



*We are all dressed up in our fancy best
Getting ready to join all our friends
At the Snyder Estate for
Spring Spruce Up Day
Sunday April 19*



Century House Historical Society

Rosendale, New York 12472-0150

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Officers

President — Dietrich Werner

Vice President — Anne Gorrick

Secretary — Gayle Grunwald

Treasurer — Kristina Pavlov-Leiching

James Wood — Site Facilities Manager

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Anton Werner Dietrich Werner

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Message from the President



I want you! To all members and friends of the Society I want to ask you to volunteer some time to help get the Society ready for the October celebrations to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Century House. We need volunteers for simple tasks such as scrapping and painting window shutters. No need to climb ladders, the shutters will be taken down for you. We also need folks as docents in the Museum. We will teach you. Or maybe gardening is more to your liking. No matter what your talent may be I am sure that it can be used here at the Snyder Estate. Call me 658-9900 or send an email mail@centuryhouse.org

Part 2 of the Williams Lake Hotel story had to be postponed till the Summer issue due to space limitations. The delay will result in an even better and more interesting story as Anita Peck has given the Society permission to scan more photographs from her large collection.

The Museum opens on Mothers Day with a special Hudson Fulton Exhibit.

Dietrich Werner

Welcome New Members

535-I Jeanette Provenzano - Kingston, NY

536-I David Moyer - Unadilla, NY

537-I Shaoyu Wang - Rock Hill, NY

538-I Halina Duda - High Falls, NY

539-I Claire F. McCormack - Rochester, NY

540-I Eddie Aleo Jr. - Tillson, 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

158. Corporate Meetings, Minutes, and Resolutions. Lillian Doris and Edith J. Friedman. Prentice-Hall, Inc. New York 1946. [This book was originally owned by William J. Burns, vice president of the Century Cement Manufacturing Co., Inc.]

159. A Slumbering Giant of the Past. Fort Jefferson, U.S.A. in the Dry Tortugas. Rodman Bethel. Self published. Printed by W.L. Lith, Inc., Hialeah, FL 1979. [Rosendale Natural cement was used in the construction of this Fort. Rosendale Natural Cement is being used in restoration work.]

160. Spheres Poems by Patricia Argiro. Patricia Regan Argiro. Self published. Printed by Spear Printing Co., Washingtonville, NY. 1978. Cover design by Staats Fasoldt. [Patricia Argiro reported on the Rosendale scene for the New Paltz Herald during the 1980s.]

161. Specifications for Concrete. The City of New York Municipal Service Administration, Department of Public Works. Frederick A. Davidson, Jr. P.E. Commissioner. 1969. [Thanks to Linda Tantillo for the donation of this book.]

162. Merriman Dam. Contract 390. Information for Bidders, etc. for Construction of Merriman Dam. Town of Wawarsing, Ulster County, New York. Board of Water Supply of the City of New York. 1946.

163. Merriman Dam. Contract 390. Drawings for Construction of Merriman Dam. Town of Wawarsing, Ulster County, New York. Board of Water Supply of the City of New York. 1946.

164. Bats of the United States. Harvey, M.J.; Altenbach, J.S.; Best, T.L. Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. 1999. [Great photos of all nine bat species that live in New York State. Thanks to Tim Allred for the donation of this book.]

165. Thereby Hangs a Corpse. A Hangman's House Mystery. Clarence Mullen. Parsee Publications. New York. 1946. [The story takes place Mid Town Kingston and on the Rondout.]

166. A Good Place for Murder. A Phoenix Mystery. Clarence Mullen. Phoenix Press. New York. 1948. [The locale for this story is one of the old cement mines used to grow mushrooms in the Kingston area.]



