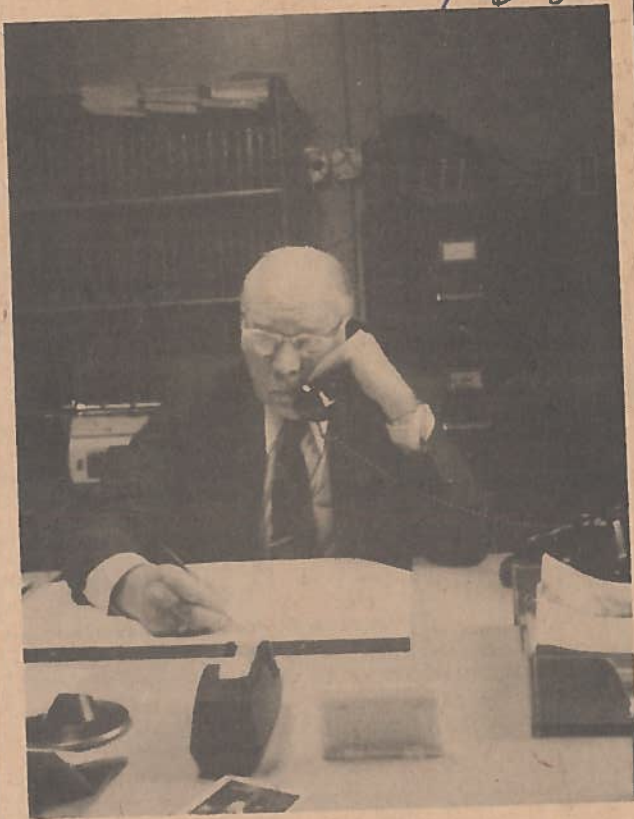


Bethinking of Old Orleans

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FAREWELL MR. RUMBLE

A new year means different things to different people and for former Orleans County Clerk, Francis Rumble, it means retirement. After twenty-seven years as County Clerk he says, "It's time to retire but I'm going to miss it." On January first he was succeeded by Lucille Bloom.

Francis Rumble was born on a farm in Ridgeway and later moved to a farm in the Town of Yates. He finished Lyndonville High School and then married Evelyn Ward. They have always lived in Lyndonville where their two sons grew up. Prior to being County Clerk he worked for Fairmont Foods Co. in Barker and when they sold out to Southland Frozen Foods he continued his on-the-road job with them.

Francis was first elected County Clerk in November 1955 and took office January first 1956. At the time he succeeded Murray Richardson to the position. The term of County Clerk is three years which means the voters of Orleans County have elected him nine times to office. Out of those nine times he was only opposed the first two. The other seven times he ran unopposed as did his successor last Fall, which he feels speaks well for her. Francis says he has found his job to be fascinating and enjoyable. His first Deputy County Clerk was Denton Clark who had held the position previously. On May 27, 1968 Lucille Bloom was appointed to that job upon Mr. Clark's retirement. This was after she first started working as an account clerk in November 1964. Francis points out that the County Clerk's office is run with the same number of staff as it was twenty-seven years ago, except for a couple of additions. In 1964 a person was added when all the chattel mortgages and conditional sales were by law, to be filed in the County Clerk's office rather than each Town Clerk's office. Five years ago another person was added to put all current recordings and old recording instruments on micro film for safe-keeping.

Unlike many people who retire, Francis Rumble has no definite plans. He indicates that his wife retired last January from teaching at the Lyndonville elementary school and says "We're just going to kind of play it by ear now." They hope to do some travelling but plan on staying in Orleans County. He says "I'm looking forward to some leisure time." He is a member of the the United Methodist Church in Lyndonville, Yates Masonic Lodge #675 F & AM, the Royal Arch Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Medina. During the latter part of January a large retirement party is being planned at which his many friends and associates will be attending.

In addition to this I thought it would be of interest to point out what is actually done in the County Clerk's office. Francis says they wear seven hats which are: County Clerk, Clerk of Supreme and County Courts, head of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Represent the Department of Taxation and Finance [mortgage tax and real estate transfer stamps], Represent N.Y.S. Conservation Dept., Represent Federal Government for Passports and Represent Department of State - Notary Public. The County Clerk records deeds, mortgages, discharge of mortgages, assignment of mortgages, military discharges and miscellaneous records. The County Clerk files: Survey maps, Supreme and County Court records, judgements, liens, financial statements, pistol permits, bonds, corporations, business certificates, Central School District Annual Reports, Coroners reports, separation agreements, divorces, and naturalization records up to the time when those courts were transferred to Buffalo. The County Clerk also administers Oath of Office to all elected and appointed county employees and the same for all employees of the ten townships in Orleans County.

On a final note, it was just one hundred years ago that the present Orleans County Clerk's office building was under construction. The Board of Supervisors, by a resolution, set the date of occupancy for the County Clerk to be on or after December 17, 1883.