

# 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  
Volume #5 Issue #4

www.sapic.org

October, 2000

### *No Stone Unturned.....*

Chairperson, Phyllis Carter, presented two Robert Carter Awards at the Iowa Genealogical Society banquet on October 6. This award was created in 1996 in memory of Phyllis's husband, Robert, to honor the efforts of deserving cemetery preservationists in the state of Iowa.

The award for cemetery education was presented to Keith Street of Wapello, Iowa, whose vision and guidance was instrumental in the formation of SAPIC in 1994. Keith served as its first treasurer and membership chairperson. Keith wrote numerous letters to early prospective members explaining SAPIC and its goals. His input continues to influence the direction of SAPIC today. In spite of health problems, Keith and his wife, Connie, attended the banquet so that he could accept the award. Keith and Connie are long-time members of IGS and their faces were familiar to many of the attendees. Their many friends were pleased to see them at the conference banquet this year.

Henry and Doris Heaton of Corning, Iowa were most deserving recipients of the service award for their work in thirty-nine cemeteries in four states. Kenneth Mallas, in his nominating letter, writes enthusiastically of their service to their community, devotion for their church, and love of family and fellow man, in addition to their dedication to preserving the burial sites of those who have passed on. Mr. Mallas states that he is one of several persons who has become involved in cemetery restoration due to their invitation. The Heatons were influenced to pursue their interest in historical preservation as a result of attending one of Paul Maddy's workshops a few years. What far-reaching results Paul's early efforts have produced! SAPIC members

were so pleased to meet this lovely couple and are happy to welcome them as members.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The next SAPIC meeting will be held at the Tama County Museum, 200 North Broadway (sign on Hwy 63) in Toledo in Tama County at 10:00 a.m. on January 13, 2001. According to Joyce Wiese, our host, there are several good restaurants in the area, including Happy Chef, King Tower, and Big T. A Chinese restaurant may be open by the time of the meeting, also. The Meskwaki Casino is just 5 miles west of Toledo and Rube's Steak House is in Montour, just 7 miles west. Motels on Hwy 30 are Days Inn and Super 8. Joyce says there will be refreshments available at the meeting and she will be there about 8:30 a.m. Her phone # is: 641-484-2599, if you have questions. (Map enclosed in newsletter).**

*Thanks, Joyce. We are looking forward to visiting Tama County!*

**I received a detailed booklet from Linda Sue Zintz at the IGS Conference titled "The Cemeteries of Appanoose County, Iowa." The information, along with color photos, was put (continued on page 7)**

**SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Pat Shaw  
21813 170th St.  
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: Charly Stevens  
112 E. Main  
Clarinda, IA 51632  
712-542-3864

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

Sally Youngquist, Web Page Manager  
3214 223rd Ave.  
Montrose, IA 52639  
youngqui@interl.net

Molly Beason, Board of Trustees  
P.O. Box 126  
Deep River, IA 52222 515-595-6770  
mbeason@dr-millersburg.k12.ia.us

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

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

Jo Vernoooy, Board of Trustees  
1240 235th St.  
Leighton, IA 50143  
515-673-8122  
mahcem@kdsi.net

**WHERE TO GET PROBES**

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

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

**WHERE TO GET EPOXY**

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

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

PL-400 Liquid Nails, Construction Grade  
Menards or other hardware store/lumber yards

**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

SAPIC MINUTES  
7 OCTOBER 2000  
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA

The annual SAPIC meeting was held at the Iowa Valley Continuing Conference Center in Marshalltown, Iowa. President Pat Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. Registration sheets were passed for all those present to sign.

Secretary Marilyn Schmitt read the minutes from the July meeting. There were no corrections.

Treasurer Valerie Ogren gave the treasurers report. Calvin McVay moved to approve, Mike Magee seconded. motion carried. Valerie stated that the books were in order for audit. Marilyn Schmitt moved to have the books audited after the term of each Treasurer. Marilyn Finke seconded. motion carried. Valerie also informed everyone that their dues for 2001 would be accepted. We have a total of 115 members with 18 being life memberships and 32 new for the year 2000.

Phyllis Rothlauf requested articles of interest be sent to her for the historian's book. President Shaw stated that a copy should be sent to her for the newsletter. She also ask to be notified of persons that might be considered to be put on the newsletter mailing list. We need to have at least 200 for each mailing.

President Shaw stated that she and Dean Gipple will continue to work with legislation for 2001

The Robert Carter Awards were awarded at the friday evening IGS banquet. The award for Service was given to Mr and Mrs. Heaton of Corning, Iowa. The Award for Education was given to SAPIC steering committee member Keith Street.

The Web Page now has a site meter and the address is [www.sapic.org](http://www.sapic.org) Thanks to Sally Youngquist and Pat Palmer for all of their devoted work.

President Shaw spoke at the Cemetery conference in Charles City. Her topic was "Cemetery Theft". Legislator Dennis Bretson, in his address, requested that a committee, in Des Moines, be formed to propose reviewing a bill. . The subject is the statement " abandoned cemeteries" that now is part of the said bill to be reviewed. She stated that The Iowa Cemetery Association was form in 1920 and has not been very active. Steve Story did a presentation on stone repairing with the Riverside Cemetery Commission. Also there was representation from the Cedar Memorial Funeral Directors and Cemetery Association.

A discussion was held on the contents of the video. All who participated stand by the program

President Shaw read for the third time the amended bylaws. Carol Bottin moved to approve and Mike Magee seconded. Motion carried

Treasurer Ogren ask for approval to include in the next years budget \$35.00 for Web page costs. . The 2001 budget will be prepared and presented for approval at the January meeting. Mike Magee moved to approve the \$35.00 cost for this year and \$60.00 for the banquet tickets for Mr and Mrs Heaton and Keith and Connie Street. This was not a budget item. Marilyn Schmitt seconded, motion carried.

Nominating Committee Mike Magee, Calvin McVay, and Ethel McVay reported that Charly Stevens agreed to be the next Secretary. Valerie Ogren will serve again as Treasurer. Phyllis Rothlauf will serve again as Historian. The office of President and Vice President were not filled. Marilyn Schmitt moved that under section #55 of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised Page 674 " To ensure the continued service of officers in the event, for example,..... of difficulty in obtaining a nominee for an office, it is well to provide that officers " shall hold office for a term of ..... or until their successors are elected".

Marilyn Finke seconded . Motion carried. Paul Maddy moved to approve the slate as read Jerry Finke seconded. Motion carried.

Paul Maddy moved to reimburse Pat Palmer for his expenses in handling the SAPIC video. Marilyn Finke seconded. Motion carried.

Chickasaw County has formed a Commission and are now working on their first Cemetery.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Thanks so much to Marilyn Schmitt of Mitchellville who has been the SAPIC secretary for two years. Her contribution to SAPIC is much appreciated. Marilyn was recently injured in an auto accident, but her health has now improved. She continues to check at the IGS Library for SAPIC mail on a regular basis.

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 3rd Quarter - 1 July 2000 thru 30 September 2000

Balance in "Working Account" 1 July 2000, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$2692.45

Income

Dues	230.00
Interest 7/31/00	7.76
Interest 8/31/00	7.92
Interest 9/30/00	<u>7.46</u>
Total Income	\$253.14

Expense

Patricia Shaw - postage	14.52
"    " - copies	9.84
Postmaster - postage for treas. and secretary	6.60
Pat Palmer - video postage	12.00
Patricia Shaw - printing brochures	10.17
"    " - newsletter postage	51.25
Iowa Genealogical Society - 4 banquet tickets	<u>64.00</u>
Total Expense	\$168.38

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2000 \$2777.21

---

Balance in Reserve Account 1 July 2000, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$1638.39

Income

(none)

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2000 \$1638.39

---

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 30 September 2000 \$4415.60

Respectfully submitted,  
*Valerie Ogren, Treasurer*  
108 N. Oak  
Jefferson IA 50129-1841  
Ph 1-515-386-4784  
E-mail: <vjogren@netins.net>

