

The history of Orson Nicholson

BY C. W. LATTIN

The following account may be found in "Pioneer History" of Orleans County by Arad Thomas published in 1871.

"Dr. Orson Nicholson was born in Galway, Saratoga County, New York, March 2, 1795. He was educated as a physician. In the year 1822, he removed to the village of Albion which was then beginning to be settled. He entered ardently into every undertaking of a public character connected with the organization of the County of Orleans and the civil and social institutions,

which such organization occasioned.

He was elected the first county clerk of Orleans County and by a re-election to a second term, held that office six years.

In August 1819 he settled about two miles south of Albion. In 1822 he moved to Albion and there, for many years had a large practice as a physician. His health failing, he went into business with

Dr. L. C. Paine and dealt in drugs, medicines and books until a few years before his death. He was the first regular

physician who settled in Barre. He was also the first physician who settled in Albion.

Dr. Nicholson married Lucy Morris in the year 1820. They had three children, Adeline E., Caroline and Helen J. Adeline married Jonathan S. Stewart and Helen J. married Charles A. Stanton. She died May 12, 1862. Mrs. Lucy Nicholson died Oct. 8, 1864. Dr. Orson Nicholson died May 7, 1870."

A fine old portrait of Dr. Nicholson circa 1840 hangs in the Orleans County Clerks Office. His first residence in Albion, which is partly brick, is directly east of the Free Methodist Church on East State Street. It is likely the house was built before Albion was incorporated in 1828. This dwelling therefore is one of the earliest structures that remains standing from early settlement times.

