

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170th St. Birmingham, IA 52535-8045
Volume #7 Issue #2

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

No Stone Unturned.....
May is "Cemetery Appreciation Month!"

He hopes that you find this proclamation useful in honoring Cemetery Appreciation Month. If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call. Iowa is richer for your efforts."

Sincerely,
(signed) Tobbie Walter
Governor's Office

"Show me your cemeteries, and I will tell you what kind of people you have."

Benjamin Franklin
(1706 - 1790)



IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

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

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

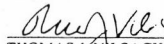
WHEREAS, PRIDE AND RESPECT FOR OUR PIONEERS LEADS TO AN INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND THAT WE DEDICATE THIS MONTH TO THE CARE OF OUR PIONEER CEMETERIES:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY, 2002, AS

CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH

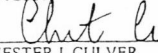
IN IOWA.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 23RD DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWO.


THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR



ATTEST:


CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

The following is the body of a letter that accompanied the proclamation:

"Enclosed is the proclamation that you requested. The Governor wished that he could have presented it to your organization at the Capitol, but his schedule did not permit it. Please be assured that he considers each proclamation thoughtfully, and reads and signs each one personally.

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will meet on July 13, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Room of the Public Library in Ft. Dodge, Iowa. Contact persons are Jerry and Marva Rowe; 905 So. 21st St.; Fort Dodge, IA 50501. E-mail: marvaj@frontiernet.net

Note from Marva: *Tea Time (library coffee shop) will provide lunch, so everything will be held at the library and we can tour Oakland after lunch. For anyone coming Friday, the Budget Host Inn is probably most convenient, has the Cellar restaurant; also, 3 other restaurants nearby.*

Rayene Sperbeck of San Diego, California has granted permission to use a story in this SAPIC newsletter that she wrote for the MISSING LINKS mailing list. It is printed on page 5. Additional comments from Rayene mention that she and her husband were in Iowa last September visiting the graves of her husband's family in Lakeview Cemetery in Spirit Lake. In the story, she mentions cousins who assisted in locating her family's grave markers. In a later communication, Rayene states that this association led to a healing experience for the family, as the earlier generations did not get along well. She hopes that members of the present generation will now follow the Road of Tranquility.

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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 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

SAPIC MINUTES - APRIL 12, 2002

The quarterly SAPIC meeting was held at the Community Room in Diagonal, IA, Ringgold County. Thank you to hosts Rick & Sherry Wiley for making the arrangements. President Pat Shaw called the meeting to order at 10 A.M. Minutes in sheets were then passed.

Minutes of January, 2002 were read by Secretary Charly Stevens. "Other libraries" should be added as a correction to those Minutes. Notwithstanding any other corrections, Minutes stand approved.

Treasurer's report for 1st quarter ending March 31, 2002 was given by Pat Shaw in absence of Valerie Ogren. Balance on hand as of end of March is \$6,565.17. Please refer to newsletter for full report of account activity. This report to be filed for audit. Site meter for SAPIC website account was also reported.

Old Business included a request to have SAPIC newsletters mailed to state historical libraries as well as a request for the same to Allen County, Indiana library. Reporting form for pioneer/neglected cemeteries was reviewed, thoughts on sending these to county auditors, genealogical and/or historical societies were discussed at length.

New Business included the drafting of a reporting form to enable members to document pioneer cemeteries. Pat had samples from Graveyard Preservation Primer that the group was able to view, Pat needs input to draft this reporting form up. It was mentioned that the forms could be mailed to County Auditor's, County Recorder, County Engineer offices as well as Museums and/or Historical Societies. Could be sent with a stamped return envelope for ease of returning information. An accounting of the number of visitors to these cemeteries/counties may be beneficial, one form per county and to possibly include other cemeteries just not pioneer. Damaged newsletters have been reported to Pat Shaw, could it be possible to mail the newsletter in envelopes w/address service requested, should still be able to mail it bulk rate, motion by Calvin McVay to approve the change in the way newsletter is mailed, second by Julie Fenrod. Motion carried. The subject of the burning off of vegetation in cemeteries was discussed at length,

Beason reported on several opinions that she had received on the subject, these will appear in the next newsletter. Girl Scout transcription project was reported on by Pat Shaw, she's to include that in the next newsletter as well. African American traveling exhibit was mentioned, Mr. McGill is seeking donations, discussion entered into whether or not SAPIC could possibly make a donation according to the Bylaws. Larry Davis suggested maybe individuals could contribute if not SAPIC directly, Sherry Wiley suggesting putting it in the newsletter. Cemetery

Appreciation Month is May, Pat is to get a copy of the Proclamation from Governor Vilsack, articles in the newspaper and activities were suggested. Guidelines for SAPIC grants for cemetery restoration was reviewed. Please refer to April

2000 newsletter, page 9, suggestions for the guidelines included matching funds, educational/promotional workshops, identifying cemeteries, publicity, website, speakers bureau and prioritize these goals.

Legislation was reported by Pat Shaw, not a good year for cemetery legislation, Brittson and company will try again next year. Robert Carter Award was mentioned, 1 person nominated. Nominations are due to Phyllis Carter by July 1. T-shirts and bumper stickers are still available from Sherry Wiley and Charly Stevens respectively.

Membership was discussed, renewal by cards was mentioned. Pat Shaw also is working on putting together a slide presentation on cemetery restoration and welcomes any photos from other restorations. The project that the ISU students worked on has been completed and a progress report handed in.

Lunch and county reports were then given, along with a video of a cemetery burn.

Adjourn by common consent.

Web site report, April 7, 2002:

-- Site Summary --

Visits

Total 3,361
 Average per Day 8
 Average Visit Length 1:23
 This Week 58

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES
 Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter - 1 January 2002 thru 31 March 2002

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2001, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$3758.77

Income
 Dues 435.00
 T-shirts 35.00
 Interest 1/31/02 3.87
 Interest 2/28/02 3.64
 Interest 3/31/02 3.90
 Total Income \$481.41

Expense
 Ck #125 - [Void] 41.55
 Ck #126 - Patricia Shaw - Copies 96.85
 Ck #127 - Patricia Shaw - copies \$10, postage \$86.85
 Total Expense \$138.40

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2002 \$4101.78

Balance in Reserve Account 31 December 2001, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$2163.39

Income
 Mary Dodson - Life Membership 100.00
 Wayne Wright - Life Membership 100.00
 Richard Boroom - Life Membership 100.00
 Total \$300.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2002 \$2463.39

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 March 2002 \$6565.17

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

GRAVE SEARCH

by Rayene Sperbeck rayene@san.rr.com

A year ago I went to Calvary Cemetery in Fresno, California, to visit the graves of my grandparents, who had died in the 1930s. The graves were nowhere to be found. I knew the spot exactly, but now it was nothing but a large, mowed, and grassy area. When I was a child, the graves were in an elevated plot. I remember climbing up two stone steps with the family name on it along the inside roadway. When I returned, there was no roadway or steps. The cemetery had filled the roadway with graves and brought the level up over the top of the steps. I knew this had happened because there was an enormous white angel with her arms open wide right next to the graves of my family. That was the key. Someone in the cemetery office told me the graves were in this area, but would not explain what had happened.

On 23 December 2001, my cousins and I, joined by our husbands and shovels, went digging. It was an unusual experience to be in a cemetery looking for gravestones in the misty December Fresno fog. One of my cousins has connections with the church and she said, "Just leave this to me." One of the caretakers had given her a probe. We brought up and reset on the surface two stones we found that belonged to another family. Then we discovered the two steps. It was an overwhelming feeling to see being uncovered the steps with the family name CULLEN on them. We just stood in amazement and wiped away our tears. However, we were unable to find my grandparents and great-grandparents. It was drizzling and the day was so cold that we had to give up.

I returned to San Diego and persisted in calling the cemetery. Finally, they just got fed up with hearing my name and had the caretakers go out and find three of the graves and bring the stones to the surface. Just a few weeks ago, I was in Fresno for a brief time and we stopped by Calvary Cemetery. I was so pleased to find that now my grandparents' stone and a great-uncle's stone are where they can be seen.

There are still three missing gravestones, including my great-grandparents', that I'll continue to work on with the cemetery. Staff members tell me that the gravestones are not in the plot, but all the records say they are, even the cemetery's records. It just depends upon the person you are talking to at the time.

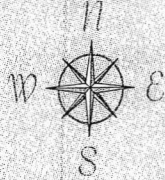
On one of the Irish mailing lists at RootsWeb, I found a verse that has stuck with me. I think of it every time I visit one of the cemeteries where our family members are buried:

I hear ethereal whispers, persuasive, soft and still.
Daughter, if you don't remember us, who will?

