

Rethinking of Old Orleans

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OUR SEPTOICENTENNIAL

Our Septoicentennial or 175th anniversary of Orleans County will be celebrated on Saturday, April 15 at the County Court House.

The program will commence at 1:30 p.m. with local dignitaries including the reading of a resolution from the State Legislature and the cutting of the anniversary cake which will be served by Girl Scouts throughout the afternoon.

Speakers for the afternoon who will relate facts of our early development here will include: The County Historian, the Village of Albion Historian and the Gaines Historian. Topics to be covered will be "How Albion Got To Be The County Seat", "History Of The Court House", "Albion's First Settler", "Pioneer Women" and "Black History".

Terry Heary will provide intervals of fiddle or banjo music and the afternoon will conclude with a performance by the Community Mass Choir.

This program has been planned by Bill Lattin and Neil Johnson under the auspices of the Orleans County Department of History in cooperation with the Orleans County Legislature.

A souvenir program will be distributed for the occasion.

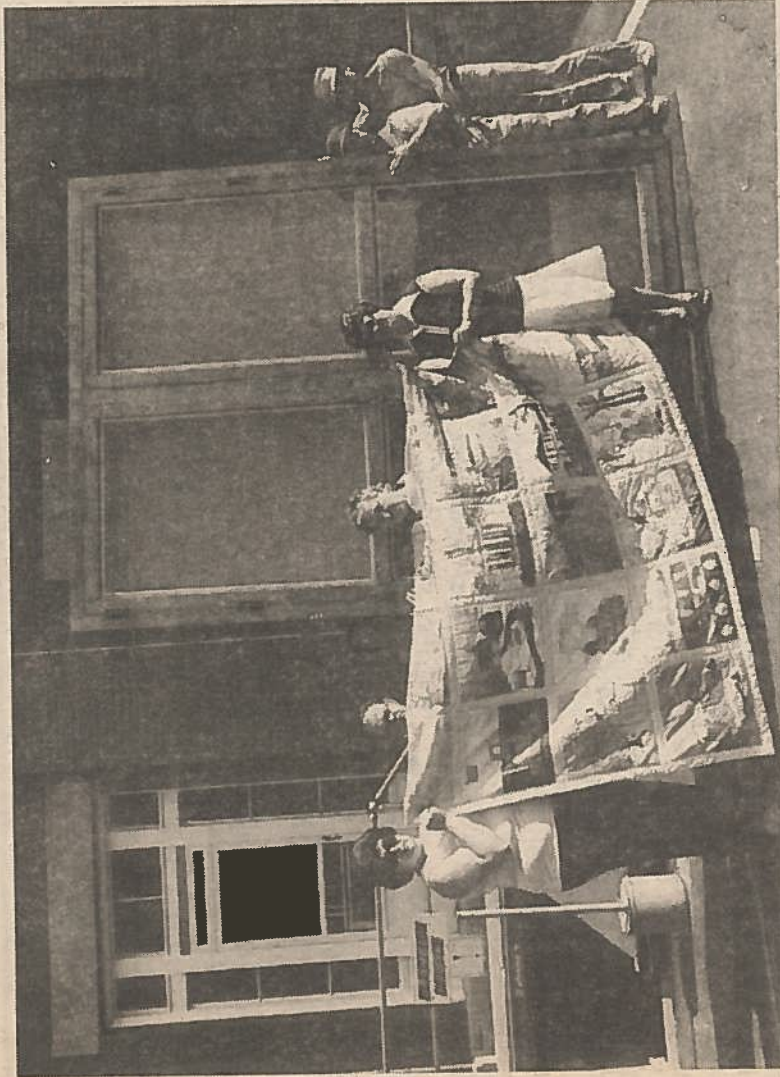
It was on April 15, 1825 that the N.Y.S. Legislature amended earlier legislation stating that as of this date Orleans County was officially a county of its own. The starting

date had originally been set for January 1, 1826. For many years this was the accepted date of our establishment. But with more thorough research through the laws of New York State, the April 15 date was found to be correct. On June 9, 1993 the Orleans County Legislature passed a resolution recognizing April 15, 1825 as the correct date of our creation. Hence, we now come to celebrate our 175th anniversary (Septoicentennial).

To celebrate our Sesquicentennial of the county and the Bi-centennial of our nation in 1976, the Orleans County Centennials Corporation was formed. Back at that time, twenty-four years ago, various activities were undertaken to note these anniversaries.

Our photo included with this article shows one of them. As a county project a huge quilt was hand made by various individuals which hangs in the Orleans County Court House. I believe this picture was taken in the summer of 1976 showing the quilt and the case it is mounted in. The three women holding the quilt, from left to right, are Ruth Pettit, Josephine Howard and Veronica Thompson. The four men in the background from the Buildings and Grounds Department of the county show off the case which they made for the quilt. From left to right they are: Dave Stevenson, Burrell Bingaman, Martin Shawver and Ernie Loss. The photo was taken at the rear entrance of the Court House.

Squares shown in this picture depict the



Fancher War Memorial, Christmas Park, the Court House, the Buffalo, Lockport & Rochester Trolley, Wild Life, Medina Senior Citizen Center, the Holley Square, Carlton's Octagon House, the Old Mill in Shelby, Muck Farming, the Barre Grange and Clarendon Falls. Some other subjects on the quilt are Waterport Trestle, Erie Canal, Lighthouse at Oak Orchard, Wide Waters, a Stone Quarry, 4-H Fair, Village Inn, Cobblestone Museum, the Sloopers, Swan Library and Albion Fire

Department.

Some of the quilters back then who worked on the project were: Bernadine Metcalf, Angelina Manella, L.B. Cary, C. Lyster, Augustine Lamanna, Virginia DeLaura, Minnie Allis, Charlotte D'Andrea, D. Duset, K. Carlson, M. Downey, J. Marasco, C. Babcock, M. Coleman, A. Cole, L.E. Banker, J. Howes, I. Root, Florence Hull Stork, Constance Jones, Marge Whipple and Helen Mathes.