

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER of STATE ASSOCIATION FOR the PRESERVATION of IOWA
C. O. A. O. T. O. P. R. I. O. S.

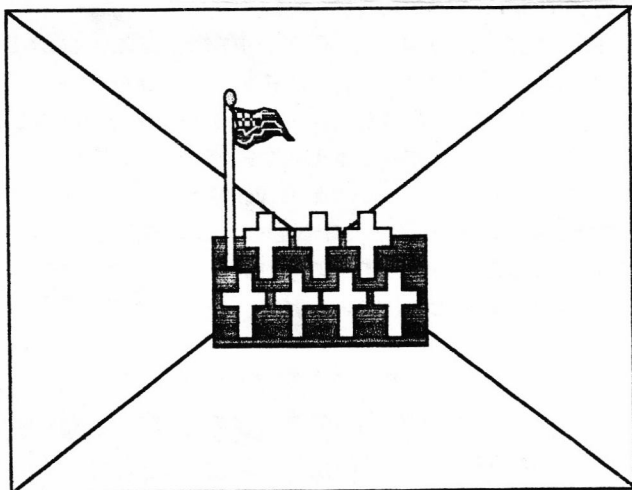
Volume #3 Issue #1

January, 1998

STATE MEETING HELD JANUARY 10

No Stone Unturned.....

Thanks to the Keo-Mah Genealogical Society in Oskaloosa (representing Keokuk and Mahaska Counties), with their great facilities and hospitality, the first meeting of SAPIC in 1998 was a great success! Thirty-three people signed in at the large and comfortable meeting room in the Penn Central Mall. Mabel Daniels and the members of Keo-Mah, plus the chairperson of Mahaska County's new Cemetery Commission, Jo Vernooy, did a



great job of publicizing this event. The enthusiasm and freshness generated was a positive influence on all of us interested in pioneer cemetery preservation!

BE SURE TO JOIN US AT THE NEXT MEETING IN PERRY, IOWA!

PAT SHAW, PRESIDENT

You're invited.....

to the next meeting of SAPIC.

WHERE? Perry, Iowa Public Library meeting room, on Willis Avenue directly across the street from the Historic Hotel Pattee "WHERE MEMORIES ARE MADE."

WHEN? SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1998 AT 10:00 A.M.

WE'LL BE DISCUSSING PLANS FOR EXPO 1998 TO BE HELD JUNE 11, 12, AND 13 AT THE STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING IN DES MOINES. OUR PRESENTATIONS WILL INCLUDE PAUL MADDY DEMONSTRATING STONE REPAIR AND A PANEL OF FFA CHAPTER MEMBERS FROM JONES COUNTY DISCUSSING THEIR RESTORATION ACTIVITIES IN TWO PIONEER CEMETERIES LAST SUMMER.

COME SPEND FRIDAY NIGHT IN A ROOM AT HOTEL PATTEE DECORATED TO REFLECT YOUR HERITAGE OR SPECIAL INTEREST!

PH 515-465-3511
EMAIL HOTLPATTEE@AOL.COM

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES!
SEND \$20.00 TO TREASURER HARLEY
CRAIN; 17126 68TH AVE. W.;
EDMONDS, WA 98026-5206

FOR THE YEAR 1999 THE DUES WILL BE:

\$10.00 FOR INDIVIDUALS
15.00 FOR FAMILIES
20.00 FOR ORGANIZATIONS
100.00 LIFETIME FOR INDIVIDUALS

ORDER 3-M 1838 B/A TAN EPOXY FOR REPAIRING GRAVE STONES FROM GENEX; 1700 2ND AVE; DES MOINES, IA 50314 515-266-4656

THANKS!

These are some folks who make things happen in and for SAPIC:

Michael Zahs who agreed to be Secretary Pro-Tem at the Jan. 10 meeting. Michael is also a valuable source of information with regard to Expo, witching methods, clarification of terms, and historical facts.

Paul Maddy who made arrangements for our April meeting in his home town, Perry. He also agreed without hesitation to present at Expo and to make a training video on stone repair.

Marilyn Schmitt's husband who gave me a bottle of cold Colfax mineral water to soothe my dry throat. Look for it in your grocery or convenience store!

Dean Gipple, a true visionary, who always surprises us with his innovative ideas. Dean is now experimenting with landscaping techniques that incorporate prairie grasses and flowers, walnut trees, and split-rail fences into the pioneer cemeteries in Louisa County.

Pat Palmer from Franklin County who gets the award for driving the farthest to the meeting. Pat also wrote our proposal concerning sellers of land with burials, and will film a training video featuring Paul Maddy.

The Keo-Mah Genealogical Society and its corresponding secretary, Mabel Daniels, for: providing the place for the meeting, Continental breakfast, making their copier and computer

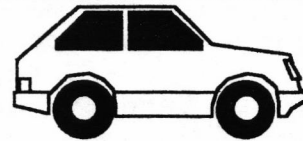
available, publicizing the meeting, and adding so many thoughtful touches.

