



The Cobblestoner



New Art Exhibit Debuts in the Upper Gallery

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A new exhibit is now on display in the Upper Gallery at the Cobblestone Museum. This is a collection of prints by Currier & Ives, plus a few competitors, all on loan from former museum director, Bill Lattin. The exhibit contains 74 pieces and is open for viewing now by appointment, so call the museum at (585) 589-9013 to schedule your visit.

Bill Lattin said about the exhibit, "It's not what you'd expect." Most people think of Currier & Ives lithographs as showing the bucolic countryside of a romantic nature from the 19th century. This exhibit includes only one original example of this sort. All of the other pieces show the wide spectrum and market to which Currier & Ives were appealing. Subjects include: political figures, death bed scenes, temperance, characters from "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the Shakers, family record charts, horses, charming children and various religious subjects. The most widely published ubiquitous image of all is included in the exhibit. Can you guess what it is? (If you need some more help, the most popular print will be labeled in the exhibit!)

Between 1834 and 1907 it is estimated that the firm published as many as 7,000 different images. Most were hand colored although some were sold simply as black and white. Nathaniel Currier (1813-1888) established his printing business, first on Wall Street in 1834, and then soon moved to Nassau Street in NYC. In 1852 he engaged James Merritt Ives (1824-1895) as a bookkeeper, who had married the sister-in-law of Currier's brother, Charles. Ives had a

shrewd insight into the public's tastes and in 1857 was made a partner in the firm. Currier was indeed way ahead of Henry Ford when it came to production line work. Because the prints had to be hand colored with watercolors, Currier set up long tables in his shop and hired women to color. Each watercolorist only worked in one color and when finished with a print, would push it along to the next person so she could continue to use her own designated color. Prints were sold in 1860 from as little as eight cents to \$3.75 for larger examples. Push carts were even used to sell their prints on the streets of New York. Of course it was up to the buyer to get the prints framed.

Because the firm did not keep up with more modern techniques and technology, they ceased operation in 1907. By then, the public wanted more realistic images, and with advances in photography, lithography took a backseat in the printing industry.

The Currier & Ives Exhibit will be on view from now to the end of August. Beginning in September, local artist Tom Zangerle will have a one-man show of his paintings that will remain in the Upper Gallery until the spring of 2022.



Little Daisy, Currier & Ives Lithographic Print

In Memory of Al Capurso



Al Capurso, a former Gaines Historian, served as a trustee of the Cobblestone Museum in recent years. For many years he also was active in and served as president of the Orleans County Historical Association. His interest in these organizations overlapped when Al promoted preservation of the oldest documented cobblestone building in the county, an 1832 schoolhouse.

He was a volunteer who truly met countless visitors and supporters of the Cobblestone Museum. At times he liked to sit at Admissions where he could serve as a greeter and get acquainted with people who passed through the Museum's doors.

As a docent, he genuinely welcomed opportunities to share his admiration for our campus buildings and the stories rooted within. In addition to engaging our walk-in guests, he eagerly accepted assignments to greet busloads of visitors, usually carrying elementary school pupils or senior citizens.

If tours were closely timed, he'd show true disappointment when I'd give him the sign to end his narrative, because he loved to talk about local history! It pleased him to speak with Albion 4th grade students at their school during Pioneer Days in 2017 on behalf of the Museum.

He raised awareness of cobblestone history with youngsters at a "Cobblestone Camp" session one summer, and entertained them and their chaperones with his guitar in a sing-a-long. His interest to foster an appreciation of cobblestone masonry led him to develop a hands-on activity which was ultimately adapted for children, allowing them to create a replica cobblestone home. O-AT-KA furnished milk cartons to be transformed into a house with the aid of scissors, kid-friendly adhesive "mortar" and tiny polished pebbles, simulating lake-washed cobblestones. Several volunteers rallied to bring his dream to reality with local children. An early model of his vision with a personalized inscription sits at a prominent location on my bookshelf, which I treasure.

