

MEDINA'S OLD MILLRACE

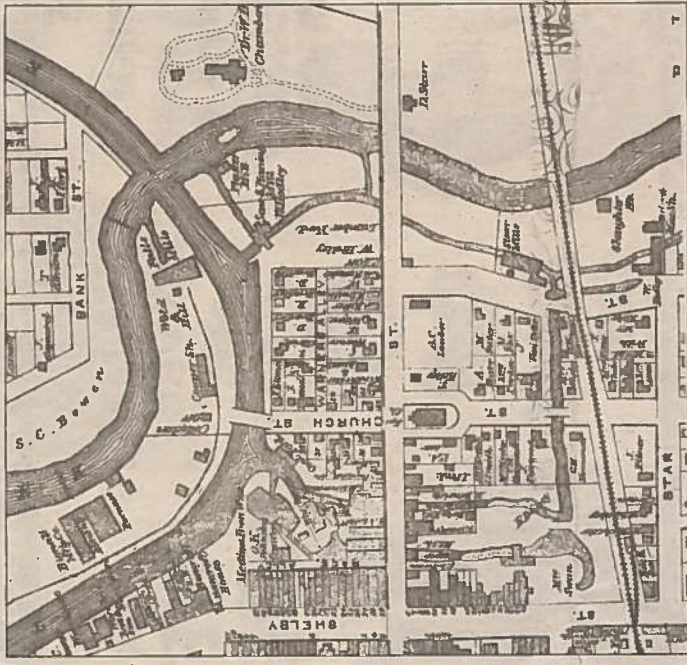
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The old millrace that ran along side of South Main Street in Medina was a source of enjoyment to 19th century youths. In the summer, it served well for boat racing and in the winter, it was great for ice skating.

The millrace was actually built in early canal days as a feeder line to keep up proper water level in the canal. It also served as a power source to several mills before flowing into the Erie Canal.

The "race" had its origin in a pond dammed up on Oak Orchard Creek just south of Maple Ridge Road. It ran parallel to the creek on the east side of South Main Street where the park is now.

The millrace crossed under the street to the west side and ran along behind the houses there. On the 1875 map, we see it emerging from an underground tunnel in the lower left corner of the map under the name "Mrs. Swan." This would now be across the street from Medina City Hall.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mill and a plaster mill. Back then, Main Street was known as Shelby Street.

We also note that Church Street crossed over the canal where several other businesses were located, including the Bignall Foundry, Cooper Shop and Falls Mills.

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Bethinking of Olde Orleans

From here the water was channeled to Star Mills, the Heddy Stave and Planning