



Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Crossing the Glen

This week's picture is taken from a postcard that would have been printed about 90 years ago. It is entitled "B.L. & R. R.R. Crossing The Glen; Holley, N.Y." We also note the name "A.H. Fisk; Holley, N.Y." printed on the card along with "made in Germany."

First, this wonderful view shows where the east branch of Sandy Creek flowed under a high embankment created for the Buffalo, Lockport and Rochester Railroad. What we don't see is the fact that this same culvert also went under the Erie Canal, which is immediately adjacent to but on the other side of the embankment. In other words, the photographer aimed his camera in a northeasterly direction in the glen.

The B.L. & R. was in service from 1908 to 1931. Judging from the fact that there is practically no vegetation on the embankment, it is my guess this

picture was taken shortly after the railroad opened. Poles, electric cable and connecting rod from the top of the trolley car are all visible.

The 1911 Orleans County Directory lists Andrew H. Fisk as selling drugs and books at the Public Square in Holley. Postcards back at that time were very popular and sold widely, especially at drug stores.

Local druggists would order local views that were cheaply printed in Germany. The Germans enjoyed a fine reputation as excellent printers and lithographers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

After the second administration of Grover Cleveland in the late 1890's, all products made outside the United States had to include identification of the country they were manufactured in, hence "Made in Germany" is printed on the card.