

Before the footlights

BY C.W. LATTIN 1-12-17
Orleans County historian

Today's column is taken from a printed programme from The Albion Village Hall date Dec. 12, 1876. The second floor of the Village Hall was an assembly hall for dramatic, and musical events as well as meetings. Many performers, lecturers and traveling shows performed there even before Pratts Opera House opened. Several other halls for such entertainment were also located in downtown Albion when live entertainment was the mode of aesthetic recreation.

The program for the evening of Dec. 12, 1876 states: "Tableaux Comprising Historical, Scriptural, Pastoral, and Mythological Scenes. In aid of the Baptist Chapel at Oak Orchard,"

The program line up was as follows:

We hail thee, glad spring-time, Chorus

The Seasons, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter

Elijah Raising, the Widow's Son, Accompanied by "Help Me, Man of God" ... Mendelssohn

Anthem, "Praise Ye The Lord", Elijah on Mount Horeb

The Orphan's Protection
The Annunciation of the Birth of Christ

The Temptation of St. Anthony

Laocoon
Abraham Offering Isaac, in 3 scenes:

I. The Question; II The Consecration; III The Offering

The program's printed notes are also of interest under a title of "Mere Mention"

• "How is this for a programme?"

• The Philharmonic Society has not yet organized for the winter.

• A club dance is holding at Royce's Hall this evening.

• BEFORE THE FOOTLIGHTS will appear throughout the season

• The ladies of Albion have organized a Dramatic Society

• The entertainment tonight is for the benefit of the Baptist chapel at Oak Orchard.

• Village Hall is perfectly safe. Six charged Babcocks are in the building, and an immense cistern of water under it.

• Do not fail to attend the entertainment to-morrow evening, when "Uncle Tom's Cabin," with the vivacious Lottie as Topsy, and a troupe of slave singers, will be produced.

• Everyone will be on hand at the Spelling School Thursday evening, to see our merchants compete

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Vol. XXXIV, No. 2
**Bethinking
of Olde
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with the students. This will be the first of the Library Course, season tickets for which are selling for \$1.00.

• The Rev. G.T. Dowling should have a full house next Tuesday evening. He is not only a first class lecturer, with a popular subject, but the proceeds are to go into the hands of the Ladies Charitable Society and be used by them in alleviating the distress of our poor.

• INGOMAR, that intensely absorbing play, will be brought upon the stage next Saturday and Monday evenings by E.H. Brink's new troupe, the Jean Hosmer Combination. Of Mr. Brink's ability it is needless to speak; he has starred in all the principal cities; invariably meeting with a hearty reception.

Miss Hosmer is an actress of note who has won the plaudits of many people."

Likewise the program is filled with little block advertisements. Two of which have been included here.