



Clarendon Town Historian Alan Isselhard has been doing some research lately on one-horse open sleighs and cutters. As part of that research he has found some very interesting material published in the Holley Standard newspaper of over a century ago. Here is what he states:
"Perhaps nothing can better describe the enjoy-

ment and/or the trials and tribulations of those experiencing sleighing than the accounts published in the local newspapers a century ago. From reading this documentation, one can easily surmise the ardor or anguish which accompanied sleighing."

The accompanying photo shows Main Street in Albion around one hundred years ago, when there were numerous sleighs being used.

Here are some items found by Mr. Isselhard: January 24, 1879 - West Kendall - last night the freight train was stopped on Main St. crossing by the snow. If anyone wishes to know the real beauties of snow, let him ride to Kendall in a long sleigh. December 23, 1880 - Clarendon - A sudden change during Saturday night brought snow enough for sleighing which is reported from all quarters as being very fine.

December 30, 1880 - Clarendon - George Swan, of the Town of Byron, became intoxicated on Tuesday last, as he frequently does, and started for home. His spirited horses became

unmanageable under his driving and came in contact with Mr. Timothy Carr's buggy, near Orange Lawrence's house, demolishing one wheel and injuring Mr. Carr by throwing him from his carriage. Mr. Swan's team ran to Dan Martins' where they were stopped. He was riding on an old cutter and did not do much damage, so he drove back to the Clarendon Hotel and put up for the night at considerable expense. Next day he started again for home; the team knowing his inability to manage them took another turn at running, throwing him from his old sleigh, injuring him quite severely. He was taken to his home by friends, and has since been confined to his bed under care of a physician. He is a man about sixty-six years of age, and a few more such experiences will, no doubt, tell upon his strong constitution and close his mortal career. The statute laws of this state are very stringent in regard to selling to such a one as he, and if prosecution should be commenced by his family, damages to a considerable extent would have to be awarded by juries and courts having jurisdiction in such cases. Therefore it's risky business selling stimulating beverages to such persons.

January 13, 1881 - Albion - The sleighing was excellent, but the air biting cold.

January 20, 1881 - Holley - Our genial townsman, H. Beebe, must have had a lively time last Thursday evening with that sleigh load of girls - six in number - all unmarried and of marriageable age. We understand they traveled through Clarendon, Hones Hill, and several other places of note south of the village. Wonder if his wife knew he was out.

February 3, 1881 - Albion - Traveling nowadays is attended with considerable inconvenience. A man who came in town the other day said he had been upset from his cutter three times on his way from home.

January 17, 1884 - news item - One of Many - The deep snow and its accompanying drifts, have, no doubt, caused many a ludicrous tip-over. One occurred a day or two ago which is worthy of record. A portly and elderly gentleman from Rochester engaged a liveryman, who does business not a thousand miles from Holley, to take him out in the country. The portly passenger, muffled up in several coats and a large traveling shawl, was tenderly tucked into the cutter and the liveryman jumped in and started to drive off. He had not got out of the yard, however, before, as he drove out of the beaten track, the weight of the heavy passenger sunk the outside of the cutter into the deep snow and the passenger pitched head first, followed by the liveryman who landed on top of him. Recovering himself, the man of horses anxiously inquired of his passenger if he was hurt.

"No" he puffed, slowly and painfully floundering about until he gained a sitting posture. "I'm not hurt but I'll be —— if I couldn't drive better than that myself, and I'm not much of a horseman either."

February 7, 1884 - Hulberton - Mr. Asael Ball and wife, and their two children, started last Thursday for Byron with a horse and cutter, and as it was rather a cold, windy day, Mrs. Ball put extra wraps about the youngest child, which was about six months old, but when they got to Clarendon, the little one was dead. It had in all probability been smothered. The feeling of the family can, better be imagined than expressed here. (This same incident was reported in the Clarendon news section as follows) - Clarendon - Mr. and Mrs. Ball of Hulberton, started on Thursday last to go to Genesee County, taking an infant child of five months. When they arrived at the hotel in this village they found the child dead from suffocation, and were compelled to return home. The road was so rough that the mother did not notice any of its struggles.