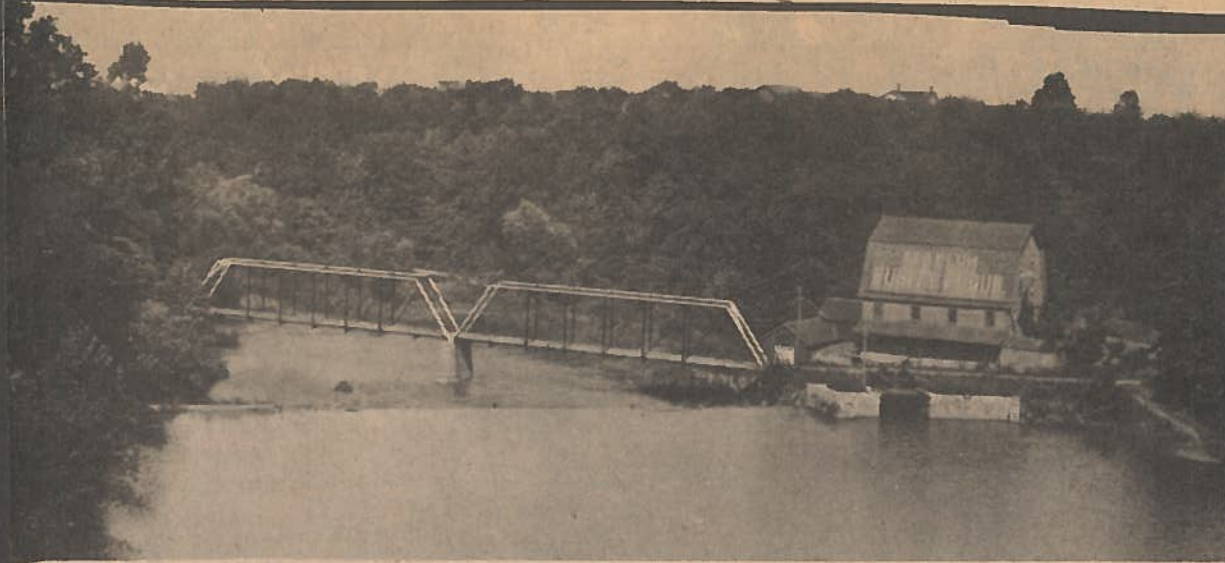


Re-thinking of Old Orleans

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CLARK'S MILLS

These two photos which were taken around 1910 show what used to be known as Clark's Mills. Clark's Mills was located on Oak Orchard Creek in the Town of Carlton near the R.W. & O. (Hojack) Railroad trestle. In fact, the upper photo was taken from the railroad trestle looking north to the bridges which crossed the creek here. At this time a road from the east led off Park Avenue down under the trestle across the creek up to the Clark's Mills Road on the west. The lower photo is looking south and shows the trestle in the distance. This picture also shows clearly the dam which was located at this point across Oak Orchard Creek. The dam of course, provided a mill race for water power to operate the mill. Both photos show the large four story gambrel roof mill which was located there. It was here that Purity Flour was first milled by Woods and Lum. The name Geo. F. Lum Purity Flour was painted on the roof of the mill. This vaguely shows in the upper picture. This dam, bridges and mill were

all located north of the trestle.

Between 1917 - 20 the Western N.Y. Utilities Co. under the guidance of Albert L. Swett of Medina purchased all the property in this area. At that time a large power reservoir dam was built just south of the R.R. trestle for the generation of electricity. This in turn, created Lake Alice at Waterport. When all the construction work was finished, Clark's Mills was completely done away with. The mill was demolished, the mill dam leveled, the bridges taken down and the road removed. This spot is today a popular fishing area which has been publicized. Here many fisherman now snag or catch salmon. One hundred years ago however, local fishermen also frequented this spot to catch Lake Shad as they swam up Oak Orchard Creek in the Spring.

Although some of the landmarks have changed over the years, this area of Orleans County remains today one of the most picturesque. Familiar to many people, I thought it would be of interest to show you what it once looked like.