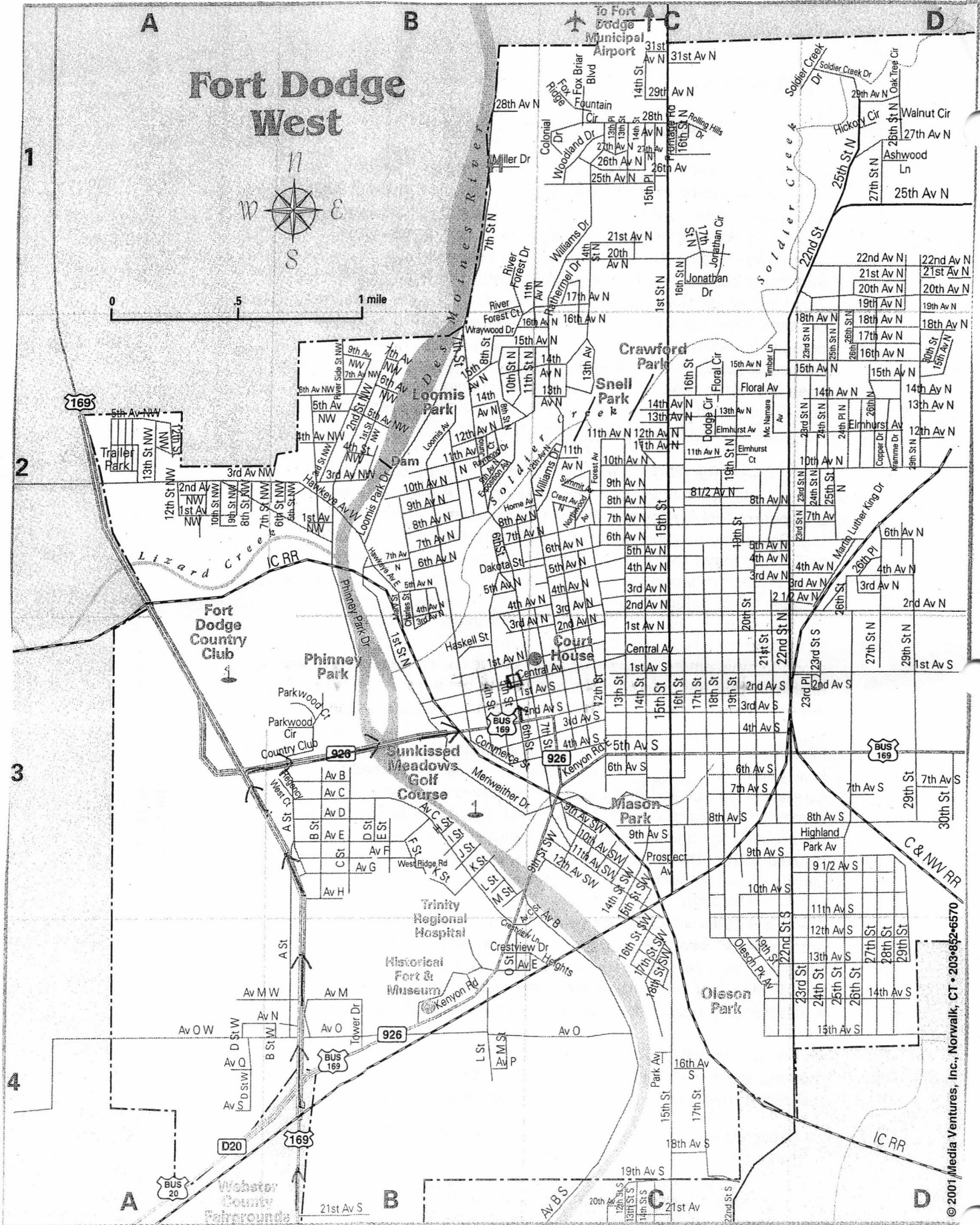
The next time I am in Fresno and plan to go to Calvary Cemetery, I think that I will take along a box of chocolates.

Previously published in MISSING LINKS,
Vol. 7, No. 13, 31 March 2002 <http://www.petuniapress.com>

Fort Dodge West



0 5 1 mile



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Off Highway 20 take the second Fort Dodge exit (Hwy. 169 N), go about 5 miles north to the second Business 169 Exit (2nd Ave So), go right to 5th Street, go left 2 blocks to the Public Library, which is on the Square.

Park around the square. Lunch is provided at a cost of \$6.00 at the library. Please make reservations with Jerry & Marva Rowe, 905 South 21st St., Fort Dodge, IA 50501, phone 515-573-7658, E-mail: marvaj@frontiernet.net

HUMOR: Pining for a Porker

Thanks to Nancy Lambert nlambert@pdnt.com

I've been reading a local history about Eugene Township (Indiana) by Harold L. O'Donnell, which was published in 1963. In one chapter he mentions the Chicago and Eastern Illinois (C&EI) Railroad coming to town, and he discusses the danger it was to livestock.

"Livestock in the early day were a constant source of trouble between the railroads and the farmers. Stock would be killed and it was, of course, always the fault of the railroads. In one case a farmer had a hog killed by a train and since he believed himself to have some ability as a poet, wrote the railroad claim agent as follows:

My razorback strolled down your track,
A week ago today.
Your #29 came down the line,
And snuffed his life away.
You can't blame me; the hog you see,
Slipped through a cattle gate;
So kindly pen a check for ten,
The debt to liquidate.

He was surprised a few days later to receive the following:

Old #29 came down the line,
And killed your hog, we know;
But razorbacks on railroad tracks,
Quite often meet with woe.
Therefore, my friend, we cannot send,
The check for which you pine,
Just plant the dead; place o'er his head:
'Here lies a foolish swine.' "

Steven Russell at <scrussal@netins.net>
sent the following inquiry to the Department
of Veterans Affairs:

Sirs: Is it legal for a Civil War collector to
privately possess a Union Veteran's
headstone? Should they not always be placed
in a cemetery and not dug up and sold or re-
sold to private individuals? I have a
newspaper article from the Chicago area
concerning 2 Union soldiers' headstones in
his private collection.....a John White of Lake
in the Hills, Illinois. The article reads:
"Resting next to his front door are two Union
headstones." Can you do anything about it? I
think it is GRAVE DESECRATION!!! Steven.

Response From:
National Cemetery Administration --
Headstones and Markers

I want to take this opportunity to thank you
for your inquiry. The National Cemetery
Administration is currently drafting a
formal policy to address this matter. The
most recent version of the VA Form 40-1330
(Application for a Government Headstone or
Marker) reads: "Headstones or markers
furnished remain the property of the United
States Government and may not be used for
any purpose other than to honor the memory
of the decedent for whom the headstone or
marker is issued." This statement can be
found at the bottom of the General
Information Sheet, attached to the
application. Our application can be viewed or
printed from our website at:

www.cem.va.gov

If possible, could our office be provided a copy
of the news article? If so, please FAX to the
ATTN: Don Murphy, fax number 202-501-
3109. If this is not possible, may we be
provided with the name of the newspaper, and
date the article appeared? I would like to
research this further. Hopefully this
information will help you in the interim,
until we have published our formal policy.

The response is also located at this URL:
https://iris.va.gov/answer_response.asp?inquiry=84A111EAC517433A81132272317A3A83

Thanks to Steven for contacting SAPIC with this
concern and also for sharing the response from the
Department of Veterans Affairs. It is indeed
promising to hear that this governmental department is
developing policy and intending to publish it.

**The Association for Gravestone
Studies National conference and
Annual Meeting will be held June 27-
30, 2002 at the Savannah College of
Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia.
Go to www.gravestonestudies.org for
Conference Information and Updates.
Or contact the AGS Office, 278 Main
Street, Suite 207, Greenfield, MA
01301.**

AGS Office Telephone: 413-772-0836

From the *Graveyard Primer* by Lynette
Strangstad., page 27, is the following list of
suggestions for collecting data to record
information from cemeteries:

Date of record
Name and location of the cemetery
Type of marker: headstone, footstone, crypt,
vault, obelisk, etc.
Size of marker: above-ground height, width,
thickness
Type and color of stone: such as pink granite,
red slate, white marble, yellow sandstone, etc.
Identification number for each stone to
correspond with map
Location of the marker within the graveyard
Condition of the stone: excellent, good, fair,
poor. Specify problems, such as "missing
right shoulder," "face spalling," etc.
Name of deceased and death date
Name of carver, if known
Ornamental carving: description and
location on the stone of any generic motifs
such as skull, winged angel, urn and willow,
or other identifiable but less common motifs,
such as corn, ivy, serpents, etc.
Other Characterizing information.

*This book is available from The Association for
Gravestone Studies at the address given above.
Sources of Additional Information at the end of the
book list publications dealing with gravestone
symbols and decorative motifs, carver identification,
and regional variations in carving styles.*

On the following pages is a copy of a sample
survey form that is printed in Appendix B in
the back of the book. The form was prepared
for use by the Committee for the study of
Abandoned Cemeteries, a group created in
1978 by the North Carolina General Assembly
to study the number, nature, and condition of
North Carolina's cemeteries.

