



12-6-13

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Webster's A.O.U.W. Band. Seated, left to right: Floyd Carr, John Kettle, Charles Beck, Ernest Baldwin, Daniel Webster, Band Master who organized the group, Jack Beck, Walter Cutts, Edward Haight and George Fuller; Standing, left to right: Michael Anderson, Arthur Bedwell, John Rowley, Seymour Clark, Elmer Crego, Charles Waley and Dennis Waite.

## Webster's Band

Our photo from 1901 was taken in Murray on the Ridge Road. It shows "Webster's A.O.U.W. Band, Murray NY" as seen painted on the large drum. A variety of brass instruments also appear with the players. The initials A.O.U.W. stood for a popular fraternal organization known as: The Ancient Order of United Workmen. This was a lodge of men with a ceremonial ritual comparable to the Odd Fellows and Masonic Order. Organizations of this nature flourished at the time often supporting hometown talent bands which marched in frequent parades, played at club picnics and band concerts. Occasionally we

Vol. XXXV, No. 50

### Bethinking of Olde Orleans

find the initials A.O.U.W. on headstones in local cemeteries. It's not as common as the Odd Fellows FLT but it does appear. The A.O.U.W. had a large hall in the second story of a building on East Bank Street in Albion. The men and boys in this picture are picture perfect with the uniforms and matching hats. We can only imagine what they sounded like.