

# Yates Center a victim of lack of water power

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**Y**ates Center, a small hamlet centered in the Town of Yates, was settled as early as 1818.

The first post office in the town was established in the same year with William Hughes as postmaster. Moore and Hughes opened a store in Yates Center in 1824 and Samuel Tappens opened a tavern in 1825. John Mead operated a wagon shop at an early time and a hotel was kept by Henry Southworth.

Many different kinds of trades also began to spring up in Yates Center, including a blacksmith shop, cabinet shop and chair factory.

Peter Saxe from Vermont opened a dry goods and grocery store. By his untiring efforts, the Yates Academy was established in 1840.

The Yates Baptist Church was formed in 1822.

For all appearances, the community was destined to become the business center of the town in early times. But there was one great hindrance to more rapid growth, and that was the lack of water power.

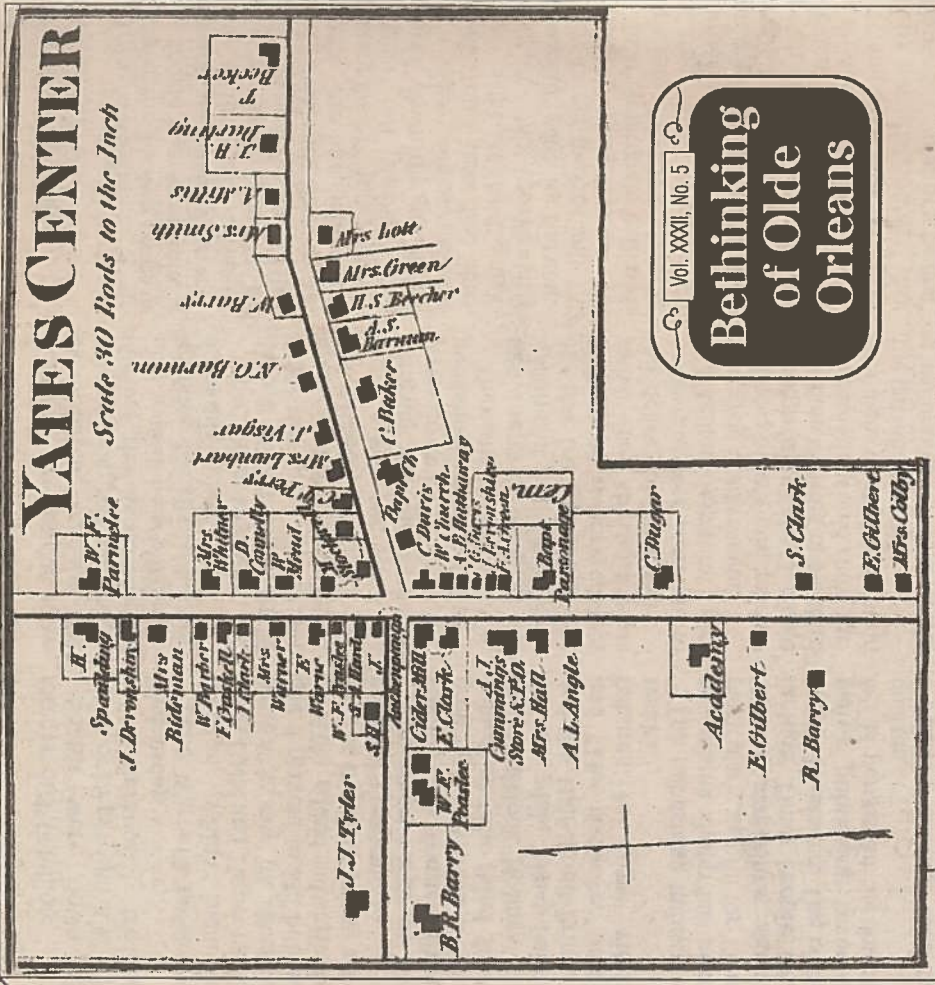
Consequently, settlement began to shift a mile to the

south at Johnson's Creek, where mills were established in Lyndonville. Then in 1876, the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad opened up through Lyndonville, which nipped

any further growth in Yates Center.

The accompanying map of Yates Center is taken from the 1875 Niagara Orleans Atlas. It gives the impression of being a hub of

activity, but like so many little hamlets, the manufacturing businesses are all gone today, leaving the church and cemetery from early times as the active survivors.



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