SAPIC Financial Report - 1 Oct 99 - 30 Sep 2000

Explanation	Income	Memorials	Expense	Balance
Balance forward 1 Oct 1999				\$1,861.35
Dues	\$480.00			
Video Sales	\$130.00			
Donations (bkfst. mtg.)	\$21.26			
Donation	\$5.00			
Interest	\$13.19			
<b>Total Oct - Dec 1999</b>	<b>\$649.45</b>			<b>\$2,510.80</b>
IGS - breakfast			\$25.00	
Patricia Shaw - newsletter			\$343.45	
IGS - reimburse postage			\$1.50	
<b>Total Oct - Dec 1999</b>			<b>\$369.95</b>	<b>\$2,140.85</b>
Memorial acct. balance		\$713.39		
Life Memberships & Memorials		\$500.00		
<b>Total Oct - Dec 1999</b>		<b>\$1,213.39</b>		<b>\$3,354.24</b>
Dues	\$535.00			
Video Sales	\$150.00			
Donation	\$25.00			
Interest	\$18.80			
<b>Total Jan - Mar 2000</b>	<b>\$728.80</b>			<b>\$4,083.04</b>
Patricia Shaw - newsletter			\$333.53	
" - printing			\$14.34	
Pat Palmer - video mailing			\$26.75	
Secretary of State			\$20.00	
Postage & Misc.			\$9.20	
<b>Total Jan - Mar 2000</b>			<b>\$403.82</b>	<b>\$3,679.22</b>
Life Memberships & Memorials		\$125.00		
<b>Total Jan - Mar 2000</b>		<b>\$125.00</b>		<b>\$3,804.22</b>
Dues	\$335.00			
Interest	\$21.56			
<b>Total Apr - Jun 2000</b>	<b>\$356.56</b>			<b>\$4,160.78</b>
Patricia Shaw - postage etc.			\$12.14	
Patricia Shaw - newsletter			\$82.80	
Network Solutions - domain			\$35.00	
<b>Total Apr - Jun 2000</b>			<b>\$129.94</b>	<b>\$4,030.84</b>
Life Memberships & Memorials		\$300.00		
<b>Total Apr - Jun 2000</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>		<b>\$4,330.84</b>
Dues	\$230.00			
Interest	\$23.14			
<b>Total Jul - Sep 2000</b>	<b>\$253.14</b>			<b>\$4,583.98</b>
Patricia Shaw - postage etc.			\$24.36	
Postmaster - treas. & sec'y			\$6.60	
Pat Palmer - video postage			\$12.00	
Patricia Shaw - newsletter			\$61.42	
IGS - 4 banquet tickets			\$64.00	
<b>Total Jul - Sep 2000</b>			<b>\$168.38</b>	<b>\$4,415.60</b>
<b>12 Month Total</b>	<b>\$1,987.95</b>	<b>\$1,638.39</b>	<b>\$1,072.09</b>	

**(Continued from page 1) together by SAPIC member, W. M. Heusinkveld of Centerville. A similar booklet was sent by Jeanette Kottke of Chickasaw County. Truly labors of love! These booklets are wonderful resources for preservationists and genealogists and provide documentation for burial sites. One of the goals of SAPIC is to identify all cemeteries in Iowa. If your county has not provided such a listing to SAPIC, please consider doing so. Thanks!**

\*\*\*\*\*

Oct. 10, 2000

Dear Mrs. Shaw,

Thank you for the honor in receiving the Robert Carter award from the S.A.P.I.C.

Thanks also for the fine dinner.

Sincerely,

Doris & Henry Neaton

**Tips for photographing gravestones:**

Hold the CAMERA AT SAME LEVEL OF STONE.

PLACE MIRROR ON THE GROUND IN FRONT OF THE STONE TO REFLECT LIGHT UP ONTO THE STONE.

USE A 400 SPEED FILM OR BETTER.

-- ROBERT <regill@bellatlantic.net>

\*\*\*\*\*

**On Making Rubbings:**

Please do not use WAX paper on old stones -- even the stuff that the (monument) makers use. It is OK for unfinished stones which get cleaned or polished after the maker makes them but don't ever use it on finished stones! It leaves the wax behind and thus creates a barrier for the natural transpiration and absorption of water. It will also melt and turn dark or "waxy" with age and ruin the natural color and patina of the stones. I have great success with heavy rice paper and a hard charcoal stick or hard wax crayon as long as I don't get any charcoal or wax on the stones. Really long rolls of excellent banner paper can be had for a few bucks at most craft stores and also works well. Also be sure to find a way to attach the paper to the stone that will leave nothing behind -- duct, masking, strapping tape, etc. all leave adhesive behind. I tried with some success rubber hoses from

the local hardware store and left not a scratch, stain, or streak.

-- Dan Weiskotten <weiskotten@erols.com>

\*\*\*\*\*

I have had trouble with folks using the wax. It is true, it seals a little extra moisture inside the stone and if it freezes it will ruin the letters first.

One of my favorite rubbing materials has been pelon. It works well, never is brittle, and you can even find it in colors in many cases.

Another fun project I did was with a very thin chamois and another with a thin fake leather-feeling cloth. I stretched it and used clips with cords to attach it tightly to the stone - like you would a chair cover. After I got it perfectly taut, I used a colored art pencil; in this case it was dark brown on tan leather-look. On the chamois, I used my finger with a bronze-looking paste. These were beautiful and didn't touch the stone at all in any harmful method. They were frameable.

The pelon is what I use on a regular basis. I usually use a crayon on its side but pencil can be used. They are easy to roll up and keep inside a length of plastic 3" sewer plastic pipe. I buy one flat end cap and glue it in place to the pipe and the other end has a screw in cap, that is meant to be a cleanout. That way it can be tossed in the trunk or under the truck seat and no damage (will occur). You can take this pelon if you want to frame the rubbing and gently iron it with paper towels top and bottom and it takes the last of the wax out of the pelon and nothing but permanent design is left. Nothing is touching the stone but the back of the leather/pelon etc. Nothing to bleed through etc.

You can practice your touch by getting a lumpy brick and trying it out.

--Susan in Texas <hawkins@texoma.net>

\*\*\*\*\*

On-line petition for "National Cemetery Protection Act" hosted by PetitionOnLine.com:  
<http://PetitionOnLine.com/sg0001/petition.html>  
or <http://www.savinggraves.com>

*Please consider signing the petition! Thanks!*

Bill Cavanaugh of the Nashua Monument Works submitted the address of a web site that tells how to obtain new markers for veteran's graves:

<http://www.cem.va.gov/>

Bill, who spoke with his County Veterans Affairs Director, has also obtained a book on VA rules.

Contact Bill for more information: NASHUA MONUMENT WORKS; 723 Greeley St.; PO Box 275; Nashua, IA 50658; Ph. 641-435-2242; FAX 641-435-2323; E-Mail: [nashuam@fiai.net](mailto:nashuam@fiai.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

If "ownership" of a cemetery is in dispute, check with an attorney to see if you can file a complaint to Quiet Title which means the ownership of the title is in question and the court will decide who may own the property. Generally, the owner died and the land was not transferred into a descendant's name. It's a means for a descendant, or barring none, to gain ownership of what their ancestor owned. Generally, property is transferred by probate or by will or by deed. This is another means for transferring title.

\*\*\*\*\*

SAVE OUR HISTORY Dial 1-800-87-LEARN

\*\*\*\*\*

**Suggestions for determining the original boundaries of a pioneer cemetery:**

- (1) Conduct remote sensing to try to identify locations of grave shafts. This can cost (in the neighborhood of) \$2000.
- (2) Blade off the surrounding area with heavy equipment, removing the top soil, and then have archaeologists shovel skim the bladed area looking for dark stains representing grave shafts. These locations could then be mapped, the area recovered with the top soil, and boundaries erected.

Shirley J. Schermer  
Burial Program Specialist  
Office of the State Archaeologist  
[Shirley-Schermer@uiowa.edu](mailto:Shirley-Schermer@uiowa.edu)

\*\*\*\*\*

Candidates for public offices are starting to realize that preservationists and genealogists are increasing in number and that they do vote! Start now to get to know which of your county and state officials are interested in the preservation of the history and culture in your area. Write a letter to the local newspaper praising the efforts of him/her. Remind county supervisors and tourism directors that visitors

to the county offices and cemeteries who are searching for their roots bring many dollars into the area when they patronize motels, cafes, gas stations, and gift shops. Maybe SAPIC should consider printing bumper stickers that say, "I dig pioneer cemeteries and I vote!"

\*\*\*\*\*

What is your vision for the future of your county? Change is inevitable. Should it just happen, or should there be a plan? How do we grow in a sustainable manner? How do we protect the property rights of individuals who may be affected by new development near them? Conservation, a healthy farm economy, availability of housing, maintaining a strong Main Street **while preserving the past**, and using our tax dollars wisely are land use issues that greatly impact the quality of our lives.

*1000 Friends of Iowa*

Citizens United for Responsible Land Use

3524 Sixth Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50313

Telephone 515-288-5364

FAX 515-288-6362j

E-mail: [kfoi@kfoi.org](mailto:kfoi@kfoi.org)

[www.kfoi.org](http://www.kfoi.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

*Why not give some type of tax credit for donating time, resources, or money to cemetery restorations? Might be an incentive to get those much needed and appreciated volunteers. Ask your state legislator about the possibility!*

\*\*\*\*\*

A "mini kit" that can easily be kept in the trunk of your car for impromptu cemetery visits could include a collapsible shovel (found at Army-Navy surplus stores), small hand spade, garden gloves, water in a spray bottle, and Handi-Wipes. Keeping your camera in your vehicle is a good idea. Documentation of graves and their condition by taking a picture can prove invaluable.



