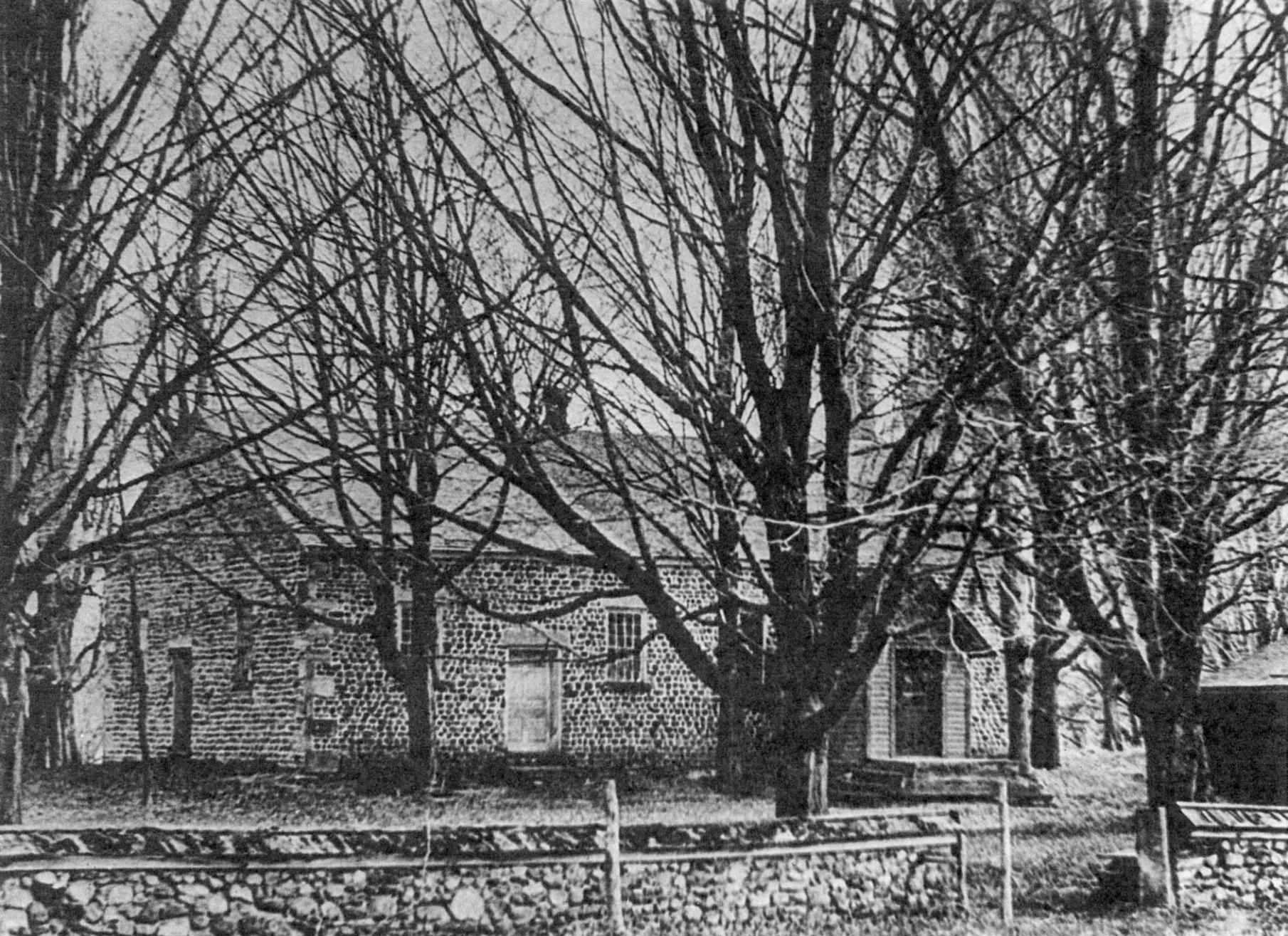




P1 Cobblehurst on the Ridge 1917



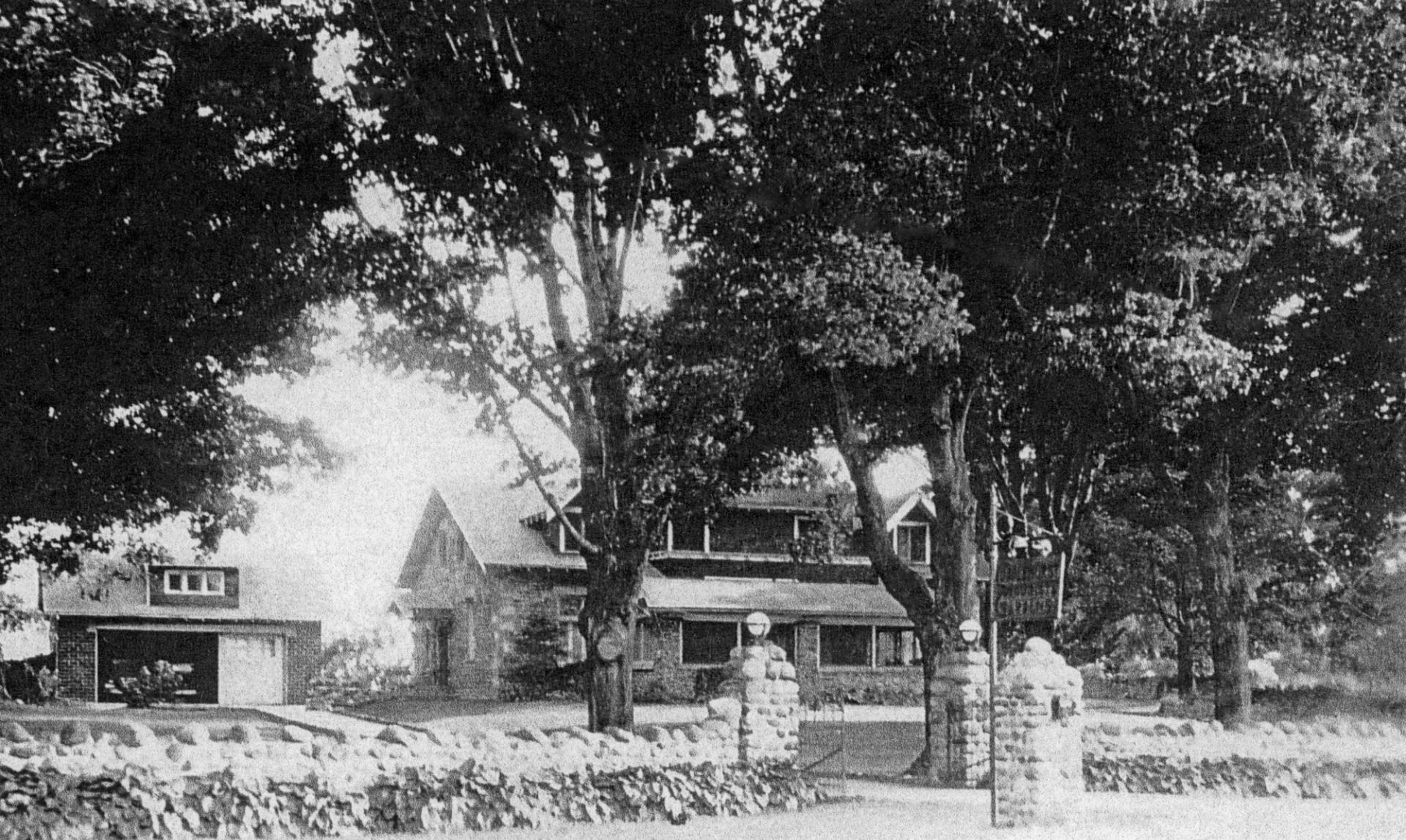
P2 Cobblehurst Quaker Meeting House built 1834



