

GRAVE NEWS
NEWSLETTER OF STATE ASSOCIATION
for
PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

Vol. II Issue 1

Date: 24 Jan 1997



Phil Langenfeld (third from left) hoists the top on one of the tombstones after it was leveled with sand and bricks

The above picture and the following article are taken from the Harlan Tribune. The article is by Mary Johnson.

CELEBRATING THE PAST IN AN UNLIKELY SETTING

It's an unlikely setting for a celebration, but the Rose Hill Cemetery west of Kirkman is providing plenty of excitement for some area young people. Members of the Douglas 4-H Club, Kirkman, are marking Iowa's 150th birthday with historical research and a project to refurbish the township cemetery. For the past three years the club has done general cleanup work at the cemetery, such as raking leaves, weeding and picking up branches. They even moved and painted the arch over the driveway and planted flowers in flower boxes.

"While working at the cemetery, the kids had a lot of questions about who the people were that were buried there and what their lives were like," said Virginia Kruse, club leader. "They also noticed a lot of the stone and grave markers were leaning and in disrepair."

That curiosity and the prospect of grant monies from the Iowa Sesquicentennial Commission prompted club members to organize a plan to refurbish

some of the headstones. Along with the cleanup, members would do re- search on the early settlers of the Kirkman area buried at Rose Hill.The total budget for the project was estimated at \$1800 (a \$1000 grant was received).

"The club raised \$200 ..by having a car wash and bake sale, and Midwest Monument Company donated equipment and labor for \$600," Kruse said. Rain showers during the car wash/bake sale and work days at the cemetery didn't dampen the spirits of club members for the project.

The club is making a book of headstone rubbings, and each club member is doing a research project on an individual buried in the cemetery. Copies of the rubbings, photos and the research findings will be compiled into booklets and displayed at the Shelby County Fair as well as the Iowa State Fair. The project will then be given to the Shelby County Histori- cal Museum, Harlan, for display.

"Some have distant relatives or people with family connections," Kruse said. "Others have selected unusual stones..." Heather Zimmerman chose to do research on Anna L. Harris who passed away in 1904. "The headstone was metal and it looked like the coffin was coming out of the ground," Zimmerman said. After further research, she learned a concrete cap was placed on top of the coffin to prevent grave robbing, a common practice during that time. It was the cap that was visible, not the coffin. Nicole Nielsen chose Pierson Fountain to reseach. Fountain's family was the first black family to locate in the Kirkman area, and their home was on the property now owned by the Nielsen family.

Club members have found May Petersen and Darlene Hanson invaluable with the historical part of the project. Both ladies are involved in genealogy research and active in Shelby Co. Historical Society. Club members have also researched the person or family ...at the Shelby Co. Courthouse, Harlan Community Library, and by talking to people in the Kirkman area. Mildew and years of neglect have taken a toll on many of the monuments at Rose Hill, so cleaning, repairing and straightening the headstones made a big difference. While club members scrubbed and cleaned stones, the Shelby Co. Monument Co. provided expertise in leveling and straigh- tening the headstones.....The kids come away with a greater appreciation of a cemetery and learned history about Kirkman residents of yesteryear. As a final tribute each club member will place silk flowers by the grave of the person he researched. "We're doing this because we care."



The white granite headstones can be cleaned by wrapping the stone in paper towels and soaking it with bleach. The marker is then wrapped and left for 3-4 days so the bleach can clean the granite. Ann Flies (left) pours on the bleach while Mom, Cathy, and brother, Paul, hold the paper towels around the stone.



Headstone rubbings are done with a special paper which has a carbon-like surface on one side. Andy Petersen rubs a cloth over the headstone's engraving.

**STATE ASSOCIATION
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES**

BOARD MEETING
January 18, 1997

The Winter Meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries was held January 18, 1997 in Story City, Iowa at the Valhalla Restaurant beginning at 10:35 AM with President Ted Sieck presiding. (Members present listed on back.)