The SAPIC newsletters are now being sent to the State Historical Society of Iowa libraries in Des Moines and Iowa City. Thanks to David Hudson, Acquisitions Librarian, for requesting that they be added to our mailing list. david-hudson@uiowa.ed

\*\*\*\*\*

**Possible sources for manpower for cemetery clean-up include community service workers and inmate labor crews. Community service workers (non-violent offenders who must perform a certain number of hours of service) often prefer to work on weekends, if they have Mon-Fri jobs. County sheriffs are often willing to approve of supervised inmate labor for cemeteries. This has been done quite successfully in Fayette County, Iowa. Inmates get to be outside, get exercise, and get to do something productive. Although they can't be expected to do skilled repair, their efforts can make an enormous difference in getting heavy work, such as cutting trees and brush, done.**

\*\*\*\*\*

For quite some number of years, conservationists and historic preservationists have been working toward enactment of legislation that would create a dedicated trust fund for conservation and historic preservation programs. The latest effort centers on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 2000 (CARA; H.R. 701/S. 2567). It seeks to allocate \$3 billion from offshore oil drilling royalties to a wide array of conservation and preservation programs. The measure had the support of the White House and passed the House of Representatives by a wide margin. However, CARA was compromised and weakened during debate over the Department of the Interior Appropriation Bill (H.R. 4578) by several western senators who have pledged to block any further vote on the measure. *Contact your federal legislator to see where he/she stands on this matter*

*Saving history, that's what we do. It's the moral requirement of every living soul to care for the gravestones of the dead.*

*--John Walters*

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTES FROM OTHER STATES:**

About 1880, ground was broken for the cemetery of the Eclipse Church in the Sandhills of Nebraska when an area ranch family buried an unknown baby. On a hot July day, Chauncy Tucker and his wife welcomed a couple with a very ill child to their ranch. The couple asked the Tuckers to care for their daughter until they could come back for her. Although Mrs. Tucker bathed and comforted the feverish child, the baby died. Efforts to locate the parents failed, so the Tucker's buried the baby on the corner of their tree claim.

*Country Extra; September 2000*

*Submitted by Mary Richards, Jamaica*

AAAAAAAAAAAAA

Chris, Mike and Fred Collard, of Honeye Falls, New York, were honored with Eagle Scout awards recently -- possibly the only time a set of triplets has simultaneously earned the Boy Scouts of America's top honor. Community projects they did to accumulate the required 21 merit badges included mapping the graves of war veterans and repainting a historic chapel.

*CAPPER'S, October 7, 2000*

AAAAAAAAAAAAA

In the late 1880's, city officials of Denver, Colorado, decided to convert a downtown city graveyard to a city park. This decision caused tremendous unrest among Denver's citizens, especially those who had relatives and friends buried there. Because the site contained the graves of veterans, the matter was eventually taken up by the U.S. Congress, which granted approval to the city to disinter the bodies and relocate them. The city park that resulted was named Congressional Park. Because the public felt that at least 1000 people remained buried there and that it was still hallowed ground, much bitterness remained. The park was renamed Cheesman Park in honor of a beloved community leader, Walter Scott

Cheesman (1838-1907). Cemeteries cannot be legally destroyed without Congressional approval if veterans of wars are interred at the grounds, and it may prove prudent to document such interments at all cemeteries.

David R. Cheesman  
kdcheesman@netnitco.net  
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Cindi Ashlie and William Taurence lived next to the neglected Rucker family cemetery in Highland Township, Michigan. After getting approval and support from township officials, they set about cleaning it up. Their efforts brought accolades from local residents. However, a descendant of persons buried there, William Rucker, says they had no right to remove vegetation or change the landscape of the grounds. He filed a police report and a lawsuit for \$25,000 in damages for emotional distress. A counter suit has been filed by Ashlie and Taurence and they are seeking to have Rucker removed as a trustee. Story by Steve Pardo, *The Detroit News*

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Randall Stover of AAronsburg, Pennsylvania, decided to restore the Neidigh/Hennig Family cemetery in Centre County, Pennsylvania. He dowsed the cemetery, finding 20 previously unknown graves, cut brush, cleared small trees, repaired stones, discouraged the abundance of woodchucks, had the entire cemetery tilled, seeded, and mowed, and build a fence around the site. On May 28, 2000, a Memorial Day service was held and attended by more than 50 people. Stover now conducts tours to the site and has written a story about his work.

Eleanor Kling Brodeur  
Brodeur46@aol.com  
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

The Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association was established in 1992 "to educate the public about our cemeteries, to build and maintain appropriate databases, and to protect our cemeteries and their records."

OCHA Ledger  
PO Box 802  
Boring, OR 97009-0802  
www.oregoncemeteries.or

*THE GRAVESTONE SPEAKS* is published quarterly for the members of Save Texas Cemeteries, Inc. whose mission is to "promote the preservation of historic cemeteries and burial grounds throughout Texas by public education and historic research in order to preserve our rich, multi-cultural heritage."

Michael Emery  
Information Systems Coordinator  
Save Texas Cemeteries, Inc.  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txstc/>  
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

The McCurtain Genealogical Society in Arkansas, in partnership with Watkins Monuments; 5505 Alma Hwy.; Van Buren, AR 72956, is offering low-cost markers for unmarked graves or to replace stones that are no longer readable. All the stones are grey granite with black lettering. Rules for ordering can be found at:

[http://members.tripod.com/~mccurtain\\_2/headstone/index.html](http://members.tripod.com/~mccurtain_2/headstone/index.html)

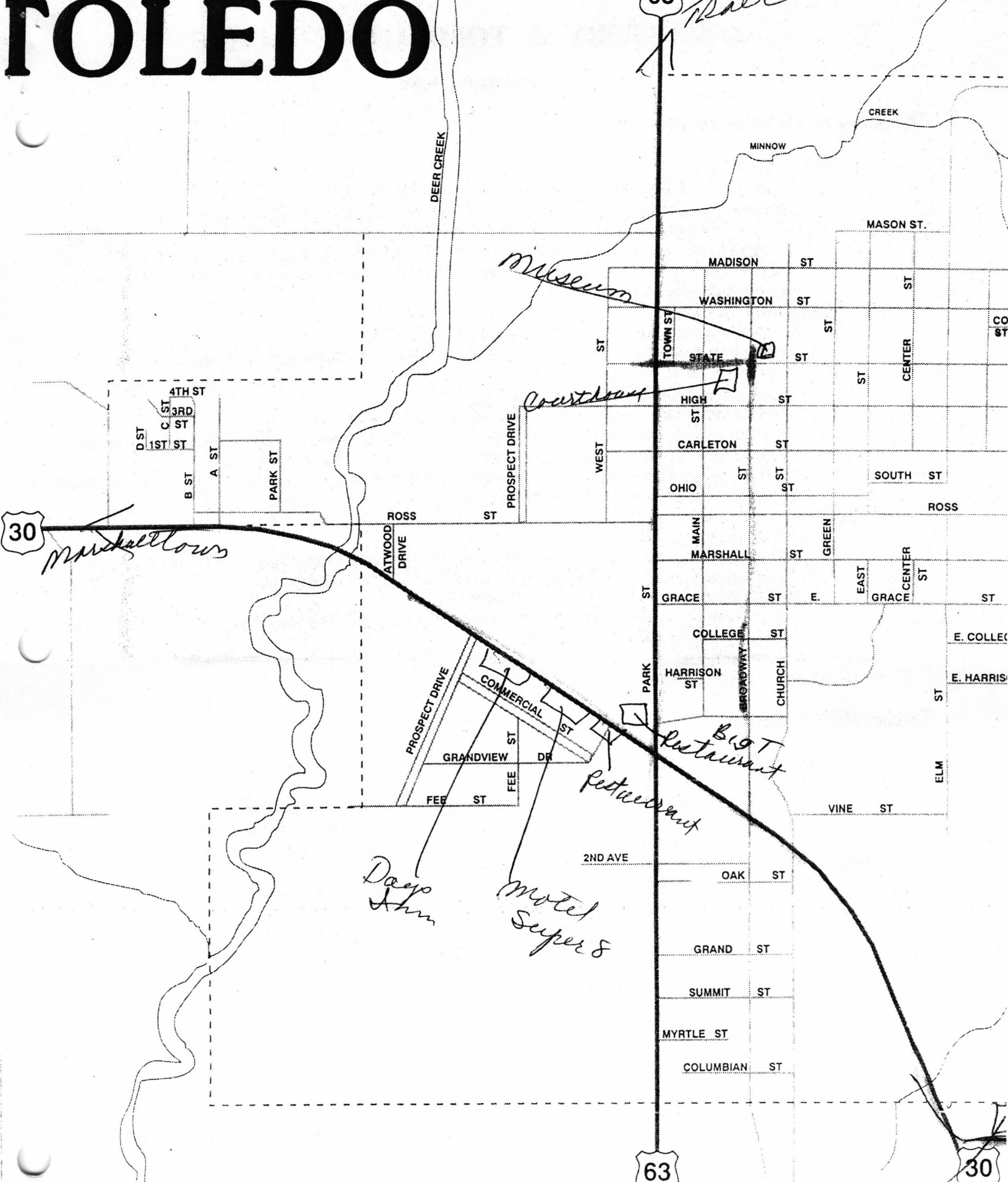
*Note: This would be a good project for SAPIG!*  
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Joann Jackson is spearheading the restoration of the Moses Steele Cemetery off Flat Creek Road in Nashville, Tennessee. It is reported to contain the graves of eight Revolutionary War soldiers, including her ancestor, Laban Hartley, and the person who gave the land for the site, Moses Steele.

