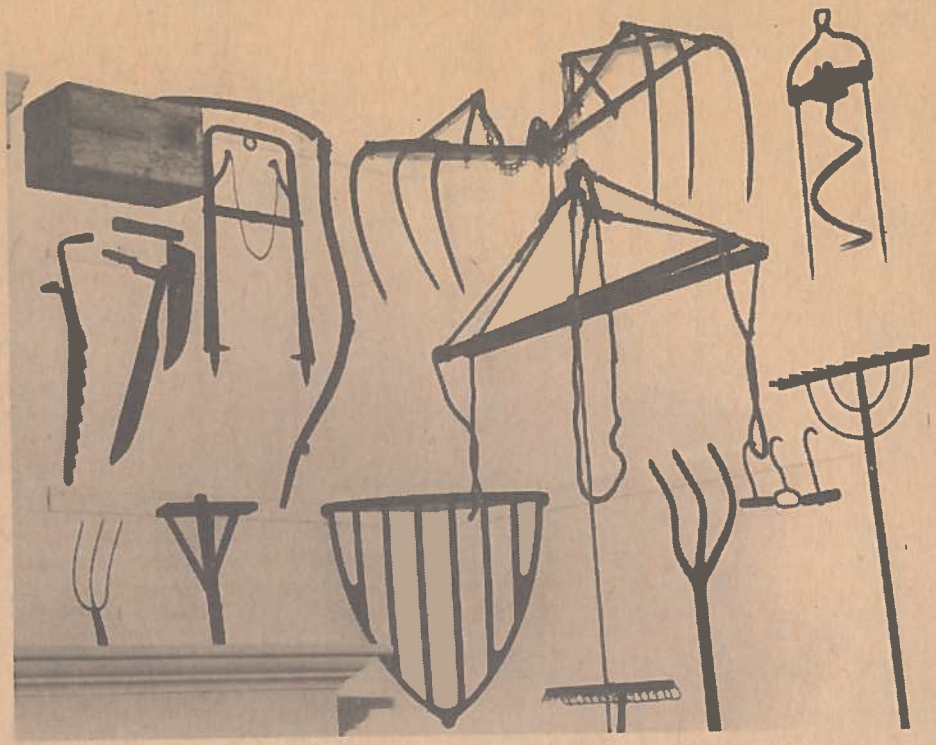
Bethinking of Old Orleans

5-30-80

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



VOL II No. 22

AN INTRODUCTION TO FARMERS HALL

It is with great pleasure and pride that the Cobblestone Society presents Farmers Hall, the sixth and most recent major building in the Cobblestone Museum Complex. Farmers Hall now serves as an exhibition gallery for the permanent display of local 19th and early 20th Century farming implements, tolls and devices. From the time the Cobblestone Society was formed, just twenty years ago, innumerable gifts of farming artifacts have been donated to its collection. In 1976 it became apparent upon exhibiting some of these artifacts which were stored in various members' barns, that more and adequate space than the Cobblestone Church Museum provided, was going to eventually be necessary. The artifacts vary from being homemade, one of a kind contrivances, to patented inventions.

Aside from being a gallery, Farmers Hall is an educational facility allowing a hands on approach to learning about farming methods of the past. Starkly displayed against gleaming white walls these everyday utensils of former eras become art objects expressing the struggles, triumphs, affections for the earth and tiresome tasks of eking out of a living substance. Interspersed with these objects are period photographs showing our forefathers at work with many of the devices on display. A seating loft is provided where lectures may be given to groups about the development of farming, using as visual aids, the collection contained therein. Since the first settler arrived in Orleans County in 1803, farming has been the major industry. Our collection at Farmers Hall quietly displayed under natural lighting brings to mind that out of the past there is indeed, dignity in simplicity.

On Sunday, June 1st following the Farmer's Parade which starts at 2 p.m. Farmers Hall will be dedicated. Involved in that program will be the American Legion, DAR, Masons, State and local dignitaries, Cobblestone Society officials and the Universalist Church as Farmers Hall was erected for such in 1855.