

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## WILLIAM W. PHIPPS 1842-1914

William Wallace Phipps was born in Eagle Harbor Nov. 18, 1842. He was the youngest of the five children of Aaron and Judith Pratt Phipps.

Aaron Phipps came to Orleans County from Oneida County as a young man. He became a staunch Abolitionist and prominent in the temperance movement. He was among the founders in 1843 of the Wesleyan Methodist Church once located in Eagle Harbor. Caroline Phipps Achilles, founder of the noted Phipps Union Seminary in Albion, would have been an aunt to William W. Phipps.

Mr. Phipps received his early education through the common schools and later training at the Albion Academy. Following this, he taught in the district schools for about 20 yers. He was a well-known educator and well-informed on questions of public interest. In politics, Mr. Phipps was strongly identified with the Republican Patry, for which he aggressively worked. He was selected School Commissioner in Orleans County and served during the years 1873-1875. In this position of superintendent, he oversaw all the rural schools of the county.

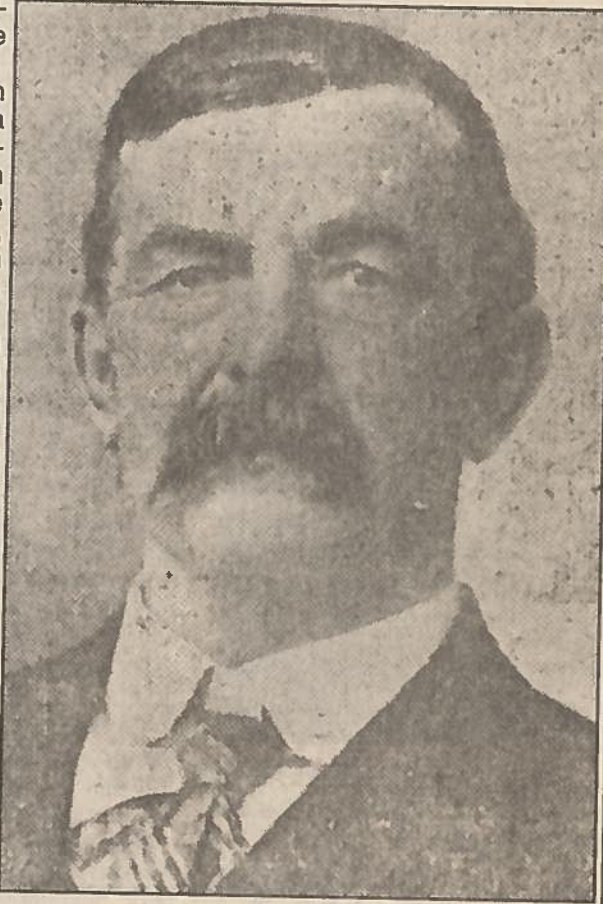
In 1895 and 1897, he was elected Supervisor of the Town of Albion, thereby serving two terms on the Orleans County Board of Supervisors. In 1900, he was elected by a large majority to the New York Sate Assembly. Here, he also served two terms with distinction. He ran again in 1912 but was defeated.

Coupled with his civic and political endeavors, Mr. Phipps was also engaged in farming, running a large operation west of Albion on the Telegraph Road, now known as Phipps Road.

He was considered an expert farmer and tiller of the soil, a prominent agriculturalist and horticulturalist in Western New York.

For many years, he conducted a phosphate manufacturing industry at Eagle Harbor known as Eagle Brand Fertilizers.

Mr. Phipps was prominent in the Albion Lodge BPOE and a devoted member of the Pullman



Memorial Universalist Church. Upon his death, he was survived by his wife, Clara, and one son, Frank W. Phipps.

Mr. Phipps was predeceased by his first wife, Electra Warner, in 1898.

It is not just as we take it,  
This mystical worlisd of ours,  
Life's field will yield as we make it  
A harvest of thorns or of flowers.

-Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe