



8-16-10

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Medina and Darien Railroad

C.W. LATTIN

Orleans County historian

It was on May 5, 1834, that the Medina and Darien Railroad was incorporated for the purpose of constructing a rail line for horse-drawn cars between Medina and Akron.

This gave the Town of Shelby the distinction of having the first incorporated railroad in the county to cross it.

The Medina and Darien went into operation in 1836 after spending more than \$10,000 to get the line in operation. A terminal or depot was constructed in downtown Medina on a slip of the Erie Canal. Located there was a loading dock built for the shipment of wheat along the canal.

The railroad bed meandered in a southwesterly direction from the terminal, crossing what is now Roberts Brothers Farm and following Salt Works Road, eventually entering

Vol. XXXII, No. 31

Bethinking of Olde Orleans

Erie County. Evidence of this railroad bed can still be seen in a wooded area near Salt Works Road.

However, this railroad scheme proved to be very unprofitable so that by the end of the 1830s, the line was discontinued and the tracks taken up.

Investors who lost a considerable amount of money in this unsuccessful venture included Orin Britt, Joseph Nixon, Charles Warner, Carnelius VanDorn, Charles Rumsey and Uri Moore.

It would not be until 1853 that the first New York Central trains would cross Orleans County with profitable service.