P3 Cobblehurst Quaker Meeting House built 1834



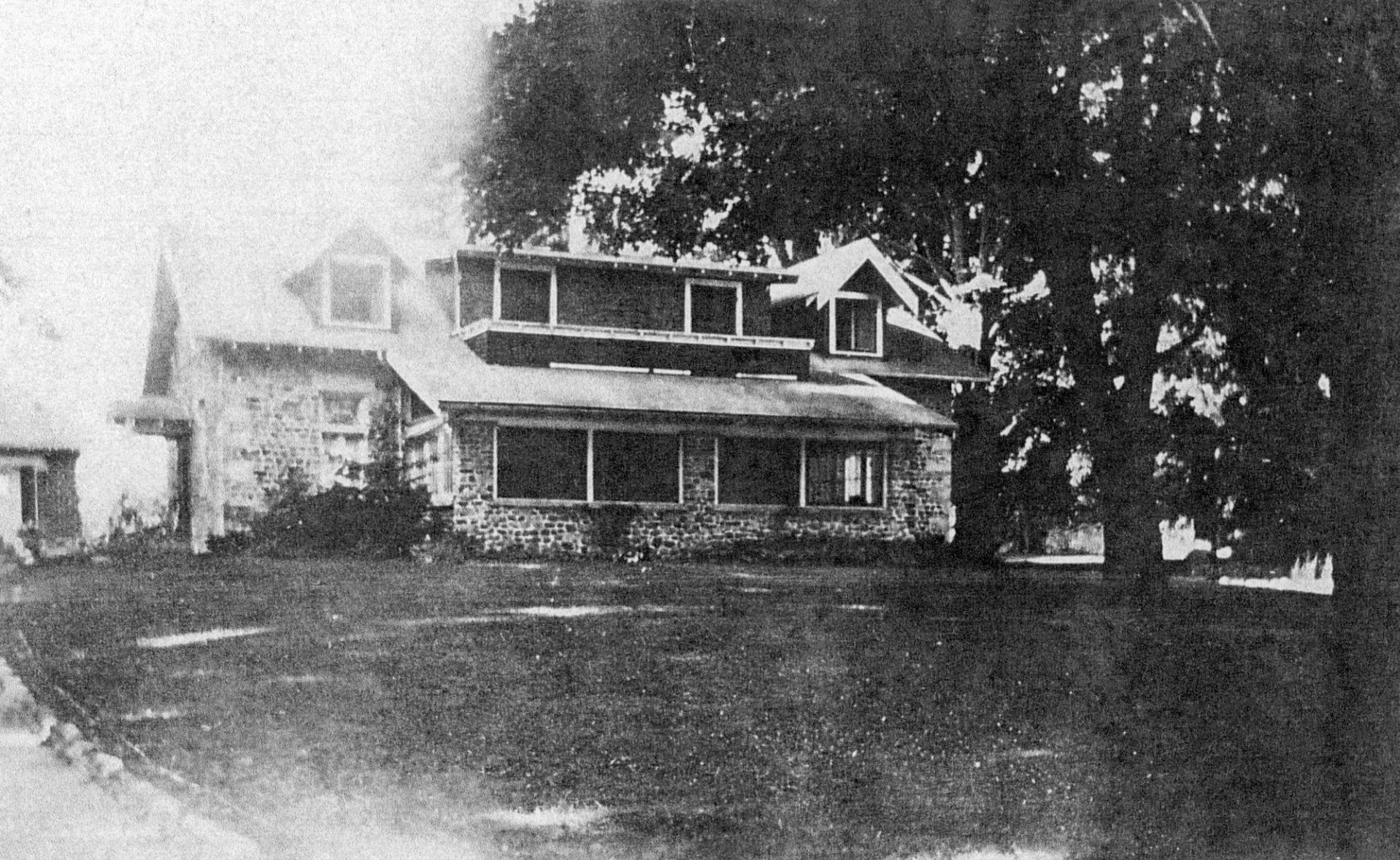
P4 Cobblestone Society of Friends Meeting House. Date unknown.



P5A Ridge Rd. view looking SW circa 1920s



P5B Ridge Rd. view looking SE circa 1920's



