

87- Riker House, Ontario

The house owned by John H. Riker is on KnickerBocker Road. The main part of the building was built in 1842. The north wing was added in 1868 by a mason named Trimble. This is one of the latest examples of true cobblestone work and Trimble is one of the last men to build a cobblestone house.

MAIN PART OF HOUSE (1842)

STONES: The very regular red sandstones are $1\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

JOINTS: The horizontal joint is $\frac{3}{4}$ inches high and pyramids were employed for the vertical joints. A course is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high.

MORTAR: The mortar is reddish.

QUOINS: The quoins are untooled sandstone.

LINTELS: The lintels are vertically laid sandstones.

NORTH WING OF HOUSE (Oct. 1868)

STONES: The lake stones are of all colors and measure $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

JOINTS: The horizontal joint is $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The vertical joints are pyramids. The courses are 3 inches.

MORTAR: The mortar is fine and reddish in color.

QUOINS: The regular quoins are untooled sandstone.

LINTELS: The lintels are vertically laid red stones.

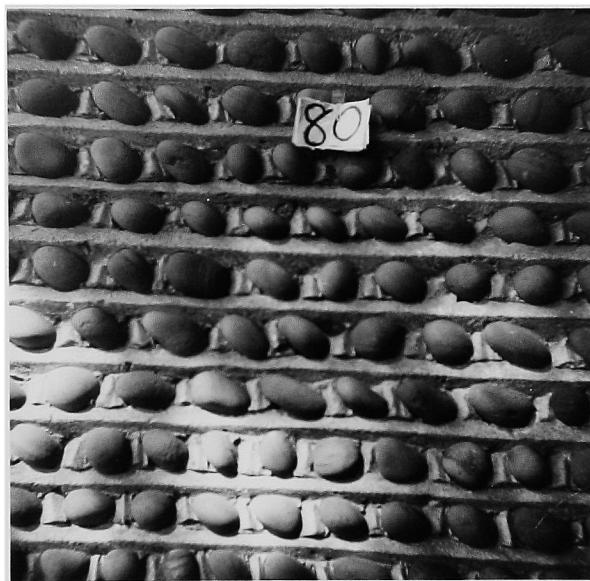
have been made known is by diaries and accounts of the builder-owners which have been passed on to succeeding generations, and the name-plates usually attached to the front of the house, usually over the front door.

We in Wayne County can proudly claim the name of the first known builder and of the last known builder. Before this research, the first known man who built these houses was Alonzo Bradley, who built a house in Rochester in 1839. I have found a house near Zurich that was built in 1831 by Arthur Henry Van Der Bilt. The last known work is the addition to the Riker House in Ontario Township by a Mr. Trimble in 1868.

Mr. George Chapman, since this winter deceased, to the last a possessor of an extremely recollective and nimble mind, stated that his grandfather never talked of how he built cobblestone houses or of their secret, even though he had built the Morman House in Palmyra Township. Such are the cases where silence is certainly not golden.

Some say that the masons received anywhere from \$.50 to \$1.25 a day. It is known that Richard Stokes, who built Mr. Chapman's house in Ontario Township, received \$1.00 a day. It is, actually, indefinite as to how much a mason got, since there were several panics(depressions) between 1820 and 1860. The pay also depended on how good the mason himself was. One thing is known, however: the mason did put in long, hard, tedious hours for his money, since the eight-hour union day was still far away.





V-Horizontal and V-Vertical
mortar between the cobblestones
on the Riker house in Ontario
Township.