

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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MRS. BRODIE AND MRS. BLAKE AND P.T.A.

First Mrs. Brodie (1886-1941). Elizabeth Brodie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Woods graduated from Albion High School in the Class of 1900. She became the wife of Dr. Ralph E. Brodie in 1909 and they resided on the County Square in a house on East Park Street which was razed in the early 1970's. Mrs. Brodie started as President of the Albion Parent-Teacher Association in 1924 and from there she followed a succession of offices that led her to be elected President of the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers. She was also Chairman of the Cornell Institute of P.T.A. Leadership Training, Chairman of the Committee on Spiritual Values in the State Congress, Director of the Niagara District P.T.A. as well as Chairman of the Committee on Teacher Training Institutions in the State Congress. Prior to her involvement in P.T.A. she was on the Faculty of Albion High School from 1902 - 1909 with a year's absence in 1907 - 08 when she continued her study of music.

Next Mrs. Blake (1886-1973). Dorothy Blake was born the daughter of Judge and Mrs. Isaac Signor. She married Francis Blake and they resided on South Main Street in one of Albion's oldest dwellings known as the Ebenzer Rodgers House. Like Mrs. Brodie, Dorothy Blake was also the mother of two children which explains her interest in P.T.A. as early as 1923. Shortly after joining the P.T.A. she became President of the Albion Chapter. She later became publicity Director for the New York State organization and finally its President. She then went on to become National Chairman of the P.T.A.'s Committee on International Affairs which position she resigned a year later in favor of becoming Vice-President of the National P.T.A. in 1938. In that capacity she headed all the activities in Region 1 which comprised the New England and North Atlantic States. It should also be noted that Mrs. Blake served on the Albion Board of Education for thirty-two years.

Forty years ago these two women through their energies and capabilities brought not only State and National distinguished honors to themselves but also to our entire region as a result of their high positions attained in P.T.A. Their obituaries alone bespeak the brilliance, work and humanistic character of two former Orleans County women.