

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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C.W. Lattin

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Presbyterian S.S. Class

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The information on the back of our photo is: "Presbyterian S.S. Class, June 1905." These ladies were all from the Presbyterian church in Knowlesville. My special thanks to Gene VanHall who recently donated the picture to the Orleans County Department of History. What truly makes this picture worthwhile is that somebody also wrote all the names on the back of the picture as follows. First row, from left: Mrs. Arthur Gillett, Mrs. John Preston (teacher), Mrs. Charles Sayers; second row: Mrs. Avery Andrews, Miss Dora Tanner, Mrs. Roscoe Ostrander, Mrs. Eugene Woodford, Mrs. George Stanley; third row: Mrs. John Whitwell, Mrs. Fred Armstrong, Miss Grace Remelee, Mrs. Frederson, Mrs. Frank Howlett, Miss Mittie Turner; fourth row: Mrs. George Prudom, Miss Cameron, Mrs. Harry Frost, Mrs. George Tingill.

I'm sure a few older pole around the Knowlesville area will well remember the names if not some of the ladies shown here. I personally know Mrs. Roscoe Ostrander when she was quite elderly. I would never have picked her out of this photo of 95 years ago. So just remember be sure to identify your pictures with names for future generations.

Using the 1903 directory I could find many of the husbands names above. George Prudom is listed as a thresher, a proprietor of a portable saw mill, a dealer in lumber and a farmer. Harry Frost

was a farmer. E.J. Whitwell was in business with E.H. Achilles. They were manufacturers of evaporated fruit, cider vinegar, dealers in coal, agricultural implements, fertilizers, grain, fuel and cements. George Peitlingill was associated with them. Fred Armstrong was a farmer while Miss Grace Remelee is just listed as living in Knowlesville in 1903.

Fred Anderson was a farmer. Mittie Turner is not noted in the directory but her sister Dora is listed as a school teacher. Avery Andrews is shown to be a farmer.

Roscoe Ostrander is noted as a breeder of Shorthorn Durham cattle, Poland China Swine and Oxford sheep. Eugene Woodford is listed as a general merchant. George Stanley is shown to be a farmer with an interest in apples. The same for Arthur Gillett. John Preston, the husband of the teacher, is listed as a farmer on shares.

These names were all in Ridgeway. However, I found Charles Sayers in Barre listed as a breeder of Berkshire swine and sheep.

The names on our photos did not use the woman's first name as a form of identification unless singly but rather the husband's first name. Consequently, women back at this period of time are seldom noted in the old directories.

The Presbyterian Church in Knowlesville was located on Presbyterian Road which runs east out of that hamlet. The congregation was established

in 1817 and in 1832 built a brick meeting house in Knowlesville. In 1893 they razed that building and erected a more commodious church on the same lot. In 1964 the congregation dissolved and in 1969 their beautiful Romanesque church was demolished. What remains as evidence of this once prosperous congregation is a vacant lot with

an historic marker and the name Presbyterian Road.

Back when this photo was taken many churches had adult Sunday School classes, especially for women. This would have not only served for religious educational purposes but also as a social group for the ladies involved.

