

The
Century
House
Historical
Society

NATURAL NEWS

Volume 8 Issue 3

Fall 2006



OOPS!

Photo: Kenneth Roosa

Rosendale Pickle Fest ~ Sunday, November 19

Visit the Society Booth

Annual Meeting ~ Sunday, December 3 2 PM

at Rosendale Community Center Route 32 Rosendale, N. Y.

Century House Historical Society

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Message from the President

Another season at the Snyder Estate has come to an end. The museum is now closed, but the grounds remain open. We are developing a self guide flyer for visitors to the Snyder Estate. It will contain a brief history of the site and a list of do's and don'ts as well as a description of the bounds of the public areas and the private areas.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Gary Schwartz, one of the founding members of the Society. Gary operated an Antique shop on Main Street, Rosendale and always kept an eye open for Rosendale related items. Many times we would meet at local auctions and Gary would direct me to the lots that might be of interest to the Society. Gary most recently participated in the Subliminal History project at the Widow Jane Mine. (see page 11) A DVD was made of that project, a of which was given to his family, and will be shown at the Art Gallery on Main Street starting November 10th. Gary also had developed an interest in local Rosendale ephemera items. Gary's family has donated that collection to the Society.

We have been informed that the Society is the recipient of a \$30,000 grant though the office of New York State Senator John J. Bonacic. New York State Parks will administer the grant. The grant will be used to do needed repairs to the building the houses the Museum. The contract will be drawn up over the Winter and work should start in the Spring.

We are also working with the Small Business Administration, FEMA and SEMO, to develop a plan for the repair of the drainage system in the parking lot area. Work on that project would also commence in the Spring.

Our Annual Meeting will this year be at the Rosendale Community Center, Sunday, December 3, at 2 PM. See you there.

Regards, Dietrich Werner

Welcome New Members

198-I Stephen Marder - Shillington, PA Welcome Back !

478-I Joanna Gangemi - Cottekill, NY

479-F Pat Pelchat - Holden, MA

480-F Anne Lawrence - Red Bank, NJ

49-I Pamela Turner - Stone Ridge, NY Welcome Back !

481-I Rick Curnen - New York, NY

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)

Additions to the Society Library

31. Arterial Progress. Quarterly Report on the Metropolitan New York Arterial System. Issued by the Consulting Engineers under the direction of the Public Agencies involved and edited by the Office of the City Construction Co-Ordinator of New York City, Robert Moses. 1-1959, 4-20-1959, 7-22-1959, 10-28-1959, 2-19-1960, 6-20-1960, 1-16-1961, 11-28-1961, 10-1-1962, 5-13-1963.
32. Recent Projects. Parkways, expressways, arterial highways, railroad grade, crossing elimination. City of New York. Construction Co-ordinator, Robert Moses. 11-1953.
33. Deegan Expressway, Cross Bronx Expressway, Long Island Expressway. City of New York. Construction Co-coordinator, Robert Moses. 11-1955.
34. New York World's Fair 1964-1965. Progress Report. New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corp. Robert Moses, President. No. 1. 1-16-1961.
[A blend of Natural & Portland cement was used in many of these projects. These reports have many construction photos.]
35. Standard Specifications For Cement Adopted August 16, 1909. With addendum Methods of testing Cement. AMCE January 17, 1912. American Society for Testing Materials. Philadelphia, PA.
36. How to Build a Ferro-Cement Boat. John Samson/Geoff Wellens. Samson Marine Design Enterprises Ltd. Vancouver, Canada. 1968.
[Donated by Horace Compton]
37. Quality Unsurpassed 1891-1991 A Century of California Portland Cement Company. California Portland Cement Co. San Bernardino, CA. 1991.
38. Pacific Portland Cement Company Consolidated. A series of short essays on the Discovery, Manufacture and use of Portland Cement and Gypsum as Structural Binding Materials. B. F. Smith. San Francisco, CA. 1925.
39. Essentials of Geology (2nd Ed). Stephen Marshak. W.W. Norton & Co. New York, NY. 2007.
[Donated by Stephen Marshak]

