

A UNIQUE HISTORY

THE COBBLESTONE STORE AT PINE WOODS



By Jim Ford

THE COBBLESTONE STORE

For over 175 years, the beautiful cobblestone building at Pine Woods has been a focal point of the area. The history of the building is a fascinating piece of local lore. Many businesses have been conducted in the building, each one adding a new perspective to the story. By searching area newspapers and with the help of a number of individuals, we are now able to present the story of this historic structure.

The history of Pine Woods dates back to 1792. Pioneer names such as John and James Salisbury from Vermont and Joshua Leland from Massachusetts are written in the records. Today, we still have Leland's Pond named for Mr. Leland.

The community of Pine Woods quickly grew because of its location on the intersection of the Third Great Western Turnpike and Rt. 46. (The turnpike name was changed to the Cherry Valley Turnpike and later still to U.S. Rt. 20.) A number of businesses were established in Pine Woods and they attracted customers from the area farms.

Let's take a look at the history of one of the structures located in Pine Woods, one that is rich in a very "unique history."

OWNERS OF THE COBBLESTONE BUILDING

It is very hard to get the exact listing of the owners of the building, but area newspapers and family information have helped in the search. In some cases, the dates are approximated.

1844 – C.T. Howard – The dedication stone on the side of the building states that the structure was built by Stevens and Hartwell for C.T. Howard. Perhaps Mr. Howard had the building constructed so that he could sell it because records show that Lachlin McQuien owned the building in 1844 and had a harness and wagon shop.

1844 – Lachlin McQuien – Operated a harness and wagon shop in the building.

1850's – D.B. & J.T. Stevens – The Stevens family was very prominent in Pine Woods. These two gentlemen were perhaps relatives of the builder of the structure.

1860's – Orlando Crandall – Newspaper articles tell of Mr. Crandall's blacksmith shop.

1880's – Frank Wiltse – Frank was a member of the famous baseball-playing Wiltse family. In the 1880 United States Census he is 20 years old and is listed as a farmer. In the 1900 U.S. Census he is again listed as a farmer and is also divorced. The 1890 U.S. Census records were destroyed, but in that 20 years, Frank evidently married, divorced, and tried his hand at running a store before returning to the trade of farming.

c.1885 – E.P. Embury – Mr. Embury was the next to operate a store on the site. Accounts state that he ran a general store.

c.1890-1910 – Charlie Clark – The years that Charlie Clark owned the property seemed to be lively ones. The establishment was known locally as the “Cobblestone Tavern,” as well as the Pine Woods Hotel. Hop dances were held, wrestling matches were offered, and a pool room was located on the upper level of the building.

1910-1930 – Louie Marchand – Mr. Marchand ran the business for 20 years. He originally followed the practices of Charlie Clark, those being hotel, tavern, and local gathering spot. Lodge meetings were also held on the premises. During the ownership of both Charlie Clark and Louie Marchand, the sale of alcohol was prominent. The enactment of “Dry Town” legislation in the Town of Eaton in 1915 and the passage of the Volstead Act (Prohibition) in 1919, forced him to transition the hotel into a general store in 1922.

1930 – Albert Krebsler – The grocery store was continued under the management of Albert Krebsler. Also featured at the store was a butcher shop, an ice cream parlor and the sale of Texaco gasoline.

1955-1965 – Lillian Krebsler – Following the death of Albert Krebsler, Lillian continued to run the store. In an article featuring Rt. 20 businesses, she remarked that the building was constructed using various sizes of cobblestones, unlike the Landmark Tavern.

1969-1986 – Lillian and Stuart Shoemaker – The store saw a down period following Albert’s death. Lillian then married Stuart Shoemaker and the couple began displaying antiques and selling Lillian’s hand-made goods such as woven rugs. The name of the shop was Cobblestone Store – Gifts & Crafts.

1988-2001 – Jack and Dirinda Houghton – The Houghtons purchased the property from the estate of Lillian Shoemaker, following her death in 1985. They continued the line of antiques and named the shop – Cobblestone Store Antiques Shop.

2001-2014 – Bob Gustafson – Mr. Gustafson purchased the building from the Houghtons and continued the antique shop. As a part of the purchase, Bob had to keep the name – Cobblestone Store Antiques Shop.

