

# 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 #4 Issue #1

### No Stone Unturned.....

Sandyville, Martensdale, Patterson -- all towns that I passed through (and had never heard of) on the drive to the SAPIC meeting in Winterset on January 9. As I look out to the west from my new location in Van Buren County, I can see the lights of Kilbourn, another village previously unknown to me. If one travels to Kilbourn from the east, a T-road on the west edge of town forces one to make a choice: south takes you across the Des Moines River on a planked one-lane bridge. Choosing the north route will bring you to a cemetery. The church nearby has long been unused, but the cemetery is an active one. Nearly all of Iowa's small towns and villages, so rich in history, have a cemetery that reflects a once much larger population. Sometimes a cemetery is all that is left of a former settlement, such as the Springfield Cemetery in Keokuk County, where my ancestors' graves are located, or Johnson Town in Jones County. The preservation of these burial sites is crucial to the accurate portrayal of Iowa's history. Those of you who labor, often anonymously, in pioneer cemeteries will receive thanks from future historians and genealogists for your preservation efforts, but accolades may not come in your lifetime. This is not surprising or important to preservationists who answer the question, "Why do you do this?" by simply saying, "Because it's the right thing to do."

January, 1999

*Genealogists are some the most hospitable and gracious people, and the members of the Madison County Genealogical Society are no exception! SAPIC is grateful to them for arranging a great meeting place, providing coffee, tea, and doughnuts, and giving us so much support. Thanks to everyone, including the McVay's, Golightly's, and president Skip Greenwood for all your assistance with the January meeting!*

The April 10, 1999 meeting will be held at the BMC Rehab Building in West Burlington, Iowa (map on page 5) at 10:00 a.m. Plan to attend and see the mighty Mississippi River and other attractions in southeast Iowa! The Des Moines County Genealogical Society will be our hosts. Thanks to member Phyllis Rothlauf for arranging this meeting!

*Speaking of Phyllis, who is also the SAPIC historian, please send her or me news articles about activities in your area for inclusion in our Historian's Book. She is arranging the book by counties and chronologically, and we want your county represented.*

Phyllis Rothlauf  
1806 Sunnyside  
Burlington, IA 52601  
and/or  
Pat Shaw  
RR#1 Box 143-C  
Birmingham, IA 52535  
**Thanks!**

The STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

TREASURER REPORT:

10/1 - 12/31/98

Balance On Hand, 10/1/98: \$1,928.79  
 Checking AN: 361585, Mahaska State Bank, Oskaloosa

Income: 895.33

Membership Dues		430.00	
Deposit, 10/19	210.00		
do 11/6	70.00		
do 11/23	40.00		
do 12/22 (M)	110.00		
Interest		10.30	
10/19	2.73		
11/16	3.44		
12/21	4.16		
Video Sales		455.00	
10/19	355.00		
12/22	100.00		

Total On Hand & Gain: 2,824.12

Expense: -606.64

Patricia I. Shaw, Pres.		221.66	
10/8 (120) c 16.80, m 32.00	48.80		
11/5 (122) c 128.86, m 44.00	172.86		
Gwen Moore, Historian		37.05	
10/21 (121) Pioneer Cemeteries Book	37.05		
Video Production		347.93	
12/22 (123) Patrick Q. Palmer	162.44		
do (124) Pegasus TV	135.49		
do (125) Kevin Sayles	50.00		

Balance On Hand, 12/31/98: \$2,217.48

Initiate Account, 10/19/98 (Life Membership)		\$400.00
Savings AN: 282391, Mahaska State Bank, Oskaloosa		
Mail Deposits:		200.00
11/19	100.00	
12/22	100.00	

Balance On Hand, 12/31/98: \$600.00

Combined Balance On Hand, 12/31/98: \$2,817.48

Respectfully submitted:

*H. E. Crain*

H. E. Crain  
 January 5, 1999

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

(425) 743-6549

SAPIC MEETING  
3 OCTOBER 1998

THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES MET AT THE IGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MARSHALLTOWN. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:30 AM BY PRESIDENT PAT SHAW.

EVERYONE INTRODUCED THEMSELVES , 33 SIGNED THE ATTENDENCE SHEET. THE JULY MEETING MINUTES WERE READ & CORRECTIONS MADE. HARLEY CRAIN MOVED TO EXCEPT MSC TREASURES REPORT READ AND FILED FOR AUDIT

PRESIDENT PAT SHAW REPORTED ON THE SAPIC REQUESTED ACTIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE CONCERNING A RULING OF DISCLOSURE OF ANY OR ALL BURIAL SITES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. SHE HAS REQUESTED A LAWYER TO DRAFT A LETTER TO INFORM URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE COMMISSIONS OF THIS PROPOSAL.

A SAMPLE OF THE BROCHURE WAS PASSED OUT. MAILING ADDRESS CHANGED PAT PALMER SOLD "GRAVESTONE REPAIR 101" VIDEOS FOR \$25.00 , IF THEY ARE TO BE MAILED ADD \$5.00

THE ROBERT CARTER AWARD WAS GIVEN TO LOREN HORTON AT THE FRIDAY EVENING IGS BANQUET

GWEN MOORE DISPLAYED THE SAPIC HISTORIAN BOOK. FRAN JEFFERS MOVED TO REINBURSE HER \$35.02 FOR COST. MSC

15 COUNTIES CURENTLY BELONG TO SAPIC FAYETTE COUNTY NOW OFFICIAL THE SLATE OF NOMINATIONS FOR 1999 OFFICERS WAS READ BY CHAIRMAN MICHAEL ZAHS THEY WERE AS FOLLOWS: PRES. PAT SHAW, VP: ETHEL MC VAY, SEC: MARILYN SCHMITT. TREAS: HARLEY CRAIN, HISTORIAN: PHYLLIS ROTHLAUF. CAROL BOTTIN MOVED NOMINATIONS CEASE MSC

STAN JEFFERS MOVED THAT ALL MEETINGS BE OPEN . MSC

MIKE ZAHS MOVED THAT THE ROBERT CARTER AWARD RECIPIENT BE GIVEN A LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP. MSC

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN WINTerset JAN 9 1999

HARLEY CRAIN QUESTIONED THE CHANGING OF DUES AMOUNTS AS ALL OF THE MEMBERS WERE NOT PRESENT TO VOTE.

AFTER DISCUSSION THE CALENDER YEAR WAS DETERMINED TO BE THE BEGINNING ANT THE ENDING FOR DUES AND OFFICE TERMS.

THE GOVERNOR WILL SIGN A PROCLOMATION ,IN APRIL, CALLING MAY " CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH".

BOB AND KATHY TERRY EXPLAINED THE MATERIAL AND WAYS OF REPAIRING STONES THAT THEY USE

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AND PICTURES WERE TAKEN.

*Sec. Marilyn Schmitt*

SAPIC MEETING  
9 JANUARY 1999

THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES MET AT THE WINTERSET EXTENTION OFFICE WITH THE MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HOSTING. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:05 AM BY PRESIDENT PAT SHAW. 20 SIGNED THE ATTENDENCE SHEET.

THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED. TREASURERS REPORT WAS READ AND FILED FOR AUDIT.

MARILYN REPORTED THAT THE IGS PO BOX IS USED. SHE AS SENT SEVERAL DUES CHECKS ON TO HARLEY.

PRESIDENT PAT SHAW REPORTED ON THE SAPIC REQUESTED ACTIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE CONCERNING A RULING OF DISCLOSURE OF ANY OR ALL BURIAL SITES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. SHE HAS REQUESTED A LAWYER TO DRAFT A LETTER TO INFORM URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE COMMISSIONS OF THIS PROPOSAL

PAT SHAW REPORTED THAT VALERIE OGREN IS WORKING ON A NEW BROCHURE AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS. SHE ALSO REPORTED ON THE SALES OF THE VIDEO "GRAVESTONE RESTORATION 101"

PAT SHAW REPORTED THAT PHYLLIS HAS ARRANGED THE HISTORIAN BOOK BY COUNTY THEN CRONOLOGICAL USING NEWS ARTICLES AS WELL AS OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST.

PLEASE SEND PAT SHAW AREA REPORTS THAT WILL BE PUT IN THE NEWSLETTER AS WELL AS OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

THE DEFINATION OF A PIONEER CEMETERY WAS DISCUSSED

DES MOINES COUNTY HAS CREATED A COMMISSION

AFTER SOME DISCUSSION DEAN GIPPLE MOVED THAT PAT SHAW AND HARLEY CRAIN BE APPOINTED AS THE BUDGET COMMITTEE. REPORTING AT EACH MEETING AS NOW DONE. MSC MONEY FROM LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PUT IN A SEPERATE ACCOUNT AND SOME IDEAS WERE CALLED FOR AS TO WHAT TO USE IT FOR AT A LATER DATE AUDIT OF BOOKS WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN TREASURERS

JOHN MADDY MOVED THAT NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN MID-YEAR BE GIVEN THE REST OF THE YEAR THEIR DUES BEING APPLIED FOR THE NEXT YEAR. MSC

THE FAMILY MEMBERSHIP STATUS WAS DEFINED AS A FAMILY LIVING IN ONE HOUSEHOLD.