Mike Magee, a great Internet surfer, who has discovered so many interesting web sites. His suggestion for making note pads with SAPIC

Continued on Page 3

SEND YOUR DUES TO HARLEY CRAIN!

NEW TWIST FOR PAYING OWI FINES



In certain situations, defendants who are convicted of Operating While Intoxicated can be granted a deferred judgment in first offense cases. These persons may be asked to make a charitable donation in lieu of a fine or other monetary penalty. To have your Cemetery Commission considered for occasional charitable donations or for more information, direct inquiries to your county Clerk of Court.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP PUBLICIZE SAPIC AND YOU LIKE TO WRITE, YOU COULD VOLUNTEER TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE IGS NEWSLETTER ABOUT YOUR CEMETERY RESTORATION PROJECT. SAPIC ALSO NEEDS A NEWSLETTER EDITOR. IF INTERESTED, NOTIFY Pat Shaw at:
7472 Slide Rock Rd.

Anamosa, IA 52205
319-489-3361

patshaw@netins.net

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Welcome to new member Dwight Bunting, from Oskaloosa! Thanks to all the individuals and organizations who renewed memberships.



The Iowa Department of Justice (Attorney General) is preparing a publicly available document on its opinions regarding the laws of cemeteries and burial grounds. A question and answer portion will deal with some of the most frequently raised questions. Topics include protection of burial sites, unlawful desecration of a grave site, excavating in a burial ground,

Our Secretary, Fran Jeffers, has been suffering from a painful illness. Fran's husband, Stan, also had surgery last fall. A note to cheer them can be sent to: 507 Jefferson St. Decorah, IA 52101-1711



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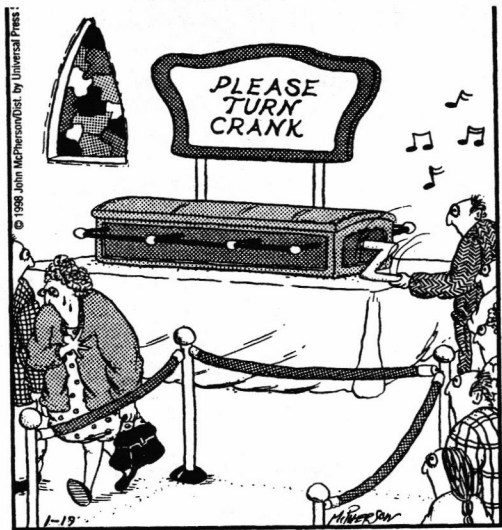
information to distribute at Expo is a good one.

Mahaska County Supervisors and many other visitors from the Oskaloosa area who added so much to the meeting!

CLIP THIS. COPY IT. TAKE IT TO YOUR PRECINCT CAUCUS. MAIL IT TO YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR AND COUNTY PARTY CHAIR:

AN AMENDMENT TO STATE LAW: THE SELLER OF PROPERTY MUST NOTIFY THE REALTOR AND BUYER OF SAID PROPERTY THAT THE TRACT OF LAND BEING SOLD HAS A CEMETERY OR ANY SORT OF BURIAL PLOT ON IT. THIS WILL BE DONE IN THE SAME MANNER THAT THE SELLER CURRENTLY INFORMS THE REALTOR AND BUYER OF PROPERTY THAT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS, GAS LINES, SINK HOLES OR ABANDONED WELLS EXIST ON SAID PROPERTY.

CLOSE TO HOME JOHN McPHERSON www.ubpress.com



At the funeral of the inventor of the jack-in-the-box.

partial or total destruction of graves, cultivation of a burial ground, criminal mischief, and burial rights. This was the topic of a speech to the Iowa County Attorneys Association recently.

For Close to Home book, "Home: The Final Frontier," call 1-800-642-6 The Cedar Rapids Gazette. Price: \$7.95 + \$2 SH.

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries met on January 10, 1998 at the Penn Central Mall in Oskaloosa as guests of the Keo-Mah Genealogical Society. President Pat Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The Mahaska County Board of Supervisors were in attendance and were noted. The new five-member Mahaska County Cemetery Commission were introduced.

Mike Magee moved that this board meeting be considered a general meeting. Paul Maddy seconded the motion and it passed.

Secretary Fran Jeffers was absent due to illness. The minutes of the October meeting were read by Michael Zahs. Minutes were approved.

The treasurer's report was read by Pat shaw in the absence of Treasurer Harley Crain (report included.)

No old business was presented.

New business: Calvin McVay moved that the annual dues be changed beginning in 1999 to individual \$10.00, family \$15.00, organization \$20.00, and individual life membership \$100.00. Ethel McVay seconded. Following discussion, the motion passed.

By consensus, it was decided the new officers should officially take over following the October meeting.

Pat Palmer moved and Marilyn Schmidt seconded to establish the office of historian as an appointment of the president with no set term length. After discussion the motion passed. Pat Shaw appointed Gwen moore to be association historian.

Proposed legislation connecting cemetery information to land sale records was discussed. Pat Palmer was instructed to draft the suggested legislation for action later in the meeting.

