

Bethinking of Old Orleans

Vol. XXV

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No. 43

Orleans DAR Chapter House 6-11-04

Waterport, 1875

Today's photo, a southward-looking view of Waterport, was taken back in 1875.

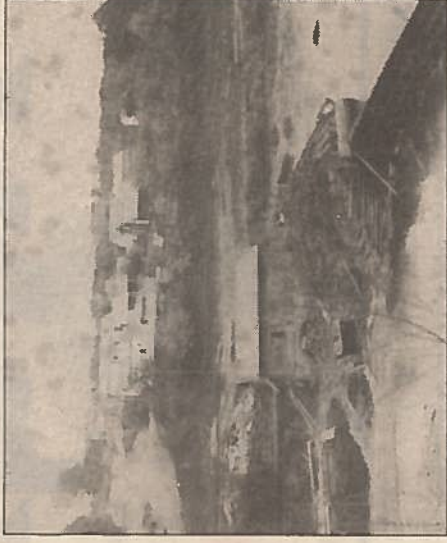
In the lower portion of the picture we see a power dam across Oak Orchard Creek. Toward the center of the picture, just east of this dam, is a sawmill operated by Rackham & Powell.

The 1869 Orleans County Directory lists Joseph Rackham as a miller, Joshua Rackham as a mechanic and Robert Rackham as operating a shingle and grist mill. It also lists Wm. Powell as a blacksmith. All are at Waterport.

Below the mill, in the photo, we see the outlet for the water once it was used for milling purposes. Just to the left of the mill, there seems to be a scattered pile of newly sawn boards.

In the background, higher up on an embankment, are stores and houses along Main Street. To the far right is the old Spence Mill near the mouth of Otter Creek.

This picture was taken, of course, before Lake Alice was created for electric generation. All the area in the lower half of this photo is now flooded and has been since 1919 when A.L.



Swett made the present reservoir.

Notice there is no high bridge here. Main Street turned and went down a hill and crossed over the Oak Orchard Creek just above the water level farther east than where the present Waterport Bridge is located today.

It was here, at this dam site, that the Albion Power Company, using the Oak Orchard Creek water, first transmitted electricity to Albion in 1888.