

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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PINE HILL

BY C.W. LATTIN

Pine Hill in the Town of Barre got its name from the fact that it was in part of a stand of pine timber during early settlement times. In fact, Elba over in Genesee County was originally known as Pine Hill.

This area of land comprising 1,500 acres, the Holland Land agents refused to sell at first to pioneers. When informed that settlers in the vicinity were stealing timber, they only made sufficient inquiry to learn that they took it for their own use in building houses and barns and dismissed the matter with remarks such as: "They ought not to do that" or tell them "They musn't." Only one or two cases were ever prosecuted for stealing timber and these were when it was cut for sale and shipment.

What is interesting is that this land was not sold until most of the timber had been cut off. It was then learned that the Holland Land Co. had purposely reserved this land for the purpose of allowing settlers to thus supply themselves with timber for their building purposes. It was one way to encourage people to settle in the area by allowing them an unlimited supply of lumber and looking the other way when they helped themselves.



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