



Round Top Cement Company - Hancock, Maryland

## **2nd American Natural Cement Conference**

**Washington, DC March 30-April 1 [See report page 7]**

## **Six Decades**

**Ken Roosa - Rosendale Photographer**

**Snyder Estate Sunday May 14**

## Century House Historical Society

Rosendale, New York 12472-0150

Phone: 845-658-9900

E-mail: [mail@centuryhouse.org](mailto:mail@centuryhouse.org)

Web: [www.centuryhouse.org](http://www.centuryhouse.org)

### Officers

President — Dietrich Werner

Vice President — Michael Montella

Secretary — Gayle Grunwald

Treasurer — Kristina Pavlov-Leiching

James Wood — Site Facilities Manager

"Our Website is maintained by [EyesWrite.com](http://EyesWrite.com)"

### Board of Trustees

Louisa Duffy Gayle Grunwald Michael Montella

Kristina Pavlov-Leiching Dietrich Werner

Anton Werner Anne Gorrick

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## Welcome New Members

472-I Sherrie Smith - Franklin, WI

473-F George & Suzanne VanderGheynst - LaGrangeville, NY

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2006?

### *Thank Rosendale*

We still have a few copies of Peter Genero's new 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

8. Gazetteer and Business Directory of Ulster County, N.Y. for 1871-2. Hamilton Child. Syracuse 1871.
9. Pit & Quarry Hand Book For the Sand, Gravel, Stone, Cement, Gypsum, and Lime Industries. Complete Service Publishing Co. Chicago 1923.
10. Deutsche Portland-Cement-und Beton-Industrie auf der Dusseldorfer Ausstellung 1902. Verein Dt. Portland-Cement-Fabrikanten u.d. Dt. Beton-Verein. Berlin 1902. [1982 reprint.]
11. Building The Evolution of an Industry. P. Morton Shand. Token Construction Co. Ltd. The Western Press Ltd. UK. 1954.
12. The Great Hudson River Brick Industry Commemorating Three and a Half Centuries of Brick-making. George V. Hutton. Purple Mountain Press. Fleischmanns, NY 2003.
13. Brooklyn Bridge 1883-1933. City of New York Department of Plant and Structures. 1933.
14. The Great Bridge. David McCullough. Simon & Schuster. New York 1972.
15. Thank Rosendale New York—The Empire State. Peter Genero. GENERO INC. Port Saint Lucie, FL. 2005.
16. Rondout A Hudson River Port. Bob Steuding. Purple Mountain Press. Fleischmanns, NY. 1995.
17. Monthly Labor Review. Labor Requirements in Cement Production. US Dept of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, DC Vol. 42, No. 1-6. 1936.
18. Monthly Labor Review. Collective Bargaining in the Cement Industry. US Dept of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, DC Vol. 47, No. 1-6. 1938. [missing No. 5].
19. Monthly Labor Review. Labor-Management Relations: Cement Industry. US Dept of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, DC Vol. 72, No. 1-6. 1951.

## Message from the President

First I would like to thank Carol Presiozi for her service to the Society's Board of Trustees by filling in the void created when Susan Lewis stepped down. Susan, one of the original incorporators of the Society, stepped down from the Board of Trustees as her duties as professor at SUNY New Paltz increased. Anne Gorrick has been elected as the newest member to serve on the Board of Trustees. The Society is fortunate in being able to attract such capable members of our community to give of their time and share in the direction of the Society.

I also want to thank Anita Peck and the management of Williams Lake Hotel for the continued support that they have rendered the Society. Sometimes I wonder if the Annual Meeting would have as great an attendance if the meeting was held elsewhere.

This year's special exhibit will feature photographs taken by Kenneth Roosa over a sixty year period. Ken took up photography as a youth. Ken grew up on Main Street, Rosendale where he helped his father, Burton Roosa, in the grocery business. During world war II, Ken served in the Pacific. After the war Ken returned to Roosa's Main Street Grocery and also worked as a photographer for the Kingston Daily Freeman and for the insurance industry. The Freeman published many of Ken's crash scenes, weddings, school graduations, and family reunion photographs.

If you grew up in Rosendale you might find a photo of yourself as a youngster, or your parents or grandparents.

