

# 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 #2

## No Stone Unturned.....

You may think that wintertime activities for cemetery preservationists are limited to visiting graves of family members to place a holiday arrangement or a tiny decorated Christmas tree on the grave of a loved one while snow is softly falling. Inclement weather and frozen sod does prohibit probing, fencing, stone straightening and repair, and working on the grounds, but that does not mean that important work for our historic burial sites is not going on. We must do very different kinds of preservation work in winter. It might mean transcribing the readings that you did last summer or giving programs about your restoration projects. Because the State Legislature is in session from January 'til April, it also means laying the legal groundwork to make the rescue of neglected cemeteries possible. Thanks to the vision and political savvy of SAPIC member, Dean Gipple, a law was passed during the 1999 Session that makes it possible to access land-locked burial sites. The law also includes a provision that inserts the words "burial plots" into the Ground Water Hazard Statement Form that is required for all real estate transactions. Representative Barry Brauns (District #47) and Senator Andy McKean (District #28) ran the bill and provided valuable guidance in refining the bill to assure its passage. Dean made five trips to Des Moines, and I spent one day there

trying to keep up with him! Making contacts and being "visible" is necessary to promote our interests and to let our legislators know that our concerns are important to the majority of Iowans. Your input in the form of a letter, a phone call, an e-mail, or a verbal communication to your legislator from a grass roots level helps a great deal. We will be back next year, as there are still many more concerns, such as fencing of sites, vigorous enforcement of existing laws, and establishing uniformity in the taxation and administration of cemeteries.

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*Legislation was the main topic of discussion at our April 10 meeting in West Burlington, hosted by the Des Moines County Genealogical Society. Phyllis Rothlauf, S.A.G.P. historian, had made arrangements that included a great meeting room, refreshments, and a warm welcome for our members. It was really appreciated!*

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**Our next meeting will be on the other side of our great state in the Nodaway Valley Museum in Clarinda, Iowa hosted by the Page County Conservation Board. The invitation extended by County Naturalist, Charly Stevens, was gratefully accepted by the membership. Plan to attend on July 10, 1999 at 10:30!**

Clarinda is the birthplace of Glen Miller. In nearby counties, one can visit the site of the famous Villisca Ax Murders, The Mormon Trial Center, John Brown's Cave & Historic Village, and Henry Fonda's birthplace.

**SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Pat Shaw  
RR#1 Box 143-C  
Birmingham, IA 52535  
319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

Vice-President: Ethel McVay  
605 E. Buchanan  
Winterset, IA 50273  
515-462-9802 EMcvay@7984@aol.com

Secretary: Marilyn Schmitt  
13059 S. 52nd Ave. W.  
Mitchellville, IA 50169  
515-674-3956

Treasurer: Harley E. Crain  
17126 68th Ave. W.  
Edmonds, WA 98026  
425-743-6549

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114 3rd Ave. NE  
Hampton, IA 50441 yankeez@willowtree.com

Molly Beason, Board of Trustees  
P.O. Box 126  
Deep River, IA 52222  
515-595-6770

Carol Bottin, Board of Trustees  
124 E. Main, Apt. 13  
New Hampton, IA 50659  
515-394-4343

Phyllis Carter, Board of Trustees  
2305 180th St.  
Washington, IA 52353  
319-653-6339

Dean Gipple, Board of Trustees  
307 Flat Iron Drive  
Columbus Junction, IA 52738  
319-728-2344

Paul Maddy, Board of Trustees  
1515 Warford St.  
Perry, IA 50220  
515-465-3472 Jemaddy@aol.com

Michael Magee, Board of Trustees  
638 Englewood  
Waterloo, IA 50701  
319-232-8762 GenieMan@aol.com

Valerie Ogren, Board of Trustees  
108 N. Oak  
Jefferson, IA 50129  
515-386-4784 vjogren@netins.net

Ted Sieck, Board of Trustees  
P.O. Box 283  
Irwin, IA 51446  
712-782-3300

**WHERE TO GET PROBES**

Agri-Drain  
340th St.  
Adair, IA 50002  
1-800-232-4742  
Sizes range from 4 1/2' - 8'. Start at  
\$18.50.

Paul Rohrbacher, blacksmith  
14562 Hwy 38  
Monticello, IA 52310  
319-465-6369

Northern Hydraulics  
Burnsville, MN  
612-894-0326 or 1-800-533-5545

**WHERE TO GET EPOXY**

PL-400 Liquid Nails, Construction Grade  
Menards' or most hardware  
stores/lumber yards

3-M 1838 B/A TAN EPOXY  
GENEX  
1700 2nd Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
515-266-4656

ZO3010 TRKN Resin-Based Adhesive \$19.30 qt.  
GranQuartz  
P.O. Box 33569  
Decatur, GA 30033  
1-800-459-6222

**WHERE TO GET SIGNS**

Iowa Prison Industries  
Box B Anamosa, IA 52205  
1-800-336-5863

Iowa Prairie Network  
402-571-6230

**CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT THE  
VACCINE THAT IS NOW AVAILABLE TO HELP  
PREVENT LYME TICK DISEASE.**

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 10, 1999 MEETING OF  
STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES**

The April 10, 1999, meeting of SAPIC was held at the Burlington Medical Center Rehab Building in West Burlington, Iowa. The meeting was hosted by the Des Moines County Genealogical Society and arranged by Phyllis Rothlauf. SAPIC President, Pat Shaw, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

In the Secretary's absence, Jo Vernooy was requested to record the Minutes. The January 9, 1999, Minutes were read by Pat Shaw. The January 9, 1999, Minutes are to be corrected as follows: 1) "John" Maddy should be "Paul" Maddy; 2) The statement, "She has requested a lawyer to draft a letter to inform urban development and land use commissions of the proposal," should be deleted in its entirety. Mike Magee moved to accept the Minutes with corrections noted herein. The motion was seconded by Judy Swanson and passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Pat Shaw. The balance as of March 31, 1999, is shown as \$2,864.49. Phyllis Rothlauf moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted, seconded by Molly Beason, and passed unanimously. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to these Minutes and incorporated herein by this reference.

Web site comments were given by Pat Shaw.

The Robert Carter Award was discussed. Nominations must be made thirty days prior to presentation. Phyllis (Mrs. Robert) Carter spoke about the award. Last year's award was presented to Loren Horton. Former recipients of the award are: 1996 - Dean Gipple, and 1997 - Paul Maddy. The criteria will appear in "Grave News."

Reports of active County Commissions were given:

Phyllis Rothlauf reported on the Des Moines County Commission.

Jo Vernooy has submitted a report for the Mahaska County Commission that will appear in the next "Grave News".

Wayne Moore reported on Henry County.

Molly Beason stated that Poweshiek County has formed a Commission.

Although the Commission is not "sanctioned" by the Board of Supervisors, it is still an active commission.

Mike Magee spoke on his work in Black Hawk County Pioneer Cemeteries.

Discussion was held on the Cemetery Conference to be held June 19, 1999, at the University Park Holiday Inn in Des Moines. This Conference has been planned by Chris S. Feistner and is sponsored by the Villisca, Iowa Historical Commission.

Mike Magee passed around the book, Death to Dust: What Happens to Dead Bodies? by Kenneth V. Iserson, M. D. and recommends it highly. Mike also stated that he had received e-mail from Clayton County stating that the county is forming a commission.

Dean Gipple and Pat Shaw gave a report on pending legislation relative to access and notification to buyers of the location of a cemetery on land being purchased. Members of SAPIC are encouraged to contact their legislators relative to the passage of this legislation.

Dean Gipple then gave his report on work being done by the Louisa County Commission. He stated that a marble plaque had been placed in the Tennessee Cemetery in Louisa County. He also commented on the value of Internet contacts.

Discussion was held relative to Dean Gipple's submission of costs for trips relative to legislation. Dean has agreed to submit his costs at a later date.

Dean also brought starts of butterfly milkweed, a prairie flower, to be taken by any member who would like one. This wildflower attracts monarch butterflies and is planted with prairie grass to help support the stalks.

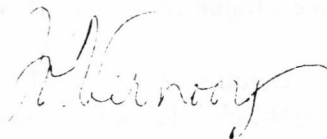
Discussion relative to contributions to legislators was tabled until the July meeting.

Pat Shaw stated that the Page County Conservation Board had invited SAPIC to hold the July meeting at the Nodaway Museum in Clarinda. Mike Magee moved to accept the invitation with Judy Swanson seconding. The motion carried.

Pat Shaw suggested that SAPIC members contact local newspapers, radio stations, etc., regarding the proclamation of May as Cemetery Appreciation Month.

Other announcements: 1) Articles appearing in Omaha World Herald and the Indianapolis Star; and, 2) The "Cemetery Preservation Workshop" to be held on May 8, 1999, at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa.

Upon motion made by Judy Swanson and seconded by Phyllis Rothlauf, the meeting was adjourned.



*Thanks so much to Jo Vernooy for volunteering to take the minutes of the April 10 meeting at very short notice. SAPIC is fortunate to have persons with so much talent and skill, along with the spirit of cooperation, within its membership.*

The STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

TREASURER REPORT:

1/1 - 3/31/99

Balance On Hand, 12/31/98: \$2,217.48  
 Checking AN: 361585, Mahaska State Bank, Oskaloosa

Income: 419.99

Membership Dues 380.00  
 Deposit, 1/19 215.00  
 do 2/8 70.00  
 do 2/25 95.00

Interest 9.99  
 1/18 3.45  
 2/20 3.12  
 3/15 3.42

Video Sales 30.00  
 2/25 30.00

Total On Hand & Gain: 2,637.47

Expense: -474.98

Patricia I. Shaw, President 474.98  
 1/14 (128) c 13.30, m 38.40 51.70  
 2/5 (129) c 196.39, s 22.03, m 88. 306.42  
 2/22 (130) c 68.58, m 33.00, t 2.08 103.66  
 3/22 (131) m 13.20 13.20

Balance On Hand, 3/31/99: \$2,162.49

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

Savings AN: 282391, Mahaska State Bank, Oskaloosa  
 Interest, 12/31/98: 2.00  
 Deposit, Mailed 3/22/99: 100.00  
 Total Income: 102.00

Balance On Hand, 3/31/99: \$702.00

Combined Balance On Hand, 3/31/99: \$2,864.49

Respectfully submitted:

