

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 #4

October, 1999

No Stone Unturned.....

Following is an excerpt from an article written by Karen R. Thompson, president of the "Save Texas Cemeteries, Inc." that appears in its June 1999 newsletter, The Gravestone Speaks:

"Cemeteries are for tourists too! In addition to thinking about cemeteries as resting places of my ancestors, I consider them a major part of our heritage. Not just family heritage, but a place that tells us about how we lived and who we were. A place for tourists...and indeed, more and more cemeteries are on tourist maps and guides. Nearly everyone visiting New Orleans visits at least one of the old cemeteries, and they are a major part of all the city tours.

The Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York, is taking major steps to increase visitors, and thus to raise public awareness. Last year they published a lively history chronicling the deeds (and misdeeds) of its denizens. This summer the cemetery began a concert series featuring the music of composers buried on the site. The cemetery is 478 acres, began in 1840, and takes 135 full-time employees to manicure the

beautiful grounds. Among the noted burials at this site are Leonard Bernstein, Nathaniel Currier, James Ives, and Horace Greeley.

Here are some more examples of how cemeteries are being turned into destinations other than the "final" kind. In Cleveland, Ohio, there are trolley tours of the historic cemeteries. At the Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York, they have an "adopt-a-grave" program. And Easter egg hunts are held every spring at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York, another popular attraction."

Ms. Thompson goes on to tell of her intent to organize a "Tour of Exciting Texas Cemeteries" guide and asks her readers to submit to her the name of a cemetery with interesting features, beautiful monuments, great art, or special folks buried there. Iowa has equally interesting cemeteries! I think it's an idea we can emulate.

SAPIC appreciates being able to hold its October meeting in conjunction with the IGS Conference in Marshalltown. Thanks to Everett Guerink and Rhonda Riordan for their kind assistance in arranging for a meeting room.

The next SAPIC meeting will be held January 8, 2000 at the Uptown Cafe just off the NW corner of the town square in Jefferson, Iowa in Greene County. Coffee and Board of Trustees meeting at 9:30 a.m. and general meeting at 10:00 a.m. Contact Valerie Ogren (address on following page) for more information about facilities in Jefferson. Please try to attend; input from attendees makes a meeting a great learning experience (especially for me)!

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Leighton, IA 50143 515-673-8122

Loren N. Horton, Board of Trustees
3367 Hanover Ct.
Iowa City, IA 52245

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

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
Ask for Tammy Deseberg

SAPIC MEETING MINUTES

THE ANNUAL MEETING WAS HELD SATURDAY, 9 OCT. 1999 AT THE IGS CONFERENCE IN MARSHALLTOWN, IA. PRESIDENT PAT SHAW CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 AM. PAT READ THE JULY MINUTES AND CORRECTIONS. PHYLLIS ROTHLAUF MOVED TO ACCEPT MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED.

HARLEY CRAIN GAVE THE TREASURES REPORT. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT PATRICK PALMER HAD RECEIVED THE ROBERT CARTER AWARD AT THE FRIDAY EVENING IGS BANQUET, THUS RECEIVING A LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP AS PART OF THE REWARD. ALSO IT WAS REPORTED THAT HE WAS THE FOURTH PERSON TO RECEIVE THE SAME REWARD. THERE ARE SEVEN PEOPLE THAT HAVE PAID THE \$100.00 LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE. FRAN JEFFERS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE TREASURES REPORT. MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED.

PAT EXPRESSES THANKS FOR THE HONOR THAT WAS GIVEN TO HIM AND INFORMED ALL THAT THE VIDEO SALES WERE GOING WELL. THEY HAVE BEEN WELL ACCEPTED.

PAT CALLED ON MIKE MAGEE TO GIVE THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. THE FOLLOWING WAS REPORTED: PRESIDENT--PAT SHAW, VICE PRESIDENT-- ETHEL MCVAY, SECRETARY-- MARILYN SCHMITT, TREASURER -- VALERIE OGREN, HISTORIAN-- PHYLLIS ROTHLAUF, OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS-- STEVE STORY-- FROM WEST UNION, FAYETTE CO., LOREN HORTON-- FROM IOWA CITY, JOHNSON CO., MIKE MAGEE -- FROM WATERLOO, BLACKHAWK CO., CHARLY STEVENS-- FROM PAGE CO., MARY DODSON-- FROM OSCEOLA, CLARKE CO., AND JO VERNON -- FROM MAHASKA CO. PAUL MADDY MOVED TO CAST A UNANIMOUS BALLOT FOR THE SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AS READ BY MIKE MAGEE. MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED.

PRESIDENT PAT THANKED HARLEY AND BEHALF OF THE GROUP FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE. SHE ASKED FOR THE BILLS TO BE APPROVED AND REPORTED THAT A BUDGET WOULD BE FORTH COMING.

PAT WELCOMED NEW MEMBER KEVIN LEE FROM DECORAH AND ASK HIM TO SAY A FEW WORDS.

A POSSIBLE BULK MAILING PERMIT WAS DISCUSSED. FRAN JEFFERS MOVED THAT PAT CHECK ALL OPTIONS TO GET THE BEST WORKABLE PERMIT. PAT PALMER SECONDED MOTION CARRIED.

HISTORIAN PHYLLIS ASKED ALL MEMBERS TO SEND ITEMS FOR THE HISTORY BOOK AND PAT ASK FOR SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT THE MEMBERS WANT TO SEE IN THE NEWSLETTER.

DEAN GIPPLE THANKED PAT FOR HER HELP IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING BILLS PASSED. HE ALSO REPORTED ON THE DIFFERENT PROCEDURES THAT WAS TAKEN TO GET THE JOB DONE.

PHYLLIS CARTER ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE ROBERT CARTER AWARD, READING THE RULES AND QUALIFICATIONS AS SHE SPOKE.

PAT THEN CALLED FOR COUNTY REPORTS; KEVIN LEE SPOKE ON PROBLEMS IN WINNEBAGO CO. MIKE MAGEE REPORTED ON PROBLEMS IN BLACKHAWK CO.

IT WAS REPORTED THAT KEITH STREET WAS HOSPITALIZED DUE TO A STROKE. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:40 AM.

Respectfully
Marilyn Schmitt, Sec.

The STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

TREASURER REPORT: 3rd Qtr.: 7/1 - 9/30/99

Balance On Hand, 6/30/99: \$2,529.12
 Checking AN: 361585, Mahaska State Bank, Oskaloosa

Income: 520.93

Membership Dues 253.00
 Deposit, 7/26 68.00
 do 8/17 95.00
 do 9/10 30.00
 do 9/24 (mailed) 60.00

Interest 9.85
 7/19 3.49
 8/16 3.26
 9/20 3.10

Video Sales 210.00
 9/24 (mailed deposit) 210.00

Donations 48.08
 Treasurer 48.08

Total On Hand & Gain: \$3,050.05

Expense: -1,190.63

Patricia I. Shaw, President 432.47
 7/6 (137 m 22.00, c 44.31 66.31
 7/21 (138) m 5.39, t 49.20 54.59
 8/14 (140) m 88.00, c 223.57 311.57

Dean H. Gipple, Legislative Repr. 673.00
 7/21 (139) l 183.00, cc 250., t 240. 673.00

Patrick Q. Palmer, Video Production 37.08
 9/24 (141) m 37.08 37.08

Harley E. Crain, Treasurer 48.08
 1st Qtr.: m 13.60, c .90 14.50
 2nd Qtr.: m 16.04, c 1.65 17.69
 3rd Qtr.: m 14.39, c 1.50 15.89

Balance On Hand, 9/30/99: \$1,859.42

Balance On Hand, 6/30/99: \$705.30

Savings SN: 282391, Mahaska State Bank, Oskaloosa

Interest, 6/30: 3.83
 do 9/30: 3.84

Total Income: 7.67

Balance On Hand, 9/30/99: \$712.97

Combined Balance On Hand, 9/30/99: \$2,572.39

Respectfully submitted: Harley E. Crain, Treasurer, 10/5/99

Keith Street, one of the founders of SAPIC, and his wife Connie, both of whom are long-time members of the Iowa Genealogical Society, have been experiencing health problems of late. A card was sent from SAPIC, but those of you who know the Street's might want to wish them speedy recoveries, also. Their address is:
 325 Franklin St.; Wapello, IA 52653

A message from Pat Palmer, Hampton, Iowa, who was the recipient of the Robert Carter Award at the IGS Banquet on October 8, 1999:

I would like to thank The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) and the Carter Family for honoring me with the Carter Award. It is truly an honor to be thought of in the same company as those who have received it in the past. As I said that night and will say all my life, "When you give your money, that's all you give - but when you give your time, you give a part of your life." I am proud to have given SAPIC a part of MY life and will continue in the years to come. Thank you.

In the listing of counties that had created county commissions that was printed in the October, 1999 newsletter, the Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission was omitted. My apologies to Lucas County! Thanks to Gwen Sims who called it to my attention. The Lucas County commission was formed in October of 1997 and has been very active ever since! This is its contact person:

Gwen Sims
 RR#2 Box 58
 Russell, Iowa 50238
 515-535-2382 lucasgene@hotmail.com

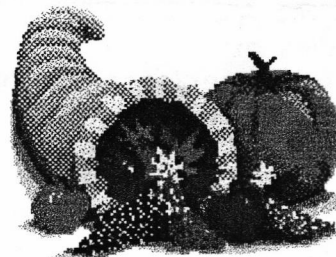
In the September 1999 issue of *The Iowa County*, a publication for county supervisors, this definition of GIS was given: "GIS technology uses computer to organize and analyze complex data through digital mapping and tabular databases." College students in Shelby County used GIS to locate each headstone in a local cemetery. Click on a headstone, and you could see the name of the deceased, his/her birth and death dates, and whether the person was a veteran. Eventually, this could be linked

with the recorder's vital statistics records and offered as a valuable tool to genealogists."

Note: Mike Magee has long advocated using aerial photos in locating old cemeteries, a valuable component of GIS technology that can be used by cemetery preservationists. These counties use GIS systems now: Story, Black Hawk, Webster, Shelby, Polk, Pottawattamie. Contact Ann Peton, State GIS Coordinator at 515-281-5140 for more information.

Thanks to Charly Stevens for submitting this information.

The AmeriCorps group assists local volunteers in community projects, in addition to providing grants through AmeriCorps Federal funding. Recently members of this group worked at the rose garden owned by the Van Buren County Conservation Service in Bentonsport, Iowa. It might be worth looking into for help with the restoration of your historic cemetery. Contact the governor's office for information.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Cemetery abuse, theft, vandalism, whatever -- will not be cured by angry finger pointing and accusations. If it is to be cured, it will come with slow, methodical, diligent, unrelenting, unabating, persevering, uninterrupted effort by solitary individuals who just will not accept "no" for an answer.

*--David Moellendorf
 Moellendorf Scientific Investigations and
 Research, Racine, WI*

Seen on a grave stone in Cincinnati:
 "Thanks for stopping by."

Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead, and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals.

William E. Gladstone, 1809-1898

British Statesman & Prime Minister four times

Raubar Granite Interiors, 9455 W. Fort St., Detroit, MI 48209-2597; 313-841-3991, claims to have a formula that draws paint pigment from a stone without damaging the headstone. It is a mixture of chemicals and a plaster base. The owner, Tom Woodruff, might be contacted to see if his formula would work on lichens that grow on stones.

When visiting a cemetery, consult a conservation specialist before attempting to clean stones. For a list of gravestone "do's and don'ts" visit the web site of the Association of Gravestone Studies at:

<http://www.berkshire.net/ags/> or
278 Main Street, Suite 207,
Greenfield, MA 01301

~Be especially watchful of children in a cemetery. Age can make some grave markers very unstable and could topple, causing serious injury. If you think you will be distracted and unable to watch them carefully, it is best to leave them at home.

~Report any suspicious activity in cemeteries to local police. Someone's ancestors are buried in there and their grave deserves the same respect that you wish for your ancestors'.

~Volunteer to help transcribe a local cemetery. We are losing much of the information available in cemeteries to the ravages of time and vandalism.

We need to act now to preserve what is there.

Information from Pete Dohms,
Geologist < CondorPnsa@aol.com >

There are several types of "stone" that are typically used for creating tombstones. In the early days of America (particularly in New England), slate was used. Slate is a dark colored rock that breaks naturally along a very strong preferential plane (cleavage). It is also fairly soft and fairly easy to carve. It is also highly resistant to chemical weathering. Slate tombstones that are hundreds of years old can usually be easily read.

In the past 100 years, though, most American tombstones have been created from two other types of rock. Those are marble and "granite."

Marble is a crystallized form of what began as limestone, a chemical precipitate formed as layers in the bottom of a shallow sea. After deep burial, and the application of heat and pressure, the limestone grains (calcium carbonate) flowed together into the larger and more crystallized forms seen in marble. Marble is, like slate, relatively soft and quite easy to carve. It is fairly easy to saw and grind, which is good since it doesn't cleave like slate. If you've ever been to a U.S. Military cemetery, virtually all tombstones you see in the long precise rows are marble. The effect is quite striking. Marble, unfortunately, does not resist chemical weathering at all well. Many tombstones from 100 years ago have become illegible, hence the "tips" that pass around on "how to raise the inscription." In the case of shaving cream, in the absence of affirmative knowledge to the contrary, I imagine the surfactants

(wetting agents) in the shaving cream penetrate the microscopic discontinuities along crystal grain boundaries, making those areas easier for rainwater (which in the NE USA is quite acidic) to penetrate. Once penetrated, the acids go to work on the crystal grains, enlarging the discontinuities and exposing new marble (calcium carbonate) to chemical attack. As the process continues, tiny flecks of marble spall off the stone, leaving a white, sugary, irregular surface behind. In cold climates, ice also penetrates into the stone and the freeze-thaw cycle adds physical weathering to the chemical attack (recall that water expands upon freezing, which pushes the cracks open even further).