Ice Cream Social ~ Summer Fun at the Snyder Estate



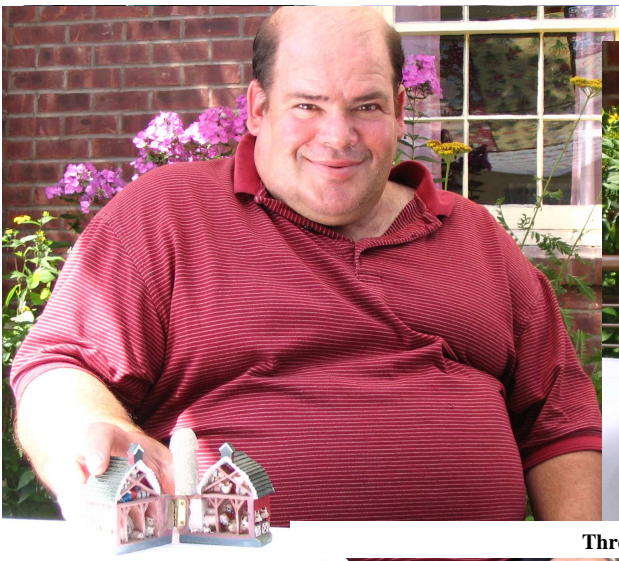
Arikka & Michael Pavlov, Joan Every & Gayle Grunwald Getting ready for the crowd



Ice Cream always brings out a crowd



David Palmquist reads Subliminal History Program, Ms Palmquist enjoys a float



Three Ice Cream Experts

At the Snyder Estate



**New Paltz High School Group visits
Snyder Estate**



**Tan House Brook
Stream Monitoring Workshop**



Hydro-mulch Project on Tan House Brook



Martha Cheo, instructor (l) & students



**Treasure Bazaar
Rosendale Street Festival 2006**

The Society opened a storefront shop on Main Street during the Street Festival. Thanks to Art Church and other Society members

who donated items, and Joe Vitti for remainders from Rosendale Wares. Helen & Steve Sulko, Carolee Lauria and Gayle Grunwald were sales clerks for the event. Delighted visitors to the shop really did find treasures, some old and possibly nicked, others the height of fashion.

Geologists Visit the Snyder Estate

The Rosendale Cement Region continues to draw interested geologists from all over the world. The Geology Society of America held its annual meeting this year in Philadelphia. This year's GSA Annual Meeting theme was *The Pursuit of Science: Building on a Foundation of Discovery*. The four day event, October 22-25, acknowledged "divesting natural disasters and escalating pressures on natural resources and the need for the pursuit of objective, timely, and peer-reviewed scientific information". Prior to the convening of the meeting a group thirteen geologists, some from as far away as Italy, Holland, and Japan took part in a three day field trip to region. The group was lead by Dr. Kurtis Burmiester and Dr. Steve Marshak.

They arrived on Thursday afternoon for dinner and lodging at Williams Lake Hotel. After dinner everyone had to decide between Ernie Bruno and old Broadway Hits or to meet downstairs at the hotel bar and peruse maps of events much, much older. I called it quits for the night when the topic of discussion began describing the nature of the transition between the Hudson Valley mini-thrust belt and the Pennsylvania Valley and Ridge megathrust belt. Having had a few drinks under my own belt I thought it best to get some sleep and study Dr. Marshak's newly published geology book, *Essentials of Geology*, first thing in the morning.

Friday morning the group woke to an overcast sky which later turned to rain. The GSA promo for the trip read as follows: "This trip will visit classic exposures of the Hudson Valley Fold-Thrust Belt in the region between the towns of Catskill and New Paltz. This region has been called a "fold-thrust belt in miniature" because of the dimensions of the structures. The dimensions and character of structures change along strike due to changes in predeformational stratigraphy. The drive to and from the field area will provide an opportunity to see the overall structural framework of the Appalachians in the heart of the New York Recess. Outcrops visited during the trip will allow examination of lithologic controls on pressure-solution cleavage development and discussion of factors controlling the development of map-view curves (e.g., oroclines) in fold-thrust belts." And that is how the group spent the day in the Catskill/Palenville area. Of course the sun once again came out (as the accompanying photo shows) when the group returned to Rosendale on Saturday morning. A box lunch, a visit to the museum, a photo op, and then to Philadelphia for the main part of the GSA Annual Meeting. PS Dr. Marshak has donated a copy of his new book, *Essentials of Geology*, to the Society. It has been added to the Society's ever growing library.