*Dietrich Werner*



## Anne Gorrick Elected to Board of Directors

At the Society's Annual Meeting held at Williams Lake Hotel December 4th Anne Gorrick was elected to serve as Trustee. Dietrich Werner and Michael Montella were also reelected

Anne Gorrick graduated from and currently works at SUNY New Paltz (the vortex that it seems will not let her go). She has been a university administrator for 13 years, most currently in financial aid and student loan default management. She has extensive administrative experience that includes grant-writing. In her secret life, she is a poet and visual artist, having completed a collaborative artist's book with local artist Cynthia Winika through the Women's Studio Workshop. Her Poetry has been published in many journals including: American Letters and Commentary, the Courtland Review (online), and Fence Magazine. A lifelong resident of New York's Hudson Valley, she lives with her husband Peter Genovese in West Park. Anne and Peter have enjoyed many events at the Century House Historical Society over the past few years (especially Halloween!), and hope to volunteer at many more.



## 100 YEAR OLD CEMENT FOUND

**ROSENDALE** — The eastern face of the Widow Jane Mine follows a joint [ "Rock layers in the Widow Jane mine are tilted to the east and fractured by deformation associated with the Snyder thrust fault, which lies just south of the Snyder Estate (Burmeister, 2005)" ] and at one point along that face there were several openings to the surface. Pieces of tram track, large rocks, dirt and half a barrel of cement were thrown into these openings in an attempt to plug them. Last fall while landscaping

work at the mine was being done the volunteers discovered what at first was thought to be a strange shaped rock. Upon closer examination it was determined to be cement which had hardened in a barrel. The cement once hardened in the barrel was spoiled but was a ready candidate for plugging material and therefore thrown into the opening only to be recovered 100 years later, minus its former container. For more information on geology of the Widow Jane Mine area see Burmeister, K. C., 2005, Aspects of deformation and strain in the Appalachian fold-thrust belt (New York) and the shear zones of the Sveconorwegian orogen (Norway) [Dissertation thesis]: Urbana, IL, University of Illinois. [DEW]



A smile of approval !

## Ice Cream Social 2005

Last summer we had a great time at the Society's Ice Cream Social. Lots of ice cream (Thanks to our Rosendale Stewarts for helping out) and fantastic home made toppings. We look forward to a second helping this summer.

A Baker's Dozen of Pavlovs [below] at Ice Cream Social





## More 2005 Events

### Taiko Masala — Labor Day Weekend



Labor Day Weekend was a special one at the Snyder Estate. Hiro Kurashima organized a two day Taiko work shop at the Snyder Estate. Students were instructed in the history of Taiko drumming and how to play the drums. The highlight was a performance in the Widow Jane Mine on Saturday evening. We are all looking forward to a repeat performance in 2006.



New York & Rosendale Cement Co. Mill c1890s  
[Photo Jeff Krause Collection]



New York & Rosendale Cement Co. Kilns [Now Willow Kiln Park]

## Willow Kiln Park Dedication

A little over one hundred years ago the site dedicated as Willow Kiln Park on September 10, 2005 was a very busy spot. The kilns that form the parks backdrop burned all the rock mined under Joppenberg Mountain. It is this cement company's claim that its product built the Brooklyn Bridge, in fact calling its cement "Brooklyn Bridge Brand". America's first railroad steam engine, the Sturbridge Lion, passed through today's park on a canal boat on the Delaware & Hudson canal located on the south side of the park. The Rosendale Chamber of Commerce presented a donation of \$5,000 for park improvements. Our Town Supervisor Robert Gallagher, Councilmen Hassett, and McDonough, County Legislators Every and Lomita, Town Justice Tony McGinty, Highway Superintendent Carl Hornbeck and a number of Rosendale residents were in attendance. The park, located in the center of the village of Rosendale, will eventually be connected, via the D&H towpath, to the eastern and western ends of the village.



## Rosendale Fire Dept Stand Pipe At Snyder Estate Gets Face Lift

The stand pipe installed at the Snyder Estate by the Rosendale Fire Department received a face lift last fall. Tim Sheehan, under the direction of two Jr. Firefighters, redesigned and gave the stand pipe a coat of red paint. This stand pipe is located at the



edge of the pond on the Tan House Brook near the Society's Museum. In a fire emergency the Rosendale Fire Department can pump water from the pond using this stand pipe. It provides a water source for fire protection to Society owned buildings and about half a dozen nearby homes.

