

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## PIONEERS OF ORLEANS COUNTY



GEO. P. HOPKINS, Photographer, Albion, N. Y.

## PIONEERS OF ORLEANS COUNTY.

Taken June 19th, 1869.

The Orleans County Pioneer Association was organized on June 25, 1859 at a meeting held in the County Court House. At that time any who had come and settled in the county prior to or during 1825, was considered a pioneer. In our terms today, this association was essentially an historical society. As time went on descendants of pioneers were admitted into membership and the organization lasted for around eighty years. This organization erected a log cabin on the old Orleans County Fair Grounds for a museum in 1882. It was later torn down and contents given to the museum in Rochester. The Pioneer Association in 1911, considered erecting a granite monument on the Court House lawn as a reminder of the struggle of early pioneer life. This venture failed as the monument would have been too costly. The organization was known for holding an annual Pioneer picnic for years at the Lakeside summer resort in Carlton (not the present State Park). The picnic gained a favorable and far reaching reputation. In 1976 a similar picnic, based on the same idea, was held by the Orleans County Centennials Corp. As any historical group, they met regularly for carrying on business and hearing lectures relating to the past history of this area.

On June 19, 1869 the Pioneer Association held their eleventh annual meeting at the Court House in Albion. Here follows the minutes for the morning session of that day:

"Meeting was called to order by the President, Hon. Lyman Bates, and opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Bacon of Albion.

The constitution of the association was read by the President.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Dr. Nichoson, treasurer, showing a balance of cash on hand in the treasury of \$31.47. Treasurer's report was accepted.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last annual meeting and of the special meeting held at Medina in December last.

The Secretary read his annual report, which was accepted.

Mr. George P. Hopkins, photograph artist of Albion, invited the association to attend him and have a photograph picture taken of the association in one group.

On motion the invitation was accepted, and the meeting adjourned until one-thirty o'clock in the afternoon to afford time to take the picture and after that get dinner.

On leaving the court house the members formed in procession under the lead of Col. N.E. Darrow, marshal, aided by Timothy C. Bailey as his assistant, and escorted by a martial band under the direction of Mr. Israel Shipman, to the street in front of Mr. Hopkins' rooms, where a fine picture of some of the old pioneers was taken by Mr. Hopkins as they stood together in the street.

The procession then marched to the Harrington House, where a substantial dinner was served to them."

The photo which George P. Hopkins took is shown herein. I believe the first three or four rows of people are for the most part, people who settled in Orleans County prior to January 1, 1826. We note drums from the martial band, afore mentioned, in the lower left of the photo. The people in the background are either on-lookers or younger members of the Pioneer Association. The picture was taken on Main Street in Albion showing some business blocks on the east side of the street in the background. It appears Mr. Hopkins took this photo from the second floor of the building across the street where his photograph studio was located. The only building still remaining that shows in the photo is the brick one to the far right with the sign Nichoson & Pain. This is now the Snell Realty Office. The building in the center was removed in 1890 and replaced by the Briggs Building and the building to the left, also removed in 1890, was replaced by the Waterman Building which burned several years ago and was replaced with Waterman Park.