

THE COBBLESTONER

"A little journal published erratically by the Cobblestone Society bespeaking pertinent projects and events."

Vol. XXIX

Spring/Summer 2007
www.CobblestoneSocietyMuseum.org

No. 2

"Most people don't understand that all images of Moses are Christian."

Joseph LoSchiavo, Executive Director

Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts, St. Bonaventure University

President's Message

By the time you read this, the first event I'd like to highlight will have already taken place. On Wednesday, May 30, the Cobblestone Society sponsored a program to encourage public awareness of and stimulate thinking about wind energy. Decisions about policy regulating wind turbines are going to be made soon in our various Orleans County communities. An informed, thoughtful community will help move us towards helpful decision-making. Our speaker was Daniel Mackay, Director of Public Policy at the Preservation League of New York State. Perhaps you attended this program at the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church, Albion. Mackay's presentation included the effect of wind turbines on historic sites and how they relate to tourism. This program was another way we serve our community.

Also, probably before you could read this, we will have had an opening reception in the basement of the Cobblestone Church for our first special exhibit of the season "Writings in Stone and Textiles," chronicling the migration of Italian stonecutters and their families from central Italy to Western NY, and their production of and working with Medina Sandstone. If you missed this opening reception, make a point to stop by the Museum from June 23 to July 20 to see this exhibit with such great local significance.

But you will receive this newsletter well before a very significant event in the growth of our Museum and its facilities. We all owe deep gratitude to our Director Bill Lattin for his vision and effort to bring about the Upper Gallery on the 2nd floor of the Brick House being dedicated to the memory of George Zeis. The dedication and ribbon-cutting will be at 7:00PM, Friday, June 15. The inaugural exhibit in the gallery will appropriately be selected items from Bill's extensive collection of 19th century religious art. This collection was most recently exhibited at St. Bonaventure University and the Amherst Museum. Let's all gather for this very special occasion as our museum makes another step forward under Bill's leadership.

See you on Friday, June 15, at 7:00 PM!

Upper Gallery

The Upper Gallery will open on Friday, June 15th at 7PM with a ribbon cutting in front of the Brick House. This new gallery will be dedicated with a bronze plaque

to George W. Zeis (1918 - 2002) past president of the Cobblestone Society. The gallery will be open then from 7PM to 9PM that evening with the first exhibit being Victorian Angels. This will consist largely of a vast array of 19th century prints depicting angels. Some prints are copies of famous religious paintings while others are contrived Victorian images with even a few secular cherubs and angels. A punch and cookie reception will be held during the opening of the upper gallery in the Cobblestone Resource Center located on the main floor of the Brick House, a printed program will be handed out with various thoughts rather than speeches on site. We encourage you to make an effort to attend this important event and milestone in the development of our unique museum facility.

Dates Ahead

- | | |
|--|--|
| June 1st
Friday | Opening of Medina Sandstone Exhibit in the Danolds Room 6 - 8 PM |
| June 24th
Sunday | Annual Unitarian Universalist Church Service
Cobblestone Church 11:00 AM |
| July 1st
Sunday | Annual Patriotic Program
Cobblestone Church - 11:00 AM |
| July 26th
Thursday | Don Hall speaks on Zinc Grave Markers (1874-1914) 7:30 PM
Followed by opening of the new exhibit Designs for Death (Victorian Mourning Art). |
| August 4th
Saturday | Old Tyme Day at the Museum 9 - 4 PM |
| August 29th | The Cobblestone Society will host the Clarendon Historical Society for a tour of our grounds at 4PM. Anyone wishing to extend their hospitality please attend. |

The museum director Bill Lattin and Village of Albion Historian Neil Johnson conduct free tours of Mt. Albion Cemetery the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2 PM May - October.

Special Thanks to Marianna Rhoades who graciously spent two and a half days volunteering to clean in the Brick House after very dusty construction work in the Upper Gallery. A request was sent out for help in the last Cobblestoner and we sincerely thank Marianna for responding to this call and also for her generosity in buying new lace curtains for the windows in the Resource Center Frasch Room.

