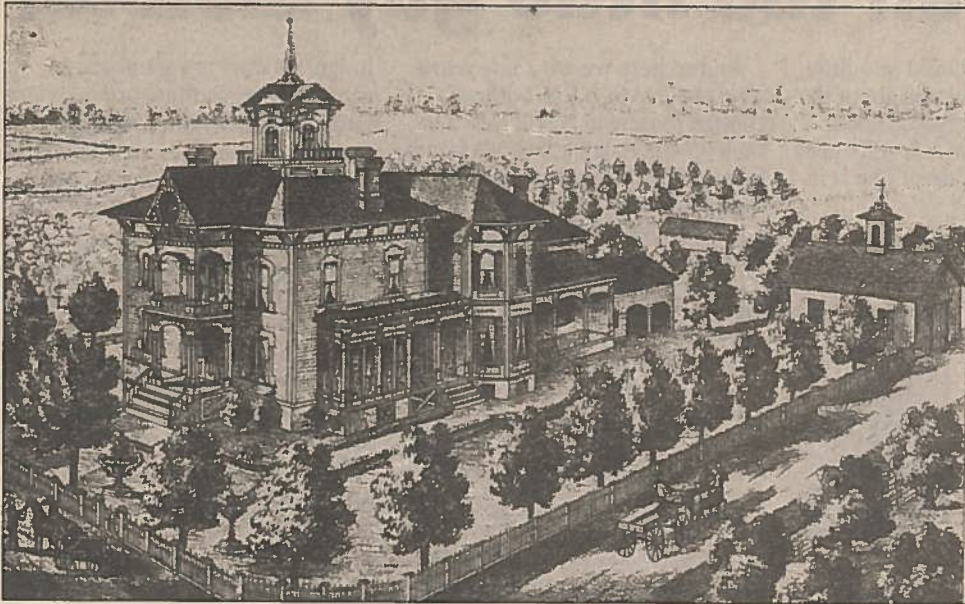


## BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# ARNOLD GREGORY

BY C.W. LATTIN

With the tour of Millville Cemetery set for 7 p.m. July 13, someone recently asked me if there was anyone buried there whose name stood out in local history. There are several that come to mind but my quick answer was "Arnold Gregory." My inquirer was impressed.

Arnold Gregory is a name you can still find in the phone book. He lived, however, from 1826 to 1916, so he's now been deceased 90 years. Our illustration from 1879 shows the outstanding Gregory residence which was destroyed by fire in the mid-1960s.

In 1912, as a retired farmer, he announced that he would establish a hospital for Albion and the vicinity. Once the hospital

became incorporated, he purchased the former Ezra Coann residence on South Main Street in Albion for \$8,000 with plans to convert it into a hospital. He then gave \$30,000 in securities for reconstruction.

The interior was modified and a three story-wing added, which was paid for by Mrs. Emma Reed Nelson Webster. An operating room was given by George M. Waterman.

On Sept. 12, 1916, the 11 bed hospital opened to the public, just eight months after its founders death. It therefore became known as the Arnold Gregory Memorial Hospital.

In 1952, a new hospital building was opened and the old hospital building was torn down. In the late 1980s, the Arnold Gregory Hospital closed down, but the facility remains today as Arnold Gregory Ambula-

tory Services.

Arnold Gregory was born in the Town of Shelby in October 1826 and was the oldest of two children. His pioneer parents were Norman and Hylura Rice Gregory. Arnold was educated at the Millville Academy. He started farming in 1846 and ran a threshing machine business. In 1848 he married Almira Kneeland and they had five children: Charles, Willis, Sarah, Grace and Catherine. Almira died in 1881 and in 1884 Arnold married Ella Kneeland.

He was considered a most successful businessman and served one term as supervisor of Barre. He was an enrolling officer during the Civil War and a member of the Knowlesville Baptist Church where he served as a trustee and superintendent of its Sunday School.