

Rethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian

1-13-82



Bill Monacelli Photo 1955

Vol. IV

JENNIE A. KING 1870-1958

No. 2

"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 steamdriven 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 November 8, 1929 Jennie King became his editor and advertising solicitor. She had an excellent knack in getting the news for the Advertiser. And it was there she stayed until her death. In fact for many years her own living quarters were a part of the Albion Advertiser's office. Her tenure as a business woman in journalism gave her unprecedented seniority in Western N.Y. She once referred to herself as the last of the "oldtimers" 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 Millicent 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 1858-59 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 also 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