

TURNPIKE TALES

by Jim Ford

"TURNPIKE TALES" #29

(Historical items from the "Madison Bouckville Antique Week" region)

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The Madison-Bouckville area has been rich in history from the arrival of the first settlers to the present day. As an addition to the website, we have decided to share some of that history in order that the patrons who travel to the Madison-Bouckville Show will have a better understanding of our truly unique region.

A Unique History – The Cobblestone Store At Pine Woods

To the west of Bouckville there is the small community of Pine Woods. It was named for the native pine trees that can still be seen on the hillsides. A unique feature of Pine Woods is the lovely cobblestone building located near the intersection of Routes 20 and 46.

The area known as Pine Woods was originally settled in 1792 by John and James Salisbury. They were from Vermont. The first permanent settler was Joshua Leland from Sherburne, Massachusetts.

The cobblestone building was built in 1844 by Stevens and Hartwell, according to an article written in the February 13, 1950 edition of the Madison County Leader and Observer. At the time it was built, it served as a harness and wagon shop and was owned by Lachlin McQuien (4-20-1790 to 7-15-1884). (A road sign near the cobblestone store is labeled McQueen Rd. That is a misspelling of Mr. McQuien's name.) During the 1860's the building was home to a blacksmith shop operated by Orlando Crandall.

The next business to occupy the cobblestone structure was a tavern owned by Mr. Charles Clark. An article from 1908 stated: "Landlord Clark will hold hop dances at the Cobblestone Tavern at Pine Woods on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Groves' Orchestra furnishes the music." Mr. Clark also had a pool room on the upper level of the building. In 1909 there was even a wrestling event held at the hotel.

The building then became a general store operated by D.B. & J.T. Stevens, followed by C.T. Howard. We do not have the exact dates of their ownership, but they were followed by Frank Wiltse. Mr. Wiltse was one of the children of Henry and Sarah Wiltse. Two of Frank's brothers, Lewis and George, were players from the Bouckville Summits Baseball Team who made it to the major leagues.

The next owner of the building was E.P. Embury, who also ran a general store. Included in his sale items was a generous amount of alcohol. Mr. Embury sold the business to Louie Marchand c.1911. Following the passage of the Volstead Act in 1919 (Prohibition), Mr. Marchand transitioned his business to a true grocery store and did a thriving business due to his site on the Cherry Valley Turnpike, (today's Rt. 20) and the turnoff to Hamilton (Rt.46) right in front of his store. He even had eight rooms to rent on the upper level.

In 1930 the store was sold again. The new owner was Albert Krebsler (6-10-1909 to 2-24-1970). Mr. Krebsler also ran a grocery store, initially under his management, and then from 1955 to 1965 by Mrs. Lillian Krebsler. Lillian Krebsler (4-7-1913 to 3-27-1986) was the former Lillian Howlett.

Following the death of her husband, Lillian married Stuart Shoemaker. The Shoemakers began displaying antiques, plus her woven scatter rugs, quilt pillows, and rag dolls. The antiques shop was eventually purchased by Mr. Bob Gustafson, who also ran an antiques shop and who in turn, sold the shop in 2014.

Today the shop is owned by Mr. Barry Hutchinson. He has renovated the building, which opened in the spring of 2018. The new name of the business is: The Cobblestone Trading Company – Antiques and Specialty Goods. It features some antique items, along with a large selection of olive oils and balsamic vinegars.

Other items of interest concerning the Cobblestone Store:

- In a letter from Lachlin McQuien to his son John – dated November 19, 1860 – Mr. McQuien stated that he was making cider. He purchased the machinery from Col. Leland for \$18.00. He received one wheel with 36 weight casting, one good press, and one good vat that will hold 18-20 barrels of cider.
- The original sign for the shop stated: Wagons – Harness – Blacksmith – Horses Shod (This was when the building was a blacksmith shop run by Orlando Crandall)
- The front page of the New York Herald of April 18, 1865 (This was the day that President Lincoln was assassinated.) was given to the Saratoga Springs Public Library by Leon M. Woodworth, a grandson of Louis Marchand. Mr. Marchand had discovered it in 1911 while ripping up some carpet in the store. It had been used for padding.

The Cobblestone Store in Pine Woods is certainly an interesting building with a storied past. If you happen to stop in during the Antiques Show week, try to imagine the activity and conversation that must have taken place in this historic building.