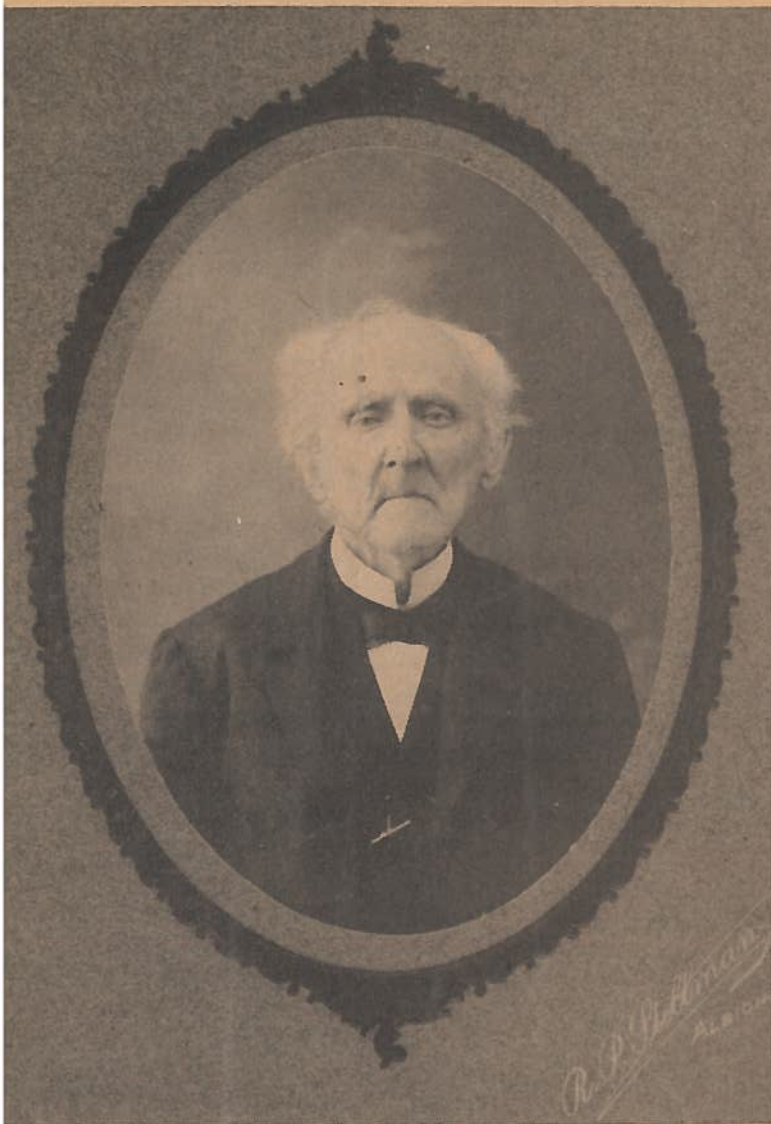


# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## JUDGE EDWIN R. REYNOLDS 1816-1908

*"I believe in the curse of ignorance, in the efficacy of schools, in the dignity of teaching, and the joy of serving another. I believe in wisdom as revealed in human lives as well as in the pages of a printed book; in lessons taught not so much by precept as by example: in ability to work with the hands as well as to think with the head; that makes life large and lovely."*

*Edwin Osgood*

Hon. Edwin R. Reynolds was for many years a prominent and honored citizen of Orleans County. He was a man of noble character and many unusual attainments. Mr. Reynolds was born in Salem, Washington County, N.Y. Feb. 16, 1816. His father Linus Reynolds, was a Baptist minister as well as a printer. In 1828 the family moved to East Poultney, Vt. where Linus Reynolds edited a newspaper. It was here that Edwin Reynolds learned the printers trade working at the time with Horace Greeley who was a youthful apprentice. They became fast friends for the remainder of their lives.

In 1835 Edwin Reynolds entered Brown University at Providence, R.I. where he remained for two years. He then spent one year teaching at Cold Spring on the Hudson. In 1838, at the age of twenty-one he moved to Albion where he became the first principal of the old Albion Academy. This position continued from Jan. 1838 to December 1846. By an Act of the State Legislature in 1841 a county superintendent of schools became required. Mr. Reynolds was appointed the first superintendent serving from 1841 - 1843. This position was abolished in 1846.

In 1840, while teaching, he began a course of law studies under the direction of A. Hyde Cole and Dan H. Cole of Albion. He was admitted to the bar in 1843 and set up his own practice in 1846. His law partners included George H. Stone and Albert W. Crandell. From 1848 to 1854 he served as Justice of the Peace for the Town of Barre including what is now the Town of Albion.

Mr. Reynolds had an active interest in local journalism as a result of his early printers experience. He once served as editor of the Orleans American and frequently wrote political articles.

In 1860 Hon. Edwin Reynolds was elected to the United States Congress. While in Congress he became a friend and supporter of President Lincoln. He had the distinct honor of standing near Lincoln when the latter delivered his first inaugural address. While in Congress he voted for the admission of Kansas as a free State and the Morrill Tariff Bill. He introduced and advocated a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia which was a most unpopular measure to take at the time. However, Mr. Reynolds was a strong abolitionist and was a member of the War Committee for Orleans County during the Civil War.

In 1863 Hon. Edwin R. Reynolds was elected Orleans County Judge and Surrogate serving one term of four years. For thirteen years he was chairman of the Republican County Committee also serving on the State Committee. In 1868 he was an elector on the Grant ticket.

Mr. Reynolds always maintained an interest in education and was on the committee in 1876 to examine the general laws of organization of a Board of Education. In 1877 he was also instrumental in organizing the first Orleans County Bar Association. For many years he maintained a law practice in Albion and also dabbled in Real Estate. He was interested in politics and matters of the First Presbyterian Church of which he was a member.

He was married to Elizabeth Ann Gale in 1846 and they had two children. In 1881 Edwin Reynolds had built a very fine large brick residence on the corner of West State and Clinton Streets in Albion. Mrs. Reynolds died in 1904 and their daughter Grace, wife of John Phillips of Hulberton, then took care of her aged father until he died in 1908. The accompanying portrait showing him as a very decrepit old man was taken when he was in his late eighties.