An old bullying

BY C.W. LATTIN

Orleans County historian

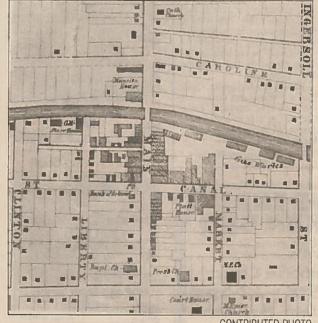
n present times, when we try to be politically correct, we have become more aware of

bullying.

Often in the past, it was overlooked and ignored, but we now are aware of its ramifications upon the victims. It is something that has always been around and to some degree, probably always will. With texting, websites and Facebook, it has taken on new dimensions. Perhaps less physical than years ago, but nonetheless, stressful to those being bullied.

In the 19th century, it was indeed a physical thing where knock-down, drag-out fights occurred between individuals. Perhaps an underlying factor was the fact that there were any number of saloons. We, of course, know that alcohol gives some people confidence. At any rate, following is a story that was reported in an Albion Newspaper in September 1860:

It seems that John Spear from Gaines drove into Castles Livery Stable and found himself surrounded by several roughians. He sprang



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from his buggy and into the loft, keeping his pursuers at bay with a wooden stake. From the loft door he escaped by leaping to the ground. He then headed for the canal bridge and into the Mansion House, yelling "murder" at the top of his voice. It was rumored that someone at this hotel slipped him a revolver but his pursuers were not forthcoming to make a further attack. The paper reported "the night was disturbed by no more rowdyism."

Our photo from 1860 shows the canal bridge on Main Street and the Mansion House where young Spear took cover from the bullies.

C.W. Lattin is the Orleans county historian. His column appears every Thursday in The Journal-Register and The Albion-Advertiser.