

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
IOWA CEMETERIES

C/O IGS P.O. BOX 7735 Des Moines, IA 50322-7735

<http://www.sapic.org>

Volume #3 Issue #4

October, 1998

No Stone Unturned.....

A roomful of like-minded people with the common goal of rescuing and preserving Iowa's historic burial sites -- excitement was in the air at SAPIC's annual meeting in Marshalltown on Oct. 3! "Putting faces with names" of those with whom I've corresponded by snail and email was wonderful. Now I can picture Phyllis Rothlauf, Ray Bowler, Pat Carr, and lovely Jessie Thompson, as well as many others who are striving to preserve our heritage by saving pioneer cemeteries. Equally gratifying was again seeing loyal members who offer so much support to our efforts, in spite of health problems, family and work conflicts, and other challenges.

THANK
YOU

Thanks to Judy Weber, IGS Conference Coordinator, who arranged for our meeting room and Continental Breakfast.

SAPIC now has a permanent address at the IGS Library, thanks to Rhonda Riordan and the IGS. See top of page.

Phyllis Rothlauf of Des Moines County volunteered to be the new SAPIC historian. Her willingness to keep a record of our progress is much appreciated, as are the efforts of Gwen Moore in Henry County who suggested the need for the office last year and served in that capacity in 1998.

Special thanks to the newly elected officers and board members, and to Harley Crain, who will continue as treasurer.

Harley reported that we had a gain of 25 new members this year. "MORE WILL BE FINE IN '99!" Dues are more affordable now:

- \$10.00 for individuals
- 15.00 for family memberships
- 20.00 for organizations and businesses
- 100.00 for lifetime individual memberships

** Make checks out to SAPIC and send to the address above. **

Our SAPIC year will start on January 1, and dues paid now will be for 1999. Hope you'll all renew your memberships and ask your genealogical and historical societies, conservation groups, local funeral homes, and monument dealers to join.

Our next meeting will be January 9, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. at the Extension Office located on the square in Winterset in Madison County.

Our hosts will be long-time SAPIC supporters, Calvin & Ethel McVay and the Madison County Genealogical Society. Experience the warmth of southern Iowa hospitality, the romance of Iowa's covered bridges, and the origins of an American institution, John "The Duke" Wayne, in addition to strengthening the goals of SAPIC by attending this meeting!

Pat Palmer, Sales Coordinator for the SAPIC video, "Gravestone Repair 101," reports that seventeen videos were sold at the IGS Conference. Pat is now re-ordering more videos, which will be available shortly. Thanks to all who purchased one; we hope that by viewing basic stone repair methods, volunteers in your county will be inspired to work in your pioneer cemeteries.

SAPIC Officers and Board Members for '99:

President: Pat Shaw, Birmingham
Vice-President: Ethel McVay, Winterset
Secretary: Marilyn Schmitt, Mitchelville
Treasurer: Harley Crain, Edmonds, WA
Historian: Phyllis Rothlauf, Burlington
Board of Trustees:
Molly Beason, Deep River
Carol Bottin, New Hampton
Phyllis Carter, Washington
Dean Gipple, Columbus Junction
Paul Maddy, Perry
Mike Magee, Waterloo
Valerie Ogren, Jefferson
Ted Sieck, Irwin

Robert Carter Award

The deserving recipient of this year's Robert Carter Award is Loren Horton of Iowa City. Phyllis Carter presented the award, named after her late husband, at the IGS Banquet on Oct. 2. Phyllis and Robert participated in educational and entertaining bus tours hosted by Loren Horton and SAPIC member, Michael Zahs, which gave Robert and Loren the opportunity to become well acquainted. Michael summed up Loren's qualifications by saying, "Loren Horton probably knows more about Iowa's cemeteries than anyone else!"

Congratulations to Loren Horton!

Side note: Don't miss Phyllis's delightful presentation, "In Search of the Perfect Tombstone, Tree Stump Gravemarkers" that she presents at IGS Conferences and other events, in which she tells of her and Robert's adventures in cemeteries and stone quarries.

SAPIC has records of pioneer cemeteries from these counties: Blackhawk, Bremer, Chickasaw, Clark, Clayton, Crawford, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fayette, Franklin, Fremont, Grundy, Harrison, Jefferson, Jones, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Page, Poweshiek, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Wayne, and Winneshiek.

Pioneer Cemetery Commissions have been established in these counties: Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Louisa, Lucas, Mahaska, Tama, Winneshiek

Let us know if there are others!

Some records of 1998 membership payments may not have been transferred to Harley Crain, treasurer. If you are on this list and did, indeed, pay your 1998 dues, please let us know: Jane Briley, Susan Cochran, Beverly Cross, Dennis Davies, Tammra Foster, Loren Horton, Jasper Co Cemetery Commission, Marjorie Kinkade, and Irma Miller. *Newsletters and apologies will be promptly forwarded!*

We are fortunate to have many new members in SAPIC who have much to offer, including Charly Stevens, a naturalist with the Page County Conservation Board and Bob and Kathy Terry, professional monument repairers from Liscomb, Iowa. Charly collects prairie flower seeds in pioneer cemeteries and has become interested in seeing these neglected sites restored. Bob and Kathy shared some of their secrets for effective and inexpensive stone repair, and Bob is interested in starting a Commission in Marshall County, possibly enlisting fellow volunteer firemen to help. Charly and Bob spoke at the October meeting about working with SAPIC to achieve our common goals. Their enthusiasm was contagious!

Bob's suggestion for epoxy: PL 400 High Thermal Factor Construction Grade for Masonry from Menard's. Only \$3.88 per tube!

Ray Bowler would like you to submit your area cemetery restoration events to him for listing on the SAPIC web site. He can be contacted by email from the web page.

< <http://www.sapic.org> >

Ray's snail mail address is: 510 Railroad; Carlisle, IA 50047.

Names and addresses of reputable monument dealers/repairers may also be submitted.

