



FARM RESIDENCE OF CATHERINE SERVROSS, TOWN OF RIDGEWAY, ORLEANS CO., N. Y.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## A SCENE OF PROSPERITY

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The lithograph shown from the Illustrated Historical Album of Orleans County that was published in 1879 reveals Fruit Avenue looking north from the Erie Canal. The scene in the Town of Ridgeway at Shelby Basin shows great rural prosperity at the time.

In the foreground, we see the Erie Canal with a boat pulled by a team of mules representing the importance of commerce. A carriage with a couple in it is crossing a wooden bridge. To the left, next to the towpath, another carriage may be seen driving on Dunlop Road.

Through the middle ground of this picture we see numerous buildings on the Isaac Servross farm including barns and tenant house to the left and the main residence to the right.

Cattle appear in the barn yard and farm wagons plying the roads. In the upper right background, there have been several orchards set out as we see through the regular rows of trees.

Sixty-five years prior to the prosperity shown here the scene would have been virgin timber. With the opening of the Erie Canal, the area was trans-

formed almost overnight.

Those early developmental years were largely reserved for hard work in primitive conditions. This illustration represents complete transition and a refined style of living.

This is evident in that we see people playing croquet in the front yard of the Servross residence. By the date of this

picture, people had time for leisurely activities.

No one had a lawn flat enough for this game in early times. But by the late 19th century, times had progressed to the point where priorities had changed from just survival to now include pleasurable things as this picture so well represents.