

The  
Century  
House  
Historical  
Society

# NATURAL NEWS

Volume 7 Issue 1

Spring 2005



Canvass White

**American Natural Cement Conference  
War in the Quarries !**

## Century House Historical Society

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## Message from the President

At a recent meeting of the Society's Board of Trustees Carol Preziosi was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board. We look forward to Carol's contribution to the direction of Society matters.

It is with great pleasure that I send out the Spring issue of *Natural News* with a long list of new Society members. A great percentage of these new members were attendees at the recent American Natural Cement Conference cosponsored by the Society and the Association for Preservation Technology International, Northeast Chapter.

Special thanks go out to Mike & Leya Edison, Ken Uracius & Pat Pelchat, Kurt Burmeister, Joan Every, Michael Pavlov, Gayle Grunwald, Michael Montella, and Linda Tantillo, all the Presenters and the Corporate Sponsors, UCAT Director Cynthia Ruiz, Anita Peck and the staff at Williams Lake Hotel and the staff at Hudson Valley Resort, and all those interested in Natural Cements, some of whom came from as far as Austria and Poland to attend the conference.

This year's special exhibit in the Museum "American Natural Cements" focuses on the Rosendale Cement Region. You will find many wonderful photos of the cement works and workers as well as many other cement related documents from the Society's collections.

This spring I have had the pleasure of working with Richard Ross scanning and making copies of his very interesting collection of documents relating to the Consolidated Rosendale Cement Company. Some of the documents are inventories of various cement companies being purchased by the new company. The inventories give details large and small of company property. Included in the inventories are such details as the number and names of horses, canal boats and river barges, real property owned, stock of cement on hand, number of barrels on hand, etc. A high light of the collection is a yearly report by Edmund Doremus, Superintendent of the Newark & Rosendale Lime and Cement Company, of the cost of manufacturing cement for the years 1858-1902.

*Dietrich Werner*

## Welcome New Members

- 401-F Horace Compton - Leeds, AL
- 402-F Joseph P. Roberti, Jr. - Saugerties, NY
- 403-F Charles & Lucy Busick - Highland, NY
- 404-I Robert S. White - Goldsboro, NC
- 405-F Gary & Margaret Bischoff - Saugerties, NY
- 406-F F. Michael & Lynette Tucker - Delmar, NY
- 407-C Edison Coatings Inc. - Plainville, CT
- 408-I Kevin Towle - Goldens Bridge, NY
- 409-I Richard Ross - Stone Ridge, NY
- 410-I Caren Dashow - Brooklyn, NY
- 411-S David C. Anderson - Providence, RI
- 412-S Joan Berkiwitz - New York, NY
- 413-S Jimena Bruguera - New York, NY
- 414-S Ju-Cheng Chou - Yonkers, NY
- 415-S Christopher Dabek - Milford, MA
- 416-S Marie Ennis - New York, NY
- 417-S Thomas Farrell - Springfield, NJ
- 418-S Ken Follett - Mastic Beach, NY
- 419-S Darrell Freeman - Elizabethtown, KY
- 420-S Jack Healy - Troy, NY
- 421-S Horng-Ruey Hsieh - New York, NY
- 422-S Richard LeFever - New York, NY
- 423-S Richard Lippoth - Ft Collins, CO
- 424-S Michael Mahoney - Waqrwick, RI
- 425-S Daniel Palousek - Falls Church, VA
- 426-S Paul Scheiner - Waltham, MA
- 427-S William Stivale - New York, NY
- 428-S Christopher Tavener - Albany, NY
- 429-S Derek Trelstad - New York, NY
- 430-S John C. Zarzecki - Plymouth, MI
- 431-S Dennis Howe - Concord, NH
- 432-S Joe Barrieau - Vernon, CT
- 433-S Michael Gnazzo - Vernon, CT
- 434-S Gary Gnazzo - Vernon, CT
- 435-S Jeffrey Baker - Albany, NY
- 436-S Dawn Chapman - Decatur, GA
- 437-S James Cohen - Albany, NY
- 438-S Edwin Colon - San Juan, PR
- 439-S John Harry - Allentown, PA
- 440-S David Gallagher - Cambridge, MA
- 441-S Scott Jones - Frederick, MD
- 442-S Marilyn Kaplan - Albany, NY
- 443-S Roman Kozlowski - Krakow, POLAND
- 444-S Michael Lynch - Waltham, MA
- 445-S Joseph Martin - Atlanta, GA
- 446-S Nina Mayr - Vienna, AUSTRIA
- 447-S John Mesick - Albany, NY
- 448-S Michael Rebic - New York, NY
- 449-S Steven Schimmrich - Stone Ridge, NY
- 450-S Wolfgang Schwarz - Wien, AUSTRIA
- 451-S Mark Soeth - Pittsford, MA
- 452-S Charles Tonetti - Philadelphia, PA
- 453-S Lawrence Wilson - Albany, NY
- 454-S Scott Lewis - New York, NY
- 455-S Wayne Quartin - Hicksville, NY
- 456-S Neil Savitch - Dumfries, VA
- 457-S Don Swanson - Princeton Jct., NY
- 458-S Fran Matero - Philadelphia, PA
- 459-S Edward Harris - Sandys Parish, BERMUDA