GSA visit to Snyder Estate ~ October 21

Rosendale, N. Y., June 24th 1903.

TERMS:

Mrs. R. & S. Demarest

BOUGHT OF DAVID GILL, JR.,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

SEWER PIPE, FLUE LININGS, TERRA COTTA CHIMNEY TOPS, BRICK, LATH,

Wall Boards, Lime, Hair, Rosendale and Portland Cement.

AGENT FOR CANAAN, GLEN FALLS AND SING SING LIME, DYCKERHOFF PORTLAND, OLD
NEWARK ROSENDALE AND KING'S WINDSOR CEMENT.

PLASTER PARIS, WHITE SAND. FIRE BRICK AND PHILADELPHIA FRONT BRICK.

David Gill, Jr. Bill head ~ Old Newark Rosendale

Milwaukee Cement Company (Part II)

For the first cement placed on the market the selling price was fixed by the Board of Directors at \$1.50 per barrel when sold in barrels, and \$1.20 per barrel in bags. These prices were reduced from time to time to meet competition in the Milwaukee and other markets. The company prospered financially from the beginning, as is evidenced by the payment to the stockholders of a dividend of 8 percent on its capital stock from the earnings of 1877. For years annual dividends from 7 to 10 percent were paid.



Milwaukee was of course the best market for the cement. To dealers in building materials in every part of the city it had the advantage of being readily available, costing them only the switching charge from the mills in contrast with higher freight rates added to the price of other cements. But the market was by no means limited to the city of Milwaukee. Exclusive selling agencies were established in Chicago, Detroit, Duluth, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Saginaw, Omaha, Kansas City, and St. Joseph, Missouri. The territory served by the company ultimately extended from Detroit and Cleveland in the East to Kansas City and Denver in the West.

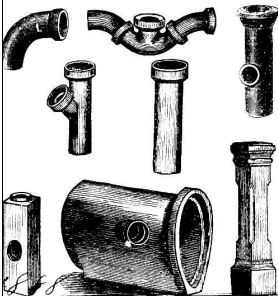
As the years advanced, the fast-growing business adopted improvements and made changes. Up to 1879 the only communication between the city office and the mill, a distance of five miles, was by horse and buggy. The telephone was then in its infancy and only a few were in use in Milwaukee. To speed up communication, the company installed a private line from its office to its plant. Another novelty, electric lighting, was introduced in

1886 in the tunnels that extended back under the bluffs. Workers in the quarries and the mills had originally been found on near-by farms, but as this source of supply dwindled, transient laborers were employed and a boardinghouse was established for them on the grounds.

Mounting receipts and widening territory served by the company's sales force suggested the advisability of expanded production. A tract of land across the river owned by the J.J. Orton Estate was deemed the most desirable location for a new mill. Negotiations were started with Ephriam Mariner, legal representative of the Orton Estate. It was then found that the estate through Mr. Mariner had already received a proposition from the Hadfield Company of Waukesha for that purpose, but fortunately had not accepted. The Milwaukee Cement Company was determined to secure the property and therefore decided to offer 50 percent more than the highest bid the estate had received from any other source. This was too much for the Hadfield Company and finally resulted in a lease to the Milwaukee Cement Company of the ground and a grant of quarry rights on a royalty basis. Later the company bought the entire Orton property previously under lease, thus extending its holdings from bridge to bridge, a distance of about a mile and a half. The new mill was begun in 1887 with the expenditure of approximately \$125,000. Like the first mill, it had a 2,000 barrel daily capacity and was constructed so as to utilize the latest improvements in the art of rock drilling.

The success of the Milwaukee Cement Company was bound to inspire rivalries. Up to 1889 it was the only producer of cement in Wisconsin and one of the largest in the country. Its nearest competitor was at Utica, Illinois, where several mills were located. About this time competition developed adjoining the company's property on the north side of the river, George Brumder organized the Cream City Cement Company and built a small mill. The company operated for only a few years. It was not a financial success but its presence was a disturbing factor in the market. In 1894 it sold out to the Milwaukee Company. The plant was wrecked and the tunnels abandoned.

