



Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Jonathan Blott and his house

Jonathan Blott was born in London, England, on June 4, 1813. He came to this country when about 19 years of age. He was a butcher by trade and for a time worked in New York and then Albany. He finally came to Albion where he found work in his chosen field. Within a few years he had set up his own meat market. In 1839 he returned to England and there married Sarah Harris of London. They subsequently returned to Albion. Their family home pictured here is located on West Bank Street at Clinton Street in Albion.

This fine Greek Revival residence suggests a certain amount of prosperity for the time. It would appear that the house was built around 1840. According to legend it is said this house was built from a plan drawn by Thomas Jefferson. It was intended for a friend in Canandaigua but never used by him. This is strictly legend and where it comes from I haven't a clue. To date, we cannot substantiate it. However, it makes for an interesting story.

Note the extremely low pitched roof and predominate porch with straight forward columns. Fine detailed decorations surmount the windows and front door. There is no question but what a professional builder had a hand in the plans.

In 1866 Mr. Blott built a business block on Main Street, another symbol of his property. The census of 1855 lists him as aged 42, a butcher and a naturalized citizen. His wife Sarah was listed as 38; a son Jonathan Jr., 14, born in Orleans County; a daughter Emma, 8; a son James, 6; and a son Alfred, 2.

Jonathan Blott died on Feb. 28, 1873, shy of his 60th birthday. On the interior south wall of Christ Episcopal Church there is a marble memorial tablet erected to his memory. In 1877 Mrs. Blott bought the beautiful pipe organ in memory of her late husband. This continues today to serve the worship needs for the congregation at Christ Church.

The photo is provided by Alan Isselhard.