

# 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 #2

APRIL, 2000

*No stone unturned.....*

## Cemetery Appreciation Month!

The month of May has been officially proclaimed "Cemetery Appreciation Month" since 1996 by the Governor of Iowa. Members of SAPIC have traditionally gone to the Statehouse for a proclamation signing ceremony in late April. Even though SAPIC members were not invited for a ceremony this year, a proclamation was received by mail. May is traditionally the month that cemeteries are cleaned up, honored, and visited by hundreds of Iowans paying their respects. Please bring attention to the special burial sites in your county or town during the month of May. Many town mayors and County Boards of Supervisors will sign a proclamation for you for your area, and please get a photo of him/her doing that, if possible. **Note: wording of the proclamation is in this newsletter.** Also, make sure that the local newspaper is present and that you write an article for submission to the newspaper. Use the information on the SAPIC brochure (included in this newsletter). Feel free to make copies of the brochure and place them in your local

libraries. Many historical and genealogical societies have done this in the past, and the information in the brochures has resulted in raising public awareness of cemetery concerns in Iowa. Thank you!

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I've received "before" photos of the Cline Cemetery in Johnson County and the North Mineral Cemetery in Jones County for the video that SAPIC is compiling. If you have "before" and "after" negatives or photos of a special cemetery you'd like to have on the video, please send them to Pat Shaw.

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The next SAPIC meeting will be on July 8, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. at the restored pioneer village of Edinburgh in Jones County, Iowa. Edinburgh is located northeast of Anamosa : take Highway 151 north of Anamosa approximately one mile to county road E23 (County Home/Amber Road). Turn east and continue seven miles (you will pass through Amber) to the county home/farm. It is named Edinburgh Manor. Turn south on a gravel road on the east side of Edinburgh Manor. The "town" of Edinburgh is across from it. Our hosts will be the Jones County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. A tour of their restored cemeteries will be held following the meeting. Please contact any of these persons for more information: Ron Ruess, (chairman) 319-462-2347; Cindy Gunther 319-489-3941 [ckgun@netins.net](mailto:ckgun@netins.net); Pat Shaw 319-293-3899 [patshaw@netins.net](mailto:patshaw@netins.net). Jones County Historical Society: 319-487-3711

**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  
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 Waterloo, IA 50701  
 319-232-8762 GenieMan@aol.com

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 319-422-3143 dstory@trxinc.com

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 Page County Conservation Board Naturalist  
 112 E. Main  
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 309 S. Dewey  
 Osceola, IA 50213-1402 515-342-4871

Jo Vernooy, 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

**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 L.P.  
 P.O. Box 33569  
 Decatur, GA 30033  
 1-800-458-6223 <http://www.granquartz.com>

Check with Jo Vernooy (address above) for  
 another good source of epoxy.

**WHERE TO GET SIGNS**

Iowa Prison Industries  
 Box B Anamosa, IA 52205  
 1-800-336-5863  
 Ask for Tammy Deseberg

Iowa Prairie Network  
 402-571-6230

Treasurer, Valerie Ogren, reported a balance on hand 31 March 2000 of: \$3804.22

*SAPIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES*  
*8 APRIL 2000*  
*NEWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, NEWTON, IOWA*

*PRESIDENT PAT SHAW CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:05. THE MINUTES WERE READ. A MOTION WAS MADE BY KENNEY KEENAN AND SECONDED BY JO VERNY TO ACCEPT. CARRIED*

*THE TREASURERS REPORT WAS READ. VALERIE THEN READ THE LIST OF THOSE IN ARREARS. PAT STATED THAT MANY HAD JOINED NEAR THE LAST OF THE YEAR AND THUS THEIR DUES WERE TO BE CARRIED OVER FOR THIS YEAR.*

*DEAN GIPPLE AND PAT SHAW REPORTED OF THE SAPIC ACTIVITIES IN THE LEGISLATION.*

*IN THE ABSENCE OF LOREN HORTON, PAT READ THE BYLAWS AND THE PROPOSED CHANGES. THE THIRD READING WILL BE IN JULY AND THE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN AT THE OCTOBER MEETING.*

*CALVIN MCVAY SUGGESTED THAT VIDEO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE WORK IS DONE IN A CEMETERY AS WELL AS DURING THE PROCESS OF RESTORATION. THIS WILL SHOW ALL CONCERNED THE CONDITION OF MANY OF THE CEMETERIES.*

*MIKE MAGEE IS UNCERTAIN OF THE NUMBER OF HOURS IT WOULD TAKE TO INDEX THE SAPIC NEWSLETTERS. THE UPDATING OF THE CEMETERY LOCATION BOOKS WAS DISCUSSED.*

*PAT EXPLAINED THE RULES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE ROBERT CARTER AWARD. THESE NEED TO BE SENT TO PHYLLIS CARTER BEFORE JULY FIRST. PHYLLIS STATED THAT SHE HAS RECEIVED ONE NOMINATION.*

*THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS HAS BEEN UPDATED.*

*UNDER NEW BUSINESS, PAT ASKED FOR A LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT THE NEWSLETTER MAY BE SENT TO IN ORDER TO MEET THE REQUIRED 200 MAILINGS FOR BULK MAILING STATUS.*

*PAT WILL APPOINT A NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEXT YEARS OFFICERS.*

*MARILYN FINCK INVITED ALL TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN KANSAS CITY ON THE 17TH OF MAY. THE MEETING WILL BE FROM 9:30 - 2:30 . A BAR- B- Q LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.*