P5C Ridge Rd. view looking SW circa 1920s



P5D Ridge Rd. view looking SW circa 1920s



P6 Formal Gardens after 1917 remodelling, facing Ridge Rd. looking north

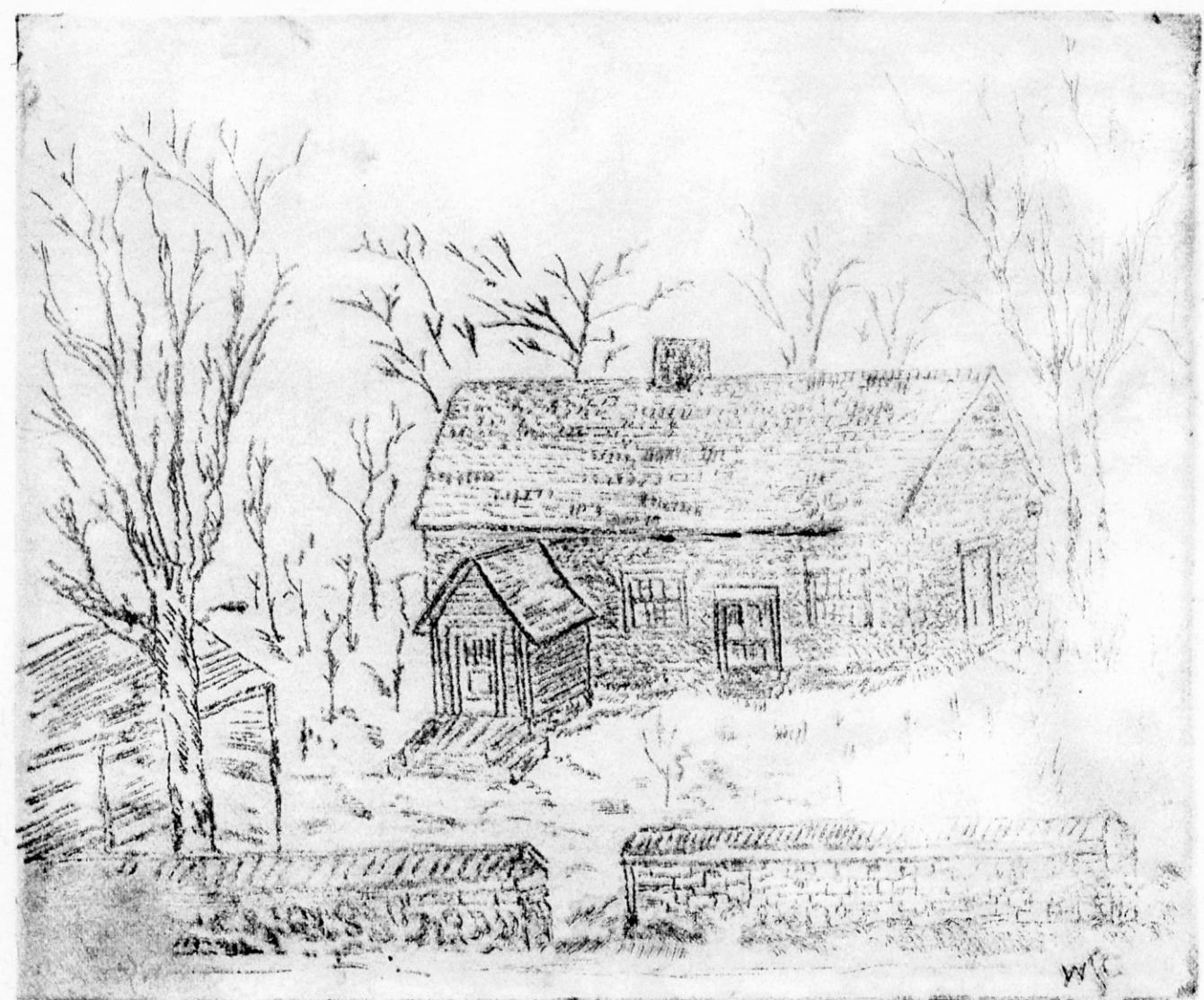
White sweet allysum and asters of all colors.



