

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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DR. MARVIN HEDGES 1861-1936



Our photo this week is through the courtesy of Naomi Harling Minckley. It shows local veterinarian, Dr. Marvin Hedges at the far right. Next to him and seated in the doorway, is Robert Harling and Lane DeMond, a conductor on the B L & R Trolley. The man standing to the left is Cary H. Lattin. At first glance we can assume this foursome have been out pheasant hunting with their shotguns, two bird dogs and game hanging on a rope in the doorway. Note the demijohn also suspended in the middle. This mid-afternoon photo was probably taken back in the early 1920's in front of Dr. Hedges' place of business which was located on Liberty Street in Albion. At the time, this brick barn was let to him by Dr. David G. Cooper whose residence and practice were a part of the property facing Main Street. We notice the sign stating Dr. M. Hedges, V.S. Recently this building has been demolished by the Albion Federal Savings and Loan which now owns the property.

Dr. Hedges was a great lover of horses and a fancier of pedigree animals, especially dogs. He was noted for being a crack shot with a rifle and pistol. In fact, he even had a shooting range at this veterinary office on Liberty Street and was widely known as a fine huntsman. He was also recognized as a man with good taste in clothes. Dr.

Hedges was much admired by children who frequently called on him to take care of pets or to find homes for stray animals. He was also extremely interested in Indian Lore which often led him to the Tonawanda Indian Reservation where he collected many relics of the Stone Age. He was in fact, adopted by the Tuscarora Tribe, to which he made numerous visits. The office and barn on Liberty Street served as a kind of personal museum where he had displayed many curiosities, including hand guns, odd relics and a large collection of stuffed birds.

The barn pictured here, had many stalls and in part, served as a drive barn business which supplemented his veterinary income. Dr. Hedges was a self-taught veterinarian surgeon and received the honor of being a registered V.S. through home study. His practice in Albion continued over a 50-year span. He was born in South Barre or Barre Springs, and attended country school. He and his wife, Minnie Marshall Hedges, had an apartment for many years on the second floor over the Family Hardware Store in Downtown Albion.

In June 1936 Dr. Hedges was involved in a traffic collision which resulted in his death six weeks later. He and Minnie had no children but there were two neices, Blanche Harling and Mrs. Roy Smith and two nephews, Frank and Carl Hedges.