*THE JULY 8TH MEETING WILL BE HELD IN EDENBURG, JONES COUNTY.*

*JO VERNY USED A SIGN PLACED NEAR THE ENTRANCE OF THE LEIGHTON, IOWA CEMETERY, TO TELL OF THE PROGRAM OF THE RESTORATION WORK BEING DONE THERE.*

*THE MEETING WAS AJOURNED AT 12:00*

## Contacts for Cemetery or Burial Site Information

### ANCIENT HUMAN REMAINS (OVER 150 YEARS)

Burials Program  
Office of State Archaeologist  
700 Clinton Street Building  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City IA 52242  
phone: (319) 384-0740 or 384-0732  
fax: (319) 384-0768  
e-mail: shirley-schermer@uiowa.edu  
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/burials.htm>

### DISINTERMENTS (UNDER 150 YEARS)

State Registrar of Vital Statistics  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Lucas Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Des Moines IA 50319  
phone: (515) 281-4944

### CODE OF IOWA

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

State Historic Preservation Office  
Community Programs Bureau  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
600 E Locust  
Des Moines IA 50319-0290  
fax: (515) 282-0502  
Douglas Jones, Archaeologist (phone: (515) 281-4358; e-mail: [djones@max.state.ia.us](mailto:djones@max.state.ia.us))  
Kira Kaufmann, Archaeologist (phone: (515) 281-8744; e-mail: [kkaufma@max.state.ia.us](mailto:kkaufma@max.state.ia.us))

### CEMETERY PRESERVATION ISSUES

State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries  
% IGS  
PO Box 7735  
Des Moines IA 50322-7735  
phone: (319) 293-3899 (for information)  
<http://www.sapic.org>



## PERPETUAL CARE CEMETERIES; PRE-NEED CONTRACTS

Securities Bureau  
Department of Commerce, Insurance Division  
Lucas State Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Des Moines IA 50319  
phone: (515) 281-4441

## FUNERAL HOME REGULATION

Mortuary Science Board of Examiners  
Public Health, Professional Licensure  
Lucas State Office Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
521 East 12<sup>th</sup>  
Des Moines IA 50319-0075  
phone: (515) 281-4287

## IOWA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

The Divisions which advise on related issues are listed below:

*Archaeology*—Environmental and Agricultural Law Division (515) 281-5351  
*Consumer*—Consumer Protection Division (515) 281-5926  
*Crime Victim's Compensation*—Crime Victims Assistance Program (515) 281-5044  
*Criminal*—Criminal Appeals Division (515) 281-5976  
*Fences*—Environmental and Agricultural Law Division (515) 281-5351  
*Historic Preservation*—Licensing and Ad Law (515) 281-8760  
*Local Government*—Licensing and Ad Law (515) 281-8760  
*Mortuary Examiners*—Licensing and Ad Law (515) 282-8760  
*Securities* (pre-need sales and perpetual care)—Licensing and Ad Law (515) 281-8159

## FEDERAL LAWS PROTECTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR CULTURAL RESOURCES

United State Attorney (complaints)  
U.S. Courthouse Annex  
10 East Court  
Des Moines IA 50309  
phone: (515) 284-6257

Archaeology and Ethnology Program  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW Suite 210  
Washington DC 20240  
phone: (202) 343-4101  
<http://www.nps.gov>

## A Brief Overview of Sections of the Code of Iowa Concerning Burial Sites

### Chapter 144—Vital Statistics

*144.34 Disinterment—permit:* details conditions under which disinterment of burials less than 150 years in age can occur (issued by state registrar, Vital Statistics, Department of Public Health)

### Chapter 263B—State Archaeologist [Administrative Rules 685–11.1]

*263B.7 Ancient remains:* gives the state archaeologist the primary responsibility for investigating, preserving, and reintering discoveries of ancient human remains. “Ancient” is defined as more than 150 years old.

*263B.8 Cemetery for ancient remains:* provides for establishment of cemetery on state land for the reburial of ancient human remains.

*263B.9 Authority to deny permission to disinter human remains:* gives state archaeologist authority to deny permission for disinterment

### Chapter 303—Department of Cultural Affairs

*303.2(2)(a):* specifies that a state agency which owns, manages, or administers a historic site must enter into an agreement with the Department of Cultural Affairs to insure proper management, maintenance, and development [Board of Regents exempt]

### Chapter 314—Administrative Provisions for Highways

*314.24 Natural and Historic Preservation:* to the extent practicable, road planning, construction, and maintenance needs to preserve and protect the natural and historic heritage of the state

### Chapter 331—County Home Rule Implementation

*331.325 Control and maintenance of pioneer cemeteries:* “pioneer cemetery” is defined as a cemetery where six or fewer burials have taken place in the past 50 years; gives county board of supervisors authority to assume jurisdiction and control (including maintenance and repair) of pioneer cemeteries, or create a cemetery commission to do this

*331.424B Cemetery levy:* gives county board of supervisors authority to levy tax to pay for maintenance and repair of pioneer cemeteries

### Chapter 359—Township and Township Offices

*359.37 Regulation*

*359.39 Ex officio police officers*

*359.40 Cemeteries—plats, records*

*359.41 Conveyance of lots*

### Chapter 359A—Fences

### Chapter 428A—Real Estate Transfer Tax

### Chapter 476—Public Utility Regulation

### Chapter 523I—Cemeteries

Perpetual care cemeteries require permits from the Insurance Commissioner under this chapter. This chapter also contains elaborate provisions for the liquidation of cemeteries under certain conditions.