P7A View looking SE



**P7B Hand dug pond along stone fence** Family members, from right: 1st Papa, 3rd Aunt Emma, and 4th Mamma



P8 Copy of early carbon sketch depicting the 1834-36 era

## Cobblehurst

Cobblehurst has an interesting history. It is situated on Ridge Road, the ridge having been the shore of Lake Iroquois, when the lake was much larger, before the glaciers came through 50,000 years ago. Lake Ontario about 10 miles to the North is a condensed version of Lake Iroquois.

The ridge was a natural trail for the Indians, and the white settlers started settling the area in the mid 1700's, the trail became a road, and then a stage coach route, and finally Ridge Road.

Cobblehurst was erected in a two year period between 1834 and 1836, as a Quaker meeting house. The cobblestone construction was unique to an era of about 1830 to 1870; there are quite a few fine examples of cobblestone construction to be found along the ridge.

The Quakers used the building as their meeting house and the adjacent cemetery plot from 1836 to 1905, when they moved into new quarters in the village of Gasport, 5 miles away. When they used it there were just four walls and a center fireplace. The doors into the present swimming pool room were the men's and ladies separate doors.

The building sat vacant from 1905 until 1917 at which time it was purchased by a wealthy lady from Albion, NY named Mrs. Pratt. The written history of the house which has been passed from one owner to the next, states that Mrs. Pratt toured Europe for some ideas and brought back the fireplace utensils from Scotland. In any event, She spent a small fortune adding dormers so there could be a second floor, having a cellar hand dug under the existing building, adding the sun porch (now the swimming pool), the garage, and gardens, walls and driveway.

In the early 1920's the house became a tourist home with couples coming to spend several days for rest and relaxation. It was called "Cobblehurst on the Ridge", and we still have the guest book from that period, full of compliments on the cooking. Many of the guests were from hundreds of miles away, and were repeat customers over the years.

In the 30's, 40's, 50's, and early 60's, it served as home for 5 or 6 families. One grew Gladioli; one raised chickens; and it was a restaurant briefly, but mainly it was a home.

Barbara and Darrell Mantei bought it in 1967, when Eric was 7 and Beth was 5 years old. It has made a fine place for raising a family. When Beth was still a little girl she said she wanted to be married here. Today we are here to see that dream come true.

- written by Darrell Mantei

### Significance statement

I shall refer to the structure as "Cobblehurst", as that is what is known as locally.

Cobblehurst, as it was built originally, is a 60' x 40' early-era cobblestone building, erected in the years of 1834-1836 as a Quaker Church. Included in this application is a photograph of the building as it was during its church phase, from 1836 until 1905.

The Quakers buried their dead in the adjacent cemetery during that period.

Cobblehurst is situated on historic Ridge Road which was an ancient Indian trail, and a stagecoach road later, an important link from the Eastern U.S. to the Niagara Frontier, Canada and other western destinations.

In 1917, a Mrs. Pratt purchased the property and the abandoned church, and remodelled it with exquisite taste and much money. She had a cellar hand-dug under the building, built 5 ft. thick retaining walls in the cellar to support the foundation, added a second story by the construction of six dormers, built a cobblestone wall on the North and West sides of the property, added a pantry room, porches, patio, garage with apartment for "servants", and toolshed, all of which remain in good repair today.

(At great cost to the owner)

Inside, the house was done in "Mission" style, with the liberal use of oak in the stairway, baseboards, cupboards and built-in drawers and leaded glass wall cases. She appointed the house with several stained-glass windows, iron fireplace utensils from Scotland, three hanging 5-bulb bronze light fixtures from the Roycroft guild in East Aurora, NY. All the above remain in good shape and working order today.

