

ALVAH N. BELDING MEMORIAL LIBRARY CORNERSTONE REMOVAL

Excavation of the time capsule within the library cornerstone began on Monday, May 14, 2018. Chris Cusack from Cusack's Masonry Restoration, Inc. from Hubbardston, Michigan used tools and equipment to first remove the large limestone cap pieces, and the smaller mortared bricks behind, in an effort to clear space around the 1917 cornerstone.

Once space was cleared, the library cornerstone was carefully removed on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, from the wall, and hoisted to reveal the copper box of the time capsule encased in the limestone.

The time capsule was secured inside the stone block with wood shims that had shrunk slightly, but were still intact. Oxidation of the copper box gave it a blue-green hue in areas.

The box itself was soldered closed, and was carefully opened on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, by Larry Dillon, father of library Director, Britney Dillon. The items inside the copper time capsule were handled by Jim Mason, Friends of the Library President, and Britney Dillon, library Director, who wore white cotton gloves to help preserve the 100-year-old items.

Cream colored silk floss from the Bedding Brother's Silk Company was used to pack and protect the items in the time capsule, as was wax paper used to wrap the contents.

Many of the items inside the time capsule were in near-perfect condition, including a photograph and small biography of Alvah N. Belding, and a booklet from the Ladies Literary Exchange Club.

The items from the time capsule are on display inside a darkened case at the library, and will be showcased until July, when the original contents and additional items will be resealed into a new time capsule to be interred on library property.



Removal of the library exterior wall began on Monday, May 14, 2018 by Chris Cusack of Cusack's Masonry Restoration of Hubbardston, Michigan.

The area above and beside the 1917 cornerstone had to be cleared for crews to get access to the approximately 1,500 pound limestone block containing the time capsule.

Photos by Kelly Worden, 2018



Work continued on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, as Cusack's Masonry Restoration crew freed the 1917 cornerstone from all attached brick and mortar.

Large machinery was required to remove the massive stone block, which would hopefully reveal the copper box of the time capsule placed by Alvah N. Belding, and others, at the 1917 Cornerstone Laying Ceremony.



The 1917 cornerstone was slowly pulled back from the building with great care not to damage the limestone. Within minutes the giant stone was freed from the exterior wall.



Photos by Kelly Worden, 2018.



The copper box containing the time capsule placed by Alvah N. Belding and others was revealed on the bottom surface of the massive 1917 cornerstone. The box was secured in place by wooden shims, and the oxidation of the copper box gave the box a green-blue hue.

Top photo by Kelly Worden, 2018. Bottom photo by Betty Jenkins, 2018.

Alvah N. Belding Memorial Library, cornerstone removal



Top photo: Jim Mason, Kelly Worden, Betty Jenkins and Chris Cusack.

Bottom photo: Jim Mason, Britney Dillon and daughter Cami Eckley, Kelly Worden and Betty Jenkins.