

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

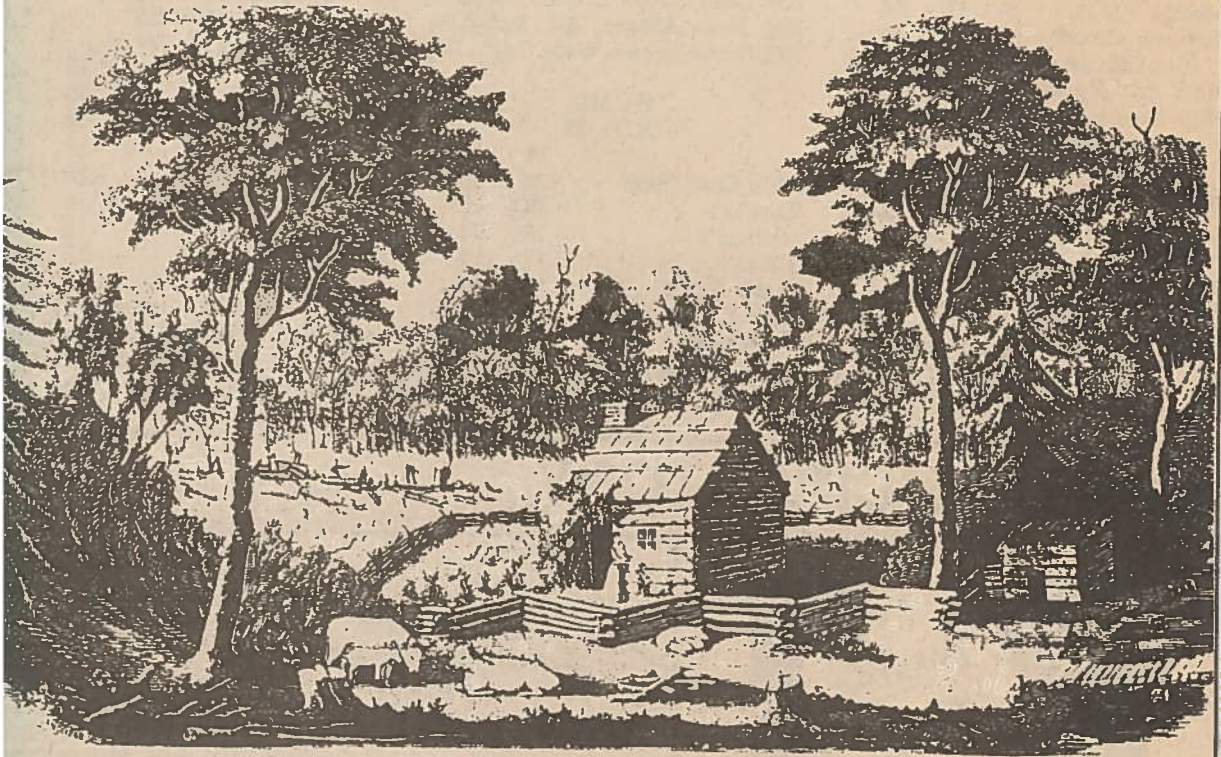
C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XIII

10-30-91

No. 44

## AN ILLUSTRATION OF CHARACTER



The following excerpt from an article entitled Pioneer Reminiscences appeared in the Medina Tribune on April 11, 1861. It was written by Gen. William G. Tanner 1793-1869 who felt disposed to give some reminiscence of early pioneers of Shelby who exerted great influence upon their community and times. In this selection he speaks of James Carpenter a pioneer preacher. Through his story, I believe we get a first hand flavor of the people and those early pioneer times.

"It was in the year 1818. The people were assembled at Oak Orchard to attend a funeral. The preacher engaged, failed to be there at the appointed time, and there was a prospect of having no sermon. After some delay, a person remarked there was a minister coming. All eyes were turned toward the new comer, and some were disposed to laugh at the idea of his being a preacher. He was a small dark man, very coarsely clad, with a large leather apron blackened with grease and dirt reaching nearly to his feet, and an

old hat with the brim flapping over his eyes. He drove a diminutive yoke of cattle on an apology for a cart, with a trough or two on an axle filled with black salts, which he was carrying to market. An acquaintance went out and stated the circumstances, and invited him to come in and preach for them. He willingly consented, and driving his cattle into a fence corner, without any preparation came in and was introduced as Elder Carpenter. He laid off his hat, named a text and proceeded with his sermon, without a moment's delay. At its conclusion, he turned his cattle from the fence and went on to market. The feelings of the congregation underwent an entire change during his sermon, for he displayed a very high order of talents, taking them all by surprise, for they had judged the man by his appearance and thought him incapable of delivering so eloquent a sermon."

The above story mentions black salts which will be the subject of a future article.