

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
IOWA CEMETERIES

Volume #3 Issue #2

April, 1998

No Stone Unturned.....

Exciting things are happening with SAPIC! We are going to have a training video on grave stone repair very soon, thanks to the expertise of project coordinator, Pat Palmer, of Franklin County. Pat has engaged the help of the local cable TV company in Perry to make the video. Filming will take place in the Perry Cemetery and will feature various stone repair methods developed by Paul Maddy. The first session will take place on May 2. We will have these videos for sale at Expo or if you'd like to reserve a copy for your genealogical library, contact Pat Palmer at 114 3rd Avenue NE, Hampton, IA 50441, e-mail: < yankeez@willowtree.com >

Several SAPIC members, along with Iowa Genealogical Society President, Don Southwood and his wife, Marietta, were on hand for a signing ceremony on April 14 at the Capitol Building in Des Moines naming the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month." Governor Branstad was quite supportive of our efforts regarding pioneer cemetery preservation. If you'd like a photo for your local newspaper of the Governor signing this proclamation, please request one from Pat Shaw, 7472 Slide Rock Rd., Anamosa, IA 52205. Phone 319-489-3361. E-mail: < patshaw@netins.net >

Sincere thanks to Paul and Joyce Maddy for their help in arranging the meeting room at the Perry Public Library and for their hospitality to SAPIC members during the weekend of April 10-11.

SAPIC will be sponsoring three sessions at the Expo '98 Conference at the State Historical Building in Des Moines on Saturday, June 13:

10:00 a.m. Training Video on stone repair with Pat Palmer.

1:15 p.m. Training Video or slides with Paul Maddy. Question and Answer session.

2:45 p.m. Slides and panel discussion by Jones County FFA members on their restoration of cemeteries last summer.

For a brochure containing registration materials, contact Lynda J. Wessel. 515-281-5229 < lwessel@max.state.ia.us >

THE AVERAGE MAN'S LIFE CONSISTS OF TWENTY YEARS OF HAVING HIS MOTHER ASK HIM WHERE HE IS GOING, FORTY YEARS OF HAVING HIS WIFE ASK THE SAME QUESTION; AND AT THE END, THE MOURNERS ASKING THE SAME QUESTION!

The next SAPIC meeting will be held on July 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church located at 19th and Nebraska St. (Nebraska Street exit off J-29) in Sioux City, Iowa. The Genealogical Society has its meeting the same day and place at 12:30 p.m. Please come!

Thanks to all who attended and contributed so much to the April meeting. Clarke and Jackson Counties each brought a car load!

Iowa Prairie Network Proposes Cooperation

The following article appeared in a recent issue of the IPN newsletter. Author Pam White was at the Jan. 10 SAPI meeting in Oskaloosa.

The Iowa Prairie Network (IPN) is an organization whose purpose is to learn about, teach about, enjoy and protect Iowa's prairie heritage. The IPN understands and respects the importance of preserving our pioneer history. The human and botanical components of our heritage are so closely intertwined that anything that benefits one aspect would certainly help the other also. It seems that there is a terrific opportunity here for cooperation between the IPN and the State Association of Pioneer Cemeteries. IPN members would be glad to provide expertise and assistance with identification and propagation of the native plants that played a significant part in the lives of these pioneers. Some members may even be able to help locate some hidden cemeteries.

Initially, IPN members could help inspect areas to evaluate whether there are native grasses and flowers present. When it was decided where prairie plants were desired, IPN members could advise how to best encourage these native plants to prosper and proliferate. They could assist with such tasks as brush removal and collecting seeds from some areas and planting them in others, thus saving money and preserving the local ecotype.

Many IPN members would be interested in helping with these projects or would at least be able to suggest someone who would. Please contact your nearest IPN board member (see listing) or call me at 515-673-3508 so we can begin working together.

Region 1--Northwest Iowa

David Zahrt
22133 Larpentevr Rd.
Turin, IA 51050
712-353-6772

Maria & Rex Rundquist
3131 Norman Dr.
Sioux City, IA 51104
712-255-3136

Region 2--Northern Iowa

David Hanson
20230 Cardinal
Clear Lake, IA 50428
515-357-3665

Region 3--Northeast Iowa

Bruce Stiles
4335 Logan Ave.
Waterloo, IA 50703

Carole Kern, Membership
319-235-9907

John Herdrick, Treasurer
PO Box 261
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
319-276-3082 Home
319-273-2813 Work

Region 4--Southwest Iowa

Glen Pollock, IPN President
6736 Laurel
Omaha, NE 68104
402-571-6230

Chad Graeve
Hitchcock Nature Area
RR Box 102
Honey Creek, IA 51542

Region 5--Central Iowa

Tom Scherer
4120 Ardmore
Des Moines, IA
515-274-5821

Cindy Hildebrand
Stargrass, RR #2
Ames, IA 50010
515-232-3807

Region 6--Southeast Iowa

Glenda Buenger
2282 Teller Ave.
Rose Hill, IA 52586
515-632-8308

Martha Skillman
107 So B St., Apt 2
Fairfield, IA 52556
515-472-1459

Region 7--Eastern Iowa
Casey Kohrt, IPN Vice President
2132 16th St.
Rock Island, IL 61201
319-289-3731

Carol G. Rogers
1103 E. Garfield St.
Davenport, IA 52803
319-324-8897

Cooperating and networking with other organizations such as IPN can be beneficial to SAPIC. Here's another example:

Dean Gipple is working with the Iowa Nutgrowers Association and has made a contact to purchase grafted walnut trees for planting in cemeteries. Their secretary, Mary Hayes, was at SAPIC's April 11 meeting. Her address is: 4767 NW 50th; Des Moines, IA 50310.

MIKE MAGEE'S ACTIVITIES IN BLACKHAWK COUNTY

UPCOMING CEMETERY RESTORATION AND REPAIR AND SPEAKING PROJECTS IN MY AREA WILL BE RESTORATION AND REPAIR WORK AT LESTER TWP CEMETERY, ORGANIZING A CEMETERY REPAIR PROJECT IN BUCHANAN COUNTY, CONTINUE WORK IN SPRING CREEK TWP. CEMETERY. HAVE A DEMONSTRATION AT A LOCAL CEMETERY DURING THE GROUT MUSEUM CEMETERY TOUR EVENT IN MAY. CONDUCT A PROGRAM ABOUT SAPIC AT THE MAY MEETING OF THE NORTHEAST IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AND ALSO THE BENNINGTON TWP. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING IN JUNE. HOPE TO HAVE A DEMONSTRATION OF GRAVEMARKER REPAIR TECHNIQUES AT THE BLACK HAWK COUNTY FAIR THIS SUMMER.

ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE REPAIR OF 44 VANDALIZED GRAVEMARKERS AT OAKDALE CEMETERY IN OELWEIN, IOWA. I HOPE TO ATTEND THE BURNING OF THE PRAIRIE GRASS PROJECT AT THE BENNINGTON TWP. CEMETERY THIS SPRING.

Mike also gave a talk at a genealogy class at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo.

CEMETERIES, GRAVEMARKERS AND SYMBOLS BUS TOUR

**SATURDAY, MAY 16, 9:00-4:00
SPONSORED BY GROUT MUSEUM, WATERLOO
\$25.00 PER PERSON
MORNING COFFEE, LUNCHEON, AFTERNOON
SNACKS INCLUDED**

*Mike Magee can give you more information
319-232-8762 <GenieMan@aol.com>*

VISIT SAPIC'S WEB SITE!

<http://pw1.netcom.com/~rbowler/sapic.html>

THANKS TO RAY BOWLER, CARLISLE!

WHILE YOU'RE ON THE INTERNET, CHECK OUT THE RESTORATION EFFORTS IN JONES COUNTY.....

www.rootsweb.com/~iajones/cemetery/restore.htm

ONE POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CEMETERY LISTINGS IS THE GNIS DATABASE AT THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. IT CONTAINS ABOUT 109,000 CEMETERIES LISTED IN ALL 50 STATES. GO TO THE QUERY PAGE AND ENTER THE STATE ABBREVIATION:

<http://www-nmd.usgs.gov/www.gnis/gnisform.html>

The Genealogy Forum on America Online (Keyword: ROOTS) features a weekly column called "Along Those Lines..." by George G. Morgan. The April 17 topic was titled, "Planning Cemetery Trips."

#####

Cleaning and Conserving Gravestones

Before cleaning any gravestone, check the condition of the stone. If the surface of the stone is a sugary surface that readily falls away, or other conditions exist that indicate that the stone is brittle, or otherwise vulnerable, DO NOT CLEAN! Cleaning may irreparably damage the surface. Second, be careful, be gentle. Cracked stones may split. Old gravestones can be easily separated from their bases, or broken off from the base entirely with the pressure of brushing/cleaning. The suggested cleaning process is as follows:

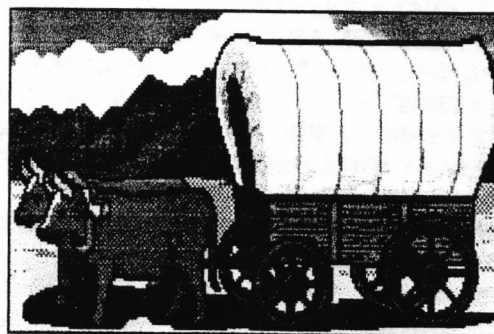
1. Use a non-ionic soap to clean the stone. One of the easiest soaps to obtain for this purpose is "ORVUS" commonly used in association with horse and sheep husbandry and available from feed stores. Mix a solution of one heaping tablespoon of ORVUS (a detergent that comes in either liquid or paste form) to one gallon of clean water.
2. Pre-wet the stone thoroughly with clean water and keep the stone wet during the entire washing process.
3. Thoroughly wash the pre-wet stone using natural bristled, wooden handled brushes of various sizes. The use of plastic handles or brushes is NOT recommended, as color from the handles may leave material on the stones that will be very difficult to remove.
4. Be thorough. Wash all surfaces and rinse thoroughly with lots of clean water.
5. When cleaning marble or limestone, one tablespoon of household ammonia can be added to the above mixture to help remove some greases and oils. DO NOT use ammonia on or near any bronze or other metal elements.
6. Lichens and algae can be removed by first thoroughly soaking the stone and then using a

wooden scraper to gently remove the biological growth. This process may need to be repeated several times to remove this material.

7. Not all stains can be removed. Do not expect the stones to appear new after cleaning.
8. Do not clean gravestones more than once every 18-24 months. Every cleaning removes a small amount of the face of the stone.
9. Keep a simple treatment record of the cleaning, including the date, materials used, and change in condition since the last cleaning so that the condition of the stones can be monitored over time.

This was forwarded from Linda Hoppe in NW Iowa and used with permission of the original sender, Robert L. Cook of Austin, TX. His personal comments follow:

I guess I'm somewhat of an old country boy about this, but I kind of like finding the old gravestones with moss growing on their faded, weathered surfaces. They, like our family members that they remember, have taken the blistering heat of our summers, the bitter cold and ice of many winters, the wind, the rain and the test of the decades. Sometimes you have to wait until the sun is high in the sky so each line is shadowed to be able to read/photograph the engraving. The wait for this daily event gives you time to remember these folks, their families, their struggle to survive, and to get to know a little more about their surroundings, and the conditions where they lived. Give it a try on a pretty day this spring. However, I too have wished that the "markings" were clear and readable so that everyone would know who my people were and when they were here, in this place.



Plotting Old Cemeteries

Donna Story of West Union uses this very effective method: < dstory@trxinc.com >

She uses a landscaping computer program called Softkey, but other programs allowing one to "put in lines will do."

1. Measure the outline of the cemetery. One can witch to determine the perimeter.
2. Using a fence as a beginning point, measure to the first row headstone. This headstone may be above the ground--or you probe for it. We witch and probe for headstone rows.
3. Now we use two fences--a north and west or "L" shaped measure. In other words, not a north and south. We measure the headstone row from both fences and place a number on the map. We probe for the next grave (headstone) and make the second mark. We work our way across the cemetery on one row using the same two fences for the anchor points.
4. The next step is to find the second row. In older cemeteries, we have been surprised at how close the rows are to each other. If you find footstones, you get a better idea of where the headstone might be. Some rows seem to be about 8 feet from the footstone to the headstone and about one foot more for the next footstone in the next row. Sometimes the rows are about 9 to 10 feet apart.
5. I place a number on the paper (I use graph paper) which corresponds to the location of the grave in relationship to the anchor fences. I also keep records on a separate sheet of paper by marking the number we assign to the stone, and the location such as "#1--10 feet from south fence and 8 feet from east fence." If the stone has a name, I also state the name on the stone ie. #1 John Jones, 10' from south --8' from east; #2 Mary Jones, 14' from south and 8' from east, etc.