*Harley E. Crain*

Harley E. Crain, Treasurer  
 April 7, 1999

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

(425) 743-6549

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Alan W. Mohr	10928 142nd Ave.	W. Burlington	IA	52655
Anna Nordman	315 E. Green	Clarksville	IA	50619
Ardene Cross	P.O. Box 55	Clutier	IA	52217
Bates Funeral Chapel	P.O. Box 207	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Betty Robertson Giese	4751 S. Linder Ave.	Chicago	IL	60638
Beverly Bethune	525 Grandview Ave.	Ottumwa	IA	52501
Beverly Cline	1002 N. 4th Ave.	Winterset	IA	50273
Bryce Veldhuizen	3261 James Trail	Eddyville	IA	52553
Calvin E. McVay	605 E. Buchanan	Winterset	IA	50273
Carol Bottin	124 E. Main, Apt. 13	New Hampton	IA	50659
Cedar Memorial	4200 First Ave. NE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52402
Charlene Hixon	2649 Hickory Trail	Iowa City	IA	52245
Charlotte Marvin	401 2nd St. N	Humboldt	IA	50548
Chickasaw Co Gen	P.O. Box 434	New Hampton	IA	50659
City of Villisca		Villisca	IA	50864
Clarke Co Cem Ass'n	309 S. Dewey	Osceola	IA	50213
David J. Kramer	103 5th St. SE	Dyersville	IA	52040
Dean Gipple	307 Flat Iron Dr.	Columbus Junction	IA	52738
Decorah Gen. Ass'n	202 Winnebago	Decorah	IA	52101
Des Moines Co Gen Soc	P.O. Box 493	Burlington	IA	52601
Donetta Dickey	P.O. Box 743	Smithfield	VA	23431
Donna J. Nord	2105 S. 1st	West Des Moines	IA	50265
Dwight Bunting	1124 Clearview Dr.	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Edna L. Miller	1315 Houston	Grand Junction	CO	81501
Eleanor B. McCleary	906 Sunrise Circle	Muscatine	IA	52761
Elmer E. Thomas	812 Union St.	Columbus Junction	IA	52738
Elva Tharp Clyne	1528 Elmwood Ave.	New Ulm	MN	56073
Frances A. Ellis	8407 Spanish Rd. SW	Cedar Rapids	IA	52404
Frances Jeffers	507 Jefferson St.	Decorah	IA	52101
Greene Co Gen Society	P.O. Box 133	Jefferson	IA	50129
Hampton Twn Cem Office	209 19th St.	East Moline	IL	61244
Harley Crain	17126 68th Ave. W.	Edmonds	WA	98026
Harvey P. Pederson	40306 80th Ave.	Thompson	IA	50478
Helen L. Janson	P.O. Box 8	Gravity	IA	50848
Humboldt Co Gen Society	30 Sixth St. N.	Humboldt	IA	50548
Iowa City Gen Society	P.O. Box 822	Iowa City	IA	52244
Jackson Co Cem Comm	12901 119th Ave.	Maquoketa	IA	52060
Jane Briley	707 W. Fremont	Creston	IA	50801
Jeanny Sharp	800 S. Main St.	Burlington	IA	52601
Jefferson Co Gen Society	2791 240th St.	Fairfield	IA	52556
Jessie W. Thompson	1481 130th St.	Creston	IA	50801
John Jacobs	P.O. Box 155	Rose Hill	IA	52586
Jones Co Gen Society	P.O. Box 174	Anamosa	IA	52205
Joyce A. & Gail Wiese	2160 310th St.	Toledo	IA	52342
Judith Lomax Swanson	1976 295th St.	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Keith M. Street	325 Franklin St.	Wapello	IA	52653
Kenneth Marlin	P.O. Box 134	Anamosa	IA	52205
Keo-Mah Gen Society	P.O. Box 616	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Keokuk Co Hist Society	Elm & East St.	Sigourney	IA	52591

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Kristin L. Macy	P.O. Box 103	Des Moines	IA	50301
Larry Allan	2806 Rutland	Des Moines	IA	50311
Larry D. DuVal	900 11th St.	Onawa	IA	51040
Larry Davis	5716 Kingman Ave.	Des Moines	IA	50311
Letha Heichel	1911 Creamery Rd.	Dexter	IA	50070
Linda Sue Zintz	P.O. Box 384	Centerville	IA	52544
Loren N. Horton	3367 Hanover Ct.	Iowa City	IA	52245
Louisa Co Cem Comm.		Wapello	IA	52653
Louisa Co Gen Society	607 J.L. Hodges Hwy	Wapello	IA	52653
Lucas Co Gen Society	803 Braden Ave.	Chariton	IA	52653
Madison Co Gen Society	P.O. Box 26	Winterset	IA	50273
Mahaska Co Cem Comm	1240 235th St.	Leighton	IA	50143
Mahaska Co Hist Society	P.O. Box 578	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Margaret Ballinger	P.O. Box 2544	La Mesa	CA	91943
Margaret L. Ademeit	60 Lamson MHP	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Marian Sanders	585 Heather Ave.	Alden	IA	50006
Marilyn R. Finke	641 E. Gregory Blvd.	Kansas City	MO	64131
Marilyn Schmitt	13059 S. 52nd Ave.W.	Mitchellville	IA	50169
Marion Co Gen Society	P.O. Box 385	Knoxville	IA	50138
Marjorie Brokaw	602 E. Buchanan	Winterset	IA	50273
Maureen D. Wilson	9107 Tanglewood Dr.	Urbandale	IA	50322
Maxine Henry	2490 50th Ave.	New Virginia	IA	50210
Michael D. Zahs	251 Harding, Haskins	Ainsworth	IA	52201
Mike Magee	638 Englewood	Waterloo	IA	50701
Molly Beason	P.O. Box 126	Deep River	IA	52222
Monroe Co Gen Society	203 Benton Ave. E	Albia	IA	52531
Myra Voss	123 N. Main St.	Elkader	IA	52043
Nishnabotna Gen Soc.	1709 20th St.	Harlan	IA	51537
Northeast IA Gen Society	503 South St.	Waterloo	IA	50701
Ochiltree Funeral Service	P.O. Box 261	Winterset	IA	50273
Page Co Conservation Bd	112 E. Main	Clarinda	IA	51632
Patrick Q. Palmer	114 3rd. Ave. NE	Hampton	IA	50441
Paul Maddy	1515 Warford St.	Perry	IA	50220
Phyllis Carter	2305 180th St.	Washington	IA	52353
Phyllis Rothlauf	1806 Sunnyside	Burlington	IA	52601
Poweshiek Co Cem Ass'n	1811 Prince St.	Grinnell	IA	50112
Poweshiek Co Hist Gen	P.O. Box 280	Montezuma	IA	50171
Ray H. Bowler	510 Railroad St.	Carlisle	IA	50047
Richard Booram	2133 Fairview Dr.	Cedar Falls	IA	50613
Richard W. Sorenson	307 W. Pleasant	Maquoketa	IA	52060
Robert E. Keller	412 N. Spruce	Creston	IA	50801
Robert W. Nolan	15120 River Rd. Ct.	East Moline	IL	61244
Rosalie Ahrendsen	7922 Jungle Town Rd.	Oxford Junction	IA	52323
Rosemary Wade	9095 Koestner Ave.	Burlington	IA	52601
Ruth Ann Hall	408 E. Salem	Indianola	IA	50125
Ruth Crowe	350 S. Glenwood Ave.	Glendora	CA	91741
Sheila R. Takai	2925 Lawn Ave.	Burlington	IA	52601
Shirley Clark	1405 S. Elm	Jefferson	IA	50129
Shirley J. Schermer	700 Clinton St.	Iowa City	IA	52242

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Steve Story	401 Smith St.	West Union	IA	52175
Steven J. Roy	2340 Ashworth Rd.	West Des Moines	IA	50265
Ted Sieck	P.O. Box 283	Irwin	IA	51446
Terry's Cemetery Repair	P.O. Box 98	Liscomb	IA	50148
Union Co Gen Society	310 N. Maple	Creston	IA	50801
Valerie J. Ogren	108 N. Oak	Jefferson	IA	50129
VanBuren Co Gen Society	Box 158	Keosauqua	IA	52565
Vera Heck	4356 235th St.	Guernsey	IA	52221
Wayne Co Gen Society	110 S. Franklin	Corydon	IA	52590
Wayne Moore	2193 Racine Ave.	New London	IA	52645
William H. Matthews	10791 77th St.	Wapello	IA	52653

The preceding pages list names of those on the SAPIC mailing list. It contains the names and addresses of members, plus some individuals/groups that are not members, but who have requested our newsletters.

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**The criteria for the Robert L. Carter Award is on the following page. Please review the criteria and submit the name of a deserving cemetery worker to the Chairperson for consideration.** The 1999 Selection Committee is:

Phyllis Carter, Chairperson  
 2305 180th St.  
 Washington, IA 52353  
 319-728-2344

Other members:

Dean Gipple, former recipient -- 1996  
 Paul Maddy, former recipient -- 1997  
 Loren Horton, former recipient -- 1998

\*\*\*\*\*

Contact person at the Office of the State Archaeologist:

Shirley J. Schermer, Director, Burials Program  
 700 Clinton St. Bldg.  
 Iowa City, IA 52242-1030  
 < sscherme@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu >  
 Ph. 319-384-0740  
 Fax 319-384-0768

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*To fulfill a dream, to be allowed to sweat over lonely labor, to be given a chance to create, is the meat and potatoes of life. The money is the gravy.  
 -- Bette Davis*



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

1. The award shall be called the Robert L. Carter Memorial Award.
2. The Robert L. Carter Memorial Award shall be given only once each year.
3. The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries President shall appoint an Ad Hoc committee of the Board of Trustees to act as an Awards Selection Committee. This Awards Selection Committee shall serve a term of one year, although individual Board members may be appointed to it for succeeding years.
4. The Award Selection Committee shall come to a decision prior to each State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries' annual meeting as to whether or not an award shall be given that year, and if so, to whom or what.
5. The Award Selection Committee shall make its recommendation to the full Board of Trustees at the Board meeting immediately preceding the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries' annual meeting\*.
6. Eligibility for the Robert L. Carter Memorial Award:
  - a. any individual, group, association, organization, institution, or governmental agency or unit is eligible for consideration.
  - b. to be considered for the award, a nominee must have demonstrated an achievement or activity above and beyond what is expected under ordinary circumstances.
  - c. a nominee must have been involved in or responsible for an achievement or activity that significantly extends or expands the education about preservation, protection, maintenance, appreciation, or understanding of Iowa cemeteries, graveyards, burying grounds, single burials, monuments, tombs, mausoleums, grave markers, or other aspects of material culture related to or associated with Iowa cemeteries.
  - d. one award may be given for service; one award for cemetery education.
7. Any member of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, including Board members, may nominate persons or other eligible recipients as described in 6a.
8. Members of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, including Board members, are eligible to receive the Robert L. Carter Memorial Award.
9. Nominations for the Robert L. Carter Memorial Award shall include the following in order to be eligible:
  - a. a letter naming the nominee that summarizes the relevant achievement or activity, and signed by the nominator.
  - b. at least one letter of support from a person or group other than a member of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries.
  - c. appropriate supporting materials such as photographs, newspaper articles, printed matter, or other documentation explaining the relevant achievement or activity and its significance.
10. Nominations must be in the hands of the Award Selection Committee no later than 90 days prior to the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries' annual meeting.
11. The Robert L. Carter Memorial Award shall be presented to the recipient at the annual meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, or at another time deemed appropriate.

\*July 10, 1999 Meeting

Criteria prepared by Loren Horton

# HF 472

PAG LIN

HOUSE FILE 472

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## AN ACT

RELATING TO BURIAL SITES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 558.69, Code 1999, is amended to read as follows:

558.69 REPORTING OF PRIVATE BURIAL SITES, WELLS, DISPOSAL SITES, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS, AND HAZARDOUS WASTE - LIABILITY.

With each declaration of value submitted to the county recorder under chapter 428A, there shall also be submitted a statement regarding whether any known private burial site is situated on the property, and if a known private burial site is situated on the property, the statement shall state the approximate location of the site. The statement shall also state that no known wells are situated on the property, or if known wells are situated on the property, the statement must state the approximate location of each known well and its status with respect to section 159.29 or 455B.190. The statement shall also state that no known disposal site for solid waste, as defined in section 455B.301, which has been deemed to be potentially hazardous by the department of natural resources, exists on the property, or if such a known disposal site does exist, the location of the site on the property. The statement shall additionally state that no known underground storage tank, as defined in section 455B.471, subsection 11, exists on the property, or if a known underground storage tank does exist, the type and size of the tank, and any known substance in the tank. The statement shall also state that no known hazardous waste as defined in section 455B.411, subsection 3, or listed by the department pursuant to section 455B.412, subsection 2, or section 455B.464, exists on the property, or if known hazardous waste does exist, that the waste is being managed in accordance with rules adopted by the department of natural resources. The statement shall be signed by at least one of the sellers or their agents. The county recorder shall refuse to record any deed, instrument, or writing for which a declaration of value is required under chapter 428A unless the statement required by this section has been submitted to the county recorder. A buyer of property shall be provided with a copy of the statement submitted, and, following the fulfillment of this provision, if the statement submitted reveals no private burial site, well, disposal site, underground storage tank, or hazardous waste on the property, the county recorder may destroy the statement. The land application of sludges or soils resulting from the remediation of underground storage tank releases accomplished in compliance with department of natural resources rules without a permit is not required to be reported as the disposal of solid waste or hazardous waste.

2 19 If a declaration of value is not required, the above  
2 20 information shall be submitted on a separate form. The  
2 21 director of the department of natural resources shall  
2 22 prescribe the form of the statement and the separate form to  
2 23 be supplied by each county recorder in the state. The county  
2 24 recorder shall transmit the statements to the department of  
2 25 natural resources at times directed by the director of the  
2 26 department.

2 27 The owner of the property is responsible for the accuracy  
2 28 of the information submitted on the form. The owner's agent  
2 29 shall not be liable for the accuracy of information provided  
2 30 by the owner of the property. The provisions of this  
2 31 paragraph do not limit liability which may be imposed under a  
2 32 contract or under any other law.

