

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

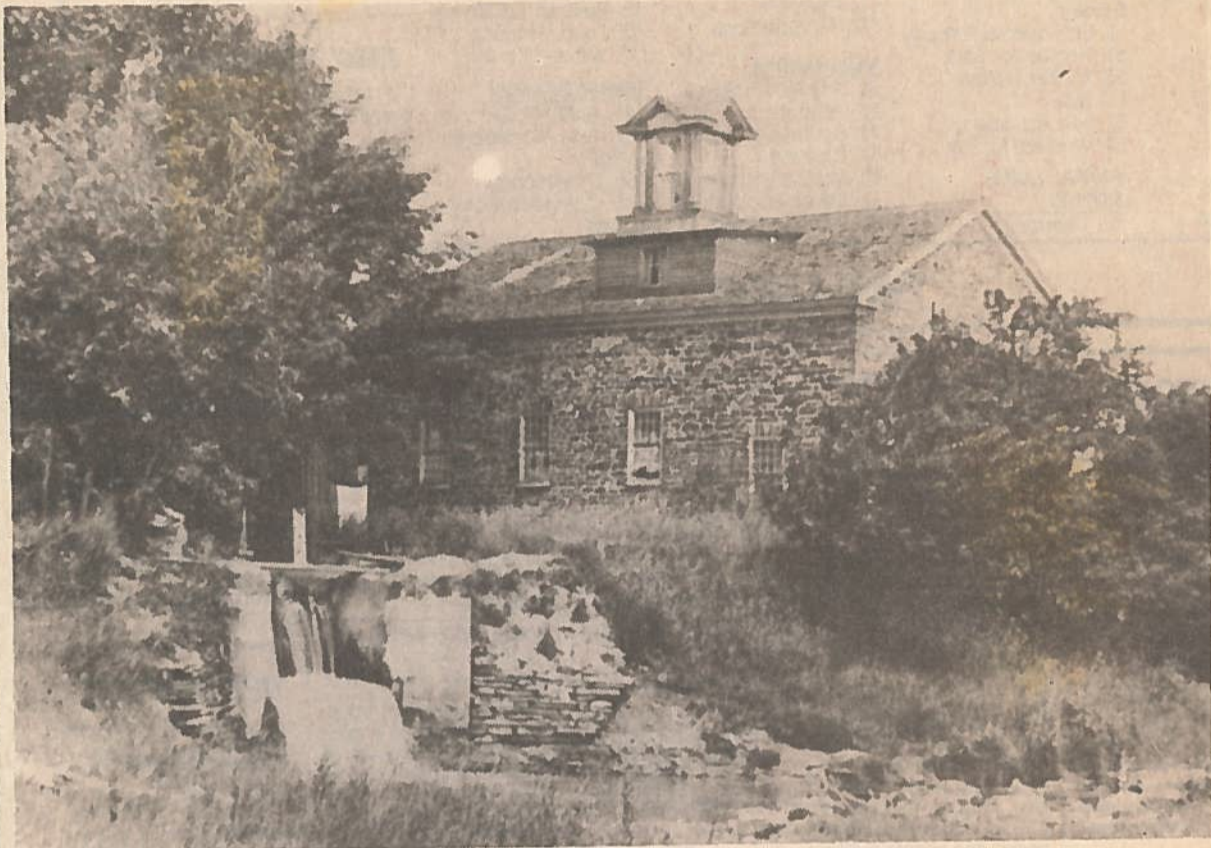
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## KENDALL MILLS



Kendall Mills, once a thriving little community, isn't even labeled as such on our present day county maps. It's as some would say, neither fish nor fowl, because the east half is in Monroe County and the west half is in Orleans County. Located on Rt. 272 where Rt. 18 curves into Monroe County, it is about a mile and a half north of Rt. 104 on the Orleans-Monroe County Line Road. The inserted map is taken from the Niagara-Orleans County Atlas of 1875. It shows the main artery bending into Monroe County to more easily get over Sandy Creek. Later, this highway (272) was straightened out.

In early history of Western New York, Kendall Mills, formerly known as Websters Mills, was an early settlement in this area. Situated on Sandy Creek with adequate water power, it soon became noted for its flour, feed and saw mills, its stave and heading mill, its tannery, its cooper and carriage shops.

The nucleus of Websters Mills was formed by the building of the second grist mill west of Rochester (the first one being at Farwells Mills, now the Village of Clarendon) by Osee Webster who came from "Big Bend", now Northumberland, Saratoga County, and settled on what is now the line between Monroe and Orleans Counties in 1819.

The Stone Mill built in 1840 by his sons, Ebenezer King and Salmon, was located on the site where the first mill stood. Custom grinding was done there until 1918. There was also a saw-mill just east of the grist-mill which was operated by water running through a flume from the grist-mill.

Our photo here shows the 1840 grist-mill and mill race flowing from Sandy Creek. Note that this mill is shown on the map as "E.K. Webster G. Mill."

Not only did Kendall Mills have mills, but also there was a schoolhouse, Methodist Church, Free Methodist Church, Blacksmith Shop, Tannery, Store and yes, even a tavern or hotel which supposedly was a wet spot for a time during prohibition. However, most of these businesses had met their demise by the turn of the century.

When the R.W. & O. Railroad was built in 1875, fate decreed it should skip Kendall Mills, being built

two miles north, going through the northern communities. With steam and gas power coming into use along the railroad, the mills gradually went into disuse, leaving Kendall Mills barely remembered in name today. How many little hamlets used to bring so many people together through various activities and businesses! And many like Kendall Mills, are practically unrecognizable in comparison to the way they were.

