

COBBLESTONE HOUSES & LEGENDS

(1) MORGAN JOHNSON HOUSE:

The Morgan Johnson House, just south of the village on route 425, was built in 1844 by Captain Morgan Johnson of the "Millie Cook". Architectually, it is one of the finest of all the cobblestone houses in the township.

The recessed center entrance is approached by limestone steps flanked by recumbent stone consoles that act as low railings. Two stone columns with circular Doric caps support the massive stone lintel and stone cornice. Windows retain the original small paned wood sash, and a beautiful circular staircase is centered in the hall.

A 500lb. anchor on the lawn was lost from the schooner, Franklin Pierce, in 1840. It was found off the Wilson Townline Pier in 1857 and acquired by Mr. E. E. Stevens who owned the house at that time. The anchor is one of the last relics of the period when Wilson was a great shipbuilding and lumber shipping Port.

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(2) THE AIKEN HOUSE:

Built for William and Harriet Aiken ca. 1860, it has an unusual pattern of ribbed fieldstone with larger ones covering the back and sides of the house. When Mr. William Demmin purchased it in 1914, he uncovered the remains of a large fireplace and oven while doing some remodeling.

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(3) THE ADRIANCE HOUSE:

The Thomas Adriance house built in 1835 is a good example of fieldstone construction. His son, William, enlisted in the 28th Infantry Regiment during the Civil War, and was captured near Winchester, Va., in 1862. His name was engraved on the Naval 36 Cal. Colt pistol which was taken from him, "William Adriance 3rd Reg., Lockport, NY." One hundred years later it was recovered by Robert Stapleton on the bed of the Yaquina River, Oregon. He contacted the Niagara Co. Hist. Soc. in Lockport, and the pistol has been returned to a grand niece of Sgt. Adriance's.

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(4) WILLIAM WOODCOCK HOUSE:

The house was built on the north side of the Marsh Settlement Rd. (Chestnut) in 1836. Stones were brought by wagon from Lake Ontario over trails cut through the woods. It was a difficult task when one considers that the East Wilson area, at that time, was covered with great swamps and bears and wolves roamed about freely.

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(5) JESSE SMITH HOUSE:

The Jesse Smith house was built in 1833 and is known as a "Greek Revival". Stones for the facing are English cut--stones cut in two with the flat side exposed on the outer wall. They are approximately 4" wide and laid in the same manner as those used in regular cobblestone construction.

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(6) WILLIAM WILSON HOUSE:

The William Wilson home was built in 1861, and the facing on the building is laid with English cut stones morticed with limestone. Stones used were hauled by wagon from the Lake Ontario shore, and when it was completed it was occupied by two families consisting of 13 people.

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(7) JAMES MORSE HOUSE:

Built about 1845, the James Morse house features the typical farm house plan of Western New York. Walls are faced with grey and brown cobblestones, and the cornice is Greek Revival. Windows are capped with stone-label moldings fashioned at Lockport in English Gothic style.

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(8) THE EXLEY HOUSE:

This house is constructed with fieldstone with the corner quoins standing out in sharp contrast. The original house was built with many additional rooms, but by 1922, 13 of them had been removed.

The Exley name was given to the Methodist-Episcopal Church in Wilson when two farms and a substantial cash gift was given by the family to build the present brick edifice in 1884. In later years, it was said the Exleys kept cans of money in the floor of an upstairs bedroom.

(9) CLINTON PETTIT HOUSE:

Built ca. 1835, the Pettit house was constructed from fieldstone cobbles of various sizes and colors. The quoins, window sills and lintels are of grey limestone. It is a simple Greek Revival farmhouse with a one and a half story main section parallel to the highway. A one story wing on the south side also is parallel to the road.

The house was the boyhood home of Ira Pettit who died in Andersonville prison during the Civil War. His story was the subject of a novel by Jean P. Ray titled, "Diary of a Deadman". Copies are available at the Wilson Museum.

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(10) THE J. WHITLOCK HOME:

This home, built ca. 1835, is separated from the highway by a dry-wall stone wall. The water washed cobbles are mainly grey and brown, and smaller on the front than the sides. The main entrance features a pair of Doric columns, and the grilles over the belly windows in the cornice are made of wood—which was unusual. The cut stone are all grey limestone.

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(11) LUTHER WILSON HOUSE:

This cobblestone structure, built in 1844, was the home of Luther Wilson, and was built on the site of the 1st log schoolhouse in the village. It is of grey, water-washed cobbles with grey limestone lintels, sills, and quoins.

In 1890, an unusual double funeral was held in the home for Luther, 92, and his son Reuben F., 68. For many years the historic home was known as the Wilsonian Club, and since 1947 has been used as a hotel and restaurant.

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(12) THE CASE HOMESTEAD:

The Case Homestead was built ca. 1835 from lake-washed cobblestones of various sizes and colors. The quoins are red sandstone and the lintels and sill are grey sandstone. The deep silled windows give evidence of the 20" walls around the house. It is patterned after the Dutch Colonial style.

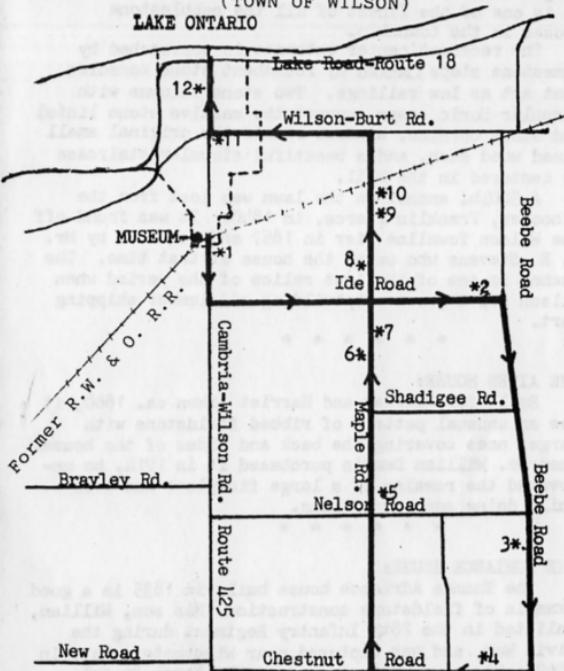
The story is told how in the early 1800's Rachel Case gathered the cobbles on the lakeshore and carried them in her apron to the building site.

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COBBLESTONE HOUSES AND LEGENDS

(TOWN OF WILSON)

LAKE ONTARIO



#1	Morgan Johnson House	#7	James Morse House
#2	Aiken House	#8	Exley House
#3	Adriance House	#9	Clinton Pettit House
#4	Wm. Woodcock House	#10	J. Whitlock Home
#5	Jesse Smith House	#11	The Wilson House
#6	William Wilson House	#12	The Case Homestead