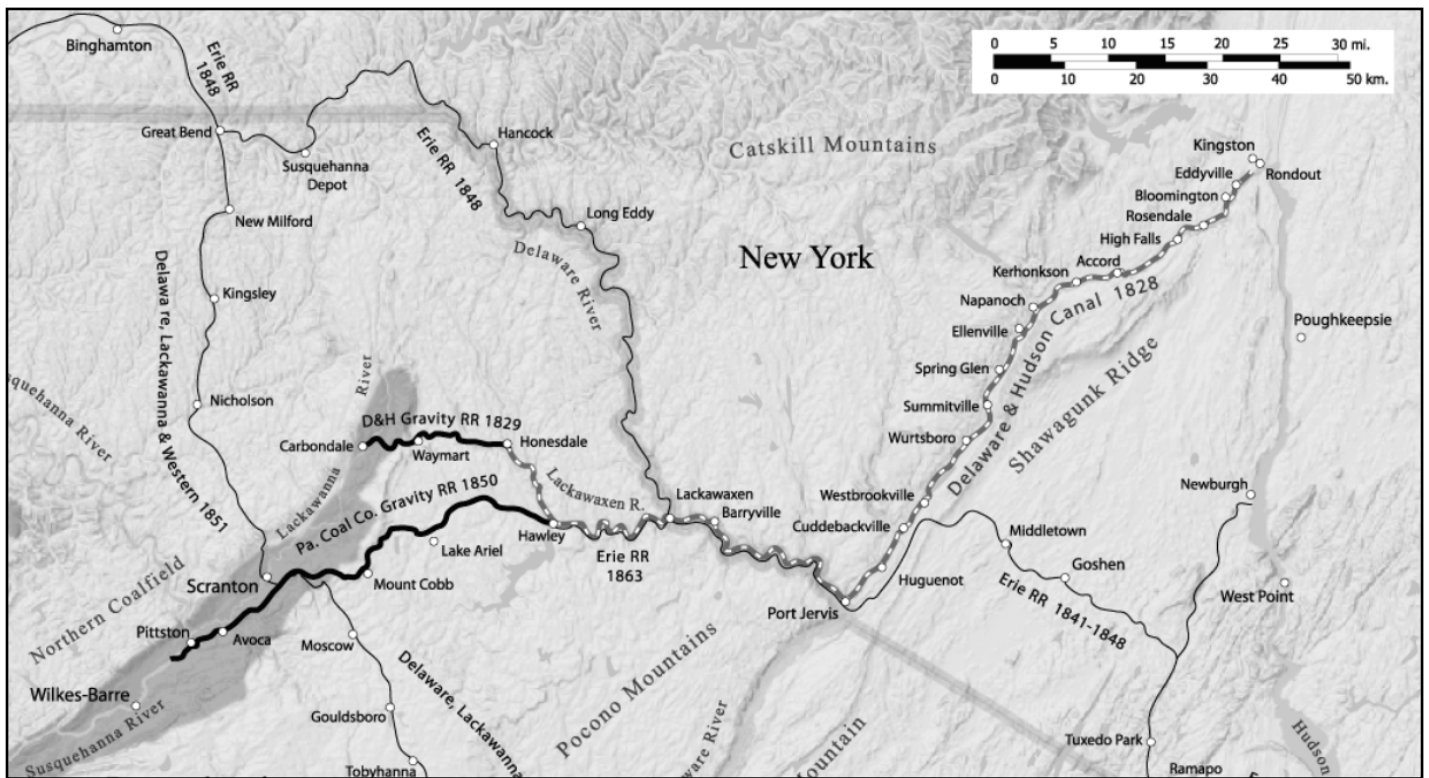


Canals, Coal & Cement

Steven Schimmrich

In the early 1800s, high-grade anthracite coal was discovered near the Lackawanna River a bit northeast of Scranton, Pennsylvania. This area, now called the Wyoming or Anthracite Valley, became an important coal mining region throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. In the early 1800's, however, there was no easy way to get this coal to large urban markets on the East Coast. The rivers were not suitable for large-scale transport by boat and railroads were only just being developed. New York City was a prime market for the coal, especially after the War of 1812 cut off coal shipments from England, but the mountainous Valley and Ridge Province of eastern Pennsylvania lay between these valuable coal fields and the city.



