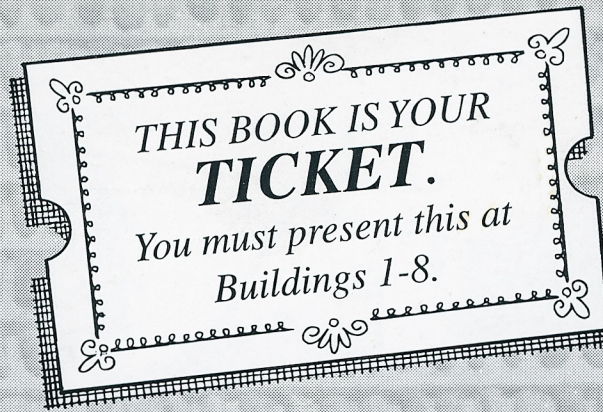




TOUR OF HISTORIC COBBLESTONE HOMES

**Celebrating the Bicentennial of the Town of Gaines,
Orleans County, NY**

Presented by the Cobblestone Society • 585.589.9013

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009

Homes Open 1-5 p.m. • Rain or Shine

\$20.00 per person

**A brief talk on cobblestone masonry
by the director of the museum
will be given from 12:45 p.m. to 1 p.m.
in the Cobblestone Museum Church.**

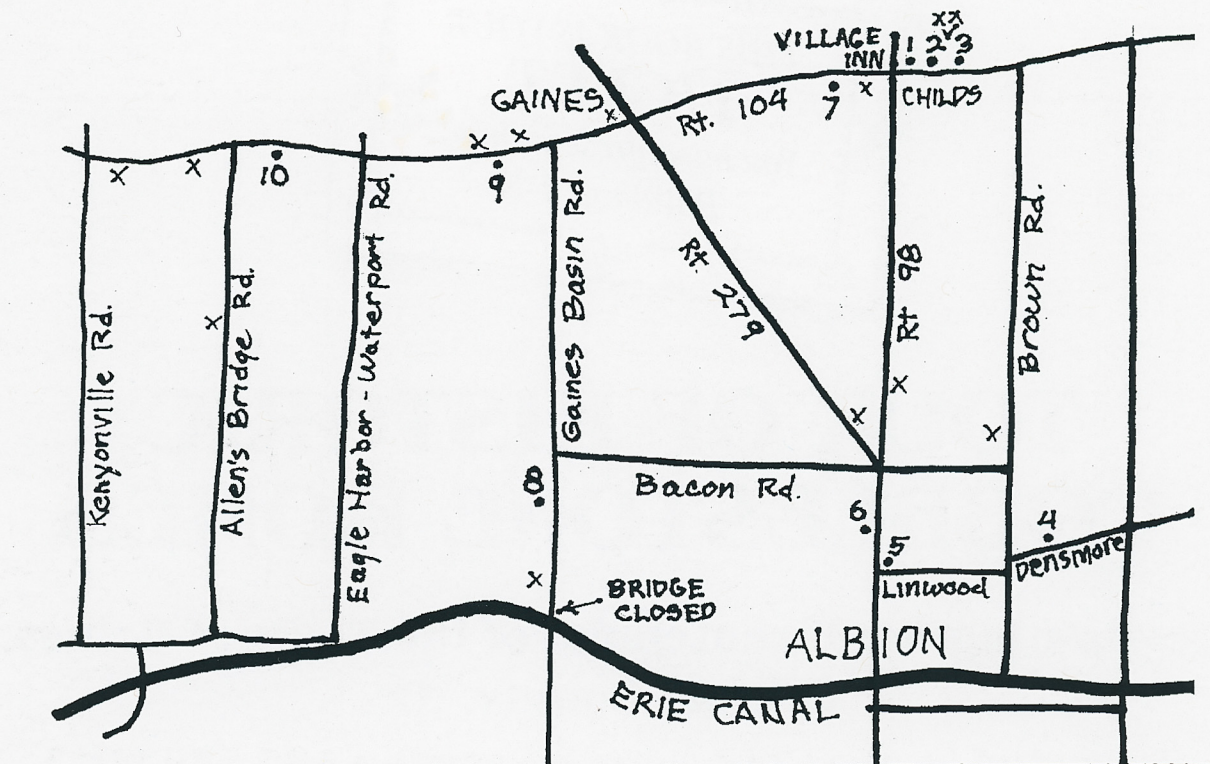
**Lunch & dinner available at
Tillman's Historic Village Inn
Corner rts. 104 & 98 • (585) 589-9151**

