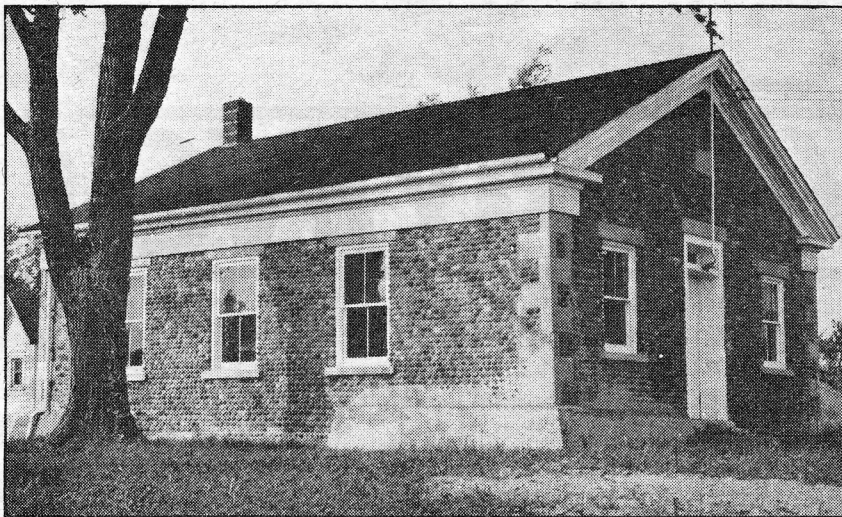


Upstate



A former schoolhouse, this cobblestone is now the town of Chili Museum on Scottsville Road. The building is more than 150 years old.

Made of stone

Never let it be said that upstate has a scarcity of buildings of architectural significance, for there is a kind of building here that is seen almost nowhere else — the cobblestone. A cobblestone is a smoothly rounded stone, 2½ to 10 inches in diameter; a cobblestone structure is one that has stones of uniform size laid in straight rows.

Ninety percent of all cobblestone buildings in existence are within a 60-mile radius of Roches-

ter. There are more than 700 of them in New York state, with the greatest concentration in Wayne County (150). Many cobblestone structures in other areas were built by former residents of this area.

Why were so many built near here? The right combination of materials and skill existed here from 1825 to about 1865. The cobblestones came from Lake Ontario, which once extended as far as Ridge Road and left behind nicely washed and smoothed stones as it receded. The skill was

the contribution of masons who had worked on the Erie Canal building locks and bridge abutments; they settled in the area when this work was completed.

A drive along Ridge Road is a rewarding way to spend a Sunday afternoon if architecture turns you on. If you would like to see what some of these buildings look like inside, visit the Cobblestone Museum, open from 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

The museum, located on West Ridge Road (Route 104) in Childs, consists of a cobblestone church and school; a blacksmith shop, print shop and exhibit of farm implements are housed in old frame buildings.

If you want to know where to find other cobblestone buildings, buy a copy of *Cobblestone Landmarks of New York State* while you're there. It has more than 100 photographs.

Mark your calendar to remind yourself of coming events at the museum:

- Sunday, July 5, 11 a.m. — Patriotic program.
- Saturday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Flea market.
- Sept. 12 — Cobblestone house tour.
- Sunday, Oct. 18, 1 to 5 p.m. — Pumpkin festival.

— Darlene Finch Wright