

### COBBLESTONE CRAFT FROM ENGLAND

The Northfield Lodge building was constructed by Samuel Lee Crump, a stonemason who emigrated to Rochester from Hadlow, County Kent, England, in 1842.

Not only had he learned the stonemason's trade in England, but it also appears that he had worked on cobblestone-like structures in his native England. Southeastern England has a number of beach flint cobble buildings from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Crump's emigration was probably quite typical for the time. Born in 1817, he was 25 years old when he married and set sail for America. His wife's uncle, William Cutting, was an established blacksmith and veterinarian in Rochester, and he provided them with their first lodging.

After their arrival in New York City, the young couple travelled up the Hudson River to Albany and then by Erie Canal boat to Rochester, passing through Pittsford on the way.

Family tradition relates that on arrival or shortly thereafter, Crump heard that Pittsford was to build a village school. Due to his trade, his wife's uncle would have been in a good position to learn of such news from nearby Erie Canal communities.

Crump walked from Rochester to Pittsford, secured the building contract for what was to become the Cobblestone Academy, and then settled near the Four Corners.

Crump remained in Pittsford and built other cobblestone structures in the area before his death in 1884. He is buried in Pittsford Cemetery and is survived by descendants who still live in the town.

It is thought that cobblestone building came originally to this area from English masons who constructed stoneworks on the Erie Canal from 1817 to 1825.

With the waterway finished and local farmers newly enriched with cash crops made possible by the the canal's cheap transportation, these masons found new work using the abundant cobblestones of the area, a building material similar to the beach flint cobbles of southeastern England. It is likely that at least some of the immigrant masons were familiar with this type of building.