Wind Energy Awareness

The Cobblestone Society sponsored a talk on May 30 by Daniel Mackay of the Preservation League of NY. With turbines slated for Gaines it seemed appropriate to build community awareness of these structures and their impact on our landscape.

SLATE - (So Lets All Talk Education)

Several Cobblestone Society representatives attended this Canadian Conference at the Amherst Museum in April and were excited with the content. Basically this is an organization dealing with historic one room schoolhouses and how to interpret them etc. SLATE has been invited to use our facilities in 2009 as our Cobblestone Schoolhouse is a prime example.

Book Sales

We have received several donations of books this spring which volunteer Adrienne Lattin has sorted through and arranged according to category. Likewise books from two or three years past that did not sell have been disposed of. We can always use good quality books for our daily book sale. This year it opened on May 7th and will continue now into early November, 7:30AM to dusk. 589-9013 if you have a quantity you would like us to pick up otherwise just drop off the books in the book sale building behind the brick house at the museum during the above hours.

"Old Tyme Day" August 4, 2007

Plans for our annual "Old Tyme Day" are coming along. We have heritage crafters: basket maker, weaver, candle making, spinning, chair caning and rush, soap making, crochet and tatting, artist, wooden toys, dried flowers and two working blacksmiths! Also joining us this year will be a carousel carver from the carousel museum in N. Tonawanda. Antique autos, antique sales, our pie booth and more! ,

Needed desperately:

*Building sitters, in order to have all the buildings open, don't worry about knowing about the building - you will have an information sheet.

Quilts for the quilt show- a written history of the quilt would be wonderful!

Old time canning jars, we are doing a canning display in the Ward house - it should smell great - there will be a hidden crackpot with pickling spices infusing the air! Also, free recipes for Bread and Butter pickles. Need cucumbers!

Booze for the Booze basket

Fruit pies for the pie booth - only fruit, health dept. says so.

I have put out flyers at "Day out with Thomas" in Medina and have had lots of good response. If you have a local place to hang, a flyer let me know and I will get some to you. I sent information to "American Profile"

that is the supplement paper that you get on the week-ends (if you take a paper) it is national. In June, I will really push local area papers with articles. Please tell your friends and neighbors about our event.

There will be children's activities at the school, games: marbles, hoop rolling, "graces," jump ropes and cobble painting. If you know another favorite game from long ago, call me! I have some teenagers helping there BUT still need adults in the buildings to tell about the school, again information sheets will be there so don't panic that you don't know about the building.

We are featuring our "Outhouses" we have an outstanding collection of them!

This year all the buildings will have, posted on them, a brief history of the building, where it came from etc.

If you know of a crafter or anything else that you think should be included in our "Old Tyme Day" please call or e-mail:

Georgia Thomas

585-798-3429

GeorgiaT123@aol.com please put "cobblestone" on subject line or I won't open file.

Zinc Grave Marker Program

Donald S. Hall, an authority on zinc ("White Bronze") grave markers, will speak at the Cobblestone Church on Thursday July 26 at 7:30PM. He is the former director of the Strasenburgh Planetarium in Rochester.

Hall says that the metal grave markers are scattered across cemeteries all across the United States and Canada, but that they were all made in Bridgeport, CT by the Monumental Bronze Company. The company made the markers between 1874 and 1914. They were durable, lower cost and progressive, underscoring the Victorian notion that new technology was always better than the old. They are easy to recognize in cemeteries because of their distinctive blue-gray color and the fact that many of the designs simply could not have been executed in stone.

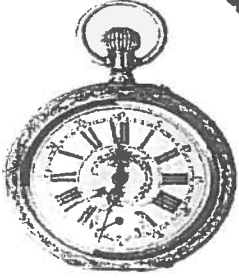
Hall feels that after a lifetime as a pathological collector, he has found the perfect collectable because it takes up very little space in his home. It is impossible (illegal in New York State) for him to own the markers so he has only to house photographs in slide trays, or in his computer's memory.