A method of cleaning stones, monuments, and statues used at the
Los Alamos Metropolitan Museum of Art

1. Clean a limestone, concrete, granite, sandstone, or slate stone with fiber or hair brush (not a wire brush).
2. Apply a solution used in cleaning algae and moss from swimming pools available at pool shops. Bleach is not recommended.
3. Brush, brush, brush and wash completely.
4. When stone is dry, apply a limestone restorer called Sure Klean produced by ProSoCo, Inc., Kansas City.
5. Apply a product called Conservare, made by the same company, to seal the stone.
6. For marble, buy a commercial product especially for this material, available at places such as Home Depot.

Land Use Commission - A special legislative committee is holding a series of town meetings to hear public comments regarding ways to provide for the orderly use and development of land in Iowa. This is the second year of a two-year authorization. It will review ways to preserve the use of prime agricultural production, and to preserve natural, cultural, and historic areas. The committee will look at private property rights and to provide for the coordination of comprehensive plans for land use and the control of "urban sprawl." The committee will try to protect and preserve the balance of private and public interest in the land, water, and related resources in this state. Specific policy areas of interest include development issues, annexation, condemnation of land, and county zoning. Linn County Supervisor Lu Barron is a member representing the county point of view on this committee. ISAC staff Bob Mulqueen and John Easter will monitor the activities of this committee.

Bill Peterson - bpeterson@iowacounties.org
John Easter - jeaster@iowacounties.org
Bob Mulqueen - bmulqueen@iowacounties.org
Deb Westvold - dwestvold@iowacounties.org
David Vestal - dvestal@iowacounties.org
Dan VanDerLinden - dvan@iowacounties.org

SAPIC's 1998 Activities

Created web site, thanks to Ray Bowler and Pat Palmer < <http://www.sapic.org> >

Production of training video, "Gravestone Repair 101," thanks to Pat Palmer.

Received opinions of Deputy Attorney General of Iowa regarding cemetery burial laws and court cases and sent numerous copies to interested persons.

Printed and distributed four newsletters.

Arranged for meeting with Governor Terry Branstad for photograph of signing ceremony proclaiming the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month."

Sent membership renewal reminders.

Held quarterly meetings in January, April, July, and October.

Promoted legislation favorable to cemetery preservation.

Submitted article about Hickman Cemetery in Madison county to *Hawkeye Heritage*.

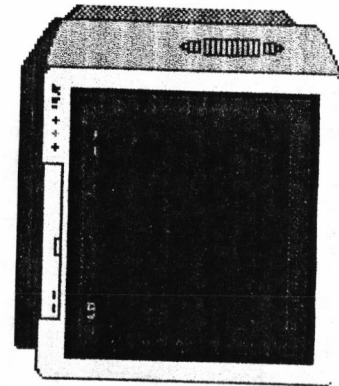
Recruited memberships from funeral homes, monument dealers and repairers, and conservation groups.

Sent information to persons inquiring about neglected cemeteries in Adams, Johnson, Des Moines, Lee, Allamakee, Cedar, Mitchell, and Wapello Counties in Iowa and also in Missouri and Illinois.

SAPIC members gave programs and/or assisted in Blackhawk, Tama, Buchanan, Madison, Marion, Jones, Mahaska, and Page Counties.

Printed informational brochures, thanks to Valerie Ogren. Printed membership cards.

*Cemeteries!

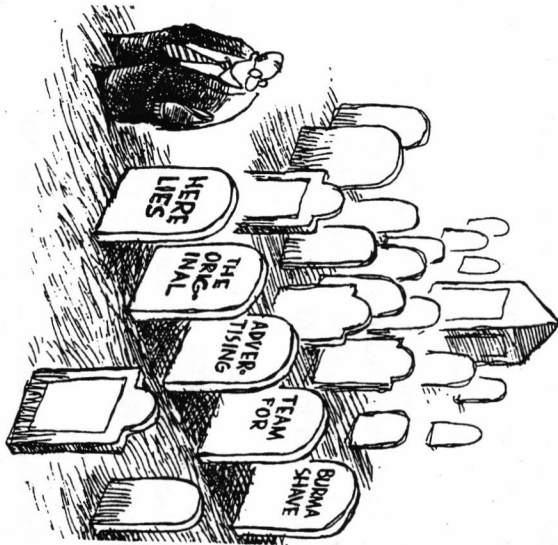


**NEWS
FLASH!**
Our own Pat Palmer may be a TV star! Here's the scoop.....

At this time, SAGIC member Pat Palmer of Hampton, IA is working with the producer of the Learning Channel TV Show "Men in Toolbelts" to be a featured guest of the 2 lighthearted furniture and home repair experts on their show to demonstrate gravestone repair. Check out their webpage: www.furnitureguys.com for local listings and broadcast times in your area.

Note: This possibility for positive publicity for SAGIC came about when Pat sent me email! Be alert to creative ways to promote our association. Thanks, Pat!

NON SEQUITUR



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

WILEY
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E-mail: wiley@wileytoons.com Web Site: www.wileytoons.com 8-20

Vandals damage headstones

Cracked, toppled stones worry board members of Czech cemetery in C.R.

By Steve Gravelle
Gazette staff writer

Alma Mach died in 1960 and was buried next to her husband, Joseph, who had died 17 years earlier.

They share a large red granite headstone in Czech National Cemetery in southwest Cedar Rapids with Josef and Albitha Mach, who died in 1916 and 1918, respectively.

Late Tuesday or early Wednesday, someone toppled the Mach family headstone from its base, cracking off an ornate crowned corner.

Several other stones sustained

similar damage overnight, the second such incident in a week.

"I don't know what I can do about it," said Joe Konecny, president of the cemetery board.

Nearby, three stones marking the graves of the Hynek family were toppled from their bases.

Konecny and the other board members take the damage personally. All the stones damaged so far are in the cemetery's older section, where the granite and marble monuments are often distinctive but not extravagant.

The stones were major investments for the working-class Czech families who helped build Cedar Rapids a century ago — a final expression of family pride and a last honor for departed loved ones.

Konecny doubts Alma and Josef Mach have any surviving relatives in the area — the case with most of the damaged stones, he said.

"I wouldn't even know who to call," he said.

Konecny believes several people are behind the vandalism. He estimated the Machs' headstone weighs 1,000 pounds.

"It took some force" to topple the stone, he said. "That wasn't just one or two people."