Rock Lock

It is always a pleasure to be able to present a photographic image of Rosendale as it appeared many years ago. This particular view was taken shortly after the flood of October 4, 1869. It shows the break in the Delaware and Hudson canal at Rock Lock Rosendale) caused by the October flood. Some of the buildings shown in this photo still exist and are located on Caponero Lane. A present day view of this area would show the New York State Thruway behind these buildings. It is interesting to note that the open field in the upper right of the photo also still remains unchanged one hundred forty years later. Out of view on the left were the cement works, only a few of the storage buildings adjacent to the canal slips can be seen in this photo. The photo was from a stereoview (No. 8027) published by E. & H.T. Anthony & Co. The Society acquired the stereoview from David Brown who has a country get-away home in Ulster County.

IOCA Conference

April 24-26

The Conference is the Intercollegiate Outing Club Association's (IOCA) annual event where many colleges throughout the Northeast come together and have a great time doing what they do best: having fun and spending time outdoors. Saturday IOCA's will enjoy dinner and Square/Contra Dance at the Rosendale Recreation Center Pavilion. The Nassau Community College Outing Club is sponsoring this year's conference. This will be the second time that the Society has hosted the IOCA Conference, the first time being in 1993.

If you haven't paid your 2009 membership dues do it today. Renewal forms are enclosed.

Rambling on the Rondout

Bard College

Lifetime Learning Institute

To Visit Snyder Estate

The Lifetime Learning Institute at Bard College is affiliated with the Elderhostel Institute Network. On the four Wednesdays during the month of May LLI members will explore some of the historic industries along the Rondout. They will visit the Rondout area, the Maritime and Trolley Museums and Rondout light-house. They will next visit the Delaware Canal Museum and Five Locks Walk in High Falls. Closing out the program at the end of May they will visit Snyder Estate Museum and the Widow Jane Mine, ending the day at Opus 40 in Saugerties. Registration for these walks, talks and lectures is open to LLI members only. For more information contact lli@bard.edu

A Masquerade Ball at Binnewater

The masquerade ball given at the residence of **Edward Roosa**, on Thursday evening last, was a grand success, and beyond the expectations of those who got it up. A huge time was had by everyone present. The disguise as far as identity went was perfect, as the most of those present could not tell their nearest friend from a stranger, thus causing much mirth and merriment. **Edward Roosa**, the host was voted the best disguised person present, and with his coat of many colors did indeed present a very laughable object. It is needless to say that the disguises of all were good, and not until the hour of unmasking was the identity of any of the guests known. **Henry Shurter** and **Frank Roosa**, as One Lung and Wing Lee, the Chinamen, were also a success. So much did the former look like a native of the flowery kingdom that he was afraid to venture from his boarding house alone, so took as body guards **Mr. Shaw** and **Mr. Failing** to protect his queue while going past **Hoffman's store**. **Thos. Butler**, as a clown, kept every one present in good humor, and but for his love of dancing, which everyone was "on to," he would have passed for one of Barnum's clowns, but his dancing "gave him away." To the **Signor** brothers, **Wm. Melvhill** and all the rest of the gentlemen present much credit is due to their ingenuity in make up of disguises and the manner in which they handled themselves in them. Too much praise cannot be given the ladies who took part, their costumes being very pretty and unique. It is beyond the writers power to describe them justly, suffice to say that every lady present showed excellent taste in the selection of her costume, and the bright colors and bell ornaments made the scene one not to be forgotten soon. The music for the occasion was furnished by **Prof. Hafford**, of Rosendale, and much credit is due the Professor for the way in which he kept the merry crowd in good humor by his music and calling of figures. Taken in all it was the event of the season and bids fair to be the starter of many more.

The Cast

The above story is not a little short piece of fiction found in some old trunk in a dusty attic. It is the main news article in the Wednesday January 17, 1894 issue of the Kingston Argus. The spellings of some of the guests in the newspaper article are slightly different than the spellings found in the Directories.

From information gleaned from the Wallkill Valley RR Directory 1895, Wallkill Valley RR Directory 1888, Business Directory of Ulster County 1885, and the 1895/1896 John Charles & Co. Account Book it appears that most of those attending this New Years Masquerade Ball were employees of the F.O. Norton Cement works in Binnewater.

The masqueraders had good cause to celebrate. 1893 had been a very successful year for the manufacturers of Rosendale Natural Cement in Ulster County. [See table Cement & Brick Production in 1893 in Ulster County, NY on page 5.] F.O. Norton's Binnewater works had produced 225,800 barrels of cement, the fourth largest producer of the 14 cement works operating in Ulster County during 1893.

***William Hafford** ("Professor Hafford") employed by one of the cement works in either Binnewater or the village of Rosendale. His home was on James Street. He was a Rosendale constable in 1885.

***Thomas Butler** was an engineer for the cement works and lived on Stone Ridge Rd. [Stone Ridge Rd. is now called Saw Dust Rd.]

William Mulvihill was the assistant station agent (Wallkill Valley Railroad) and lived on Railroad Ave. [Railroad Ave. is now called Binnewater Lane.]

***Mr. Shaw** (Claud M. Shaw) was the manager of the John Charles & Co.'s store on Railroad Ave. [This was the former F.O. Norton Company store, which during the 1890s was operated by John Charles and later became the store and Post Office owned by David Burke and is now the home of the Womens Studio Workshop.]

Hoffman's Store Henry J. Hoffman was proprietor. He operated a grocery, livery and meat market on what was then known as Main St. now Binnwater Rd.

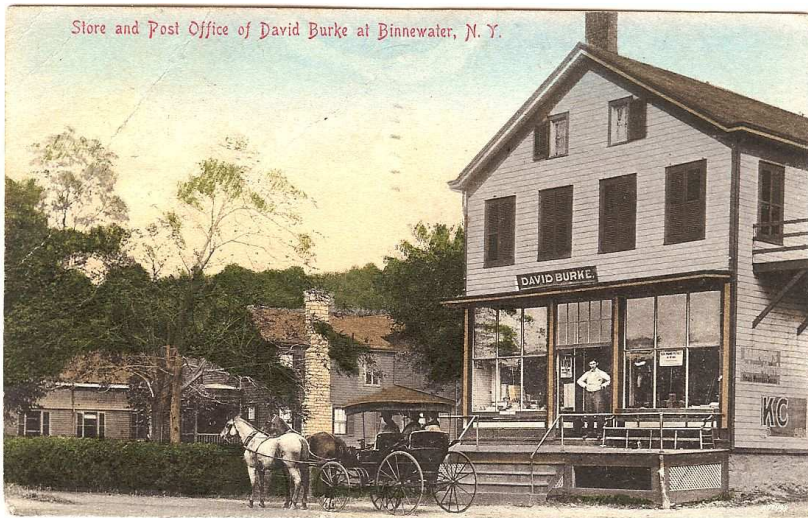
***Signer Bros.** The Signers'; *Charles, *Cyrenus, Jacob I., and *William were all employed by the cement works.

***Edwin H. Roosa** (Edward) & ***Frank Roosa** both worked in the cement works. Ed as a miller and Frank as stone dresser and lived on the Stone Ridge Rd.

***Henry Shurter** Appears in the John Charles & Co. account book.
Mr. Failing No record of Mr. Failing was found.



Harlequin Cigar box label c1900



This 1910 post card shows Davis Burke's Store and the Binnewater Post Office. In 1893 this store was operated by John Charles and Mr. Shaw was the manager. Prior to that it had been the company store owned by the F.O. Norton Cement Company.



Henry J. Hoffman's Store and Livery was on the west side of the Wallkill Valley Railroad. It was here that Shaw and Failing were posted as guards for Shurter and Roosa.



