

THE COBBLESTONER

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

Vol. XXXIII

Spring 2011

No. 1

www.CobblestoneSocietyMuseum.org

President's Message

As winter draws to an end – and there is no question this has not been an easy winter – spring is in our sights, and as spring always does it brings freshness to the year. We are off to a fresh start this year with your Cobblestone Society. We have made some changes that we hope you will see as productive and that it will re-energize your enthusiasm for the work that we do. One of our changes is the regular monthly meeting from the first Friday of each month at 4pm to the first Thursday of each month at 7pm. With this change we hope that attendance will grow, remember all members are welcome and encouraged to attend the monthly meeting. I personally would like to challenge each of you to attend at a minimum 1 meeting in 2011, your commitment and voice are very important to the organization.

Please take a few minutes and read this edition of the Cobblestoner as there are important updates, notices and recognitions that you need to be aware of.

Hope to see many of you at the March Meal and Program on March 26th, information is in this newsletter.

David Heminway
President

Retirement Re-cap

On December 5th, 2010 the Cobblestone Society hosted a Retirement Party for C.W. "Bill" Lattin who retired following 40+ years of service as the Museum Director. The event was chaired by David and Joanne Heminway. It was a great afternoon and Bill was thrilled by the turnout. We would like to thank all those who attended, made donations in Bill's honor as well as those who helped that afternoon run so smoothly – Gary and Grace Kent, Angelika Alvarez, Jan Albanese and Georgia Thomas.

David and Joanne Heminway

Save-the-Date

April 9, 2011 @ 1 pm "Scone Tea" in the Proctor Room at the Cobblestone Church. Deborah Brundage will talk about tea as she experienced in Japan. There will also be a doll display. \$20.00 donation. RSVP to Georgia Thomas 585-798-3429.

By-law Revisions

The Board of Trustees has appointed a committee to review and revise our By-laws, something that has not been done in recent years. This committee reported its initial recommendations to the Board at its Feb. 3rd meeting in the areas of society membership and dues and the annual meeting of the Society. The Board received these and is presenting these By-law revisions to the membership of the Society at the March meal and program on March 26th for approval. We plan to have a short meeting following the luncheon at 2:00 pm at the Gaines Congregational Church.

Please review the proposed By-law revisions below and come on the 26th prepared to consider and vote on them.

- All reference to Directors changed to Trustees.
- Article III Membership, Section 2 to read: Regular memberships: Individual membership; Family membership, consisting of 2 adults and children under 18 years; Patron membership; Corporate membership, a firm, corporation or organization; may become members of the Society by paying dues as prescribed by these ByLaws. Current Life Memberships will continue.
- Article IV Dues, Section 1 to read: Annual membership: A membership in the Society shall run for 1 year from the month of joining. Dues shall be paid annually.
- Article IV Dues, Section 2 to read: Classes of membership dues: There shall be several classes of dues: Individual membership - \$20.00; Family membership - \$30.00; Corporate membership - \$250.00; Patron membership \$100.00.
- Article X Membership Meetings, Section 1 to read: Annual meetings: There will be an Annual Meeting of the Society at the direction of the Board of Trustees for election of officers and directors, receiving reports, and the transaction of any other business. [this sentence replaces first sentence, remainder of paragraph continues]

Paul Letiecq, Chairman
Joycelyn Jennings
David Heminway

Olaf William Shelgren, Jr. 1925-2010

Olaf William Shelgren Jr., Bill to his family and friends, passed away October 19, 2010. He was born in Buffalo and studied architecture at Cornell University. An avid student of the historic architecture of Western New York, Bill focused on restoring historic structures and designing additions to older structures that respected the building's original character. From his father, Bill acquired an interest in rural architecture, especially cobblestone buildings. Over many summers he and Gerda Peterich, a photographer, traveled rural roads to record the regional heritage. His book "Cobblestone Landmarks of New York State," which he wrote with Cary Lattin and Robert Frasch and which was illustrated and photographed by Peterich, was the first serious study of upstate's cobblestone legacy. In the 1960's, Mr. Shelgren helped form the Cobblestone Society, and was an active member of the society throughout his life. He gave many of his books from his extensive architectural library to the society's resource center. He will be missed, but his passion for cobblestone buildings will live on in the society he helped create.

New Website in the Works!

Be on the lookout for the museum's new website. Our address is changing. Soon you will be able to find us online at: www.cobblestonemuseum.org. We'll keep you posted on our progress. See you soon!

March Meal & Program

"The Journey Home"

Moving a Cobblestone Blacksmith Shop

On Saturday March 26th, 2011 the Cobblestone Society will hold a meal with 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. The meal will be served by members of the church at 1:00pm. The menu will include: ham loaf, potato, vegetable, dessert and beverages. The cost is \$15.00 per plate. Reservations are needed by March 18th. The program following the meal and a short meeting is entitled "The Journey Home" by Pat Wayne, the Irondequoit Town Historian. Pat will tell us about the Irondequoit Historical Society, focusing on their cobblestone blacksmith shop. Their 1830 cobblestone blacksmith shop has had a long and fascinating history. In addition to the background of the building, Pat will also share the tears and triumphs of moving the cobblestone blacksmith shop from it's previous location to it's new home at the museum. Join us for an entertaining afternoon and find out what it takes to move a cobblestone building!

Hammered Dulcimer

Here at the museum we have many fascinating artifacts, but unfortunately it is not possible to display all of them all of the time. This is why it is such a joy when we are able to exhibit an item and give it the special attention that it deserves. This is what just happened to the museum's hammered dulcimer, a traditional musical instrument. Several years ago the Reverend Stephen and Darlene Devine donated an old hammered dulcimer to the museum. It has been quietly residing here at the museum until we learned that Mitzie

Collins, a professional dulcimer player and teacher at the Eastman School of Music, would be coming to Albion to give a presentation on the history of dulcimers in preparation of her upcoming dulcimer concert in March. Once Mitzie Collins discovered that we had a dulcimer at the museum she was eager to come and examine it. Through her visit we have learned that our instrument was made around 1860 by Perry Wight in South Alabama, Genesee County. Although our instrument is unplayable it is still an excellent example of Wight's style of dulcimers. The craftsmanship is lovely and the wear shows that this instrument was regularly played and enjoyed by its owners. Mitzie Collins presented an informative program explaining the history of hammered dulcimers and our instrument featured prominently in both her presentation and in her display of instruments. Leading up to this event our dulcimer was on display at the Swan Library for the month of February. It was exciting to see one of our artifacts go out on the town and receive the recognition it deserves. If anyone is interested in hearing hammered dulcimer music please mark your calendars for Sunday March 13th. This is when Mitzie Collins will return to Albion with her ensemble to perform "An Afternoon in Ireland" for the Eastman at Albion Courthouse Square 2011 Concert Series

A New Year and a New Executive Director

As the new Executive Director of the Cobblestone Society and Museum, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. I want to begin by saying that I am honored to be a part of the Cobblestone Society and continue the tradition of running a first class museum. I am looking forward to the year ahead and all of the possibilities that a new beginning has to offer. I have always had a love of history and an enthusiasm for education. Growing up in Webster, New York, I was fortunate to be able to visit and explore the numerous museums that are in this area. In my youth I took many craft classes such as basket making and open hearth cooking at the Stone Tolan House in Rochester. As soon as I was old enough I assisted with the student programs at The Landmark Society and this inspired me to want to go in to the field of education. Trained as a professional educator I began my teaching career overseas in Bangkok, Thailand and then Osaka, Japan. Those were wonderful experiences that made me realize how fascinating history is everywhere in the world and that each country needs to preserve its unique history for future generations. Upon returning to my hometown I redirected my energies to teaching in the museum world. I worked at Strong National Museum of Play for over five years and most recently was at The Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown as the Manager of School and Family Programs. I am so pleased to now be here in Childs at The Cobblestone Museum. I am looking forward to this upcoming year. This is an exceptional museum and I want people to visit and experience for themselves all that we have to offer. I know that I will have many questions and I may need some help, but with the assistance of a supportive and active membership I am not concerned with being able to get the job done. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to join all of you in keeping a unique piece of New York State history alive.