CEMETERY SURVEY

1. Location

- a) Name or names of cemetery _____
- b) State _____
- c) City, town, community or township _____
- d) Specific location _____
- e) Property owned by _____
- f) USGS Topographic Map: Quadrangle _____
 - 1) Cemetery coordinates: Latitude _____ Longitude _____
 - 2) Cemetery number on map _____

2. Classification

- a) Public: Municipal _____ County _____ State _____ Federal _____
- b) Private: Family _____ Church (denomination _____) Fraternal _____
Other, explain _____
- c) Status: Pioneer (six or fewer burials within the past fifty years) _____
Maintained, but inactive (not used) _____ Currently being used _____
- d) Size: Approximate number of graves _____ Approximate size _____
- e) Type: Native (American) Indian _____ Black _____ White _____
Other, explain _____

3. Accessibility to Public

- a) Unrestricted _____ b) Restricted, explain _____

4. Condition

- a) Well maintained and preserved _____ b) Poorly maintained _____
- c) Overgrown, easily identifiable _____ d) Overgrown, not easily identifiable _____
- e) Not identifiable as a burial site, but known to exist through tradition or other means. Explain _____

5. Cemetery Enclosure

- a) Is the cemetery enclosed by a wall, fence, hedge, etc.? _____
If yes, specify how it is enclosed: _____
- b) State condition of enclosure _____

6. Gravestones or markers

- a) Are stones or markers present? _____ b) If yes, are they inscribed? _____
c) Number of readable stones or markers _____ d) Date of last known
burial _____ e) Date of earliest known burial _____ f) Are there unusual
stones? _____ If so, describe them: _____
g) Have markers been damaged? _____ If yes, by farm animals? _____
Vandalism? _____ Farming operations? _____ Industrial operations? _____
Custodial Care? _____ Other means? Explain: _____

7. Note any hazards imperiling the cemetery's existence _____

8. Has this cemetery been listed in an existing published or unpublished cemetery
survey? _____ If yes, explain: _____

9. Historical or other special significance of cemetery, if any _____

10. Any other information _____

Person completing report: _____

Person submitting report (if different from above): _____

Date: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Note: This form may be copied for use in documenting and/or reporting neglected cemeteries to persons
responsible for maintenance, such as township trustees, county auditors, church caretakers, etc.

It's suggested that a copy be sent to the State Cemetery Regulator at:

Dennis N. Britson, Director
Regulated Industries Unit
Securities Bureau
Iowa Department of Commerce
340 Maple
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0066
Telephone: 515-281-4441

E-mail: dennis.britson@comm6.state.ia.us

Cheryl Harris of Albuquerque, NM held a training session for 50 Girl Scout leaders in Des Moines, Iowa at the Chapel Hills Garden Cemetery on Merle Haye Road on April 13. Cheryl is the coordinator of the USGenWeb Tombstone Transcription Project on the Internet. The plan is that each leader's troop will "adopt" a cemetery and log its information onto the Internet. The Girl Scout Council is considering making a special badge for the girls that take part.

<rich1223@juno.com>

**Cheryl Harris
7312 Valley Forge NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
505-823-9470**

Joe McGill of the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center in Cedar Rapids is soliciting funding for a traveling exhibit of information about black Civil War participants. If you'd like to contribute to this project or know more about the museum, contact:

African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa
P.O. Box 1626
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-1626
319-396-6942
Toll free: 1-877-526-1863
Fax: 319-396-8073
e-mail: AAMuseumofIowa@yahoo.com

The African American Heritage Foundation is a 501 (c)3 organization. Gifts to the Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Graves of black Civil War participants can be found in pioneer cemeteries in Iowa.

Pat Shaw has been asked to make a presentation on the topic of cemetery preservation to the annual meeting of the Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium (ICPC) to be held June 7, 2002 in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. For information about this organization, contact Edith Ericson.

<ericson37@yahoo.com>

Molly Beason of Poweshiek County shares the following opinions that she received on the topic of burning pioneer cemeteries:

Mike Magee: Bennington Twp. Cemetery here in Black Hawk County has been burned several times - no visible damage to gravemarkers. If marker is made of wood, obviously it would burn. I've not heard any complaints about damage to stone from such burning.

Glenn Pollock, Iowa Prairie Network: In over 300 burns of prairie cemeteries that I know of, no reports of damage to tombstones have happened, even to the white bronze metal type. I have personally done over 15 myself without damage. THIS IS A MYTH THAT FIRE CAUSES DAMAGE! Weed eaters and lawn mowers cause the majority of damage, also frost, acid rain and sun can cause damage.

Calvin McVay: As long as the fire doesn't get close enough to warm the stones, I have never observed any damage from burning. I like to take a 3-gallon sprayer with water in it with me and if I observe the fire getting too close to a marker, just a spray from the sprayer will usually extinguish the fire around the stone. Otherwise I have burnt them off with no damage.

Jo Vernooy: The Mahaska Co PC, in conjunction with the county road dept., burns off pioneer cemeteries. We have not noticed any problem with the stones, and have been reassured that there will not be. Chris Snyder at Mahaska Co. Shop will verify.

Charly Stevens: Yes, necessary for control of weeds, however, the last cemetery I saw burned off, no stones appeared to be damaged. I would think that if the stones were wetted down that would help a bit. Burning is a good idea, and may actually help the good grasses and forbs flourish, thereby achieving two means in the cemetery.

Note: Charly showed a video of a controlled burning in a cemetery conducted by firefighters in Page County at the April SAPIC meeting.

Molly Beason: The fires burn so fast that the stones sustain no damage. Landlocked cemeteries have no water accessible and we have too much to carry in on foot - forget the water!

From the *Iowa Genealogical Society Newsletter*,
February, 2002:

Webster County Reports on Cemetery Photographing

"Our group of volunteers for re-walking and taking digital pictures of gravestones has done a great job. Cemeteries completed so far are: Burns, Swedish Lutheran, Ober/Scott, Blanchard, Lumpkins, Carpenter, St. Olaf, Dayton Catholic, Bass, McGuire Bend, Border Plains, Harden Twp., Webster County Home, St. Patrick's on the Lizzard, and Jackson Twp. These are now being put on the computer. The three Callender cemeteries and the Dayton cemetery have been re-walked and pictures will be taken next summer. Computer copies of the gravestones are available at a cost of \$6.00 for the first color paper photo; \$5.00 for each additional paper photo; and on floppy or CD for \$6.00 for the first picture and \$3.00 for each additional picture, plus applicable postage."

Contact the Webster County Genealogical Society at P.O. Box 1584, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-1584 or see their website at www.rootsweb.com/~iawebste/webgenso.htm (all one line).

From the Ottumwa Courier, May, 2002:
"Iowa man bit by poisonous spider." Vinton - Chad Beatty, who was bitten by a spider at Shimek State Forest in Van Buren County last fall, is still feeling the effects 7 months later. The spider was a brown recluse, a tan or brown spider about 1/2" in size. It is sometimes called a fiddle-backed spider because of the violin shape that appears on its back. Watch for these in Iowa cemeteries, as well as chiggers, ticks, and wasps!

For information on :
**Burial customs and cemeteries in
American history**
**Evaluating cemeteries and burial
places**
**Documenting and registering
cemeteries and burial places**
**National Register criteria for
evaluation**

Check on this web site:
www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/cem5.htm

For information on funerals:
www.ftc.gov

Russell LeValley reportedly drank much and worked little in Lockport, New York, but he was much in demand for leading parades with his superb playing of the fife. When he died at about age 48 in 1846, he was probably buried in an unmarked grave in Potters Field, but wags about town suggested a monument in the shape of a fife (with little holes for the wrens to nest) and this epitaph:

**Stranger, do not pause or dally.
Here lies the body of Russ LeValley.
He's quit this world of earthly strife,
And gone to Hell to play the fife.**

--Paul LeValley levalley@freenet.tih.fl.us

Union County Genealogical Society Receives Grant

Union Roots, the Union County Genealogical Society's newsletter, reports in the February edition that their society has been awarded a grant of \$594 by the Clarke County Development Association. This money will be used to purchase reflective signs marking the location of rural cemeteries in the county. This should make it much easier to find some of the cemeteries that are not located next to a traveled road.

COUNTY REPORTS

APPANOOSE

The Appanoose County Supervisors have appointed a 5-member pioneer cemetery commission! SAPIC member, Linda Zintz, is one of the members of this group that also includes members of the Appanoose County Genealogical Society. They have had one organizational meeting. Pat Shaw spoke to an enthusiastic group of Appanoose County residents and persons from the surrounding area last February.

CEMETERY LINKS: Iowa -- Crossroads Cemetery

by Yvonne (White) Ellwood akia12@n-connect.net

In May 2001, my husband Ed and I went to Adams County, Iowa. Then we decided to take a bit of a tour since we were already down south. We would get over to the Keokuk area to see if we could find the cemetery of a relative. So we took the biggest highway that ran East across the near bottom of the State. We went over a hill and I saw a cemetery on the right, a little one that had what looked like old stones. I had a feeling that we should turn around and go back. Yes, we did it; couldn't resist! Here is what we found there at CROSSROADS CEMETERY on Highway 2, between Corydon and Chariton, before Highway 142 North.

W. R. TRUE 1854 - 1925

M. E. MILLER dau. of J. M. & N. A. TRUE died April 27, 1885
age 27y 9mo 24d

J. FRANK son of J. M. & N. A. TRUE died June 2, 1885
age 28y 15 d.

JULIA E. wife of J. M. TRUE died May 2, 1895 age 66y 1mo 14d

HAROLD E. TRUE July 8, 1902 to Dec. 1, 1910

(MOTHER) DORA B. TRUE 1870 - 1941

(FATHER) GEORGE W. TRUE 1869 - 1841

(FATHER) FOSTER JACKSON [No Dates]

(MOTHER) WILMA

Dorothy

Marilyn

Note: I believe the writer means Centerville instead of Chariton. If you'd like a complete listing of the names on the stones, contact Pat Shaw patshaw@netins.net

BENTON

Contributed by Gene & Frieda Davis

March 28, 2002

Dear Pat.