Is there anyone who's reading this tribute who hasn't heard Al singing or playing an instrument? Maybe you saw him at his favorite campus location, sitting on the bench near the Cobblestone Church, playing his guitar or banjo, where he enjoyed the seasonal breezes. He entertained at many of our events, such as Summer Soirées and the Old Timer's Fair.

If you've been to our Ghost Walks in recent years, you likely saw Al portraying the Universalist evangelist Rev. Stephen R. Smith at the Cobblestone Church. He wrote his own script based on his research, and he managed to include a fitting tune which he sung with his own accompaniment. He took on the roles of famed settler John Proctor and Gaines native John V. Tomlinson for other events.

Al's talents and good-natured disposition made him a special volunteer and he will definitely be missed.

--Sue Bonafini, Assistant Director

Director's Report



Spring has sprung at the Cobblestone Museum and we have started scheduling appointments for Museum tours. The primary tours offered this year are Full Campus, Cobblestone Only, or Vagg House Only. As a reminder, tours for Museum members are free of charge. Please plan two hours for a Full Campus Tour, and lesser amounts for the Cobblestone or Vagg Tour. While here, be sure to explore the Currier & Ives Exhibit in the Upper Gallery. I hope you give us a call today to get your tour scheduled at (585) 589-9013.

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The Legacy Society—Planned Giving Providing for the Cobblestone Museum's Future

SILVER LEVEL (0-\$99,999)

Anonymous Donor

For historical preservation

Seven Outhouses and a Water Closet



We have a fantastic collection of outhouses at the Museum. In case you weren't aware of that, we're providing a little glimpse inside this little discussed architectural collection.

The 1880's Eastlake style outhouse located by the Print Shop was the first building moved to our grounds, taking place in March 1977. Bill Lattin made an

inquiry with Nettie Ferris to determine if she would provide monetary support for its purchase.



and 98. C.W. "Bill" Lattin is seen here leading the Outhouse Tour in 2018.



The next year or so we were given the outhouse behind the Ward House by Verneta Cooper. This privy was originally located at the home of Gov. Rufus Bullock in Albion. Gerard Morrissey and Pat Farnham are shown here near the outhouse during the Ghost Walk in 2019.



The beautiful Greek revival outhouse by Farmers Hall came next — it's a five holer! Three seats are for adults and there are two smaller ones for children. This privy has a plastered interior and colonial wallpaper.

There are also boys' and girls' outhouses at the school house dating from the 1930's, the boys' outhouse even has a urinal.



The Museum also has 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." We have placed a commode in the closet which visitors find most fascinating. However, no such labeling on the east closet for women. (Perhaps because the ladies had their own parlor downstairs.)



The newest addition to our collection of outhouses is located at the Vagg House. During the planning stages for the advent to this new property for the Museum, Bill Lattin undertook the construction of a replica outhouse, patterned after the outhouse located at the Gaines Basin Schoolhouse.

Sneak Preview: Virtual Program with Lynne Bassett



By Sue Bonafini, Asst. Director

Lynne Zacek Bassett is an independent scholar specializing in historic costume and textiles. Her lecture, "With Womanly Weapons Girt": Women's Voluntarism & Quilts in the Civil War, examines the quilts and other textiles that women (North and South) created to declare their patriotism and support their fighting menfolk. Women not only supplied these absent men with necessary cloth-

ing and bedding, but with assurance that their sacrifice was honored and their presence missed. The production and supply of textiles during the Civil War speak to the Herculean efforts of women on the home front.

Among Lynne's projects are award-winning exhibitions and catalogues, including *Homefront & Battlefield: Quilts & Context in the Civil War* (co-authored with Madelyn Shaw and pub-

lished in 2012 by the American Textile History Museum). Author and curator, her experience has been recognized by the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Historic New England, and the International Quilt Study Center.

Reserve about an hour on October 7 for this presentation at 7 PM followed by Q&A with Lynne. This program will be offered via the Zoom platform to join a wider audience, but limited seating will be available to view the program at the Cobblestone Church. Full details will be announced at a future date.



Image courtesy of the Connecticut Historical Society. Quilt made by Martha Moore Baker, New Hartford, CT, c. 1861-1865

Donors and More!