Deborah Brundage
Executive Director

**Cobblestone Society
March Meal
Saturday March 26, 2011**

**Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ
Route 104 near Route 279
in the Hamlet of Gaines**

**1:00pm Ham Loaf Meal
2:00pm Meeting – Changing the By Laws
2:15pm “The Journey Home” -
moving a Cobblestone Blacksmith Shop**

**Following the lunch Pat Wayne, the Irondequoit Town Historian, will share the
tears and triumphs of the 8 year journey of finding a home for their
1830 Cobblestone Blacksmith Shop.**

**Meal & Program \$ 15.00
Program only \$ 3.00**

Please respond by March 18th

2011 March Meal & Program

Name _____

Address _____

**Saturday March 26, 2011 1:00 pm
Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ**

Dinners @ \$15.00 each _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Return by March 18th

Make checks payable to & mail to:

**Cobblestone Society
PO Box 363
Albion, NY 14411**

Cobblestone Society Museum, 14389 Ridge Rd., PO Bx 383, Albion, NY 14411

2011 President's Message

David Heminway, President

As the 2011 season for the Cobblestone Museum comes to a close and with the Annual Dinner approaching it is a great time to look back at this historical transition year.

After 40+ years as Executive Director, (as well as many other hats), C.W. Lattin retired. Along with that came a search for and ultimate hiring of our new director, Deborah Brundage. To help make the transition as smooth as possible we called upon C.W. who graciously shared with Deborah his knowledge and talents on the inner workings of our museum.

The dedicated Board of Trustees have also been adapting to change and keeping up daily with the demands of this organization as well as the maintenance of our buildings while staying focused on remaining fiscally responsible. Please take a few minutes and, as an active member, read this newsletter to get a sense of what we have been doing.

I think you will be filled with pride as a member of this organization in all we accomplish.

On Thursday, November 10th we will be holding our Annual Meeting at the Crooked Door in Albion, please refer to the enclosed flyer for details. We will have a short business meeting that will include a vote on by-law changes and presentation and election of our 2012 slate of officers and trustees. Following the "business" a program on Monitor Clocks, (manufactured locally in Medina and Brockport from 1903-1918) will be presented by Ron Stork. Ron has spent many years researching and will bring to life this lost piece of history.

I hope to see you all there and remember non-members are invited and encouraged to attend.

In closing I would like to thank the Board of Trustees, the Officers, our staff as well as the many members who have volunteered in ways small and large to keeping the Cobblestone Museum a vital part of the community.

A Great First Season

Deborah Brundage, Executive Director

This has been such a busy first year that I need to take a moment to catch my breath and look back at all that has been accomplished. We began this year with a friendly gathering for the March Meal & Program. Spring included a lovely Scone Tea, a couple of weddings and several group tours. The summer months were extremely busy with tours. The Rochester edition of the AAA Magazine included the Cobblestone Museum in an article of the "Top 10 Hidden Gems in Western New York" and this provided a wonderful boost to our visitation. The fall is beginning to slow down, but I'm still giving quite a few tours and we'll finish off the season with a couple more weddings. In fact I'm already thinking ahead to next year and planning to get more volunteers on board to assist with tours.

Some major projects were also completed. The blacksmith shop now has a new roof and several large trees that were causing damage to various buildings have been removed. The damage to the ceiling of the church sanctuary from a spring storm has also been repaired. We now have a part time handy-man. Robert Albanese is doing a wonderful job on the numerous maintenance tasks that are a vital part of keeping the museum safe and looking good for visitors.

New this year the museum offered summer craft classes for children. This was a good beginning at getting a younger audience interested and active in the museum. The new Cobblestone Museum website was finished and is a great addition in helping to spread the word about what we have to offer. If you haven't already checked out the website please visit us at www.CobblestoneMuseum.org.

I should also mention that the museum gift shop has several new items for sale from old fashioned toys and candy, to specially designed shirts and even a DVD tour of the museum complex created by Mrs. Karas' fourth grade class. If you're looking for something different this holiday season please call the museum and set up a time to stop by and browse the gift shop.

Cobblestone Society Museum, 14389 Ridge Rd., PO Bx 383, Albion, NY 14411

The exhibits "Playful Melodies," "Collectible Aluminum," and "Proudly Certified" have all been well received by visitors. People are always amazed at what we have in the museum. Several visitors were so impressed after their tour that they returned later in the summer with additional friends and family for a second visit. This is a wonderful compliment to the museum and everyone that has helped us get to this level. I can't believe that it was roughly one year ago when I arrived here. It has been a great year. Thank you to everyone for their help and support and I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting in November.

COBBLESTONE RESOURCE CENTER

Delia Robinson, Research Director

Once again our emails have included inquiries on masonry repair, house history, cobblestone history for children, and cobblestone history in other states. We receive updates from other organizations and these are now forwarded to our Director Deborah's email.

We received one from a high school English teacher who commented that our website had been a most useful tool as she compiled a class presentation on Natural Architecture. One request came from Michigan asking details on mortar components and why so many buildings were built with cobblestone foundations; even if the main body of the house was of a different material. We received several requests for advice on repairing the mortar.

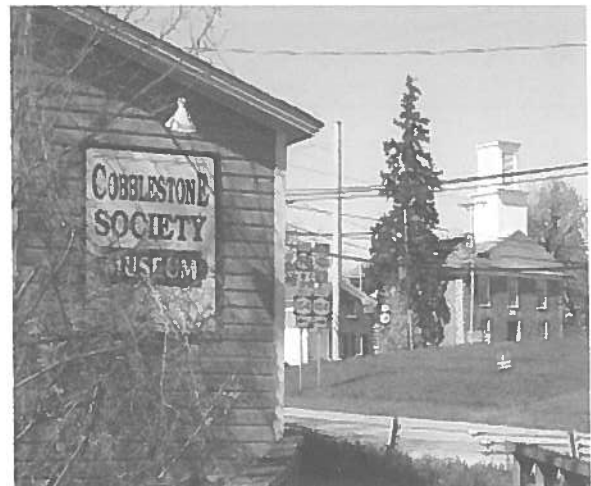
We, also, received donations to our collection. Linda Roberts, owner of the Cobblestone Inn at Oak Orchard on the Ridge in Ridgeway dropped off copies of research on the building; some which the Resource Center had helped her with and some she compiled through her own research. Erin Anheier donated copies of information, for our files, on the National Register nomination of her home, on Bennett's Corners Road in Clarendon. And lastly, Leigh Rehner Jones donated a copy of her newly published book [It Happened at Hopewell: Jacob Isenhour's Cobblestone Legacy](#). Ms Jones

researched the history of the family and the cobblestone home built at Hopewell, Ontario County, NY. These are wonderful additions to our collection!

As always thank you for your continued support of the Cobblestone Resource Center.

Blacksmith Roof Restoration Project David Heminway

Our targeted maintenance project for 2011 was the replacement and restoration of the Blacksmith Shop. Hired to do the roof was Joe Furness owner of JBF Construction, in addition, some specialized tree work was completed by Shannon Fitzwater of Orleans Co. Tree Service. The final cost of this project was \$14,376. The long overdue project was funded with a combination of a grant, membership donations and our treasury.



Cobblestone Society Museum, 14389 Ridge Rd., PO Bx 383, Albion, NY 14411

By-Law Revisions

Paul Letiecq, Chairperson

Joycelyn Jennings

Georgia Thomas

The committee to review and revise our by-laws made an initial report last spring. We have completed our work and recommend the following proposed revisions to BYLAWS of the Cobblestone Society to be presented at the November 2011 Annual Meeting for Adoption.

Article I. Section 1: Correct - 14389 Ridge Road. Add - Post Office / mailing address: P.O.Box 383, Albion, New York 14411.

Article IV. Section 4: omit.

Article V. Section 1: shall read – The Board of Trustees shall be composed of the Officers and 12 Trustees ... Section 3: shall read – Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and one Trustee ...

Article VI. Section 1: omit financial officer. Section 3. A. shall read – appoint such committees as shall be considered necessary such as nominating, bylaws, publicity, museum complex, and school program. Omit last sentence. B. shall read – He/She shall serve as chair of the finance committee, which shall include the financial advisor, to prepare the annual budget and arrange the annual audit. D. shall read – The Recording Secretary shall distribute minutes of the previous meeting, including the date/time of the next meeting to Trustees prior to the next meeting. G. omit. H. 1. omit - and bills for approval. 6. omit.

