



6-3-10

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pioneers of Orleans County

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The first annual meeting of the Pioneers Association of Orleans County was held Sept. 10, 1859. At that time, bylaws were drawn up stating: "This association shall consist of all persons who at any time previous to the first day of January 1826, were residents of Western New York who shall sign the constitution."

In essence, this was the first historical society organized in Orleans County. At the 11th annual meeting we found the following from the minutes of the Pioneer Association:

"Mr. George P. Hopkins, photograph artist of Albion, invited the association to attend him and have a photograph picture taken of the association in one group.

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Bethinking of Olde Orleans

"On motion the invitation was accepted, and the meeting adjourned until one-thirty o'clock in the afternoon to afford time to take the picture and after that get dinner.

"On leaving the courthouse, the members formed in procession under the lead of Col. N.E. Darrow, marshal, aided by Timothy C. Bailey as his assistant, and escorted by a martial band under the direction of Mr. Israel Shipman, to the street in front of Mr. Hopkins' rooms, where a fine picture

of some of the old pioneers was taken by Mr. Hopkins as they stood together in the street.

"The procession then marched to the Harrington House, where a substantial dinner was served to them."

The accompanying picture was therefore taken June 19, 1869, on Main Street in Albion. Mr. Hopkins shot this photo from a second floor vantage point.

The brick building to the right with the sign stating Nichoson is now Snell Real Estate. The other two wood buildings were removed in 1890 for the Waterman and Briggs blocks.

More than 200 people appear in this photo including two youths in the second story window. We also note that members of the martial band appear in the lower left corner.