2 33 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 566.35 BURIAL SITES LOCATED ON  
2 34 PRIVATE PROPERTY.

2 35 1. If a person notifies a governmental subdivision or  
3 1 agency of the existence within the jurisdiction of the  
3 2 governmental subdivision or agency of a burial site of the  
3 3 person's ancestor on property owned by another person, the  
3 4 owner of the property shall permit the person reasonable  
3 5 ingress and egress for the purposes of visiting the burial  
3 6 site, and the governmental subdivision or agency shall notify  
3 7 the owner of this obligation.

3 8 2. Pursuant to section 558.69, the declaration of value  
3 9 submitted to the county recorder under chapter 428A shall also  
3 10 include the existence of any known private burial site  
3 11 situated on the property.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
BRENT SIEGRIST  
Speaker of the House

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\_\_\_\_\_  
MARY E. KRAMER  
President of the Senate

3 23 I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and  
3 24 is known as House File 472, Seventy-eighth General Assembly.

3 25  
3 26  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
ELIZABETH ISAACSON  
Chief Clerk of the House

3 28  
3 29  
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Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 1999

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\_\_\_\_\_  
THOMAS J. VILSACK  
Governor

# State of Iowa Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** IOWANS ARE AWARE OF THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE RICH HERITAGE CONTAINED IN IOWA'S PIONEER HISTORICAL CEMETERIES; AND
- WHEREAS,** THIS APPRECIATION OF THEIR ANCESTORS' RESTING PLACES, DEVELOPS A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR ANCESTORS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IN THEIR COMMUNITIES; AND
- WHEREAS,** PRIDE AND RESPECT FOR OUR PIONEERS LEADS TO AN INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND THAT WE DEDICATE THIS MONTH TO THE CARE OF OUR PIONEER CEMETERIES:

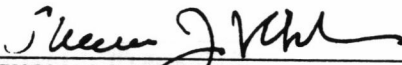
NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY, 1999, AS

### CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH

IN IOWA.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE.

  
THOMAS J. VILSACK  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
CHESTER J. CULVER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

On April 22, 1999, Governor Tom Vilsack signed a proclamation setting the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month" to honor the memories and resting places of our Iowa pioneer ancestors. Members and friends of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries were present to witness the signing and be a part of the ceremony.

Those attending the ceremony were: Valerie and Duane Ogren, Jefferson; Mike Magee, Waterloo; Mabel Daniels, Oskaloosa; Jim and Pat Kiser, Ankeny; Calvin McVay, Winterset; Jo Vernooy, Ben Mayer, and Judy Swanson, Oskaloosa; Pat Shaw, Birmingham; Dean Gipple, Columbus Junction; State Senator Andy McKean, Anamosa; Meredith Jinks, Stacy Schmitt, David Lindell, and Brittney Griffith; Des Moines; and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson. Senator McKean and House Representative, Barry Brauns, were instrumental in the successful passage of the bill allowing access to land-locked cemeteries and adding "burial sites" to the Ground Water Hazard Statement. Rep Brauns was unable to be in the picture, due to being summoned back to the House floor for a vote. The four young people from Des Moines were involved in the restoration of Woodland Cemetery as a class project.

*also  
Marilyn  
Schmitt*

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries was formed in 1996 to focus attention on the need to protect, preserve, and maintain Iowa cemeteries, particularly those in which six or fewer burials have occurred in the past fifty years. Such sites are often untended with no one taking responsibility for their upkeep.

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries has been instrumental in supporting legislation designed to make the proper elective officials responsible for the care and maintenance of pioneer graves and cemeteries. A bill adopted by the 1996 Iowa Legislature allows for the Board of Supervisors in each of Iowa's ninety-nine counties to create County Cemetery Commissions that would report directly to them. A provision in the law also seeks to equalize the tax base for cemetery support and to reduce the present unfairness which forces a township with low population to financially support all the cemeteries within its boundaries.

Membership in the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries is open to all person interested in rescuing pioneer burial sites in the state of Iowa. For more information, call 319-293-3899.

**SAPIC MEMBERS:** Please copy and submit this information to your local newspaper for publication and to your local radio station for a possible public service announcement. Pat Shaw will send pictures to all who request one. The Humboldt County Genealogical Society offers these excellent suggestions: Have the mayor of your town sign a proclamation, also. Pat Shaw will send or fax a copy of the state proclamation for ideas for wording, if you wish. Humboldt Co Gen Society also plans to have a booth at the county fair this summer. They will distribute information there about their own cemetery work and even promise to mention SAPIC activities!

*Thanks, Humboldt County and to all who promote cemetery preservation!*

### Recent News Articles

*If you'd like copies of any articles mentioned in this newsletter, contact Pat Shaw (address on page 2):*

"Tumbling into the legislative rabbit hole" by Bill Shaw, *Indianapolis Star/News*. A description of the difficulties getting changes/additions in the Indiana State Code that reverses the law that allowed powerful interests from being able to "buy" pioneer burial sites.

"Long Beach Woman defends family cemetery against developers" by Brad Branan, *Biloxi Mississippi Sun Herald*. One woman's fight to save her family cemetery from Stone Investments, a developer of subdivisions and estate lots.

"Demand for Collectibles Fuels Gravestone Thieves" by David Hendee, *Omaha World-Herald*. A story devoted to awareness of theft and recovery of collectible artifacts from cemeteries. Includes comments from Patty Lee St. Martin, Rick Moses, Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, Pat Shaw, and Lois Mauk.

"So far, volunteers have documented thousands of cemeteries in 44 states, with the permission of cemetery officials, who sometimes provide records" by Renee Tawa, *The Los Angeles Times*. Transcription project by Pam Reid.  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/>

### Helpful Web Sites and E-mail addresses

Poplar Grove Cemetery  
[http://www.nps.gov/pete/pe\\_vc.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pete/pe_vc.htm)

NATIONAL CEMETERIES UNDER NPS JURISDICTION  
<http://www.nps.gov/parklists/cemetery.htm>

Burial Sites on the National Register of Historic Places  
<http://www.uh.edu/~cleimer/register.html>

National Cemeteries and Soldier's Lots  
<http://citynet.net/mostwanted/articles/nacems1.htm>

ARKANSAS CONFEDERATE AND UNION SOLDIERSBURIAL PLACES  
<http://www.insolwwb.net/!legerdes/cem-idx.html>

Police and law enforcement  
<http://www.officer.com>

State and federal public documents  
<http://www.gov.com>

Carolyn Jacobi, Eternal Justice, Cemetery consumer activist and watchdog  
E-mail: [ejjustice@bellatlantic.net](mailto:ejjustice@bellatlantic.net)

David T. Moellendorf, Research Investigator for Evergreen Cemetery, Milwaukee Wisconsin. Mr Moellendorf and his wife assisted Carolyn Jacobi in her investigative report for a 20/20 segment. His expertise includes electronic mapping and photographing tombstones. The Moellendorfs are the founders of the "Museum of Myths, Mysteries, Legends, and Lost Treasures."  
E-mail: [dtnommoe@execpc.com](mailto:dtnommoe@execpc.com)

Michael Emery, Information Systems Coordinator, Save Texas Cemeteries, Inc.  
<http://members.aol.com/savegrave/>

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY  
<http://www.nmfh.org/index.html>

Cemetery Junction Directory  
<http://www.daddezio.com/cemetery/index.html>

Patricia Oates, cemetery worker in Texas who tells how to put an old marble stone in a stainless steel frame without using glue or dowels.

E-mail: [pattiann@eramp.net](mailto:pattiann@eramp.net)

[www.potifos.com/cemeteries.html](http://www.potifos.com/cemeteries.html)  
[www.miningco.com](http://www.miningco.com)      [www.viola.com](http://www.viola.com)

### CEMETERY DATA BASE/REGISTRATION PROGRAMS

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/registry.html>

Appleton's "Cemetery Research Database" and "Cemetery Caretaker" shareware.

AGS database  
[www.berkshire.net/ags/gdatabase.shtml](http://www.berkshire.net/ags/gdatabase.shtml)

COMMENTS ON THE SAGIC WEB SITE

I was tickled to see the Cemetery Preservation site today. My Great Grand Parents are buried in the Cemetery in Corning...which when I was there last, was in fairly good shape.

However; I have seen cemeteries destroyed, and that really bothers me.

My family has a long history of interest in cemeteries and funerals, as my Father, both Grandfathers, and at least one Great Grand-Father were all Funeral Directors/Morticians. My daughter is carrying on the tradition.

You have a nice site...I'm glad I ran across it. Cathy Johnston  
johnstoc@hoffman.army.mil

Great job on your cemeterys. We have been restoring a cemetery that was neglected for over 50 years. It took a year to clean out all the weeds but we loved every minute of it!!! We used the witching to find stones and probing. We utilize youth from the high schools as well as first time youth offenders and interested members of the community. We have over 200 volunteers who are helping us restore our small cemetery (1.5 acres). Keep up your good work...loved your sight I am going to tell all my cemetery friends about it!

By the way our cemetery is the Centerville Pioneer Cemetery located in Fremont California (Bay Area).

Take care, Joyce Alessandrino  
CrysJoyce@aol.com

\*\*\*\*\*

**SAGIC's vice-president, Ethel McVay, had foot surgery recently and was unable to attend the April meeting and the proclamation signing ceremony with Governor Vitack on April 22. She and her husband, Calvin, are some of SAGIC's most faithful supporters. Hope your recovery is rapid and complete, Ethel!**

\*\*\*\*\*

EVEN A TOMBSTONE WILL SAY  
GOOD THINGS ABOUT A MAN  
WHEN HE'S DOWN.

Gravestone Preservation Workshop

Saturday, May 8 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Indian Hills Comm College, Ottumwa, IA  
Beverly Bethune, Instructor

Cost: \$30

Call 515-683-5170 for information.

\*\*\*\*\*

*For a delightful story about one descendant's restoration of the gravestones of his ancestors in Jackson County, contact:*

*William E. Rathbun  
1007 E. Jefferson  
Fairfield, Iowa 52556*

*Title is "Not for Money The Repair and Resetting of Two Marble Gravestones."*

\*\*\*\*\*

Some guides to recording cemetery data that advocate row-by-row burials with diagrams, rather than by alphabetical listings are:

John J. Newman, *Cemetery Inscribing - Preparations and Procedures: Technical Leaflet 9* (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1400 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville TN 37203, 1971)

Richard E. Meyer, ed., *Cemeteries and gravemarkers; Voices of American Culture* (Ann Arbor: University Microfilms, 1989)

E.W. Potter and Beth Bolan, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places*, 1992; and *Recording Cemetery Data*, a pamphlet (Worcester: Association for Gravestone Studies.)