Cement & Brick Production in Ulster County, NY

1893 Cement Product

F.O. Norton, High Falls	25,167
F.O. Norton, Binnewater	225,800
D.A. Barnhart	51,562
James H. Vandemark	38,225
Lawrenceville Cement Co.	94,425
New York & Rosendale Cement Co.	435,476
New York Cement Co.	298,750
Newark & Rosendale Cement Co.	174,168
Connelly & Shaffer	137,288
A.J. Snyder & Sons	114,102
Newark Lime & Cement Co.	172,439
Lawrence Cement Co. Rock Lock Mill	224,956
" Binnewater Mill	329,626
" Eddyville Mill	416,900

Total Barrels 1893	2,738,884
Total Barrels 1892	2,833,107

1893 Brick Product

Yard	Manufactured	On hand
Wm. Hutton	13,750,000	6,000,000
Terry Brothers	13,000,000	3,540,000
T. Fredericks	3,000,000	2,000,000
R. Mains	6,000,000	2,225,000
A. Staples	14,800,000	6,000,000
C.A. Schultz	9,000,000	1,500,000
Brigham Brothers	5,000,000	1,000,000
David Manchester	5,000,000	2,000,000
Streeter & Hendricks	6,250,000	2,150,000
R.L. & C.M. Streeter	2,350,000	500,000
George Washburn, Jr.	5,500,000	3,000,000
Alonzo Rose	3,000,000	1,000,000
Jacob Kline	4,200,000	1,700,000
S.D. Coykendall	7,000,000	2,000,000

Glasco

Washburn Brothers	25,000,000	10,000,000
Van Deusen	6,000,000	3,000,000
McGinnis & Son	5,000,000	1,000,000
R. Lent	3,500,000	360,000
W. Porter	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total	139,350,000	49,975,000

[The above report was published in the Kingston Argus, January 3, 1894]

This post card view shows the Binnewater "Business Section." left to right: F.O. Norton Tram trestle; the Keator House behind the small building next to the RR tracks; Burke's Store & Post Office; the Binnewater train station; Joppenberg mountain; and then Hoffman's Livery and Store. All three of these cards were published by David Burke.



[This article, in manuscript form, was written by Joseph Fleming in 1945. It is published here unedited. I have added the bold text font to those names which I have found in other documents in the Society's collections. The following names appear on a printed list of donors to the Annual Collection of St. Peter's Church in 1897.

*Larry Duper = Lawrence Duper he worked at the F. O Norton Cement Co.

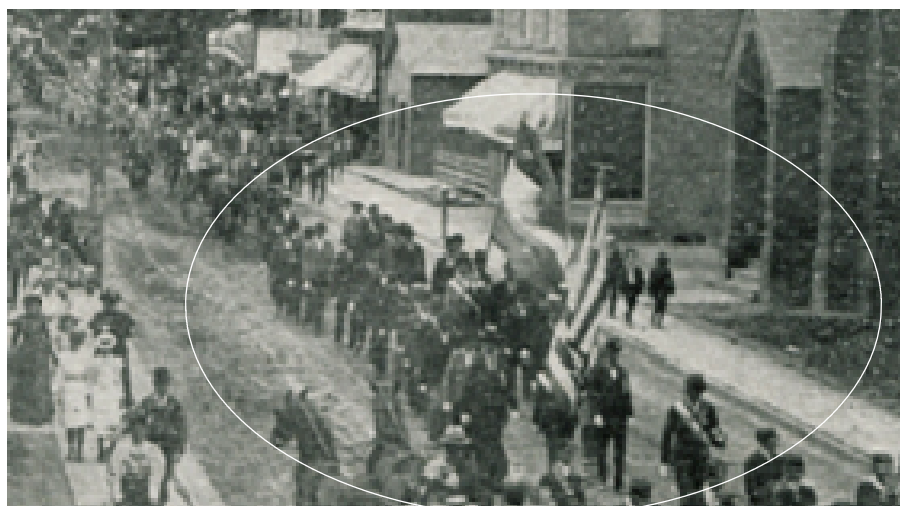
*Jake Vichevich = Jacob Vichevich lived in town, occupation unknown.

