

LAKEVIEW

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According to Landmarks of Orleans County (1894) what is known today as Oak Orchard-On-The-Lake was first known as Lakeview. A.V. Clark became owner of some 400 acres of land on the west side of Oak Orchard Harbor at an early time. He built a hotel and kept it many years until it burned in 1850. By this time the hotel had become quite a resort and the grounds were a popular place for picnic parties.

The hotel was rebuilt by A.V. Clark and run by him until 1866 when purchased by D.F. Daniels who operated it three years. During this time a race track was established near the hotel but it only lasted a short

time. In 1869 the hotel became the property of Mr. Clark again. The 1860 Niagara-Orleans map indicates it was called the Grove House but all other reference to it after 1869 indicates it was called the Lakeview House. By 1870 it was becoming fashionable for boarders and pleasure seekers during the summer.

In 1883 the first summer cottages were erected just west of the Lakeview House. In 1888 F.E. Wood & Son leased the hotel and conducted business there until 1892.

Our photo taken circa 1890 shows the hotel as it would have appeared then, this being the structure

which was built in 1850. It appears to have been Greek Revival in style with perhaps the addition of a large porch in the 1870's.

The inserted map from the 1875 Orleans County Atlas clearly shows Lake View House with A.V. Clark as the owner. Note on this map the nearby lighthouse dwelling and the two piers projecting into the lake with the light-house located on the end of the west pier. There improvements to Oak Orchard Harbor were done in 1871.

In 1892 a syndicate was formed which purchased the A.V. Clark estate. One hundred acres were surveyed into building lots and placed on the market. This



Lakeview House

corporation, known as Oak Orchard-on-the-Lake Company erected an imposing frame hotel having a

capacity of 150 guests. With the completion of this structure a little closer to the lake, hotel had also been torn down.