

FIELD NOTES



President's Notes

by George Taylor and Al Rudisell

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It is with a sad note that I tell you of the passing of Tom Dodd on May 12th of 2013. Tom was a member of our Board a number of years ago. As a Board member he was very active at a time when we needed a strong Board.

He also became the editor of our newsletter, as well as a number of flyers. Tom was an asset to our organization.

In the last few years he became active in the

Pittsfield Historical Society and was instrumental in getting a Historic District designation for the Southerland Wilson Farm.

The History Mystery tour of two years ago was one of his projects. It was through his efforts that we as Cobblestone Farm have a good relationship with the Pittsfield Historical Society.

A little history of Tom Dodd. Tom was born on June 6, 1935 in Pontiac, Michigan. In the sixth grade he met Bettie.

They later enrolled together at Alma College and were married after Tom received his bachelor's degree in 1957. He was a visual artist, a writer, a comedian, a play write, an editor, a designer, and a delightful wit. But above all, Tom was a super teacher. He taught art, graphic design, journalism, and creative problem-solving; and his students loved him!

Tom will be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Special points of interest:

- Architecture Trip
- Family History Story

Farmer's Market News

by Miriam Vincent

Our second market season has come to an end, and what a great season it was! After only two years, we have an established group of dedicated vendors bringing us a wide variety of fresh, delicious, and naturally homemade items. We have a steady, loyal customer base and had lots of newcomers throughout the entire season. So many neighbors enjoyed touring the farm house for the first time. And with everyone's help, we have created a local venue not only for organic produce and

delicious prepared food, but also for connecting with friends and experiencing community through music, dance, games, art, storytelling, magic shows, and...bubbles! The grounds at Cobblestone Farm provide a magical setting for children and adults alike to enjoy the simple pleasures that the market offers. A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers that helped to make the market such a success, from the coordinators to the face painters. All of the

performers, and children's activities leaders shared their talents as volunteers. And, of course, the Cobblestone Farm Association volunteers came every week to lead the tours of the house, which linked the market activities to the historical aspect of the grounds. We look forward to seeing you in May for our next season! If you are interested in getting involved with the market, contact Miriam Vincent, mipevin@gmail.com or 734-929-0278



Adventures in Architecture

by Scott Diels

Being on the Board at Cobblestone Farm, I imagine what it was like to live in the 1850's and living on this farm. As an architect I imagine who designed and built the farmhouse and surrounding buildings.

When I travel I like comparing the Cobblestone Farmhouse to other historic structures. On a recent trip to New Orleans I had a chance to visit Oak Alley Plantation, a sugar cane plantations on the Mississippi River.

The big house in Oak Alley was a wedding gift from Jacques Telesphore Roman to his bride Celina. It is believed her father designed the house. It was built with slave labor under the direction of George Swainey from 1837 to 1839.

The Cobblestone Farmhouse was built by master mason Stephen Mills for Dr. Benajah Ticknor in 1844.

Both houses were built in the Greek Revival style with the symmetrical room layout,

low pitched roof and entry door details.

The sugar cane plantation was a business property with staff living there year round, however the family lived in the house only the few months during harvest time. The rest of the year was spent in their New Orleans townhouse.

The Cobblestone Farm was a family farm lived in year round.

(Con't on p.3)

Josiah Cutler was a veteran of the American Revoultion.

All In The Family... History

by C. Edward Wall

Josiah Cutler was a corporal in the 2nd Massachusetts Regiment during the Revolutionary War. He moved from Vermont to Michigan to live with his daughter Eliza (Mrs. Heman Ticknor) in April of 1840. Josiah Cutler (son of Thaddeus Cutler and Hannah Barnes), was born on Sept 1st, in Brookfield, Worchester Co., Mass.

On November 25th, 1784, at the age of 23, Josiah married Betsy Allen Cutler (1765-1841) in Brookfield, MA. Genealogy sources vary on the number of their children, ranging from 11 to 15, but all were born in Vermont between 1785 and 1811. One of their daughters, Eliza Betsy Cutler, was born March 2nd, 1793 in Marlborough, Jericho , MA. She married Heman Ticknor on March 7th, 1816.

Events at the Farm

by Tracey Miller

JANUARY: 2014
13 BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY:
7 WINTER EVENING
10 BOARD MEETING

MARCH:10 BOARD MEETING

APRIL:
6 ANNUAL MEETING

MAY;
4 SPRING FLING
12 BOARD MEETING

JUNE:
9 BOARD MEETING

JULY:
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
14 BOARD MEETING

AUGUST:
11 BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER:
8 BOARD MEETING
21 CRAFT FAIR

OCTOBER:
13 BOARD MEETING
25 HALLOW-HARVEST

NOVEMBER:
10 BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER:
7 COUNTRY CHRISTMAS
8 BOARD MEETING

(Adventures con't from p.2)

Local materials were used to construct both homes. The plantation builders used clay from the banks of the Mississippi to fire bricks. These brick were too soft to be left exposed to the weather so they were covered with plaster and painted. Even the columns are constructed of plastered over brick. At the Cobblestone house the abundance of cobbles left from the last glacier were sorted by size and arranged in a herringbone pattern on the front elevation, regular cobble walls on the sides and

split stone on the rear elevation.

The Cobblestone house was responsive to the cold winter climate with small overhangs and the main windows facing south to allow sunshine into the building. At Oak Alley the wrap around porches shaded the rooms. The basement at the Cobblestone house kept the floors warmer in winter. The interior cavity in the stone exterior walls kept condensation from forming on the inside surface of the wall. The multiple large French doors and open dormer windows at Oak Alley allow for natural

air convection for cooling and Oak Alley has no basement. These houses are surprisingly similar in their interior details.

The design, style and construction techniques are very similar in both of these houses. Having had the opportunity to study and understand the Cobblestone Farmhouse it is interesting to see what specific differences that climate and availability of construction materials will make to other buildings of the same era.



Oak Alley and Cobblestone door casings.



Cobblestone and Oak Alley stair railings.



Cobblestone and Oak Alley stringer details



Many of the finishing details were imported from other parts of the United States or Europe.

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About Our Organization

The Cobblestone Farm Association is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization that for the past almost 40 years has been dedicated to protecting, preserving, and sharing the long and varied history of the Ticknor-Campbell historic farmstead.

Staffed entirely by volunteers, and raising its own funds, the CFA researches the family histories, re-installs period correct interiors and cares for its many different collections of artifacts. We are always looking for interested potential volunteers!

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact us. We can't wait to meet you!

Our Board of Directors

- George Taylor, President
- Jane Carr, Vice President
- Tracey Miller, Secretary
- Scott Diels, Treasurer
- Miriam Vincent, Director
- Kathryn Huss, Director
- Steven Taylor, Director
- Roger "Jesse" Cope, Director
- Trish Melnick, Director
- Tom Shulberg, Director
- Jeff Straw, City Liaison



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