Submitted by Linda Shultz  
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

GEORGIA SLAVE CEMETERY. A FLORIDA TIMES-UNION article by Allison Schaefer, begins: "KINGSLAND – Deep in the woods off U.S. 17, at the end of a winding dirt road where the vast Berne Plantation once stood, passers-by will find a peaceful clearing with more than 1000 graves --some marked with homemade mortar headstones, others with simple white wooden crosses. Bright green wisps of grass dot the landscape as if the graves were recently dug, but the last burial in the Holzendorf Cemetery was in 1939. The grass was planted just weeks ago by the Camden County Sheriff's Office as part of a huge cemetery clean-up project.

# TOLEDO



*King Tower Restaurant*

*Tanna*

# CEMETERY & TOMBSTONE BASICS

Marilyn R. Finke

## Types of cemeteries you will visit:

1. Family Burial Plot ---
  1. Located on a hill on the farmstead first settled by the family.
  2. Usually on a corner of the farmstead or in a grove of trees or old orchard.
  3. Many of these are difficult to locate or have disappeared due to lack of care or change of ownership of the land. The land may now be a cornfield or a pasture filled with cattle; it may be a suburban housing development, cleared for public use (golf course or ball park), or bulldozed for other usage.
2. Church burial cemetery ---
  1. Located on the church grounds near trees or on a hill.
  2. Early churches sometimes split, because of differing interpretations of the Scripture or feuding so there could be more than one "church cemetery" for the same or a very similarly named church of the same time period.
  3. If the family split when church split, check both cemeteries.
  4. As cities grew, some church land became very valuable and the cemeteries were moved.
  5. Early older cemeteries frequently placed on top of and ran down the hillside
  6. A church owned cemetery not connected with the church grounds nor adjacent to the building but on property owned, supported and maintained by the church.
3. Public or municipal cemetery ---
  1. Most common today.
  2. Maintained for the general public by village, town, city, township, or sometimes county.
  3. Veterans and their families are often buried in facilities maintained by a state or the US govt.
4. Commercial, privately owned memorial cemetery ---
  1. Commercially owned and operated - came into vogue following World War II as population became more mobile and transient.
  2. Nonsectarian.
5. Relocated Cemeteries ---

## Dating the Monument :

<i>Approximate Date</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
Pioneer 1790-1830	Wood - Early colonial; westward movement across the country. Slate, common fieldstone, limestone or sandstone most common. With or without elaborate carving - usually in Roman-type script.
1800-1850	Flat topped white marble and soft gray granite - subject to weathering. Usually engraved in an italic script - much detail lost over the years. Watch for difficulty with 7 and 4 becoming 1 Watch for difficulty with 8, 9 and 6 becoming 3 3 and 5 may be very difficult to tell apart 6 or 9 may become 0 7 and 4 may become 2; 1 or 2 may become a 7
1845-1870	Masonic 4-sided stones - harder marble came into use. Tall - elaborate shapes and ornate carvings. Roman-type lettering came back into use.
1860-1900	Pylon, columns and all types of exotic shapes were popular.
1870-1900	Zinc monuments.
1890- present	Polished granite usage began and is now common, machine cut. Some early granite stones are difficult to read because of weathering. Use of raised lettering has not weathered well in the early granite stones. Some lay flat with the ground. Now stones are often engraved by sandblasting or laser.

# OLD TOMBSTONE CARVINGS

What do those carved designs signify? Here are ideas gathered from a number of sources. There are many differences depending on origin, custom and religion.

Anchor -	Hope, seafaring	Urn with blaze -	Undying friendship
Angels -	Heavenly guides	Arches -	Victory in Death
Lamb -	Innocence, child's grave	Butterfly -	Early death, short-lived, rebirth
Corn -	Ripe old age	Dove -	Innocence, gentleness, affection
Laurel -	Fame or victory	Broken Column -	Loss of head of family
Harp -	Praise to the Maker	Weeping willow -	Emblem of sorrow
Sheaf/wheat -	Ripe for Harvest	Broken ring -	Family circle severed
Poppy -	Sleep	Ivy -	Friendship, immortality
Cherub -	Angelic	Open book -	Clergyman or teacher, knowledge
Cross -	Emblem of faith	Palm branch -	victory, rejoicing
Rosebud -	Morning of life	Full bloom rose -	Prime of life
Trumpet -	Resurrection	Rising sun -	resurrection
Snuffed Candle-	Mortality, time	Handshake -	Farewell to earthly matters
Hands folded -	Prayer	Hand pointing upward-	Rewards of Heaven
Flower bud-	Beginning of new life	Swords -	Military
Trees -	Life cycle, tree of life	Wreaths -	Victory in Death
Torch inverted -		Life Extinct	
Oak leaves with acorn -		Maturity, ripe old age	
Urn draped with wreath or crepe -		Mourning	
Tree stump entwined with ivy -		Head of family, immortality	
Hourglass, wings of time attached -		time flying, short life	
Lily, Lily-of-the-valley -		innocence, purity	
Morning glory -		beginning of life	
Winged skull -		certainty of death	
Crowing rooster/cock -		reminder of rooster that called Apostle Peter to repentance	

You will frequently see small stones in the family plot. These may be unmarked except for a lamb or small praying hands and could indicate burial of an unnamed baby or a baby who died very young.

## HOW TO COMPUTE THE BIRTHDAY OF ANCESTOR

Before about 1870, it was not unusual to find age inscribed on a tombstone rather than the date. One should be careful when determining dates from an age inscription. Many times the date of death was followed by a statement of age given in years, months and days i.e. 75 yr's, 4 m's, & 10 d's, instead of a date of birth. It's not difficult to figure this date out using simple math but the March 1976 issue of *Genealogical Helper* provided a method that you may find easy to use as well. It's called the "8870 formula" and works like this:

Using a calculator, enter date of death (1889 May 6) >> [18890506]  
 Subtract age of person found on tombstone (71y, 7m, 9d) >> [710709]  
 results of >> [18179797]  
 Subtract 8870 to correct the months and days >> [18170927]  
 Translate and you have >> 1817 September 27, the birthday.

Ages inscribed on a tombstone were often quite vague, sometimes giving only a year age, i.e. 75 yr's. By subtracting the age years from the death date you have a general range of two years the person could have been born, assuming that the ancestor could have been born in that year or the year before. It's not specific, but at least you have a date range in which to focus your search for birth records.

# Tombstone Preservation - Some Basic Information

Marilyn R. Finke

In the past, stones for monuments have been prepared from rock that is readily accessible or easily transported, affordable, relatively easy to carve and finish; durable, and socially and aesthetically acceptable.

## *Types of Stone and Metal Commonly Used*

### **Sandstone:**

Sedimentary rock composed of sand grains naturally cemented by mineral material with a predominance of quartz grains; soft; not durable; rapid destruction possible; becomes "dirty looking" when surface is wet; various colors; swells when wet; stone may split.

### **Limestone:**

Sedimentary origin composed of calcite or dolomite or both; varied colors but often weathers to silver-gray, creamish, or white; common use; prone to cracking along and perpendicular to bedding plains; can have trace fossils of tunnels of ancient mollusks; absorbs water; poor resistance to frost.

### **Marble:**

A metamorphic rock generally white or blue-gray and usually with distinctive veining; soft so easily carved; predominant stone for gravestones in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; biggest supplier was Vermont; various types and colors; acid soluble.

### **Slates:**

Hard, brittle, metamorphic rock generally composed of mainly clay minerals; popular in 18<sup>th</sup> century particularly in coastal areas; easily distinguished by finely cut lettering and smooth gray, blue-gray, gray-green, or black fine-grained appearance. Typically slate originates from the northeast (eastern Quebec, Lake St. Catharine area of New York and Vermont).

### **Granites:**

Igneous rock with multi-colored crystals or grains of visible size; Preferred stone since about 1880's; durable, acid and water resistant; various colors but often black, salt-pepper, dark pink, dark red-varying to brown; holds high polish well.

### **Metals:**

White bronze markers (zinc) – gray-green color; hollow; brittle.

Iron - corrosion may occur in places where water can accumulate; often brittle with thin.

Lead – frequently found in lettering set into stone tablets; can be attacked by alkalis and organic acids found in soil and rotting vegetation.

## ***Deterioration of Stone***

There are many things that can cause a stone to deteriorate. As stones age they often form a brittle surface while the can blister or scale. Some stones will suffer from face-bedding, where the stone splits more or less cleanly along one or more of the bedding planes. This is a very common problem in sandstone. As water permeates the resulting cracks, more internal deterioration occurs.

