

# Rethinking of Old Orleans

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## 12-3-99 BOUNTIES RECEIVED

The year was 1926 when flocks of sheep in Barre were preyed upon by coyotes. Sheep were killed daily by these wily varmints who raised havoc and caused unnecessary damage. It got so bad that Orleans County finally offered a bounty of \$300 for each coyote that could be turned in to Sheriff Rose Hollenbeck.

Several local hunters and farmers who were excellent shots made it their goal to halt this deadly rampage. A Leon Burr of Barre Center was reported to have wounded one but it got away. It was believed that a pair of coyotes existed in the Tonawanda Swampland but because they were so cunning it was hard to get them.

I talked with a local hunter who told me that he and his buddies and two dogs followed a coyote one day from near Lyndonville to Somersset. The coyote would run real fast, then sit down and rest. Just when you could about see him, he would take off again. The dogs, however, kept running the whole time and wore themselves out. Needless to say, the wily coyote got away and probably laughed about it too!

The three coyotes shown in our photo weren't so lucky. Eventually three sharp hunters, all excellent marksmen, put a stop to the killing of sheep in Barre at the time. One Saturday in the fall of 1926 they were out hunting on the Adam Sheeler farm off the Old Oak Orchard road. They brought in three coyotes and each received \$300 a piece for their trophy. Pictured here are from left to right:



Lewis McLean and Adam Nowatchik, both of Barre. To the right is George Hall, a friend from the Adirondacks. This picture was taken between the old jail and the Court House. The Presbyterian Manse shows across East State Street in the background. Note the World War I arm jacket that Adam Nowatchik in the center is wearing.

Coyote may be pronounced Ki-ot or Ki-ote. It is a small some what nocturnal wolf native to western North America. This carnivorous animal is noted for its mournful howling and yapping at night time and evades people.