

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 #5 Issue #1

January, 2000

No stone unturned.....

It's time to pay membership dues!

Thanks to all those who have already done so, and thanks to our new members. Your support is crucial to the existence of SAPIC, and not only financially so. We need your input and suggestions to become a strong, viable organization. It's also important to have a state-wide representation geographically. I'm pleased that contacts are increasing in western Iowa, and that Iowans in central and eastern Iowa continue to gain in numbers and in their dedication to the goals of SAPIC. Our unity and cohesiveness regarding the preservation of historic and sacred cemeteries demonstrate Iowans' high moral fiber and their basic decency. These "heart of the Midwest" traits have always been perceived as typically Iowan by non-Iowans. When visitors arrive at our pioneer burial sites, we should make sure that they see fenced, preserved cemeteries that reflect our dedication to these high morals. Our faithful members help make this happen.

Renew or join today!

SAPIC is putting together a set of "before and after" photos, negatives, or slides telling the stories of the restorations of Iowa's pioneer cemeteries. Please share your pictures and stories with us, if you have not already done so. These will be compiled and used to make video tapes that can be checked out from libraries throughout the state for individuals or organizations to view. Of particular interest would be information about:

- (1) How did you find out about this site?
- (2) What inspired you to restore it?
- (3) Did you do the work yourself?
- (4) How did the community react to the project?

We will be using the pictures and stories that we already have, but may be contacting submitters for more information. You can send your story to:

Pat Shaw
RR#1 Box 143-C
Birmingham, IA 52535
patshaw@netins.net

The next SAPIC meeting will be on April 8, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. at the Newton Public Library in Newton, Iowa. Newton is located very near Interstate 80 east of Des Moines and the exit has many motels and eating places. Marilyn Schmitt, on behalf of the Jasper County Commission, made arrangements for this meeting. She may be contacted for more specific information at:

515-674-3956

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

Phyllis Rothlauf, Historian
1806 Sunnyside
Burlington, IA 52601 319-754-5595

Patrick Q. Palmer, Video Sales Coordinator &
Web Page Manager
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

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

Steve Story, Board of Trustees
401 Smith Street
West Union, IA 52175-1132
319-422-3143 dstory@trxinc.com

Charly Stevens, Board of Trustees
Page County Conservation Board Naturalist
112 E. Main

Clarinda, IA 51632 712-542-3864

Mary Dodson, Board of Trustees
309 S. Dewey
Osceola, IA 50213-1402 515-342-4871

Jo Vernoooy, Board of Trustees, Chairperson of
Mahaska Co Comm for the Preservation of
Pioneer Cemeteries
1240 235th St.
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

8 JANUARY 2000

THE JANUARY MEETING WAS HELD AT THE UPTOWN CAFE IN JEFFERSON, IOWA. VALERIE OGREN, ON BEHALF OF GREENE COUNTY, MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS. THE GROUP THANKED HER.

AT 9:30 AM PRESIDENT PAT SHAW CALLED FOR A SHORT BOARD MEETING. SHE ASK FOR BOARD OPINION, ADDRESSING THE SUBJECT OF SAPIC PREPARING AND MAKING AVAILABLE VIDEO OR SLIDE PROGRAMS TO PRESENT THE ACTIVITIES OF EACH COUNTY COMMISION. A POSSIBLE 4 SETS COULD BE MADE AND LOANED OUT TO ANY GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CEMETERY HISTORY, PRESERVATION, ETC. THE BOARD FELT IT WAS A WORTHY PROJECT.

CONTACTS NEED TO BE FOUND FOR NW IOWA TO BAND TOGETHER AND FOR CHAPTERS OF SAPIC. STEVE STOREY IS WORKING IN FAYETTE AND JONES COUNTIES.

PAUL MADDY ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS RETIRING FROM HIS BOOK WRITING, LECTURES AND ACTIVE GRAVESTONE RESTORATION WORK. THE GROUP EXPRESSED THANKS FOR ALL HIS EFFORTS AND GUIDEANCE.

MIKE MAGEE HAS FOUND A SOURCE FOR THE EPOXY THAT MAY BE CHEAPER THAN MOST. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT HIM.

PAT ALSO SPOKE OF SOME LEGISLATION CONCERNS.

AFTER A SHORT BREAK PRESIDENT PAT SHAW CALLED THE REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:00 AM.

THE MINUTES WERE READ AND CORRECTED. PAUL MADDY MOVED TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTIONS . MC. VALERIE GAVE THE TREASURERS REPORT. THE BOOKS WERE AUDITED BY LEE SLOAN. HE MADE A SUGGESTION FOR RECORD KEEPING.

THE SAPIC FUNDS ARE NOW IN THE HOME STATE BANK IN JEFFERSON. VALERIE ALSO REPORTED THAT A BUDGET HAD BEEN PREPARED BY HER SELF, PAT SHAW AND SHIRLEY CLARK. PAUL MADDY MOVED THAT THE TREASURERS REPORT BE ACCEPTED. SECONDED BY PHYLLIS ROTHLAUF .MC

VALERIE INTRODUCED MR. MORAIN FROM THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND THANKED HIM FOR THE PUBLICITY WE RECEIVED.

