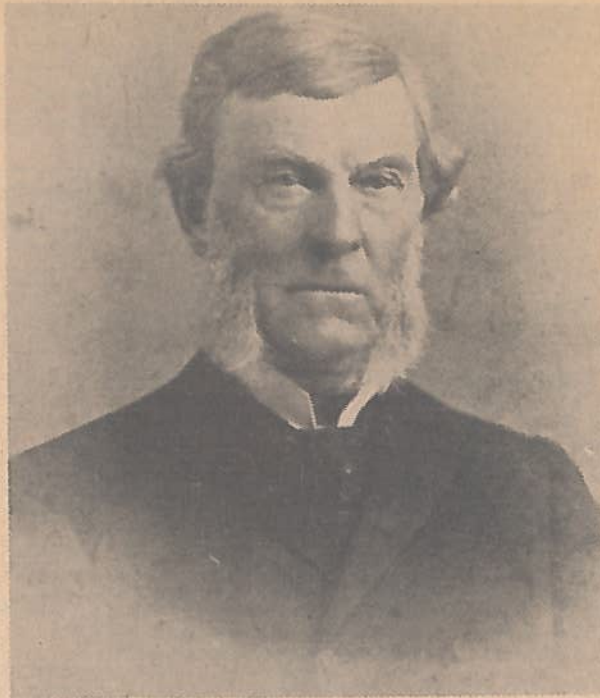


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Bethinking of Old Orleans

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William G. Swan 1822 - 1896

In 1835 William G. Swan came with his father to Albion from Saratoga County, N.Y. Father and son later engaged in business. In 1855 he became Superintendent of the Railway Suspension Bridge at Niagara Falls which position he held for thirty-eight years. He was also a director in and treasurer of the American Bridge Company and a prominent stockholder of the Pullman Palace Car Company. The following is an extract from his Will:

"Feeling a deep interest in the Village of Albion and in the County of Orleans, and especially in the young people of said village and county and believing that I can in no way better promote their welfare than by founding a permanent library and reading room,

"I do therefore devise and bequeath to my executors and trustees herein named the sum of Thirty-five Thousand Dollars, in trust nevertheless, to be used by them as hereinafter specified.

"Out of said sum I direct my said executors to purchase a suitable lot in the Village of Albion to be selected by them and to erect thereon a building suitable for a library and reading room and such other purposes as they may think proper and tending in their opinion toward the improvement of those for whose benefit it is erected; any of said sum remaining after the completion of said building shall be invested in books for said library, necessary furniture and apparatus and balance of fund to be invested and used for the support and maintenance of library, reading room and for the proper purposes in connection therewith."

The Will further directs the organization of an association to be known as "Swan Library". On December 21, 1899 the charter was signed by Melvil Dewey, Secretary to the Chancellor of the University of the State of New York. The library officaly opened on St. Patrick's Day 1900.