What I called "granite" is, in reality, a trade term for a wide variety of igneous and crystalline metamorphic rocks that contain high concentrations of silica (silicon dioxide, or quartz). The other major components include various feldspars, dark minerals (pyroxenes, hornblendes, micas), and other rock-forming minerals. As a class, "granite" is difficult to work into tombstones. It is both hard and tough. This different mineral composition and more challenging geologic history, however, provides it with an excellent ability to resist chemical weathering. A year ago, Benigne (author's wife) and I found the grave of her grandmother's uncle, who was buried in Northeast Pennsylvania in 1914. Rain in this area is as acidic as any location in the country and more acidic than most. The fine granite tombstone that was described in his will looked as though it had been erected the week prior to our visit; it was untouched by the 85 years of weather it had experienced. Having said all that, please

understand that the foregoing are general statements. There will be specific locations where 200 year old marble tombstones are in remarkable states of preservation, and there will be cases where 200 year old slate tombstones have dissolved to low piles of shaley rubble, but those are exceptions to the general conditions described above."

The author welcomes comments or questions. <CondorPnsa@aol.com>

Nana Bixby of Vermont bakes bread made from her surplus of zucchini; sells it, and donates the proceeds to charity; this year the money went to help restore "The Old Shawnee Cemetery" in Plymouth, PA, where her grandmother is buried. A quote from Nana: ".the first time I saw it (the cemetery), I was heart broken. But they have come along ways. There is still a lot to do, but it looks so much better now....But I sure do feel I am helping with every loaf of zucchini bread that I take out of my oven."

FROM THE CONNECTICUT GRAVESTONE NETWORK
Web Site:

GRAVESTONE RUBBINGS

This is a practice that is being banned in some states and in many cemeteries. Connecticut has particular problems because of the many gravestones that are sandstone. These stones will erode internally leaving the surface (that has hardened over the years due to environmental exposure) seemingly very stable for rubbing when in fact the stone is hollow beneath. The pressure of wax rubbing or cleaning can cause the stone to fracture or implode, if you will, causing irrevocable damage to an historic artifact. Many cemeteries now ask for permits before you are allowed to do rubbings; check this information out in advance.

- 1) BE SURE THAT THE STONE YOU CHOOSE IS STABLE.
- 2) BE SURE THAT YOUR MEDIUM WILL IN NO WAY LEAVE ANY RESIDUE ON THE STONE.
- 3) COVER THE ENTIRE STONE BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR RUBBING AND BE SURE IT IS SECURELY TAPED.

SAPIC IN THE NEWS

SAPIC was the subject of an article that appeared in *Tomb With a View*, the Ohio counterpart of *Grave News*. Its editor, Katie Karrick <tombview@aol.com>, also linked the SAPIC web site to:

<http://members.aol.com/TombView/twav.html>

Snail mail address:

P.O. Box 24810; Lyndhurst, OH 44124-0810

Jennifer Lee, writer for the *DM Register's* Ames Bureau, is writing an article about SAPIC, neglect of veteran's graves, and dousing.

This article appeared in the October 1999 issue of *Stone in America*, a publication of the American Monument Association (the business and design magazine for memorialists): "Saving an Endangered Species -- Small, neglected cemeteries are finding new champions to protect them."

The article, written by Editor Ann Corcoran Janiak, features an overview of efforts to identify, protect and preserve pioneer cemeteries in Texas, South Carolina, Iowa and Indiana. The story can be viewed at:

www.rootsweb.com/~inpcrp/inthenews.html

Address of the magazine: 30 Eden Alley, Suite 301; Columbus, Ohio 43215-2000 or contact your local monument dealer to view a copy.

In the same magazine, an article by Wendel and Liz Norton of Norton Arts located in Marshall, Arkansas describes the cleaning and repair techniques they have developed to clean grave stones. A do-it-yourself cleaning kit including a cleaner, preservation treatment, mildew remover, and related implements cost \$25 plus tax and shipping. <www.nortonarts.com>

Photographer Matt Hickerson has always been fascinated by the stories, joys, and tragedies reflected by our cemeteries -- and by cemetery statuary. So much so, in fact, that he compiled his photos into a book that "preserves and promotes" cemetery statuary. See images at:

<<http://www.5finger.com/DirtNap>>

Take a can of compressed air with you to the cemetery to blow the gravestones clean.. You can buy such air cans in any computer store for they are also excellent for "dusting" your computer and keyboard.

It's time to renew your subscription to SAPIC!

A form is available in this newsletter. Thank you! SAPIC needs your support to promote its goals. Thanks to all those who joined or renewed at the October meeting.

A gift to SAPIC has been received from Ada Darnell of Burlington in memory of her late husband, Cyril Dean Darnell. Remembering SAPIC in one's memorial giving is greatly appreciated.

The Men's Group of the Richland United Methodist Church has restored cemeteries in its immediate area and assists with maintenance. Next spring, they will assist with the restoration of the Shockley Cemetery in Keokuk County. Paul Maddy conducted a workshop at Richland a few years ago. His instruction has had far-reaching effects!

THANKS

to all the persons who accepted leadership positions in SAPIC for the year 2000. Our new Board members are Mary Dodson, Charly Stevens, Loren Horton, Jo Vernooy, and Steve Story. Special thanks to Mike Magee, Nominating Chairman, for recruiting excellent persons, including Valerie Ogren, treasurer.

The services of Harley Crain, former treasurer from Washington State, who so ably guided SAPIC's finances the past two years, are appreciated very much. Harley is a prompt, efficient, and accurate bookkeeper!

Thank you, Harley!

Phyllis Carter has graciously agreed to chair the **Robert Carter Award** Committee for the year 2000. It is permissible (and even desirable) to start nominating persons for this award anytime. Don't wait 'til the last minute to write a letter about some deserving cemetery worker! The criteria for submitting a name for consideration was printed in the April, 1999 SAPIC newsletter, or you may contact Pat Shaw for a copy. Send your nominations to Phyllis -- her address is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Take a small halogen flashlight with you to the cemetery to read worn inscriptions. Place the flashlight on the right side of the marker; flash the light across the surface towards the left side of the marker; across the letters. Works best in the shade. If you are in direct sun, try to cast a shadow with your body, or a friend's body. Some sources say it works best at night. There's no potential damage to the stone using this method.

Tours and re-enactments in historic cemeteries are generally well-received. Most agree that these activities raise awareness of the need to protect this aspect of our cultural heritage and instill an appreciation of one's ancestors. The towns of Ottumwa, Danville, Waterloo, and Bonaparte (to name a few) have had very successful tours the past few years. To the critics of these activities, I would point out that the real sacrilege is to allow these sites to fall into desrepair due to neglect.

Dorothy Calhoun of Keosauqua reports that the solution used to clean algae and moss from swimming pools does not "budge" the black lichens often found on grave markers in Iowa cemeteries. This product was recommended by the Los Alamos Metropolitan Museum of Art and suggestion of its use was printed in the October, 1998 issue of *Grave News*.

OMBUDSMAN STUDIES IOWANS' COMPLAINTS

If you have a complaint against a government agency in Iowa and no one is listening, there is someone who will help you.

"We have 5,000 contacts a year and field 2,500 complaints -- many of those turn into full-blown investigations," State Citizen's Aid Ombudsman Bill Angrick said.