PAT INFORMED ALL OF THE GROUP OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD MEETING. THERE WAS A CONSENSE THAT SHE IMPLEMENT THE SAPIC PRESENTATION. SHE IS TO KEEP US INFORMED.

PAT REPORTED THAT WE GOT A BULK MAILING PERMIT, HOWEVER WE COULD GET A CHEAPER RATE IF WE FILED AND RECIEVED NON-PROFIT STATUS. SHIRLEY CLARK MOVED THAT WE APPLY. WE NEED ARTICLES OF INCOPORATION FIRST

SHIRLEY CLARK MOVED THAT WE GO FORWARD WITH THIS PROJECT. LOREN HORTON SEC MC JO AND VAL WILL HELP PAT WITH THIS PROJECT. LOREN HORTON WILL UPDATE THE BYLAWS .

SEVERAL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ASK FOR INFORMATION, AND INFORMAL INFORMATIONAL DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD.

MIKE MAGEE HAS OFFERED TO INDEX THE NEWSLETTERS. A MEMBERSHIP UPDATE WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON.

PAT REPORTED ON THE SAPIC EVENTS OF LAST YEAR. UPCOMING EVENTS WERE PUT ON CALENDARS.

MARILYN SCHMITT, ON BEHALF OF THE JASPER CO. COMMISSION, INVITED ALL TO THE NEXT MEETING IN NEWTON, TO BE HELD AT THE NEWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY APRIL 8 2000. MEETING AJOURNED AT 11:45

RESPECTFULLY

Marilyn Schmitt

Don't forget to nominate a deserving cemetery worker for the annual Robert Carter Award which is presented at the IGS Banquet in October. Nominations will be received anytime up to July 1, 2000. Criteria for the award was printed in the April, 1999 newsletter or a copy of can be obtained from Pat Shaw. The nominations should be sent directly to Phyllis Carter, chairperson. Addresses for Pat and Phyllis are on page two of this newsletter.

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter - 1 October 1999 thru 31 December 1999

Balance on Hand (Checking) 30 September 1999, Mahaska State Bank	\$1859.42
Interest on account	<u>1.93</u>
Total - Transferred to Home State Bank, Jefferson	\$1861.35

Income

Dues	480.00
Video Sales	130.00
Donations (for breakfast at annual meeting)	21.26
Donation	5.00
Interest 10/31/99	1.60
Interest 11/30/99	5.87
Interest 12/31/99	<u>5.72</u>
Total Income	\$649.45

Expense

IGS - reimburse for breakfast	25.00
Patricia Shaw - newsletter (inc. \$100 ann. fee for bulk rate permit and \$100 imprint fee)	343.45
IGS - reimburse postage	<u>1.50</u>
Total Income	\$369.95

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 1999	\$2140.85
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Balance on Hand (Savings) 30 September 1999, Mahaska State Bank	\$ 712.97
Interest on account	<u>.42</u>
Total - Transferred to Home State Bank, Jefferson	\$ 713.39

Income

Life Memberships:	
Dean Gipple	100.00
Gwen Sims	100.00
Patricia Shaw	100.00
Linda Zintz	100.00
Memorial:	
Ava Darnell in memory of her husband	<u>100.00</u>
Total Income	500.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 1999	\$1213.39
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A word of explanation: I am keeping an accounting of the amount which had been held in savings and have added Life Memberships and Memorials to it; however, all the money is in ONE account at the bank.

Combined Balance on Hand 31 Decemeber 1999	\$3354.24
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Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Ogren, Treasurer

108 N. Oak

Jefferson IA 50129-1841

Ph 1-515-386-4784

E-mail: <vjogren@netins.net>

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Pioneer Cemetery Commission in Iowa:

Delaware: Mr. Fred Phelps
221 Main St.; Colesburg, IA 52035
319-856-2025

Des Moines: Phyllis Rothlauf
1806 Sunnyside; Burlington, IA
52601; 319-754-5595

Fayette: Laura Westendorf
25067 Johnson's Mill Rd.; Waucoma,
IA 52171; 319-429-2892

Greene: Valerie Ogren
108 N. Oak; Jefferson, IA 50129
319-386-4784 vjogren@netins.net

Hardin: Dick Stone
1301 5th St.; Eldora, IA 50627
319-858-2925 or 319-858-3164

Iowa: Bob Wagner
406 Madison St.; Williamsburg, IA
52361; 319-668-9406

Jackson: Joann Caven
12901 119th Ave.; Maquoketa, IA
52060; 319-652-2516

Jasper: Marilyn Schmitt
13059 S. 52nd Ave. W.;
Mitchellville, IA 50169;
319-674-3956