## Society Serves Punch

Gayle Grunwald, Society secretary, not only takes great minutes of our meetings, but serves a great Christmas punch at the annual Rosendale Chefs Christmas Dinner. The Society joins with other community organizations to bring Christmas cheer to all.



## Society Booth at Rosendale Pickle Festival

Folks talk about the endurance of Rosendale Cement all the time, but come November and your talking Rosendale, well then your talking Pickles. The Society has manned a booth at every Pickle Festival since its founding by Bill and Cathy Brooks.



The 2005 festival was held on a brisk but sunny day. The Society



booth was next to the Japanese tea ceremony booth. The festival drew several thousand visitors many of whom stopped by at the Society's booth. If you missed the festival be sure to add it to your must do list for this November.





Althea Werner and new Trustee, Anne Gorrick, auction penny social gifts



Linda Tantillo and Dan Zalewski view washline consisting of flyers from various 2005 Society events

## CENTURY HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's annual meeting was once again held at Williams Lake Hotel. The meeting was well attended by Society members both local and from out of state. Ken Uracius, a masonry restoration specialist and an expert on natural cement mortar, was our special guest speaker. His presentation, "The American Natural Cement Revival" was a stunning visual presentation. He shared with us his quest for a better understanding of materials used in mortars which were used in 19th century American buildings and construction projects. We heard of intrigue, mystery and enjoyed humorous moments as Ken explained his rediscovery of the history



'CEMENT MEN'

Anne Gorrick, Michael Montella and Dietrich Werner were elected by the membership to serve on the Board of Trustees. The officers elected to serve for 2006 are: Dietrich Werner, president; Michael Montella, vice-president; Gayle Grunwald, secretary; and Kristina Pavlov-Leiching, treasurer.



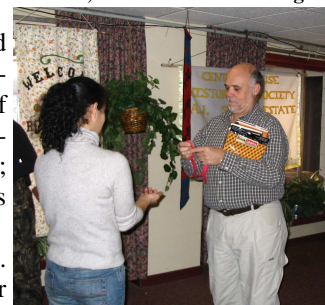
A view at Williams Lake Hotel, site of Annual Meeting



Pat Pelchat with a winning ticket!

and technology of American Natural Cement use in the United States. Ken takes us from high atop skyscrapers to Fort Adams, Rhode Island and all the way to the southernmost tip of the United States eastern coast, Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas. Ken also showed us a special DVD Featurette; "American Natural Cement" which shows many buildings and structures built with American Natural Cement.

The Penny Social was without a doubt a great hit. Lousia Duffy, our auctioneer, had us all entertained by her rapid fire disposal of some great gifts.



Althea presents Tim Morrison with a Penny Social prize



# American Natural Cement Conference ~ Washington, DC 2006



Smithsonian Institution



Leya Edison in US Capital Building



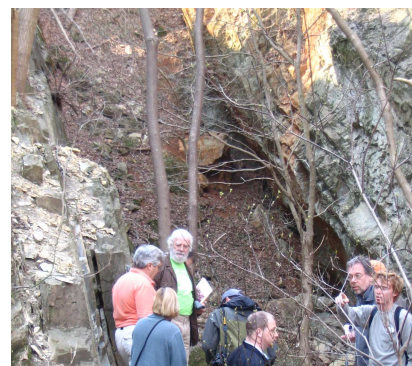
Pension Office



Shepherdstown Cement Co Office



Mill Stone @ Shepherdstown



Cement Rock Quarry @ Shepherdstown



Round Top Cement Co. Kilns



Round Top Cement Co. 2nd mill



Round Top Cement Co. 1st mill



Sink Hole at  
Round Top Cement Co. Mine

The 2nd American Natural Cement Conference gave attendees the opportunity to visit buildings in Washington, DC that were built with Natural Cement. We were able to tour the Smithsonian and the Pension Office as well as attend several cement programs in the United States Capital Building. The visits to the Smithsonian and Pension Office were special treats as both are currently closed to the public due to renovations. The close of our first day in Washington, DC was a dinner during which Cynthia Field, Office of Architectural History & Historic Preservation, Smithsonian Institution was the guest speaker.

On Friday, our 2nd day, two bus loads (with Chris Robinson and Peter Dessaur from the NPS) headed for the Cement works in Shepherdstown, WV.