# American Natural Cement Conference

## March 31 - April 2, 2005 Rosendale, NY

By Linda Tantillo

When I excitedly told my mother about the up-coming conference on Rosendale Cement, she dryly asked "Gee, how many people are going to be there? Three?" Yes, it may seem a pretty esoteric topic to the average person, but, to me, wow! everything I could want to know about Rosendale's world famous natural cement!



Linda Tantillo

The conference was co-sponsored by The Century House Historical Society and the Northeast Chapter of The Association for Preservation Technology International and. One of the corporate sponsors was Edison Coatings of Plainville, Connecticut, the company that is once again producing Rosendale natural cement using limestone leftover when A. J. Snyder's Century Cement Company went out of business in the 1970s.

There were about 75 people attending the conference, some from as far away as Poland and Austria.. Some came from the cement industry, some from restoration companies or projects, and others from historic preservation groups; a mix of interesting men and women from all over. The lectures were sometimes rather technical—these were people who really knew their cement!-- but with a little background in chemistry and earth science I was able to follow along and learn quite a bit. What really amazed me, however, was how much those attending knew about Rosendale cement. I guess we sometimes don't fully realize nowadays just how important our Rosendale cement was, nor how important it is to restoration projects now.

Thursday morning at Williams Lake Hotel, the conference started off with the beautiful video slide show "The Cement that Built America" which showed images of the many impressive and important structures all over the country built of Rosendale cement. Dietrich then gave us a fascinating look at the history of Rosendale's cement region. His enthusiasm and wealth of knowledge make his presentations fascinating no matter how many times I hear them, and I always learn something new every time.



5 gal [47 lbs] Bucket of Rosendale Natural Cement

During Dietrich's presentation we learned that guest speaker Kurt Burmeister, professor of Geology at California



John Walsh & Dietrich lead walk to cement mines located north of the Williams Lake Hotel

State University at Bakersfield had been delayed at the airport in Chicago due to tornado warnings there. This world expert was coming all the way from California, braving tornadoes, to come to Rosendale! So we skipped to John Walsh's presentation *Petrography: Identification of Natural Cement in Existing Buildings*. He described the different methods—using the microscope and chemical analysis-- to determine what type of cement was originally used in a building. By using "reverse engineering" to recreate the original cement mixture, buildings are properly restored with compatible material. I learned that the warm reddish-golden tone of the Rosendale Library is a characteristic of Rosendale natural cement caused by iron impurities that bond in a particular way. Portland, or "artificial", cement has the much grayer and colder look than we are more familiar with today.



Nina Mayr (from Austria) inspects limestone in Binnewater cement mine

It was a beautiful day, and our next activity was a tour of the cement mine and kilns at Williams Lake. I found out that

the story of being able to walk through the caves from Rosendale to Kingston is not true (sorry!). Just east of the hotel, the many kilns on two levels reminded me of the remains of an ancient Roman aqueduct. I had the opportunity to speak with some of the other participants and heard about their projects. Very nice people!

Kurt Burmeister arrived safe and sound, and after our lunch at Williams Lake, we went to Hudson Valley Resort where he gave his lecture *Geology and Mining of Ro-*



**Ken Uraicus mixes up a batch of mortar made with Rosendale Natural Cement**

*sendale Cement.* Kurt has done extensive research on Rosendale Cement, and spent considerable time in our area doing research. (He was kind enough to give Rosendale Library a copy of his thesis, if anyone wants to delve into his work.)

The next session, *Historical Uses of Natural Cement by the US Army Corps of Engineers*, was presented by Mike Ryan, Nation Park Service Historian for Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas National Park. The fort was part of a chain of fifty



**Kurt Burmeister displays map of the Filed Trip area**

“Third System” coastal forts built after the War of 1812. Building started on Fort Jefferson in 1851 using Rosendale cement, as were many of these forts. Construction lasted for 25 years,

but Fort Jefferson was never completed, the invention of the rifle cannon making it obsolete. The natural beauty of the island and the surrounding ocean, however, led to it being declared a national monument in 1935 and in 1992 a national park. The fort is in the process of being restored. Early repairs with modern cement were unsatisfactory. After much “detective work”, the proper type of cement – Rosendale natural -- was re-discovered.