Jones: Ron Ruess
17321 215th Ave.; Anamosa, IA
52205; 319-462-2347
and/or LaVerta Langenberg
21692 20th St.; Lisbon, IA 52253
319-432-6389

Louisa: Dean Gipple
307 Flat Iron Dr.; Columbus Junction
IA 52738; 319-728-2344

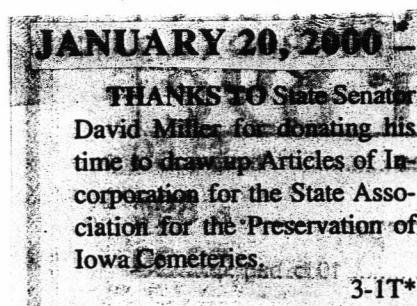
Lucas: Gwen Sims
RR#2 Box 58; Russell, IA 50238
319-535-2382;
lucasgene@hotmail.com

Mahaska: Jo Vernooy
1240 235th Ave.; Leighton, IA
50143; 515-673-8122
mahcem@kdsi.net

Tama: Joyce A. Wiese
2160 310th St.; Toledo, IA 52342
319-484-2599

Winneshiek: Kevin Lee
1672 Old stage Rd.; Decorah, IA
52101 ddiggers@hotmail.com

Articles of Incorporation for SAPIC were drawn up by David Miller of Libertyville, who is also the Iowa State Senator from the 92 District. This "thank-you" note was printed in a newspaper in Senator Miller's district:



Senator Miller's generous donation of his expertise and time are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to SAPIC member Jo Vernooy for providing the Application for Recognition of Exemption under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service and for offering to help prepare it for submission. Achieving non-profit status will make SAPIC eligible for charitable donations, lower postage costs, and other benefits.

Also, Clayton County!
Check county report on page fifteen.

Loren Horton presented an update of the SAPIC by-laws at the January meeting. Following are the changes and additions in bold type and underlined, which will be reread at the April and July meetings. The adoption of these changes will be on the agenda of the October meeting. Loren was the author of SAPIC's by-laws in 1996, and we are pleased that he agreed to update them. *Thank you, Loren!*

I. The name of the organization shall be the **STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES.**

II. The goals of this organization shall be:

- A. To identify all cemeteries in Iowa.
- B. To take such measures as are necessary, possible, and reasonable to protect these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them from danger, from natural causes and from human encroachment.
- C. To provide guidance and educational materials for use by the people entrusted with the preservation of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- D. To compile and distribute information about the proper maintenance techniques for these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- E. To provide advice and information to legislative bodies empowered to pass legislation creating a legal framework for the protection, the preservation, and the maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- F. To act as a monitor of the administrative and management personnel of these cemeteries, to ensure that the legal measures for the protection, preservation, and maintenance of these cemeteries and monument contained in them are enforced.
- G. To develop a system of determining who has the right to clean, repair, re-set, and otherwise work with the monuments in a cemetery.
- H. To develop a system of determining who has legal ownership of cemetery plots and monuments.
- I. To encourage state and county cemetery commissions, work to help form them, and to cooperate with such organizations after they are formed.

III. This organization shall be a membership organization. Membership is open to persons and organizations interested in the protection, preservation, maintenance, and use of cemeteries and the monuments contained in them. Organizational membership shall be considered one vote each for the purposes of voting in elections.

Annual membership fees shall be due and payable on the first day of January of each year. Dues paid on or before the October general public meeting shall be considered dues for the calendar year in which they are paid. Dues paid after the 4th quarter general public meeting shall be considered dues for the following calendar year.

The amount of the annual membership fees shall be determined annually by the Board of Trustees of the organization.

IV. The Board of Trustees of this organization shall consist of no less than seven (7) and no more than thirteen (13) members. **OFFICERS AND** Members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the general membership at a regularly scheduled public meeting held during the fourth quarter of each calendar year. A quorum of the membership shall consist of those members present at the regularly scheduled public meeting, provided that at least ten (10) association members are present at said meeting.

Nominations may be made by a Nominating Committee, and from the floor of the meeting. Ballot may be by voice, by a show of hands, or by paper ballot.

Voting may be for individuals or for a slate of candidates.

Election shall be by a plurality vote of the membership present, eligible, and voting.

At the initial election to the Board of Trustees of this organization, all persons elected shall draw lots to determine the length of terms. At least three (3) persons shall be elected for a three (3) year term, at least three (3) persons shall be elected for a two (2) year term, and at least one (1) person shall be elected for a one (1) year term. In the following elections, all terms shall be for three (3) years.

All persons elected to the Board of Trustees shall be members of the organization, and must be members in good standing during their entire terms of office.

The Board of Trustees shall meet within thirty (30) days following the annual meeting to choose, from its own membership, the officers of the organization.

The **OFFICERS AND** Board of Trustees shall act as the Executive Committee of the organization, or may designate a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees to act as the Executive Committee for a specified period of time.

