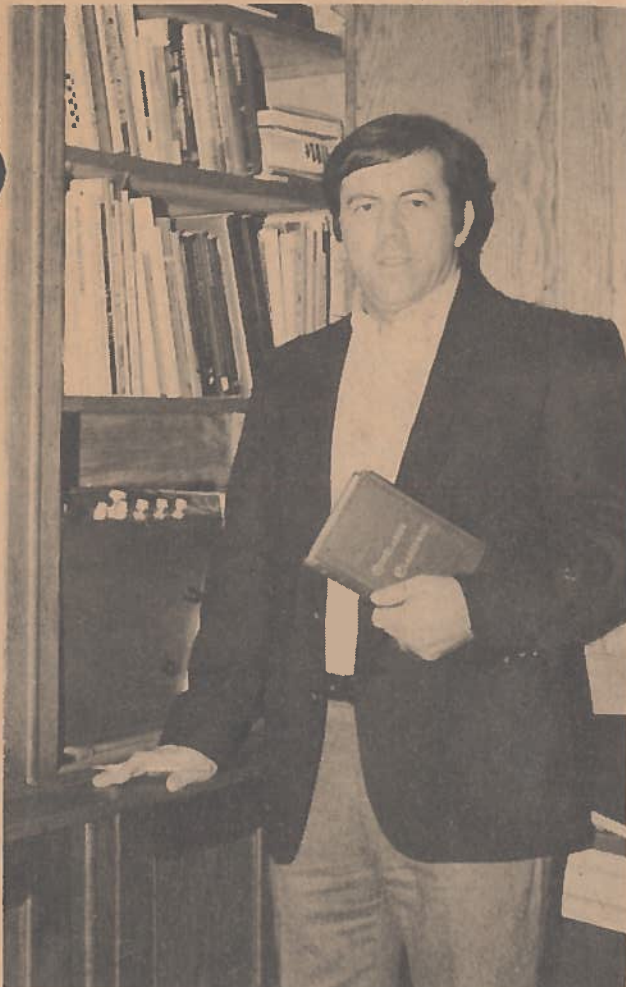


# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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MEET  
ALAN ISSELHARD  
HISTORIAN, TOWN OF CLARENDON

Alan Isselhard, historian for the Town of Clarendon was born in Rochester, N.Y. to Walter and Luella Isselhard. When Alan was very young they moved to Irondequoit where he graduated from East Ridge High School. His first work experience was that as a draftsman for one year before taking employment at Eastman Kodak as a quality control inspector. During that time he pursued night courses at Monroe Community College.

In 1966, because of the Vietnam War, Alan was drafted into military service. He spent his first year in Texas and the second in Korea. Following his tour of duty he resumed his courses at Monroe Community College where he earned his Associate Degree in Mechanical Technology. He is now employed full time at Kodak.

In 1972 he married Mary Gressick from Amsterdam, N.Y. They met while she was a student at the State University College in Brckport. She is employed as a service representative for Rochester Telephone Co. The Isselhards have resided for several years now in a lovely brick Greek Revival home which was built between 1844-55 on Church Street in Clarendon. Both being interested in local history and antiques, they have decorated and restored their home to picture-book quality. Alan is also very interested in British sports cars including Jaquar, Triumph and especially Morgan. He has enjoyed restoring several of these classics. Along with this hobby he is also very interested in photography and its history and has put together a fine collection of daguerreotypes from the 19th century. In 1979 he took all the photographs which appear in Irene Gibson's book, Historic Sites in Orleans County, New York. As an extremely active member of the Orleans County Historical Association, Alan has been the program chairman for the past several years. Through his efforts some exceptionally fine programs of historic nature have been brought about.

In January 1981 Alan Isselhard was appointed town historian by Supervisor Geary Shenck and the Clarendon Town Board. At the time he succeeded Margaret Mathes to that position. Since his appointment his town department has received a substantial budget increase which I believe speaks very well of him. As historian, he does an annual report of his activities and accomplishments and maintains a file of news clippings relating to Clarendon. During the past year he took aerial photos of the Town of Clarendon in an effort to establish the whereabouts of an early Indian site. Other topics which he has thoroughly researched include the great Clarendon fire which he had published and the Clarendon-Linden Fault which is an active earthquake fault that stretches from Allegany County up into the southern part of the Province of Ontario. It's last significant tremor was felt in August 1929. This paper he presented at a meeting of OCHA. Through his efforts as historian, a one-page brochure is now being printed which includes five pictures and a thumbnail sketch of Clarendon's history. It will be available around the middle of this month for promotional purposes. Since he has been historian he has set up a special historical exhibit on election day during the evening hours at the Clarendon polls. He has also conducted historical tours of Clarendon. And perhaps most important to any historian is the constant search and research of information which took him this last year to the N.Y.S. Museum and Library in Albany. Currently he is most anxious to obtain any facts or pictures of Polly's Tavern which was located on Route 31A at the County Line Road. Dating back to the 1820's, evidence of it remained until the 1950's.