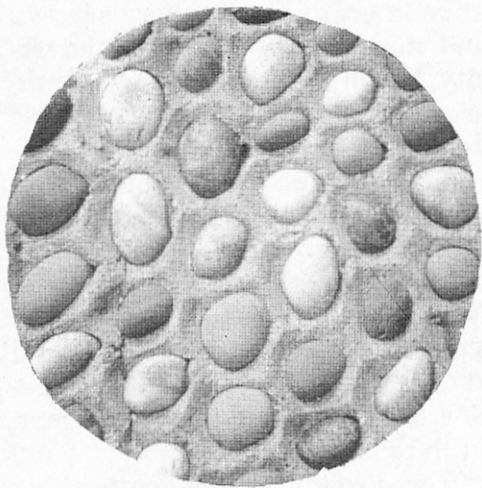


Cobblestones came from Lake Iroquois



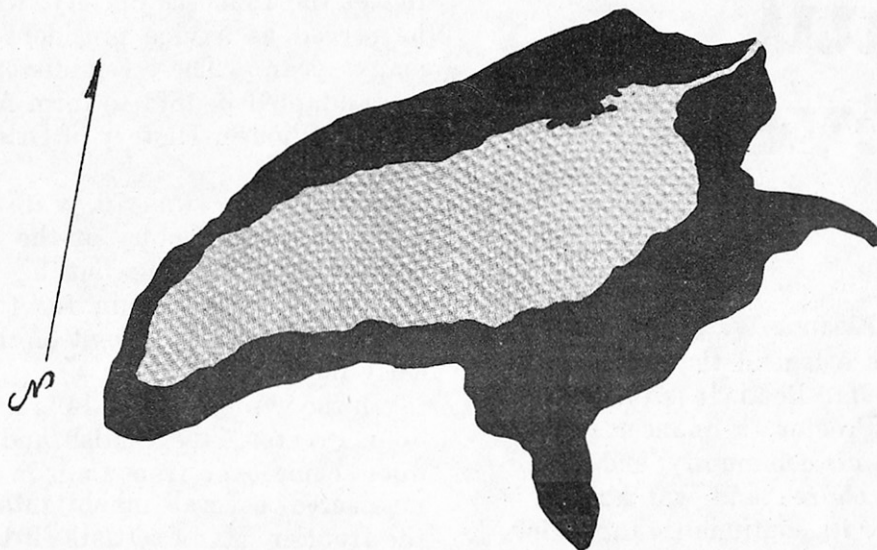
by J. Howard Pratt

There is no other road in all America like the hundred mile ridge of land beginning at the Niagara River and extending beyond the Genesee far into Wayne County.

It is remarkable because of the action of the waves of old Lake Iroquois some ten or twelve thousand years ago. The waves worked for a period of perhaps a thousand years rolling over and over the stones of this beach with those brought from Canada by the Glacier. This rolling, washing and wearing produced the smooth, rounded cobblestones found so abundantly along the old shore.

To be sure the waves gave the ridge its clean sand and gravel needed in construction of our stone buildings. The other location of material for cobblestone construction is the present lake shore where we can still see the smoothing and polishing of the stones.

In some places along the Ridge the waves were very generous and



Cobblestones (left) were thought to have been gleaned from the shores of Lake Iroquois (black area) which once dwarfed the size of present-day Lake Ontario (shown within black area).

deposited great quantities of these stones. So many in fact that they obstructed the progress of the farmer. After gathering the stones the farmer disposed of them, therefore he used the refuse to build his home.

Some were hauled from the present lake shore but the majority of those used along the Ridge were of local origin. At the time of clearing the land of stone, many masons were looking for work due to the completion of the Erie Canal. They offered to build the settlers perm-

anent homes from the wastes of the fields. During the period from 1825, when the Canal was completed to 1855 our cobblestone legacy was constructed.

The above map shows old Lake Iroquois, the Ridge and the numerous locations of Cobblestone structures along the old shore. The Cobblestone Society invites you drive along this old highway, to study and enjoy these beautiful unique buildings of the past and to join with us in preserving them for the future.