Century House Historical Society
Rosendale, New York  12472-0150
Phone: 845-658-9900
E-mail: mail@centuryhouse.org
Web: www.centuryhouse.org

Officers
President — Dietrich Werner
Vice President — Michael Montella
Secretary — Gayle Grunwald
Treasurer — Kristina Pavlov-Leiching
James Wood — Site Facilities Manager
"Our Website is maintained by EyesWrite.com"

Board of Trustees
Louisa Duffy Gayle Grunwald Michael Montella
Kristina Pavlov-Leiching Dietrich Werner
Anton Werner Anne Gorrick
© Copyright 2007

Message from the President

We have been notified by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation that the grant for repairs to Society buildings has been approved and that the actual release of funds is being processed. Hopefully we will be able to complete the roof repairs prior to the weather becoming to cold. We will be able to do inside work during the winter months and come spring all hands to scrape and paint. Don’t forget to call if you have any time to volunteer.

Grade school, high school, college and university group visits have continued to use the Snyder Estate grounds as a learning tool. Several scout troops and the LI chapter of the ADK have also visited. The last quarter of 2007 bodes to be a busy one. Take a look at the upcoming events on the back page of the newsletter. We are working on bringing you a great program for the Annual meeting. The meeting date, time, and location are set, so keep Sunday December 2 free.

This year was the two hundredth anniversary of Robert Fulton’s four day steamboat trip up the Hudson River. I was really surprised that there were not great celebrations up and down the Hudson to commemorate this event. Lets hope that we don’t miss, in 2009, the four hundredth anniversary of Henry Hudson’s trip up the Hudson.

Regards, Dietrich Werner

Welcome New Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500-F</td>
<td>Eric &amp; Danelia Rose - Kingston, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501-F</td>
<td>Jan Cohen &amp; Monique Frumberg - Binnewater, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502-I</td>
<td>Catherine Oreilly - Annandale, NY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additions to the Society Library


SAVE THE DATE
Century House Historical Society
Annual Meeting
And special program!

Sunday December 2
2 PM
Rosendale Community Center
Route 32

We still have a few copies of Peter Genero’s book, Thank Rosendale, available. The cost is $16.65 + $4.45 S&H (New York State residents must add sales tax)
Summer 2007 at the Snyder Estate

Treasure Bazaar

Society volunteers have operated the Treasure Bazaar in the Rosendale Wares store at 416 Main Street. On most weekends this summer, including during the Rosendale Street Festival, you would find volunteers busily moving newly (old) donated items into the store and just as fast finding a new home for these items. The Treasure Bazaar has been a great fundraiser for the Society. The Bazaar will remain open on Sunday afternoons through the fall.

Striatium

~The cave as a physical structure is imbued by human imagination with mystery, otherworldliness, ritual and secrecy, as well as being a historical form of shelter and comfort from the harsher elements of nature. As pre-historic cave art suggests, its use as a means of recording events is also, paradoxically, a means of escaping the ordinary-of entering into a special, womblike protective enclosure, in which one may explore and experience an alternate reality. Distorted, echoed sounds, faint, or no, illumination, can combine to create a special environment within which to explore an inner real, both of the earth and of the mind. ~Through the manipulation of these two variables-limited sight and distorted sound-an attempt will be made to create a contemplative, ritualistic environment for the audience to immerse themselves in: A space out of time and space. ~ By combining electronic and processed live sounds with location recordings made in the area, the artists hope to create a sonic atmosphere: sound that fills space as it defines it, and interacts dynamically, both with the audience and the cave itself.

Kim Cascone and Gary Weisberg delivered an outstanding and unique performance.

Taiko Masala

Taiko Masala, Masayo Ishigure, and the Faune Dance Troupe all in the Widow Jane Mine for a performance which will long be remembered by those fortunate to have been in attendance. But everyone can hear the drums of Taiko Masala in the Widow Jane Mine by going to Hiro Kurashima’s site, www.myspace.com/taikomasala. You can also listen to Masayo Ishigure playing the Koto at her web site, www.letsplaykoto.com. The Faune Dance Troupe also has a web site where you can view several dance performances. But naturally nothing can match a live performance in the Widow Jane Mine. We all hope that Taiko Masala will return next year.
This year’s Hudson Valley Poets Fest marks the seventeenth year that the Century House Historical Society has joined with Hudson Valley poets to present poetry readings in the Widow Jane Mine.