Lichens and mosses grow on the wet surfaces.

Biggest problem in modern times is pollution, especially pollution that affects our older urban cemeteries. Acid rain is a huge factor and will become a bigger factor as pollution increases.

## Cleaning the Tombstone

Cleaning depends on type of stone because cleaning can, and often does, cause damage. Lichens and moss are good, not bad, as they form a protective covering from the elements. Don't pull off growth – it is alive and attached to the stone so pulling may remove part of the stone as well. Rural stones are ideal hosts for algae and lichen.

1. growth removal can damage the stone.
2. the living growth WILL return.

Use a soft-bristle brush or rag to remove loose material on the stone. Do NOT vigorously rub or scrape material from the stone.

Never use bleach, wire brushes, power-wash, sandblast or scrape a stone.

If you feel the need to clean up a stone, wash with clean water and brush off growth. Important: NO cleaning with water should be attempted if there is a risk of the temperature falling low enough to freeze the water before the stone has dried out. Freezing can cause severe damage.

Keep any product with a modern additive or oil OFF the stone. Using various manufactured products is not recommended for normal cleaning by an amateur. Even the pros follow the directions carefully. Study up on the subject before you clean a stone.

In addition to harsh environmental conditions, atmospheric pollution, weathering, and incorrect conservation and repair techniques, there are other factors that can cause a stone to deteriorate. Such things as mixing stones, improper mortars, setting monuments in concrete, metal corrosion and vandalism all play a part in stone deterioration.

## Common Repairs

A good repair should be barely noticeable, appearing only as a crack in the stone. The mortar fill should match the stone. Bad repairs detract from the design of the stone and obstruct the reading of the inscription.

All repairs should be researched carefully prior to beginning the job. The amateur, with proper preparation and education, should be able to correct minor tilting, resetting simple slab markers and resetting bases. Only an experienced conservator or someone very experienced in monument repair should attempt such things as resetting heavy markers into bases, repairing snapped or vandalized monuments, removing paint or other foreign materials, repairing markers with multiple breaks or missing elements, resetting obelisks or repairing broken bases.

## A Few References for Reading and Suppliers (in no particular order)

Strangstad, Lynette. *A Graveyard Preservation Primer*. 1990. AASLH Primer Series. Order from Association of Graveyard Studies, 30 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609.  
<<http://www.gravestonestudies.org/index.htm>>

Anson-Cartwright, Tamara. *Landscapes of Memories: A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries; Repairing Tombstones*. 1998. Order from Queen's Printer for Ontario, Province of Ontario, Toronto, Canada.  
<http://www.gov.on.ca/MCZCR/>

Maddy, Paul. *A Guide to Rescuing Pioneer Gravestones*. 1995. Out of Print.

### For stone adhesives you may want to contact:

GranQuartz, P.O. Box 2206, Tucker, GA 30085-2206.  
Phone 1-800-458-6222 for a catalog. <<http://www.granquartz.com>>

\* Marilyn especially recommends

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
AAHF Attn: S. Cutchlow	P.O. Box 1626	Cedar Rapids	IA	52406
Adair County Anquestors	3025 Jackson St.	Orient	IA	50858
Ademeit, Margaret	60 Lamson MHP	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Ahrendsen, Rosalie	7922 Jungle Town Rd.	Oxford Junction	IA	52323
Allen Co Public Library	Box 2270	Fort Wayne	IN	46801
Ballinger, Margaret	P.O. Box 2544	La Mesa	CA	91943
Bates Funeral Chapel	P.O. Box 207	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Beason, Molly	P.O. Box 126	Deep River	IA	52222
Begalske, Paul	24461 U. Ave	Hawkeye	IA	52147
Bethune, Beverly	232 W. Woodland	Ottumwa	IA	52501
Boorum, Richard	2133 Fairview Dr.	Cedar Falls	IA	50613
Bottin, Carol	124 E. Main, Apt. 13	New Hampton	IA	50659
Bowler, Ray H.	510 Railroad St.	Carlisle	IA	50047
Brayman, Lois Rubin	2629 P Ave	Clarinda	IA	51632
Briley, Jane	707 W. Fremont	Creston	IA	50801
Brokaw, Marjorie	602 E. Buchanan	Winterset	IA	50273
Bunting, Dwight	1124 Clearview Dr.	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Carter, Phyllis	2305 180th St.	Washington	IA	52353
Cass County Gen Society	507 Poplar St.	Atlantic	IA	50022
Cedar Memorial	4200 First Ave.NE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52402
Chickasaw Co Gen Soc	PIO. Box 434	New Hampton	IA	50659
Christian, Janet	1143 D. Ave.	Scranton	IA	51462
Clark, Shirley & Dean	1405 S. Elm	Jefferson	IA	50129
Clarke Co Cem Ass'n	309 S. Dewey	Osceola	IA	50213
Cline, Beverly	1002 N. 4th Ave.	Winterset	IA	50273
Cochran, Susan K.	517 Brookway	Florence	CO	81226
Colwell, Bill	1146 Jesup St.	Knoxville	IA	50138
Crain, Harley	17126 68th Ave. W.	Edmonds	WA	98026
Cross, Ardene	P.O. Box 55	Clutier	IA	52217
Crowe, Ruth	350 S. Glenwood Ave.	Glendora	CA	91741
Dale, Carol L.	P.O. Box 272	Deep River	IA	52222
Darnell, Ava Lough	2736 Meadowbrook Dr	Burlington	IA	52601
Davis Co Gen Society	Box 94	Bloomfield	IA	52537
Davis, Gene	216 Riverview Dr.	Vinton	IA	52349
Davis, Larry	5716 Kingman Ave.	Des Moines	IA	50311
Davis, Rosalie	711 South Main	Danville	IA	52623
Decorah Gen. Ass'n	202 Winnebago	Decorah	IA	52101
Des Moines Co Gen Soc	P.O. Box 493	Burlington	IA	52601
Dickey, Donetta	P.O. Box 743	Smithfield	VA	23431
Dodson, Mary J. & Michael	309 S. Dewey	Osceola	IA	50213
DuVal, Larry D.	900 11th St.	Onawa	IA	51040
Ellis, Frances A. Davison	8407 Spanish Rd. SW	Cedar Rapids	IA	52404
Fayette Co Pioneer Cem	100 N. Walnut	West Union	IA	52175
Finke, Marilyn R. & Jerry	641 E. Gregory Blvd.	Kansas City	MO	64131
Finney, Jon	RR	Keosauqua	IA	52565
Fleig, Charlotte M.	1627 Highway 1	Fairfield	IA	52556
Giese, Betty Robertson	4751 S. Linder Ave.	Chicago	IL	60638
Gipple, Dean	307 Flat Iron Dr.	Columbus Junction	IA	52738
Gradwohl, David	2003 Ashmore Dr.	Ames	IA	50014



Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Greene Co Gen Society	P.O. Box 133	Jefferson	IA	50129
Grissom, Dave & Marieta	505 W. Jackson Ave.	Indianola	IA	50125
Gross, Stephen	1028 Emerald Dr.	Wayne	NE	68787
Gugeler, Allen	Box 882	Oakville	IA	52646
Guthrie Co Gen Society	Box 96	Jamaica	IA	50128
Gwinn, Sheryl A.	PO Box 14	Ferguson	IA	50078
Hall, Ruth Ann	408 E. Salem	Indianola	IA	50125
Hannon, Paul	1620 No. 11th St.	Fort Dodge	IA	50510
Harmel, Sandra J.	1408 Washington Ave	Bennett	IA	52721
Heaton, Henry & Doris		Corning	IA	
Heck, Vera	4356 235th St.	Guernsey	IA	52221
Heichel, Letha	1911 Creamery Rd.	Dexter	IA	50070
Henke, Robert	2235 V. Ave.	Clarinda	IA	51632
Henry, Maxine	2490 50th Ave.	New Virginia	IA	50210
Heusinkveld, Willis & Marj	840 S. Park	Centerville	IA	52544
Hixon, Charlene	2649 Hickory Trail	Iowa City	IA	52245
Hook, Nancy	905 E. Ave.	Grundy Center	IA	50638
Horton, Loren N.	3367 Hanover Ct.	Iowa City	IA	52245
Humboldt Co Gen Society	30 Sixth St. N.	Humboldt	IA	50548
Ingebretson, Marsha L.	4439-2 1/2 St. NE	Columbia Heights	MN	55421
Iowa Citizens' Aide	215 East 7th Street	Des Moines	IA	50319
Iowa City Gen Society	P.O. Box 822	Iowa City	IA	52244
Iowa Genealogical Soc	Box 7735	Des Moines	IA	50322
Iowa Prairie Network	2066 Suffolk Rd.	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Jackson Co Cem Comm	12901 119th Ave.	Maquoketa	IA	52060
Jacobs, John	P.O. Box 155	Rose Hill	IA	52586
Janson, Helen L.	P.O. Box 8	Gravity	IA	50848
Jasper Co Cemetery Com	1618 Rodeo Ave.	Monroe	IA	50170
Jeffers, Frances	507 Jefferson St.	Decorah	IA	52101
Jefferson Co Gen Society	2791 240th St.	Fairfield	IA	52556
Jenks, Holly M.	110 Ohio St.	Laporte	IN	46350
Jones Co Gen Society	P.O. Box 174	Anamosa	IA	52205
Jones, Kathy	700 S. 4th Ave E	Newton	IA	50208
Juergensen, Erma	901 Bell	Churdan	IA	50050
Keller, Robert E. & Dorothy	412 N. Spruce	Creston	IA	50801
Kendall, William L.	1005 N. West	Jefferson	IA	50129
Keo-Mah Gen Society	P.O. 616	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Keokuk Co Historical Soc	Elm & East St.	Sigourney	IA	52591
Kiser, Jim & Pat	1215 SW 3rd St.	Ankeny	IA	50021
Klopfenstein, June	211 S. Jefferson St.	Mt. Pleasant	IA	52641
Kocur, Bob	606 W. 14th Box 205	Lovilia	IA	50150
Kramer, David J.	103 5th St. SE	Dyersville	IA	52040
Larsen, Janice	904 S. Highland	Sac City	IA	50583
Lee Co Genealogical Soc	P.O. Box 303	Keokuk	IA	52632
Lee, Kevin L.	1672 Old Stage Rd.	Decorah	IA	52101
Leffler, Pauline	1328 Brick Street	Burlington	IA	52601
Lepenski, Tom Sexton	209 19th St.	East Moline	IL	61244
Libby, Robert J.	809 S. 7th Ave.	Iowa City	IA	52240
Loan, Patrick	1662 IWV Rd SW	Oxford	IA	52322