*Frank Vichevich lived in town, occupation unknown.

*Peter Genero worked at the Lawrenceville Cement Co.

*Eleo= This may be Elio Marcavich who worked at the Lawrenceville Cement Co.

* Charlie (Tripa) Krestovich = Triplo Krstovick he appears in a 1900 list of donors. Ed.]



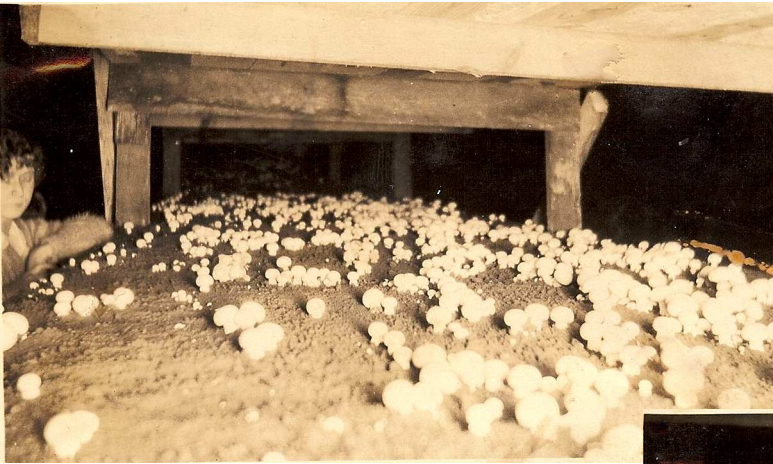
The above detail from a photo shows a much reduced in size group of Croatians marching in a Firemen's Parade in front of the Dutch Reformed Church on Main Street, Rosendale c1904.

Bootlegging in a Mushroom Cave

By Mr. Johanson

We can say that every body young and old in and about Rosendale remembers the mushroom growers in the various Cement caves such as Snyder's caves, Hardenberg caves, Rock Lock, Hickory Bush, Well all of them closed, one after the other. Why? Well fungi diseases overwhelmed them all. We may add that commercial mushroom culture was at that time in its infancy and very little was known about diseases. Every summer people on their vacation visited those caves and bought mushrooms right of the beds, paying as high as \$3.50 to \$4.00 per 3 pound basket, the girl students of Vassar came every season with their teachers to ask all kinds of

questions, for instance why grow mushrooms in those cool damp caves? Answer, a steady cool temperature, 55 degrees which is ideal, if it gets to warm they grow to fast. Mushrooms are the fastest growing vegetable in the world from button size to full grown in 12 hours. Now a funny incident happened in this cave during the time prohibition. One morning a man came into the cave but only as far as he was able to see, he did not have a light, he saw me and asked, "Say mister did you see any



Vassar College student watching mushrooms growing in a Rosendale cement mine 1942



Johanson with Vassar College students 1942



Trailways Calendar on the back of which Mr. Johanson wrote his Bootlegging story

children around here" I said "No." "What are you doing back there" says he, says I, "please don't bother me I am bootlegging". Off he went. A few days later at 4:20 PM in came five State Troopers and five Prohibition agents. Without a word they marched into the mushroom cave as the door was open, looked around and went out again. I asked "Is this a raid?" No answer. I suppose that was the result of my bootlegging story.

The above excerpts are from a short story written by Mr. Johanson on the back page of a National Trailways Bus System Calendar for the month of July, 1941. He dated the story the following Spring, 1942. The above two photos, also dated 1942, had a note that the girls were from Vassar College and was pinned to the calendar. Ed.

