

# LAUNCHED IN LIFE

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**L**aunched In Life" is a 24-page booklet containing a collection of wedding portraits from Orleans County residents.

This publication was released in September by the Cobblestone Society and is a unique kind of local history.

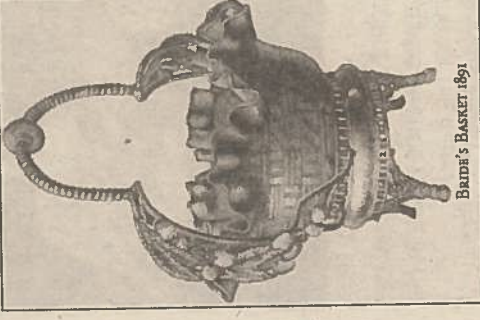
About 65 vintage photographs were submitted that are reproduced in the book. They date from 1885 to 1958.

Through these images, we see how weddings and wearing apparel have changed over the years.

It was Queen Victoria who set the style of wearing an all-white gown when she married in 1840. However, it took about 40 years for this trend to really catch on.

Therefore, some of the brides pictured in the vintage photos are wearing dark colors.

In fact, the book is not just



BRIDE'S BASKET 1891

#### CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

about wedding portraits, but also includes tidbits of incidental information relating to weddings. For example, the illustration taken directly from the book includes this information:

"Brides Basket 1891 — Over the years we have come to call fancy art glass bowls in silver-plated holders Brides Baskets. This is because they were very popular wedding

gifts in the late 19th century when being produced. However, when sold back then it was under the name of berry bowl."

Have you ever wondered why the bride stands to the left of her groom? Well it seems this is a remnant of marriage by capture, as the groom needed his right hand free to grab his sword for defense.

Along with this kind of information, there are also wedding certificates pictured and an engraved invitation to a local wedding in 1877 that does not include the bride's name or who she is marrying, only the name of the bride's parents. In other words, there are neat things to be found in this recent publication.

If you are seeking an economical wedding gift for under \$6, these books are available at the Book Shoppe in Medina or at the Swan Library in Albion.