

Bethinking of Old Orleans

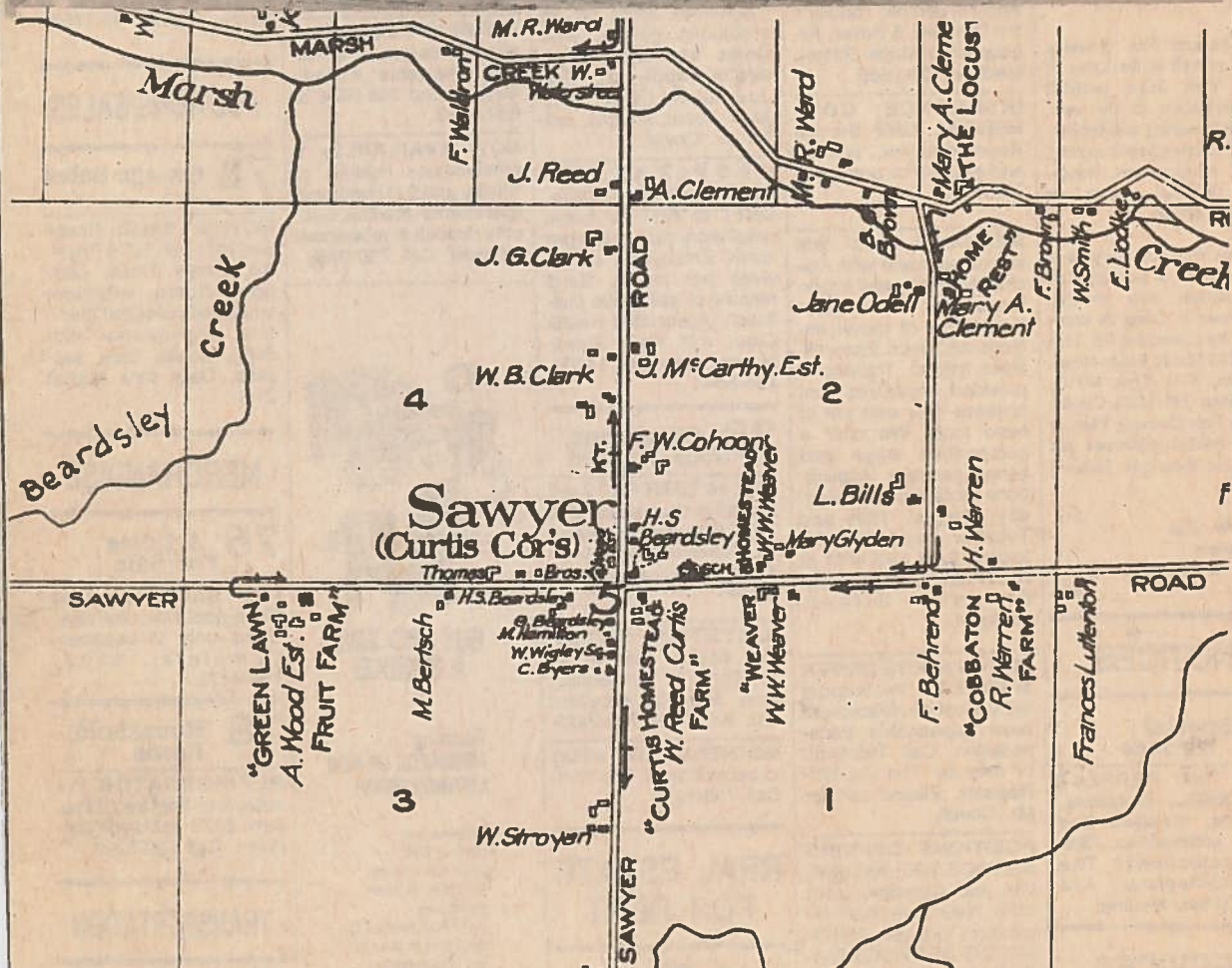
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A PLACE CALLED SAWYER



Few people today are acquainted with such a place called Sawyer. Our 1913 map illustrated here however, has the place prominently labeled Sawyer or (Curtis Corners). It is located in the Town of Carlton at the intersection of Route 18 (Roosevelt Hwy.) and the Sawyer Road.

The photo taken around 1910, shows the H.S. Beardsley Store which was located at the north east corner of the intersection. We can see the name Beardsley engraved on the "horse block" or stepping stone between the store and residential part of this structure. From June 4, 1880 to June 23, 1902, a U.S. Post Office known as Sawyer, was operated out of this store. As we look over the picture we also notice a sign advertising Bull Durham tobacco, a bicycle on the porch and a number of wooden shipping boxes. Stores like this were once scattered across Orleans County when neighborhoods had their own identity. Many little hamlets and four-corners had small businesses that locals depended upon for their necessary provisions.

Mr. Hiram Spencer Beardsley ran this store for nearly fifty years until his death in 1939. Here one could purchase everything from molasses to stove pipe, corn plasters to nut picks and tractor oil to fresh-ground coffee. His son and daughter-in-law, Gordon and Reba, continued the business until June 1943. By that time it was hard to get merchandise because of World War II and keeping records of rationing stamps was a "headache." Such stores as this also took local produce in on trade, such as home-made butter, eggs, meat and vegetables from local farmers.

During the late 1940s, '50s and early 1960s,

Mrs. Reba Beardsley allowed the Kent Baptist Church to use the former store for a rummage sale. This was overseen by Clara Cliff and Josephine Shaughnessy and was largely patronized by migrant farm workers from the Sawyer Road Camp.

Incidentally, Gordon and Reba Beardsley were the parents of Thelma Richardson, recently deceased.

At one time on the northwest corner of Sawyer Road, lived a man by the name of Art Smith, a salesman, who sold Du-all tractors and later, Allis Chalmers machinery. Those buildings no longer exist. Also, up the road a piece, was a Mr. Curtis Byers who ran a bicycle shop. Today, these little businesses in almost every four-corners could not exist. Back when Sawyer was known by many, other little places such as Millville, Kenyonville, Kuckville, West Kendall, Rich's Corners, West Barre, East Shelby, West Shelby, Eagle Harbor, Brockville, Jeddo, Hindsburg, Kendall Mills and Gaines, all had their country stores.

As a side note, Beardsley Creek which flows through the towns of Gaines and Carlton into Marsh Creek was so named for the Beardsley Family of Sawyer.

Today, if you were to go to Sawyer, you'd see the old store used entirely as a residence without the front porch. The only business that operates now at this intersection is Ward's Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast owned by Ashley and Bonnie Ward. This is located in what appears on the map, as the Curtis Homestead. Yes indeed, Sawyer is a name from the past because some people now refer to this place as Ward's Corners.