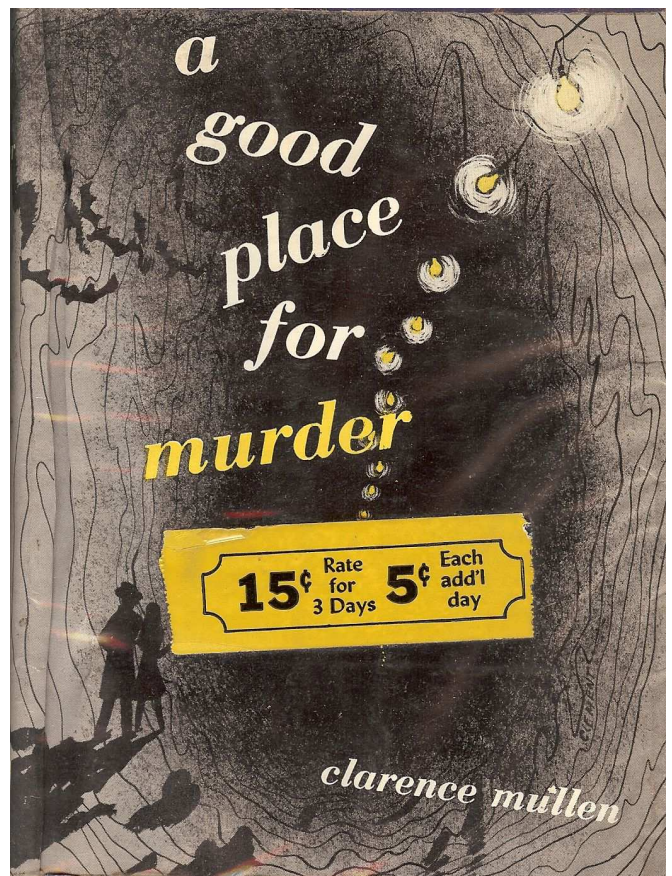
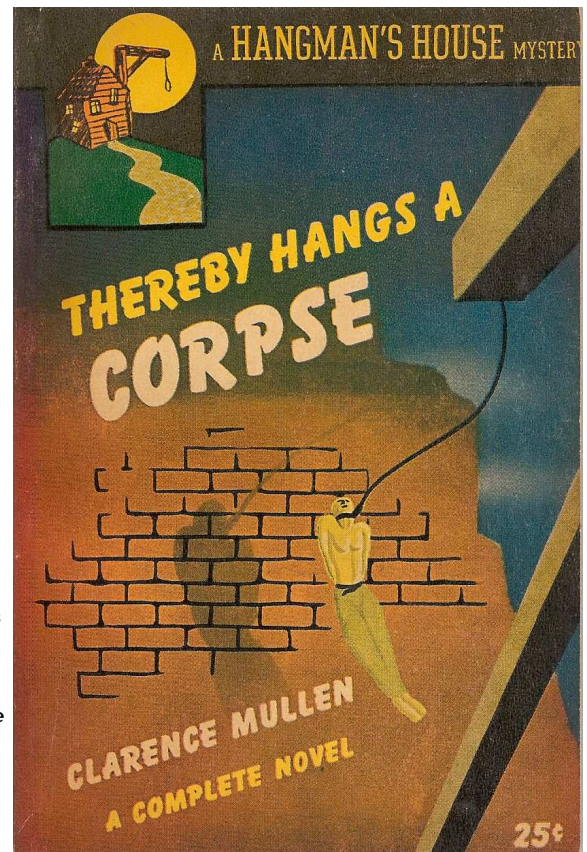
Murder Mysteries, Cement Mines, & Mushrooms