After Mrs. Pratt passed from the scene, the house has been used as a bed & breakfast in the 1920s (the guest book is still here, full of compliments on the hospitality and the cuisine), also as a restaurant, as a gladiola farm, and as the broadcast site for a morning breakfast radio show.

Several families have called Cobblehurst home in the ensuing decades, and the present owners, Darrell and Barbara Mantei, have lived and raised their children at Cobblehurst since purchasing it from the William Webster family in 1967.

(Written by Darrell Mantei on July 1, 2000)

\* 1920 LETTER OF A HIRED HELP THAT BUILT COBBLEHURST.  
L.J. LANDERS - EXPLANATION OF HOW HE BUILT THE ESTATE  
1121 E 24th St.  
NATIONAL CITY, CAL. 92050

(1) The Cobblehurst

Mrs Nelson from Victoria had more money than she knew what to do with. She spent the winter in Lakeland Fla. and the summers in the north. She bought the old Quaker church and made a summer home of it. She had a nephew in Kenmore by the name of Pratt. She had him take charge of everything, so he hired a mason contractor in Kenmore to do the job. He hired 2 men from Kenmore to come down in through jail to tear down the sheds that was on the West side next to the cemetery for Horses & Buggys that ran from the road to the back of the lot. One was "Bingley" son and the other was Ed Dennison both from Kenmore, which later years became my brother in law. They never done anything but drink beer until about Thurs. noon a hole was knocked through the wall on the West side and allowed a team of horses & scraper to enter. This contractor was Mr. Large. I hired out to him around Thanksgiving time about 1917, we lived at the time in J. Creek in the Taylor house so you & Mildred were only 4 or 5 yrs of age so you wouldn't remember much. I helped dig out the cellar, we didn't dig under the wall because it only went down 3 ft. so we left a 2 ft. shelf of dirt, built a form & cemented it all in all around the cellar. Put in a cement floor. There were plenty of woodchucks

Editor's note: This reproduction is a best effort restoration, within reason, of the poor xerographed copies of the original letter pages. The handwriting is for the most part legible; therefore, the effort to do a transcription was not done.

all around the 2<sup>nd</sup> fl<sup>o</sup> all, some even dug under the wall. We came across one in Hispaniola under the church. I pulled out by the roots & burnt a hayrock full of poison ivy, we used 150 tons or more of Cement & Plaster and had to mix it all by hand. I tended Mason, I helped build the drive ways. The garage was built of red tile. I probably handled every tile I also handled every stone in that chimney that rose from the cellar floor to 5 ft above the roof and mixed all the cement in the cellar and climbed 2 flights of stairs up a ladder to the roof & hauled up a scaffold in a Pail, and this was in the dead of winter and was it cold. The chimney had a double flue, so I handled every tile in that chimney after that chimney was built. They built a form for a cement cap and that only took 42 Pails of cement. I also helped build that cistern. I tended Mason for all that wall all around the place also help make that Flame Plate cobblehurst on the front wall. I mixed all the Plaster for the whole house. I helped put in the tile in the Bath room & shower. They had 2 or 3 Salamanders to dry the plaster. I tended them over Sat & Sun and when they hot, I thought if they would burn the place down. I got  $\frac{5}{2}$  25 or 250 per day and that was the most I ever got up to this time I hated all winter and up to about July and I got fired I helped build that Hell room in the Southeast part of the cellar. Built with form full of big stones. First afternoon Large gave me a 102 lb. Sledge & a little cold chisel and told

lb.

for some pipe. (3) I worked all day sat, I came to a stone the size of a bushel basket and I had it nearly through when "Large" came Mon. morning I was still at it. He Hollered down "Havnt you got that knocked there yet?" I says "No", can you break it through any quicker? He says yes, I said come on down & do it then, he says, all right come on up. He unlocked his Big Tool Box got a 12" 16 lb sledge & a long 2 ft Bar, took another morn with him & soon finished the job. He came up & paid me off so extent home, & at any fish pale & us 4 went fishing at the Quaker Road corner. That's the only time I ever got fired off any job. I was mad, we were living in the Bill House at the time I also built that Biegoda on the West side over the door from the Rafted from the Sheds. Mrs. Nelson had a Chauffer & Maid which always had to eat in the kitchen on a small table by themselves. The Pratt Family moved in as soon as it was visible inside. The Maid & Chauffer used to go for a walk together in the evenings. They used to call on us at the Bill house and visit for a hr. or so once in a while. Later that fall "Large" got fired himself he was just finishing Mrs. Nelson. Then Mr. Pratt hired <sup>Arthur</sup> ~~another~~ Webber, Percy's Father, he was a carpenter, to finish the job. So later that fall I got the job back again from Webber. all that 2 ft side eaves & cornice. dormers were made of matty pine so I blacked all the nots and painted all the wood work on the <sup>coats</sup> out side a couple of white paint. This was in Nov & Dec, & was <sup>at</sup> cold, I carried all the

