

Ye Olde Landmark Tavern

Bouckville, N. Y. Route 20
Phone 315-893-9971

5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Sunday 1:00 - 8:00 P.M.



BOUCKVILLE'S FIRST MERCHANT

The first merchant at Bouckville was Dr. McClure, who came from Vermont with his family of eight children about 1805 or 1806, and purchased a farm on the site of the Village, covering the greater part of Lot No. 2, on which the Village is principally located. He built a small frame store which stood in the garden attached to the residence of James Coolidge, but traded only a year or two when he moved to Erie County and afterwards invented a nail machine.



Have a good Trip.
on one of several well known
makes of bicycles

sold by

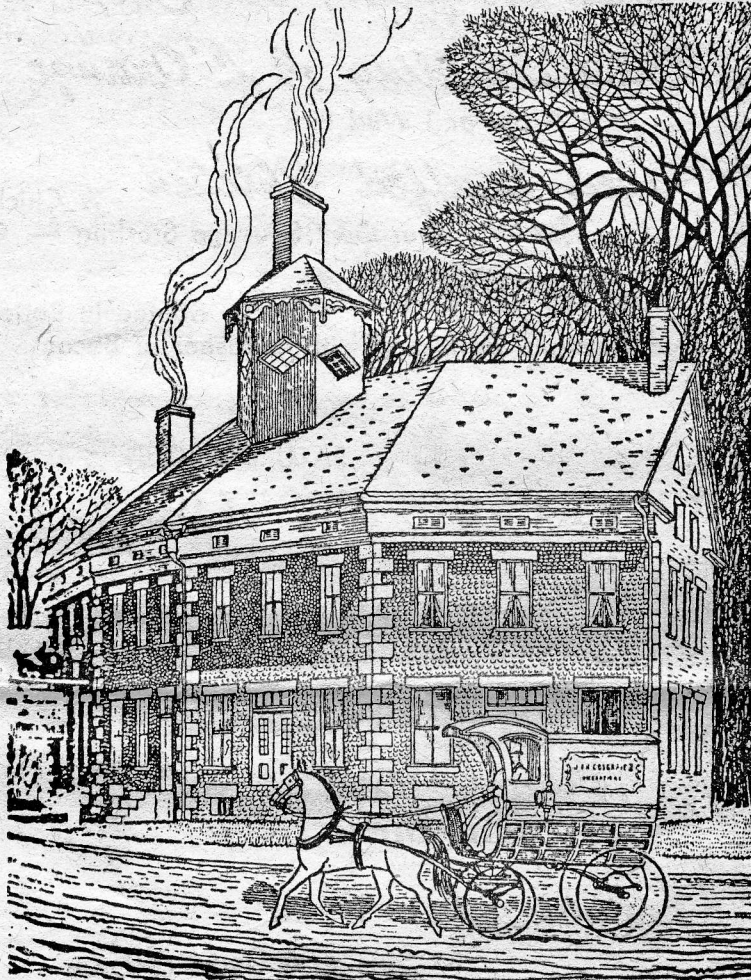
GOODSON'S BIKE SHOP

CIDER MILLS

Bouckville, whose commercial importance dates from the opening of the Chenango Canal, is the seat of important manufacturing enterprises, the principal of which, at the present time, are its cider mills.



EDWIN C. BURT
MAKER
NEW YORK
Lining Stamp.
EDWIN C. BURT
NEW YORK
Sole Stamp.



Madison County Landmark on Canal

One of the most interesting structures on the Cherry Valley Turnpike, The Landmark, at Bouckville has no doubt prompted many questions. An imposing polygonal building with four facades, it looks out on the junction of the turnpike and the abandoned Chenango Canal, which carried passengers and cargo between Binghamton and Utica. Its austerity is challenged by prim rows of cobblestones, which dot its sturdy walls and an absurd gingerbread-trimmed cupola.

Bouckville, in the section of the country where hops were first raised commercially, was a center of that industry during the past century. From her wharves, produce was shipped to Utica and then, via the Erie Canal, to breweries in Albany and New York.