Article VII. Section 2: shall read – Election and term of office: At each annual meeting of the Society, 4 Trustees shall be elected, each for a term of 3 years. Any Trustee is eligible for election as an officer at any time. Section 3: omit.

Article VIII: Omit. Each subsequent Article will advance one number.

New Article VIII. (previous article VII) Section 1: omit C., D., E., and F.

New Article IX. (previous article VIII) Section 3: omit. Section 5: shall read – Order of Business: The order of business at all regular meetings of the Society and the Board of Trustees shall be as follows:

New Article XIV. (previous article XIII) Add - Revised Feb. 2011, Adopted March 2011, Revised October 2011, Adopted November 2011. Matters not included in these Bylaws will be resolved by the Board of Trustees. Omit section headed Policy Decisions ... (adopted by Board February 3, 1989).

**Annual Dinner Meeting of the Cobblestone Society
Non-members are invited and encouraged to attend.**

Thursday, November 10, 2011

The Crooked Door
469 East State St.
Albion

6:00 – 6:30 pm Cash Bar

6:30 Dinner, followed by meeting and program

Dinner choices:

6oz. Sirloin Steak with whipped potatoes and vegetable
Haddock stuffed w/Crab with whipped potatoes and vegetable
Chicken Parmesan served with spaghetti

The above dinners include coffee, tea, soft drink, salad, roll and dessert

Cost per person \$25.00

Program - Ron Stork, who will present and have several examples of the history of Monitor Clocks
manufactured in Medina and Brockport, NY in the early 1900's

Please return paid reservation(s) by Nov. 1, 2011

Any questions call David or Joanne Heminway @ 585-589-5705

Please detach and return to David Heminway, 3219 Eagle Harbor Waterport Rd., Albion, NY 14411
with checks payable to The Cobblestone Society.

attending @ \$25.00 per person _____ Total enclosed _____

Dinner Choice(s)

_____ Steak

_____ Haddock

_____ Chicken Parmesan

The Cobblestone Museum
14389 Ridge Road
Albion, New York 14411
585 - 589 - 9013
www.cobblestonemuseum.org

Just one...

Spring is almost here and we are just a few weeks away from another season at our Cobblestone Museum. The Museum Director, Deborah, as well as some of our volunteers have a full schedule planned for 2012.

My challenge to you the membership is what one thing will you do for your organization this year. Will you volunteer one, two, three or more hours? Will you bring in one new member? Will you visit the museum this season and bring one person who has not seen this historic site? Will you attend a "Sneak Peak"? Will you attend an event? Will you donate a brick? How about attending one of our monthly meetings? You get the idea, the list is endless. We need our members to take on this personal goal this Cobblestone season! It will pay it forward with great dividends!

When you decide what your "just one" is commit to it and let us know what you did in 2012!

If you need or have any questions do not hesitate to call Deborah at the museum or myself at 585-314-6047.

Thank you.

David Heminway
President

Got Bricks?

This year's building project is the refurbishment of the front terrace of the church. I recently had a conversation with our former Museum Director, C.W. Lattin, where I learned some background on the original construction. The terrace is thought to have been added about the same time as that of the reconfiguration of the church sanctuary in the mid 1870's.

The original bricks are marked J.A. Laflier who produced bricks on the west side of Rt. 98 just south of Rt. 104. (FYI - A historic marker identifies the spot.) The terrace was constructed to be the right height as a carriage step for loading and unloading. When the Cobblestone Society was formed in the early 1960's a portion of the terrace was repaired with modern hard bricks that do not match the older softer orange bricks.

In order to better match the brick color during this season's repair we need older orange bricks. Do you have any of these bricks in your barn, in your basement any where we could come and pick them up? We will take any number.

Please call Deborah at the museum and she will arrange a pick up or be available to accept delivery.

David Heminway
President

"Sneak Peek"

Have you ever wondered what the Cobblestone Society Museum was really all about? Maybe you're curious about what's in all of the historic structures at the museum? Maybe you wonder why people from around the world come to visit the museum. Maybe you love history and want to share your enthusiasm with others? Maybe you just need to get out more? Did you answer "yes" to any of the above? If you did then maybe you should plan on attending the Cobblestone Society Museum's "Sneak Peek" where you can learn about the variety of volunteer opportunities that are available here.

Saturday April 28th 10:00 - 12:00
or
Tuesday May 1st 10:00 - 12:00

The Cobblestone Museum
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585 - 589 - 9013
www.cobblestonemuseum.org

*Continued....*During the "Sneak Peek" an overview of the Museum's unique buildings and their importance in local history will be presented. A brief walk through all of the museum buildings will also be included. Please plan to join us on one of the dates listed above to learn more about what you can do to help! If you know of anyone (**they do not need to be members of the Cobblestone Society**) who might be interested in volunteering **please tell them about our "Sneak Peek" dates and invite them to come check us out.** There are various volunteer opportunities from giving tours, and helping in the gardens to office tasks. Volunteers are vital to sustaining the Cobblestone Society and Museum into the future. Please spread the word.

Deborah Brundage
Executive Director

Bell Choir Concert
Sunday April 15th
3:00pm
Immanu Bells Trio
Cobblestone Church

Start the spring season with a free bell choir concert at the Cobblestone Church. The Immanu Bells Trio is one of several small bell choir groups from the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Webster, New York. The full bell choir consists of eleven ringers and has been directed by Marguerite Manning for over 15 years. Members of the bell choir often perform at other churches and organizations throughout the community. In 2004 the group traveled to Germany where they played five concerts during their two week tour. The Immanu Bells Trio is excited to be performing in the oldest Cobblestone Church in North America. Mark your calendars and attend this special concert. There will be a good will offering at the end of the performance to help support the Museum.

From the Collection **Melodeon**

I would like to take a moment to tell you about one of the museum's acquisitions. Daniel Heater of Kent donated a melodeon and stool to the Cobblestone Museum. A melodeon is a foot operated 19th century reed organ. Melodeons look like small square pianos with a shortened keyboard, but they are actually a wind instrument. Sound is created through a suction process with a vacuum bellows and brass reeds inside. Players must continuously pump the right foot pedal to power the bellows while playing the keyboard. The left foot pedal is for volume control. On some melodeons the legs are collapsible so that they could easily be moved. I know of one family in the past that folded the legs up under their melodeon and loaded it on to their sleigh to take it to a gathering in order to have music. These instruments were made in the U. S. from the 1840's through the 1870's. In fact a main manufacturer of melodeons was in Buffalo, NY. Unfortunately the museum's melodeon is not currently playable, but it is still a lovely example of a popular instrument of the times and is a great addition to the museum's collection.

Treasurer's Report

On a positive note, we have received a bequest from the William Nestle estate and are awaiting the final payment from the George Zeis estate. These bequests help us to meet our year round obligations such as utilities, insurance and general maintenance expenses. We will continue to work on programs that will maintain the Society's financial health and encourage members to remember us in their estate planning.

Ken Braunbach

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Membership

The membership committee will be conducting a membership drive to capture new members and to offset the decline in our numbers. We are hoping to attract individuals to assist with the functioning of our organization as well as increase our funding. The focus of the drive is not only on individuals, but also on businesses. If current members have friends or relatives who may be interested in our organization or if you know of any businesses that would potentially support us – please let me know.

Sheri Egeli
585-356-5532
sheri.egeli@yahoo.com

2012 Calendar of Events Mark your calendars!

April 15th	Immanu Bell Choir Concert
April 21st	Member's Tea
April 28th	Sneak Peek
May 1st	Sneak Peek
June 23rd	Museum Opens
June 24th	Annual Unitarian Universalist Service
July 1st	Annual Patriotic Service
August 18th	War of 1812 Event (Details in next newsletter)
November (TBD)	Annual Meeting

Hours for 2012

June 23rd to Sept. 2nd:
Sunday 1-5, Tuesday - Saturday 11 - 5

September - October: Sunday 1-5
May - October: group tours by appointment



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Summer 2012

Just one...continued...

