



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# GRAVE MATTERS

10-7-10

BY C.W. LATTIN  
Orleans County historian

Coming with the month of October and leading up to Halloween we find heightened interest in the "spirit world and ghosts." Playing into this drama are various groups this season, which are bringing alive those from the grave.

There were those who were buried long ago who truly believed they would rise again. In fact, Colonel Bodine's monument at Mt. Albion Cemetery plainly states: "Resurgam," which from the Lattin means "I shall rise again."

And so on Oct. 23, Albion High School art students will provide dramatic portrayals of noted people rising from their graves in a Ghost Walk at Mt. Albion Cemetery, from 1 to 3 p.m. and from 6 to 9 p.m.

Make your reservations at 589-2087. Your \$5 donation will support AMSA Downtown Facade Improvements.

Likewise, on Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29 and 30, a Haunted History program in downtown Albion by candlelight will be provided by Katelin Olsen through AMSA at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$5



per person and reservations are requested at 589-2502.

Also, the Medina Historical Society will host guided tours at Boxwood Cemetery on Gravel Road north of Medina on Oct. 24 and 30, beginning at 4 and 6 p.m. each day. Tickets for \$10 are available at the Shirt Factory Cafe on West Center Street. Medina Mayor Adam Tabelski will head this historic tours beginning at the Boxwood Cemetery Chapel and holding vault.

The photograph reproduced here is from a glass plate negative in the collection of the Medina Historical Society, which was copied by George and Renee Lama. This shows the Boxwood Cemetery chapel soon after its construction in 1903. It is built of huge Medina Sandstone ashlers and contains an extraordinary Tiffany-style window depicting "the Angel at the Tomb," in memory of

"Silas Mainville Burroughs."

In this photo we see the chapel originally had a green Spanish tile roof, which was unfortunately removed several decades ago. Behind this chapel — hidden in the hill but accessible through the chapel — was the holding vault. Here, bodies were kept in the winter time years ago when it was impossible to bury when the earth was frozen. Any number of caskets have been borne through these chapel doors over the years. This unusual landmark will be open as part of Tabelski's informative and dramatic tours.

Boxwood Cemetery began in 1846, when 23 men and one woman donated funds to purchase the original 5.8 acres bordering Oak Orchard River. At the time it was still virgin forest, which had to be cleared. It was laid out in the rural or garden cemetery style, which was becoming popular at the time. The first burial was David Card in 1849.

Boxwood contains many prominent people and an interesting array of symbols that will come to life on the fascinating walk through history.