Architect Mary Catherine Martin spoke on *Rosendale cement in Historic Restoration* and her work at Fort Jefferson and in developing recommendations for the treatment of historic structures. Ken Uraicus gave a fascinating (and very amusing) talk *The Natural Cement Revival*. Ken’s many years experience as a masonry restoration specialist and his insistence on using historically accurate materials led him to rediscover (sometimes practically from scratch) the techniques for making Rosendale cement. This led to the revival of production for restoration projects by Edison Coatings, Inc. of Connecticut whose founder, Michael Edison gave a talk on *Formulating Rosendale Cement Mortars*, giving both traditional practices and potential new uses for natural cement.

Two lectures *Constructability: Early Strength of Natural Cement vs Lime* by Joshua Kivela and *Structural Performance of Natural Cement* by John M. Wathne presented in-depth comparisons of lime, Rosendale cement, and Portland cement. I learned that one of the advantages of natural cement over Portland is its *flexibility!*

I wasn’t able attend the tasting of New York State wines, nor hear Eric DeLony of the Natural Park Service give the keynote address *Natural Cement Bridges and Current Issues in Historic Bridge Preservation* Friday evening. I can’t wait for the full report to find out what I missed!

One of my favorite parts of the conference was the lime slaking. Slaking, I found out, means that water is added to the pure white powdery processed limestone (also called quicklime). The water causes a reaction that releases an amazing amount of heat and steam. Pretty impressive! (And now I know why it is not a good idea to handle dry cement with bare hands...) We also mixed up some Rosendale cement and passed it around for inspection, comparison and comment: notice the color, the texture.... It kind of reminded me of the wine tasting I had missed the night before.

The beautiful weather came to an end on Saturday, the day I was most looking forward to: THE FIELD TRIP! The *In-depth Geology Tour of the Rosendale Cement Region*, with KURT!! But the rainstorm had started the night before, and by 7:30 am the flooding was already a problem, so I stayed home. A dozen hardy souls did go out on the field trip-- Dietrich, our fearless leader, went and said they had a wonderful, if soggy, time. Maybe there will be another field trip some day...(Hint, hint.)

The only problem now is that every time I go past something old made of cement, I want to take a good look at it. Could it be Rosendale cement? Could I tell if it was? And, most important, do people think I’m crazy staring at cement walls?

**Editor’s Note:** Linda Tantillo who wrote the above article for Natural News is a Society member and works at the Rosendale Library. Linda heads the Rosendale Library Local History Group. Photography by Michael Montella

## Century House Historical Society and APTI Receive Recognition Awards at the American Natural Cement Conference



Jay Dailey, Representing NY State Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, reads letter welcoming all attendees to Ulster County and commends the rebirth of Natural Cement Production.



Legislator Joan Every, on behalf of the Ulster County Legislature, presented the Society a Pride of Ulster Award. L. to r. Society members Dietrich Werner, Mike Edison, Pat Pelchat, Ken Uracius, Leya Edison, Kurt Burmeister, Joan Every, Michael Pavlov, & Gayle Grunwald



This year's first school visit was by students from the Bruderhof who visited the Snyder Estate to learn about the geology and history of the Rosendale Natural Cement Region.

### Care Takers Society

The Care Takers Society meet at the Snyder Estate for part one of a two part training session. They will learn how to monitor the health of streams. After completion of



the training by Ulster County Environmental Management Council staff they will monitor the Tan House Brook and The Cottekill Creek, both of which flow into the Rondout Creek.

**The Cover - Canvass White** Canvas White went to England in 1817 tramped several thousand miles along the English canal system on a trip which today would be called economic espionage. He took this arduous journey to learn how the English operated their canals, paying particular attention to the construction of the locks. He also noted the use of Roman (natural) cement in canal construction. Upon his return to the States Canvass White proceeded to look for limestone suitable for use in the manufacturing of Natural Cement for use in the construction of the Eire Canal. He soon discovered such limestone and proceeded in the manufacturing of natural Cement for use on the Eire Canal. A few years later his brother Hugh White became the foreman at the cement works in Fayetteville, NY. After the completion of the Eire canal Canvass spent the next ten years of his life as an engineer on many other canal, railroad, and waterworks projects, always promoting his patented "White's Hydraulic Cement". [DEW]

# The Battle of Rock Lock ! War in the Quarries ! The Fighting Near a Powder Mine ! Damp Cartridges Save Fifty Men from Destruction! Details of the Assault ! Capture of the Works !



