



The Cobblestoner



Capital Campaign For Vagg House Purchase

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The Cobblestone Museum is pleased to announce that it has added the "Vagg House" to its tours. The house is named in memory of its former owners, blacksmith Joseph Vagg and his wife Nellie. It is located on the corner of Routes 104 & 98 next to the Blacksmith Shop. The Vagg House is now set up to interpret life as the Vaggs would have lived it in the 1920s and

'30s. Note here a set of replica wooden mounting steps for a horse, carriage or wagon.

As part of our overall growth here at the Cobblestone Museum, we are launching a capital campaign to complete what we owe on the Vagg House and start the fundraising process for a visitors center which we feel is very much needed. Our total purchase price for the Vagg House is \$60,000. We have already received \$32,250 and still need to raise \$27,500.

As usual, the names of all donors, large and small, will be listed in our Cobblestoner newsletter and on our website, unless you choose to remain anonymous. In addition, there will be three plaques placed at the Vagg House listing the names of those who contribute in one of the following categories: \$1,000+, \$2,500+ or \$5,000+. Gifts in honor or memory of a friend or loved one are gratefully received. The back page of this newsletter can be used when sending your donation. Every gift is important and we appreciate your help in any way!

New Acquisition



Welcome to
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The Cobblestone Museum is pleased to have received a beautiful Civil War-era sleigh from Cobblestone Society Life Member Earl Roth of Elba. Earl received the sleigh from a friend many years ago. He said, "The sleigh was in bad shape when I got it. It had been stored in a barn and a ton of hay fell on it." Earl added that he hired Amish craftsmen to repair the sleigh and it's in excellent condition now.

The sleigh was manufactured in the 1800s by the Excelsior Carriage Company in Watertown, NY. It has a beautiful canopy and is unusual in that it has working doors on its sides.

The sleigh will be displayed in a new exhibit planned for the Vagg Transportation Barn, a soon to be developed display of sleighs and carriages in the barn at the Vagg property. Cobblestone Society board member Bill Lattin is looking forward to pulling this exhibit together. He plans to move some of the vehicles out of storage, like a 19th century peddler's cart. Bill said, "I've only seen one other one like it, and that was at Cooperstown."



Looking Back



July 20-1941 Fair Haven Church

The Cobblestone Universalist Church was the setting for this annual pilgrimage by the congregation of the Pullman Memorial Church in 1941. Some of the assembled notables included: (left) Mrs. Walker, Clara Luttenton, Rev. Walker (Pullman Memorial's Minister), unknown, Fred Tanner and Nellie Tanner.



Things looked a little different at the intersection of Routes 104 & 98 on June 1, 1980 for the Farmers' Parade. This busy scene shows the brick house and attached H&A Store before the Museum acquired the property.

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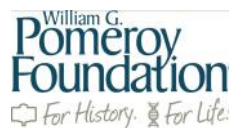
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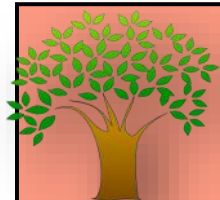
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* Denotes Life Members

As an additional membership benefit, Patron Level and higher levels are recognized in every issue of the Cobblestoner. Members at the Individual and Family levels are recognized in one quarterly issue at the time of payment.

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



SILVER LEVEL (0-\$99,999)

Anonymous Donor-

For historical preservation



Anyone can become a member of the Legacy Society simply by letting us know that they have remembered the Cobblestone Society & Museum in their will or other planned giving arrangement. For additional information about membership in the Legacy Society or to discuss a potential planned gift, please contact Douglas Farley, Museum Director at 585.589.9013 or email director@cobblestonemuseum.org. All inquiries are confidential and without obligation.

Greg Lawrence Cobblestone Info-Base Creator Honored



Greg Lawrence

We would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Cobblestone Society volunteer, Greg Lawrence, as a recipient of a 2020 Special Citation Award by the Landmark Society of WNY.

