

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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HISTORIC GAINES 1809-1984

"The harvest gathered in the fields of the Past is to be brought home for the use of the Present"

With the opening of the Annual Mother's Day Art Show at the Cobblestone Church Museum on Friday at 7 P.M., comes the release of a new local history book. It is entitled "Historic Gaines 1809-1984" and is authored by Delia Robinson, Deputy Historian for the Town of Gaines. It has been published by the Historic Gaines Jubilee Committee in commemoration of the numerous anniversaries being celebrated in the Town of Gaines during 1984. These anniversaries are namely: 1809 the first permanent settlement, 1814 first appropriation (\$5,000) to improve the Ridge Road, 1824 building of the Village Inn at Childs, erection of the first church west of the Genesee (now town garage), building of the Gaines Chapter Royal Arch Masonic temple in Gaines (now LaCroix residence) and the digging of the Erie Canal through the township at Eagle Harbor, 1834 erection of the Cobblestone Church at Childs and the formation of the Gaines Congregational Church, 1849 building of the District 5 Cobblestone School at Childs and 1929 the beginning of the DAR residency in their Chapter House.

Gaines has celebrated twice before, first in 1909 with a Centennial and in 1959 with a Sesquicentennial. Each time a historic booklet was published which included facts of local interest. The new book by Delia Robinson includes information not previously published in earlier works. It has been done with an emphasis on the last one hundred years and is "dedicated to the people of Gaines." The book contains sixty pages and one hundred-twenty photos.



Essentially there are twenty-five pages of solid text with the pictures taking up the rest of the space. Old photos were used which have never before been published plus a few contemporary scenes. In essence, the book is divided into ten chapters being broken down primarily by hamlets or various areas in the Town of Gaines. A prologue by the county historian and a chapter entitled "The Settlers of Gaines" by J. Howard Pratt are also included. The illustration included with this article forms the front cover of the book. It is an early tin-type believed to have been done by a traveling photographer about 1873. This scene depicts the cobblestone residence of Robert Anderson on Ridge Road west of Gaines. Mr. Anderson who is pictured in front, was the second supervisor of the Town of Gaines and the first chairman of the Orleans County Board of Supervisors. Other family members are also included. The main portion of the house was built in the early 1830's while the west wing was built in 1859. Currently this is the Robert Bruning residence. The back cover of the book is a similar scene of the former Clift residence on Gaines Basin Road including the only known view of a log cabin in the Town of Gaines. The book is full

of everything from interesting tid-bits to significant people, places and happenings. It is a valuable memento, particularly in the pictorial sense that appeals to a wide range of ages. The author has indeed done a superb job in writing and compiling this book.

At press time the cost of the book was paid for by generous patrons of the community. The last seven pages of the book have been devoted to this purpose. Over 200 individual patrons are included plus businesses as well as nearly 100 names on a Memorial page. These books will be available at the Cobblestone Church all through the Art Show on Mother's Day weekend and throughout the coming season. Following the formal release of the book at the Cobblestone Museum after 7:00 p.m. on Friday, (the author will be available to autograph copies) it will also be available beginning on Saturday at the following places: The Swan Library, Barnyard Calicos, Harbor Crafts, Gaines Town Hall, H&A Superette and the Tinker's Dam. This book has been moderately priced at \$3.00 a copy. To procure a copy by mail, the price is \$4.00 which includes shipping and postage. Send directly to the author, Mrs. Delia Robinson, 14407 Ridge Road, Albion, NY 14411.