# Clarinda

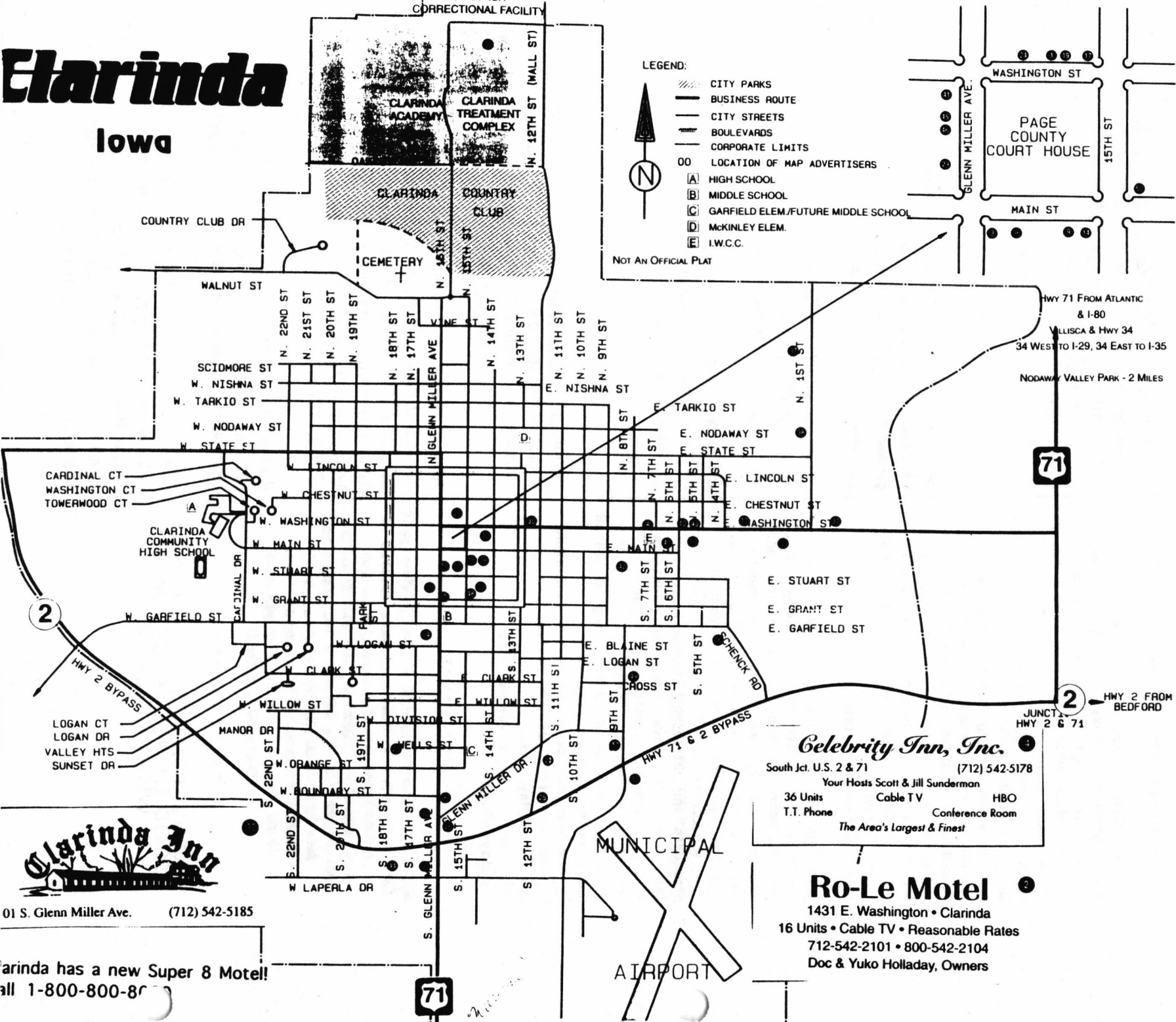
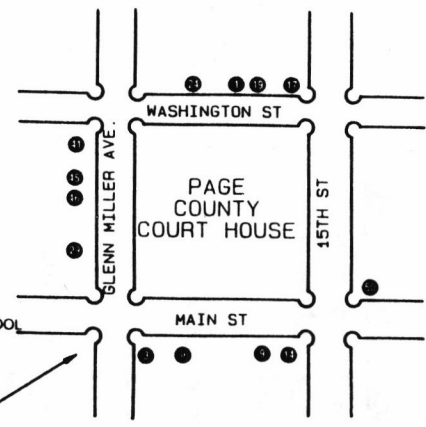
Iowa

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# Re-enactment probes mystery of Virginia grave

By HELEN O'NEILL  
AP National Writer

Beneath the stately oaks that shelter Miss Kitty's grave in Charlottesville, Va., the actor blinked back tears.

Then he composed himself and turned to his audience. Wide-eyed, his voice exaggerated, he shuffled toward an imaginary young woman sweeping an imaginary stoop.

"I figured out why your mama never let us in the house," he boomed. "She got stowaways in there."

The scene is played out on the grounds of the University of Virginia, beside the grave of Catherine Foster, the mysterious 19th-century black woman who once lived at the site. Her remains were discovered when a backhoe hit a coffin in 1993.

The find stunned university officials, who had planned to use the land for a parking lot. Instead, Foster's grave has become an archeological shrine. Her life is the subject of endless historical debate and theatrical re-enactments.

Because so little is known about how

Foster lived and died, some faculty members have constructed a past for her. Using shreds of historical facts, gleaned from the site, they have created a life.

That is why Ishmail Conway, assistant dean of African-American Affairs, stood by Foster's grave and pretended it was 140 years ago. During the re-enactment, he pretends he is a young man, recently returned to the neighborhood, talking to Foster's daughter.

The conversation is filled with hints of Foster's past. He asks about her work, and we learn she was a seamstress. He mentions the house, and we learn Miss Kitty was an educated woman who bought her land and her freedom. He raises the subject of stowaways to suggest that she was active in the underground railroad.

Conway doesn't know if he is being completely true to history. But, he said, it is one way to engage people in the study of that time. And to make sure a remarkable woman is not forgotten.

"Historians get to the point where they have stuff, but that stuff has no life," said Conway. "History, especially black history,

has to be intuitive as well as factual."

What is known about Foster is that in 1833 she paid \$450 for the two-acre plot. Her family lived there until 1906, and some of her daughters were seamstresses.

Did she, as researchers believe, live in a neighborhood of skilled, free black workers who served the university? She was described as "mulatto" in the 1850 census. Did she sometimes pass as white?

And the biggest question for some: Two years after Nat Turner's failed rebellion, how did a black woman manage to buy a parcel of land once owned by President James Monroe?

The documents don't hold answers, only clues to the mystery. The same is true of other finds at the site: 12 coffins, the foundation of a house, a button, broken dishes, fragments of dolls.

The original re-enactment a few years ago drew crowds of historians and archaeologists. At the end, they stood around her grave and prayed that they were being true to Catherine Foster and her kin. Prayed that they were contributing to history, that they were doing the right thing.

CAPPER'S

February 9, 1999

## Veterans get free headstones

By HANNAH WOLFSON  
Associated Press Writer

A polished, new headstone stands by two worn markers in a tiny private cemetery, a tribute to the man whose grave it marks and a federal program that tries to ensure that no veteran's grave goes unmarked.

John Alford was a Revolutionary War veteran from Virginia. He died in Nashville, Tenn., April 24, 1837. Though he served in the military more than 200 years ago, his family still was eligible for a headstone through the National Cemetery System. This section of the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains 115 national cemeteries.

Steven Westerfeld, a spokesman for the system, said a gravestone can be the most significant benefit a veteran receives. The VA provided about 270,000 headstones last year. Though most of the markers go to recently deceased veterans, the tombstone and marker project also provides stones to replace those that have been

lost, damaged or destroyed.

Jane Alford found John Alford's stone crumbling when her genealogy research led her to the cemetery on the outskirts of Nashville.

John Alford, her husband's great-great-great-great-great-grandfather, joined the Army in Virginia. When the revolution ended, he received land for his military service.

While researching his background, Jane Alford learned about the headstone program, which requires documentation of a veteran's service.

Alford and other descendants of John Alford, from Tennessee, Indiana, North Carolina and Alabama, gathered for a ceremony when the new stone was set.

"We just didn't want to lose this track, this trace of a person," Alford said. "It felt like he meant a lot to us so we just decided we wanted to do it."

## COUNTY REPORT

from Clayton County:

Events? We are trying to get Co Cemetery Commission or guys that went to the Su Office -- surgeries and But, hope in about ? settle down to do r'

I know that o on restoring a fence li County Com Th  
LATE BREAKING NEWS FROM CLAYTON CO: We met with Clayton Co Historical Preservation Commission today - they sanction our cemetery supervisors and will even go with us to getting packet ready, like Pat Shaw did, and hope to have meeting next week.  
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Cemetery  
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ed.

Our coi. with a village in Germany is really going well -- so many of their people migrated to Clayton Co. Two years in a row I have hosted delegates from their village -- and feel a good tie is forming.

Myra Voss

vossrity@aol.com

# Muslims eye new cemetery site

■ After objections thwarted original plan, burial ground proposed on farm land.

By **TIM JAMISON**  
Courier Staff Writer

## WATERLOO

A group hoping to establish a burial site for Waterloo's growing Muslim population is considering a new location next door to a Jewish cemetery and a county cemetery.

The Muslim Cemetery Association has applied to the city of Waterloo for a permit to place its cemetery on

Osage Road directly east of the Sons of Jacob Cemetery and the Black Hawk County Cemetery. The farm land is southeast of the Maywood neighborhood.

An earlier attempt to open a private three-acre cemetery at the northeast corner of Bishop and Cottage Grove avenues — on the northwest edge of Maywood — was turned down by the Planning, Programming and Zoning Commission Jan. 5.

A number of residents living near the original site fought the proposal, expressing concerns about putting a graveyard in a residential area and Muslim burial practices, which do

not include the use of a coffin or concrete vault.

The proposed site, currently owned by Lyle Taylor, is not near any homes and could be more palatable given its location near other cemeteries.

"This (new) site was really favored by our community because it's farm land," said Radhi H. Al-Mabuk, a member of the cemetery association. "It's relatively flat and there aren't many trees."

But association members face another problem at the proposed site: The area is not served by city water mains.

Al-Mabuk and real estate agent Val

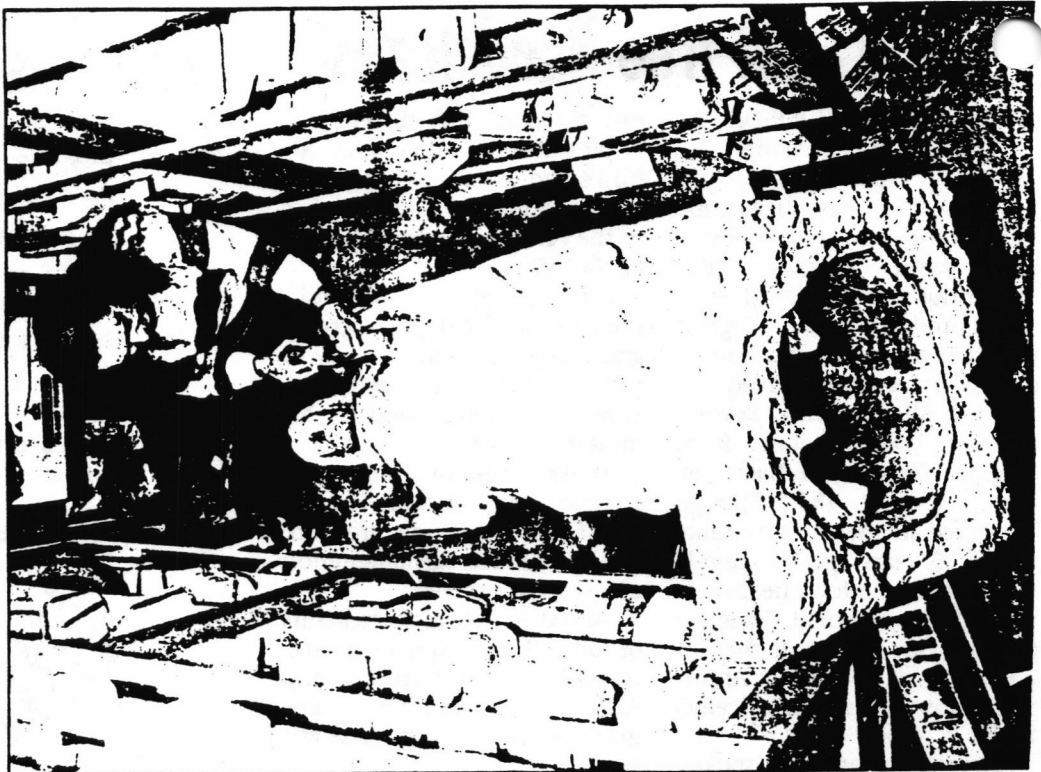
MARCH 5, 1999

WATERLOO-CEDAR FALLS COURIER

Contact Pat Shaw for a copy of the complete article.

Courier photo by RICK CHAS

The ravages of weather — and possibly vandals — have taken chunks out of the fingers of a statue a Summer business is restoring for church cemetery. Donna Bame an employee at Dols 4 U in Summer, checks the restoration work her store is doing on the six-foot statue of Jesus. The project was financed by a local family who used memorials to their father to pay for it.



WATERLOO-CEDAR FALLS COURIER MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1999

# Statue Saviors

Summer family uses memorial money to restore cemetery's statue of Jesus

BY **TOM OWEN**  
Courier Staff Writer

## SUMNER

A 6-foot statue of Jesus has stood in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Sumner for at least 80 years.