Red Tide Shingles <sup>(4)</sup> up a ladder, on to the roof, also helped shingle soon, you had to be careful on the last stroke of the hammer you could crack the shingle very easily. I also helped dig a 4 ft deep trench East of the drive way, but I have forgot what it was for. Ollie Layland & I were digging it and it caved in on him & hurt his leg at the knee. Mr. Westcott lived across the road in a little brick house, he worked for Bratt, he was a mason & carpenter & I tended mason for him on the wall that around the place. He & his family was a good friend of us and visited us often. In the fall he drove her, Mrs. Nelson, to Etarca then to Fla. I think he worked for Uncle Steve before he was married. Now you know the rest of the story concerning me. God had you hadn't known all about this before you went there. Let me say never dreamed I had a hand in so many things at that place and the hard work I put in. It could of been more interesting you could of said every time you turned around, "My Dad helped build that" I hand for the clipping of "Cobblehurst" and this is the rest of the story you never knew. P.S. He put the wood chock which was all curled up & practically stiff up on the dirt & left and it was 3 hrs before he came to. Then I think we killed it. can you imagine dumping 2 or 3 yards of gravel in a pile then dump 15 or 16 bags of cement on it & shovel it over 4 times dry, then make a hole or lake in the center and pour it full of water then shovel it over about 4 times wet. That's work, don't you think?

\* COPIES OF SEVERAL PAGES OF THE GUEST BOOK  
WHEN GUESTS STAYED AND VACATIONED AT THE COBBLEHURST

Katharine L. Brueck Jan. 20, 1917

Florence K. Scherhardt

" " "

W. S. Mallory-Buchzik Feb. 13 - 1917

Alice M. Gillian

(The above names of the  
girls who gave Mamma  
this guest book.

Rev. Frederick Von Weltouysidans  
Minister London & Quarterly Meeting  
Native of Germany      America  
Asia Minor  
Peace be unto thee  
Salaam Alekum.

Quaker visitors from  
Quarterly Meeting at  
Gasport Oct. 2-1919.

Mr and Mrs Shepherd,      ministers  
Mrs Harkness      ministers  
Quaker Hill, Barre,  
Miss Leggit,      minister  
Mrs Kizam      minister  
Batavia, N.Y.  
Collins, N.Y.

From Sunday to Wednesday Week  
We drove like a greased streak

From Florida to Montreal  
We rolled along like a ball

At the Worlds Fair we saw the sights  
In the North Woods we dimmed our lights

Through all of this we knew from the first  
The best was to be found at Cobblehurst

Claude S. Wells

June 26 1940

Mrs. J. R. Wells. Claude's  
mother

Good food prepared by a wonderful  
cook at Cobblehurst,

Harold Wells, 12 yrs.  
Jacksonville, Fla.

Sunday - January 23 - 1938 -

Long live the charming hostess of  
Cobblehurst -

Ann Busch -

"Cobblehurst" would be only a name  
without "Charles" & Rebecca hospitable Twain.  
Their charm and their grace  
Has brought Fame to this place  
With bowers of flowers and the song of the hen  
A welcome most cordial takes poet and pen

Jan. 23 - 1938.

Busch.

Sunday Sept 17 - 39

I was the fall of the year when  
I came here and ~~we~~ stayed  
so long they began to yawn but  
hope I may come again

Helau Laffney

will take most pleasant memories  
of Cobblehurst, Rebecca & Lhasa.

Nov - 7th  
1934

Grant to Gray -  
3 1/4 whaling on  
New Foundland banks

1935

March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Sunday

Richie - Marguerite - Florence - Clarence - Peggy<sup>nd</sup> Howard

Spent nice time once again

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 1935. Mabel O. Horner.

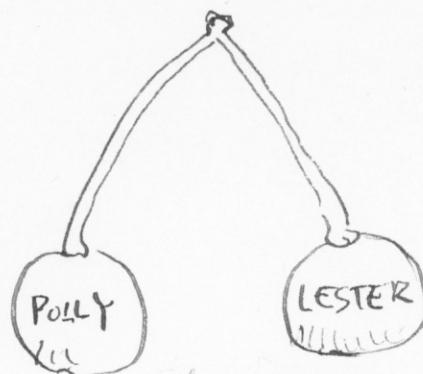
Happy thoughts and pleasant memories  
of an evening before the fire.

Oct 10, 1935 Bertha to Riley.