A few years later another company known as the Consolidated Cement Company put up a mill in what is now known as Fox Point on the Lake Michigan shore. As the outcrop of limestone was below lake level, they had to tunnel under the bluff for their rock. This method proved very expensive and their operations were short lived. They abandoned the manufacture of cement and converted



Milwaukee, Nov 1 1888

Mr James Douglas


Bought of **H. BERTHELET & CO.,**

Manufacturers of Knight's Patent

HYDRAULIC CEMENT, STONE SEWER, CULVERT AND WELL PIPE,

OFFICE, 152 WEST WATER STREET

FACTORY, 650 CLINTON STREET.



Sept 28 12 Bags Cement 7 1/2 bbls	100	9 00
12 "	20	2 40
Oct 6 15 " Cement 11 1/4 bbls	100	11 25
15 "	20	3 00
13 3 " Cement 2 1/4 bbls	100	2 25
3 "	20	60
		28 50
Oct 6 Cr By 11 Empty bags returned	2 20	
13 " " 14 " " "	20	2 80
" " Returns on 22 1/2 bbls Cement 10 1/2	2 25	
		7 25
<i>Red payment April 8/89</i>		
<i>H. Berthelet & Co.</i>		

Invoice for cement sold to Mr. James Douglas in 1888.

The Berthelets not only manufactured cement but also manufactured Knight's Patent hydraulic cement stone sewer, culvert and well pipe.

[Copy of invoice provided by Jonathan Bulkley]

the plant to the making of brick. This also proved a failure, and the plant was finally dismantled.

After Mill No. 2 was built, the Board of Directors started to hold their midsummer meetings under the trees on company property. The directors customary fees were spent on elaborate champagne lunches. After lunch the mills were inspected, and the formal meeting took place.

The Milwaukee Cement Company started out as a purely Milwaukee-managed concern, and despite changes in its directorate from time to time, it continued so to the end. The first break occurred in 1876, only one year after incorporation. According to the company record, in that year Dr. C. H. Orton "left for parts unknown." His departure left a vacancy on the Board of Directors which was filled by the election of Don J. Whittemore, chief engineer of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad.

Another change came about as a result of a long chain of circumstances. One day a gentleman from the East by the name of



Milwaukee Cement Company Quarry, Kilns and Mill No. 2
[CHHS Collection]

Huxley arrived in Milwaukee and tried to interest the company in a new milling device known as the Sturtevant Mill. French burr-stones, similar to the type used for generations in flour mills, were successfully used to pulverize the burned rock to cement fineness. No change in the process seemed necessary, but the stranger's affable and persuasive manner induced the company to investigate the merits of the Sturtevant process. An agreement was finally reached whereby he would install the machine in Mill No. 1 under a guarantee that if it did not grind the calcined rock to the necessary fineness, he would remove the machine without cost to the company. After several months of experiments, the mill failed to reduce the product to a uniform fineness, and the new process machine was removed.

During Mr. Huxley's stay in Milwaukee and at the mills, he had become familiar with the process of manufacture and sale of Milwaukee cement and the company's substantial profits. He conceived the idea of getting control of the company by securing options on the stock. To do this, help from within was needed.

Mr. Huxley found his helper in the person of George H. Paul, one of the trusted founders of the company and superintendent of sales. For many years after the organization of the company Mr. Paul had been its chief business-getting factor at the city office on West Water Street. In earlier life he had been editor of a Democratic paper in Milwaukee and before that, postmaster in Kenosha during the Buchanan administration. The election of Mr. Cleveland as president in 1884 brought to Mr. Paul the postmastership at Milwaukee, a position of power and influence.

Mr. Paul was a short man with a squat, barrel-shaped figure, and bright pink cheeks. When ensnathed in a Prince Albert coat, topped off by a silk hat, carrying a staff his gold-headed cane, he was a person of gracious dignity and someone to behold as he majestically descended the steps of the Federal building.


With his assumption of public service Mr. Paul had been obliged to drop his position with the Cement Company, and it was filled by a young man, George S. Bartlett. But party supremacy was short-lived, and with the coming of the Harrison administration a Republican postmaster was appointed, leaving Mr. Paul unemployed. It was hardly fortuitous that he and Mr. Huxley should get

together and, flattering themselves and each other, evolve a plan of acquiring not one, but several cement plants, and thereby exert a powerful influence in the market. The keystone of the arch to this paper structure was the plant on the Milwaukee River, and they estimated that they could pay a very substantial price for a majority of the stock. As for minority holders, let them take their chances. There was no active market for the stock. Occasionally when shares were offered, they sold at about \$135. A majority of stock was closely held by directors and their friends who were loath to sell, but the price offered by Mr. Paul, \$168.50 a share, less 5 percent commission, was so greatly in excess of fair value that it looked attractive. Going from one to another, presenting the sale favorably, he won over most or all of the directors, but with their verbal condition that the option should remain in Mr. Paul's hands until ALL of the shareholders had been given an opportunity to sell their holdings at the same price. To the astonishment of those who had signed the option agreement, that instrument was assigned and delivered to one F. A. Bishop of Chicago who appeared in Milwaukee and called for delivery under the contract.