The nose is gone, both arms are broken off, and many of fingers have been damaged.

He holds an ugly metal staff with a flag on the end, apparently a hasty replacement for the original shepherd's staff.

Carolee Woods, a Sumner resident, first saw the statue when her husband, Paul, died in October. When her family went to Mount Calvary to pick out a plot, they gazed upon its sorry visage.

"He looked sad," Woods said recently.

The sight was so sad, in fact, that Woods' sons, Tim and Dan, decided to spend some of the memorial money to restore the statue. Dan checked for repair businesses around Chicago, and Tim checked around Des Moines. Neither found a repair business that catered to the public; most people who did such work were on retainer for museums, charging premium rates.

Finally, in December, the Woods family decided to ask Dols 4 U, a Sumner business devoted to making and repairing dolls, whether it could handle the task. It seemed like a long shot to Woods, but, with the help of some tradespeople around town, Dols 4 U owners Jan Teare and Dolores Schmidt have taken on the project.

They hope to complete the restoration before the ground is broken in the

Sunday, March 28, 1999



**Vital link**  
Dispatchers play  
important role  
in public safety.  
Page C2

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Page C

Nancy Raffensperger Newhoff, Managing Editor (291-1445) ■ H. James Potter, Regional Editor (291-1451)

## Grave digging: The backyard burial mystery of Mrs. Martha Melendy

Grass is "the beautiful uncut hair of graves."

— Walt Whitman

By JENNIFER JACOBS  
Courier Staff Writer

CEDAR FALLS

Martha Melendy so loved her home that she requested that she be buried in the backyard under the ash tree.

When she died of chronic ailments in 1867, her husband, Peter, obeyed her wishes. Historical accounts say her walnut casket was lowered into the ground in the shade of the drooping ash near the grape arbor on the north side of their property at 1107 Washington St. in Cedar Falls.

When modern-day Cedar Falls resident Ruth Hovelson read about this in a 1943 biographical book about Peter Melendy by Luella Wright, it tweaked her interest.

"For sure she was buried there in her yard on Washington Street," Hovelson said. "But the question is, where is she now? Is she beside Peter or is she still in that yard?"

Such was the mystery.

Hovelson kept digging — figuratively, not literally — until she found enough answers to satisfy her own curiosity.

When informed of the conundrum, Brian Collins, director of the Cedar Falls Historical Society, speculated, "(Martha) is probably still down there somewhere in the backyard. ... Or she may have been excavated accidentally and nobody noticed. Unless we find some sort of cemetery record, there's no way of knowing."

Many cemetery records from that era, however, are either vague or non-existent.

### Playing sleuth

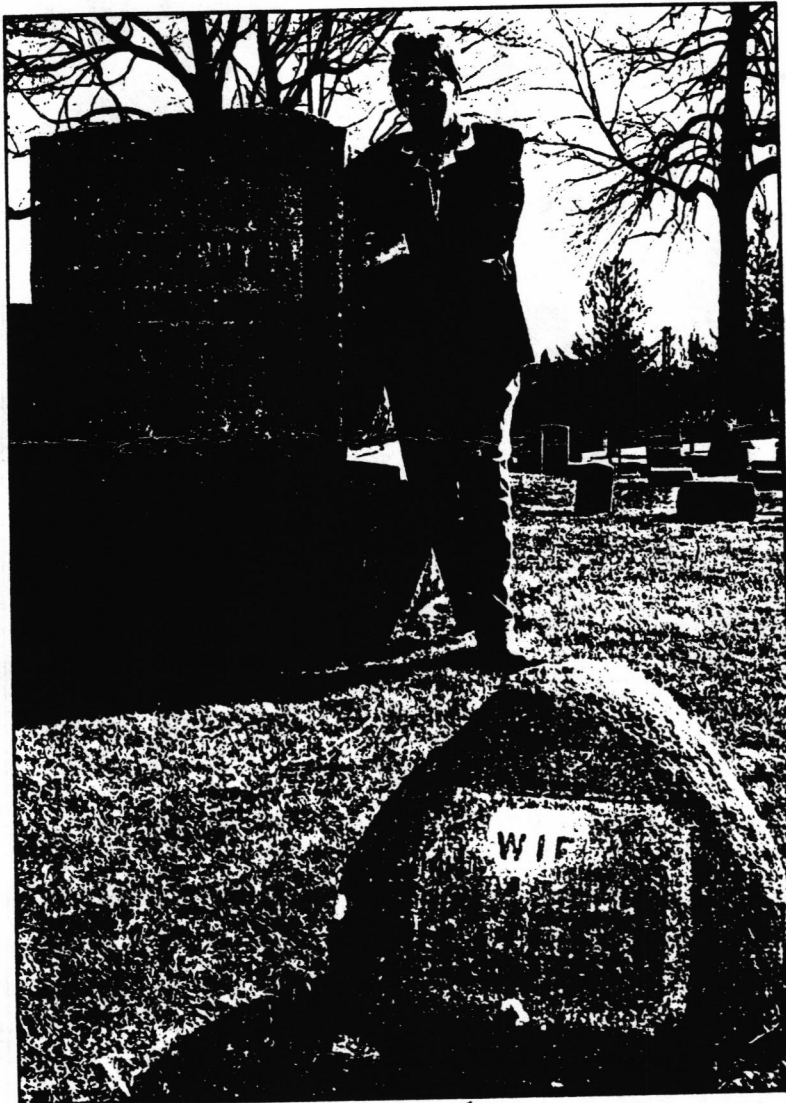
Hovelson was gathering facts for a presentation on memorable Cedar Falls houses or a local philanthropic organization when she crossed Martha Melendy's intriguing story. So she kept reading.

"I was playing reporter like my husband," joked Hovelson, in reference to retired Des Moines Register writer Jack Hovelson.

Peter Melendy was one of Cedar Falls' founding fathers. According to historian John Hake, he earned money selling farm implements, but devoted most of his time to community and state improvements.

Melendy played a role in engineering Cedar Falls as a "lawn city," in securing a newspaper by persuading some Wisconsin printers to found the Gazette, organizing a public library, and leading railroad lines through town.

He was a pillar in the Presbyterian church and strong influence at the Orphan's Home. He also helped obtain land for Iowa State University



GREG BROWN / Courier Staff Photographer

Amateur sleuth Ruth Hovelson stumbled onto a mystery involving a Victorian-era woman buried in the backyard of a historic Cedar Falls house. Here, she leans against the tombstone of Peter Melendy. But just who is buried beneath the small stone in the foreground?

ty in Ames.

He married Martha Coddington in 1846. The Coddingtons were a distinguished Cincinnati family who traced their ancestry to the Puritans. Martha's grandfather was a judge in Staten Island, N.Y., and her great-grandfather immigrated to the U.S. from England in 1628.

Martha was frail and sickly for years, according to Wright. One of her illnesses was "a seri-

ous disease of the heart." One summer, she told her daughter, Etta, about her desire to be buried near the family.

"The sacred place to her, on earth, was her home," preached the Rev. D. Russell at Martha's funeral. "There were her heart's treasures — there the confidence, the affection, the esteem, the loving endearments, which in her estimation made her an Eden."

Wright's book details how Martha and her father planted Martha's favorite rosebushes at the head and foot of her grave. And one account said Peter Melendy was the first person in town to buy a lawn mower to trim his section of the Lawn City.

### Sifting through clues

Some puzzling information came forth during Hovelson's research.

For one thing, Peter Melendy's house at 1107 Washington, she learned, was built in 1876. But Martha had died nine years earlier in 1867. Was the backyard burial a false report?

More digging revealed that Peter had built a smaller story-and-a-half house at the same site in 1859. The family lived there for 17 years before it was moved to the corner of 20th and Franklin streets. That house is possibly the one at the address of 404 W. 20th.

Martha had been buried at 1107 Washington, but she never lived in the existing house. Hovelson scanned the backyard there, but didn't see a grave marker. She did note that the house has an addition off the back and a newer garage.

"I thought, 'If she's still there, she got covered over.'"

The owners of the 1876 house on that property, Carol and Albert Gilgen, have found depressed areas in the grass, but no solid evidence of a grave. Grape vines still grow near the stone wall, but there is no longer an ash tree on the property.

If Martha Melendy was still entombed in the yard, the Gilgens wouldn't mind her as a neighbor. "It's really not unusual," Carol said. "In England, Princess Diana is buried on her estate."

Historical references state that after Martha's death, Peter in 1868 married Mary Woolson McFarland, daughter of Sen. Theron Woolson of Mount Pleasant. Mary had been married before and widowed when Col. Samuel McFarland died in 1862.

Peter and Mary lived together in the house at 1107 Washington, as well as another down the street later in life. Melendy died at age 78 in 1901 and is buried at Fairview Cemetery.

Hovelson trekked off to Fairview to check out Peter's grave, marked with a giant, rough hewn stone. But alas, only one wife is there. It's cryptically marked "Wife - M.F.M. - Age 38."

"These ladies in the mid-1800s didn't even get a first name," Hovelson lamented. "An Martha and Mary have the same first initial."

So could this grave be the final resting place for Peter's second wife, Mary? If so, did it mean his first wife, Martha, is to this day still feint under in a yard on Washington Street?

Martha's birthdate is not clear. Some refer

This article appeared in the Waterloo Courier newspaper on August 25, 1897.  
Possibly you can use this in a future newsletter.  
Mike

## HEADSTONES FOR SOLDIERS GRAVES

A bill of lading was received this morning for 26 gravestones to be placed at the head of unmarked soldiers graves in the cemeteries in this county. They were furnished by the government on request of Col. Henderson and came from Lee, Mass., consigned to John Averill. About 20 will be placed in the cemeteries here and others at LaPorte City and Cedar Falls. Rob't Anderson Post, G.A.R., will see that the stones are properly placed.

May 8, 1949

# Begin Cleanup of Old Cemetery



Barely discernible in the dense underbrush and weeds are volunteer workers from the Waterloo Veterans association who have taken on the project of clearing the grounds of the old Waterloo cemetery. The movement to clear the land around the graves was started by The Sons of Union Veterans, of which Honor Young of 1120 Bertsch avenue is commander. The work has progressed to the point where they are now able to employ a manager part-time. He is Lawrence Alcock of 1601 Bertsch avenue. Through a fund started by contributions, the association is able to hire some of the more difficult clearing work done. In the above picture, tombstones can be seen on the extreme left and the spire of an ornamental stone can be seen just behind the tractor driver's back. In the above picture are Sam Guynn, Charles Lowe, Irvin Hilner, Lawrence Alcock, on the tractor, Young and Young's son, David.

## TOMBSTONE MEN HERE.

August 25, 1897

MEETING AT LOGAN HOUSE

Northwestern Iowa Marble and Granite Dealers in Session this Afternoon.

Contrary to the general opinion tombstone men are not the morose individuals whom you might expect to meet. A number of them are holding a meeting this afternoon at the Logan house and when not attending strictly to business matters are the most sociable and genial of men. It is a gathering of dealers in marble and granite of the northeastern district of the state, comprising the territory north of the C. & N. W. railway and west of the Iowa Central.

They are all members of the Iowa Marble and Granite Dealers' association and have met together for purposes of mutual benefit.

President J. M. Graham, of Des Moines, and Vice President A. R. Taylor, of Waverly, of the state association, are present. The meeting was called to order shortly after 2 o'clock this afternoon. Steps will be taken to insure greater protection to members of the association and to the people in their territory from imposition by illegitimate and irresponsible dealers.

Among the papers read before the meeting this afternoon were the following:

"Benefits of the Association," E. H. Prior, Postville.

"Moral Courage of Members to Assert Themselves Demanding Their Rights," J. M. Graham, Des Moines.

"Whose Fault is it if the Association Has not Helped You?" E. W. Hogan, Cedar Rapids.

"The Best Way to Organize for Protection," A. R. Taylor, Waverly.

"How Shall we United Strengthen the Bond of Union?" Wm. MacHogen, Dyersville.