2014 to present – Barry Hutchinson – In 2014 the current owner, Barry Hutchinson, purchased the building and renamed the business – Cobblestone Trading Company – Antiques and Specialty Goods. Mr. Hutchinson has done extensive work to the structure and now has plans to open an ice cream shop in the near future. The repair work and upgrades have been skillfully done by Eric Sutherland and the shop is capably managed by Elizabeth Gigliotti. It is certainly a stop that you must make in your journey to the Pine Woods/Bouckville area.

THE HISTORY OF THE BUILDING FROM NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

THE BUILDING IS CONSTRUCTED –

The beautiful cobblestone building was built in 1844 by Stevens and Hartwell. At the time it was built, it served as a harness and wagon shop and was owned by Lachlin McQuien. During the 1860's the building was home to a blacksmith shop operated by Orlando Crandall.

Madison County Leader and Observer – February 13, 1950

THE BLACKSMITH SHOP –

Orlando Crandall operated a blacksmith shop in the cobblestone building at Pine Woods in the 1860's.

Madison County Leader and Observer – June 13, 1929

THE MARCHAND FAMILY AND THEIR HOTEL –

During the days when the building served as a hotel, one of the later proprietors was the Louie Marchand family. They rented eight rooms on the second floor to visitors from the city areas. A kitchen was found in the back of the building. Boarders were picked up at the train station in Bouckville and brought to the hotel. Fishing excursions were arranged for the patrons to Leland Pond by Mr. and Mrs. Marchand.

Credit: Bob Gustafson archives – December 2010

HOP DANCES –

Landlord Clark will hold hop dances at the Cobblestone Tavern at Pine Woods on Wednesday and Friday evenings next and also on Friday evening September 4th. Groves' Orchestra furnishes the music. (This was Charlie Clark. Mr. Clark also had a pool room on the upper level of the building.)

Madison Observer – August 27, 1908

WRESTLING MATCH –

John Lamphere, the well-known New Hartford wrestler, will wrestle Clinton Maydole, of Capron, at the Pine Woods Hotel on Saturday evening for a purse of \$50. Maydole and Lamphere are said to be two of the best wrestlers in the state.

Madison Observer – October 28, 1909

BIG AUCTION AT PINE WOODS –

Because of a recent death in his family, Louie Marchand will sell at auction at the Pine Woods Hotel, on Thursday, May 18th, commencing at 10 o'clock, all of his personal property, including the furnishings of the hotel and his farming implements.

(The list of items to be sold was extensive but included were: 15 bushels of potatoes, 10 cords of firewood, a sausage grinder and stuffer, an Estey organ, 4 cider barrels, and 100 cans of fruit. Quite a variety of items!)

Madison County Leader and Observer – May 12, 1922

OTHER ITEMS – Prior to Albert Krebsler's Variety Store, there was one operated by Frank Wiltse. The Wiltse family grew up in Pecksport and became famous as baseball players for the Bouckville Summits. His brothers, Lewis and George made it to the major leagues in the early 1900's.

A Mr. Tibbitt's also had a repair shop in the building, although we do not know the date.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM NEWSPAPER ARTICLES –

Other early owners of the building were D.B. & J.T. Stevens and C.T. Howard. Following Frank Wiltse, E.P. Embury ran the general store there and sold to Louie Marchand. Following the passage of the Volstead Act in 1919 (Prohibition), Mr. Marchand transitioned his business to a grocery store and then sold his business to Albert Krebsler in 1930. Mr. Krebsler ran a grocery store, initially under his management, and then from 1955 to 1965 by Miss Lillian Krebsler, following the death of Albert Krebsler. (From the auction in 1922 until the sale to Mr. Krebsler, it seems the store was closed for approximately eight years.)

The Mid-York Weekly – January 21, 1965

Among the historic items on display at the Saratoga Springs Public Library relative to Abraham Lincoln is a copy of the front page of the New York Herald of April 18, 1865, the day that President Lincoln was assassinated.

It was presented to the library by Leon M. Woodworth, whose grandfather, Louis Marchand, discovered it in 1911. He had purchased the cobblestone hotel at Pine Woods, near Hamilton, New York, and when ripping up some carpet, unearthed this paper among others used for padding.