From the moment Eddie Wright was given the bum's rush out of fat Doc Gordan's gym in a small upstate New York city, there was little sleep and no rest for wiry, pint-sized detective Tony Lantz. "Luck Lantz," they called him, and now he was going to need all his luck. Eddie Wright was Tony's bodyguard. He had dropped into Doc's place in search of fighter Al Hinkley, wanted by the Globe Insurance Company for diamond thefts. Doc found Eddie's curiosity impertinent, and Eddie found himself beaten up by Joe La Rocca, Doc's right hand man. Worse yet, he found himself "framed" for the murder of Hinkley, whose dangling corpse was soon discovered in a nearby graveyard, conspicuously equipped with Eddie's business card. Fast talk by "Lucky" Tony to hatchet-faced District Attorney Nate Baldwin removed the partners from that particular predicament. But susceptible Eddie promptly managed to get himself mixed up with luscious Mitzi Parish, Joe La Rocca's gorgeous "doll." A second even more mysterious and brutal murder followed. The rapid, tingling action, punctuated with touches of hearty humor, reaches a stirring climax in a pitched battle on an island in the Hudson, the unmasking of the master mind behind a large scale racket, and the resolution of an intriguing murder puzzle in which strange scratches on a concrete floor, and a letter "x" scrawled by a dying girl, were the principal clues. [Thereby Hangs a Corpse 1946]

To Pretty copper-haired Karen Archer, worried over the disappearance of her father, ex-welterweight Eddie Wright didn't look at all the investigator for the job. This was a case for quick thinking and finesse. Brains, not brawn, were what was needed. It was as simple as that. For this was Boomtown, boss-ridden, gang-infested, and corrupt. O.J. Haskell practically owned the place, dominating City Hall and maintaining a stronghold on all the town's industries. All that was to say, except the unusual and thriving business developed by the Archer brothers. Now Myron Archer had disappeared. This could well mean the ruin of the enterprise, and that, in turn, would spell complete control of Boomtown by O.J. Haskell. And Haskell was not the kind of man to stop at anything. No, Eddie Wright alone was not the man. But how was Karen Archer to know that Eddie always did the preliminary dirty work for the Lantz Agency, and that when pint-size Tony Lantz finally appeared, just as Eddie was up to his neck in trouble and mayhem, the end would be as sudden as it was unexpected? "Lucky" Lantz he was called, but it was brains, not luck, that would lead him swiftly to the thrilling climax in a unique and ominous murder setting. [A Good Place for Murder 1948]

Bootlegging in a Mushroom Cave and Murder Mysteries, Cement Mines & Mushrooms are examples that one of Rosendale's and Ulster County's most important industries, the manufacture of natural cement, lived on in stories written not about cement manufacturing but stories about the mushroom industry that had developed using the old cement mines.

Clarence Mullen, the author of these two books, was a Kingston resident, "ex-pug," boxing coach, accountant, and Sunday school teacher. Mullen's murder mysteries were published first in England and later in the US during the 1940s.



SPRING SPRUCE-UP DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 10 AM - 4 PM

Your help is needed to prepare the Snyder Estate for the upcoming season. All invited! Projects for all!

Bring rakes, gloves, a main dish or snack to share. Pig-out-lunch!

Call or email to say YOU can help out!
(845-658-9900)

rosendalebuff@aol.com



Concrete On Main Street

Modern Design Exhibit & Rosendale Retrospective

Saturday, May 16th @ 3 PM

Willow Kiln Park, Rosendale, NY

Rosendale a picturesque town in the Hudson Valley, is here because of what is beneath it. In 1825, the discovery of Natural Cement rock made Rosendale, NY famous and for seventy five years Rosendale mined, cooked and sold its cement at a furious pace to a growing country that was ravenously expanding.



Rosendale Cements became world renowned and used in the construction of some of the most enduring landmarks of the nation: The Brooklyn Bridge, the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, the wings of the U.S. Capitol, the lower 152' of the Washington Monument, the Croton Aqueduct and dams, the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnels, the New York State Thruway, and thousands of other public works projects. By the early 20th Century, Rosendale Cement was replaced by Portland Cement. The canal that ran through town transporting coal and cement closed, and Rosendale's economy slowed.