Many thanks to our members & friends who have made donations to the Cobblestone Society since our last issue of *The Cobblestoner*. Many people kindly donated items, finances, in-kind services, or artifacts to help the Museum continue to grow.

Rev. Dr. Don Algeo	Joyce & Bill Coxeter	Ingrid & Roger LaMont in memory of Mary Beth (Mann)	Deborah Proctor
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Capital Fund Drive for Vagg House

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		Catherine Moore	Loretta Smith in memory of Alvin W. Smith	

Cobblestone Blacksmith Shop in Alloway

By Richard Palmer

As the early settlers of Lyons began to clear their land, they faced a special problem. The recession of the glacier that covered much of New York State in prehistoric times left small, round stones known as cobbles, covering the farmland. These stones had to be removed before the fields could be planted with crops. The cobbles were gathered up and used for building and, as a result, Wayne County is the site of one of the most unusual and beautiful kinds of architecture in this country. Lyons has several beautiful cobblestone homes and buildings, but the most unique is the blacksmith shop in Alloway.



In 1832, Alfred Hale built this small two-story, octagonal, cobblestone blacksmith shop on Alloway Road. Each side of the building is 12 1/2 feet long and is constructed of fieldstone cobble. The building was used for years as a blacksmith shop, and most recently as a machine shop.

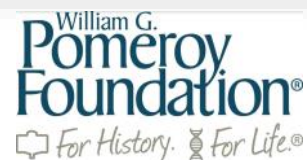
There were many advantages of using cobblestones for a shop of this sort. Cobblestones are very strong and make a solid structure. They are fireproof; a very important consideration in the days before fire departments, and the thick walls kept the building warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The stone buildings required little outside maintenance and needed no paint.

Nearly 175 years after its construction, the unique building retains its original charm and is often the subject for photog-



raphers and artists. The crack near the door was made when a car lost control and crashed into the building. One can still see the remnants of paint left from when the shop owner lost an election wager and the structure was painted red, white and blue.

Cleveland Frind bought the blacksmith shop and the cobblestone house across the street in 1918. The blacksmith shop closed in 1936, after the automobile had replaced horses. The building was then used as a machine shop until around 1960. Cleveland's son and daughter-in-law, Ralph and Helen Frind, lived in the cobblestone house across the street from the octagonal structure for many years. Shortly after Ralph passed away in 2008, the house and shop were sold to former Lyons resident Mary LaGasse Tatum.



Easternmost Cobblestone



By Richard Palmer (CobblestoneStructures.blogspot.com)
Photo courtesy Cynthia Gaylord

This house at 17 Bartlett Street, Westfield, Massachusetts, may be the easternmost cobblestone house in the U.S. It was built about 1838 by Ralph Lucius Dewey (1818-1863), a local mason, with water-washed stones gathered from the nearby Westfield River dumped there as ballast from canal boats.

The Hampshire & Hampden Canal, which, with the Farmington Canal, linked Westfield to Long Island Sound at New Haven, Connecticut. The canal system was planned as early as 1822, completed in 1835, and operated for a period of 17 years. Extending as far north as Northampton, passing through Westfield, the water link was a canal four feet deep and some 34 feet wide, extending 87 miles to the sea. The canal was used for both freight and passenger service, and the boats made their way leisurely along the route, pulled by horses. There were 90 locks.

The canal system was abandoned in 1847 because of railroad competition and financial stress. Eight years later, the canal route became a railroad right of way, and a railroad was built along the same route, using the drained canal bed in some places.

Mattie (Boyden) Sizer, the last descendant of Dewey to live there, died in 1960 and the property sold in 1961. Note the unusual brick quoins which may have been due to the absence of limestone from the area which is normally used.

A "New" Cobblestone Building



By Richard Palmer

One of the most unusual modern examples of contemporary cobblestone construction in upstate New York is the Ulysses Town Hall at 10 Elm Street in the village of Trumansburg, Tompkins County. The original structure was a wooden frame and cinderblock building and had housed a tractor dealership. A second story was added.

