



# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## Bad weather in 1816

"Whenever people talk to me about the weather, I always feel certain that they mean something else." — Wilde

Everyone talks about the inclemencies of our northern weather. It's either too hot or it's too cold, too rainy or too dry, too windy, too muggy, too cloudy, too damp, too icy or too snowy. It's not just the farmer who complains, it's everybody. Unlike religion and politics, it's a topic which can be freely discussed without offending anyone, a topic hard to argue about because everyone usually agrees. And how infrequently we say, "What a beautiful day!"

Well, if you think we have bad weather nowadays, here is an account of how it was in the year 1816. This article appeared in the Medina Tribune back in 1914 having been compiled of various news clippings from an early Albion newspaper.

"In June, the month of roses, one person was frozen to death and snow three inches deep was on the ground most of that month. During the months of June, July and August the farmers wore overcoats and mittens while about their work. Ice half an inch thick formed in July and August and there was a heavy

storm in August.

"There was not a green thing to be seen anywhere and there was no warm weather until September, when the thermometer went up to 70 degrees. The general opinion had been that the cause of the cold summer was a sudden rapid cooling of the sun by some violent disturbance and many believed that the end of all things was at hand.

"One old man was so hopeless over the prospects that he killed all his cattle and then hanged himself, after vainly trying to induce his wife to make away with herself also, to escape the terrible and gradual death by freezing and starvation which he believed was to be the common doom.

"There wasn't grain enough grown that year for seed the next year, and what was left from the previous year was sold for \$5 per bushel. Immense bonfires were built around the corn fields and the hired help took turns of patrolling the fields and keeping the fires going continuously. The following summer, 1817, was one of the hottest and driest that this state ever knew."