On Saturday May 16th, 2009 @ 3 pm, Rosendale resident and modern designer, Johnny Poux, will use the material that made Rosendale famous in uncommon ways in the exhibit, *Concrete on Main Street**. While concrete exudes the ancient quality of stone it also references Rosendale's history and the industrial flavor of modernism, making it a fitting material for this show. Poux will design and fabricate sizable cast concrete primitive shapes and forms, totems and pillars, which will be installed in Rosendale's Willow Kiln Park amidst a backdrop of old cement kilns.

The industrial archaeology of Rosendale is everywhere. Giant stone and brick cement kilns haunt the hillsides and abandoned quarries as they slowly degenerate. In town, the Wallkill Valley Railroad trestle is a prominent presence, looming one hundred fifty feet above the Rondout Creek, which runs parallel to Main Street. The architectural relics that hover in this town are reminders of diligent people, steamrolled by an economic boom and bust. They were not heroes, just citizens surviving. This project will create a monument of sorts for this town with a past, a present, and a future, and its ordinary hardworking people.

The Century House Historical Society will mount a special portable exhibit, *191*, that will be on display in Willow Kiln Park during Johnny Poux's exhibit. *191*, will condense into three panels the history of American Natural Cement from its discovery in 1818 and its 191 years of use.

*Funded by a grant from the Ulster County Cultural Services and Promotion Fund

Hudson-Fulton Celebration at the Snyder Estate May 10 1 PM

Join us on Sunday, May 10 for the opening of this years special exhibit. The Society has mounted this exhibit of memorabilia from the 1909 celebrations commemorating the discovery of the Hudson River in 1609 and the first successful steam boat trip from New York City to Albany and return by Robert Fulton in 1807. Medals, ribbons, pins, maps, music, books, post cards, and even a special Hudson Fulton commemorative zither will be on display. Come see how we celebrated this event 100 years ago.



STATE OF NEW YORK EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

Certificate of Designation

Presented to:

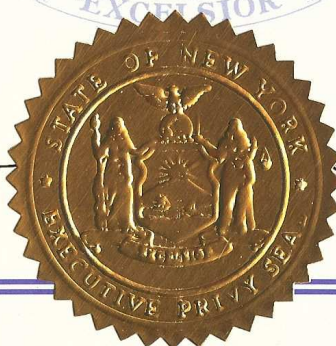
THE CENTURY HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In grateful recognition of your active participation in the New York State Quadricentennial Commemoration, you are hereby designated as an official Quadricentennial Ambassador. Four hundred years ago, Henry Hudson's remarkable voyage to the New World led to his discovery of the magnificent river which now bears his name. Concurrently, Samuel de Champlain explored the richly-forested region and the waters of his namesake lake. Two hundred years later, Robert Fulton invented the steamship which would forever change the shipping industry and international commerce. All these exciting events occurred right here in New York State and we are extremely proud of your efforts to promote an understanding of history and a sense of place, which will serve to pay tribute to the past, to celebrate the present, and to preserve our future, as we move forward. Please accept our heartfelt congratulations, for as you receive the official flag of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, you become a living part of our history. On behalf of all New Yorkers, we commend your exceptional efforts to salute and to share in this extraordinary milestone year – a once-in-a-lifetime experience you will long remember and treasure.

Awarded this first day of January
in the year two thousand nine

Michelle Paige Paterson

MICHELLE PAIGE PATERSON
First Lady & Honorary Chair



David A. Paterson

DAVID A. PATERSON
Governor

**Don't Forget
your 2009
membership
dues**



CENTURY HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY *EVENTS*

Spring Spruce Up Day

Sunday April 19 10 am—4 pm @Snyder Estate see page 10 for info.

IOCA Conference

April 24-26 @Snyder Estate see page 3 for info

Hudson — Fulton 1909 Exhibit Opening

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Concrete on Main Street

Willow Kiln Park - Hardenberg lane. Rosendale

Saturday May 16 3 PM see page 10 for info.

Rambling on the Rondout

Lifetime learning Institute — Bard College

Wednesday May 27 @Snyder Estate see page 3 for info