

Rethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



Vol. IV

No. 4

REVEREND EARLE I. HAMLIN 1886-1960

MRS. MARJORIE HOWES HAMLIN 1886-1962

“We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.” -- Psalm 55:14

The Rev. Earle I. Hamlin was born in Tiffin, Ohio. He spent his early years there, graduating from high school and Heidelberg College in that city. Mrs. Hamlin formerly Marjorie Howes was a native of Chicago.

Illinois. Upon her graduation from the Illinois Institute of Technology and his graduation from the McCormick Theological Seminary in 1912, they were married. They spent the next two years studying in the British Isles, including the Union Free College in Glasgow, Scotland, where the first of their three sons was born.

When they returned to the United States he took up his first pastorate at Iron River, Michigan for eight years. He then became associate minister for three years of the First Presbyterian Church in Buffalo. The Hamlins then moved to Albion when he became installed pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in June 1925. For the next twenty-eight years he continued his ministry in Albion. He had no desire other than to serve the church he loved. “His life was the summation of all the sermons he preached....”

Rev. Hamlin was interested in every aspect of bettering the whole community. In 1926 he joined the Rotary Club and for thirty-four years was one of its most active members. He was attentive to the crippled children’s committee and sought out treatment, therapy and surgery for them. Through his involvement on the Rotary International Service Committee, five displaced families found a welcome refuge in the Hamlin home which gave them a real start in the new world. Rev. Hamlin was President of the Rotary Club in 1949, District Governor of the 248th District of Rotary International.

Aside from Rotary, Mr. Hamlin served for several years on the State Committee for Aid to Dependent Children by appointment of Gov. Dewey. He was also active on the County Welfare Committee and following his retirement in 1953 worked part time as a sanitary inspector of Migrant Labor Camps for the N.Y.S. Health Dept. Both of the Hamlins were active in Red Cross work. He was also a representative of the Salvation Army, a member of the Lewiston Trail Council of Boy Scouts, a director on the Board of United Fund, Chaplain of Albion State Training School for twenty years, Chaplain for the Orleans County Ministerial Association and was at one time moderator of Rochester Presbytery. After 1953 he served as associate pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Lockport and interim pastor of the Barre Center Church. In 1955 Rev. Hamlin was presented the American Legion award for Outstanding Citizenship in recognition of his civic activities.

Likewise, Mrs. Hamlin in her own right, was a power house of energy and enthusiasm. She was active in PTA work and at one time served as State Chairman of Parent Education for the State Congress. She was instrumental in organizing The Young Women’s Service Club which later established a scholarship in her honor and memory. She wrote several newspaper columns including one entitled “In Our Family” that appeared in seventeen different newspapers weekly. Her other columns included “Living Room Common Sense” and “The World in Our Town.”

The Hamlins were simple, kindly, unassuming people of great spiritual power and influence. The power of deeds by which they lived were a splendid example of selflessness.