Owing to the opening of the fall season and the unusual activity in the marble and granite business at the present time, a large number of dealers are detained at home. Among those present are the following; others are expected to come in on afternoon trains:

H. C. Moody, Marion.  
Wm. Crosby, Waterloo.  
E. H. Prior, Postville.  
Wm. MacHogen, Dyersville.  
F. R. Munson, Waterloo.  
C. J. Fields, Creston.

# Cemetery volunteers seek tax levying status

By Jeanny Sharp  
The Hawk Eye

Local pioneer cemetery volunteers will ask Des Moines County Supervisors to move them from committee to commission status in March.

"We want to put forth an ordinance to implement a commission," said John Danielson, committee chairman.

The group believes it has made enough progress to warrant establishing a commission, which would enable them to levy a future tax for

the maintenance and protection of 48 Des Moines County pioneer cemeteries.

A pioneer cemetery, by definition, must have had six or fewer burials in the past 40 years. Responsibility for taking care of the cemeteries, ranging from small family plots of three or four graves to large cemeteries with 100 headstones, would shift from township trustees to county supervisors and ultimately the commission.

"Trustees are very happy to have us take over the upkeep of the cemeteries," committee member Bill

Walker said.

The ordinance establishing the commission is patterned after Louisa County's ordinance, which is one of the first established in Iowa.

The group plans to do an analysis of current cemeteries with a composite status of needs, such as fencing, mowing and headstone repair. The cemeteries would be prioritized for urgency of repair.

Nine cemeteries already are being taken care of by various families and organizations such as IAAP.

Pat Shaw, president of the State Association for the Preservation of

Iowa Cemeteries, said the Des Moines County group is off to a good start.

"They are a very enthusiastic group," Shaw said. "They are fortunate to have the support of the supervisors and the community."

Danielson would like to see supervisors show as much financial support as Henry County has. Walker estimated a 1 percent levy would produce \$11,000 to get the group started. Shaw said most commissions typically start with \$5,000, with \$1,200 being the lowest fund in Iowa.

Shaw, formerly of Jones County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, said it is crucial that the group involve young people in the maintenance of the cemeteries.

She said volunteers for commissions tend to be retired and not always able to do the physical work necessary to maintain the cemeteries.

"These young people love it," Shaw said. "A concern for history has to start at the local level. By working on these projects, (young people) relate to older people in a positive, respectful way."

## Forgotten plot goes unrepaired

By Jeanny Sharp  
The Hawk Eye

A frequently vandalized Catholic cemetery on North Sixth Street remains in disrepair two years after juveniles pushed over gravestones and pulled down a huge cross near the back of the cemetery.

The apparently nameless cemetery, a victim of vandalism and neglect, could benefit from an adopt-a-cemetery program.

"The parish would be more than happy if someone else wanted to take over maintenance of the cemetery," said the Rev. John Hyland of St. John's and St. Paul's Parish — caretakers of the cemetery.

Hyland said the cemetery, which is full, is mowed and some minor repairs have been made in the past, but would not say maintenance of the cemetery is a priority for the parish.

"It's sad it's such a mess," said Barb Fischer, one of two women who mow and pick-up limbs at the cemetery. "I don't care if they have



John Lovretta/The Hawk Eye

What remains of a broken tombstone sits in a Sixth Street cemetery this week. The vandalism happened a year ago, but the cemetery has yet to receive any improvements.

need to destroy the headstones." She added, "We have asked and asked about having those stones repaired."

Police officials said there has been sporadic vandalism at the cemetery, but said it is difficult to catch people in the act.

Two Burlington boys, 8 and 9 years old, were charged with vandalism for damage in the winter of

1996-97. One of the boys' parents made a cash contribution to St. John's Catholic Church to cover some of the damage.

Volunteers helped in the cleanup and repair, but vandalism has continued since then.

"We used to have Mass up there every Memorial Day, but when that stopped so did some concern for the cemetery," Fischer said.

## Counties, donations pay for area efforts

By Jeanny Sharp  
The Hawk Eye

Henry County intends to establish a commission by the end of the fiscal year to spend \$60,000 to identify, preserve and maintain pioneer cemeteries.

Henry County Supervisors levied a 1 percent tax for the project several years ago, but never appointed a commission. The money generated by the specific levy cannot be used for any other projects.

In contrast, no money was set aside for a similar Des Moines County group. Any expenses incurred by the group this year would be paid out of a \$50,000 fund set aside for non-program expenses, County Auditor Vicki Leonard said.

Lee County does not have a pioneer cemetery commission.

Louisa County, one of the first such commissions established in Iowa, has \$4,000 budgeted for the 3-year-old panel to spend in the next fiscal year.

The group has been successful at landing donations and grants for care of the cemeteries, which enabled it to spend only \$1,000 out of

Dean Gipple has been instrumental in the group's success. He is installing a \$600 marble plaque at the entrance of the Tennessee Cemetery near Columbus Junction, giving a history of the cemetery and paying tribute to the families buried there.

"I get donations without too much of a problem from descendants all over the U.S.," Gipple said. "People want something done, but don't know who to turn to."

Other smaller cemeteries have signs posted saying, "This Pioneer Cemetery renovated and seeded to wild flowers and prairie grass will be monitored and cared for with minimum maintenance."

Gipple said cemeteries provide a great educational tool for students and FFA groups, and others have been eager to participate in assorted projects such as wildflower plantings at the cemeteries.

Gipple and Pat Shaw, president of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, hope to have legislation enacted this year allowing access to land-locked cemeteries typically located on agricultural

Humboldt County submitted by Charlotte Marvin.

*The Genealogical Society is planning on doing a few things for Cemetery Appreciation Month:*

Humboldt mayor will sign a proclamation.

Article will be submitted to local newspaper including what has been done and what still needs to be done in Humboldt County and the resources available in the genealogical library. Using cemeteries as its theme at the booth at the Humboldt County Fair.

### Iowa County

Pioneer Cemeteries in Iowa County lost a friend with the death of Gottfried Steinmetz of Homestead, Iowa. Mr. Steinmetz communicated extensively with Pat Shaw about the Spicer/Spooner Cemetery containing the grave of her ggg grandfather, Newell Wright, whose widow sold her land to the Amana Colonies after Newell's death.

Louisa County submitted by Dean Gipple.

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence -- talent will not! Nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent! Persistence and determination will succeed.

Dare to have a purpose  
Dare to make it known  
Dare to be a Daniel  
Dare to stand alone.

*If it is to be, it is up to me.*

The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Tues., March 30, 1999

### HOMESTEAD

**Gottfried F. Steinmetz Jr.** 86, died Sunday evening, March 29, 1999, in his home after an extended illness. Services: 1 p.m. Wednesday, St. John's Lutheran Church, Marengo, by the Rev. Douglas Morton. Burial: Marengo Cemetery. Friends may call from 2 to 4 p.m. today at Kloster Funeral Home, Marengo.

Survivors include a daughter, Judy Wetjen and husband Ronald of Homestead; two sisters, Betty Heinze of Cedar Rapids and Margaret Stohlman of Omaha; three grandchildren, Tammy Kesters and husband Todd, Heath Wetjen and Georgia Wetjen, and a granddaughter, Kayla Kesters.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ella, in 1987; his parents and three brothers, John, George and Carl Steinmetz.

Memorials may be given to the charity of the donor's choice.

## County will continue resurfacing plans

By Connie Street

WAPELLO - Louisa County officials still plan to blacktop 145th Street between Columbus Junction and Columbus City, despite a plea last week to abandon the project.

The road goes west past the Columbus Community elementary building to Louisa County Road X17, near the country club and the county shed.

Tom O'Toole, superintendent of the Columbus Community School District, approached the Louisa County Board of Supervisors Monday with reasons to continue with the project.

"There is a lot of action in that direction," O'Toole said. He cited some of the projects in the area:

- \* The school is building a nature discovery area by the county shed.

- \* The school's FFA Chapter is caring for the Tennessee

Cemetery, located on the road.

- \* Several school bus routes use that road.

- \* For the general public, it's a convenient route to get to Iowa Highway 92.

- \* There is a new housing development under construction along the road.

"In a way it could be the future of the city," O'Toole said. "It is one direction the city can expand."

O'Toole said a major factor in promoting the road work is the safety of his students.

"Kids ride their bikes on that road on their way to the pool all the time," he said.

Last week, Jay Schweitzer, who will lose about 80 feet of land on the north side of the roadway to the construction project, asked the supervisors to abandon the idea.

He said the county had not offered him a fair price for his

property. He also noted that in his opinion there is too much traffic on the road already.

"I don't want to sell it," he said. "But if I have to, I want to be paid for what it's worth."

The county has offered him \$10,000 for the right-of-way.

O'Toole said other area landowners and people in the area had shown a great deal of support for the road work.

Jeff Story, chairman of the board of supervisors, said the county plans to proceed with the project. He noted that a power substation prevents construction on the south side of the road.

The county will make a second offer to Schweitzer. If he refuses, a condemnation proceeding will probably be held, which could clear the way for work to begin this summer. The board will make a decision on how to proceed at its April 26 meeting.

In other business, the board:

- \* Returned the care of Beachamp Cemetery to the Oakland Township Trustees. A pioneer cemetery, it had been under the auspices of the Louisa County Cemetery Commission, but neighbors objected that the commission was not taking care of it properly.

- \* Agreed to support a three-county revolving loan project with \$5,000 in seed money. The project will be overseen by the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, which is applying for a \$250,000 grant from the Rural Housing and Economic Development Program.

- \* Approved having the Department of Human Services work with Cheri Snyder, Louisa County's emergency management director, on an emergency plan to deal with potential Y2K problems.

**Subject: Report from Mahaska Commission**

**Date:** Sat, 20 Mar 1999 16:03:17 -0600

**From:** "Jo Vernooy" <mahcem@kdsi.net>

**To:** "pat shaw" <patshaw@netins.net>

Dear Pat, This will be a report from the Mahaska County Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries. Please feel free to edit!

This Report is as of March 20, 1999.

It looks like it has been quite a while since I last filed a report with SAPIC and much has transpired. Our Commission has had a change - a new member, John Jacobs has been appointed. John comes with a great deal of optimism, enthusiasm, and lots of other "isms"! John was appointed to serve beginning January 1, 1999. We are grateful to have him. Thanks go to Mabel Daniels for her past service on the Commission.

Since my last report, the Commission received approval of a grant from the Daily Trust for matching funds to purchase a computer for the Commission. I am typing this Report on the Commission's new computer. We have also gone "on-line" and can be reached by e-mail at [mahcem@kdsi.net](mailto:mahcem@kdsi.net). We'd love to hear from other members of SAPIC!

Our budget was approved for the coming fiscal year. Thank goodness for our Board of Supervisors! We have two new Supervisors since the last election; however, I have talked with them on several occasions. It is wonderful to know that we have such good rapport and that our goals for the Pioneer Cemeteries are in keeping with theirs. They know that the Commission will do the best it can for the Pioneer Cemeteries, and they have expressed their satisfaction with our work.

We continue to work and plan for the Pioneer Cemeteries in our County. Our Eagle Scout has finished the work in "his cemetery," and has done a great job. Judy Swanson and I have been invited to attend his Eagle Scout banquet. We are so proud of him and the work he has done!

We now have two 4-H groups who will be working on the Berry Cemetery and Crain, a/k/a Underwood, Cemetery. These young people are great. The group working on Berry Cemetery began work last fall to get rid of some of the underbrush and to begin clean-up. They will be working this spring to cut down and/or trim trees and to erect a fence, as well as locating and resetting stones. An "R.I.P." (Restoration in Progress) sign was presented to the group, and the leader stated that the kids felt so proud of their involvement and for the recognition they are receiving. I know that some individuals do not believe such recognition is necessary; however, I believe it is essential! These signs include the group's name, and have become treasured by the ones who have received them.

The 4-H group that will be working at Crain (I understand that Harley Crain has some family at this Cemetery), will be meeting with Commission members in the near future to get to work on that Cemetery. A township trustee has also been contacted and will be working with the Commission and this group. Whenever we can, we involve the trustees. Letters were sent to all township trustees requesting the names of cemeteries for which they are responsible, and stating that we want to work with them on restoring those cemeteries which are designated as Pioneer Cemeteries.

