

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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MT. ALBION

Guided-Walking Tour

As Orleans County Historian, it will again be my privilege to conduct a tour of Mt. Albion Cemetery on Saturday, October 14. The two hour tour will begin at 2:00 p.m. starting at the Mt. Albion Cemetery Chapel located on Rt. 31 east of Albion. A \$10.00 cash prize will be awarded to whomever first finds the designated symbol of the day. Merrill-Grinnell Funeral Homes will have on display in the chapel, their antique casket which is a most unusual 19th century artifact. Our tour route will not be quite the same as last year's - so come again!

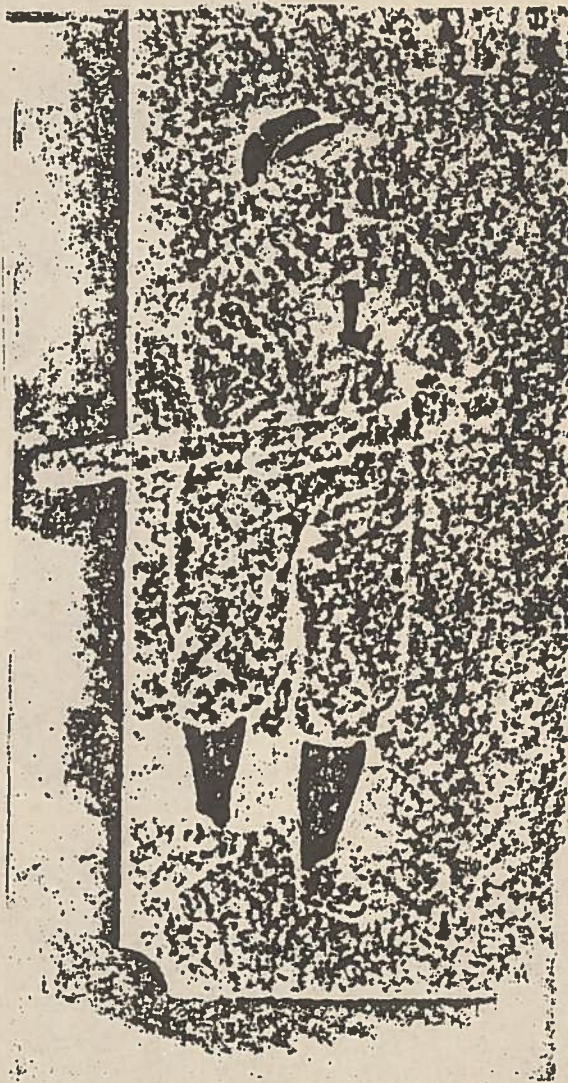
I've asked two special researchers, who have immersed themselves in documenting the lives of two individuals buried at Mt. Albion, to speak briefly at the grave sites of each. Hence, Tom Gardner will talk about Juliette H. Beach and the famous person with whom she had intimate contact. And Tom Taber will speak about Charles Nelson Brown, a professional baseball player who died in 1910.

Our illustration is a rubbing from Charles N. Browns monument (1994) which Tom Tabor paid for by selling baseball cards he had especially designed with this in mind. Also, \$3,300 has been placed in trust to establish a baseball history essay contest at Albion High School. Good going Tom!

I've included below, Charles Nelson Brown's obituary which appeared in the Orleans Republican on March 16, 1910 under the title "Committed Suicide."

"Charles N. Brown, son of Mrs. George Brown, walked from Batavia on last Sunday night, broke into his mother's home on Clinton Street and committed suicide by hanging himself in the attic. The young man had escaped from an institution in Batavia where he was being treated for a mental disease. The dead man was 27 years of age and was born in this village. He was well known in baseball circles, having played the national game professionally and semi-professionally for the past seven years. His first position of note was with the Buffalo Eastern League Club under the management of George Stallings, after which he was farmed out to Lancaster, Ohio, and was captain of that team when they won the penant in 1908. He continued with the Lancaster team until their season closed the part of last August and finished the season with the York, Penn. Club of the Tri State League. He recently received an offer from the Canton, Ohio, Central League, to play second base and captain that team the coming season. He was a member of Christ Episcopal Church of Albion and also a member of Renovation Lodge, F. & A. M. He is survived by his mother, who is quarantined in Buffalo with her grandchildren who are ill, Harry, a brother of this village, George and Fred, brothers of Buffalo, and two sisters, Mrs. Lina Brooker and Miss Frances Brown of Rochester.

"The unfortunate young man had many friends



in Albion and was well known both in and out of local baseball circles where in his younger days he figured prominently. His taking of his own life can only be attributed to a mental derangement and the sympathy of all is extended to his widowed mother, and brothers and sisters in their bereavement."

The obituary reads more like something out of a modern tabloid than a local news paper. It does indeed, show how the writing styles of obits have changed over the past eighty years. Today, we would speak of someone who committed suicide as having "Died Suddenly" and certainly not headline the death notice with "Committed Suicide". Instead of the terminology "mental derangement" we'd probably write "short illness". There is also other language and details which no funeral director would use today. Nonetheless, through this obit we get a flavor of times past which relate to the cemetery. Surely Mt. Albion has a wealth of history and a stockpile of legends waiting for us.

Our tour is an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the magnitude of this beautiful place and to Save Our Unusual Landmark -
S O U L.