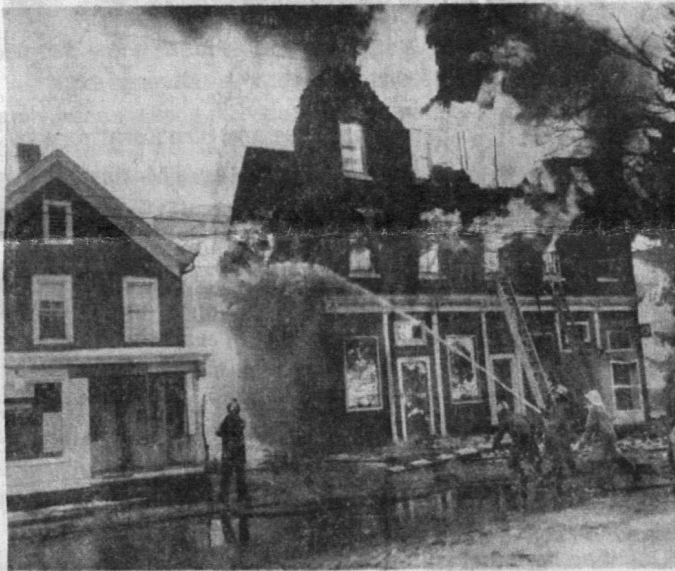


CITY OF KINGSTON, N. Y., WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 15, 1969

PRICE TEN CENTS



FIRE RAGED THROUGH THE WELL-KNOWN REID'S HOTEL IN ROSENDALE YESTERDAY COMPLETELY RAZING THE BUILDING. IN PHOTO AT LEFT, A DARING AERIALIST FIREMAN BATTLES THE BLAZE FROM ABOVE. THE INFERNO OF THE FLAMES IS CAUGHT BY THE CAMERA IN THE CENTER PICTURE. AT RIGHT, ALL THAT REMAINS IS A BURNED-OUT SHELL OF A WELL-KNOWN AREA LANDMARK. (Freeman Photos by Krub)

Judith A. Boggess, Author of "CONFESSIONS OF A BAR BRAT Growing Up In Rosendale, NY 1949-1955 A Memoir, Narrated by a young girl growing up in the coarsest, most hell-raising bar on Main Street, Rosendale, NY in the early 50s" contributes this piece written especially for this edition of The Natural News. Thank you! The book is available at Amazon.

INDELIBLE MEMORIES

Perhaps it is something in the water, or maybe there is an invisible magnetic force emanating from the now defunct cement mines that tugs at anyone who has ever lived in Rosendale, whether for all their life or for only a few weeks. Memories of a time lived or spent here are indelible.

My parents, Edith and Ed Cherny operated Reids Hotel & Bar in Rosendale from 1949 until 1954, and then moved a mile out of town to open a diner when the bar lease was up. The proprietors, Joe and Bridie Reid lived in an apartment on the third floor of the hotel, while Mr. Reid recuperated from an injured back sustained as a steel worker.

Reids was one of the local watering holes out of the eight in a mile strip that serviced the diverse ethnicities working the mines, but was frequented mainly by the Irish born because of the name. It helped business that Ed was a tenor singer. He sounded like Pavarotti and looked similar, although Ed was Slovak not Italian. Ed sang whatever Irish songs from the old country that was requested like *The Rose of Tralee* and I got to watch grown men cry. On the other hand, Edith was a DeWitt, born and raised in Rosendale, and was an attractive blonde, blue-eyed, fun-loving lady who knew almost everyone in town; a valuable asset in the bar business.

After our family moved from the village, Reids Hotel sustained but survived two back-to-back hurricanes with devastating floods in 1955, but in January 1969 it met its final taskmaster, a fire, and burnt to the ground. Today the flower bedecked lot where it once stood is empty of any structures.

