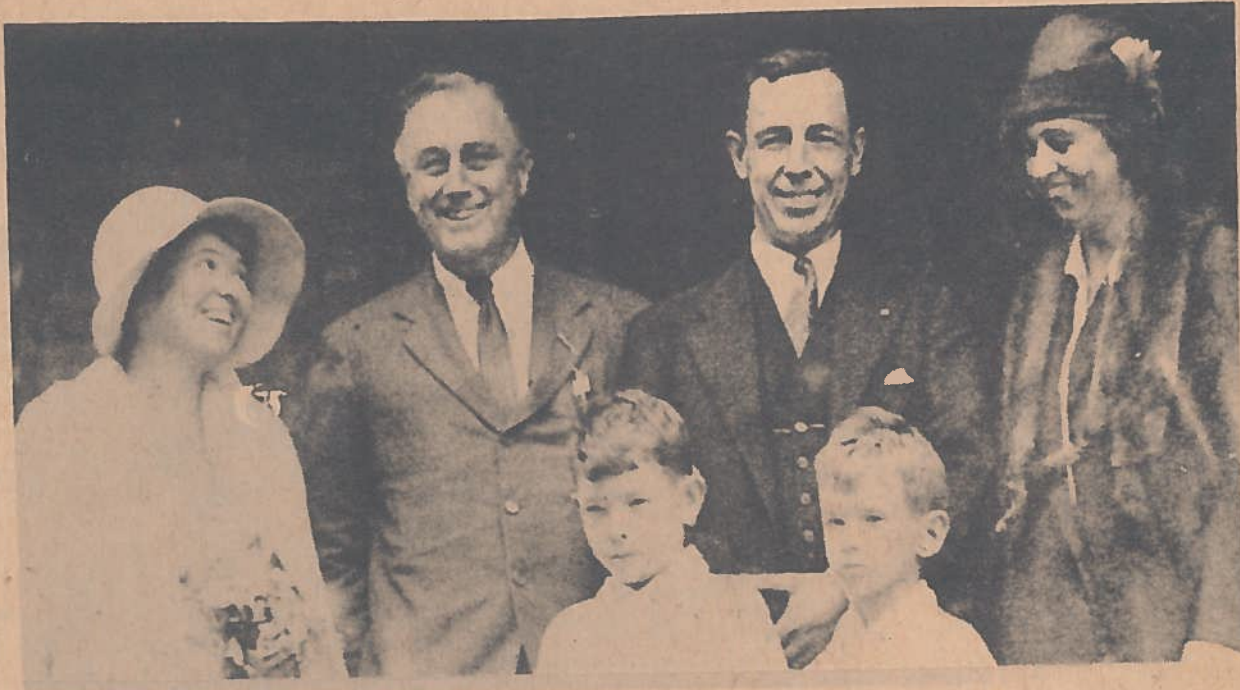


# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Roosevelt Unveiled Gaines Marker

L. Monacelli Photo

It was August 28, 1930 when Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt accompanied by a large entourage visited Orleans County. They arrived from Buffalo by automobile stopping at all the villages enroute. In Medina they were welcomed by Mayor Claude Grinnell, and Trustees Homer Webb, Frank Nester, Ernest Henner and Charles Slack. The Medina High School Band played under the direction of Carl Hulshoff.

Shortly before noon the party was escorted by a detachment of State Troopers to Albion. Upon arriving there, Gov. Roosevelt paid his second visit to the Albion State Training School. In July of 1929, he had traveled down the Erie Barge Canal on a tour of inspection of the institutions throughout the state. In Albion they were greeted by Sanford T. Church, Mayor D. W. Hanley and Democratic Party leaders. In a motorcade they were led to the residence of Judge and Mrs. Bernard Ryan for a luncheon. Gov. Roosevelt, early in 1930, had appointed Judge Ryan to the Court of Claims. Pictured here is Judge Ryan, Harriet Ryan and their sons Bernard and William with their guests Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

The highlight of the day occurred during the afternoon when F.D.R. addressed and was cheered by over 5000 people in Gaines as he unveiled a brown sandstone marker there located near the Congregational Church. A morning parade which started in Childs headed by J. Rowley Clark led to the marker in Gaines for the festivities. It included the Albion Citizens Band, elaborate floats by organizations, school districts and business concerns. At 3:30 the parade was repeated for the benefit of those who were unable to attend it in the morning.

The marker which Franklin Roosevelt unveiled fifty-one years ago is in tribute to the Ridge Road and DeWitt Clinton. In 1810 while Clinton was Mayor of New York City he rode the entire distance from the Genesee River to the Niagara along the Ridge Road. It was the crudest of roads but he was impressed by this section of the country and was largely responsible for the speedy settlement of Western New York. In the Fall of 1817, he was elected Governor which came about largely due to his successful persuading of the State Legislature to construct the Erie Canal. The first appropriation of \$5,000 for construction and improvements to the Ridge Road came in 1814. The marker reads as follows:

Niagara To Genesee

## HISTORIC RIDGE ROAD

"I sing of the great Ridge Road,  
of the highway our children shall see  
that lies like a belt on Ontario's shore  
carved out in wisdom of ages before,  
for the races that yet are to be."

TREK---DE WITT CLINTON---1810

"In the great work of internal improvement  
he persevered through good report and  
through evil report with a steadiness of  
purpose that no obstacle could divert."

Erected by the  
Ridge Road Improvement Ass'n  
Orleans Chapter, DAR  
Orleans Co. Pioneer and Historical Ass'n  
State of New York

This Marker is a Typical Specimen of  
Medina Sandstone from the Noted  
Quarries of Orleans County  
Operated for More Than  
a Century. Supply  
Practically Inex-  
haustible.