A THANK YOU WAS GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THEIR GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD APRIL 10 1999 AT 10:00 AM AT THE GOLDEN CORRAL RESTRAUNT IN BURLINGTON WITH DES MOINES CO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HOSTING.

PAT SHAW WILL CONTACT THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR VILLSACK TO SIGN A PROCLOMATION ,IN APRIL, CALLING MAY "CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH".

CHRIS FEISTNER SPOKE ABOUT THE UP COMING CEMETERY CONFERENCE THAT WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 19, 1999 AT THE UNIVERSITY PARK HOLIDAY INN IN DES MOINES. HE STATED THAT THERE WILL BE A TWO DAY CONFERENCE IN 2000 TO BE HELD IN CHARLES CITY, IOWA CHARLY STEVENS SPOKE TO THE ISSUE OF PRAIRIE GRASS AND TREES IN CEMETERIES

DEAN GIPPLE TOLD OF PLACING BLACK MARBLE PLAQUES HE HAD ENGRAVED TO PUT ON ENTRANCES TO PIONEER CEMETERIES

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:30 AM

*Secretary*  
*Marilyn Schmitt*



## COUNTY REPORTS

### Louisa by Dean Gipple

Dean put this inscription at the entrance of a pioneer cemetery\* on a 24' X 24" block of marble at a cost of \$600, plus \$150 for cement:

#### Tennessee Cemetery

As you visit this cemetery, let your heritage be remembered as a memory, treasure and a blessing.

This cemetery is named in respect of families, who in the early 1840's, moved here from Tennessee over the issue of slavery. The Andrew Jackson Duncan family, and others from their former community traveled here by covered wagon, railroad and riverboat. Others who made the enduring trip were the Acheson, Blair, Bright, Calhous, Cotter, Edwards, Johnson, Orr, Robertson, Stapp and Tedford families.

Although there were burials as early as 1842, it was not until the Joseph Tedford family donated the land in 1857 that it was officially recognized as a cemetery.

The religious faith that bonded these families was the Associate Church of North America. In 1912, the church was sold to the Free Methodist Church congregation of Columbus City.

Let us maintain and care for this cemetery with pride and respect in its natural setting as it was when originally established.

*Continuing Dean's report:*

*Pat,*

*Just reporting on some of our '98 progress.*

*It started off slow with my heart operation in January & my wife's shoulder resection at Mayo Clinic. She can no longer run a typewriter so I hire a 4H girl to type some of my material.*

*We installed a new fence around the Thompson Cemetery, using cattle panels - cost was around \$600, looks neat & should last a long time.*

*Planting wild flowers & prairie grass in the Tennessee Cemetery proved (to be) a big proplem, as the wet spring inhibited planting 'til July 2, then it*

*turned dry & weedy. I sowed a dormant seeding in December & time will tell if we get results. I have \$600 donated for a marble plaque here, and also \$150 for cement, \$200 for display planters & another \$250 from Monsanto. I keep pictures of all we have done. Then when I ask for \$ I show the pictures of our track record & am able to get needed \$.*

*I put in an 18" culvert in Spring Run Cemetery & this completes the renovation of this, my first cemetery.*

*I put 50 hours on the mower mowing 12 cemeteries & am looking towards cutting this time in half by slowing little blue stem & wild flowers in them.*

*We have excellent cooperation with the supervisors, but on the other side, we have Twp trustees who are slow to give up nepotism. This is why I strongly recommend that we lean over backward in trying to pacify the Twp trustees. Just remember we are changing a 150 year old method of handling this problem.*

*I will contact Barry Brauns again to get our bill in the hopper at the Legislature.*

*I intend to have wild flower seed (Butterfly Milkweed) available to give small samples at the ajpril meeting in Burlington. Would probably need time to explain the procedure of planting it.*

*Resp*

*DHG*

*Added note: I would suggest that a "Show & Tell" segment be put in our meeting, so that counties could report their work & we can learn from them?*

\* A news article about the Tennessee Cemetery and samples of signs made by prison labor and installed in Louisa County pioneer cemeteries are on the following page.

### Jones County

by Pat Shaw

Due to relocating to Van Buren County, I resigned from the chairmanship of the Jones County Cemetery Commission in November. The Commission is in good hands and has asked the County Supervisors for \$3000 for 1999 restoration activities.

reet:  
by:  
ate/Zip:  
ountry:  
one:  
DC

Contact Name:  
Order Taken By: Bill Davis  
Order Date:  
Terms:  
Delivery Date:  
Shipping:

Price: 0.00

*I ordered  
4 of these*

Description: 12 X 18 & 18 X 24 B/W; This Pioneer Cemetery renovated and seeded to Wild Flowers and Prairie Grass will be M  
Comments: *order 4*

This Pioneer Cemetery  
renovated and seeded  
to Wild Flowers and Prairie  
Grass will be Monitored  
and Cared for with  
Minimum Maintenance

This Pioneer Cemetery  
renovated and seeded  
to Wild Flowers and Prairie  
Grass will be Monitored  
and Cared for with  
Minimum Maintenance

*1" left  
18x24  
\$24.30*

*.75 left  
12x18  
\$12.15*

This Pioneer Cemetery  
Renovated and Seeded  
to Wild Flowers and Prairie  
Grass will be Monitored  
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*1" left  
18x24  
\$24.30*

*.75 left  
12x18  
\$12.15*

*Bronze Color (same as historical signs)*

TOTAL P.02



Roger Hunt and Dean Gipple discuss the wildflower planting project at the Tennessee Cemetery with the Riverforks FFA Club. - Gazette photo

## Work continues on Tennessee Cemetery

by John Carpenter

The Columbus FFA class has been busy this fall helping Dean Gipple and Roger Hunt plant wildflowers and prairie grass at the Tennessee Cemetery.

The project will take several years to complete. The goal for 1999 will be to install a marble plaque commemorating the pioneers from Tennessee who settled in this area, and the construction of flower boxes to display and describe the various wildflowers planted in the cemetery. Planting of additional trees is also planned for next year.

No tax money is being used for this project, funds have been donated by IBP, Monsanto, Trees Forever and the Department of Transportation. River Products Co. of Iowa City has also agreed to help with future expenses at the cemetery.

The project has been under the direction of Cemetery Association President Elmer Thomas and has been coordinated by Dean Gipple. "I am doing this because it beats watching television," said Gipple, "and it's very important work." Gipple went on to say: "This is our history. Whenever history ceases to be a reference for the future, our goals become vague. I'm very hopeful that someone is willing to take up this work when I am gone."

The Columbus Community can trace their roots back to these early Tennessee pioneers. Through the efforts of volunteers like Gipple, Hunt, and the FFA class, an appropriate resting place can be maintained for these founders of our community.

## Louisa County Supervisors Budget request accepted

WAPELLO - The Louisa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission made a budget request for \$4,000 for the next fiscal year at Monday's regular board of supervisor's meeting.

Dean Gipple, representing the commission, told the board only \$1,000 had been used so far this year from the county's general fund. The commission had budgeted \$5,000.

He told the board he had received grants totaling more than \$3,000 for work on the Tennessee Cemetery near Columbus Junction. He also noted receiving donations of nearly \$1,000 during the year.

Gipple said he is planning to have a marble plaque installed in memory of the early families who are buried there. The first known burial in the cemetery was in 1843.

Gipple said the cemetery is very muddy and he is considering tiling it in 1999.

Gipple's report relating to other pioneer cemeteries

included: The installation of a fence at the Thompson Cemetery.

Fallen trees and broken stones were a problem at the Foster Cemetery. Most of the trees have been removed. The township trustees installed 40 rods of new fencing.

Gipple plans to post signs at pioneer cemeteries saying they are being maintained and cared for with minimum maintenance.

Gipple told the board he plans to have the Beauchamp Cemetery mowed around the stones. It is completely seeded in prairie grasses, he said. Gipple wants to place posts next to the gravestones so they can be seen when the grass is high.

He reported the Sweet Cemetery was mowed three times this year.

At Concord Cemetery trees have fallen into the lane approaching the burial ground.

The township trustees are managing two pioneer cemeteries in Concord

Township.

Gipple said he had leveled the ground at the Coventry Cemetery near Wyman to make it easier to mow. He also has sprayed the brush along the fence with a chemical to deter its growth.

He noted there is a large stone in Mount Hope that has fallen over and needs to be set up. He would like to plant red oak and walnut trees along the perimeter.

"I know people are interested," said Forrest Bartenhagen. "They are glad to know that someone is taking care of them."

