

Bethinking of Olde Orleans: 1863 Report of the Poor

1-17-13

Vol. XXVI, No. 4

Bethinking of Olde Orleans

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The first Orleans County Almshouse, referred to by many as the Poorhouse, was built in 1833 on County House Road.

The original structure was replaced in 1878 with a new three story building. In 1903 a county hospital was erected adjacent to the main building. In 1960 a new infirmary was built on West Avenue in Albion now known as the Villages of Orleans. By 1962 all the old buildings on County House were razed and the site redeveloped as a Civil Defense Center.

From the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Orleans County 1863 we find: "Report of the Superintendent of the Poor". Here are some excerpts: "The Superintendent of the Poor of said



interest on the investment, is about \$1,666.19. The total amount of expenses for the support of the poor in the County, from the date of the last Report, is \$6,393.66.

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Supervisors raise a Contingent Fund for the support of the poor for the coming year, the sum of \$2,000.00.

Making the amount necessary to be raised the present year, the sum of \$4,830.32.

The total amount paid for transportation of Paupers is \$23.64.

The amount of Paupers now in the County House is 82.

Percentage and causes of pauperism of the inmates of the County Poor House during the Past Year:

Nationality	Males	Females
Americans	38	45
Irish	62	35
English	18	12
Dutch	7	15
French	1	1
Scotch	1	0
Negros	6	3

Canadians 6 0 6
Total 250

Causes of Pauperism

Cause and number: Intemperance direct 165, Wives having intemperate husbands 9, Children having intemperate parents 18, Idiots 4, Lunatics 14, Blindness 7, Orphans 5, Sickness 1, Vagrancy 2, Decripitude and old age 12, Half Orphans 6, Deaf and Dumb 1, Bastards 6, Total 250"

There being no pictures of the original Almshouse or "inmates", I have submitted this picture taken around 1900 showing some of the "paupers".

weeks' board, is 4565. The average expense per week of all the expenses at the County House, excepting Superintendent's Salary, of each Pauper, is nearly 73 6-10 cents.

The total number of deaths at the County House since the last report is 7. The total value of the Farm, and Personal Property on it, is \$13,302.93.

The total amount of money received and disbursed by the Superintendent, is \$531.68. The total amount of orders drawn from the Poor Fund the present year is \$3,237.66. The proceeds of the farm, over and above the expenses of its cultivation and labor done on the farm, and

County respectfully Reports as follows: The total expenses of the County Poor House, including hired help, medical services, medicines, provisions and not including Superintendent's Salary is \$3,434.57. The total number of Pupers admitted to the County House during the past year, including the number on hand at date of last report, is 250. The average number per week is nearly 89% The total number of

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