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Loomis, Ellen	7227 Meadow Lark Ln	Sheridan	CA	95681
Louisa Co Cem Comm		Wapello	IA	52653
Louisa Co Gen Society	607 J.L. Hodges Hwy	Wapello	IA	52653
Loveless, Jim	4216 Merriam Dr.	Overland Park	KS	66203
Lucas Co Gen Society	803 Braden Ave.	Chariton	IA	50049
Lytton, Bob	121 SW Logan	Ankeny	IA	50021
Macy, Kristin L.	P.O. Box 103	Des Moines	IA	50301
Maddy, Paul	1515 Warford St.	Perry	IA	50220
Madison Co Gen Society	P.O. Box 26	Winterset	IA	50273
Magee, Mike	638 Englewood	Waterloo	IA	50701
Mahaska Co Cem Comm	1240 235th St.	Leighton	IA	50143
Mahaska Co Hist Society	P.O. Box 578	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Mahaska Co Supervisors	106 South First St.	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Marion Co Gen Society	P.O. Box 385	Knoxville	IA	50138
Marlin, Kenneth	P.O. Box 134	Anamosa	IA	52205
Marvin, Charlotte	401 2nd St. N	Humboldt	IA	50548
Matthews, William H.	10791 77th St.	Wapello	IA	52653
Mauk, Lois	931 Colonial Park Dr.	Jeffersonville	IN	47130
McCleary, Eleanor B.	906 Sunrise Circle	Muscataine	IA	52761
McVay, Calvin & Ethel	605 E. Buchanan	Winterset	IA	50273
Merschbrock, Judy	2334 Carbide Lane	Keokuk	IA	52632
Miller, Alice	713 Liberty St.	Arlington	IA	50606
Miller, Edna L.	1315 Houston	Grand Junction	CO	81501
Mohr, Alan W.	10928 142nd Ave.	W. Burlington	IA	52655
Monroe Co Gen Society	203 Benton Ave. E.	Albia	IA	52531
Moore, Wayne	2193 Racine Ave.	New London	IA	52645
Mortiboy, Clara B.	2610 E. Pleasant	Davenport	IA	52803
Nishnabotna Gen Society	1709 20th St.	Harlan	IA	51537
Nodaway Valley Museum	P.O. Box 393	Clarinda	IA	51632
Nolan, Robert W.	15120 River Rd. Ct.	East Moline	IL	61244
Nord, Donna J.	2105 S. First	West Des Moines	IA	50265
Nordman, Anna	315 E. Green	Clarksville	IA	50619
Northeast IA Gen Society	503 South St.	Waterloo	IA	50701
Ochiltree Funeral Service	P.O. Box 261	Winterset	IA	50273
Ogren, Valerie J.	108 N. Oak	Jefferson	IA	50129
Ottumwa Cemetery	1302 N. Court	Ottumwa	IA	52501
Page Co Conservation Bd	112 E. Main	Clarinda	IA	51632
Palmer, Patrick Q.	114 3rd Ave NE	Hampton	IA	50441
Pederson, Harvey P.	40306 80th Ave.	Thompson	IA	50478
Penick, Connie K.	103 S. Main	Osceola	IA	50213
Pioneer Cem Association	702 Schneider #501	Denver	IA	50622
Poweshiek Co Cem Ass'n	1811 Prince St.	Grinnell	IA	50112
Poweshiek Co Hist Soc	P.O. Box 280	Montezuma	IA	50171
Reese, Fred W.	1860 Emmett Ave.	Bronson	IA	51007
Reynolds, Rebecca		Bonaparte	IA	52620
Richards, Larry & Mary	2201 R Ave.	Jamaica	IA	50128
Richards, Mary	7096 NW Sixth Drive	Ankeny	IA	50021
Riverside Cemetery	59 Riverside Ave.	Charles City	IA	50616
Rope, Ronald	503 Fifth St. Box 177	Yorktown	IA	51656

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Rothlauf, Phyllis	1806 Sunnyside	Burlington	IA	52601
Rowe, Marva J.	905 So. 21st St.	Fort Dodge	IA	50501
Roy, Steven J.	2340 Ashworth Rd.	West Des Moines	IA	50265
Rubin, Harry	3076 220th St.	Clarinda	IA	51632
Sanders, Marian	585 Heather Ave.	Alden	IA	50006
Schermer, Shirley	700 Clinton St.	Iowa City	IA	52242
Schmitt, Marilyn	13059 S. 52nd Ave.W.	Mitchellville	IA	50169
Selby Funeral Chapel	P.O. Box 526	Shenandoah	IA	51601
Sharp, Jeanny	800 S. Main St.	Burlington	IA	52601
Shaw, Patricia I.	RR#1 Box 143-C	Birmingham	IA	52535
Sieck, Ted	P.O. Box 283	Irwin	IA	51446
Sims, Gwendolyn J.	RR #2	Russell	IA	50238
Soenksen, Ann	2503 340th Ave	DeWitt	IA	52742
Sorenson, Richard W.	307 W. Pleasant	Maquoketa	IA	52060
St Historical Society of IA	402 Iowa Ave	Iowa City	IA	52240
State Historical Society	402 Iowa Avenue	Des Moines	IA	52240
Story, Steve & Donna	401 Smith St.	West Union	IA	52175
Street, Keith M. & Connie	325 Franklin St.	Wapello	IA	52653
Swanson, Judith Lomax	1976 295th St.	Oskaloosa	IA	52577
Takai, Sheila R.	2925 Lawn Ave.	Burlington	IA	52601
Tama Co Tracers Gen Soc	200 N. Broadway	Toledo	IA	52342
Terry's Cemetery Repair	P.O. Box 98	Liscomb	IA	50148
Thomas, Elmer E.	812 Union St.	Columbus Junction	IA	52738
Thompson, Jessie W.	1481 130th St.	Creston	IA	50801
Union Co Gen Society	310 N. Maple	Creston	IA	50801
VanBuren Co Gen Society	Box 158	Keosauqua	IA	52565
Veen, Alice	1212 Quinlan Ave.	Woodward	IA	50276
Veldhuizen, Bryce	3261 James Trail	Eddyville	IA	52553
Villisca, City of		Villisca	IA	50864
Voss, Myra	119 N. Main St.	Elkader	IA	52043
Wade, Rosemary	9095 Koestner Ave.	Burlington	IA	52601
Wagner, Diana	110 Oakwood Dr	Newton	IA	50208
Wayne Co Gen Society	110 S. Franklin	Corydon	IA	50060
Weyrick, John	14134 Lynx Rd.	Danville	IA	52623
Wherry, Daryl L.	Box 24	Onslow	IA	52321
Wiese, Joyce A. & Gail	2160 310th St.	Toledo	IA	52342
Wiley, Rick	RR#2 Box 63	Diagonal	IA	50845
Wilson, Maureen D.	9107 Tanglewood Dr.	Urbandale	IA	50322
Woodbury Co Gen Society	P.O. Box 624	Sioux City	IA	51101
Youngquist, Sally	3214 223rd Ave.	Montrose	IA	52639
Zintz, Linda Sue	P.O. Box 384	Centerville	IA	52544

**This is a SAPIC mailing list containing names of members and other interested persons who receive the newsletter.**

# COUNTY REPORTS

## APPANOSE

Submitted by Linda Zintz

From the *AD EXPRESS AND Daily Iowegian*; Centerville, Iowa Story by Dan Ehl, Managing Editor

Just outside the Centerville City Limits in a peaceful setting is the Hebrew Cemetery established in 1919. It is the burial site for more than 50 Jewish families who used to live in the area. Oscar Gavronsky tended the cemetery until his death earlier this year; now his widow, Sarah, says the cemetery is beyond her resources. She has asked the city to take over its care, but since it's just outside the city limits, the mayor contacted the county supervisors. County attorney, Bob Bozwell, is researching the unique problems surrounding this cemetery, including the fact that it is not "devoted to the general public" and doesn't fall under the guidelines of the definition of a pioneer cemetery.

