

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

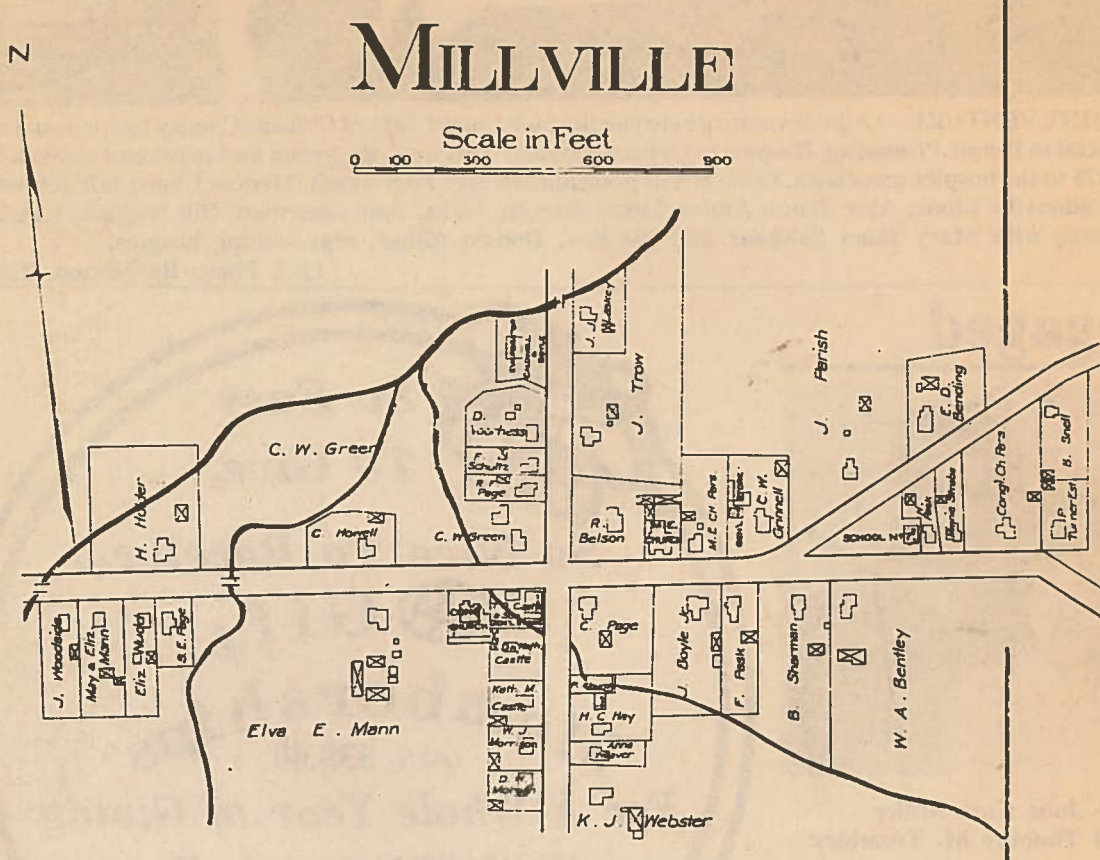
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## MILLVILLE HISTORIC SITES



Recently by choice of Shelby Town Historian Alice Zacher, an historic marker was placed in Millville denoting various historic sites. The marker states: "Millville Est. 1815, Academy 1839, Quaker Meeting House 1841, Methodist Church 1834, Congregational Church 1820, General Store 1819. Orleans Co. Community Pride." The accompanying map of Millville is from the New Century Atlas Orleans County, New York published in 1913, which shows all the historic sites mentioned. As background for this, Alice Zacher gives us some detailed information from various sources.

Samuel Wyman and Orange Wells were the first settlers, building log cabins and clearing ground in 1815. Others came in the spring of 1816 and all experienced the hardship and privations of that celebrated "cold Season". Settlers came in more rapidly afterward and gradually the place came to be a point of considerable importance.