Hello members! Are you keeping cool? Do you remember the just one challenge for 2012? I have heard from many of you and am so very impressed with your dedication to the museum and all it has to offer. Now is the perfect time to do your "one thing" as the Museum is officially opened for the 2012 season. Our director, Deborah Brundage, is there to be your guide in whatever capacity you have to offer. For our new members who may have not received the Spring newsletter let me challenge you to go an extra step, in addition to your membership, attend an event, attend a monthly meeting, etc., etc., you get the idea!

As I mentioned, the 2012 season is here. We have many activities planned and new displays you will read about in this newsletter. Our capital project this year is the much needed repairs to the church terrace. The contractor has started and we anticipate completion by end of July. Also this year will be the first season with the Farmer's Hall officially named to honor our past director C.W. Lattin. When you visit please take note of the plaque placed near the hall's front door.

I want to mention the Gift Shop located in the basement of the church. Deborah and her helpers have created a new and improved look, offering many unique items. It is worth a visit!

As always if you have any questions do not hesitate to call Deborah at the museum or myself at 585-314-6047.

Thank you.

David Heminway
President

"Grave Matters"

On Tuesday, August 7th the Cobblestone Museum will host a one day workshop entitled "Grave Matters."

This workshop is presented by the Western New York Association of Historical Agencies (WNYAHA) and focuses on documenting and preserving historic cemeteries. This is an annual workshop that has been held in other locations around Western NY and we are honored to finally have it occur here in Orleans County.

The program will run from 9:00am – 3:30pm. The morning session, will take place at the Cobblestone Museum, which will include sessions about common issues in cemetery preservation, documenting your historic cemetery and tombstone identification and symbolism.

The afternoon session includes a hands-on demonstration at Mt. Albion Cemetery. Lunch is being provided by Watt Farms.

The event is being sponsored in part by Christopher Mitchell Funeral Homes Inc. This workshop is open to the public. Space is limited so if you are interested please register early. Registration fee is: individual members of WNYAHA \$ 45.00, non-members \$ 50.00.

For more information feel free to contact:
Terry Abrams WNYAHA Administrative
Coordinator at 716-439-6293 or
Deborah Brundage, Executive Director of the
Cobblestone Museum at 585-589-9013.

The Cobblestone Museum
14389 Ridge Road
Albion, New York 14411
585 - 589 - 9013
www.cobblestonemuseum.org

Summer 2012

War of 1812 Event

On Saturday, August 18th the Cobblestone Museum will host a special event commemorating Moses Bacon and the War of 1812. This event is presented by the United States Daughters of 1812 Niagara Frontier Chapter.

The day begins at 11:00am at the Cobblestone Church with brief remarks and a presentation by author Lee Simonson on "Thoughts on Western New York during the War of 1812."

Immediately following his talk the ceremony will move to the Union Cemetery (next to Watt Farms) where the program continues with a grave marking for Moses Bacon, a local figure involved in the War of 1812.

This program is free to attend, and interested attendees may purchase a special meal at Watt Farms at the conclusion.

Please plan on joining us here at the Cobblestone Church at 11:00 am to help commemorate and celebrate this important piece of American history.

Collectible Bells

This season we have over 100 collectible bells on display from Cobblestone Society member Elsie Davy. Elsie has been collecting bells of every shape and size for over forty years. Many of the bells have been gifts while some are souvenirs from various trips over the years.

Elsie was also an Avon lady for forty years so many of her bells have been acquired from Avon.

She also has a large assortment of holiday bells which she enjoys arranging each Christmas

season. Many of the bells have special significance, such as a bell which was a favor from her grandson's wedding.

The Cobblestone Society would like to thank Elsie for the loan of her bells and the opportunity to allow visitors to the museum to enjoy her wonderful collection.

Playthings & Pastimes

Summer is the perfect time to come and visit the Cobblestone Museum and see the types of toys and games that were popular during the late 1800's and early 1900's. The new exhibit "Playthings & Pastimes" showcases some of the various leisure time activities that people of all ages enjoyed.

Compare toys from the past with their modern equivalent. For example, are you familiar with a View Master? What about a stereoscope? Jackstraws? Blocks and puzzles are universal, but the images portrayed on them have changed with the times. All of the toys on display are from the Museum's collection. Toys are a great way to connect with the past and get a glimpse in to the everyday life of the period.

Take a few minutes to stop in this summer and "play" with our toys.

From the Collection The Game of Crokinole

While preparing the exhibit on toys and games, one of the items we uncovered was The Owl Game Board. This board, circa 1900, made by the Archarena Co., Chicago, is typical of the tabletop game boards found in many homes of the times.

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14389 Ridge Road
Albion, New York 14411
585 - 589 - 9013
www.cobblestonemuseum.org

Summer 2012

This two sided board offered over one hundred games including Backgammon, Checkers, Twelve Man's Morris, Carroms and Crokinole.

Several of these games are still common today while others, such as crokinole, may not be as familiar. Crokinole utilizes the side of the board which has several short vertical posts arranged in a circle with spaces between them surrounding a shallow center hole. The game may be played by either two or four people. Players take turns shooting discs from a start line in to the center hole while trying to avoid hitting the posts and being bumped out. There are point values attributed to the various areas of the board delineated by concentric rings. The winner is the player or team who earns the most points.

This is a fascinating game and the museum is fortunate to have such a lovely example of a crokinole board in its collection.

Albion High School Intern

I would like to take a moment and tell you about a recent partnership the Cobblestone Museum had with Albion High School.

Last winter I was contacted by the school and asked if we would like to have a senior student as an intern for the spring. This was a great opportunity for the museum to be involved in the community and for a young person to get some real life experience within the museum world. The stage was set, Annaliese Mergler, began coming to the Cobblestone Museum twice a week throughout the winter and spring months.

It was a true pleasure to have Anna here. She is a very eager and enthusiastic person who loves history. She assisted with numerous tasks at the

museum and was instrumental in creating the new exhibit "Playthings & Pastimes."

This fall Anna will be attending Roberts Wesleyan College as a history major.

Even though her internship has finished she will still be around the museum this summer as a volunteer.

I would like to thank Anna for all of her help and wish her the best as she begins college this fall.

Deborah Brundage
Executive Director

Membership

If you have friends, neighbors or relatives who may be interested in our organization or if you know of any businesses interested in partnering with us – please let me know.

Sheri Egeli
585-356-5532
sheri.egeli@yahoo.com

Hours for 2012

June 23rd to Sept. 2nd:
Sunday 1-5, Tuesday - Saturday 11 - 5

September - October: Sunday 1-5
May - October: group tours by appointment



The Cobblestone Museum
14389 Ridge Road
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Annual Letter to Membership 2012

Seasonal change...

One thing for sure, this time of year is always full of change. We see it at all levels in everything that surrounds us! It can be exciting, or not, but one thing for certain is change.

The 2012 visitor season at the museum is drawing to a close. You will read the accomplishments as well as get a glimpse of what work needs to be done.

An invitation is also enclosed for our Annual Dinner/Meeting; it would be great this year to have record attendance! At the meeting the 2013 slate of officers will be placed into nomination. As it is also time for change on the board I will not be serving another term as president. Having been involved for many years through many transitions I feel indeed it is time to move on.

"Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights." ~Pauline R. Kezer

David Heminway
President

Director's Report

2012 was a busy year here at the Cobblestone Museum. We began the season with a lovely Bell Choir Concert. The Spring Tea focused on the War of 1812 and later in the summer we collaborated with the Daughters of the War of 1812 to host a special ceremony honoring Moses Bacon who was an Orleans County resident involved in the War. The museum also hosted a very successful workshop, Grave Matters, which was presented by the Western New York Association of Historical Agencies (WNYAHA) and focused on cemetery preservation and restoration.

In addition to these events, the museum provided numerous tours to individuals and groups throughout the season.

Tour groups ranged from senior centers and garden clubs to the corvette club from Buffalo. It was truly something to behold when there were twenty-nine corvettes parked on the lawn behind the cobblestone church!

The Cobblestone Church was active once again with its two annual Sunday morning services and five weddings. Visitors always ask if the church is still in use and they are amazed when I explain all of the activities that go on here throughout the season.

This summer the front terrace of the church was repaired and it looks great. Also the signs in front of the church, school and on the blacksmith shop identifying the museum were redone. I can't tell you how many times visitors stop and take pictures of our buildings and it is nice to know that we are included in the memories of so many people visiting this area.