Dean Gipple discussed work he is doing in Louisa County. He is planting walnut trees around a cemetery to provide income. He is working with Trees Forever and the DOT in planting the trees and in re-establishing prairie grass and flowers in the cemetery. He also has found the FFA to be very helpful.

Pat Shaw showed helpful materials that are available. She talked about National Register of Historic Places nomination for cemeteries and the Iowa Heritage Expo held in June.

LeRoy Nugteren of the Mahaska County Conservation Board and Jo Vernooy of the new Mahaska County Cemetery Commission spoke.

Paul Maddy and Dean Gipple were appointed to a committee to make nominations for the Robert L. Carter awards for cemetery service and education.

Pat Palmer presented his draft of the proposed cemetery legislation. Paul Maddy moved and Calvin McVay seconded the motion and it passed. (Copy included.)

Mike Magee explained using aerial photos to show boundaries and locations of pioneer cemeteries.

Marilyn Schmidt moved for adjournment. Pat Palmer seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Michael Zahs (Secretary Pro-Tem)

Synopsis of Treasurer's Report: Total Revenue \$1605.18
Total Expense 180.52
Balance 12-31-97 1424.66

REPORT TO SAPIC MEETING

FROM MICHAEL MAGEE

10 JANUARY 1997

Since the last SAPIC meeting I have been active in cemetery restoration work by participating in work at the Swayzee Cemetery in Jackson county and also the Johns Town Cemetery in Jones County.

In Black Hawk county, I have repaired all of the gravemarkers in Calvary Cemetery that required it. Last September I worked with Jerry Delagardelle, sexton of St. Marys Cemetery in Gilbertville, with repairing gravemarkers there.

Also did repair at Bennington Twp. Cemetery in Bennington Twp. Later I attended the Bennington Twp. Trustees meeting in regard to this cemetery. Pat Shaw also attended this meeting which was in regard to it use as a prairie.

This winter I plan on getting involved with Lester Twp. Cemetery repair and restoration by meeting with the township trustees and other interested persons.

My next cemetery project will be Spring Creek Cemetery.

Mike Magee

Carol Bottin
124 E Main A
New Hampton, IA 50659-1498
January 6, 1998

Chickasaw County is in the process of organizing a Cemetery Commission. Donald Moetsch stated last spring that he would be willing to serve as chairman. A list of others who have agreed to serve on the board was forwarded to him in November along with some samples of information received from Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and a copy of a letter from Pat Shaw. I have not heard anything from him as to an organizational meeting date.

Carol Bottin

Carol Bottin

It was pointed out at the last SAPIC meeting that is not correct to identify pioneer cemeteries as "abandoned." The occupants of these historic sites never abandon them under their own power. They may be forgotten or ignored by the living, but the citizens of Iowa who have been interred there have the right to occupy them forever. (Thanks, Michael Zahs, for that clarification!)



Expo '98 Activities

PARTICIPANTS OF EXPO '98 will have *many* choices of activities. A few follow:

Participate in discussions about the theme, "*Migration in History: People, Ideas, Cultures,*" with an emphasis on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Watch Ken Burns's recent film about the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Attend workshops that explain how to preserve historic churches.

See examples of heirloom catalogs and learn how to plant and maintain historic gardens, such as Civil War gardens.

Hear about the horse in history.

Get tips on identifying 19th-century photographic processes and on preserving photographs.

Gain an understanding of how to determine your organization's volunteer needs.

Learn how to conduct research and locate primary sources. Examples of some of the primary sources to be discussed include: memoirs, genealogies, diaries, travel accounts, biographies, letters, speeches, newspapers, government documents, city directories, maps, manuscript collections, census records, oral histories, photo-

graphs, artifacts, cemeteries, landscapes, and historic buildings.

Discover a hands-on method of teaching students about their community and the environment through nationally recognized programs such as "Box City" and "Walk Around the Block."

Learn how to read streets and landscapes to understand community changes that have taken place.

Connect with the past by learning the process for discovering family history.

Understand how to use good storytelling techniques in educational settings such as libraries, museums, and schools.

Listen to a variety of traditional music ranging from blues to Asian ethnic songs.

Participate in hands-on History Day training to gain skills to help students develop award-winning History Day projects.

Hear about the migrations of Jewish women in the Upper Midwest and learn about Iowa's refugee and immigrant populations from Latin American countries, Vietnam, Laos, Bosnia, and the Sudan.

Sample a variety of ethnic foods.

Tour ethnic neighborhoods. □

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 11, 12, and 13, 1998

Call 515-281-8837 to request information.

SAMPLE LETTER TO VOLUNTEER GROUPS

During the 1996 legislative session, the state legislature passed a law allowing each county's Board of Supervisors to adopt an ordinance assuming jurisdiction and control of pioneer cemeteries within the county. A pioneer cemetery is one in which six or fewer burials have occurred in the last fifty years. _____ County may have as many as _____ such burial sites. Many of these old cemeteries are being conscientiously cared for by churches, individuals, and township trustees. Others have been forgotten, are in various stages of disrepair, and some have even disappeared.