Konecny expects the cemetery board to fund at least makeshift repairs to the stones on graves of those for whom no survivors can be found. The Machs' stone may be set back in place, and the damaged corner could be reset with mortar.

Meanwhile, he's urging relatives

The stones were major investments for the working-class Czech families who helped build Cedar Rapids a century ago.

of people buried in the cemetery to keep an eye on their graves and to consult their insurance agent. Headstones may be considered personal property and may be covered under some homeowners' policies, he said.

"A lot of the older people, this is really a blow to them," Konecny said. "Their spouses are gone, and it's all they have left."

10/3/1998

County Reports

CHICKASAW COUNTY

We have been looking for someone to chair a cemetery committee. Currently Brian Hugeback has indicated some interest and is studying materials we gave him.

Carol Bottin

Events and project work done by the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

February: Kevin Lee and Ted Wilson met at the Pagin Cemetery to discuss the work needed to restore stones that are beyond repair. It was also noted that the fencing was poor on the north and east side of the cemetery.

First issue of the Grave Hunter is published with an effort to inform members and the public of Pioneer Cemetery problems.

March: Gretchen Juergens, Rick Juergens, Kjirsti Lee, Kevin Lee and Carrie Lee went on a field study of the Hillside Freeport Cemetery. Gretchen was forming a report on the cemetery. Some cleaning of the grounds was done.

April: Members of the Commission had a repair session at the Pagin/ Beard Cemetery. Eight gravemarkers were straighten and repaired.

May: Jens Lee, Kevin Lee, Frank Beard and Mike Bergan did various jobs at Pagin-Beard including tree trimming and bush mowing. A gathering of people met on Memorial Day at Pagin-Beard. Recollections of family roots were discussed while visiting the cemetery.

June: Newsletter #2 sent out. Earnie Corson contacted Kevin Lee about the Salvesson and Smalley cemeteries. Much work is in progress to rehabilitate these two very old cemeteries. New fencing and gravemarker needed. V.F.W. and the Smalley family to finance the projects and do the work.

July: Frank Beard mowed and cut up old dead limbs at Pagin-Beard Cemetery.

August: Members of the Commission met at Decorah Library for an annual Board meeting. It was ratified to care for the McIntosh Cemetery as a Pioneer Cemetery. We discussed fencing of the Pagin-Beard Cemetery. Damage by vandals at the St. James Cemetery in Fort Atkinson was discussed.

September: Members met at Pagin-Beard Cemetery for an all day work shop. 14 stones have been repaired there. Dale Emery met with us to go over the fencing project, the east and north sides the worst. It was adopted by the board to go forth with the new fence on the east and tightening on the north. A new gate will be placed next to the old one for better access to the cemetery.

Kevin and Carrie Lee uncovered two stones buried in a corner at Big Canoe cemetery. They have been cleaned and will be put into the appropriate positions soon.

A cemetery tour to check on the Pioneer cemeteries took place and members reviewed the progress at the Smalley and Salvesson Cemeteries. Earnie Corson was contacted and a fence is needed for the Salvesson.

Dave Lumen, Kevin Lee, and Harvey Houck met at the St. James Cemetery for extensive rebuilding of broken and tipped gravemarkers. Kevin Lee and Ted Wilson cut and carved a new base for a demolished gravestone.

Salvesson Cemetery Cleaners -were Ron Thorson, Ernie Corson, and Roger Goodno all of Winneshiek County, IA who live so far north that their mailing addresses are from Mabel, MN.

End of the trail

Midwest pioneer reunited with his family — 132 years after his death

By **MELODY PARKER**

Courier Lifestyles Editor

WATERLOO

It was the most unusual burial Lawrence "Mick" and Margaret Woodard have ever attended.

At a small cemetery in central Iowa, the Waterloo couple and other relatives watched on Sept. 11 as a PVC tube containing the remains of James Benson was solemnly lowered into a grave.

The gravestone will soon be set into place at the Lamoille cemetery and James Benson, who died 132 years ago in Darlington, Wis., finally will rest alongside five generations of Bensons buried in the small community, located between Marshalltown and State Center.

The Woodards and other descendants, including Glen and Margaret Swanson of Waverly, were also present when the grave was exhumed in August.

"It was quite an experience," said Mick Woodard, 79. "Never done anything like it before." James Benson is Woodard's great-great-grandfather.

Benson's burial culminates a two-year search for the gravesite by descendants, exploring Wisconsin graveyards and fragile documents.

At the 1997 Benson family reunion, descendants voted to exhume the body and move the remains back to Iowa. More than 20 descendants attended both the exhumation and reburial. A memorial service will take place at next summer's reunion.

James Benson's grave was found in a cemetery dating back to Territorial days, said Margaret Woodard, 83.

"It was set off in a corner, on a hill in the farthest corner in the cemetery, with a cornfield on one side, beneath an oak tree. A pretty place, but forgotten. The headstone had fallen over," she explained.

The headstone itself, said Mick, was 42 inches tall, 20 inches wide and 4 inches thick. After scraping off more than a century's worth of dirt and lichen, they could read the simple inscription: James Benson, 1805-1866.

Family members hefted the gravestone into the bed of a pick-up truck to transport back to Iowa.

Two gravediggers from Galena, Ill., were hired to excavate the site and a Wisconsin mortician was on hand to direct the exhumation. The gravediggers shoveled sticky clay soil for 1 1/2 hours before reaching the first remains.

"The casket had disintegrated in 132 years. In fact, it was beginning to look like they wouldn't find anything and we thought maybe someone had robbed the grave, then they uncovered a long bone, maybe a leg or arm bone," said Margaret.

Mortician Audrey Barrett told the family members they could sift through the soil by hand for bone fragments. The only volunteer to don rubber gloves for the search was seventh-grader Katie Benson of Port Washington, Wis., daughter of Dan Benson.

She wanted to tell her friends how she'd spent her summer — "I dug up a body."



Courtesy Photo

The heavy, 4-inch-thick headstone was found flat atop James Benson's 132-year-old grave. It was hefted into a pick-up truck and transported to Iowa for installing at the new gravesite.

Only a few remains were unearthed, such as both parts of the jawbone, toe bones and other small fragments. The bones were lifted to the surface in a plastic ice cream bucket, then transferred to a plastic box.