Locating Cemeteries from Maps

These comments are taken from the CEMETERY-L@rootsweb.com notesfile. Contributor < tagg@woodside.k12.ca.us >

Driving around looking for cemeteries might be fun but not very productive. Other NORCALers have given ideas about asking church, undertaker, officials, etc. Someone mentioned looking on maps. My own overall experience is that the very best source is USGS quadrangle maps, preferable at the scale of 1:24000 (1 inch = 2000 feet). These are the standard USGS now and cover the entire US. You can look in the GNIS which is available on CD from all NAMED cemeteries shown on the maps. It will NOT show you cemeteries that are not named. These are identified on the maps either by a dashed line outline with a cross within or by the term "Cem" by a dashed line outline. I have asked the USGS in Menlo Park, CA if there is a listing of the "Cem" or cross designations. Apparently there is not. This means one has to inspect every map and note the locations somehow. I've made an overlay that helps to quickly find the latitude and longitude or the UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator--a 1000 meter rectangular grid which is a little easier because the dimensions are the same E-W and N-S). The grid lines are not shown on the map, but are indicated by edge ticks and interieo +; you'll have to draw you own lines. Note this lat-lon or UTM in a notebook as well as some notes about highways, roads, distance from roads, whatever. Transfer the location to a smaller scale map; Delorme, Metsker AAA, USGS, or USForest Service. It is laborious but whatever you do in the map library will save hours in the field.

Where are the maps? You can call 1-800-USA-MAPS to find the repository in your state or get a free catalog for your state.

Note: Most county Recorder's Offices in Iowa sell plat books containing similar information.

The Spring 1998 issue of the *Woodbury County Genealogical Society* newsletter titled *The Wahkaw* has several very interesting articles about cemeteries:

Special area at cemetery holds 'forgotten soldiers' by Paul Struck, writer for the *Sioux City Journal*. The article focuses on Wolcott Circle in Graceland Cemetery in Sioux City, an area designated for indigent war veterans.

How Tombstones Started from *Jwiggs*, NW IN G.S., etal. This short historical essay tells the reader that gravestones were first placed on burials out of a sense of fear that the dead might return, thus the tomb was weighted down with a stone.

Old rural cemeteries take work features the work of caretakers Jane Wahl in Maquoketa, The Vogeles family in the Quad City area, and the Halligan-McCabe Funeral Home in Davenport.

Cemeteries: Dress right for exploring, an article that appeared in the May 27, 1884 edition of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, outlines the burial practices of several nationalities and includes some unique epitaphs.

A couple of tips from Woodbury Co. genealogists: (1) *fresh corn cobs and/or styrofoam successfully removes buildup of moss and dirt on old tombstones without damaging the stones.* (2) *Holding a mirror to the side of hard-to-read inscriptions and reflecting sunlight onto them makes them easier to read and does no damage to the stone.*

Collector's Hobby is Past tells about Clarence Flemming's concerns about an old Catholic Cemetery near his home in the Correctionville, Iowa area.

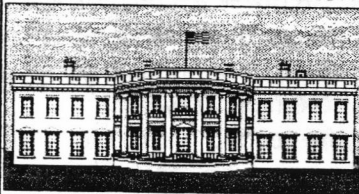
Youth Looks at Old Art, a photo by Ed Porter, shows 13-year old Angela Powell of Hornick, Iowa inspecting some tombstone art that was part of a display by the Woodbury County Genealogical Society .

Crowds Flock to First Cremation from Scott County, Iowa, September 1994 tells of the first cremation in Iowa in the 1890's in Davenport.

Beware of witches' graveyard--Ignoring curse may be fatal by Dave Bakke. Several legends of Loon Lake Cemetery, also known as the witches' graveyard, near Spirit Lake, Iowa are told by local people.

Unwanted tombstones get new life from the *Sioux City Journal*, February 1, 1998 reports on the dubious practice of selling supposedly abandoned gravestones for lawn ornaments, retaining walls, stepping stones, and to put on unmarked graves.

Pollution threatens historic cemetery from the *Sioux City Journal*, July 2, 1997 tells of the neglect of and rescue efforts in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington DC.



If you'd like a copy of this very well-compiled genealogical newsletter containing all these articles and many more, you may order one from the Woodbury County Genealogical Society; PO Box 624; Sioux City, IA 51102-0624. Cost is \$3.00.

A tip from SAPIC's master "net surfer," Mike Magee: If you'd like to see news articles about cemeteries, find the home pages of major newspapers. Most have a link to their archives where you can type in the search word "cemetery" and pull up all past articles that mention that word. The web site is usually given in the newspaper, but using a search engine is successful in locating addresses. For example, the web site of the Cedar Rapids Gazette is

< www.GazetteOnline.com >

The TATE ASSOCIATION For The PRESERVATION OF IA CEMETERIES (Membership as of 31 March 1998)