Bartenhagen has been attending supervisor's meetings since he was elected as a supervisor in November. His term begins January 1.

Supervisor Jack Esue said he has heard a lot of discussion about the right of way to Oakland Cemetery since there are several Civil War soldiers buried there. No further discussion or action was taken on the subject.

You can order inexpensive, durable signs for your cemetery from Iowa Prison Industries, Box B, Anamosa, IA 52205. Call Tammy Deesberg at 1-800-336-5863. FAX 1-800-741-0390.

Tammy will help you select size, color, lettering options, and sign message.

If your order is over \$100.00, delivery is free. Takes about 2 weeks.

Iowa Prairie Network also has signs available. Glen Pollock, IPN president, can help you: 402-571-6230



Jones County, continued.....

A set of slides was made from selected photos that had been taken of cemetery restoration during the existence of the Commission. This is stored in the local genealogical library and will be used for programs to publicize the Commission. Anyone wishing to schedule a showing of these slides may contact LaVerta Langenberg; 21692 20th St.; Lisbon, IA 52253; ph 319-432-6389.

**Jasper County**  
by Marilyn Schmitt

This article and poem were written by Beverly Cross of Baxter, Iowa, a Jasper County Commission member.

The Jasper County Tribune, Colfax, Ia. 50501  
Thursday, December 31, 1998-Page 5

## Restoration of County Cemeteries

The Jasper County Cemetery Commission and the Jasper County Genealogical Society have been busy restoring some of our county cemeteries. This has been a slow progression of work by members and friends for several years now. This past summer the Kellogg German Lutheran Cemetery and the Rushville Cemetery were worked on and the group succeeded in restoring many stones. Restoration means to repair broken stones and set them up right in the proper spot.

From time to time tombstones are found in places other than cemeteries. The Cemetery Commission has a few of these stones that have been gathered over the years. One such stone was found by a farmer west of Baxter as he was cleaning out a barn on his property and he notified the Commission. The stone was worn but still readable using aluminum foil to bring out the lettering. It was the stone of a little girl named Emila Flock. She was nine years old and had been buried in 1857, before an established cemetery had been started in the area.

Research told us the John and Catherine Flock family were early pioneers and lived in the "Old Baxter" area. The existence of an abandoned cemetery was known to have been on their homestead. For many years it has been farm ground and there are no visible signs that a cemetery once was in this spot. Further research told us the parents of Emila were buried in Bethel Cemetery. The commission decided to obtain permission from the township trustees and place the child's stone between that of her parents in Bethel cemetery.

On a beautiful early October evening a small group gathered with the commission members, to set the stone and hold a ceremony. The only known relatives of Emila Flock, Marjorie (McKenzie) and her husband Bob Weesner, of Dexter, Iowa, were notified and they were present for the dedication.

Zetta Rae Stock read scripture and everyone crumpled leaves and sprinkled them on Emila's stone. Beverly Cross read an original poem entitled "Sweet Little Pioneer Child" and Kathleen Paul closed the ceremony with a prayer.

It is the intention of the Jasper County Cemetery Commission to place more of these "Lost" stones in the future. They will continue with the restoration program and ask anyone who is willing to give them a helping hand. Work days and locations will be announced.

## Sweet Little Pioneer Child

by Beverly Decker Cross

"Emila Flock" the thombstone reads, "died in eighteen fifty seven"

The daughter of John and Catherine Flock had died and gon to heaven.

She was but a few months past nine years old, we know not what caused her death,

But on one cold, damp April morn, Emila had drawn her las breath.

No burying grounds had yet been formed, to bury her free from harm,

So her parents chose a beautiful hill on the back of their homestead farm.

It was on this spot, she'd spent happy hours, as she ran from the hill to the creek,

And hid in the sumptuous prairie grass, while playing hid and

seek.

The spot was picked, she was laid to rest, and a few more wer buried there,

But weathered with age the plot succumbed to the ravage of time and despair.

The cold hard steel of the moldboard plow has long since disturbed this place,

And the family plot as it once appeared, is gone...without a trace.

The gravestones that marked each resting place, are crur and gone.. in fact.

But the stone that marked Emila's grave was salvaged and kept in tact.

We gather now in a different place, not far from the Flock's abode,

The Bethel Cemetery lies just a mile or so down the road.

Emila's kin folk are resting here, siblings, cousins, grand-parents,

And although she still lies on her favorite hill, her stone wil be here with her parents.

As we bow our heads in reverence, and pray for the meek and the mild,

We're contented to finally put to rest, this sweet little pionee child.

Our biggest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our biggest fear is that

we are powerful

beyond measure.

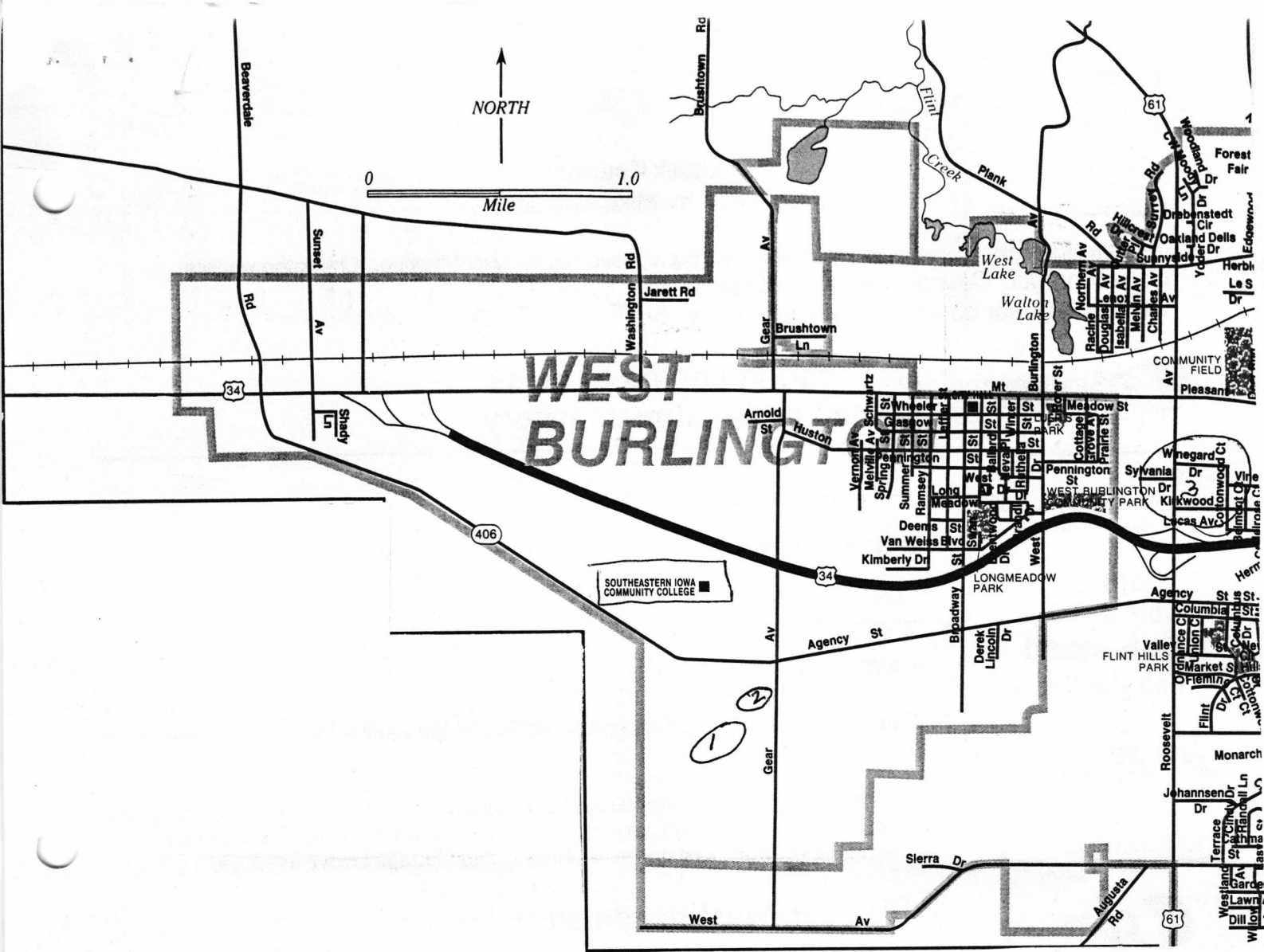
It is our light,

not our darkness,

that most frightens us.

— Marianne Williamson





\*\*\* SITE OF THE NEXT SAPIC MEETING \*\*\*

Hi, Pat:

Okay, here's the scoop for the April meeting:

Burlington Medical Center Center for Rehabilitation  
 1401 W. Agency Rd.  
 Burlington IA

in the Greyhound Room, lower level (elevator available) of the second building in the complex (#1 on the map - #2 is the Family Practice Center).