What was left of the earthly remains of James Benson were carefully fitted into a \$25, four-foot length of PVC pipe and capped at both ends for burial. Total expenses were \$487. A metal plate was added to the pipe to describe the disinterment and reburial.

Benson was born in Middle Barton, Oxfordshire, England, and arrived in Wisconsin in 1860. He

owned a farm in southwestern Wisconsin, was married and had several children. He died six years later, at age 61, while visiting his son, Thomas, a Civil War veteran, who farmed in Iowa.

No one knows the cause of death but descendants know Thomas brought his father's body back to Wisconsin for burial. When Thomas prospered at farming, he moved his mother and siblings to Iowa, where they remained the rest of their lives and were buried.

Now James Benson has finally returned to Iowa and rejoined his wife and children, Margaret said.

Courier
METROLIFE

Waterloo

Wednesday, September 16, 1998



Mark Chase, left, grounds supervisor, and Larry Messer, a grounds worker, survey damage Monday to more than 100 grave markers at the Riverside Cemetery in Marshalltown.

RON MODERSON/The Register

Teens arrested for vandalism

By STACI HUPP

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Two teens were arrested Monday for vandalism at a Marshalltown cemetery over the weekend. More than 100 tombstones were toppled or broken early Saturday at Riverside Cemetery.

Anthony Ehrhardt and Justin Schultz, both 17, were charged with criminal mischief and trespassing. Police said they expected to charge a third youth soon.

Arlene Johnson, general manager of Riverside Cemetery, was stunned

by the vandalism.

"Why would someone do this?" she asked. "Dead people don't hurt anybody."

Marshalltown Police Chief David Walker said the vandals apparently chose graves at random early Saturday. He said monuments in several areas of the 95-acre cemetery were

pushed over or broken.

Johnson said about 10 percent of the about 100 damaged stones will have to be replaced, and that other monuments will require resetting or other repairs. The initial damage estimate was about \$5,000.

Readers, ponder this: "All great things are decided not by machines or gadgets, but by willpower. Whoever has it will finally prevail." — WINSTON CHURCHILL

CONT. ON OTHER SIDE →

cont. FROM OTHER SIDE

Johnson said the cemetery's perpetual care fund will help cover the costs, as well as volunteer help from the Nevada Monument Co.

The cemetery has not notified families of the deceased, Johnson said, but "many people know about this already."

"A lot of family members are coming to the cemetery to look, and then call expressing a great deal of concern," Johnson said. "They'd like to strangle whoever did this."

Ramona Koyle, a 65-year-old Marshalltown resident, said she feels violated because her husband's gravestone was overturned.

"I was sick about it. I don't know what kind of a mind would do this, unless it's someone to show off," she said.

Koyle said she recommends that the cemetery install a surveillance system.

"We need people today that have a little more respect for other people, whether in a cemetery or wherever," she said.

Reporter Staci Hupp can be reached at (515) 699-7043 or hupps@news.dmreg.com

DES MOINES REGISTER
SEPTEMBER 23, 1998

2 more arrested in cemetery vandalism

THE REGISTER'S IOWA NEWS SERVICE

Marshalltown, Ia. — Police here have arrested two more people in connection with vandalism at the Riverside Cemetery over the weekend.

Craig Shivley Jr., 15, was charged with criminal mischief and criminal trespass. Melanie Ehrhardt, 22, was arrested for making alcohol available to minors.

With those arrests, police said they have closed the investigation into the vandalism. About 103 headstones were damaged. Police said they have initially estimated damage at about \$5,000.

Anthony Ehrhardt and Justin Schultz, both 17, were earlier charged with criminal mischief and trespassing.

DES MOINES REGISTER

SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

Woman allegedly gave minors alcohol

Marshalltown, Ia. (AP) — A central Iowa woman was charged with providing alcohol to her underage brother and two other teenagers, who are accused of toppling dozens of tombstones at a cemetery.

Melanie Ehrhardt, 22, is charged with supplying alcohol but not in the vandalism, which left \$5,000 in damage and 103 toppled tombstones.

Her brother, Anthony Ehrhardt, Justin Schultz, both 17, and Craig Shivley Jr., 15, were charged Monday with second-degree criminal mischief and trespassing. All three are from Marshalltown.

Marshalltown Police Capt. Darell Templeton said the teen-agers admitted to the vandalism and to drinking beforehand.

Meeting reviews cemetery preservation

An informational meeting sponsored by the Page County Board of Supervisors was held on Sept. 10 for cemetery trustees and clerks. The object of this meeting was to create interest and inform those present of the trend toward gravestone restoration in the 40 Page County rural cemeteries and the need to preserve the stones.

In Iowa alone, there are 300,000 to 500,000 gravestones and some of these are in great need of repair. Interested people like Bob Henke and Charly Stevens jointly pursued the idea of having a meeting to inform cemetery caretakers about the need for basic repair at a minimal cost.

John Leacox of Shenandoah and Jim Parrish of Gravity presented some basic steps they use in repairing stones. Pat Shaw, president of State Association of Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) was also on hand to explain how volunteers in Eastern Iowa were able to save many gravestones with some simple instructions and ordinary tools.

During the presentation, a video titled "Gravestone Restoration: 101" was shown to the group, show-

ing in detail the basics of gravestone repair from simple straightening to putting pieces of a stone back together.

The video and a handbook, entitled "A Guide to Rescuing Pioneer Gravestones," are available to those who may be interested in this proposed project. "We would like to see this become a project for volunteers, RSVP, 4-H clubs, scouting groups or any organization that may be interested in preserving a part of heritage," Bob Henke said.

In addition to the information meeting, an afternoon work session was held at Summit Cemetery with repair instruction led by Pat Shaw.

Two stones were selected. One was in the sod but broken in half. The stone was dug out of the ground, a new base was constructed using concrete building blocks, the pieces were reassembled using epoxy and the stone was reinstalled in the original burial site.

The second stone, belonging to baby twin sons, was loose, the top half was removed and the base of the stone had settled in the ground. Sand was placed under the stone to bring it up, the stone was straight-

ened and epoxy was again used to bond the stones back together.