## BLACKHAWK

Submitted by Mike Magee

Mike finished repairing a badly leaning grave marker at Spring Creek Township Cemetery that was about 8 feet tall with a tapered top. Mike tied the stone to his pickup with a nylon strap so it wouldn't fall over and used his usual procedure to straighten it. It came out perfectly level on all sides. He had to use a lot of blocks under the jack because it kept going into the ground until the ground was packed by the jack pressure. Contact Mike for details on his methods (his address is on page 2).

From the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*, Sept. 3, 2000 Story by Tim Jamison

Financial problems at Fairview Cemetery could force the city of Waterloo into the burial business. Fairview officials have asked the city to take ownership of the 150-year-old cemetery because of its dwindling cash resources, caused by inflation of today's dollar. State law requires cities to take over perpetual care cemeteries that become insolvent and allows those cities to impose a special cemetery property tax levy to cover the upkeep. In the case of Fairview, this will be about \$55,000 per year.

## CHICKASAW

Submitted by Carol Bottin

The Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission was officially begun on Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2000, with the approval of the County Supervisors. Members of the Commission are Gerald Tieskotter, chairman; Fred Reisner, treasurer; Carol Bottin, advisor and liaison to the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries; Jeanette Kottke; Priscilla Reisner; Betty Tylee; Mary Ann Crandall, secretary; Ron Maher, vice-chairman. A story and picture of the members appeared in the local newspaper on August 11, 2000.

## FRANKLIN

Submitted by Mike Magee

Two dedicated individuals, Maxine Letzring and Lindy Green, restored the little block storage building at the Old Chapin Cemetery. The society that was formed to care for the cemetery disbanded long ago, but Maxine continues to work on the cemetery that she remembers coming to by horse and buggy to decorate graves.

## FAYETTE

Submitted by Steve Story

The Fayette County Cemetery Commission finished total restoration of George Cemetery in Dover Township during the first week in October. It is a small cemetery. There were no stones that were not damaged or not upright; cattle had been in the cemetery for many years. All four sides were fenced with cattle panels and 7" treated posts 8' long. Divining, probing, and stone restoration were done. A pioneer cemetery sign is now installed in this cemetery and can be seen from the nearest hard surfaced road. This cemetery has been in a field/pasture for many years but is now fenced off. Good cooperation was given from the new landowner and they have a tentative agreement, which will soon be legal, to change the impossible and impassable legal easement (from the highway to the cemetery) to the farmer's driveway and will be a much better easement. The commission will supply one 16-foot gate and the landowner will supply a 16-foot gate for a 32-foot entry for large machinery from his driveway into his field.

Approximately 202-204 stones were completed in the Eden Cemetery in August, 2000. The commission has received help from an inmate from the county jail most of the summer.

From the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*, August 24, 2000 with submitted photo

Steve Story, along with Scott Kelly of Anamosa, were the featured organists at a concert at the Union Presbyterian Church in Clermont. They played a 104 year-old Kimball Pipe Organ and were joined by soloists from West Union and Anamosa. The program highlighted various favorite hymns and popular anthems and a musical tribute to Governor Larrabee's family. Governor Larrabee's wife and oldest daughter, both named Anna, played the great Kimball organ throughout the course of their lives.

*Note: Cemetery preservationists are often talented in many other walks of life!*

## FLOPP

Submitted by Steve Story

From the *Charles City Press*, September 12, 2000 Story by Duane Winn, News Editor

Steve Story, who was a presenter at the Iowa Cemetery Conference held on Sept. 9 in Charles City, was interviewed in Riverside Cemetery following the conference. This article tells of Steve and his wife, Donna, and a hardy band of five volunteers, who devote at least one day a week, weather permitting, to restore a portion of Iowa's neglected heritage -- its pioneer cemeteries. A photo accompanying the story shows Steve sharing his expertise with participants in the statewide cemetery conference.

Several SAPIC members representing county cemetery commissions in Iowa and one from Nebraska attended this well-organized conference. Speakers and presenters included Rob Mills of Legacy Mark; Pat Shaw of SAPIC; Dennis Britson, State Cemetery Regulator; Matt Spading of the First Citizen National Bank; Joyce Henry of the Riverside Cemetery Association; Cal Schultz of Cals Auto & Repair displaying maintenance equipment; Steve Story who demonstrated restoration methods; Dave Bahe, director of maintenance of Riverside Cemetery and Conference Organizer. A reenactment was held Sept. 10.

## JEFFERSON

From the *Fairfield Town Crier*, Aug. 8, 2000      Fairfield Reminiscences by Lillian Thada

The community of Polishville, located twelve miles northeast of Fairfield on the Pleasant Plain Road, sponsors an annual summer bazaar, dinner, bingo, raffle, and dance to celebrate their heritage and fund community activities. The people take great pride in the upkeep of the Polishville Cemetery with part of the money taken in. They have put a vinyl fence around the cemetery in the past year, planted 800 pine trees on the the northwest to be known as Smith Forest, installed a new Holy Family Shrine under the altar in the cemetery, and installed a sign at the southeast corner of the lot.

## JONES

Submitted by LaVerta Langenberg, Steve Story, Meg Doermann, and Pat Shaw  
From the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*, October 12, 2000 and the *Midland Times*

Nick Balichek, who was the chairperson of the project to restore the Cherry Grove Pioneer Cemetery in Jones County in 1998, his mother, Rita, his sister, Courtney, and a friend, Haley Wink are shown repairing stones with epoxy in the Mayflower Cemetery in Oxford Junction. This group has spent several Saturday mornings leveling stones and pouring new bases, assisted by Lynn Balichek and Don Woodley. Funds for the project have been provided by the Mayflower Cemetery Association and OJ Community Betterment. Quite often, sea shells, which were considered a symbol of immortality, were found when digging around the stones. Their reward for their work is knowing that a part of the history of Oxford Township is being preserved for future generations.

From the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*, August 24, 2000      Story by Robert M. George  
"Riverside Cemetery gets a facelift" tells of the discovery of over 100 stones that needed repair or resetting by Anamosa Police Chief, Dick Stivers, and Mr. George. The city of Anamosa hired Terry's Cemetery Restoration and Repair of Liscomb (SAPIC members) to straighten and repair stones. This beautiful cemetery is the burial site of the famous artist, Grant Wood, who was born in Jones County. Many people use the cemetery to walk for exercise. A year ago, Trees Forever planted nearly 30 trees in the cemetery, which contains some interesting and unusual burials and gravestones.

## KEOKUK

Submitted by Pat Shaw

The descendants of persons whose graves are in the Akerman Family plot in Benton Township are seeking volunteers to clear the site of brush, trees, and grass. Landowner, Linda Shultz, who grew up near the site and now lives in Tennessee, is receptive to having the site restored.

## MAHASKA COUNTY

Submitted by Jo Vernooy

We are continuing work on the Centennial Cemetery. The Commission, Iowa Prairie Network, Chris Snyder, Pete Eyheralde and Mike Gipple, an environmental group from Grinnell College and other interested persons, worked on this wonderful cemetery cutting trees and brush and preparing it for burning. Chris and Mike, I believe, then went later and burned the groundcover. That is the great thing about prairie grasses and flowers, the maintenance is just to have a controlled burn. We are excited at the way this cemetery is emerging. The stones are now more visible so that we can compare listings previously made with what we now find.

The Muchakinock Cemetery is still the Eddyville FFA's "baby." They are working on the fence by preparing it in sections which will later be installed. That Cemetery has so few stones visible and we are going to have to make a determination as to how we can clear the underbrush and trees to find those old stones. After the fence is up, we will not be able to do any kind of controlled burn, such as at Centennial, so we are giving that situation a great deal of thought.

The DeLong family members continue to work on the DeLong/Delashmutt Cemetery. How I wish more family members of those buried in Pioneer Cemeteries were alive and well and as eager to "rescue" their cemetery as these DeLong family members are. They are truly dedicated. Alice Veen and her husband, Norm, are great people to work with and Alice certainly keeps things organized with regard to that Cemetery. We are grateful to all of the DeLong family for their love and care with regard to this Cemetery.

Evans Cemetery has been adopted by a Mormon group. They are starting a new church in Oskaloosa and many are Oskaloosa residents; however, it is my understanding that some are college students who are not from this area. I went through all of the mortuary records that I have and compiled a list of burials because so few stones are visible. I was amazed to find three pages of burials in Evans Cemetery. I hope that we can eventually probe for more stones.