There were hurried meetings and counsel with attorneys. To refuse to deliver would probably bring on an expensive litigation for damages, and the case was none too strong for the signers of the option had to establish that there was a verbal condition constituting an escrow deposit of the option with Paul. The final decision was to serve on

Bishop a revocation of option. A suit was instituted against Thomas A. Greene, and the case, in view of the amount involved and the prominence of

Form F-12-18-01. 1M.

 **BAG CREDIT MEMO.**

Milwaukee Cement Co.,
 Room 7, Plankinton Bldg.,
 MILWAUKEE, Mar. 6"/1903 190
 Schaller & McKey Lbr. Co.,
 Janesville, Wis.

The shipment of Bags, as per your advice of
 Feb. 7" has been received and counted. Report
 on same is as follows:

1 Bundles bags,	80	Bags.
Unserviceable,		Bags.
Balance credited to your account	80	Bags.

We charge your cement account \$.25¢
 freight on same.

Yours very truly,
MILWAUKEE CEMENT CO.

*Please remit this amount in
 stamps and oblige.
 Stamps mailed Feb 7th 26 P*

Credit Memo for returned cement bags 1903
 [CHHS Collection]

the parties concerned, aroused considerable public curiosity and interest. The company agreed to assume the expense of litigation as the outcome affected all shareholders. The defense was ably presented by General F. C. Winkler, who maintained that the option was given Paul in escrow and fraudulently delivered to Bishop. The defense called for a special verdict by which the jury was required to answer seventeen questions. The purpose of the special verdict was that should the jury give contrary findings to some of the questions, an appeal could be made to the higher court. All the defendants' witnesses were clear in their testimony as to the verbal condition, and the jury returned consistent answers to the several questions. The verdict was against Bishop and there the litigation ended, but with Paul in disgrace as to his part in the scheme. Thereafter, to forestall any possible attempts to manipulate the stock, a majority of it was to voting trustees, all of whom were members of the board. The trustees issued trustees' certificates which were bought and sold as freely as the old ones. This trusteeship was still in force at the time of the company's final liquidation. Mr. Paul sold his own stock, bought into a cement manufacturing company in Kansas and moved to Kansas City. He was very definitely out of Milwaukee.

Thomas A. Greene's association with the company had begun a number of years before the Huxley-Paul-Bishop episode. He was an old Milwaukeean, well and favorably known as a merchant and businessman and much given to scientific study in his leisure hours. In boyhood he had studied rock

NEWAYGO
PORTLAND CEMENT CO.

Capacity, 1,000 Barrels Per Day.

We Produce But One Grade



That is of the very Highest Quality

MANUFACTURERS OF

GIBRALTAR
BRAND
PORTLAND CEMENT

It Stands the Severest Tests.

Gibraltar Portland Cement is the Best for It has the Gray Color. **SIDEWALKS**

WE HAVE ADVANTAGES FOR QUICK SHIPMENTS.
 Ask us for Prices or Information.

NEWAYGO PORTLAND CEMENT CO.
 NEWAYGO, MICH.

Above: Newaygo Portland Cement Company logo.
 Directory of American Cement Industries and
 Hand-book for Cement Users. Charles Carroll
 Brown, Editor. Municipal Engineering Company,
 Indianapolis, Ind. New York, N.Y. 1901.
 [CHHS Library]



