



7-19-12

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Building Moves

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The photograph seen here is from a post card out of my recent book: "Historic Post Card Views Of Albion, NY." Incidentally, these books are available at The Little Book Shoppe in Medina, Bindings Book Store in Albion and also at the Family Hardware store in Albion.

The picture was taken around 1915 of a Miss Utley standing on the grounds of the Western House of Refuge. It is perhaps an inmate who is raking by a tree. Crossing through the picture is Denio Road. This was named for John H. Denio who owned this land on both sides of the road in the late 1800s.

Denio Road ran from Route 31 to the Albion Eagle Harbor Road where the guard gates are located on the canal. In the early 1930s the land on the west side of Denio Road was purchased by state corrections and expanded into the N.Y. State Training School For Women. That's when the present administration building at the head of Washington Street was built and Denio Road closed off.

The house and barns in this picture were purchased from Lewis E. Sands at the time. Rather than tear them down these were all moved cross lots to the west side of Gaines Basin Road where the "Lone Star Inn" had been located. These buildings are now owned by Mike Bonafedi and Judy Koehler (Sports Graphics).

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Bethinking of Olde Orleans

Once moved they were used for the state school farm then established in the early 1930s. The house in our picture then became the manager's residence. This farm was given up by the State of New York in 1960.

My father remembered that when these buildings were moved back in the early 1930s, young George Wolfe Jr., a college student at the time, took summer employment with the project. He helped move the structures in their totality. One day he got one of the barns as far as the middle of Gaines Basin Road and left it there over night. No doubt some sort of motorized equipment was in use. My father was kind of amused that the road was blocked off with barn that night. This was the same George Wolfe who was later superintendent of the Albion Central School District in the 1960's and early 1970's.

C.W. Lattin is the Orleans county historian. Bethinking of Olde Orleans appears every Thursday in The Journal-Register.