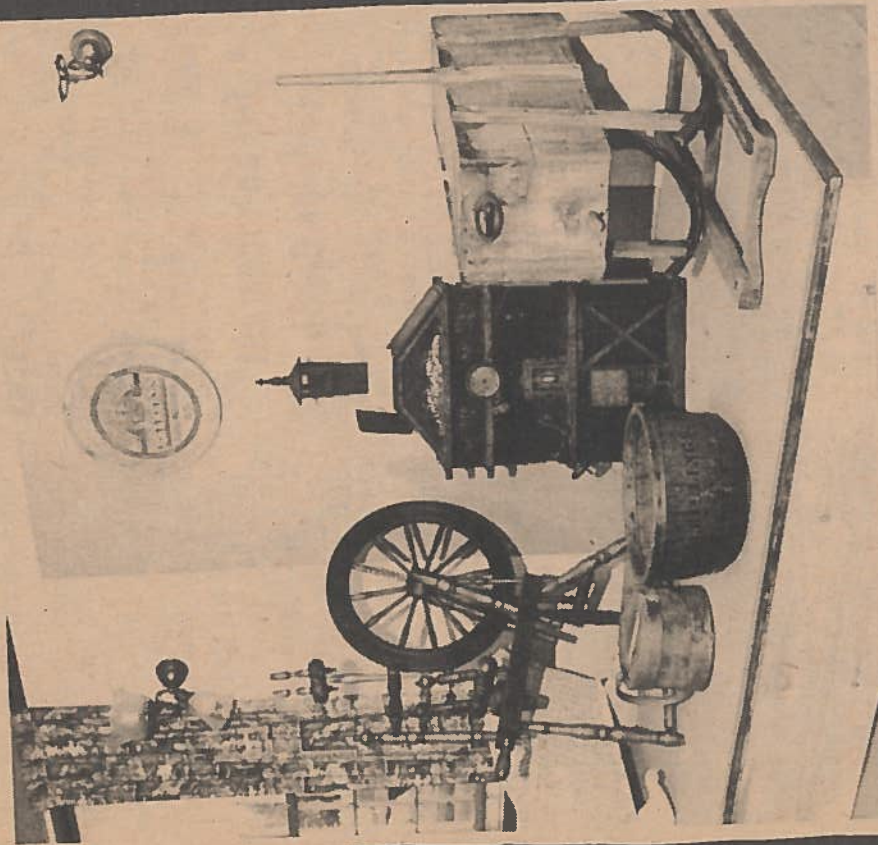


Bethinking of Old Orleans

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GAINES EXHIBIT REVIEW

In commemoration of the many anniversaries being celebrated this year in Gaines, a historical exhibit has been amassed by the Historic Gaines Jubilee Committee. The exhibit which is entitled "Gaines - A Cross Section 1809-1994" is currently on display at the John Proctor Room in the Cobblestone Church Museum in Childs. This exhibit which includes Gaines archival material as well as artifacts will be on view through the end of September.

structed in the late 19th century at the turn and was using machine factory in Eagle Harbor and a patent model of Alfred J. Palmer's Perfection Evaporator patented Jan. 18, 1881. Mr. Palmer's business which stood at the western edge of the Village of Gaines was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1906-07. Also shown, is a flax wheel or "Spinning Jenny" which belonged to Mary Wright Lattin on which flax was spun almost 150 years ago. Also seen here is a barrel head with a paper advertising label of the Powell Bros. Peerless Flour which was ground at the old cobblestone mill in Eagle Harbor around 1900.

Several items made by local blacksmiths are also included. A peel used in a brick oven dated 1823, was made at Gaines Basin by a Mr. Southwick as well as a steelyard dated 1837. A wrought iron balling iron used to hold a horse's mouth open to facilitate giving the animal medicine may also be seen. Along with these artifacts is displayed a leather fire bucket used by the first organized fire company in Gaines for bucket brigades.

Household items in the exhibit include: two chairs, one used by John Proctor 1787 - 1868 and another owned by Dr. Jesse Beach 1787 - 1829, the first physician in the Town of Gaines. A pair of andirons are displayed which were originally used in the fireplace of the lodge room in the Royal Arch Masons Temple built in 1824. Two unusual carved wooden artifacts are exhibited. They are a carved mirror frame with American Eagle, done by a prisoner of war at Libby Prison during the Civil War and a carved bracket wall shelf depicting a fox. Both items are attributed to Jerome B. Gumaer (1845-1913) of Eagle Harbor who supposedly, like many men of the Victorian Era, enjoyed whittling as a pastime.

The fine arts are also represented in this exhibit through the drawings and watercolors of H.G. Ruggles. One framed picture represents various residences around Gaines in 1862. Early tintypes and other photographs which show Gaines as it used to be are on display.

One of the oldest artifacts in the exhibit is a wedding gown which belonged to Fanny Bryant who married James Mather in 1813. Mr. Mather settled in Gaines in 1810 and built the first ashery in 1816.

Many archival items complete the display. Such material includes an original deed from the Holland Land Company dated 1816 to Ebenezer Hutchinson. A copy of one of the first newspapers published in the county is "The Orleans Whig" dated 1827 may also be seen.

Artifacts which are on display relating to more modern times are a furnished doll house built by the late Mary Murray for her daughters around fifty years ago and several puppets constructed by her between 1939 and 1957 for "Murray's Marionette Merry-makers."

Indeed, this exhibit which is displayed on attractive rose-colored panels is a cross section, representing various facets of the heritage in the Township of Gaines. The exhibit which includes many things not mentioned here, was planned by the Deputy Town Historian, Delia Robinson and the Director of the Cobblestone Museum. The artifacts which are displayed came from various sources including the Cobblestone Museum collection, Orleans County Department of History, Swan Library, Winton Hatch, Howard Pratt, Beverly Leigh, Mary LaMont, Dorothy LaMont, Marcia DeFilippo, Cary Lattin, Beryl Taylor, Geraldine Swierczynski, Evelyn Allen, Clarice Hill, Janice Thaine, Joyce Beam and Janice Mann.

The Cobblestone Museum is open during the week to Labor Day Tues.-Sat. 11-5 and Sun. 1-5. After Labor Day the museum is open Sundays 1-5 only. The major event of the Historic Gaines Jubilee is a Parade which is set for Sunday, September 2 at 2 P.M.