The Cobblestone Society dedicates this publication to the memory of

CYRUS WITHERAL

1817 – 1893

A Master of Cobblestone Masonry



- | | | |
|-----|--|------------------------------|
| 1. | Cobblestone Museum Church
Rt 104, Childs | OPEN |
| 2. | Cobblestone Ward House
Rt 104, Childs | OPEN |
| 3. | Cobblestone Schoolhouse
Rt 104, Childs | OPEN |
| 4. | Braunbach House
14615 Densmore St. Albion | OPEN |
| 5. | Orleans Chapter DAR House
423 N. Main St. (Rt.98 corner of Linwood Ave.) Albion | OPEN |
| 6. | Sepik - Jakubowski House
3278 Rt. 98 | OPEN |
| 7. | Ames House
14268 Rt. 104 | OPEN |
| 8. | Lattin House
3178 Gaines Basin Road | OPEN |
| 9. | Bruning House
13756 Rt. 104 | NOT OPEN
see outside only |
| 10. | Otter Creek Cemetery
Rt. 104 | OPEN |
- See grave of Master Builder - Cyrus Witheral
x - Other Cobblestone buildings not on tour for stopping



#1 (Open)

The Cobblestone Church

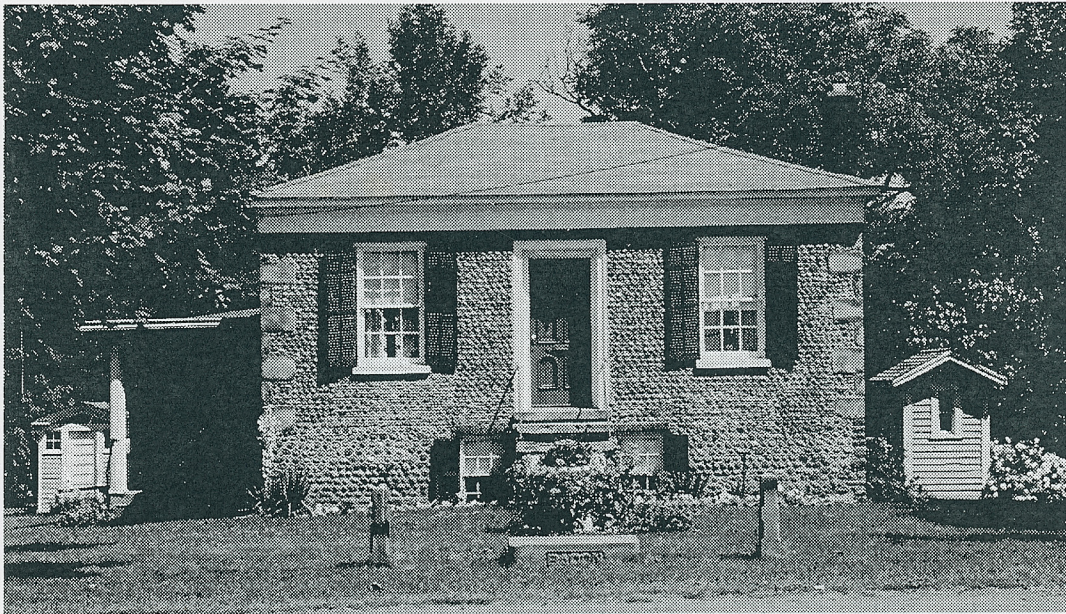
14393 Ridge Road – Rt. 104 (Childs, NY)

This church, the oldest cobblestone church of twenty six in North America, stands on land originally owned by John Proctor. Mr. Proctor, in promoting “his” village of Fair Haven, encouraged the building of the church. The founding fathers of the church were Joseph Billings, John Hutchinson, Chauncey Woodworth and John Proctor. Three of these names can be connected with other cobblestone structures in the Town of Gaines.