If coming from the west, either take Hiway 406 to Gear Avenue (college on north side) turn right (south) and you're there OR come on in on the freeway (Hiway #34), take the Gear Ave. exit, turn left, (south), cross Agency Road (Hiway 406) and there it is. From the north, take Hiway #61 to Agency Road (Perkins on one corner, KFC on another) turn right (west) and go to Gear Ave and turn left. From the south, come in on Hiway #61 to Agency Rd, turn left (west) and go to Gear Ave.

#3 on the map is the site of the motels for which I sent phone numbers in my first letter.

Kirkwood Ave	site of Super 8 Motel	1-800-800-8000	Toll free
		Comfort Inn	1-319-753-0000
Winegard Drive	site of Pzazz Best Western Motel	1-800-528-1234	Toll free

**Blackhawk County**  
Submitted by Mike Magee

An interesting chain of events about a controversial proposed cemetery in Waterloo. Check the website of the *Waterloo Courier* for more information:  
[www.wfcourier.com/metne99/990106plan.html](http://www.wfcourier.com/metne99/990106plan.html)

# Courier

## Association hoping to break ground on Muslim cemetery

POSTED:  
Sunday, January 3, 1999

By **TIM JAMISON**

Courier Staff Writer

Weather  
Obituaries  
Daily Record  
Call the Courier

### WATERLOO

Waterloo's growing Muslim community is looking to develop its own cemetery on the city's east side.

Archive

The Muslim Cemetery Association has asked the city Planning, Programming and Zoning Commission to approve a special use permit for a new 3-acre private cemetery at the northeast corner of Bishop and Cottage Grove avenues.

Columnists

# Courier

## Plan for Muslim cemetery buried

### Vehement opposition prompts zoning commission to reject plan

POSTED:  
Wednesday, January 6, 1999

By **FRANK FERNANDEZ**

Assistant City Editor

Weather  
Obituaries  
Daily Record  
Call the Courier

### WATERLOO

Plans for a Muslim cemetery have been rejected amid a clamor from upset residents who challenged officials to put the graveyard in their own neighborhood.

Archive

A couple dozen people packed Tuesday's Planning, Programming and Zoning Commission meeting to fight plans to open a private 3-acre cemetery at the northeast corner of Bishop and Cottage Grove avenues.

Columnists

"We are going to get all the black people together in Waterloo and we are going to get our own cemetery," said Laverne Harris, a resident. "And we are going to put it in your neighborhood and see how you like it."

- ▶ On Food
- ▶ Flick picks
- ▶ Iowa Outdoors
- ▶ Under the Dome
- ▶ Growing Things

The city's planning staff had planned to recommend the Muslim cemetery be approved. Instead, after learning of neighborhood opposition, planners suggested the issue be tabled.

## Expert says Muslim burial custom is perfectly healthy

POSTED:  
Sunday, January 10, 1999

Laying bodies to rest without vault or coffin poses no threat to the living, according to state official

Weather  
Obituaries  
Daily Record  
Call the Courier

By **FRANK FERNANDEZ**

Assistant City Editor

Archive

Columnists

- ▶ On Food
- ▶ Flick picks
- ▶ Iowa Outdoors
- ▶ Under the Dome

### WATERLOO

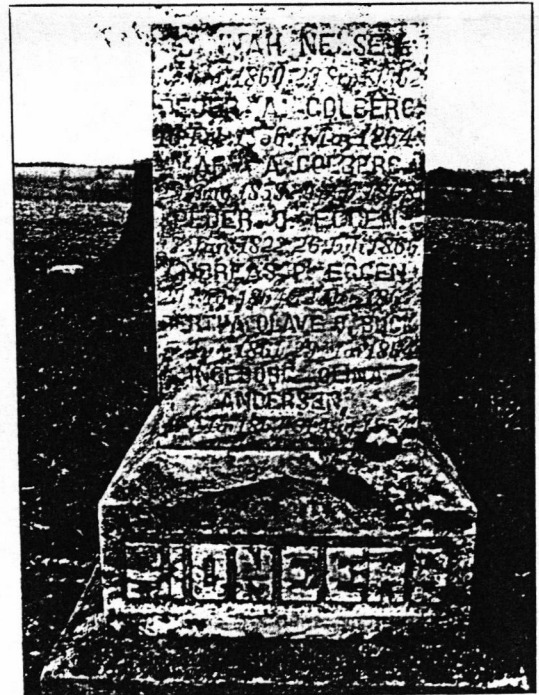
There's no threat to the living by burying the dead directly in the ground without vault or coffin, according to state health officials.

A local Muslim group's bid to create a cemetery in east Waterloo was rejected by city board last week after a deluge of complaints from neighborhoods -- including concerns that burying people without a vault or coffin, as is the Muslim custom, posed a health hazard.

Winnishiek  
County



Taking a look at names on the 1899 monument at Hesper Pioneer Cemetery is Sverre Dahl Jr., one of the Hesper Lutheran Church Cemetery Committee members. (Decorah Newspapers photo by Randy Uhl)



The monument was erected in 1899. The earliest burial occurred in 1854. The monument contains the names of numerous infants. (Decorah Newspapers photo by Randy Uhl)

**Have a happy and safe new year**





Work on the Hesper Pioneer Cemetery is being completed by, from left, Alton Losen, Rod Thorson and Sverre Dahl Jr. and other members of the Hesper Lutheran Church Cemetery Committee. (Decorah

## Volunteer group restoring Hesper pioneer cemetery

A small pioneer cemetery near Hesper, which will turn 100 years old next year, is being restored, as is its monument dedicated to the memory of area residents of Norwegian descent.

The cemetery, which is accessed by driving through a hayfield entered near the Ernie Corson farm, was begun in 1854. There were several burials in the year 1869, the last known year for a burial at the site. The monument was erected in 1899.

Hesper Lutheran Cemetery Committee members Ron Thorson, Sverre Dahl Jr., Charles Ardinger, Alton Losen, Kirk Christopher and Roger Goodno, along with former committee member Corson, have been helping to restore the site.

An old fence, with the exception of two corner posts in good condition, was removed and a new fence will be installed to replace it. In addition, four dying trees which could have damaged the monument had they fallen, were cut down. The monument itself, which stands about 11 feet high, was also set straight on its foundation.

Land for the one-tenth of an acre cemetery was donated in 1899 by "Ellef J. Lien and wife" to the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Congregation of Hesper, now known as the Hesper Lutheran Church.

Corson said the cemetery was cleaned up about a dozen years ago but

Cemetery described

A detail-filled letter to the editor from Darlene Durand of Decorah appearing in the Mabel Record talks about the cemetery. It says, in part:

"Pioneers and their families were buried in this wooded plot before the organization of the Hesper Lutheran congregation in 1865. Wooden slabs with the names of the dead carved on them marked the graves, but after a number of years the slabs rotted and many graves cannot now be identified."

Because of the poor condition of the grave markers, a committee headed by Hans C. Thingvold obtained money to build the obelisk, which includes the names of the estimated 40 people buried in the cemetery.

The oldest person buried there was Peter Leseth, born in 1797. Other names include Peter Quam, Kari Johnsdatter, Johanes Johnson, Ole Losen, Lars Arneson Kollanes, Oline Losen, Ingrid Kollanes, Peter Golberg, Bertha Buck, Peter Eggen, Marie Golberg, Peter Olson.

Christian Stromness Barn, Johannes Lein, Peteronella Berg, Elizabeth Lien, Ole Ingbretson Berg, Lars Larson, Andres Prytz, Hannah Nelson, Ingeborg Anderson, Peter Langen, Simon Olson, Svend Burreson, Gilbert Lien, Andrew Ellestad, Salve Forgeson, Annie Rolfhus and Anton Rolfhus.

**What an active group of preservationists!**



# Care for veterans' graves discussed

## Sups end year, prepare for 1999

By CHRIS MALONEY  
The Oskaloosa Herald

The 1998 Mahaska County Board of Supervisors had their final meeting Thursday. The agenda consisted of how much the county should pay the county's cemeteries to care for veterans' graves in 1999.

In the past, cemeteries have asked for what they spent. Some cemeteries have not asked for any reimbursement. The supervisors plan to set a flat rate which the county will pay each cemetery. In the past, the cemeteries were paid between \$5 and \$15 per veteran grave.

Kay Swanson, Mahaska County auditor, said the county typically pays \$15,000 per year for this care.

Howard Groenendyk, Mahaska County supervisor, said he wondered if the county has to pay anything toward the graves.

Swanson said Wapello County only pays two cemeteries for care of veterans' graves. A couple of other counties don't pay the cemeteries anything.

"We have 18 townships in Mahaska County and they have 18 different ways of doing things," Van Engelenhoven said.

