

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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AHS FOOTBALL TEAM 1902



Thanks go to Mrs. Marcia Hart for this 1902 photo of the Albion High School football team. The picture quite oddly was taken on the Court House lawn. That's the Court House in the background to the left. In the center background a small portion of the old county jail shows. It was torn down in 1903. The house in the distance, located on Platt Street, was most recently used as the Sheriff's office.

Shown in this vintage photo in the front row are the offensive linemen from left to right: Unidentified, Arthur Elson (class of 1902), Burr Heady, kicking the ball, William Crandall (class of 1904) and Jay Brown (class of 1902). In the second row are the running backs or back field men. They are left to right: Walter Radley (class of 1903), Bill Luttenton, Everett Barnum (class of 1903), Frank VanStone, the quarterback, Homer Brown (class of 1906) and Clarence Nesbitt (class of 1903). In the back from left to right, also team players, are: Foster Wood (class of 1903), George Houghton

(class of 1903) and Mike Hughes (class of 1903). Others in the picture, continuing from left to right are: Homer Heady, Harry Harding, an unidentified man, then two boys who are Ted VanStone and "Bud" Wilcox (class of 1910), Harry Wood and finally, to the far right, slightly cut off the picture, is Weston Weatherbee who became Orleans County Sheriff and served one term 1905-06.

Now, in the height of football season, we might just take a closer look at these gridders of yesteryear. They played without helmets, although several guys in this photo appear to be wearing some sort of padded leg and knee protection. Four of the players are wearing nose and mouth guards. This small piece of protective equipment was made of hard rubber which strapped around the top of the head. It had a mouth piece projecting inside which the player had to bite onto while wearing this guard. Holes were placed into this device for the nostrils and the mouth for breathing and exhaling. It's a wonder they weren't all maimed for life.