

In the spirit of Halloween

10-27-11

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I am very hesitant to call it a ghost walk! However, as county historian, I will do a guided walking tour of the Historic Court House District in Albion at 7 p.m. tomorrow starting off from the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church.

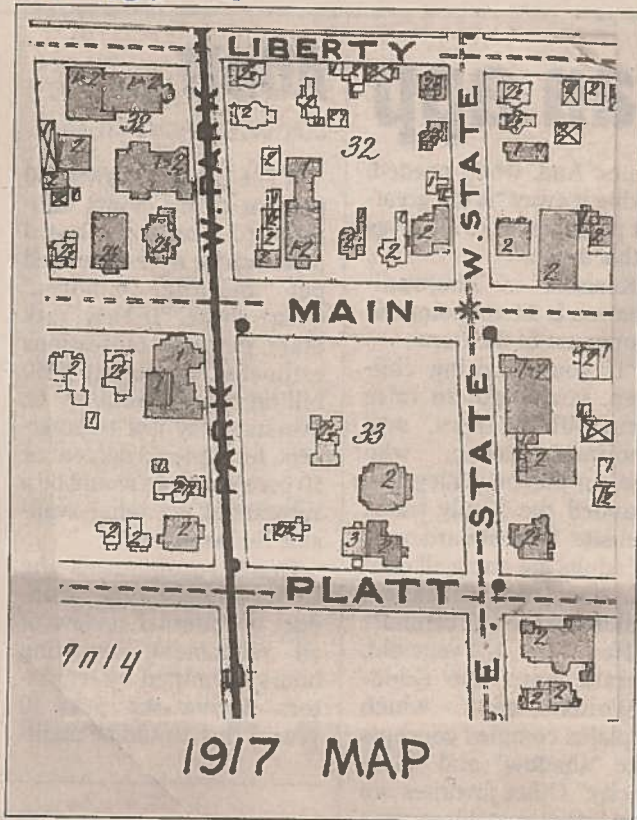
To me, a ghost walk implies that we will be seeing ghosts from the past. In this case it is highly doubtful, but then one never knows. Therefore, the tour is designed to be informative including favorite legends as well as factual history.

To this extent I hope we can connect with the past in the spirit of Halloween as names of those long dead are echoed in the surroundings in which they once lived. Remembering these mortal souls from our heritage brings them alive in spirit when their stories are recounted.

In the last 30 years or so, Halloween has taken on much more mellow tone than in the earlier part of the 20th century. Deviltry and sometimes dangerous pranks were perpetuated on unsuspecting people.

A common prank was putting someone's wagon on the roof of a building, or tipping over an outhouse. I could go on, but there is no point in airing bad ideas or behavior.

Indeed, Halloween has become an anticipated highlight of the fall season with some pagan overtones



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Bethinking of Olde Orleans

enjoyed by young and old alike. The effort some people go to in decorating their homes is amazing. No one did stuff like this fifty years ago.

From my analytical eye, Halloween is much better than it used to be. We have

taken a more intellectual approach to the occasion and as a society have really attempted to make it more fun through illusions of exotic make-believe in haunted houses and yes even Ghost Walks.

So if you attend my walking tour bring a flash light, and be prepared to hear about different people from the past and their contributions which live on as their legacy to us. From the hymn "For All The Saints" we find this line: "We live in struggle they in glory shine." Come and let us be in touch with them.