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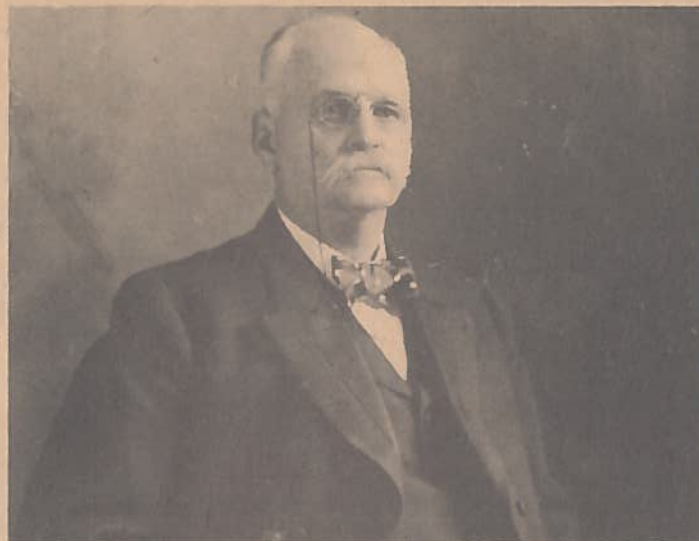
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# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## CASSIUS M.C. REYNOLDS AND ASTER DAY

Cassius Marcellus Clay Reynolds who more frequently answered to the name of "Cash" was at one time Orleans County's most civic minded man. In partnership with William S. Flithan. He owned a leading furniture, crockery and undertaking business on Main Street in Albion known as Reynolds and Flitham. That business with long time employee William S. Goff was later purchased by J.B. Merrill & Son following the death of C.M.C. Reynolds at age 81 in 1925.

For many years Mr. Reynolds was a commissioner of Mt. Albion Cemetery and was the founder of the Aster Day Movement in the United States and Canada which he started in Orleans County around 1900. Aster Day was an annual event held on the Sunday closest to the 15th of September. Perhaps because Cassius Reynolds was a funeral director he had a greater sympathy and interest in the deceased that inspired him to lead people in decorating the graves of their loved ones with asters. It is said that the meaning of aster to him symbolized "after though". At any rate these popular garden flowers were widely grown by many women with green thumbs and on the designated day with appropriate speeches the white, bluish, purple, pink and yellow asters found their way to the cemetery. But like many movements, Aster Day which practically became a National Holiday died shortly after the departure of its founder. It has now been over fifty years since much any recognition concerning Aster Day has taken place.

In the weeks ahead this column will touch upon the following topics: tomato canning factories, Charles Newton Hood, Stephen Hallock - Millionaire, P.B. West - Artist, Arnold Gregory Hospital, Frank Mallison - Architect, Growers Cold Storage, Medina's Bancroft House and the Lone Star Inn.