

American Express

The picture shown here was taken around 100 years ago on East Bank Street in Albion. This brick building on the north side of the street now houses Phoenix Fitness. For many years after our picture was taken these store fronts served as the telephone building before its present location on Platt Street.

At any rate, our picture has some partial identification. Stamped on the back is "J. B. Gamble, Eagle Harbor, N. Y. Photo-views of Houses, Stores, Groups."

The driver of the express wagon is also identified as Freeman Herrick (1857-1937). The 1903 Orleans County Directory lists Freeman B. Herrick as a driver for the American Express Co. and has him living at 36 E. State St. I remember his daughter Frieda Herrick (1898-1972) as also living on East State Street in her family home. In fact, in the south eastern section of the village of Albion there is a Herrick Street and an East Herrick Street named for the family.

The 1903 Directory also lists the American Express Co. with a John H. Napier as their agent. It's possible that one of the men standing in the doorway is Napier. It would appear that Freeman Herrick is loaded up and ready to take his one-horse wagon out for the delivery of goods. The wagon is filled with crates or boxes. Names and addresses for their destination are painted on the boxes.

To the right of the American Express Co. in the same building is the Western Union Telegraph office. Note the number of glass wire insulations above the awning in the top center of this picture. The building to the far right above the horse's head was torn down around 90 years ago and replaced with a brick building. American Express would have delivered goods shipped in on the Erie Canal and the New York Central Railroad.