To the left of Reids lot still stands a brown asphalt shingle-sided house that once belonged to my grandparents, Morris and Sarah DeWitt. Today, *Bill The Barber* Brooks, Rosendale's town historian and local barber owns the house. To the left of the barbershop was the Grange Hall, formerly a Baptist church that my Grandmother Sarah attended. My grandfather was Dutch Re-form and went *up street* to church, which is now known as the Bell Tower Venue.

CONTINUED →

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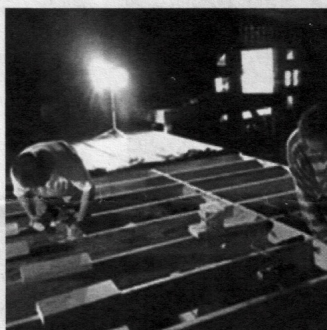
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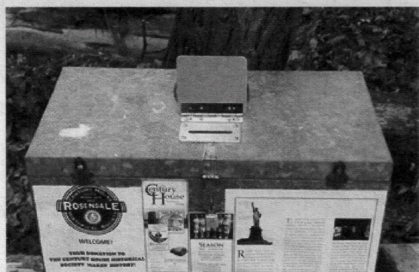
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Outdoor interpretive information was added at
the Widow Jane Mine next to the new donation
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Photography Professor Andrea Frank & students.



Sonic Measures class at the Widow
Jane Mine.

Indelible Memories Continued:

The Grange is where I took ballet and tap dance lessons with Blossom & Blanche after the Baptists shuttered their doors. Along with dance lessons, a professional photographer made the rounds once a year and took children's *studio* photos on *quality* paper, and you waited for them to be delivered at a later date. Kenny Roosa of Roosa's Grocery, (next to the pink painted Astoria Hotel), eventually became our local photographer. The Astoria Hotel is presently known as the 1850 House and sadly, is no longer pink. Kenny was at every wedding, christening, every accident, and made sure your photos were delivered in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, the Grange had a chimney fire in January 2004, and it brought a grand old historic lady down to rubble. It's hard to watch history burn. The Grange owners generously gifted Bill Brooks the church stain glass window that managed to survive.

Across the street from the barbershop/grange, my grandparents owned a small grocery store. Behind the store was their two-story, stick built, blue shingle-sided apartment building, whose bones also eventually weakened and was removed.

My grandfather Morris purchased the Century Cement pay-house on Lawrenceville Road and turned it into his newer family home. Living next door in two houses were relatives. Across the street lived his friend, Bill Bender and his family. Now, Bill's collapsing house is barely visible under the weeds and sumac trees. Today the Turco Company draws water for swimming pools from the abandon cave next to Bill's property. Perhaps you have driven by this cave and were treated to a cold blast of air on a hot summer day.

My grandfather Morris was a farmer at heart who always had animals no matter where he lived. He had an affinity for the pigs he housed in defunct cement kilns off the towpaths he owned. And I believe he sold their meat to the locals, but as a kid he would never tell me that. He also had horses for riding, a mule, a Black Angus bull, always chickens, rabbits, a goat or two, and a cow. He had names for all his *pets*. I especially recall loving his angora *Tasmanian Rabbit*. You can tell he was a jokester, too!

Not only did Morris own a farm, a grocery and an apartment building, he owned and operated different bars at different times. When Sarah, his first wife passed from cancer, he married Evelyn Rask. Her family was from High Falls, and owned Secor's Bar on the main drag. Evelyn and Morris opened a gin mill on route 213 as you drive westerly out of Rosendale. It sat on the right hand side of the road, on a drinking man's very unforgiving turn, directly across the street from Ricci's Garage, which sat in the shade of the train trestle. (Ricci's Garage eventually became Marty's garage. Both, long gone.)

My grandfather's bar was called *The Brookside* because of the stream that ran along the right side of the parking lot, which meandered under the road to empty into the Rondout Creek. The building still stands today as a private residence though due to road redesign, it's not quite as close to the road as it once used to be. It's possible it is still standing because Morris installed a steel I-beam in the corner of the building. It was put there to keep drunk speeders from crashing through the corner of the building and joining him at the bar, car and all. He learned from experience.

