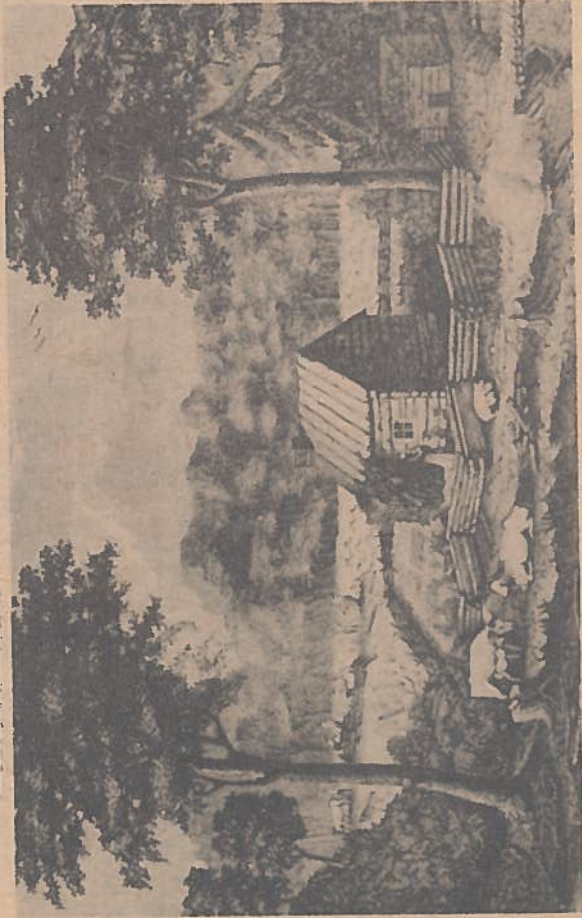


# Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



## EARLY COUNTY HISTORY

### PART III

#### Ridgeway

The first settlement was begun by Erza D. Barnes from DeRuyster, Madison County, N.Y. Eli Moore, Israel Douglas, Dyer Sprague, Otis Turner, Dr. William White, David Hooker, Seymour Murdock, Elijah Hawley, Samuel Clark, and William and Levi David were among the first settlers.

Ridgeway was formed from Batavia, (Genesee County) June 8, 1812, and was named from the ridge way or road formed by the lake ridge running east and west through the town.

The first birth was that of a daughter of Seymour Murdock and wife in 1810. The first death was that of a young daughter of William Davis in 1810.

Dr. William White was the first physician in the town of Ridgeway and one of the first to locate in Orleans County.

Rev. Messrs. Pratt (Presbyterian), Hammond (Universalist), May (Methodist), and Harrington (Baptist) were the first to preach in the town of Ridgeway long before any churches were built. The first school was taught by Lucy Judson.

The first sawmill was built by the Holland Land Co. as early as 1805, to encourage settlement. The first gristmill was built by Turner, White and Hooker in 1812 on Oak Orchard Creek. The first store was opened in 1810 by Eli Moore.

Salt works were erected at a spring north of Medina by the Holland Land Co. in 1805, and thrown open for the use of the settlers.

In 1813 and for several years after, a bounty of Five Dollars was voted in the town for every wolf killed.

#### Yates

The first settlers were George Houseman, from Adams, Jefferson County who arrived in 1809, and John Eaton, from Pennsylvania in 1810. Yates was named in honor of Governor Joseph C. Yates and was formed from Ridgeway, April 17, 1822 as "Northton"; its name was changed the following year.

The first marriage was that of George Houseman, Jr. and Sally Covert in 1817. The first death was that of Mrs. George Houseman, Sr., in December 1813.

The Rev. Jeremiah Irons (Baptist) is supposed to have been the first resident minister in the town of Yates. The first school was taught by Josiah Perry in 1819.

The first sawmill was erected in 1819 by Gardner and Irons. The first inn was opened by Samuel Tappan at Yates Center in 1825 and the first store was opened by Moore and Hughes in 1824.