

# Rethinking of Old Orleans

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By C.W. Lattin, county historian

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## Hillside Cemetery tour

8-24-00

At 2 p.m. Saturday, there will be a guided walking tour of Hillside Cemetery at the outskirts of Holley on Route 237. Although Hillside is associated with the Village of Holley, it is actually located in the Town of Clarendon and remains active as an association cemetery.

This is one of the continuing guided tours of local cemeteries approved by the Orleans County Public Historians in recognition of the 175th anniversary of Orleans County. Our last tour which was held at Millville Cemetery in mid-July brought out more than 75 people. The tour at Hillside will be conducted by Marcia DeFilippis, Murray-Holley Historian and C.W. Lattin, Orleans County Historian. They ask that people attending the tour gather at the Chapel as a place to begin.

Hillside Cemetery was established in 1866 and the Chapel which forms a focal point was erected in 1894. The name Hillside is obvious because of the older section laid out on a hillside above the east branch of Sandy Creek. Earlier burial grounds or grave yards in the vicinity had become crowded and were not located in perhaps the most desirable places. Hence, more commodious grounds were obtained in 1866 with a priority of

providing an attractive setting as a final resting place for loved ones.

Over the years many unusual and beautiful monumental forms have been placed at Hillside. It would be my observation that several of the most unique monuments in Orleans County may be found at Hillside. Our photo accompanying this article shows such a monument. This stone creation is rusticated in form representing a tree stump. The tree has been cut down and its limbs severed in its relatively young life. A potted Calla Lily has been carved as part of the symbology.

We note the inscription as "Ida E. Hayford, wife of Cha's A. Clark. Died Sept. 19, 1892 aged 24 y'rs." The monument was obviously selected to show that the young woman's life was cut short or incomplete. On the branch to the right is carved "At home with Jesus." The lily form is a symbol of purity and resurrection corresponding to the epitaph.

Our tour of Hillside will not only include the interesting chapel but also numerous monuments, their symbolism and local history.