Pennsylvania Anthracite Fields, Gravity Railroads, and the Delaware & Hudson Canal Route (Wikipedia Commons)

Seizing an opportunity, businessmen William and Maurice Wurts incorporated a company in 1823 to build a canal which would run a bit over 100 miles from the coalfields near Carbondale, Pennsylvania to the Hudson River near Kingston, New York. Once on the Hudson, the coal could be shipped anywhere. To accomplish this feat, they hired Benjamin Wright, who had engineered the Erie Canal which would be completed in 1825. This new Delaware and Hudson (D&H) Canal started in Honesdale, Pennsylvania (a gravity railroad completed the route to the coalfields at Carbondale), ran along the Lackawaxen River to the Delaware River (the boundary between New York and Pennsylvania), then along the Delaware River to Port Jervis, and finally up the Neversink and Rondout Valleys, between the Catskills and Shawangunk Ridge, up to the Rondout Creek near where it flows into the Hudson River at Kingston.

While utilizing the river valleys, the canal still required 108 locks to raise and lower canal barges through minimal elevation changes (although 1,075 feet in total) along the route. While appearing to be a roundabout way to New York City, it was actually the most effective route to ship material at the time. A financial success, the canal operated through the 1800's finally closing in 1898 due to competition by the more efficient railroad lines which had been built.

The Century House Historical Society

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Friend us on Facebook!

Officers

President – Henry Lowengard
Vice-President – Michael McCabe
Secretary – Laurel Mutti
Treasurer – Althea Werner

Board of Trustees

David Kime	Bill Merchant
Bill Kraemer	Laurel Mutti
Henry Lowengard	Steven Schimrich
Michael McCabe	Althea Werner

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A Message from the President



It's been a busy year with many changes at the Snyder Estate!

I'd like to acknowledge the in-kind donations of the many paid workers who worked at the site, saving us thousands of dollars and undertaking much deferred maintenance. Thanks especially to our tireless Site Coordinator Althea Werner, Clifford Crepeau for helping to maintain our equipment throughout the season, John Hogan

for all of the tree work Estate wide, John Gillerman for the Rose Garden, willow tree and flowering bushes, Tom Manganaro of Artistry In Motion for the countless hours of stonework including finishing the FEMA Bridge Project, Bob Spiconardi of RLS Enterprises for rebuilding the Century House Columns, Phil Rutulante and Brett Hanson for helping with some of the larger projects around the grounds. Super volunteer Louisa Duffy was onsite almost every week and on social media documenting our events. Last of all, thank you to our late handyman Carl Robinson for the countless number of projects that were accomplished.

We brought back the geology walk, Taiko Masala, The Catskill Mountain Gamelan, Mamalama, and the Subterranean Poetry festival, and added the new benefit events "Hudson Valley Poetry Bands", "Dzieci Theatre's MAKBET", the "Into The

Deep" gourmet food event, and the "Sun and Stone" festival. There were a number of Pop-up events as well to entice people to visit the site for photos, drawings, and selfies, "Widstock", picnicking, or screaming into the Mine. Look for even more events next year through the efforts of new board member Bill Kraemer.

This year, the CHHS participated in the Wallkill Valley Land Trust House Tour, showing the Century House itself for the first time in many years. With your help, we'll be able to continue to restore it and make it available for more tours and other events!

On the grounds, a new Kiosk was built, a new Founders' Gazebo, rustic bench, and even a new entrance sign have been constructed and installed. For the first time in many years we started maintaining and displaying the A.J. Snyder II carriage and sleigh collection, featuring two of them at the Rosendale Street Festival in July.

Much needed bridge stonework and housing woodwork repairs were made, and there's a new rose garden by the willow and the stream, along with a new border of boulders by the pond.

That aforementioned willow lost a large branch, thankfully missing the new Kiosk, which needed to be cleaned up, and the rutted road up to the mine was repaired with new gravel. The tree which fell into the pond last year has been removed. That's in addition to taking other trees and branches down like the "Widow Jane Widow-maker tree" that used to be by the Mine entrance.

There were even more activities, like the late night independent movie shoots, class visits, and other private events, but you probably get an idea of how active it's been on the Estate! Which is a good segue into an appeal for more volunteers and members!

