

Bethinking of Old Orleans

3-21-84

C.W.Lattin
County
Historian



The Farmer's Bank of Orleans

Vol. VI

No.12

GAINES CENTENNIAL BOOKLETS

1984 marks the 175th anniversary of the first permanent settlement in the Town of Gaines. Since there is no specific word to indicate a 175th anniversary, this year's celebration is therefore being referred to as the "Historic Gaines Jubilee". In 1959 the Town of Gaines held a sesquicentennial and in 1909 a centennial.

When the centennial took place a special booklet was published with historical sketches of the village and township of Gaines. Now seventy-five years old, these booklets have become quite rare as collector's items. The outside covers measuring 5 by 6 1/4 inches are dark green with gold lettering. Inside there are 34 pages with five photography and the following chapter headings: History, Reminiscences of Almanzor Hutchinson, Stage Coaching on the Ridge Road and Anecdotes. A list is also contained which is entitled the "First Things" of the Town of Gaines. The booklets were printed on glossy paper by the Orleans Republican which was a newspaper at the time in Albion. The photo contained here of the first bank in Orleans County is an illustration from the booklet. In essence, much of the early history of the Town of Gaines is contained in this 75-year-old publication, and I might add, information which will not be included in the new publication the Historic Gaines Jubilee Committee is now working on.

To give you a sample, here is a page from the 1909 booklet entitled "Land Marks": "Many of the first public and business buildings erected in the village of Gaines still remain, viz: the two churches, the first meeting place of the Baptists, the academy, three hotels, Gaines Tavern still in use as such, Pioneer House and American Hotel. The old grist mill built by Perry Davis who installed the first steam engine in this county, the saw mill on whose log car so many of the youngsters rode back and forth; the first bank building in the county, three store buildings, the brick on the north side of Ridge, now kept by H. Knickerbocker and the wood building on the south side now kept by A.A. Appleton, the Hawkins store on the southeast corner, now used as a dwelling and the office of Dr. Beach.

"The Masonic Hall in the second story of the Charles Prussia residence where the first Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the county had a home, still remains just the same, but the companions have all departed to that celestial Lodge above, from whose bourn no traveler ever returns. Here it was the notorious Mr. Morgan on his way west paid his respects to Mr. Elihu Mather."

The Cobblestone Society has a very limited number of these old booklets which it will make available to those who desire them. As part of the Historic Gaines Jubilee the Cobblestone Church will note its sesquicentennial this coming Fall. To help support the Cobblestone Society's part of the Historic Gaines Jubilee, these unique booklets are now being offered on a first come, first served basis, for a donation of \$10.00. In other words, for a donation of \$10.00 to help support the Cobblestone Society, you may own an original copy of the first published history of the Town of Gaines.

To procure a copy, make checks out to the Cobblestone Society and mail to Cobblestone Society, Albion, N.Y. 14411. Your copy will be mailed out directly.