Saratoga Springs Saratogian – February 2, 1960

MORE INFORMATION FOR THE HOTEL STORY

You can see that the correct spelling is McQuien, not McQueen. The spelling of the road sign nearby also gives a wrong spelling.

An original sign for the shop stated – Wagons – Harness – Blacksmith – Horses Shod

In a letter from Lachlin McQuien to his son John – dated November 19, 1860 –

Mr. McQuien stated that he was making cider. He purchased the machinery from Col. Leland for \$18.00. He received one wheel with 36 weight casting, one good press and one good vat that will hold 18-20 barrels of cider.

He also stated in the letter that he was buying apples at 8 cents per bushel and selling the finished cider for \$1.00 per barrel.

Further items were: He had gotten the crops harvested in good order and sold the hops too soon, but they nevertheless came to a little over \$400.00

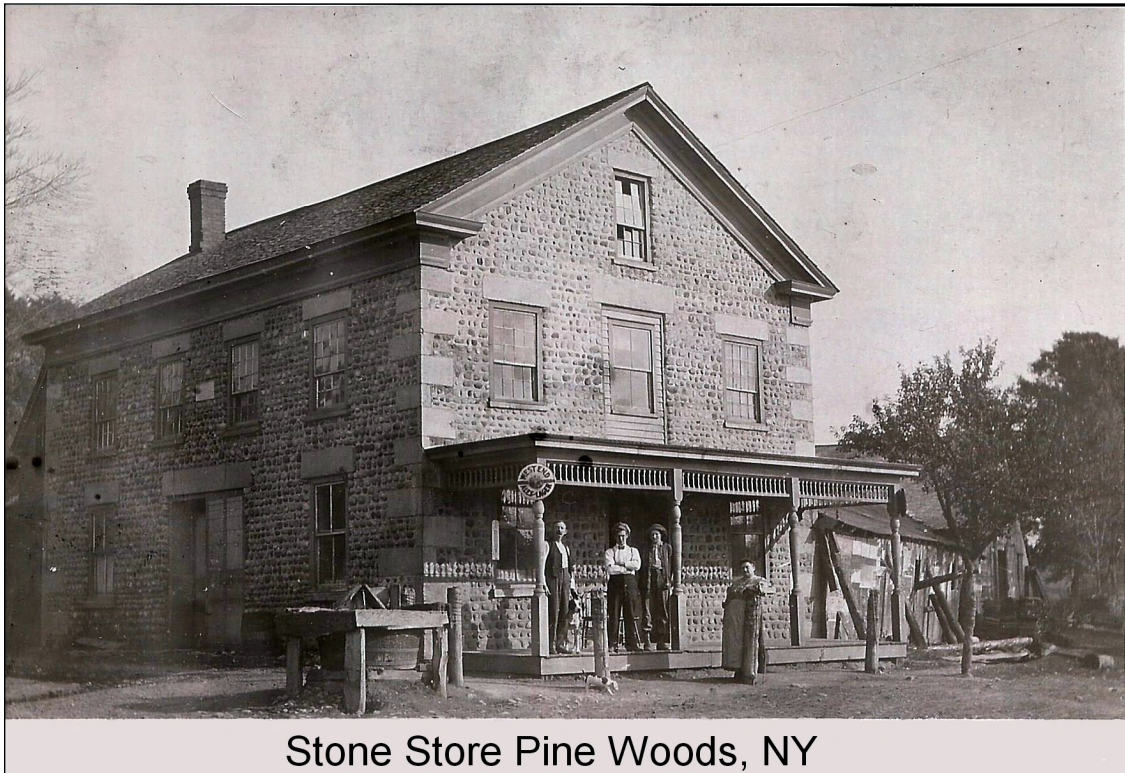
It was also mentioned that Hon. Henry, a good lawyer at Hamilton, died in fit and was buried two days ago.

Credit: A letter in the possession of Bob Gustafson – December 2010

UPDATE TO THE STORY OF THE STORE –

Dirinda Houghton told the author that there used to be a house behind the building, which has now been taken down. The work for Mr. Hutchinson, the current owner, has been done by Mr. Eric Sutherland. The business is now open to the public.

The current name for the business is: The Cobblestone Trading Company – Antiques and Specialty Goods. They also have an ice cream stand – delicious!



Stone Store Pine Woods, NY

Charlie Clark on the left and his wife on the right. C.1900