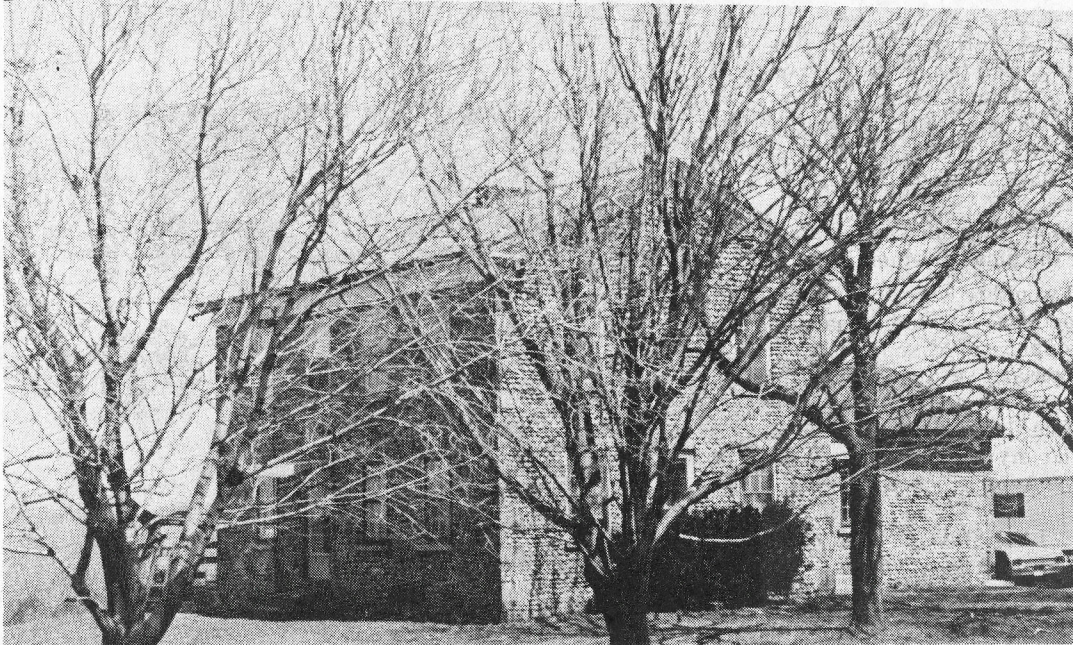


3-31-76

Blodgett Zehler Home Greet Springtime Eyes



BLODGETT-ZEHLER HOUSE-- is on the Ridge in Murray. It is 136 years old.

By William Aeberli

A number of years ago, shade trees were planted to provide a natural curtain for the old Blodgett-Zehler cobblestone, a Middle Period farm house built in 1840.

It is located on the north slope of the Ridge a short distance east of Murray Corners, some 19 miles from Rochester.

At present, the Robert Zehler family owns the property and resides here. However, their stone dwelling is "off-limits" to the inquisitive camera lens for the greater part of the year or until the leaves turn color and drop to the ground.

But a little patience rewards itself. When Springtime arrives along the Ridge and the trees have just begun to bud, this short interim to examine the house has a picturesque quality to it.

The soft light of mid-day filters unopposed through the branches of the front trees and illuminates the side walls of the house and east wing facing the road with a yellowish or light ochre hue. The shadows of the trees, superimposed against a backdrop of partially rounded fieldstones, varying in height and length, add a finishing touch to the rustic architecture.

The old time mason was clever in breaking up the multiple courses by adding continuity with thin, lake-washed stones, laid horizontally every fourth course in the quoin's division.

The original owner preferred to front his house facing due west instead of the Ridge (not common). Undoubtedly the east wing, which was built at the same time the larger portion of the

house was erected, is the most popular entrance to the dwelling.

Information about the history of the cobblestone was given by Mrs. Chester Wilson of the Hulberton Road, Murray's historian in absence of the owners.

The time I had chosen for direct inquiries during one of my various Ridge Road tours found the Zehlers not at home. This later became known to me when I knocked at the east wing door.

A short biography of the original owner states that Elisha Blodgett was born in Middleburgh, Vt. in 1787. Her father, Samuel Blodgett, served in the Revolutionary War and twice was captured by the Indians. Elisha came from Vermont in 1810 and settled in Henrietta, where he remained until 1822.

That year, he came to

Murray and settled on the Ridge east of Sandy Creek. For many years he was industrially engaged in the stave business, buying and shipping large quantities by canal boat to eastern cities.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Holley and was married to Lois Cowles. They had three daughters and one son. Son, Hiram settled in Kendall and was engaged in farming. Elisha Blodgett died in 1856.