Mr. Lawrence was honored for the creation of the Cobblestone Information Base, a repository for all known and found information on cobblestone structures in North America. This is a project that he created, pro bono, on behalf of the Cobblestone Society and the Landmark Society.

Greg is retired after 31 years at Kodak in micrographics (microfilm) and high volume, commercial document scanners. Erin Anheier, the Cobblestone Society president, approached him in Spring 2018 with a proposal to digitally duplicate the "Robert Roudabush Survey of Cobblestone Buildings in New York State" archived at the Landmark Society of Western New York.

He accepted the challenge and expanded it to include an information base with a platform to maintain, update, and import information as desired. Greg said it is "a growing, living library

of information, a repository of all known and found information about cobblestone structures that can be accessed world-wide."

A unique project, the Cobblestone Info Base is now in official release status and is beginning testing through the Museum's web site as a virtual library. To date about 1,000 cobblestone structures with about 6,800 images are included, each structure having a unique web page.

The core of the Cobblestone Info Base includes The Roudabush Survey, Sheila and Martin Wolfish collection of about 2500 photographs, and 598 digitized pages of the books, "Cobblestone Architecture" and "Cobblestone Masonry" by Carl Schmidt, and "Cobblestone Landmarks of New York State" by Olaf William Shulgren, Jr., Cary Lattin, and Robert W. Frasch, Photographs by Gerda Peterich. Also included are the contents of the "Cobblestone Buildings of North America" blog by Richard Palmer of Syracuse.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, this year's award winners were presented at a "virtual" Awards Ceremony, via the Zoom platform on the Internet on December 6th.

At the time of the award, Mr. Lawrence remarked, "I am grateful that the opportunity arose to do the Cobblestone Info Base project that benefits from the broad range of skills, knowledge, and facilities that I have accumulated over my lifetime. As a repository for documentation and imagery, the Cobblestone Info Base is designed to be an ongoing project for years to come; if so, that will be the greatest award for all involved."

Abandoned Cobblestone Structure Gets New Life in Sodus



A hundred years of neglect to this cobblestone structure in Sodus is clearly evident in this early photo. Remarkably, the current owner has set a course to undo the damage caused by time and neglect.

This vacant cobblestone building at 1620 Shaker Road in Sodus is being rehabilitated by the property owner's 19-year-old son, Harrison Van Der Waal. The project is a collaboration of Van Der Waal and architect Skip Stevens of Pultneyville who

has created measured drawings to provide a blueprint for the restoration. Stevens is also checking in every few weeks to gauge progress.

To date, the old wooden wing has been removed and a new metal roof added to the cobblestone structure along with other interior improvements.

Van Der Waal is in his freshman year at SUNY/Cobleskill. He is an exceptional student (valedictorian Sodus High School) and talented photographer. He & his family are also rehabbing a 1920s brick house on adjacent property, which they just purchased.



Donors and More!

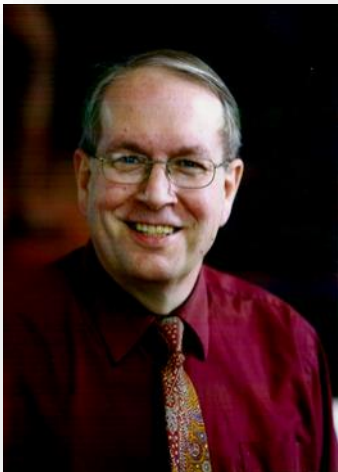
Many thanks to our members & friends who have made donations to the Cobblestone Society since our last issue of *The Cobblestoner*. Many people kindly donated items, finances, in-kind services, or artifacts to help the Museum continue to grow.