Upon arrival in Shepherdstown we were given a cement mine, mill and kiln tour. We then headed for the War Memorial Building where we were greeted by Mayor Peter Wilson. Here we heard a presentation by Dr. Kurt Burmiester on the geology of the cement region. Dr. Johannes Weber, Dr. David Hughes, and Renata Vyskocilova built up our appetite with lectures on Roman Cements. After a super buffet lunch at the Hill Top House in Harpers Ferry we visited Harpers Ferry where Ken Uracius gave us a Natural Cement Mortar and Stucco demonstration. For those who two days and nights of cement, cement [continued on page 12]



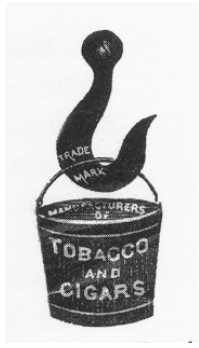
Kurt Burmiester, Renata Vyskocilova, Mike Edison, Johannes Weber & John Wash @ Round Top Cement Co. Mine



## Red Hook Library Built with Rosendale Cement

In October, 1864, as the battles of the American civil war were still raging in the South, Allen Barringer Hendricks began building a home just south of the four corners in the heart of the village of Red Hook.

Hendricks, Hoffman and Massonneua were Red Hook families that were associated in the Tobacco trade, manufacturing cigars, chewing tobacco and snuff. In 1850 J & P Hendricks made over one million cigars and about 200,000 pounds of chewing tobacco. Tobacco, like cement, had its brand names. Red Hook chewing tobacco was sold under brand names and trade logos such as "Deer Head," "Eagle," "Red Hook," and "Yellow Spot."



Red Hook Tobacco products logo

The Red Hook and red bucket tobacco logo continued to be available long after a Pennsylvania firm bought the Red Hook Tobacco company in the early 1930s.

When Hendricks decided to build his home he settled on two unique features. The architectural Style and the building material.

The Red Hook Library published a little booklet in 1998 to commemorate 100 years of service. A description from that booklet follows. "The octagonal library was a landmark from the beginning of its existence. Fishkill author and phrenologist, Orson Squire Fowler, had popularized this form of dwelling in the mid-19th century in his book, *A Home For All*. The ten-room house was built of poured concrete made from cement from Rosendale in Ulster County and covered with stucco. Built into the side of a hill, it is three stories in the back and two in the front. The original kitchen and dining areas were on the bottom floor opening out to a garden in the back. The main living rooms were on the first floor with four bed-

rooms on the top floors. The roof was decorated with a "blind" cupola through which the original chimney extended. It was unusable, but as with some of the false windows on the building, was added for design. The original roof was slate. The porch roof was supported with round iron pillars and replaced later with wooden columns."

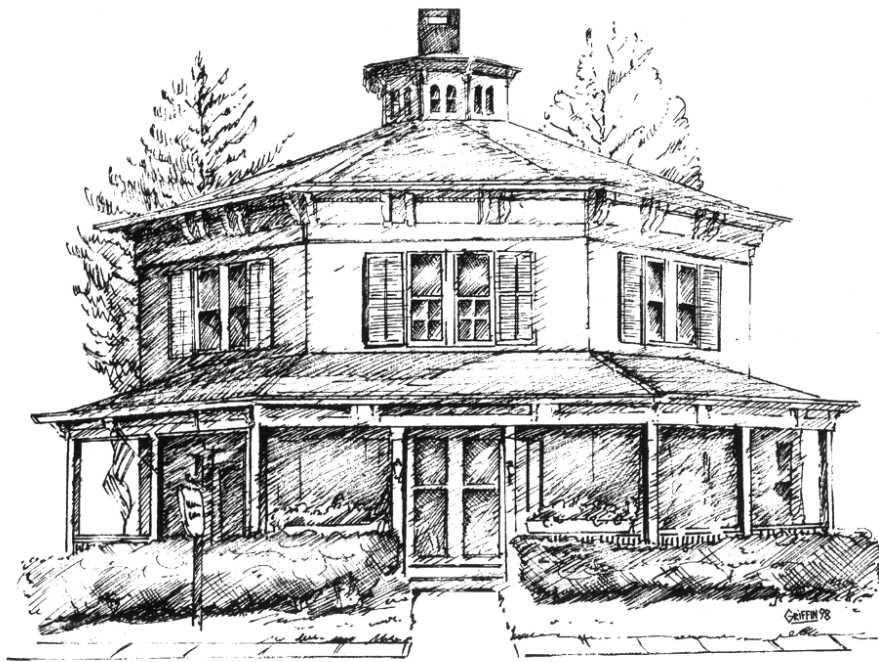
A year and two months later, December 1865, the building was completed. It was to be Allen Hendricks home till his death at the age of 93 having lived a little more than 60 years in his sturdy octagon house made with Rosendale cement.

