

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## WHEN THE TOWER WAS REDEDICATED

It was just fifteen years ago on July 4, 1976, that the Orleans County Historical Monument Corporation rededicated the tower in Mt. Albion Cemetery. This followed an extensive fund raising campaign which raised over \$20,000 needed to repoint all the masonry joints and clean the structure. The program for the rededication included here, has a photo on it taken by Robert Hoffman. As an officer in the corporation, it was my distinct privilege to offer the rededicatory remarks which were given as follows:

"I am thankful to be an American, and I am thankful for all the days that have gone before. I thank all the great American, many of whom were immigrants, who have contributed so much to our Republic. I thank the thinkers, the poets, the painters, the statesman, the inventors, the singers, the businessmen and the soldiers who have lived and are now living.

"I thank Thomas Jefferson for conceiving and writing the Declaration of Independence.

"I thank Thomas Edison for his ennumerable inventions and for lighting our way to the future.

"I thank Ralph Waldo Emerson, thinker, poet and warrior of integrity.

"I thank Benjamin Franklin for his spirit of merit and commonsense.

"I thank Abraham Lincoln, a man of the people, for his tenacity and persistency.

"I thank Martin Luther King and John Kennedy for the sacrifices they made to make our country a better place to live.

"I thank Luther Burbank the horticulturist for his investigation into plant life.

"I thank Woodrow Wilson for attempting to create an organization for world peace.

"I thank August St. Guadens for creating life out of bronze and Louis Tiffany for his mastery in glass.

"I thank Jim Crochie, Gilbert and Sullivan and Charles Ives for pervading the silence with beautiful music.

"I thank Mary Baker Eddy for establishing an unbiased newspaper and Robert Ingersoll orator, for daring to say what he believed.

"I thank Frank Lloyd Wright the architect, Grant Wood the painter and Walt Whitman the poet, for their genius.

"These people, sometimes misunderstood, and many others like them whose names are less known, have made this country a fit dwelling place for liberty. Along with these there have been the unpretentious millions who have struggled, toiled, worked and died for the benefit of everyone. Most of all I thank the heart of our country who sacrificed the very marrow of the lives for the preservation of liberty through the Revolution, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I and II, Korea and Vietnam. I thank in particular the 461 soldiers and sailors, from Orleans County, the names of whom are inscribed on the nine tablets of this tower. Their names remain as a lasting testimony that through immense suffering the Declaration of Independence was indeed carried out. To all these who lie in forgotten and unmarked graves our hearts must go out in humble gratitude.

"From the dawning of history through all the ages we find monuments and memorials marking great events and honoring distinguished persons. Memorial architecture and art is rich, voluminous and instructive. There also comes to us a wonderful story from the Old Testament through Joshua. Twelve stones were taken from the bed of the river Jordan and placed on its bank in some form of simple design as a memorial. This was done to perpetuate the memory of a great event. These



stones were placed so that the children should ask the fathers, "What mean these stones?" And so the story of the event was told and circulated through all the generations of Israel. Standing here in this beautiful cemetery before this tower which we are to rededicate, it is both natural and timely to question "What mean those stones?"

"Let me briefly interpret and thereby try to answer this question. Our ancestors in erecting this tower through its architectural symmetry and its grand lines sweeping upward, symbolized all which is tender, loving, pure, strong and good. Each stone itself, is a poem of grace and beauty, telling the story of a great event in our history.

"Here on our 200th anniversary we should remember all of these who have made the supreme sacrifice during our country's history. One hundred years ago today this tower was dedicated. May it long stand on the ground out of which it came as an everlasting symbol that Liberty can and will prevail. And with this simple wreath let us pause for a moment to rededicate this exquisite monument with the words which are inscribed over its portal. 'In Memory of the Men Who Fell in Defense of the Union — Orleans County 1861-1865.'