Local VFW Auxiliary and Post representatives have expressed a desire to restore a cemetery, and contact has been made with them. I believe they will be working on Center Grove Cemetery, which is located north of Oskaloosa. I indicated that Commission members would be willing to give a talk to their groups and they seem interested in doing that before beginning work. They definitely want to restore a cemetery, it is just a matter of determining which one is in the most need of help at this time.

We appreciate SAPIC officers, members and special thanks to Dean Gipple for their diligence in informing legislators and others of the plight of Pioneer Cemeteries! We must raise the consciousness of the public relative to these wonderful burial sites.

In that regard, I have spoken to a group of fifth and sixth graders at a local school about Pioneer Cemeteries, and have volunteered to take them on a field trip to one of the Pioneer Cemeteries in our area. Their teacher told me that they are thrilled and intend to hold me to that commitment. They were saddened by the fact that cattle had been allowed to trample a local Pioneer Cemetery. I took a book of pictures we had taken at various cemeteries to the school with me, and the teacher indicated that she could not even see me because of the students grouped around me looking at the pictures. It was so wonderful to see so much interest in those so young. I did get a couple of comments, such as, "Have you dug up any bones?" and, "Is it spooky?" Nevertheless, they want to visit a Pioneer Cemetery and those Commission members who can go with them, will certainly do so.

Our "first" Pioneer Cemetery on which we worked will require more work this year. It was so devastated by cattle and neglect that it will require many additional hours. It is known as the DeLong Cemetery. We are having problems locating the stones that have been by the cattle. Contacts have been made with archeologists to get some tips on probing for stones. Despite our "proving" ourselves last year to the owners of adjacent land, I anticipate animosity again this year. An alternative access route is being investigated.

Judy Swanson and I, and I believe, Ben Mayer, will be attending the signing of the proclamation for the designation of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month." The Commission will be submitting information to the local newspaper the latter part of April calling attention to this designation, and to Pioneer Cemeteries, in particular.

This week, two sisters from Arizona and California, respectively, were in town looking for information on their ancestors buried in Mahaska County Pioneer Cemeteries. I was so glad that we had done research and obtained copies of deeds, burials, etc. on the cemeteries in which they were looking. We were able to provide them with the information they needed. It was heartwarming to see them so happy to find Pioneer Cemetery records that they said they had been unable to find anywhere else. Helping our fellow men (and women, of course) and preserving the past in order to do that, is what we're about, isn't it? They visited some of the cemeteries and, because of the information that we had available, were able to locate the stones. They stated that, in looking at these records, and visiting these cemeteries, they felt such a kinship with their forebears.

I was invited to give a talk to local sorority a couple of weeks ago. I used examples of visualization about locating the gravesites of ancestors, and was told that the group was so moved by that technique. The members also indicated a willingness to help "clean up" a cemetery, and to do research on the pioneers buried there. After the talk, an individual indicated that she had information on some cemeteries in Mahaska County. I was at her office the next morning and received information that I had never seen. Our "base" of information and workers continues to grow.

I also used visualization in talking with the Mahaska County Historical Society in November of last year. Ben and LeRoy also gave talks at the Historical Society. LeRoy gave a history of location of cemeteries, and Ben spoke on stone repair. We showed slides and that seemed to generate a great deal of interest. Many individuals came up to us, stating that they wanted to help with the work of the Commission, or wanted more information.

I am sick at heart to learn that a Pioneer Cemetery, Buxton Cemetery, in Monroe County, has fallen into ruin. Information was received that landowners have allowed bulldozers to demolish what few buildings are left in the abandoned town - unless something is done soon, the Buxton Cemetery will be the next to go, I'm afraid. I was so hoping that a portion of the Buxton Cemetery was in Mahaska County, so that we could work together with Marion County; however, I find that it is not. Some SAPIC members have heard of Buxton, I'm sure. It was a coal mining town in which blacks and whites co-existed in relative harmony. This town was held up as a model of what non-discrimination could be. How very sad that no one has taken up the cause to preserve what is left of the town! I understand that there used to be a Buxton Club; however, I believe it has now disbanded. It was made up of members who were ancestors of residents of Buxton, as well as those who just wanted to see Buxton preserved. This latest demolition is another example of what happens when we don't fight to preserve our past.

I have corrected many individuals lately who tell me of "abandoned" cemeteries. In keeping with SAPIC's philosophy, I tell them that no cemeteries are "abandoned," they are just neglected -- and, by the way, would they like to work on one?



TO THOSE OF YOU WHO PASSED THIS WAY...  
AND LIE BENEATH THIS SOD  
WE SALUTE YOU NOW AND REMEMBER YOUR LIFE  
AND LEAVE YOU TO REST WITH GOD.

**The Preservation of Muscatine County Home Cemetery**  
by  
Eleanor B. McCleary

September 27, 1883, the County of Muscatine in the State of Iowa purchased 160 acres in Bloomington Township for \$12,000 from Reuben N. and Sarah A. Baker. On this land the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors had built buildings of "suitable character and made comfortable and pleasant for the care and protection of the county's unfortunate ones not able to care for themselves". In the History of Muscatine County, Iowa, published in 1911, it stated that the County Farm (also known as the County Home) was practically self-supporting since its foundation and had cared for and sheltered on an average of about thirty-five inmates each year. The residents grew much of their own food in the gardens and managed the Farm's dairy herd. The surplus was sold in town, thus providing funds for their other expenses.

Tucked away on the grounds is a little known cemetery. Throughout Muscatine County history it has been referred to as the County Farm Cemetery, County Home Cemetery, Pottersfield, Bloomington Township Cemetery and Muscatine County Cemetery. Over time, its' grounds were neglected. The record of burials and cemetery plat simply disappeared in the transition of time. Even though today it is not considered to be a Pioneer Cemetery, it will qualify in the year 2004, according to the definition of a pioneer cemetery - a cemetery where there have been six or fewer burials in the preceding fifty years.

In 1987 Jim BeVier, a long time staff member of the County Home, started to reclaim the cemetery. He writes:

"Three sides of the cemetery had a wrought iron fence around it. The gate had been left open and the cattle were free to traverse the area. At that time, many of the markers had been pulled up and piled in the south east corner. Weeds and small trees had grown to four feet tall and there was a patch of brush which was eight to nine feet tall. This patch of brush was covering a twenty by thirty foot area. The wrought iron fence had a vine six inches in diameter running through a twenty foot section of the east side. The fence on the west side had sagged away from the north and south end wrought iron fence leaving a four foot gap. The wrought iron fence was rusty and in need of paint.

When the weeds and brush were cleaned out we found 86 cast iron numeric markers, numbering from two to ninety-nine. Many were broken off or bent over from cattle. We did find ten markers in place. They were: 46, 47, 61, 67, 69, 89, 94, 95 and 99.

We measured the width and length of the cemetery. Then measured distance of each marker from North and East fences. We placed a mark on paper at the point of intersection and figured the lay out of cemetery".

Jim BeVier was not able to find a registry of burials. In 1989, he and June Gibson, a genealogist from Muscatine, compiled a partial list of 58 names when they located some death certificates on file at the County Home and some burial records at Musser Public Library.

The County Home, located at 1906 Houser Street, is now known as Muscatine County Residential Services. No longer is the land farmed. On March 28, 1994, Muscatine County Board of Supervisors transferred 75 acres from the management of the County Residential Services to the Muscatine County Conservation Board for the purpose of developing a new county park. The park was named Muscatine County Environmental Discovery Center. An archeological study of the land was conducted.

With the approval and support of the Muscatine Conservation Board, in 1997, the Muscatine County Genealogical Society took on the project to protect and preserve the historical legacy of the people who are buried in the County Home Cemetery.

The objective:

- \* To research the burial records and compile a register with biographical information.
- \* Present copies of the research in hard-covered books with sewn binding to:
  - Muscatine County Park Environmental Discovery Center's library, Muscatine, IA
  - Musser Public Library, Muscatine, IA
  - Iowa State Historical Libraries in Iowa City and Des Moines, IA
  - Iowa Genealogical Society Library, Des Moines, IA
- \* To conduct a fund raising campaign to purchase a monument commemorating all who are buried at this location.

The Research Committee consisted of Eleanor(Lynn) McCleary, Project Coordinator, Gladys Mittman, Jo Ann Carlson, Rose Hohenadel, Cathy Anson, Georgann McClure, Cindy Boyd and Jim BeVier.

The committee first searched for the County Home Cemetery burial register at Muscatine County Court House. Neither the Auditor's office, County Clerk, or Recorder's had any knowledge of this record's existence. The Muscatine County and City Engineer offices were contacted to see if they had a cemetery plat. Nothing. We even talked to former administrators of the County Home to no avail.

Members of the Genealogical Society brought out "witching" instruments in an attempt to get an idea as to the numbers of burials. It was an amazing time, for all kinds of disturbed ground was found. Daryl Mitchell, of Muscatine, brought in his metal detector, and walked the area. More marker fragments were found under the sod. Some were numeric cast iron plates and others were three inch high tin numbers.

Ray Stange, a contract farmer of County Home land from 1971 to the mid 1990's, recalled that at one time the cemetery had white painted wooden crosses with tin numbers on them. He befriended a resident of the home, Roy Manley, now deceased, who worked

with him with the dairy herd. Roy said that many times, he and other residents, helped dig a grave. A horse-drawn wagon would carry the wooden casket, covered by gray cloth, to the cemetery accompanied by a preacher who gave the final blessing.

It was first thought that the cemetery was the final resting place of only County Home residents. Not so, for as we read County Home records and newspaper obituaries, we were surprised to learn that all the people were **of the county**, most very poor. Greenwood Cemetery, 1814 Lucas Street, Muscatine, seemed to be selected as the final resting place of people who were wards of the "City of Muscatine" whereas the County Home Cemetery had the wards of "Muscatine County" during this time span.

Searching for burial records seem to start out easy enough for the Muscatine County Court House has Transcript of Deaths which includes burial location. Then we found the hard part. The county only recorded deaths beginning 1880 to June 30, 1919 and then from July 1941 to present. The state law from July 1919 through June of 1941 required all death transcript records to be filed at the State Office in Des Moines, Iowa. Our County Recorder called on our behalf, to Des Moines, to ask if they would allow a Genealogy Society member to look up records. It was not allowed for the records are sealed. If we submitted a name, date, and paid a ten dollar fee for each, then they would be pleased to look it up.

So the Research Committee had to seek other sources that might record place of burial in that twenty year time span. Through hours of research searching 65 years of burial records from 1905 to 1970 at the Muscatine County Court House, County Home records, funeral home records, WPA Graves Registration Project records, and newspaper obituaries on file at Musser Public Library, the research committee was able to verify 157 burials. Record of the first burial at the County Home (Farm) was 1907. The last was 1965.

The Muscatine County Genealogical Society raised \$3,300 through donations from local business, organizations and individuals.

The digging for the foundation of the monument was done under the supervision of Curtis W. Weiss, Director, Muscatine County Conservation Board and Shirley J. Schermer, Program Director Burials Program from the Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa on November 17, 1998.

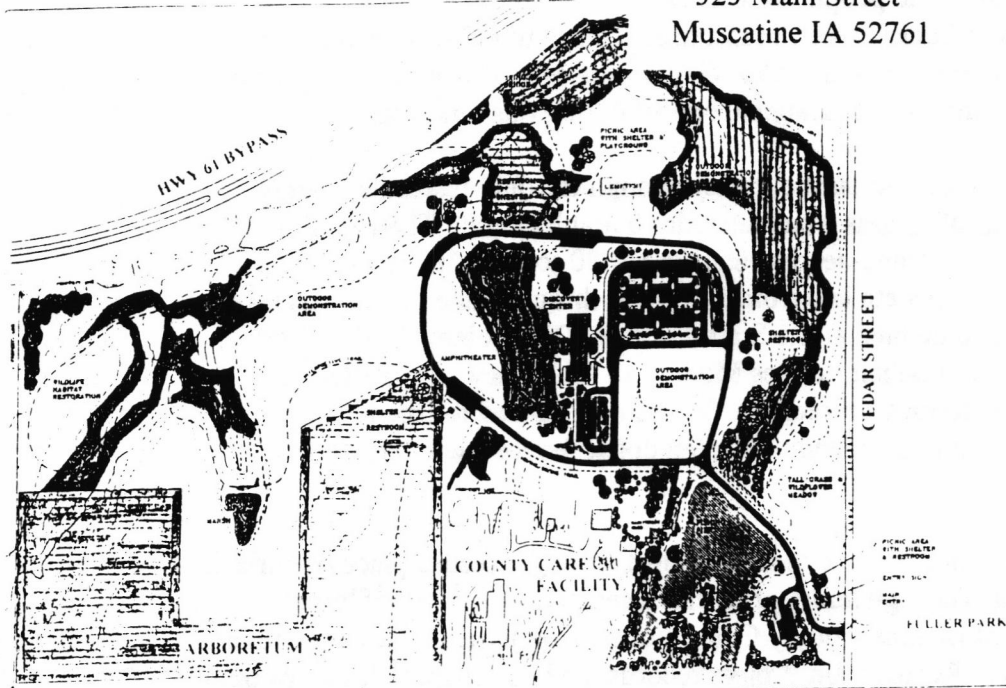
On December 4, 1998, the three ton Monument was placed at the cemetery. The name plaques lists the names in alphabetical order with date of death. The identity and the dignity of those whose final resting place is the Muscatine County Cemetery has been restored.

