

## Dietrich E. Werner

1942 - 2009

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**D**ietrich Werner, Founder and President of The Century House Historical Society, died suddenly on Tuesday, December 15, 2009. Dietrich was born in 1942 in Germany and, as a child, immigrated with his family to the United States, growing up in Greenville, NY. He served in the U.S. Navy, then earned his Associate's degree from Ulster County Community College in 1968, and a Bachelor's degree in History from SUNY New Paltz in 1971.

A noted historian and community activist, Dietrich made his living as a plumber and electrician for many years. In the 1970s, he worked with sculptor Hans Van de Bovenkamp, designing plumbing systems for water sculptures. From 1980-1995, he was the owner of Huguenot Plumbing & Electric of Rosendale, after which he retired to devote himself full-time to the preservation of the Snyder Estate and development of The Century House Historical Society.

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# The Century House Historical Society

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## *Welcome New Members!*

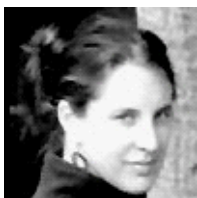
This is where we recognize those who have joined the Society since the last issue but recent events left us catching up on our paperwork. Look for an expanded list in the next issue.

And if you're already a member, please be as welcoming to new members as Dietrich was to a visitor from Japan at the Society's booth at the 2009 Rosendale Pickle Festival.



*Dietrich Werner and Junko Takayanagi*

## A Message From the President:



Before Dietrich passed away we talked a lot about how to make 2010 "The Year of the Volunteer".

Well, Dietrich, your passing is a heck of a way to make that happen! As I find myself in the unlikely situation of succeeding you as President, I cannot help but think about how different we are. I'm a 40-something-year-old university administrator (that is how I met Gayle as we've worked together in Financial Aid at SUNY New Paltz for nine years) with a secret life as a poet and visual artist.

Dietrich was a 60-something-year-old high-energy sprite of a retired guy, with a million interests including passions for historical research and local politics. The one thing we do have in common is a love for The Century House Historical Society, and a commitment to usher it into the future.

We're all deeply saddened that Dietrich's wonderful hand will no longer touch these articles, but we hope that out of great change will come new and unexpected things.

Members, your membership renewal form is enclosed in this newsletter. Please send them back just as soon as you can. And know that your volunteer efforts are needed more than ever to keep this wonderful historical society vibrant.

Dietrich was such a shiny guy. Now that he's gone, we will shine in his absence.

*- Anne Gorrick*

**Editor's note: Volume 11, Issue 4 (Winter 2009) was not published.**

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Society was formed in 1992 when the Huguenot Historical Society decided to sell the Rosendale estate of A.J. Snyder II, which had been bequeathed to the Huguenots in the 1970s. As the last cement tycoon of Rosendale and Huguenot descendant, Snyder hoped that his home and estate would be open to the public, but the 19th-century industrial nature of the site did not fit with the colonial character of Huguenot Street, and the estate was rarely accessible. Learning that this vital piece of Rosendale history was to be sold into private hands (perhaps becoming a bed & breakfast), Dietrich and Gayle decided to acquire the property, organize an all-volunteer non-profit organization, and develop the estate as an historic site. They applied successfully for a grant of \$150,000 through the N.Y.S. Empire Bond Act. For the required \$150,000 match, Gayle and Dietrich conducted a fund-raising campaign and contributed their own money so that the Society was able to acquire the homestead and its furnishings, archives, carriage houses, Snyder's antique carriage collection, the Widow Jane Mine, a canal slip, and about 20 acres of land. Dietrich and Gayle then collaborated with the N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to prepare the Snyder Estate National Cement Historic District, resulting in federal and state approval for that official designation.