In an effort to save these vestiges of our historical and cultural heritage, the _____ County Board of Supervisors has approved the creation of a _____ County Cemetery Commission. This Commission will report directly to the Supervisors. This year the Commission will identify those cemeteries most in need of salvaging, clean the debris and undergrowth, fence the area if needed, and begin locating burials and repairing grave markers.

In an effort to instill a sense of community pride in this project, and because the Commission is limited in financial and human resources, it has been suggested that groups such as yours might "adopt a cemetery" to restore and maintain. It is anticipated that the Commission could assist financially with fencing and provide general guidelines, but that the bulk of the responsibility and the rewards would lie with the sponsoring group. The Commission would be glad to accept financial donations and grants to help defray costs.

If this is something that your group would like to do to preserve the history of your community, please contact any of the following Commission members.

Sincerely,

Margaret Gee from Knoxville in Marion County ordered a very effective probe for use in discovering underground stones and bases from this company: Northern Hydraulics; Burnsville, MN. Ph 612-894-0326 or 1-800-533-5545.

A monumental task

By Jane Bigbee

Years take their toll on cemeteries. Monuments not only are subject to weather and sometimes lack of care but often to vandalism and sometimes to disregard when access is limited to fields beyond.

All of these factors have come into play at many a pioneer cemetery, a number of which are no longer used. See Lillian Ashby's "The Old Scotch Cemetery" in the Senior Writing section in this issue.

Volunteers have been at work in the old Marengo Cemetery, located two and one-half miles southeast of the city, to reverse these effects. The cemetery is at the end of a mile stretch of road that turns from gravel into dirt.

Tall oak trees and visibility several miles to the north and across the fields in other directions make the location a serene one. It is the burial place for about 275 — including 21 Civil War veterans. Because this old cemetery is on a sandy knob, volunteer C.R. (Bob) Dillin speculates it may have been chosen as a burial ground because it lacked suitability for farm crops.

William H. Dillin, one of Bob's ancestors, William Danskin and George Stoner were the committee to purchase a "burying ground." A copy of the deed shows the committee bought the original three acres for \$9 from Josephus Talbott. The deed was signed July 12, 1853. Five acres were added later.

The first burial with the date on it, according to Bob Dillin, was that of Anna Dillin in 1850. A record of cemetery stones done in 1976 showed babies from two Dillin families were also buried there in 1850. The last burial in this cemetery was made in 1943.

Earlier this year the cemetery was one of those designated a "pioneer cemetery" with a sign placed on the gate by volunteers Ed and Norma Gleason.

Bob Dillin, his wife Jean, other volunteers from the American Legion Post 76, the Auxiliary, Iowa County Historical and Genealogical societies

— including Sam Slaymaker, Delmar Schindler, Jake Griggs, Gary Bunn, Ed Shima, Dean Wyant, Vern Dains — began work on restoration of the cemetery Aug. 26.

Volunteers found many markers had disappeared altogether, sometimes beneath the soil, sometimes stacked against a tree or off in a corner of the grounds.

Most of the early monuments were made of marble thus more subject to the effects of weather over nearly 150 years than granite is today.

Sometimes the broken markers were covered through the years by soil.

There is no survey of the cemetery that any of the volunteers have been able to find.

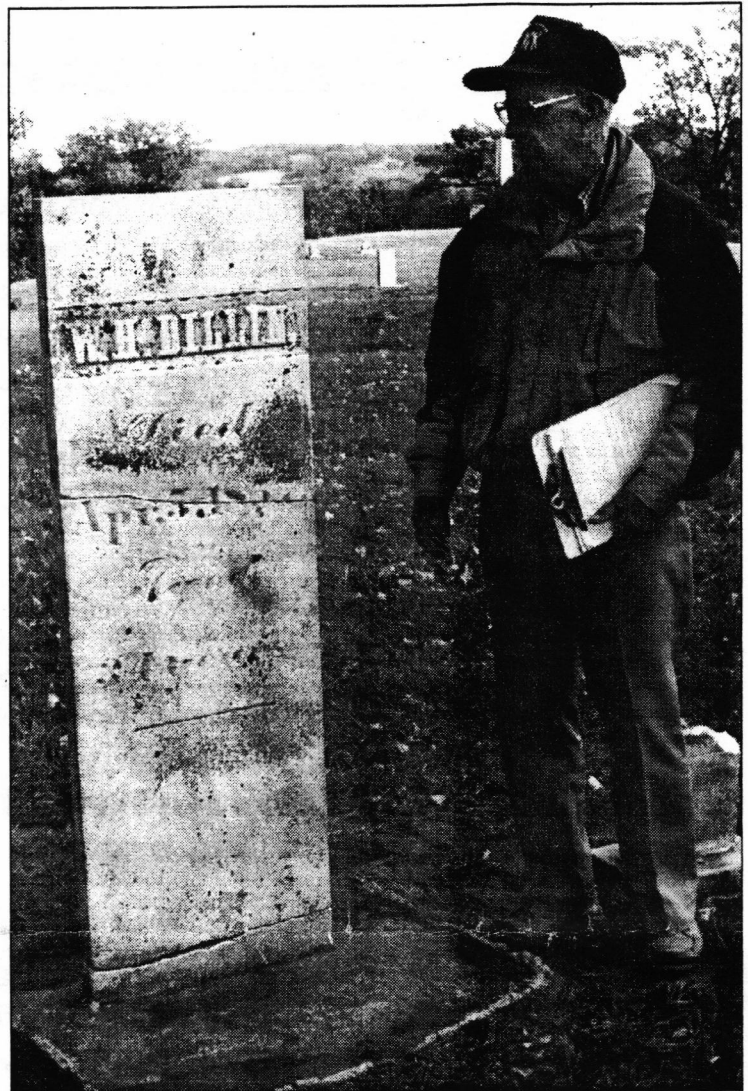
Lack of a survey makes finding the graves rather like unraveling a mystery. They have been "witching," much as is done with wires when looking for water. It works in areas where the soil has been disturbed for a grave. That leads to probing for the stones. In many instances volunteers have been successful in finding stones long covered by dirt.