He said his office also gives folks other options. "We provide people with telephone numbers of supporting agencies that might be able to help them with their complaint against an Iowa governmental body."

According to Angrick, the Iowa Ombudsman system is based upon the principle that a citizen has a right to have his or her grievances against the government heard. "We make good government better."

Angrick suggests that if you have a complaint about a government agency, first attempt to go through local procedures. "If that doesn't work, call us and we'll take care of it."

If you need assistance, contact the State Ombudsman's Office at 1-888-426-6283.

The entire version of every opinion of the Iowa Court of Appeals is now available online on the Iowa Judicial Branch website:

www.judicial.state.ia.us

Interested in laws from other states?

Try contacting Denise at the Association for Gravestone Studies office. She has recently done searches and compiled about 8 binders on laws across the country.

E-mail: aqs@javanet.com

You can get new headstones for any military veteran by calling Memorial Programs Services at 1-800-697-6947 and by providing documentation of his/her service.

COUNTY REPORTS

Blackhawk

Submitted by Mike Magee

My cemetery restoration & repair work at Pleasant Hill Cemetery & Spring Creek Twp. Cemetery is progressing. Both need a lot of work. Have had success using a silo unloader tripod for replacing fallen monuments.

I will be assisting the Pioneer Cemetery Commission officers in an attempt to locate unknown burials in that cemetery. It is rumored that some Native Americans were buried in this cemetery.

Work is progressing on the establishment of the Muslim cemetery on Osage Road in Waterloo.

Recently I became aware of another cemetery in Black Hawk County. I visited the site of this cemetery and it is quite overgrown in some areas with trees and brush. No indication of any gravemarkers after doing some probing. It was established as a family cemetery in 1857. The neighbor of this cemetery said that stones once did exist on this site and that several people have stopped and asked about the cemetery. One person was from Ohio. It was set aside as a family cemetery by Washington Carr. The property has not been taxed since 1857. It has never been named so I am referring to it as Carr Cemetery. Some time in the future I will attempt to get it trimmed and the area cleared of rolls of old fencing and some sheets of tin, and various other items. Perhaps place a sign there and notify the county officials about its existence.

No reports of vandalism in this area to report.

Our local museum is having an event called "Strolling with the Spirits: An Interpretive Cemetery Walk" at Fairview Cemetery in Waterloo. I will attend this event.

Have had no response to inquiries about stone with surname Beagle. This gravemarker was sold last summer at an auction.

Note: Mike also sent photos of his device (tripod) used to lift heavy monuments without having to bring heavy equipment into a cemetery. If you'd like a copy of the photos, contact Pat Shaw.

News articles submitted by Mike: (1) The establishment of a cemetery in an attractive location on a bluff near the Blackhawk River in Waterloo; article dated May 21, 1879, *Waterloo Courier*.

(2) Article describing the monument made in memory of Judge Avery of Waverly by the

Waterloo Marble Works. *Waterloo Courier*, June 18, 1874.

(3) A description of the beautiful Emwood Cemetery in Waterloo, but warning that the gophers and caterpillars should be attended to without delay. *Waterloo Courier*, July 30 1879

(4) Describes a meeting of the Waterloo Cemetery Association in which about 7 1/2 acres of the grounds will be sold and the proceeds used to repair fences and other necessary expenses of the cemetery. *Waterloo Courier*, Jan. 27, 1879

(5) Story about "some God-forsaken reptile in human form" who removed the locks from the cemetery gates and rode his carriage through the grounds. *LaPorte City Progress Review*, June 11, 1879.

(6) A letter to the editor asking that "our beloved dead" be allowed to "rest in peace" and not be subjected to guided tours, such as the one sponsored by the Grout Museum on Oct. 22-23. *Water-Cedar Falls Courier*, Oct. 17, 1999

(7) A history program and cemetery walk presented at Lynwood sponsored by the Clarksville Public Library and Clarksville Community School TAG students. Sixteen students portrayed the lives of 18 people from Clarksville who were instrumental in shaping the history of the community. Refreshments were served. *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*, Oct. 17, 1999.

CLAYTON

Submitted by Myra Voss

The Supervisors finally did get a draft for and Ordinance to have Clayton Co Cemetery Commission drawn up. Society voted to approve it. Hopefully it will be approved before the end of the year!

Cemetery Restoration Committee - one member is suggesting that the Society hold a couple meetings at the Communia Cemetery to start/do restoring it in 2000. It is an old one, but not Pioneer. The Restoration guys/gals did a lot of helping other counties this year. And each one has their own cemetery they also work on all the time!

Say, have Pat Shaw email Vern Lammers (Delaware Co. Cemetery Commission). They had a question at our last meeting and I know Pat should be able to help them.

Note: Pat did so, but has not received a reply. Will try again!

Contact the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance; 604 Ronalds St.; Iowa City, IA 52245 to submit a "most threatened historic property in your area."

DES MOINES COUNTY

Submitted by Phyllis Rothlauf

As of October 1, the Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery group is still "puttzing" along as a Committee, due to some foot-dragging at the Court House.

In the meantime, we are meeting twice a month and are visiting two or three pioneer burial sites at those time, inventorying each cemetery: stones needing attention, trees needing trimming, fencing to be replaced, etc.

One bright spot - on August 21 we held an all-day workshop at Carter Cemetery, conducted by Beverly Bethune of Indian Hills Community College. There were fourteen participants, most of whom worked the entire time. We had lunch on the grounds and of the 67 stones needing attention we cleaned and reset or repaired 45. We plan to go back when the harvesting is over to finish the job.

When the afternoons get too short to visit cemeteries, we will have work sessions to hammer out a budget estimate and plan which sites we will restore next year.

Note: The Des Moines Co Genealogical Society, of which Phyllis is a member, exchanges a newsletter with the Livingston County (Missouri) Genealogical Society. In a recent issue which Phyllis sent, much of the space was devoted to its "sister organization," the Abandoned Cemetery Care Association. It states that there are no laws in Missouri that mandate the county or state to collect tax funds to maintain cemeteries, so they are forced to solicit donations. Phyllis sent them copies of the SAPIC brochure and Iowa Code pertaining to cemeteries. Thanks, Phyllis - hope it helps to inspire their government officials to create some funding for neglected Missouri cemeteries.

HARDIN COUNTY

Submitted by Mike Magee

An article from the July 27, 1999 issue of the *Water-Cedar Falls Courier*, states that old unreadable gravestones are showing up along the route to relocate US Hwy 20. They appear to be freshly planted in an effort to hold up highway construction.

HENRY COUNTY

Submitted by Dean Gipple

Dean Gipple has been meeting with a group for the purpose of establishing a Cemetery Commission. The county auditor issued a check to SAPIC for their membership already!

BREMER COUNTY

Submitted by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*, October 20, 1999 edition, is a story about Dols 4 U, a business dedicated to making and repairing dolls, that restored a 6-foot 3-inch statue of Jesus in the Mount Calvary Cemetery. Repairs included stripping away the old base, stabilizing it with chicken wire, and pouring in new concrete. They also reattached broken fingers and toes, one foot, and the statue's nose. The project was financed with memorial money that was given for Paul Woods.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

Submitted by Carol Bottin

Jeanette Kottke has devoted a great deal of her summer to reading cemeteries and is now in the process of compiling a cemetery book that will be published soon.