Built in 1851, when the village was reaching maturity, The Landmark was planned for four stores. Its' eastern segment was for many years a grocery. The center portions were occupied by hardware and flour merchants, while a dressmaker had her rooms upstairs. The remaining division housed a dry goods emporium.



WILLIAM BOUCKVILLE Town Father

Bouckville has enjoyed distinction of various cognor. It was first known as McClure Settlement from the McClure Town located there and contemporaneously as the "HOO". Later it was christened Johnstown at a drunken carousal, in honor of John Edgarton, the first settler on its Site. When the Post Office established, it received its present name in honor of Wm. C. Bouckville who was the canal commissioner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Best Wishes on your day.
We hope you have enjoyed reading the story of "The Landmark Tavern." We want you to be pleased with our food and service here at "The Landmark."

Please keep this menu as a souvenir.

DR. SCHILLING'S HEALTH PRESERVING CORSET.

CAUTION—Do not let others lead you into buying worthless imitations. This is the ORIGINAL COILED WIRE SPRING ELASTIC SECTION CORSET and money will be refunded to wearer after four weeks' wear, if not perfectly satisfactory. For sale by DRY GOODS DEALERS, or if not obtainable will mail, postage paid. HEALTH PRESERVING \$1.50; ENGLISH SATIN \$1.50; NURSING \$1.50; ADDITIONAL 25c. MISSISS. B.C.

Schilling Corset Company, Detroit, Mich.

THE LANDMARK, A Building Well Named

Orson Squire Fowler was a man of vision with an ability to communicate well beyond that of the average. When in 1849 the chief advocate & practitioner of "Practical Phrenology" authored "A Home for All, or, The Gravel Wall and Octagonal Mode of Building" the recommendations found therein won quick acceptance throughout New York State. Years before his own four story octagonal home at Fishkill was completed, many similar structures dotted the landscape in almost every section of the State.

In the Mid-York area two such buildings still exist; one a home in Madison, the other not a true "octagonal," just a few miles west on Route 20 at Bouckville. Both are built of cobblestone and grout.

The building was started in 1849 or '50, maybe even '51, take your choice. One story has it that it was built by Moses Maynard. His wife, known locally as "Aunt Polly," wanted an octagonal structure.

Another historian credits James Coolidge (or Cooledge) with its construction. Following the Coolidge story to its conclusion we find considerable documentary evidence of its reason for being and some visible evidence to support the statements found in Mrs. Hammond's "History of Madison County."

Whoever built it, he or they were faced with a first-class dilemma or were possessed of an even greater than usual degree of Yankee ingenuity. An octagonal building, 24 feet to a side simply would not fit on the pie-shaped lot located on the southeast corner of the intersection of the Cherry Valley Turnpike and what is now known as, "The Canal Road." The end result, with four sides facing the two roads and two more sides in a wedge shape at the rear solved the problem and actually was the most artistic and practical use of the land possible.

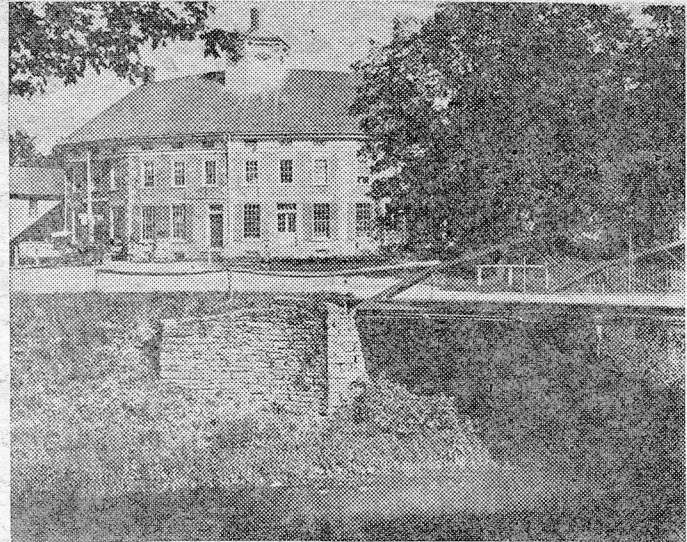
The much married Coolidge topped his new building with a six sided cupola, one for each of his five wives and one for his latest bride-to-be. She died before the marriage ceremony could be performed.