As Site Director of the property, and officer of the Century House Historical Society, Dietrich eventually raised more than \$70,000 in additional funds for operations, arts programming, archives, and renovation of the historic structures. He became the heart and soul of the Society, devoting himself tirelessly to preserving and promoting the history of Rosendale and its contributions to the building of the nation, and guiding groups around the estate. No visitors to the property, from school groups to industrial archeologists could forget his enthusiasm or depth of knowledge about history. With the assistance of members and friends of the Society, visits rose from less than 100 in 1989 to 6,000 per year. Dietrich also shared his unique knowledge of the

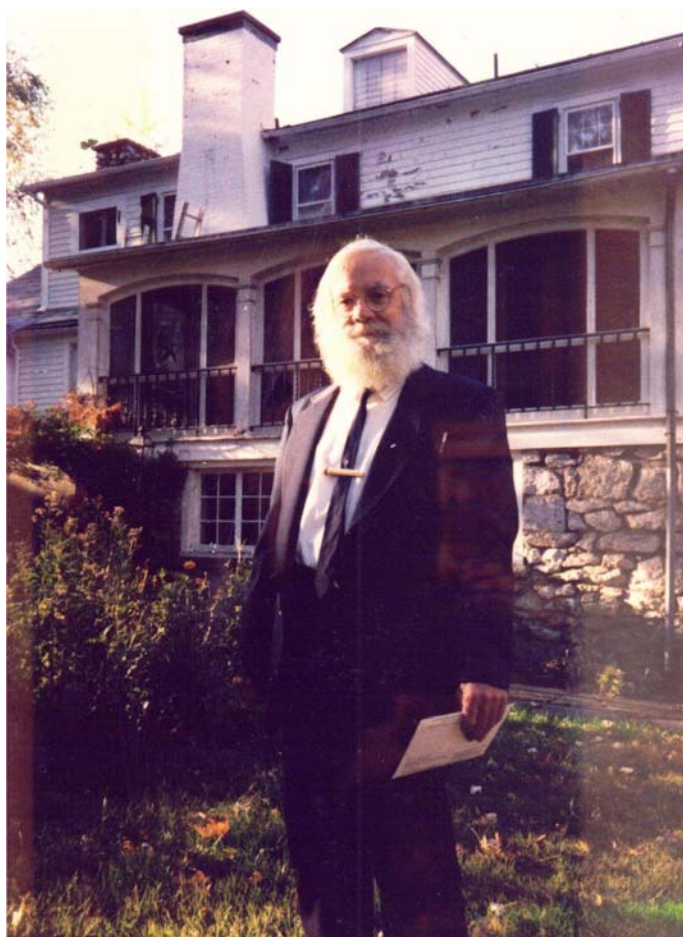
cement industry in the Rosendale region in a series of publications, including articles in *Natural News* (the Society's quarterly publication), and in specialized publications for masonry preservation and testing materials.

Though the Historical Society was Dietrich's major project, he was involved in many more activities in Rosendale and throughout the area. He served on the Rosendale Street Festival Committee from 1978-80 and in 1995 joined the Festival as co-chair of the Non-Profit Organizations Committee. Over the years, he was active in preservation workshops sponsored by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, as well as the Ulster County Environmental Management Council, the Rosendale Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts of America Explorer Post 42, the Ulster County Railroad Advisory Committee, and the DEC Regional Open Space Advisory Committee. He also served as editor of numerous publications in addition to

*Natural News*, including *Seaposter* (bi-monthly from the Maritime Postmark Society), the Town of Rosendale Sesquicentennial Celebration program, the program for the First American Natural Cement Conference, and the Hudson Valley Poets Fest 2007, reflecting his diverse interests. Dietrich was particularly proud of his contributions to the development of a tri-state tourism destination along the Delaware and Hudson Canal Corridor, and the creation of the Karst Aquifer Protection Region for Rosendale. He also served as the Chair of the Ulster County Independence Party.

Most of all, Dietrich Werner was a central figure in the life of Rosendale. With his trademark long white hair and beard, his colorful suspenders and his zest for life, he was familiar to almost everyone in town. As was written of Sir Christopher Wren, "If you seek his monument, look around you."

He is survived by his wife, Gayle Grunwald, a son, Anton, and a daughter, Althea, as well as his mother, Marianne Doorly, his sister, Barbara Ullstrom, and his nieces and nephews, Wendy, Chris, and Suzy, all of Greene County.





