

The Reconfigured Cement Museum



The 2024 Cement Museum season was the first season of the newly configured Rosendale Cement Museum. Gone are the shelves of bottles, wedding documents, and antique games, the large, space hogging ladder to the ceiling trap door, a wall full of shelves you couldn't even see, and the big couch. New interpretive panels outlining the history of the natural cement industry in Ulster County now line the walls of our much improved museum. A new semi circular antique table greets you at the door, with more room for pamphlets and the email sign-up sheet. There's a new, very large panel about Turco Brothers Water supply and Widow Jane Whiskey. Outside, new signs identify the Museum and Carriage House.

The panels now more or less chronologically arranged, and you can now see all the cement manufacturing process photos without having to move the stable door! More improvements are planned for off season, so check it out next year!

Kudos to Althea Werner, Bill Merchant, Henry Lowengard, and Michele Clark for design, labor, and new plaque manufacturing and placement.

RADIOACTIVE, MUTATED "YAO GUAI" BEAR CLEARED FROM WIDOW JANE MINE ENTRANCE

You may recall the estate was closed for a few days back in 2022 for reasons we couldn't talk about. The Amazon Prime Video production "Fallout" was here, shooting a pivotal scene that appeared in Episode 2. The series premiered in February, and we can honestly say the CGI Yao Guai was not harmed during this production, although we can't vouch for the fallen Brotherhood of Steel knight there.



Century House Historical Society

Rosendale, NY 12472-0150

Phone: (845) 658-9900

E-mail: info@centuryhouse.org

Web: <https://centuryhouse.org>

2025 Officers:

President – Michael McCabe

Vice President – Henry Lowengard

Secretary – Bill Merchant

Treasurer – Andrea Brown

Site Manager – Althea Werner

Board – David Kime

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Light in the misty mine bouncing off a puddle. Photo: H. Lowengard

These events are a major part of our fundraising and we had a banner year this year. Thanks to all who attended and volunteered to make that happen!

Message From The President



With the final event, **Hallowed**, having taken place on Nov. 2nd, we are now done with the 2024 Century House Event season!

It was a full year with popular returning acts like **Taiko Masala**, Elizabeth Clark's Earth Opera "**Seeds Under Nuclear Winter**", **Krishna and the 209s**, Theatre on the Road's **Dracula**, **Hiroya Tsukamoto**, and the **Dust Bowl Faeries**. There were new acts like Siren Theatre's **Cement Town**, which was especially written for the site

and incorporated both accurate and dramatic versions of Rosendale history, local vocal group **Bloom** and **the B2s**, the legendary recording artist **Jandek**, **ambient synth improvisations** from Craig Chin, Brian Dewan and Elizabeth Karp, the long awaited **Magic Lantern slide show** from 19th century projection and sound effect experts Joel Schlemowitz and Dawn Elliott, and the aforementioned **Hallowed** Day of the Dead ritual and dance party!

Much of the success of these shows was abetted by a new generator, which is more powerful, but very much quieter and sitting in a new sound-insulated shed.

If you have a film or music project you'd like to do at the Snyder Estate and Widow Jane Mine please let us know at events@centuryhouse.org

This year's Annual lecture in the Century House will take place on Saturday December 7th at 1pm, and will feature a presentation about the CHHS's plans going forward by consultants Curry & Miller, and "A peek at the CHHS archives with historian Bill Merchant".

You may notice the officers are realigning for 2025. I'm swapping my Presidential place with Mike McCabe and Andrea Brown is taking up the Treasurer's role. This should help with the execution of the Board's official duties.

Although I won't be president, I will still be around doing museum docenting, box officing, publicity, and leaf raking.

Maybe this is the year you want to join the board, so send us an email!

As always, the board thanks the volunteers and members, and we encourage you to join or renew for next year.

-- Henry Lowengard, CHHS board president
2018-2024



photo: Jeffrey Jenkins

NEW SCULPTURE AT STORM KING ART CENTER IS MADE WITH ROSENDALE CEMENT

It's not often that modern uses for Rosendale Cement come up, but last year, sculptor/architect Martin Puryear designed a sculpture, *Lookout*, that was installed at Storm King Art Park in September of 2023, that, as you can see, has a very challenging form. It's part arch, part tunnel, and part dome, using an ancient bricklaying technique from Nubia. It uses special materials, including custom made bricks from North Carolina and authentic Rosendale Cement. From an article in Chronogram by David Noland, I read that even though there's a steel frame inside the structure, only the strength and durability of Rosendale Cement could hold the structure in place and stand the environmental stress of being exposed to the Mid-Hudson elements. The natural cement was supplied by Edison Coatings of Plainville, Connecticut.

