

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

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## HISTORIC NEW YORK



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#### THE LAKE PLAIN

The Neutral Nation of Indians, an Iroquoian group affiliated with the Eries, were early inhabitants of this area. About 1650 they were conquered by the Senecas of the Five Nations Confederacy. French explorers and traders crossed this area and English expeditions along the lake shore entered the small streams, but extensive swamps deterred settlement.

After the Revolution a few settlers came from Canada, but development awaited the formation of speculative land companies. The Pulteney Purchase and that of the Holland Land Company divided the area into tracts for settlement. Inhabitants fled the area for a time after the fall of Fort Niagara in the War of 1812. Then came the building of highways, some of which ran along old Indian trails. The Ridge Road, opened in 1809, became a principal east-west route. Completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 spurred the building of towns along its route and the growth of commerce. Here early settlers built unique cobblestone houses, many of which are still standing.

Geography and climate have favored fruit culture and made packing and canning a principal industry.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK 1961

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

It was thirty years ago in 1961 that the State Education Department erected a large historical marker in the parking area on Route 104 between Gaines and Childs. The parking area is located on land once belonging to Everett Barnum. It was during the mid-1950's that the state appropriated this piece of property for \$500.00. Once the park area was landscaped, the State Education Department saw fit to place an aluminum marker there which would give a concise history of "The Lake Plain". The parking area and the marker were intended for tourists who might be passing through. There are not very many markers of this type in the state with so much information. Local people generally have no need of using this small roadside park. Therefore, most motorists from this locality never take the time to stop and read it. Maybe you too, have never stopped. If so, here is what it states:

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