Rosendale. The valley of roses where a sweet fragrance emanated from white wild roses growing in a tangle on the side of Joppenberg Mountain; where the scent swirled on the breeze or hung in humid summer air, drifting along from the train trestle on past the Astoria Hotel; where the perfumed air was taken for granted. Whoever gave it thought that the roses wouldn't be there one day to mask the car and trucks exhaust fumes from Main Street?

What I'd give to be able to strap-on my roller skates, fly over the obstacle course of cracked bluestone sidewalks, jump over tree roots that have heaved the slabs of stone up high enough to trip on, or to take my chalk and play hopscotch one more time. Alas, even Rosendale's sidewalks have been replaced, but the sweet fragrance of indelible memories lingers on.

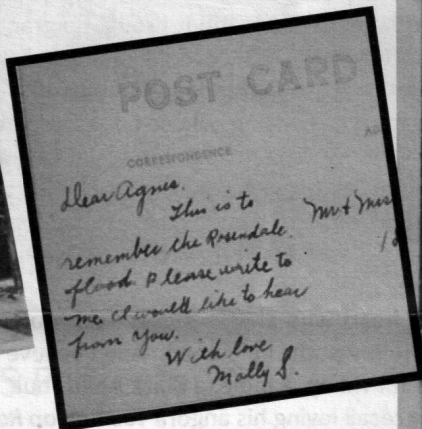
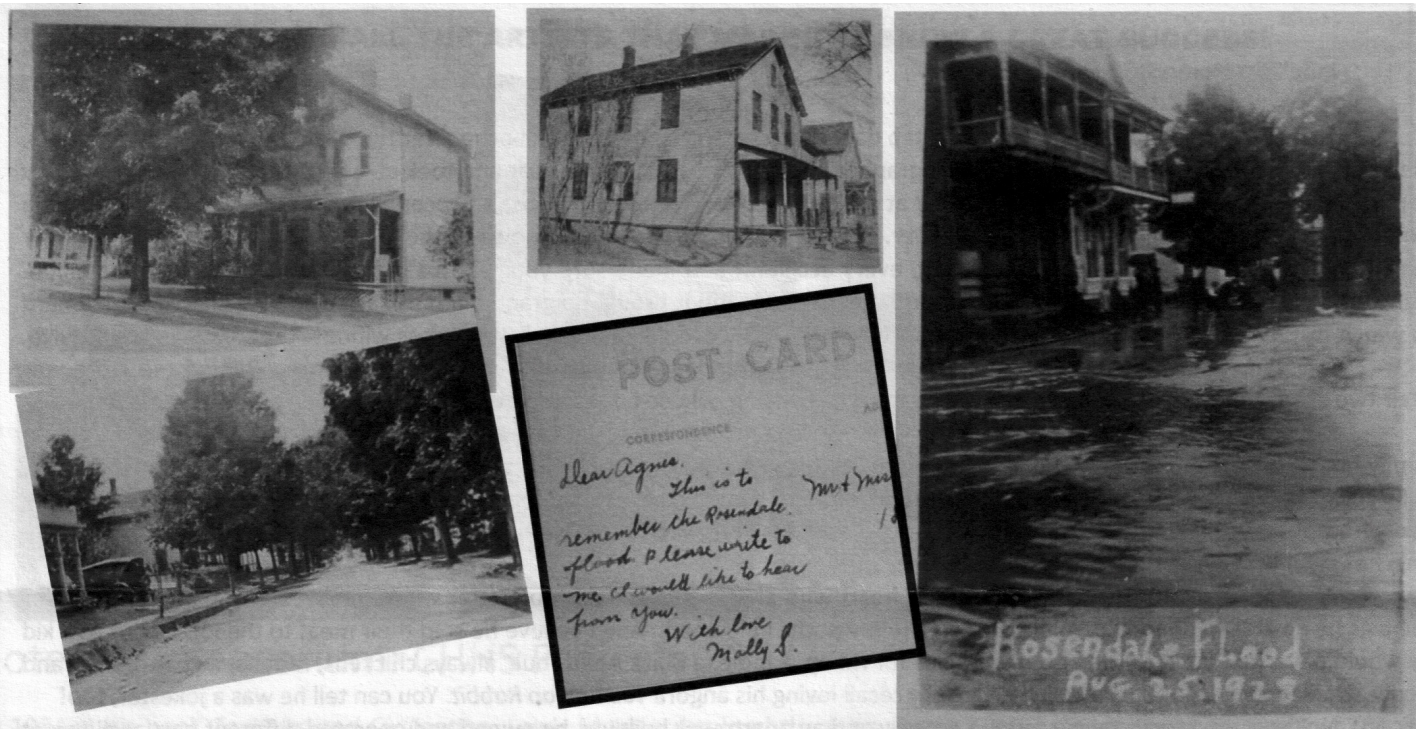


