



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## IN SEARCH OF OIL AND GAS

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In a clipping from the Holley Standard dated Sept. 16, 1965, I find a story from "Out of the Past," which was a weekly column compiled by my father, Cary H. Lattin, when he was county historian.

"Do you know that a test well was sunk in search for oil and gas in August 1965 on the Reid Damn farm on the Culver Road in the Town of Barre? In the summer of 1964, two other wild attempts were made, one in Carlton and the other in the Town of Yates. The last previous search for oil and gas in Orleans County took place on the Hobby farm in the Town of Gaines

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### Bethinking of Olde Orleans

in the 1920s.

"In 1865, two wells were sunk in the eastern park of Barre by a stock company; this search resulted in finding a good quality of salt water. Three years later, another well was drilled, and at a depth of 135 feet the drillers struck what they supposed to be a vein of valuable mineral water and work was suspended. Near the well, a large boarding hose was built and preparations were made to utilize

the water. This was later known as the South Barre Spring House or Water Cure. It burned in the fall of 1913.

"Also in the 1860s, the drilling operation moved farther into the swamp and a well was sunk to 1900 feet. This search ended only in disappointment and expense, to the amount of \$40,000.

"Some 65 to 70 years also a test well was drilled in the Town of Kendall and capped. (No information as to depth or results). Other wells have been drilled in Barre and small amounts of gas have been discovered."

The accompanying photo shows the South Barre Spring House on Old Oak Orchard Road.