

1. In 1937, resident Charlie Howard established a world famous Santa Claus School at his Albion farmhouse, the first school of its kind. He was considered the Dean of the Santa Claus School with a worldwide reputation for turning out top-notch St. Nicks.
2. In 1953, resident Santa Claus, Charlie Howard opened Christmas Park at his farmhouse in Albion. It remained a popular year-round destination until it's closing in 1965. A grass roots effort to restore his legacy by collecting memorabilia is being done by a local "Elf".
3. Albion resident, Charlie Howard was the first nationally televised Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Santa Claus and held that gig for 17 years.'
4. In 1946, resident Santa Claus, Charlie Howard was the technical advisor for the original motion picture, Miracle on 34th Street.
5. In 1860, Albion resident, Grace Bedell (1848-1936) wrote Abraham Lincoln suggesting he would look better with a beard. He responded and took her advice.
6. Journalist and former hostage, Terry Anderson grew up in Albion during the 1950's.
7. George Pullman (1831-1897), noted industrialist, was once a resident of Albion and later became the manufacturer of Pullman Railroad Cars. One of his local legacies is the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion, which he built in 1894 to honor his parents' memory.
8. Medina Sandstone was formed during the Silurian Period by streams depositing sand which solidified under pressure from water and increasing sand.
9. Medina Sandstone was shipped via the Erie Canal in the 1800's and early 1900's and used for paving blocks, walks, curbs and significant 19th Century historical architectural structures around the world.
10. Medina Sandstone has been used worldwide, including to build the steps of the New York State Capitol Building and significant architectural structures in New York City & London.
11. As stated in Ripley's Believe It or Not, a road runs under the Erie Canal in Medina, NY...the only place where that happens (on the Erie Canal). It's located on appropriately named Culvert Road.
12. As stated in Ripley's Believe It or Not, a church stands in the middle of a street in Medina, NY. Erected in 1932, St. John's Episcopal Church is located on (appropriately named) Church Street & East Center Street.
13. While living with her grandmother in Medina in the mid-1870's, Frances Folsom was a student at Medina High School. In 1886, she married President Grover Cleveland.'
14. Holley was named after Myron Holley, one of the principal promoters and champions of the Erie Canal, as well as a NY State legislator, canal commissioner & construction supervisor.
15. Albion boasts an impressive 65 structures listed in the New York State & National Register of Historical Places.
16. Eagle Harbor received it's name when the Erie Canal route was being surveyed. A large bird's nest, built mostly by eagles, was found in a tree growing there.
17. Can you imagine this? During the days of quarrying for Medina Sandstone, a frog jumped out of a massive rock while the rock was being split. The quarrymen surmised that the frog, at a very early stage of its life, traveled through the tiny water crevices and became trapped inside.'
18. An *authentically* decorated grove of "Shoe Trees" is growing in the town of Yates, at the intersection of Lake Shore & Foss Roads. Local custom encourages one to make a wish as they toss their favorite footwear onto the tree.'
19. Ridge Road, a principal east-west route extending from Oswego to Niagara Falls, opened in 1809 and was once the beach of ancient Lake Iroquois (Ontario) before receding 100,000 years ago.
20. The only lighthouse in Orleans County, the Oak Orchard Harbor Lighthouse, was built in 1871 on a wooden pier ~1,600' from the mouth of the Oak Orchard River. In December 1916, it was swept away by a violent storm. A grassroots effort is in place to build a replica of the Oak Orchard Lighthouse on firmer ground in Point Breeze.

21. State Highway Rt. 98, extending from Batavia, NY to the mouth of the Oak Orchard River at Point Breeze is a historic Native American trail and was known by pioneers as the Oak Orchard Trail.
22. The composer of "Kum Ba Yah" and other spiritual music was Rev. Marvin V. Frey (1918-1992). His gravesite is at the West Barre Cemetery.
23. The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 spurred the building of towns along it's route and the growth or Orleans County's agricultural and masonry commerce. Orleans County was also established in 1825 with the county seat in Albion.
24. Ridge Road is often referred to as the "Road of the Cobblestone Houses," for there are more such buildings along its 25 miles from Rochester than on any highway in America.
25. The Cobblestone Museum in Childs, NY is the only cobblestone museum in the world. It showcases the unique masonry construction method using stones rounded and polished into cobble by glacial action.
26. The northernmost point on the Erie Canal is in the town of Gaines.
27. Orleans County boasts over 100 unique cobblestone structures built by early settlers between 1825-1860.
28. In the heart of the county seat in Albion, stands the 1858 Greek Revival style dome County Courthouse and the 1882 County Clerk's Building surrounded by 34 architecturally significant structures, 7 of which are churches facing the square.
29. At the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, over 10,000 acres of wooded swamp, marshland and meadows provide a stopping point for an estimated 80,000 Canada geese during their spring & fall migrations.
30. Resident Santa Claus, Charlie Howard listened to more than 2.5 million children tell him their Christmas wishes. His popularity was both local and worldwide, including England & Australia.
31. Orleans County, NY, established April 1825, is 396 square miles, with 24 miles bordering the Lake Ontario shoreline. The elevation ranges from 247 to 737 feet above sea level, the highest point at Pine Hill.
32. While a member of the 60's California rock band, the Safari's, Kendall *native*, Larry Weed wrote the popular hit song "Wipe Out".
33. In Medina, the Erie Canal runs through an aqueduct so when you look over the edge you may see fishing boats below on the Oak Orchard River.
34. Donald Duck's original creator, Henry L. Porter (1901-1951) was born in Albion. He joined Disney Studios as an artist in 1936 and was a contributing animator of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.
35. Horace Greeley, (1811-1872), editor, politician and founder of the New York Tribune, once owned a cobblestone parsonage in Childs at the current site of the Cobblestone Museum. Greeley is best known for the quote, "Go West, young man, go West!"
36. The oldest church building in Orleans County is the Christ Episcopal Church (since 1844) located in Courthouse Square in Albion. It was erected in 1830 by Presbyterians, and is still being used for worship services today.
37. The first Free Methodist church in the denomination was founded in 1859 by Rev. Loren Stiles. Dedicated in 1860, the Norman Revival styled structure is located at the Courthouse Square in Albion.
38. Erected in 1874, the First Presbyterian Church is the tallest building in Orleans County. According to legend, the mason who finished the work on the finial stood on his head atop it and shouted "Hurrah for Grant!"
39. In 1993, The Church, The Ward House and The School, all historic structures at the Cobblestone Society Museum, were designated National Historic Landmarks under the title "Cobblestone Historic District" by the National Park Service through the US Dept. of Interior.
40. Ridge Road Station claims to fly the largest American Flag in New York State. Located on Ridge Road, Holley, the 1,800 SF (30'x60'), 100 pound flag is hoisted on a 130' high, 12,500 pound metal pole. The pole extends another 13' underground and is secured by 60,000 pounds of concrete.