The idea of recreating a modern Greek Revival exterior originated with architect Mark Inglis who grew up in Wayne County and was descended from a cobblestone mason. He worked on the project with Trumansburg architect Peter Demjanic.

There used to be a large plate glass window in the front that was closed in. Some 270 traditional cobblestone veneer panels of mortar and cobblestone were constructed and affixed to the exterior of the building. The building is about 60 feet square. It has no second story per se, but rather a large roof that was added sometime in the past. The building was elongated in 1996-1997 with wood by about a third its length to its present size.

This project to create a new cobblestone building occurred in 1997-98 and was done by Paul Briggs of Lansing, N.Y., a mason long recognized for his knowledge in cobblestone construction and restoration. The cobblestone five-inch thick veneer was added by Briggs in 1997. Work was completed in the spring of 1998.

A local mudstone called "Llenroc" was used for the foundation, lintels, sills and quoins. All squared stones are about five inches thick. Many cobbles are that thick and while some are not - just as in other cobblestone houses.

Some 3,000 stones were collected in Genoa in Cayuga County. Briggs said, "I hired my neighbor Keith Hayes to help at times and taught him to do the jointwork and set cobbles. He did about 25 percent of them. Keith and I cast them into 12" x 24" forms, and did the joints after de-molding them. This was to save time but it was a marginal savings due to other complexities." This is the only known cobblestone building in Tompkins County.

Cobblestone Museum Events 2021

Editor's note: Our Event List for 2021 is a work in progress and subject to change depending on health requirements, etc.

Exploring the Cobblestone Museum Online – Feb. 1-Dec. 31, 2021. The Museum will expand its online presence using six -10 livestreaming presentations focusing on particular artifacts in the Museum's collection. Several episodes have been produced during the Covid-19 pandemic with great success. This series will build on that success and provide arts & cultural content for those who do not wish to participate face-to-face.

Corning Museum of Glass Bus Trip –TBD

Enjoy a full day excursion to Historic Corning and learn about the history of glass making at the Corning Museum of Glass.

Albion Strawberry Festival—June 11 & 12

We've received word that the Strawberry Festival has been cancelled for 2021.

Luncheon is Served at the Vagg House – TBD

Our members and their guests are invited to enjoy a special luncheon with finger sandwiches and tea at the Vagg House. A tour of the house will be included. A freewill donation will be accepted. Special repeat events will be scheduled as needed to meet the demand.

Cobblestone Heritage: Our 60th Anniversary - Sun. July 5 (11am-3pm)

Come out and celebrate our anniversary and the 4th of July with patriotic songs and readings at 11am. At noon we will welcome all of the churches of the community for a bring-your-own picnic lunch on the side lawn to celebrate our 60th Anniversary. Enjoy a hot dog right off the grill. A freewill donation will be received.

Plein Air Painting Class with Pat Greene – First Class Saturday, July 24 (9am-1pm.) Later Classes TBD.

We are pleased to announce that the Cobblestone Museum is once again collaborating with local artist Pat Greene to offer a series of oil and acrylic painting classes. This year, the series will be taught outdoors at local scenic venues around Orleans County. The individual site itself will serve as the background for the painting session. The subject matter of the classes will feature clouds, foliage & water which are all affected differently by light.

The July 24 class will take place (weather permitting) at Robyn Hill Nature Preserve in Lyndonville. Students will supply some of their own materials. Pat will provide a list of supplies needed for outdoor painting. The cost for each session is \$25 for Cobblestone Museum members and \$30 for all others. An art exhibit of student work will follow later in the year at the Cobblestone Museum.

Cobblestone Trivia Night Series – TBD

Maarit Vaga will emcee the Cobblestone Museum's own Trivia Night series. An alternative Zoom format will be available for those who cannot attend in person.

Victorian Mourning Art Online Exhibit – September 1 –

TBD. An online exhibit will be created to showcase mourning art prominent in the late 19th century in America. Many pieces from the Museum collection will be featured including ob-

jects that display the motifs of angels, wreaths, pillows and lambs. One of the most unique artifacts is a beautiful tombstone donated to the Museum by the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester that depicts a stand of weeping willows and an obelisk pointing to heaven.