The secretary's minutes were approved as printed in the Grave News newsletter.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$1337.30. (See attached report.) The motion was made to pay Dean Gipple the balance of his expenses. MSP

Dean Gipple is waiting until the legislature is "settled" before proceeding with further action.

President Ted appointed Keith Street and Dean Gipple to the Award Selection Committee. EACH MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION IS ENCOURAGED to SUBMIT A PERSON, GROUP or ASSOCIATION for the award. (The criteria for selection is included in this newsletter.)

A suggested ORDINANCE for County Cemetery Commissions is also included in this issue that was submitted and approved by the Board.

Counties are urged to submit a list of their PIONEER Cemeteries. The definition of a Pioneer Cemetery is defined as: A cemetery that has had six or fewer burials in the last 50 years (1946).

A report on the progress of the Louisa County Cemetery Committee was given by Dean Gipple and Keith Street added some information.

A motion was made to add the Iowa State Genealogical Society Regional Representatives to the newsletter mailing list. MSP

A newsletter will also be sent to Tammy Foster, the IGS newsletter editor requesting that information be included in their newsletter. Keith Street will make a mailing to Charter members urging their renewal of membership and will include a Charter Member Certificate. The cost of mailing was approved by consensus.

President Ted will make a mailing to county supervisors with information about this organization--SAPIC.

Marilyn Schmitt will check with John Daehler of Newton about the possibility of putting SAPIC on the Web Site.

A discussion on the possibility of producing a VCR on cemetery care and restoration was led by Paul Maddy. This project will be explored. Attention was made to the IPTV showings of interest to members on January 31 at 8:30 and February 2 at 7:30.

The request was made that a list be kept of teachers who are taking their classes to cemeteries to aid in clean-up as well as learning about the history of folks in the early days of the area. Please send names to the secretary at 507 Jefferson St., Decorah, IA 52101. Suggestions were made regarding groups that may aid in cemetery clean-up--young folks needing to do community service, Girl and/or Boy Scout members, 4-H groups, FFA groups, etc.

Lee Schmitt treated the Board to a bottle of the mineral water that he and Marilyn get from the historic well on their place in Colfax. The next meeting of the Board will be April 12, 1997 in Carroll, IA. The meeting was interrupted for lunch, reconvened to complete the business at hand, and adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances
Frances M. Jeffers, Secy.

Board members of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries attending the January 18th meeting were:

President Ted Sieck, Frances M. Jeffers-Secy., Keith Street-Treas., Bill Lemke, Larry D. Davis, Valerie Ogren, Paul E. Maddy, Dean H. Gipple, Marilyn Schmitt, Michael J. Magee, Harvey Pederson, and Lee Schmitt-guest.

DEATH TO DUST--What Happens to Dead Bodies by Kenneth V. Iverson, M.D. is a book recommended by Bill Lemke for SAPIC members. The book is available for \$29.95--tel. 1-800-843-2665 (B106772)

John Easter is the lobbyist for the ISAC--Iow State Association of Counties.

STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES
TREASURER'S REPORT
JANUARY 18, 1997

Balance reported on June 13, 1996		\$1021.60
Deposited July 17, 1996	\$ 60.00	
Deposited August 5, 1996	\$ 40.00	
Deposited August 6, 1996	\$ 20.00	
Deposited September 27, 1996	\$ 40.00	
Deposited September 30, 1996	\$ 40.00	
Deposited October 10, 1996	\$ 40.00	
Deposited October 15, 1996	\$360.00	
Deposited November 4, 1996	\$ 40.00	
Deposited November 8, 1996	\$140.00	
Deposited November 22, 1996	\$120.00	
Deposited January 2, 1997	\$180.00	
Deposited January 8, 1997	\$ 20.00	
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$1100.00	\$1100.00
TOTAL OF PREVIOUS BALANCE AND DEPOSITS		\$2121.60
EXPENSES SINCE JUNE 13, 1996		
Check # 502, Iowa Gen. Soc. Books	\$ 45.99	
Check # 503, Decorah G. A., NLet	\$ 74.25	
Check # 504, Loren Horton, Postage	\$ 7.34	
Check # 505, Dean Gipple, Leg. Exp.	\$500.00	
Check # 506, Fran Jeffers, Nletter	\$136.72	
Check # 507, IGS, Award Banquet	\$ 20.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES PAID	\$784.30	\$ 784.30
BALANCE ON HAND, JANUARY 18, 1997.		\$1337.30

