

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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During the 1930's the Orleans County Trust Company in Albion published a little periodical called The Albion Midlander. In the February 1934 issue an informative article appeared on Kendall with the following subtitle: "Progressive Lake Shore Community - Exhibits Great Civic Pride." Well, I guess some things never change! So I thought you'd like to read all about Kendall as it was written up in 1934, and to illustrate this article I've found a 1940's snap shot of a piece of equipment belonging to the Kendall Fire Company which is pictured in the background.



In the northeast portion of Orleans County lies the village of Kendall whose present day attractiveness and high standing among the villages of this county is due in large measure to the indomitable will and perseverance of its early settlers. When the State of Connecticut and the Pultney Estate, the owners of the 100,000 acre strip, which includes the Village of Kendall, established their land offices about 1813, this territory did not present a very alluring appearance. Swampland, which for many months of the year was covered by water to a depth of four feet, stretched for several miles south of the village. From the swamp to the shores of Lake Ontario lay a dense forest from which this district derived the name of the "Black North". Undaunted by the uninviting nature of this wilderness, settlers came from Western New England and bought land from the agents of the two owners. Stout hearts they must have had to stay on in the face of sickness, lack of food, and the rigors of the severe winters. They were finally rewarded, however, when after the land had been cleared and the swamps drained they found that the soil was of exceptional fertility.

## First Building Erected in 1821

Reuben Shoals, a settler from New Hampshire, made the

first clearing on the site now occupied by this village. The first building, a double log house, was erected in 1821 and gradually the settlement took on the appearance of a growing hamlet. Known as North Murray during its early years, the village was renamed Kendall in 1837 in honor of Amos Kendall who was at that time Postmaster-General of the United States. The surrounding area passed from the pastoral stage into the farming stage and the landscape became dotted with well-groomed farms. Many Norwegian emigrants who had left their native shores chose this locality as their home in the New World. With the construction in 1875 of the Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg Railroad the Village of Kendall became an important shipping point for the various products of the neighboring countryside.

## Soil Adapted For Fruit Raising

The soil of this lake shore district proved very well adapted to fruit raising and Kendall soon became known for the fine quality of the fruit raised in that vicinity. It is interesting to learn that of the four pictures in the New York State Exhibit at the Century of Progress Exposition last summer one was of a Kendall peach orchard in bloom.

## Civic Pride In Evidence

Few towns its size display the civic pride which is in evidence in Kendall. Among the public buildings are the Town Hall, the Fire House, Post-office and the High School Gymnasium, which are grouped together. There is also a Public Library containing 2500 volumes. At the present time the Kendall High School has a registration of 237 pupils, employing a faculty of eleven. The fire company composed of 45 men, with William J. Vick as Chief, is equipped with two pieces of modern fire-fighting apparatus. Here also is the home of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church, well known for its splendid suppers. Several lodges and societies are active in the village.

## Kendall Merchants

Kendall has a population of about 300 persons and offers trading facilities for a large area. The village numbers among its merchants F. B. Mulford and Roy Mulford, grocers; M. E. Russell, town clerk and storekeeper; The Kendall Inn, Everett C. Roberson, proprietor; William Behnke, meat market; Shaw & Evans, hardware merchants; M. E. Gare, storekeeper; and the Kendall Garage. Other businesses located in town are the Kendall Cold Storage, Inc.; the Kendall Produce Company, Inc.; R. J. Preston, produce dealer; and the William A. Crandall Poultry farm.

Excellent improved roads bring Kendall within easy motoring reach of all parts of Orleans County and Western New York.