

**P. LEONARD, JR.,**  
**PIANO FORTES,**  
**ORGANS!**  
 AND  
**MELODEONS!**  
*From the Best Makers.*  
*At Manufacturers' Prices; fully Warranted. Also Tuned and Repaired.*  
*Second Hand Instruments taken in Exchange and to Rent.*  
**PRESTON'S JEWELRY STORE,**  
**BURROWS' BLOCK, ALBION, N. Y.**

**BETHINKING OLD ORLEANS**  
 7-13-04

## Cobblestone Museum piano program set

**O**n Thursday evening at 7:30, a musical program will be presented in the historic Cobblestone Church at routes 104 and 98 in Childs for the community. At that time, a circa 1860 square grand piano will be dedicated in memory of Pat Carr who passed away in December 2003.

Here is the story behind the piano.

Last September, through Pat's power of attorney, Edward Neal, she donated the piano to the Cobblestone Society for the Cobblestone Church.

The piano was moved to the Cobblestone Church last fall and has since been restored by piano technician and tuner Dennis Melander of LeRoy.

Although worth restoring, the piano has had its challenging moments. For example, tuning pins are normally square headed. However, very early pianos used tuning pins with rectangular heads. Hence, Melander had to cast about in order to find a tuning hammer with a rectangular fitting.

This has been a project more of preservation than restoration. In other words, yellowed ivories have been maintained along with most of the existing strings, which cannot be tuned to the present accepted pitch of A-4-40. Pianos of this vintage were not made to endure so much tension and have been known to crack the casting

when brought to such a high pitch. In fact, the piano looks very much like the one in our illustration. Made by the New England Piano Co., it has massive legs with clusters of hand carved grapes and leaves.

Our picture is taken from an advertisement found in the 1869 Orleans County Business Directory. P. Leonard Jr. (Albion) is listed as a dealer in pianos, organs and melodeon located in the Burrows block on the east side of Main Street. This is now the building occupied by Krantz Furniture. The ad also notes Preston's Jewelry Store. The directory also lists: Hiram W. Preston in Albion as an engraver, dealer in watches, clocks, jewelry, musical instruments and fancy goods in the Burrows Block.

If you come to the musical program on Thursday, here is what to expect.

Dennis Melander will speak about his restoration work and demonstrate how the piano sounds by playing it. Maarit Vaga, soprano, accompanied by Diana Dudley at the piano will perform several Victorian pieces of music. The reed organ at the Cobblestone Church also will be heard as part of this program. A fake pipe top has recently been restored to this instrument giving it the appearance of what the Estey Organ Co. called a Cathedral Organ in their 19th century catalogs.