

# Rethinking of Old Orleans

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## James Bailey 1834-1899

James Bailey was born on Oct. 25, 1834, at Whitestown, Oneida County, N.Y. He was the son of Jeremiah and Laura Williams Bailey. The Baileys came to Orleans County in 1844 and first settled in Gaines. Jeremiah was a progressive farmer who operated a 240-acre farm on the Transit Road. James Bailey had two brothers — Lewis, who died fairly young, and Abner B., who was a successful businessman.

At the age of 18, James became employed with Harvey Goodrich and later was associated with Charles Baker in the produce business for 15 years. During this time, he developed a fine farm west of Albion which was later owned by

J. H. Denio. It was this farm that became the original tract for the Western House of Refuge (Albion Correctional Facility).

In 1874, James together with his brother Abner became associated in the grocery business. In 1879 he purchased his brother's interest and in 1882 admitted his son Herbert into the trade. Their business then became known as James Bailey and Son, and was located in Swan's Block (HSBC) on Main Street in downtown Albion. This father-son combination also ran a large fruit house located on the railroad near the freight depot. He was the first to build such a facility here, which had a capacity of 8,000 barrels.

Bailey took great interest in the Orleans County Agricultural Society and did a great deal to advance its efforts, serving one time as president. He was also the first to develop anything at Oak Orchard on the Lake, which resulted eventually in a beautiful summer resort. In politics, he was a Democrat and served in several village offices.

Bailey was seen as a public spirited man with generous impulses. He was identified with the Masons and other fraternal organizations as well as the First Baptist Church. He was married in 1857 to Mary Jane Cady, by whom there were two children, Herbert J. and Frank H.