The New York Cement Company at Rock Lock, LeFever Falls, New York  
Beer's Atlas of Ulster County 1875

Those were the headlines not only of the local press, The Weekly Freeman and the Kingston Argus, but of big city newspapers like the New York Times. The Rondout Courier was the first to report on the dispute. The New York Times, in its September 8, 1878 issue, followed with a front page story, based on the Courier's report. The Weekly Freeman followed with a story on the 13th and the New York Times revisited the story with additional information on the 22nd. The story was picked up by the Associated Press and appeared in many papers throughout the United States that subscribed to the AP service. Even now, 127 years later, these reports make for interesting reading. Four of newspaper accounts are reproduced for your reading pleasure.

The Miller's prevailed in this battle and continued to operate the works at Rock Locks without further interruptions or threats of forceful eviction. Two years after the events of 1878, according to Nathaniel Sylvester, Matthew Case was the resident Superintendent and employed about 130 men. They had 7 kilns and operated their own coopeage producing about 115,000 barrels of cement per year. They even managed to remain independent when the many of the Rosendale area cement works were consolidated in 1902. None of the accounts mention how Miller and his men reached Rock Lock so early in the morning. It is possible that they formed in Kingston and then took the Wallkill Valley Railroad to the Rosendale station which was less than 2 miles east. [DEW]

*New York Times - September 8, 1878*

## THE ROSENDALE QUARRY FIGHT DETAILS OF THE ASSULT AND THE CAPTURE OF THE WORKS

*Special Dispatch to the New York Times*

NEWBURG, N.Y., Sept. 7. ———The Rondout Courier has the following particulars in reference to the fight which occurred yesterday at Rock Lock, Town of Rosendale, Ulster County, in which two men were wounded. The scene of the fight was the cement quarry of the New York Cement Company, of which Alexander McGuire, of New York City, is Treasurer; Thomas Miller, Sr., President, and Thomas Miller, Jr., Secretary. There has been litigation, which resulted in the election of a new Board of Directors. J. P. Cummings held the contract to work the quarries under the old board, which the new board claimed was void. Cummings claimed the right of possession, and concluded to hold the quarries by force. He fortified the quarries by erecting a breastwork of stone, with a number of kegs powder under it. Connected with the powder was a galvanic battery, the wires being subsequently discovered by the company's men and taken up. Previous to this Cummings had held the quarries by force for three days and nights. Yesterday morning Thomas Miller, Jr., the Secretary, collected about 60 men and started for the quarries. He walked up the car-track with his men, but on nearing the mouth of the quarry, Isaac Becker, a foreman, commanded the besieging party to halt. Instead of halting they moved to one side and commenced to ascend the hill where Becker and his men, about 40 in number, were stationed, armed with guns and revolvers. As Miller continued to proceed, saying nothing and exhibiting no arms. Becker then picked up a stone and threw it at Miller, at the same time calling on his gang for help. As Miller paid no attention to the foreman's threats, the latter fired at him. Miller returned the fire, whereupon firing was begun all along the line, and the air was full of bullets, stones, and clubs. Becker's men were the best armed, as most of them had guns and pistols, while Miller's party were mainly provided with clubs and stones. The Secretary's party continued to advance till they reached the brow of the hill, and then charging upon them, they captured the Becker party's weapons and held the ground. Becker, the foreman, was wounded in four places, one of his fingers being shot off and another wounded; another bullet struck him in the shoulder, and a fourth on the back of the neck. James Becker, son of the foreman, was shot in the shoulder, the ball coming out at the breast. The battle being ended, Miller took possession of the quarry, starting up the works, and is now grinding cement under protection of Deputy Sheriff's Cooney and Townsend.

*Weekly Freeman - September 13, 1878*

## THE BATTLE OF ROCK LOCK Renewal of Hostilities Among the Quarrymen— Lively Engagement this Morning

Word came to the upper part of the city Friday morning that there was a war in the quarries of the New York Cement Company at Rock Lock; though whether blood had been spilled or not was not ascertained until one of the company's agents came post-haste to the sheriff's office for aid in the way of several deputies, and visited some lawyers in order to commence the proper proceedings to punish the men who had violated the law. The facts of the fracas as given by this gentleman, are as follows: The company has had considerable litigation in order to rid a board of directors, the members of which were at war with one another, and elect a new board. A man by the name of John P. Cummings claimed to have a contract under the old board of directors to work the quarries, and it was this contract that started the first litigation, and which created a great many rows and breaches of the peace at or near the quarries, in order to determine who had sufficient power to keep possession of such quarries, Mr. Cummings or another man who had been authorized by some of the directors to work the stone in them. This was finally decided by Judge Westbrook ordering the election of a new board of directors, which was had, and this new board it seems claims that the Cummings contract, for several reasons, is void. Cummings, however, insists that his contract is valid, and that under it he has the right to take possession of them. He managed to muster in the quarries a number of men headed by himself and one Decker, a foreman, and threatened to annihilate any man or set of men who might be sent to oust him. The company's men supposed he had what they call a battery in the quarry, consisting of several barrels of gunpowder, which he would fire by the aid of electricity sent along a wire which extended from these barrels into some remote part of the quarry, and blow up an army if need be, should it be sent against him. Notwithstanding these terrible preparations of defense, Thomas Miller, Jr., the secretary of the company, acting upon orders from the company, took a troop of sixty men with him, and this morning at 6:30 o'clock gallantly charged on the fortifications of the enemy, and after a rattling fight, during which there was wasted a considerable amount of ammunition, and a great many oaths had been poured forth from the throats of the lusty quarrymen, the men under Cummings and Decker dispersed. And in a few minutes had dissolved like the morning mist under the rays of the sun.

