



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# TO PRESERVE AND EDUCATE

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“**T**o Preserve and Educate Vol. II is the title of a booklet to be released on the 50th anniversary of the Cobblestone Society Museum Oct. 23. A program for this occasion will begin at 4 p.m. in the historic Cobblestone Church at Childs.

Dee Robinson, Cobblestone resource director, has compiled a 28-page booklet with many photos that is focused on the last 25 years of the Cobblestone Society (1985-2010). The first volume (1960-85) is also available. They will sell for \$5 each or \$8 for the companion set.

The Cobblestone Museum was established when the old Cobblestone Universalist Church at Childs was sold. Within six months, the old District No. 5 Cobblestone Schoolhouse at Childs was also disposed of. Hence, the Cobblestone Society had two important landmarks to preserve.

A second mission was to collect and disseminate information on cobblestone masonry from 1825 to 1860. In 1982, the Cobblestone Resource Center was established for this purpose.

Many other accomplishments over the years have added to the preservation of local heritage. The J.H. Vagg Blacksmith Shop and the Ward House were acquisitions gained in 1975. The Print Shop was acquired in 1977, and the Farmers Hall (former Kendall Town Hall) was moved in 1978 to Childs.

Over the past 25 years, four major accomplishments stand out:

- The acquisition of the little 1838 building from Gaines, a gift of Rose Welles, which was moved to the Route 98 grounds in 1987 and subsequently restored, was a major undertaking. In 1989, it was dedicated as the J.G. Peters Harness Shop and remains an important segment of the museum for future generations.

Pictured on the steps of the harness shop are descendants of John G. Peters in July 1989. Mr. Peters ran a harness shop in Lyndonville for more than six decades.

- The second important overall accomplishment and event was having the Cobblestone buildings at the museum designated

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## Bethinking of Olde Orleans

National Historic Landmarks by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1993. We remain today the only such designation in Orleans County, which is indeed a distinguished honor.

- One of the most useful gains to the museum was the acquisition of the 1836 Brick House in 1998. This followed our fight with the Gaines Planning Board when they approved its demolition. Through a successful compromise, we saved this landmark, which has since become the Resource Center and Upper Gallery. The museum just could not function adequately without this building today.

- As we look to the future, perhaps one of the most significant gains occurred in September 2010, when the board of trustees hired Deborah Brundage as museum director to begin Nov. 1. It has taken 50 years for the museum to finally move into the realm of real professionally trained museum staff, which now puts us in a league with comparable institutions.

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