

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian



Vol. X *2-29-88* No. 8  
From Out of the Past

Oak Orchard on the Ridge Road was settled in 1811 by Otis Turner. In 1878, it contained one church, one store, a post office and a few dwellings and about 100 inhabitants. Previous to the advent of the Erie Canal at Knowlesville, this was the business place of the town. Here were a tannery, distillery, grist mill, sawmill, ashery, three taverns and three stores; and it was here that the first town meeting was held. Col. Howell's tavern, at this place, is where Capt. Witter Stewart quartered his men overnight in 1812 while on his way to the Niagara Frontier.

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In 1829 Enoch Andrus of Clarendon with a score of others walked to Buffalo via Byron and Batavia to see the Thayer brothers hung. They stayed for the night at a tavern about five miles from Buffalo. Buffalo at that time was a small village, and the hanging took place on the west side of Main Street near the Terrace. All the boats in the harbor were loaded with people to witness the execution. The three prisoners were all hung simultaneously. The next day the party went to see Niagara Falls, which was surrounded by wilderness, then on to Lockport via Lewiston and a packet boat from Lockport to Holley and home.

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In the Town of Murray in 1820 cattle were ear marked and recorded in the town records. Following are some of the marks:

- Abram Bradley, a crop off the left ear.
- Horace Balcom, two half penny's on the left ear.
- William Rice, a hole through the right ear.
- Elias Whipple, a swallows tail in the end of each ear.
- Lumon Clark, a hole through the left ear and a half penny under same.
- Amos Mansfield, a slope on the upper side of right ear.
- Federick Lee's mark, a hole through each ear formerly G. Woodworth's.
- Bennet Bradley's mark, a crop off the left ear, a slit on the underside of right ear.

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The photo shown here is of John Coppin and Melvin Bissell at Kendall Mills during the later part of the last century.