

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XVI

6-2-94

No. 21

SEYMOUR OLMSTEAD 1850-1928



he came in contact. His loss is felt by all who knew him."

In his latter years, Mr. Olmstead was remembered as a Court Crier in the Orleans County Court House. He was particularly known for his distinct pronunciation. Many spectators, attorneys and judges were all impressed with his perfect enunciation.

He came rightly by this attribute as he had in earlier years taught elocution and dramatics at the old Albion Academy from which he himself had graduated. He also had been a teacher in several rural and village district schools. After teaching elocution for a number of years, he switched to teaching drawing in Albion High School.

In his younger days he was a celebrated amateur actor and directed many local plays. His productions included "Ten Nights in a Bar Room," "The Ticket of Leave Man," "The Cossack," "Ingomar" and "Octoroony."

He was also an artist and an interior decorator in partnership with Joseph Driesel.

Aside from his artistic and dramatic ability, Mr. Olmstead had literary talent. During the days he taught elocution, he compiled a volume of poems (1893) for his students which became widely accepted in other schools. In 1904 he wrote and published a novel, "M'lle Zoe of the Circus." of this he said, "I was the typical small boy who longed to run away with the circus, but unlike most small boys I never outgrew that longing and that is why I had to write the book."

Seymour Olmstead was the son of David Rossiter and Anna Spence Olmstead. He married Mary Kast and they had one daughter Anna Bevier and a son Rossiter Olmstead. He was a charter member of the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church and a very active supporter of its varied programs.

"Act well your part, therein the honor lies, ever pressing forward, on and on, ever striving for something higher and better."

Seymour Olmstead's obituary starts out as follows: "On April 4th one of the best loved persons who have ever lived in this village passed away. Seymour Olmstead lived in Albion for 78 years. He died in the same house in which he was born, at 258 East State Street. During the 78 years of his life, if he ever made an enemy, none knows of him. Instead, his gentle manner, gracious courtesy, and interest in life, made friends of all with whom