

'Proudly Certified' on display at Cobblestone

BY C. W. LATTIN 4-8-14
Orleans County historian

The photo shown here depicts the current exhibit in the Upper Gallery at the Cobblestone Society Museum in Albion. This exhibit, titled "Proudly Certified," consists of more than 60 19th century illuminated certificates, solely from the personal collection of this writer. All in original frames, these pieces of Victoriana include baptismal, first communion, confirmation, marriage and fraternal certificates.

Such documents were all proudly displayed in family homes years ago for all to see. These certificates represented milestones in life and showed friends, relatives and neighbors you were an established part of the community founded in Christian values.

Prints like these were widely produced by many



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

that members and guests can view this unique display. Therefore, the Genealogical Society will meet 7 p.m. Sunday at the Cobblestone Church rather than its usual location at the Universalist Church in Albion.

The Upper Gallery opened in June 2007, using prints from my collection for seasonal exhibits. Due to my retirement as museum director, this is now the last exhibit I will be providing and curating for the Upper Gallery.

For those interested in viewing this exhibit, the Cobblestone Society Museum is open for regular visiting hours from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday afternoon during September and October. For booking special tours at other times, call the Cobblestone Society Museum at 589-9013.

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

on these certificates are statistics about innumerate individuals. The people represented are largely from a much greater region than just Orleans County.

The form of printing varies with some even being hand-colored from the 1860s and 1870s.

Because of the nature of this exhibit, the Orleans County Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at the Cobblestone Museum so



publishers even including the famed Currier & Ives. The prints were executed with blank spots for names and other pertinent information that the priest, minister or potentate might fill out. Hence then, in this exhibit