Cobblestone Membership Fundraising Dinner—

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Join us for our third Membership Dinner at the Carlton Recreation Center. This signature event will be catered again by Michael Zambito. There will be live and silent auctions and several raffles throughout the evening.

Fundraising Concert II—TBD

Join us at the Cobblestone Church for a reprise free concert featuring our fiddler friends, "Elderberry Jam." A freewill offering will be accepted. This concert will also be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person.

Old Timer's Fair & Antiques Appraisal—TBD

Our museum will come alive with artisans and re-enactors as we recreate the feel of Orleans County life in the 19th century. Free Admission. An antique appraisal service is also available for a small fee per item. A **Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ** is taking place on-site for dining al fresco (if permitted) or take-out, from 11am until 5pm or sold-out. Livestreaming will also be used for those who cannot attend the festivities in person.

Cobblestone Virtual Tour of Homes—TBD

Our annual Cobblestone Tour will go virtual this year and includes 10 sites, filmed on location, and meetings with the owners. Purchase your tour booklet and internet access in advance.

"With Womanly Weapons Girt": Women's Voluntarism & Quilts in the Civil War - Virtual Lecture (Oct. 7 at 7 pm.)

Lynne Zacek Bassett is an independent scholar specializing in historic costume and textiles. She will share her presentation via the Zoom platform. Limited seating will be available to view this program at the Cobblestone Church. Read more on page 4 in this newsletter. Full details to be announced, save the date on your calendar today.

Holiday Shoppe – TBD

The Holiday Shoppe is (hopefully) back for 2021 and we look forward to displaying a huge selection of Christmas decorations at very low prices again this year.

Christmas Tour of Homes - TBD

View some wonderful Christmas displays as part of our Christmas Tour of Historic Homes. Self-drive to enjoy the outdoor spectacle of lights and decorations. A program booklet will explain the various Christmas traditions enjoyed by host families. Indoor tours may be available if permitted by health regulations.



Levi Rugg Blacksmith Shop



This photo shows a cobblestone blacksmith shop located in Elba, NY, built circa 1830, and depicted here as seen circa 1880. One of the early blacksmiths to occupy the shop was Levi Rugg. He was actually involved with both blacksmithing and wagon repair until his death in 1875. Two succeeding blacksmiths then worked in the shop until well into the 20th century.

In the mid-20th century, the blacksmith shop was disassembled and moved to the Genesee Country Museum where it was reassembled. It is now known as the Levi Rugg Blacksmith Shop. The Museum reassembled it so the interior rubble wall is seen inside the building. The blacksmith shop as it looks today is shown below.



Docents: Essential Volunteers



It's clear that even during a pandemic, docents are needed to greet and guide visitors at the Cobblestone Museum. Last year we successfully adapted our usual tour format to allow for new measures to be implemented to minimize risk of any potential viral spread between visitors and volunteers.

Wearing masks, physical distancing, greater interpretation time outside of buildings, fewer guests in each party and limited tours by appointment each day were significant and effective changes. Volunteers self-monitored their wellness and guests were surveyed with health/safety questions and required to provide contact tracing information, should a need arise. There is now hope in view with regard to vaccines and other signs that some normalcy will return sooner rather than later. Our policies will reflect any changes that may occur with regard to eased restrictions while following state guidelines.

There are a few veteran docents who will return this season to guide the public, but it's always sensible to have a respectable number of volunteers on the roster from which to draw assistance when needed.

You might ask, what qualities make an ideal docent at the Cobblestone Museum? Docents must enjoy meeting and talking with people – young or old, local townspeople or visitors from elsewhere. Docents should enjoy reading and learning about history, and have an appreciation for the cobblestone structures that dot much of the landscape between Buffalo and Syracuse. Availability to serve at least one morning or afternoon per week between May and October, weekdays or Saturdays, is best.

Volunteers come and go throughout the years as life circumstances change. There are many organizations in the region which rely on the help of volunteers, so we often find ourselves competing to entice individuals to lend support. The fact is that finding and maintaining volunteers can be challenging at any time, but especially during a health crisis.

