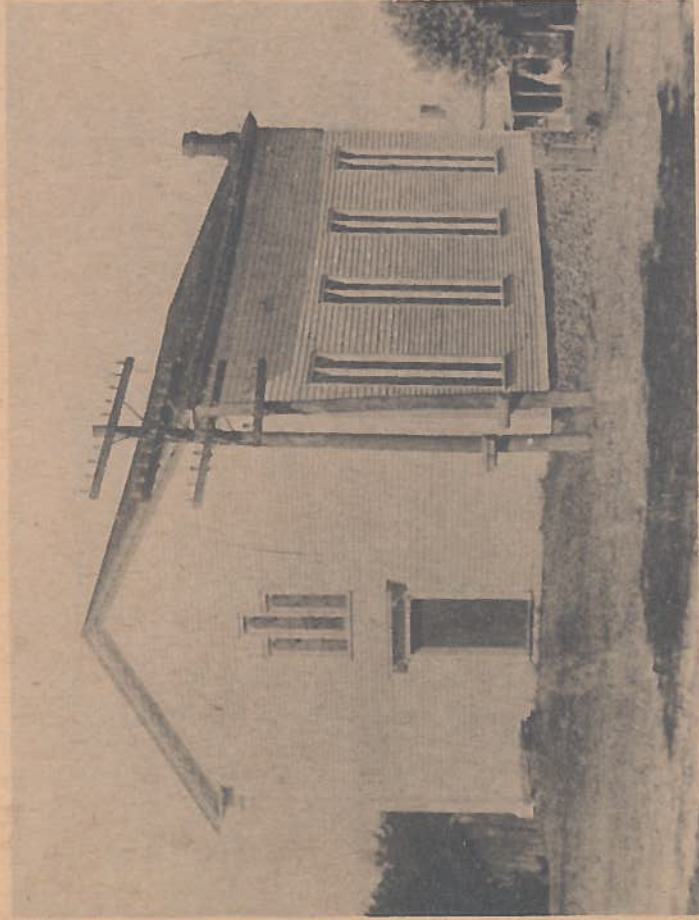


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



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EARLY COUNTY HISTORY
PART IV

Gaines

The first settlement was made prior to 1809 by a man named Gilbert. Other early settlers were Abigail Sagar, Isaac Bennett, Samuel and Darias Crippen, Elijah Downer, Oliver Hamblin, Jabez Deming, Henry Drake, Levi Leach, Orin Gleason, William Sibley, Henry Wilcox, Whitefield Rathbone.

Gaines was formed from Ridgeway, February 14, 1816 and named in honor of General E. P. Gaines through the instrumentality of William J. Babbitt.

The first birth was that of Samuel Crippen, Jr. in 1809. The first marriage was that of Andrew Jacobs and Sally Wing in 1810 and the first death was that of Mr. Gilbert in 1809.

The first church (Baptist) was organized in 1816 and Orin Gleason taught the first school in the winter of 1813-14. Henry Drake built the first sawmill in 1812. The first inn was kept by William Sibley in 1810 and the first store was opened by William Perry in 1816.

Gaines was the leading pioneer town of the Ridge and the only town on the Ridge to compete with Albion for the county seat.

The photo above circa 1912, shows the first church ediface erected between the Genesee and Niagara Rivers at Gaines in 1824. It presently functions as the Gaines Town Building.

Carlton

Settlement was begun in 1803 by two brothers, James and William Walsworth, Matthew Dunham and his sons, Matthew, James and Charles, settled in the Fall of 1803. Other early settlers were Stephen Hoyt, William and Eli Griffith, Martin Griffin, William Carter, John Parmeter, Henry Lovell, Samuel Utter, David Musseleman, Elijah Hunt, James McKinney, Elijah and John Brown, James and Cornelius DeGraw, John Ferrin, Moses Root, and Job Shipman.

The town of Carlton was first called "Oak Orchard" but its name was changed in 1825, after being formed from Gaines and Ridgeway, April 13, 1822.

The first births were those of twin children of James Walsworth in 1806. The first marriage was that of William Carter and Amy Hunt in 1804. The first death of an actual settler was that of Elijah Brown, in 1803. James Walsworth, one of the first settlers, arrived in an open boat from Canada, and built the first house in Orleans County in May 1803.

The first public religious worship was held as early as 1810 by a Methodist preacher named Steele and the first school was taught by Peleg Helms in the winter of 1810-11.

The first gristmill was built on Johnsons Creek by Matthew Dunham in 1806 and the first store was kept at West Carlton in 1816 by Rev. George Kuck.