# Bricks from the Lawrence Cement Company and the F.O. Norton Cement Works

by David Moyer

David Moyer is the owner and principal investigator of Birchwood Archaeological Services in Gilbertsville, NY. He has worked in cultural management for over 21 years and has personally authored over 120 reports, publications, and National Register nominations. Visit [www.birchwoodarchaeology.com](http://www.birchwoodarchaeology.com).

**A**s part of the proposed renovation of the Williams Lake Resort, archaeologists documented the kilns and foundation remains of the Lawrence Cement Company and the F.O. Norton cement works. This documentation included photographing the kilns and landscape features and mapping the foundation remains. The investigations of these two historic industrial sites provide a valuable opportunity to study the Rosendale cement industry using archaeological methods and techniques.

Bricks can be a valuable research tool in investigating change at early industrial sites. A total of ten different marked bricks were encountered at various locations throughout the kiln complexes. Research conducted on specific brick manufacturers suggests that much of the common brick was manufactured nearby, most notably in Kingston and Haverstraw, while fire brick was imported from other states. A total of six marked "common" bricks were identified. One brick, marked "1976", does not appear in the literature, and was likely made as part of a bicentennial celebration by the Hutton Brick Company. They were found stacked in a barrel shed at the Lawrence Cement Company works, and were probably used by the Williams Lake resort in the 1970s rather than by the cement industry. A comparison of marked bricks occurring at the sites indicated a strong correlation between ownership of specific kilns and the brands of common brick used at the various buildings and kiln arches.

Some of the local brick manufacturers had ties to the Rosendale cement industry. Bricks marked "Brigham" were made by Henry R. Brigham, who was an Agent for A.J.

Snyder and Son's Crescent Brand Rosendale Cement. In 1858 his father founded the Rosendale and Kingston Cement Company, which was later known as the Hudson River Cement Company. Henry worked for his father's cement company and later formed the Brigham Brother Brick Company with his brother William. Together, they manufactured bricks from works next to the Hudson River Cement Company in East Kingston. Later, around 1891, H.R. Brigham became general agent for A.J. Snyder and Sons. After the death of A.J. Snyder in 1902 he also became the superintendent of the Snyder Cement Works in Lawrenceville.

It is interesting that bricks from a competitor's company would be found at the factory remains along Williams Lake. We know that competition between cement companies was sometimes fierce as they would often vie for the same large construction contracts. The reason for the use of these bricks is likely economic, as they were probably cheaper than bricks that would have to be transported from Kingston. An examination of brick production figures for 1893 show that the Brigham Brothers' brickmaking operation was considerably smaller than most of the brick companies represented at the kiln sites. The Brigham Brothers manufactured approximately 5 million bricks that year, compared with 14.8 million produced by Staples, 13.75 million by Hutton, and 13 million by Terry Brothers (these production figures were obtained from the *Natural News* Vol. 11 No. 1, p.5). It seems likely that Brigham kept a quantity of brick on hand in Rosendale, and that it was more cost effective to buy locally from a competitor.



## Marked Bricks Recovered from the Lawrence Cement Company and the F.O. Norton Company

Brand	Manufacturer	Location	Date	Source
B. BROS.	ORIG-Bennet Bros. NOW-Brigham Brothers	Haverstraw, NY	no date	De Noyelles p. 223
BRIGHAM	Brigham Brick Co.	Kingston, NY	1904	De Noyelles p. 225
BRIGHAM	Brigham Bros.	East Kingston, NY	1899	De Noyelles p. 225
RIDGE	General Factories Co.	PA	1930-1942	Gurcke p. 288
MUNRO	Harbison-Walker Refractories Co.	PA	1921-1942	Gurcke p. 270
STAPLES	Alva S. Staples	East Kingston, NY	1899	De Noyelles p. 262
HUTTON	Hutton Brick Co.	East Kingston, NY	1899	De Noyelles p. 242
HUTTON	W. Hutton	East Kingston, NY	1891	De Noyelles p. 243
PHOENIX # 1	Harbison-Walker Refractories Co.	PA	1921	Gurcke p. 280
TERRY BROS.	Terry Bros.	Steep Rock, NY	1910	De Noyelles p. 263
TERRY BROS. 1976	Terry Bros. Albert, Jay and David Terry Unknown	Kingston, NY Unknown	1902 Unknown	De Noyelles p. 263 Unknown
C - TYRONE	Harbison-Walker Refractories Co.	PA	1930-1931	Gurcke p. 222