Hall has written for publications including the "Maine Antique Digest", "Art & Antiques", "Style 1900", "The New York-Pennsylvania Collector", "Antique Review". He has spoken on the decorative arts, including glass and pottery, from coast to coast, including the Smithsonian Institution and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. There will be a free will donation for this program which will take place in the air conditioned sanctuary of the Cobblestone Church.

Following the zinc marker presentation the Designs for Death exhibit located in the Danolds Room at the Cobblestone church will open for a reception. This display will feature all kinds of mourning art particularly from the late 19th Century and mostly from the private collection of our museum director. This very fascinating exhibit will of course be up in time for our Old Tyme Day August 4th so don't miss it.

The Cobblestone Society

Come join us!



KEEP HISTORY ALIVE!

You are important to us! As you know, members are the lifeblood of any organization. The work of our society goes on. That work includes keeping history alive, maintaining our historic buildings, and continuing our educational mission with programs and tours. As a member of The Cobblestone Society, your annual dues help keep our programs going and contribute to our overall growth.

Our records show that your year 2007 membership is now due. Please take a moment right now to renew your membership. If you have already paid your dues, please disregard this notice.

Thank You!

Membership renewal

Membership entitles you to visit our seven buildings during regular viewing hours free of charge and receive a quarterly newsletter.

Name _____

Address _____

Membership Level _____

Amount _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to:
The Cobblestone Society
PO Box 363
Albion, NY 14411

Individual \$10

Joint \$18

Family \$20

Student \$5

Patron \$50

Corporation \$50

Single Life

Membership

\$150

Joint Life Membership

\$250

The COBBLESTONE SOCIETY

Childs, NY

PO Box 363 Albion, NY 14411

www.cobblestonesocietymuseum.org

Is a member in good standing

Date

Cobblestone Society Membership Chairman

Return this Portion

Keep this Portion

THE COBBLESTONER

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Vol. XXIX

Winter 2007

No. 1

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"Luke warm acceptance is more bewildering than outright rejection."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

President's Message

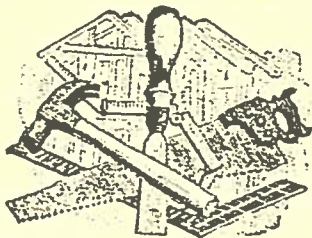
This issue of the Cobblestoner is my first opportunity to greet you as President of the Board of the Society. It is an honor to be elected to this office and to serve with such a fine Board of Directors, officers, and Museum Director. With the dedicated and visionary efforts and contributions of so many in the past we inherit a great institution. And we seek to keep it moving forward into the future.

Current items of note include:

- * Bill Lattin's remodeling of the second floor of our brick house so it might become "The Upper Gallery" in memory of George Zeis.
- * Acquiring new pew cushions for the Cobblestone Church that are historically appropriate for a 19th century building.
- * A new Task Force including John Heise and Gloria Neilans that will seek to increase the number of school tours to our museum in the spring and fall and to develop a larger group of docents to conduct such tours.
- * A committee chaired by Georgia Thomas for planning and conducting our "Old Time Crafts and Antique Show" on Saturday, August 4th, continuing what was previously called our Exposition or Fair. Phone Georgia at 798-3429 with your ideas and offers of help.
- * The new jigsaw puzzle of the Cobblestone Church available now at area libraries, shops, and our own gift shop.
- * The continued service of our Resource Director, Dee Robinson.

In these and many other ways our society continues to be faithful to our purpose and goals. I look forward to seeing you and your guests at our Dinner and Program Sunday, March 25. At that time you can renew your membership for 2007 if you haven't done so yet.

