

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

Vol. XXIX, No. 22

6-7-07

TRIVIAL TIDBITS OF ORLEANS HISTORY

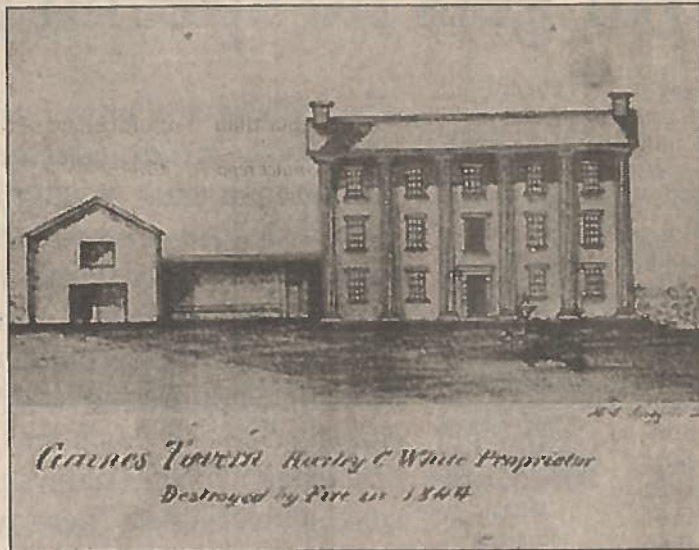
BY C.W. LATTIN

Our illustration drawn by H.C. Ruggles shows the Gaines Tavern which burned in 1844.

From 1821-1822 Jeremiah Brown built a foundry at Barnegat, now Shelby Center. It was the first foundry of its kind erected west of the Genesee River and in it was cast the first plow ever made west of Rochester. It sold for \$15.

As early as 1805 the Holland Land Company erected a salt works north of Medina for use of the early settlers. Salt was also made as early as 1814 in Holley, which was once known as Salt Port. In 1821 salt was also made at Kendall but when the U.S. government passed an act levying a tax of one shilling per bushel on the manufacture of salt, they suspended operations at Kendall.

In 1879 Miller and Pettingill built a large building in Clarendon for the purpose of drying and evaporating apples by the sulphur and steam process. The business turned out about 200 tons of dried fruit annually. Cider was also converted into vinegar at this



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

business with over 80 men and women being employed seasonally.

The first post office in Orleans County was established at Ridgeway Corners in 1816. The mail came through from Canandaigua to Lewiston twice a week.

The first newspaper published in Orleans County was the Gazette. It was printed in Gaines in 1822 by Seymore Tracy and was in existence for four years.

Eagle Harbor was so named

because canal surveyors saw an eagle's nest in a nearby tree.

Hulberton was first named Scio but changed after I.H. Hulbert was postmaster.

The first electric street lights in Albion were turned on April 6, 1890. This was considered a great improvement, being much superior to gas.

The 1850 census reported the following statistics on the number of churches in Orleans County which were: 10 Baptist, two Freewill Baptist, one Congregational, two Episcopal,

one Quaker, 11 Methodist, nine Presbyterian, three Universalists and one Catholic.

The same census also reported 286 deaths for the year ending June 1, 1850. There were also 5,319 families and 5,273 dwellings at that time.