After Allen Hendricks death the building remained unoccupied for several years until the building was purchased from his heirs by the Red Hook Public Library in 1935.

Before embarking on architectural design Fowler lectured and published books titled 'Memory and Intellectual Inspiration' (1844) and 'Matrimony; or Phrenology Applied to the Selection of Companions' (1842). The full title of Orson Fowler's book, which he published in 1848, was 'A Home for All; or a Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building.' Of particular note is that Fowler claimed that the "gravel-wall construction" (what we

would today call poured concrete) made the octagon house cheaper to build.

Several thousand homes were built during the 1850s and 1860s based on Fowler's design. Most, however, were built of wood or brick rather than poured concrete. Some of the Octagon houses were really big. Fowler's own home in Fishkill, NY (no longer extant) had sixty rooms. [DEW]



Drawing of Red Hook Library by Dennis Griffin. From The Red Hook Public Library 1898-1998



Orson S. Fowler 1809-1889



CHARLES B. HOFFMAN  
WILLIAM S. MASSONNEAU

As we are obliged to pay the Government Tax in Advance we Must Insist That All Bills be paid in Thirty Days.

FRANK SHELDON.  
WILLIAM E. TRAYER



NOTICE

THE PRESENT REVENUE LAW makes no provision for exchanging Tobacco.

All goods sent out by us must be examined on arrival, and if not found as represented, notice must be given in writing immediately, or the claim will not be allowed. No broken packages will be taken back under any circumstances.

d Hook, N. Y., December 11, 1911  
 Loanmaker,  
 West Berner Co.  
 Bought of **HOFFMAN & CO.,**  
 MANUFACTURERS OF  
**TOBACCO AND CIGARS.**  
 Local and Long Distance Telephone Connection.

### Local and Long Distance Telephone Connection

TERMS: 30 days net, or 10 days less 2 per cent.

[illegible]

**WHITE'S PATENT  
Hydraulic Cement.**

**T**HIS composition has recently been discovered and is found from sufficient experiment (having been *wholly* used in the construction of the stone work of the Erie Canal) to be well adapted to all the purposes for which the Roman Cement is employed. It possesses besides the quality of not *setting* immediately after it is laid, an advantage which will be duly appreciated by Mechanics.

It is put up in barrels of 5 bushels each and offered for sale at a very reasonable rate, by

**Ralston & Lyman,**

No. 11 South Front-street.

N. B. Purchasers are furnished with printed directions for its use.

april 12

 $dtf$ 

**July 24, 1822.**

**Advertisement for Canvass White's Patent Hydraulic Cement.**  
**In Poulson's American Daily Advertiser. Philadelphia, Pa.**  
**Vol. LL No. 14,245. [CHHS Collection]**