No cash on hand. All bills presented have been paid,
with the exception of the \$366.00 owed Dean Gipple.
34 of the 75 Charter Members have not renewed their memberships as of today.

STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES
BOARD MEETING, JANUARY 18, 1997
EVENT CALENDAR PRESENTED BY KEITH STREET

October 27, 1994 State Committee for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries formed at a meeting at Newton, Iowa. Present from Jasper County were John Daehler, Bill Ponder, Irene Zickel, Elmer Van Arkel, Beverly Cross and Marilyn Schmitt. Present from Louisa County were Eleanor Jones, William H. Matthews, Richard Lehnert, Richard Utter, Elmer Thomas, Keith Street and Dean Gipple. Loren Horton from Iowa City was also present.

November 11, 1994 A Steering Committee composed of Loren Horton, John Daehler, Marilyn Schmitt, Dean Gipple and Keith Street met at Iowa City and drew up bylaws for the organization. Michael Zahs was added to the Steering Committee on November 28, 1994.

December 2, 1994. The Steering Committee again met at Newton and adopted a draft set of rules and bylaws. It was also decided that the organization should participate in the Iowa Heritage Expo on June 9 and 10 and sponsor cemetery workshops.

December, 1994. The first Cemetery News was published, the newsletter for the organization. The second issue was published in February, 1995.

February 18, 1995. Steering Committee met at Amana. An official from the Office of the State Archaeologist discussed Iowa law regarding old burial sites. Indian burials were covered, but early pioneer burial sites also fall under that legislation.

February, 1995. Representative Barry Brauns sent a copy of a draft cemetery bill that has been introduced into the House to Dean Gipple. A letter was sent to each county Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee on behalf of our State Committee by Dean Gipple.

March, 1995. Robert and Phyllis Carter, Terry Wilson and Annabelle Wacker are added to the Steering Committee.

May, 1995. Third issue of the Newsletter published.

June 9 and 10. Heritage Expo in Des Moines. Our members presented several workshops. By July 31 membership had grown to 20.

October 7, 1995. Iowa Genealogical Society held its annual conference at Marshalltown, in conjunction with the State Committee. At a group session the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries was officially formed, accepted with some revisions (including the new word Association in the name instead of Committee)

the rules and bylaws proposed by the Steering Committee, and elected a Board of Trustees for the organization composed of 13 members.

January 13, 1996. The Board of Trustees met at Iowa City and elected officers to replace the temporary Steering Committee officials. Ted Sieck was elected President; Loren Horton, Vice-President; Fran Jeffers, Secretary; Keith Street, Treasurer. Dean Gipple went through the new cemetery bill and the changes made from the last one. Representative Barry Brauns is a sponsor of the bill in the House; Senator Dennis Black is a sponsor in the Senate.

March 31, 1996. Association membership has grown to 36.

May 1996. Dean Gipple spends weeks in Des Moines working for the passage of the cemetery legislation. The legislation passes. Also, Governor Ray proclaims May, 1996, as Cemetery Appreciation Month in the State of Iowa. Dean Gipple had also worked for this. Association members were in the Governor's Office for both the proclamation and the signing of the legislation; photographs appeared in several newspapers across the state.

June 1996. The Association again had a presence and workshops at the 1996 Heritage Expo held in Des Moines. The Board of Trustees met. A newsletter was sent to the membership by new editor Frances Jeffers. A second issue of Grave News was sent in late September to the membership.

September 23, 1996. The Robert L. Carter Memorial Award Committee met to draft criteria for the award and to select the first recipient of what is planned as an annual award. Dean Gipple was selected and received the award at the Iowa Genealogical Society banquet held in conjunction with the October, 1996 Conference in Iowa City

October 13, 1996. The annual membership meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries was held in Iowa City and re-elected three incumbent Board of Trustees members for three-year terms. The Board of Trustees re-elected the Association officers.

October 31, 1996. The third issue of Grave News was sent to members.

December 31, 1996. Charter memberships end. The Association has grown to include 75 charter memberships.

AWARD CRITERIA STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF IOWA CEMETERIES

1. The award shall be called the Robert L. Carter Memorial Award.
2. The Robert L. Carter Memorial Award shall be given only once each year.
3. The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries President shall appoint an ad hoc committee of the Board of Trustees to act as an Awards Selection Committee. This Awards Selection Committee shall serve a term of one year, although individual Board members may be appointed to it for succeeding years.
4. The Award Selection Committee shall come to a decision prior to each State Association for the Preservation of I A Cemeteries annual meeting as to whether or not an award shall be given that year, and if so, to whom or what.
5. The Award Selection Committee shall make its recommendation to the full Board of Trustees at the Board meeting immediately preceding the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries annual meeting.
6. Eligibility for the Robert L. Carter Memorial Award:
 - a. any individual, group, association, organization, institution, or governmental agency or unit is eligible for consideration.
 - b. to be considered for the award, a nominee must have demonstrated an achievement or activity above and beyond what is expected under ordinary circumstances.
 - c. a nominee must have been involved in or responsible for an achievement or activity that significantly extends or expands the education about preservation, protection, maintenance, appreciation, or understanding of Iowa Cemeteries, grave yards, burying grounds, single burials, monuments, tombs, mausoleums, grave markers or other aspects of material culture related to or associated with Iowa cemeteries.
 - d. one award may be given for service; one award for cemetery education.
7. Any member of the State Assoc. for the Preservation of Iowa cemeteries, including Board members, may nominate persons or other eligible recipients as described in 6 A.
8. Members of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, including Board members, are eligible to receive the Robert L. Carter Memorial Award.
9. Nominations for the Robert L. Carter Memorial Award shall include the following in order to be eligible:
 - a. a letter naming the nominee that summarizes the relevant achievement or activity, and signed by the nominator.
 - b. at least one letter of support from a person or group other than a member of the State Assoc. for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries.
 - c. appropriate supporting materials such as photographs, newspaper articles, printed matter, or other documentation explaining the relevant achievement or activity and its significance.

10. Nominations must be in the hands of the Award Selection Committee no later than 90 days prior to the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries annual meeting.
11. The Robert L. Carter Memorial Award shall be presented to the recipient at the annual meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, or at another time deemed appropriate.

(Award Criteria prepared by Loren Horton and presented to the 1996 Annual Meeting of the Association.)

The following article was in the 31 October 1996 issue of the CEDAR RAPIDS GAZETTE:

Pioneer cemeteries upkeep focus of group

By Susan Steele
News correspondent

ANAMOSA — A nine-member commission will be appointed to look into maintenance of more than 30 pioneer cemeteries in Jones County.

JONES COUNTY supervisors agreed to appoint the commission after members of the Jones County Historical Committee and the Jones County Historical Preservation Commission presented a plan for locating and establishing cemetery perime-

ters and maintaining some 30-plus pioneer cemeteries.

A PIONEER CEMETERY is defined as one that has had six or fewer burials in the last 50 years.

Some of the cemeteries are being maintained by township trustees and others by owners of the land on which they are located, according to the historical groups.

Pat Shaw of the Jones County Historical Committee said some cemeteries are not being main-

tained at all.

In some cases, headstones have been removed and the land is being farmed. Many are not fenced and their perimeters are not identified.

THE SUPERVISORS invited Shaw and the others to come back with a list of people committed to serving on the commission. The board said it would approve the commission before acting on budget requests.