V. The officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

The President and Vice President shall be elected annually for a term of one (1) year, and may serve no more than three (3) successive terms.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected every two (2) years for a term of two (2) years, and may serve no more than three successive terms.

VI. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees or on the roster of officers shall be filled by the Board of Trustees, or by a special meeting of the membership called for that purpose. It shall be the decision of the Executive Committee as to which method of filling vacancies shall be used at any given time. Any trustee or officer may be removed and replaced if the Executive Committee, with the concurrence of the full Board of Trustees, deem such trustee or officer incapacitated, ***and OR ARE OTHERWISE*** unable to fulfill the assigned duties.

VII. ***This organization shall hold at least one (1) general public meeting in the fourth quarter of each calendar year. The date and the location of the meeting shall be the decision of the Board of Trustees acting as the Executive Committee. The entire membership shall be notified of the date and place of this general public meeting at least one (1) month prior to the date of the meeting. This notification shall be by mail.***

THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL HOLD FOUR (4) GENERAL PUBLIC QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR, IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, AND OCTOBER, UNLESS OTHERWISE CHANGED BY ACTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. EACH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE 4TH QUARTER MEETING, WHICH SHALL BE THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES, AND WHICH SHALL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE. THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE NOTIFIED OF THE DATE AND PLACE OF EACH MEETING AT LEAST ONE (1) MONTH PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING. THIS NOTIFICATION SHALL BE BY MAIL. A NOTIFICATION OF THE MEETING PLACED IN THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER IS ACCEPTABLE, AND FULFILLS THIS QUALIFICATION.

This organization may hold as many additional general public meetings as seems to fit the goals and needs of the organization. Upon the request of no fewer than ten (10) members in good standing of the organization for a special meeting, such a special meeting shall be scheduled. Notification of the date and location of such a special meeting shall be by the same procedure as that used for a general public meeting. A request for a special meeting must be made in writing.

VIII. All proposed amendments to the documents of governance of this organization must be submitted in writing, and presented to the Board of Trustees prior to September 1 of the year in which they are to be considered. These proposed amendments will be placed on the agenda to be voted on at the annual meeting next after the September 1 when they are submitted to the Board of Trustees. Any member in good standing may prepare and submit amendments.

IX. *Prior to the official adoption of these rules, the Steering Committee shall handle all business of the organization. The Steering Committee shall adopt its own rules of operation prior to the official adoption of these rules.*

IX. INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT BE HELD PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR ANY FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS INCURRED BY THE ORGANIZATION ITSELF, AND THEY MAY NOT BE SUED INDIVIDUALLY FOR THE DEBTS OF THE ORGANIZATION.



THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SALLY J. PEDERSON
LT. GOVERNOR

December 17, 1999

Patricia Shaw
Rural Route 1
Box 143-C
Birmingham, Iowa 52535

Dear Friend:

Thank you for your letter with suggestions for the year 2000 Legislative Session. If legislation passes which encourages cemetery protection we will consider it.

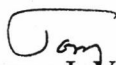
We are currently reviewing our priorities and initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year. Through the next few months we will be evaluating our legislative options allotted by next year's state budget. While there are many pressing needs within our state, Iowa's budget circumstances will make it difficult to address all of them at this time.


The state has been spending more out of its checkbook than it has been depositing. For example, in the preceding two years actual revenue collection did not reach official projections, and that trend is continuing this fiscal year. At the same time, the state has "spent down" its accumulated surplus from over \$400 million to less than \$100 million over the last two years.

I cannot allow this trend to continue. In my first budget as Governor, we must get revenues and expenditures back into line. That will require real cuts, and relocating state resources to address Iowa's priorities.

Please keep in touch with us, and do not hesitate to share your views and concern in the future. We value your comments.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor


Sally J. Pederson
Lt. Governor

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A quote from a member of *Save Texas Cemeteries*:

In Texas, NO ONE ever owns a cemetery. The dead own it. A family can have 'dominion' over their family cemetery and a commercial cemetery can own the charter to care for it but there is no owner. It can be surveyed as part of a property but you cannot buy a cemetery. The people on the land cannot sell it and must by Texas law give a way to get in to it. You can however ask to buy an access road space. Texas law allows for fencing or anything to protect the cemetery be done. In some cases for a tiny one that is destroyed nearly, just covering the graves with a cement slab with a single marker with names and dates is all that can be done to preserve that spot. To restore you need to determine the materials; fieldstone cannot be repaired. It will shatter and erode so you have to put up a second marker along with the original so the info is not lost. People tend to lay the stones down on cement and that ruins them, too. Water cannot flow out of the carving and lettering and it expands in the ice and cracks it up. Water also pounds the surface hard that way, eroding it. You have to make a wedge shape and then epoxy the stone on it. It must shed water. No metal should be used except rebar inside the cement. Nylon pins are used to resection a stone. They do not expand and contract with weather. Some are too fragile and thin. In that case you erect another marker along with the fragile one. Texas workshops include the following guidelines:

NO clorox or bleach -- it will make stones turn yellow after awhile. The top cleaning soap is called ORVUS -- bought at feed stores. It is made by Proctor and Gamble. Never use cement; especially Portland Cement.

October, 1999 SAPIC newsletters were sent to County Supervisors in Adair - Iowa Counties. This newsletter will be sent to Jackson - Wright County Supervisors.

U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley held public meetings in Clinton and Cedar Rapids December 14 to provide information to and hear from lowans about the funeral and cemetery industries.

In addition to providing tips for consumers, Grassley said the forums were designed to elicit grass roots input that will enhance his work as chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. Here, he takes on consumer projects of interest to older Americans. The funeral and cemetery industries are his latest areas of focus.

Senator Grassley is also aware of the theft of cemetery sculpture, stones, and other art by unscrupulous antique dealers and other collectors that are often transported across state lines.

The following organizations have processes by which you can have your concerns about cemeteries addressed:

Funeral and Memorial Societies of America (FAMSA), P.O. Box 10, Hinesburg, VT 05461, 1-800-458-5563, <http://www.funerals.org/famsa>

Iowa Department of Public Health, Board of Mortuary Science Examiners, Lucas State Office Building, Fifth Floor, Des Moines, IA 50319-0075, 515-281-4287

Iowa Department of Commerce, Insurance Division/Securities Bureau, Lucas State State Office Building, Second Floor, Des Moines, IA 50319, 515-281-4441 www.state.ia.us/ins/security

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), AARP, 601 East Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049, 1-800-424-3410 <http://www.aarp.org/feedback/contact.html>

For a copy of *An Illustrated Guide to Iowa Prairie Plants* and other books about Iowa, contact:

University of Iowa Press
c/o Chicago Distribution Ctr.
11030 South Langley Ave.
Chicago, IL 60628
1-800-621-8476

An article in the Des Moines Register, Oct. '99 under the heading "Antiques and Collecting" infers that collecting old artifacts with their unique symbolism that is often found in Victorian-type cemeteries is now in vogue. The caption accompanying an illustration of a cast-iron gate that was once part of a fence surrounding a family plot states that it sold for \$1,380 at Skinner's Auction in Boston, Mass. *Submitted by Mike Magee.*

Quote from David F. Moellendorf of the Moellendorf Scientific Investigations and Research, Racine, WI.

"If I were to attempt to resurrect an old cemetery so as to make it a place of public enjoyment, I might consider establishing footpaths and a "walking tour" which would incorporate numerous stopping points that would feature plaques and other visual media to enrich the "tourist" with well-presented and fascinating bits and pieces of cemetery lore and tradition. I believe that a better educated public is a more accepting and respectful public."

The American Society of Dowsers is now located at: <http://dowsers.new-hampshire.net>

An article in the Oct. '99 issue of Newsweek states that suburban sprawl may threaten "Liveability" but lately it's also impinging on the dead. Some cemeteries now offer rent-only sites, so that abandoned graves can be dug up when relatives let leases lapse.

Submitted by Phyllis Rothlauf

Phyllis also informs us that signs at Iowa Prison Industries have gone down in price: 24X24 are now \$18.00; 24X18 are \$13.50 and 24X12 are \$13.00, all for under 8 words.

Copies of a series of E-mail messages about cleaning grave markers and documenting the existence of old cemeteries and the information found in them was submitted by Joyce Maddy, including one that contains the following information:

The following sites on AOL (keyword: ROOTS) have information about cleaning tombstones: According to contributor George G. Morgan, this is what should be used to read tombstones.

Spiral notebooks (rather than loose paper) and pencils

Make notes for each plot. Draw a small diagram and mark the grave positions.

Make a note of who is buried where. Make any other notes, including adjacent gravestones.

Art paper and crayons/chalk -- if you want to make an image of the tombstone; please use art paper and use crayons or chalk...on the paper, and not on the stone.

2-liter bottles of pure ~~water~~ and cellulose sponges --these should be the only materials you use to clean a stone for easier reading.

This is what should not be used:

Shaving cream -- never place anything like shaving cream or other chemical compounds on tombstones. Some stones are very porous, and these chemicals may damage them.

Wire brush -- never use a wire brush to "clean" a tombstone. You will damage the stone, possibly making it crumble on the spot.

For copies of all the E-mail messages, contact Pat Shaw.

ON A TOMBSTONE

*Remember, Friend, as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, you will be --
So be prepared to follow me.*

Under that, in black crayon, was written:

To follow you I am not content --
Until I learn which way you went!

GRANT OVERVIEW -- PROGRAM AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Iowa Department of Economic Development

IDED-RACI Grant Program
Jean Johnson Ph 515-242-4791
jean.johnson@ided.state.ia.us

Brick and mortar community supported project; economic development impact emphasis

IDED - Division of Tourism
Iowa Tourism Region Grant Programs
Lonie Mezera Ph 515-242-4727
lonie.mezera@ided.state.ia.us
Web Site: www.state.ia.us/tourism

Brochures, advertising speaker fees, registration fees for state tourism conference, artifacts labeling for a museum.

IDED - Division of Tourism,
Community Attraction and Tourism Development Program
Mark Eckman Ph 515-242-4770
mark.eckman@ided.state.ia.us
Web Site: www.state.ia.us/tourism

Community attractions and tourism development activities which enhance the economic impact of tourism as well as the quality of life of an area as it pertains to attracting and retaining a quality workforce.

IDED Rural/Community - R/CPDF
Sue Lambertz Ph 515-242-4922
sue.lambertz@ided.state.ia.us

Assessment, planning, studies, training, education, purchasing of consulting services and staffing. Issue areas that can be considered are workforce, housing, organizational development, tourism, commercial or industrial development, government services, leadership, marketing and project development.

Dept. of Cultural Affairs - Iowa
Community Cultural Grants (ICCG)
Mark A. Peitzman Ph 515-281-6078
mpeitzm@max.state.ia.us

Festivals, historic preservation projects, art and historical exhibitions, walking tours, community theatres, welcome centers, drama production, symphonies, choral societies, dance troupes, etc. All projects must create jobs for lowans.

DNR Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) City Parks and Open Space County Conservation.
Kevin Szcodronski Ph 281-8674
szcodronski@dnr.state.ia.us

Trails, parks, expansions that include natural areas and new parks.

Department of Cultural Affairs,
State Historical Society of Iowa
Historic Resource Development
Program (HRDP)
Historic Sites Preservation (HSPG)
Cynthia Nieb Ph 515-281-8754
cnieb@max.state.ia.us

HRDP: Historic Preservation
(basically bricks and mortar on
properties listed on the National
Register of Historic Places. We do
some survey and nomination
application but it is mostly bricks
and mortar).

Documentary Collections
(microfilming of old newspapers,
making copies of old glass
negatives and putting that type of
information in acid free storage
containers.)

Museum projects (cleaning and
storage of the artifacts, humidity
and climate control and some
exhibit designs.)

HSPG: One time application for
capital development; new structures
for museums, storage collections,
or preservation of historic
buildings.

Project Planning - IDOT
State-Recreational Trails Fund,
Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy
(RISE) Fund, Rail Economic
Development (RED) Fund, Federal-
Statewide Transportation
Enhancements Fund, Recreational
Trails Fund

Nancy Burns Ph 515-239-1621
Nburnsj@ladot.e-mail.com
Web Site:
www_state.is.us/government/dot

Design, land acquisition, and
construction are eligible costs.
Typical funded projects have a
statewide significance. Trail and
Bikeway projects, Scenic and
Natural Resources project, and
Historic and Bikeway projects,
Historic and Archaeological
projects. Federal Recreational
Trails -- Maintenance is an eligible
expense and is considered a priority
by the federal government. Design,
land acquisition, and construction.
Both motorized and non-motorized
trails. RISE-Projects in industrial
parks that create jobs. Local
Development projects are
speculative to construct a roadway
into an underdeveloped industrial
area so lots can be marketed to
involve the construction of a
roadway to a specific site as part
of a package put together to entice
a company to locate and create new
jobs. Immediate Opportunity
projects are generally funded at
\$3000 per job. RED-Projects in
industrial parks that create new
jobs and involve rail spur as part
of a package put together to entice
a specific company to locate there.

COUNTY REPORTS

The newsletter editor neither controls nor dictates the content of submitted materials that are printed in a format that can be inserted into the newsletter as submitted. SAPIC does not have the resources to check the authenticity of the content of submitted reports. If you have a question about the content, please contact the submitter directly. If you wish to have a copy of a newspaper article that has been summarized, contact Pat Shaw. (Address on page 2)

ADAMS COUNTY

According to Chris Feistner, the county has put an easement into the Larson Cemetery, after the owner of the surrounding land originally refused access to descendants.

BOONE COUNTY

In an article in the *Des Moines Register* by Jennifer Dukes Lee dated November 11, 1999, many Boone County residents are dismayed at the neglect that is evident in at least twenty cemeteries in that county. Judy Patterson and other Boone-area residents whose ancestors are buried in rural cemeteries say township trustees are neglecting sacred ground. Descendants asked the board (Supervisors) to declare the cemetery a pioneer cemetery. Under state law, the board could then create a commission to assume management of the cemeteries in the county. Olson (Chairman of Boone Co Supervisors) said the trustee system works well enough for now. "We have enough to do as supervisors without getting into managing cemeteries," he said.

CLAYTON COUNTY

Submitted by Myra Voss vossrly@netins.net

Clayton County Supervisors have recently passed the Ordinance for a Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. The Board members have been appointed, except we are waiting to hear of the final acceptance of one guy.

