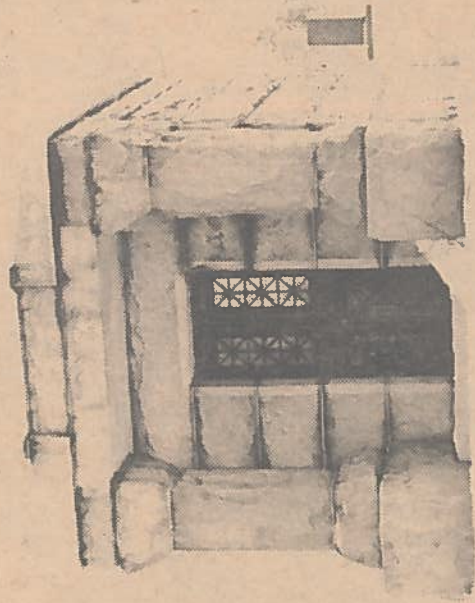


# Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



## VOL. II

### THE DELUSION MOUSE TRAP

NO. 5

"Build a better mouse trap and the world will beat a path to your door". Quite possibly it was someone from Kendall who said it first. That statement indeed is the success story of Claudius Jones and Co. Claudius was the son of Seth Jones and grandson of David Jones who was one of the first pioneers to clear land in the western part of Kendall. As a young man Claudius went to Chicago and became interested in a mouse trap patent which he bought. He and his youngest sibling David L. went into business and had their traps manufactured in Erie, Penn. Claudius Jones became known to his contemporaries as "Rat trap Jones" although it was mice he was actually deluding. These very efficient traps which caught the mouse alive were sold extensively with sales for Oct. 1881 being advertised at \$59,932. That advertisement also included a poem which is as follows:

"The mouse goes in to get the bait

And shuts the door by his own weight

And then he jumps right through a hole

And thinks he's out: but bless his soul

He's in a cage, somehow or other."

And sets the trap to catch another."

Having used one of these original traps, I can testify to its efficiency even to catching a real small smart mouse without any bait. But then, what do you do with a live mouse?

The photograph above is where part of the story ends. It is the Jones family mausoleum erected in 1919 and located on a hillock directly South of the Lily Pond at Mount Albion Cemetery. Here magnificently entombed are the remains of David L. Jones 1842-1898 brother and partner in the Claudius Jones and Co. This mausoleum which stands as one of Mount Albion's distinguished landmarks and status symbols of a former era gives testimony to "the American Way" and the wealth acquired by building a better mouse trap.