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Director's Report



A new year brings with it a time of looking back at the old year of 2020 in our rear-view mirror and an exciting new look at what will come our way in the new year 2021. While I don't think any of us would like to relive the year 2020, all the same, a lot of great things still took place. In review, I am very pleased that 2020 was a time of growth for the Cobblestone Museum in that we added a new building to our campus with the official opening of

the Vagg House. The passing of our member and dear friend René Schasel in 2019 created the circumstances that led to the Museum's acquisition of the property and the wonderful opportunity his home presented to tell the story of life in the 1920-1930 time period. It is especially important considering the home is the original home of Joseph Vagg, blacksmith, whose shop we also interpret on the same property. You will see in our schedule of events on page 8 that we intend to host luncheons at the Vagg House in 2021. I hope you take the opportunity to enjoy one of these luncheons once the dates are established. I am sure you will be favorably impressed.

Throughout 2020, during the closures and cancellations created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we were still able to create a large variety of electronic programs which I hope you have enjoyed and learned from during this challenging year. All of the electronic programs are hosted now on our website for your review and future enjoyment, too. Many thanks to Bill Lattin for his unending willingness to assist me by sharing his knowledge of Orleans County history and much more, and his willingness to appear "on camera" to help create the electronic programs at the Museum. Special thanks to our board members and friends who also assisted with the programs, "History at Home," which have been bringing a lot of favorable comments on our social media sites, too.

Creating a plan for getting back into public programming in 2021 has been another challenge we accepted in 2020 and a part of our excitement for 2021. The groundwork was laid in 2020 when we successfully "re-opened" the museum using NYS Forward protocol. Many thanks to Assistant Director Sue Bonafini for helping me create our guidelines that allowed us to offer public tours beginning in July. The guidelines observed necessary safety measures to ensure the health and wellbeing of our staff, volunteers and visiting public. The event list on Page 8 is indeed a work-in-progress toward returning to events and celebrations in 2021. I hope that the advent of new vaccines will help bring the planned events to fruition, as we attempt to get back to business-as-usual, with perhaps, a new normal now in sight.

Cobblestone Structures in Erie County



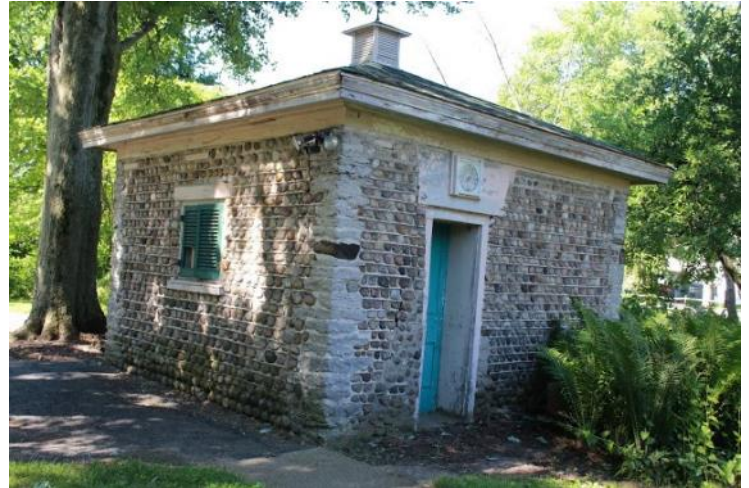
By Richard Palmer

As far as we know, there are only two cobblestone houses in Erie County. This house at 4055 Ransom Road in Clarence is a composite Greek Revival cobblestone and wooden frame structure, built about 1840. The four-bay house is two stories topped by a large cupola with two six-light windows. The cobblestone construction, of fieldstone, is three rows to the limestone quoin, first floor only.



Built at the height of the Greek Revival era, this house is representative of a rarer house type known as the Greek Revival Cottage. Such cottages always featured a large belvedere (cupola) on a broad hipped roof (four slopes) and were built on a square plan, rather than the more traditional deep rectangular classical temple plan. Some were low to the ground with a wrap-around verandah (Regency Cottage type), while others, like this one, were built elevated on a stone base with a grand stairway leading to the prestigious front door.

