

Bethinking of Old Orleans

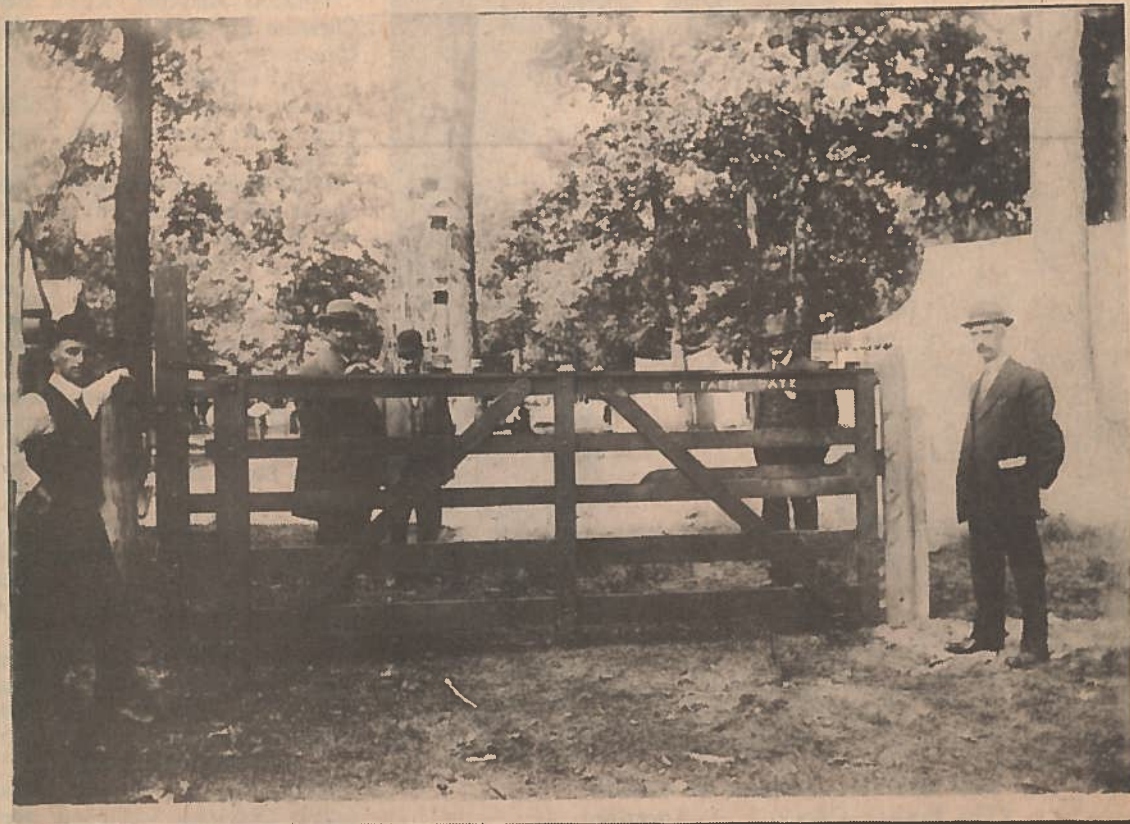
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O K FARM GATE



The photo shown here circa 1910 depicts the O K Farm Gate. It was patented by Orrin Wyman of Millville who is seen standing to the far right in the picture. This was no ordinary gate just to keep livestock corralled. The unique feature of this invention was that the gate not only swung to open and close but also could be raised and lowered. The reasoning behind such a novelty was that if the gate was raised up about two feet and still kept closed, sheep could go under it into a pasture but cattle could not. By this clever idea a farmer could keep the cows in the barnyard and let the sheep come and go as they desired. Even in its raised position, the gate would still swing to open. It appears in the photo that the gate is being displayed at a fair as we see tents and a Ferris wheel in the background. County fairs were often places where new inventions and agricultural apparatus were displayed to entice progressive farmers into

upgrading and buying new equipment.

Orrin Wyman was a farmer and a carpenter in the Town of Shelby. He evidently saw or had a need for such a gate and being adept at building, created this unusual gate with a little imagination, some lumber and about three dozen nuts and bolts. Although the gate was a good idea, either Orrin didn't live long enough or the sales didn't amount to much because the inventor never became rich or famous. We do know that around 1908 or so, Orrin left Millville and moved to Clyde, Ohio where he managed the O K Manufacturing Co. with farm gates being a specialty.

Orrin Wyman's untimely death occurred in October 1913. He was only forty-four, a bachelor, and left a brother Roy Wyman and three sisters: Mrs. Herbert Kilner, Mrs. Ross Wilson, and Mrs. Robert Flowers.