Want to update you of our activity in Benton County:

The Benton County Supervisors met with the township trustee on February 16. Due to our being out of town, Al Schwartz represented our cause, meeting indifference and resistance to formulating a pioneer cemetery commission at the meeting. Upon our return Gene visited with Al, then one of the supervisors who suggested that Gene meet with the County Attorney. The supervisor felt much of the resistance was due to an impending law suit. (See enclosed news paper article) That seemed to be the case upon Gene's visit with the County Attorney. The County Attorney wants to check out all the legalities before actively supporting our cause. So it looks like we need to be patient and continue to work and communicate .

Enclosed is a list of determined pioneer status cemeteries in Benton County. I thought that I would send it to you as you would know who should have it. Most need lots of work. Title of property is probably the next step we need to work on.

From the *Cedar Valley Daily Times*, Vinton, Iowa, March 27, 2002: "Family at odds over headstone," by Steve Meyer. Pictured is the fenced-in Hennings family cemetery plot in Pioneer Cemetery 5 miles north of Keystone, Iowa in Homer Township. The placement of a memorial headstone for Lloyd and Helen Hennings in between the graves of William and Anna Hennings at the cemetery has caused a family dispute that will have to be settled in court. Denman Hennings, the son of Lloyd and Helen, placed the headstone there in memory of his parents. No body or remains were placed with the headstone, as the bodies were cremated and the ashes deposited elsewhere. Other family members have objected and filed an appeal to the decision made by trustees to leave the stone. Lloyd and his brother, Irvin, restored the cemetery in the 1970's and Lloyd apparently left word prior to his death in 1984 that a headstone for himself and his wife could be placed in the cemetery. Township trustees, who are in charge of the administration of the cemetery, agreed by a 2-1 vote that they believe this was the case, and that the memorial is respectfully and tastefully done. Benton County Attorney has filed an objection and resistance to the appeal by family members who have objected to the trustees' decision.

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, March 25, 2002: "Trustees, family butt heads over memorial," by Steve Meyer. A similar article telling of the decision of unhappy family members, William Hennings and Yvonne Kuch, to take the matter to the Iowa District Court.

Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission

Report for April SAPIC Meeting

Stapleton Pioneer Cemetery is nearing completion. It was seeded and was mowed last fall – 2001. We received the OK from the trustees to plant 3 trees and to put up crosses for Memorial Day.

Next Cemetery to be restored will be Pearl Rock Protestant Cemetery, a/k/a Thomas Cemetery, located south of Nashua, IA on highway 218. Two cemeteries are side by side – Pearl Rock Catholic and Pearl Rock Protestant. The Catholic cemetery is maintained by St Michael Church and the Protestant Cemetery is the one we will be restoring. Brush was sprayed last fall (2001) for removal when we begin this spring (2002). A fence was installed on February 2002. A work day and monthly meeting is planned for 20 April 2002 at 10AM.

A sign for Pearl Rock Cemetery is in the planning stages.

Extensive research is presently being done by cemetery historian Jeannette Kottke on the Pearl Rock Cemetery. Records seem to indicate that the first burial was Sumner Eli Pratt in 1854. Civil War veteran Frank Slosson/Slawson (sp?) is buried in this cemetery among other pioneers.

The Commission will tour Cagley Cemetery to assess the work that needs to be done.

Stapleton Pioneer Cemetery will be dedicated on Memorial Day, Monday, 27 May 2002 at 2PM followed by a program which is in the planning stage at this time.

BLACKHAWK

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, May 12, 2002: "Plaque to mark grave site of first officer to die," by Jeff Reinitz. A new metal plaque marking the last resting place of the first Waterloo police officer to die in the line of duty will be unveiled during a special service Wednesday at noon. The service falls during National Police Week, which honors all officers who died in the line of duty. Night Patrolman Friedrich "Fred" P. Widmann, 30, was fatally wounded when burglars ambushed him as he walked his beat Oct. 11, 1908. His headstone in Fairview Cemetery faded under nearly 100 years of wind and rain, and a nearby tree grew until it tilted the monument. So last year members of the Waterloo Police Protective Association agreed to help Widmann's only surviving local relative, Eunice Wilson, restore the headstone. A new metal plaque was then attached to the stone after the tree was taken out and the headstone adjusted.

FAYETTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION

March 7, 2002

NEWS RELEASE(Please edit)

The Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission met Wednesday, March 6 2002 for their quarterly business meeting.

All officers were re-elected, including Laura Westendorf (Chair), Virgie Bruening (Vice-chair), Doris Springer (Secretary), and Frances Graham (Treasurer).

Linda Johnson, West Union, was appointed to the Advisory Board.

The work crew will commence reconstruction as soon as possible on several 'family' pioneer cemeteries. These cemeteries were set aside more than one hundred years ago for burials and remain public, non-taxed lands. Several of these are surrounded by privately held land. The work crew plans to locate and restore the stones and then surround them with a strong fence in the most minimal and accurate space that is reasonable, legal, and possible.

May is Cemetery Appreciation Month in Iowa. The Board and volunteer work crew hopes to highlight some of the cemeteries they have found and restored in Fayette County's 'out-of-the way places'. In the three years since establishment, the cemetery commission work crew has completed restoration of nine Pioneer Cemeteries in Fayette County.

Steve Story

Contributed by Mike Magee:

From the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier, March 15, 2002: "A fine pair," by Kate Melloy. This is a wonderful story about Donna Story and her twin sister, Bonnie Smola, who raise goats and sheep for the purpose of producing fine wool for making socks that they market under the "Oma Socks" label. Another example of the incredible energy and talent of cemetery restorer, Donna Story.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

LAURA WESTENDORF, CHAIR
VIRGIE BRUENING, VICE-CHAIR
DORIS SPRINGER, SECRETARY
FRANCES GRAHAM, TREASURER
MERLIN BEGALSKE

DONAL BOIE

STEVE STORY

HARVEY UNGERER

RICHARD VAGTS

ADVISORY MEMBERS

GLENN BURINGTON

TEX HEYER

CHARLES JACOBSEN

LINDA JOHNSON

ALICE MILLER

BILL MOELLERING

KAY THOMAS

WOODY THOMAS

KATHRYN WEIDEMANN

100 N. WALNUT STREET
WEST UNION, IOWA 52175

(563) - 422-5797

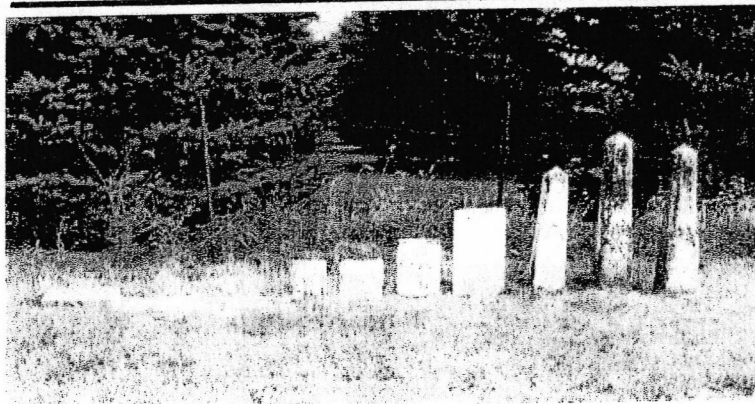
GRUNDY
Contributed by
Lillian Marks
Ostfriesen
"NeuesBlatt"



Vol. VI
No. 1

Ostfriesen Heritage Society (OHS) 20749 215th St., Holland, IA 50642
Published quarterly-(Feb., May, Aug. & Nov.) Membership \$10.00 per person/ Germany \$20.00 U.S.\$

February
2002



Did You Know??

cemetery has had another addition added to the south and land directly to the west is also plotted for graves but at the present time not being used for this purpose.

In late summer of 2000, Rick Gersema determined that it was time to compile a collection of the cemetery records of Grundy County, Iowa into a book that could be used by people not able to research in the area. A number of contacts were made to folks in the county who had access to records of the 40 cemeteries within the borders of Grundy County. Many cemeteries had been walked by members of the Grundy County Genealogical Society, but there were others that had not been done. St. Peter's cemetery was one of those where information was lacking

During the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt created a number of programs designed to help the unemployed. One of those programs was called the Work Progress Administration (WPA). There were a number of functions for this particular organization, but one of those involved the recording of cemetery inscriptions in every known cemetery in the nation. People were employed by the government to go from cemetery to cemetery and record tombstone inscriptions. Grundy County was no exception and during the years 1940-41, a number of men from the area gathered the records from each cemetery. For that task, we will ever be grateful, because many of those old stones no longer exist or have weathered so severely from acid rain and time that they are no longer readable, but 60 years ago, they could still be read. These records were consulted first for information by Rick.

When the time came to gather the information on the St. Peters Cemetery, Rick contacted Ebalena Kruse, a member of the church. An appointment was made to look at the records of the church and cemetery. During the first visit to the church, Ebalena commented that their church had once occupied a spot about 2 miles from the present side and that there existed a cemetery there. It was decided to make a trip to that location also. The story was related that a number of years ago, someone had removed the stones and piled them in the corner of the cemetery along a fence row. It was learned by Dee Lindaman that this had taken place and

The early records of the St. Peters United Church of Christ date back to Christmas of 1863, when 10 people gathered together to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Those who partook of the Lord's Supper were: Theodore Koberle, Julie Koberle, Ainka Janssen, Johan Janssen, Ubbe Janssen, Antje Janssen, Wilhelm Tjaden, Frau Tjaden, Topke Hickman and Ahlrich Steenblock. These people formed the nucleus of the infant congregation. They met in a local schoolhouse in section 30 of German Twp., Grundy County, Iowa. Krien and Janna Krien purchased about 2 acres of land around the school which they deeded to the infant congregation of Lutheran persuasion on January 10, 1865. For about 10 years this school building was used for services and the grounds for a cemetery.

The group officially organized into the St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church of German Twp., Grundy County, Iowa on October 31, 1867 under the leadership of their first pastor, A. Eisenhauer. On September 18, 1873, the congregation met in the Schutjer School to consider the building of a church edifice. It was decided in October of that year to build a new building on a tract of land in section 21 of German Twp. on the Hickman property. Three acres were purchased by two members; Ludwig Niessen and Jurgen Muller. The plan was drawn up in January 1874, and by December a new building was in place as well as a temporary dwelling for the pastor. The church's name has changed several times throughout the years until it adopted its present name in 1962.

The cemetery was plotted on November 9, 1874, and lots were cast for burial sites on the new cemetery. In 1914, the first addition was made to the cemetery. The

she contacted the Township Trustees. At first, they didn't seem too interested in doing anything about it, but Dee persisted and they then asked her what should be done. She felt that the stones should at least be salvaged from the pile and then erected on a foundation near the entrance so people could see who might be buried there. The trustees did accomplish this and there is now a narrow foundation slab with 10 stones erected in a row. The first visit to the cemetery by Rick and Ebalena was a bit of a challenge as the area is not maintained and pocket gophers have abounded in the fertile black soil as well as overgrowth of grass and giant fox-tail make it quite difficult to even view the stones. After the trip to this spot, they returned to the church and began the process of locating the old records. It was thought by Ebalena that the original records were lost in

a tornado many years ago, but after examining the contents of the safe, all the records were in tact. The very first records book was a small ledger style book, that contained births, baptisms, marriages and deaths, information about memberships, members of the Sunday School, deacons and the like.

The first burial in the cemetery appears to be Peter Hickman who died sometime in 1863, followed by Wirtje, a son of Aalrich & Trientje Baumann Steenblock who died on November 2, 1863 at the age of 5. The final burial took place in 1900, and was Mrs. Johanna Brinkmann nee VanBockern who was the wife of Gerd Wessels and Harm Brinkmann. In all, 41 burials are recorded in the church register for this little known cemetery. The WPA records yielded only a very few names and the cemetery itself only yielded 10

German Township Cemetery

Name	Date of Birth	Death Date	Other Info
Abkes, Fondelina Sophia Theen	JUL 08, 1863	DEC 10, 1864	
Ahrends, Hagen	FEB 1798	AUG 08, 1864	
Ammermann, Jacob	1853	NOV 30, 1869	
Antons, Anton	NOV 26, 1869	OCT 08, 1870	Son of Antje Antons
Bakker, Hayko Folkert	FEB 21, 1829	JUN 22, 1871	
Barger, Hinderk	FEB 10, 1870	MAR 15, 1871	Son of Benjamin & Gertrude nee Tjaden
Beekmann, Jacob	OCT 04, 1825	NOV 28, 1867	
Behrends, Wubkea Bernhardina	APR 15, 1871	JUN 11, 1871	Dau of Hinrich & Dina
Bergmann, Martin Julius	FEB 01, 1869	MAR 13, 1869	Son of August & Wilhelmine
Brinkmann, Harm	MAR 25, 1825	JUL 27, 1883	
Brinkmann, Johanna nee VanBockern	1823	1900	Wife of Harm & Gerd Wessels (Marker at site)
Dourte, Mrs.		MAR 10, 1866	
Glaser, Elisabeth nee Müller	1803	FEB 22, 1872	
Harms, Mrs.		NOV 21, 1865	
Hickman, Peter		1863	
Janssen, Antje	SEP 18, 1801	MAR 21, 1866	
Junker, Jann	MAY 02, 1872	OCT 24, 1872	Son of Johann & Johanna nee Pleiss
Koeberle, Johannes Moritz	FEB 26, 1865	FEB 28, 1865	Son of Theodor
Lottmann, Warner	JUN 03, 1869	MAY 21, 1872	
Lüttermann, Elsebehn Aylts	AUG 26, 1861	FEB 14, 1869	Dau of Aylt H. Lüttermann & Gesche nee Roinders
Meinders, Sander	JUL 22, 1871	AUG 31, 1871	Son of Meint & Wife nee Ludemann
Rabenberg, Charlotte Juliane	SEP 23, 1868	JUL 14, 1870	Dau of Karl & Frauke
Schmidt, Johannes	JUL 22, 1867	OCT 28, 1869	Son of Konrad & Foelke
Schöneboom, N.	MAY 15, 1792	DEC 26, 1869	
Schultz, Friedrich Wilhelm	MAR 10, 1866	JAN 19, 1872	Son of W & D
Schultz, Justus Wilhelm	MAR 28, 1862	FEB 19, 1872	Son of W & D (Marker at site)
Schultz, Metta Wilhelmine (Mary)	MAR 11, 1860	JAN 29, 1872	Dau of W & D (Marker at site)
Sievers, Dirtje nee Hausmann	OCT 1834	AUG 03, 1869	Wife of Okke G. (Marker at site)
Sievers, Isk	MAR 04, 1856	NOV 14, 1875	Son of Okke G. & Dirtje nee Hausmann (Marker)
Sievers, Okke G.	DEC 06, 1823	MAR 21, 1871	(Marker at site)
Steenblock, Wirtje	OCT 14, 1858	NOV 02, 1863	Son of Aalrich & Trientje Baumann
vanBockern, Henry	OCT 13, 1833	AUG 27, 1870	Son of Jurgen & Petronella J. (Marker at site)
vanBockern, Hilka	FEB 14, 1866	DEC 15, 1870	Dau of Jann (Marker at site)
vanBockern, Janssen	NOV 14, 1839	JUL 15, 1864	1st wife of Jan (Marker at site)
vanBockern, Johanna Petronella	AUG 30, 1799	JAN 03, 1883	Wife of Jurgen
vanBockern, Jurgen	JAN 07, 1868	DEC 26, 1870	Son of Jann
vanBockern, Jurgen	JUL 25, 1796	OCT 25, 1870	(Marker at site)
vanderHeiden, Hessel Classen	JUL 18, 1853	MAR 13, 1873	
vanHeiden, Inant	MAR 15, 1873	MAR 26, 1873	Son of Seede & Anna nee Sponhoff
Wortelker, Antje nee Kiper	AUG 27, 1796	AUG 15, 1872	Wife of Harm
Wortelker, Harm	AUG 31, 1799	OCT 20, 1883	Born at Roncham, Ost

stones, so obviously there were a greater number of burials here than first thought. How exciting it was to be able to locate the burials of people who were laid to rest here nearly 140 year ago! A complete listing of the burials in the old cemetery now referred to as German Twp. Cemetery accompanies this article.

Rick continues to gather information for the Cemetery Books that will be published and made available to the public. After expenses all proceeds will be given to the

Ostfriesen Heritage Society to be used for the purpose of erecting a permanent home for the collection of resources, documents and items belonging to the group.

Any questions regarding this topic can be forwarded to Rick Gersema at: rgersema@aol.com or via mail to: 1003 Conn St. Parkersburg, IA 50665

Rick will provide for us names of marriages and births/baptisms which are from the old ledger book at a later date.

Note: Lillian Marks is the editor of the "NeuesBlatt," the newsletter of the Ostfriesen Heritage Society in Grundy County.

HANCOCK

IOWA. Hancock County Cemeteries. Contributed by Carol Dean for Hancock County Genealogical Society.
Ellington Prairie Cemetery; 141 records;
Orthel Cemetery; 30 records;
Stilson Cemetery; 62 records;
<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/cemeteries/>

IINA

From the Cremation Society of Eastern Iowa Membership Newsletter, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Winter, 2002: "Iowa's Cemetery Laws Under Review." The article mentions that the Regulated Industries Unit of the Iowa Insurance Commissioner's office is currently redrafting a number of statutes which it oversees. The redraft addresses primarily cemetery related issues such as: perpetual care, pioneer cemeteries, interment rights, record keeping, and annual reporting, etc. The newsletter also mentions the October 2001 edition of the *International Cemetery and Funeral Management* magazine that featured the Cedar Cremation Center and the Cremation Center Society of Eastern Iowa in one of its articles. This funeral business that was honored to be the subject of a feature article in this highly respected trade publication is a part of Cedar Memorial, a SAPIC member.