The memberships and benefit events are our main source of income, and the work of the board and all events are staffed by volunteers. Please consider joining, re-upping your membership, and / or volunteering to help furthering our mission of bringing the history of Rosendale Cement, the Snyder family, Rosendale to a wider public, and continue the Estate's history with the eventful life of the Widow Jane Mine.

Join us Saturday, December 7th at the Century House for our Annual Meeting and presentation on coopering by John Cox of Quercus Cooperage, who makes barrels by hand in his shop in High Falls. This ancient craft was an important part of the Cement Business, as the mining companies here had their own cooperates on site.

Henry Lowengard

Our Condolences



Catherine "Cathy" Brooks, a long-time active member of the Rosendale community, passed away on May 2 of this year.

Cathy was a founding member of the Rosendale Chamber of Commerce and co-founder, along with her husband Bill Brooks, of

the International Pickle Festival, now in its 22nd year.

Cathy is survived by her husband, Rosendale Town Historian Bill Brooks, and several children and grandchildren. She will be missed by many in the local community.

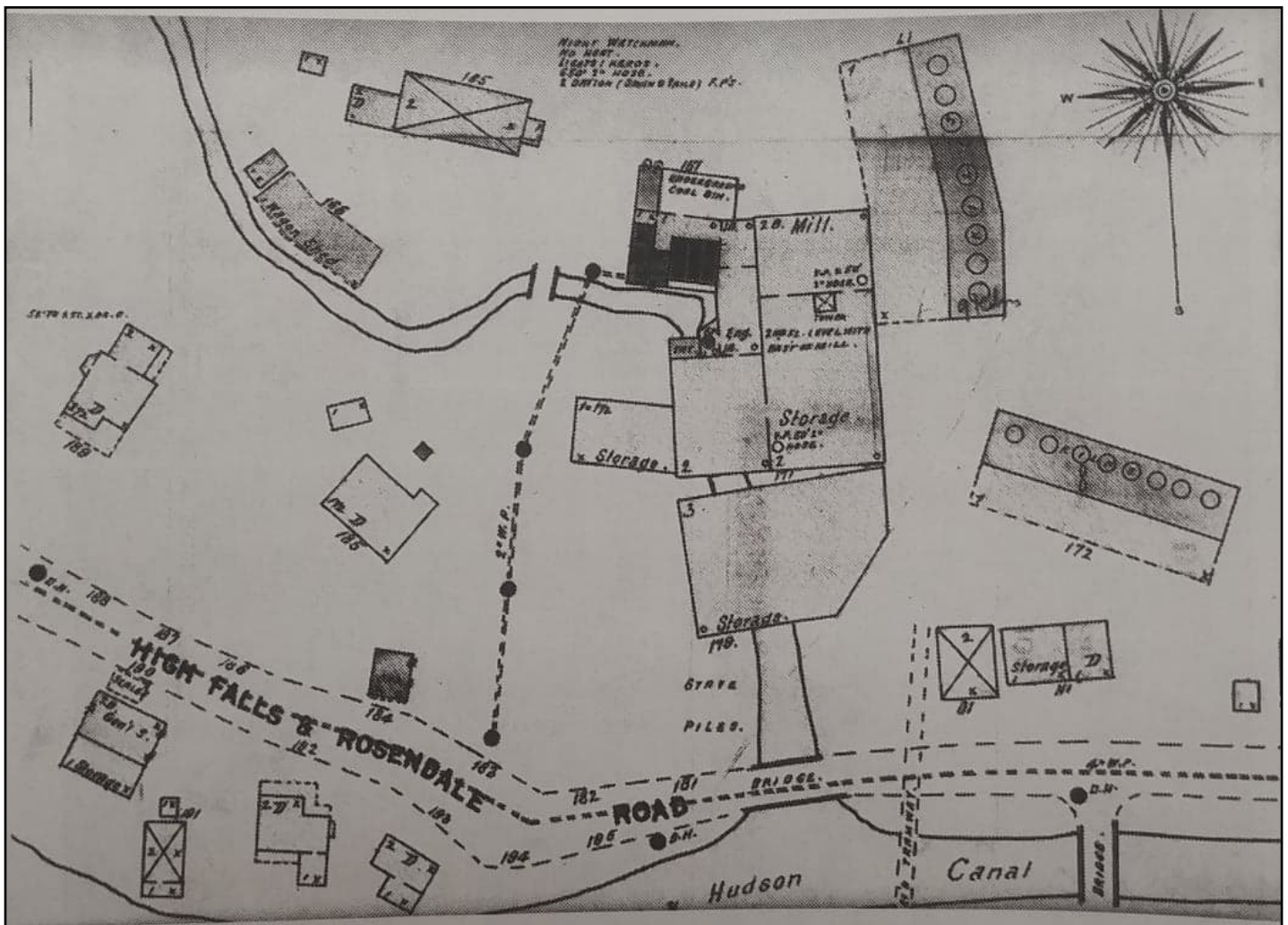
Continued from page 1

So, how does cement come into the D&H Canal picture? Well, in the building of the canal, they would have to utilize local stone for the walls and locks of the canal but needed cement to hold it all together. When planning the construction of the canal, the closest source for natural cement was in Chittenango, near Syracuse, where it had been discovered in 1818 by an engineer named Canvass White.

It's a bit unclear who actually made the discovery, James McEntee, the assistant engineer for the D&H Canal has been credited, but in 1825 samples of promising-looking rocks exposed near High Falls were tested in a local blacksmith's shop and found to make an excellent natural cement. Soon exposures of this rock were also found in nearby Rosendale as well and the Rosendale cement industry took off with numerous companies developing to produce cement between High Falls and East Kingston – the route of the canal as well as the limit of exposures of the cement-bearing Rondout Formation on rocks. No longer would cement have to be transported from far away Chittenango – a huge boon for the construction and maintenance of the new canal.

