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# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## THE CLASS OF THREE

June 22, 1903 was the day of Commencement Exercises for the Waterport Union School. Three comprised the graduating Class 76 years ago when Waterport had its own High school. The graduation ceremony actually took place in the old Waterport Methodist Church which burned in 1924. Seen in the picture above standing behind the communion rail, is the Class of '03 and they were: Bertha L. June, Gertrude Plowman, and Susie E. Sargent. A great deal of attention and artistry must have gone into decorating the church for that event. You will note an abundant use of cedar greens used on the pews and the two pedestals supporting potted ferns. The class colors were navy blue and gold which was no doubt, represented in the banners and crepe paper streamers.

Essays and Recitations were always a part of Commencement Exercises and each student in the Class of '03 prepared and read one. Susie Sargent's was "America of a Hundred Years Ago", Bertha June's was "The Erie Canal" and Gertrude Plowman gave one on "Mental Discipline" (Topics which might well be used today). The ceremony ended with a violin solo entitled "The Flower Song" by Wm. F. Fuller with the Presentation of the Diplomas by Principal A. R. Horton followed by a Benediction.