

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

C. W. Lattin County Historian

Vol. XX

9-24-98

No. 38

## BAD TRAIN WRECK AT MORTON

On Thursday, September 12, 1912 at 6:40 p.m. the "Chicago Limited" crashed into a string of freight cars on a siding at Morton. This was on the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad, known as the "Hojack". A switch had been left open onto the main track and the "Chicago Limited" traveling west at between 40 to 50 miles an hour was completely derailed.

The Fireman, Eugene House of Oswego was pinned under the engine and was fatally scalded. The engineer, George Murdock also of Oswego was hospitalized in Rochester with minor injuries including cuts and bruises, but recovered. None of the passengers were seriously injured or hospitalized although some suffered minor cuts and bruises.

The photos of the wreck clearly show the extensive damage which occurred in this mishap. The damage to railroad property at the time was estimated to be over \$100,000. One photo shows the coal car derailed and off its carriage. The other photo shows passenger cars cast asunder although remaining upright. The large building in both photos, the Murphy Cold Storage, suffered extensive damage when it hit by the wreckage. Although not visible in either picture, almost all the bricks in one end were left in a heap on the ground among damaged freight cars.

Our map from the 1913 Orleans County Atlas shows where this accident occurred. The Murphy Cold Storage (brick) is the black rectangle.