It all started when a group Rosendale area folks, interested in providing a venue for poets to read and folks to listen and interact with them, formed what was called the Creative Space Co-op in the late 1980s. They rented the dance hall in Marvin Lang’s knish factory on Main Street in Rosendale. The knish factory had in an earlier incarnation been a bar and restaurant as well as hotel for over nine decades known as the Valley Inn. In the late 1980s the Valley Inn was purchased by Tom Logan and re-named Sturbridge Lion Inn in honor of the first steam train locomotive to run in the United States. The locomotive had passed on the Delaware and Hudson canal which is located directly behind the bar. The Creative Space Co-op eventually lost the space in the knish factory and in 1991 presented the first series of Poetry readings in the Widow Jane Mine.

That first event was simply called POETRY in the MINE. Poetry and music will resound in the subterranean expanse of the Widow Jane Quarry at the Snyder Estate in Rosendale when the Space Coop sponsors an Open Reading in the former cement mine on Saturday 28, 1991 at 7:30PM. All mine readers and other aficionados of the deep & dark places are enjoined to come and celebrate the creative spirit in this unusual and evocative ambience. Bring poems, candles, DRAMATIC or sensible clothing, and sturdy shoes. The festivities will kick off at 7:30 (really), as a sizeable turnout is expected. Donations from this event will help the Space Coop and the Century House Historical Society. For information call Rita Sorge. The following year, 1992, the event was called OPEN MINE READING. Then in 1993, the event still sponsored by the Creative Space Co-op, was renamed ANNUAL SUBTERRANEAN OPEN POETRY READING. Some of the hosts of past years have been as follows: The 3rd and 4th readings were emceed by Richard Rizzi and Susan McKechne. The emcee of the 6th reading was Rachel Falber, Jeffrey Feller & Carl Welden. Carl Welden was the solo emcee for the 9th Reading. The format established in 1991 has been more or less followed ever since.

With the exception of the cancellation of the readings one year due to a hurricane and another year a great thunderstorm cutting off all electric power to Rosendale the annual poetry readings continue. We are now in the second series of subterranean readings now hosted by Mike Jurkovic and under the name Hudson Valley Poets Fest. Mike has continued the open mic feature of the readings but has also added an even greater list of featured poets. Dennis Bressack-Ted Gill-George Nicholson-Matt Spiers-Glenn Werner-Susan Ruckdeschel-Steve Worthy-Roberta Gould-Teresa Marta Costa-Ken Holland-Robert Milby-Bob Wright-Kate ymes--Irene O’Garden-Erin Hobson-Carol Graser-Frank LaRonca-Anthony Scarpantonio-Barbara Adams-Eddie Bell-T.J. Vanini The Princes of Serendip--Oliver Grech-Amy Ouzoonian-Todd Giudice-Adrienne Delgado-Jim Eve-Carl Welden-Thandeus Rutkowski-George Wallace-Janet Hamill & Moving Star--Don Lev-Will Nixon-Guy Reed-Steve Hirsch-Cheryl Anne Rice-Samuel Claiborne-Yankee Rose-Bill Seaton-Michelle Hill-Rebecca Schuemejida-Terence Chiesa-Justin Parrinello-Dan Wilcox-Bruce Weber-Glenn River-Mike Jurkovic.

A selection of poems by thirty poets will be found in this year’s edition of Hudson Valley Poets Fest. This project was made possible (in part) through a grant from the Dutchess County Arts Council, administrator of public funds through the New York State Council on the Arts ‘Decentralization Program.’ Thanks go out to the poets, Society volunteers, and Society board member Anne Gorrick, a poet in her own right. Thanks also to the Rosendale Library and the Mid-Hudson Library Association. [A limited number of Hudson Valley Poets Fest 2007 are still available.]
Boston College geological field mapping exercise in Rosendale

By Yvette Kuiper

Between May 16 and May 23, 2007, five undergraduate students (Alan Kasprak, Tony Keber, Katie Kudzma, Caroline Shields and Petr Yakovlev) came with their professor (Yvette Kuiper) and teaching assistant (Ben Wilkins) to Rosendale to make a geological map of the Williams Lake resort, as part of a course in Geological Field Mapping and Methods. Anita Peck kindly gave us permission to access the property. The Rosendale area is an ideal area for such a mapping exercise, because the rock types are relatively easy to identify, and the rock layers are beautifully folded and faulted. The rocks are sediments, such as sandstone, limestone and dolostone, with various fossils. Rosendale is known for its past cement mining history. The dolostone layers were mined for cement, and the mines are still present in the area, including the Williams Lake resort. All layers, including the mined dolostone layers were folded and faulted due to collisions between North America and other continents during the past few hundreds of million years. Today, the folds and faults are still visible. Even the mines follow the folds, which means that the mines may be horizontal, vertical, or inclined, and sometimes the mines can be seen to follow a fold. The mines make the area much more interesting for mapping, not only because it is exciting to find the commonly spectacular mines, but also because they make for easy rock identification!