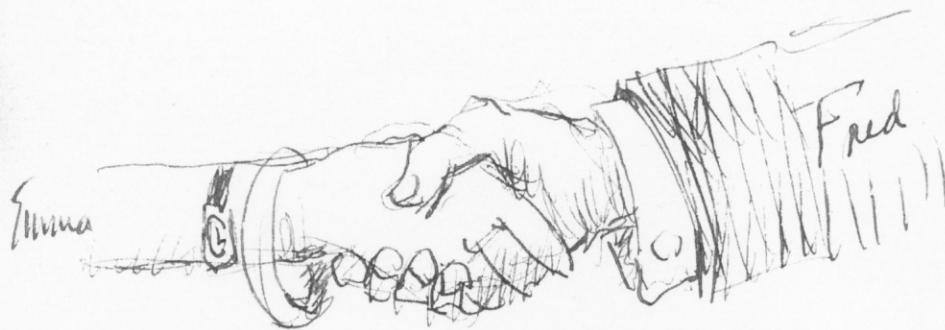
10/10/35 Pleasant Memories of  
a hearty dinner, pleasant evening  
George Wiles

Cobblehurst  
to Durachyhurst Mabel Horner

Oct. 13-15, 1935 - Days full of reminiscence  
of old association and fellowship and renewal  
of lasting friendship - Charles R. Hamilton,  
Manila, P. I.



Cherry-



Two Claws United in a  
Solemn Grip.

Emma  
Fred  
5/16/20



THE WALLS ON THE MOVE

Glad to have made this move  
by aid of the clauses to  
Cobblehurst May 16 1926  
Bernhardt Wall  
new Preston St

And  
Jane -

Cobblehurst — What pleasant memories are associated with the name — In retrospect we often live over again the happy hours spent with Rebecca and Charles in their interesting place where the peaceful Quaker atmosphere still lingers —

August 8-22      Josephine Hunt  
1930              Katherine A. Hunt

"God is in his Heaven, all is well with the world."

Nov 4-1932      Estelle Brickell

a beautiful home and wonderful entertainments

J.S. Brickell M.D.

P22      Rev. and Dame Kies,

Cobblehurst, with every modera-  
convenience and appointment,<sup>yet</sup> with  
the benediction of the Teachers' refuse  
and calms clinging about these  
walls, far from the madding crowd,  
suggestive of the quiet of the old  
Horace resting in peace by the  
side of Galilee's gentle surf, the  
living atmosphere of Cobblehurst  
created by, and continually ex-  
pressive of, the gracious and kindly  
personalities of host and hostess.  
Long would I linger.

Charles R. Hamilton

May 6, 1929

(Missionary <sup>from</sup>  
the Philippines)

Your old pal  
and grateful guest  
Alice Wheland

Not so old  
but very grateful "Dad."

Does your old man

Joe Miller  
730/28

"The Widow".

\$ 1 \$  
INGERSOLL.

May 31 - '28

Too full for words —

Helen M. Vincent

ALL  
LOVELY  
INNOCENT  
CHILDREN  
EVER

Race

MEET  
AS  
REBECCA'S  
GUESTS  
UNDER  
EXCEPTIONALLY  
ROMANTIC  
INTERESTING  
TIMES  
ENJOYING

Marguerite

JOYOUS  
AND  
NEW  
EXPERIENCES

Jane-

On a September morning dark and dreary  
The four horsemen, gay not weary—  
Wended their way to Cobblehurst,  
And ate and ate until ready to burst.  
Our hostess and comrade, Lady Rebecca,  
Had invited us down to this lovely mecca—  
Before taking our trip to the western shore  
Spending the season—perhaps some more.  
Nothing much left but to say good-bye—  
Wishing you all to Cali would lie!

Cora A. Woodford  
Gertrude R. Andrews  
Luella F. Prudden.  
Emma H. Frost,  
Alice E. Tompkins.

September the twenty fourth.  
1936



Heres to  
Good Health  
and  
Long Life From "The Fettlers."  
Sept 29 1934.

It was a day of pleasure & fun  
at Cobblehurst & a very  
pleasant time long to be remembered.

September 13<sup>th</sup> 1919 M. E. Randall

Cobblehurst on Cobblers Hill

Is filled with beauty, peace  
and joy;

A wayside bit of Heaven with  
none of earth's alloy,

I came - and I have gone, yet  
go where I will,

Sweet memories of "Cobblehurst"  
will linger with me still

T. B. =  
Mistress  
included

Mary Lount Lattin

Steubenville O -

Sept. 21-22-23-24-19

For all heart-hunger  
And deep soul-thirst,  
The latch string's out  
At Cobblehurst.

T. J. Sullivan  
Nell L. Sullivan  
Chicago.

Aug 20, 1917

A regular "Cobblehurst" welcome.

T. H. Sawers

Aug. 30, 1917.

Rensselaer N.Y.

Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> 1919

Before we eat, Bill  
please pass me a bill.  
Now we shall give thanks  
you and Mrs. Wm F. Squire  
you and Mrs. C. H. Geyer.

Mrs. W. F. Squire

~~C. H. Geyer~~ Feb. 27-1919.  
~~C. H. Geyer~~

Rensselaer N.Y. March 2-19

I shall always remember the pleasant  
times you kindly extended me while  
visiting your happy home.

Alfred J. Gandy

Sunday

CRACKER JEM C

Organized April 5<sup>th</sup> 1935 A.D.,  
at Cobblehurst on the Ridge  
after a delicious <sup>dinner</sup> and evening  
around the fireplace.

