

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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The Holland Land Purchase

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That territory now embraced in Orleans County was once the property of an association known as the Holland Land Company, who bought it from Robert Morris, who had acquired it from the State of Massachusetts. The members of this association were Wilhelm Willink, Jan Willink, Nicholas Van Stophorst, Jacob Van Stophorst, Nicholas Hubbard, Pieter Van Eeghen, Christian Van Eeghen, Isaac Ten Cate, Hendrick Vollenhoven, Christina Coster (widow), Jan Stadnetski, and Rutger Jan Schimmelpennick.

Joseph Ellicott was engaged as chief surveyor for the company in July, 1797. He started the survey of the Holland Purchase in 1798, by running and establishing the Transit Line as the east boundry, which runs from the Pennsylvania border to Lake Ontario.

The whole tract was divided into ranges of six miles numbered from east to west, and these ranges were subdivided into townships six miles in width, numbered from south to north.

The towns of Clarendon, Murray, and Kendall were taken from the 100,000 acre tract bordering the Holland Land Purchase to the east. The towns of Yates, Carlton, Ridgeway, Gaines, Albion, Shelby, and Barre are comprised of the north parts of Ranges 1, 2, 3, and 4 and the east portion of Townships 14, 15, and 16.

The following counties are within the bounds of the Holland Purchase: the west two-thirds of Genesee; Chautauqua; Erie; Cattaragus; about 40 percent of Allegany, west part; 85 percent of Wyoming, western portion; two thirds of Orleans, and Niagara.

The price first charged for the land was \$2.75 per acre, one-tenth to be paid down; but later the price was dropped to \$2.00 per acre. At first the land was sold slowly—in 1801 only 40 parcels



JOSEPH ELLICOTT, AT AGE OF 60.

being taken; but the sales gradually increased, so that the sales in 1809 reached 1160 parcels. The War of 1812 almost entirely arrested sales, and history tells us that at that time more settlers went out then came into the Holland Purchase. The war closed in 1815 and the tide of emigration again set in, and from that date to 1820 the increase in population was large, coming mainly from the New England states.

These early settlers were clad in clothing which the pioneer women produced, as the spinning wheel and loom were a part of the furniture of every household.

"Black Salts" were extracted from the ashes burned from the forests. Sometimes these were the only resource for money with which to pay taxes and purchase indispensable supplies.