Of course, we couldn't have made it through the season without the help of numerous volunteers. Providing tours, greeting visitors at admissions, maintaining the gardens and grounds, helping with mailings and assisting with creating this newsletter. These are just some of the various tasks that people have helped with. Thank you so much! The museum could not survive without its volunteers.

As the formal season winds down remember the gift shop is still available; just give me a call and I'll gladly open it. Also the Annual Dinner Meeting is planned for Thursday November 15th with an interesting program about Abraham Lincoln by GCC History Professor Derek Maxfield. Please see the enclosed flyer for the details. I hope to see you at the dinner this November.

Thank you for supporting the Cobblestone Museum and making this another great year!

Deborah Brundage
Executive Director

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Annual Letter to Membership 2012

Membership

Throughout this year we have been busy updating our membership lists. New membership cards were created and mailed out. Currently we are actively seeking corporate members from area businesses. As always we need to increase our overall membership. If you have friends, neighbors or relatives who may be interested in joining our organization please let me know. Also remember that giving a one year membership to the Cobblestone Society makes a wonderful gift.

Sheri Egeli
585-356-5532
sheri.egeli@yahoo.com

The remainder of the listed repairs from June were not completed as yet due to finances and weather. The following recommendations should be done before winter:

-Resource House should have the rotted overhang wood and gutter either replaced or closed.

-Farmers Hall holes near the roof on the south and west sides should be closed off.

Caring for these buildings is a continuous goal for the Society. The buildings and old and have stood the test of time and weather. Each building should have a thorough maintenance list each spring. We have a very unique museum which should be an attraction for tourists. The buildings and grounds should be an invitation for all who come to visit.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT

Mary Anne Braunbach
Chairperson

MEMBERS: MARY ANNE BRAUNBACH, KEN BRAUNBACH, C.W. LATTIN, BOB ALBANESE

RESOURCE CENTER

This committee was formed in June by the recommendation of the board. The instruction was to create a list of immediate repairs to be started in June and completed by September.

The following repairs have been completed:

-The Rt. 98 house and garage were painted
-The Ward house porch was pushed back into the house where it had detached itself. The porch and clapboard parts of the house were painted.

-Signs: The large sign on the church near the Proctor Room entrance was rehung. Three new sign were made and installed.

Rt.98 properties were not visible from the road. NYDOT mowed near the road. We took down overgrown brush and trees so that the buildings are now visible from the road.

-The Resource House needed attention so the hand rail going to the front door was removed and replaced. The small decorative wall section on the west side of the west door was removed and replaced as well as painted.

Again this year we received a variety of requests for information. Questions included: how to remove paint from cobblestone walls; construction techniques of a Greek Revival Cottage Style house; how to repair a cobblestone wall; and inquiries concerning a mason who works with 19th century soft-lime mortar.

One of the more unusual questions came from a woman in North Carolina. Her great great grandparents lived in a cobblestone house in Orleans County. She found mention of our Society and wrote to ask for help in finding out the history of the house and help with genealogical questions on her family.

This year the Cobblestone Society was host to the United States Daughters of the War of 1812, Niagara Frontier Chapter. The chapter was holding a grave marking ceremony for Moses Bacon, a Town of Gaines pioneer. Bill Lattin and I participated in the grave side

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Annual Letter to Membership 2012

ceremonies. An interesting sidelight is that Moses' two brothers each built a cobblestone house in the Town of Gaines.

By the way this year is the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Cobblestone Resource Center. Over the past thirty years we have assisted local, State and National organizations, historians, preservationists, school children, teachers, citizens and homeowners, to name but a few.

I want to thank all of you who have supported the Cobblestone Resource Center through your interest and donations over these years.

Delia Robinson
Research Director

From the Collection

Cast Iron Toys

Cast iron was a common toy material from the 1870's until World War II. Perfect for mass production, iron was poured into molds that could be used thousands of times. Cast iron toys were typically dipped into a base paint, and then details were painted by hand. Many late 19th century toys are remarkably accurate to the product they were modeled after. Cast iron toys tended to be gender stereotyped. Common girl toys included kitchen accessories, sewing machines, and doll furniture; whereas farm equipment, guns, livestock, and automobiles tended to be popular with young boys.

The museum has a cast iron toy Royal Stove. This stove was made by Kenton Hardware Co. in the 1890's. Kenton Hardware Co., were producers of cast iron toys from 1890 through 1952. They were famous for producing toy banks, stoves, and horse drawn carriages. Kenton produced several toy models, including the Royal Stove, which is one of the better quality toys of the era. This elaborate stove originally came with working doors and accessories including pots, pans, a waffle maker, lid lifter and tea kettle. This popular toy

was a top-seller for over forty years and was originally finished in black enamel and stripped with gold to match the stove it was modeled after. The stove in our collection does not have the black enamel and gold trim, but it is a lovely example of a stove from the period and when children see it they are still eager to play with it today.

The museum also has an interesting example of a cast iron cow cart from around 1920. Toys depicting real farm equipment tended to be extremely accurate to the original product. Though horses were used as work animals, throughout the 19th century, oxen and mules were also used. The most popular work animals were oxen, as they were cheaper, stronger and easier to work with. Oxen were able to exist on sparse vegetation and were less likely to stray. Between 1840 and 1860 more than half of cart animals were oxen, probably because in the mid-1800's an ox cost twenty-five dollars whereas mules cost seventy-five dollars. I can just picture a young child playing with this cart while becoming familiar with the animals that were a part of his daily life.

We are Open for Business

Remember to stop in and visit the museum gift shop. We have a great selection of books – both local history and children's books, old fashioned toys, cobblestone museum clothing, mugs, magnets and a variety of souvenir items.

The holidays are fast approaching and if you are looking for that special gift we may have just what you are looking for.

The gift shop is open Sundays from 1:00 – 5:00pm through the end of October. We are also happy to open the shop by appointment-contact the museum to arrange a time to come in and shop!

THE COBBLESTONER

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

Message from the President

Happy Spring, everyone! This is my first message to you all as President of the Cobblestone Society and Museum. We have been getting off to a good start by beginning to look at the accomplishments at the Museum and work out our next steps. Deborah Brundage, our Director, has been working hard cleaning and organizing. The gift shop has been re-stocked and is ready to go.

I have several goals I am working towards this year, including creating a new long range plan for the Museum, (the old one is obsolete) and getting a start on increasing membership. As some of you may be aware, our membership numbers have fallen recently – as in the past five years or so. Since we rely

very heavily on our membership dues to pay our day to day expenses, this has caused some financial difficulties in the organization. In order to increase membership, I am asking all our present members to think about whom they know who is interested in our local history (or who should be interested) and ask them to become members of the Society. They will get free admission to the museum and be on the mailing list for The Cobblestoner, so that they hear about all the upcoming events at the museum. We have included a membership form in this issue of the Cobblestoner to get you started. Feel

free to make as many copies as you like.

Membership in the Society also makes a wonderful gift for that person who doesn't need anything or whose needs you don't know.

Keep the museum in mind when you have out-of-town visitors, as well. It will make a great day trip for all those folks looking for something to do in our area.

**Farmer's Hall,
Print Shop and
Harness Shop
Route 98**



Keep your eye on the Calendar of Events. There are several upcoming events for which we have not yet set dates besides the Annual Meeting. We will have some local history programs this summer, and are looking forward to our "Traders of

the Lost Arts" all day workshops at the end of September. Mark your calendar! Also be sure to check our website for upcoming events. They will be posted as we get dates set up.

In fellowship and love of history, have a great Spring!

Susan Rudnicky, President

Cobblestone Society Board of Trustees

Volume XXXV No.1
Spring 2013

2013 Calendar of events:

April 13th	Member's Tea
May 12th	Mothers are Special Day Open 1-5
May 16th, 17th 18th	Volunteer Training 10—3
June 23rd	Museum Opens for the Summer
July 7th	Annual Patriotic Service
September 28th, 29th	Traders of the Lost Arts Event (Details to Come)
November	Annual Meeting (Date TBA)

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Weddings at the Cobblestone Church

Remember the Cobblestone Church is available for weddings. People are intrigued that such a historic site may be used for a wedding ceremony. Most couples are pleased with the authentic atmosphere and rarely bring in additional decorations other than flowers. Some people even use our old piano and organ for music, while others bring in something more modern such as a CD player.