Taken from the 25 August 1909 issue of the Decorah PUBLIC OPINION in the article titled "Interviews with Old Timers."

Doc Chase was the first man buried in Decorah, interment being on the Dugway Hill, east of where George Schulze now lives. Flour could not be brought nearer than the Eldorado mill, and mail was brought from McGregor. Wm Painter succeeded in getting the first postoffice established here, Liza Day being postmistress. Robt. Moore was the first mail carrier, making the trip to McGregor on horseback, bringing mail once a week.

A portion of a letter from Mary Morgan of Quimby, IA follows. (The letter, written to the Association, was received by Keith Street, Treas.) "The Cherokee County Iowa Tree Stumpers group read and discussed with much interest the April 1996 IA Genealogical Soc. Newsletter...on State Pioneer Cemetery preservation and maintenance. This has been of major concern to our Cherokee County historical groups. The Tree Stumpers group is aware of the following inactive and abandoned Cherokee Co. IA cemeteries. There probably are more sites. Spring Twp. Cemetery #1--T93, R39, S32; #2--T93, R39, S19; and Rural Rock Twp. Cemetery--T91, R41, and S14. ... (Rock Twp. Cem) needs an identification marker. ... a past caretaker removed grave makers and piled them in a pile.... (it) needs maintenance and preservation."

Spicer/Spooner pioneer cemetery preservation is deliberated

An ordinance is being prepared to place pioneer cemeteries under county jurisdiction

By NANCY BEYER

Access to a pioneer cemetery steeped in history may be realized because of action taken by the Iowa County Supervisors Friday.

The Spicer/Spooner Cemetery is located north of U.S. Highway 6, northeast of Homestead and west of the Emmett Smith farm, in the shadow of the telephone relay tower (Section 1 of Iowa Township).

Supervisor Chair Jim Posschl referred to a history written in 1976 by Pauline Lillie for the Iowa County Historical Society, which says the cemetery is next to the oldest in Iowa County. The area which is now Homestead was known in the 1850s as Brush Run when the area was settled. Lillie listed 25 names from stones in the cemetery found in 1971. Many are small children. There are several unmarked graves and 39 blocks drawn on the plat.

A road once led to the cemetery from the highway. Supervisor Bill Jindrich recalled the road once went all the way to river and served as a mail route.

Smith brought a complaint to the supervisors earlier this year that a berm of dirt had been bulldozed into the entrance to the road, so people were driving over his property to access the cemetery and timber plots behind.

At that time, the supervisors' research showed that the road was not property of the county and they had no jurisdiction.

The matter was revisited because of a

letter written to the supervisors by Patricia Shaw, Anamosa.

Shaw's great-great-great-grandfather, Newell Wright, is buried in the cemetery. She has corresponded and talked with Reynold Moëssner, former Amana Society secretary, about the preservation of the historical site. It borders on Amana Society land.

She and Gottfried Steinmetz, Homestead, are interested in cleaning the cemetery after the frost this fall, said Shaw, but they need access to it.

NEW LEGISLATION

She asked the supervisors to look into a law the Iowa Legislature passed during the last session which allows the supervisors to adopt an ordinance assuming jurisdiction and control of pioneer cemeteries in the county. They can then establish a cemetery commission to manage them.

A pioneer cemetery is defined as one where there have been six or fewer burials in the preceding 50 years.

The cost of management must be paid from the county general fund. The law also gave the county power to levy a tax not greater than 6.75 cents per thousand to repair and maintain all the cemeteries under the county's jurisdiction.

"There are some other problems back there other than the cemetery," said Ken Martens, county attorney. "There are people who own property back there, and they are the ones clamoring to get access to it."

Posschl said he viewed that as a problem between property owners and didn't want to involve the county in that point.

"I feel our responsibility lies with the cemetery," he said. He estimated the levy would raise up to \$40,000.

The Legislature also created the ability of the county to make Class C roads, said Posschl. The road would not be maintained and would be gated so only property owners or people who had a specific need could travel the road. He wondered if any of this information could apply to this situation.