This Federal-style church was built of field cobbles of various sizes and colors. Rough-cut limestone was used for the quoins, while sills are wood, and lintels are brick. The date stone above the center entrance states:

“Erected by the First Universalist Society A.D. 1834
GOD IS LOVE”

The foundations were dug in April and the church was dedicated in October. In 1874 the interior was remodeled to suit changing tastes. The pews were turned around, the woodwork grained, a deceptive painting was created and a new pulpit added. With the opening of the Pullman Memorial Church in Albion, the Childs church closed in 1895 and stood as an idle landmark until 1960. During the 1840s and ‘50s George M. Pullman of railway car fame attended church here before moving to Chicago. In 1877 this meeting house as it had been known was given a name which is: The Church of The Good Shepherd. The interior has been preserved showing its appearance from the 1880’s. Now serving as a museum it sometimes is used for services, concerts, lectures, weddings, and memorial services.



#2 (Open)

The Cobblestone Museum Ward House

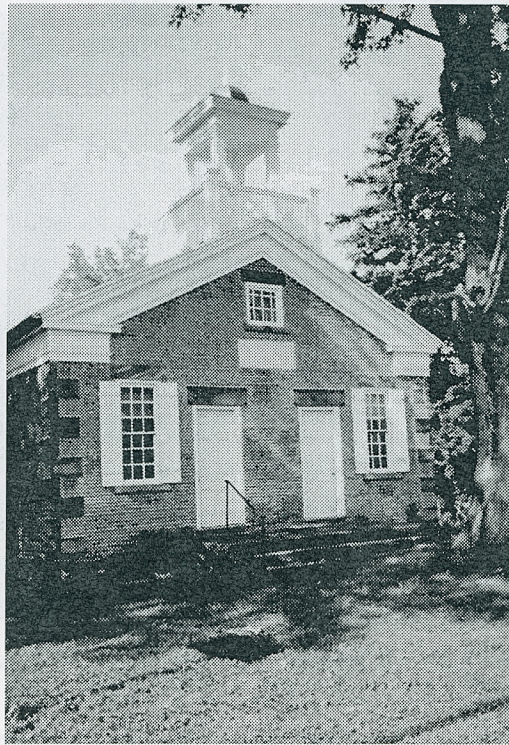
14393 Ridge Rd. – Rt. 104 (Childs, NY)

The deed records show that this land remained in the hands of John Proctor from 1811 until it was sold for the first time in 1861. Mr. Proctor was influential in the building of the cobblestone church next door and pushed the development of “his” village which he called Fair Haven (today’s Childs). It is logical to surmise that he promoted and probably donated the land on which a parsonage for the church could be built. The first owners, after Mr. Proctor, were Benjamin and Mary Ann Dwinnell of New Hampshire, aunt and uncle to Horace Greeley, the *New York Tribune* editor and activist. In fact, Mr. Greeley held the mortgage on the property until 1863.

This house built in 1836 just two years after the cobblestone church begins to show refinement in cobblestone masonry construction. The cobbles on the front are a much finer grade of stone than anything used in the church. The smooth cut quoins of Medina Sandstone are standardized dimensions.

The rear wooden wing was a later addition for a kitchen and dining room. The original kitchen area (not open) was located on the basement level along with two small bed rooms. The interior of the house reflects the late 19th century in its ambiance. Here you will see a number of unusual Victorian artifacts in the cobblestone society’s collection.

The Cobblestone Society acquired this house from Mrs. Inez Ward in 1975 and opened it in 1976 as a house museum.



#3 (Open)

Cobblestone Museum Schoolhouse

14447 Ridge Rd. – Rt. 104 (Childs, NY)

In 1847 the people of Gaines decided to build a larger school to replace the old log school built in 1817 on the south side of the Ridge Rd. at Fair Haven (today's Childs). John Proctor sold the district a building lot on the north side of the Ridge Rd. across from the old school. Two years later they had built their new schoolhouse of cobblestone with two entrance doors, domed cupola and an elaborate window in the attic space. On the front of this impressive, one-room school, can be found a datestone. The inscription states:

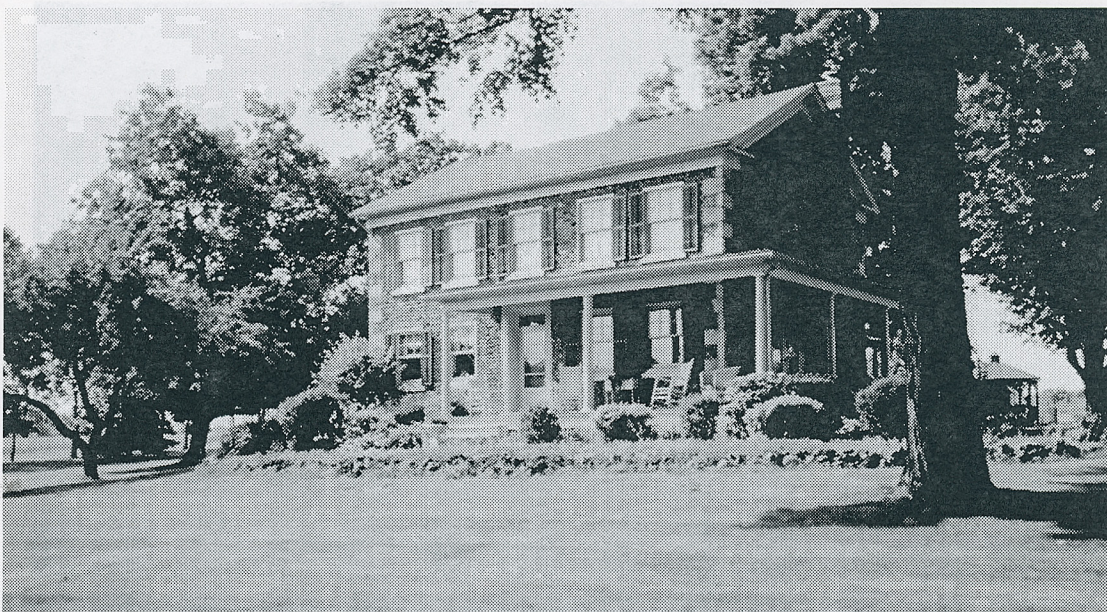
“SCHOOL DISTRICT No 5, Of Gaines, A.D. 1849.

Wm. J. BABBITT, Esq.

Gratuitously superintended the erection of this building:
and made the district a present of the Bell.”

The schoolhouse is highly unusual in construction, like only one other cobblestone building – a house at 12818 Ridge Road near the Gaines-Ridgeway town line. Both buildings are wood frame buildings with vertical planks, which were then covered with cobblestone masonry of five inches in depth.

This one room schoolhouse was used until June 1952 when centralization came about. It stood untouched for nine years when in 1961 it was turned over to the cobblestone museum all intact. At that point museum officials decided to keep it as it was left rather than removing 20th century additions. One of its unique features is the sloping floor so that students in the rear of the room could better see the front of the room.



#4 (Open 1-5)

Braunbach House

14615 Densmore St. (Zig Zag Rd. Albion)

Daniel Brown was born in Columbia County, NY in 1787. In 1800 Daniel's father, Benjamin, moved his family to Canada. There Daniel married Mary Willsea in 1807. When the War of 1812 began, Daniel refused to bear arms against his native United States. He was tried for treason but was acquitted. Daniel moved his family to Gaines in 1816. He was remembered as a man of integrity and was much respected in the town. Mr. Brown was supervisor of Gaines in 1844.

The Brown's cobblestone home was built of round and oval, water-rounded stones set in the recessed hexagonal pattern with limestone quoins. This mid-1830's home at one time had the addition of wooden wings on each end which have since been removed.

Kenneth and Maryanne Braunbach purchased this country residence around twenty five years ago and have added a rear wing for a kitchen, dining area and family room. Here one will notice a cobblestone wall which was once outside. The house is tastefully decorated with antique appointments giving a charming appearance throughout.

SPECIAL THANKS

To all the home owners who have kindly opened their beautiful historic homes.

TOUR COMMITTEE

Mary Anne Braunbach
Delia Robinson

Andrea Rebeck
C.W. Lattin



#5 (Open 1–5)