We are very flexible and can accommodate a variety of needs. We are not able to offer a place for receptions, but Tillman's Historic Village Inn, which is just across the street, makes a wonderful reception site.

It is always nice to see the Church used for such a special occasion. In fact one couple got married here because the bride's parents had gotten married here years before. This is such a lovely legacy for the Cobblestone Church. Please help us spread the word that if anyone is interested in having a wedding at the Cobblestone Church they should contact the museum to learn more.



Volunteer Training

We need your help. Summer will be here before we know it and the museum needs volunteers to help provide tours and work at the admissions/gift shop area. Volunteering at the museum is a great way to support the Society and help spread your passion for Cobblestone Buildings.

Training will be offered on May 16th, 17th, and 18th from 10 to 3. If you are interested in helping, please plan on attending one of these three training days. If you know of others who would like to help out, please

invite them along. Volunteers do not need to be members.

Please contact me at 585-589-9013 or through the website at www.cobblestonemuseum.org to let me know which day you would like to attend. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

Deborah Brundage
Executive Director

*Volunteer training will
be held May 16th, 17th and 18th
at the Cobblestone Museum
from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.*

The Eccentric Walter Brown by C. W. Lattin

Walter Brown was considered to be a smart man, even an intellectual. He read books most people couldn't begin to comprehend and claimed to understand Einstein's Theory of Relativity. As an atheist, he often tried to persuade others to his point of view.

In 1944, Walter received notice that the assessment on a tenant house he owned was being raised. When he saw the Town of Murray assessor, he said, "It isn't fair you've raised the assessment on my old cobblestone

house. I haven't rented it out for the past three years. If I was getting income off that property, it would be different." The assessor said, "I'm sorry, Walter, but I can't do a thing for you. You'll have to take your complaint to the grievance board."

Walter became angry about this, and so when grievance day came, he went before the three men on the grievance board. He stated his case to no avail. The assessment remained unchanged. By now, Walter became

even more angry. He stewed, fretted, brooded and agonized over what he saw as an unfair increase in his taxes.

Finally, he decided to take matters into his own hands. He went over to the Gordis Hardware Store in Holley and purchased some dynamite and then borrowed a detonator from a quarryman. With these provisions, he proceeded to blow up the old cobblestone house. Once the house was leveled, the Murray assessor was thereby obliged to lower

The Eccentric Walter Brown (continued)

Walter's assessment.

Now, mind you, Walter was a smart man, but yet he didn't quite understand the aesthetic value or unique historical value of a cobblestone building. It would take almost two decades before an appreciation of cobblestone masonry buildings began to be somewhat accepted. To Walter, however, it was just an old vacant stone house, which was a burden on his pocketbook. By eliminating the house, he spread the burden. To an old eccentric like Walter, that was smart.



Erie Canal Display

This summer the display in the Danolds Room will be an interpretive display on the history of the Erie Canal in Orleans County. Funding for the display is provided by the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund through a grant awarded to the Hoag Library in partnership with the Cobblestone Museum and the Albion Central School. The date for the opening will be set up soon, so please watch for it!

Mothers Are Special Day

In honor of Mother's Day the Cobblestone Museum will be open on Sunday, May 12th from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The museum buildings will be open and staffed so that visitors may tour the museum. All mothers will receive free admission on this day. Every mother will also receive a free gift. If you are looking for something special to do with your mother plan on bringing her to the Cobblestone Museum. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Requested Donations:

The Cobblestone Museum is in need of many items that will assist in operating and promoting the museum for visitors. If you are willing to donate any of the following items please contact the museum. Thank you for your help.

Requested items:

- copy paper
- business envelopes
- file folders
- manila envelopes—various sizes
- trash bags/garbage bags
- toilet paper
- paper towels
- blank CD's
- flash drives
- digital camera
- laptop computer

The Cobblestone Museum is in need of many items that will assist in operating and promoting the museum for visitors

Cobblestone Schoolhouse



What is a Cobblestone?

By Dee Robinson, Resource Room

The word cobblestone comes from the Middle English. Rounded stones used for paving were called 'cobelstons'; the word came from 'cob' meaning a rounded lump and 'stone' meaning just what it means today. Geologists classify stones by size, cobblestones being 64-256mm or 2.5 in. to 10.1 in. In lay terms a cobblestone is a stone which can be held in one hand, a pebble can be picked up by the forefinger and thumb and a boulder takes two hands to pick up.

Cobblestone Membership Application

Name: Last _____ First _____

Telephone: Home(____) _____ Cell(____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Membership Level: _____



Individual: \$20
Family(2 adults & children under 18): \$30
Patron: \$100
Corporate: \$250

Annual Member Benefits
free admission
10% discount in the gift shop
subscription to the newsletter



Cobblestone Museum
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585-589-9013

Donations to the Cobblestone Museum for the new church roof. Our deepest gratitude for your gifts.

Anonymous

Helen Babbitt

Geraldine Baron

Scott & Ruth Barrett

Reverend Paul & Janice Beech

Jean Benson

Robert Bitz

Heather Boyd

Ken & Mary Anne Braunbach

Joan Casterline

John Caudel

Christopher Mitchell Funeral Homes, Inc.

Elsie Davy

Susan Eddy

Sheri Egeli

Colette Frysz

Ellen Germeo

James Harold

Leigh Jones

Elizabeth Kirby

Rosalind & Charles Lind

Nathan Lyman

Helen Mathes

Garland Miller

Louis Molisani

John & Constance Mosher

Ann Murray

Harold Osgood

Diane Palmer

Dennis Patton

Pauline & Ronald Radzinski

Andrea Rebeck, Architect

Robert & Shirley Rheinwald

Mariana Rhoades

Joycelyn Rowley

Susan Rudnick

Rene Schasel

Linda Smith

Merwin & Marilyn Staines

Tillman's Historic Village Inn

Genevieve Wolffe

THE COBBLESTONER

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

Message from the President

This Summer we have a lot planned at the Museum. You can see from the Calendar of Events that we have several programs planned for the Summer. I was fortunate enough to get a grant for the Hoag Library in partnership with the Cobblestone Society and Museum from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to create an Erie Canal Interpretive Display. That display will be shown at the Museum first, and then moved to the Library this Fall. The grant will also pay for a series of history programs at both the Museum and the Library. The programs at the museum will be this Summer, (see page 3 for details) and at the library, we will have one program this Summer and the rest in the Fall.

Mark your calendar for September 14th. The Cobblestone Museum is planning a house tour of fine Cobblestone Homes in Orleans County from 11:00 to 5:00pm. Tickets for the tour will be \$20 for pre-sale and \$25 the day of the tour and will be available at the Museum and at Hoag Library as well as from Society Board members. Present your ticket at the museum or the Hoag Library to get your tour booklet and map the day of the event.

For more information please contact Sheri Egeli at (585)356-5532.

Yours in love of history,
Susan Rudnicki, President
Cobblestone Society Board



Cobblestone Church

Necrology

by C. W. Lattin

It has often been said that things come in threes. So it was this spring with the deaths of three outstanding volunteers at the Cobblestone Museum.

Janice Barnum Thain 1927—2013 died in early May at the Martin-linson Hospice building in Albion following a severe stroke. She was predeceased by her husband Gerald and is sur-

vived by six children. Janice attended our historic Cobblestone Schoolhouse at the museum during the 1930's. In the late 1960's the late J. Howard Pratt (Charter Cobblestone member) encouraged Janice to help with the school tours at the schoolhouse. She truly found her niche there and volunteered for over thirty years as the dedicated schoolmarm. She absolutely brought the schoolroom to life with her descriptive human interest stories. She knew a wealth of information about the school and organ-

ized a number of events to highlight the school. Such events included Christmas plays back in the 1980's reminiscent of the ones she remembered from the 1930's using local children. She organized several reunions of alumni and contributed largely to anniversary celebrations at the schoolhouse. Her delightful personality was something visitors adored and because of this she was requested by them, especially by teachers who brought their students to the school on an annual basis.

