

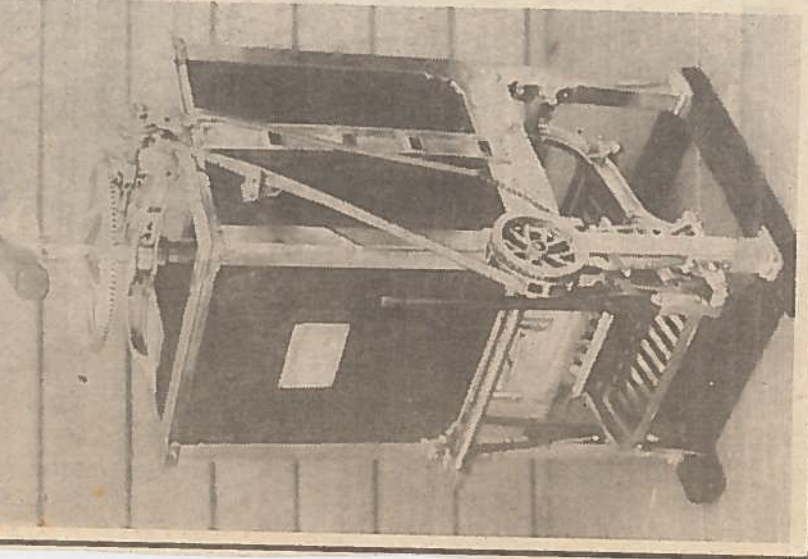
# Rethinking of Old Orleans

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## LAFLER'S BRICKYARD

It was during the second quarter of the 19th century that John Lafler started a brickyard located on the west side of Route 98 between Five Corners and Childs. He, in fact, had a patent on a brick-making machine. The small salesman's sample is shown here. A plate on the device notes: "Lafler's new Iron-Clad Brick machine Pat'd. 1863 and 1868". The actual brick-making machines were around ten feet high and were sold to contractors and brick makers throughout the eastern United States into the 1880's.

The 1869 Orleans County Directory lists John A. Lafler as a manufacturer of bricks and tiles and manufacturer of iron-clad brick machines. The tiles mentioned here would have been those old type clay tiles used for drainage purposes. John Lafler's son, Charles, continued to run the brickyard into the late 19th century. He is noted as a brickmaker in the 1894 Orleans County Directory. Our 1890's photo with this article shows the brickyard crew of workers and a huge stack of bricks behind them. It is my guess that Charles Lafler is standing to the far right in



the photo. Bricks with the imprint of "J.A. Lafler" may be seen in the terrace in front of the historic Cobblestone Church at Childs. Today the brick yard is flooded and is commonly referred to as the Brick Pond. Over the last several years it has been transformed into an attractive site for a new residence built by Richard DeCarlo.