The grand wide stairway has been removed, giving the house an awkward look. This important feature could be easily restored. What is especially distinctive with this house is the cobblestone base. This lower floor would have served as a service area for the family above (cooking, laundry), with perhaps a cool summer bedroom or two as well. It is the only Greek Revival house with a cupola in Erie County.



The Spring House behind is a real rarity, perhaps the only one left in New York. It echoes the house in a much simpler version and is built entirely of cobblestone. Its purpose is to capture the fresh cool water of a local ground spring and use it to keep food cool in pre-mechanical refrigeration days. The fact that it survives today, intact, is nothing short of a miracle.

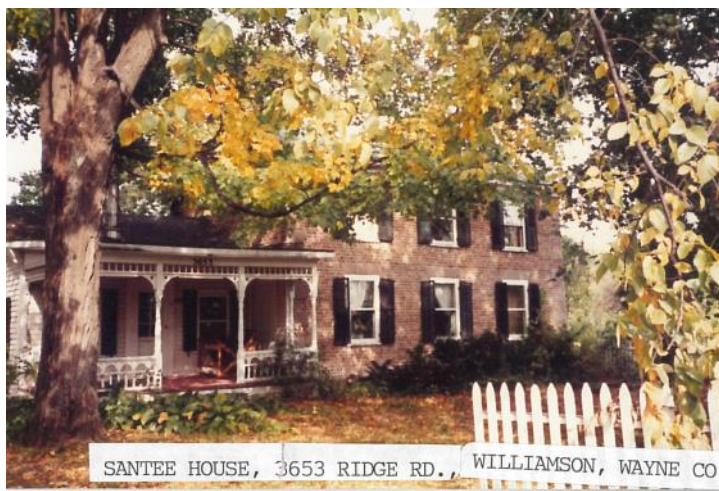
The larger field cobbles are carefully laid and tooled. The raking light on the quoins shows the horizontal rows of vertical chisel marks with occasional craters from prior coarser tools like a pick and a pointed chisel used for initial rough shaping. The front wall with smaller field cobbles is very refined.



The Alden Town Assessor has a date of 1840 for this cobblestone house at 979 Four Rod Road. A map of the Town dated 1855 shows Oliver Field (1799-1872) as the owner of the property. His wife owned it after Oliver's death. On the 1909 map, the owner is M. Knoche. The Rautenstrauch family came between 1915 and 1920. Over the years there have been several additions. It is believed that the large dormer on the second floor is a later addition as these were not common during the period of cobblestone construction.



The Britton House—Sodus, NY (Wayne County)



By Richard Palmer (CobblestoneStructures.blogspot.com)

Reprinted from *Williamson Sun*, July 28, 1949

118 Year Old Homestead To Change Hands Here

An old cobblestone homestead which has been in the same family for four generations is about to be sold. This will be the first time that the house has been offered for sale since it has been in the Britton family or its descendants ever since it was built back in 1833 when cobblestone architecture was popular in this area.

It was 118 years ago Richard Britton and his wife, Ann, bride of only two years, left their native England to undertake a seven week voyage across the Atlantic, at the end of which they sailed down the St. Lawrence River into Lake Ontario and landed at Pultneyville.

Almost immediately this first Britton, who according to "Landmarks of Wayne County" was a veterinary surgeon and

farmer, purchased a tract of land just west of the village of Williamson on the Ridge and built there one of the early cobblestone houses in this area.

To Richard and his wife was born a son, Joseph, in the fall of 1833, to whom in his 28th year the father deeded the cobblestone homestead and its surrounding farm lands. Joseph, in turn, had a daughter, Carrie M., who was born, lived most of her life and died in the old homestead. It is her son, Howard Santee, who is the present owner of the old place.

Howard Santee, who, of course, is the great grandson of the original Britton, now plans to dispose of the old homestead, which will be the first time in 118 years that the property has changed hands. It was originally purchased from Sir John L. Johnstone of England through Joseph Fellows, an early land agent.