A delightful Cemetery Pageant sponsored by Chickasaw County Tourism was held at the West Cemetery near Fredericksburg on Oct. 2. West was this community's first cemetery. Several Chickasaw county residents portrayed pioneers at the grave sites; the event was complete with programs, musical selections, authentic refreshments, and a costumed guide. Bryon O'day, Marlowe Steege, Arle Ziske, Bob Mattke, and Sherry Mattke are credited with working to preserve this historic cemetery. The *New Hampton Tribune* newspaper covered the event in its Oct. 8 issue. The article, along with the program, will be placed in the SAPIC Historian's Book.

LOUISA COUNTY

Submitted by Dean Gipple

The major activity this year has been getting the FFA involved in the Tennessee Cemetery renovation. Although I give them credit in the news media, I still have to do 99% of the work.

This year I put 500 feet of 4" tile in a ditch that was always wet. Monsanto paid this expense. I finished the marble plaque honoring the early pioneers; cost was \$800 donated by Johnnie Johnson Cement and River Products Lime Co.

The small blue stem prairie grass is looking good on the outside perimeter of the cemetery. We got 60 walnut trees planted and I have had to haul water to them. The wild flowers we seeded are looking good and I intend to have the FFA students tour the cemetery learning to identify the wild flowers. I have also harvested wild flower seed ready for next year.

Let us now relate some of the things that

didn't go as planned. The school constructed a new quonset greenhouse and I worked with the students to grow different wild flowers to transplant. Everybody watered the plants which ultimately killed them, there was no heat control, and the plants that did survive were cooked when the sun came out. Solution: I have contracted with an experienced truck farmer to grow some wild flowers in his greenhouse!

Bottom line: I had started this project to cut down on labor and to create a self-sustaining landscape for the cemetery. Labor was increased tenfold which I can only justify as it should be an educational project. Go slow and seek experienced people before embarking on a project like this.

JOHNSON COUNTY

This article appeared in the October 31, 1999 issue of the *Des Moines Register*.

Iowa City, Ia. - Poor Uncle Pete expires on a Tuesday night. His body is wheeled out the door of the hospital an hour later and is whisked to the funeral home for embalming, facial makeup and other preparation.

Visitation is from 6 until 9 p.m. Thursday - the family will be there shaking hands from 7 to 8 - and the funeral will be at 2 p.m. Friday, with ham sandwiches served afterward in the church basement.

It's a pretty routine death and disposal ritual in 1999. Clean and efficient. Expensive, but very little fuss.

Loren Horton, probably Iowa's foremost expert on death and dying, likes the way it was handled 125 years ago.

"Grandpa died at home, in his own bed," Horton said. "A ritual was observed and it was all very personal."

Every mirror was immediately turned to the wall. Every clock was stopped. Curtains were closed on the public side of the house. Failure to do these things, people believed, guaranteed another family death with 12 months.

Relatives or friends washed Grandpa's body in the bedroom. His body was dressed in black and laid on a board in the parlor, stretched out across two wooden chairs.

A couple of people sat with the body every minute to protect it from insects and rodents and to be certain all signs of life had vanished.

A neighbor built the plain, tapered, wooden coffin to size. Other friends or family dug the grave. There would be a brief, proper service. The coffin would be carried to the grave - always feet first. Then came the burial, and it

was over.

"Everybody in the family and the community took part in some way," said Horton.

"Everybody knew from childhood what was expected of them."

Horton, former senior historian for the Iowa Historical Society, has spent years studying death and its customs and rituals. He's visited dozens of Iowa cemeteries, taught courses and spoken to history-related groups on the subject. People hate death, are terrified of it and are fascinated.

"Death customs and rituals tell us about ourselves," said Horton, who is retired and lives in Iowa City. "They tell us about Iowans and the trends and what people believed."

Old burial grounds and cemeteries are the best sources of information, Horton said, and anybody can do the research.

First, he said, walk into a cemetery and look at the landscape, the rolling hills, the circular driveways and sidewalks.

They were the parks of turn-of-the-century Iowa -and places of artistic expression.

Look at the symbols on the stones of the oldest graves, Horton said. They often convey a message.

A lamb means innocence and was commonly used on the stones of children. A rosebud with a broken stem also signified the death of a child. A full rose was a sign of life and beauty, the lily a sign of purity.

"I've identified 60 different symbols on stones in Iowa cemeteries," Horton said. The most interesting are in the oldest cemeteries, the ones built in Iowa's Mississippi River towns in the late 1800s. He's talking about Oakdale Cemetery in Davenport, Linwood in Dubuque, Aspen Grove in Burlington, and in central Iowa. Woodland in Des Moines.

"These cemeteries were built in areas that were outside the towns back then," said Horton. "You walk around these places and you learn about Iowans. You learn how our attitudes changed about ourselves and our fellow human beings."

Horton talks to school kids about cemeteries and leads them on hikes to look at the stones.

"The children are very interested in the symbols on the stones," he said. "They understand about messages through logos because of advertising today. Children, particularly when they're in about the fifth grade, are curious."

Death always has been a mystery, and today's customs, he said, often make it scary and distant for kids.

Continued on Page 22

Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission
October 1, 1999

In late summer of 1997 the Lucas County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance to create a Cemetery Preservation Commission and appropriated \$5000. to fund projects. Nine commission members were appointed and the first meeting was held October 30, 1997.

Photos were taken of all Pioneer Cemeteries at that time, for a pictorial notebook record of the work done. Signs were ordered for all the Pioneer Cemeteries from the State Prison. Lucas County has had forty-five cemeteries that we know of, at one time or another, and of these, twenty ~~one~~^{one} are already classified as Pioneer Cemeteries.

We have been quite active since that time. We meet regularly once a month. We have had articles published in the local newspapers, there have been notices on local radio & tv, we purchased the video made by Maddy & Palmer and have shown it, we have done presentations at some local meetings.

There has been extensive work done on three of the cemeteries. A 4-H group did work several days in Murray Cemetery, mowing, removing some brush & trees and improving the fencing and some stone straightening. That cemetery is now looking pretty good.

A day was spent by approximately twelve persons in the LaGrange Cemetery and fifteen pickup loads of brush and trees were hauled away. Others have been working a few hours at a time there also. It is planned to work there another day this fall and finish the work of removing more trees, bushes, etc. There are several stones which need attention which will be next and fence removal and some fill work in depressions.

