

Local ghost walks abound during the fall season

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Ghost walks are a modern phenomenon that have become exceedingly popular. Locally, we were very fortunate this Halloween season to have had several of these events repeated for capacity crowds.

It was to my enlightenment that I attended the Medina Historical Society Ghost Walk, conducted by Mayor Adam Tabelski. He was absolutely superb in telling about various historic figures and buildings on his hour-and-a-half tour through the dark streets and alleys of the village, while intrigued listeners carried candle lanterns for illumination.

Although his tour was designed to have a ghostly aura about it, Adam provided accurate and well-laid out factual historical

information. His style of presentation was inviting and provocative, making his topics come to life. He was well-dressed for the part, in character with the "ghosts" involved.

Bravo, Adam, for a job well done which Medina can be extremely proud of.

Likewise, it was my privilege to attend the Mount Albion Ghost Walk presented by Albion High School Arts Department students and staff. It was an extremely well-organized dramatic evening tour. Not only did the students learn about people of the past, but they were able to pass this

information on to the audience in a most charming venue.

The characters speaking from their graves in ghostly imagery were most fascinating.

Albert Warner, bank embezzler, once dressed as a woman to escape being caught; William Barlow, architect, was known as "high rickety" for flimsy scaffolds; Jane Levery drowned when the Main Street bridge collapsed in 1859; Juliette Beach was a friend of Walt Whitman; and the Rev. Loren Stiles formed the First Free Methodist Church in Albion.

Ben Field sold his share of a fledgling business to George Pullman, who then made millions; Amanda Bedell told of her daughter's famous letter to Abraham Lincoln, suggesting he'd look better with a beard; Hon. Sanford Church was once lieutenant governor and

chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals; and Emma Swan was one of the founders of the Swan Library.

John Proctor, the "Paul Revere of the Ridge Road," warned settlers the British were coming in 1812; John Hull White was the Grand Sire of the Odd Fellows; Juliette Dunning met her death by falling down a stairwell; William Butts was an American Revolutionary soldier; Roswell Burrows was a banker and it was his estate that Albert Warner embezzled; Lewis Tyrell was a Civil War soldier and died from wounds; and Emma Root was a local leader of the WCTU.

What an array of characters, all neatly portrayed with facts using artistic license to give each character personality. Kudos to all involved — what a great and fun way to learn about local history.



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