

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

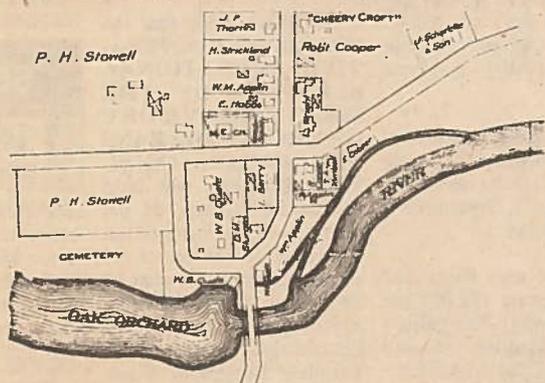
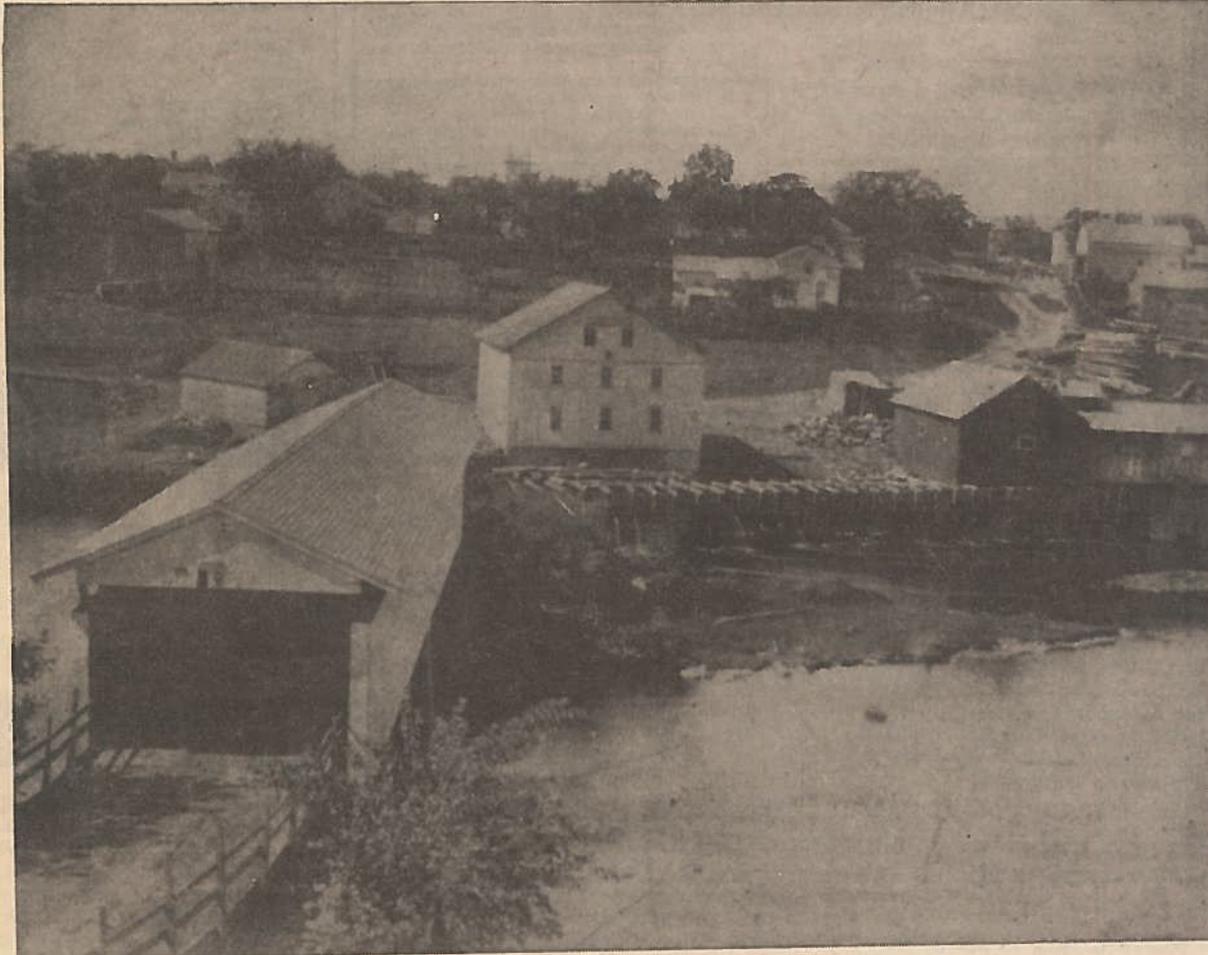
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## VIEW OF KENYONVILLE



In the history of Orleans County we have had two covered bridges, one at The Bridges and the other at Kenyonville. Our photographic view of Kenyonville taken over one hundred years ago, shows the covered bridge which was located there. The photographer stood high up on the south bank of Oak Orchard River and pointed his lens northward. In this panoramic landscape we not only see the covered bridge but also Kenyonville's industrial development as a result of water power.

Centered in the picture is a large white building which was a grist mill. To the far right is also a saw mill which suggests the same water was used twice for power purposes. The mill race in the photo stretches from the bridge in front of the grist mill to the saw mill. It is actually rather unusual in that it is constructed of planks with the sides being

tied together across the top with beams. Water appears to be leaking between some cracks in the planks by the grist mill. Both mills were originally owned and operated by Barber Kenyon. The accompanying map (1913) shows the mill race passing the mills and re-entering Oak Orchard River farther down stream.

Looking more carefully at the saw mill, we can see it has been a hub of activity. Logs appear stacked along the road and a pile of lumber also near the road awaits shipping. A pile of firewood rests nearby. The white house in the center ground is that of D.M. Sturges on the map. The buildings to the left, are mostly those labeled W.B. Quale who also owned and operated a store at Kenyonville. The tower of the Methodist Church is barely noticable on the skyline. The four-way intersection on the map is that of the Oak Orchard River Road and Harris Road.

In the 19th Century Oak Orchard River and other similar streams provided necessary water power for the operation of all kinds of mills. And I might add - energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

Back to the bridge. It was constructed in 1874 and was 110 feet in length. It stood on three stone piers and was about ten feet above the mill dam which shows to the extreme left on the map and in the photo. This all wood structure was eventually condemned and closed to the public for several years. In 1911 it was removed and replaced with an iron bridge which has since been condemned.