The remainder of our Pioneer Cemeteries continue to be cared for by their adoptive groups. We are so thankful for each and every one of them.

We Commission members know that these cemeteries are a "lifetime" commitment, and we approach each of our actions in a way that we feel will benefit generations to come.

We are thankful to SAPIC for their guidance and support. A special thanks goes to those who continue to serve as SAPIC officers and directors.

Jo Vernooy, Chairman of the Mahaska County Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries

## JOHNSON

Submitted by Peggy Jenn

Members of two 4-H Clubs in Johnson County worked together, along with their parents, to restore the Cline Cemetery. The girls presented this for a 4-H project and got Honorable Mention. They plan on getting out there this fall when the soy beans are out to work on it more. Peggy sent several photos for the future SAPIC slide or video presentation. The girls who worked in this cemetery are:

Heather and Courtney Jenn, Golden Rule/Golden Star Club  
Sarah and Kristin Droessler, Golden Rule/Golden Star Club  
Melissa and Hannah Loan, Ramblin Recks & Rosies Club

## LINN

Submitted by Freda Davis and Meg Doermann

From the Cedar Rapids Gazette, July, 2000 Story by Dave Rasdal, Staff Writer

"Cemetery holds Linn pioneering spirit" tells of the Buffalo Township Cemetery on the northwest edge of Cedar Rapids that used to be in a rural area, but is now surrounded by new development. The site contains the graves of ancestors of Tim King, one of whom was a former state legislator responsible for naming Benton County. The cemetery is well-cared for and vandalism is not a problem since it is bordered on three sides by Peck's Nursery, whose owners keep an eye on it. The last known burial was five years ago. To reach this unmarked cemetery, you open two gates on private land and drive down a lightly graveled lane. Once you arrive, like most, it holds historical secrets.

## MITCHELL

Submitted by Eric Dralle

This past spring our class was able to put a split-rail cedar fence in the front of the Old Thompson Cemetery and straighten five stones. Our goals for this fall are to (1) fix some of the leaning posts on the new front fence, (2) continue straightening stones, (3) translate Norwegian inscriptions, (4) weed some of the new prairie areas, and (5) pole for lost stones.

In November, our class will be representing Osage Community School at the Iowa School Board Association Convention in Des Moines. Each school in Iowa is allowed to choose a representative for this convention, and this year Osage chose our cemetery project. We will have a booth with information and students available to visit with. As far as I know, our class is the only class in the state to be the primary record-holding institution for a cemetery. As of right now, I believe our records are more



current than Mitchell County's.

Since we are approaching the point at the Thompson Cemetery where most of our work is routine maintenance, we will be looking to target a new cemetery. Our choice is a cemetery three miles north of the Thompson Cemetery in the town of Mona. Unfortunately, this cemetery sits on private land in the middle of a farm field. Hopefully, the landowner will allow us to do much of the same work as we did in Thompson Cemetery -- we just won't have Mitchell County's help. The Mona Cemetery is older and in poorer shape than the Thompson Cemetery. Most of the stones are down and covered with 3-4 inches of dirt and plant material.

*Note: Eric Dralle teaches history at Osage High School.*

### POWESHIEK

Submitted by Molly Beason

Molly states that they have accomplished a lot in Poweshiek County cemeteries this summer. The new editor of the Monte Republican plans to do an article about their group and its work. Molly has invited SAPIC to have its July meeting in Poweshiek County and is willing to host a meeting every year. *Thanks, Molly!*

### MONONA

Submitted by Larry DuVal

The Monona County Pioneer Cemetery Ordinance was adopted on August 29, 2000, and the county attorney has given his approval to go ahead. Larry is working to get all Monona cemetery records on a computer program and is looking for available programs.

### VA BUREAU

Submitted by Jon Finney and Pat Shaw

Beverly Bethune, archaeology instructor at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, conducted a one-half day workshop in the Oak Shade Cemetery in Keosauqua on Sept. 29, 2000. Ms. Bethune follows the guidelines of the Association for Gravestone Studies. In the afternoon, the participants toured the White Chapel Cemetery in Lick Creek Township that has been restored by Jon Finney, and maintained by his son, Jonathan. Jon sent letters to descendants of those buried there, and received donations from more than seventy donors. The first burial was in 1841 and the last one in 1958. There are 119 known burials, with 57 under the age of 10. Most famous descendant is Tom Arnold. A copy of Jon's letter and other information about White Chapel can be requested from:

Van Buren County Auditor; 406 Dodge St.; Keosauqua, IA 52565

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Oct. 11, 2000 Story by Rusty Ebert

"Headstone donated for Bonaparte character" tells of a Bloomfield man who recently donated a memorial stone for a person depicted in Bonaparte's Cemetery Tour. Jennie Jerome, a colorful character in Bonaparte's past, because of a controversy, had no stone placed on her grave site.

Bonaparte Main Street Inc. and the Bonaparte Cemetery Association established the tour in late spring 1996 as an Iowa Sesquicentennial Event. Since that time, the cemetery tour has won honorable mention in the Loren Horton Community History Award for outstanding contributions to community history through a local history project given by the State Historical Society of Iowa, a second place award in the special category in the Iowa Community Betterment Program and a first place in the best special event partnership category from Main Street Iowa, presented by Gov. Terry Branstad.

Following the death of Jennie Jerome in 1949, a controversy over her estate left everything to her care giver and no stone was ever placed at her grave site. Upon hearing this, Bill Rardin of Bloomfield Monument co. stepped forward and has donated a stone for Jennie Jerome.

"Everyone deserves to have a stone," remarked Rardin.

Bonaparte historian Dorothy Watson researched the information to be carved on the stone. A design was created, footing poured, and on Sept. 28, a stone was finally placed on the grave of Jennie Jerome.

### WAPELLO

Submitted by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Sept. 28, 2000 Story by Duane Nollen

A group of local historical preservationists want to be officially designated a commission in order to receive funding to maintain the graves of about 25 Wapello County pioneer cemeteries. A Pioneer Cemetery Commission was formed in July, but they need official designation from county supervisors in order to levy money for headstone preservation. The group is headed by Beverly Bethune, who says the first project will be to install a new gate and sign box at the Hook Cemetery, north of Ottumwa.

"I think it's worthwhile," board vice chair Rhea Huddlestone said.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Aug. 26, 2000 Story by Judy Krieger

The Ottumwa Community Players' third annual "Lantern Tour into

Ottumwa's Past" portrayed a variety of Ottumwa's illustrious residents from throughout its earlier history. The lives of ten former residents and the story of a statue of a greyhound dog were featured on the tour through the Ottumwa Cemetery. This popular tour is a fund raiser for Ottumwa Community Players, a non-profit organization. Funds will be used for purchasing equipment needed to produce quality productions, such as sound and lighting equipment, set building tools, musical instruments, and more.

From the Ottumwa Courier, August 9, 2000 Letter to the editor

Kim Best writes of the gratitude she feels for consumer advocate, Carolyn Jacoby, who specializes in cemetery problems. Ms. Jacoby, who has assisted Ms. Best and her friends with overcoming difficulties in dealing with cemeteries and burials, can be reached at 1-301-989-3254 or e-mail at [ejustice@bellatlantic.com](mailto:ejustice@bellatlantic.com)

Thanks to SAPIC member Marilyn Finke who was part of a SAPIC presentation at the IGS Conference on Oct. 7. Marilyn, who has been a speaker several times at the conference, gave valuable information to the group about stone composition, preservation, and maintenance. Glenn Pollack of the Iowa Prairie Network showed some great slides that illustrate how the use of native prairie flowers and grasses can be used in pioneer cemeteries as a form of maintenance and to preserve the plant species. Pat Shaw provided information about what to do and who to contact when a neglected cemetery is discovered.

*Know someone who would like to join SAPIC? Pass this form on to them:*

## LEE

Submitted by Pat Shaw

A presentation was made to the Lee County Board of Supervisors on Aug. 22 by Sally Youngquist and others asking the Board to create a pioneer cemetery commission for Lee County. Members of the Board of Supervisors seemed receptive to the idea, but decided to study the matter further. They have asked their secretary to write to the other counties that have commissions and ask them how their commissions are formed, funded, and how they are working. An information booklet containing the goals of a commission, historical background on Lee County cemeteries, and color photos of neglected burial sites was delivered to each supervisor prior to the meeting.

A meeting of the Old Fort Genealogical Society in Fort Madison on October 23 was attended by 20-25 persons interested in Lee County cemeteries. Those in attendance were urged to write letters of support to the editors of local newspapers and to contact the supervisors about the need for a commission to save Lee County's historic burial sites.

Pat Morrison, president of the Old Fort Genealogical Society, is in the process of preparing a booklet that will contain photos and detailed information about all of the county's cemeteries. Pat says there are well over 100 cemeteries in Lee County.