A monograph on the design and construction of *Lookout*, as well as many other Martin Puryear projects, is available in the Century House Museum. You can learn more about this piece on Storm King's website:

<https://collections.stormking.org/Detail/occurrences/204>

And speaking of art, there are still a few pieces still on site from 2022's An/Aesthetic show.

For instance, you can still be mystified by **Renata Del Riego's**

"If rocks had no memory, they would probably float"



Andrew J. Snyder Dies, Was Cement Executive



ANDREW J. SNYDER

Andrew J. Snyder II, president and owner of Century Cement Manufacturing Co., Inc., Rosendale, died suddenly at his home on Lawrenceville Road, Rosendale, Thursday morning.

He was born in Rosendale Nov. 25, 1889, the son of the late Charles and Minnie Palen Snyder.

The Snyder family has been connected with the manufacturing of cement since the discovery of cement rock on the Jacob L. Snyder farm during blasting operations for the Delaware and Hudson Canal in 1825. The popularity of the product grew and was used in such famous structures as the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty, the

Brooklyn, Harlem, East River, Whitestone bridges, the Thruway, St. Lawrence Seaway and numerous landmark buildings, highways and dams throughout the East.

At one point the Rosendale company fought for survival as Portland Cement was found to be faster setting. However, Mr. Snyder utilized the Portland product with the Rosendale Cement for a superior mix.

Today, part of the old cement mines, approximately 30 acres, has been converted into the ultra modern New York Underground Facilities for storage.

Mr. Snyder served as supervisor for the Town of Rosendale for seven consecutive terms.

He provided the Little League Field for the community and made possible the conversion of the Episcopal Church into the Rosendale Library.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Sarah S. Nienaber of New Jersey and several cousins.

Funeral services will be held at the George J. Moylan Funeral Home, Main Street, Rosendale, Sunday at 2 p. m. The

Rev. J. A. MacIntosh, pastor of the Marletown Reformed Church, Stone Ridge will officiate. Burial will be in Rosendale Plains Cemetery. There will be no calling hours. Memorial contributions are suggested for the Benedictine and Kingston Hospital Building Funds.

Daily Freeman, Friday, September 13, 1974

September 12th, 2024 marked the 50th anniversary of the death of Andrew J. Snyder II, the last of the Snyder cement men. His innovations and business sense kept Rosendale Cement in use through much of the 20th century, long after the other cement companies had consolidated and closed. He left the Snyder estate to the Huguenot Society in his will. When they put it up for sale in 1988, Dietrich Werner and Gayle Grunwald stepped up to buy it and then create the Century House Society that lets us enjoy the Estate, mine, collections and activities that we put on to fulfill the mission of educating about Rosendale Cement and all that happened because of that amazing mineral.

Here is a story I dug up from his youth that you may enjoy:

Tale of a Horse Trader by John LeFever, Daily Freeman August 1, 1976

Andrew Snyder was known to many around Rosendale as the man who built up and operated the Century Cement Co. His grandfather had founded it originally, but around 1912, for several reasons, it fell on hard times and the company was dissolved. Andrew, who was about 21 and alone, had to shift for himself and decided to turn to farming. (It was later that he redeveloped Century Cement.)

He had one hired hand, an "old-timer" named Hiram Dubois who knew farming and horses. Hypie, as everyone called him, had heard that the big Percherons and Clydesdales used to pull the heavy dray wagons in New York City suffered from softening of the hooves after a very few years of pounding the city pavements, and the owners put them up for sale long before their usefulness was over. Hypie knew that on the loamy soil of a farm their hooves would heal and they would do just fine.

Andrew had \$300. So one day, with a certified bank check for that amount, he and Hypie boarded Mary Powell and went to the city to buy a team of horses.

They had no sooner found the district when a horse trader greeted them. "What can I do for you boys?" he asked.

"We're in the market for a team," said Andrew.

"You fellows from upstate?" asked the trader.

"Yup," said Hypie.

"I might have just the team you want," said the trader. "Follow me."

The man brought out a beautiful team, a matched pair of sturdy percherons.

Hypie looked them over and nodded. "I don't think I've got enough money for them," said Andrew.

A good team ran between \$500 and \$1,000 normally.

"How much you got, son?" asked the friendly man.

"Three hundred dollars."

"Well," said the man, "I guess I can do it for that. They're not much good here in the city. Tell you what. We're awful busy right now, but if you'll come back after lunch, I'll have 'em ready to go."

It was too good to be true, but after lunch Andrew and Hypie were back, and there in front of the establishment was the team hitched to a dray.

"Well, whattaya say?" said the man.

"I'll take 'em," said Andrew. He signed a contract and signed over the check.

The man said, "Try 'em out if you want. Just bring back the wagon." He was smiling.

They trotted down the street magnificently, but Hypie nudged Andrew and said, "Something's wrong. Lookit how their heads is bobbin' up and down. They got the heaves. You don't want 'em."

