

Bethinking of Old Orleans

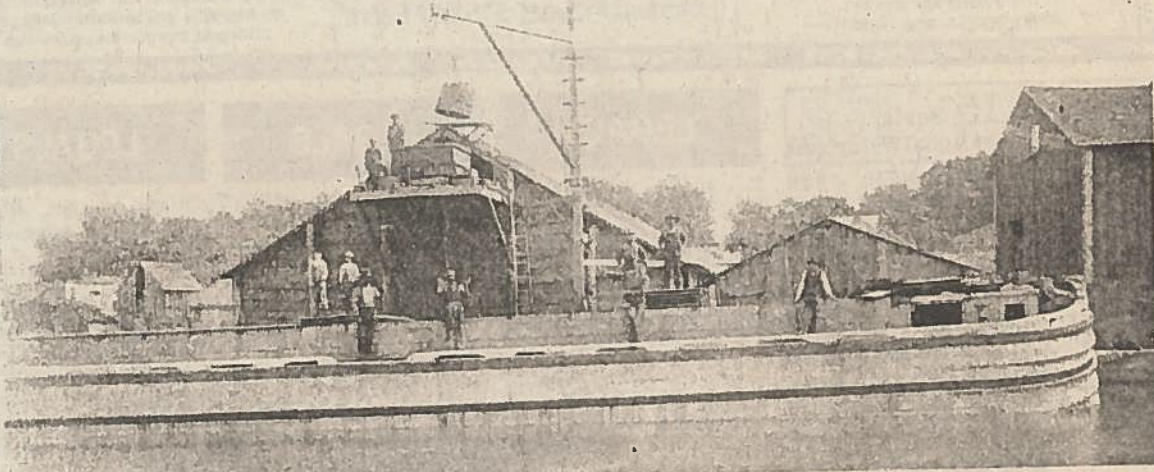
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JOHN HOWARD'S COAL YARD



Our picture reproduced here was taken around 1904 at John Howard's Coal Yard located on the Erie Canal at the very end of Clinton Street in Albion. We see in this view a canal boat headed west which has been docked along the south bank of the canal. The men in the picture are in the process of unloading coal into John Howard's coal shed. Two men of African descent with coal shovels slung over their shoulders stand on the boat, left of center. They have evidently shoveled coal into the large wooden bucket which has been hoisted up to a chute located on the outside loft of the coal shed. The man holding a rope on the boat tripped it which caused it to be dumped into the chute. It is entirely possible that the man with a rope on the roof may have been driving a team of horses (not shown) to lift the heavy bucket upward. John Howard, the owner of the business at the time is standing on the cargo vessel behind the man with the rope. He is the one with the light colored suspenders. To the far left in the

distance we can see the spire of the First Presbyterian Church. Under that, is an ice house with its doors open. Under the ice house, printed on the boat and very difficult to see, are the words "Baled Hay."

In early times many industries were located along the canal bank for easy delivery and shipment. Coal yards were common and businesses which used coal in great abundance were also located here. This would have included manufactured gas works and foundries which were to be found in both Albion and Medina. We find too that lumber yards were also located near the canal route of transportation.

The ice house in our picture might well have been used in connection with the canal as ice would have been sold to canalers.

Along with his coal business John Howard also had hacks for hire through his livery stable. Anyone traveling on the canal might well have needed transportation if they got off at Albion.