

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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CLARK'S MILL AND R.W.&O. RR TRESTLE



With the demolition of the trestle at Waterport on the former Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad (Hojack), this 105-year-old photo now seems timely. The picture was taken on July 29, 1890 and shows Clark's Mill at the extreme left. It was here that Woods and Lum first milled Purity Flour. We also see in this picture the former Clark's Mill Road which wound its way off Park Avenue to the east and crossed Oak Orchard River at the bridge shown here and then up the west embankment to the present Clark's Mill Road. The road shown here, looking in a southerly direction, was abandoned many years ago. Note to the far right in the picture, the mill pond for production of water power for the mill.

In the distance, high above the landscape, is the very first trestle which crossed Oak Orchard River in 1875. From Orleans County History Past To Present 1976, we find the following account:

"The Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad Line (Hojack) was opened in 1876 and passed through Kent, Carlton Station, Waterport, and Ashwood, in the Town of Carlton. The first railroad bridge was finished in November 1875 in

Waterport. It was built of planks. The first train crossed the bridge on November 18, 1875 and was driven by Mrs. John Ross. She said the railroad men could board at her house if they would let her drive the first engine across the new bridge. She did.

"Due to heavier traffic and heavier engines, a stronger railroad bridge was built in 1892. Floor ties were laid 2½ inches apart."

This trestle compared to the one built in 1892 is obviously much more delicate or light weight in appearance. In fact, the bridge for vehicular traffic was also replaced with a larger bridge now long gone.

This has always been a picturesque and scenic area and was a favorite spot many years ago for fishermen in the spring of the year when they were able to catch Lake Shad in large numbers.

Official Notice

A guided walking tour of Mt. Albion Cemetery will take place on Saturday afternoon, October 14 from 2-4 p.m.