

RUFFLE SHIRT HILL

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Bethinking of Olde Orleans

“Ruffle Shirt Hill” was the term applied to South Main Street in Albion years ago by average people to denote the rich people who lived there.

Likewise, along with not only being rich these were the high tone socialites of the community. These were the people who lived in the grand mansions that once graced South Main Street, the ones who dressed formally for all occasions sometimes wearing ruffled shirts.

Our post card view circa 1905 was the heyday of “Ruffled Shirt Hill”. This view looking south up Main Street from Beaver Street shows on the left the fine residence with a cupola of John G. Sawyer U.S. Congressman during the 1890’s.

On the right is the grand mansion of E. Kirke Hart, a wealthy banker and U.S. Congressman one term during the 1870s. This is now the site of the new Hoag Library.

Farther up South Main were the homes of other rich people including: William B. Dye, clothier and one time mayor; Albert C. Burrows, lawyer from a wealthy family; William G. Swan, benefactor of the Swan Library; and C. Royce Sawyer, prominent banker.

There were many others who in their day were considered among the rich and high class people of Albion.

It is an era long gone. “Ruffle Shirt Hill” is only a lingering memory by a few older people who recall their parents reminiscences.



ALBION, N. Y., Main Street near Railroad.