Mill No 1 Fire March 4, 1910
Remains as seen from hill directly west of mill site showing rock crusher, engines, boilers, and part of a kiln (to the right)
[CHHS Collection]

formations in his native Rhode Island. He had more than an ordinary knowledge of botany, but his chief interest for years had been in mineralogy and in the last fifteen years or so of his life, while enjoying some leisure for scientific studies, he had made large collections of fossil remains from quarries in the suburbs of Milwaukee. With his friend Increase A. Lapham he had investigated a small saline formation which contained no fossil remains, and they had known of the outcrop of this Devonian rock on the river and along the lake shore. He wanted to see what fossils he could find in the Cement Company's quarries which were exposing deeper strata. Visitors are not welcome guests at quarries for not only are they in the way of quarry men but there is a possible danger from loose or falling rock. But Mr. Paul graciously consented to Mr. Greene's explorations, giving him letters to Mr. Berthelet, Jr., the operating head at the works. Mr. Berthelet passed word to the men to save what specimens they found, and for many years thereafter he had almost a collector's monopoly at that plant.

It was because of Mr. Greene's interest in the quarry and his friendship with the Berthelets that he bought a small amount of stock in the company. It was later increased, and he became a member of the board and vice-president. Upon his death in 1894 he was succeeded in the directorship by his son Howard Greene.

[Co-author of this article. Ed.]

J. R. Berthelet, Jr. was elected director to succeed Mr. Paul, and continued in office until 1909 when he resigned as president, director, and superintendent of manufacture. At the same meeting his son, W. T. Berthelet who had entered the company's services in 1886, was elected a director and secretary-treasurer and manager, and held these offices until the company was liquidated.

After the failure of the Sturtevant Mill, Joseph Berthelet continued experiments to solve the problem of screening cement other than by bolting through fifty mesh wire screens. Finally he found a very cheap and efficient method which increased the capacity of the mills by 20 percent and at a nominal cost of installation and maintenance. His invention proved so successful that he applied for a patent which was granted him on July 26, 1892, under Letters Patent No. 479,617, a "separator for crushed cement." He granted a license to the Milwaukee Cement Company to use the device with-



Mill No. 1 Fire March 4, 1910
Remains of engines and boilers
[CHHS Collection]



Mill No. 1 Fire March 4, 1910
Warehouse on hill directly west of mill site. In background small quarry cars. [CHHS Collection]

out cost, and installed it in cement mills throughout the country, as well as in plants manufacturing other finely ground materials.

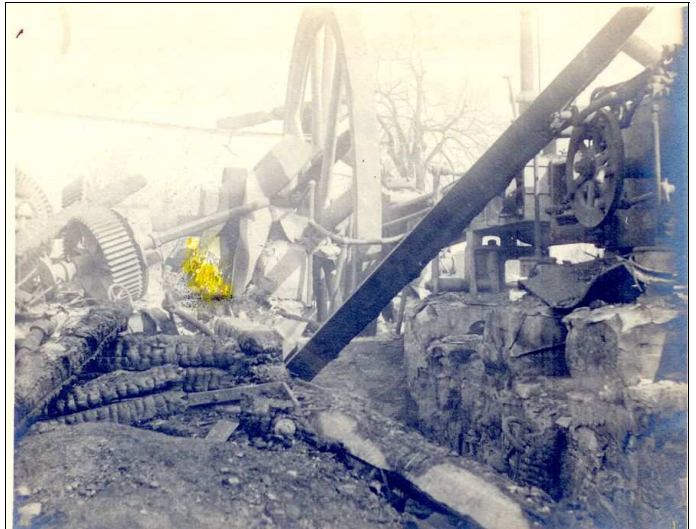
Another member of the company, Henry Campbell, its chief engineer, developed and improved a kiln which increased capacity by incorporating a series of grates in the bottom or eye of the kiln. This too was successful, and all the kilns were remodeled. Mr. Campbell was granted a patent on his device on December 30, 1897, Patent No. 591,897.

Just when the company was at the height of its

activity something occurred that sounded the death knell of the natural cement industry. The rotary kiln was invented. Through its use, what is known as Portland cement could be produced at low cost from various types of material. Portland cement develops its early strength much sooner than natural cement, and also withstands climatic conditions much better. Its volume is denser, a barrel of Portland cement weighing 380 pounds, whereas natural cement weighs only 265 pounds. These factors made Portland cement available for many new uses, and as the development of its manufacture in this country increased, it gradually superseded the use of natural cement. The Milwaukee Company, like other competitive brands in this country, curtailed its output and at last discontinued manufacture.