We made the list! We thought you would enjoy knowing that *Only in NY* has bestowed the honor of placing us on the list. Well, maybe it is kind of silly but do take into account that they have over 100 thousand followers. The site delivers information on things to do and places to visit that are out of the ordinary and really special. www.onlyinyourstate.com

The 11 Best Places To Hide In New York In The Event Of A Zombie Apocalypse

While we may not enjoy planning for the worst case scenario, sometimes it's helpful to have a rendezvous spot planned out for you and your loved ones in the event that something awful does happen. While none of us are hoping to ever live out an episode of *The Walking Dead*, have you ever taken the time to think about where you'd go if something like that hit the planet? In case this has never crossed your mind, we've put together a list of some the best places where you could go to hide in case a zombie apocalypse hit New York.

1. Singer Castle - Dark Island 2. Lily Dale - Chautauqua County 3. The Thousand Islands - St. Lawrence River 4. Niagara Falls - Niagara County 5. Howe Caverns - Schoharie County **6. Widow Jane Mine – Rosendale (When the zombie apocalypse hits and you're trying to figure out where you're going to head to for safety, try to keep abandoned locations in mind. A spot like Widow Jane Mine could potentially be a good location to set up shop ...)** 7. Allegany State Park - Cattaraugus County 8. Rockland Psychiatric Center – Orangeburg 9. Lockport Cave - Niagara County 10. Fort Ontario – Oswego 11. Central Terminal - Buffalo



Thank you Susan Barnett for the donation of photos! Susan enclosed a note: "Found these among my grandmother's things. I believe her aunt ran a boarding house (in Rosendale) in the 1920's. My grandmother visited and spent one summer helping her aunt... probably 1922 or 1923. Maybe they are of interest and can be shared. Sue Barnett: granddaughter of Agnes McDowell Whitenack".

The real photo post card commemorates the devastating 1928 flood. Loss was heavy in the Rondout Valley with at least twenty bridges torn out. The Kingston NY Fire Department sent rescue boats. The photos showing a quiet Main Street Rosendale which were all marked 1922, reminds us of the fact that the street was once lined with trees.



SPEAKING OF TREES : The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Devastates!

Agrilus planipennis, commonly known as the emerald ash borer, is a green buprestid or jewel beetle native to northeastern Asia that feeds on ash species. Signs of infection include tree canopy dieback, yellowing, and browning of leaves. Most trees die within 2 to 4 years of becoming infested. The EAB is responsible for the destruction of hundreds of millions of ash trees in the U.S. since its discovery in Michigan during the summer of 2002. Introduction of this menace is blamed on infestation in solid wood packing material carried by cargo ships and planes originating from Asia.