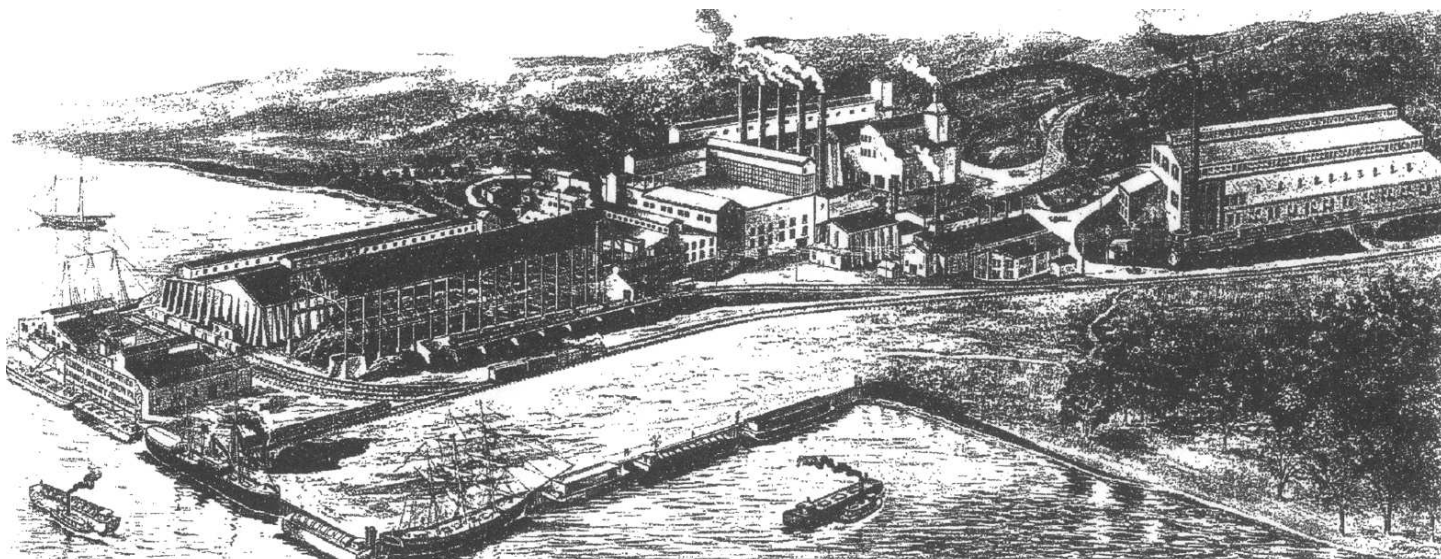
Cement manufactured in America had its origin along the route of the Erie Canal in central New York. After Canvass White's return from England he discovered in, 1818, Limestone suitable for the manufacture of hydraulic cement.

Lee Oxford, a dealer in old newspapers located in Salisbury MD, noticed that there was an advertisement for White's Patent Hydraulic Cement in the July 24, 1822 issue of Poulson's American Daily Advertiser. Paulson's was a Daily newspaper published in Philadelphia, PA. The Society was able to acquire this newspaper and add it to its collections of items related to the early American cement industry.

Canvass White was not only a canal engineer, cement manufacturer, but also an aggressive marketer of his Patent Cement. Prior to White's discovery in 1818, hydraulic cement was imported from Europe and known as Roman Cement. In 1822, the year of this advertisement, the Erie canal was not yet in operation. White's cement was made in Chittenengo necessitating a long arduous haul to Albany where the cement could then be transported via the Hudson river to market. The opening of the eastern section Erie Canal in 1823 greatly enhanced White's ability to market his cement.

It is interesting to note that directions for the proper use of the cement was included. This is a tradition which is still followed today. Buy a bag of cement and directions for use are printed on each bag. [DEW]





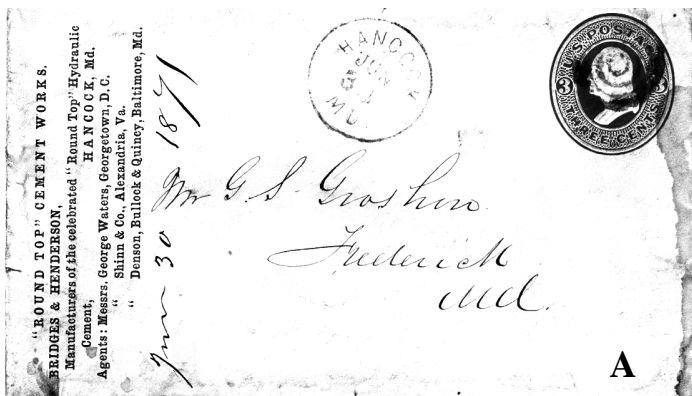
Birds eye view of Alpha ( formerly Catskill Cement Co.) Cement Plant in Catskill c1910