Once the markers have been found, sometimes not only the main gravestone but also a smaller foot stone, they have been brought to the surface. Then putting the pieces back together is like solving an unwieldy puzzle.

Up until mid-October when weather no longer made it possible to work outdoors, the group had continued. They caulked the bases then used epoxy to secure the upright pieces. They have repaired 100 gravestones.

Volunteer help came from Kevin Waddell and his helper Mike Recker with equipment from Marengo Monument to hoist monuments back on to bases. Some of the stones weigh up to 1,000 pounds.

One of those monuments replaced on its base was to mark the family plot of Israel Dillin, Bob Dillin's great-great grandfather. Israel died in California. The marker for William Dillin, one of the committee who purchased the land, and one of Israel's son, has been re-



C. R. (Bob) Dillin is one of the volunteers working to restore markers at the old Marengo cemetery. Cracks show where stone had been broken.

paired too. Another son, John Dillin, killed in the Civil War battle at Shiloh Church, Tennessee, is buried in this cemetery too.

The GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) post at Marengo was named after John Dillin and the large monument on the main drive in the newer Marengo Cemetery commemorates that. Memorial Day services are traditionally held at this monument.

Plans call for replacing three of the markers for the 21 Civil War veterans who are said to be buried in the old Marengo cemetery. So far the volunteers have found 19 of those graves.

Volunteers have been cleaning the stones so names, dates, other inscriptions and carving can be seen.

Other volunteers have been trimming trees. Overgrown fence lines are being cleaned and fences repaired around the perimeter of the cemetery. Washington County trustee Darwin Huedepohl has been helping.

Money to help with the restoration work has come from the Legion's bingo fund, \$500, and half the proceeds from a soup and sandwich supper.

Bob Dillin was been sharing word of work at the cemetery with some classes at Iowa Valley Community School and he has taken a Sunday school class to see the results of the volunteers' efforts.

Cold weather has put a stop to their efforts, but volunteers expect to be back next spring to find and reposition as many gravestones as possible.

Iowa County

It's comforting to know that a descendant of some of the occupants of this pioneer cemetery was aware of this event. This makes it a little more acceptable to us preservationists who would have preferred that the site was left undisturbed, except for identification and beautification. It is hoped that the procedure was done with the dignity these departed pioneers deserved.

[From the September, 1997, issue of the Northwest Chapter's *Newsletter*]

LITTLE CEMETERY ON THE PRAIRIE

By Jason M. Titcomb, ISU graduate student

Recent construction of hog confinements by Rick and DeeAnn Bates in Emmet County uncovered an 1860s cemetery. In order for construction to continue, exhuming the burials became important and were to be reburied immediately in a local cemetery. Upon invitation by the Bates family, Tina Nepstad-Thornberry and I ventured to the site located in the hills north of Wallingford.

Initial work completed by the Office of the State Archaeologist determined that skeletal remains of at least five individuals had been accidentally disinterred during construction. Also, OSA suggested that six to eight burial features could be present at the site, based on profiling and mapping burial features.

The plan was to exhume all the burials in one day so construction would not be delayed. Our purpose was to help excavate and identify the remains if possible. It was known that Aannon Olson was buried there along with a grandson during the 1870s, as reported by Viola West, a local resident and descendent. It was hoped that

these two individuals could be identified.

After arriving on the scene and eluding construction vehicles, the work began. The possible burial features were quite evident when viewing the only undisturbed area. The majority of the work was to be done with a backhoe and by hand.

As previously mentioned the burial features were quite evident, but the next question was how deep were the burials. The old saying, six feet underground, applied in this situation.

To help determine depth, organic material or the presence of nails became a good indicator of where the burials were located within the fill. Other soil changes could be seen when comparing the natural deposit with the burial feature fill, and with the actual burial itself. The skeletal remains were to be removed carefully for reburial, requiring special care during removal.

