

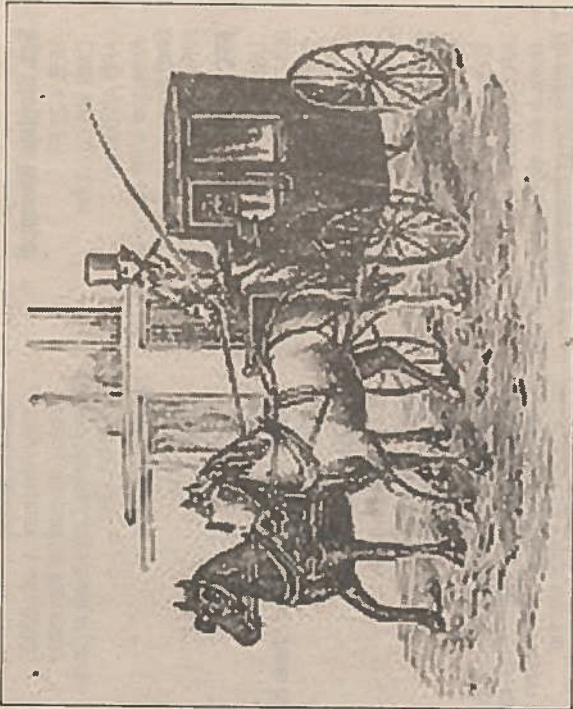
# TRAVEL LOG

8-2-07

BY C. W. LATTIN

The following account was written by William Dalton in 1821 on traveling from Lewiston to Rochester. In this trek by stage coach he makes mention of two places in Orleans County along the Ridge Road. The first is Oak Orchard now known as Oak Orchard on the Ridge in the Town of Ridgeway and Sandy Creek, now known as Murray in the Town of Murray.

"Oak Orchard — about forty miles east of Lewiston, is a thriving village, but neither remarkable for the healthiness of its situation, nor the goodness of the soil in its vicinity. From this place to Sandy Creek, Murray's Township, the distance is fifteen miles, through a very fine country; — rye ripe, — wheat nearly so, — Indian corn, the best we have seen, just beginning to flower. All the land in the vicinity of the road is settled and occupied, though it is evident it has been very



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recently taken possession of. In addition to the log houses, which the settler has patched up for temporary use, neat, though seldom elegant-looking, frame buildings, are rising in all directions.

Sandy Creek — We reached this place, fifty-six miles east of

Canal, and eight from Lake Ontario. It has also another excellency — it stands near a mill stream. As proof of the value of this last-mentioned privilege, I need only observe, that we crossed but one running stream this day. These are sufficiently plentiful in the winter season, but are dried up by the parching and long continued droughts of the American summers.

Although Sandy Creek is considered to be particularly exposed to agues and bilious fevers, yet the flux of emigrants towards it is very rapid. Land, in its natural state, sells in the neighborhood for twenty to thirty shillings per acre; where the trees are cut down, fences made and framed buildings erected, the price is from ten to twelve pounds. From the quantity of new comers, it will be readily concluded that the price of grain will not be very low. The average price of wheat exceeds a dollar per Winchester bushel ... Corn from 70 to 100 cents. &c. &c."

Lewiston, early in the evening of the first day. This village, which contains two or three good taverns and several frame-houses, is only three years old, but being situated in the midst of a very rich tract of lands, it is enlarging rapidly. It is only two miles distant from the great