

# Albion Civil War monument

BY C.W. LATTIN *5-26-11*  
Orleans County historian

**T**his picture of the tower in Mt. Albion Cemetery was taken in 1974 by Bob Hoffman. It shows Orleans County's Civil War Monument, which was erected in pink Medina Sandstone.

In 1868, a corporation was formed known as the Orleans County Monument Association. About \$3,000 was raised in 1874 to erect a memorial tower in Mount Albion Cemetery was begun.

With a supplemental amount of \$3,000 from the Cemetery Association, the monument was completed and dedicated in the spring of 1876 to the soldiers and sailors who had fallen during the Civil War.

Standing 63 feet high, it crowns the highest elevation of the cemetery. Eighty-two steps lead to the observation platform. The base at ground level is 18 feet.

The 12-square-foot lower sanctuary contains 467 names of "soldier dead in Orleans County" inscribed on nine marble tablets.

Four sandstone steps lead to the wrought iron door, which is 10½ feet high. Above this door, the legend carved in stone reads: "In



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

memory of the men who fell in defense of the Union 1861-1865 Orleans County."

This tower/monument was dedicated July 4, 1876.

One hundred years to the day, the tower was re-dedicated following restoration.

In 1974, an organization was established known as the Orleans County Historical Monument Cooperative with the slogan "Save the Tower."

This came about because

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the tower had fallen into disrepair and was thought to be unsafe. Village of Albion officials had even talked about tearing it down.

A handful of Albion High School students learned of this through a government day at the village hall. They were the ones who actually precipitated the organization to raise funds for restoration, thus motivating the community to "save the tower."

As a result, more than \$20,000 was raised through various events and sponsorships to maintain this memorial as a lasting landmark in the community.

*C.W. Lattin is the Orleans county historian. His column appears every Thursday in The Journal-Register and The Albion-Advertiser.*