

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## CEMETERY TOURS 9-24-99



It is my privilege to announce two upcoming cemetery tours. The first one will be held on Saturday, September 25 at 2:00 p.m. in Boxwood Cemetery on Rt. 63 just north of Medina. The second tour will be at Mt. Albion Cemetery on Rt. 31 east of Albion on Saturday, October 2 also at 2:00 p.m. In both cases the tours will commence at the respective cemetery chapels.

The Boxwood Cemetery tour is under the auspices of the Friends of Boxwood Cemetery. This is a group just being formed of interested people with Gabrielle Barone as an avid organizer. The group hopes to not only raise awareness and dollars for improvements at Boxwood, but to also act as a hands on working committee. The Boxwood Cemetery Commission advisory board, is also being reactivated.

The tour on September 25 will be led by the County Historian assisted by Richard Historian Richard Nellist. The Friends of Boxwood Cemetery will have a tent set up to sign on interested people. Mr. Nellist will be available there with his roster of names of people buried at Boxwood along with maps.

The guided tour will last approximately an hour and a half. Cemetery symbols and noteworthy people's graves will be pointed out.

Boxwood Cemetery was established in 1846 when still a forest of virgin timber. The land has to

first be cleared, landscaped and laid out in lots. The first burial occurred in 1849 with David Card. The cemetery formally opened in 1850.

On the weekend following Boxwood the annual fall tour of Mt. Albion will be held. Again, the County Historian accompanied by Neil Johnson will be the guides. Mt. Albion was opened for burials in 1843 with Coddington Swan being the first in October of that year. Since that time over 22,000 people have been buried there on 100 acres of terraced hills.

Our photo with this article shows how the dead of long ago were transported by horse drawn hearse to the cemetery. This picture taken around 1905 shows the Reynolds & Flintham hearse from Albion. It was certainly a smart looking outfit with the team of white horses and silver plated lamps and other fittings. Reynolds & Flintham was later bought out by J.B. Merrill.

We hope children/students will attend these informative tours about our heritage. Especially for their benefit, a ten dollar prize will be offered on each tour to the person who first points out a designated symbol at tour time. Both tours will be held rain or shine.

Editor's Note: Bethinking No. 38 is being reprinted because of a printing problem in Wednesday's edition.