

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin
County
Historian



**Cobblestone Society To Celebrate
Its Silver Anniversary**

Vol. VII

No. 41

10-9-85

A quarter of a century has passed since the Cobblestone Society was officially founded. It was Robert Frasch who was the inspiring force which led to the formation of the Cobblestone Society. A teacher at the time, he expressed concern to former County Historian Cary H. Lattin as to the fate of the cobblestone church at Childs. The point in time had come when the Universalists no longer wished to own the abandoned church property. So it was through Cary Lattin's acquaintance with many residents and Robert Frasch's foresightedness and dream of a Cobblestone Museum Village that an organization meeting to form a preservation Society, was called for Sunday, October 23, 1960 at the cobblestone church in Childs. Over sixty people attended the meeting which was conducted by Cary Lattin. A slate of officers and directors was presented and accepted. Within a couple of weeks a second meeting was held at the Village Inn to select a name for this newly formed preservation group. It was "The Cobblestone Society." The 1960 photo included here shows some of the founding directors and officers. From left to right: Maurice Wilson, Vice President; Cary Lattin, Director; Katharine Billings, Secretary; Robert Frasch, President; J. Howard Pratt, Director; and Hannah Thompson, Treasurer.

Naturally, the group's main interest was in acquiring and preserving the historic cobblestone church. And before they knew it, they were to also own the District 5 cobblestone school at Childs.

The Provisional Charter for the Cobblestone Society was granted on April 28, 1961. Article #2 of that document reads as follows: "The purposes for which such corporation is formed are:

- a. to acquire the title to or the custody or control of cobblestone or other historical types of building;
- b. to establish a museum and library as a headquarters for the collection and dissemination of information concerning the cobblestone art and all related aspects of regional art and

history;

- c. to preserve, restore and maintain examples of cobblestone and related architecture; and
- d. to promote public knowledge of and appreciation for the historical research in the field."

Well, the rest is history. Now with a membership of over 500 the society throughout the last twenty-five years has certainly lived up to its charter. A six-building museum complex which represents various aspects of regional art and history is maintained plus a resource center that contains information on almost all the 800 cobblestone buildings in North America. Indeed, it can be stated "You've come a long way baby."

To celebrate these various accomplishments, a 24-page booklet is to be published on the history of the Cobblestone Society and Museum. The book which has been written by Della Robinson will be entitled "To Preserve and Educate." Anyone may become a patron for this publication. In fact, three lists of patrons will be included in the book as follows: Patron \$5 to \$25, Silver Patron \$25 to \$50 and Sterling Patron for \$50 or more. The Patron list will only include an individual name or Mr. and Mrs., the Silver Patrons and Sterling Patrons list may contain two lines of information, such as a business name and address or a memorial given by so and so. For questions call 589-9510. All Patrons must have their names in by Thursday, October 17. Make checks payable to Cobblestone Society and mail them with desired name and any other information to C.W. Lattin, 3178 Gaines Basin Road, Albion, N.Y. 14411 by October 17 deadline.

The anniversary booklet will be released from 1 - 5 on Sunday, Oct. 27 at the Cobblestone Church in Childs during the annual Pumpkin Festival and also that same evening when it will be formally presented during the annual Lamplight Program at 7:30 P.M. The books will sell for \$3.25 or \$4.00 by mail order using the same address as above.