

Rethinking of Old Orleans

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Farm Bureau

This group picture was taken in 1918 of the first Orleans County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

In the first row, left to right, are Francis Hanlon, Charles Porter, president and Thomas Mack. In the second row, left to right, are Ora Lee, Journal Salisbury, Frank G.

Broadwell, G. E. Snyder and L. J. Steele, the first Orleans County Farm Bureau agent.

No doubt some of these names are familiar to older county residents.

The Orleans County Farm Bureau was organized in March, 1917 after several preliminary meetings commencing in January 1917. This was something

that grew out of the Orleans County Fruit Growers Association when they met in the summer of 1916.

A petition was circulated at that time and more than 300 names of farmers were procured in support of a Farm Bureau.

L. J. Steele was selected as the first agent. He was born in Genesee County on his father's farm where he became acquainted with diversified farming and fruit growing.

He completed the four-year course in agriculture at Cornell University. After his graduation from college he taught agriculture for several years in Holley High School.

The first president of the Farm Bureau was Charles Porter, a successful farmer on the County House Road in the town of Albion. Under his guidance, the Orleans County Farm Bureau became a strong, viable organization.

The first secretary-treasurer was Frank Broadwell, an equally successful farmer from the town of Carlton at Waterport.

Journal Salisbury, a farmer and supervisor of the town of Barre from 1914-1919, represented the Orleans County Board of Supervisors in handling the county's appropriations for Farm Bureau work.