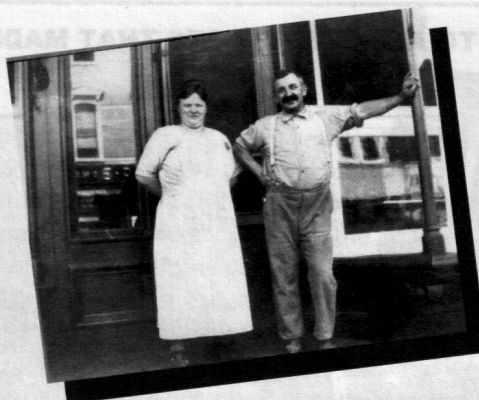
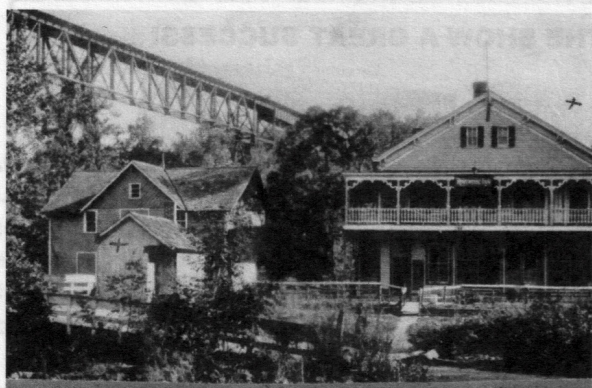
Adult beetles feast on foliage but the real damage is caused by the larvae that feed on the inner bark disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Quarantines are being enforced to prevent the spread of EAB but daily the infestation continues to spread.

VISIT www.emeraldashborer.info to learn more

Due to wide crown and tall height of the Elm tree, professional removal is required. Local municipalities as well as property owners may find the cost of removal as devastating as the Emerald Ash Borer. CHHS is in the process of contracting for the removal of infected trees on the site and your financial support is of importance.



Michael Asbill shows the damage to an Elm at the Snyder Estate



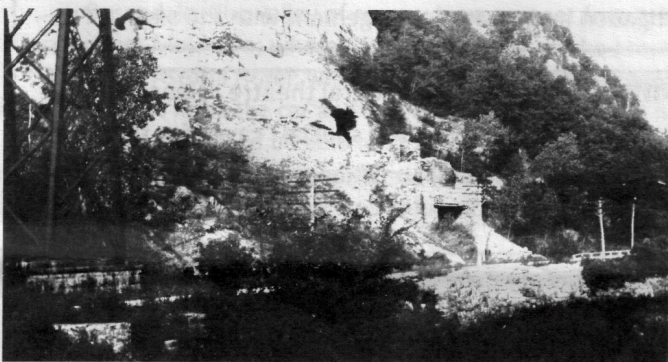
The Riverside Inn of Rosendale, The Ritter Family & The Exciting Travels of Lena & Lars

It is always an honor to hear that visitors put the Century House Historical Society on their "must do" list! Lena Fellmann and Lars Finken from Germany and Denmark not only enjoyed their Rosendale visit but went one step further and sent photos and family information to us to share with our readers. Lena placed the photos as being taken in the 1920's. The location of the Riverside Inn was west of the Wallkill Valley Trestle in Lawrenceville (Rosendale). Be sure to contact the historical society with any information you might have. The Editor



We were traveling to NY for the first four days, then rented a car and went to Rosendale because I had found out about the Century House Historical Society museum on the internet and wanted to learn more about where my grand-aunt had spent her life. She had wanted to adopt my aunt because Gustav Ritter and her had no children - but my grandmother did not want to let her daughter go (in spite of the nice pictures sent on that occasion showing a certainly better life than the German family had after WW I). A nice twist to the story is that one of the girl's daughters has settled in the U.S., near San Francisco, and has been naturalized.

In NY, we went to the Genealogical Society and I had found the naturalization information on Gustav Ritter in 1904 as well as news about the ship "Aller" Mathilde he had arrived on.