Both side have applied to the district-attorney, asking him to give them aid with the criminal arm of the law, but he refused to do anything until the next grand jury meets, when all parties can be heard.

During the quarry fight at Rock Lock the son of the foreman Decker was hit by a ball on one of his shoulders, but the wound is not considered dangerous, nor is there anything to warrant the sending out of sensational and exaggerated reports of the affair, such as were given to the Associated Press from Poughkeepsie, based upon so-called special dispatch from this city.



*Kingston Argus - September 1878*

## A QUARRY CONTROVERSEY AND FIGHT

There was considerable excitement in Rosendale on Friday, arising out of the long controversy over the possession of the cement quarries at Rock Locks of the new York Cement Company. There has been much litigation heretofore between the parties in interest one side being led by John P. Cummings, who claims possession under a contract with a former board of directors to work the quarries, which is disputed by the present directors who claim that this contract is void.

Cummings, however, insists that his contract is valid, and that under it he has the right of possession. He mustered in the quarries a number of men headed by himself and a foreman named Decker, and threatened to annihilate any one who might be sent to oust him. The company's supposed he had what they call a battery in the quarry, consisting of several barrels of gunpowder, which he could fire by the aid of electricity along a wire which extended from these barrels into some remote part of the quarry, and blow up any assailants if need be. Notwithstanding these preparations Thomas Miler, Jr., the Secretary of the company, acting upon orders from the company, took a troop of sixty men with him on Friday morning at 6:30 o'clock and charged on the fortifications of the enemy, and after a lively fight the men under Cummings and Decker dispersed. Some thirty shots were fired. Isaac Becker, the manager, and his son James, were slightly wounded. Of course there is to be more law.

*New York Times - September 22, 1878*

## FIGHTING NEAR A POWDER MINE THE BATTLE FOR THE ROSENDALE QUARRY DAMP CARTRIDGES SAVE FIFTY MEN FROM DESTRUCTION

On Friday last Sheriff J. J. Cooney, of Ulster County, called on Superintendent Walling at the Central Office, and requested the assistance of a detective to arrest John P. Cummings, Sr., a man 65 years of age, residing at Inwood, for whom Cooney had a warrant issued by the Recorder of Kingston, Ulster County. In the warrant Cummings stands charged with having committed a felonious assault upon Thomas Miller, Jr., on the 6th inst. At Rock Lock, Rosendale. Detective Moran, of the Central Office, was detailed to assist Sheriff Cooney, and Cummings was arrested at Manhattanville on Friday afternoon. He was delivered at once to the Sheriff, who took him to Kingston for examination.

The details of the case show a very peculiar state of affairs. The New-York Cement Company owns a quarry at Rock Lock, whence stone is obtained to be crushed into cement. Cummings was for several years the Secretary of the company, with an office at No. 5 Dey Street, in this City. On the 12th of March last the company was reorganized by the election of Thomas Miller, Sr., as President; Thomas Miller, Jr., as Secretary, and Alexander McGuire, as Treasurer. These officers, together with W.A. Cummings and John Miller, comprise the Board of Trustees. The Millers own the bulk of the capital stock of the corporation, which originally amounted to \$81,400. It is said that under the old Board of Trustees, John P. Cummings, Sr., the Secretary, controlled the votes of two of

the members, and was continually disputing with the other officers. From these disagreements a long series of lawsuits originated. After he was removed from the Secretaryship, Cummings claimed that he has a contract to work the mine, and got an injunction to prevent any interference with his actions by the Trustees. He also instituted a suit to prevent the election of Trustees adverse to him. In both these proceedings, however, he was finally defeated. John P. Cummings, Jr., his son, had possession of the quarry, and held possession of it despite all the efforts of the new officers of the company to eject him. On the 3rd inst. the Trustees met, and adopted resolutions directing Thomas Miller, Jr., the Secretary, to notify Cummings to release the property of the company in his possession, and, in case of Cummings' refusal to do so, to take measures to eject him from the quarries. Mr. Miller sent Cummings a copy of the resolutions, and notified him to leave the quarry, and give up the other property of the company.