Our time in Rosendale was very much facilitated and made more interesting and fun, because of the hospitality of Dietrich Werner and Gayle Grunwald, who let us camp on the property of the Century House Historical Society. They did not only give us a place to pitch our tents, but they also provided us with tables, chairs, use of the Carriage House to work on maps, a bathroom, an extra tent, information about the area, and pleasant company. I may never have found out about this wonderful mapping area if it weren’t for Kurt Burmeister, now at the University of the Pacific, who introduced me to the local geology, and the local people I have mentioned above. He mapped the area in detail as part of his PhD project.

One week long the students were busy identifying the rocks, unraveling the structure of the area and making a geological map. In the end they did not only know much better how to make a geological map, but they even came up with new ideas about the structure of the area.

Well, now that you have the general picture in mind of what we were doing in Rosendale, let’s move on to the juicy details of daily life (which I have been asked to include…). As you know we stayed in tents. I always think this is fun, because I love being outdoors, being able to hear the birds and other natural sounds when I wake up in the morning, not having a busy road through my front yard and simply sleeping in a tent. Tents are cozy. However, my type of fun is sometimes somewhat debatable. In my romanticized picture of camping, I did, of course, not include the bugs, poison ivy, hard ground to sleep on, being too cold, too hot (the latter not being too much of an issue), being wet, not having access to electricity at all times in any amounts at any location, etc. I usually just get used to these things and enjoy being outside anyway. Fortunately, so did everybody else, at least to some extent, at some point during the trip. Poison ivy, mosquitoes and especially ticks were hard to get used to and I don’t think we ever got used to the ticks. They crawl everywhere. They attach anywhere. Even in those places you really don’t want them. Enough detail.

Cooking and eating was something we did outside. When it rained we would sit under a tarp, or under the tent Gayle and Dietrich provided. We were lucky to have Ben Wilkins with us, who would miraculously produce these fabulous meals on the table, from scratch. My favorites are the seafood pasta he made one night, and pancakes with fruit he made the next morning. I will never make pancakes from a package again. Other favorites were hamburgers with stuff in them (*’stuff’* being vegetables, sauce, spices and eggs), tacos, pesto pasta and omelet’s.

After the one week in Rosendale, after everybody gained some mapping experience, tolerance (bugs, camping, other people), a ‘Rosendale Cement’ T-Shirt, and after a week of fun (really, not only in my books), we went off to Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. We ended our trip in Acadia National Park. Interesting rocks were seen all along the way. Now we’re back home. But Rosendale was great. I hope to be back next year, with a new group of students. See you then!
Keeping Natural Cement alive

The Century House Historical Society

By Gayle Grunwald and Dietrich Werner

Where would you go to get historically correct information about the manufacturer of the cement used in the mortar in that restoration project you are thinking of bidding on? One possible source for such information is the Century House Historical Society.

The Society is located in New York State, in the heart of the region that was once the most prolific producer of American Natural Cement. During most of the 150 years in which American natural cement was produced, the Rosendale Cement Region in Ulster County, N.Y., led the way. Millions of barrels of this product made its way to market taking advantage of the transportation links provided by the Delaware & Hudson Canal, the Hudson River and the Wallkill Valley Railroad. Rosendale was such a leader in cement production that Rosendale cement had become the generic name for American-made natural cement no matter where it was manufactured.

Rosendale Natural Cement from Ulster County, NY was used in the building of some of the most enduring landmarks of the nation. The Brooklyn Bridge, the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, the Croton Aqueduct and dams, our national system of coastal fortifications, and thousands of public works got their start underground in the cement mines of Ulster County.

Today, cement kilns, cement mines, foundation ruins of the cement mills, horse drawn tram tracks, and canal slips located on the roughly 19-acre portion of the Snyder Estate grounds owned by the Century House Historical Society can be visited. At the Snyder Estate one can visit the cavernous Widow Jane Mine located within the 32 square-mile belt of cement stone between High Falls and Kingston, N.Y., where it was often said that just as much went on underground as above ground. The local cement mines have been put to many adaptive uses: mushroom cultivation, trout farming, water supply, cold storage for sweet corn and records storage. Today the Widow Jane Mine provides an exciting venue for historic interpretation as well as a well-known location for special events. Musicians have recorded in the mine because of its exceptional acoustics.

