

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XIII

12-27-91

No. 52

SANDSTONE TRIBUTE



The artistic photo accompanying this story was recently taken by Dr. James Orr of a newly erected historic marker in front of the First Presbyterian Church in Albion. The marker is a tribute to the one time Medina Sandstone business in Orleans County, and states:

IRISH, ENGLISH, ITALIAN AND
POLISH IMMIGRANTS, QUARRIED

MEDINA SANDSTONE, A MAJOR
INDUSTRY 1870-1930. PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH & 175' SPIRE
SHOW USE IN ARCHITECTURE

This marker which now supplements other markers in the Historic Court House District, was provided through the Orleans County Department of History. Perhaps the most outstanding use of sandstone for architectural purposes is in the Presbyterian spire. It was only natural that such a marker should be placed near this feature. Given the substance and basic information, Ted Church who was clerk of the Session at the Presbyterian Church, worded the inscription. The arrangement of the various ethnic groups mentioned, is in order of their major chronological employment in the quarries which were close to 50 around 1900. In the year 1904 over 2,000 men were employed seasonally in the business. As tourists visit the Historic Court House District, which is on the National Register, it is important to point out this one-time claim to fame. The use of sandstone in the District is extensive as trim on brick structures, cellar walls and through other examples of church architecture including the Universalist and Catholic Churches.

Other N.Y.S. historic markers in the Historic Court House District have been placed over the years for: the Home of Sanford E. Church, Lieut. Gov., the First Free Methodist Church, Geo. Pullman at the Universalist Church, the Court House and recently, one at the Christ Episcopal Church, the oldest in the country.

Finally, my thanks to the Presbyterian Session for allowing the Dept. of history to locate this marker on their property. It is my hope it will point out to the passerby the outstanding character of this important landmark and the once important sandstone industry.