

# OLD CHURCH BELL

BY C. W. LATTIN

Orleans County historian

Occasionally throughout the summer season, the neighborhood of Childs hears the familiar ring of the old bell at the historic Cobblestone Church. The bell is used to announce a couple of worship services, sometimes to welcome tour groups at the Cobblestone Museum, and on occasion rings for weddings.

The original bell tower on the Cobblestone Church was torn down in 1919. There is no record of any bell having been located in it. That is not to say there never was one, just no information on its existence or what happened to it.

When John D. Brush paid to have the current bell tower restored in the mid 1960s as a memorial to his mother, Eva M. Brush, he wanted a bell. He was unsuccessful at first but eventually

located the current bell. Pictured in August 1965 is my father, Cary H. Lattin, with the bell. It was cast at the "Troy Bell Foundry Jones and Company, Troy NY 1871." The carriage it hangs under was patented in 1856.

This bell, which weighs around 2,000 pounds, was first used at the Universalist Church in Cicero, N.Y. When that church was torn down, one of its former members acquired the bell and hence turned it over to Brush and

the Cobblestone Society Museum.

The bell was placed in the Cobblestone Church by using a crane during the summer of 1965.

NOTICE: The Cobblestone Society will be having an Appraisal Day for antiques from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Cobblestone Church Museum in Childs at the intersection of routes 104 and 98. The cost of appraisals will benefit the Cobblestone Society.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO