

# GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IA 52535-8045  
Volume #7 Issue #1

www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/  
January, 2002

## No Stone Unturned.....

The Iowa Legislature is now in session. We read and hear much "gloom and doom" about the deficit, about having to cut programs, and about reshuffling and reassigning personnel to deal with vacancies created by budget cuts. Although we should be fiscally prudent, the fact is that the state coffers are not completely depleted. There *is* money, and there *are* ways to creatively finance those projects that elected officials deem priority items.

Cemetery preservation is usually not considered a priority, even in the best of times. Those persons who engage in restoring old cemeteries are usually volunteers, however, and rarely ask for much. If you are such a person, you should not feel intimidated by paid lobbyists or staff members when asking for funding from your county and state officials. Remember, this is still a democracy and elected officials are really public *servants*. It bodes well for them to listen to and address grass roots requests from constituents. Please contact your state legislator and ask them to consider the proposals contained in the draft that has been

submitted by state cemetery regulator, Dennis Britson. It does contain some provisions for reporting neglected cemeteries to county and state officials, for accessing cemeteries, and for establishing a burial fee that would be deposited in a state fund and would eventually provide some financial assistance for restoration purposes. Your public library, local newspaper, or county courthouse can provide you with names and addresses of your representatives. *Write to state House or Senate members at: State Capitol, Des Moines 50319.*

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will meet on April 13, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Room on Main st. in Diagonal, IA in Ringgold County, IA. A meal will be available following the meeting at a cost of approximately \$6.25. Please make reservations with Rick and Sherry Wiley. Address: RR#2, Box 63, Diagonal, IA 50845. Ph 641-464-3230 or E-mail: sherry@ringgoldcountyiowa.com

If you ordered a SAPIC tee shirt at a previous meeting, contact Sherry Wiley (address above) about making arrangements to send payment and having your order sent to you. Or, better yet, pick it up at the next meeting! You can still order a tee shirt or buy a bumper sticker!

**Make plans now for Cemetery Appreciation Month in May!**

**SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

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 21813 170th St.  
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 dodson@pionet.net

Jo Vernoooy, Board of Trustees  
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 641-673-8122 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'. \$18.50 and up

**WHERE TO GET EPOXY**

GRANQUARTZ Stone Tools and Equipment  
 P.O. BOX 2206  
 Tucker, GA 30085-2206  
 1-800-458-6222  
<http://www.granquartz.com>

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

GCT Stone Epoxy and Hardener  
 Granite City Tool Co.  
 PO Box 411 11 Blackwell St.  
 Barre, VT 05641 1-800-451-4570  
[granitecitytoolvt.com](http://granitecitytoolvt.com) mkewinter@aol.com

**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

**VETERANS' HEADSTONES**

See <http://www.cem.va.gov/hm.htm>  
 Or telephone 1-800-687-6947

**STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR**

340 Maple St.; Des Moines, IA 50319  
[Dennis.Britson@comm6.state.ia.us](mailto:Dennis.Britson@comm6.state.ia.us)

The quarterly SAPIC meeting was held at the Royal Forks Buffet in Des Moines. President Pat Shaw called the meeting to order at 10 A.M. Sign-in sheets were then passed for signatures.

Minutes of October 13, 2002 were then read by Secretary Charly Stevens. Minutes stand approved as read.

Treasurer's report was read by Valerie Ogren. Financial report was then discussed showing the 4th quarter status ( October thru December, 2001) and the complete budget per calendar year (Jan 1 thru December 31, 2001). Monies in working account and reserve were then reviewed. Members present discussed writing guidelines how expenditures from those accounts might be used. Motion by Larry Davis to approve the financial report and have it filed for audit, second by Calvin McVay. Motion carried.

Old Business included the camera donation, to be used by SAPIC members for the documentation of existing pioneer cemeteries, also the possibility of loaning out to photography classes, historical societies and genealogy groups. The equivalent of \$100 of film to go with the camera at that time.

New Business included the need for collection of information about the (neglected) and/or pioneer cemeteries for documentation; a reporting system will need to be devised. Members should check with local genealogy groups, historical societies and county recorders to get those stats and forward them to Pat Shaw. Denis Britson is working on legislative issues in reference to our pioneer cemeteries. It was suggested that letters be sent to every county to obtain this information. More on this in the legislative report. Refer to page 7 of October newsletter. Other items to discuss is Cemetery Appreciation Month in May, we need to be planning for a project and publicity, copy of Proclamation will be available in April newsletter. Pat Shaw submitted an invoice for copies of previous issues that had been mailed to IGS. T-shirt sales, they are still available, contact Sherry Wiley at her email address. Valerie Ogren read the profit statement from the sales of the T-shirts. Bumper Stickers are available from Charly Stevens for \$1.50 each or they can be mailed for a bit more, see information on page 11 in October newsletter. Legislative report was given by Pat Shaw, she reviewed the work of the cemetery legislation group. The purpose of that group is to go over the definitions in the draft and an overview of the existing laws as they pertain to pioneer/neglected cemeteries. A 3 year reporting system for cemeteries (neglected, pioneer or otherwise) may be forthcoming, it is in hopes that these forms will be made available and then the County Auditor will be obligated to forward these to Dennis Britson's office for documentation. Friends of Iowa Cemeteries Awards have been presented to 5 persons, fees from the reserve account could perhaps be used towards costs incurred. Robert Carter Award was also mentioned, motion by Calvin McVay to present the Robert Carter award in the local area of the recipient as a first priority (left up to Chairperson Phyllis Carter's discretion) and then recognition of the award at the IGS conference in October, second by Larry Davis. Motion carried. Nominations are now being sought for Robert Carter Award 2002 and they are due July 1. Membership and a data base program were brought forth by Treasurer, Valerie Ogren. SAPIC currently has 6 new memberships.

County reports from Fayette, Green, Lucas and Chicksaw counties were then heard. Calvin McVay mentioned work done in Madison County, Pat Shaw will attempt to contact Madison County Board of Supervisors/County Attorney by letter.

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter - 1 October 2001 thru 31 December 2001

Balance in "Working Account" 1 October 2001, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$3584.03

Income

Dues	245.00
Donations	115.00
T-Shirts	331.00
Interest 10/30/01	3.75
Interest 11/30/01	3.47
Interest 12/31/01	<u>3.72</u>
Total Income	\$701.94

Expense

Ck #121 - Birmingham Postmaster	125.00
Ck #122 - Patricia Shaw - Postage	11.42
Ck #123 - Iowa State University AgEds 315	250.00 (cemetery project)
Ck #124 - Patricia Shaw - Postage (newsletter) 54.40	
Copies 78.32	
Postage 8.06	<u>140.78</u>
Total Expense	\$527.20

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Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2001 \$3758.77

Balance in Reserve Account 1 October 2001, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$1863.39

Income

Julie Eckenrod - Life Membership	100.00
Rosalie Ahrendsen - Life Membership	100.00
Valerie Ogren - Life Membership	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$300.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2001 \$2163.39

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I am keeping an accounting of the amount which had been held in savings and have added Life Memberships and Memorials to it; however, all the money is in one account at the bank.