* 1	Ahrendsen, Rosalie	7922 Jungle Town Rd.	Oxford Junction, IA	52323	319 488-3138
2	Allan, Larry	2806 Rutland	Des Moines, IA	50311	
* 3	Beason, Mary E. (Molly)	P. O. Box 126	Deep River, IA	52222	515 595-6770
* 4	Ballinger, Margaret M.	P. O. Box 2544	La Mesa, CA	91943	619 593-1993
* 5	Booram, Richard	2133 Fairview Dr.	Cedar Falls, IA	50613	
* 6	Bottin, Carol	124 E. Main, Apt. 13	New Hampton, IA	50659	515 394-4343
7	Briley, Jane	707 W. Fremont	Creston, IA	50801	515 782-4525
* 8	Brokaw, Marjorie	602 E. Buchanan	Winterset, IA	50273	515 462-2969
* 9	Bunting, Dwight	1124 Clearview Dr.	Oskaloosa, IA	52577	515 673-3579
* 10	Carter, Phyllis E.	2305 - 180th St.	Washington, IA	52353	319 653-6339
* 11	Caven, Jo Ann	12901 - 119th Ave.	Maquoketa, IA	52060	319 652-2516
12	Chickasaw County Gen. Soc.	P. O. Box 434	New Hampton, IA	50659	
* 13	Clark, Shirley M.	1405 S. Elm	Jefferson, IA	50129	515 386-4905
* 14	Clarke County Cemetery Assn.	309 S. Dewey	Osceola, IA	50213	
* 15	Cline, Beverly	1002 N. 4th Ave.	Winterset, IA	50273	515 462-2269
16	Cochran, Susan K.	517 Brookeway	Florence, CO	81226	
* 17	Crain, Harley E.	17126 - 68th Ave. W.	Edmonds, WA	98026	425 743-6549
* 18	Cross, Ardene	P. O. Box 55	Clutier, IA	52217	319 429-2518
19	Cross, Beverly D.	P. O. Box 93	Baxter, IA	50028	515 227-3391
20	Crowe, Ruth H.	350 S. Glenwood Ave.	Glendora, CA	91741	818 335-8847
21	Davies, Dennis R.	2086 Highway 4	Panora, IA	50216	515 755-2236
* 22	Davis, Larry D.	5716 Kingman Ave.	Des Moines, IA	50311	515 277-4917
* 23	Decorah Genealogical Assn.	202 Winnebago	Decorah, IA	52101	
* 24	Des Moines County Gen. Soc.	P. O. Box 493	Burlington, IA	52601	
* 25	Dickey, Donetta S.	P. O. Box 743	Smithfield, VA	23431	804 357-0704
* 26	Dundee, John A.	402 1st Center Ave.	Brodhead, WI	53520	608 897-4776
* 27	Ellis, Frances A.	8407 Spanish Rd. SW	Cedar Rapids, IA	52404	
* 28	Fisher-Hargrave, Sheila M.	1750 W. Columbia	Chicago, IL	60626	312 262-4052
29	Foster, Tammra K.	837 - 13th St.	West Des Moines, IA	50265	515 225-9232
30	Francis, Steve	1628 - 185th St.	Creston, IA	50801	
* 31	Franklin County Gen. Soc.	4 Federal St. S.	Hampton, IA	50441	515 - 456 4268
* 32	Gipple, Dean H.	307 Flat Iron Dr.	Columbus Junction, IA	52738	319 728-2344
* 33	Greene County Gen. Soc.	P. O. Box 133	Jefferson, IA	50129	
* 34	Hall, Ruth Ann	408 E. Salem	Indianola, IA	50125	
* 35	Henry, Maxine	2490 - 50th Ave.	New Virginia, IA	50210	515 449-3682
* 36	Hixon, Charlene	2649 Hickory Trail	Iowa City, IA	52245	319 338-3456
37	Horton, Loren N.	3367 Havover Ct.	Iowa City, IA	52245	319 351-5842
38	Jasper County Cemetery Comm.	P. O. Box 994	Newton, IA	50208	
* 39	Jeffers, Frances M.	507 Jefferson St.	Decorah, IA	52101	319 382-4473
* 40	Jones County Gen. Soc.	P. O. Box 174	Anamosa, IA	52205	
* 41	Keo-Mah Genealogical Society	P. O. Box 616	Oskaloosa, IA	52577	
42	Kinkade, Marjorie	613 N. Chestnut	Creston, IA	50801	515 782-2503
* 43	Libby, Robert J.	809 S. 7th Ave.	Iowa City, IA	52240	319 337-5251
44	Louisa County Cemetery Comm.		Wapello, IA	52653	

* 1998 Dues Paid.

The STATE ASSOCIATION For The PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES (Membership as of 31 Mar 1998)

45	Louisa County Gen. Soc.	607 James L. Hodges Hwy.	Wapello, IA	52653		
* 46	Lucas County Gen. Soc.	803 Braden Ave.	Chariton, IA	50049		
* 47	Macy, Kristin L.	P. O. Box 103	Des Moines, IA	50301	515	287-9136
48	Maddy, Paul	1515 Warford St.	Perry, IA	50220	515	465-3472
* 49	Madison County Gen. Soc.	P. O. Box 26	Winterset, IA	50273		
* 50	Magee, Michael J.	638 Englewood	Waterloo, IA	50701	319	232-8762
* 51	Mahaska Co. Comm. for the Preserv. of Pioneer Cemeteries	1240 - 235th St.	Leighton, IA	50143	515	673-8122
* 52	Mahaska County Hist. Soc.	P. O. Box 578	Oskaloosa, IA	52577		
* 53	Marlin, Kenneth	P. O. Box 134	Anamosa, IA	52205		
* 54	Matthews, William H.	10791 - 77th St.	Wapello, IA	52653	319	523-5141
* 55	McCleary, Eleanor B.	906 Sunrise Circle	Muscatine, IA	52761	319	264-1495
* 56	McVay, Calvin R.	605 E. Buchanan	Winterset, IA	50273	515	462-9802
* 57	Miller, Edna L.	1315 Houston	Grand Junction, CO	81501	970	242-9302
58	Miller, Irma	1002 N. Vine	Creston, IA	50801		
* 59	Monroe County Gen. Soc.	203 Benton Ave. E.	Albia, IA	52531		
* 60	Moore, Wayne	2193 Racine Ave.	New London, IA	52645		
* 61	Nishnabotna Gen. Soc.	1709 - 20th St.	Harlan, IA	51537		
* 62	Nord, Donna J.	2105 S. 1st	West Des Moines, IA	50265	515	287-4379
* 63	Nordman, Anna	315 E. Green	Clarksville, IA	50619		
* 64	Ogren, Valerie J.	108 N. Oak	Jefferson, IA	50129	515	386-4784
* 65	Pederson, Harvey P.	40306 - 80th Ave.	Thompson, IA	50478	515	584-2895
66	Poweshiek Co. Hist. & Gen. S.	P. O. Box 280	Montezuma, IA	50171		
* 67	Poweshiek Co. Pion. Cem. Assn.	875 - 495th Ave.	Montezuma, IA	50171		
* 68	Rothlauf, Phyllis	1806 Sunnyside	Burlington, IA	52601		
* 69	Sanders, Marian	585 Heather Ave.	Alden, IA	50006		
70	Schmitt, Marilyn	13059 S. 52nd W.	Mitchelville, IA	50169	515	674-3956
* 80	Shaw, Patricia I.	7472 Slide Rock Rd.	Anamosa, IA	52205	319	489-3361
81	Sieck, Ted	P. O. Box 283	Irwin, IA	51446	712	782-3300
* 82	Sorenson, Richard W.	307 W. Pleasant	Maquoketa, IA	52060	319	652-2187
83	Steinmetz, Gottfried	R R 1	Homestead, IA	52236		
* 84	Story, Steve	401 Smith St.	West Union, IA	52175		
* 85	Street, Keith M.	325 Franklin St.	Wapello, IA	52653	319	523-8164
* 86	Thomas, E. Elmer	812 Union St.	Columbus Junction, IA	52738	319	728-8982
87	Union County Gen. Soc.	310 N. Maple	Creston, IA	50801		
* 89	Veldhuizen, Bryce	3261 James Trail	Eddyville, IA	52553	515	969-5385
* 90	Wade, Rosemary	9095 Koestner Ave.	Burlington, IA	52601	319	752-5594
* 91	Wiese, Joyce A.	2160 - 310th St.	Toledo, IA	52342	515	484-2599
* 92	Wilson, Maureen	9107 Tanglewood Dr.	Urbandale, IA	50322	515	252-0929
* 93	Zahs, Michael D.	251 Harding Ave.	Haskins Ainsworth, IA	52201	319	653-6250

* 1998 Dues Paid.