### Chapter 558—Conveyances

*558.69 Reporting of private burial sites, wells, disposal sites, underground storage tanks, and hazardous waste:* requires owner disclose this information with declaration of value submitted to county recorder under chapter 428A; if declaration of value not required, this information shall be submitted on separate form (“private burial sites” added to this section in 1999)

## **Chapter 566—Cemetery Management**

*566.1 Trustee appointed—trust funds:* The owners of, or any party interested in, any cemetery may, by petition presented to the district court of the county where the cemetery is situated, have a trustee appointed with authority to receive any and all moneys or property that may be donated for and on account of said cemetery and to invest, manage, and control same under the direction of the court; but the trustee shall not be authorized to receive any gift, except with the understanding that the principal sum is to be a permanent fund, and only the net proceeds therefrom to be used in carrying out the purpose of the trust created, and all such funds shall be exempt from taxation.

*566.20-.21 Abandoned lots:* one can presume from the wording of these sections that a lot can be considered abandoned only if no one is buried in it or if it is not "occupied"

*566.31 Burial sites:* If a governmental subdivision or agency is notified of the existence of a marked burial site within its jurisdiction, and the burial site is not otherwise provided for under this chapter or chapter 263B or 566A, it shall as soon as practicable notify the owner of the land upon which the burial site is located of the site's existence and location. The notification shall include an explanation of the provisions contained within section 566.32.

*566.32 Disturbance of burial sites—penalty:* A person who knowingly and without authorization removes, destroys, or otherwise disturbs a burial site for which the person received notification under section 566.31 commits a simple misdemeanor.

*566.33 Protection and preservation of burial sites:* A governmental subdivision or agency having a burial site within its jurisdiction, for which protection or preservation is not otherwise provided, shall preserve and protect the burial site as necessary to restore or maintain its physical integrity as a burial site. The governmental subdivision or agency may enter into an agreement with a public or private organization interested in historical preservation to delegate to the organization the responsibility for the protection and preservation of the burial site.

*566.35 Burial sites located on private property:* provides access to descendants to burial sites located on private property (new section passed in 1999)

## **Chapter 566A—Cemetery Regulation**

This chapter imposes additional regulation on cemeteries owned by entities other than counties. Townships and other political subdivisions are subject to the chapter's requirements relating to perpetual care and to the required contents for the sale of interment rights, but are not subject to the chapter's requirements for annual reporting if not a perpetual care cemetery. Violation of a provision of this chapter is a simple misdemeanor.

## **Chapter 716—Damage and Trespass to Property**

*716.5 Criminal mischief in the third degree:* makes it an aggravated misdemeanor to intentionally disturb human remains no matter what the age, whether on public or private land

*716.8:* penalties for trespassing, ranging from a simple misdemeanor to an aggravated misdemeanor

## **Chapter 729A—Infringement of Individual Rights—Hate Crimes**

## **Chapter 903—Misdemeanors**

*903.1 Maximum sentence for misdemeanants:* maximum penalty for an aggravated misdemeanor (or criminal mischief in the third degree) is imprisonment not to exceed two years; also there is a fine of at least \$500 but not to exceed \$5000; for a simple misdemeanor, the penalty is either imprisonment not to exceed thirty days, or a fine of at least fifty dollars but not to exceed one hundred dollars. A criminal penalty surcharge required by section 911.2 shall be added to any fine imposed on a misdemeanant.

## **Chapter 910—Restitution**

## **Chapter 911—Surcharge Added to Criminal Penalties**

*If your county Supervisors are not willing to create a pioneer cemetery commission, maybe they'd be interested in something similar to the Van Buren County Supervisors' newly approved policy. County auditor, Jon Finney, developed the following guidelines to try to restore and maintain Van Buren County's 86 pioneer cemeteries.*

From the April 6 edition of the *Van Buren County Register*:

Because of the large number of such cemeteries in the county, it would be cost prohibitive for the county to take complete responsibility for the care and upkeep of each pioneer cemetery, said County Auditor, Jon Finney.

"It needs to be a cooperative effort between the townships, county and private citizens."

Under the policy, funds will be available on a first come, first serve basis, up to a total maximum amount appropriated each year by the board of supervisors.

Funds would be made available to any township, group, or individual, having either ownership or control of a qualifying pioneer cemetery and whose funds being held for such cemetery is less than \$5,000.

Funding will be available for the following qualifying expenses:

1. Fencing repair, or replacement -- one half the cost up to \$5 per grave, which such funding accessible only once per cemetery in a 10 year period.

2. Stone, repair or replacement, annual appropriation of up to one half the cost up to \$2 per grave in such cemetery and only upon a written comprehensive plan regarding stone repair/replacement in the cemetery as a whole.

3. Annual routine maintenance up to \$2 per grave per year. Number of graves in the cemetery must be approved.

SAPIC is grateful to Sally Youngquist of Lee County, Iowa for revamping the SAPIC web site. Thanks to Pat Palmer who provided Sally with the necessary information to access the page.

State of Iowa  
Executive Department

In the Name and By the Authority of the  
State of Iowa  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, IOWANS ARE AWARE OF THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE RICH HERITAGE CONTAINED IN IOWA'S PIONEER HISTORICAL CEMETERIES; AND

WHEREAS, THIS APPRECIATION OF THEIR ANCESTORS' RESTING PLACES , DEVELOPS A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR ANCESTORS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IN THEIR COMMUNITIES; AND

WHEREAS, PRIDE AND RESPECT FOR OUR PIONEERS LEADS TO AN INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND THAT WE DEDICATE THIS MONTH TO THE CARE OF OUR PIONEER CEMETERIES:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY, 2000, AS

CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH

IN IOWA.

(Seal of Iowa)

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 17TH DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND.

