

By C.W. Lattin, Orleans County Historian

Out at Mount Albion Cemetery

5-21-04

At 2 p.m. May 30, Village of Albion Historian Neil Johnson and I will conduct a guided walking tour in Mount Albion Cemetery.

This will be the 11th consecutive year in which tours of Mount Albion have been held.

Today's photo, taken some 90 years ago, shows the main entrance to Mount Albion Cemetery.

A sign mounted to the right side of the gate arch indicates "No Automobiles." Hence, we see the early auto parked outside the cemetery while horses and carriages are seen within the gates.

At the time, it was seen as disrespectful to be driving one of those new fangled, noisy, mechanized inventions onto sacred ground. However, we note that the auto is decorated in flowers and must have been done up like this for a parade to the cemetery, perhaps on Aster Day.

This was an annual event commenced in the early 20th century by C.M.C. Reynolds, a



furniture dealer and undertaker in Albion. Held on the Sunday closest to the 15th of September, people decorated the graves of loved ones with asters.

A program was held on the grounds of Mount Albion,

where dignitaries gave speeches relating to the observance. By the 1920s, this short-lived custom seems to have "died" out.

Historians doing the tours at Mount Albion try to point out customs and lifestyles of those

buried there.

Naturally, the visible in the form of monumental design is also described along with biographical information about people of historical note who are

buried there.