Combined Balance on Hand 31 December 2001 \$5922.16

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 Jan 01 thru 31 Dec 01

Explanation	Income	Expense	Memorials	Balance
<b>Balance Forward 1 Jan 2001</b>	<b>\$2,724.13</b>		<b>\$1,638.39</b>	<b>4362.52</b>
Dues	\$690.00			
Donation	\$60.00			
Interest	\$23.03			
<b>Total Income Jan - Mar 2001</b>	<b>\$773.03</b>			<b>\$5,135.55</b>
Phyllis Rothlauf - historian's book		\$9.84		
Patricia Shaw -		\$61.99		
<b>Total Expense Jan - Mar 2001</b>		<b>\$71.83</b> ✓		<b>\$5,063.72</b>
Life Memberships & Memorials			\$225.00	
<b>Total Jan - Mar 2001</b>			<b>\$225.00</b>	<b>\$5,288.72</b>
Dues	\$440.00			
Donation	\$5.00			
Interest	\$18.81			
<b>Total Income Apr - Jun 2001</b>	<b>\$463.81</b>			<b>\$5,752.53</b>
Patricia Shaw - newsletter, etc		\$96.79		
<b>Total Expense Apr - Jun 2001</b>		<b>\$96.79</b> ✓		<b>\$5,655.74</b>
Dues	\$230.00			
Donations	\$10.00			
Interest	\$18.31			
<b>Total Income Jul - Sep 2001</b>	<b>\$258.31</b>			<b>\$5,914.05</b>
Patricia Shaw - mileage to DSM		\$54.31		
Patricia Shaw - Newsletter, etc.		\$110.32		
Walter's Signs - T-Shirts		\$302.00		
<b>Total Expense Jul - Sep 2001</b>		<b>\$466.63</b> ✓		<b>5447.42</b>
Dues	\$245.00			
Donations	\$115.00			
T-Shirts	\$331.00			
Interest	\$10.94			
<b>Total Income Oct - Dec 2001</b>	<b>\$701.94</b>			<b>\$6,149.36</b>
Postmaster - non-profit permit		\$125.00		
Patricia Shaw - Postage		\$11.42		
ISU - AgEds 315 - cem. project		\$250.00		
Patricia Shaw		\$140.78		
Postage - newsletter 54.40				
Copies - 78.32				
Postage - 8.06				
<b>Total Expense Oct - Dec 2001</b>		<b>\$527.20</b>		<b>\$5,622.16</b>
Life Memberships & Memorials			\$300.00	
<b>Total Oct - Dec 2001</b>			<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$5,922.16</b>
<b>12 Month Total</b>	<b>\$2,197.09</b>	<b>\$1,162.45</b>	<b>\$525.00</b>	
Balance Forward	\$2,724.13			
Income	\$2,197.09			
Expense	\$1,162.45			
Working Account Balance	\$3,758.77			

Valerie J. Ogren, Treasurer  
 108 North Oak  
 Jefferson IA 50129-1841  
 Ph (515) 386-4784  
 E-mail: <vjogren@netins.net>

BY-LAWS

- I. The name of this organization shall be the STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES.
- II. The goals of this organization shall be:
  - A. To identify all cemeteries in Iowa.
  - B. To take such measures as are necessary, possible, and reasonable to protect these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them from danger, from natural causes and from human encroachment.
  - C. To provide guidance and educational materials for use by the people entrusted with the preservation of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
  - D. To compile and distribute information about the proper maintenance techniques for these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
  - E. To provide advice and information to legislative bodies empowered to pass legislation creating a legal framework for the protection, the preservation, and the maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
  - F. To act as a monitor of the administrative and management personnel of these cemeteries, to ensure that the legal measures for the protection, preservation, and maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them are enforced.
  - G. To develop a system of determining who has the right to clean, repair, re-set, and otherwise work with the monuments in a cemetery.
  - H. To develop a system of determining who has the legal ownership of cemetery plots and monuments.
  - I. To encourage state and county cemetery commissions, work to help form them, and to cooperate with such organizations after they are formed.
- III. This organization shall be a membership organization. Membership is open to persons and organizations interested in the protection, preservation, maintenance, and use of cemeteries and the monuments contained in them. Organizational membership shall be considered one vote each for the purposes of voting in elections.
- IV. The Board of Trustees of this organization shall consist of no less than seven (7) and no more than thirteen (13) members. Officers and members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the general membership at a regularly scheduled meeting held during the fourth quarter of each calendar year. A quorum of the membership shall consist of those members present at the regularly scheduled public meeting, provided that at least ten (10) association members are present at said meeting.

Nominations may be made by a Nominating Committee, and from the floor of the

meeting. Ballot may be by voice, by a show of hands, or by paper ballot. Voting may be for individuals or for a slate of candidates. Election shall be by a plurality vote of the membership present, eligible, and voting.

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

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

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

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

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

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected every two (2) years for a term of two (2) years, and may serve no more than three (3) successive terms.

- VI. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees or on the roster of officers shall be filled by the Board of Trustees, or by a special meeting of the membership called for that purpose. It shall be the decision of the Executive Committee as to which method of filling vacancies shall be used at any given time. Any trustee or officer may be removed and replaced if the Executive Committee, with the concurrence of the full Board of Trustees, deem such trustee or officer incapacitated, or are otherwise unable to fulfill the assigned duties.
- VII. This organization shall hold four (4) general public quarterly meetings of each calendar year, in January, April, July, and October, unless otherwise changed by action of the Board of Trustees. Each meeting will be held on the second Saturday of the month, with the exception of the 4th quarterly meeting, which shall be held in conjunction with the Iowa Genealogical Society Conference. The entire membership shall be notified of the date and place of each meeting at least one (1) month prior to the date of the meeting. This notification shall be by mail. A notification of the meeting placed in the quarterly newsletter is acceptable, and fulfills this qualification.

This organization may hold as many additional general public meetings as seems to fit the goals and needs of the organization. Upon the request of no fewer than

ten (10) members in good standing of the organization for a special meeting, such a special meeting shall be scheduled. Notification of the date and location of such a special meeting shall be by the same procedure as that used for a general meeting. A request for a special meeting must be made in writing.

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

IX. Individual officers and members of the Board of Trustees of this organization shall not be held personally liable for any financial obligations incurred by the organization itself, and they may not be sued individually for the debts of the organization.

Note: These By-Laws were revised by the membership on October 7, 2000, after hearing a reading of the proposed changes at the January, April, and July, 2000 meetings. Revisions may be viewed in the January, 2000 SAPIC newsletter, *Grave News* or by requesting a copy from Pat Shaw.

For aerial photos, try this site:

<http://teraserver.homeadvisor.msn.com/default.asp>

On that site for aerial photos: go to the topographical map first, select your location, then toggle over and select the aerial photo of that area. That makes it much, much easier!

HUMOR: On Genetics.

She's descended from a long line her mother listened to -- Gypsy Rose Lee (1914-1970), famous American stripper.

**BUY A SAPIC BUMPER STICKER AND TEE SHIRT!!**



I have been thinking of the discussion at the meeting about the use of SAPIC's Reserve Account which consists of life memberships and memorial funds. It was suggested we set some policy or guidelines for the use of these funds, and I agree. I have listed a few of my thoughts below.

To me, the term "Reserve Account" means an account set aside for an organization to use for general operation of the organization if funds become short. Some may be concerned that if a "Reserve" account gets too large, the IRS will frown on it. I believe an Association like SAPIC can have a "Reserve" account in the amount of at least one and one half of the annual operating budget or as we call it the "Working Account". Note - this should be verified with a CPA or legal counsel. Therefore, we could have approximately \$5.600 in a reserve account with out legal problems.

Now, our reserve account was probably not set up with my definition in mind. I could see life memberships going into a "Reserve" account and memorial funds going in to a "Memorial" account. Perhaps SAPIC is not large enough yet to talk of these specifics.

Anyway, back to a policy or set of guidelines for the current "Reserve" account. One option is to use the funds to help achieve the first four goals of SAPIC as listed in the by-laws.

- A. to identify all cemeteries in Iowa
- B. to protect those cemeteries from danger
- C. provide guidance & education to those entrusted with cemetery preservation
- D. compile & distribute information on maintenance for cemeteries & monuments.

I feel the goals listed from E through I in the by-laws should be financed through the working account.

Another thought. Maybe it would be nice for us to prepare a simple brochure explaining whatever guidelines we set and title it "Memorials". The brochure could be used by members and families for designating memorials to SAPIC or including an item in their Will. It appears that memorials could be a nice source of income for SAPIC in the next few years.

\* This page contains comments by SAPIC member, Larry Davis. Please make your suggestions to Pat Shaw; 21813 170th St.; Birmingham, IA 52535

HUMOR: Sign in a cemetery (from "Strange Signs Found in England")  
[www.wilk4.com/humor/humorm108.htm](http://www.wilk4.com/humor/humorm108.htm)

*Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves.*

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Members of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries enjoyed the hospitality of the Tama County Genealogical Society on October 13, 2001. Although it was rainy and cold outside, the atmosphere was warm and inviting inside the attractive library meeting room. Special thanks to Joyce Wiese who made the arrangements and provided dozens of her delicious homemade kolaches for our enjoyment. Following the meeting, Joyce escorted us to the restored Tama County Home Cemetery where witching and probing was demonstrated for four students from Iowa State University who attended the meeting. These students have adopted the Bloomington Cemetery in Story County as a class project.

The first SAPIC meeting of 2002 was held at the Royal Fork Buffet in Des Moines. Thanks to Larry Davis for discovering and reserving this meeting place. We enjoyed a bountiful meal following the meeting. IGS Board members happened to be meeting at the same time in the room next door. Arrangements were made to hold the October SAPIC meeting in conjunction with the IGS Conference in Marshalltown.

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!**

If you have questions about the National Register of Historic Places program in Iowa, call Elizabeth Foster, Community Programs Bureau, State Historical Society of Iowa: 515-281-4137.

### Source for stone rubbing supplies:

The Memorabilia Corner  
Genealogical, Historical & Archival Supplies  
1312 McKinley Avenue  
Norman OK 73072-6535  
405-321-8366  
FAX 405-321-3444  
TMCorner@aol.com  
<http://members.aol.com/tmsorner/index.html>

### This book may be of interest to SAPIC members:

"Using maps and aerial photography in your genealogical research: with supplement on foreign aerial photography" by Marilyn Lind  
\*\*\*\*\*

Margaret Crain Ballinger of El Cajon, CA, one of SAPIC's lifetime members, wonders if anyone might have a picture of her grandfather, Francis Marion Crain, who was a Civil War Veteran from Mahaska County. Margaret had one of those unexplained "genealogical moments" when she ran into the grandson of one of her grandfather's friends using the same copy machine as she! Her ancestors' graves are in the Crain Cemetery in Mahaska County, IA.  
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From the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*, November 29, 2001: "What's growing on the side of my tree?" by Paula Flynn, Extension plant pathologist, Iowa State University. Paula gives an in-depth account of the nature, growth patterns, uses of, and ways to remove lichens that grow on almost any stable and sunny surface, including gravestones. She states that when moistened, they become somewhat rubbery and can be removed. The colorful lichens that can be found tightly clutching rocks or tombstones are called crustose lichens. Some are an attention-getting bright orange or yellow. Because lichens are extremely sensitive to air pollution, their absence can be used as a measure of how much an area is polluted (or an indication of the efforts of a zealous cemetery restorer!) If you're curious about lichens and want to learn more, a good place to start is with the American Bryological and Lichenological Society at:  
[www.unomaha.edu/~abls/index.html](http://www.unomaha.edu/~abls/index.html).

From Loren Toomsen, IAGenWeb, on the chat room held on January 22, 2002:

Our thank you to Pat Shaw of SAPIC for an excellent IAGenWeb Chat meeting this evening. You may read the full transcript of tonight's meeting at:  
<http://iagenweb.org/chatroom/2002jan22.htm>

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<http://www.uni.edu/connors/>">Greenwood Cemetery Home Page</A>

CHECK THIS OUT, GOOD SITE HAS VETERAN INFO.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cs&GRid=3122&>"

MIKE MAGEE

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From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Feb. 4, 2001: "Historian discusses 150 years of rural life -- 'Barn Again!' takes a historic perspective," by Emily Gaumer. Pictured is SAPIC lifetime member, Loren Horton, speaking about Iowa culture at Hefner Hall at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa. The Barn Again series, sponsored by the Ottumwa Arts Council, Humanities Iowa and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Educational Series, is a preservation effort aimed at saving some of the midwest's unique barns. Horton's slide presentation described not only the changes and issues with regard to barns, but experiences with regard to all aspects of rural life.

In a related article in the same newspaper, Keith Norris of Hedrick and Darwin quick of rural Ottumwa are pictured during the Farmer's Coffee that was held on Feb. 2 to share

stories about barns as part of the Ottumwa Arts Council's "Barn Again!" series.

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**From *Annals of Iowa*, Vol VIII, page 61: "Genealogy in the Cemeteries," by Col. G. W. Crosley. The article deals mainly with the Graceland Cemetery at Webster City. The writer expounds on the extensive records that are kept by the city of the names and locations all persons buried there along with a complete record of the service records of all soldiers. Records were compiled in a year-long endeavor by Levi Cottingham, an old soldier. Also mentioned is a large plot of ground set apart for Memorial Day activities. The article ends with the following comment: "Such a record will prove of value to collectors of genealogical facts and compilers of local history, necrology and biography, and to throw light on the general history of the town, county and State. It also appeals to the best and holiest sentiment of the human heart in keeping the dead in memory and is evidence of a high state of civilization in the community."**

**Submitted by Mike Magee**

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Some words from Joe Patterson:

"I know that there are pros and cons about just about any substance one could apply to a stone to make it more readable, except water and light. In most cases, water and properly directed light will do the trick quite nicely. With that in mind, here is what I think is a compelling argument not to use any other substances:

The old stones that we are attempting to read do not belong to us. They belong to the diverse descendants of the deceased, and they belong to history. We, as individuals, do not have the right to make decisions that could affect the longevity of the stone, however remote the likelihood of damage. For me, the only reasonable course is to leave stones exactly the way we find them, much as we are asked to do by park rangers with respect to wilderness areas. It is much a matter of respect as it is anything else.

< joepat@pacifier.com >

\*\*\*\*\*

Allen E. Crepeau

Gravestone Repair Cte.  
Oxford Congregational Church  
Oxford, CT

Following are the details we use for repairing broken gravestones.

#### Materials

#### Adhesive

#### GCT Stone Epoxy and Hardener

Granite City Tool Co.

P.O Box 411

11 Blackwell St.

Barre, VT 05641

Phone: 1-800-451-4570

Web: [granitecitytoolvt.com](http://granitecitytoolvt.com) ✓

E-mail: [mkewinter@aol.com](mailto:mkewinter@aol.com)

#### Pigments (if used)

Oil base artist pigments only. Water base acrylic pigments are not compatible with the adhesive and should never be used.

Dry Texture Additive. We use Adelphi Dry Texture Additive, a very fine clean sand sold in paint stores for addition to paint for textured ceilings.

#### Tools

Two 4" putty knives for mixing.

Separate spoons or small putty knives for removing epoxy and hardener from containers.

Flat impervious mixing surface at least 12"x12". Heavy glass is excellent but care is necessary to prevent breakage. We use an 18"x18" piece of counter top with a Formica type surface.

Wooden frame (made from 2"x4"s, 18" to 24" long). Two pieces joined together as an L and two loose pieces.

Large C-Clamps (2 or more).

Pipe clamp longer than the width of the stone.

Polyethylene sheet to place between the adhesive and the frame.

Portable power sander.

## Procedure

### Stone Preparation

Thoroughly clean the surfaces to be mated. If feasible it is a good idea to clean the entire stone prior to repair.

Remove all previously applied adhesive including Portland cement, mortar, Polyester (Akemi), etc.

Using a wire brush to clean the mating surfaces is advisable and will assure excellent adhesion. The roughened surface will be sealed by the adhesive.

Final washing with warm water and detergent with thorough rinsing with clean water to remove all detergent.

Allow stone to completely dry prior to applying adhesive.

Ambient temperature should be at least 75oF before proceeding further. Proceed only when at least 2 days of dry weather is assured.

Have the stone pieces and the frame and clamps handy at the repair site prior to mixing the adhesive.

## Mixing Adhesive

Prevent contamination of epoxy and hardener by using separate tools for removing the material from the containers.

The manufacturer's directions on the adhesive container specify a 2:1 ratio by volume of Resin:Hardener but only enough hardener for a 4 to 5:1 ratio is shipped so if GCT's recommendations are used additional hardener must be ordered. Since the system is designed to use the higher resin ratio that is what we use. The 4 to 5:1 ratio also provides a longer working life, most likely a more flexible (less brittle) cured adhesive and requires a slightly longer cure time.

Measure, eyeballing is OK, the resin, hardener and pigments (if used) onto the mixing board.

### Pigments

are generally not used until the finishing operation except in the repair of brownstone or other colored stones. The translucent light grey color of the adhesive without adding pigment is usually satisfactory for most weathered white or light grey stones. While the oil in the pigment will cure with the resin only a minimum amount sufficient

to closely approximate the desired color should be used. The color should not be matched to the clean broken edge but to the stone surface since the latter will invariably have been darkened by age and weathering.

Work the materials together thoroughly on the flat surface using the wide putty knives.

### Overmixing will

not harm the material but undermixing can result in a poor repair. The long working life assures plenty of time for complete mixing.

## Effecting the Repair

Apply mixed adhesive to completely cover both surfaces to be mated with a thin coating.

Carefully place the coated surfaces together lining up the edges and surfaces and hold in place while another person puts the frame in place.

Place a polyethylene sheet over the adhesive at and near the edges wherever the adhesive will be in contact with the frame.

Hold the frames to the edges with the long side of the L to the back of the stone and pull  
together with the  
pipe clamp to align the vertical edges. Rather than leaving the pipe clamp on the frame during the  
curing period  
we usually tie the frames together with 2x4s screwed to both the front and back of the L piece  
and then remove the  
pipe clamp.

Place the loose piece of the frame on the stone front vertically next to the edge of the L and  
pull front to  
back with the C-clamps to maintain alignment of the stone surfaces. Be sure the polyethylene is  
between the  
adhesive and all wood frame surfaces.

Remove excess adhesive where it has squeezed out. This excess along with additional mixed  
adhesive can  
be worked into the repair wherever there may be voids. This is not too important at this stage  
since voids will be  
addressed during the finishing operation.

Allow to cure a minimum of 24 hours, 48 is preferable.

Test the epoxy adhesive to assure that it is cured before removing the frame.

## Finishing

Remove the frame and inspect for voids along the repair.

Remove excess cured adhesive and smooth the surface using a portable power sander.

Mix sufficient epoxy adhesive to fill all voids and completely seal along the repaired area.  
adding a small  
amount of the Texture Additive and color matching with pigment to improve the final stone  
appearance if desired.

Fill all voids and apply a thin coating of the mix over the entire repair. If there are large  
voids to be filled  
it may be necessary to cover the fill with a small piece of polyethylene to hold the epoxy mix in  
place until cured.

Allow to cure, 24 hrs or as long as necessary.

# COUNTY REPORTS

## BENTON

**Contributed by Gene & Frieda Davis and Mike Magee**

In a letter dated Nov. 15, 2001, Frieda mentions that on October 12, Gene met with the Benton County Supervisors. He was most grateful for the assistance of Joyce Wiese from Tama County who also attended and spoke on his behalf. Gene and Frieda have sent out letters to all the clerks of township trustees asking them to bring information on the age and condition of each of their assigned cemeteries. They met with the trustees on Dec. 5 at the Keystone Library. An article about the Davis's work appeared in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* and brought some unexpected benefits. Gene renewed friendships with some responders whom he had not thought about in years. (Joyce Wiese is a lifetime SAPIC member who has accomplished a great deal in preserving the cemeteries in Tama County.)

From the *Vinton Times*, October 17, 2001: "Pioneer cemeteries need work" by Steve Meyer. The Benton County Supervisors recognized the efforts of Benton County residents Gene Davis and Al Schwartz at an Oct. 12 meeting. Davis reported that there are 71 cemeteries in Benton County, many of which are pioneer. The Supervisors gave a directive to Davis that he come back before them with an assessment of what needs to be done in Benton County as well as a list of individuals willing to serve on a possible pioneer cemetery commission.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, October 17, 2001: "Council asked to support restoration." Advocates of restoring Benton County's pioneer cemeteries asked the Board of Supervisors to support their efforts.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* METRO, October 31, 2001: "Couple dig in for repairs" by Suzanne Barnes. Pictured is Gene Davis repairing a headstone and an inset of Gene and Frieda Davis. The volunteer work, education, and pastimes of this very active retired couple are mentioned in the article. Gene became intrigued with cemetery restoration after seeing Paul Maddy on Iowa Public Television talking about the subject. SAPIC member Mike Magee visited Gene and Frieda and worked with them in restoring 84 stones in the Big Grove Cemetery southwest of Vinton. The couple say they work in cemeteries out of respect for the dead and also to preserve history. "Some of these markers are the only thing honoring a person -- our forefathers that did so much for us," says Frieda.

From the *Semi-Weekly Falls Gazette*, Cedar falls, Iowa, December 31, 1895: "Vinton Body Snatchers, Wesley G. Cummings Makes a Sworn Statement Concerning the Vinton Grave Robbery." This article includes a sworn statement telling of the "taking up" of the body of Mrs. Amanda Duncan (John) Hannah in the Maplewood cemetery twenty-five years earlier by six Vinton residents. The body was placed in the cellar of the drug store of a Dr. Carpenter. The article does not state why this was done. A suit for \$50,000 in damages was brought by relatives.

## BLACKHAWK

**Contributed by Mike Magee**

An interpretive cemetery walk, "Strolling with the Spirits," sponsored by the Grout Museum of History & Science was held at the Waterloo Cemetery on October 19 & 20, 2001. Eight persons of historical significance to the area were portrayed by Blackhawk County residents. The symbolism of the images engraved and carved on the tombstones was also explained.

*SAPIC member, Mike Magee, visited the historic St. Augustine National Cemetery in Florida during the month of November. It is the oldest documented National Cemetery in the United States.*



## BLACKHAWK, continued

From the *Cedar Falls Gazette Semi Weekly*, May 28, 1897: Text of the article asks that all who have friends buried in the Knapp cemetery near the Curlis Ford farm, are requested to meet at the home of Geo. Tuthill, Sr. to form an association for the purpose of keeping the cemetery in proper shape.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 23, 1899: "New Cemetery Association. Syndicate Buys Red Cross Farm and will plat it into cemetery lots." Backed by capital to assure success, a syndicate of bona fide residents of East Waterloo embarked on the creation of a new cemetery touted to be "no finer in the state of Iowa."

## CHICKASAW

### Contributed by Steve Story

In a letter and report dated January 2, 2002 to the Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission, Steve gives details about the divining that he did in the Stapleton Pioneer Cemetery on New Year's Day at the request of commission members. Steve also compliments the commission on the great job of restoration that has been done, including a newly painted fence. Iowa's unusually mild weather has allowed cemetery workers to visit cemeteries during late fall and even into winter this year.

## DELAWARE

### Contributed by Meg Doermann

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, November, 2001: "Manchester cemetery vandals plead guilty -- Juveniles get probation, community service for breaking tombstones," by Orian Love. Three children, ages 11 and 12, told the court how an accidental toppling of a gravestone set off a spree that led to the deliberate leveling and breaking of 83 more resulting in damage in excess of \$10,000. The children had to write letters of apology, will perform community service, and will participate in a victim-offender mediation program. If they comply with all terms of the consent decree, the charges related to the vandalism will be removed from their records.

## LOUISA

### Contributed by Dean Gipple

Dean reviews past news articles that document his methods of using the news media to achieve his goals. He also emphasizes that we should first try and work with township trustees and county supervisors. Dean has an excellent relationship with the Louisa County Supervisors and has met with them to request funds for next year. Dean continues to do woodworking projects when his health permits.

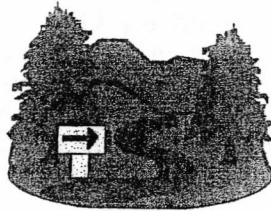
From *The Columbus Gazette*, May 10, 1990: "Restoration thwarted by misguided concern." A letter to the editor from Olin and Norma Jennings of Columbus Junction expresses their concern for their ancestors' graves in the Spring Run Cemetery. Mentioned are the apparent conflicts between cemetery preservationists and the Louisa County Conservation Commission. The Jennings commend Dean Gipple for his efforts to restore the site.

From the same newspaper: "Gipple seeks support," by Dean Gipple. Dean outlines the work that has been accomplished, including making wood forms for bases, cutting trees, and securing easement to the Spring Run Cemetery. He urges the general public to support his efforts by signing a petition that returns control of the cemetery to the church that originally created the cemetery. A copy of the petition was also in the paper. Dean states that he had a total of 23 articles in various newspapers in the area.

## FRANKLIN

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Fall Courier*, January 4, 2002: "Cemetery on the Web," reprinted from the *Hampton Chronicle*: SAPIC lifetime member, Pat Palmer, is helping to keep the story of one of Franklin County's first settlements, the old town of Maysville, alive through a new web site: [www.maysvilleiowa.com](http://www.maysvilleiowa.com) Palmer's work on bringing the cemetery back to life has allowed him to assemble a vast amount of knowledge about the site. As Palmer restored grave markers, he picked up obituaries from the library and as a result, Maysville's story has unfolded.



"Such hearts--ah me, how many!--were stilled twenty years ago; and to us who remain behind is left this day of memories. Every year--in the full tide of spring, at the height of the symphony of flowers and love and life--there comes a pause, and through the silence we hear the lonely pipe of death. Year after year lovers wandering under the apple trees and through the clover and deep grass are surprised with sudden tears as they see black veiled figures stealing through the morning to a soldier's grave. Year after year the comrades of the dead follow, with public honor, procession, and commemorative flags, and funeral march--honor and grief from us who stand almost alone and have seen the best and noblest of our generation pass away.

"But grief is not the end of all. I seem to hear the funeral march become a paeon. I see beyond the forest the moving banners of a

hidden column. Our dead brothers still live for us and bid us think of life, not death--of life to which in their youth they lent the passion and joy of the spring. As I listen, the great chorus of life and joy begins again, and amid the awful orchestra of seen and unseen powers and destinies of good and evil, our trumpets sound once more a note of daring, hope, and will."

---Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., 1841-1935  
Memorial Day Address, 30 May 1884, Keene, NH

Full text of this address is available online at:  
<http://www.people.virginia.edu/~mmd5f/memorial.htm>

## JONES

**Submitted by LaVerta Langenberg and Pat Shaw**

From the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*, November 29, 2001: "Jones County Pioneer cemeteries restored this summer." Four pictures showing the condition of the Taylorville Cemetery before restoration work began early this summer and cemetery workers, Milt Luckstead, Steve Story, Jeff Whitney, Donna Story, and Ron Ruess working in the Taylorville, Hazel Green, and Piper-Kohl cemeteries accompany the nearly half-page article. The Jones County Pioneer Commission restored four pioneer cemeteries during the summer of 2001 -- Hazel Green, Spear-Graft, Taylorville, and Piper-Kohl. Other volunteers mentioned are Jim Christianson, Daryl Wherry, Claudia Whitney, Lou and LaVerta Langenberg and members of the Olin, Anamosa, and Cascade FFA's, and area 4-H clubs. Next spring the commission members will tackle the badly neglected Ristine Cemetery, located east of Anamosa.

From the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*, January 10, 2002: "SAPIC meeting Saturday in Des Moines." Agenda items mentioned in the article included the determining of a method of obtaining information from county auditors, and genealogical and historical societies on the number of cemetery visitors and projects for Cemetery Appreciation Month in May. Reports on various SAPIC committees will be given.

From the same newspaper: "Jones County native to present archaeological lecture at Marion Library." Douglas Jones, a Jones county native who is one of the archaeologists on staff at the State Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines, presented a lecture titled, "A Fish Story from Iowa: New Considerations of Prehistoric Fishing Practices in the Eastern Prairie Plains" on January 19 at the Marion Public Library.

## MADISON

**Contributed by Jessie Thompson, LaVerta Langenberg, Phyllis Rothlauf, and Calvin & Ethel McVay**

From the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, December 23, 2001: "Critics fail to sway grave witcher," by John Carlson. A nearly half-page article with a large color picture showing SAPIC member Calvin McVay demonstrating grave witching or dowsing is featured in the Metro & Iowa section of the newspaper. Carlson writes about believers who use the method to locate graves and scientists who call the practice "bunk." Calvin is quoted as saying, "I'm not making these wires move. People come out and see it, they're convinced." It sounds as if Mr. Carlson was convinced, also! At the January 12 SAPIC meeting, Calvin recounted his experience with the reporter, who discovered Calvin witching next to the barn at the old Madison County poor farm. Madison County Supervisors are considering selling the ground, but Calvin has implored them to investigate the possibility that the land contains as many as 271 human graves. It may be an old military burial ground, established before Iowa became a state. Calvin took the reporter to the Primitive Baptist Church cemetery and taught him how to witch over marked graves. It was an impressive demonstration. Calvin has received supportive responses from readers, as a result of the publicity.

From the *Afton Star Enterprise*, December 20, 2001: "Award for E. McVay." Pictured are Jessie Thompson of Creston making a presentation to a very surprised Ethel McVay for her work with her husband Calvin on pioneer cemeteries. Ethel received the "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" certificate at a joint meeting of the Union and Madison Counties Genealogical Societies.

## MADISON, continued

From the *Creston News Advertiser*, December 20, 2001: Pictured are Jessie Thompson and Ethel McVay. Jessie presented Ethel with a "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" certificate on Dec. 2. In September Calvin McVay was honored for his years of effort in preserving and restoring cemeteries. Ethel McVay was an equal partner with Calvin in working in cemeteries in both Union and Madison Counties as well as several other locations. Jessie commented, "I'm so glad Ethel received this award because I feel she really deserved it."

From the *Madisonian*, December 12, 2001: "Ethel McVay honored for cemetery restoration work." Pictured are Ethel and Jessie Thompson with Ethel's certificate. Ethel has spent many hours calling and writing letters to legislators regarding issues pertaining to cemeteries, as well as serving as secretary to several organizations concerning this work.

From the *Madisonian*, December 12, 2001: "About 350 people may be buried near former county home -- Some suspect an old Army cemetery," by Brenda Fullick. A group of concerned citizens met with the Madison County Supervisors in early December to share what they've been learning through researching historical books, county records and old copies of the *Winterset Madisonian*. They've also pieced together stories from people who grew up near the former poor farm. Burial practices for the "feeble-minded" who often lived on the county poor farms were discussed in the article. Some local historians believe that the 271 graves detected at the site by dowsner Calvin McVay may have been from the army, which came to Madison County and drove away the Indians before white settlers arrived, because of the graves' almost perfect straight lines. Madison County preservationists would like to see the site fenced and some sort of historical marker established. County Supervisors have indicated they want to do something respectful, if it is a cemetery. The county attorney has advised that the supervisors follow the recommendations of the state archaeologist. Calvin was instrumental in preserving the Union County Home burial ground a few years ago that was being used to pasture cattle. That site is now fenced with wildflowers and a marker.

*Note: If you'd like to support Calvin and other preservationists in Madison County in their efforts to save this historical site, write a letter to: The Madison County Supervisors; Courthouse; 112 N. 1st St.; Winterset, IA 50273. Ph 515-462-3225.*

## MAHASKA

Contributed by Jo Vernooy and Patrick Powers

Jo says, "I am enclosing a letter from Pat Powers and requesting that in lieu of the Mahaska County report for the Newsletter, that you run this letter. It provides some great insights, and I want others to see the tenacity and devotion this individual (Pat) shows to his young people, and to the Muchakinock Pioneer Cemetery."

SAPIC is pleased to include the letter as it was submitted to Jo Vernooy, chairperson of the Mahaska County Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries (Preserving the Past for Future Generations).

1-2-02

## Muchakinock Cemetery Update

After making various contacts the Agri-Power FFA developed an agreement to help restore the Muchakinock Cemetery in 1999 with the Mahaska county commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries. Jo Vernooy and Judy Swanson were my original contacts. John Jacobs showed me the site initially in the fall of 1999.

Our first time working in the fall of 99 brought a sense of awe to the students. Almost all of the students knew nothing of this piece of history, which is nestled approximately 4 ½ miles north of Eddyville and ¼ mile west of the existing Highway 63. Students worked primarily on removing fallen trees and old fence that had been neglected.

The spring of 2000 brought new ideas to the forefront. The students wanted to build a fence of the site, but we needed an idea because no electricity was at the site. Our idea would take shape later in the fall. We were primarily able to start finding stones and put pieces back together. A tedious task indeed, as students had to match certain stones that may have been cracked or broken off of existing stones. Brush cutters were brought in and used with chemical spray to reduce the under brush that would develop later.

At this time, other departments within the school started to become interested in what was happening and how could they become involved. The advanced composition classes under the direction of Rodd Mooney persuaded me to allow them to come to the site and gain some information and experience the aura the area. Mooney's class gathered information from the funerals records that were provided to me by the cemetery committee. Students then created stories of these people as if they were actually writing a bibliography of this person's life.

The fall of 2000 led Patricia Shaw to this area. Mrs. Shaw had a keen interest in this project for a couple a reasons. First of all, she is a native to the Eddyville area. Patricia Jones graduated from Eddyville High School herself in the 60's. The real reason belonged in the fact that she herself loves to restore old cemeteries as well. Mrs. Shaw was able to give her expertise to the students better than I could. Mixing and placing the epoxy among the cracks of the stones was a forte' of Mrs. Shaw. She was also fluent in her use of the "witching" wires. The wires were used to help locate where the soil had been disturb, which would possible lead to the discovery of a fallen tombstone. Many students were skeptical of the method that was used. To make them believers, she would place in their hand the wires and then told them what to do. They were amazed to say the least, when those wires would cross over and the back to the original setting. I myself had never tried this method and was willing to do it. It was a tremendous feeling watching the wires move without you moving them. The hard part then was to locate the stone from the wire reading. Not too much success come from this method. The main

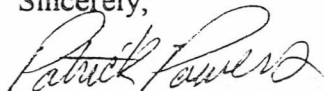
method of success for finding fallen stones was the use of a steel rod with a handle on it. The rod is approximately 2 ½ feet in length and about as thick as your little finger. Several stones were cleaned and up righted this particular time. We were also able to bring in a picket fence onto the property. The fence was built in the school and transported to the site via trucks and trailers. As of this time we have over 100 feet of fence in place.

The winter of 2000-01 was a strange time in the saga of our restoration process. The property had been in the possession of an individual who was very generous in letting us go through his land to gain access to the obscured area. As a retired farmer he was ready to sell this ground and move into town. The new owners were not as hospitable not told me in no uncertain terms that we were not welcome on his property and that he would call the Sheriff's office if we trespassed on his land again. I was very depressed after this call was received and actually took in personally that he didn't want young kids doing community service work. He indicated to me that the right of way to the cemetery did exist and that I needed to use it. We were extremely fortunate that his neighbor, Porky DenHartog, did allow us access to the cemetery via his property. I was still apprehensive of the new owners and actually called off the spring workday in 2001 because of his negativity.

The fall of 2001 had many students wanting to know if we were going back out to the site. This made me extremely proud, as it showed that the students wanted to do community service, they wanted to make a difference. And possible, they wanted to get out of school for a while. The fall of 2001 saw us to continue cutting trees and picking up fallen limbs. Finding new stones buried is proving to be a extremely difficult task.

I want to say that we have made some progress in our project. Continuing the picket fence is something I want to maintain. The group has created several large piles of wood. I am extremely worried about burning these piles for two reasons. Lack of access for fire trucks if they get out of hand. Along with the possible property damage that could result with the inhospitable landowner. The students are proud of the accomplishments we have made. Cleaning the underbrush, building a picket fence, finding new tombstones will remain our focus of this historic area.

Sincerely,



Patrick Powers, FFA Advisor- Agri-Power FFA Chapter Eddyville, Iowa

From the *Oskaloosa Daily Herald*, June 5, 1909: "Several Fine Monuments." *What Cheer Patriot*. Chas. McCall. of the McCall Granite works of Oskaloosa, was in to see us Saturday while in town. Mr. McCall has recently placed fine granite monuments at the graves of the wives of Ely C. Price and Samuel Trevenen; also Antonia Schoey and Frank Dutemple lots at the McFarland Cemetery.

-- From the collection of John Jacobs, Rose Hill, Iowa

## MONROE

Submitted by Pat Shaw and Gwen Sims

On January 4, 2001, TV station KTVO-TV located in Ottumwa, Iowa and Kirksville, Missouri featured the activities of the recently created pioneer cemetery commission in Monroe County. Two members of the commission appeared in the segment and told of their plans to restore pioneer cemeteries in their county. A neglected cemetery was shown to emphasize the need for the formation of the commission.

From the *Albia Union-Republican*, January 3, 2002: "Pioneer Cemetery Commission takes shape -- Group to be established by supervisors, will work to repair and preserve old cemeteries in county." The Monroe County Pioneer Commission took another set towards becoming a reality when county supervisors began the process of passing an ordinance to officially establish the commission. Along with information about pioneer cemeteries and goals of commission members, a list of known pioneer cemeteries in Monroe County was listed in the article. "Right now, we're still in the discovery phase," said commission member Carol Gillaspie. The commission is working with the county supervisors to establish a budget and is recruiting volunteers.

From the *Albia Union-Republican*, January 8, 2002: A copy of the proposed ordinance establishing a cemetery commission was printed. The ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect after its passage and publication as required by law.

*Note: This is indeed great news! Congratulations to the commission members and to those individuals, including Jo Vernooy of Mahaska County, who assisted them in presenting this proposal and also to the Monroe County Supervisors for being receptive to the idea.*

## POLK

From the *Des Moines Register*, October 28, 2001: Letter to the Editor, "Monuments restored in D.M. cemetery." Mr. Gerald LaBlanc of Altoona responds to a letter dated Oct. 14 that criticized the condition of Des Moines' Glendale Cemetery. Mr. LaBlanc points out that restorations have occurred that include replacing rusty flagpoles, restoring historic plaques, and steam cleaning markers of veterans of World Wars and the Spanish-American War. These activities are all financed by private donations from a fund set up by Des Moines a number of years ago. The extent of restorations is limited by the availability of funds.

## TAMA

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo Courier*, November 19, 2001: "Teacher wills largest gift ever to Dysart -- Former resident's gift to town expected to be near \$1.7 million," by Steve Meyer. Pictured is retired teacher, Norma Anders, whose philosophy was that "people should help out their community." After she died in July at age 77, officials learned that she left her entire estate, including two farms, for various community groups and schools. The Oneida Township Cemetery Association received \$40,000 from Ms. Anders' estate.

## VAN BUREN

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Van Buren County Register*, November 15, 2001:

"Blackledge Cemetery Gravestone Restoration Day," by Don Aldrich. Pictured are cemetery workers Clarence and Shirley Janeba, Gene and Delores Wollam, Zeta Shannan, Shirley Aldrich, Joe Shannan and Dorothy Calhoun. Don Aldrich of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society also participated in the November 3 workday. The cemetery is located about two miles east of Mt. Sterling near the Missouri border. Although the cemetery is well kept, more than a dozen stones were toppled, leaning, or broken, and had visible effects of lichens attached to the surfaces. Brush cutting and removal, along with stone repair, was done in a few hours. Don states in his article: "The Van Buren County Genealogical Society wishes to thank the named individuals for their desires to do gravestone restoration. In all probability, someone along the paths of their ancestors, have accomplished the identical process on their family burial sites."

From the *Van Buren County Register*, December 6, 2001:

"Holsworth cemetery work day," by Don Aldrich. Pictured are Warren Beatty, Bob Roush, Myrtle Strait, Wayne Strait, Tom Gould, Shirley Aldrich, Dorothy Calhoun, Julie Sisco and Pat Shaw, halfway through work day at Holsworth Cemetery on November 15. Holsworth Cemetery, located in Harrisburg township, no longer has a road and must be accessed through private lots and fields. Descendants who wish to visit the site must be escorted to the area. More than seventy stones are recorded and many are still standing. Unfortunately, some wooden markers were destroyed in a fire a few years ago. The area was heavily overgrown with brush, brambles, multiflora rose, and saplings. Don stated that one could stand just outside the grounds within five paces of a standing gravestone and be unable to see that an entire cemetery lay that close! It was the most neglected cemetery the group has worked in so far. Due to unseasonably mild weather, Don and Shirley Aldrich, Warren Beatty, Dorothy Calhoun, and Mike Cross from Ft. Madison were able to spend November 13 clearing a pile of brush measuring 7 feet high and 30 feet in length. It took 15 minutes to clear a path to the fence! On November 15, another workday was scheduled. Over 50% of the area was cleared at the end of that day. Don asks for volunteers in the article and states, "Someday, it is you who will be on the inside, looking out!"

From the *Van Buren County Register*, December 20, 2001: "Holsworth Cemetery Restoration Project," by Don Aldrich. Pictured are Wayne Strait, Pat Shaw, Shirley Aldrich, Tom Gould, and John Hamstreet during a December 10 workday at Holsworth. Don Aldrich, the photographer, also participated. A



VAN BUREN, continued

northerly wind had picked up a portion of the brush that had been piled over the fence on a previous workday, so the mound of brush was repositioned and stabilized. With 3 chain saws, the final clearing of Holsworth was completed and the brush was placed into a field to the north. Over 125 hours of volunteer work have been spent at this site. After treating the sapling stumps and picking up debris, broken and leaning gravestones will get needed attention next spring. Don was heartened by receiving a phone call from a township resident wishing to be notified when the next restoration day is scheduled. Don ended this article with the following observation: "One saves a lot of money by a day at Holsworth rather than a day at the 'boat'."

From the *Van Buren County Register*, December 20, 2001: "Van Buren Supervisors Make Decisions." The board met with a group of landowners and the county engineer regarding the closing of a road leading to the Jones Cemetery. After much discussion, it was agreed that the group should meet with township officials and representatives of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society regarding access to the cemetery, before proceeding further.

LUCAS

Contributed by Gwen Sims

At the SAPIC meeting on January 12, 2002 in Des Moines, Gwen presented SAPIC with a notebook containing a detailed list of Lucas County cemeteries along with news articles about the activities of Lucas County cemetery workers, minutes of meetings, and many photographs of cemeteries. This is appreciated so much. SAPIC is acquiring more additions to its library and thus reaching the goal of identifying all cemeteries in the State of Iowa, as outlined in the SAPIC by-laws. Thanks, Gwen!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Mail to SAPIC, c/o Valerie Ogren, Treasurer; 108 N. Oak; Jefferson, IA 50129

From outside Iowa.....

From the *Champaign News-Gazette*: "Prairie takes root in pioneer graveyard," by Mike Monson. Penfield, IL. The article reports that native prairie plants have survived in the one-acre Tomlinson Cemetery in Champaign county, IL. As a result of the efforts of Elisabeth Hanson, the site was declared an Illinois Nature Preserve in the 1980's. With grant money, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources recently purchased 130 acres adjacent to the cemetery to expand the restoration of natural prairie.

In a subsequent longer article by Mike Monson, the assistant site director, Sue Fruhling, is pictured sitting on a railing at the cemetery. Prairie plants like Indian grass, leadplant, prairie rose and Canadian wild rye can be found among the old white headstones of early settlers.

- *Contributed by Dean Gipple and Mike Magee*

From the *Effingham Daily News*, Effingham, IL, Shelby Focus, October 24, 2001: "Cemetery walk is a step back in History," by Valorie Eversole. The article tells of a two-hour cemetery tour conducted by local historian Ed Boedecker. He was aided by eight character enactors who brought life to those now resting in the cemetery. Among those buried in Glenwood Cemetery are Josephine Cochran, inventor of the dishwasher, Joseph Oliver, first postmaster of Shelbyville, and Lewis Stamps, honored as a local hero during the 1855 cholera epidemic. Stamps, who lost his wife and son to the epidemic, helped to bury 93 people who died during the epidemic. His personal loss allegedly drove him to drink, but the city council thereafter allowed him to buy as much whiskey as he had money for and decreed that he could not be arrested for public drunkenness. The citizens of Shelbyville bestowed the title of Captain upon him.

- *Contributed by Mike Magee*

From the *Capper's* magazine, November 13, 2001: "Large family still celebrates holiday together." The writer of the article is from a family of 19 children that stills gets together for Thanksgiving each year. Sometimes as many as 150 people are present. The proceeds of a raffle in conjunction with the event goes to the cemetery fund for trees and upkeep.

- *Contributed by Pat Shaw*

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