Two streams united here to form an affluent of Oak Orchard Creek. Before the forest was cut away the supply of water in these streams was more abundant than it now is and the wants of the early inhabitants led to the establishment of mills here, hence the name, Millville. There were at one time two or three sawmills, a grist mill, and one or two turning mills. A tannery and a foundry were once in existence.

A cobblestone school building was erected in 1839 for an academy. It prospered for a number of years with at one time sixty-one students, some of which were listed from as far away as Washington, Pa. The highest tuition was \$6.19 and the lowest \$1.72. As other academies were built, the number of students at Millville became fewer until its charter had to be forfeited in 1875. District #7 of the Town of Shelby used the building for school purposes until June 1954. The cobblestone schoolhouse became the property of the Millville Methodist Church in 1956. In 1963 a new roof was built by Newell Mix at a cost of \$438. The belfry and bell were restored by Warren Scharlett who also put-tied and replaced all missing windows. This historical building has served as The Cornerstone Christian School until recently.

The Quaker Meeting House was originally built in 1841. However, history shows us that no religious services have been held there since 1893 and since then the building has been primarily a grocery store. T.A. Waite bought the building in the late 1800's. It was then passed to Claude Grinnell and J.C. Posson, then to John Boyle who worked with Mr. Grinnell. Otis Wyman purchased it in 1919 and seven years later sold it to Mr. & Mrs. Howard Neal, who also operated it as a general store for many years. It was closed and stood vacant until 1976 when Larry Boyle and his family re-opened it and operated for approximately two years. It is presently owned by Anthony Loiacano.

The first Methodist Society was organized in

Millville in 1820 by the Rev. Richard Wright. Services were held in a log school house which was shared by the Congregationalists and Presbyterians. In 1832 the Methodists had services in a frame house on the Gregory property west of the village until they constructed a small frame church elsewhere. In 1849 this building was moved to the site of the present church. A small room was added and space was adequate until 1891 when membership had increased. Plans were then made to move the small church back on the lot and to construct a new auditorium in front of it. The carpenters, James and John Parish, carried the work of building to completion so that a dedication service was held on January 27, 1897. Many different pastors have served the church through the years. For varying periods of time Millville was associated with Fletcher Chapel, East Shelby, Knowlesville, and Eagle Harbor charges. The present pastor is Rev. Wesley Kofahl.

The Congregational Church was organized at Millville November 15, 1820. The original and early members were mostly from New England. The first twelve years they held meetings in the schoolhouse alternating with the Methodist. In 1832 they erected their first house of worship and occupied it for sixteen years. In 1848 a larger church was built costing \$2,000. On July 9, 1870 the church was accidentally burned by the explosion of a kerosene lamp. On January 25, 1871 at a cost of \$7,000 and many man hours the new brick church was dedicated. The Congregational Church collapsed about 1900 when it was discovered that their pastor did not live up to their expectations. The building was sold in 1935 to Glenn Pask and in 1944 to Laverne Bacon. Steel eye beams, cinder block walls, and the second floor was added at this time and was used for cabbage storage. In 1973 it was deeded from Richard Cook to Vincent Cardone. In October 1983 the well-constructed century old building was sold to Walt Zacher & Sons to house their carpentry business. It now is also home to Thee Congregational Emporium.

The Millville General Store was in existence as early as 1819 and according to General William C. Tanner, a dance was held in an upper room of the "new store" on July 4, 1819 and might have been one of the first regular balls held in the county. He related the floor was good, but the rafters were low compelling the young gentlemen to bow politely, low, and often. Mr. T.O. Castle established his grocery business in 1849 and continued in that capacity well into the 1900's. It was owned by Mr. & Mrs. Harold Page in the 1940's and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Fields, Sr. purchased it from Gordon and Lorraine Allen in March 1950. In 1972 they sold it to a Mr. Bresnick who sold it to Mr. Wayne Dugan, the present owner. It is a private residence today however, it has also served as a post office for Millville.