

Canal View 1913

BY C. W. LATTIN

This picture was taken in 1913 from the top of a stone crusher located a little east of Albion. At the time, finishing touches were being done to the Barge Canal, which had just underwent deepening and widening.

Looking towards Albion, we see to the right, over the north bank, or tow path, the old Braley Homestead, now the Kirby farm. Toward the center is the Butts Road bridge in the distance and a derrick situated on the south canal bank.

To the far left four little houses can be seen facing the canal. The first one is quite obvious. These were located on property owned by the Orleans County Quarry Co. and served as workers cottages for the men employed in the Medina sandstone

industry.

These four board and batten houses are indicated on the 1913 Orleans County Atlas but appear to be derelict when this picture was taken. They don't seem to appear on the 1875 atlas, but I would think must have been built by the 1880s. They were cheap, simplistic houses and probably not even plastered on the inside.

No doubt these houses served as the first home for early Polish and Italian immigrants who came here to work in the sandstone quarries during the later part of the 19th century.

Access to these homes would have been down the canal bank off of Butts Road. These houses are now long gone but give evidence to the fact that Medina sandstone quarrying was



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