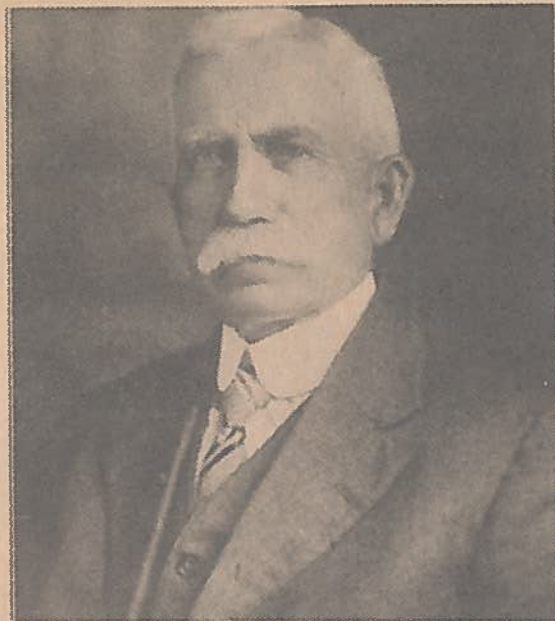


# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## VIRGIL BOGUE 1851-1922

Born and brought up in Elba, N.Y., Virgil Bogue was one seven children in a family with a Quaker background. He was educated in the Elba Schools, Cary Collegiate Seminary and LeRoy Academy. He and his five brothers all became nurserymen. In 1875 Virgil settled in Albion with his wife Alice McIntire Bogue. In 1917 he authored and published a book entitled "The Science of Fruit Growing Based on Nature's Laws". It was highly commended by Luther Burbank to whom he sent a copy. Many an Orleans County Orchard was propagated and grafted by him during his forty-seven years as a horticulturalist.

Alice his wife, died in 1911. He then made plans for the disposition of his estate. The Bogue's were childless but both had a deep interest in children. As a result, the Virgil Bogue Home for Dependent Children was incorporated with a governing board of trustees. It was to provide for Orleans County children between the ages of four and twelve who were orphans, or whose parents could not support them.

On November 1, 1923, a year after his death the orphanage opened in the Bogue residence located on East Avenue at Clarendon Street. Mrs. Mattie Howard was matron and Mrs. Ada Dawson, assistant. The number of children varied from ten to fourteen each year until 1946 when both matrons resigned. The home then closed for a short time but reopened until 1949 when the interest from endowment funds was not enough to meet rising costs. Also, changing laws regarding the placement of children affected and necessitated its closing. Eventually the Board of Trustees decided to sell the Bogue Home property and add the proceeds to the Trust Fund. In 1963 the corporate name was changed to the Virgil Bogue Fund for Dependent Children and the income was sent thereafter in quarterly payments to the Child Welfare Association. Thus to some extent Mr. Bogue's desire to help children is still being fulfilled.