

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## TAKEN ABOUT 1880

The Orleans County Department of History recently came into the possession of this wonderful old photo given by Don Ross. So often such pictures are unmarked, leaving the people and places totally unidentified for future generations.

However, in this case, someone wrote on the back of the picture naming most of the people. Also attached, was some information composed by the late Harold G. Root who lived on the Allis Road, Town of Barre. Mr. Root wrote up this information some twenty years ago.

"Following people who homesteaded the farm presently occupied by Glenn P. Clark, moved into Town of Barre in 1821 by oxen and sleigh, only neighbor at that time was Col. Wright, a mile south of West Barre Corners."

This farmstead is located on the West Barre Road southwest of Bragg's Corners. Mr. Root continues:

"Seated in buggy, Amos & Rosamond Grinnell whom the above item refers to ... the others in picture are: seated on porch William Harvey Grinnell, a son, with Geo. Bragg (little boy) standing by, standing by horse and buggy, a son Henry Semour, with Minn Putnam seated on grass, the other party (far left) in picture is the hired man Ira Hensel."

The horse hitched to the buggy and the cat Minn Putnam is holding are unidentified. On the back of the picture it states: "taken about 1880".

The photo does not have a photographers name or seal on it. But I judge that an itinerate photographer traveled about getting people to buy such pictures of themselves and their homes. We must remember that photography at that time had not yet reached the snapshot stage. All photos

were done by professionals who made a living at the trade.

This picture is typical of the period in that the people are spread out through the scene rather than being clustered together as we are so apt to do nowadays.

From Landmarks of Orleans County (1894) we find this information: "Amos Grinnell the son of Isaiah Grinnel an early settler of Shelby, was born in Oneida County, N.Y. in 1805. He came to Barre

(1821) prior to his majority, but returned to Onondaga County. In 1826 he settled here on 80 acres of Lot 19 southwest of Barre Center. To this he added from time to time until he owned more than 200 acres, besides purchasing farms for his sons. In 1827 he married Rosamond Whaley (born 1807) a native of Tully, Onondaga County, and their children were: Diana M. married Joel R. Finch; Frank, married Josaphine Palmer; Edwin married Frances Paine; Orlando, married Rebecca Jackson; Anna M. married A.E. Young; Harvey married Libbie Mull; Fillmore married Alice Warner and Henry. Mr. Grinnell died 1889. His widow in 1891."

At the time this picture was taken, Amos Grinnell would have been 75 years old. Both Amos and Rosamond Grinnell are buried in Mr. Albion Cemetery. As a point of reference, it is their monument which is a very nice metal one up Hawthorn Lane east of the chapel. This is one which I have usually pointed out on cemetery tours particularly because of the symbolic ear of corn on it indicating the bounty of God. The monument was made in 1888 which suggests the Grinnells picked it out of a catalogue prior to their deaths.