(Signature of Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor)

ATTEST:  
(Signature of  
Chester J. Culver,  
Secretary of State)

POSSIBLE GRANT MONEY FOR CEMETERY PRESERVATION

Julie Bailey thinks that the Iowa Community Cultural Grant Program money could be used for pioneer cemetery preservation. Her phone number is 515-281-4018. Address: Department of Cultural Affairs; Historical Building; 600 E. Locust Street; Des Moines, IA 50319. Guidelines for the year 2001 are in the process of being written and will not be available 'til July 1.

Dean Gipple received a grant of \$500 from Trees Forever for cemeteries in Louisa County.

Check with agricultural-related industries, such as chemical companies, implement dealers, and seed corn distributors, in your area for grants for community improvement.

Distributors of genealogical software often offer grant money. Check their web sites.

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Find out what the law requires of Township Trustees in a booklet that you can get at the county auditor's office: *Township Trustee and Clerk Orientation Booklet; An ISU Extension to Communities publication; Iowa State University, Ames, IA January, 1996*

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A cemetery conference will be held on Sept. 9 in Charles City, Iowa, sponsored by the Iowa Cemetery Association (deals with active cemeteries) and The Charles City Chamber of Commerce. Contact Dave Bahe at Riverside Cemetery (515-228-7011) or Justin DeVore at the Charles City Area Chamber of Commerce (515-228-4234) for more information. Dennis Britson will be present to answer questions about current laws and regulations regarding cemeteries and funeral practices. Pat Shaw will address the issue of the theft of cemetery art, fences, and statues. She will also provide information about SAPIC. The Riverside Cemetery Association in Charles City recently became a member of SAPIC.

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SAPIC has been asked to make a presentation at the Iowa Genealogical Society Conference in Marshalltown on Oct. 7. SAPIC members Marilyn Finke and Pat

Shaw will speak about how to report a neglected burial site, how to get it cleaned and restored, and how to repair the monuments. Glenn Pollock of the Iowa Prairie Network will discuss one possible maintenance method using prairie plants.

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*Another suggestion for cleaning those pesky lichens from stones: careful use of a wooden cuticle stick works for some folks.*

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Large leaning or fallen stones?  
*An idea from Mike Magee:*

*Can you envision in your mind a tripod made of heavy steel pipe placed over a fallen monument with a chain hoist or a come-along with a nylon strap to replace fallen monuments onto their bases? Silo unloaders used to be suspended from such a tripod on top of the silo. Many of the 12', 14' 16' silos are no longer used, and the unloaders for them might be available. This is not necessarily recommended for working with volunteer youth groups.*

*Another suggestion is the use of a "Joe Jack." It has a plate that slides under heavy objects with no ground clearance. As well as the jack, you will need some form of bracing to stop the stone from overbalancing when tilted past the vertical to allow the subsided soil to be filled. This is NOT a job for the inexperienced! Check out the web page of the Otto Service Hydraulic Jacks Home Page:  
<http://www.hyjacks.com/tjtjtj.htm>*

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Many cemetery workers have used Paul Maddy's suggestion of making a "gravestone sandwich" for new bases. If there is eight inches or more of space at the bottom of the stone with no genealogical information on it, a concrete block can be glued to each side of the stone. The block is then buried in the ground, making a stable base. Mike Magee has had good luck using decking adhesive to attach the cement blocks to flat stones. He gives it several days to dry before burying the new base. SAPIC wishes to thank Paul Maddy for allowing excerpts of his book, "A Guide to Rescuing Pioneer Gravestones" to be printed in the newsletter. Paul no longer conducts workshops. Paul will also allow copies to be made of pages from the book. Contact Pat Shaw for copies.



## COUNTY REPORTS

*Whenever possible, reports are inserted into the newsletter as submitted. SAPIC accepts all contributions as submitted. Please contact the submitter, if you have questions about the content of the report.*

### BLACKHAWK COUNTY

Submitted by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo Courier*, Aug. 1, 1895: AN ELEGANT CASKET. The Hostetler Co. have on exhibition one of the finest burial caskets ever brought to Waterloo. It is known as a couch casket and is manufactured by Powers & Walker, at Grand Rapids, Michigan. One side is on hinges and lets down, and the cover is hinged to be raised up. The interior is upholstered in white satin and upon the bottom of the casket is a quilted white satin mattress and a tufted pillow of satin. Opened thus, it closely resembles a beautiful couch upon which the occupant appears to be reclining in a peaceful sleep. It is a beautiful affair and robs the appearance of death of much of its ghastliness.

Mike Magee, Blackhawk County, and Steve Story, Fayette County, spoke on the topic of cemetery preservation at the Chickasaw County Genealogical Society on March 28. Mike and Steve are both active in restoration and serve on the Board of Trustees of SAPIC.

From *The Witness*, March 12, 2000: At the New Melleray Abbey, home to contemplative Trappist monks near Peosta in northeast Iowa, a new business has been launched to offset lagging farm profits. The monks, who have traditionally engaged in farming to support their community, as now making wooden caskets by hand. Their goal is to combine a commercial endeavor with a spiritual one. Their primary market will be priests, sisters, and religious organizations throughout the United States, but they also sell caskets to the general public through funeral providers, local distributors and even directly from the abbey. The caskets are available in pine, oak, walnut, ash or maple and are fully lined.

### DES MOINES COUNTY

Submitted by Phyllis Rothlauf

The Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission was allowed the entire budget figure which we had submitted to the County Board of Supervisors.

So, we are ready to roll with our plans for 2000. We will finish the restoration begun at Carter Cemetery late last summer which was about two-thirds completed at our workshop in August.

We will then move on to Porter Cemetery, Union Township which is the site which has received the most correspondence - deservably so. There are numerous very large monuments which will require professional help to upright and this contingency was taken into account when the budget was compiled.