From Rosendale, we continued to Niagara Falls which we admired after most of the tourists had left and without trying any of the "attractions" of the place. We then went to Lancaster where I learned about the Mennonite part of my late husband's family at the Mennonite History Center. Afterwards we headed towards Richmond, Virginia to get that southern feeling - and a lot of information about the Civil War. The last week was spent in Washington D.C., without a car of course, staying with friends who are as well members of the Bremen Genealogical Society (www.die-maus-bremen.de) where I am the treasurer. What I didn't mention so far, are the many visits to arts museums and to aviation museums (Lars being specialized on Danish aircraft history: www.danishaircraft.dk). Of course, we visited the Capitol and the Library of Congress where I searched for another ancestor who had told his vicar that he was going to fight on the British side in America in 1776.

Here are scans of my photos of the Riverside Inn, Rosendale NY, with my grand-aunt Mathilde (Matilda) Ritter born Finken (1885 - after 1933) from Hulseberg near Bremen/Germany and her husband Gustav Ritter (1878 - 1933), a baker by profession, from Baden/Germany. Little personal data is known apart from Matilda's death was after 1933 when she was being cared for by her late husband's family.



I would like to know when Matilda Ritter died as well as any other information. I suppose she was buried in the same grave as her husband in the Rosendale Plains Cemetery. **Thank you again for a fascinating introduction into the Rosendale history!**

THANK YOU TO ALL THE ARTISTS THAT MADE THE SHOW A GREAT SUCCESS!

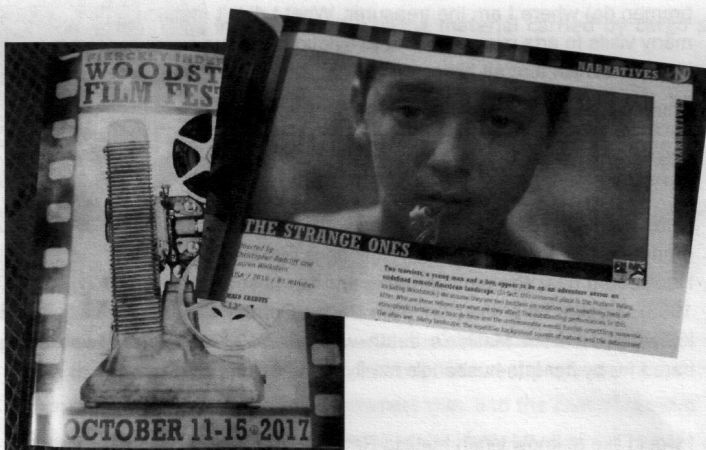


Eotechnic Sensorium: CHHS Projects 2017

In 1934 in his book *Technics and Civilization*, Lewis Mumford coined the term “eotechnic” as a way of thinking about the technological advances that preceded the era of fossil fuel consumption, which, following Geddes, he labeled “paleotechnic” or “the new barbarism.” For Mumford, the eotechnic was a time of sensory expansion, ushered in by numerous developments such as the clock, optics, the harnessing of wind and water power. Many inventions emerged from the era of glass, wood, paper, wind and water, setting the stage for the environmental abuses to follow. The remains of industrial activity immanent on the site of the Century House Historical Society in Rosendale, New York, are a testament to this technological transition.

For this year’s art show at the CHHS, artists had been invited to bring their works to engage loosely with the notion of the eotechnic or simply draw inspiration from the locale. The phrase “eotechnic sensorium,” as an actual concept or just an interesting word pair, is intended as a springboard for further investigation and creative engagement with the site. Jeff Benjamin/Curator

“THE STRANGE ONES” HITS THE 2017 WOODSTOCK FILM FESTIVAL! Watch for the general theatre release early in the new year. Directors Lauren Wolkstein and Christopher Radcliff were looking for that special “cave” for their production and they were excited to find the extraordinary Widow Jane Mine. Several scenes were done on the location. The film stars Alex Pettyfer, James Freedson-Jackson and Emily Althaus.



