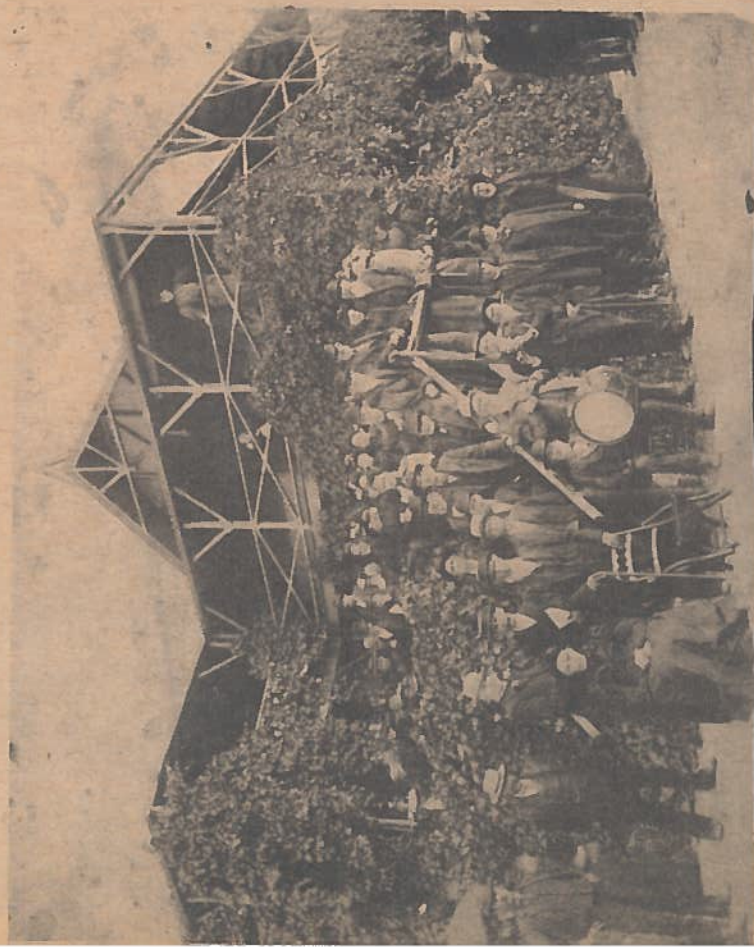


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian

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Some things we never saw

The Orleans County Pioneer Association used to hold annual picnics at Lakeside which always drew a large attendance. Shown here we see them assembled on the verandah of the old Lakeside Hotel around one hundred years ago.

The man who put the finishing touches on the Presbyterian Church spire in Albion in 1874 stood erect on the apex and hurrahed for Grant.

A lady by the name of Riggs held forth as a fortune-teller near the old Fair Grounds and inveigled half dollars from people who wanted a piece of the future.

Fox hunting was a popular winter sport and Anson Bullard bred hounds for this special game.

Dick Gordinier, a black white-washer artist from Medina, used to whiten ceilings so adeptly he never left a drop or streak on carpets or furniture, while telling stories of his life as a slave in the old South.

The children and women of Christ Church used to meet in the basement to prepare yards and yards of evergreen ropes and many wreathes to decorate their sanctuary for the Holiday Season.

One April Fools Day some boys attending the Albion Academy stole a wagon, took it apart and reassembled it up in the belfry, where it remained until the principal had had several fits.

In 1875 when Buffalo Bill Cody and Company came to Albion an oyster can was thrown up in the air into which he shot six holes before it landed on the ground in front of the Orleans Hotel.

During the 1890's Walter F. Webb a natural histroy dealer operated a museum in Albion which displayed an extensive collection of stuffed animals, birds eggs and fine shells.

George Willson was the only man ever to be sentenced to hang in Orlean County. The execution took place in September 1888 on the Court House Square. Dignitaries were summoned by engraved invitations.

The famed Louis C. Tiffany glass manufacturer stayed two or three days at the Albion House during 1894 to supervise the installation of windows at the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church.

And once at a picnic at Point Breeze the Hon. E.K. Hart invited an assortment of people to ride on his steam boat. When out in the lake, he decided for no reason to go to Canada. Upon reaching Toronto with mis-matched husbands, wives and children, Mr. Hart wired back to their families and spouses explaining they couldn't come home until the next day. Amused by this discombobulation he put them all up and footed the bills on both sides of the lake.