During this period of curtailment the company took up the distribution of Portland cement and in 1907 secured the agency of the Newaygo brand. This added volume of business made it possible to continue the manufacture of Milwaukee cement on a small scale for a few years more, but in 1911 production was entirely suspended.

The history of the company after it ceased to manufacture cement can be briefly be told. For a while it served as a distributor of Portland cement, handling a general line of other building mate-



Mill No. 1 Fire March 4, 1910
Remains of engines. Some embers still aflame March 6th
[CHHS Collection]



Mill No. 1 Fire March 4, 1910
Remains of Rock Crusher
[CHHS Collection]

went in smaller lots to private manufacturing plants and, in World War II, to the Federal government. The final sale took place in January, 1946.

To be continued in the Winter issue of Natural News.



rials as well. The two mills, leased to a company for the manufacture of silica products burned in the years 1910 and 1914. After the fires, the kilns wrecked and the salvage scrap iron and brick were sold. From that time on the company concentrated on disposing of its real estate holdings. The property consisted of about 350 acres lying on both sides of the Milwaukee River between the present Capital Drive and Port Washington bridges. It is well situated for parks or industrial plants. Two main railroad lines, with private rights-of-way, ran through the property, guaranteeing freight service to prospective purchasers. In June, 1916, Milwaukee County bought a large block of land on the east side of the river between the two bridges and established Estabrook Park, the first unit in the county's elaborate system of parks. In the prohibition era a large area was purchased by the Uihleins for candy factories, a short-lived enterprise. The remaining tracts



Estabrook Park—Former site of the Milwaukee Cement Company's Quarries, kilns and mill.

Subliminal History ~ Rosendale Chapter

By Gary Shapiro

"The past is never dead," William Faulkner wrote, "It's not even past." Two New York artists, Carrie Dashow and Jesse Pearlman Karlsberg, collaborate on work that appears to examine this proposition.

Their ongoing project, the "Subliminal History of New York State" involves visiting specific local areas and creating participatory performances. They are explorers of space and time, investigating the human connection to the landscape over time. "The land," Ms. Dashow said, "has stories to tell and it tells them through people and buildings."

The ambitious aim of these graduates of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is no less than "to broaden the scope of reality." As Mr. Karlsberg explained, "Though we are interested in evidence, all evidence is not empirical."

Their collaboration is not easily classifiable. "Interdisciplinary" comes closest. It has elements of industrial archaeology, folklore, history, visual culture, ethnomusicology, printmaking, conceptual art, and postmodern anthropology (though they themselves might not use these exact terms), expressed in a traveling Chautauqua performance. Their work overlaps with cultural geographers who seek to understand the effect of place and geography on humans.

Their work has a pedagogical aspect to it (holding workshops, teaching about local industry or history), yet their model is one in which everyone, including themselves, learns together.

Their subliminal history project is divided into "chapters," which are individual projects or performances following a narrative thread. In their account, Roosevelt Island wants to leave New York City: "In the first chapter, the island decides it's leaving and goes on this trip," Ms. Dashow said. Roosevelt Island does so after gaining sight through a lighthouse built on the island. The island eventually follows a route from the Hudson River to the Erie Canal over Niagara Falls to Lake Erie.

The pair plans next to participate in an arts festival in Peekskill in September. That work will relate to a meteorite that landed in the area in 1992.

Cement, lighthouse, meteorites —objects relating to locations both above and below the ground or sea — are recurrent themes in their work, which retains a utopian quality.

From her artist's residency on the ground floor of the AT&T building just below Canal Street, Ms. Dashow helped plan a workshop and concert last month at the Widow Jane Mine in Rosendale, N.Y., in Ulster County. An audience of 52 local residents, artists, historians, and others came out to sing songs, whose lyrics told the story of Rosendale cement, which has a high clay content, and became widely used in the 1800s. "The rocks have emigrated to all parts of the country" and can be found in many structures, including the Brooklyn Bridge. "One of the goals is to understand the connections better," she said.

The performance involved "shape note singing," which is a simplified pictographic way to learn to read music. The singing, Mr. Karlsberg said, is a common social activity. He added, "We create a space together with these people. We teach people how to sing and they run the performance."

One song called "Mortal Mortar Made of Death" highlighted how limestone contains fossils. The audience sang in four-part harmony:

As tiny creatures dropped their lives,
Sang sinking to the bottom sand,
Beneath a salty water den
To coalesce again again.
Bones wedged together cast with time,
A mortal mortar made of death,
Into the ceiling we can see
Millenniums of zoology.

