

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS 1-19-12

JOHN PARSONS

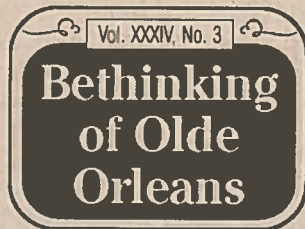
BY C.W. LATTIN

Orleans County historian

John Parsons (1810-99) and wife Elizabeth Parsons (1807-88) both lie buried in Boxwood Cemetery. They were among the early settlers of Medina in its formative years.

John Parsons arrived in Medina in March 1832 and set up a shop as a tin smith on East Center Street. He immediately took an interest in his community as a conscientious citizen. He became a founding member of the fire department and played an active roll in it for several decades.

Likewise, he was a staunch supporter of the Methodist Church throughout his life time. One account notes that early Methodist worship services were even conducted over his store on East Center Street before a church edifice was



constructed.

Aside from the scanty information not a lot is known about this man. What's interesting however, he became Medina's first unofficial historian. It seems that in 1858 and 1859 he took the time to record some of the history of Medina. His hand written notes on lined tablet paper amount to 159 pages. These notes were used for two different lectures he offered to various groups on the early beginnings of Medina from his perspective.

This wonderful legacy has been microfilmed and is available at the Lee-Whedon Library in Medina.