

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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TOUR MT. ALBION

On Sunday, May 31 beginning at 2:00 P.M., a walking/guided tour of Mt. Albion Cemetery will be hosted by the Friends of Mt. Albion. Leading the tour beginning from the cemetery chapel, will be Neil Johnson, Village of Albion Historian and Bill Lattin, County Historian. This spring tour will highlight features along a frontal view of Mt. Albion. By doing this, we will focus on some areas not previously pinpointed on past tours. And yes, there will be a special symbol to be on the look out for with a \$10.00 prize as a reward. Details at tour time, rain or shine.

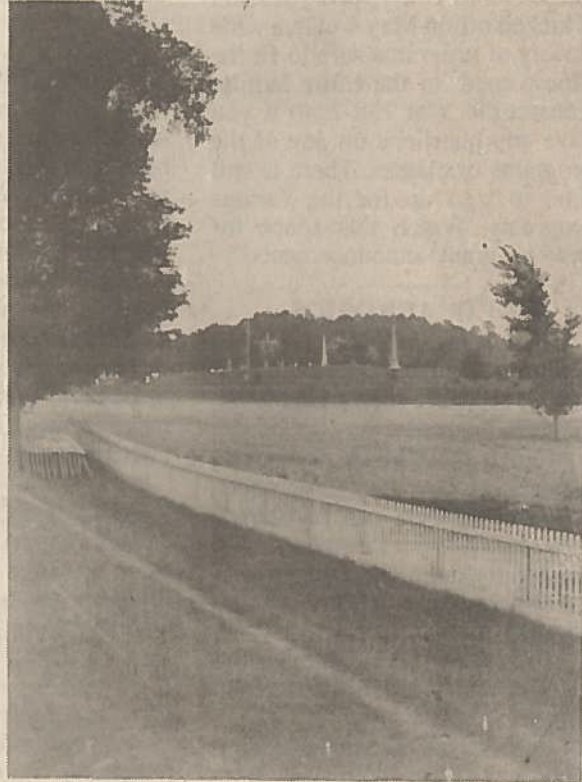
Our photo depicts here, a view of Mt. Albion from over one hundred years ago. I believe the photographer stood about in front of what is now the Lily Pond and aimed the camera in a south easterly direction.

In the foreground we see a path for pedestrians leading from the Village of Albion to the cemetery. This was later replaced with a sidewalk. Also, we see in the area, a white picket fence. Notice sections of fence which may have been temporarily taken down which are leaning against the tree. It appears to me that some fresh grading of soil on the surface has just taken place along this area inside the fence. The picket fence was later replaced with an iron fence.

Now focus on the middle ground in the picture. We are looking to the area of the old veterans plot slightly left of center. A flagpole is visible here. I would judge that it is a wooden pole, very straight in nature and painted white. Also, at this level there are two obliks. The one to the left is on the Bliss lot. The one to the right is on the Fancher Family lot. Our tour will include this area with particular emphasis on the Civil War Veterans by Neil Johnson.

In the background, about center, piercing the tree tops is the top of the tower. Since this picture was taken, may more trees and shrubs have grown up hiding this view which the photographer was able to see back in the early 1890's.

We end here with an excerpt from a lengthy poem about Mt. Albion by A. O. George which was published in the Orleans Republican Dec. 14, 1870.



*Hail, holy mount! with sacred awe I tread
The woodland walks and from my spirit's depths
Hold sweet communion with thy slumbering dead.
These deep ravines, and these eternal hills,
Whose verdant crowns are skirted by the clouds;
These forest trees, that toss their gaint arms
Against the sky, in whose tops the breeze
Melodrons murmurs, and around whose trunks
The woodbine, climbing, grows, proclaims the spot
A consecration to the spirit world -
A cemetery, built by Nature's God,
When first the pillars of the earth were reared.
Beneath the hemlock, half-entranced, I stand,
And gaze in rapture on the lovely scene
That stretches far and wide.*