

5-23-01

Historic markers book

On May 10, with the help of the Orleans County Historical Association, a 44-page booklet on historic markers in Orleans County was formally presented.

The booklet compiled by Orleans County Historian C.W. Lattin and Albion Village Historian Neil Johnson has been published by the Orleans County Legislature in recognition of the 175th anniversary of the county.

The booklet is now available at the Chamber of Commerce offices, county libraries, Cobblestone Museum and the Medina Book Shoppe for \$7 per copy. For out-of-towners, booklets may be ordered at \$10 each by mail from the Orleans County Historian, 34 E. Park St., Albion, N.Y. 14411. Make checks payable to Orleans County Department of History.

Historical photographs illustrate the book, which enhance the various themes the markers represent. One such picture included in the booklet is the one accompanying this article.

It was taken around 1905 and shows the bridge tender's house and old swing bridge over the canal on Main Street in Albion. The present lift bridge took its place in 1911. The old Burrows block shows in the background. Adjacent to this building is an historic marker which reads:

Erie Canal 1825
Main Passage To The West
Became N.Y.S.
Barge Canal 1903
Newport (Now Albion)
Grew At Planned Canal
And Oak Orchard Road
After 1821

The forward in the book is as follows:

During the 20th Century, there were 76 historic markers placed throughout Orleans County. Many are the "State Historic Markers" formerly made of cast iron, now aluminum, which are traditionally painted blue and yellow. However, a few markers were made of bronze.

Several of these were mounted on boulders by the D.A.R. The earliest historic marker in Orleans County dates to 1913, the last 2000.

The State Historic Marker Program began as a temporary celebration of the 150th anniversary of the American Revolution in 1926. Appropriations for the program ended in 1939. Since that time historic markers of the same configuration have been privately funded and often maintained through local highway departments.

Citizen Larie Vagg of Albion has also volunteered many hours in repainting markers in Orleans County. Over the past several years the Orleans County Historical Association has annually purchased and placed a new marker somewhere in the county at the discretion of the Orleans County Historian. It is believed that there are now more than 5,000 markers of this type throughout New York State.

Our markers are currently being manufactured at Catskill Castings, a foundry located at Bloomville, Delaware County, for a price of \$525 in 2001.

The purpose of this publication is to draw attention to the Orleans County Historic Markers. These surely point out the highlights of our local heritage.

If one were to write a history

of Orleans County from the beginning to the present, these markers represent the topics that might well be included. Therefore, this booklet presents a brief history of our county, which was created April 15, 1825. Let it also be noted that a handful of these markers relate to site(s) predating the establishment of Orleans County.

Wherever you see one of these historic markers, brief

as they are, you have to realize that there is indeed a great deal more history there than meets the eye. Any of these sites/topics with research could easily produce enough information for an essay.

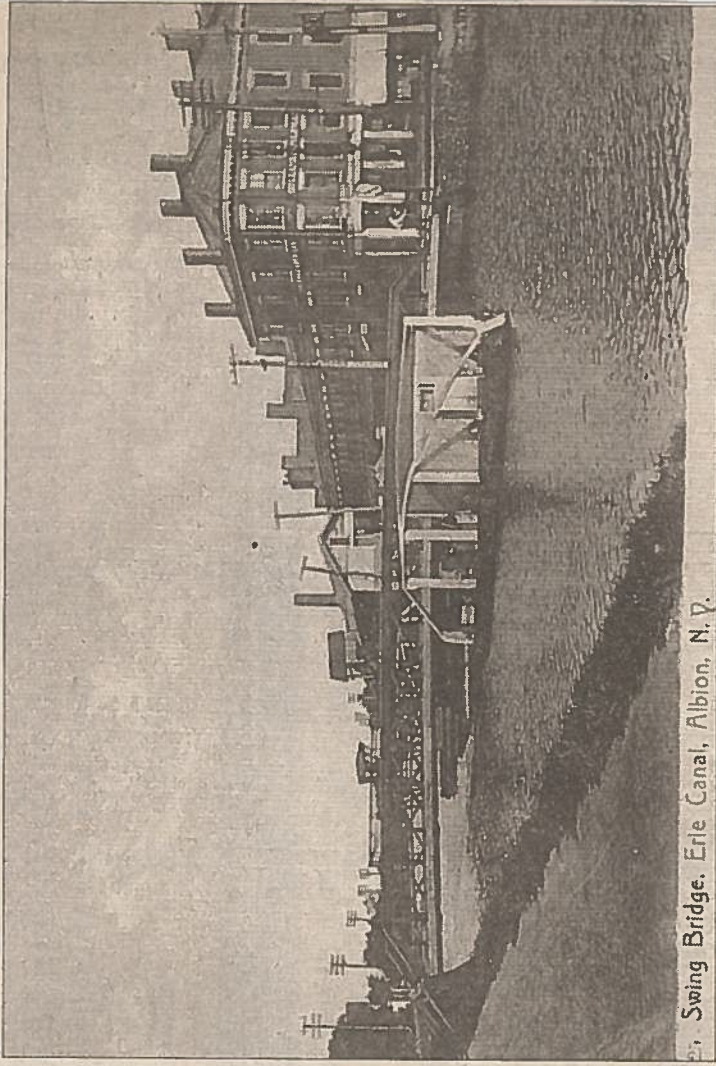
As to content, the markers are simply the "tip of the iceberg."

However, with these marker statements as an overview of our history, we hope you will enjoy the highways, nooks

and landscape of Orleans County as you peruse and hopefully pause at the various sites.

"We trust you will be enriched, enlightened and perchance even amused when you indulge yourself in our local history: C.W.L."

Notice: The Annual Spring Tour of Mount Albion Cemetery will take place at 2 p.m. May 27, rain or shine.



Swing Bridge, Erie Canal, Albion, N.Y.