Sounds like the Commission and the Cemetery Restoration Committee will restore at least one more cemetery, and hopefully 2, in Clayton County. One is definitely a Pioneer Cemetery -- the Fry(e) Cemetery. The Cemetery Restoration Committee has been VERY acive for many years. They have restored quite a large number of cemeteries. That group has taught and worked out of the county and even out of state! Of course, there is still work to be done.

A Clayton County Cemetery Location book was printed quite a few years ago, which pinpointed ALL of the over 160 burial areas in Clayton County. That book included township maps with the locations marked. Now, we have to double check that information - and verify which ones are pioneer.

DES MOINES COUNTY

An article from the *The Hawk Eye* (Burlington) by Dennis J. Carroll dated December 8, 1999 has this headline: "County to create old burial ground panel." The Des Moines County Board of Supervisors created the nine-member Pioneer Cemetery commission to preserve the county's oldest burial grounds on December 7. Because the area along the Mississippi River was among the first Iowa sites settled by European immigrants, many on their way west, the county's oldest graveyards are among the oldest in the state. The committee's first task will be to recommend appointments to the commission and develop a budget. William Walker, an organizer of the committee, said the panel likely will ask for between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to fix up and maintain the sites.

LEE COUNTY

A photo of Cameron Hernandez, 13, an eighth grade student at Fort Madison Middle School, shows the student sitting beside a gravestone working on a class assignment at the city cemetery in Fort Madison. Students were at the cemetery doing historical research, science observations, a math scavenger hunt and drawing tombstones as part of a cemetery learning unit. Photo was printed in the *Waterloo Courier* on October 31, 1999.

BUTLER

Resident gives cemetery direction

By LISA SMITH
Courier Staff Writer

PARKERSBURG

Chris Schrage of Parkersburg wants to give people direction in an unlikely spot: the town's cemetery.

The University of Northern Iowa and Wartburg College business professor noticed visitors had difficulty locating the graves of loved ones during Memorial Day weekend last year.

"People wanted to know where graves were and there was no way to tell them," Schrage said.

Ever since, Schrage has headed up efforts to erect a directory at the entrance of Oak Hill Cemetery.

The foundation was dug and the cement poured over Labor Day weekend. Block walls were laid Oct. 21-22 by volunteers Dale Jansen, Dennis Hook and Neal Schrage. The first 48 "donor" bricks were laid, most engraved in memory of a loved one.

Weatherproof directory cases are

scheduled to arrive this month.

Stones to identify sections will be laid throughout the cemetery and bids are still out for a cemetery map.

"I did a lot of research," Schrage said. She traveled to different cemeteries, spoke with city officials and introduced the idea to local service groups. Directories are "very uncommon" among cemeteries she researched, she said.

The city agreed to donate a plot of land at the cemetery's entrance for the directory, but all financial support came from contributions.

"The money came in much faster than we even anticipated. The support has been phenomenal," she said. Projected cost for the project is \$7,500; to date more than \$9,200 has been collected.

Parkersburg Economic Development Director Juli Grill will keep a running data base of names and locations in the 3,000-plot facility.

A Memorial Day 2000 dedication is planned.

POPK COUNTY

SAPIC member and gravestone repairman, Larry Davis, of Des Moines, is featured in a full-page article in the *Farm News/Fort Dodge*, Iowa in its November 19, 1999 edition. Larry is shown in a photo with a grave marker in the Breckenridge Cemetery in rural Marion County. He operates the Pioneer Gravestone Repair Co. and travels the state resetting and repairing aging markers for township trustees and other cemetery caretakers. Larry's address is 5716 Kingman Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311.

BLACKHAWK COUNTY

Submitted by Mike Magee GenieMan@aol.com

Mike suggests that cemeteries that dismantle old arches and replace them with brick type pillars, etc. might salvage the usable parts for use in other cemeteries that want to revamp their arches with old metal/steel cemetery entrances that need repair.

Note: Mike was the consultant to a film crew that came to Waterloo, Iowa on December 14 to do a story about the five Sullivan Brothers for "THE HISTORY CHANNEL."

LOUISA COUNTY

Submitted by Dean Gipple

Dean assisted with the organization of the Greene County Cemetery Commission prior to the SAPIC meeting in Jefferson, Iowa on Jan. 8. A request for a \$3000 budget for year 2000 has been filed with the County Supervisors. Dean has traded his old mower. His plans for the year 2000 include wild flowers and trees with an emphasis on wild flowers. Dean is still actively pursuing beneficial legislation for SAPIC and traveled to the Statehouse for this purpose in February.

WAPELLO COUNTY

A delightful article in the *Ottumwa Courier* on January 14, 2000 paid tribute to the life of longtime women's editor, Loree Roach, who passed away on January 11. Loree wrote the following article on May 25, 1983 and asked that it be printed after her death. It was not meant to be morbid, but just a collection of thoughts during a happy, relaxing interlude with a genealogist friend in a cemetery.