The table above was made using information obtained from brick directories, which were created by examining news clippings, city directories and trade publications. These directories are often in need of refinement as new information about manufacturers is obtained. As shown by the table, bricks marked "B. Bros" were thought to have only been manufactured by the Bennet Brothers of Haverstraw. We were curious why bricks from Haverstraw were used when the brickyards in Kingston were comparatively close. A closer examination of the trade card for Henry Brigham revealed that they also used the "B. Bros" stamp on their bricks, probably before or at the same time that they were using the "Brigham" brand. Thus, while the brick manufacturing directories can be used to help better understand historic industrial sites, the study of historic industries can also be used help refine our understanding of bricks and brickmaking in the Hudson Valley.

Results further indicated what while marked common bricks show a strong correlation with regard to the individual kiln walls, fire brick was comparatively homogeneous. Also, little variation was noted within the kiln walls, specifically with respect to the breaks in the stonework that probably indicate later construction episodes. However, this lack of variation between kilns thought to have been constructed at different times is not too surprising, since the fire brick lining of the interior kiln walls had to be replaced every few years after near continuous use. Thus, while the kilns themselves might have been constructed at different times between the 1860s and when plants ceased operations in 1926, the fire bricks lining the kilns themselves all date to just before the closure, when all the kilns were operated by the Consolidated Rosendale Cement Company..

### References

De Noyelles, Daniel, 1982 *Within These Gates*. Privately Published, Theills, NY.  
 Gurke, Karl, 1987 *Bricks and Brickmaking: A Guide for Historical Archaeology*. University of Idaho Press, Moscow



# Dietrich Werner Memorial Fund

The family of Dietrich Werner believes the best way to honor his accomplishments and efforts to preserve the Snyder Estate is to donate funds to the Century House Historical Society in his memory. Many who have visited the museum and enjoyed a special exhibit, called upon him for his encyclopedic store of information, witnessed his tireless efforts and want to advance the good work of the historical society have contributed. The Board of Trustees wishes to encourage members and friends to consider including a donation to the fund with your dues or when time allows. We hope the list of contributors will grow and grow!

We thought you would enjoy some excerpts from letters received:

*Dietrich's passing was a loss to the cave exploring community. On several occasions over the years he hosted various caver meetings at the Snyder Estate and the Widow Jane Mine, and he participated! I speak for the National Speleological Society, the Northeastern Regional Organization, Grottos of the NSS and the Northeastern Cave Conservancy when I say he will be missed.*  
Robert P. Addis, President

*Dietrich was a founding member of our consortium of D & H sites, from Carbondate PA to Kingston NY. His gentle humor, his wise advice and his passion for preserving our history will never be forgotten. His insight on how to preserve and promote the pioneering Delaware & Hudson Canal Company's history provided a guidance to our efforts to honor this more than century-old canal and gravity railroad. Words seem inadequate, Dietrich will be missed and remembered by all of us.*  
Seth Goldman, President, D & H Transportation Heritage Council

*His contribution has been huge and unique.* Manna Jo Greene

*It is by those that remember him that will keep his spirit alive and he had an abundance of that.* Ron Weiss

*His ability to tell stories about Rosendale's history was impressive. He was a fine and generous man.* Betsy & Bill Tuel

*We join you in mourning the loss of a wonderful man who gave so much to all of us.* Brook Garrett & Jay Blotcher

*He aided me immeasurably in writing my book concerning Rosendale Natural Cement.* Peter Genero

## CONTRIBUTORS

(partial list)

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Kevin McEvoy & Barbara Epstein	Althea Werner
Jane Brown	Edison Coatings, Inc.

