



A.L. BRIGGS

## Bethinking of Old Orleans

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### Reminiscences

We continue this week with more reminiscences compiled by Lafayette H. Beach for the Orleans Republican in 1922 under the header "Doings of the Old Days Long Gone By — Do You Remember?"

"When the standard price for board and lodging at a good hotel was \$2 per day and free bus from the railroad?"

"When the Rochester daily papers cost \$10 per year and frequently sold here after a big battle during the Civil War for a 25 cent shinplaster?"

"When Horace Greeley's Weekly Tribune was as standard as the family Bible in the homes of Republican farmers?"

"When strawberries for canning were bought one season for 6 cents per quart?"

"When sheep were worth no more than their pelt and the hind quarters gave the only meat that was used, selling at 2 to 5 cents per pound?"

"When it was the proper caper for the girls to have their ears pierced?"

"When this town had some experts in handling stilts, some of them walking on stilts which allowed them to sit on the eaves of houses?"

"When Tom Thumb, Minnie Warren and Commodore Nutt used to make regular visits to Albion with their show?"

"When the bicycle riders 'chippin in' and built a cinder path to the lake?"

"When the busiest stores in town were located on the canal docks?"

"When ice was delivered at your

home all summer for \$5?"

"When one of the regular Saturday chores in later summer was to gather bunches of sage, spearmint and smartweed for drying for household use?"

"When wild pigeons were so plentiful that they flew in flocks of thousands that darkened the sky and when it was an easy job to 'get a mess' with a shot gun any morning?"

"When the first canning factory was established in Albion by the Curtis Company of Rochester where the Woods & Vick coal yard now is, and the village steam fire engine was used to give the factory water from the canal?"

"When boils and felons were a common affliction of mankind?"

"When in 1860 a mob raided and destroyed a disorderly house when the authorities remained inactive?"

"When D.W. Blood had a shoe factory on the top floor of the Denio building now the McMartin Hotel (Old Coach)?"

"When flocks of doves were kept by many boys in town and when the old stone mill on East State St. was their favorite eating place?"

"When eggs were shipped in half barrels, packed in chopped oat straw?"

"When the late A.L. Briggs, the landscape painter, made snare drums at his home in Fairhaven bending the shells and tanning the calfskin heads?"

Today's photo shows A.L. Briggs. The photo is from about 1900 and shows Briggs in uniform as a drummer in the Albion Citizens band.