



## Bethinking of Old Orleans

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By C.W. Lattin, Orleans County Historian

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### Albion freight office *3-14-03*

My thanks to Jack Mann of Sawyer Road who submitted this photo for our use. It was taken around 1914 and shows the interior of the Albion Freight Office of the New York Central Railroad. This building is located along the north side of the tracks between

Fortunately all the people were identified. To the far left is John B. Colburn who is listed in the 1915 Orleans County Directory as a shipping clerk. Standing in the doorway is William H. Sloan who is listed as a freight agent for the NYC. Our photo information notes him as superintendent. In other words, he was the boss. Seated at the desk are Herbert Hall and Mrs. Reed. At the desk to the lower right is Fred Norton who earned \$15 a week at the job back when the picture was taken.

The fact that the NYC had five people working in this freight office 90 years ago

suggests the volume of goods being moved by the railroad. The year 1914 would have been in the peak years when freight of all kinds was shipped by rail. Yes, the canal did some shipping; and at that time the canal was being enlarged in an effort to rally the service. However, with the coming of trailer truck shipping, both the canal and railroads suffered their losses.

On March 29, the Cobblestone Society will host its Annual Winter Dinner at the Fairview Restaurant just southwest of Medina. The featured speaker will be Marty C. Phelps, Director of the Medina Railroad Museum, which is located in a former freight house, the largest in the United States. He will speak on WNY railroads and the Medina Railroad Museum. For more information, call the Cobblestone Museum at 589-9013.