

From a little booklet entitled Sketches of the Village of Albion by Arad Thomas published in 1853, we find a statistical account of its trade, schools, societies and manufacturers. A small portion of text by Thomas is as follows:

"The county of Orleans generally was settled by emigrants from New England and the eastern part of the State of New York. The principal business men of Albion are this stock, and exhibit a good degree of the enterprise and industry which characterises their eastern brethren. Like the early settlers of most western towns, they came here poor, and have grown with the country, and such property as they possess has been made here.

"Some of the earlier merchants in Albion, after the Canal was opened, drove a profitable trade in white wood lumber, which was a common timber in this region. The boards were carried to Albany, and there found a ready market and good prices. The lumber trade from Albion is now ended, all timber trees in this neighborhood having been cut down.

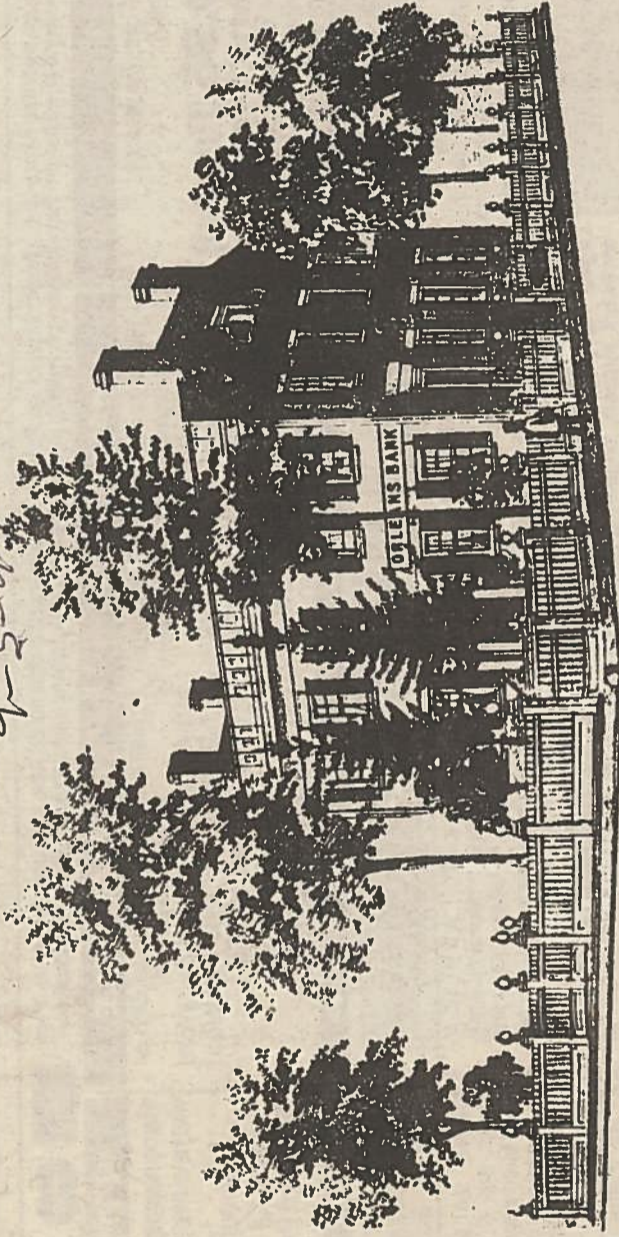
"As very little land is found, not capable of tillage and highly productive, in the vicinity of Albion, the desire for present profit has induced the farmers very generally to clear off their woodlands until wood is becoming scarce and high priced. Within a few years, the price of firewood has doubled, although large quantities of coal are now used. Firewood is offered in the Albion market, cut 3 feet or 3 1/2 feet long. Wood 4 feet long is never sold here. The average price of hardwood, per cord of 3 feet wide, 4 feet high and 8 feet long, is \$2.00.

"Large quantities of wheat are brought to Albion, on wagons, by the farmers of the County, and purchased here for shipment to eastern mills.

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W. Lattin County Historian

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Albion, or by the Canal from Buffalo or Rochester. Brick of a fair quality are made about one and a half miles north of the village. Lime, in abundance, is made from stone found in different parts of the town of Barre.

A branch of Sandy Creek runs through the eastern part of the village, which, before the country was cleared of trees, was a considerable mill stream."

The above gives a brief historical background for the "Statistics of Trade and Manufacture" at the time. I think this is a particularly interesting list of tradesmen in Albion at the time. The list alone, gives us a feeling for the mid-19th century and what was going on then.

1 artist (portrait painter), 3 book stores, 1 book binder, 1 bank (Bank of Orleans), 2 barber shops, 2 bankers, 3 butcher shops (total employees 12), 5 blacksmiths, 4 Boot and Shoe makers, 6 carriage makers, 3 cartmen, 1 crockery store, 2 coopers, 3 cabinet makers, 1 coal yard, 9 dry goods merchants, 3 druggists, 2 dentists, 2 photographers (Daguerreotypers), 1 Express agent, 2 flour mills, 15 grocers, 2 gunsmiths, 2 hardware stores, 3 hotels, 3 harness makers, 36 carpenters, 2 Justice of Peace, 3 foundrys, 3 Insurance agents, 3 livery stables, 3 lumber yards, 9 masons, 3 music teachers, 1 marble cutter (monument dealer), 3 millinery and dress shops, 5 house painters, (16 employees), 2 printers, 4 saloons, 1 sash and blind factory, 2 tanners, 1 telegraph office, 4 tinsmiths, 1 Veterinary Surgeon, 1 variety and toy store, 3 jewelers, 4 warehouses, 1 whip factory and 6 tailors and drapers. The book doesn't seem to list lawyers, clergy, teachers, and other professions.

Our illustration from 1857 Village of Albion map shows the Bank of Orleans situated at the southwest corner of Main and West Bank Streets in Albion. The Family Hardware store is now located on this site in a block built in the 1860's.

"This village lies upon a stratum of lime rock, which, in some places, comes near the surface, and affords quarries of excellent building stone.

The County Jail, large School House, Ward's Mill, and several other buildings, besides cellar walls and the walls of the Canal, are made of these stone. They are easily dug and cut, and stand frost and water well, and the supply is inexhaustible.

"The pine lumber used for building was formerly brought from Allegany county. It now comes from Canada, mainly, to the mouth of the Oak Orchard Creek, and from thence on wagons to

Within a few years a great trade has grown up in apples, green and dried. Many thousands of barrels are shipped east and west yearly. Perhaps no part of our country is better than this county to the growth of this fruit, and great pains have been taken by the farmers in grafting their trees, and growing the choicest varieties for sale. The peach, cherry, plum and grapes, flourish here well, and scarce a garden is to be found in the village that has not a tolerable supply of many or all of these. Large numbers of fat cattle, sheep and other animals, raised in abundance by the wealthy farmers of this county, are sent on the foot by Railroad to eastern merchants from the Albion station.