

member of the family heard a noise during the night, but supposed it was some one belonging to the house. It is believed that the robbers were concealed in the house during the day, or else must have entered through the side window. Mr. Randall offers a reward of \$100 for the recovery of the property and the apprehension of the thief.

New Labor Saving Machine

One of the institutions of the country, is a new invention in the shape of a Clothes Wringer, patented by Messrs. Lanphear & Barrett, of Ohio, and which is for sale by Messrs. Johnson & Atkins, who have the agency of this and adjoining counties. It has proved itself to be a real blessing to the Housekeeper. It saves three-fourths the time in wringing clothes. It saves the clothes by pressing the water out, instead of twisting them. This consideration alone ought to sell the Machine in every family. It presses the water out more thoroughly than it can be done by hand; yet so tenderly that a Bank Bill can be soaked in water and run through without the least injury . . .

In the same issue we learn that General McClellan had just taken Williamsburg — and optimistically was beginning his ill-fated push to Richmond.

*** Cobblestone Architecture** **Topic of** **January 11 Meeting**

Meeting in the Seminar Room

of the College Library building on January 11, thirty members of the Historical Society enjoyed an authoritative talk on "Cobblestone Architecture in Western New York." The speaker, Robert Frasch, is president of The Cobblestone Society, teaches history at Cortland State College, and is a member of the local Historical Society. He illustrated his lecture with color slides showing numerous examples and close-up details of cobblestone buildings, a very few of which are standing in Cortland County.

Construction of buildings with cobblestone masonry walls began near Rochester in the middle 1820's and continued into the 1860's, when higher labor costs forced abandonment of this handicraft industry. During these decades a few hundred such structures were erected, largely in central western New York State, and a few others from New England to Wisconsin and Ontario.

With the aid of his pictures, Mr. Frasch showed that each mason had his own method of laying stones and applying mortar, which was home made. Most stones used were glacially rounded and deposited field stones, although counties near Lake Ontario had available stones of similar origin but which had been further rounded and reduced in size by wave action. These latter, thought to be especially decorative, sometimes were used for front sides. Selected colors, shapes, and sizes, when combined with individual

techniques of laying, resulted in noticeable variety of appearance.

Early work was rather rough, according to the speaker, and, furthermore, distinctive architectural style was lacking. Later there was more uniformity of stones and more careful cutting of square and oblong corner stones. As Greek revival structures became popular, Western N. Y. added to it cobblestone construction. In the late 1840's and 1850's cobblestone masonry was used in conjunction with the Gothic revival style. By this time techniques had improved to the point of being almost too perfect and "fussy", thereby losing some of the former beauty. A unique New York State double contribution to architecture was the cobblestone octagon house. Other cobblestone structures included stores and other business buildings, inns, and churches, the latter of which Cortland has an excellent example.

Mr. Frasch also explained that The Cobblestone Society is dedicated to preservation of cobblestone architecture in America,

and that by publicizing the same they hope to encourage correct restoration of remaining structures rather than negligence, modernization, or alteration of them, thus destroying their charm.

The speaker was introduced by the president, Roger Heppell. Prior to the talk, annual reports were presented by Miss Dorothy Graves, secretary, M. Elwyn Jackson, treasurer, and Mrs. Jackson, executive secretary.

LOCAL HISTORIANS

During the Local Historians' meeting in the morning, reports were presented by Mrs. Walter Wheeler for Cincinnatus, Mrs. Arthur Curtis for Cuyler, and Mrs. John Feeter for Truxton. Also heard from were Mrs. Elwyn Jackson, secretary for Local Historians, and R. Curtis Harris, who is seeking material on local agriculture in the post-Civil War period. In lieu of a chairman, Roger Heppell presided at the meeting.