When this site is completed we will move on to the second-most mentioned burial ground in Flint River Township, Old Middletown Cemetery where a local botanist has found traces of prairie grasses and flowers. We plan to ask the rural fire department to oversee a burn-off of at least a portion of this site.

We anticipate a busy summer!

## GREENE COUNTY

Submitted by Valerie Ogren

An article from the *Jefferson Herald*, Thursday, 13 Jan, 2000: Genealogical Society hosts meeting of cemetery preservation group Jan. 8. The State Association for the Preservation of Cemeteries (SAPIC) held its first quarterly meeting for 2000 in Jefferson at the Uptown Cafe on Saturday, Jan. 8. The meeting, hosted by the Greene County Genealogical Society, was attended by 35 persons from Iowa and Missouri.

Greene County now has a 5-member pioneer cemetery commission, consisting of representatives from the genealogy society, historical society, conservation commission, and township trustees. They have been meeting monthly since November, 1999. Their first priority has been to identify each pioneer cemetery and get copies of deeds to determine ownership. They have formulated a budget for 2000/2001 and will be documenting cemetery conditions and doing on-site inspections. Lee Sloan is the chairperson.

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Submitted by Charlotte Marvin

Our (genealogical) society has a booth at the county fair every year. In 1999, we decided to have a display about cemeteries, with books, pictures, and other related items. My husband cut out markers from scraps of wood and we painted them, and put names of prominent Humboldt people. We also had a small display for servicemen on a grassy knoll. We had a lot of visitors stop to admire the posters and look at the cemetery books. We even signed up a few new members for our society.

At Christmas time the Methodist Church has a tree walk; there are hundreds of trees set up with a variety of themes used. We have decorated a tree for the past nine years and this year we decided to carry over the theme of the cemeteries. We gathered pictures of markers that our members had taken, put them on colored paper with their location, and hung them on the tree with the wooden markers at the foot, and a star at the top, with ribbon down the side. The newspaper will fill you in on what I missed. We have a lot of fun doing this every year. In April our speaker at our regular meeting was a local man, Laurie Carlson, who gave a talk on old cemeteries of Humboldt County, where they are located, and the ones that have disappeared. Our society is hoping to put up some signs near the sites where these old ones were located.

Excerpt from an article from *The Messenger/Fort Dodge*, Iowa, Saturday, Nov. 27, 1999: Humboldt Tree Walk will begin Sunday. It was the seventh year of decorating for Humboldt County Genealogical Society members Charlotte Marvin, Bonnie Olson, Karen May, Marilyn Hundertmark and Jeanette Larson. "We're trying to be involved with the spirit of decorating trees at the Methodist church," said Olson. "It's the spirit of the whole thing." The club was just finishing its tree covered with pictures of old grave markers dating as far back as 1789, on Friday. The sparkling star on the top of the tree read, "We're taking our roots to another century." The pictures of grave markers were taken from area cemeteries and some from overseas. On each card was the person's date of birth and death and how they were related to Humboldt County residents. One was a picture of a war memorial in France, where Marvin's brother was buried. Hundertmark said they always try to find a theme that fits the genealogical society's theme. *Charlotte also included several photos of their fair booth and delightful tree.*

### FAYETTE COUNTY

Submitted by Steve and Donna Story

The next projects will be the Eden Cemetery on the west edge of Auburn Township, Mount Pleasant in Union Township and Pitts (in what is now heavy woods) in Bethel Township. Work was scheduled to commence March 8 at Eden Cemetery. There are more than 140 stones in Eden, and all but a few will need resetting and/or gluing. This cemetery is mowed regularly, but has substantial brush on one end that needs clearing (our first task), fence repair, and all of the stones.

All nine Fayette County Board members have returned. Another advisory committee member was added (we now have five). Two of our advisory committee members are also township trustees and they agreed to our passed motion to serve as "negotiators" for the Board to those hired to mow the cemeteries under our jurisdiction. Also, we have one Board member to "watch" each cemetery that we have finished. We thought this would share the responsibility and yet assign one member as a watchdog for each cemetery.

The budget includes money for the Commission to join SAPIC, so that should happen as soon as our Treasurer gets a check cut.

### JONES COUNTY

Submitted by Steve and Donna Story and LaVerta Langenberg

Steve and Donna Story will order a sign for the MINERAL CREEK - A PIONEER CEMETERY and two signs for the cemetery on the Doll Farm (one for the road and one for the cemetery) that read NORTH MINERAL CREEK 'DOLL FARM' - A PIONEER CEMETERY. Daryl Wherry from Onslow has a group of 4-H members organized to help clean up Mineral Creek; then he will keep it up. Steve and Donna will see if the trustees built the fence around the Sweet Cemetery near Hale, Iowa, late last fall; posts and wire had been purchased. Work can only be done before and after crop season. Jones County Pioneer Cemetery Commission chairperson, Ron Ruess, was asked to check with Barb Lemmer, Anamosa FFA Advisor, to see if that group plans to finish the fence at the cemetery on the Smith farm south of Anamosa. A marker of a black Civil War participant near Wyoming, Iowa is missing and commission members are investigating. The July 8 SAPIC meeting will be held in Jones County at the restored pioneer village of Edinburgh. A tour of restored cemeteries will be offered.

### LOUISA COUNTY

Submitted by Dean Gipple

Dean will receive \$500 from Trees Forever through Alliant Energy. A

Boy Scout from Letts will work in one cemetery in Louisa County for his community service project. A load of mulch with a value of \$150 was donated. The Columbus Junction FFA Chapter members assisted with the mulching of walnut trees. The Conservation Commission in Louisa County will furnish a drill for planting prairie grass and wild flowers. Dean worked with State Representative Barry Brauns in an attempt to amend last year's bill dealing with access to include "caretakers." Restoration of the Newell Mounds Cemetery is progressing with Russell Newell doing an inscription. Two marble plaques have been ordered and a stainless steel sign with cast aluminum letters has been completed for the Newell cemetery. Fifteen Blue Spruce trees have been planted at the Newell Cemetery. Dean got forty Blue Spruce trees 4'-6' tall from the Cascade, Iowa nursery. Workdays with the FFA Chapter students have been scheduled for May 10 and May 24. They will be planting prairie grass and 300 butterfly milkweed plants. Dean has agreed to assist a 4-H Club in Johnson County with the restoration of the Cline Cemetery.

Dean also sent copies of two "Letters to the Editor" that were printed in the *Wapello Republican* and the *Columbus Gazette*. One dealt with determining the correct names of two cemeteries in Concord Township: Newell and Lyn Grove. In the second letter, Dean thanked all the contributors of goods and services to cemetery preservation.

Articles by Richard W. Peterson that appeared in the *Muscatine Journal* and *Burlington Hawkeye* newspapers on April 11, 2000 dealt with the topic of using prairie flowers native to Iowa for the maintenance of pioneer cemeteries and involving FFA Chapter members in the restoration of such sites. A related article tells the story of Dean's interest in pioneer cemeteries, how he has organized community service groups to help, and the donations he has received from governmental agencies and private businesses. *Copies of these articles are available by contacting Pat Shaw.*

### JOHNSON COUNTY

Submitted by Pat Shaw

In August, 1998, I was contacted by Enid Gillihan of Rowley, Iowa about the neglected condition of the Cline Cemetery south of Hills, Iowa in Johnson County. I wrote to the County Supervisors three times before receiving an answer telling me the names of the township trustees. In the meantime, I contacted Gene Mohling, the Extension Education Director, who put an item about it in a newsletter that is sent to 4-H Clubs in the county. About two months ago, Dennis Jenn of Riverside, Iowa began to wonder where one of his ancestors' grave was located. Since the ancestor was Catholic and had committed suicide, his grave was not in the local church cemetery. Dennis remembered the old Cline Cemetery from his boyhood, went there to search for his ancestor's grave, and was appalled by its condition. Dennis's children belong



to a local 4-H Club and his wife, Peggy, remembered something about the Cline Cemetery in a 4-H newsletter. She found the item, and contacted Enid Gillihan about the possibility of cleaning up the burial site as a 4-H project. Needless to say, Ms. Gillihan was delighted. The Jenn family's enthusiasm for the project has influenced two other families to assist with the restoration. Tree stumps have been removed, weeds have been cut, and grass raked. They are researching the history of the cemetery and how to proceed with stone repair. So far, Dennis Jenn has not found his ancestor's grave. I hope that he will, someday.

#### MARION COUNTY

Submitted by Margaret Gee

Margaret got permission last December to access another pioneer cemetery in Marion County. The cemetery is about 120 yards into the property of a neighbor. There are about 16 graves listed in the cemetery books, but Margaret feels there are more. Leroy Nugteren of Oskaloosa (and who is on the Mahaska County Cemetery Commission) made a plat map of the last cemetery that Margaret and her husband restored so it can be filed in the county engineer's office.

#### MAHASKA COUNTY

Submitted by Jo Vernooy

"We are so excited about the work being done in our Pioneer Cemeteries here! Our Eagle Scout has Center Grove Cemetery near completion and has requested that it be "re-dedicated" after he is done with it. Our 4-H Group leader talked with me last week about fencing in the Berry Pioneer Cemetery that they are working on. The Eddyville FFA Group is having a workday at Muchakinock on April 19, and Pat Shaw has graciously agreed to assist them on that day. Pat's parents still live in the Eddyville area. This Cemetery is a coal mining cemetery and was a part of the town of Muchakinock. We have found that a Native American is buried there. We will be contacting the State about this individual. After the mine played out, the company literally moved the town to Buxton. Many of the buildings were on skids and were towed there. This Cemetery belonged to the Consolidation Coal Mine at one time. We would appreciate hearing from any member who can give us information about where we might locate the records of that mining company. The problem is that the company was sold once or twice after being at Muchakinock so it is a possibility that the records went with the new company. The Cemetery was never "deeded out" of the real estate and, therefore, remained a part of the company property, so we are hoping that the Company had the burial records. We have a great deal of information from WPA and local funeral homes; however, a complete listing from the coal company would be great to make a comparison. Work continues on DeLong/Delashmutt, the first Pioneer Cemetery that the Commission worked on; therefore, it is very close to our hearts. We hope to work on Smith Cemetery this summer. I enjoyed the SAPIC meeting in Newton. It is so important to network with our other members. Three of our Commission attended the Iowa History Forum on Saturday, the 15th. One of our members, John Jacobs, was unable to go as he lost his father this past week. Please keep John in your thoughts. We continue to receive the support of the Mahaska County Board of Supervisors and are grateful for that support. At the meetings, I sometimes hear of problems with local officials, and we are glad that we do not have that concern. I spoke to a group of local individuals at a meeting held in Wapello County. They are discussing the possibility of a Commission; however, I believe they intend to work as a committee, rather than a Commission, at this time. Jo Vernooy, Chairman of the Mahaska County Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries."

#### MONROE COUNTY

Submitted by Larry DuVal

Hi Pat - Things are at a standstill on the Pioneer Cemetery bit. The County Attorney has the proposed ordinance and hasn't got it back to the Supervisors yet. As soon as this is done they will be passing the ordinance. They have set aside \$1000 to help us out the first year. There are around 34 cemeteries/burial spots in the county and about 20 of these could qualify as pioneer cemeteries I think. There much interest in this and I have several that are willing to serve on the commission. I will let you know as soon as things start to move.



