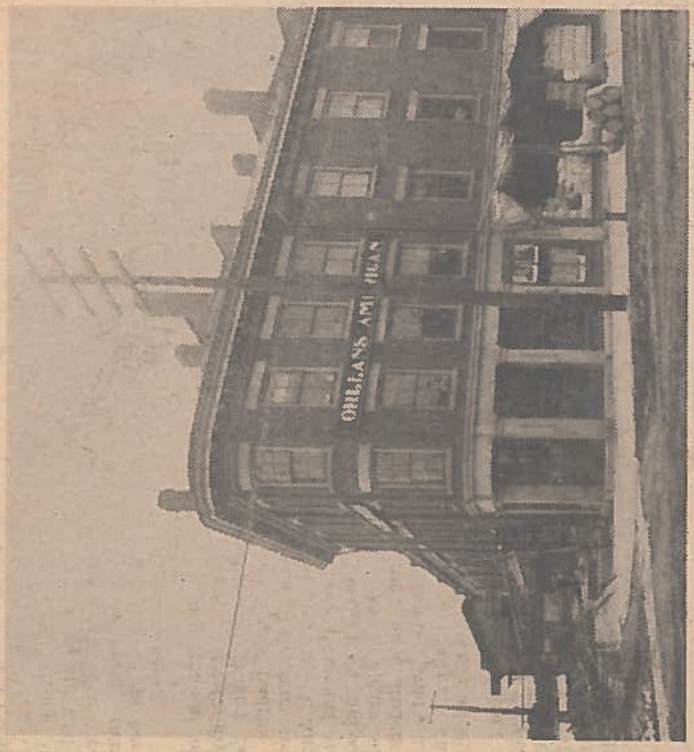


2-6-80

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



This 1900 photo shows the Orleans American newspaper office on North Main Street in Albion. The building now houses Krantz's Antiques and used furniture. The following history of newspapers was compiled in the 1940's by former County Historian Joseph B. Achilles.

'Newspapers originated in Italy, during the war which was waged by the Republic of Venice against the Turks in 1565. The custom was introduced of communicating the military and commercial information received, by written sheets, to be read at a particular place, by those who were anxious to obtain this information, for which a small sum was regularly paid.

The first British newspaper was the "English Mercurie" and was printed in 1588. This was in the shape of a small pamphlet. The first newspaper published in Germany, in written sheets, was in 1612.

The first newspaper in France appears to have been originated by a physician. This doctor gained much of his practice by collecting news to amuse his patients. Gradually his papers fell into the form of a regular newspaper.

The first newspaper in the United States was published in Boston, April 24, 1704 by John Campbell, Post Master. It was called "The Boston News Letter." The contents of the Boston News Letter were chiefly extracts from London papers. The little that has the appearance of having been written by the editor is poorly composed, with no regard for punctuation or grammar.

The second U.S. newspaper was issued in 1721 by a brother of Benjamin Franklin. His friends opposed this project, as they thought that one newspaper was enough for America.

There is a controversy about the record of the first newspaper in Orleans County. Arad Thomas, whose Pioneer History of Orleans is considered the most accurate account of the early days in Orleans, gives "The Gazette", published by Seymour Tracy at Gaines in 1822, as being the first paper in the County. This was changed to "The Newspaper" and was followed in 1827 by the "Orleans Whig" and then discontinued at an unknown date.

The first newspaper in Albion, then called Newport, was the "Newport Patriot" issued by Franklin Cowdry in 1823. It is doubtful that there are any copies of this paper in existence. In February 1825 the name was changed to "The Orleans Advocate" and in 1828, during the Morgan episode, it was changed to "The Orleans Advocate & Anti Masonic Telegraph". It then changed owners and became "The Anti-Masonic Telegraph"; afterward "The Orleans Telegraph"; and then "The American Standard." In January 1831 is was bought by T.C. Strong and became the "Orleans American" for over 100 years."