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Revolutionary War connections

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With the 4th of July coming up, we remember our basic American history. Liberty was won by the common people who sacrificed greatly for the cause of freedom, and a number of Revolutionary War veterans lie buried in Orleans County, although the area was not settled until a good quarter-century after the war.

One such person was Oliver Cone, who was born in 1755 in East Haddam, Conn. He died in Shelby in 1844 and is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. On his headstone are the words "Soldier of the American Revolution." He had come to Shelby in 1817.

Oliver "responded to the Lexington Alarm" in 1775 and served as a private in the 2nd and 5th Connecticut regiments. His wife was Anna Sterling and their daughter Mary Ann Cone married John Shelp in 1818. They came to Shelby in 1821 from Schoharie County.

A true testimony to the lives

Bethinking of Olde Orleans

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of these early settlers remains with us today in a beautiful cobblestone residence that they had built on West Shelby Road in 1836. Mostly made of fieldstone with limestone trim, this house portrays the elements of success and status of the 1830s.

Successful farmers made use of the abundant fieldstone. Likewise they had ways to haul it for building purposes. Currently, the house is owned by Henry and Sue Beamer who have preserved and restored this landmark, which is a testimony to the tenacity of early settlers and



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builders in our region. The photo here shows their home.

On July 4, the 39th annual Patriotic Program will be held at 11 a.m. in the oldest cobblestone church in North America. This is now the Cobblestone Society Museum, which is also built of fieldstone hauled to its site by ox cart in 1834.

These cobblestone buildings were a new trend in masonry construction for a new nation at the time. Indeed, they express our deep roots into the past, far beyond settlement times in Orleans County — once we consider Revolutionary War soldier Oliver Cone and many more like him.