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# Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin  
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## A Miscellany of Odds and Ends

This 1908 photo shows the forerunner of the modern school bus. Around 1905 School District No. 6 of Albion, known as the Loveland District, contracted to send the district children to Albion Schools. To do that, transportation was needed. A contract was made with local liveryman Harry D. Lattin to draw the students to Albion. This horse-drawn bus had a rear entrance and side curtains for stormy weather.

During the late 1890's Miller and Pettingill built a large building in Clarendon for the purpose of drying and evaporating apples by a sulphur and steam process. They turned out about two hundred tons of dried fruit annually. Cider was also converted into vinegar at this plant which seasonally employed over eighty men and women. On some days during the peak season, over \$1,000 worth of fruit was purchased from the local farmers.

Prior to 1835, the inhabitants of Kendall were obliged to travel to Clarkson for their mail. In 1835 a mail route was established to North Murray, now the Village of Kendall, and a post office was established under the name Kendall. It was so named in honor of Amos Kendall the Postmaster General at that time. S. Kinny was

appointed Postmaster and William Bassett was awarded the contract for carrying the mail once a week either on foot or horseback. Post offices were established at Kendall Mills in 1844, West Kendall in 1848 and East Kendall in 1861.

The 1855 census provides us with some interesting statistics of the period. Back at that time in Orleans County, there were 38 blacksmith shops, 21 wagon factories, 6 sash and blinds factories, 26 grist mills, 33 saw mills, 26 custom boot and shoe shops, 7 harness and trunk factories, 4 tanneries, 3 shingle mills and 141 public school libraries.

During the mid 19th Century there was a large factory located at Main and Orchard Street in Albion known as the Hiram Curtis Foundry. The display and shipping building was a two-story cobblestone structure in the approximate location of where the Albion Holley Pennysaver is now situated. The Curtis Foundry manufactured "The Buckeye Mower and Reaper" as well as plows and other farm equipment. These goods were of superior quality which won Mr. Curtis premiums at state and county fairs all over the country. A four foot mower sold in 1869 for \$125.00 and a self-raking five and one-half-foot reaper sold for \$190.00. These were either delivered on canal boats or railroad cars.