

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XIII

8-14-91

No. 32

MILLS



Many, if not most of our early communities or settlements, were established around where there was water power. Such water power was of course, necessary for operating either flour mills or lumber mills. Naturally, the two priorities for the first settlers were food and shelter. The mills provided that for different localities. Hence we have throughout our county today, many communities where there was a stream or creek which provided water power that early settlers diverted into a mill race. Such places for example, include: Millville, Shelby Center, Kenyonville, Oak Orchard-on-the-Ridge, Kendall Mills, Clarendon and of course,

Medina, Lyndonville, Albion and Holley.

The photo shown here was taken in 1920 showing the old flour mill once located on East State Street in Albion. This was built in 1833 by Ward & Clark and was water-powered by the west branch of Sandy Creek. During the early part of this century it was operated by Woods & Sprague where they produced Purity Flour. This mill, which was demolished in the 1930's, would have been located directly behind the building which is now the Orleans Community Action Committee at 411 East State Street.