

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

Vol XXI

C.W. Lattin County Historian

No.11

3-18-99

## THE POLLY TAVERN



Our photo from the turn of the century shows a rather derelict structure once known as Dan Polly's Tavern. Located in the Town of Clarendon, it was known far and wide during the second quarter of the 19th century, as a popular stopping off place for the weary traveler. Forty-five years ago a small part of the building still remained but that too has since totally collapsed and gone back to nature.

David Sturges Copeland in his book "History of Clarendon 1888" writes about this once favorite tavern. His flowery writing is typical of a Victorian's approach to this skill. Copeland states as follows:

"Dan Polly, in 1806, married Abigail Bennett, and after a sojourn for some time under the log roof, put up the frame structure known as the Polly Tavern, in 1824. Who has not heard of this noted place among the old residents? The traveler came to this inn on the Fourth Section Road and ever found that warm welcome of which Shenstone sings. Here, in the winter season, was the grand old fireplace, large enough to make all comfortable

with its cheering heat; sending up its light in the gloomy night with a glow that no language can describe. To the hungry the best of roast beef, in tin ovens, buckwheat cakes as fine as Elsie could make, bread which her good mother had kneaded out of flour which knew Rochester as the flour village, roast pigs, from the farm, and, if one was dry, call on Dan, and he would furnish the best

liquor that Sturges could afford, with the richest of cider from Clarkson. The old tavern has pulled down its sign, old faces have gone, old guests have departed, and we have the feeling of sadness come over us in passing this fast-decaying house, which is the reminder of former days. The Polly Tavern, in 1887, had an old clock, over fifty years of age, which cost twenty-five dollars."

The old tavern was located on the Fourth Section Road at the County Line Road. Dan and Abigail Polly are buried in the rural cemetery on the east side of the County Line Road near the intersection.