Early on the morning of Sept. 6 Secretary Miller and a force of about 50 stalwart Irish quarrymen marched to the quarry to take possession. On approaching the mouth of the tunnel, Mr. Miller received a message from John P. Cummings, Jr., warning him not to make any attempt to enforce his notice, as he [Cummings] would defend his position to the utmost, and bloodshed would surely follow. Miller replied to this warning that his party had come on a peaceful errand, that they would avoid the shedding of blood, but that he was determined to carry out his orders. Opposed to Miller's posse there appeared Isaac Becker, the foreman of the quarry in the employ of Cummings, at the head of about 40 men, who were armed with shot-guns and revolvers. Situated about 100 yards from the mouth of the tunnel was a pile of loose stones, and in front of these was a barricade of cars used in carrying the stone out of the mine. Posted between the barricade and the pile of stone was John P. Cummings, Sr., the ousted Secretary. When Miller and his men attempted to advance, Cummings warned them that the pile of stones covered two kegs containing 50 pounds of powder, connected with an electric battery to the tunnel.

"If you advance another step" shouted Cummings, "I'll blow you all to hell."

Miller advanced, notwithstanding this threat. When he was within 50 feet of the pile of stones, Cummings discharged a pistol at him, and running into the tunnel, gave the order to fire the mine. Miller threw himself flat on the ground, but as no explosion followed, he soon sprang to his feet and led his posse in an attack upon Becker and Cummings party, who had been amusing themselves by firing stones. Becker fired at Miller, who returned the fire. Becker fired again without effect, and the Miller party cleared the barricade with a rush and utterly routed their opponents. As trophies of the conflict they secured four shot-guns loaded with buckshot. Becker being defeated, Cummings and his son fled. Miller took possession of the quarry, and an examination revealed the fact that beneath the pile of stones were really two kegs of powder connected with the battery in the quarry, and that an attempt had been made to fire the powder. The cartridges being damp had failed to explode. The company now have possession of the quarry, and have made ample preparations to protect their property. Besides the warrant issued for the arrest of John P. Cummings, Sr., for felonious assault in firing a revolver at Miller, one was also directed against foreman Becker, who has not yet been arrested.



## Dealer in Lime, Coal & Cement

Who is this man? The Society recently acquired this circa 1880s—1890s photograph depicting what appears to be a salesman of Coal, Lime and Cement. Or possibly he was the owner of a business which sold those products.

There is a curious collection of items in this photo. A bucket of coal with a small coal shovel next to which is a small statuette. He is holding a folded newspaper showing a part of the paper's name, JOURNAL. Most interesting of all is the Trade Card on top of the books leaning against the urn of flowers. COAL, LIME & CEMENT is printed in large lettering on the card.

The photograph was taken in the new photographic parlors operated by Thomas Mills at 317 Main Street, Peoria, Ill. The 1890 Peoria city directory lists Charles E. Butts as the manager of a Coal, Lime & Cement business in that city.

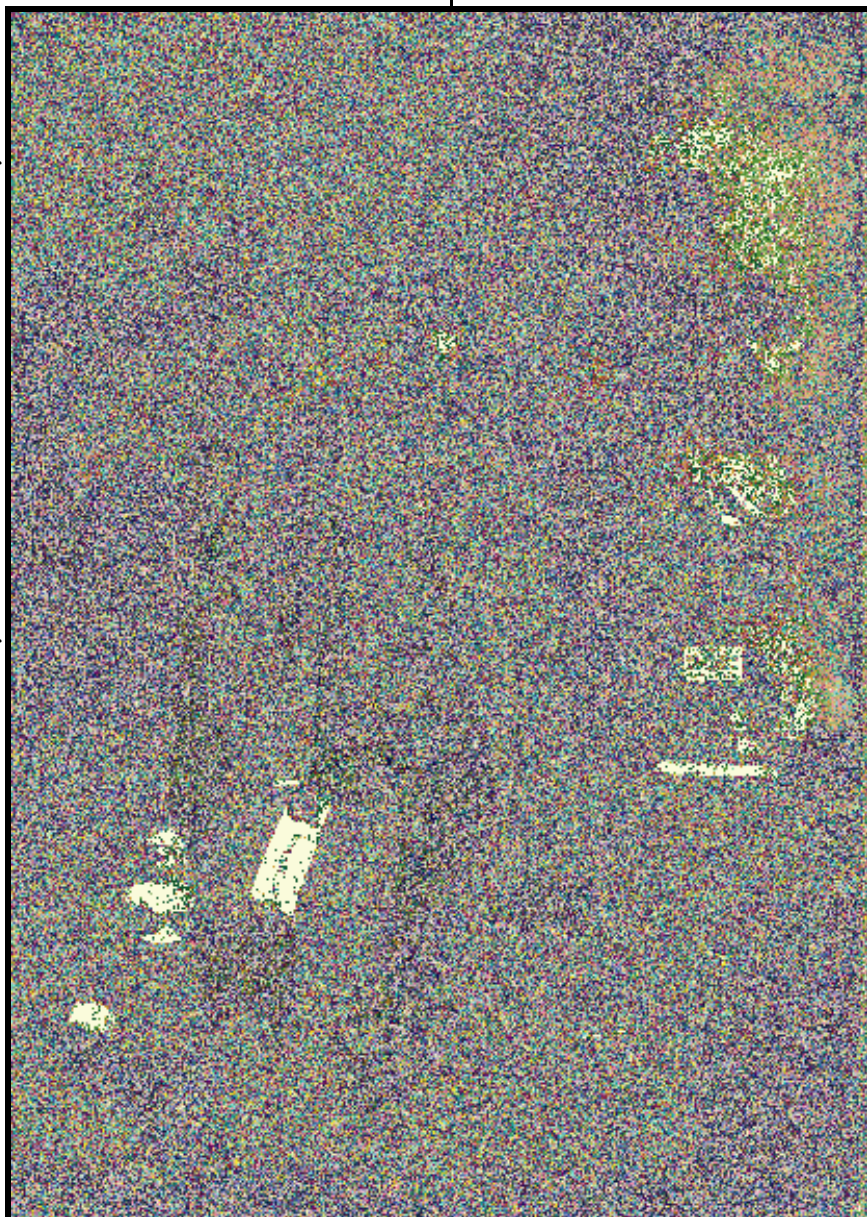
An earlier city directory, Gould's Peoria Directory 1883-84 (shown below) list him with a partner. Possibly a brother? So is this Charles E. or Wm. H. Butts, or someone else? [DEW]

