

Historical briefs

9-14-00

In 1821-22 Jeremiah Brown built a foundry at Barnegat, now Shelby Center. It was the first foundry of its kind erected west of the Tennessee River and in it was cast the first iron ever made west of Rochester. It sold for \$15.

As early as 1805 the Holland Land Company erected a salt works north of Medina use of the early settlers. Salt was also made as early as 1814 in Holley which was once known as Salt Fort. In 1821 salt was made at Kendall but when the U.S. Government passed an Act levying a tax of one shilling per bushel on the manufacture of salt, they suspended operations at Kendall.

In 1879 Miller and Pettingill built a large building in Clarendon for the purpose of drying and evaporating apples by the sulphur steam process. The business turned out about two hundred tons of dried fruit annually. Cider was also converted into vinegar at this business with more than 80 men and men being employed seasonally.

Eagle Harbor was so named because local surveyors saw an eagle's nest in a nearby tree. Hulberton was first named Scio but changed after I. H. Hulbert was postmaster.

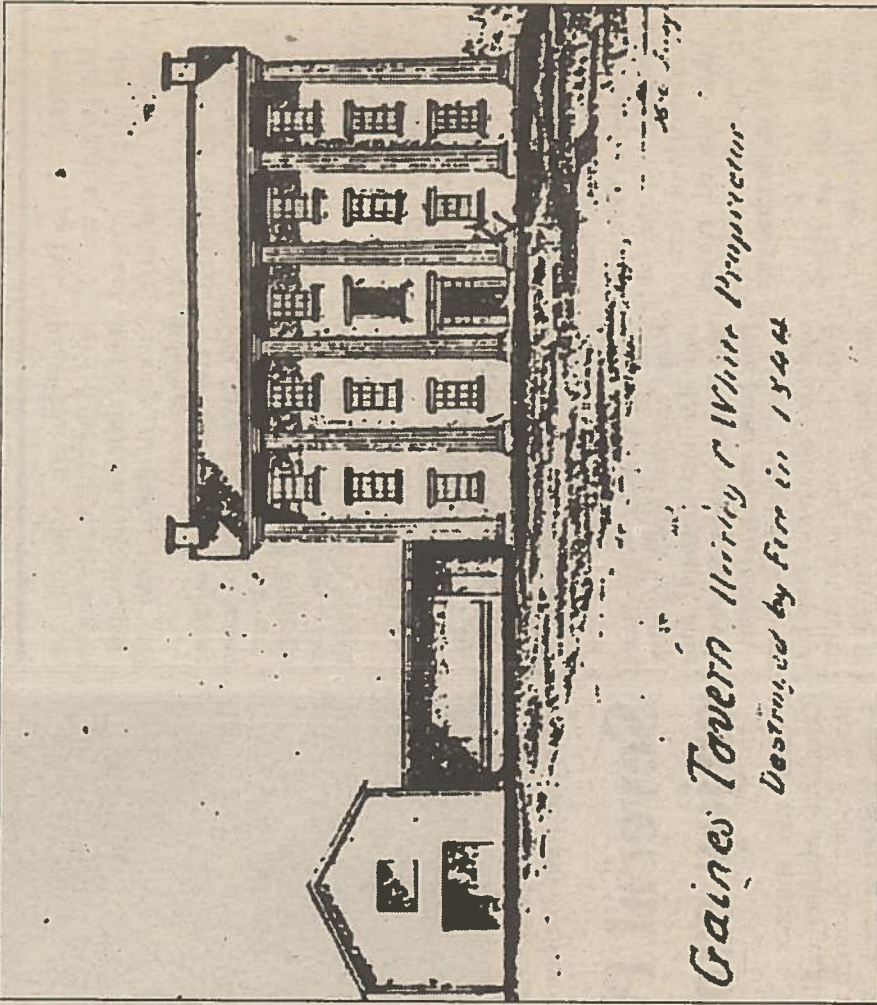
The first electric street lights in Albion were turned on April 6, 1890. This was considered a great improvement, being much superior to gas.

The 1850 Census reported the following statistics on the number of churches in Orleans County which were: 10 Baptist, two Freewill Baptist, one Congregational, two Episcopal, one Quaker, 11 Methodist, nine Presbyterian, three Universalists, one Catholic, one Wesleyan and three Christian.

The same census also reported 288 deaths for the year ending June 1, 1850. There were also 5,319 families and 5,273 dwellings at that time.

On May 5, 1834 the Medina and Darien Railroad was incorporated for the purpose of constructing a rail line for horse-drawn cars between Medina and Akron. A terminal was constructed in Medina near the canal and the railroad went into operation in 1836 but was soon discontinued.

Our illustration shows the Gaines Tavern where the three State Commissioners met to decide that Albion, not Gaines, would be the Orleans County seat. It was from the front porch of this building that Henry Clay addressed a group of Gaines residents. The tavern burned in 1844.



Gaines Tavern. Illustration by C. White Proprietor
Destroyed by fire in 1844