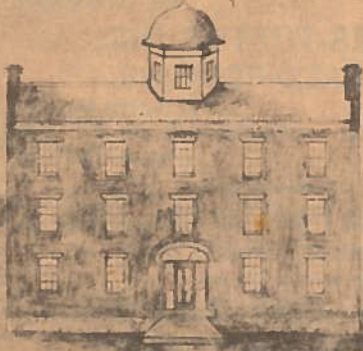


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



This drawing, attributed to Clure White, is of the first academy between the Genesee and Niagara Rivers. This building, first planned to be the court house, became the Gaines Academy; incorporated April 14, 1827.

Vol. X 3-11-88 No. 10

SOME FIRSTS

The first white men to come to Orleans County were possibly two Jesuits in 1640.

William Walsworth came from the mouth of the Niagara River and landed on the shore of the lake near the west bank of Oak Orchard Creek and built the first cabin in what is Orleans County, in the spring of 1803.

The first death in the Town of Carlton was that of a deserter from Fort Niagara who was drowned in attempting to cross Johnson's Creek in 1800. The first death of a member of the family of an actual

settler was that of Elijah Brown. His is the oldest marked grave in Orleans County.

The first births were those of twins, children of James Walsworth in 1806. The first marriage, that of William Carter and Amy Hunt in 1804. The first school was taught by Peleg Helms in the winter of 1810 and 1811. The first store was opened by George Kuck at West Carlton (now Kuckville) in 1816.

The first apple tree was planted in Orleans County by Rachael Lovell, at the mouth of Johnsons Creek. The first apple orchard was planted by Elijah Brown near The Bridges. It was set out among stumps and log heaps without much regard to regularity. The second orchard was planted by Matthew Dunham Jr., in 1809 at Kuckville. Both of these orchards were very productive as late as 1869.

One of the first burying grounds in Orleans County is located at Gaines Village, back of the Congregational Church on the Ridge. One half acre of land was given for this purpose by Oliver Booth. Two Revolutionary soldiers rest here, John Anderson and David Bullard.

The first threshing machine built in this part of the state was built by Lewis Genung at South Barre in 1827. Mr. Genung built 14 of these stationary machines. He also did custom threshing for his neighbors at his large barn and received every tenth bushel for his pay. The machine was powered by two yoke of oxen.