

Board of Supervisors 1923-24

This distinguished group of men made up the Orleans County Board of Supervisors in 1923. That is back when our town supervisors also made up the county board.

Al though some counties still retain this form of local government, we went to the county legislature system just a little over 20 years ago. In this picture, the supervisors had a local photographer do this studio shot. Note the very decorative printed backdrop.

Most of the individuals identified here are making this a transitional photo. You will see why as we proceed.

From left to right beginning with the front row: Arthur Rhodes, supervisor of Murray 1920-23; the boy next to him is unidentified and I have no idea why he should be in the picture. Perhaps he was simply a mascot. The man seated in the middle is Charles W. Prussia, supervisor of Gaines from 1918-23.

At the time of the picture, he served as chairman of the board. His placement in the picture naturally indicates the position.

Next is John W. Roach, supervisor of Ridgeway from 1922-27 and last is Charles E. Harrington, supervisor of Kendall from 1922-25.

In the back we find Edward Benthin, super-

visor of Barre 1922-1925; William E. Karnes, supervisor of Albion 1916-23; Leroy Posson, supervisor of Shelby 1922-29; Harry P. Dean, supervisor of Carleton 1920-23; William H. McAllister, supervisor of Clarendon 1920-25; and Frederick Thompson, clerk of the board of supervisors who was also an attorney at law.

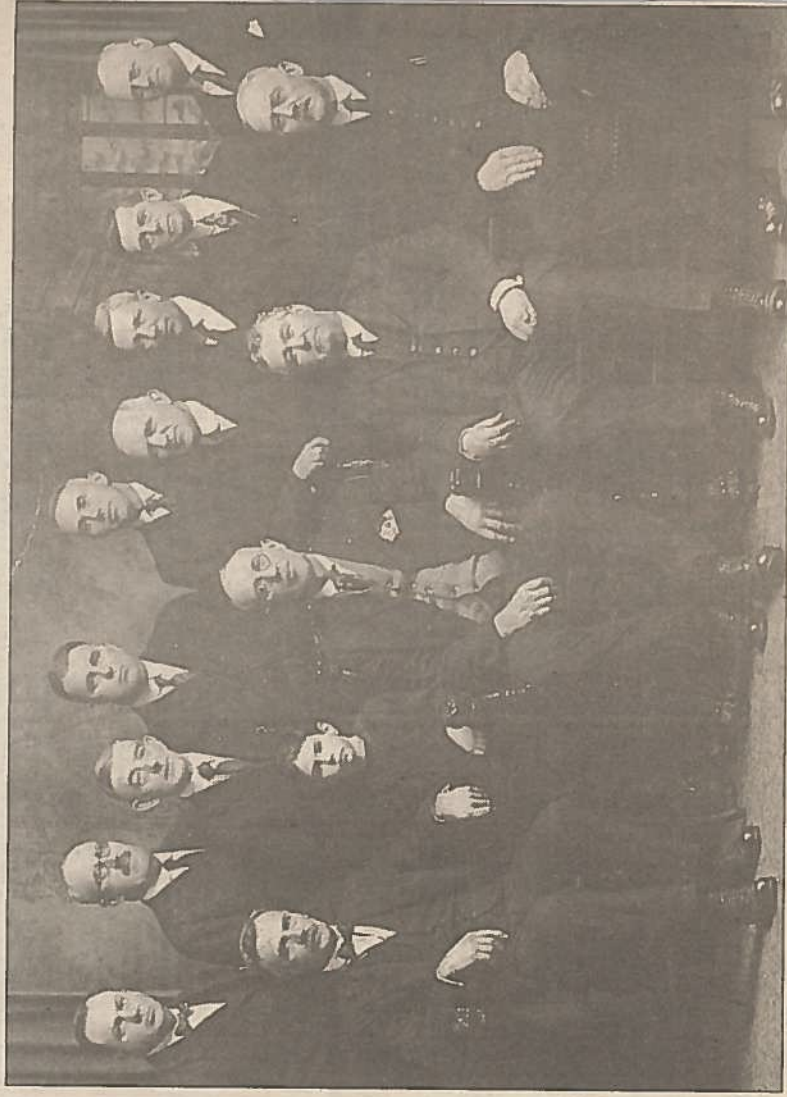
This gave the board legal counsel as well when needed.

Continuing, we next see Jay W. Barry, supervisor of Yates 1922-27 and James A. Balcom, supervisor of Murray in several terms 1910-15, 1918-19 and 1924-25.

It is interesting that both he and Arthur Rhodes are included in the picture. The last man is M.J. Luttebon who served as the messenger for the board of supervisors. We call a person who does such duties as this today a "Go-for."

At any rate, when they met, they needed someone to run errands for them. After all, communications were not as sophisticated as we now know them. I'm sure these people would just be totally astonished at FAX.

Imagine sending a letter by a machine through the telephone wires. How incredulous!



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