The Wayne County Historical Society and Museum at Lyons will benefit by the selling of the old Britton place, in that the great grandson of the builder of the homestead, has presented to the Museum his mother's (Mrs. Santee's) beautiful ivory faille wedding dress, complete with veil and slippers, which she wore on her wedding day, February 18, 1892, when she was married from the old cobblestone homestead. The present owner also gave the Museum the suit in which his father was married and a most unusual pair of honeycomb pattern glass communion cups which were used in the old Wesleyan Church of Williamson where the Britton family worshipped. (Old timers of the Williamson area will remember that this old Wesleyan Church building is now the West Main Street home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Young.)

The old Britton home contains many antique pieces of furniture, some of which came from England. These, and the tall grandfather clock which has been in the family for many years, the great grandson will keep in the family.

Five to Revive: Historic Hamlet of Childs



Work is progressing behind the scenes to move forward with community planning in response to the Hamlet of Childs' naming to the Five To Revive project list by the Landmark Society of WNY. This important designation can be a catalyst to planned growth in the hamlet as we seek to enhance the historic assets using a strategic approach.

Like most activities in 2020, our best intentions often met a

different reality due to public health limits and guidelines. The planned public forum for the hamlet didn't come to fruition, but we certainly still have a desire to meet with stakeholders in the hamlet to review thoughts and suggestions for improvements.

To accomplish that, we recently met with the Town Board for Gaines and created a collaboration on two grants that could assist us with two Five to Revive projects. The first grant project would allow the Landmark Society to complete an Historic Places application for the hamlet, wherein all the eligible structures in the community would be part of a National Historic Register District.

The second grant would provide for a charrette-style community forum utilizing professional community planners. The outcome of the forum would include publication of printed materials to highlight the ideas presented in the forum and some professional renderings of the anticipated changes and improvements.

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 live streaming 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.

Old Fashioned Days – June 11 & 12, 2021 at Pullman Memorial Church. This will be in conjunction with Albion's Strawberry Festival, an annual event that welcomes over 10,000 people for the two-day event. The Festival was cancelled in 2020 during the COVID-19 crisis, and the planning committee is looking forward to making any changes that will allow the event to go forward in 2021. We will have a hands-on history display featuring objects for children to touch and examine, like dial telephones, typewriters, & more. We will have an art exhibit featuring examples of Victorian art from the collection of former Museum Director Bill Lattin. Also, several artists will be invited to paint and sculpt. Visitors will be encouraged to start their own artwork to take home. The Museum will bring artifacts to acquaint festival-goers with a sampling of what is available at the Museum throughout the year. We will take a few of our "wow" items from our collection including several 19th century butter churns. Families can even spend a minute and churn their own butter in a mason jar, and sample their handiwork on crackers. This event will feature live streaming programming throughout the two days to accommodate those who cannot attend for any reason.

Cobblestone Membership Fundraising Dinner—TBD

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.

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 Art Classes with Pat Greene – July 10 & 24. Local artist Pat Greene will teach a series of four outdoor oil & acrylic painting classes in conjunction with the Museum in 2021

featuring clouds, foliage & water. Clouds, foliage and water are affected by light differently and understanding what we truly see and why will add knowledge to our painting experience. We 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 accurately that which the camera doesn't capture or inherently distorts. Plein air painting gives opportunity to record realistic color and light effects. Locales include the Cobblestone Museum grounds in Albion, Robyn Hill Arboretum in Lyndonville, and an Erie Canal setting at The Quiet Eye Studio in Medina.

Cobblestone Trivia Night Series – TBD

Maarit Vaga will be the 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 objects 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.

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 include 10 sites with on location filming and meetings with the owners. Purchase your tour booklet and internet access in advance.

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 fourth annual 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.

