

# A PROGRAM FOR HALLOWEEN

BY C.W. LATTIN  
Orleans County historian

**O**n Oct. 29, the county historian will present a Halloween program for adults at the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion.

Beginning at 6:45 p.m. organist, Diana Dudley will play appropriate music to set the mood for the 7 p.m. slide presentation. At that time, yours truly will present a program on Victorian Mourning Art, including 19th century funeral customs showing all kinds of home made and mass produced memorials created for domestic use. Human hair creations as well as 19th century postmortem photos will be shown.

Since 1994, I've done tours of local cemeteries, usually with the aide of Neil

Vol. XXXI, No. 41

## Bethinking of Olde Orleans

Johnson. These sacred landscapes through their nomenclature give us a visual sense of past times.

Nothing in these old burial grounds was by accident, every symbol and shape had its meaning at the final resting place of the loved one. Marble and granite headstones projecting from the earth's surface give expression of grief, while aspiring to heaven. Although the cemetery was the final resting place, grieving did not begin there nor end there.

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Shows a carriage used in the early days of the funeral service.

early 1970s and since then have occasionally purchased Victorian mourning pieces. The slides will basically show this extensive collection of art. A few pieces for hands on examination will be exhibited. There are numerous spooky Halloween activities for children, but considering the true origins of this day, a little reality along with all the make-believe might be of interest to adults.

Our illustration is taken from the 1905 souvenir booklet of Albion. It depicts an advertisement for Reynolds & Flintham, the forerunner of Merrill-Grinnell. As was customary in those days, the furniture dealer was also the undertaker. What a fine hearse, and note the statement: "Lady Assistant when desired."

### CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

of local cemeteries I've done in the past. Likewise with Albion High School students providing Ghost Walks in Mt. Albion Cemetery on the evenings of Oct. 17 and 24, this program may as well give more insight into the Victorians and their way of dealing with death.

I started taking pictures of unusual monuments in the

It was the home, the place of the living, the survivors, where grief and mourning were "celebrated" in Victorian times. Many years after the deceased was cold in the grave, a home memorial, often contrived, remained hanging in the Victorian parlor in a place of honor.

The program Oct. 29 will supplement the many tours