

# ALBION ESTABLISHES UNION FREE SCHOOL

BY C.W. LATTIN

Orleans County historian

**A**t a regular school meeting in August 1876 held at the Village Hall in Albion, a resolution was adopted establishing a Union Free School. This was in essence, then, a high school supported by tax levy.

A Board of Education was then nominated and elected. The Union School was organized with a course of study extending through 12 years and divided into three departments, these being primary, grammar and high school. Each department entailed a four-year course of study. The schools were placed under a superintendent appointed by the school board.

Our photo taken of high school students in 1886 shows the first superintendent standing to the far left in the second row. He was Freeman Green and was referred to as Professor Green by the students, because his duties also included teaching.

In August 1876, the Board of Education purchased the estate of the Albion Academy, which occupied a square of land between East and West Academy streets in the village. The high school



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and grammar school were placed in this building. The primary schools were in four school buildings owned by the district. They were located on West State, West Avenue, Caroline Street and East Park at Platt. In 1878, an addition was made to the high school, and in 1885, another addition was built. In 1906, this building was demolished and replaced by one built of gray Medina sandstone remembered as the grammar school.

During the first half of the 19th century, all secondary education (grades 9-12) was done through the academy system. This was by tuition, because all academies were private schools. Medina truly was a leader in this field, as they established a

free academy in 1850. This was only the third such institution to be established in New York state.