Paul Letiecq



Message From the Director

C.W. Lattin

The purpose of this article is to give you some background about our winter project at the museum, The Upper Gallery. I hope this will not seem rambling as there are a number of points I wish to bring out.

At the December meeting of the Board of Directors I proposed a plan to utilize the second floor of the Brick House as a gallery space for the museum. The idea was readily accepted and a budget adopted for the work.

The Brick House (1836) was purchased in April of 1998 with exterior restoration completed in July of that year. The first floor since 2001 has housed the Cobblestone Society Resource Center while the second floor has been some what of a "catch all". The house was renovated in the 1950's and therefore lacks its original interior accoutrements. A very nice stairway however to the second floor was installed during that renovation making the upper floor quite accessible. In December we rented a dumpster and removed not only junk but somewhat gutted the second floor to open it up for the gallery plus create storage space. My thanks to Lee Minier for volunteering to help move things into the dumpster. I've been working almost every weekday in there the last two months. Two bedrooms have now been turned into an area approximately 15 x 26 for exhibit space. It is my intention that this area will feature, although not exclusively, our collection of Victorian Religious prints. Small rotating exhibits displaying perhaps around thirty prints can easily be accommodated. The title for our first exhibit this season will be "Victorian Angels" which I hope will debut by May or early June for the Gallery's opening and dedication.

For the second half of the season I expect to hang an exhibit entitled "Women in Victorian Christian Art". I have also collaborated with a local artist to display her ceramic sculptures in relation to some historic works for part of next year. A greater portion of our print collection can easily be stored contiguous with the exhibit space which is a wonderful feature of this newly developed gallery. It is an excellent location for this type of collection being high and dry with air conditioning already in place because of the first floor.

Currently around 375 pieces, mostly prints are on display at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University. This exhibit has been extended until April 29. An introduction panel notes that "Bless This House" loaned by C.W. Lattin has been

arranged through the Cobblestone Society Museum at Childs, NY. In 2005 the Amherst Museum borrowed 140 prints for an exhibit. This collection of Victorian religious prints has come about primarily because of the Cobblestone Museum, most specifically the Cobblestone Church.

Let me go back to when I started working at the museum in 1971. At that time there was evidence of regularly placed nail holes in the walls between the windows in the Church sanctuary. I asked Homer Brown back then, a long time Universalist, what had been there. I recall he may have said "pictures". He then told that in the 1930's the Universalists had an auction to raise money for upkeep and sold everything off they couldn't ever foresee using. Hence dining room chairs, tables, a reed organ etc. were disposed of including other things people donated for the auction. The church basement was then rented to a local produce dealer for fertilizer storage at \$50.00 a year. Consequently over the last thirty some years I've tried to determine exactly what the sanctuary looked like back at the time it was regularly used prior to 1895. We have no 19th century interior photos. So therefore I've made an effort to collect old photos of other Protestant church interiors. These have been immensely helpful, especially those interiors of small rural churches. It is not uncommon to find mottoes and religious prints in these late 1800's photos.

As an antique collector I started looking for Victorian prints with religious subjects that might be appropriate to hang in the Cobblestone Church sanctuary. That's when "I got hooked". Although the first print of this nature I remember getting was at a "house sale" back in the late 1950's. I used to just look for things of a Protestant inclination now however I realize the error of my discrimination and am happy to acquire quality Victorian prints no matter what the religious subject. I do buy things with the museum in mind in that this collection is to ultimately be the museums. I occasionally buy artifacts for the museum but have never turned in a bill for any of the prints.

The Upper Gallery will be one more facet to the complex at Childs that can show its own unique dimension to the life styles of the Victorian family. With a church and a parsonage featured in our collection of buildings it all fits giving us a flavor of the past no other museum can boast of.

