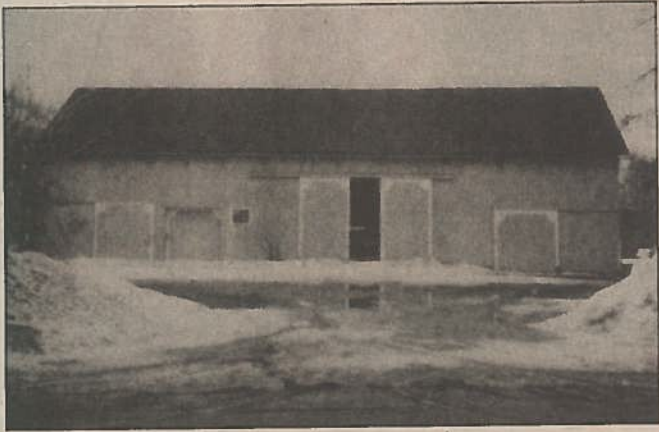


3-5-09



OLDEST BARN

C.W. LATTIN
Orleans County historian

Located in the Town of Ridgeway on Route 104 a little east of Fruit Avenue at the Blackburn farm is a handsome historic marker on a bolder erected in the 1930s.

This bronze plaque with a noteworthy bas relief sculpture showing a covered wagon pulled by a team of horses indicates the following:

GENESEE TO NIAGARA

Historic Ridge Road

Trail of the Iroquois

Traced by Eli Granger in 1798

Trek - Dewitt Clinton - 1810

Seymour Murdock first permanent settler of the town of Ridgeway located on the property in 1810.

One hundred feet southeast stands the barn, the frame work of which was raised by Seymour Murdock assisted by General Izard's troops in 1813.

In the same year Betsey Murdock his daughter taught the first school in Ridgeway in this Barn.

Erected by the Ridge Road Improvement Association

Vol. XXXI, No. 10

Bethinking of Olde Orleans

The accompanying photo taken in the 1970s shows the barn that is mentioned on the marker. This could well be the oldest wooden structure standing in the county today.

The timbers were cut and hewn by Seymour Murdock in 1812-1813. However, he did not have the manpower or neighbors to help raise a barn. When Izard was marching his troops along Ridge Road in 1813 on the way to Niagara, Murdock prevailed on the general to help him.

When first built, it was 40 feet long with a ridge pole 40 feet long, hand hewn on five sides so that the rafters could be pinned at the same pitch as the roof.

The original siding was replaced many years ago and the barn also made longer.

This well-cared-for landmark remains a testimony to the durability and ingenious skills of pioneer fortitude minus power tools.