Docents receive written materials about the campus buildings and their history to study and refer to when guiding tours. Training is provided in a series of steps to build confidence and to address issues related to tours. Personal voice amplifiers are available upon request, and continued support is available throughout the year.

If you are inspired to explore this volunteer opportunity, or if you know someone who might become a Museum docent, please contact me today!

Sue Bonafini, Assistant Director

volunteers@cobblestonemuseum.org

Zebulon Whipple House



The photo at right was taken about 1923 of Ethel Watters Neal and her daughter, Mary Elizabeth, of Buffalo, who were out for a ride along Route 104 in Orleans County. Mary was the mother of Jean Palmer, wife of Cobblestone Society member Richard Palmer.

The duo was standing outside this Greek Revival house at 13076 Ridge Road in the Town of Gaines. The cobblestone house was built for Zebulon Whipple in 1844. It is very unique in the fact that the entire front facing the road is of the herring-bone pattern while the sides are of the standard cobblestone construction.

Photos courtesy Richard Palmer

Sign Up Now for Summer Art Class with Pat Greene



**Saturday, July 24, 9am-1pm.
Later Classes TBD.**

We are pleased to announce that the Cobblestone Museum is once again collaborating with local artist Pat Greene to offer a series of oil and acrylic painting classes. This year, the series will be taught outdoors at local scenic venues

around Orleans County. The first class will take place at Robin Hill Preserve in Lyndonville (shown below) on Saturday, July 24, from 9am-1pm. Other class dates and locations are still to be determined.

The individual site itself will serve as the background for each painting session. The subject matter of the classes will feature clouds, foliage & water which are all affected differently by light. Understanding what is truly seen and why adds knowledge to the painting experience. Pat will break down the components of landscape to better understand the distinct challenges of rendering a realistic portrayal of each. Ultimately, by direct observation, an artist can see more ac-

curately that which the camera doesn't capture or inherently distorts.

Plein air painting gives opportunity to record realistic color and light effects. The July 24 class will take place (weather permitting) at Robin Hill Nature Preserve in Lyndonville. Students will supply some of their own materials. Pat will provide a list of supplies needed for outdoor painting. The cost for each session is \$25 for Cobblestone Museum members and \$30 for all others. An art exhibit of student work will follow later in the year at the Cobblestone Museum. Please call the Museum at (585) 589-9013 to reserve your place in the July 24 class.



Vagg House Treasures

By Camilla VanderLinden, Cobblestone Society Trustee

Labor Savings Devices With Histories

Rene Schasel, the last owner of the Vagg House, was a collector of many things including labor-saving domestic machines. He amassed a collection of over 100 toasters, 39 washing machines, 200 flat irons, 50 waffle irons, seven Monitor Top refrigerators and 60 vacuum cleaners. This article focuses on floor and rug cleaning devices.

Early on and well into the 19th Century, jute or other weaved mats were put on floors to protect people from the cold. Floors were swept with brooms. As rugs became more popular, the challenge of cleaning them increased. At first rugs and carpets were cleaned by beating them as they hung over railings, clothes lines or window sills. It was a laborious process and physically challenging. Floor sweeping continued, but let's face it, that chore just stirs the dust and often moves it to another location.

Then came sweepers in 1860 when inventor Charles Ives McGaffey created the "carpet sweeping machine." We have never really heard this name before, but we have heard the name, "Bissell." We are fortunate to have an old Bissell carpet sweeper in the Vagg House. Its history is as interesting as the device.



Anna and Melville Bissell of Grand Rapids Michigan owned a crockery where they made and sold dishes, plates, etc. made of earthenware and china. The shop got quite dusty and they got very tired of constantly cleaning dust off the carpet in their shop. So, Mr. Bissell went to work and invented and patented a one-of-a-kind sweeper in 1876. Friends and customers liked the idea and a new business was born. He did not invent the idea of a carpet sweeper, but his sweeper had a central brush, rubber wheels and other improvements over anything else that existed before.

