

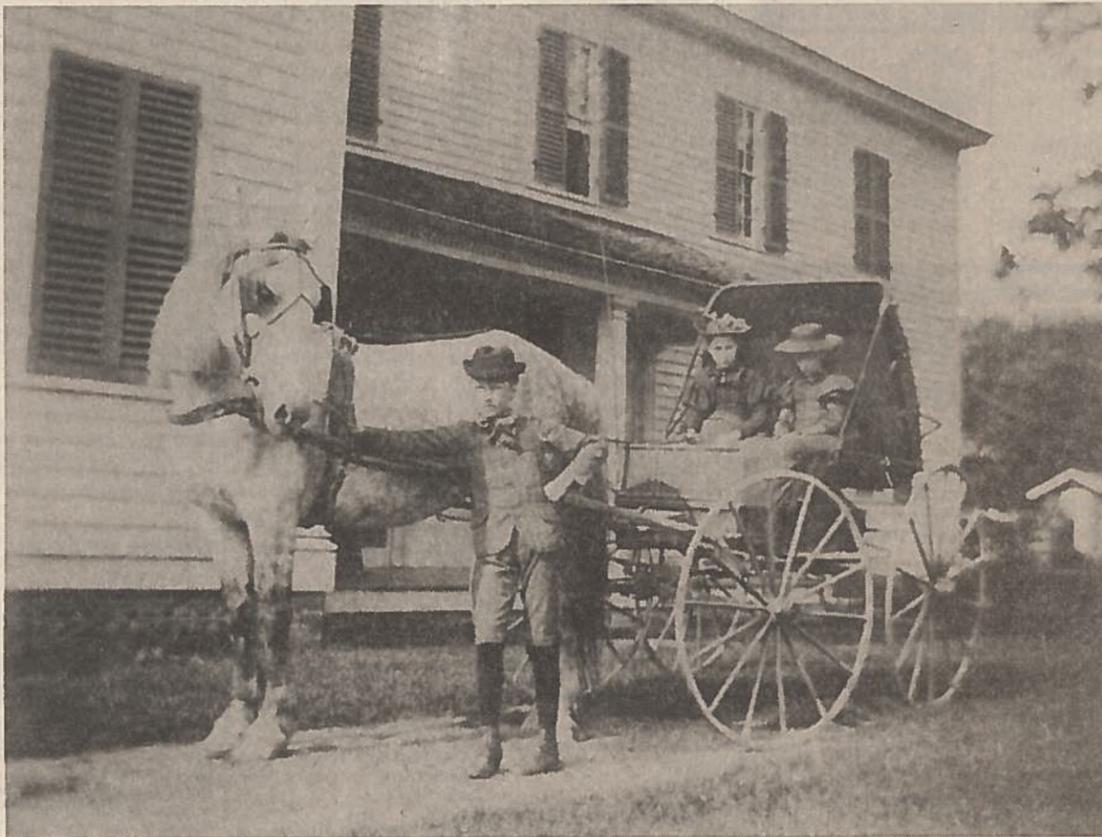
Bethinking of Old Orleans

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"ROSS, ROSE, FLORENCE & GEORGE"



Written on the back of this picture a long time ago are the names "Ross, Rose, Florence & George." In case you are wondering which one is George, he is the horse.

This very sharp, clear picture was taken around 1894 of my grandfather Ross Wilson (1881-1967) who is holding on to George. Also pictured are his two sisters in the buggy, Rose to the left with the reins, and Florence to the right. These are three children of Andrew Bennett and Florence Rose Wilson, residents near Millville, Town of Shelby.

Rose (1883-1924) married my grandmother Wilson's brother Roy B. Wyman. In other words, a brother and sister married a brother and sister. Florence (1885-1973) married George A. Howell and they had one son, Everett (1906-1978), of Millville, who served as a Town Justice for the Town of Shelby for fifteen years.

Now back to the photograph. I am almost sure this picture was taken along the south side of the S.V.R. Taylor residence just inside the Town of Albion. This early 19th century house was located on the east side of Taylor Hill Road just north of the intersection of West County House Road a mile east of Millville. It was a stately old landmark which eventually fell into ruin, reverted to the county for taxes and was razed a little over ten

years ago.

It appears to have a cobblestone foundation which shows behind the horse's front legs. Note the number of window blinds which are closed to keep the rooms cooler, yet allow for ventilation. Today we use shutters for aesthetic reasons only, yet their antecedents were both decorative as well as utilitarian. They also protected the window glass in the winter from the stormy blasts.

The three children in this vintage photo are dressed in their Sunday best. It's hard to tell what this occasion was all about. I can only assume that they were visiting the people at this house and a photographer who happened to be on hand took this picture. Both girls appear to be wearing straw hats and are covered with a lap robe as they are posed in the buggy. Ross is dressed in a cute suit of clothes with knickers, a large bow tie and high top laced shoes. His hat is a dress hat designed for a youth of his age back in the 1890s.

This generation of people certainly saw fantastic changes in transportation during their lifetimes. From the common means of going somewhere in such a conveyance as this in the 1890s to the ever present automobile. Life for them was a total transition from their youthful days and ways, long set in the past, to unimaginable progressions.