For more information on the project, the Muscatine County Genealogical Society has published a book titled Muscatine County Home Cemetery Burial Registry. The soft-cover publication, with a glued binding, contains 110 pages detailing the burial registry, bibliography with research notes and biographical information of the persons buried there.

(Out of the 157 people, 120 obituaries were found and are presented in this publication in their entirety).

The book may be purchased for \$15.00 plus \$4.00 for postage. Please make out checks to the Muscatine County Genealogical Society. Orders may be sent to:

Muscatine County Genealogical Society  
 c/o Gladys Mittman  
 323 Main Street  
 Muscatine IA 52761



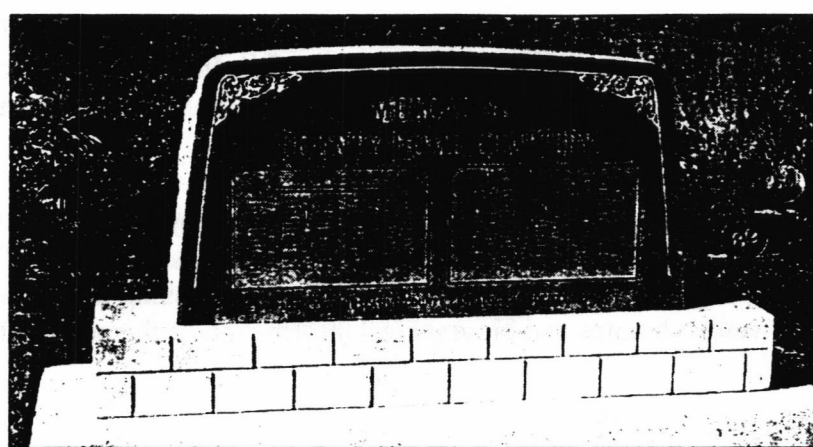
MASTER PLAN  
 MUSCATINE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOVERY CENTER  
 Muscatine County Conservation Board  
 (Estimated completion - 3-5 years)



If you wish to visit the cemetery you will have to park in the first parking lot just inside the Discovery Center and walk to it. The roads inside the Discovery Center are not completed at this time.

Eleanor also sent two beautiful color photographs of this cemetery that will qualify as a pioneer cemetery in the year 2004.

Muscatine Journal Monday, December 14, 1998



**NEW STONE**  
 A new stone honoring those who were buried at the former county home cemetery has been set. A book will be available next spring about these people. The project was led by the Muscatine County Genealogical Society

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MONTGOMERY COUNTY submitted by Chris Feistner.

Continued to reach out to law enforcement and other sources about cemetery art theft. Planning continued for Cemetery Conference in Des Moines on June 19.

Chris Feister was interviewed on KMA radio in Shenandoah, Iowa on January 28, 1999 about cemetery issues and concerns.

Chris participated in the six-county historical conference held in Villisca, Iowa on April 24 by giving a talk about cemeteries and announcing the SAPIC meeting to be held in that area on July 10.

PAGE COUNTY submitted by Charly Stevens, Page County Conservation Board.

Charly met with 3 Girl Scout Troops in January and showed them the video, "Gravestone Repair 101." They plan to use cemetery restoration to earn a badge. They would like a SAPIC member to meet with them for a mini-workshop to teach stone repair. Call Charly at 712-542-3864 if you can help. Charly hopes to involve the Girl Scouts in the clean-up of a previously unknown cemetery, the Aaron Vise Cemetery. Another Scout leader and her troop are reading stones and updating the list that was done in previous years. Charly has furnished informational packets and loaned the video to another Girl Scout troop and to a farmer in the area.

Charly invited SAPIC to hold its July 10 meeting at the Nodaway Valley Museum in Clarinda.

Thanks, Charly!

UNION COUNTY submitted by Robert E. Keller

Page 6 The Diagonal Progress, Diagonal, Iowa, Thursday, October 2, 1997



A group of Kellers visited the Keller Cemetery, northwest of Diagonal, on Sunday, September 20, 1997 during the Keller Reunion. The cemetery has seen much improvements in recently years, and in just the past month. Robert Keller is continuing this effort with help of several persons.

## Major Improvements at Keller Cemetery

After years of neglect, the Keller Cemetery located at the northwest corner of Fogle Recreation Area has seen major improvements in recent years. The cemetery had been fenced, but the area had been over grown with bush and tall grasses.

Robert and Dorothy (Pacha) Keller retired back to this area, living now in Creston, six years ago. Robert has spearheaded this project for the past 6 years.

Tuesday, September 16, much work was done on the improvement for the cemetery. The old fence line, bush, trees were removed, and some grading done. Two tubes have been installed on the lane that winds back to the cemetery from the west road. Tuesday, Ringgold County Supervisors Lloyd Bedier, Jim Goins, and Kenneth Quick were all at the cemetery to observe and help with the work. A new fence will be built in the near future.

Benjamin Keller, Sr. came to Iowa prior to 1856, and had a cabin and barn built. He returned to Ohio to get his wife, Eleanor Brothers Keller, and just 10 days after they arrived in Iowa, she died. She was the first person to be buried in the cemetery, in 1856. The Keller homestead is currently the farm and home of the Oliver Parkers, almost directly north of the cemetery.

There are approximately 16 tombstones in the Keller Cemetery, and believe to be at least 35 other gravesites.

Lawrence Kilgore has once again shared his talents and has painted a sign for the cemetery.

Saturday, September 20, 1997 the annual Benjamin Keller Reunion was held in the Diagonal Community Center, and many of the family members went out to the cemetery.

### More Names

Does anyone know of burials in the Kellers Cemetery, and there are no marker on the grave? Here are the known names buried in the cemetery:

J.W. and Nancy Cook, 1913 and 1936

Benjamin Keller, Sr., 1860

Eleanor Keller, 1856

Clarinda E. Keller, 1861, age 4 years

Daniel Keller, 1867, age 43 years

Drucilla J. Keller, 1864, age 2

Lucinda Keller, 1863, age 11 years

1880

Maude C. Keller

Silas B. Keller, 1880, age 19 years

Elvie Morris, 1931, born 1886

John Powell, 1860, born 1805

Albert B. Smith, 1887

A broke stone has name Keller on it, also.

Can you name any other burials in the Keller Cemetery?



Zach Barker standing next to his great, great, great, great, great-grandfather's grave, Benjamin Keller, Sr., in the Keller Cemetery. Zachary's line is: Darrel Barker, Jerry Barker, Guelda Stamper Barker, Mildred Keller Stamper, died 1980's, Ensign Keller, died 1950, Benjamin Keller, Jr., died 1905, and Benjamin Keller, Sr., died 1860, eight generations of history in the Diagonal Community. September 20

## VAN BUREN COUNTY REGISTER FEBRUARY 18, 1999



Last Tuesday Van Buren County employees, Fellows Cemetery officials and others helped in rounding up seven of nine stray cattle owned by Larry DeHart that caused damage to the cemetery and went onto the highway near Keosauqua.



Gazette photo by James Q. Lynch

**Winneshiek County resident Leon Hageman salutes Tuesday at the gravesite of Civil War Medal of Honor winner Luman Cadwell. A two-year effort by Hageman and other Decorah area veterans has yielded a Medal of Honor grave marker for Cadwell.**

# Marking Civil War bravery

## Winneshiek veteran ensures recognition for Medal of Honor recipient

By James Q. Lynch

Gazette Northeast Iowa Bureau

DECORAH — Luman Cadwell is finally getting his due.

Although the former railroad conductor received the Medal of Honor for bravery in the Civil War, there was no indication of that on his grave until this year.

That bothered Leon Hageman, so he spearheaded a two-year effort to get a Medal of Honor grave marker for Cadwell.

"This is one entitlement a soldier should have," Hageman said Tuesday as he visited Cadwell's grave at Phelps Cemetery in Decorah. "If a guy wins the Medal of Honor, it ought to say so on his grave."

Hageman, 65, who served in the Army between the Korean and Vietnam wars, had heard stories about a Medal of Honor winner being buried in the cemetery. He decided to offer a prayer at Cadwell's grave but had trouble finding it. Eventually, he located the grave and set to work obtaining a marker.

"I got obsessed with it," he says

with a laugh. "Once I got it in my brain that he got the Medal of Honor, I wouldn't give up."

Between farming and visiting patients at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Iowa City, Hageman worked with local veterans' organizations but was unable to confirm that Cadwell was a Medal of Honor winner.

During one of his visits to the VA Medical Center, he mentioned his efforts to then public affairs specialist Annie Tuttle. She steered Hageman to a researcher at Arlington National Cemetery who found Cadwell's service records and confirmed he had indeed received the Medal of Honor.

Cadwell, a sergeant in Company B of the 2nd New York Cavalry, had earned his honor in September 1864.

According to records, the unit was

### HEROIC SWIM

■ Luman Cadwell, a sergeant in the 2nd New York Cavalry, earned his Medal of Honor in an 1864 battle in which he swam across a Louisiana bayou under Confederate fire and captured a boat that his command used to rout the enemy.

on one side of the Atchafalaya River in Louisiana, fighting Confederate troops on the other side.

Cadwell volunteered to swim the "bayou under fire of the

enemy and captured and brought off a boat by means of which the command crossed and routed the enemy."

Cadwell, who was commissioned a major at the end of the war, was wounded several times.

After the war, Cadwell settled in Decorah and worked on the railroad line between McGregor and Mitchell, S.D.

He was treasurer of the Agricultural Fair Association and commander of the local Grand Army of the Republic post. He outlived his wife of 54 years and two children

before dying July 8, 1925.

Hageman said he has heard stories that for many years Cadwell would dress in his Civil War uniform, mount a white horse and lead a Fourth of July parade through Decorah.

When Cadwell died in 1925, it was believed that he was the last of six Civil War Medal of Honor winners who had lived in Iowa.

What you can do, or dream you can do, begin it; boldness has genius, power and magic in it.

-- Johann von Goethe

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STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE

## POLK COUNTY

Woodland Cemetery was the site of a project by a group of Seventh Grade students in Des Moines last year. Several of the students wish to continue working in this historical site. They were present for the proclamation signing at the Statehouse naming the month of May "Cemetery Appreciation Month" on April 22. How reassuring that the preservation of these sacred places will continue with the efforts of our youth!

■ **Woodland Cemetery** at 2019 Woodland Ave. in Des Moines is a resting place for veterans of the Civil War. After dozens of the original grave markers were destroyed by vandals, \$4,000 was raised to place a headstone engraved with the names of 34 veterans. The actual grave sites are 100 to 125 years old.



How should Iowa enhance its cultural life?

Our cemeteries could easily be graced by sculptures, and tax dollars wouldn't be needed to do it. If more Iowans would commission Iowa sculptors to create memorials, our cemeteries would become more interesting places. Have a bronze angel, a hunting or fishing scene or a personalized portrait created for the granite memorial that your family purchases. Commemorate in a thoughtful and artistic way. Help build an artist's sculpture business, and turn our cemeteries into outdoor art galleries at the same time.

—Peggy Swigart,  
*Rt. 2, Bonaparte.*