Volume XXXV No.2
Summer 2013

2013 Calendar of events:

On exhibit July and August	"Early Women of Orleans Art Show" in the Upper Gallery
Month of July	"Where's Waldo" community event
July 13	Jeff Donahue of the Holland Land Office Museum talk and Opening for "Erie Canal in Orleans County—Interpretive Exhibit" Danolds Room
July 20th	"Erie Canal Sal" with Gretchen Murray Sepik
August 3	C. W. Lattin talks on "Erie Canals: an Overview"
August 10	Dee Robinson talks on "Life on a Canal Boat: a Feminine View"
September 14	Cobblestone House Tour
September 28th, 29th	Traders of the Lost Arts Event (Details to Come)
November	Annual Meeting (Date TBA)

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We're on the web!

www.CobblestoneMuseum.org

Cobblestone School

The Cobblestone School is a favorite among visitors of all ages. Children are intrigued to sit at the wooden desks and feel the slates and ink wells that were used. Older visitors love to reminisce and compare the museum's building to where they themselves went to school.

There are several reasons why the Cobblestone School is so special. First it is a beautiful example of a building using lake washed stones with the distinctive gradation of sizes from front to back. The school is also unique since the cobblestone veneer is on top of a plank structure. Most cobblestone buildings are constructed with rubble walls.

The fact that the school was in use from 1849 to 1952 amazes everyone. Inside you notice some of the changes over the years such as electric lights and the girls entrance becoming the library. People are surprised to learn the school never had running water and that the outhouses behind the building were necessary even

in 1952.

Fortunately the majority of items inside were left when the school closed in June of 1952. It is wonderful to have so many original items for this building that can be shared with visitors. Occasionally a visitor will come for a tour who mentions that they used to attend school here. This is when history really comes alive. The Cobblestone School is truly a treasure not only for the museum, but for the entire community.

Deborah Brundage, Executive Director

Lady Crafts

This season the museum has a lovely display of Lady Crafts on loan from Cobblestone Society member Georgia Thomas. These items represent crafts of yesteryear and today that "ladies" made to make their lives and homes better and prettier. Knitting, tatting, candlewicking embroidery, china painting and counted cross stitch are a few of the arts that are on display. Some of these crafts are popular hobbies, while others are in danger of becoming lost arts.

One stunning piece in the case is a

beadwork pillow with a hummingbird motif. Beadwork was often used to adorn clothing or make jewelry and continues as a current hobby for many people. Native Americans traditionally used shells and later glass beads for their items. The beaded pillow on display was made by Georgia Thomas herself at a class she took at the Niagara County Museum.

Another fascinating piece on display was a ditty bag made by Alma St. Onge (Georgia's mother) when she was nine years old in 1916. The bag was sewn entirely by

hand with 14 stitches per inch. These lady crafts provide a history not only of the person

Beadwork was often used to adorn clothing or make jewelry...

who made them, but offer a glimpse in to the time period as well. The Cobblestone Society wishes to thank Georgia Thomas for sharing this enlightening collection.

Necrology (continued)

Janice served for a number of years as Deputy Historian for the Town of Gaines.

Teresa Martilotta 1925-2013 died from cancer at the Martin Linson Hospice on May 23rd. She is survived by several nieces and nephews. Teresa served as a very dedicated board member of the Cobblestone Society over a number of years. She was known for her annual Bushel of Booze Raffle and was a ticket-seller extraordinaire. She recognized the importance of raising money for the mu-

seum and was an outspoken cheerleader for Cobblestone Society events. The key word here is outspoken--something Teresa will always be fondly remembered for. Often after expressing her opinion about something she would add "What the Hell?" She took a prominent role in Democratic Party politics. Lt. Governor attended her calling hours, and Governor Cuomo sent a letter that was read at her mass of Christian burial. Teresa served one term on the Gaines Town Board as a

councilwoman.

Merwin "Tyke" Staines 1922-2013 died on June 5th from natural causes in the hospital. His wife Marilyn told me he didn't expect to go so soon. He is survived by her and a daughter. Unlike Janice and Teresa, Tyke did not grow up entirely locally. His mother Mable Appleton Staines had however grown up in Gaines so there were constant family connections here. Tyke served in WWII

Necrology (continued)

WWII, became an Industrial Arts teacher in Ohio and later a guidance counselor. He retired in the early 1970's and took a keen interest in local history relating to his family roots in Orleans County. He did an immense amount of research on the history of Rock Ledge, the location of their summer residence on Lake Ontario. Every spring upon returning from Florida "Tyke" would come by the museum and offer to volunteer when called upon. He also came every Thursday during the summer season to staff the main desk at the Cobblestone Church. He and Marilyn were always on hand for Old Timers Day and the

Requested Donations:

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Requested items:

copy paper
business envelopes
file folders
manila envelopes—various sizes
trash bags/garbage bags
toilet paper
paper towels
blank CD's
flash drives
digital camera
laptop computer

Annual Event in August. He could fix anything and often brought tools to work on some incidental project that needed doing at the museum. In fact he anticipated being at his usual post this summer.

These three people who gave so much of themselves over the years are hard to replace because of their knowledge, skills, expertise, dedication and friendly demeanor. They were all true assets to perpetuation of the Cobblestone Society and will be missed by all who knew them.

Erie Canal Display And Programs

The Cobblestone Museum will have a special display of photographs in the basement of the church this summer. A collection of historic photographs taken in 1913 and housed in the Orleans County Historians office is the basis for much of the display. In 1913, the canal was undergoing enlargement, and the bridges were being replaced. During this time a series of photos was taken to document the work. For the display, these photos, along with a few contemporaneous postcards and prints were photographed, enlarged and

Along with the photos are interpretive pieces provided by members of the Albion Central School eighth grade class. This project was made possible, in part, by a grant from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor with contributions from the Hoag Library, where the display will be moved in the fall, the County Historian, and the Albion Central School District, along with the Cobblestone Society.

Along with the display will be a series of programs at the museum highlighting the canal. These will include: A program by Jeff Donohue, of the Holland Land Office Museum on the role of the Holland Land of-

fice in settling Western New York. That program will be held on July 13th at 2:00 with the opening for the Erie Canal Display at 3:00pm. On July 20, at 2:00pm. Gretchen Murray Sepik will present "Erie Canal Sal" a loosely based portrayal of a cook on a canal boat. Gretchen is a well known storyteller throughout New York State and does programs on Mary Jemison and Susan B. Anthony, as well as Beatrix Potter and other characters.

On August 3rd, C. W. Lattin, Orleans County Historian, and former Director of the Cobblestone Museum, will be speaking on "The Erie Canal: an Overview"

On July 10th, at 2:00 pm, Dee Robinson will be speaking on "Life on a Canal Boat: a Feminine Perspective." This program will feature experiences Mrs. Ross Arnett had when she was a child, traveling up and down the canal with her parents.

All these programs and the display are made possible, in part, by a grant from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.



Cobblestone Society Museum

P.O. Box 363
14389 Ridge Rd. West
Albion
NY 14411

585-589-9013

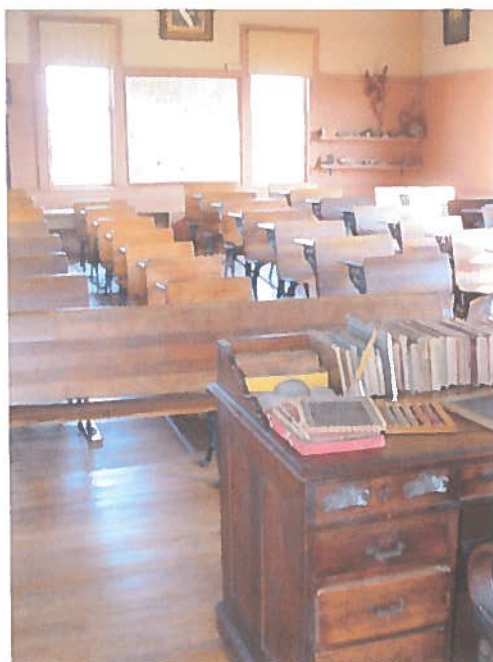
CobblestoneMuseum.org

Group tours by appointment May-October.

Donations to the Cobblestone Museum for the new church roof.

The following donors gave donations for the new roof since the last issue of *The Cobblestoner* was published. Thank you so much for your generous gifts!

