

BeThinking of Old Orleans

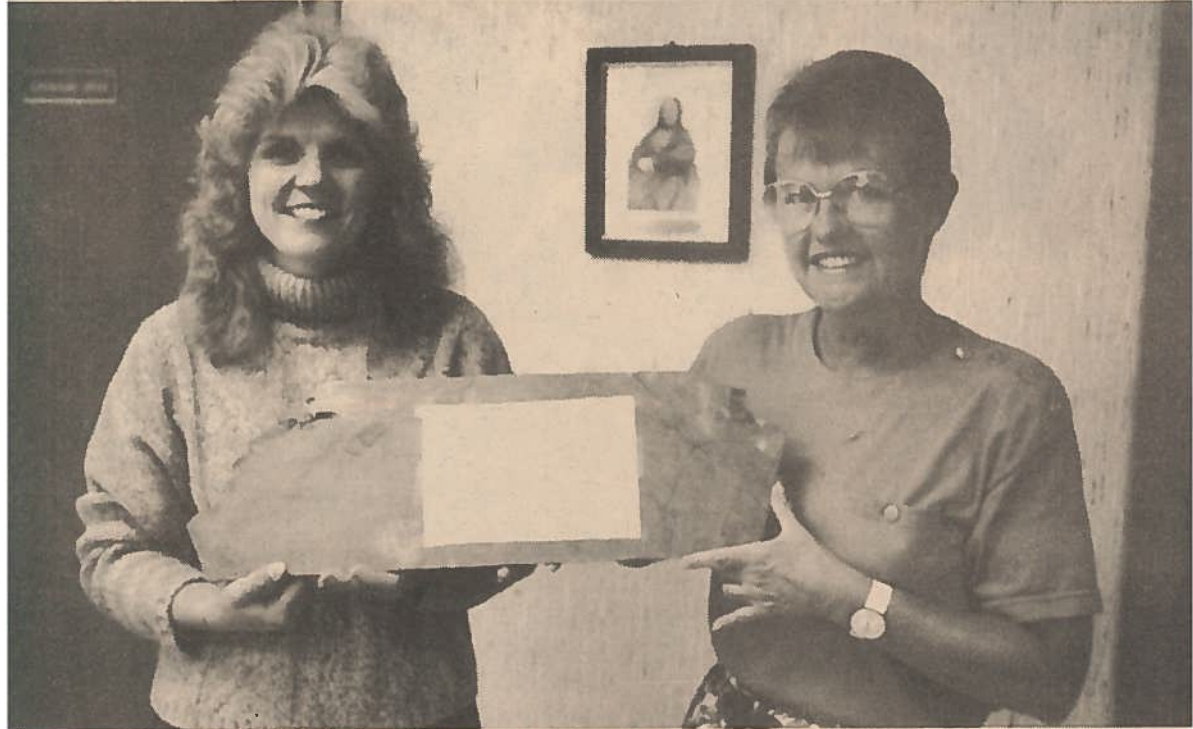
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PORTION OF RACHEL'S APPLE TREE REMAINS IN CARLTON



The photograph shows Carlton Town Clerk, Pamela Rush (on left), and Carlton Historian, Lysbeth Hoffman, holding a recent acquisition that might be identified as a "true relic" of Carlton's story.

This primitively planed board, measuring 25-inches long by 8-inches wide, is a piece of the first apple tree planted north of Ridge Road, soon after 1803, by Rachel Lovewell.

This last portion of Rachel's tree was given to the Town of Carlton by Miss Marjorie Dunham of Wendonville. She and her sister, the late Miss Maude Dunham, had preserved the family treasure; it being handed down through insuing generations of the Dunham and later Conover families since the tree had been cut down in 1871 when Lake Ontario waves had undermined the sand bank where it grew.

Miss Dunham stated: "I feel this piece of apple wood should remain in Carlton for upcoming generations to observe and learn it's story."

A brief version of The Story of The First Apple Tree: As a young girl, Rachel along with several other pioneer families near the lakeshore, had

endured an intense winter and were anticipating the arrival of a sailor from Canada who had promised to bring needed supplies. On his arrival he presented Rachel with a large yellow apple. She so appreciated her gift that after consuming the fruit she buried the core near the shore. Two years later she remembered this apple core when her father told her of the Brown family planting their first apple orchard. She returned to the spot and found a small green shoot growing which her father pronounced as the first apple tree to be planted in this north country. (For the extended version of this legend see: Vol. XIII, No. 40 - "BeThinking of Old Orleans")

The tree grew and produced fine fruit until the 1871 date when it was necessary to cut it down.

Eventual plans call for Miss Dunham's gift to be mounted in a shadow-box type frame, crafted by George Callard, labeled with a plaque and hung in the Carlton Town Building near a photograph of Rachel Lovewell Dunham, taken in 1861 when she was 66 years of age.

Lysbeth A. Hoffman, O.M.H.
Carlton Historian