

Bethinking of Old Orleans

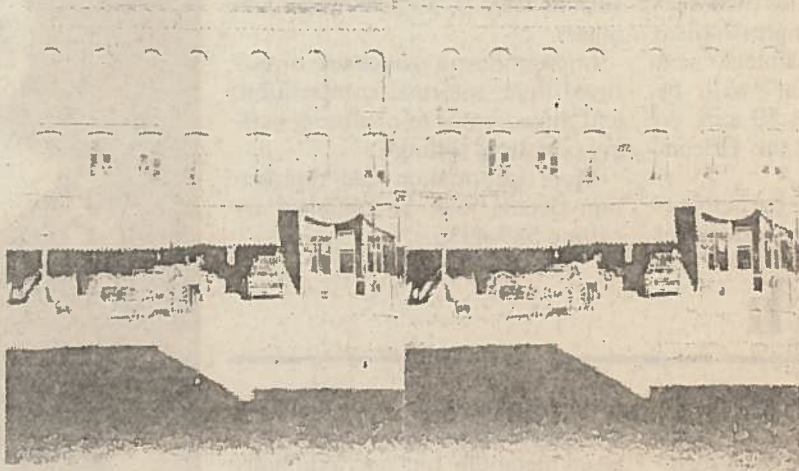
C. W. Lattin County Historian

Vol. XX

8 - 25 - 98

No. 32

STEREOTICON VIEW



Our double view of a business block in Medina is taken from a stereopticon view card. On the back of the card it states: "Made by Charles A. Stacey Photographer, Medina, N.Y." The 1887-88 Orleans County Directory lists Stacey at 56 Main Street.

Double photographic cards like this were used in stereopticon viewers years ago. When you looked through the lense of the hand-held viewer you saw not two pictures, but one in 3-dimension. Local scenes were produced by local photographers and sold at local drug and book stores in the 19th century. Likewise, scenes from around the world were also available as well as comic views.

It is my impression that this picture was taken sometime in the late 1870's or 1880's. It shows a view of the east side of Main Street in Medina. Some of the signage is illegible, yet other signs are quite clear. To the left we see over an awning S. Brainard. The 1887-88 Directory lists: "Brainard Seymour, bakery, 66 Main, N 48 W. Center." Higher up under the third floor windows is a sign indicating "Job Printing." Two men appear below this,

leaning out windows.

About in the middle of the picture we can spot a store front sign with the name "Healy & Son". The 1887-88 Directory notes: "Healy, John W., groceries and provisions, 68 Main." I also found this business listed in the 1869 Directory as "Healey E.P. & Son, dealers in drugs, books and notions, also props. Bullock's Itch Ointment, 36 Shelby". This notice was done before Shelby Street was renamed Main Street. Higher up over the store is a sign noting "Groceries".

Finally, to the far right is a sign over a rolled up awning stating: "70 H. Clark & Son 70". The 1887-88 Directory lists: "Clark Herbert, Physician 70 Main N35 Park Ave." The 1869 Directory also includes "Clark Herbert physician and surgeon 23 Mill."

Judging from the shadows of buildings cast on the street, our picture was taken in the late afternoon. A horse hitched to what looks like a democrat wagon is tethered at a hitching post in front of the Healy & Son store. A dog stands near the wagon.