LOUISA

Contributed by Dean Gipple

Dean states in a letter dated 12 March, 2002 that he is in the process of establishing a trust for the pioneer cemeteries of Louisa County and has begun by reviewing the Articles of Incorporation for the Spring Run Cemetery Association. His intent is to provide for perpetual care for these sites. He is working with Vivian Jennings of Ames. Some of Their immediate concerns are:

(1) Establishment of a funded corporation using money from several cemeteries and from additional donations from individuals. Money could never be removed from the trust and each cemetery would receive interest from the trust once a year. If funds are insufficient, then a request could be made to the trustees or supervisors.

(2) The preservation of the cemetery and maintenance by descendants of those whose graves are there.

(3) The review and amending of existing cemetery charters of those cemeteries involved in the trust.

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Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission Meets

The Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission met on Tuesday, February 26, 2002 at the Chariton Library. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Director Don Holmes with members Dean Boozell, Alvin Halferty, Don Holmes, Mary Ruth Pierschbacher, Gwen Sims and Warren Wallace present. Absent were Jim Cooper, Larry Shriver and Jim Wright. One guest, Dale Gurwell of Clive, Iowa attended. The Secretary's report was read. Treasurer's report was read. David Atwell was paid \$2720.44 on 11-07-2001. Secondary Rd Work D7E was paid \$385. in February for work at Greenville and Oxford. Warren stated that the work at Oxford should have been paid by Lincoln Twp. trustees (13 hours @\$17.50 per hour or \$227.50 total). Our account balance is now \$1229.36. and we will receive the next \$7500. July 1, 2002. (Gwen will check about getting the money for Oxford work from Lincoln Twp.)

Old Business:

Warren hasn't turned in the mowing for Douglass yet. He will do that.

New Business:

LaGrange Cemetery. Linda Long is purchasing the property of Mr. Gookin which borders the LaGrange Cemetery on three sides. She would like to have the fence replaced. They will probably be putting five strand barb wire with steel posts with a wood post every so often and will use brush control spray around the fencelines. She would like to have it done before plowing time so she would know where her property ends. Gwen will find out who is doing their fencing and see if the same person will do the cemetery also.

Niswender/Dillman Cemetery. Dale Gurwell and his cousin Ed Dillman would like to help with the renovation of this cemetery as they have relation buried there. Ed has all kinds of construction equipment that they could use there. They also want to help in the Brownlee Cemetery. The Brownlee is not a Pioneer Cemetery so we referred him to the English Twp. trustees for it. We will keep in touch with them and see that things are set up to do in Nieswender/Dillman.

Greenville-Prather and Allen. These three cemeteries are ready to seed to grass.

May is Cemetery Preservation Month. Some discussion was held about having a "tour" of some of the "renovated" and some of the ones not done anything to yet in May. Also to maybe have a "dousing or witching" demonstration in one of the ones not done yet. More will be discussed as time proceeds.

Abandoned Cemetery. Vera Spencer has reported a cemetery down south/west of Lucas. Wendell Skinner knows where it is. We will look into finding it and documenting it.

Meeting adjourned to meet again on March 26, 2002 at the Chariton Library. The Public is invited to contact any member and to attend any meeting. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month February through October.

Respectfully submitted:

Gwen Sims, Secretary

Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission
By Gwen Sims

The Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission met Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2002 at the Chariton Library. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Director Don Holmes with members Dean Boozell, Alvin Halferly, Don Holmes, Mary Ruth Pierschbacher, Gwen Sims and Warren Wallace present. Absent were Jim Cooper, Larry Shriver and Jim Wright. One guest, Dale Gurwell, of Clive, Iowa attended. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read.

New business:

LaGrange Cemetery. The owner of the property on three sides of the cemetery would like to have the fence replaced. They will probably be putting five strand barb wire with steel posts, with a wood every so often, and will use ash control spray around the fence lines.

Niswender/Dillman Cemetery. Dale Gurwell and his cousin Ed Dillman would like to help with the renovation of this cemetery, as they have relation buried there. Ed has all kinds of construction equipment which could be used there. They also want to help in the Brownlee Cemetery. The Brownlee is not a Pioneer Cemetery, so

we referred him to the English Township trustees for it. We will keep in touch with them and see that things are set up to do in Niswender/Dillman.

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Abandoned Cemetery. Vera Spencer has reported a cemetery south/west of Lucas. Wendell Skinner knows where it is. We will look into finding it and documenting it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. to meet again March 26, 2002 at the Chariton Library at 6 p.m. The public is invited to contact any member and to attend any meeting. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month February through October.

*Chariton Herald-Patriot
Thurs - Feb 21, 2002
Pioneer Cemetery Commission*

By Gwen Sims

The Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Commission will have their first meeting of this current year at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the Chariton Public Library.

We will be discussing what projects to set up for the coming summer: Individual Pioneer Cemeteries, what work needs to be done in each, and what things to tackle first.

Anyone is invited to come and sit in on the meeting, bring up things they have noticed that needs to be done, and just help the commission in general to get the work done that still needs to be done.

The Commission has a notebook of what has been done so far, with photos of before and after, and what still needs to be done. Come join the meeting and help the commission members get the rest of the Pioneer Cemeteries into

Gwen Sims brought an interesting map showing the locations of Lucas County's cemeteries to the April SAPIC meeting. She used red stars to identify pioneer cemeteries and blue stars for active cemeteries. A copy of the map is on the following page.

Iowa Department of Transportation
Phone (515) 239-1282
In Cooperation With

United States Department of Transportation

SCALE IN MILES
0 1 2 3 4 5 6

SCALE IN KILOMETERS
0 1 2 3 4 5 6

JANUARY 1, 1999

LEGEND

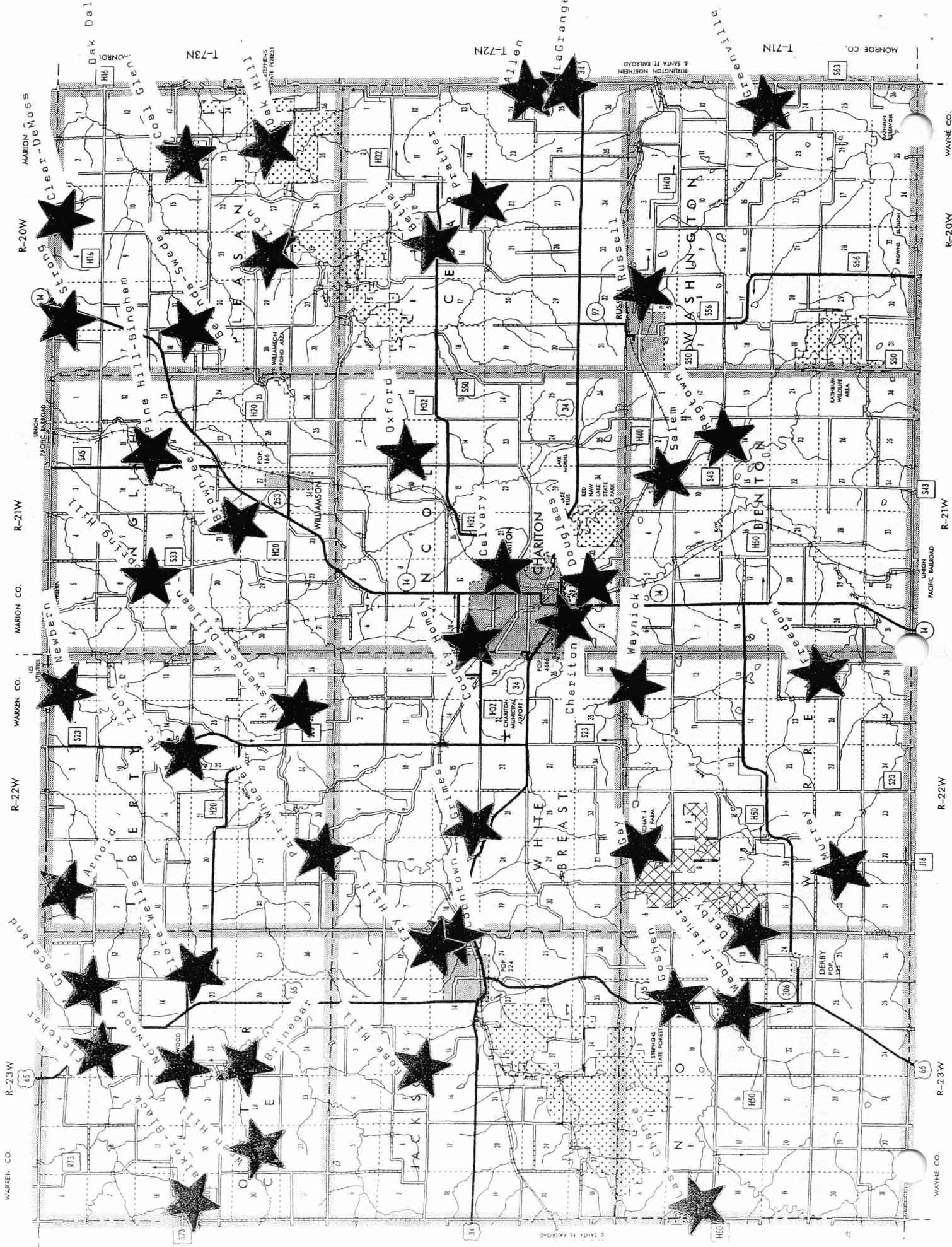
- DWIVED HIGHWAY
- PAVED ROAD
- BITUMINOUS ROAD
- GRAVEL ROAD
- EARTH ROAD
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- UNITED STATES HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY HIGHWAY
- RAILROAD
- PIPELINE
- AIRPORT
- HYDROLOGY
- BRIDGE
- STATE BOUNDARY
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- CORPORATE UNIT LINE
- TOWNSHIP LINE
- SECTION LINE

Pioneer Cemetery

Regular Cemetery

Lucas Co.