At the December board meeting it was suggested that the Upper Gallery be dedicated in memory of George W. Zeis (1918-2002) who served on our board and was president when he died. The Cobblestone Society received a bequest of \$75,000 and one third of the residual part of his estate in trust. I first met George in 1978 through a mutual friend. At the time we were moving and rebuilding Farmers Hall. He was very interested in the project, came to see it in the works and followed up with a \$100.00 donation. I didn't turn it over to the treasurer as a donation but rather as a \$100.00 life membership (the rate back then). That was probably one of the smartest things I have ever done as museum director because it kept him in contact with us. As a result, when he retired in the 1980's he became active in our organization.

Over the years I received Christmas cards from George and they were always reproductions of famous religious paintings, especially Madonnas by Raphael or Murillo. He was also proud to be a member of the Albright Knox Gallery so it is appropriate to dedicate the gallery in his memory when the time comes for a ceremony. Incidentally about ten years ago he gave me

four very nice silver plated sconces which will now be wired into place in the Gallery. My thanks to Dick Cook who has volunteered to do some electrical work for us.

I have used the name Upper for a couple of reasons. First it is of course on the upper level but secondly since it will frequently be used for displaying religious art it plays upon the upper room where the Last Supper occurred one of the most frequent subjects I see in collecting Victorian religious art.

As time progresses watch the next Cobblestoner for further and updated details concerning the opening of this gallery. At this point we have the floor to refinish and all the new dry wall to paint once some wood work is completed. The vestibule will be papered with old wall paper dating back to the late 19th century. I truly believe it is going to be a very neat upscale addition for visitors to enjoy once finished.

Pew Cushions

Our sincere thanks are extended to all who responded to our year end request. As a result of the letter in December we raised \$1,495.00. Another member has since matched that with a \$1,600.00 donation. We also received \$2,000.00 from the Orleans County Foundation thus raising a total of \$5,095.00. The order has now been given for the 37 pews in the Cobblestone Church for a bid of \$5,663.00.

When built in 1834 the pews were bare but in 1874 when the church was modernized cushions were placed in the pews. By the late 1960's the excelsior was coming out and the cushions were disposed of. About thirty five years ago the present ones were installed which are now out of shape and badly faded. The new cushions with tufting in a dark green will look like the original ones. The pews are not the most comfortable form fitting seats. Therefore the cushions are a welcome relief. They are sure to enhance the appearance of the sanctuary for both tours and weddings.

Cleaning Project

We could use some help in April doing cleaning at the Brick House. Because of the construction work in the Upper Gallery the Resource Center Room needs a through cleaning. Anyone interested in helping please call the museum at 589-9013.

4 Exhibits 2007

Special exhibits are now planned for 2007 at the museum. From the middle of May through the end of July the Danolds Room will feature an exhibit relating to Medina Sandstone. This exhibit made possible through Go Art has been researched by Christine Zinni of Genesee County. It emphasizes the influence the Italians had on the late development of that once important industry in our region. It will open with a reception on Friday, May 18.

Following this and just in time for our fair in August we'll have an exhibit in the Danolds Room entitled Designs for Death. This will include old time post mortem photos, funeral related artifacts and 19th

century memorial art common in Victorian homes. This exhibit will end with a closing reception and a lecture relating to cemetery art.

As mentioned elsewhere the new Upper Gallery will open with the exhibit "Victorian Angels" and end the season with "Women in Victorian Christian Art".

Outhouses

About a month ago Georgia Thomas one of our new board members pointed out to me that we have a fantastic collection of out houses at the museum. I'm well aware of that but it pleased me to no end that someone else recognizes it too. The 1880's Eastlake style out house over by the Print Shop was the first building we moved to our grounds which was in March 1977. I inquired of Nettie Ferris if she would give us monetary support for its purchase. In 1979 we received the very early 1830's one behind the church from Dee & Tom Hockenbery. The next year or so we were given the one behind the Ward House from Verneta Cooper. This was originally located at the home of Gov. Rufus Bullock in Albion. The beautiful Greek revival one by Farmers Hall came next - it's a five holer! Three are for adults and smaller ones for children in a plastered interior. There are also boys and girls outhouses at the school house dating from the 1930's, the boys outhouse even has a urinal. In fact we even have an authentic water closet. The closet under the west staircase off the church lobby was used as such. Written in old style handwriting with pencil on the inside of the closet door it states "Water Closet Gents Only". Therefore we have a commode in there which children find most fascinating. No such labeling on the east closet for women. I think because they had their own parlor downstairs. Yes, Georgia is right we have a remarkable collection of outhouses. Maybe its time we put out a special pamphlet about these unique specimens of American architecture we are preserving at the museum. What other museum has six fine outhouses and a genuine water closet?

