

Bethinking of Old Orleans

Vol XXI

C.W. Lattin County Historian 6-29-99 No.26

AND A GRAND TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

From a clipping found in an old scrap book going back to 1897, we find an interesting account of how Independence Day was celebrated in 1847. It is as follows:

"Mr. Editor: In the year of 1847 the 4th of July came on a Sunday the same as it did in 1897, consequently the celebration occurred on the 3rd of July in 1847 in Medina. The firemen of Albion were invited to participate with the people of Medina. At that time there was no railroad running through this place and consequently we had to travel by canal.

The committee chartered the state scow and Sam McGuffy was the steersman. We had fiddling and dancing on the boat, and a general good time. That was conceded, as the after-cabin was used as a bar to keep liquor in. But all went well until we sat down to the table, where the fish smelt old and the turkeys were half cooked and covered with rust. They got their pay for the dinner just the same, but a good deal of growling and some of us thought swear if we did not speak it out.

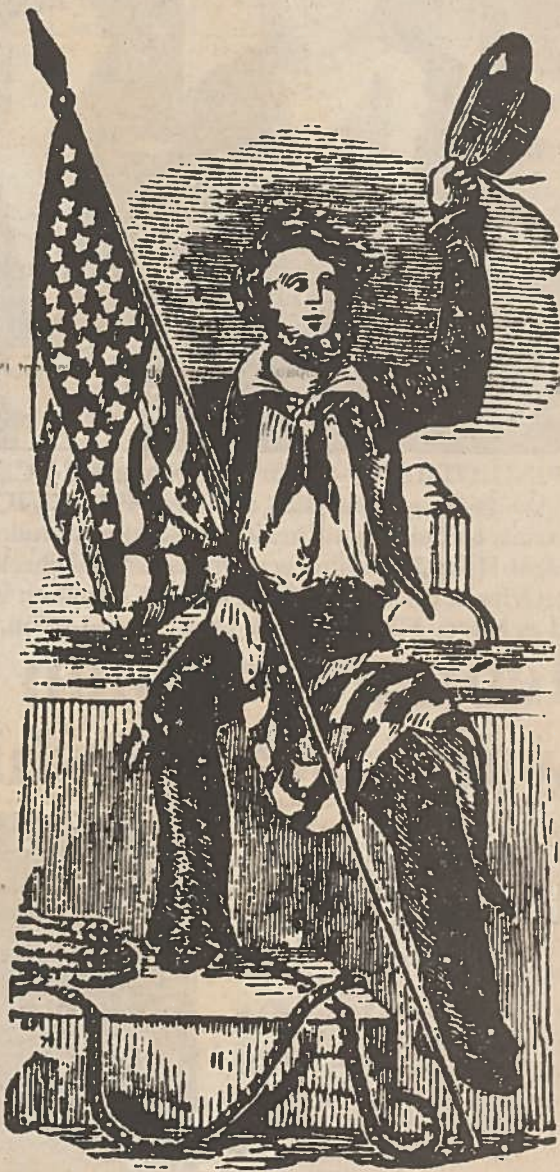
After the celebration was over, we returned to the boat. Then came the speeches from the Medina petifogers aimed at our company on the boat, which were answered by the petifogers on the boat from Albion. After which, the drivers started up their horses, six in number.

Then the fiddling was resumed on the boat for a general good time until we got to Knowlesville. At that place we took a turn around the village calling at the grocery kept by a man who had but one arm, by the name of Wm. Fuller.

We patronized him liberally for beer and cigars, after which one of our company stepped forward to pay the bill. Then a voice called out from the outside to Mr. Fuller that the money from the gentleman from Albion was not good. But he had some good money and would pay the bill as soon as he found out what it was.

Then there was a motion to give three rousing cheers which was done, with some pleasant jokes. We then got aboard of the boat and resumed the fiddling and dancing until we arrived in Albion, all feeling well and sober.

I will give the names of those on the boat as far as I knew them at that time: Dr. Mills, Wm. Gere, J.J. VanDuzen, Howard Abeel, Horace B. Burroughs, Sanford E. Church, Lorenzo Burrows, Jack and Jesse King, T. McAllister, Gen. John B. Lee, Wm. and Horace Morehouse (living the last I knew



of them West). Wm. Cummins, Thomas J. Clark and James VanDuzen. There were very many I did not know.

That was 50 years ago the 3rd of this month and they are all dead except the two Morehouses. It hath pleased God to spare my life until this fiftieth anniversary for which I am very thankful."

G.W. Hotchkin