

# BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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## EMMA E. SWAN

1836-1904 4-17-08

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On Oct. 16, 1860, William G. and Emma E. Swan were married, and they made their home in Albion. In 1877, they built a large mansion at the southeast corner of routes 98 and 11 in the village.

On April 2, 1895, William added a codicil to his will, stating that he intended to build a public library in Albion. If he should die before this was carried out, his executors were then directed to complete it. William and Emma Swan began traveling and looking at libraries, both at home and abroad, in an effort to plan one for Albion.

However, on Nov. 10, 1896, William died, leaving \$35,000 for establishing a library and two executors to complete the work. The executors were his wife, Emma, (1836-1904) and Judge Isaac Signor (1842-1935.)

Consequently, it was Mrs. Swan who gave largely of her time to make the library reality, a fitting memorial to her late husband. It was through her influences and decisions shaping the library, along with those of Signor, that the library came about.

Her obituary noted though dead, she yet speaketh." She served as first president of the Swan library board of trustees from 1900 until her death in 1904.

Her obituary also notes:



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**LIBRARY WOMAN:** Emma E. Swan is pictured around 1900 in mourning attire reading a story to her granddaughter.

"Mrs. Swan was one of the grand women of Albion in that she gave freely of her time and means for the promotion of enterprises which had for their aim the betterment of the community. She gladly assumed large responsibilities in connections with charitable, religious and literary work." She was an untiring supporter of First Baptist Church.