“Mysterious events surround two travelers as they make their way across a remote American landscape. On the surface all seems normal, but what appears to be a simple vacation soon gives way to a dark and complex web of secrets.”



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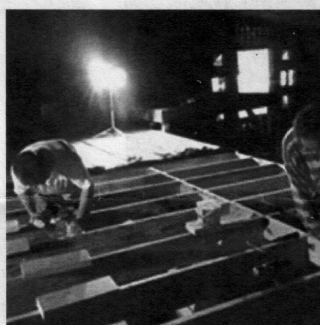
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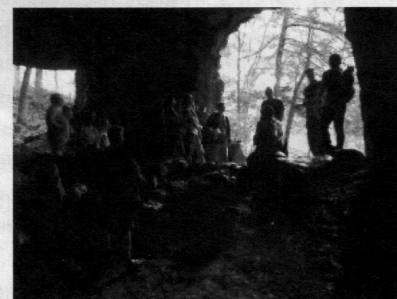
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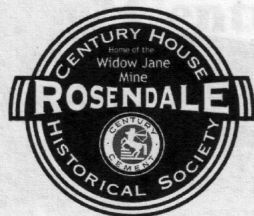
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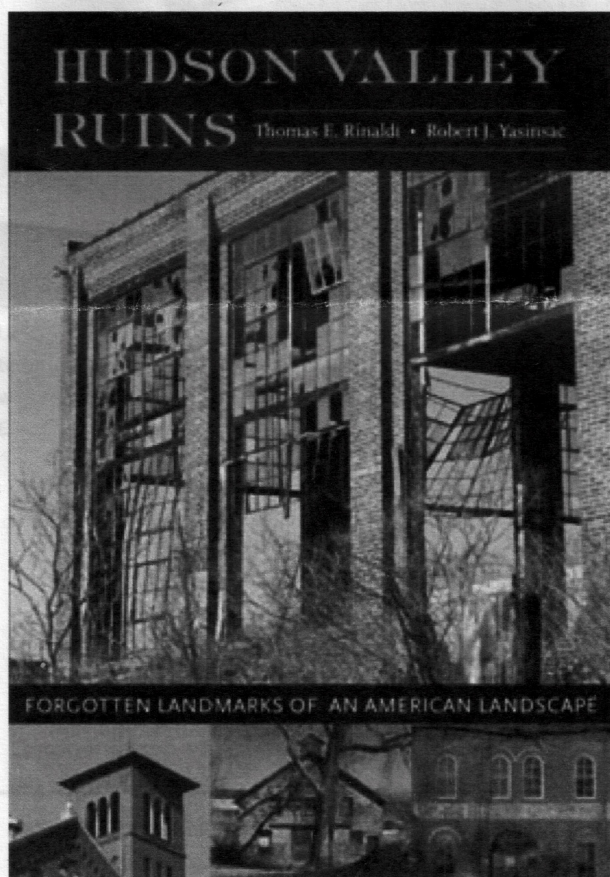


Sonic Measures class at the Widow
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NATURAL NEWS



Century House Historical Society Annual Meeting & Program

Saturday, December 2, 2017

1pm Rosendale Community Center Rt. 32

HUDSON VALLEY RUINS

**Forgotten Landmarks Of An American Landscape
Lecture & Book Signing**

presented by authors Tom Rinaldi and Rob Yasinsac.

"Hudson Valley Ruins offers the reader a long overdue glimpse at some of the region's forgotten cultural treasures. In addition to great river estates, the book profiles sites more meaningful to everyday life in the Valley: Churches and hotels, commercial and civic buildings, mills and train stations. Included are works by some of the most important names in American architectural history, such as Alexander Jackson Davis and Calvert Vaux." Their book and lecture also covers Rosendale and Century House Historical Society's Snyder Estate and Widow Jane Mine!