

'Playful Melodies' on display now

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BY C. W. LATTIN

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"Playful Melodies is the title of a new exhibit that has just opened for the 2011 season at the Cobblestone Society Museum in Childs. This informative display showcases various musical instruments of the Victorian era, mostly from the museum collection. Along with these instruments are works mainly in the form of Victorian prints from the collection of this writer.

These illustrations show the instruments that are on display being played by both adults and children in Victorian settings. Religious as well as secular subjects are included.

One of the instruments displayed is a drum that once belonged to my great-great-grandfather William Halsey Ross from Shelby. The accompanying certificate gives us some provenance, which indicates that William H. Ross was appointed drum

State of New-York



To Mr.

William H. Burr

Greeting:

You being appointed *Silas M. Burroughs* Major of the *53rd* Regiment, *23rd* Division of *Infantry* of the Militia of the State of New-York:—I do therefore,

by virtue of the power vested in me, **Grant you this warrant.**—You are to obey the orders which you shall, from time to time, receive from your superior officers, and to discharge the duty of *Silas M. Burroughs* with fidelity, according to the laws and regulations established for the government and discipline of the Militia of this State.

Given under my hand, at *Medina* this *twentieth* day of *August* A. D. 1842.

Silas M. Burroughs
Colonel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



"Playful Melodies" shows the religious and home use of musical instruments when people entertained themselves with live sound before 20th century mass media. Surely the instruments and prints reflect a more simple time in our heritage.

For more information about the museum hours, go to www.cobblestonemuseum.org.

C. W. Lattin is the Orleans county historian. His column appears every Thursday in The Journal-Register and The Albion-Advertiser.