### MITCHELL COUNTY

Submitted by Mike Magee

Article from the October 25, 1999 issue of the *Mason City Globe Gazette*: Osage class stakes claim to history. Teacher and students help restore decrepit cemetery. Teacher Eric Dralle and seven students from his special needs history class at Osage High School are in the process of reclaiming the Oak Lane or Thompson Cemetery, located 7 miles northeast of St. Ansgar. It was platted in October, 1887 and deeded to the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mona, Iowa. Mitchell County Conservation Director Milt Owen has a surveying team coming in to stake out the original boundaries and the entire cemetery will be reclaimed in the spring and planted in prairie grasses and native wildflowers. Mr. Dralle also hopes to get an environmental science class involved in cataloging all the prairie plants found in the cemetery. He's already scouted out two more cemeteries for future classes.

A SAPIC video was sent to Mr. Dralle. Mention of the efforts of this class has been made on the Mitchell County GenWeb page hosted by Kermit Kittleson.

### PAGE COUNTY

Submitted by Charly Stevens

Charly, the Page County naturalist, attended a meeting sponsored by the Department of Transportation on the topic of roadside plantings of prairie flowers. She obtained the following publication at the meeting: *A BUR OAK GUIDE, Prairie in your pocket, A guide to plants of the tallgrass prairie* by Mark Muller. University of Iowa Press; Iowa City, IA 52242. It is beautifully illustrated so a novice can identify wildflowers native to Iowa. Ask your county engineer or conservationist about obtaining a seed sampler or contact the IDNR Division of Forests and Prairies; 1-800-865-2477 [www.state.ia.us/forestry](http://www.state.ia.us/forestry)

Article from *The American Legion Magazine*, February, 2000: Legionnaires of Post 551, Onarga, Ill., recently discovered an old inquest document concerning the death of an unknown soldier from the Civil War era buried in the local cemetery. The soldier was run over by a train near Loda, IL. The cost of the burial was \$7 for the coffin and \$2 for digging the grave. A team of horses ran \$1.50. The soldier was carrying \$2.69 in his pockets, which was applied toward the expense of the services. Identity of the soldier is unknown, but Post 551 has acquired a new marker for the grave, which they placed alongside his old marker.

### APPANOOSE COUNTY

Submitted by Pat Shaw

Article from the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 13, 2000: Plano residents work to preserve the past. The small town of Plano, Iowa doesn't intend to let their town die. The Crossroads Cemetery Association and the Little Flock Chapel are supported by many area volunteers, as well as the "Step Back in Time Museum," located on Highway 142 eight miles south of the Rathbun Lake Twin bridges. Little Flock Chapel is located on Highway 2 west of Centerville and one mile west of the Plano turnoff.

## VAN BUREN COUNTY

Submitted by Jon Finney

I wish to bring you up to date on our mission to restore Van Buren County's Pioneer cemeteries.

Merle McDonald has been working on the McDonald cemetery in Des Moines township and should pretty much have it completed as of this date. The township agreed to take ownership of this cemetery. It is 20' x 20'. We are experimenting with it by laying down a weed barrier and placing rock over the entire area, resetting the 4 or 5 stones, and placing a cattle panel fence around the area. The entire corner has been brush cleared and mowed. It looks real nice.

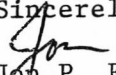
Tomorrow a group of us will be cleaning up and fencing the county cemetery at the county home. There is one stone left standing there of a Jesse Walker (Civil war veteran). We will probe for others. I know there are a lot of burials in this cemetery unmarked. Melva Workman is working on an inventory of this cemetery.

I believe we are close to the \$3000 mark in raising funds to maintain the White Chapel Cemetery. My son is putting in his 1st Class Scout community service hours by mowing this cemetery. It gives me time to reset and find stones. About 12 have been done as of this date. I hope to find a foreman and some volunteers to refence this cemetery by Memorial Day. It is looking much better! (also have a flagpole to install there).

I believe I already told you that the Chequest Township Trustees have taken official title to the Oak Point and Groves Cemeteries in their townshi

We are working on ownership status of several others at this time in Des Moines Township. The trustees seem willing to accept them.

Sincerely,

  
Jon P. Finney

Please note the policy (printed elsewhere in this newsletter) recently approved by the Van Buren County Supervisors to help fund the restoration of its 86 pioneer cemeteries. County auditor, Jon Finney, formulated this plan. Each county should have a public official so dedicated to historical preservation!

The National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation invited Bonaparte Main Street, Inc., to send a representative to deliver a 30 minute program on Bonaparte's Historic Cemetery Tour at this year's National Town Meeting on April 2-5 in Boston, Massachusetts. Gianna Barrow, organizer of the tour represented Bonaparte. Ms. Barrow is the Bonaparte Postmaster. The tour was created in 1996 as a state sesquicentennial event and has continued to draw large crowds since. This year's tour will be held June 3. For more information, contact Bonaparte Main Street office at 319-592-3400.

In northern Van Buren County, the town of Birmingham will soon be starting construction on a Day Care Center. During a title search of the proposed site, it was thought that the land was owned by the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery. In transferring the land to the city, stipulations were made that no burials would be disturbed and that if evidence of burials was uncovered during construction, such activity would cease.



## WINNESHIEK COUNTY

Submitted by Kevin Lee

Kevin contacted Midge Kjome, who has agreed to assist a history teacher and his students in Osage, Iowa in translating Norwegian inscriptions on grave markers in Mitchell County.