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE

Martens questioned whether the cemetery was public or private. Posschl recalled discussion from a similar situation several years ago, in which he thought the attorney general wrote that, if the township trustees had ever worked on the cemetery, it was a public cemetery and the county had jurisdiction. But access was not a problem.

"The way people have been getting there is they've been driving through Emmett Smith's driveway, going behind his barn and crossing through his hay field to get up there," said Jindrich.

Martens said the owners of the cemetery land can bring a condemnation action and get a right-of-way through, but they have to pay the person whose property they cross. "It's a matter of whether they want to do it or not," he added. "They don't want to hire an attorney either. That's why we're all getting involved, particularly me."

"I think that we have some jurisdiction as far as the cemetery," said Posschl.

"I believe so, too," said Jindrich.

Posschl wanted to pursue the idea of creating a Class C road. A "horse-and-buggy trail" has been cut through, but it has never been graded, said Jindrich.

Martens didn't question the right of the landowner to block access to the cemetery. "It's questionable what we can do about it," he said.

Supervisor Ken Caes interpreted the new law as applicable whether or not the cemetery was public or private.

Jindrich was interested in moving forward with the ordinance to establish jurisdiction over the county's pioneer cemeteries. Then they would be in a position to put in a Class C road.

CEMETERY ACCESS ONLY

"We have to be totally honest with this," said Posschl. Shaw was interested in access to the cemetery, but others are more interested in getting access to their property. "I don't think we are taking this on, or looking at it from that perspective, at all."

Ehlert saw a problem with the Class C road of who would hold keys to the gate. The law says the ordinance would spell out who had access. He and the supervisors saw a Class B road as far less trouble.

The supervisors decided to pursue the matter. Caes asked that the issue of ownership — public or private — be investigated.

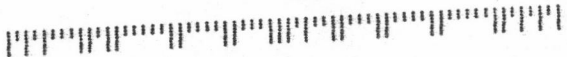
"What about the expenses of this? If I have to file some kind of action, and go to condemnation, you're talking about a lot of dollars, which I don't have in my budget," said Martens.

Caes noted they have the ability to levy taxes, if the ordinance is passed. It would be two years before that money was collected, said Martens.

"I assume we would carry it until then," said Caes.

Martens suggested writing the landowner a letter asking him to open the old road.

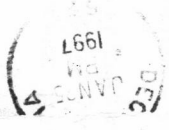
"It's worth a try," said Posschl. In the meantime, he asked Martens to prepare the pioneer cemetery ordinance.



 Mrs. Thomas H 52311
 5716 Kingman Ave

 Address

F. Jeffers, Secy & Editor
 St. Assoc. for Preservation of
 Iowa Cemeteries
 507 Jefferson St.
 Decorah, Iowa 52101-1711



HEADSTONES REPLACED----A recent issue of the Department of the Army's Retirement Service Bulletin carried a brief notice which should be of interest. The Bulletin states that the Veteran's Administration will replace a previously furnished government headstone at government expense if the headstone is cracked, broken, destroyed, or otherwise illegible. Request for replacement of a headstone should be made in writing by a family member or other responsible person. The request should state the condition of the headstone and the request should be sent to: Director Monument Service (24), Veterans Administration, Washington, DC 20420.

Norma Junkin of Madison Co. Genealogical Society wrote: ...Our society has had as our project the renovation of cemeteries--We have done three large cemeteries. There aren't many of us to do the work (Calvin McVay does the work of several people), but we have the zeal for this worthwhile project.

Next Board meeting of the State Assoc. for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will be in Carroll, IA on April 12, 1997 at 10:30 AM. Location to be announce.

Articles or projects of interest are welcomed by your editor for printing in the GRAVE NEWS. Pictures (original) will be returned - they copy so much better. Thank you.

Membership dues are \$20 per year--Jan.1 to Dec.31--Send to Keith Street, Treasurer, 325 Franklin, Wapello, IA 52653-1515