Not only was the discovery of Rosendale cement good news for the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, the canal route ran right through the Rosendale Cement District allowing it to be easily transported by canal boat to the Hudson River and then New York City and beyond – a symbiotic relationship that benefitted both the canal and the cement industry. In 1872, for example, the canal shipped some 130,558 tons of cement to market. Since Rosendale cement was originally shipped in 300 pound wooden barrels, that's over 435,000 barrels of cement. Since canal boats could carry, at most, 40 tons of cargo, that's the equivalent of over 3,000 canal boat-loads of material in one year!

At the Century House Historical Society's Andrew J. Snyder Estate in Rosendale, a slip was built off the canal directly into the storage area so that barrels of cement could be easily loaded onto the canal boats for their trip to the Rondout. The natural cement story is inextricably tied to the story of the canal as well.



*Map of Andrew J. Snyder property from the 1898 Sanborn-Perris insurance map.
Note the canal slip going under what's now State Route 213 to the storage sheds.*

If you visit the property today, you can still see this slip to the right of the entrance driveway. While overgrown with weeds, clearing and stabilization of this structure is one of the longer-term goals of the CHHS volunteers who work on the property (feel free to come down and help us during our annual spring or fall cleanups!).

Welcome to Our Newest Board Members!

This past year, we had several resignations of Board members due to personal reasons (Gayle Grunwald, Anne Gorrick, and Katy Weber). In response, the Board of Trustees has added three new interim Board members. They will be on the ballot for reelection at our annual December 7 Board meeting,



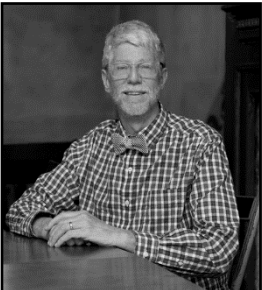
Dave Kime

Dave resides in Woodstock and is a veteran of the U.S. Army (1979-1983). He has an AAS degree in Communications from SUNY Ulster (1985) and has been a customer service representative for over 30 years. Dave's volunteer experience includes being an Ulster County Veteran Service lead driver since 2015 and a member of the Board of Directors for the D & H Canal Historical Society since 2014.



Bill Kraemer

Bill Kraemer originally hails from Poughkeepsie and is an Independent Record Label owner and Electronic Musician. While working as producer on an independent film that focused on the history of dance music in the Hudson Valley he found himself at the Snyder Estate. While standing in the Widow Jane Mine, where he was a performer in the 90's, his love for the space was rekindled. Bill decided at that point that he wanted to help find a way that he could help further the mission of the Historical Society. Bill would like to use his experience to help continue to bring vital cultural events and educational programs onto the Estate.