He said the new supervisors

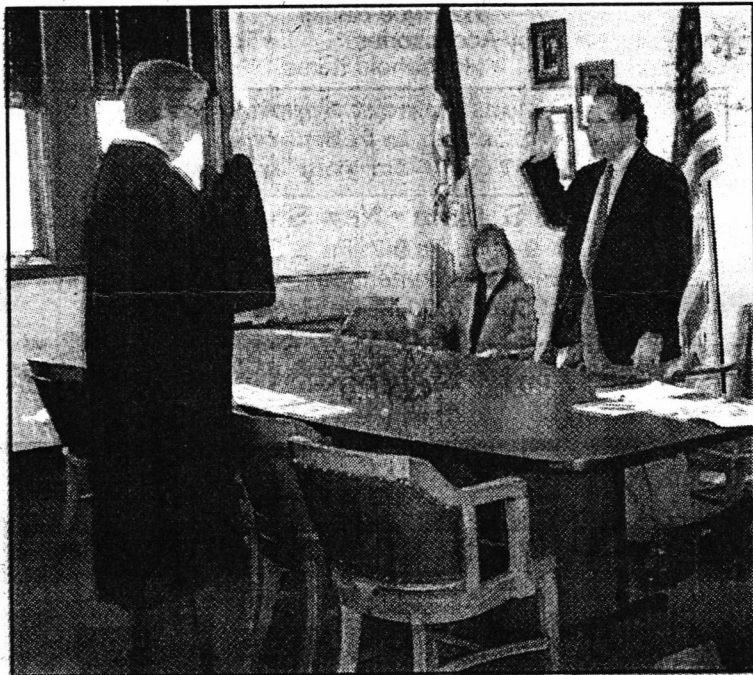
need to bring in the township trustees and have them explain their levies for cemeteries.

Groenendyk then moved that the issue be tabled with the understanding that the supervisors meet with the trustees.

Swanson said there is an I CN township trustee meeting Thursday, Jan. 21. She said the board could try to join their meeting.

### Jan. 4 meeting preview

The 1999 Mahaska County Board of Supervisors will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in the third floor conference room of Mahaska County Courthouse. The agenda includes a draft resolution for funding for 267th Street, Bob Elder representing Emergency Management, John Voss of Oskaloosa representing Bill Bone Lane, and appointments to various boards and committees.



Herald Photo by Chris Maloney

**NEW SUPERVISOR SWORN IN.** Greg Gordy (right) was sworn into office as Mahaska County Supervisor Thursday morning by Judge James Blomgren.

Saturday, January 2, 1999 • Oskaloosa, Iowa • © 1998 The Oskaloosa Herald

*Military veterans are some of our cemeteries' staunchest supporters. A retired veteran, Lionel DeRosier, organizes other veterans to restore neglected burial sites in the Arizona desert.*

### Always a Winner

A golfing parson, badly beaten by an elderly parishioner, returned to the clubhouse depressed.

"Cheer up," said his opponent. "You'll win eventually. You'll bury me someday."

"Yes," said the parson. "But even then it will be your hole."

# Tama County begins work to restore pioneer cemeteries

By SUE ROE  
State Editor

MONTOUR — At the top of a grassy hill overlooking the Iowa River valley just south of Montour is a place most people don't know about. To get there, taking the "cowpath" is the best way, but one could always opt for the plowed, muddy field and then follow the fence path to the foot of the hill.

This is the once forgotten Butlerville Cemetery in Indian Township. But state legislation has provided a way for this pioneer cemetery and some 3,000 others in the state to be remembered and saved.

The Butlerville Cemetery is one of nearly 30 in Tama County alone which are classified as pioneer cemeteries or having fewer than six burials in the past 50 years.

Upon first glance many of these cemeteries look like grassy, weedy areas, but a closer look shows they are the final resting grounds for many of Tama County's founding families. "You can almost imagine years ago what it was like when it was prairie," said Joyce Wiese, rural Toledo, who is among those interested in restoring the county's cemeteries.

At Butlerville, which was the name of a town in the county in the 1850's, the lone standing gravestone is dated 1857. Several other stones or pieces of stones are spread around the two-acre cemetery.

Wiese has a great-great-grandfather and some cousins buried in the Butlerville Cemetery. She doesn't know where they are, and she hasn't found any of their grave markers, but county records say they're there.

"What I'd like to know is how many stones are buried here," Wiese said. "This is one of the few which have a fence."

A recent meeting of township

trustees and other interested persons from around the county got the Pioneer Restoration Committee started with Wiese as chairman. The committee hopes to begin the long process of restoring each of the cemeteries by first assessing the condition of them.

"We want to burn off the weeds and then see about replacing or repairing the stones and their foundations," Wiese said. "Then we want to make sure they get mowed three or four times a year. We want all of them fenced in."

Some of the cemeteries are accessible by road, but most are only arrived at through a field or timber. "They're not in very good shape," Wiese said. "Cattle have gotten in some and knocked over the stones. Most of them have so much undergrowth. The brush alone is a big job."

Eventually, the committee would like to mark each cemetery as a pioneer cemetery. The committee is considering asking Girl and Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs and other service groups to help with the restoration and upkeep. "We might be surprised how many families would help," Wiese said. "It will take quite a few volunteers to help."

The Tama County Board of Supervisors has given its support to the restoration after the state legislature last year approved levying up to \$6.75 per \$100,000 of property valuation. For Tama County, that would mean about \$35,000. "When we get these repaired what it takes to keep them up would be much less," Wiese said.

If a levy were to be imposed, money wouldn't be generated until July 1998. Taxes for cemeteries are now collected only on farm land. The levy would tax all property in the county.

Most of Tama County's cemeteries are located in the southern half, reflecting the migration patterns taking by the early travelers along the Iowa River. A few townships have no pioneer cemeteries listed and some have been already maintained by township trustees or families

whose ancestors are buried there. But Wiese is hoping all county residents will be interested and help with the remaining cemeteries. "If I were buried here I sure wouldn't want cows running over me," she said.

For people researching their ancestry, restoring the cemeteries could yield valuable information. "There's a lot of information on some of these stones," Wiese said. Often, stones indicate where and when a person was born and parents' names.

"I wish we did this years ago so they wouldn't be in the shape they're in," Wiese said.

*Joyce Wiese, rural Toledo, is a great supporter of SAPIE. Not only did she purchase a lifetime membership, but she bought one for her granddaughter! What a wonderful investment for a young person that will instill in that youngster an appreciation for history and a commitment to preservation. Thanks to Joyce and to all our lifetime members.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**A hand held mirror can help you decipher worn, hard-to-read inscriptions on stones. Use a full-length mirror for photographs. The latter requires another person to hold the mirror. If the stone is in full sunlight, it must be shaded and then the mirror can be used to highlight the carving. Another person is often needed to shade the stone.**

**The flashlight method can be used on cloudy days or in the shade. The beam of the flashlight can be directed at the same steep angle across the face of the stone to highlight the carving. Both of these methods are far less messy than shaving cream or chalk and there is not even the possibility of causing damage to the stones.**



John Lovretta/The Hawk Eye

Howard Relf stands in the Schilb or Bolick farm plot, one of many Des Moines County cemeteries designated as pioneer cemeteries. Relf is a member of the new Pioneer Cemetery Committee, which will be in charge of maintaining and protecting the cemeteries.

# Pioneering group will tend county's pioneer cemeteries

By Jeanny Sharp  
The Hawk Eye

**A** group of volunteers hopes to bring respect and dignity back for early settlers buried in Des Moines County pioneer cemeteries.

"I have an affinity for cemeteries," said Phyllis Rothlauf, a member of the new Pioneer Cemetery Committee, established last week by the Des Moines County Board of Supervisors. "Everybody is interested in their family. Ever since the movie 'Hooch' came out, interest has grown in family history."

Pioneer cemeteries, by definition, must have had six or fewer burials in the past 50 years.

Rothlauf, one of seven people appointed to the committee, is a researcher and corresponding secretary for the Des Moines County Genealogical Society.

She decorates 22 graves in six different cemeteries each year for family members who either never had children or whose children are deceased.

Des Moines County, which was settled in the 1830s, has more pioneer cemeteries than other counties in the state not adjacent to the Mississippi River because it was settled first, said Bill Walker, committee and genealogy society member.

Forty-eight cemeteries, ranging from small family plots of three or four graves to large cemeteries with 100 headstones, were classified as pioneer cemeteries out of 90 surveyed by the genealogical society.

The cemeteries are in varying condition, ranging from marginal upkeep to total neglect, Walker said. The balance of 42 cemeteries are active and not eligible for pioneer status.

Some graves contain Revolutionary War veterans, but most are family plots. Families wanted their loved ones as close to them as possible, Rothlauf said, and transportation was so difficult at that time that people were buried



# Cemeteries at odds with time, weather

By Jeanny Sharp

The Hawk Eye

Time and weather and have taken their toll on many headstones in Des Moines County's pioneer cemeteries.