- * 94 Jerry and Marilyn Finke Kansas City, MO
- * 95 Marion County Genealogical Society Knoxville, IA

Please review this membership list and let us know if your membership status is incorrect. Thanks, Pat Shaw

Information From the Jackson County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

#1 - Crabb Cemetery

A very small burial grounds, less than 1/4 acre, placed on a small knoll. Perhaps 20 to 30 burials from the mid 1800's until about 1925. This cemetery was located in a small town called Crabbtown with a school, church, mill and other businesses all located along the Maquoketa River. All buildings have vanished except for the school house which has been moved a short distance away to be used for farm storage. After many hours of research we have not found any records of this area ever being given or sold to our county. It is believed that the persons buried there are Crabb descendants. The WPA listed only one name and burial but since that time several other stones have been found. There are many pieces of bases and stones, most have been rooted out by pigs as it had been a hog lot for many years. Some have washed down the bank and are probably buried in the mud as there is a great deal of erosion in this area. The cemetery is located at a 'T' intersection of 2 county roads, about 100 yards from the road. The surrounding farm was recently sold to a young farmer and he most likely has a loan on the property. In a recent phone conversation he related he "didn't care very much about the cemetery - one way or another." He did say he would cooperate with the Commission but didn't want to spend any money on it.

Our needs are:

- County ownership of land without survey or purchase
- Access to cemetery
- Stop the erosion - fence and gate
- Monument recovery and repair

#2 - Tilton Cemetery

This cemetery is located 4 miles north of Maquoketa, between old and new highway 61. It is approximately 1 acre in size. Some believe there had also been a church near the cemetery. The fence has been gone for many years and since the cemetery is in a pasture, livestock have not been fenced out. The WPA list includes approximately 50 names of burials, but we feel there were probably more. Stones were probably already broken and under ground at the time the list was made. There are many trees throughout the cemetery that need to be taken out. The erosion is extreme due to cattle spending time under the trees and using the stones to rub on leaving only a few stones that remain standing. Most all are in need of repair, and many pieces are partially or completely underground. There have been many phone calls from concerned relatives on the condition of and access to the cemetery.

More background on the cemetery: In September 1894, a Mr. Jackson sold the property the cemetery is on to Mr. Shattuch and the deed reads: Exception one (1) acre graveyard in the northwest corner there of -

In November 1853, Jones and Dorothy Edwards sold for \$1.00, 2 acres of land in this section to the Methodist Episcopal Church Trustees for the use and purpose of a place of worship. The description on the deed is very complicated and perhaps not completely correct. More research is needed to see if part of this 2 acres became a cemetery.

A 1948 Platt book has the cemetery marked. The last burial was in 1952, when the pallbearers carried the casket into the cemetery and the burial was in an unmarked grave. The present owners, 3 young brothers, knew the cemetery was in their pasture when they made the purchase but didn't feel it had any value - historical or otherwise. They do not like the idea of people going through their farmyard, fields or pasture which would be approximately 1/4 mile. There is no mention of the cemetery on their warranty deed dated 1988. It appears they, and perhaps previous owners, have been paying taxes on this one acre.

Our needs are:

- County ownership of land without purchasing or survey
- Trees removed and area cleaned up,
- Erosion controlled, fenced in with gate
- Access to cemetery, monument recovery and mending

#3 Summer Hill Cemetery

This is a very small cemetery along highway #64 west of Preston. The 1940 records list 15 burials. In 1853 Isaac Elwood and his wife sold for \$5.00 one acre to School District #3, Fairfield Township for "school purposes and a public burying ground."

When the Preston schools consolidated this building was no longer used. In 1961 the school district sold to Mr. & Mrs. Schmadeke, one acre for \$750 the same legal description as the acre purchased in 1853 from the Elwoods. There was no mention of the 'burying grounds'. In 1970 Mr. & Mrs. Schmadeke sold for \$1.00 by Quit Claim deed, the same one square acre to Mr. & Mrs. Driscoll.

The rock (former school) building is now a private home and sits very close to the cemetery. One driveway off the highway serves the home and cemetery. The county trustees have furnished funds for mowing several times a year. This year a Boy Scout troop has started cleaning the fence line of brush and small trees. They also plan to do some minor monument repair. One scout is using this project to earn his Eagle Scout Badge.

Our needs are:

- County ownership of land without survey or purchase
- Permanent access
- Three large trees removed (cost of \$1200)
- Fence line cleared and a new fence
- Monument recovery and repair

Jackson County Cemetery Commission Chairperson, Joann Caven, presented these scenarios of restoration problems at SAPIC's April 11 meeting. Persons at the meeting offered advice and avenues to pursue. I'm sure many of you can identify with Jackson County's needs. If you can offer ideas, please contact Joann (see membership list in this newsletter) or Pat Shaw. Joann's presentation will guide us in writing proposals for the 1999 Legislative session, in which we will address the issues of access to cemeteries and "who owns pioneer cemeteries in the case of missing or confusing records?"

Inexpensive, durable signs (same type as you find on highways) for your cemetery can be purchased from:

IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES, Box B, Anamosa, IA 52205
Call 1-800-336-5863. Tammy Deesberg usually answers the phone.
or FAX 1-800-741-0390

You do not need a special order blank. Tell Tammy what size, color, size of lettering, and the message you want on your sign.

24" X 24"	\$26.00 for under 8 words
24" X 18"	19.50 "
24" X 12"	13.00 "

You may have 2", 3", or 4" letters. You have a choice of most any color background or lettering. If your order is over \$100.00, delivery of signs is free. It will take about 2 weeks to fill an order.

If you are interested in incorporating prairie grass and flower plantings in your pioneer cemetery, the Iowa Prairie Network also has signs. Contact people are listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Grave problem

Year 2000 glitch affects headstones

From Associated Press and Gazette staff reports

Here's another, little-known problem that will arrive with the year 2000: what to do with those prepaid gravestones that are already carved with a "19" where the year of the person's death goes.

The "19" is found mostly on companion stones, usually purchased when one spouse dies and the other wants to reserve the adjacent plot. The next two digits are supposed to be carved in when the person dies.

Most companies stopped putting "19" on prearranged headstones in the late 1970s. Others never did it, leaving the whole space blank.

"We haven't put '19' on gravestones since the 1970s for that reason," said Jerry Haight, owner of Iowa Valley Monument in Cedar Rapids. "I really don't understand why they did it in the first place.

"I probably did between 50 and 70 dates on headstones last year and only two of them had the '19' already carved. It really hasn't been

that much of a problem."

