

JOHN BIDELMAN

1837-1921

BY C. W. LATTIN

John Bidelman, a man long active in public life in Orleans County, was born in Gaines in 1837. He was a son of Samuel and Eliza Prussia, pioneer settlers of this area. As a young man, he moved to Albion and in 1872, served as president of the village.

He was always very active in Republican party politics. For many years he served on the Albion Board of Education.

For 28 years, he was president of the Orleans County Pioneer Association. For more than 25 years, he was instrumental in organizing Farmers Institutes for Orleans County. He also was a village of Albion assessor.

He was hired by the commissioners of Mt. Albion Cemetery as superintendent and worked in that capacity during a 14-year period of time.

Bidelman was very active in fraternal circles being widely known in Odd Fellows throughout the state. At the time of his death, he was the oldest past executive officer of the Grand encampment Patriarchs Militant of New York. He had been a member of the Albion Lodge of Odd Fellows for 51 years and was a past grand patriarch of the Grand Encampment. For several years, he served as secretary of the Mutual Benefit Association of Odd Fellows in this district. He was also an active member of Renovation Lodge No. 97 of Masons and member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Bidelman outlived both wives, the first Eliza who died in 1897, and the second, Electa who died in 1919. He was survived by his daughter, Mrs. Lewis Warren.

