

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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SIMON ADLER 1832-1911

When one enters the main reading room of the Swan Library in Albion one will notice two large bookcases with the inscription "In Memory of Simon Adler" in bronze letters. Library patrons, staff and myself alike have often wondered who was Simon Adler?

Here now, is his story. Simon Adler was born in Schweinchied, Germany in 1832 and came to America in 1848. Soon after arriving in the United States he settled in Albion and eventually engaged in his own clothing and tailoring business. Later he formed a partnership with William B. Dye under the name of Adler & Dye. William B. Dye, a prominent citizen, was once Mayor and honored by use of his name for the Dye Hose Co.

Later, Henry W. Fox also entered into the partnership when the business became known as Adler, Dye & Fox. In 1883 Simon Adler sold out his interest in the concern to the other gentlemen and moved to Rochester where he formed a partnership with two of his brothers, Levi and Abram under the firm name of L. Adler Bros. & Co. which was incorporated in 1895 with Simon as vice-president. This firm did one of the largest businesses in Rochester in the way of manufacturing clothing. They also employed a large work force of men and women. In 1906 Mr. Adler retired from this business but retained an active interest in its workings. In April 1911 he celebrated his 79th birthday by giving \$50,000 to establish a trust fund as a nucleus for an accident and pension fund for his former company employees.

During Mr. Adler's life in Albion he was very active in the town affairs and was for some years treasurer for the village. When he later made his home in Rochester he still responded generously to the pleas for aid in local efforts and his gifts represented a variety of objects. He was widely liked for his genial personality which readily won him friends. Following the death of his wife, Mr. Adler spent the last ten years of his life in residence at the Powers Hotel in Rochester. When he died in August of 1911 he left his three brothers Lewis, Solomon and Abram.

In the mid and late 19th century there were sev-



Simon Adler

eral families of the Jewish faith in Albion who were clothiers, Simon Adler being one of them. One Jewish clothier came up here from Georgia to avoid the Civil War. Several family names representing these people may be seen on monuments in the Jewish section of Mt. Albion Cemetery. A few are even in Hebrew which indeed, suggests that Orleans County has been made up of many diversified people from very early times.

True generosity requires more of us than kindly impulse. Above all it requires imagination — the capacity to see people in all their perplexities and needs, and to know how to expend ourselves effectively for them.

I.A.R. WYLIE