Kevin sent the following list of pioneer burial sites in which minimal care is provided to the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors: Gaul Timber (unowned), Pagin (unowned), Hageman, Baethke or Kennie (unowned), Ferkinstad Farm or Bourne or O.M. (Orleans Methodist?), First Orleans Lutheran, Ryan Farm, Old St. Agnes, Kruse Farm or Garfield, Young or Riha, Leo Wilson Farm, Orval Salveson Farm, East Freeport (Hillside) or Leach Farm, Doc. Chase burial (on Dugway Hill), W. Quandahl grave, Baker School, Teslow Farm, and Dunning Springs. This is not a complete list. Others are being verified with information from the County Recorder's Office. Since that time, the Commission has taken under its wing, other cemeteries, including McIntosh in Madison Township and Norwegian Methodist Cemetery on Big Canoe Road. In response to a statement that the Commission was misappropriating funds by helping maintain a cemetery not owned by the Commission, Kevin made the following great response: "I explained to him that one of the objectives to our cause was to help people, private concerns or governmental, to preserve and protect the Pioneer Cemeteries (of Winneshiek County).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

STATE ASSOCIATION

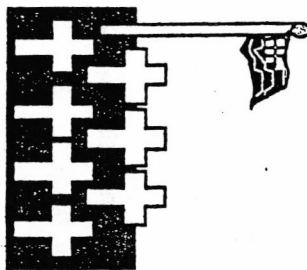
FOR THE

PRESERVATION

OF

IOWA CEMETERIES

(SAPIC)



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

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



# Goals of our Organization

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## SAPIC History

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## Meetings

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## Membership

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## QUESTIONS???

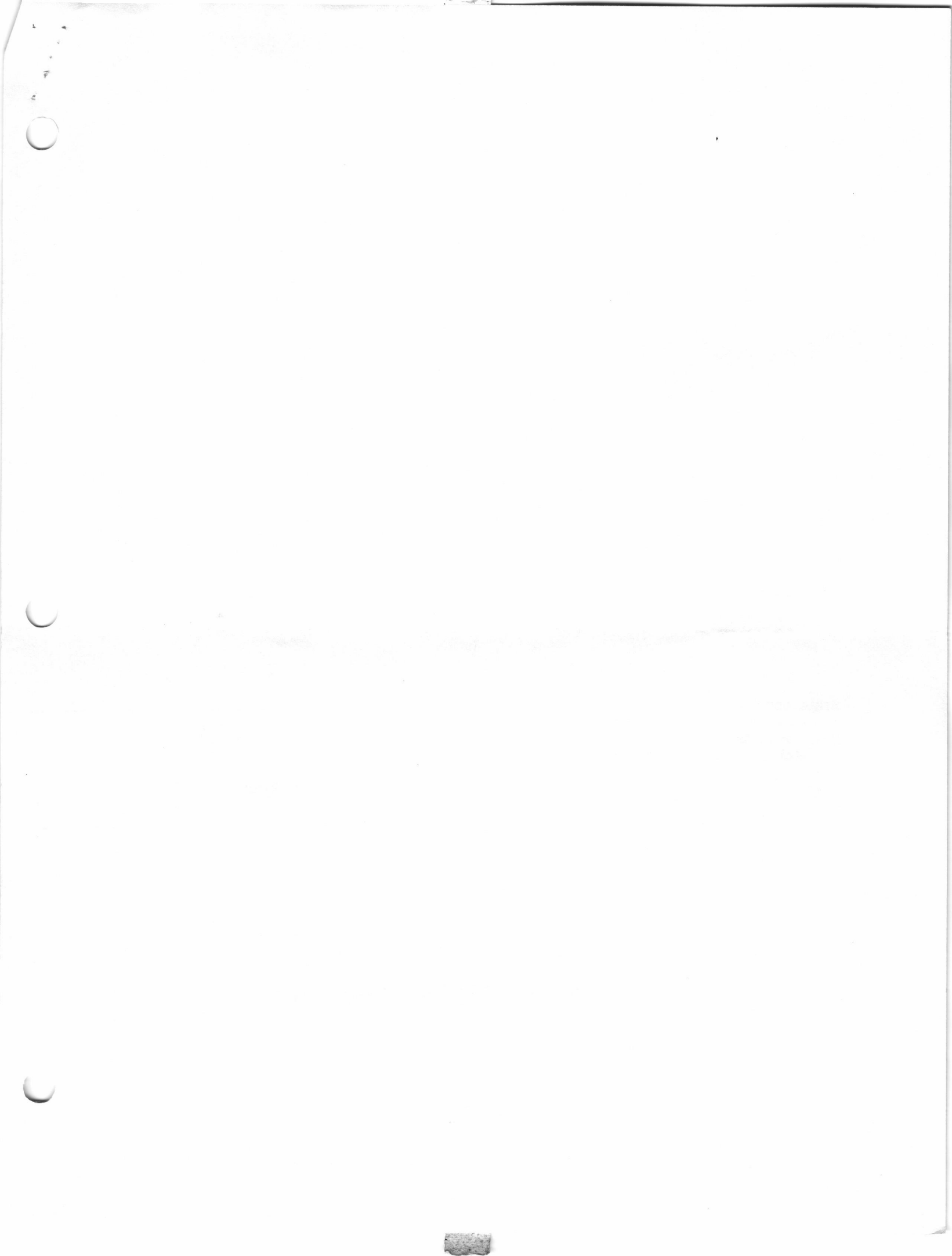
Phone 319-293-3899

E-mail: patshaw@netins.net

(or)

Visit our Web Site at

<http://www.sapic.org>



State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries  
c/o Iowa Genealogical Society  
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