

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## CARLTON STATION

### Part I



It is my privilege to present in this column an historical sketch of Carlton Station which has been compiled by George Callard and Robert Kelsey. Both of these gentlemen have been life-long residents of that community. Naturally, over a life time, they have seen many changes, remembering things from their childhood. Most of what they have compiled here has never before been written down. This is an important way to document and preserve stories before they are forgotten and lost forever. Perhaps this example can act as an incentive or catalyst for older citizens in other small communities to write up what they remember about their neighborhood from long ago.

Our photos include a view of the tracks at Carlton Station looking west around 1910. The stone building used as a storage for apples and wool still stands. The cold storage which was behind it shows a high cooling tower mentioned in the following article.

The other photo shows the Carlton District No. 6 school and students around 1920.

Remembrance of Carlton Station  
By

George Callard and Robert Kelsey

A map of the 1850's shows the people that lived in what is Carlton Station to be mostly farms with an occasional residence. The area really took off and earned it's name of Carlton Station with the building of the Rome, Waterport and Ogdensburg Railroad in 1876 which was commonly called the Hojack. The railroad was eventually taken over by the New York Central. There were 8 to 12 passenger and freight trains everyday. The maintenance on the railroad was divided into sections. The chief of the Carlton section was John Malloy, who lived in the house now occupied by Phil Vick. He had to walk his section every day with a pole with an iron point and had to check each tie with the iron point. The section house was located beside the tracks, east of the depot and there were three section hands. The section house was later moved and used for a residence. Eventually the section crew got a little car with a gas engine to run their section of track.

The Cold Storage at one time was owned by Beckwith. The building was originally covered with sheet metal. At some time it was encased in tile and the tiles were filled with sawdust for insulation. There was a large tower on the roof to cool water

for refrigeration. On a clear day you could see Canada from the top of the tower. During World War 2 several buildings were used for storage of government food. The storage was filled with cheese. The stone building was filled with cases of condensed milk. The cases of milk had to be turned occasionally. The food was shipped in and out periodically so it provided some local employment.

The building we knew as the Balcom Bros. building had many tenants. At one time the back was occupied by The Greece Lumber Company. The middle section was occupied by Scheiner & Jerome General Produce. We think the owner of the cold storage was a partner. In 1889 Hiram Jerome was appointed by President Harrison as inspector for the Bureau of Animal Industry. Hiram Jerome was in the Civil War for four years and was taken prisoner at Brandywine. He was Town Clerk and Commissioner of Highways for several years. The home now occupied by the Canhams was a prefab house and might have come from the Greece Lumber Company around 1913.

The school for Carlton District 6 was located where the Jefford home is now located. Prior to that the school was located where Ricci Meadows Club House is now located. The old school building served as a private home after the new school was built. The new school was the result of the consolidation with the school at Baldwin's Corners. We are told that the school, built of Cobblestones, was behind the home of Jay Colony. It is told that Jay complained about the stones in his garden. It must have been stones from the former school building. At one time the local people were not satisfied with the teacher at Carlton 6 school. A private school was in the Ed. Hinkley's office building. It was taught by Loraine Shelley. Some students went to Waterport, Sawyer, and the Bridges. A brochure of 1904-1905 lists 41 students, one teacher Earnest Roll, who was probably paid \$12.00 a week.

Carlton had a hotel at one time. It was located where Catlin's Garage is now located. It burned and the property was purchased by Leland Kelsey. He built the garage building and a living space above it. Robert Kelsey was born in that building. Leland operated a garage and machine shop until his death in 1944.

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