This worthwhile endeavor, which took maybe an hour to complete, "left you with a good feeling that you made something right again," Charly Stevens explained.

The participants at the demonstration also tried their hands at grave witching - a technique to find graves where there is no apparent evidence of a stone. The group found several "unmarked graves" at Summit Cemetery in the location where they were working.



THIS GRAVESTONE was repaired during the work session at Summit Cemetery.

Van Harold Yvonne

9/30/98

Jones County Cemetery Commission 1998 Activities

Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to the Cascade FFA Chapter at their annual banquet on March 26 for their restoration of the Johnson Town Cemetery.

Steve Story and Pat Shaw met with the Anamosa United Methodist Church Mission group at the Midland (Ristine-Wehling) Cemetery on April 18.

Jones County Cemetery Commission met on April 22 at Center Junction Fire Station. Howard and Roberta Andrews, Ken Marlin, Connie Humpal, Tom Andrews, Pat Shaw, and Rosalie Ahrendsen were present.

Ordered ten probes from Northern Hydraulics @ \$4.95 plus postage (\$5.41 each) for the Commission and seven for individuals.

Anamosa FFA Chapter mowed cemetery on Dick Smith farm and began fencing the area.

Fairview Thunderbolts 4-H Club met at the Spade Cemetery in Fairview Township with Pat Shaw to learn witching, probing, and history of the Commission on May 4.

Pat Shaw gave a program on the activities of the Jones County Cemetery Commission to members of Concorde Round Table at Jones County Senior Dining site on May 7 at 1:00 p.m.

Workday at North Mineral Creek Cemetery in Clay Township on May 18. Members of Midland FFA Chapter and Midland Seniors participated in repairing and uprighting 22 gravestones. Steve Story, Donna Story, LaVerta Langenberg, and Pat Shaw were present.

Steve and Donna Story and Pat Shaw met with the Anamosa FFA Students and a history class on May 21 to discuss concerns and procedures at the cemetery on the Dick Smith farm in Rome Township.

Monticello FFA Chapter reported that they have spent approximately 200 hours total at the Langworthy Cemetery cutting brush, repairing gravestones, witching for unmarked burials, and painting and repairing the fence and gate.

Cascade FFA Advisor, Milt Luckstead, and Dale Andrews mowed the Midland Cemetery.

Anamosa FFA Chapter members and students from a history class visited the unnamed cemetery on the Dick Smith farm in Rome Township on May 21 to learn history of the burial site, witching and probing methods. Steve Story, Donna Story, and Pat Shaw were present.

Joseph McGill, director of the future African American Museum in Cedar Rapids, visited the grave of a black Civil War veteran, William Nichols, in Wyoming Township on Memorial Day, May 25. Mr. McGill, clad in an authentic Union Army uniform, placed a wreath at the grave, spoke about the involvement of blacks in all US wars, and fired 3 shots from a black powder rifle in honor of all black veterans. Twelve persons were present, including two members of the American Legion from Oxford Junction.

Olin FFA Chapter members and advisor were featured on KGAN-TV on the 10:00 news on Memorial Day about their restoration activities at the Cherry Grove Cemetery.

Saturday, June 13 at 2:15 p.m.:

Olin and Cascade FFA students participated in a panel discussion at the Expo '98 Conference held at the State Historical Building in Des Moines about their cemetery restoration efforts in Jones County last summer. Their youthful enthusiasm and obvious pride in their accomplishments were well received by the audience. Rosalie Ahrendson and Pat Shaw were present.

Saturday, June 13 from 8:30 - noon:

Anamosa United Methodist Church Mission group met at the Midland/Ristine Cemetery in Jackson Township, Section 4 to begin restoration of this pioneer cemetery. Steve and Donna Story met with this group and provided "hands-on" instruction. The chairperson of this group is Jo Haverly; 1108 East 1st; Anamosa, Iowa 52205; ph 462-2380.

Saturday, July 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Steve and Donna Story and Pat Shaw met with Jo Haverly and Marge Spencer from the Anamosa United Methodist Church at the Midland/Ristine Cemetery. Steve Story mowed the site. Two gravestones were leveled and repaired.

Monday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m.:

Pat Shaw attended an informational meeting at Central Park with Michele Olsen, Jones County Naturalist and Joy Adams, Jones County's representative for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) about the possibility of obtaining grant money for purchasing seeds for prairie plants to be used in or near cemeteries.

Sunday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m.:

Re-enactment of the character, Moses Barto, who married two members of the Mann family that are buried in the Cherry Grove Cemetery was held. Members of the Starlighters Community Theater, Kent Knopf, Jan Cratsenberg, and Edie Bowers, performed at the cemetery. Kent provided a moving portrayal of a Jones County pioneer whose life ended tragically. Old-time music was provided by Ray Adams and Lyle Behrends of Monticello. Nick Balichek, president of the Olin FFA, presented Certificates of Appreciation to those who had provided assistance to them in restoring this site.

Sunday, August 16 at 6:00 p.m.:

Pot luck supper was held at the Johnson Town Cemetery for those who had assisted the Cascade FFA students in restoring this cemetery, which is beautifully maintained by Commission member Tom Andrews and his family. Certificates of Appreciation were given to several in attendance, including neighbors in the area.

Saturday, September 5, 1998:

Moses Barto re-enactment held at Morley Quasquicentennial.

Sunday, September 13, 1998:

Moses Barto re-enactment held at Edinburgh Day.

Thursday, October 1, 1998:

Pat Shaw and Margaret Tallman met with and instructed caretaker and two board members of the Greene Center Church in stone repair.

Future events:

Fencing of the Beers Creek Cemetery in Wyoming Township by the Midland FFA students after crops are harvested.
Fencing of the Midland/Ristine Cemetery in Jackson Township after earthen berme is placed on the north side.
Fencing of the unnamed cemetery on the Dick Smith farm. Restoration of the Grafft Cemetery by the Olin FFA Chapter members.

Viewing of gravestone training video recently produced by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries.

Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to the Monticello FFA Chapter for their work at the Langworthy Cemetery, the Midland FFA Chapter for the North Mineral and Beers Creek Cemeteries, and the Fairview Thunderbolts 4-H Club for the Spade Cemetery.