The occupants of the mid-19th century cemetery were thought to have numbered around six to eight. Instead, ten burials were uncovered that day, with a possibility that more were present.

Associated artifacts included numerous square nails, wood, and buttons. Though some of the wood was preserved it was very fragmentary. The last two burials enough wood was preserved to see the coffin perimeters. The coffins appeared to have been very small and compact.

The hands and arms of all the individuals (when found completely intact) were

crossed and placed over the pelvic region.

One of the goals for the day was to identify the two individuals related to Viola West. The grandfather and grandson at the time were buried side by side, so as each burial we uncovered, the question was always raised, "could these be the relatives?" It was not until the last two burials were uncovered that the description of the people matched the archaeological record.

Burial 9 was the only elderly adult male uncovered that day, and right next to his side was Burial 7, a two-year old child which matched the family records. Upon completing the excavation work, proper removal of the individuals for reburial at a nearby cemetery was done that same day.

A successful mission was completed. A special thanks goes to my colleague, Tina Nepstad-Thornberry, and to Rick and DeeAnn Bates for their hospitality, and to all those who helped that day.

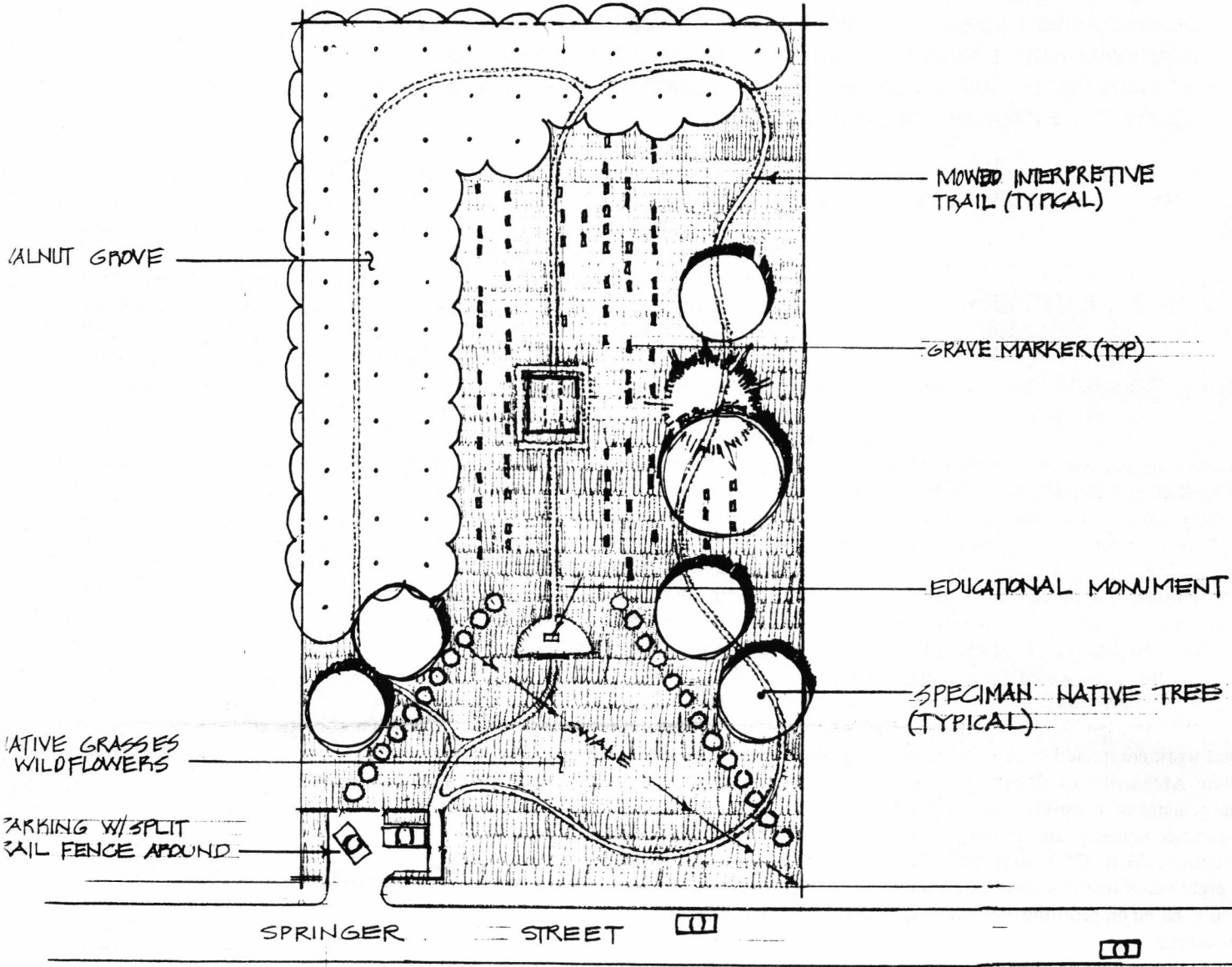
NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Iowa Archeological Society is a non-profit, scientific society legally organized under the corporate laws of Iowa. Members of the Society share a serious interest in the archaeology of Iowa and the Midwest.