# DOCENTS WANTED!

For 2010 SEASON SPECIAL EXHIBIT:  
"Abandoned Mines of the Rosendale Cement Region"  
by photographer Dan Lopez

Docent is a strange word. Many ask exactly what it means! Each year many casual weekend visitors come to the Snyder Estate. They enter intrigued by the Brooklyn Bridge Gates at the entrance, saw an colorful banner announcing an event, their friends sent them or they saw a listing in a brochure. However they get here, they are greeted by a docent and provided with an orientation to the historic site. Docents make sure this is a pleasurable and educational experience (and also fun!).

One not need to be an expert (training will be provided). Most of all, your efforts will keep the site accessible to all.

The season will start with the opening in May (Sunday, May 9, Mother's Day 1-4 pm) and run through the end of September.

The Society is honored that we will be able to present a fabulous special exhibit by photographer Dan Lopez " Abandoned Mines of the Rosendale Cement Region". He captivated the audience at a past Annual Meeting with the presentation of his work. We expect many will want to take advantage of seeing places that he has explored and captured with his lens. Dan has spent a lot of time getting wet, cold, and dirty for all our benefit!

Simply, the more that volunteer to be docents, the more hours we can offer our visitors. Your commitment of hours can be large or limited due to other obligations. Be it several weekend afternoons during the season or just two, we will find a time that accommodates your schedule.

Please contact the Society at 845/658-9900 or mail@centuryhouse.org to express your interest in serving as a docent. You will enjoy meeting the visitors and the lovely surroundings of the Snyder Estate at the same time!

## WANTED

**Picture Frames**  
All Shapes/All Sizes!

The Society is always on the lookout for picture frames. For all you yard sale enthusiasts, look for any style frame. Vintage or modern, sleek classy polished brass or plain plastic, it can find a new life in a Century House Historical Society exhibit.

Through the years, we have produced exhibits with great success using recycled goods. Lighting with reconditioned lamps, rugs made attractive through cleaning them with lots of elbow grease, and curtains that have graced grandmother's house have all contributed to our signature museum design perfected by necessity.

Somehow all combined, the look of the museum is homey yet professional! Should you have any finds, contact the Society for pick-up or drop-off.

## *Thrift Sale!*

Friday, May 28, 2010  
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
416 Main Street  
("Rosendale Wares")

We have been gathering great treasures all winter long for the mega thrift sale! You wouldn't believe all the fun stuff we have that you need and want! For this special sale, be advised that there will be no early admittance. No way. No how. All will have an equal opportunity to delve into a shopping frenzy. Ready, set, go! The doors open at 5:00 PM and will remain open until 8:00 PM. Tell all your friends to mark their calendar.

Further donations would be useful as this will be a big sale! Contact the Society for pick-up or delivery. No electronics please. Nothing really large, broken, or otherwise mistreated. Treasure Bazaar customers enjoy the useful (china sets, curtains, tablecloths), the unusual (glitzy jewelry, vintage dolls, crockery) and even the bizarre (the table lamp that was gaudy beyond belief that featured a gilded fish!). Let us turn your donated treasures into cash that will "make history" for the Society!



The Snyder Estate Historic Site  
Rosendale NY 12472-0150  
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## *Spring Spruce-Up Day!*

Sunday, April 25, 2010

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Rain or Shine

**ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR SPRING SPRUCE-UP DAY**

**Lots of Projects and a Big Pig-Out!**

Spruce-Up Day is the day the Society gets the site ready for the upcoming visitor season. The focus is restoring the beauty to the site after the winter gives up. Bring rakes, gloves, and a hearty appetite for the traditional lunch time pig-out.

Susan Lewis will be in charge of coordinating this event. Please bring a covered dish, snack, cake, or cookies to share. Louisa Duffy will be encouraged to supply her famous mac and cheese..

There is something for everyone to do. For the fit and restless, we promise to keep you busy every moment; for those that find that gentler activities must prevail, we've got projects for you also! Winter debris must be picked up, windows need to sparkle, the Carriage House needs to be put in order and the lunch tables need to be set.

If you belong to an organization, consider rounding up some folks. It would be a great way to introduce them to the activities of the Society. Should you have some other obligation that day, a delivery of food for the volunteers would surely be appreciated.

Contact the Society at 845-658-9900 or [mail@centuryhouse.org](mailto:mail@centuryhouse.org) to say you can pitch in.