The Story of My Life—By Nancy Jane Wilson Berger

Editor's Note: We are pleased to present this autobiographical essay written by Nancy Jane Wilson Berger (1935-2015). Nancy spent her childhood living in a cobblestone house near and attending our District #5 Schoolhouse. We are very grateful to Nancy's husband Frank Berger for sharing this wonderful re-telling of Nancy's schoolhouse memories.

I wondered why my mother had tears in her eyes when I left for school for the first time. It was a typical fall day and one that I had been looking forward to for some time. I had reached the ripe old age of six and thought I was pretty well grown up to be able to go to school with the rest of my friends.

It was Gaines District #5, a country school located on Route 104 commonly called the Ridge Road. A one-room country school with grades 1 through 7, one teacher with a visiting music teacher, a religious education teacher, and even a very old retired physician who came once a year to give us a physical exam.

It was a typical one-room schoolhouse with rows of desks running parallel with each other. They grew in size as the children grew - thus the small ones were to the left and they got progressively larger as the rows went to the right. We could hardly wait until we were big enough to sit in the "special" desks.

These were separate units with swivel seats and the tops opened up so that you could see what was inside. A student had to earn the right to claim one of these seats as their own.

The front door opened into the entry. There was a "U" shaped coat rack supplied with plenty of hangers. To the left of that was a series of shelves which held lunchboxes, etc. On the front wall, next to the door was a shelf with a sink and a clay water-cooler. Perpendicular to that was a bench which helped in the removal of boots and which provided storage space underneath for these. To the right was the door to the basement which housed a mammoth old coal furnace, a huge coal bin and a multitude of other things that we were never brave enough to explore.

The furnace, however, was something of a monster which seemed to have a life of its own. Many a morning throughout the seven years that I attended this house of learning, we were met at the door by our teacher who told us to return home because the coal gas was so strong we surely would have been overcome. No one knew exactly why this happened, but I think that occasionally this mysterious hulk decided that it needed a

day of quiet and no children's footsteps overhead to give it a headache so it spewed forth this nauseous gas like an octopus spitting out its "ink" to scare away predators. At any rate, the opening of windows and some sort of magic performed by the teacher would usually bring this problem to its knees and we would be back to normal by noon.



Occasionally, instead of nauseous gas it decided to try smoke. Sometimes it would be so thick you couldn't see more than three feet away. Another vacation! However, it did have its good points. Besides keeping us warm and cozy it provided an oven for baking potatoes. Teacher would place whole potatoes just inside the furnace door on a little shelf and by noon we had yummy baked potatoes for lunch. I don't think baked potatoes have ever tasted that good since.

So, you see, we didn't have snow-days like they do today. We had smoke and gas days! We did have a snow day sometimes, but they were few and far between. Because we provided our own transportation which was usually by foot, if we could plow through the snow we went to school. If we couldn't, we stayed home.

At the opposite end of the front of the school was the library, which also served as a whipping room. Yes, back in those days we got a good spanking if we didn't behave. I was lucky enough to never get one. (I was such a good little girl.) However,

I did get reprimanded more than once for talking or laughing. I was usually lucky enough to blame it on my friend Ed Janus who, more than once was taken to the whipping room and got his seat tanned!

The "bathrooms" were small buildings - one for the girls and one for the boys-behind the school with privacy fences a few feet from the doors. If we needed to go visit the privy (as it was called) we had to raise our hand and when we were given permission to go, we had to put our initials on a small blackboard

at the front of the room because only one person could go at a time. I have some stories about the "privies" also.

We had a boy in school whose name was Walter. Walter took it upon himself to teach the boys about the anatomy of the opposite sex. It seems that he had found some magazines called "Health and Sunshine" which was published by the nudists. In it were many pictures (uncensored) of nudists playing volleyball, tennis, and just lounging in the sun. So one day Walter decided to hang some of these pictures on the wall of the boys' privy providing his own little art show of sorts. There seemed to be a steady stream of boys using the privy that day!