Bill Merchant

Bill Merchant is the Deputy Director for Collections, Historian and Curator of the D&H Canal Historical Society, vice president of the D&H Transportation Heritage Council, and vice president of the Ulster County Historical Society. While President of the Canal Society (2012-2017), he was instrumental in their 2015 acquisition of the 1797 DePuy Canal House with a grant from Open Space Institute and NY State, as a new home for their museum. He is working closely with the exhibit design team and staff, planning the new facility. Bill is also a double bass luthier, with workshops in High Falls and Manhattan.

How you can help...

Your tax-deductible contributions are always appreciated, and you'll hear more in the spring about special upcoming projects. But there are lots of ways to help out the Society besides sending us money or volunteering to be a Board member.

- **Help us maintain and improve the Snyder Estate:** Do you enjoy planting flowers? Scraping paint? Attacking brush? Washing windows? Email us with your interests, and someone will get back to you about current tasks around the property!
- **Help out with events:** Could you greet museum visitors? Park cars or take tickets at concerts? Staff our table at Rosendale Street Festival? You'd be joining a great team of volunteers!
- **Donate items:** Do you have extra brushes and rollers from a painting project? Unwanted garden plants? Rakes, ladders, shovels, or other tools you're downsizing? We probably have a use for them at the Snyder Estate!
- **Share your advice and professional knowledge:** Have you worked in an archive? Designed an exhibit? Curated an art show? Organized a capital campaign? Applied for grants? Assessed an historic building? There are many longer-term projects and goals for which the board welcomes your perspective and talents, as we assess next steps and priorities in carrying out our mission!
- **Spread the word:** Invite your friends and neighbors to become members. Bring someone new to the museum or a show. Share our events on Facebook and beyond. Wear and carry your CHHS swag (available in our museum store!) near and far!

- **Help us collect and share Rosendale cement stories!** Do you have a local memory to share? An interesting image or artifact to pass along? A cement industry question to which you're seeking an answer (we'll do our best)? We'd love to include your contributions in our newsletter or incorporate them into future interpretive displays.



2019 ANNUAL BALLOT



Century House Historical Society

The following members are running for election or reelection to a two-year term on the Century House Historical Society Board of Trustees. Indicate your vote for up to seven members with a check mark or provide the names of up to seven other Society members as write-in candidates.

_____ David Kime	or write-in candidate: _____
_____ Bill Kraemer	or write-in candidate: _____
_____ Henry Lowengard	or write-in candidate: _____
_____ Michael McCabe	or write-in candidate: _____
_____ Bill Merchant	or write-in candidate: _____
_____ Laurel Mutti	or write-in candidate: _____
_____ Steven Schimmrich	or write-in candidate: _____

If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, please sign to request that the Secretary casts your ballot for you at the meeting and return to the Society prior to December 7, 2020.

Print: _____ Sign: _____

2020 ANNUAL DUES

Your 2020 Society dues entitle you to all membership benefits for the current calendar year

Century House Historical Society Membership Dues:

Individual Membership	\$25	Membership Fee: \$ _____
Family Membership	\$50	Tax-Deductible Contribution: \$ _____
Corporate Annual	\$250	Total: \$ _____
Lifetime Individual	\$500	

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

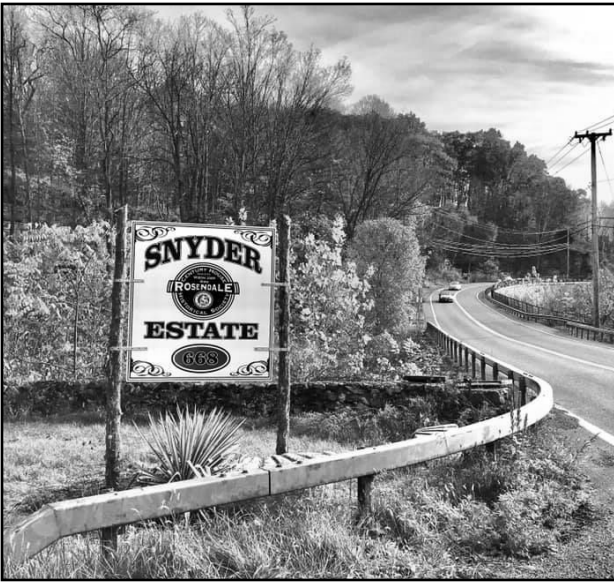
Email: _____

Please return your ballot and dues to:

Century House Historical Society
PO Box 150
Rosendale, NY 12472

Ballot & Dues Statement
Thank you for your support!