Many hours have been spent in the Douglass Cemetery which was so over grown with trees, brush, multiflora roses and tall weeds that a person walking into it simply disappeared. Cattle and hogs had roamed in the area. All stones were knocked over, many broken, some nearly destroyed and all scattered so that it is unknown where the actual graves were. We decided the only way to restore any semblance of a cemetery there was to gather all the stones we could find by probing and collecting, remove them and doze the whole field. We marked and left standing a good collection of nice trees and hired a local dozer company to come in and doze everything else down and to the edge of the area. These huge piles of trees and brush have been drying over the summer and, as soon as it is feasible, they will be burned and the remains pushed into the bordering ditch. We then prepared the surface for seeding and fertilizing, which was done in early May. It has been mowed four times and a good seed bed is being established. We have sprayed for weed kill. We had the property surveyed (it is 2.3 acres in size) and an easement obtained for a road ten feet wide, in case at some future date, the bordering property owners declined our using the roadway through their field. We cleaned all the stones, a local vault company repaired the broken ones and embedded them each into their own single cement slab. Then a construction company layed a cement base into which all the full stones were stood in rows, the repaired ones-on-slabs were stood in rows, and the parts, which were not full stones, were layed on this making a memorial area. It is planned to erect a monument slab of some kind with a message about the cemetery and

Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission
October 1, 1999

perhaps listing the names or surnames of the people buried there. We hope to finish this project by May 2000 and perhaps have a recognition day there in concurrence with "May is Cemetery Preservation Month".

In September we visited the Prather Cemetery to decided a plan of action there. We had to use a corn knife to chop our way around in the area. It is in the same condition as the Douglass was, with one exception, it has no visible stones. A couple of years ago there were a few. One fellow remembers when they were gathered and piled in a fence corner and the ground cleared in the 1940s. But they are no longer there. We have decided to do the same reclamation there as we did in Douglass. We will probe to see if there are any stones remaining under ground & litter and then doze and make a memorial with plaque. It is a much smaller area and borders right on the county road.

We have three or four more cemeteries in the same condition as the two above but will try to finish the current projects by next May, when we will then turn to others. Once we have these worst ones reclaimed, we will turn our attention to the less desolate ones which only need some stone resetting and repair and a bit of fenceline debrushing.

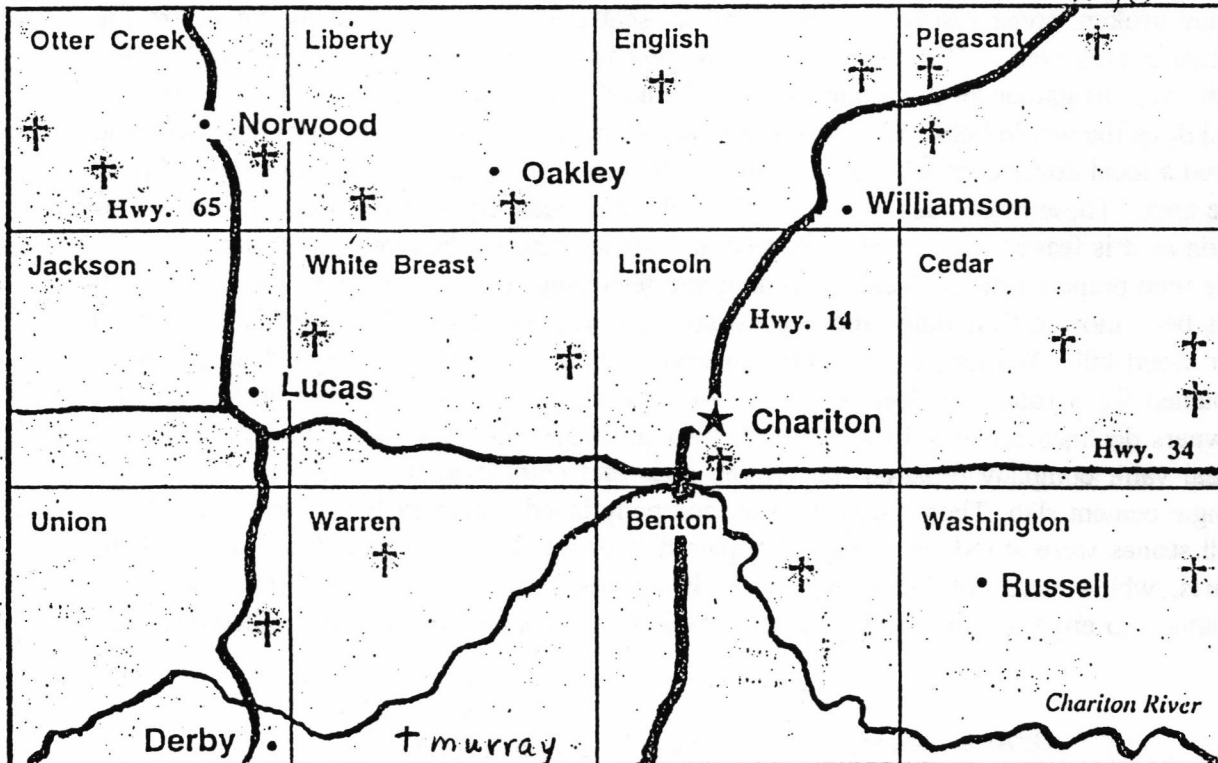
We have a very good relationship with the County Board of Supervisors and with the County Engineer and Crews. In 1997/1998 we did not use all of the money appropriated for our use. However, once we got started and knew what we were doing, we used nearly the entire \$5000. in 1998/1999. The Board appropriates a new \$5000. each July and what we had left reverts to the General Fund. We have a good group of Commissioners and we work together real well.

Gwen Sims, Secretary

Chariton Leader
 November 11, 1997

Map of Lucas County

Page 1



Lucas Co. Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Comm.
 % Gwen Sims
 RR 2 Box 58
 Russell, IA 50238

The † symbol denotes a pioneer cemetery, which is any burial ground having six or fewer burials in the past 50 years.

MAHASKA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF PIONEER CEMETERIES

Our Mission: Preserving the Past for Future Generations

Jo A. Vernooy, Chairman
1240 - 235th Street
Leighton, IA 50143
(515) 673-8122
e-mail: mahcem@kdsi.net

LeRoy Nugteren
Judy Swanson

John Jacobs
Benjamin Mayer

October 24, 1999

Pat Shaw, President
SAPIC
RR# 1 Box 143-C
Birmingham, IA 52535

Re: **Report of Mahaska County Pioneer Cemetery Commission**

Dear Pat:

I am enclosing a copy of a recent article which appeared in the Oskaloosa Herald. The reporter that I formerly worked with has retired; however, I have established another contact. (You know me, I don't ever give up!) I will also send a copy to Phyllis Rothlauf.

This is basically the report I provided to the Board of Supervisors. I am leaving most of the information in as I thought you might have an interest in it. Condense, please, for the Newsletter! I wanted to send it by e-mail, but it is on a Corel WordPerfect 8 format and I did not know if you could call it up.

The Commission has been busy this year. Besides working at various Pioneer Cemeteries, we have attended workshops, seminars and conferences to learn more about the proper way to repair stones, what other communities are doing about their Pioneer Cemeteries and to establish a network system to communicate with other like-minded groups.

We have worked very hard to protect those Pioneer Cemeteries "in peril." We have marked out the boundaries of Chew Pioneer Cemetery and notified the landowners of those boundaries. Luckily, the current landowners are very cooperative and will abide by those markings.

Mrs. Shaw
Page 2
October 24, 1999

The Center Grove Cemetery, across from KBOE, is being restored by Steve Allison, an Eagle Scout candidate. Steve called me this week to inform me that he would like for LeRoy Nugteren and I to come out to the Cemetery as he is about ready to put up the fence. A sign indicating that the Cemetery is "R.I.P." (Restoration in Progress) has been ordered indicating that it is a Pioneer Cemetery and that Steven and the Commission are restoring it.