The "19" was supposed to ease the burden of funeral costs. But if those people who bought the headstones don't die by the end of 1999, their families may have some added expenses.

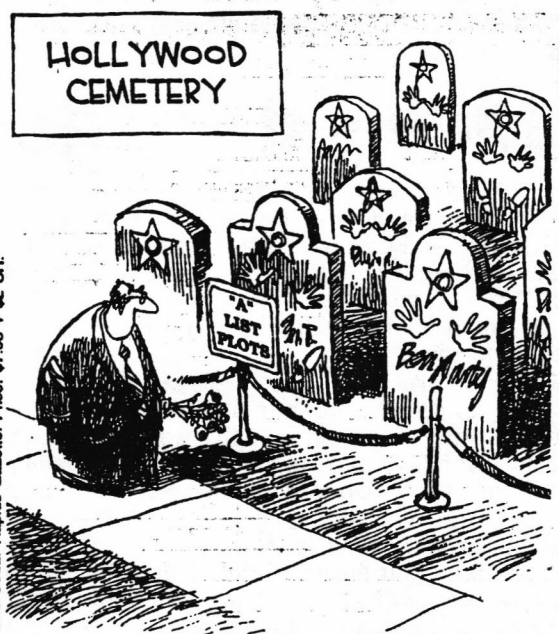
Some in the monument business say it could cost as little as \$35 to patch over the "19." But others say customers could end up paying hundreds of dollars if they want the job done right.

"We typically charge about \$95 to put the date on a stone," said Haight. "This would probably involve an extra hour's work, so you're probably looking at something less than \$200."

The problem is another part of the "Year 2000 Glitch."

Many computer systems are programmed to recognize only the last two digits in a date — thus, 2000 would be misinterpreted as 1900. A presidential council was recently created to help federal agencies that could have big computer problems when the calendar changes to 2000.

NON SEQUITUR



For Close to Home book, "Home: The Final Frontier," call 1-800-642-6480 & mention The Cedar Rapids Gazette. Price: \$7.95 + \$2 SH.

For Non-Sequitur book, "Survival Guide for the Nineties," call 1-800-642-6480 & mention The Cedar Rapids Gazette. Price: \$9.95 + \$2 SH.



Photo by Bobby Ratliff, KCRG-TV

Oelwein police investigate vandalism at Oakdale Cemetery. Vandals tipped over 44 headstones, breaking about half of them.

Vandals damage gravestones in Oelwein

By James Q. Lynch

Gazette Northeast Iowa Bureau

OELWEIN — Forty-four headstones in Oakdale Cemetery were tipped over during recent vandalism, and about half of them were broken, Oelwein police reported.

Cemetery caretaker Terry Reagan said it is impossible to put a dollar value on the damage, which was reported Monday morning, because most of the stones cannot be replaced.

Reagan and his staff will try to repair the broken stones with quarter-inch steel pins and epoxy. He estimated the repairs will cost at least \$100 per stone in time and materials.

■ Anyone with information about the vandalism is asked to call the Crime Line at 1-(800) 544-5549.

"But you can't put a price on someone's memories," he said after surveying the damage. "It's a shame."

Reagan doesn't expect many people to call him with concerns about the cemetery, which dates from the 1800s.

"We don't have people who go out there and decorate," he said, adding that since 1985 two people have been buried in the cemetery, which is in an industrial section of town.

It would be helpful if people did

come forward to ask about family members' graves, he said.

In many cases, Reagan doesn't know who is buried beneath the grave markers because the names and dates on the sandstone headstones have been worn smooth by wind and rain.

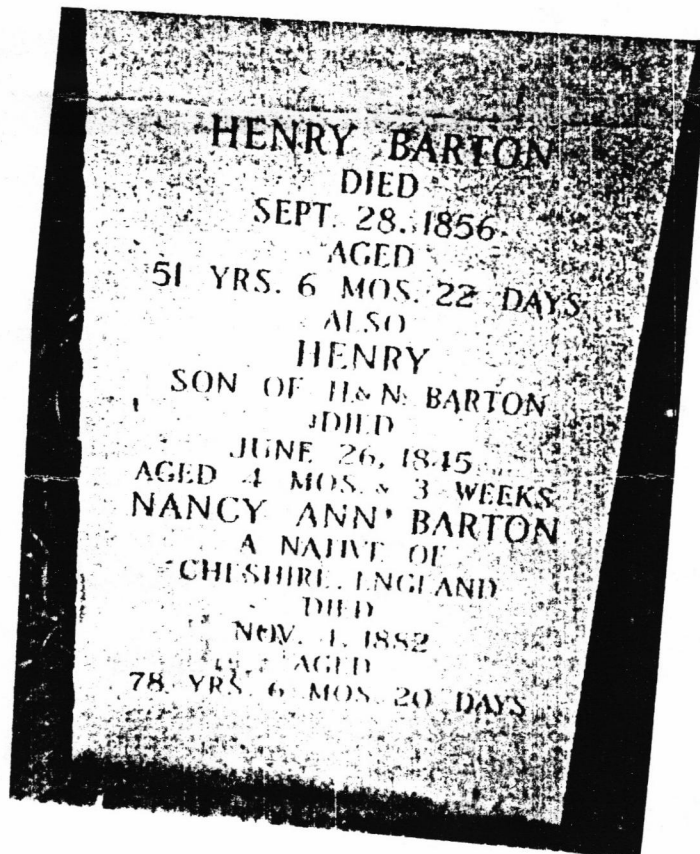
The vandalism follows the destruction of a \$16,000, hand-carved marble statue two weeks ago at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens south of Oelwein, where vandals broke the arms off a statue of Jesus Christ.

The Oelwein police are asking anyone with information about the vandalism to call the confidential Crime Line at 1-(800) 544-5549.

Henry and Nancy Wyatt Barton came to the United States from England in 1843 with their seven children. They landed at New Orleans and came up the river to Burlington IA. They were the parents of two more sons, only one of which survived. They purchased a farm where they lived until 1851 when they purchased another farm and started building a new brick home in 1856. Henry was injured in Burlington in 1856 and died at home within a few days. He is buried at Franklin Mills Cemetery in Des Moines Co IA. Nancy lived until 1882 and she is buried at Franklin Mills Cemetery also.

The descendants of Henry and Nancy Barton became concerned about the condition of the gravestones on their graves. Three descendants, Margaret Barton Timnick of Lansing Michigan, James Brimhall of WV and Gene and Joanne Barton of Osceola IA started collecting donations from other descendants in 1996 and were able to have a new monument erected this past summer. All of the information from the original stones is shown on the new stone.