The Newsletter is published four times a year. All materials for publication should be sent to the editor: Sheila Hainlin, 1434 44 St., Des Moines, IA 50311-2415.

Iowa Archeological Society
303 Eastlawn Bldg
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242

*Welcome to new member, Donna J. Nord from West Des Moines!
Donna's enthusiasm will be an asset to SAPIIC.*



WALNUT GROVE

MOWED INTERPRETIVE TRAIL (TYPICAL)

GRAVE MARKER (TYP)

EDUCATIONAL MONUMENT

SPECIMAN NATIVE TREE (TYPICAL)

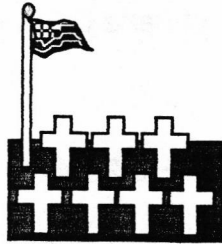
NATIVE GRASSES WILDFLOWERS

PARKING W/ SPLIT RAIL FENCE AROUND

SPRINGER STREET

TENNESSEE PIONEER CEMETERY
LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

NORTH
APPROXIMATE SCALE 1" = 50'



THE HICKMAN PIONEER CEMETERY

If the Madison County Genealogical Society has its way, this famous Iowa county won't be known just for its bridges. Calvin and Ethel McVay and their friend Gene Golightly, members of the Society, are determined to restore at least one neglected pioneer burial site each year in this southern Iowa county which is about a thirty-minute drive from Des Moines. Their persistence may give Madison County the distinction of being the first county in Iowa to have all its cemeteries identified, restored, and preserved!

Last summer, they spent about eighty hours in sweltering Iowa heat cleaning the cemetery grounds and repairing grave markers. The satisfaction they have found in seeing the Hickman Cemetery start to develop into the beautiful, serene place it once was has made them eager to return to the site to finish the job. As soon as weather permits this spring, they will travel down a county dirt road and then a mile or more through a bumpy farm field to tend the graves of early Madison County residents. They will be reminded that friends and families of these pioneers gathered to pay their last respects in this cemetery located in Grand River Township in the southwest corner of the county as early as 1860. Calvin and Gene will be found raking off the trash, witching, and probing for more fallen stones and bases. So far, they have found nineteen stones, but they are sure there are more. Hickman is typical of pioneer burial sites in that it probably was much larger in its original state. Most have had their perimeters violated over the years by livestock grazing, cultivation of crops, animal burrows, and plant growth. The graves that were originally around the edges may never be positively identified or reclaimed, but that won't stop these dedicated volunteers from trying. Last summer, they spent less than \$400.00 for epoxy, crushed rock, and other materials which was financed by the township trustees. After restoration is complete, it is hoped the trustees will keep it in respectable condition.

The inscriptions on the stones reveal the following genealogical information:

HICKMAN Kitturah B wife of R M Hickman died Dec. 8, 1884

HICKMAN Emry son of H I & M A Hickman died Nov 28, 1875

HICKMAN Joseph E son of H & M Hickman July 1, 1875

PEARSON James W into consort of Jane C Pearson died Dec 24, 1863
PEARSON Jane C died Aug 26, 1875
PEARSON Bessie M dau of S H & E J Pearson June 20, 1887 - July 17, 1887
THOMAS Melville I son of F & G Thomas died Aug 18, 1860
RAWLINGS Elizabeth wife of I L Rawlings died Jan 22, 1860
RAWLINGS Catherine J dau of I L & E Rawlings died June 17, 1860
RAWLINGS James died Sept 3, 1858
RAWLINGS James son of Robert T & M J Rawlings died Sept 30, 1862
SCOTT Warren O son of J G & L J Scott died May 17, 1876
SCOTT Mary M dau of J G & E S Scott died Aug 29, 1864
SCOTT Emmareta & Acenath children of J G & E S Scott died Jan 11, 1864
CRAWFORD Lafayette T son of F A & V Crawford Feb 26, 1872
CRAWFORD Hulda A dau of F A & V Crawford Oct 20, 1865
FUNK Sarah died May 29, 1877
WARREN Ezra T son of D M & E A Warren died Nov 26, 1881
BROWN Charlie K only son of E & E A Brown died July 6, 1875
RAWLINGS Anna died Mar 1, 1862

*A new two-hour video documentary has just been released titled "Death in America." It chronicles three hundred years of death in the United States featuring cemeteries from the sixteenth century to the contemporary memorial parks of today. Contact your local PBS station's programming department for scheduling of the video. The video is available at a cost of \$39.00 plus S&H from these sources: WYIN at 800-276-5656 or via Black Mirror Films at 800-322-6502 and the following website:
<http://www.deathinamerica.com>*

Wallaces Farmer

The Way it Was

Tireless cemetery restoration worker achieves success

It would be next to impossible to find anyone more dedicated, or more tireless on behalf of a cause, than 80-year-old Dean Gipple, of Columbus Junction, Iowa. Nor would it be easy to find a more unusual cause.

For 30 years Gipple has had one special goal in mind. That has been to stop the neglect and deterioration of rural cemeteries in which tens of thousands of Iowa's pioneers have been laid to rest.