Melville Bissell died of pneumonia in 1889 and his wife, Anna, with five children, took over and became America's first female corporate CEO. During her tenure at the helm of the corporation, she established new guidelines on trademarks and patents and moved the company into the international market. Queen Victoria became the carpet sweeper's first famous fan and insisted that the palace be "bisselled" weekly. As president of the board and CEO of the organization, Anna

adopted progressive labor policies like workman's comp and pension plans before such practices were common in industry. She was also a philanthropist and for years was the only woman member of the National Hardware Men's Assn. Anna died in 1934 at the age of 88.

The Bissell Company is still going strong and is at the forefront of vacuum cleaners, carpet cleaning machines, and cleaning products. Their machines provide deep cleaning and they have expanded into cleaners specifically for attacking pet stains. The company has come a long way and it still produces carpet sweepers, which continue to be popular and are used for quick cleanups in restaurants, stores, and even homes.

Vacuum cleaners came about after the addition of electricity to every home. There were a number of inventors, but one brand that has lasted is the Air Way Sanitizer Corporation of Toledo, Ohio. This company introduced the first vacuum cleaner with a disposable bag in 1920, which was a great improvement over the Hoover Company electric vacuum cleaner first produced in 1908 and which used a cloth filter bag.

The Air Way Sanitizer electric vacuum in the Vagg House, pictured below, is an interesting piece of equipment. Notice the slender design and the cord wrapped on top of the handle. The airplanes on the bag add a little fun. The Air Way company is still in business, now in Cincinnati. The company created the first 2 – motor upright vacuum and the first "power nozzle" vacuum cleaner. Air-Way had other firsts also: using a seal on the dirt bag and the use of a HEPA filter on the vacuum. Air-Way also changed the spelling of Sanitizer to Sanitizer in later years.



When you visit the Vagg House, be sure to handle both the sweeper and the Air-Way, seen here, made between 1920-1926. You will develop a new appreciation for the strength needed to use these labor-saving devices. Imagine at that point, that the sweeper and vacuum were both so much easier to use than beating rugs!

Check out these company websites to see old pictures and ads for these innovations.

All information obtained through Wikipedia and its sources, Bissell.com, and airwayvac.com

Cobblestone Museum Membership & Vagg House Donation Form

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Email Address (Please print) _____

_____ I am a new member _____ I am renewing _____ I am a Life Member

_____ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities. _____ I prefer an electronic newsletter.

Membership Levels	(.....SUSTAINING LEVELS.....)						
	Individual \$25	Family \$40+	Patron \$100+	Bronze \$250+	Silver \$500+	Gold \$1000+	Diamond \$2500+
Free Admission	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Free Cobblestoner Newsletter	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Discounts on Events & Tours	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10% Discount in Gift Shop	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Advance Notice of Events	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Use of Resource Center	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cobblestone Perks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Recognition in Newsletter	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Recognition in every Newsletter			X	X	X	X	X
Recognition at Membership Dinner			X	X	X	X	X
Free Admission for Guests			2	4	All	All	All
Free Raffle Tickets at the Membership Dinner				X	X	X	X
One Free Ticket to Event (s)					1	2	4
Advertisement on Website					X	X	X
Complimentary Lunch for Two at Annual Meeting						X	X
Free Raffle Tickets at all Events						X	X
Complimentary Dinner for Two at Membership Dinner							X

Membership Category (All levels except Individual include two people.) Through April 30, 2022

_____ Individual \$25

_____ Silver \$500 +

_____ Family \$40 +

_____ Silver (10 Payments of \$50 per month)

_____ Patron \$100 +

_____ Gold \$1,000 +

_____ Bronze \$250 +

_____ Gold (10 Payments of \$100 per month)

_____ Bronze (10 Payments of \$25 per month)

_____ Diamond \$2,500+

_____ Diamond (10 Payments of \$250 per month)

I would like to contribute to the Vagg House Capital Campaign. My donation is \$_____

Checks payable to:

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The Cobblestone Society

P.O. Box 363, Albion, N.Y. 14411 Credit or Debit Card # _____ Exp. _____
(585) 589-9013 (Credit or debit card required for monthly payments.)