Charles E. Butts

Butts, Charles E., dealer in coal, lime, cement and fire brick, 512 S. Adams street, was born in Tremont,

Tazewell county, Ill., April 10, 1848, and is the son of George and Catherine (Thompson) Butts. His father was a native of England and his mother of Ireland; was raised in native place until eleven years of age, when he removed with his mother to El Paso, where he attended school, and in 1866 began life as a railroad man, passing successively through the grades of brakeman, freight conductor and train dispatcher for the P., P. & J. R. R. Co., and holding the last position for four years. He was altogether twelve years railroading. He married in Peoria, April 15, 1869, Miss Mary Burt, daughter of Mrs.

Ellen W. Burt, of Peoria. His wife was born in Ohio, Sept. 17, 1853, and has borne him one child, Ella, born June 10, 1870, and who died March 17, 1871. He began his present business March 6, 1878, and has for its carrying on large yards and sheds in rear of above number, where he keeps a large stock of his goods. He is also agent for Laflin and Rand's sporting and blasting powder. from The History of Peoria County, Illinois, Johnson & Co., 1880



Butts Charles E. (C. E. Butts & Co.), r. 605 Third  
**BUTTS C. E. & Co.** (Charles E. and William H. Butts),  
 anthracite and Illinois coal, whol. and ret. also lime and  
 cement, 512 S. Adams and 513 S. Washington. Whole-  
 sale yard 1816 and 1818 S. Washington. (See advt.  
 page 6.)

Butts Lucas, student, r. 1101 Monson

Butts William H. (C. E. Butts & Co.), r. 1101 Monson

## Two 132 year old Salem, Mass Newspapers Advertising Knight's Patent Hydraulic Cement Pipe Found

### DOWN'S PATENT CONCRETE PAVEMENT.

THE undersigned would announce to the citizens of Salem, Marblehead, Peabody and Danvers, that he is now ready to receive orders for laying the above walk. All walks warranted.

Copy of a letter given to E. A. Judd, of the City of Bridgeport.

Office Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Co., }  
Bridgeport, Ct., Dec. 23, 1870. }

To all whom it may Concern:—

This is to certify that the undersigned have had the Down's Patent Concrete Pavement laid for them, and also for the city of Bridgeport under their direction, and are of the opinion that the said pavement has all the essential requirements for a sidewalk in all respects, for durability, smoothness of surface and economy, and we cheerfully recommend it as superior to any pavement of the kind within our knowledge.

WHEELER & WILSON M'FG Co.

W. H. PERRY, of Board of Road and Bridge Commissioners of the city of Bridgeport, J. D. ALVORD, Chairman, F. Hurd, Secretary of Committee of Streets and Sidewalks of the city of Bridgeport. M. LEVERTY, Street Commissioner.

