

Traveling by stage coach

2-24-11

BY C.W. LATTIN

Orleans County historian

In the late 1920s, members of the Orleans Chapter DAR, along with members of their counterpart the Lemuel Cook Chapter of SAR, posed for this photo. It is believed the picture was taken at an historical pageant given at the old Orleans County Fairgrounds in Albion.

Except for the driver, all the ladies and gentlemen are dressed in attire representing the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Note the men's stove pipe hats and women's bonnets, along with parasols for shielding themselves from the sun.

Back in the 1920s the DAR took a great interest in promoting the historic Ridge Road and its importance in the development of Orleans County before the Erie Canal. This was largely due to the efforts of our first County Historian Miss Katherine Rowley of Gaines. Several bronze historic markers were erected along Ridge Road

Bethinking of Olde Orleans

on either sandstone blocks or boulders.

The stage coach seen here is the type used for travel on Ridge Road from 1816 to 1850. A regular route ran from Canandaigua to Lewiston. Consequently, many taverns were located along this route for travelers. The Village Inn at Childs is today the only one which still remains.

The group in our photo was simply portraying the travel mode, such as it was during the second quarter of the 19th century. Eventually the Erie Canal took over all such passenger service and ultimately the railroads put canal travel out of business.

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