Margaret Timnick is descended from Joseph and Verlina Griffith Barton of Des Moines County. James Brimhall is descended from Eliza (Barton) and Benedict Smith of Des Moines Co. Gene Barton is descended from James and Mary Jane Riggsby Barton of Clarke Co. Iowa, formerly of Des Moines Co.



Submitted by: Joanne Barton
2583 Highway 34
Osceola IA 50213-8364
Ph. 515/342-2929
e-mail: barjo@pionet.net

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries met at the Perry Public Library on Saturday, 11 April 1998. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President, Pat Shaw. Mike Magee made a motion that the meeting be declared an "open meeting". MSC

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Valerie Ogren, Secretary Pro-tem. Minutes were approved as read.

The report of Treasurer, Harley Crain, was presented by Pat Shaw. Copy attached. No bills were presented.

Old Business:

Item (1) on the agenda re: Lifetime memberships to organizations was discussed - no action taken.

Item (2) of making laws more stringent for cemetery vandals was discussed - no action taken. Pat Palmer pointed out that Iowa Code is searchable on Internet

Item (3) - Expo '98 is being held at the State Historical Building June 11-13. Presentations will be made by Paul Maddy and Pat Palmer using a video or slides to demonstrate repair methods and train others. Olin and Cascade FFA students will have a slide presentation on their project in Jones County. Pat Palmer would like to make the training video May 2 at Violet Hill Cemetery in Perry at 9 a.m. Anyone interested was invited to attend. They would especially like to have some women in the video to point out that cemetery restoration does not require a great deal of "muscle" - anyone can do it. They hope to have about 20 copies of the video available for purchase at Expo.

Item (4) - Note pads, brochures and business/membership cards - after some discussion, it seemed to be the consensus that a brochure was needed but it should be kept simple and inexpensive. Paul Maddy pledge \$300 toward the cost. Fran Jeffers made the motion that we print a black and white, Xeroxed brochure. MSC. Paul Maddy made the motion that we also have membership cards printed. MSC. It was agreed that the idea of the note pads would be tabled.

Item (5) - Pat announced that Governor Branstad will proclaim the month of May as Cemetery Appreciation Month on April 14 at 11:15. The officers and board members were requested to be present for the signing ceremony - and other SAPIC members as space allows.

Item (6) - Legislation up-date - Dean Gipple explained procedure of getting a bill passed - keep it simple. Some members were able to add info to county platform in their caucus. Re: legislation to govern cemetery access - Dean Gipple will be willing to "baby-sit" another bill, but would like to have necessary hotel expense paid. He feels that the only legislation needed is simple ingress and egress - with limitations to not damage farmers crops. By law, a descendant has every right to visit a cemetery where their ancestors are buried.

[NOTE: Since the meeting, this very issue was address in a news story on KCCI on 28 April at 10 p.m. concerning a cemetery in Cass County near Corning. The same story may be covered by the Des Moines Register.]

Pat Palmer suggested again that we visit state legislative site. Fran pointed out that not everyone has access to the Internet and we need to keep all of our members informed.

JoAnn Caven of Maquoketa presented information from the Jackson County Cemetery Commission. She gave examples of 3 cemeteries and told of their needs and challenges. The top priority in all cases seemed to be that they were told they had to prove county ownership before any dollars were spent for restoration.

Her presentation brought considerable discussion. It was pointed out that in Louisa County, the county could be forced to put in a level C (dirt) road access - trustees and commission members have authority to force public access - just a footpath provision has no legal standing.

Pat Shaw suggested that JoAnn's examples could be used in setting up proposed legislation.

New Business:

Re: July meeting - Fran Jeffers made a motion that the meeting 11 July be held in the Woodbury County area. MSC

It was agreed that we need to do more re: training others to do restoration work and organizing volunteers to assist. Dean Gipple told that in his county, a group of 4-H girls were helping with a project - emphasizing again that those of any age and sex are strong enough to do the required work.

Other needs to be addressed by SAPIC members are identification of burial sites, response to emergencies in case of vandalism, information, grants to caretakers, publicity etc.

Pat Shaw thanked Ray Bowler of Carlisle IA for providing a temporary Web Site for SAPIC. Address is pwl.netcom.com/~rbowler/sapic.html Information and ideas are welcomed.

She suggested that members contact a naturalist in their county re: prairie grass/flower plantings in Pioneer Cemeteries.

She has contacted the Iowa Genealogical Society re: articles in the Hawkeye Heritage quarterly and the IGS bi-monthly newsletter - also approached them about becoming a Special Interest Group of IGS and perhaps sharing the cost of using their P O Box as our permanent address - which is important to have continuity in communication when leadership changes.

The proposal of "weighted memberships" for organizations was discussed briefly with no action taken.

Announcements of upcoming meetings of interest included the Iowa Summit on Volunteerism June 10-11 at Drake University in Des Moines, "Adventures in Ancestry" conference in Anamosa on 12 September. Pat will be giving a presentation 5 May at the Extension Office in Winterset.

Motion was made by Mike Magee that we pay Pat Palmer up to \$500 for expense incurred in making training video and making copies. MSC.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Ogren, Secretary Pro tem

Addenda: Most of those present went across the street to the newly renovated Hotel Pattee for and enjoyable lunch and conversation in a private dining room. After lunch, a few members accompanied Paul Maddy to the Dallas Township Cemetery west of Dawson to view the results of a renovation project last summer which included power-washing the older stones to remove decades of moss encrustation, etc.

FFA chapter revitalizes decayed pioneer plots

By Kristin Danley-Greiner

Before the corn hits knee-high and after harvest, motorists traveling down Cherry Grove Road near Martel are lucky to catch a glimpse of a run-down pioneer cemetery usually sheltered by the ears of corn.

Now that the Olin Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter in Jones County has resurrected the small cemetery, that slice of pioneer-era history has a new look and a new meaning.

The chapter had collected more than 3,000 used tires and delivered them to the Jones County Landfill in return for \$1,500.

The chapter officers and their advisor, Ron Ruess, searched for a community service project where they could give the money back to the community.

As fate would have it, the chapter received a letter from the Jones County Cemetery Commission asking them to consider adopting a pioneer cemetery.

A family's history unfolds

Besides the endless hours worked by members of the FFA chapter to restore the cemetery, the chapter and Ruess researched the family history detailed on the weathered headstones. Their biographical search led them to living descendants of family members buried in the pioneer plot.

