



Bethinking of Olde Orleans: Jennie A. King 1870-1958

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"To write well is to think well, to feel well, and to render well; it is to possess at once intellect, soul and taste." -- Buffon

For a period of sixty-eight years Jennie King's life was one of total involvement, devotion and dedication to the world of journalism. Her experience with publications first began in 1891 when she accepted a position with the Eddy Printing Company of Albion. At the time, Eddy's was printing two monthly publications which were Pearl Coann's "The Lance" and Frank Lattin's bird book, "The Oologist".

Slightly later she became associated with the Orleans Republican newspaper, first as a printer and then as the editor. This was in the days before linotype when a steam driven press was used which burned coal. This required the operator to climb on top frequently to fill a reservoir with pails of water.

When Peter A. Dragon established the Albion Advertiser on Nov. 8, 1929 Jennie King became his editor and advertising

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Her tenure as a business woman in journalism gave her unprecedented seniority in Western New York. She once referred to herself as the last of the "old timers" in downtown Albion.

As a child I remember her and recall especially the monstrous wig she always wore which gave her a rather unique characteristic quality.

Jennie King was the daughter of Milicent and Sylvester King born in the house her father had built at 118 McKinstry Street in Albion. He was the carpenter who made all the doors in 1858-1859 used

in the present Orleans County Court House.

Jennie was educated in the Albion schools and was active in the Methodist Church and Women's Society of Christian Service. For twenty-five years she sang alto in the Methodist choir.

She was the last of six girls in her family. She never married. Among her personal effects left at the Albion Advertiser office following her death was \$20,000 in two different metal cash boxes.

"The victory of success is half won when one gains the habit of work."

-- Sarah A. Bolton