The remains of the industry that flourished here for more than 140 years surrounds the Century House Historical Society’s collections, archives, and Museum. The Society’s Museum and the Snyder Carriage and Sleigh Collection offer visitors an opportunity to learn about the vivid history of the Rosendale Cement Region and the times and personalities of this great industry. In addition to the regular exhibits, the museum mounts special exhibits each year. The landscape is distinctive and the history is unique.

The manufacture of cement in Rosendale, both natural and Portland, ended in 1971. Concerns were raised as to how and whom would preserve the important contributions made to the building of the nation by the cement industry. The Century House Historical Society continues to meet the challenge.

The all volunteer membership organization is dedicated to the history of the American cement industry. Chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, the organization was awarded an Absolute Charter in 2000, having met their rigorous standards. The mission of the Society is to gather, preserve, display and make available for study artifacts, relics, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs...
and other records and materials. It holds IRS tax exempt non profit status. Membership is open to anyone with a like interest in the mission and members receive the Natural News, the quarterly publication of the Society.

In 1992 the roughly 300-acre Snyder Estate Natural Cement Historic District, in recognition of its significance in American history and culture was listed on the State Register of Historic Places under the provisions of the State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 and on the National Register of Historic Places under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The Society has a growing library of books, booklets, and trade magazines relating to the cement & lime industry, both in its manufacture as well as its use. The Society also has an ever-expanding collection of reference material related to the geology of cement regions though out the United States and Canada.

The Society is interested in growing its collections of cement and lime related items. Of particularly interest are items from the 19th and early 20th century.

Some interesting items in the Society’s Collections:

~ A collection of early 19th century letters written to and by Canvass White (the patentee of American Natural Cement) and his younger brother Hugh White, Isaac C. Johnson (an English Portland Cement pioneer), Philip Garbutt (a Lime & Plaster manufacturer in central New York), and many other letters written by those who helped build the early infrastructure of the United States.

~ Collections of advertisements and invoices from cement, lime, and plaster manufacturers and dealers. Also Company records (ledgers, operating and sales records, blueprints, advertisements and payroll books) from several natural cement, Portland cement and Lime companies.

~ A cement bag collection; cloth, paper, and plastic. The oldest cement bag in the collection is a cloth bag from the Consolidated Rosendale Cement Co. dated 1909.

~ A Newspaper clipping collection that consists of hard-copy clippings and a selection of actual newspapers that contain cement related advertisements. One of the earliest examples is a 1822 Philadelphia newspaper containing an advertisement for “Whites Patent Hydraulik Cement”. The Society also offers an Internet portal of digitized newspaper archives.

~ Stereo View cards of mining operations.

This year the Society is undertaking an ambitious project of major repairs to several of its buildings. The most important will be stabilizing and re-roofing the Museum and Archives building. The Century House Historical Society looks forward to welcoming Rosendale Natural Cement back to the Snyder Estate when it will be used to make repairs to a stone building wall.

This article first appeared in the Summer/Fall 2007 issue of Traditional Masonry. We hope that the appearance of this article, which follows an article on American Natural Cement in the Spring issue of TM, will interest some in the preservation industry to support the Society. [editor]
Rosendale Geology and cement history will move center stage at the Geological Society of America’s Annual Meeting in Denver Colorado.

AMERICA’S FINEST NATURAL CEMENT: THE HISTORY AND ECONOMIC GEOLOGY OF THE ROSENDALE NATURAL CEMENT REGION, ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

Paper No. 234-29  Presentation Time: 1:30 PM-5:30 PM

BURMEISTER, Kurtis C., Dept. of Geosciences, Univ. of the Pacific, 3601 Pacific Ave, Stockton, CA 95211, kburmeister@pacific.edu and WERNER, Dietrich, Century House Historical Society, 668 Route 213, P.O. Box 150, Rosendale, NY 12472

The historical Rosendale region, in the central Hudson Valley of southeastern New York State is widely recognized as the source of the highest quality natural cement in North America. The North American natural cement industry was founded in 1819 by Canvass White in central New York, but soon shifted to Rosendale where it flourished for over 150 years. By the end of the 19th century, the superior quality of Rosendale natural cement was known worldwide and was actively used in the construction of many of America’s most enduring landmarks, including the Brooklyn Bridge and the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. Rosendale natural cement’s reputation stems from the composition of the clay-rich dolostone from which it was manufactured. This dolostone was extracted using room-and-pillar techniques from strata within the Rosendale and Whiteport Members of the Upper Silurian Rondout Formation. In the central Hudson Valley, these strata are strongly deformed by thrust faults and fault-related folds within the northern Appalachian foreland fold-thrust belt. Thus, the historical mine workings created by Rosendale natural cement industry are truly something of an engineering marvel. Indeed, the unique bedrock exposures provided by the mines in the Rosendale region have long attracted the attention of geologists for research and education. The production process of natural cement transformed extracted dolostone into barrels of cement through a labor-intensive process involving calcination in kilns, cracking, and grinding. Barrels of natural cement produced in the Rosendale region were quickly shipped at competitive prices via the Delaware and Hudson Canal, which directly connected the Rosendale natural cement region to major shipping avenues. This is an abstract of the paper to be presented.