## Society Member Donates Group of Cement Maps

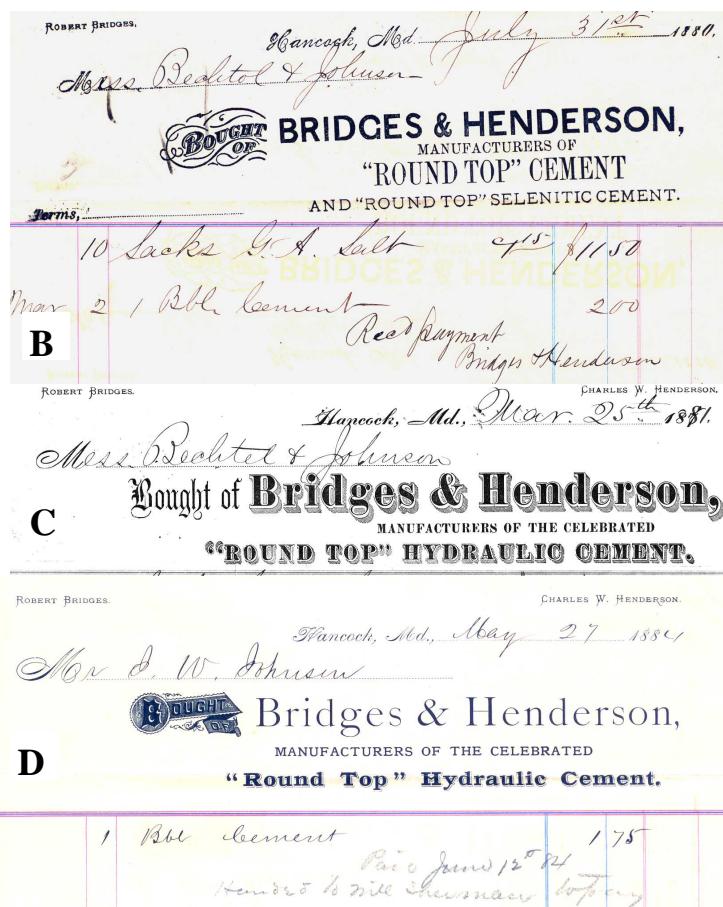
Society member Horace Compton, who lives in Leeds, AL., has donated to the Society a group of survey maps of the Catskill Cement Company. This cement Company located just south of Catskill, in Greene County, NY was one of the early Portland Cement Companies to operate in the Mid Hudson River Valley Area.

List of Alpha Cement Co. Catskill, NY Plant maps donated by Horace Compton to the Society.

1. Map A Showing Uplands of Catskill Cement Co. 1899
2. Map A6-778 May 6, 1915, Revisions: 7-29-1959, 9-12-1960.
3. Map A6-815 Jan 6, 1916, Revisions: Oct 1921, 1-28-1958.
4. Map A6-815 Jan 6, 1916, Revisions: Oct 1921, 1-28-1958, 9-4-1962.
5. Map A6-2086 April 6, 1954, Revisions: 1-7-1955, 1-10-1955, 12-27-1957. 2 copies.
6. Map A6-3354 Grant of land under water Sep 1961. NYDPW Map B 2 copies.
7. Map A6-3355 Grant of land under water Sep 1961. NYDPW Map A
8. Map A6-3356 Grant of land under water Sep 1961. NYDPW Map A



Continued from page 7. and more cement was not enough Saturday must have been the high point of the conference. Conference attendees had the hard choice of going either to the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center in Frederick for a 'Hands-On' workshop or for a visit to the Round Top Cement Company mines, kilns and mill in Hancock, MD. A few Round Top Cement Co. items from the Society's collections. A. Envelope, used in 1871, with corner card listing Agents selling Round Top Cement. B., C., and D. are invoices dated 1880, 1881 and 1884 for cement & salt sold to Bechtel & Johnson, merchants in Berkeley Springs, WV.





# **KENNETH ROOSA ROSENDALE PHOTOGRAPHER**

## **A SPECIAL EXHIBIT FEATURING 60 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY KEN ROOSA**

Ken lived most of his life on  
Main Street Rosendale

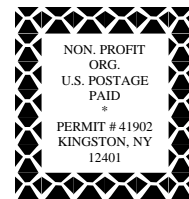
The Society is proud to present a  
selection of photographs taken between  
the 1930s and 1993

Exhibit opens  
Sunday, May 14th 1 PM





The Snyder Estate Historic Site  
Rosendale NY 12472-0150  
**NATURAL NEWS**  
Spring 2006  
VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1



A red check in the box below  
means that your dues for 2006  
have not been paid.



## **CENTURY HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

#### **Spring Clean-Up Day**

**Snyder Estate Sunday April 23**

#### **Six Decades**

**Ken Roosa - Rosendale Photographer**

**Snyder Estate Sunday May 14**