

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## PULLMAN REMEMBERED

On Sunday, October 8 the historic marker at the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church was dedicated. It is one of fifteen such markers placed by municipal historians throughout Orleans County. These signs are part of the Community Pride program using UPC monies through the Orleans County Tourism Board. Shown here with the marker are Rev. Richard Hood, minister of the church, C.W. Lattin, County Historian, Sara Burroughs, church member, and Patti Adema, chairperson of the church board of trustees. The latter two unveiled the marker which states: "George M. Pullman 1831-97 once a resident of Albion and later manufacturer of Pullman R. R. Cars, built this church in 1894 to the memory of his parents."

George M. Pullman was born in Brockton, Chautauqua County but when he was around fourteen years of age his family moved to Albion, N.Y. They were active Universalists and attended services occasionally at the Cobblestone Church in Childs. George's father James, was a cabinet maker who owned and operated a shop in downtown Albion. He died in 1852, following which his son George took over the business where he continued to make sofas, chairs, chests, secretaries, tables, armoires and coffins. George was a member of the fire department and Renovation Lodge No. 97 F & A M. In 1857 George moved to Chicago and out there in 1858 procured a secondhand passenger car which he then transformed into the first Pullman sleeping car. This of course, was the beginning of the career of one of America's leading industrial magnets of the 19th century. Throughout the rest of his life he continued his friendship with Charles A. Danolds of Eagle Harbor, a man he had known through the Universalist Church at Childs.

In the summer of 1890 George Pullman invited his friend C.A. Danolds up to the Thousand Islands to the Pullman summer home known as "Castle Rest". It was here that Danolds asked



George if he would give the Universalists \$5,000 toward the building of a new church edifice in Albion as the one in Childs was old fashioned and too far out of town. George agreed to this at the supper table but the next morning at the breakfast table George said: "Charlie, I've decided to recind my offer. If the Universalists will raise \$5,000 to show their genuine interest in such a project, I will build the church in memory of my mother and father." It goes without saying, that Danolds came back to Albion with more than he expected. Likewise, the Universalists raised the \$5,000 as a guarantee fund and G.M. Pullman carried through on his good word. In 1893 he purchased a \$7,500 lot and the following year expended over \$64,000 on the building of the church. Erected of Medina sandstone quarried from the DeGraff Quarry in Albion, it is an outstanding landmark in our area.

Surely much credit goes to George Pullman, a millionaire who could easily afford such an expenditure. But beyond this, it is really Charles A. Danolds who deserves credit for conceiving the idea that Pullman would give toward such a building project. And incidentally, Sara Burroughs (pictured) is the great-great granddaughter of Charles A. Danolds.