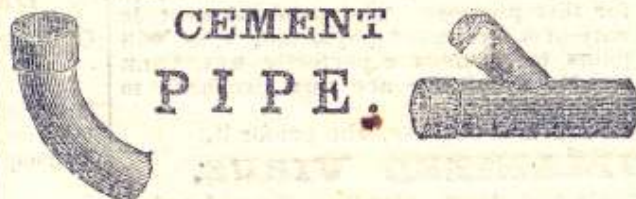
☐ This walk, unlike many others, hardens quicker and emits no odor.

D. F. McNEAL.

Rear of Hubon Block, Salem.

Orders may be left at the store of I. P. Harri St. Peter street.

All work warranted to give satisfaction  
Salem, July 1, 1871. tf



CEMENT  
PIPE.

*Knight's Patent Hydraulic Cement*

PIPE.

FOR DRAINS, SEWERS, AND CULVERTS.

THIS PIPE is specially adapted for Distribution and Drainage in Cities, Towns, and Villages. It will stand the most severe tests of acids and frosts, and improves in strength with age, and is now extensively adopted by eminent Hydraulic Engineers.

The SEWER PIPES are in use in New York, Brooklyn, Albany, Hartford, Lowell, Boston, and numerous other places. Also used under heavy Rail Road Embankments.

3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15, 18, and 24 inch Bore—Also, 30 inch Well Pipe—Manufactured and sold by

S. FLINT,

221 Derby Street, Salem, Mass.,

**LIME, CEMENT, BRICKS AND SAND,**

Together with all kinds of Mason's Building Materials, on hand, and for sale as above.

may 21 1870.

ly

Sherrie Smith, a Society friend who lives in Wisconsin, has over the past 3 years located numerous cement related items which have been added to the Society's collections. How she manages to find such great items is a mystery.

Sherrie found two newspapers, published in 1873. One newspaper was the July 30 issue of the Essex County Mercury and Weekly Salem Gazette and the other was the February 1 issue of the Salem Observer.

Both newspapers carried an advertisement for Knight's Patent Hydraulic Cement Pipe in various sizes, 3" to 24" diameter. S. Flint manufactured and sold these pipes at his yard at 221 Derby Street, Salem. He was also a dealer in Lime, Cement, Bricks, Sand, and all kinds of Mason's Building Materials.

Flint does not state in his advertisement the brand or type of cement he sold. The Flint ad had been running in the Salem Observer since May 1870. In 1873 the only type of cement manufactured in the United States was American (Rosendale) Natural Cement. Roman and Portland cements were imported from Europe.

The ad makes an interesting claim, which was to be repeated 75 years later by the Century Cement Manufacturing Co. in the 1950s, that the pipe improves in strength with age.

The Salem Observer also ran an advertisement (see left) for Concrete Pavement. D. F. McNeal, a Salem contractor was using the Down's Patent method for the installation of sidewalks.

He includes a testimonial letter written in 1870 by a firm in Bridgeport and by the Board of Road & Bridge Commissioners of the city of Bridgeport, Ct.

An interesting note added to McNeal's ad is that his sidewalks "unlike many others, hardens quickly and emits no odor." One can only guess what the unpleasant odor of other types of sidewalks might have smelled like.

Keep searching Sherrie. [DEW]



Gayle's banner calls for a sunny day for Spruce Up Day



### Spring Spruce Up Day



The Reward

Society members and friends gathered at the Snyder Estate to tidy things up on the grounds for the 2005 season.



Richard Ross loads a winters worth of limbs



Linda Tantillo (not for hire)



The real reason why folks show up for Spruce Up Day?

## American Natural Cement Exhibit



To coincide with the American Natural Cement Conference this years special exhibit features images, maps, documents and artifacts from the Rosendale Natural Cement Region. Almost 2,000 years of cement history is depicted in the exhibit. An example of



Roman Cement mortar from the year 65AD to samples of Rosendale Natural Cement manufactured in the year 2004 are on display. There are maps of various Ulster county cement works showing in great detail the arrangement of the mines, kilns and mills. A special item is a



large framed advertisement created by the New York & Rosendale Cement Company in the 1890s. The advertisement shows the operation of the company's mines, kilns and mills. The exhibit will remain up till the end of the year. The Museum is open Wednesday, Saturday and Sundays 1-4 PM



**PAID YOUR 2005 DUES?**

Rosendale Station c1872 Wallkill Valley Railroad

## **CENTURY HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **\* EVENTS \***

**Rosendale Street Festival**      Main Street Rosendale      **July 23-24**

**Visit the Bubble Palace at River Watch Park !**

**Ice Cream Social**      See inside for details      **Sun Aug 7**

**Hudson Valley Poets Fest**      Noon till Dusk Widow Jane Mine      **Sat Aug 13**

**Night of Experimental Music**      7 pm      **Sat Aug 20**

**Taiko Masala**      in Widow Jane Mine      **Sat Sep 3**

**Special Exhibit May-October**

A.J. Snyder Estate Museum