DAR House

423 N. Main St. – Rt. 98 at Linwood Ave. Albion

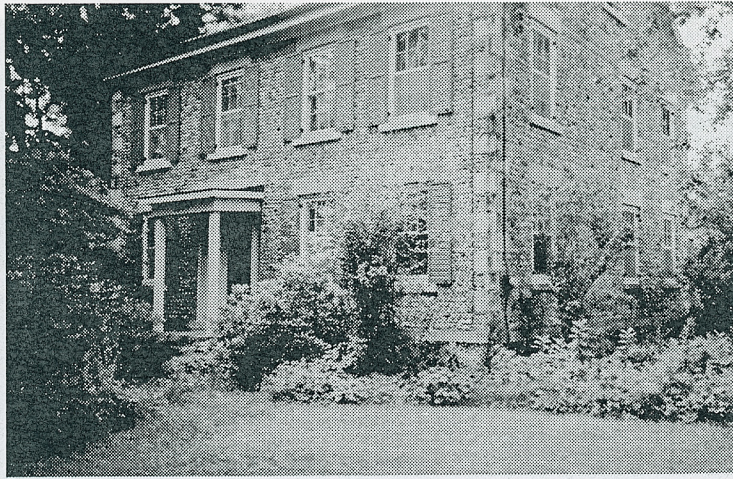
This imposing Greek Revival house was built in the mid 1840's, the earliest part being the rear kitchen wing. The property was purchased from John B. Lee by Orson Tousley and his wife Electa in 1848. Their daughter Florence married George B. Church and upon her father's death George and Florence Church inherited the house. The house continued in the Church family until 1929 when it was purchased by Emma Reed Webster who had it remodeled for meeting rooms and a museum. Mrs. Webster then gave the property to the Orleans Chapter DAR in September 1929.

There are many superb architectural details in this house. The stair case and landing supported by four doric pillars is very unusual. The arrangement of the wing and main body of the house is very similar to the Ames Cobblestone house on this tour. Note that both have extremely thick front doors and that the side porches are very much alike. It is perhaps likely both were constructed by the same builder. The main meeting room in this house would have originally been divided into three rooms with two adjoining parlors having double doors between and perhaps a small bed room in the rear. The south wing may also have been divided into two rooms. The bay window would have been added in the 1870's and the fireplace in it was put there in 1929.

The second floor contains a small museum housing artifacts relating to people from this area going back to early settlement times. The DAR is to be greatly commended for maintaining all the exterior details of this historic property. That includes all wooden trim neatly painted, all the original window sash and all the original window blinds (shutters). At this point in time it is a rarity to find such a structure with so much exterior integrity. So often the modern day window and siding salesmen win out and in the long run historic properties are often devalued by new windows and vinyl siding. Even brick houses don't seem to be exempt from the latter.

The following story known as "The Cock and The Jewel" from Aesop's Fables puts the disregard many people have for historic architectural treasures into perspective.

"As a Cock was scratching up the straw in a farm-yard, in search of food for the hens, he hit upon a Jewel that by some chance had found its way there. "Ho!" said he, "you are a very fine thing, no doubt, to those who prize you: but give me a barley-corn before all the pearls in the world." The Cock was a sensible Cock: but there are many silly people who despise what is precious only because they cannot understand it."



#6 (Open 1-5)

Sepik – Jakubowski House

3278 Oak Orchard Rd. – Rt. 98

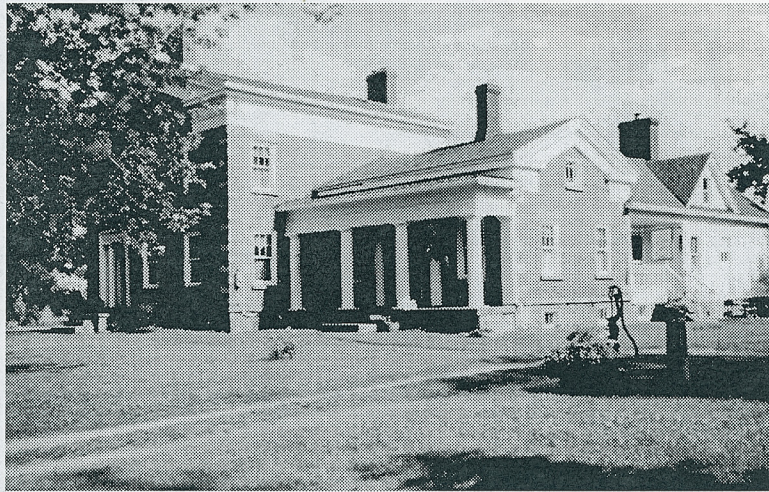
Samuel Hill was born in Barrington, NY in 1793. In 1815 he married Olive Knight. The Hills came to Gaines in the spring of 1823, where their first home was a log cabin. In Judge Signor's, Landmarks of Orleans County is found a history written by Mr. Hill which states, "Beginning with little, we have by hard labor, strict economy, and the blessings of God, succeeded in securing a comfortable home and a competence of this world's goods."

