Orange Kellogg VanAmburg saw the light of day December 16, 1803, in the town of Milton, Saratoga County, New York. His place in the order of birth of his 16 siblings has not been ascertained. The family farmers, and his services, as well as his brothers, were needed. A few months of school, during the winter, was the extent of any formal education. The fireplace provided light when, as a boy, he studied Adams' Arithmetic long hours into the night. As was the custom, the children of poor families hired out at an early age to support themselves. As 12 he worked for eight months at $5. per year or two later his pay rose to $6. Self-taught he worked as a teacher when very young.

In 1819, the family of the 16 year old O.K. moved to Jefferson County, New York. He found employment with syndicate of French men who owned a large tract of land. His duties included the delivery of messages to Joseph Baraparte, brother of Napoleon, who had a large plantation in western New York. Through rain, dark, cold, he completed the required task; not an easy job with wolves and bears still plentiful in the area.

By a brother Orange, 21, started for Michigan on foot in February, 1825. The long journey ended in Farmington, Michigan. There they contracted to clear five acres and build a log house. His brother got sick but O.K. completed the job. He worked four days to pay for an ax; five for room and board while working for the ax. Earnings, after clearing another 12 acres, provided him with sufficient funds to buy 80 acres in Novil Township. After clearing and improving the sale of the 80 enabled him to buy 190 acres four miles west; immediately setting about to clear that place.

By then O.K. had married Mary Ann Taft March 15, 1833. When she died December 23, 1850, there were two girls (Louise and Harriet) and five boys (Orson, William, Henry, Joseph and Daniel) for whom he wanted a better education than he had available to him. To do this he sold some land and moved to a farm on the Grand River Plank Road. Seven years after Mary died he traded the remaining 50 acres for 350 in Brighton Township in 1857, sections 10 and 21. By then O.K. had married Amanda M. Brown.

In 1901, 80 acres, across VanAmburg Road from his 160, were acquired. Here he built a comfortable home for his family and a new and moved to a farm on the Grand River Plank Road. The farm became the center of family life. As a farmer he was successful and his farm became prosperous.

An early interview relates that even at the advanced age of 77, O.K. retained many vivid memories of his youth. He recalled the trips marching during the war of 1812, while his family lived in Saratoga County. (Compiled by Marleanna Sair from: 1891 Portrait & Biographical Album; census records; early atlases; 1880 History of Livingston County; and Early Settlers/Landowners of Livingston County by Milton Charboneau.)