Two foot thick walls with 96 foot frontage rose three stories, (it was originally intended to put up a four story building), to the 12 foot wide cupola which was then adorned with a considerable amount of "gingerbread."

The first tenant of record was Ira Burnham who later took a man named Bliss into partnership. With a main east-west pike passing by the front door and the still financially healthy Chenango Canal flowing north from Binghamton to Utica just a few rods away, it was an ideal location for the enterprises which flourished in the new building.

At the east end of the place was a grocery store, and then, in left to right order, a hardware store and four merchant, a dry-goods emporium and upstairs, a dress-maker.

Coolidge, a civil engineer by profession, was the first man to raise hops in an area which became famous for that product within a few years after its introduction into Madison County. In 1844 he had 500 acres given over to hop yards. Stage



drivers, their passengers, canalers and later those who rode or used the Ontario and Western trains to or from Utica as well as the local residents all must have contributed to the economic health of these merchants.

Just as the railroad dried up canal traffic so the coming of truck transportation wrote finis to the O. & W. Long before the passing of the iron horse around Bouckville, the hop industry moved west to California. Peas, beans, cabbages and cider were still produced in and around the little hamlet but its days of self-sufficiency economically speaking, had all but passed when the accompanying picture was made just after the turn of the century.

Still the now aging building, stood, if not four-square, at least solidly, upon its little corner of the world.

During the years between its construction and 1904 when the picture was made, merchants who operated the various enterprises on the site included, Ira Burhans and Son (later Burhans and Bliss.) They were succeeded by Deacon William Coolidge. Collidge later became the postmaster for Bouckville and the Post Office was located in the big building.

In 1896 Lewis E. Coe bought out Coolidge and took over as postmaster. Shortly thereafter, H. D. Brockett joined Coe in the operation of the store but the partnership was terminated in 1897 by the death of the senior member of the firm. Brockett continued to run the store until 1911 when Charles M. Coe, son of Lewis, bought it. Sometime during that period the local telephone exchange was housed there.

The building remained the property of Charles Coe until 1940 with the postoffice still located therein. Toward the end of that time the west wall of the structure began to crumble and Frank Shattuck, the postmaster in 1938-39, informed Coe that something had to be done immediately else the wall would fall down. The wall was repaired and Coe thereupon sold the building to Robert H. Palmiter, a local antiques dealer whose knowledge of silver, paintings and furniture in particular led to a national

reputation as an authority in these aspects of the business. From that time until his tragic death in 1968, he made his home a showplace and his showplace his home, all within the walls of the fine old building. Since his death and until quite recently, first his son and then his daughter continued in the antique business in the same place.

In September of 1970 another family long familiar to almost all in this area has taken over the cobblestone building in Bouckville. Andrew Hengst and his sons, "Jock" and "Steve" have opened a restaurant in the 120 year old building.

For many years Andy Hengst's father, Adolph, operated a meat market and grocery store in Hamilton. It was there that the younger Hengst learned many of the basic requirements of a good restaurateur; the ability to pick the best of the vegetables offered by a wholesaler, to recognize the best of meats available and how to cut them. Later, as the head of the food service department at Colgate University, he was responsible for the feeding of hundreds of students every day.

Andy, his sons Jock and Steve, reopened the doors to "The Landmark Tavern" and now in place of bolts of cloth, kegs of nails and open barrels of pickles and crackers, the patron finds a decor reminiscent of the days of canalers and hop growers. Along with Windsor chairs and tavern tables are found victuals prepared to the taste of the most demanding gourmet, wines and liquors to complement the feast and all served in the atmosphere of an age when the pace of life was less hurried and the patron less harried.

It is good to know that a place that has contributed so much to the social and financial well being of the area will continue to do so though in a manner that its builder never considered in his wildest dreams. If there was ever any question about the practicability of Orson Fowler's many sided mode of building, his theories have been vindicated. The old landmark has once again proved its adaptability to the advantage of all concerned.

From all of us here at the Landmark Tavern we trust the time spent with us is enjoyable and will return soon to the Place where "Old Friends Meet and New Ones Are Made"