

# Sandy Creek tract

3-22-12

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The hamlet we know today as Murray, located at the intersection of Routes 104 and 237, was once known as Sandy Creek. In a book entitled "Travels In The United States Of America" by William Dalton published in 1821 we find some interesting accounts of our region including Sandy Creek. The book is dedicated to a William Crackenthorpe, Esq. who also presents a Foreword under the heading Advertisement. A portion of that is as follows:

*"In preparing the following Observations for the Press, the Author has anxiously endeavored to exclude everything which could have the most remote tendency to deceive or mislead. It was from a conviction that no publication which he had then seen, was calculated to give a correct idea of*

America, that he undertook to examine for himself. A great majority of the books already published upon this subject, have been written either by men who have never seen the places described by them, or by Emigrants resident in America who are obviously interested in persuading others to follow their steps; — in either case, little dependence can be placed upon their report."

Under the sub-heading Sandy Creek, we find the following written observations of that place.

"Sandy Creek - We reached this place, fifty-six miles east of Lewiston, early in the evening of the first day.

This village, which contains two or three good taverns and several frame-houses, is only three years old, but being situated in the midst of a very rich tract of land, it is enlarging rapidly. It is only two miles distant from the great Canal, and

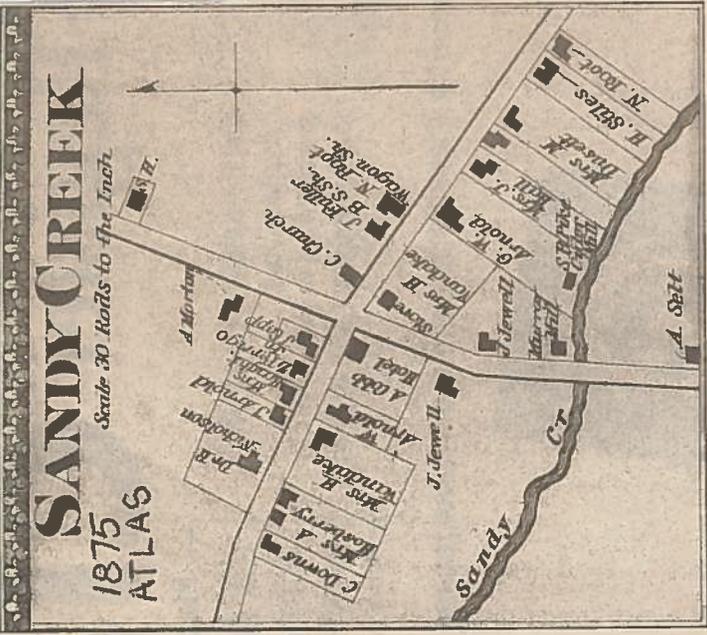
## Bethinking of Olde Orleans

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eight from Lake Ontario. It has also another excellency - it stands near a mill stream. As a proof of the value of this last-mentioned privilege, I need only observe, that we crossed but one running stream this day. These are sufficiently plentiful in the winter season but are dried up by the parching and long continued droughts of the American summers.

Although Sandy Creek is considered to be peculiarly exposed to agues and bilious fevers, yet the flux of

emigrant towards it is very rapid. Land, in its natural state, sells in the neighbourhood for from twenty to thirty shillings per acre; where the trees are cut down, fences made, and framed buildings erected, the



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price is from ten to twelve pounds. From the quantity of newcomers it will be readily concluded, that the price of grain will not be very low. The average price of wheat exceeds a dollar per Winchester bushel. Corn

from 70 to 100 cents, etc, etc." I find it a little odd that the book was clearly published in 1821 and yet it makes reference to the "great canal" which was not yet dug this far west at the time."