Ongoing repairs and maintenance of the Snyder Estate throughout the year



A new entrance sign now welcomes visitors



Ongoing repairs to stabilize and restore the Century House



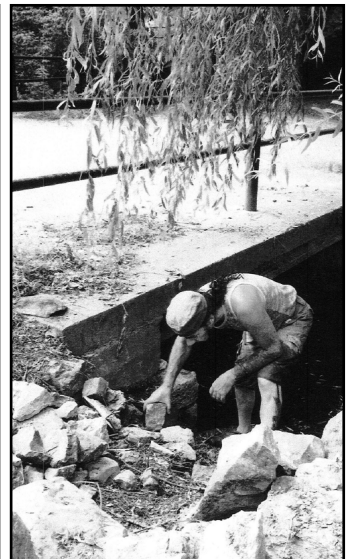
The dead tree in the pond has finally been removed



Repairs and painting of the museum building



Repairing washouts on the road to the mine



Bridge stonework

A few of the summer events at the Widow Jane Mine



The 29th Annual Subterranean Poetry Fest (September 7)



Carriages on display when the museum is open



Mamalama y Andes Manta (August 24)



Satan's Black Acid, Hudson Valley Poetry Bands (July 8)



Henry Lowengard on Victorian Picnic Day



Catskill Mountain Gamelan (August 11)

Educational events at the Widow Jane Mine and surrounding area



Trustee and SUNY New Paltz instructor Laurel Mutti talking about the local cement industry during a New York State Earth Science Teachers Association (NYESTA) field trip in July.



Trustee and SUNY Ulster professor Steven Schimrich at the Widow Jane Mine with a group of new students from his fall semester Physical Geology class in early September.



A picture from the inside of the Century House which was part of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust Historic House Tour in June.



Volunteers sat at our historic carriage exhibit to field questions on a hot July weekend at the Rosendale Street Festival.

A request for help...

My name is Steven Schimrich and I've been a member of the Century House Historical Society Board of Trustees since 2013 and a Professor of Geology at SUNY Ulster County Community College for 20 years. I will be on a sabbatical break from teaching during the spring of 2020 and one of my projects is to engage in some research on the geology and history of Rosendale cement mining. While much has been known and published about Rosendale cement over the years, there are still some holes in our knowledge regarding the operations of the mines and their history.

If you have any unique maps, documents, or images of the Rosendale cement mines or associated structures, I would love to know about them and possibly obtain copies (I have a portable electronic scanner). I will also be reaching out to make contact with anyone who has any mines, quarries, or kilns on their property but feel free to contact me as well, especially if you have mines or structures on your property that are not well known (I promise to maintain your privacy).

If you can help in any way, please contact me at schimmrs@sunyulster.edu or call my office at 845-687-7683 and leave a voicemail. Thanks for helping record and preserve the history of this special area!

[ADDRESS LABEL]

BALLOT AND DUES STATEMENT ENCLOSED!

Century House Historical Society Annual Meeting and Lecture
December 7, 2019, 1:00 pm at the A. J. Snyder Estate Century House



This year, the CHHS is not having our annual meeting at the Rosendale Recreation Center but instead at the Century House on the A. J. Snyder Estate (668 State Route 213 in Rosendale). Recent renovations have allowed us to open the house for special events such as this.

After a short business meeting, we will have a presentation by master woodworker John Cox, owner of Quercus Cooperage in High Falls. Coopering is the art of making wooden barrels and while most barrels today are used for aging whiskey, in the 1800s coopering and barrels were important in the early history of Rosendale cement.

The lecture is free of charge and open to the public. Please do, however, consider joining or supporting the Historical Society – an all-volunteer organization – with a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible contribution.

Hope to see you there!



Photo: *Hudson Valley One*, August 30, 2018