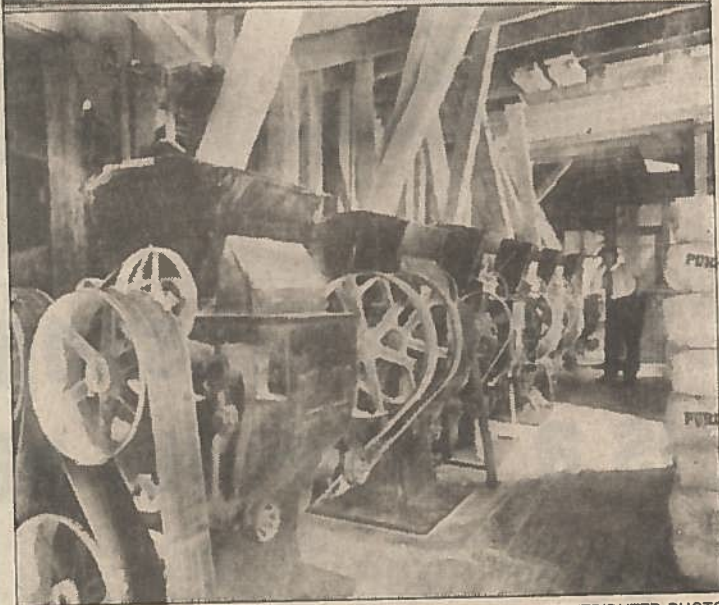


BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Woods and Sprague

BY C.W. LATTIN

Both of these photos were published in the Albion Souvenir Book of 1905, showing Albion Mills.

Information with these pictures indicates: "Albion Mills where the celebrated Purity Flour is made, owned and operated by Woods & Sprague."

Further information includes, "Has just been remodeled with entire new machinery throughout, for the manufacture of winter wheat flour. It is situated on East State Street and does a large business, both in flour and feed grinding. Both steam and water power are used."

This mill was located on the east side of the West Branch of Sandy Creek where it flows under the Erie Canal. The large stone portion was built as a mill during the early settlement times of the village when water power was relied upon as the source of energy in such places.

The 1903 Orleans County Directory shows that AW

Woods and George A. Sprague were the proprietors of the mill and a feed and grain store on Main Street.

The interior view was no doubt taken to show off the new machinery.

The 1917 insurance map of the village states: "Capacity 20 barrels in 10 hours — Power, Electric and water." This map also lists the machinery as: "1 wheat cleaner, 1 corn sheller on line shaft, 6 stands flour rolls (pictured), 1 flour packer, 1 grain packer, feed grinding machines, flour dressing machines, flour sifters, 1 dust collector, 1 wheat cleaner and 1 scalper."

With the use of water power a mill pond was necessary to provide a force of water. This pond was located between the Erie Canal and East State Street.

After water power became obsolete Woods and Sprague were later located at the railroad on West Academy Street where they continued to produce Purity Flour for a number of years.