Calendar of Events

- May 13 1-5 (Sun)
Annual Mothers Day Open House
Cobblestone Museum
- May 18 7PM (Fri)
Opening Reception for Medina Sandstone Exhibit
Danolds Room - Cobblestone Church
- June 24 11AM (Sun)
Annual Worship Service
Cobblestone Church
- July 1 11AM (Sun)
Annual Patriotic Program
Cobblestone Church
- August 3 New Exhibit in Danolds Room
"Designs for Death"
Regular Museum Hours
- August 4 Annual Fair

Check next newsletter for additional dates

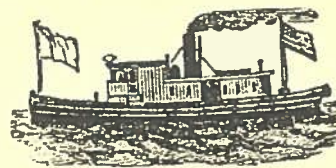
Cobblestone Dinner & Program

On Sunday March 25th the Cobblestone Society will hold a dinner program at the Gaines Congregational Church which is located on Rt 104 near Rt 279. This is a mile or so west of the museum complex. Dinner will be served by members of the church at 2PM. The menu will be:

Fruit Cup
Chicken Breast
Potato
Vegetable
Homemade pies
Beverage

\$14.00 per plate

Our March dinner was held there last year with many fine comments. Since then a new elevator has been installed which makes the dinning room much more accessible. The Program:



The Erie Canal in 3-D By David MacDonald

Experience the historic Erie Canal and world famous Lockport Locks from the perspective of Erie Canal Lockmaster Dave MacDonald.

With an appreciation of the history and lore of the Erie Canal, and having a sincere desire to promote this New York State treasure, I have combined my interest in three-dimensional photography and actual personal experience as a Lockmaster on the Erie Canal into an educational 3-D slide show.

Profile: David E. MacDonald
8 years - Lockmaster on the Erie Canal
20 years - Owner/President MacDonald Travel Agency, Inc.

10 years - Owner/President Canal Town Toys, Inc.
11 years - U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Captain
Active member- National Stereoscopic Association,
Genesee Valley Stereo Guild, American Canal Society,
Canal Society of New York State.

2005 Membership Payment

Name _____

Address _____

Membership Level _____

Membership Level	
Single Membership	\$10
Joint Membership	\$18
Family Membership	\$20
Student Membership	\$5
Corporate Membership	\$50
Patron Membership	\$50
Single Life Membership	\$150
Joint Life Membership	\$250

Make Checks Payable to: The Cobblestone Society
PO Box 363
Albion, NY 14411

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THE COBBLESTONE SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 363
ALBION, NY 14411

Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Albion, NY Permit NO. 20 14411

Cobblestone Dinner and Program

The Erie Canal in 3-D



Sunday, March 25th
2PM Chicken Dinner

Gaines Congregational Church
Rt 104 near Rt 279

3PM Program to follow
By David MacDonald

Dinner & Program \$14.00
Just Program \$3.00 adults
\$2.00 students

× -----

2007 Winter Dinner & Program

Name _____

Address _____

Sunday, March 25, 2007 2:00 PM
Chicken Dinner & Erie Canal 3-D Program
Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ
Rt 104 Gaines (near Rt. 279)

_____ # Dinners @ \$14.00 each

_____ Total \$ enclosed

Return by March 19th

Make checks payable to: **Cobblestone Society**
& mail to: PO Box 363
Albion, NY 14411