The Hills' home was built in the late 1830's of field cobbles. High on the front wall between the tops of the second floor windows is the herringbone pattern. On the side walls the mason used the recessed hexagonal pattern.

By the early 1950's this house had become derelict when Ben Weilhamer purchased it and saved it from ruin. It was he who had built a fireplace in the 1950's using field stone as a decorative feature.

The present owners Gretchen Murray Sepik and spouse Walter Jakubowski have lived here for over two decades having purchased the house from her mother, Virginia Kildoo. They have carefully maintained and done restoration work appropriately as needed. One is impressed with the ambiance of gracious charm throughout.





#7 (Open 1-5)

Ames House

14268 Ridge Rd. – Rt. 104

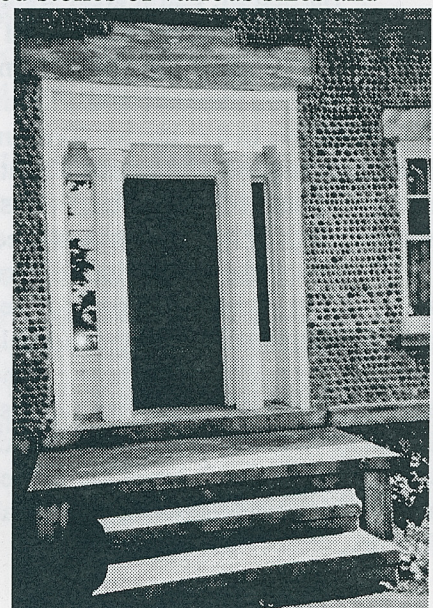
Noah and Polly Burgess were two of the earliest settlers in Gaines, coming in 1809. Noah was ill when they arrived on the frontier, and it was Polly, with the help of Elizabeth Gilbert, who built the Burgess' log cabin. The Burgesses ran a tavern in their home, and Polly set out the first apple orchard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

The Burgesses built their large, impressive Greek Revival 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 carpenter's 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 recessed hexagonal pattern was used.

Theresa Ames acquired this most impressive cobblestone residence around three years ago. It is by far one of the best examples of Greek Revival architecture in the town of Gaines let along the fact that it is also a primary example of cobblestone masonry. During the present owners 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 stair case are architectural features to be remembered.

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





#8 (Open 1-5)

Lattin House

3178 Gaines Basin Rd. Albion

William, Judith and Brigadier Bullard settled in Gaines in 1812. David Bullard, their father, born in Dedham, Massachusetts, in 1761, brought the rest of his family and settled in Gaines in 1816. Brigadier Bullard, who married Lovina Parker, first bought the land on which this house stands. The Bullards' cobbleshone home was built in 1842 by their nephew, Cyrus Witheral, a cobbleshone mason. Brigadier's sister, Judith, had married John Witheral, and their son, born in 1817, was Cyrus. Family stories in the Cobbleshone Resource Center files tell that Brigadier's son, John, who lived to be 95, remembered helping to gather the stones from Lake Ontario shores when twelve years of age. The house, like many others, was definitely a family project.

The cottage-style, Greek Revival home was built with a mixture of water-washed and field cobbles of various sizes and colors, laid in the standard pattern. The quoins are sandstone, as are the lintels and sills. When completed it was just a stone house with no additions. In fact it did not have a formal dining room but rather a very large kitchen where the family ate.

Bartlett M. Lattin great grandfather of the present owner C.W. Lattin bought the property in 1885. It was B.M. Lattin who added the wood wing to the rear for a dining room and kitchen. He and his four daughters and one son moved here in 1886 just after his wife died.

In 1902 the son Nahum Lattin and his wife Sophia moved to this house after making some major changes to the interior division of space. In 1952 Cary and Avis Lattin and their son moved into the house and again made alterations to the interior use of space. In 2008-2009 C.W. Lattin has taken the house somewhat back to its 1902 arrangement of interior space. The porch added in 1902 and torn off in 1952 has thus now been restored.

The parlor and parlor bedroom contain furnishings mostly all prior to 1870 which give a sense of how these rooms could have looked during the Civil War era. Because the parlor was the best room it therefore has the most elaborate original Greek revival woodwork found in this house.

