

Bethinking of Olde Orleans: Paintings by West

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during the month
of February
four paintings
by local artist
Peter B. West (1837-1913)

During the month of February four paintings by local artist Peter B. West (1837-1913) have been displayed in the show case at Hoag Library, Albion. Also on permanent display in the lounge at Hoag are two paintings by the same artist. These include the "Hallock Farmstead" 1887 and "A Catch of Bass and Pickereel" also 1887. Both paintings were given to Swan Library by Stephen Chapman in 1980.

The four paintings on special display are loaned by C.W. Lattin and include, "A Still Life" 1894, "Reclining Cows" 1900, "Sheepstable" 1904 and "Two Dogs, One Hitched to a Cart" 1900.

Other paintings by P.B. West in the Albion community include a goat at the DAR Chapter House and a large painting of sheep at the Cobblestone Museum.

West was known best as a professional animal painter and as a listed artist he is noted as a painter of horses. The picture included here is one of his horse paintings from the 1880's owned by a collector from Monroe County.

P.B. West who signed his art as such was born in England where he received his early

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he came to America in the 1860's. During the 1870's he worked for P.T. Barnum when he painted animal pictures on the circus wagons and caravans. West first lived on a small farm on the west side of Clarendon Road in the Town of Albion. Those buildings are now all gone.

West and another local artist at the time A.L. Briggs shared a studio in downtown Albion.

Well to do people in the late 19th century could afford his work which likewise became a status symbol in the well decorated Victorian home. In later years P.B. West lived north of Albion on Route 98 in the Town of Gaines.

He was an accomplished artist and a prolific painter. But he never became rich or famous. In fact, he was a struggling artist and often traded his paintings for goods. One legend is, he owed money for coal received from Shourds Brothers Coal yard. He couldn't pay the bill so George or John Shourds accepted a \$75 painting in lieu of cash to wipe