As if the day has never changed,
Clay bodies broken bridges made;
Bright by the light of lime we see
Two hundred years' humanity.

One who was receptive to the idea that not all evidence was empirical was a veteran editor at the old New York Sun, Francis Church, who responded in 1897 to a young girl who had written to ask if Santa Claus existed. Replying famously, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," Church asserted that human intelligence was not "capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge": You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart.

This article first appeared in the New York Sun, August 25, 2006 Arts & Letters Section "Digging Below & Flying Above" url: <http://www.nysun.com/article/38580>. The July 30th Widow Jane Mine performance was filmed and will be shown November 10th at the Art Gallery on Main Street Rosendale at 6 PM. The performance will be on display for several weeks. Jessie Karlsberg is currently recording a Shape Note CD at the Snyder Estate. [dew]

Indian Rock Den Near Rosendale

by Max Schrabish

The village of Rosendale is one of the most charmingly situated in Ulster county. To the north of it are the Binnewater hills, bending northward as far as Kingston and to the south there rises the notheastermost extremity of the Shawangunk mountains. Through the narrow gap between them flows the Rondout, so rich in historical associations, pursuing its tortuous course between rock-girt ridges along a narrow valley on its final run to Hudson River.

Particularly picturesque and appealing to the lover of Nature are the rocky elevations immediately south of Rosendale, constituting, as just remarked, the most northerly section of the Shawangunk mountains. Although less rugged and of much lower elevation than the region about Lakes Mohonk and Minnewaska, nature here seems to have made her last effort at producing something approaching grandeur, as evidenced by the frowning cliffs flanking both the Wallkill Valley railroad and the one highway that passes up the mountain south of Rosendale.

At a point about a mile up mile up from the village, there are towering masses of rock of bizarre formation, bounding the narrow road westwardly, with a streamlet wending its way along their base. In their very shadow lies the Shadow Lawn House, owned by Francis Drissel, reposeful and seemingly far removed from the hectic activities of the humdrum world and an ideal retreat for those who love to commune with nature undefiled.

A short distance east of this spot there extends a rocky wilderness of ledges, thickly overgrown with trees and underbrush and strewn with countless boulders. At the foot of the ledges, facing westward and about opposite the Shadow Lawn House, there occur many small caves and overhangs, sufficiently large to afford protection from the elements. Under the largest of these the writer found unmistakable signs of the Redman's former presence, for, while digging up its floor, he brought to light hundreds of chips of flint and cert, together with a few deer bones and some badly disintegrated fresh water mussels.

Of arrow points or other stone tools there was no trace, nor did there appear to be the slightest indication of an aboriginal fireplace.

The interpretation of the archaeological remains here extant is simple enough. In the first place, the flakes

or chips noted represent the refuse of Implement-making and as such they clearly point to a small prehistoric workshop, having been situated under this rock. The few deer bones, as well as the mussel shells, tell us that the Indians, once camping here, partook of a meal.

Apart from this, little else can be said. The fact that the chips lay superficially buried, an inch or two beneath the surface, would seem to suggest that the red huntsman visited the this place at a comparatively late period, probably not more than 250 years ago, since otherwise they would have been covered by a thicker layer of forest debris. In view of the scant evidence here presented it is quite cer-

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Advertisement for Shadow Lawn House ~ Rosendale Township Association c1936-39

tain that the rock den was resorted to most unfrequently, probably once and the character of the evidence suggests plainly a small workshop for the fashioning of stone tools.

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Professor Schrabish wrote the above article while seated on a boulder commanding a view of many of the features of nature described by him. In his archaeological explorations at Rosendale he is ably assisted by Mary Gordon. They are now at Woodstock and expect to remain in Ulster county for some time.

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Editors Note

The article by Professor Schrabish was published in a local newspaper. The most likely publication date is summer 1931. All that we have is the clipping of the article. There is an advertisement for Schoentag's Famous Swimming Pool at the bottom of the clipping. Schoentag's was on on the Saugerties-Kingston Road [now known as 9W] in Saugerties. Schoentag's also had a public golf course. Fees \$1. Mr. Konio was the golf pro.



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Rosendale, N. Y.