

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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BUCOLIC KUCKVILLE



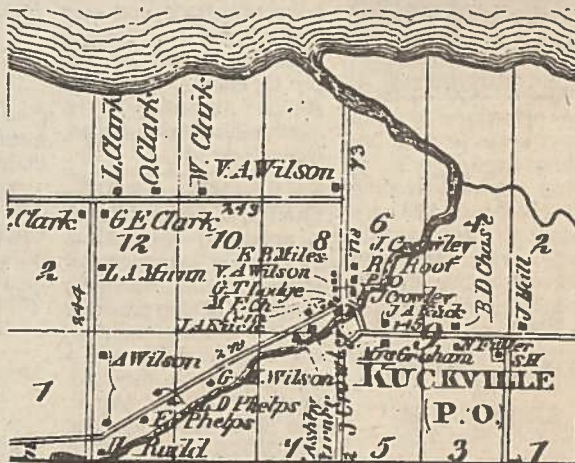
This wonderful pastoral photograph is labeled: "Kuckville in the early nineties looking east" Our scene depicts Johnson's Creek flowing in a north easterly direction toward Lake Ontario. The Bowstring Arch Type bridge which appears here was erected in the 1880's. In the 1930's with construction of Rt. 18 this bridge was replaced. However, the old arch type bridge was not removed until the mid-1950's. It remained abandoned as a mute reminder of a simpler era of life which our photo portrays.

To the left we see the blacksmith shop of James Crowley (1821-1903) who with his wife Suzanne are buried at old St. Joseph's Cemetery in the Town of Gaines. By the corner of the building there is a bobsleigh runner, iron rims for wooden wheels and a couple of saw-horses. These items certainly indicate Mr. Crowley was also Kuckville's wheelright.

James Crowley is listed at Kuckville as a blacksmith in the 1869 and 1887-88 Orleans County Directories.

It is only a guess on my part, but I think the photographer tethered his horse and conveyance to the guard rail while he took the picture. To the far right and in the distance we can see several barns belonging to the Julius A. Kuck farm. Between the bridge and these barns there also appears to be three or four sheep in the pasture. Johnson's Creek no doubt, served as an adequate water supply for such farm animals.

The map inset from the Niagara-Orleans Atlas of 1876



shows Kuckville just prior to the time of our photo. This rural hamlet situated in the Town of Carlton, contained around ten dwellings, a Methodist Church, Good Templers Lodge, Store, Post Office and James Crowley's Blacksmith Shop. Our map also clearly shows the J.A. Kuck farm which is located on the east bank of Johnson's Creek. Kuckville obviously takes its name from the Kuck Family who were very early settlers on the land dating back to 1813. Note on our map that no development had yet occurred in what is now Lakeside at the mouth of Johnson's Creek.