

Rethinking of Old Orleans

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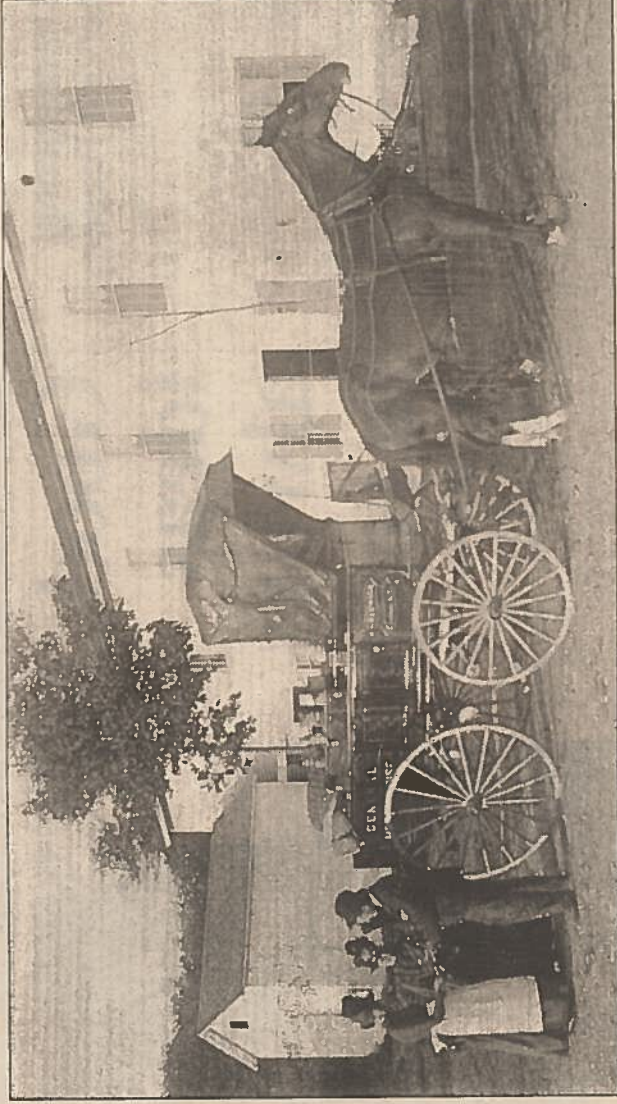
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For your convenience

This wonderful picture fortunately includes a few basic details written on the back. It was taken in "September 1888" and shows the "General Mdse. wagon of G.D. Fowler's." The information also states "A. J. Small Clerk on wagon." The women in the photo are unidentified as well as the horse. However, the photographer put his rubber stamped name on it which is simply "Briggs, Albion, N.Y." I think this might well be the work of Alvin L. Briggs who was primarily known as a local watercolorist during the second half of the 19th century and early years of the 20th century.

The 1887-88 Orleans County Directory lists Clifford D. Fowler in Carlton as a general dealer. His store was



located at Two Bridges, now simply known as The Bridges in the heart of the Town of Carlton. The angle of our photo shows the store building in the background. Notice the upper windows are slightly bigger than the lower ones. That's because the second floor was one huge open room used as a community hall. Some sort of fancy win-

dow curtains or shades appear at each opening. However, the focus of the camera lens was specifically aimed at the delivery wagon. Wherever there was a rural general store years ago they often ran a delivery service to the outlying area traversing the side roads once or twice a week. Delivery wagons generally looked like this one which

was probably fairly new at the time. Painted on the side we see the words "General Merchandise" and "G. D. Fowler, Carlton, N. Y." This posed picture shows A. J. Small showing some yard goods to the ladies. On the back of the wagon there are some other patterns laid out. Notice some canned goods standing on a box in the wagon.