The Schlib/Bolick Cemetery in Flint River Township, with graves dating from 1875 to 1895, is one of many pioneer cemeteries dotting Des Moines County's countryside that has fallen into disrepair.

The neglected cemetery contains the now fallen headstone of an infant girl that still stirs emotions.

"I walked out of that cemetery kind of crying," said Howard Reif, 80, a new member of the Pioneer Cemetery Committee. Reif said the headstone with "BABE" etched in it was for a 3-day-old infant daughter of W. and E. Wagner.

"It has stuck in his mind since he saw it the first time.

"Lots of times, cemeteries started when a family lost a child," Reif said. Reif said if someone got sick, it could be a long time before a doctor could come to their home, so many adults and children died for lack of medical care, particularly in the winter. More than 47 percent of the deaths in the Schlib cemetery occurred during the winter months of January through March.

William Blair, a soldier in the American Revolution, elder in the Presbyterian Church and Iowa pio-

neer, is just one of more than 500 pioneers buried in local pioneer cemeteries whose headstone was legible the last time the cemeteries were surveyed in the mid-1970s by the Des Moines County Genealogical Society.

Blair, born in Lancaster County, Pa., in 1760, was a pioneer in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. He settled in Des Moines County and was buried in Round Prairie Lockhart Cemetery in Yellow Spring Township after his death in 1840 at the age of 80.

Several of the cemeteries have both an official name and the name the locals called it, said Beth Schwenker, president of the Des Moines County Genealogical Society and library assistant with the Burlington Public Library.

Sometimes the cemeteries were named after a church, then renamed for another feature or family name in the area, she said.

Des Moines County cemeteries designated as pioneer cemeteries by township include:

■Benton: Dravis, Freitag or Friday, Hinson family plot, Kingston, Newberry or Haight, Pegtown, Walker farm plot.

■Concordia: Cowles farm plot, Stewert family or Prugh farm plot, Sourwine and Talbert family plot.

■Danville: Old Danville, Jester and Renner farm plot.

■Flint River: Flint River, Johnson family plot, Old Middletown or Leuins Point, Schlib or Bolick and Inghram family or Schnupper farm plot.

■Franklin: Franklin Mills or Burris and Berry family plot.

■Huron: Driskell family plot, Hukill family plot and Swedish Lutheran.

■Pleasant Grove: Butcher or Old German, Carter, Gallaher or Zion, Millersburg, Ramsey and Siefkin family plot.

■Tama: Criner farm plot, Meyers family plot, Wykert and Steingraber family plot.

■Union East: Chandler, Mohnike and Porter.

■Union West: Carter family plot, Elliot, Lee, Morman and Swede.

■Yellow Springs: Covenanter or Presbyterian, Hazel Grove, Northfield, Round Prairie, Lynn Grove and Welsh Chapel.

Jackson and Washington: no pioneer cemeteries in these townships.

## MORE INFORMATION:

The Burlington Public Library has many print resources for those looking for historic Des Moines County information, said library assistant Beth Schwenker.

■Federal census data 1780-1920.

■Vital records — birth, death and marriage records.

■Immigration and naturalization

records, ship passenger lists.

■Burlington newspapers.

■Large magazine collection, including genealogy society magazines from other states.

■General genealogy reference works.

People from 23 states have visited the genealogy department of the library specifically doing genealogy research. The library offers some assistance on how to get started using the available resources.

The Des Moines County Genealogical Society meets monthly at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday at Midwest Federal Savings on Roosevelt and Division Avenues. New members are welcome to attend.

## Pioneers

Continued from page 1A

close to home. Many of the pioneer cemeteries originally were adjacent to long-gone churches.

Rothlauf said the group isn't likely to attempt to replace headstones, but with volunteer help may stand headstones up, piece them together, mow and weed the areas and provide fencing around them.

"They need fencing to protect them from stock or deer rubbing against the stones," Rothlauf said.

The Pioneer Cemetery Committee ultimately will become a commission within the next year, charged with the responsibility of maintaining and protecting pioneer cemeteries. The group will meet Monday to establish guidelines and priorities.

A new state law allows counties to levy a tax to pay for the upkeep of pioneer cemeteries.

"It is something that is needed," said Supervisor Tim Hoschek, but, "don't expect a huge tax increase until we get our feet on the ground."

The levy would be assessed against the general fund, not an agricultural fund — so rural and urban properties alike are taxed, Rothlauf said.

"Everything hinges on money," Walker said. "We need to survey the pioneer cemeteries this spring to determine how much care, restoration and expense it will take."

Once the initial cleaning and repair work is done, some isolated cemeteries may only require mowing once a year prior to decoration day, while others along roadsides may require cleaning of debris and mowing four or five times per year, committee members said.

Jones County, also along the Mississippi River, has had a Pioneer Cemetery Commission for several years.

"We have done wonderful," said Connie Humpal, secretary for the group in Anamosa. "The supervisors gave us more money than we asked for."

The group received \$1,500 their first year and \$3,000 the next two years. Humpal said.

Much of the repair expense has been taken on by organizations that adopted a cemetery she said. The former president of their committee, Pat Shaw, made personal visits to FFA, 4-H and church groups for support. The groups now provide annual upkeep of the cemeteries, she said.

Humpal said the group has discussed getting some kind of marker for unmarked graves, but have yet to make a decision. She credits community support and Shaw for the success of their committee.

"That's what we're hoping for here, too," said Walker. "We need to determine how much work needs to be done and how much it will cost. We don't know what we'll get for cooperation."

Walker spent about three months converting old directions to the old cemeteries to the 911 rural addressing system, with maps by township.

"The old directions said turn right at old barn, and there's no old barn there any more," Walker said. He said about half of the cemeteries are on private property, but most owners grant permission to visit the cemetery portion of their land.

"The biggest majority of people have a feeling about cemeteries and wouldn't deny letting people pay their respects to relatives," Walker said.

The seven-member committee grew by three Tuesday. Supervisor Ben Diewold will be county liaison to the group. John Danielson and Howard Reif are the two newest members.

"I'm happy to be part of it. It's good our state cares about its ancestors," Danielson said.



## Washington teacher leads his students on tour of county

By Dave Gosch  
Gazette staff writer

WASHINGTON, Iowa — With his flowing salt-and-pepper beard and his wooden staff, Mike Zahs resembles Moses leading his people to the promised land.

In Zahs' case, the people are his seventh grade students and the promised land is the world of history.

Four times a year, Zahs takes a bus load of Washington Junior High School students on a 200-mile, daylong journey around Washington County. It's a showcase for Zahs' extensive knowledge of county history as he describes the significance of cemeteries, ghost towns, farms and churches along the way.

He guides a historical trip across the state every summer with Loren Horton, retired senior historian with the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Zahs believes history is often taught backward.

He believes children can relate more to history when it starts on a local level and expands from there into national and world events.

"They get interested when they can see where it happens," he says. "It gives them roots. People don't feel like they belong. It gives them a sense of history."

Zahs, who has taught social studies at the school since 1975, has a personal stake in Washington County, where his ancestors settled in the 1830s, before Iowa was a state.

Before the field trip begins, students tape plat maps to the seat in front of them. The bus departs at 6:45 a.m. They won't get back to school until 3 p.m.



Gazette photos by Dave Gosch

bluff along the Iowa River at the Washington-Johnson county line. Zahs said the Chicago Sun-Times published an article saying it is the only known spot where three cultures are buried.

Middle Woodlands Indians are buried in mounds believed to be 2,000 years old at the area known as Graveyard Point. Sac and Fox Indians from the late 1700s and early 1800s also are buried there alongside settlers who died in the 1850s.