"We had two relatives' names, Harlan Mann from Idaho and James Mann from Maryland. Nick, one of the members, wrote a letter to Harlan, who called back and then sent us the Mann family

history," said Ruess. "I called James Mann and left a message on his answering machine. Two days later he called from Princeton, Iowa, near Davenport, and we met the next day to see the cemetery. He had never been there and was very appreciative of what we were doing."

The cemetery, known only as Mann Cemetery because of the headstones of several Mann family members, is actually named the Cherry Grove Cemetery. After the chapter's hard work, the cemetery is now called the Cherry Grove/Mann Cemetery.

"The Mann brothers originally came from South Dakota and settled in this area," Ruess said. "As for the ruin of the cemetery, the story goes that a farmer let his hogs root in it, but someone went to the county and he was ordered to put up barbed wire to keep out the hogs."

Hard work ahead

Six students and Ruess removed the haphazard barbed wire fence that was buried one foot into the soil and eventually built a split-rail fence around the site.

"After we spent that first day in June tearing out the fence, we removed the steel posts and used weed eaters to remove all of the grass and weeds," Ruess said. "After that, we noticed a stone sticking out of the ground about two inches."

"Our list of 11 gravestones, which was given to us by Pat Shaw, chairperson of the county cemetery commission, didn't show this stone. I got a tire iron,

began probing and immediately hit a stone about six inches under the surface," he added. "The headstone showed a death of 1838, which we believe is one of the first funerals in the area, if not in all of Jones County. This definitely got us all hooked on the project."

Chapter member Nick Balichek attended a gravestone restoration workshop in neighboring Jackson County to learn proper methods of stone repair, how to probe for underground stones and bases and witching for earth disturbances.

After showing livestock in the Jones County Fair and the Iowa State Fair, plus detasseling corn, the group squeezed in another work session in July.

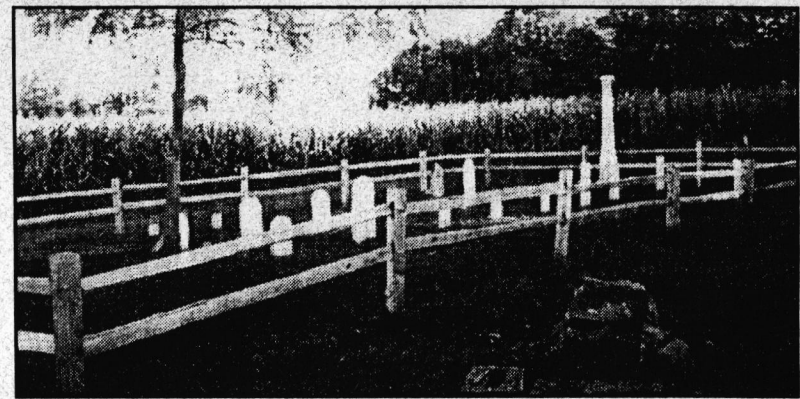
The students and Ruess dug up and power-washed all of the broken headstones and footstones at Wittenberg's farm.

Then they leveled the surface with a skid loader and seeded the ground.

Meanwhile, a nine-inch spire monument marking David Mann's grave was lying on the ground in five pieces, but it wasn't broken.

However, the top ornament was missing. Luckily, while they were leveling the cemetery, they hit the top piece, a hexagonal sphere, and found it undamaged.

"The sphere was set on a two-inch deep concrete base, which was constructed in the 1870s. The concrete had tipped over time and had to be reset," Ruess said. "Then we purchased a large granite boulder and had the name of the cemetery engraved on it.



PHOTOS BY KRISTIN DANLEY-GREINER

Top photo: When the chapter was assigned the cemetery near Martel, the members' first visit showed them how much work they had ahead of them. Bottom photo: During the summer and part of the fall, the students, their FFA advisor and a neighboring farmer improved the condition of the fence and property, dug up headstones and footstones and fixed them. They also traced the family history of the pioneers buried in the plot.

There's a smaller one next to the split-rail fence with the words 'Olin FFA 1997.'"

Toward the end of the project, the FFA members and Ruess toured other cemeteries in the county that area FFA chapters were revitalizing.

Another Mann relative

With the start of the fall school semester upon them, Ruess and the students finished the project on a few Sundays in September.

One day they started a small fire with old boards and sticks used for gluing together and cementing the stones when a man called from the road.

"The man hollered, 'What in

the world are you doing out there? Don't you know that's a cemetery in there?' Well, it was another relative of the Manns," said Ruess. "He hadn't been there since 1995 and told us he'll sleep better knowing someone is taking care of the cemetery."

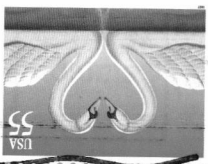
While tilling the ground with a garden tiller, the group found three more footstones. So far they have discovered 28 pioneers buried in the cemetery.

The group's efforts are known internationally, because their project is detailed on a web page featuring restored pioneer cemeteries.

That homepage can be checked out at www.rootsweb.com/Fajones/restore.htm.

LARRY D. DAVIS
5716 KINGMAN AVE.
DES MOINES, IA 50311

State Association for the Preservation of
Iowa Cemeteries
7472 slide Rock Rd.
Anamosa, Iowa 52205



May is "Cemetery Appreciation
Month" for the state of Iowa!

Ask a 4-H Club, Camp Fire Group, Sunday School Class, or Scout Troop to visit a pioneer cemetery with you. Talk to them about the history of the cemetery, the everyday lives of the pioneers buried there, and what the state of Iowa and their county was like when the burials occurred. Give the young visitors probes and shovels and help them make the exciting discovery of an underground gravestone or base. Let them squirt water on the engraving and sweep the stone with clean paint brushes. Speculate about the person to whom the stone belongs. A love for and a reverence of these places must be instilled in our young people.

Our views

Cemeteries are a sacred place for any community

It goes without saying—or at least it should—that all of us are utterly disgusted with what happened this week at Oakdale Cemetery.

Cemeteries are—or at least should be—sacred to everyone who cares about their city, heritage and ancestry.

Cemeteries contain the history of our community—usually the tombstones of the first settler, first white child born and the first mayor of a community can be found at one of its cemeteries.

That's why the vandalism at the cemetery is a crime against all of Oelwein, a crime against anyone who has ever called the Oelwein area "home."

When those responsible are caught, the punishment against them should take on two forms: Community service at local cemeteries to help recover the costs of their vandalism, and lessons in history.

It could go without saying that the person or persons who committed this act do not realize the importance of cemeteries, but we're saying it today because we believe it's important that anyone who has young people under their authority—parents, teachers, clergy, to name a few—should remember to teach young people to respect the deceased and their places of rest.

If any good can come out of this senseless act of vandalism, it's that it reminds us all of the importance of honoring and preserving this important part of our community's legacy.