Iowa



Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission
Minutes for March 26, 2002 Meeting

The Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission met in the Chariton Public Library on March 26. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Director Don Holmes. Members attending were Alvin Halferty, Don Holmes, Gwen Sims and Warren Wallace. Absent were Dean Boozell, Jim Cooper, Mary Ruty Pierschbacher, Larry Shriver and Jim Wright. Guest was Lucille Chandler.

Gwen gave the Treasury Account Balance of \$1229.36. She had talked to the Supervisors about the check (\$227.50) we had taken in from Lincoln Twp. to repay us for the grading we did in Oxford Cemetery and the cash (\$40) we had received for signs ordered in the past for 3 other entities. Larry Davis had talked to the State man regarding how to handle these. We had to return them to the Auditor and we will not be getting those amounts back into our account.

Old Business:

1. Warren will turn in his bill for the mowing at Douglass Cemetery now. *4X-200.*
2. Contact James Carr of Melrose to see if he is interested in doing the fencing at LaGrange & Parr-Wheeler, and if so get our name in line for doing it as soon as we have money after July 1. Warren would be willing to haul the materials to the sites if needed.
3. Don has finished cutting out & hauling the trees & brush from Parr-Wheeler (got a good case of poison from doing it) and it is ready to pull out the old fence and repair the stones that need it. Then once it is fenced, it will be DONE!
4. Once LaGrange is fenced it will be DONE!
5. We will be removing the brush from the fences at Murray now.
6. The guys will see to the seeding at any of the cemeteries that are ready to be seeded now.
7. Don & Gwen had prepared an order for more road & gate signs needed including one for Don for Pine Hill-Bingham, one for Salem Cemetery for Erville Pettinger and two for Arnold Cemetery for Liberty Township. Order was approved & will be sent to receive before May.
8. Gwen had checked with Longley's about the cost of a Bronze Plate to be placed at Douglass Cemetery with the name, first burial & last burial dates and a list of Surnames buried there. It was decided to find where Don Kingsbury got his sign for the Sailors and compare prices. The matter was tabled until later.

New Business:

1. Gwen reported a call from John Laing who is grounds maintenance at the HyVee Warehouses. While inspecting a water main break west of the old Regal warehouse they discovered 2 parts of an old gravestone in the ditch down the embankment from the old railroad spur. He wondered what he could do with it so it would not be destroyed when they worked down there. We decided to pick it up and we will try to find out where it came from if possible. There are no cemeteries near there.
2. Discussion was held about what we can do for "May Cemetery Preservation Month". We will try to come up with some kind of "Bus Tour of some of the Pioneer Cemeteries with a "Grave Witching" demonstration at one of them". Will check about the Sieda Bus (Joan Davidson) at the Sr. Center. Maybe do the demonstration at the Douglass Cemetery or the County Home Cemetery.

**Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission
Minutes for March 26, 2002 Meeting**

3. It was announced that the next State SAPIC meeting will be held in Diagonal, Iowa on Saturday, April 13 at 10 a.m. Gwen plans to attend and anyone is welcome to ride with her.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m The next regular meeting will be April 23 at the Library at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Gwen Sims

CHARITON HERALD_PARTIOT
Thurs. April 4, 2002 Pg

Meetings

Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission
By Gwen Sims

The Lucas County Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commission met in the Chariton Library March 26 at 6 p.m. The following reports were given:

1) The Parr-Wheeler Cemetery has had all of the brush removed around the fence line. Next will be removing the fence and replacing it with a new fence and repairing the stones.

2) The property surrounding the LaGrange cemetery has been sold and the new owner wants a fence. It will be replaced this summer.

3) We will soon be removing the brush in the fence line around Murray Cemetery.

4) We are planing to hold a tour sometime in May of some of the cemeteries that have been reclaimed, with a demonstration of "Grave witching" to mark that May is Cemetery Preservation Month. Watch for further details, if you are interested. The public will be invited.

5) An order has been sent to Iowa Prison Industries for 16 more road signs for cemeteries.

SAPIC newsletter, April, 2002,
page twenty-four

Supervisors, committee

remain divided over poor farm

By Brenda Fullick
Madisonian staff

Madison County's nonprofit group trying to save the old poor farm would like the Board of Supervisors' blessing.

They're not getting it.

The farm has been declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The committee now can apply for grants to hire a technical expert who could prepare an application to the register.

The federal designation process can take up to a year in some cases.

"We'd much prefer to have your approval," committee member Pat Corkrean told the supervisors.

However, Supervisors Loren Myers and Bob Weeks both said they oppose the designation — or, at least, they oppose it while the poor farm still belongs to the county.

Weeks said he would rather let the new buyer decide whether to pursue the listing. "It's eligible. They can do with it what they wish."

"Let the new buyer do it," Myers agreed.

Supervisor Cy McDonald offered no opinion.

The citizens' committee has tried to envision some sort of community use for the property, but so far no developer has stepped forward and no sale price has been set.

The county isn't even sure yet whether it could command a higher sale price by selling the buildings intact or razing them. It just depends what the developer would want, Weeks said.

Paupers' graves

Meanwhile, the county is still puzzling over how to handle the county home's unmarked paupers' graves. The supervisors have talked about designating an area to recognize the graves, but they're not sure how they should do it or where the boundaries should be.

People probably have been buried in multiple places around the property, said Patrick Frazier, Madison County's director of community services.

Local legend has it that some county home residents were buried in an area near the current airport, Frazier said. "There's evidence of an old road in that area, too."

"Iowa has one of the strictest burial laws in the nation," said public historian Will Page of Des Moines, who evaluated the county home north of Winterset on behalf of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Page offered this rule of thumb: "It's easier to relocate the living than it is to move the dead."

Local grave-witcher Calvin McVay has marked off areas where he believes people have been buried.

Page recommended that the county use more scientific methods — such as soil probes or penetrating radar — to determine exactly where those forgotten graves remain.

He said the county can't sell the property until the uncertainty is cleared up.

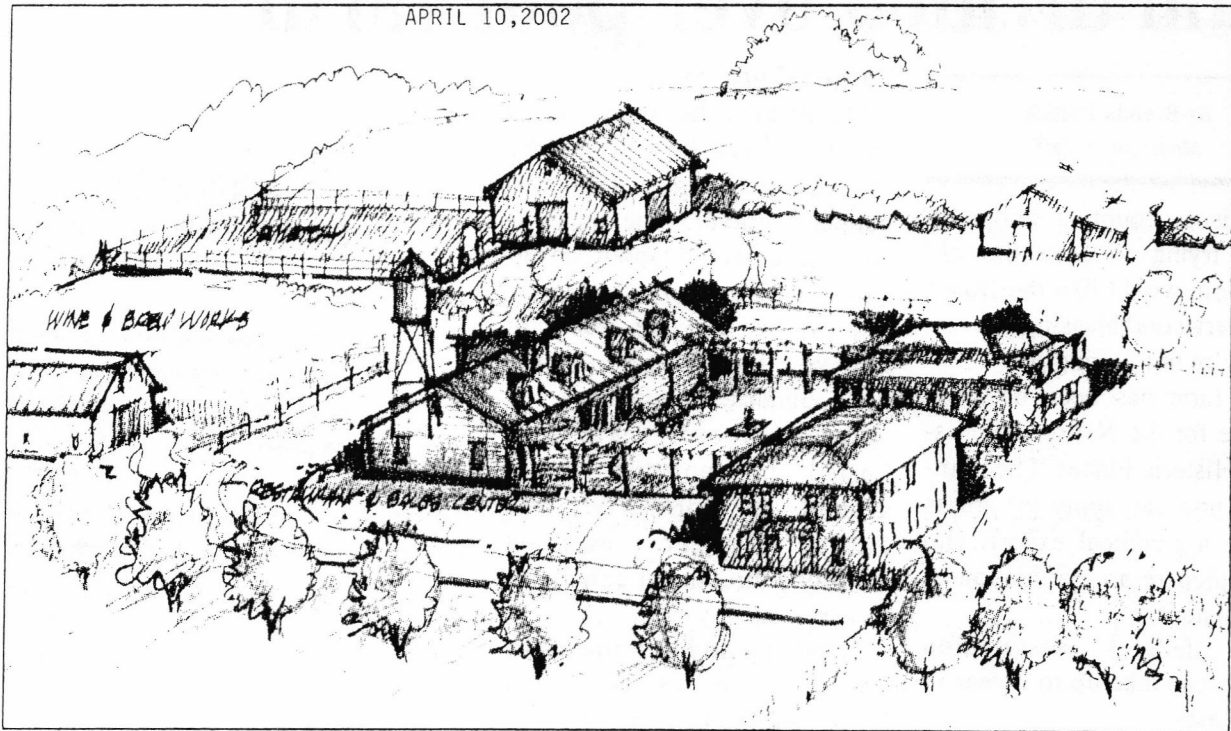
"No one is going to want to buy a property with a cloud over its title," Page said. "Who wants to buy a problem?"

