

EARLY SETTLER

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This early scene from the "Illustrated Album of Orleans County 1879," could have been a farm like that of pioneer Lansing Bailey, who came to Orleans County on foot from Oneida County in November 1811. He went first to the home of a relative, Daniel Pratt, on Ridge Road. He discovered that the best lots along the Ridge were already taken. So he took an article for 260 acres about a mile west of Albion.

Then Bailey returned to Oneida County to get his wife, Loda Parmelee and their child.

In February 1812, the family came back to Orleans County on an ox sled.

Bailey's brother drove two cows and three young cattle. He left his family at Pratt's while he and his brother drove the cattle to the land site over 3 feet of crusted snow, where they cut "browse" — trees — so that the cattle could eat the twigs, buds and dry leaves.

They built a shanty, which sheltered all except their feet which they had to leave out in the cold. They found them covered with 2 to 3 inches of snow in the morning.

The two men built a



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"hovel house" of logs and cut a road up to the Ridge. This would be part of the Gaines Basin Road. They cleared a small patch and sowed apple seeds. Bailey helped James Mather harvest wheat.

In the fall of 1812, he built a log cabin that might have looked much like the one pictured above. There were no boards, no nails and no glass. The windows were

covered with oil paper.

Bailey kept very busy that first winter just chopping down enough trees to keep the fire going and to supply fodder for the cattle. He hunted venison and clobbered a bear with an ax as it emerged from a hollow log.

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey rocked their twin babies to sleep in a hollowed-out log cradle. When Bailey came

down with ague and fever, Dr. William White prescribed some medicine but warned him not to take it. But he took the arsenic, which killed the fever and almost killed himself. These were indeed hard times for early settlers.

When the Baileys became more prosperous and settled, they built a fine brick residence.

When the canal was dug, it separated this farm from the road, so a private bridge had to be built over the canal by the state to the Bailey farm.

In 1837, this place was sold to Joseph A. Lattin and family who settled here from Pleasant Valley.