Majorie Hamlin (his wife)

Katherine Stunt

Eleanor (Ruby) Marill

John Earle Hamlin

Mary Hamlin

Gwen Hamlin (ay)

Earle J. Hamlin - in memory of a pleasant evening

Anna J. MacDonough

Charles and Rebecca Dratt, - Owners

P. Rev. Carl Hamlin was pastor of the  
Presbyterian Church in Allianc

England who came to America in 1630, settling at first in Scituate and afterward at Barnstable, Massachusetts, where Nathaniel was born in 1642, the eldest of ten children. He and his immediate descendants were the only members of this prominent family belonging to the Society of Friends, which society it is thought he joined at the time of his marriage in 1662. For the same year he was punished by the Plymouth court for marrying contrary to their law. In 1670 he was fined for refusing to contribute towards the support of the Barnstable minister. After most of the diabolical devices for converting

heretics, had fallen into disuse in Massachusetts, there still remained this unjust law enjoining payment of church tithes. It was not till 1724 that the statute was repealed. In the mean time scores and hundreds left Massachusetts, some as soon as they could dispose of their property and others because their property had been confiscated already. In 1677 Nathaniel F. Randolph exchanged his house and lot at Barnstable for John Smith's property in Woodbridge township, and as quickly as possible thereafter moved with his family to New Jersey. Just before leaving his native place, he with three other influential Quakers signed, in 1678, a remonstrance to the general court at Plymouth against being taxed to support the established ministry. This protest contained these mild words: "It's well enough known we (called Quakers) have never been backward to contribute our assistance in our

#### Quaker Church

The first church was built by the Quakers in 1819. This stood in the woods about where the Tyler Stock now stands. The lot contained two acres and cost \$25.00 and was the same that is now embraced in the triangular shaped block bounded by Main, Market and Elm streets. The ground was used for many years as a Quaker burying ground.

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

WILL HOLD THREE DAYS MEET-  
ING IN HARTLAND.

Oct 5 — 1903

Farmington Quarterly Meeting will be held in the old Stone Meeting House on the Ridge Near Johnson's Creek this Week.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week at the Stone church on the Ridge Road, Hartland, will occur the Farmington quarterly meeting of Friends, as previously noted in the Journal. Large attendances of people from the country for miles about are to be found at these quarterly meetings, which are very interesting. The sessions to be held are as follows:

Oct. 6 at 2:30 p. m., meeting of the ministry and oversight; at 7:30 p. m., C. E. conference, Miss Anna Leggett, president.

Oct. 7, 10:30 a. m., meeting for worship, followed by luncheon and the business session, at which the officers will be elected; 7:30 p. m., Bible school conference, J. I. Dillingham, president.

Oct. 8, 10:30 a. m., meeting for worship.

Many prominent speakers will be in attendance, including J. Lindley Spicer, State evangelist. The Quaker settlement in the vicinity of Hartland is fast thinning out, but many of the older families still remain and they retain their primitive ways.

## Gasport Friends Set Anniversary

The 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Gasport Friends Meeting is to be celebrated the weekend of June 5.

It was on June 5, 1905 that the first public service of the Gasport Friends was held in the Evangelical (now Gasport Zion Lutheran) Church. In 1912 the Friends moved into their own meeting house, which had been newly built.

This year on Saturday, June 4, the celebration begins with an informal get-together at 4:30; a banquet at 6:30, for present and former members and attenders and an evening service at 8 o'clock of music, greetings and good fellowship.

On Sunday morning a worship service will be held at 10:30. This is a special time, just for this day, and there will be no Sunday School.

Anyone wishing reservations for the banquet may call Mrs. George Reef before May 31.

The brown cobblestone house of Mr. and Mrs. Webster was originally built as a meeting house for the Quakers of the Hartland area in 1836. A winding driveway, Japanese ivy entwining the walls and steps, and flower gardens contribute to the country setting.

A huge cobblestone fireplace adds warmth to the living room. It features two Roycroft chandeliers and fireplace tools imported from Scotland.

A leaded door, leading from the dining room, opens onto an enclosed cobblestone sunroom, complete with year-round swimming pool.

Also unique in the home are its canopied bathtub and antique bedroom furnishings.

## Sisleys Buy Ridge Road Estate

Cobblehurst, on the Ridge Road, one of Niagara County's most picturesque estates, has changed hands.

The large stone mansion, plus an acre and a half of lawn and gardens, has been sold by Mr. and Mrs. J. Rolland Gould to Mr. and Mrs. Perry R. Sisley, of Lockport.

The transaction was completed last week. Charles H. Wood, of Lockport, was the realtor.

Mr. and Mrs. Sisley are expected to take possession of Cobblehurst in the near future.

1953  
1966  
nine-room residence at 35 Elmwood Ave., has been sold to Andrew McPherson, an official of the Grange League Federation, who has moved to Lockport from North Collins.

Mr. and Mrs. Gould are moving from Niagara County to live permanently in Hendersonville, N. C. Now retired, Mr. Gould was purchasing agent for the Simonds Saw and Steel Company.