Also attending school was a small boy named Vernon. Now



Nancy Jane Berger Wilson—Continued

Vernon had a bad habit of stuttering when he got excited. This particular day Vernon hadn't heard about the "d'art exhibit" in the boys' privy and hadn't had the call to visit it until afternoon. Vernon raised his hand and was given permission to go. He signed his initials and left. In less time than it takes to shake a stick twice, Vernon came running back into the room yelling "T-t-t-teacher! Th-th-there's p-p-pictures of b-b-bare naked w-w-women in the p-p-p-privy! Our teacher, Miss McAllister, didn't have much of a sense of humor. After she calmed Vernon down, she picked up her switch and holding it in her right hand and smacking it lightly against the palm of her left hand, she paced back and forth in silence in front of the students studying the faces of the boys. Sure enough – Walter was looking guilty as sin. She asked him if he knew anything about these pictures - he admitted he did and was taken for a short walk to the whipping room. He and the teacher returned to the classroom, one smiling, one not. Guess which was which!

Now I had another use for the privy. I was a rather timid little girl and when anything was about to transpire that I wasn't sure about, I would ask permission to go to the privy, sign out and head for home. One such instance was the first time that good old Dr. Burbank came to examine us. He was a round roly-poly elderly man with little round glasses that didn't quite make it to the correct spot on his nose that would make it easier to see, so he had to tip his head up to see through them or down to see over them. He had very little hair and what he had was white. He was hard of hearing and despite his glasses could not see very well either. He spoke in mumbles with a lot of "hammphs." Well, I had never seen a man like him before and I didn't have a clue what a physical examination was, but I decided not to take any chances. I got permission to go to the privy, signed out and hightailed it for home and as fast as my long skinny legs could go. I arrived home yelling - my mother probably thought I had been beaten! When I explained that I didn't want a physical 'zamination, she laughed and assured me that I would live through it and promptly escorted me back to school. The teacher wondered why she was there because this all transpired in no longer a time than it would have taken me in the privy. Dr. Burbank thought the whole affair was quite

humorous and Mom stayed while I was being 'zaminated!

Dr. Burbank was a very frugal physician. He did not want to waste tongue depressors, so decided it would not do any harm to use the same one on each child. Miss McAllister, on the other hand, did not agree with him. After a short dissertation between the two of them, they arrived at a solution. The tongue depressors were sawed in half thus satisfying both.

Each student took his\her turn going into the library stripping to the waist and donning a white gown of sorts that tied in the front. Good old Doc Burbank sat in a chair facing the class, therefore, the student being examined would have his/her back to the class - a rather clever arrangement wouldn't you say?

Well, in our little school room was a girl by the name of Lorraine. Now that I think about her, I'm not quite sure if she was developing early or if she had missed a few grades and was older than most students. Oh well, it really doesn't matter. Anyway, when Lorraine made her appearance before Doc, he looked at her and said, "Didn't I examine you?" as he opened the front of her gown - and without a hesitation said "Oh no, I didn't!" We all wondered why the teacher turned and snickered.

The year I started school was 1941. There was much unrest in the world and there was talk of war. We were too young to really understand what that was all about, but we gathered it was something we didn't want to happen to our country. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, I remember having the radio on in school the following day. The teacher turned it too low for us to hear, but she listened to it all day. At one point, she turned to the class with tears in her eyes and said we were at war. No one talked to us very much about it, but we knew it was bad news.

In the weeks and months that followed, we started collecting all kinds of metals and made a huge scrap pile in the school yard. I can't remember for sure,

but I recall that ours was the biggest one around. I also remember running out of the school every time we heard a plane, because this was something quite new to us. I also recall collecting milkweed pods for parachutes. If I remember correctly, we were paid so much a bag for them. I can't remember what we used the money for, but because there was an ice-cream shop next to the school, I have a feeling we were all treated to ice-cream cones.



