

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## BURTON T. STOCKTON'S STORE



Our photo this week comes from the local history files of the Swan Library. Taken about 1917 or 18, it shows Burton T. Stockton's Store on North Main Street at Beaver Alley in Albion. It was obviously taken before 1923 as the reflection of the Citizen's Bank across the street in the store window shows the bank before it was enlarged.

The people identified in the picture in front from left to right are: 1st person unknown, Oscar Sammett, Sam Ranella, G.H. Sheffield, Adolph Ritterbandt, Florence Stockton Ritterbandt and Burton Stockton. Of the three young people in the back, only the girl in the center is identified, she being Marjorie Stockton Butler.

Oscar Sammett (1871-1941) ran a men's clothing store just a couple of doors up the street. Sam Ranella was also involved in produce business. G.H. Sheffield later operated a grocery store at this location. Adolph Ritterbandt (1893-1918) and Florence Stockton Ritterbandt (1896-1918) were the parents of Gordon Ritterbandt and the late Grace Ilse R. Williams. Burton T. Stockton (1876-1956) was the father of Florence G. Ritterbandt.

This is a fascinating picture for all the produce displayed for sale on the sidewalk. Bananas, sweet corn, radishes, lettuce, asparagus,

cucumbers, carrots, onions and pineapple are all evident here. Incidentally, radishes were selling at 5 cents a bunch The flowers are pansies selling for 13 cents or two for 25 cents a box. The 1911 Orleans County Directory lists Burton Stockton at 70 N. Main St. as a bakery. The 1921 Directory lists him as a grocer at this same address. However, the 1926 Directory shows G.H. Sheffield as a grocer at 70 N. Main. Our picture also takes in a view of Beaver Alley showing the side of the Pratt Theater Building with the fire escape. Advertising on boxes or crates in the photo includes "Shredded Whole Wheat" and "Chase and Company Florida Tomatoes."

By the time this picture was taken, fresh fruits and vegetables were easily shipped into this area by refrigerator cars on the railroad. The cars were kept cool to preserve perishable products by natural ice. Although bananas and pineapple could not be grown locally, they became readily available through the local groceries with this means of transportation.

This store front has served various businesses throughout the years including a Rexall Drug Store and restaurants. Currently it is vacant.