Pat Shaw presented a program at the Presbyterian Church in Onslow on September 19 about the Jones County Cemetery Commission and its activities. Ann Reid from the Presbyterian Church will head a project to restore the Public Burying Grounds on the Mark Doll farm in Clay Township. The video, "Gravestone Repair 101" will be shown to this group on October 18 at Camp Wyoming.

Pat Shaw will present a program to the Cornelians Club in Anamosa about the Commission on October 20.

Mike McLain, County Engineer, will be pursuing the possibility of acquiring land on the north side of 130th St. adjacent to the Midland/Ristine Cemetery in Jackson Township so this road can be moved to the north away from the cemetery. This will allow an earthen berme to be placed on the north side of the cemetery to prevent further erosion into the gravesites. This will avoid having to erect a retaining wall which would disturb the burials and also be too

close to the road. The berme could be an ideal site for planting prairie flowers.

Pat Shaw attended the meeting on October 5, 1998 of the Fairview Thunderbolts 4-H Club and took pictures. Submitted news article to the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*.

Monticello FFA Chapter members completed painting fence and repairing stones at Langworthy Cemetery on Sunday, September 20. Will weld gate again this winter. Certificate of Appreciation will be presented at their Hay and Grain Show on Nov. 2.

Slides will be made for possible presentations about the Cemetery Commission.

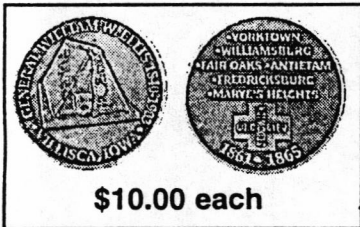
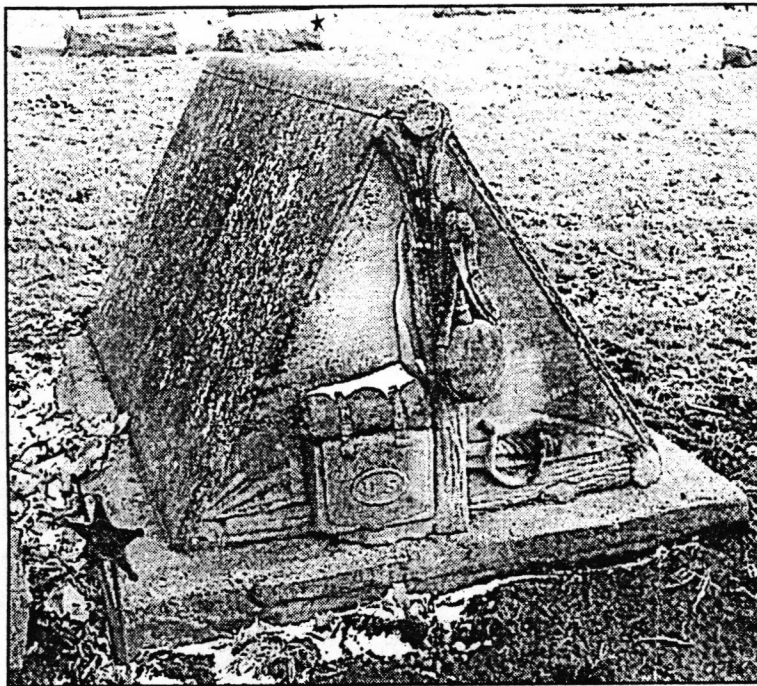
North Mineral Cemetery will be assessed for prairie plantings by Iowa Prairie Network representative Kasey Khort from Rock Island, IL.

Villisca

This monument honors the final resting place of Brigadier General William E. Ellis which is located in the Villisca (IA) Cemetery.

His military record shows he served every rank from private to brigadier general, the latter rank conferred upon him by Iowa Governor William Larrabee. The general, seriously wounded at Marye's Heights, served in the major campaigns listed on the medallion's reverse.

In 1870, Ellis and his family moved to Villisca where he held many positions of honor within the community.



\$10.00 each

The Villisca Chamber of Commerce had a medallion cast to commemorate the General's contribution to the

war and to the town of Villisca. For more information about the medallion please contact the Villisca Chamber of Commerce, 601 South Third Ave., Villisca, Ia. 50864, 712/826-5222.

This stone is a good candidate for the National Register of Historic Places. Villisca is in Montgomery County in southwest Iowa.

Pioneering spirit spruces up cemetery

To the Editor:

It was a beautiful sunny day when 16 interested persons converged on the La Grange Pioneer Cemetery in Cedar Township of Lucas County, at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 16, to launch the long term Lucas County cemetery restoration and preservation projects.

Soon you could hear the buzz of the four chain saws as they cut the heavier trees and limbs, the snip, snip of the six nippers as they cut the smaller brush off at ground level, the whir of the two weed trimmers as they trimmed around all of the gravestones, and the jolly banter of the rest of the volunteers as they piled the brush onto the four pickups to be hauled away to burn. Once the open spaces began to appear along the fence line a wonderful breeze was allowed to flow through, making it a nice place to work.

A large old pine tree with drooping limbs in the center of the ceme-

tery was trimmed up several feet and made a perfect shady, breezy spot to place chairs for rest breaks, lunch breaks and much chatter and reminiscing about the families which were buried there.

Clifford Wright of Des Moines and Charles Wright of Ankeny came the distance to be there and help, both having ancestors buried there.

Others joining in the fun were Dean Boozell, Don Holmes, Sheryl Gwinn, Darlene Arnold, Mike Goben, Mika Goben, Kevin Goben (the Gobens' were a three generation family of workers) all of Chariton, Jim Cooper, Peggy Peterson, Betty Cross, Mary Louise Reeves and Gwen Sims of Russell.

By 3 p.m. the group broke for the day. There had been 15 pickup loads of trees and brush hauled away to be burned. There are several more loads on the ground to

be hauled this week. This cleared most of the brush from the inside of the fence, but in all seriousness, another like day should be spent to remove the brush from the outside of the fences so it will not crowd back into the cemetery proper.

Several gravestones had been "cleaned" by only brushing them with styrofoam packing sheets. These sheets act like sandpaper to remove the dirt and lichens from the stones and it is almost magic to be able to see the designs and wording on the stones appear.