The contract said they could return the horses and take any pair in the stable, but no refund. "If that's the way you want it," said the man. He went into the stable and brought out the boniest pair of sway-backed nags that could still be considered living.

"I won't take them," said Andrew. "Well, let's see," said the man. He brought out a pair that was a hair's breadth finer than the last. It was the best pair in the stable, Andrew looked as if he had just seen Rosendale slide into the Rondout.

"I'll stop payment on that check," said Andrew.

"Can't," said the man, "It's certified." The man was right, of course.

Andrew and Hypie returned to Rosendale with the nags. Hypie, who was also Town Supervisor, said, "Andrew, I'm sorry, but I can't let anybody see me leading these bones through town. Nighttime would be bad enough, but daylight's out of the question." They slunk along the back roads through Maple Hill, skirting Rosendale.

One of the horses was so weak on its pins that the morning after the first day's work they found it on its belly in the stall.

They hauled it upright with block and tackle, and after that the creature spent its nights cradled in a sling suspended from the sides of the stall.

One morning, after letting the horses out for water. Hypie came running to the house breathless.

"You better come down to the pond," he said.

They found the animal in two feet of water, drowned.

The horse had wanted a drink, but its legs had collapsed again and the water had closed over its head.

"Andrew," said Hypie, "that poor critter committed suicide."

Andrew recounted this experience about ten years ago. "I wish I'd known then what I know now," he said.

"Those percherons didn't have the heaves. What they used to do was show you a spanking team and make some excuse to get you to go away for a while. They they'd stuff sponges into the horses' nostrils to make it hard for them to breathe. Nobody, of course, would buy a horse with the heaves. Then they'd offer the nags.

"If I had taken that pair and pulled out the sponges I would've had the best farm team in Ulster County. And one steaming horse trader."

Well, there's caveat emptor for you.

Andrew told that story with relish, even though he was the one who got the sponging. He told of other experiences, however, that showed the percheron episode had made him wiser man in a tricky time I'll tell you one someday.



EVENTS OF 2024



OPENING DAY WALK & TALK



SIREN THEATRE'S CEMENT TOWN



NATURE WALK



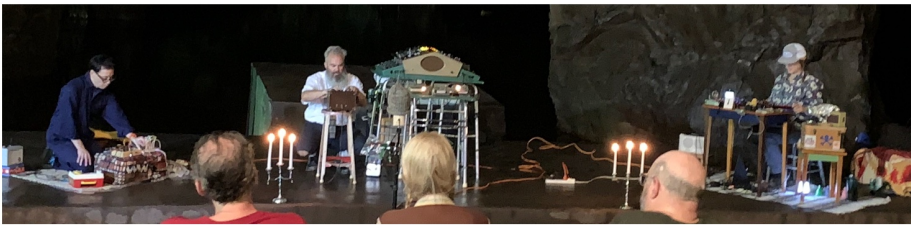
BLOOM AND THE B2S



KRISHA AND THE 209S



DUST BOWL FAERIES



UNDERGROUND AMBIENT SYNTHS



TAIKO MASALA



JANDEK



MAGIC LANTERN



DRACULA



SEEDS UNDER NUCLEAR WINTER

CHHS 2024 BOARD BALLOT:

The following members are running for election or re-election for a two year term on the century house Board of Trustees. Indicate your vote with a check or provide the names of other members as write-in candidates.

☐**ALTHEA WERNER**☐**DIANA SMITH**☐

☐

If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, please sign here to request that the Secretary should cast your ballot for you at the meeting, and return this to the Society prior to December 6th, 2024

PRINT: _____ **SIGN:** _____

RENEW YOUR CHHS MEMBERSHIP!☐**INDIVIDUAL: \$25**☐**FAMILY: \$50**☐**CORPORATE: \$250**☐**LIFETIME INDIVIDUAL: \$500**☐**EXTRA DONATION:** _____**NAME:** _____**ADDRESS:** _____**CITY:** _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____**EMAIL:** _____**RETURN YOUR BALLOT AND DUES TO:****CENTURY HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY****PO BOX 150****ROSENDALE, NY 12472-0150**



The Century House
Historical Society

668 Rt. 213, PO Box 150
Rosendale, NY 12472-150

NATURAL NEWS

Don't Forget! CHHS Annual Meeting on December 7th at 1pm!

Leading off with a presentation from nonprofit consultants Curry & Miller about planning CHHS's future! Followed by "A peek at the CHHS archives with historian Bill Merchant" with actual archival objects!

A chance to visit the inside of the Century House (seating is limited) or tune into the streamcast on Zoom.

The link will be posted on <https://CenturyHouse.org> before the meeting!



Lawrenceville Cement Works



Exiting Lock 9. Kiln of Lawrence Cement Company

Photos: Collection of William and John Crabtree, Montgomery, NY.