



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ebenezer Mix

1788-1869

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Bethinking of Olde Orleans

The name Ebenezer Mix was familiar to the early settlers who took up land from the Holland Purchase. Between 1811 and 1838, anyone who entered the front door of the Holland Land Office in Batavia came face-to-face with Mr. Mix.

Ebenezer Mix was born in New Haven, Conn., where he learned and worked at the trade of a mason. In 1809, when he was 21 years old, he came to Genesee County and settled in Batavia.

It was there he plied his trade as a mason. From this he went into teaching and then, for a time became a student in a law office. In 1811 he became a clerk in the Holland Land Office where he remained for 27 years.

Because of his competent business sense he was soon made the contracts clerk in the office. In this position, it was his duty to make, renew and modify contracts, calculate quantities of land, make sub-divisions of tracts and act as a general salesman. Thereby, Mr. Mix became intimately connected with every transaction of the Holland Land Co.

were made.

He had a keen sense of mathematics and was a practical surveyor possessing a remarkable memory of boundaries, localities and distances.

He was, however, sometimes irritable with people, especially those he felt were incompetent. The stern look on his face in the accompanying portrait suggests this as fact.

However, he was a man who wished to do right and aimed high to do justly. In dealing with settlers with misfortune, he was always benevolent, thereby extending payments, abating interest and renewing contracts.

According to O. Turner's "Pioneer History Of The Holland Purchase," Ebenezer Mix had a heart of gold, a love of justice and generally won the esteem of those early pioneers who settled in the Holland Land Purchase in the Western two

Through him, gifts of land