We are working with the Iowa Prairie Network to identify and re-introduce prairie flowers and grasses. Last week we worked at Centennial Cemetery. It had not had **any** mowing or care for ten to twenty years. It was a rewarding day. Other workdays will be announced. We received accolades from the Iowa Prairie Network for our cooperation and foresight in preserving this site. I was told by Glenda Buenger of the Iowa Prairie Network, that they wanted us to be a "model of networking" for Southern Iowa - Pioneer Cemetery Commissions and Iowa Prairie Network working together to preserve Iowa's heritage! I found it very exciting to think that Mahaska County may be setting a precedence in restoration.

The 4-H group continues to work on Berry Cemetery on the Emil Kraber property. The field leading to the Cemetery was planted in beans and the group waited for harvest before returning to work.

The 4-H group working on Crain Cemetery is cooperating with the Township Trustees and working under their guidance. Trustee, Bevan Dykstra can give the group wonderful insight into the Cemetery as he has been a Township Trustee for many years, and the group can in turn help him by doing the manual labor. We try to work with the Township Trustees, if possible, and maintain a good relationship with them. The group was given the option of Crain or Cone Cemetery, and, obviously, chose Crain.

Ben Mayer of our Commission is very familiar with the Cone Cemetery and indicated that the interests of Cone would be best served by allowing it to return to, and/or remain, in prairie grasses. As I understand it, Cone is not a Pioneer Cemetery which is in danger of being "lost" as are those that are being farmed or livestock damaged. As much as we would like to work at each and every Pioneer Cemetery at once, that is, of course, impossible. So, we do the best we can with the time that we have. Besides working on these Cemeteries on the weekends, some of us dedicate approximately fifteen to twenty hours a week to the Commission by giving talks, writing letters, following up on projects being worked on, keeping in touch with the State organization, etc. At this point, working on the thirty-one Pioneer Cemeteries that we have identified could be a full-time job; however, most of us on the Commission are still full-time employees elsewhere and must give whatever time we can.

We are making a bit of progress on the Beloit Cem. Cornelia Minor, a trustee, seems to be doing what she can; although she appears to get little help from the other trustees. My brother was there several times this year to do some clean-up on his own as he lives near there. The fallen branches have been removed at last. Mrs. Minor told me there is now money available to repair the damaged stones.

Mrs. Shaw
Page 3
October 24, 1999

I had contacted Patrick Powers of the Eddyville High School because I had spoken to an individual who had a daughter in FFA there. She indicated that the FFA group might be interested in restoring a Pioneer Cemetery. I contacted Mr. Powers about working in the Muchakinock Cemetery located on the Maurice and Ruth Vande Kieft property. I talked with Mr. Powers this week, and he indicated that the group would like to work on the Muchakinock; however, it may be spring before they can get anything accomplished.

The Commission, Mr. Powers, and a representative of Iowa Prairie Network will be going out to the Muchakinock Cemetery in November to assess its needs. I indicated to Iowa Prairie Network last week at Centennial Cemetery, that I would include them in any Pioneer Cemetery visits that we make so that prairie remnants of grasses and flowers can be preserved. In fact, John Jacobs of the Commission went to the DeLong Cemetery this week with a couple of Iowa Prairie Network members, but they did not find any prairie grasses or flowers. This could possibly be because up until last year, cattle had been trampling that Cemetery, and not enough time has elapsed to allow the prairie to return.

Relative to DeLong Cemetery, the work continues. The Commission reached a decision that the DeLong family members will continue on that Cemetery on their own for a time until we can get in a position to help them out again. We have helped them fence in the Cemetery, taught them how to repair the stones and provided the necessary materials. I believe that they feel they can go ahead on their own, with our guidance and supervision, of course. A DeLong family member, Alice Veen, has attended a workshop and conference with us to learn all she can about restoration of that Cemetery. Alice helped us last week at the Centennial Cemetery. She told me that she felt it was the least she could do for all the help we had given her family on the DeLong Cemetery.

I have spoken to two groups in the last few weeks, raising awareness of Pioneer Cemeteries. With one group, they requested that I show slides of the Cemeteries. They showed an interest in the Daily Trust booklets made by the Grant School students, so I called Musco and obtained extra booklets for them. Whatever I can do to inform the public, I try to do. I can honestly say that I have never turned down a request to speak to any group because I have found that support comes from some unlikely sources.

I sent a letter to the Oskaloosa Herald thanking them and those who worked at Centennial. I hope you have an opportunity to read it. In case you do not have any opportunity to read it in the newspaper, I am enclosing a copy of what I sent. (It is my understanding from a call from the Editor, that only ten names can appear in the letter; therefore, the Commission and Iowa Prairie Network individual members' name will not be listed.) I sent letters to each individual who worked at Centennial thanking them for their help. I am grateful for the assistance and support, and I want Mahaska County residents to know that there are good things going on in their County.

Subject: update

Date: Wed, 29 Sep 1999 18:39:09 -0500

From: "Kevin" <photogen@oneota.net>

To: <patshaw@netins.net>

A Progress Report From The

Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery

Commission

12/21/98: Board Meeting at the Conference room Decorah Library. New fencing at Pagin Cemetery was discussed. Quotes were addressed and Bob Brimacomb made motion to go forth with fencing project with a maximum cost of \$4500. Motion was approved by vote. Other competitive bids were to be acquired before final determination on fence.

Gentlemen from Hesper attended: Lester Korsness. Ron Thorson, Earnie Corson and others have cleaned and protected the Salvesson Cemetery at a total cost of \$872.46. Questions about the project were answered by our three guests and a motion to cover costs of the project from our treasury was made by Bob Brimacomb. Motion seconded and past by vote of the board.

12/21/98: An estimate of \$800 was received from the Decorah Genealogy Association to establish and maintain a "computerizes and supplemental materials database" of cemetery records. The price includes all planning, preparation, anticipated purchases, maintenance and preservation of materials to establish a fully operational system.

Basic work will be done by selected volunteers over the course of 1999.

The database will be housed and maintained at the Genealogy Library and available to users anytime during regular hours.

1/9/99: Meeting of members in Decorah Genealogy Library. Discussion of financial plan and monetary request for fiscal year 1999. Request was approved by members and will be sent to the County Board of Supervisors. Also, the estimate from Decorah Genealogy was considered and approved by vote to go forth with the Database Project.

2/99: Lester Korsness was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to fill vacancy on Commission Board.

Spring :Work was at a slow pace due to the undecided nature of the General Fund and budget requests from that fund.

7/19/99: General Meeting at the D.G.A. library. Stan jeffers moved that the \$8000 approved by the County Board of Supervisors be accepted and the motion passed by vote.

Elements of the Pagin Fence project were discussed. More figures are needed from various fencers to decide on final cost.

Iowa Prison Industries was contacted to get information on making cemetery signs.

8/7/99: Bob Brimacomb and Kevin Lee met at Pagin Cemetery to kill undesirable weeds.