CEMETERY SOLILOQUY

*Someday I will sleep beneath this wide and generous sky.
Sometime with that measured step and slow some of my friends, whom I have loved so much, will help carry
the remnants of me to a little plot beneath these pines.*

And others I have loved will gather around to hear the minister's benediction. Then they will leave and I will be here, quiet, at rest, unworried, unhurried.

And I will once again be a part of this world I have loved so much.

Soft breezes will blow through the tall trees and the pines will whisper secrets of peace and solitude -- secrets I have known all of my life.

Birds will come in springtime and sing their love songs and build their fragile little nests so that there will always be songs of birds.

Maybe in winter a cardinal will light on my coverlet of snow. Little wild things will scurry across my resting place and hunt for acorns. I hope there are lots of them.

Maybe some elderly people will come seeking to know the years of births and deaths recorded on the tombstones.

On Memorial Day old friends will come and bring some posies and linger above me as I have done so many times. They will remember the fun we had and laugh at our memories.

I hope there will be lots of lilacs. There should be no tears.

I will be snug in the good earth.

If my soul moves on to something better I will be delighted to be there. If not I have had my share of love and laughter and tears.

I will lie here -- content, content.

VAN BUREN COUNTY

Submitted by Pat Shaw

County auditor, Jon Finney, has formulated a plan to set in motion the restoration of the seventy-three pioneer cemeteries in Van Buren County. It is hoped that the Board of Supervisors will appropriate a one-time grant that will provide financial support to volunteers and community groups who may adopt a cemetery with the priority of fencing them for protection until clean-up and stone repair can take place. Because of the large number of pioneer cemeteries in this county, it's predicted that this may be a ten-year project.

USE THIS FORM TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR GIVE TO A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New ___ Renewal ___ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code (+4) _____

E-mail address _____ Telephone _____

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

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

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

AUDIT FOR THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA
CEMETERIES

DECEMBER 28, 1999
TO VALERIE OGREN
FROM R. L. SLOAN
114 LINCOLN PLACE
JEFFERSON, IOWA, 50129

VALERIE;

I have looked at the bookkeeping system that your organization provided for me to audit and would like to make the following observations.:

1. A spot check of the membership dues and other incomes of the system indicate that all income was deposited in the checking account. I would recommend that it would be more consistent for the system to have a serial receipt method in which each income amount would be given a specific serially numbered receipt (this would be especially effective in the case of receipt of cash)
2. The checks that were written for the most part were in response to what appear to be valid receipts that were for services or items received by the organizations representatives. There were some checks that were issued that were not in response to specific bills submitted from independent sources but were from individuals to whom the checks were issued. This may be troublesome to some who look at the system.
3. It appears that the organization now has somewhere wandering around in itself a check for \$2574.74 to be deposited somewhere to take care of its future .

I hope it will be recognized that I make some of these comments with tongue in cheek. I know how difficult it is to get someone to accept the responsibility of being a group treasurer. It appears to me that those who have had the responsibility in your group have been very dedicated to doing a good job . I am one who appreciates the detail and care with which these records are maintained. I would hope the organization can find someone who is willing to do the work who is handy with a computer. It would certainly decrease the time needed by the treasurer to manipulate the figures in the system.

Since I have absolutely no official credentials for making any kind of audit for anyone, please accept my "audit" and the comments contained herein for what they are worth...I wish you good luck in continuing the good work of your organization.

Sincerely, Lee Sloan



Thanks to Lee Sloan, The Greene County Genealogical Society, Valerie Ogren, and all the kind people in Greene County who welcomed SAPIC members on January 8. Your hospitality was greatly appreciated!

Grave News, January 2000, Page Nineteen

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES HAS BEEN SENT TO SAPIC BY ITS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Markers XIV (1997 Iowa monument maker's story) "The Remarkable Crosses of Charles Andera" by Loren Horton. A Bohemian immigrant's cast metal crosses painted black and gold or all in silver dot the Iowa countryside as well as other states. 24-page article, numerous illustrations. \$23.00 members of AGS \$25 others Order from: AGS, 278 Main Street, Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301 <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>

Soul in the Stone: Cemetery Art from America's Heartland by John Gary Brown. Book of photographs and text covering the diverse cemetery art and gravestones of the midwest, including some in Iowa. \$33.95 members of AGS \$35.95 others. Same address as above.

Iowa's Division of Tourism Travel Guide, available at Iowa Welcome Centers or by calling 1-800-345-IOWA, or by visiting www.traveliowa.com. Free.

Stefanie Forret, Iowa Earth Year 2000 Coordinator, Dept. of Natural Resources, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Coalition Courier, published by the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Inc., P.O. Box 1533, Ellicott City, Maryland 21041, Ph 410-465-3439
<http://www.presevenet.cornell.edu/cpmbs/coalition.htm>

Tree Stump Tombstones: A Field Guide to Rustic Funerary Art in Indiana by Susanne S. Ridlen. Available from Old Richardville Publications, Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, 220 N. Union Street, Kokomo, IN 46901-4614 Soft-cover \$27.00 Hard-cover \$35.00

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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