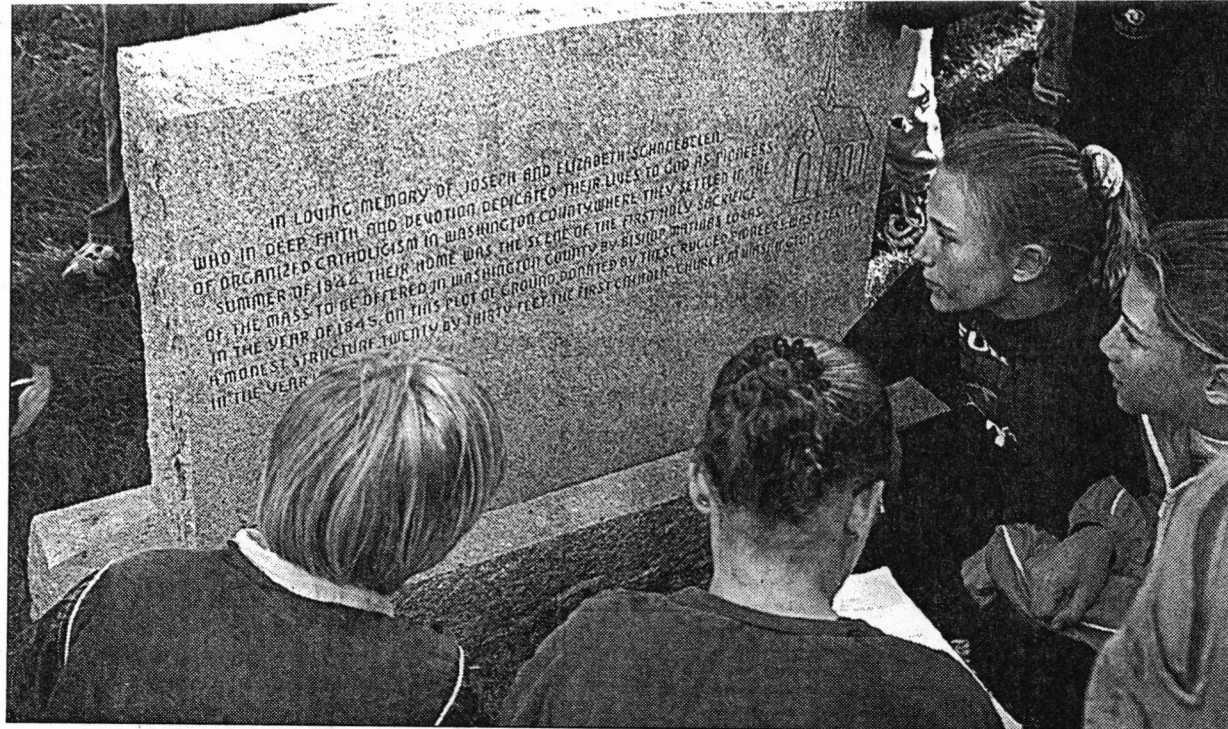
Along the route, Zahs occa-

**ABOVE:** Washington Junior High teacher Mike Zahs, with staff in hand, talks to his students about the history of Oak Ridge Cemetery in southwest Washington County.

**RIGHT:** Karrissa Parker (foreground) and Sonya Davolt look at a plat map of Washington County. The students were on a historical field trip of the county with Washington Junior High social studies teacher Mike Zahs.



Washington County  
Cedar Rapids Gazette article about SAPIC's own Michael Zahsi  
What a great foundation he's building for future cemetery preservation efforts.



Gazette photo by Dave Gosch

Washington Junior High students Ashley Bertling (closest to the monument) and Kayla Kling read about the history of St. Vincent Mission Catholic Church where Bishop Mathias Loras celebrated the first Mass in Washington County. The cemetery is west of Riverside. The students were on a historical field trip of the county with Mike Zahs, their social studies teacher.

## Washington: Amish settled near Kalona in 1846

■ From page 1B

sionally stands up and points to a historical landmark. He says that many old barns in the county were destroyed by the June 29 windstorm this year.

In the Kalona area, Zahs points out several Amish schools, businesses and farms. He says it is the largest settlement west of Ohio and that the Amish settled in the area in 1846.

In the far eastern part of the county, Zahs points to a farm-

house just across the Louisa County line. He says Jesse James once visited a farmer there and asked to trade horses.

When the farmer refused, James forced the transaction at the point of gun. He then carved the name of his horse on the barn. The name is still there today.

While passing through Wellman, Zahs mentions that the outlaw had a girlfriend who lived in town.

Seventh grader Brett Pierson said he was amazed by the history in his county.

"I had no idea (Jesse James) was ever here. That really surprised me," he said.

Brett says he likes the way Zahs teaches history.

"He's a great teacher," he says. "I never thought the county was that special, but when I learned what Mr. Zahs told me, I found it was special."

Enclosed on the next page is our SAPIC brochure, recently updated by Valerie Ogren of Jefferson, Iowa. Please detach the brochure, make at least ten copies of it, and distribute it to the public, genealogical, and historical libraries in your area. If your local food market or convenience store has a community bulletin board, put one up there, too. You can help promote SAPIC's goals and make the general public aware of its existence! **Thank you!**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code (+4) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

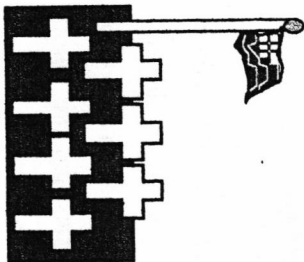
Individual \$10 \_\_\_ Family \$15 \_\_\_ Organization \$20 \_\_\_ Lifetime Individual \$100 \_\_\_

Donation or Memorial \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (List name of honoree, if desired) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: SAPIC, c/o IGS, P O Box 7735, Des Moines IA 50322-7735

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

**STATE ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE  
PRESERVATION  
OF  
IOWA CEMETERIES  
(SAPIC)**



c/o IGS, P O Box 7735  
Des Moines IA 50322-7735

*Dedicated to the Protection,  
Preservation & Maintenance  
of Pioneer Burial Sites in the  
Great State of Iowa*

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## Goals of our Organization

- ◆ To identify all cemeteries in Iowa.
- ◆ To take such measures as are necessary, possible, and reasonable to protect these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them from danger from natural causes and from human encroachment.
- ◆ To provide guidance and educational materials for use by the people entrusted with the preservation of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- ◆ To compile and distribute information about the proper maintenance techniques for these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- ◆ To provide advice and information to legislative bodies empowered to pass legislation creating a legal framework for the protection, the preservation, and the maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.

- ◆ To act as a monitor for the administrative and management personnel of these cemeteries, to ensure that the legal measures for the protection, preservation, and maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them are enforced.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SAPIC History

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) was formed in 1996 as a result of legislation that allowed for each of Iowa's ninety-nine counties to create a County Cemetery Commission. The focus of these Commissions was to rescue untended pioneer graves and cemeteries and to take responsibility for the upkeep of such sites.

\* \* \* \* \*

Each year, the month of May is proclaimed "Cemetery Appreciation Month" by the Governor of the State of Iowa.

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## Meetings

*Meetings are held on the second Saturdays of January, April and July. The last meeting of the year is held in conjunction with the Iowa Genealogical Society Annual Conference in October. Meetings are held in various locations in the state of Iowa. Places are announced in the quarterly newsletters.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in the restoration and maintenance of pioneer cemeteries in Iowa.

Membership entitles each membership a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, rights to hold office and vote at meetings.

\* \* \* \* \*

### QUESTIONS???

Phone 319-293-3899

E-mail: [patshaw@netins.net](mailto:patshaw@netins.net)

(or)

Visit our Web Site at

<http://www.sapic.org>

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You can help out preservationists in Indiana by making copies of and/or signing and returning the following petition to the address at the bottom. Many of their problems are similar to Iowa's. Most of us have ancestors whose graves are in Indiana -- let's make sure those burial sites are not violated.

### PETITION TO THE INDIANA LEGISLATURE

Pioneer cemeteries throughout the Hoosier State are vanishing almost before our very eyes and our laws offer them little or no protection. As development continues to spread and real estate escalates in potential value, little pioneer family cemeteries become more and more "disposable".

Indiana will soon be celebrating its Bicentennial as a State (2016). By that time, many of our pioneer cemeteries will have vanished altogether. The majority of the thousands of pioneer cemeteries that dot this State are located on previously undeveloped real estate or are isolated plots in the midst of cultivated land.

Indiana Code 23-14-68 offers only token "protection" to pioneer cemeteries. Though the statute very specifically sets out the duties and responsibilities of the Township Trustees with respect to the identification and care of abandoned and neglected cemeteries, the recent revision of that statute has eliminated most pioneer cemeteries from the care and responsibility of the Trustees and prevents Trustees from expending public funds on cemeteries located on private property.

Indiana Code 23-14-67 ostensibly offers further protection to abandoned and neglected pioneer cemeteries by giving the County Commissioners the OPTION of creating Cemetery Commissions. However, the Counties are not required to establish Cemetery Commissions and, even more damaging, nothing in the statute compels the County Councils to FUND the Cemetery Commissions, even if established by the County Commissioners.

Under current Indiana law, owners of property containing pioneer cemeteries that were never "deeded out" can neglect, abuse and even blacktop such sites with impunity, so long as they do not "disturb the soil". Farmers are permitted to run livestock in cemeteries and can remove the markers and plow those sites. Owners of these tracts have no legal obligation to honor the final resting places of our pioneer ancestors.

Simple common decency demands that we respect the final resting places of our pioneer predecessors by:

- ▶ Revamping Indiana's statutes to compel owners of real property containing abandoned and neglected pioneer cemeteries to allow Township Trustees and County Cemetery Commissioners to inspect, restore and maintain such sites;
- ▶ Compelling the Counties to ESTABLISH AND FUND County Cemeteries Commissions;
- ▶ Compelling the Township Trustees and the County Cemetery Commissions to identify, protect and maintain *all* Indiana pioneer cemeteries that were established before 1939 and are without funds for maintenance;
- ▶ Making it illegal to destroy, neglect or abuse any cemetery, with effective sanctions for violations.
- ▶ Empowering Township Trustees and County Cemetery Commissions to expend public fund on any abandoned and/or neglected cemetery, regardless of "ownership", because ethically no one can "own" a burial place for human remains.