8/16/99:General Meeting at D.G.A. Library. Leo Funke chosen to do the Fencing Project at Pagin Cemetery. Work expected to begin in September.

9/8/99: Mora Wiest (DNR) and Kevin Lee met at Pagin Cemetery to review various options on prairie grass and flower establishment. Road side management was also discussed. A burn may be required to help kill off

undesirable vegetation this fall or early next spring.

Kevin Lee contacted surrounding farmers to tell them of plans to fence and asked for help or contribution on the mater.

9/18/99: Kevin Lee, Warren Viker and Frank Beard cleared weeds from fence line in preparation for fencing. More machinery is needed to do an effective job.

PAGE COUNTY

Submitted by Charly Stevens

From the August 13, 1999 edition of the *Shenandoah Valley News*, an article states that the City Council approved appointments to the Cemetery Board. The appointees include Chuck Gee, Dale Castle, Don Giner, Helen Perkins, Elaine Danforth, and Harry Contiss. The original board was dissolved due to interpersonal conflicts between members. Mayor Greg Connell pointed out the accomplishments of the original board, including 5000 gravestones repaired, new property acquisitions and a \$250,000 chapel built for Rosehill Cemetery. Connell also proposed having the Cemetery Board meet at 4 p.m. on Fridays at City Hall.

WAPELLO COUNTY

From the Ottumwa Courier

Much publicity was given to the Second Annual Tour of the Ottumwa Cemetery held on September 18 and 18. The popular cemetery tour was started last year and drew large crowds. The 1999 tour included a portrayal of Capt. Oscar B. Nelson by Steve Bell, a few coal miners, the first woman principal of Ottumwa elementary schools, a cigar maker, and a tale about a dog. The following letter to the editor titled, "Cemetery tour offers enjoyable evening," was published in the *Courier*:

Editor, The Courier:

Congratulations to Ottumwa Community Players and the Ottumwa Cemetery personnel for providing an enjoyable evening's entertainment this past weekend! Their "Lantern Tour into Ottumwa's Past" was extremely well organized, carefully researched and thoroughly enjoyable, making the minimal ticket price a real bargain. Ottumwa has a rich history of culture and enterprise and the people portrayed will live long in the memories of those who have had the pleasure of meeting them through the cemetery tour. We hope it will grow to be a long-standing tradition in the community.

Another tour held on Oct. 14., sponsored by the Wapello County Historical Society education committee, visited five cemeteries: the McCormick, Dahlonga, Kitterman, Round Point and Agency. Guides were available that gave short histories of each cemetery with anecdotes from the lives of pioneers buried in the cemeteries. Refreshments were served during a rest stop.

RESULTS OF NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE (20 received)

I read the newsletter:

Always	6
Usually	13
Sometimes	1
Never	0

I'm most interested in:

Stone Repair Methods	17
Sources of Materials	15
Editorials	11
Web Sites	7
Articles about county activities	16
Poems	3
Persons to contact in my area	15

Membership cards for SAPIC are available. If you'd like one, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your dues. Thanks!

I'd like to see this in the newsletter:

Application form

I like it the way it is – great!

Info to Supervisors and Trustees again and again

Project possibility for county gen soc: use the new 911 caused rural address system to identify location of all cemeteries

The date issue is being mailed or at least the month

Articles of special interest to Trustees and Supervisors

Dates on every newsletter - not just volume # and issue #

Renewal form on back of label

Keep it varied with a broad range of articles

I think the newsletter is very interesting. Keep up the good work.

Membership renewal form on back of address portion of newsletter

Which cemeteries that have been worked on

All info is valuable; hate to see any deleted. Would be helpful to have pages numbered. I've messed up when copying for some interested person.

I feel it is real important that we hear "progress" reports from anyone that is cleaning up cemeteries. I see much more articles in newspapers since we went public. Each county will progress at their own pace and their own rules, as I find they are all different.

Name, address, phone#, E-mail address of all officers and board members - and membership information in each issue. We need to keep in mind that many of our members DO NOT have access to on-line computers and don't have e-mail.

This could be omitted from the newsletter to save on postage:

I ALWAYS read the newsletter cover to cover and then I read it again a couple of weeks later...I don't want you to leave anything out...it is all WONDERFUL stuff!

Most of the newspaper articles and copied pictures
"Fill in" articles not pertaining to SAPIC purposes
Clippings at great length -- perhaps shortened and edited, but if no
limitation on mailing costs -- all articles are fine
Lengthy newspaper articles from other states. Information of general interest could be
condensed (without pictures which don't reproduce well), with source of info cited.

You may still add your opinions to the newsletter poll, if you haven't already done so. Copy or
clip the following questionnaire or just send your general opinions to Pat Shaw: RR#1 Box
143-C; Birmingham, IA 52535; E mail: patshaw@netins.net

Newsletter questionnaire

Please complete and bring to the Oct meeting or mail to Pat Shaw.

I read the SAPIC newsletter: usually ___ sometimes ___ never ___

I'm most interested in: stone repair methods ___ sources of materials
___ editorials ___ web sites ___ articles about county activities ___
poems ___ persons to contact for information in my area ___

I'd like to see this in the newsletter: _____

This could be omitted from the newsletter to save on postage:

THE MONTH AND YEAR OF EACH SAPIC NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND
CORNER OF THE FIRST PAGE DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE VOLUME NUMBER AND ISSUE
NUMBER. IT WAS INADVERTANTLY OMITTED FROM THE FIRST COPIES OF THE APRIL 1999
ISSUES, BUT ADDED TO LATER COPIES OF THAT ISSUE. In this issue, it will be printed on
each page.

Continued from page 12.....

"A hundred years ago, life and death were considered the most natural things," Horton said. "Children saw babies born and people die and it all happened in the home. They weren't afraid of it."

Note: Loren Horton was one of the founders of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries and currently serves on its Board of Trustees.

JONES COUNTY

Co-chairpersons, Ron Ruess and LaVerta Langenberg toured pioneer cemeteries in Jones County in October. The Public Burying Ground in Clay Township was in extremely neglected condition when first discovered in 1997. The youth group of the Onslow Presbyterian Church adopted this cemetery. Ron and LaVerta were delighted to discover the site was fenced and all known stones were standing! This happy note was offset with the discovery that a particularly interesting marker of a black Civil War participant was missing from another burial site. The Olin FFA Chapter has adopted the Grafft Cemetery in Jackson Township.

MARION COUNTY

Margaret Gee reported that she was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Marion Co Genealogical Society received \$1000 from the county supervisors to help offset her expenses in repairing a pioneer cemetery, after she took the township trustees out to view it.

VAN BUREN COUNTY

County Auditor, Jon Finney, continues to try to find ownership of all cemeteries. Pat Shaw accompanied Jon to a breakfast meeting of the Douds Methodist Men's group on Nov. 13. They learned from Ralph Arnold, long-time county historian, that he knows of 113 burial sites. Jon recently cleaned and straightened many stones in the White Chapel Cemetery in Lick Creek Township. The graves of the gr grandparents of entertainment personality, Tom Arnold, are located at this site. Jon's gr grandparents' graves are also in this pioneer cemetery.

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

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