

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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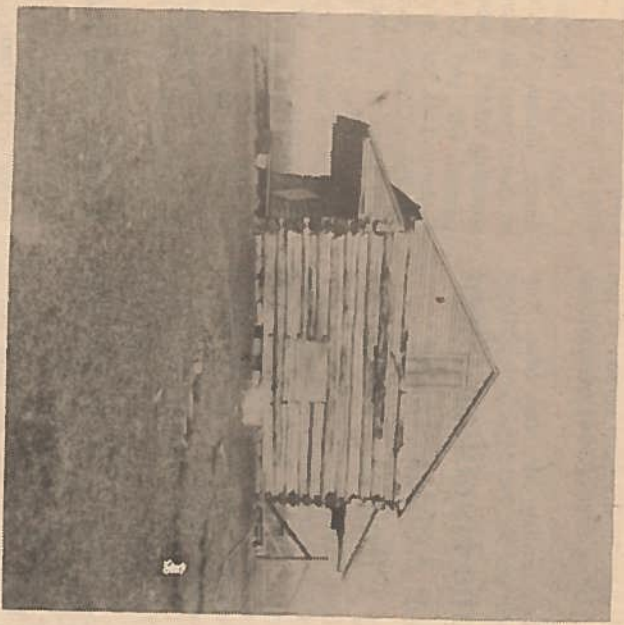
## OLD FAIRGROUNDS LOG CABIN

No. 31

This week many will visit the 4-H Junior Fairgrounds at Knowlesville which has on it a log cabin used by the Sportsmen and Conservation people for exhibit purposes. However, many years ago the old Orleans County Fairgrounds off West State Street in Albion also had a log cabin. Pictured above, it was used for historical purposes. It was erected on January 10, 1882 with donations of logs from all parts of the county. It is interesting that well over a hundred years ago people who were historically minded recognized that almost all the log cabins had vanished from the Orleans County landscape. It was thought that by erecting one on the fairgrounds, the youth would see what pioneer life was like seventy years before. Surely, one of the first tasks of every pioneer during early settlement times, was to erect a log cabin for shelter.

The cabin thus erected on the fairgrounds was 26x40 feet and was indeed the first museum building in Orleans County. It was filled with donated artifacts which reflected very early times. The Log Cabin was under the care and protection of the Agricultural Society until around 1900 when it was demolished and the contents put on display in Floral Hall, a large exhibit building located on the same grounds. Finally, during the late teens or early 20's it was decided to give the entire collection to the Rochester Museum. Hence, a bit of Orleans County history was dissolved.

Here is a partial list of over 120 items which were originally displayed in the Log Cabin back in 1882:



Donated by H.J. Tanner, Ridgeway.

Swingling Knife for dressing flax. Donated by Mrs. M.A. Colt, Yates.

Model of first Bean Planter ever invented. Made by Davis Rozier, of Gaines in 1812. Donated by J.C. McKendry and A. Hutchinson, Gaines.  
Manure Fork 100 years old. Donated by Ansel Chase, Yates.

Plow Wheel, made by H. Colby in 1840 for Wm. C. Tanner. Believed to be the first wheel attached to a plow in the Town of Ridgeway. Donated by Wm. P. Tanner.

Surveyor's Compass and Scale, formerly used by Wm. Holmes, of Ridgeway, aged 200 years.

Donated by G.E. Holmes, Shelby.

Warming Pan for warming beds. Has been in use since 1753. Loaned by Mrs. Porter, Ridgeway.

Foot Stove. Used by putting coals of fire inside for keeping a person's feet warm when riding or during service at church. Loaned by M.M. Nash, Ridgeway.

Earthen Jar, in which Dr. Jonathan Swett, a practicing physician in this county 50 years ago, mixed ointments for upwards of 60 years. Donated by Joel R. Swett, Medina.

Bed Wrench for tightening the cord on a bedstead. Donated by G.E. Holmes, Shelby.

Cane made from a splinter torn from the hull of Commodore Perry's flagship, Lawrence, by a cannonball from the enemy. The hole made by this ball was the one made famous by the act of the Commodore in tearing off his coat and filling it to prevent a leak. The grandfather of the present owner was on the vessel during the engagement and preserved the splinter. Loaned by Anna Rosenbrook.

Single Ox Yoke. This yoke was used by Amos Barrett in moving his family from Onondaga County, N.Y., to Ridgeway in March 1812. Donated by

his son, Stephen Barrett, Ridgeway.

Amputating Case captured from the Rebels at Gettysburg. Loaned by Dr. D.W. Onderdonk, Ridgeway.

Door Handle, was used in the first frame house in Ridgeway, built by Eli Moore in 1813. John A. Demary, Ridgeway.

Vertebra from a horse's neck made into the form of a Clergyman pronouncing a benediction, by George Morris, in 1833. Donated by Chester Freeman, Barre.

Cartridge Box used in the Revolution. Donated by Ralph Hall, Albion.

Pitch Pipe, for giving the key in singing, 80 years old. By David Hunt, Ridgeway.

Flax Wheel of "ye olden time." Donated by Wm. Fancher, Ridgeway.

Button from the coat of General Washington, given to Amos Root's father by the General himself, during the Revolution.

Sugar Bowl made of wood in England more than 200 years ago.

Toasting Iron made by Amos Root when 16 years old while working as an apprentice.

Spectacles worn by Mr. Root's grandmother 150 years ago.