The status of current Indiana law in this regard is a travesty. By signing this Petition, the undersigned wish to advise our State Legislators that we consider this situation unconscionable and urge that the laws be revised, amended and/or rewritten to offer genuine protection to these historic sites.

Signature	Printed Name	County of Residence	Mailing Address

Please return signed Petitions to:  
**Clark County Cemetery Preservation Committee**  
**P.O. Box 4016, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130**  
 For more information, contact [LoisMauk@usa.net](mailto:LoisMauk@usa.net)  
**Indiana Pioneer Cemeteries Restoration Project: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~inpcrp/>**

"Gravestone Restoration: 101," a video produced by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries featuring Paul Maddy and Pat Palmer, is still available by mail at a cost of \$30.00. Order from Pat Palmer: 114 3rd Ave NE Hampton IA 50441. It was reported at the January meeting that a group of 4-H girls watched the entire video and are now filled with enthusiasm to volunteer to work in Iowa's pioneer cemeteries!

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Another enthusiastic promoter of cemetery preservation is Chris Feistner of Villisca who presented his plan to hold a cemetery conference in Des Moines on June 19. Chris has worked hard to bring together experts in burial customs and laws, present diverse cultures, and make us aware of how gravestones and other artifacts are being destroyed. Cost is reasonable, weather will be good, and the conference is centrally located. Plan to attend this first conference dedicated solely to the topic of cemeteries. Registration form is on the following page.

*BMM* *\$ 17.00* *245732* *A-6-99*  
**Landscapes of Memories** A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries: Repairing Tombstones  
**A publication from our Canadian neighbors**

For further information on this publication, you may contact:

Tamara Anson-Cartwright  
 Heritage Properties and Museum Programs Unit  
 Toronto, Canada  
 Telephone: (416) 314-7133  
 Fax: (416) 314-7175  
 E-mail: [tamara.ansoncartwright@mczcr.gov.on.ca](mailto:tamara.ansoncartwright@mczcr.gov.on.ca)

Copies are available at a cost of \$10.00 each and can be purchased from Publications Ontario, 1-800-668-9938; or in Toronto at (416) 326-5300.

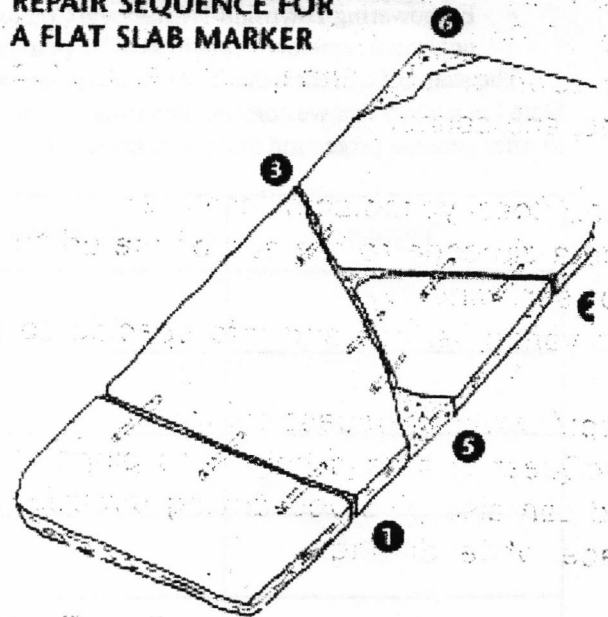
***This fully illustrated guide offers step-by-step instruction on the cleaning and minor repair of historic monuments.***

A book from our neighbors to the north:  
Landscapes of Memories: A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries, compiled and edited by Tamara Anson-Cartwright, 1997, published by the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, 2nd Floor, 77 Bloor Street W, Toronto ON M7A 2R9, Canada. Phone Publications Ontario: 800-668-9938, or in Toronto: 416-326-5300. Cost is \$10.00 plus S & H.  
[www.gov.on.ca/MCZCR/english/culdiv/heritage/memories.htm](http://www.gov.on.ca/MCZCR/english/culdiv/heritage/memories.htm)

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Website to try: [www.graveyards.com](http://www.graveyards.com)

**REPAIR SEQUENCE FOR A FLAT SLAB MARKER**



1. Dowel together two bottom pieces of marker.
2. Dowel top of stone to triangular fragment.
3. Dowel top to bottom of stone.
4. Pin on fragment with a smaller dowel.
5. Pack in mortar on both sides of stone to fill crack and complete mortar fills at missing portions.
6. This mortar fill is in a very vulnerable location and may not survive long here. While it would "comp" the stone, it is probably best omitted.

IOWA CEMETERY CONFERENCE

WHEN: SATURDAY JUNE 19, 1999  
WHERE: UNIVERSITY PARK HOLIDAY INN 1800 50TH ST. DES MOINES, IOWA  
WHO: THE CONFERENCE IS SPONSORED BY THE VILLISCA, IA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
WHY: TO BRING MORE AWARENESS TO THE COMMUNITY ON THE CONCERNS, POLICIES, RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION, AND THE DESTRUCTION AND DESECRATION OF CEMETERIES IN IOWA. THE IOWA-SAC TRIBE WILL DISCUSS (NAGPRA) OR THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PRESERVATION AND REPATRIATION ASSOCIATION AND ALSO THEIR NEW NATIVE AMERICAN WEB-SITE.  
COST: \$15.00/PERSON \$25.00/COUPLE

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EVENT SCHEDULE:

8:00 A.M.-9:00 A.M. PRE--CONFERENCE CHECK-IN  
9:00-9:15 INTRODUCTIONS  
9:15-9:45 PHYLLIS CARTER--INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF CEMETERIES.  
9:45-10:15 DAVID GRADWOHL--JEWISH CEMETERIES IN IOWA. THEIR SIGNS, SYMBOLS, AND HISTORIES.  
10:15-10:30 CONFERENCE BREAK  
10:30-11:00 SHIRLEY SHERMER--BURIAL LAWS AND ARCHEOLOGY IN IOWA TODAY.  
11:00-11:30 IOWA-SAC TRIBE--INTERNET WEB-SITE WITH NATIVE AMERICAN INFORMATION AND HOW IT WILL BE USEFUL TO YOU.  
11:30-1:00 LUNCH BREAK  
1:00-1:40 IOWA-SAC TRIBE--DICK BLACK--NAGPRA RULES WITH NATIVE AMERICAN CONCERNS AND RESOLUTIONS.  
1:40-2:30 CHRIS FEISTNER--CEMETERY DESTRUCTIONS AND DESECRATIONS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE BLACK MARKET OF FUNERARY ITEMS.  
2:30 CONFERENCE CLOSE WITH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

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EVEN THOUGH THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE SHORT COMPARED TO SOME, WE ARE PLANNING ON HOLDING A CEMETERY CONFERENCE IN JUNE OR JULY OF 2000. THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN CHARLES CITY, IOWA AND IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE CITY AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF CHARLES CITY. WITH OUR SECOND CONFERENCE I HOPE TO HAVE MORE HANDS ON ACTIVITIES AND MORE EVENTS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU CAN WRITE OR CALL ME AT THE ADDRESS ON THIS YEARS CONFERENCE RETURN SLIP. THANK YOU.

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RETURN THIS BOTTOM SLIP WITH YOUR MONEY/S FOR YOU RESERVATION TO THE JUNE 1999 CEMETERY CONFERENCE.

\_\_\_YES! I PLAN TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

MY NAME IS (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

MY ADDRESS IS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL FEE \_\_\_\_\_

MY ADDRESS IS: CHRIS S. FEISTNER P.O. BOX 71 VILLISCA, IOWA  
50664 TELEPHONE 1-712-826-2440



*More from Mike Magee: Mike spoke to the Waterloo Sears Retirees Luncheon gathering on cemetery restoration and repair. He has completed the Finchford and Washington Chapel Cemeteries and has started on Pleasant Hill aka Sawyer Cemetery, all in Blackhawk County.*

Quote from Shirley Schermer, Burials Program Specialist at the Office of the State Archaeologist:

"As I see it, the main advantages of listing a property on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are recognition of its significance (and) compilation of documentation into one document. Listing on the NRHP (or being determined eligible for listing) is required to qualify for many grants, and the potential impact on a NRHP property must be evaluated if a construction project of some kind is proposed that has federal involvement (funds, technical assistance, permits, etc.)."

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

Check out this site to see if a federal grant is available for cemetery restoration in your area:

<http://www.idimagic.com/htmls/grants/func0002.htm>

*Ask your local funeral directors and monument dealers to join SAPIC. Be sure to leave one of the SAPIC brochures (in this issue) at their places of business.*



Larry Davis  
5716 Kingman Ave.  
Des Moines IA 50311