Nancy Jane Wilson Berger—Continued

During the war years, I also remember “rationing”. There was a shortage of sugar, meat, flour, gasoline and other things. We had to have a ration book to be able to buy these items. Because of these shortages, it caused there to be shortages of everything that depended on these commodities for their production. No automobiles were manufactured, because all the factories were making planes, bombs, etc. for the war. We had “blackouts” – this was in case the enemy decided to attack the United States they would not be able to see us at night. We would have to turn out all our lights and leave them out until the whistle blew telling us it was OK to turn them back on. My dad was an air-raid warden. When the whistle blew telling us of the warning my dad and several other volunteers would walk around the neighborhood and make sure no lights were on. As a child of seven, I rather liked the excitement of it and it was sort of an occasion.



*Captain Eugene Everett Barnum, Jr.
1917-1944*

The worst part of this whole time was when my Uncle Art was drafted. I recall very vividly the day he left for camp. Everyone was crying and hugging. He was in the Air Force and stationed in California. I wrote letters to him every week, and once he sent me a box of sea shells that he had picked up from a beach in California. These were real treasures. After he left, I was afraid that my dad would have to go to war. I prayed every night that he wouldn't have to go and luckily he was just over the age limit for being drafted, so he never had to go. We were all very grateful.

One of my worst memories of this time, was when the word came that Bill Barnum was killed in action. They were neighbors of ours and it hit everyone very hard when this news came. Then, a few weeks later, the news came that his brother Eugene had also been killed in action. We didn't know how one family could bear the hurt of losing both of their sons. They were both pilots and whenever we heard the song that was popular then, “Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer,” we always thought of them.

Cobblestone Awards Presented at Annual Meeting



The Cobblestone Museum held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 7 at 1pm at the Cobblestone Universalist Church. About 50 members attended in person in the church sanctuary, via closed-circuit camera system in the

Proctor Room and also via Zoom conference through the internet. Attendees enjoyed some spirited music by a quartet of local musicians who entertained before the meeting and following the meeting at the Vagg House, which was officially open for tours that day.

Special thanks to Chris Sartwell and her Annual Meeting Committee for making the arrangements for the meeting and for presenting refreshments, and to Bill Lattin for conducting tours of the Vagg House.

Cobblestone Awards were also presented at the Annual Meeting. The awards and the honorees were:

- ♦ Volunteer of the Year: Gerard Morrissey. The museum didn't offer any large group tours this past year, but still managed 43 tours. Docent Gerard Morrissey led one-third of the tours.
- ♦ Business Partner of the Year: Robert Fisher of Kendall was

recognized as the Business Partner of the Year. Fisher has used his carpentry skills on several projects at the Museum in recent years. This past year he and his son restored and painted the trim on the Farmers Hall, sided the west wall, and installed gutters and a drainage system.

- ♦ Rufus Bullock Award: Roy Bubb was recognized for the award named in honor of the former Georgia governor from Albion for his outstanding and sustained contributions to the Museum. Bubb, a Clarendon native and retired educator, has supported the Museum since its early days. He donated items for the one-room schoolhouse, including the teacher's desk and a chair.
- ♦ Pullman Award: Bill Lattin, retired Director & Curator, was recognized with the Pullman Award for his many generous donations to the Museum. Bill also led the efforts to curate the Vagg House at the corner of Routes 98 and 104, the former home of blacksmith Joe Vagg and his wife Nellie, who was active in the temperance movement. The house includes many antiques from the last owner, the late René Schasel. Many of those items were given to the Museum in Schasel's memory through his estate, of which Lattin is co-executor. Lattin also was able to find additional antiques to decorate the house in a 1920s, '30s theme. The Vagg House is a new addition to the Museum's campus.

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 2 at Annual Meeting						X	X
Free Raffle Tickets at all Events						X	X
Complimentary Dinner for 2 at Membership Dinner							X

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

_____ Individual \$25

_____ Family \$40 +

_____ Patron \$100 +

_____ Bronze \$250 +

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

_____ Silver \$500 +

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

_____ Gold \$1,000 +

_____ Gold (10 Payments of \$100 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:

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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.)