There will need to be more work days scheduled for this cemetery for resetting stones, as many have fallen off their base or been pushed in a heap. Some older bases were made from a stone that is crumbling apart and will need to have new bases poured of concrete. There were stones found partly under the ground and we know there must be more that are fully

underground, so some probing will need to be done and bases made for these stones. Many stones need to be "cleaned." There is a need for fill dirt in a lot of spots to make the ground more even and easier to mow and care for in the future.

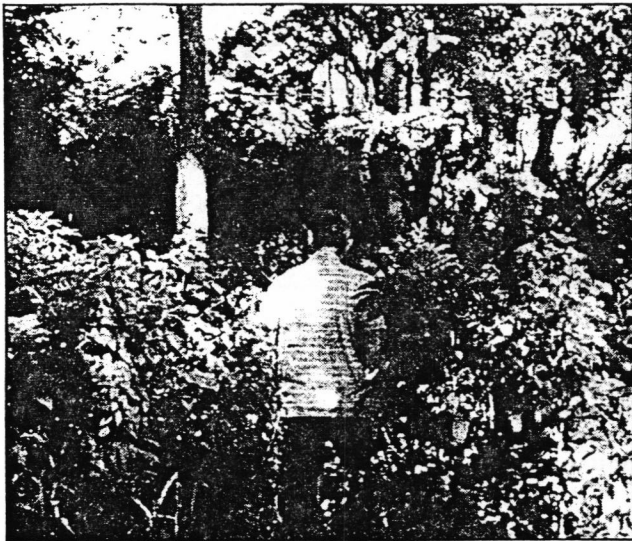
There were many sore muscles (and even one case of poison oak) by Monday morning but we were all proud of a job begun and of the amount of showing one day could make. There are 18 more pioneer cemeteries in Lucas County. Some need as much, or more, work than La Grange. Some need less. But all should be reclaimed from the ravages of nature and vandalism.

We owe this, at least, to the pioneers who made this county what it is from the wilderness that they found on their arrival here.

Gwen Sims
Russell

Chariton Herald-Patriot May 21, 1998

Cemetery renovators at work again



There will be another work day held at the Douglass Cemetery about a mile south on the Blue Grass Road at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4. Anyone interested in helping is invited to show up with tools in hand. There will be tree cutting, weed cutting, dirt moving, witching, probing, cleaning stones and perhaps some resetting and epoxying broken stones.

Chariton Herald-Patriot, Thursday, October 1, 1998

LUCAS COUNTY PIONEER CEMETRY COMMISSION Report for October 1997 to October 1998

The Commission was established in October of 1997. A meeting was held in October and one in November, to get information shared and discussion of ideas of what things could be done. The Township Trustees were all invited. Only a few came. The few who came seemed to have a "chip on their shoulder" attitude...feeling that we were going to "invade their space". However, when they left, they had been reassured about our goals and the things we could help with in their townships.

Of the 45 cemeteries that had been established, at one time or another, in Lucas County it was discovered that approximately 21 of those are now classified as Pioneer. In October photos were taken of all Pioneer cemeteries and plans were discussed in November about what needed to be done. The cemeteries range from very well kept cemeteries to overgrown weed and brush patches in farm fields. We did not hold any further meetings during the winter...just took the time to think about what could be done.

Meetings were resumed in April of 1998...once a month at the Chariton Library. Articles were placed in the Chariton Newspapers before and after each meeting, inviting anyone interested in cemetery preservation to attend.

The County Board of Supervisors appropriated \$5000. the first year. We ordered one sign for each cemetery from Anamosa. These are green with white lettering and are 24 by 12 inches. At this point some have been placed. Others are still waiting. One person was "volunteered" to be "in charge" of each cemetery renovation..

We had our first restoration work day on May 16 at the LaGrange cemetery in Cedar Township. It was a fairly well kept cemetery but had been allowed to grow weeds into the area several feet from the fences and many trees had fallen because of the heavy snow storm in the fall of 1997. Sixteen interested persons met at 8 am, had a sack lunch at noon and adjourned at 3:30 pm. We cut brush, weeds and fallen and standing trees and hauled 15 pickup or trailer loads to a site to be burned, with several more waiting to be hauled the next week. (Three volunteers ended up with a good case of poison ivy or oak!!!) Some stones were cleaned and a few straightened and the grounds mowed back to the fence line. A second work day was held there on June 20 and at that time finer clean up work was done, as well as, the cemetery was "walked" as we begin the project to publish a new Cemeteries of Lucas County, Iowa book. It has been 20 years since the last was published and we have also found a great many errors in it, so it is time to do **ALL** the cemeteries again. Since we are engaged in renovating the Pioneer ones it is a good opportunity to do this.

In June, one of the county 4-H groups contacted our commission and participated in a work day in the Murray Cemetery in their township. They used it as a Community Service Project and won acclaim at the county and state fairs with their project. They plan to return this fall and finish the job.

One of our Pioneer burying grounds has only one grave. Through the publicity, two grandsons of the man buried there, came to ask what they could do with it. They then did the work of mowing around the stone, spraying the weeds there, erecting a 8 by 12 foot link chain fence around four posts and placing the sign. Now it is at least seeable. (Even though this is a one grave site...we now have our first cemetery "renovated!!!) You have to start someplace!!!

Our next work day was at the Douglass Cemetery about two miles south of Chariton on July 18. This was an abandoned cemetery, fences down, many stones missing (it is reported that many were taken by persons some years back and used to line the basement of their house!) It was grown over by tall trees, high weeds and really looked a mess. Fourteen persons arrived at 8 am. Two tractors with brush cutters, several with nippers, two chain saws made a real showing by noon, and it being 96 degrees that day we called it a job well done. Since the weather continued to be in the high figures, it was decided to wait for cooler weather. However, we only conquered half of the two acre plot so plans have been made to converge on it again October 4 at 1 pm to have another go at it.

We feel we have attained notice in the community and continue to receive calls from persons interested in one cemetery or another. We feel we have made a start.

Gwen Sims, Secretary
Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

Page Ten Chariton Leader, Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Farm & Garden



Members of the Derby Blue Ribbon Winners 4-H Club are, from left, Kevin Jackson, Jake Throckmorton, Joe Throckmorton, Erick Cobb, Troy Umbenhower and Brian Jackson.

