

Lyons



photo by Richard Palmer

3532 Layton Road



Construction commenced on the Jackson one-room school house at 336 Pleasant Valley Road, Lyons, in 1829. It was completed in 1831 at a cost of \$187. It was named for President Andrew Jackson. The walls are 21 inches thick. It is built of field stones and measures 24 by 28 feet. The children left their coats and lunch pails in the entry area. There were no desks. Instead the students used shelves attached to the walls with benches for seats. Clark Mason

was the first teacher. It was used until 1947 and then became a private residence. It is currently (2017) the home local historian Mark DeCracker and his wife. Photo courtesy of Mark DeCracker.



Same structure as it appears today. Photo by Mark DeCracker

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

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**Centennial of Jackson School
To be Marked by Reunion Today**

**Little Cobblestone Building in Towns of Lyons
and Arcadia Still in Use, with but Few Repairs
to Exterior and Modernization of Interior**

Lyons, Aug. 19. - The centennial of the erection of the cobblestone school house in District 6, known as the Jackson school, will be marked by a reunion tomorrow.

Among the early settlers in the community was Dr. Cyrus Jackson, who located about five miles southwest of this village in 1800. He was married and lived in a log cabin until 1821,

when he constructed a more pretentious house near the site of his former home. This house, built in 1821, and now owned by Paul Seiling, stood with practically no reconstruction until two years ago when the siding began to give way on account of age and the outside was shingled.

In 1831 children in the neighborhood of the Jackson settlement began to reach school age and the problem of constructing a school house was brought to the consideration of the settlers. In March, 1831, Hugh Jameson of Lyons, then commissioner of common schools, called a meeting of the residents of the neighborhood at the home of Dr. Jackson. At that meeting a school organization was effected by electing Christopher Myers, Peter Ackerson and Reuben Penoyer as trustees, Dr. Jackson, clerk and Peter Lott, collector of taxes.

At this meeting it was decided to erect a school house. The plans provided it should be of cobblestone laid in lime and the building was 24 feet by 26 feet. The district was known as District 6 of Lyons and Arcadia, as the property is located partly in the two towns. The total cost of masonry and carpentry was \$137. The school opened that summer with Clark Mason of Lyons as teacher. The tuition charged was that each family should furnish one-half a cord of wood split and ready to burn for each child sent to the school. The wood was used for heating the school house. As Dr. Jackson had ten children, it will be seen that he had to skirmish around and have five cords of wood ready.

Miss Carrie E. Jackson and Aaron Jackson, grandchildren of Dr. Jackson, still reside on the farm adjoining the school house which has always been known as the "Jackson School House," being named at its erection in honor of Andrew Jackson, then President of the United States, between whom and Aaron and Miss Carrie Jackson there is a well defined line of family relationship.

Today, 100 years after its erection, this little school house is still performing the duties for which it was built. The stone walls, two feet in thickness, in places show a slight separation, but aside from this and new siding from the roof to the stone wall, all remains as when first erected, even to the beams laid upon the stone walls.



photo by Richard Palmer

Teachout House, Old Route 31, [old portion of Montezuma Turnpike (abandoned)]. Teachout family lived here, 1847 - 1943.



photo by Richard Palmer

View of west wall



photo by Richard Palmer

Kitchen at left added. A story is told of a young girl, Minerva Croul, who observed construction of the house and dreamed of one day living there. She eventually married Henry Teachout, who had a tannery in Lyons. He later purchased the house and its 212-acre farm. The land was heavily wooded and stony at the time and took a tremendous effort to develop. Eventually tobacco was one of their major crops. Minerva lived there until she died at 90.



photo by Richard Palmer

8279 Old Route 31, Lyons. Built for Elias Richmond
in 1834. Has wooden lintels and transom over inset
front door.



photo by Richard Palmer



photo by Richard Palmer

1961 Brandt Road



photo by Richard Palmer

937 Route 14



photo by Richard Palmer



photo by Richard Palmer



photo by Richard Palmer

The Cobblestone Blacksmith Shop in Alloway

As the early settlers of Lyons began to clear their land, they faced a special problem. The recession of the glacier that covered much of New York State in prehistoric times, left small, round stones, known as cobbles, covering the farmland. These stones had to be removed before the fields could be planted with crops. The cobbles were gathered up and used for building and, as a result, Wayne County is the site of one of the most unusual and beautiful kinds of architecture in this country. Lyons has several beautiful cobblestone homes and buildings, but the most unique is the blacksmith shop in Alloway.

In 1832, Alfred Hale built a small two-story, octagonal, cobblestone blacksmith shop on Alloway Road. Each side of the building is 12 1/2 feet long, has walls three inches thick and is constructed of fieldstone cobble. The building was used for years as a blacksmith shop, and most recently as a machine shop.

There were many advantages of using cobblestones for a shop of this sort. Cobblestones are very strong and make a solid structure. They are fireproof; a very important consideration in the days before fire departments, and the thick walls kept the building warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The stone buildings required little outside maintenance and needed no paint.

Nearly one hundred seventy five years after its construction, the unique building retains its original charm and is often the subject for photographers and artists. The crack near the door was made when a car lost control and crashed into the building and one can still see the

remnants of paint left from when the shop owner lost a election wager and the structure was painted red, white and blue.

Cleveland Frind bought the blacksmith shop, and the cobblestone house across the street, in 1918. The blacksmith shop closed in 1936, after the automobile had replaced horses. The building was then used as a machine shop until around 1960. Cleveland's son and daughter-in-law, Ralph, and Helen Frind, lived in the cobblestone house across the street from the octagonal structure for many years. Shortly after Ralph passed away in 2008, the house and shop were sold to former Lyons resident Mary LaGasse Tatum.





photo by Richard Palmer

Old cobblestone blacksmith shop and house, 827 Alloway Road



photo by Richard Palmer



photo by Richard Palmer

3532 Layton Street Road. Inscription on date stone over door is "A.H.V.D.B. 1831," initials of the original owner, Arthur Henry Van Der Bilt." the original owner. This one of the oldest date documented cobblestone houses in the county.



photo by Richard Palmer

3425 Middle Sodus Road