

Rethinking of old Orleans

No. XXII

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No.21

CEMETERY TOURS 2000

In noting the 175th anniversary of Orleans County a series of cemetery tours have been arranged for this season throughout Orleans County. During our county's existence, cemeteries have become the final resting place for many local noteworthy people. They have also been adorned with beautiful monumental forms and statuary. This leaves us with a rich heritage in landscape and funerary architecture.

Orleans County was established by an Act of the N.Y.S. Legislature on April 15, 1825.

We are taking this opportunity throughout the year 2000 to highlight in different ways various aspects of local history.

Our first cemetery tour is set at Mt. Albion (Spring tour) on Sunday, May 28 at 2:00 p.m. Other cemetery tours are scheduled for: Beechwood (West Kendall) on Saturday, June 17 at 11 a.m.; Millville, Thursday, July 13 at

7 p.m.; Hillside (Holley) on Saturday, August 26 at 2 p.m.; Boxwood (Medina) on Saturday, September 30 at 2 p.m. and Mt. Albion (Fall Tour), Oct. 14 at 2 p.m.

All tours are free and will be conducted rain or shine. A \$10 prize will be awarded for spotting a certain designated symbol at each cemetery. The tours have been arranged with the approval of the Orleans County Public Historians and are being coordinated by Bill Lattin and Neil Johnson with help of local historians.

It was in the fall of 1994 that I started an annual tour of Mt. Albion Cemetery. Because of the response to this I have been encouraged to continue now with the help of Neil Johnson, the Village of Albion Historian. A couple of very successful tours have also been held at Boxwood Cemetery in Medina. This year it was felt we should branch out and give people a

chance to see other unique and interesting parts of our local heritage.

Our spring tour of Mt. Albion on the 28th of May will encompass the eastern or older part of Mt. Albion. The map contained herein is taken from the 1879 Historical Album of Orleans County. It shows the original part of Mt. Albion when the main entrance was actually what is now the east gate. The grounds of which the cemetery was first composed consisted of a twenty-five acres purchased from Jacob Annis and Lyman O. Patterson in the spring of 1843 for \$40 per acre. The forest or unimproved portion of land was from Jacob Annis while the open or improved land was purchased from Mr. Patterson. Marvin Porter, an engineer, laid out the grounds upon a general plan in which lots, paths and roads were established. Lots were more or less sold as they were

found in a natural condition. The lot owners were left to make their own improvements. By 1862 it was a very haphazard development and the need was evident to change things. As a result, an amendment was passed by the State Legislature

authorizing the Village to appoint three commissioners to take charge, defining their duties and powers. Consequently a cohesive effort and plan was undertaken to improve landscaping and beautification of the grounds. A superintendent was we have come to know it.

