

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



It is believed that this curious photo taken by Fred Holt, represents a group of DAR ladies at a high tea sometime between 1925 and 1929. The picture was taken in the dining room of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sanford T. Church. This room is now used as one of the parlors at the Merrill-Grinnell Funeral Home on Ingersoll St. in Albion. The only woman identified thus far, is Florence Church who is seated third from the left. Mrs. Church was the Honorary Regent and Founder of the Orleans Chapter DAR when it was organized on June 8, 1925. Since then, there have been thirty Regents with the present one, Mrs. Majorie Moore Boire.

The Orleans Chapter DAR House located at 249 North Main St. in Albion, a gift of Mrs. Emma Reed Nelson Webster, was not ready for use or dedicated until Constitution Day 1929. Hence the time frame of the photo herein. It seems, that back in the 1920's and 1930's the DAR ladies would don costumes and put on exhibits at the County Fair to replicate colonial times. The high tea pictured here with silver sets, fine china cups and saucers and dainty cakes, was an event bringing awareness to our American heritage.

The DAR has always encouraged the Americanism through education awareness. Not only did they stage events many years ago but through the years they have encouraged the erection of historic markers. It was back in the early years of their founding that many of the more significant bronze markers on boulders were placed along the historic Ridge Road.

On Saturday, November 11, which is Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, the Orleans County Chapter DAR will place a DAR Revolutionary War Military Stake cemetery mark-

er on the burial site of Peleg Sisson. This ceremony which is slated for 1:00 p.m. will take place at the Clark-Hatch Cemetery on Ridge Road in the Town of Murray near the intersection of Hurd Road. Representatives of Veteran organizations are expected to be present.

Peleg Sisson was born in Partmouth, Mass. on May 22, 1754. He joined the 9th Regiment of Albany, N.Y.S. Militia as a private and later advanced to the rank of Sargent. Following the war he received a pension and land bounty rights. He arrived in the Town of Murray in 1810, thereby being one of the earliest settlers. At the time, he was fifty-six years old. This must have been quite an undertaking for someone his age at the time, to leave a more comfortable life back east and hew out a home in the wilderness of frontier lands on the Ontario Plain. Land records indicate he was deeded 113 acres on April 27, 1812 in the Town of Murray out of the Connecticut tract.

Mr. Sisson was married three times. His first wife was Abigail Richmond. His second wife was Polly VanValkenburg whom he married in 1804. She died in 1831 and is also buried at the Clark-Hatch Cemetery. His third wife was Claressa Burlingame. Peleg Sisson died on August 11, 1836 and was laid to rest next to his second wife.

Although Veterans Day came about because of World War I, it is important that we remember all veterans and the sacrifices they have made for the causes of Americanism. I salute the Orleans Chapter DAR for their continued efforts to enshrine our Revolutionary War Soldiers with markers as a simple reminder of their great patriotism. These were indeed, enlightened men for whom we could not call this place home.