The Society needs your help to get the Snyder Estate ready for the winter season. Lots of fun projects for all! Bring a covered dish to share and EAT BIG! This important effort helps to button up and ready the grounds for the winter. Members and friends of the Society are all welcome. Contact the Society to tell us you are coming. It is a great opportunity to meet others who are interested in our history and historic site.
Rosendale Cement. The invoice states that Edwin A Smith & Bro. were the successors to Charles Shepard Smith. We know that Charles Shepard Smith was a cement dealer. In the Moravian Achieves there is a invoice from Charles Shepard Smith, dated 1854, for cement purchased by the Moravian Seminary for Young Ladies at Bethlehem, Northampton County, Pa. In this instance we do not know what project the Moravian Seminary might have used that cement.

There is another Pennsylvania building, the Second Bank, located in Philadelphia, completed in 1824, sold in 1844 to the United States which converted the bank into the Philadelphia Customs House. The building is now a part of the National Park Service Independence National Historic Park. Among the INHP archives for 1865 there is an account of expenses for materials and services rendered. One of these items, as noted in a letter from Superintendent John Reir to acting Assistant Architect B. Berty, and paid on March 1st, 1865 was ‘Lime cement’, purchased from Edwin A. Smith costing $515.45.

Rendering of north facade of the Second Bank, Philadelphia, PA., attributed to William Strickland, c. 1840. Independence National Historical Park Archives

Engraving of Smith & Bro.’s Lime Depot on the back of a company envelope. Note the sign above the Front Street side of the building. “Lime, ROSENDALE AND ROMAN CEMENT” [CHHS collections]

Edwin A. Smith & Bro. invoice 1860s [CHHS collections]
Vist us at our Booth at the

BLUE STONE FESTIVAL

Sun Oct 7
Noon—6PM
Kingston, NY
Cornell Building
East Strand
(across from the
Trolley Museum)

For several years the city of Kingston has celebrated the Blue Stone industry. Music, food, and special attractions at the Rondout area museums. The Trolley Museum, the Maritime Museum and Urban Cultural Center will all be destinations for those interested in our past. The Society will have a booth set up in the Cornell Building which is across from the trolley on the Rondout Creek. So don’t forget to stop and say hello.

Rosendale Cement

Exhibit Opening at The City Reliquary Museum Brooklyn, NY

October 20, 2007 - Opening Day

The Century House Historical Society has joined forces with the City Reliquary Museum for an exhibit of images and artifacts that show some of the many connections between Rosendale and the metropolitan area. The Society has loaned items from its collections and archives to make this exhibit possible. One of the unique features of the exhibit will bicycle tours from the Museum to various buildings and structures which were built with Rosendale cement. The City Reliquary Museum’s Rosendale Cement exhibit will open on Saturday, October 20. The Museum is located at 370 Metropolitan Avenue in Brooklyn, NY. For more information call 718-782-4842 or check out the museum at www.cityreliquary.org For Society members who live in the Metro area be sure to stop and visit and let them know you are a Society member.
Do You Remember?
All Photos by Ken Roosa. Color slides copied by Carrol-Walsh

Main Street—August 1979

Fall 1975-George Montgomery-Billy Guldy-Todd Samara, in car. Vote for Billy Guldy Village Trustee
Have you paid your 2007 membership Dues?

If you see a red mark in the box below that means your dues are past due. A renewal slip is enclosed. Please return it with your dues.

If dues are not received you will miss future issues of Natural News

CENTURY HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*EVENTS*

Blue Stone Festival ~ Sunday October 7 noon—6 pm
Visit the Society Booth we will be in the Cornell Building across the street from the Trolley Museum next to the Steel House Restaurant on East Strand

Rosendale Cement ~ Saturday October 20
Exhibit Opening at The City Reliquary Museum Brooklyn, NY

Fall Clean up Day ~ Sunday October 28 10—3 pm
At the Snyder Estate Bring your rake & a covered dish

Rosendale Pickle Fest ~ Sunday November 18 10—5 pm
Visit the Society Booth At the Rosendale Community Center

Annual Meeting ~ Sunday December 2 2 pm
with Special Program
At the Rosendale Community Center Route 32 Rosendale, N.Y.