One oddity of the house is the front entrance where the side light window on the left was built as a fake while the one on the right is exposed giving light to the front hall. In other words this nice Greek Revival doorway is symmetrical on the outside but asymmetrical on the inside. The frieze windows ("belly windows") in the second story are covered with cast iron grills in Gothic Revival style. This particular design is primarily found locally which suggests they were made in a nearby foundry.



#9 (Not Open)

Bruning House

13756 Ridge Rd. – Rt. 104

Robert Anderson, born in Ira, Vermont, in 1787, settled in Gaines in 1812. His first wife, whose maiden name was Whipple, died in 1821. His second wife, Roxana Lamb, of Bridgewater, Vermont, died in 1837. Mr. Anderson's house was built in the 1830's. The wing was added on the west side in 1859 as a living space for Robert, after he had sold the house to his only living son, Nahum. The cobblestone mason was Cyrus Witheral.

The main house was built with fieldstone in various sizes, shapes and colors. The horizontal joints are a wavy V; the vertical joints vary from a V to no embellishment. The quoins are gray limestone, roughly squared, while the lintels are brick, laid horizontally.

Built in 1859, the wing is constructed of carefully-selected, rounded, water-washed stones of various colors, shapes and sizes. Both horizontal and vertical mortar joints are V'd. The quoins are red sandstone.

The main part of this house looks very much like the masonry work at the Cobblestone Church. The wing of 1859 by Witheral has masonry characteristics not unlike the detail work on the Lattin house. The Italianate porch across the front with all its wooden details and sandstone floor is from 1859. The high pitched roof with fish scale shingles in the gables on this original part of the house was a replacement roof system added in the early 20th century.

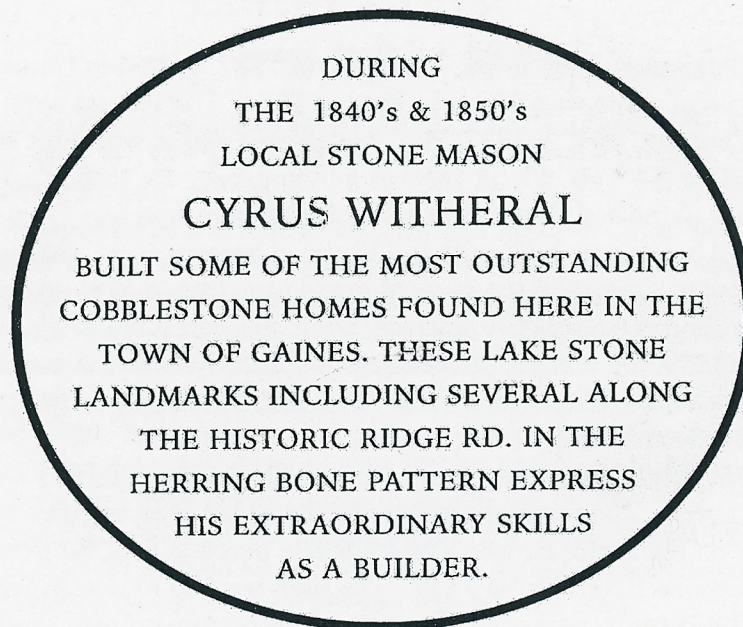
Although not open we have included this unique dwelling for several reasons. First it has many unique architectural characteristics good for comparative purposes. Secondly we've included this home because of its local history. Robert Anderson was the second supervisor of Gaines and the first chairman of the Orleans County Board of Supervisors. Nahum Anderson his son was also a Gaines Supervisor. Local legend though descendants of Nahum Anderson indicates that he moved slaves at night in a wagon and used his home as a stop on the underground railroad, harboring these individuals in the original basement kitchen. It's a known fact that Nahum Anderson was an abolitionist so perhaps the legend has some validity.

#10 (Open)

Otter Creek Cemetery

Rt 104, between Allen's Bridge Road and Eagle Harbor Road

This is the grave site of Cyrus Witheral 1817 – 1893 He was the son of James Witheral and English emigrant also a stone mason. Recently the headstone for Cyrus has been marked with a historic bronze plate which indicates the following:



Otter Creek Cemetery was incorporated in 1888, however burials began here much earlier in the area of the Witheral grave. In 2003 the cemetery was turned over to the Town of Gaines and remains as an active cemetery today.