Robert Bruning
Eugene and Joette Haines
Grace and John Denniston
Bonnie Holett
Brigden Memorials



Cobblestone School Interior

Membership

Annual membership renewals are being received. The Society is continuing to reach out to increase corporate memberships as well as encouraging cobblestone homeowners to join. Remember membership also makes a great gift. Once again we have included a membership application form in this newsletter. Please give this form to family, friends and anyone interested in joining the Cobblestone Society.

Sheri Egeli
Membership

THE COBBLESTONER

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

Message from the President

I am sad to relate that we have lost our Director, Deborah Brundage. Deborah has accepted a job teaching pre-school in Wayne County. She left the Cobblestone at the beginning of September, and we are getting ready to move forward in a new direction.

The Society has put an advertisement in the local Lake Country Pennysaver in search of a new Coordinator. We envision this as a part time position, working with volunteers to do all the jobs the museum needs done to keep open. Hopefully, we will find just the right person when we do interviews in the beginning of November. Various members of the Board and other volunteers have been working towards a seamless transition,

conducting tours, helping plan for weddings next year, cleaning the church for a wedding this fall, and keeping the museum open on Sundays.

We also have a committee working with Marsha Ducey's communications class at SUNY Brockport to create a new website for the museum. Many of the students were able to come take a quick look at the museum and take photos to use for this project. We hope to have our new website in place next Spring in time for the opening season with our first program—Mother's Day at the Museum in May.

Susan Rudnicky, President

Cobblestone School



"Basket of Cheer"

Some of you will remember Theresa Martilotta's fundraiser—the "Bushel of Booze." We have changed this and updated it a little—this year we are selling tickets for a "Basket of Cheer." Buy your tickets from a Board member or at the Hoag Library. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Annual Meeting.

Volume XXXV No.3

Fall 2013

2013-14 Calendar of events:

Nov. 14 Annual Meeting to be held at the Village Inn—7:00 pm

Special Program—Jeff Donohue from the Holland Land Office Museum

Dec. 12 Special Event at the Pullman Universalist Church to benefit the Cobblestone Museum

Image City Sound Course of the Sweet Adelines International a cappella singers with a Christmas concert. 7:00 pm. cost \$10.00 pre-sale or \$12.00 at the door. Refreshments after the concert in the church social room. Tickets will be available from Cobblestone Board members or at the Hoag Library

Farmers Hall

by C. W. Lattin

It has now been thirty-five years that the Farmers Hall building has been a part of the Cobblestone Museum Complex. With new people on the board of trustees who weren't around 35 years ago as well as new members who have joined the Cobblestone Society since

then, it now seems necessary to give some background on the Farmers Hall. It is my hope that the following history may answer some questions about this unique and important facet of the museum.

As soon as the Cobblestone Society was formed in 1960 with intent of creating a museum, artifacts began to appear from various donors.

Many of these items were agriculture related being hand tools and even larger pieces of farm equipment. There was no place to put them so consequently these things were stored when given in board members barns, including Curtis Murray, Charles Thompson, Homer Brown, Howard Pratt, and Cary Lattin.

We're on the web!
www.CobblestoneMuseum.org

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Farmers Hall (cont.)

The basement of the Cobblestone Church, now the Proctor Room, even had an exhibit of farm tools in it during the mid-1970's. In fact there was no room for people to gather in there because of a collection that overcrowded the space.

As director of the museum at the time I could see the need for meeting and reception space at the church. I was also concerned about a fine collection of artifacts that was completely dispersed in at least five different places without any strings attached.

In 1977 I heard a rumor that the Kendall Fire Dept. wanted to have a practice fire on the old Kendall Town Hall. To me it was a significant landmark which should be saved. It was built in 1855 for a Universalist

Church and later used, between 1887-1895, as a Lutheran Church. Following this the building became the Kendall Town Hall until a new structure was built in 1975. Having had great success in moving the Print Shop to the museum grounds in 1977 it seemed to me we could move the old town hall to Childs and reuse it for our collection of farming tools.

Therefore I approached Kendall Supervisor Michael Paduchak and asked him if the Town would consider giving it to the Cobblestone

Museum. His reply was "You'd be doing me a real favor if you could get that out of there". The problem was we had no place to put it. That's when Mrs. Josephine Howard, a board member, and I went to visit Mrs. Neva Murray landowner next to the Print Shop. We explained we could get a building for our collection of farm tools but needed a place for it. We asked if she would be willing to give the museum a lot big enough for the structure

contiguous with our museum property. Her immediate reply was "Of course I will." Therefore with many people working in our behalf we were able to make the move. A grant proposal was prepared with help through the Albion Central School with special assistance from Dr. Douglas Howk and Betty Genter. We received a CETA Grant for four unskilled laborers to dismantle and rebuild the structure. This was on the job training for

them under my supervision. ACS handled the payroll for the museum, a great help. The Town of Kendall pitched in with a bucket loader for lifting down pieces of the building. Pete Roth neighbor of the museum loaned a flatbed truck for transporting parts of the structure. Dismantling of the old town hall commenced on May Day 1978. Everything (all the parts) were at the new parcel of property on Rt. 98 in Childs by July 4, 1978.

Then came the great task of re-assembling this Greek Revival structure with unskilled labor. Various components of the building had been numbered so as to help in the rebuilding process. Miraculously we got the building put back together, roofed, resided and painted by September 30, 1978. Then came the interior work which occurred during October and November when the CETA grant ended. The interior was still incom-



Harness Shop and Print Shop

plete at this point. During the following fair weather season of 1979 a second CETA grant for this project with two workers was attained. Interior dry wall was completed and painted. The original choir loft for the church was rebuilt as seating space for visiting school groups. This work was completed by the end of July 1979. On the evening of the first Saturday of August 1979 a dance was held in the newly reconstructed building as a celebration before any artifacts were moved in.

Farmers Hall (cont.)

The rest of that season the two CETA workers moved the agricultural equipment from the various storage places, cleaned it and helped hang it on display.

The Cobblestone Society spent around \$5,000 of its own funds at the time for reconstruction. This included cement footers, lumber, roofing, drywall, paint etc. a real bargain in today's world. The exhibit plan was carried out by having white walls and natural light because of all the large windows.



Artifacts of like kind where possible were grouped together to tell a more complete story of that subject. Various topics in the Farmers Hall include: Grain harvest, the apple industry, harvesting natural ice, cooperage, plowing, harvesting hay and dairy artifacts to mention a few. Some of the most unique artifacts on display include a late 18th century bear trap, a 19th century log smoke house, an 1870's reaper and a backdrop from the Murray Grange Hall painted in 1929. Upon entering the Farmers Hall one first sees a fabu-

lous collection of stuffed birds by David Bruce in the lobby done in 1883.

The intent of Farmers Hall back thirty-five years ago was to first and foremost be a repository of 19th century farming tools and equipment. Secondly this collection arranged as it is was supposed to be used for educational purposes in telling the story of our local agrarian heritage. It is an outstanding collection of its type which surpasses what any other museum in this region has to offer along these lines.

Many of the artifacts are therefore silhouetted as sculpture. On June 1, 1980 it was dedicated with fanfare which included a farmers parade down Rt. 104 followed by ceremony which involved DAR and The Masonic order. Our Farmers Hall project saved a significant Greek Revival landmark which otherwise could easily have been lost. But beyond this it has housed over the last thirty-five years an important collection of 19th Century tools which tell the visual story of farm life in this region.

"The intent of Farmers Hall back thirty-five years ago was to first and foremost be a repository of 19th century farming tools and equipment."

In this day and age I am often astonished at how so many people are accepting of fakery as an expression of earlier times. There is nothing fake about the original artifacts in Farmers Hall which indicate wear and use showing the toil of human production before our electronic age.

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*Group tours by appointment May-
October.*



Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner for the Cobblestone Society will be at the Village Inn on November 14th starting at 6:00pm. After social hour, dinner will be served at 6:45 pm. We will be entertained by Jeff Donohue from the Holland Land Office Museum. Cost for the dinner will be \$22 per person. Dinner will be served buffet style, and will include salad, pulled pork, pasta and chicken as well as vegetables and potatoes.

You may make reservations for the dinner by calling Susan Rudnicki at the Hoag Library at (585) 589-4246, or stop by the library.



Farmers Hall, Harness Shop, and Print Shop