While still an active Louisa County farmer in the 1960s, he began his campaign to clean up a designed to give authority to county supervisors instead of township trustees, establish County Cemetery Commissions, and change the tax basis from agricultural land alone to rural and urban property equally.

The proposal became law and is now in force. At last count more than 300 cement bases had been poured in 16 rural cemeteries. Many others are on the "drawing boards."

The legislative action not only has marked the beginning of the renovation of many neglected cemeteries, but has also resulted in generous monetary contributions.

In addition, the Trees Forever Foundation has expressed interest in contributing trees for

large rural cemetery near his farm. Many grave-stones were broken, leaning badly or sinking.

Little, if anything, was being done to mow the grass or clean out weeds and debris.

Stones erected before Iowa became a state in 1846, and many others established before 1900, had inscriptions hard to read. Deterio-

ration was steadily continuing in that cemetery, and in many others throughout Iowa.

To Gipple it was pure desecration of the dead.

A 150-year-old Iowa statute authorizing township trustees to assure rural cemetery upkeep forsaken cemeteries.

Financial assistance from Cenex Land O' Lakes has enabled the Louisa County project, to obtain a mower now used in 14 refurbished rural cemeteries.

Unquestionably, Gipple and his wife, Ruth, deserve much of the credit for the revival of interest in Southeast Iowa rural cemetery revitalization, but both are quick to acknowledge many other individuals and organizations. They include the State Archeological Society, county genealogical societies, churches, County Farm Bureaus, Heritage Expo, Iowa Genealogical Society, County Cemetery Commissions, Masonic Lodges, Iowa FFA Association,

clearly was not working. No funds were available. Nothing was being done.

At age 74, and already experiencing health problems, Gipple could bear the neglect of rural cemeteries no longer. He organized a group of volunteers, contributed several thousand dollars of his own money, went into court several times and became more and more disgusted with nepotism and pork barrel politics. To prove something could be done to erase the graveyard eyesores, he supervised a cleanup, and at his own expense, had 162 new cement bases poured under sagging gravestones.

Next, a County Cemetery Commission was formed. Other cemeteries schools, State 4-H Committee, County Cemetery Associations, and others, including the state of Iowa,

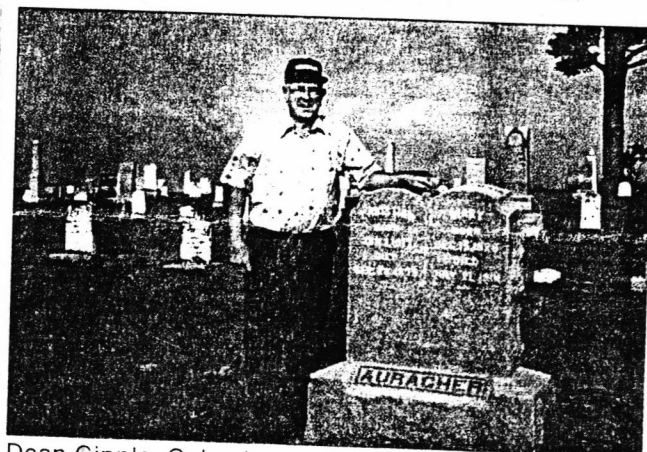
As for individuals, the name of Paul Maddy, 76, of Perry, must stand at the

in the county were rehabilitated. In one case 4-H girls undertook the cleanup and contributed \$400 for repairing and refurbishing. In another situation FFA members did the same thing. It was obvious to all that people themselves, young and old, were willing to improve their ancestors' final resting place. Equally evident was the fact that the 150-year-old archaic law was useless.

Although suffering from heart problems, cancer and a diabetic condition, Gipple became a leader in a 14-member State Cemetery Commission. The Louisa County farmer drafted a bill for the Iowa Legislature to consider making a change. The proposed measure was head of the list. A government retiree for 13 years, and now vice president of the State Cemetery Association, he has devoted the past 13 years to restoring old Iowa cemeteries.



BY HERB PLAMBECK



Dean Gipple, Columbus Junction, Iowa, spearheaded a successful movement to refurbish deteriorating rural cemeteries in Iowa.

A sign such as this one at your cemetery could explain your goals with regard to stone repair, landscaping, and research and could recruit volunteers!

A Graveyard Preservation Primer

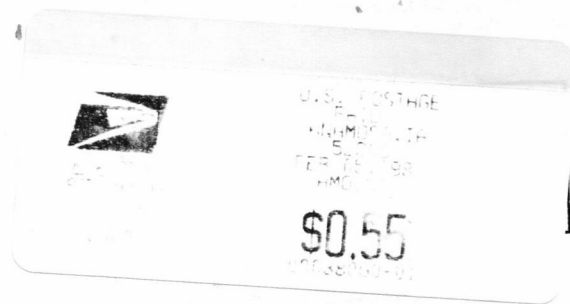
By Lynette Strangstad

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Figure 3. An example of an attractive sign that provides important information. Photograph by the author.

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