Derby 4-H participate in community service

Members of the Derby Blue Ribbon Winners 4-H Club participated in the 4-H Community Service Showcase at the 1998 Iowa State Fair Aug. 18.

Their project was cleaning and restoring the Murray Cemetery in Lucas County. The Derby Blue Ribbon Winners put together a notebook with a write-up and a picture display of the event. This project was selected to go to the Iowa State Fair. While at the fair, club representatives answered questions from the public about their

project and the cemetery.

The Derby Blue Ribbon Winners trimmed up the area around the Murray Cemetery by mowing, cutting and removing weeds, and cleaning up the fence lines. They also repaired and replaced some headstones. They plan on returning to the cemetery in the fall to remove stumps, paint the gates, reset some stones and possibly put up a Murray Cemetery sign.

The Murray Cemetery is a Pioneer Cemetery. Cemeteries having no more than six burials in the

past 50 years are considered to be Pioneer Cemeteries. Lucas County has 20 Pioneer Cemeteries. During the clean-up, club members discovered that Murray Cemetery contains more than 100 graves, five of which are Civil War veterans.

"I learned some landowners aren't concerned with keeping the cemetery up," said Erick Cobb, a member of the Derby Blue Ribbon Winners.

Hopefully this club's project will help people become aware of these cemeteries and help to keep them clean.

Representatives of the Derby Blue Ribbon Winners answered questions about their cemetery project at the Iowa State Fair.

Chris Feistner of Villisca in Montgomery County has been making arrangements for a state-wide conference in the Des Moines area on cemetery preservation. His target date is the last week in June. He has been contacting volunteer groups, such as churches, 4-H Clubs, and veterans organizations that might wish to participate. One of his goals is to compile a booklet of Iowa resources for preservationists. If you have ideas for topics to include for workshops or presentations, please contact Chris at: P.O. Box 71; Villisca, IA 50864. Ph 712-826-2440



Want a certificate like this to present to your much appreciated volunteers? This one is from ClarisWorks software, or you can contact Pat Shaw to have one made!

VOTE
VILSACK
DEMOCRAT FOR GOVERNOR
PEDERSON

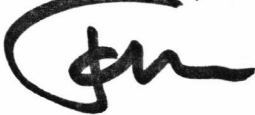
The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries
Pat Shaw, President
7472 Slide Rock Rd.
Anamosa, IA 52205

Dear Pat,

Enclosed is my response to your inquiry on my views regarding the preservation of Iowa's cemeteries. Please contact me with any questions.

I have supported efforts in the past to protect pioneer burial sites, country cemeteries, and public cemeteries. I pledge to enforce existing law to the extent required under state law and would support future initiatives to provide greater protections. I think the state ought to give some thought to the creation of a small joint program designed to provide initiatives to encourage cemetery protection.

Thank you,



Tom Vilsack

The Lightfoot Campaign
Headquarters was contacted
by Chris Feistner and Pat
Shaw but received no
responses.

IOWANS FOR VILSACK/PEDERSON
P.O. BOX 958 • DES MOINES, IA 50304
515-288-1998 • www.vilsack.com

*Iowans for Vilsack/Pederson,
John Chrystal, Chair*

*Paid for by Iowans for Vilsack/Pederson,
John Chrystal, Chair*

The STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

TREASURER REPORT: 3rd Qtr.: 7/1 - 9/30/98

Balance On Hand, 7/1/98: \$1,796.78
 Checking Acct. No. 361585, Mahaska SB, Oskaloosa

Income:

Membership Dues		240.00	568.98
Deposit, 7/21	60.00		
do 8/4	20.00		
do 8/14	40.00		
do 8/25	20.00		
do 9/1	20.00		
do 9/17	20.00		
do 9/28 (M)	60.00		
Interest		9.26	
7/20	3.21		
8/17	2.73		
9/21	3.32		
Video Sales		310.00	
8/14	150.00		
8/25	20.00		
9/28 (M)	140.00		
Donations		9.72	
Treasurer Office Expense	9.72		

Total On Hand & Gain: 2,365.76

-436.97

Expense:

Patricia I. Shaw, Pres.		307.25
7/20 (116) c 6.20, M 131.40	137.60	
8/17 (118) c 117.08, m 44.	161.08	
9/14 (119) c .63, m 7.94	8.57	
Video Production		120.00
8/11 (117) Pat Palmer, web Site	120.00	
H. E. Crain, Treasurer		9.72
copy 2.34, mail 7.38		

Balance On Hand, 9/30/98:

\$1,928.79

Respectfully submitted:

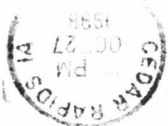
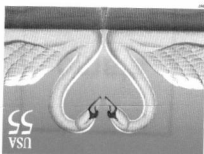
H. E. Crain

H. E. Crain
 September 28, 1998

17126 - 68th Ave. W.
 Edmonds, WA 98026-5206

(425) 743-6549

Larry Davis
5716 Kingman Ave.
Des Moines IA 50311



State Association for the Preservation of
Iowa Cemeteries
c/o IGS P.O. Box 7735
Des Moines, IA 50322-7735

Grave mistake: Roger Cook learned an interesting fact about his new home in Ottawa, Kan., the day he moved in. When his realtor remarked, "I hope those tombstones don't bother you," Cook thought he meant the cemetery across the street. But the realtor was referring to the gravestones that line the walls of Cook's basement. Cook wasn't bothered by the turn of events. "But," he said, "I didn't tell my wife for three days."

Renew your membership in SAPIIC now for 1999! If you renewed at the last meeting, thank you! It was determined at the October 3 meeting that SAPIIC's year will start on January 1.

Danville Fine Arts students presented "A Candlelight Walk Through Prairie Grove Cemetery," a series of public re-enactments honoring the heritage and ancestors of Des Moines County. What a great way to bring generations together in the common goal of preserving historic burial sites!

In Lewistown, IL, home of poet, Edgar Lee Masters, a re-enactment is staged of the "townspeople" that he wrote about. The tour takes place each year in October, during Spoon River Days. The actors, who are local, literally take the audience back in time.
