

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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C.W. Lattin, County Historian

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Cooper Shop at Childs

Our series of three pictures was taken of the Guy G. Staines Cooper Shop at Childs around 1915.

This operation was located just west of the Village Inn on the Pask farm now owned by Eugene Leigh. The Ridge Road shows in the lower portion of each photo. This is, of course, before it was paved.

Staines built and operated this business from 1913 to 1918. He is listed under coopers in the 1915 Orleans County Directory.

Others who were listed included Henry Fogel, Ridgeway; Fowler Bros., Albion and Holley; Harding and Wolfe, Albion; John Higgins, Knowlesville; Wm. Kenyon, Kuckville; McTeen & Brier, Gaines; Medina Cooper Shop, Medina; Orleans Cooperage, Medina; J.H. Post, Holley and Leo Wells, Ridgeway.

By this season of the year, cooper shops were up and working to produce the thou-

sands of barrels needed each fall for the shipment of apples. Notice in the one photo a shed to the far right, which is totally stacked with bundles of staves.

Before the barrels were set up or made, the staves would have been soaked in water to make them bend more easily. Once the hoops were tacked on, the barrels were placed over a cooper's stove to quickly dry them out and hold the curvature in place.

Hence we see two smoke stacks on the building from the cooper stoves. It is also interesting to see the special racks on the two wagons for hauling the empty barrels in delivery to apple farmers. A tarpaulin was used to cover the load of barrels in transit.

NOTICE: Guided walking tour of West Ridgeway Cemetery at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 12.