MADISON

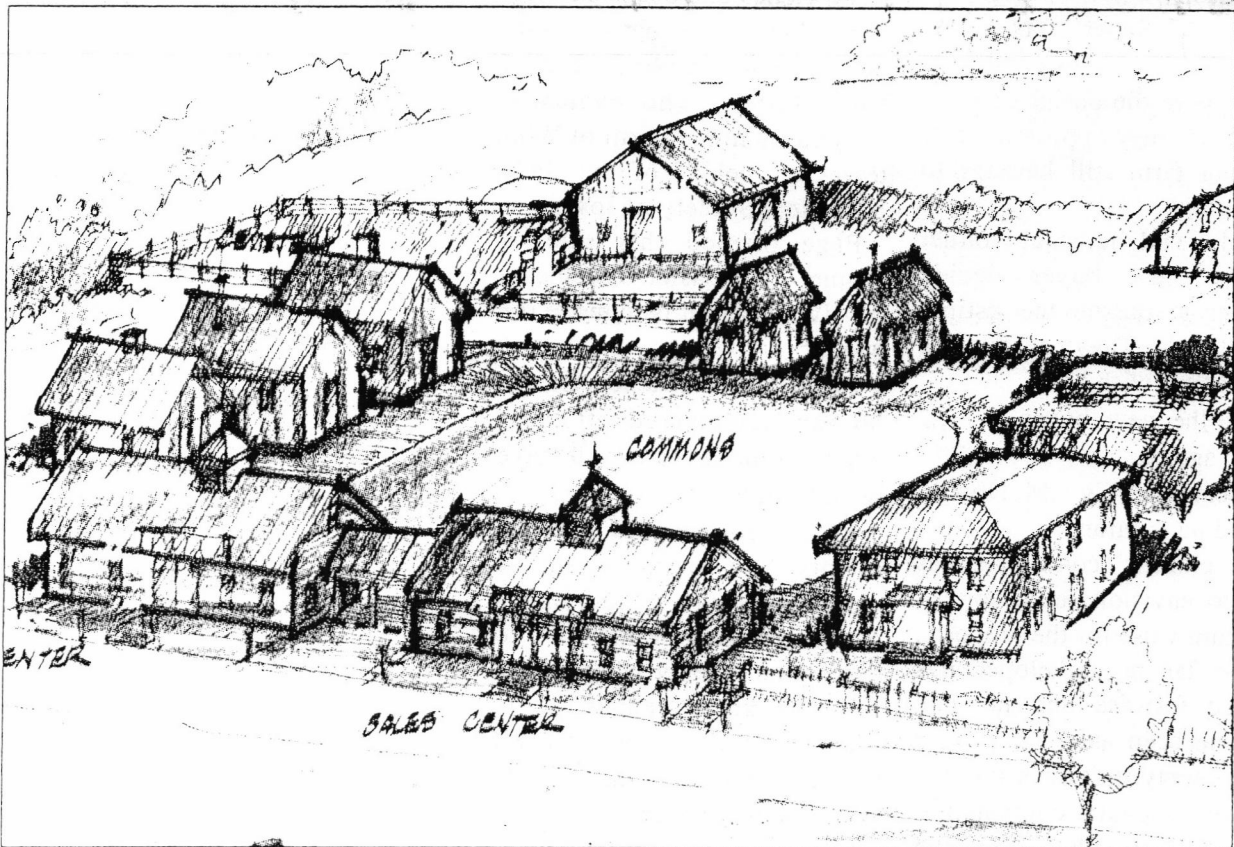
Contributed by Calvin
& Ethel McVay

*Thanks to Calvin McVay
for assisting Loren Larson
in Story County in witching
for graves! Calvin hurt his
back at the cemetery
-- hope he's completely
healed by now.*

APRIL 10, 2002



The committee working to save the former poor farm held a brainstorming session and came up with two main development proposals, sketched by architect Shannon Gordon. Concept A, above, includes a winery, a brewery, and a bed-and-breakfast with theme rooms.



Concept B includes artists' residence and workshop areas, as well as a shop to sell their work.

MAHASKA

Contributed by Jo Vernooy

Commission has had two meetings this year, set goals and reviewed our accomplishments. We are so thankful for our church and 4-H and FFA groups! What dedication they display in working in our Pioneer Cemeteries. Without them our work would not be possible.

DeLong continues to receive a good deal of attention from family members, as well as the Commission. A new gate has been put in, a culvert and access road over a creek has been installed so that family members can drive to the Cemetery. This is especially important for elderly or incapacitated individuals who want to visit this Cemetery. With Memorial Day fast approaching, this becomes even more important.

Chew Cemetery is going to receive some help in July from Church of Latter Day Saints young people who will be visiting the area. Many of the stones have been pushed into a "bulldozer pile." The young people will be asked to sort through this pile to rescue these stones. We are also planning to request that they help us with a fence. This is another group whose assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Crain Cemetery will receive some trees to replace those that have blown down. We are working with Bryce Veldhuizen, a man who has lived near Crain nearly all of his life, to move two trees that have been growing in the ditch by the Cemetery ("sons" of the trees that were in the Cemetery, Bryce says), into the Cemetery. Since continuity is important to us, and as history is continuity, we are glad to be able to make arrangements to move these trees.

On April 5, 2002, I participated in a Career Day for some Oskaloosa Senior High Schools students. We went to Center Grove Cemetery. We talked about the history of Pioneer Cemeteries, the history of Iowa pioneers, and did some grave witching. At first a couple of the students were quite incredulous, but soon got into it, and enjoyed it thoroughly. I am going to that same Cemetery with a teacher tomorrow to discuss the Pioneer Cemeteries. She is planning a field day for her sixth graders, and the teacher who helped at the Cemetery on Career Day told her how interesting it was, so the sixth graders will be visiting the Cemetery as well.

For those of you with Internet, go to the www.teammahaska.org Web site, click on Archives, Pioneer Cemeteries, and you will find an article on our Mahaska County group. One thing that is stated, and which I stressed, is that Pioneer Cemeteries are just that, prairie grasses and flowers growing in with the gravestones - they are not memorial gardens. Our goal is to restore our Pioneer Cemeteries to their natural state.

We recently gave maps of Mahaska County Cemeteries, with Pioneer Cemeteries clearly marked, to the local funeral homes, who were most appreciative. It is encouraging to learn that they know of our work.

Work on Muchakinock continues. It is such a large Pioneer Cemetery - nearly four acres! Pat Powers and his group are wonderful!! Thanks to them for their continuing work in this historic cemetery. I hope all of you got to read Pat's letter in the last newsletter.

Those of us who ordered tee-shirts are so impressed with the quality and design. Thanks to the committee/group who provided those to us.

As May is Cemetery Month, I have prepared an article to be submitted to the newspaper. We can't have too much publicity/awareness of our wonderful Pioneer Cemeteries.

Jo Vernooy, Chairman

On the following page is an article written from an interview given by Jo Vernooy for a Mahaska County web site: www.teammahaska.org

SAPIC newsletter, April, 2002, page twenty-seven

Pioneer Cemeteries: Historic burial plots pepper Mahaska County

If you visit a grave site or cemetery in Mahaska County and it looks un-mowed and un-groomed, don't despair. You may be at the site of a pioneer cemetery. There are currently 83 cemeteries listed in the county, and over 40 of them have been given the 'pioneer' designation.

Jo Vernooy, current chair of the little known ,” said Vernooy. “Many graves are being destroyed because they were developed when there was nothing around them. Now they may be in the middle of a field, with poor or no access, and our commission is charged with preserving them,” she said.

Some cemeteries are resting sites for travelers who died passing through the area. Some may have started as family sites. Many are named for the person who owned the land where they are located, and some may be known by more than one name.

Identifying and maintaining the pioneer cemeteries falls to the Commission. In addition to Vernooy, the county supervisors have appointed Leroy Nugteren, Judy Swanson, John Jacobs and Ben Mayer to this commission. Since there is a county ordinance concerning these cemeteries, the supervisors also provide money from the general fund for their maintenance.

Sometimes maintenance includes repairing or resetting tombstones or markers. Sometimes it includes cutting down little trees and saplings. And because many of the sites are prairie sites, Mahaska County Roadside Vegetation Manager Chris Snyder helps out by doing controlled burns.

“At Centennial Cemetery, also known as Dunsmore, the Iowa Prairie Network identified between 60 and 80 native plants and grasses,” said Vernooy. “At Scott Township, Smith Cemetery has stones that are very unique to this area. They are flat, but they are breaking apart, so we are working with a restorer/repairer from Des Moines to try to fix them,” she said.

Many other people are involved in caring for these pioneer graves, according to Vernooy. Groups like families, 4-H'ers, churches, Penn students, boy scouts and FFAs adopt one of cemeteries and care for it. Research assistance has been provided by Everett Lester at the Pioneer Farm. The Daily Trust matched funds for a computer for the commissioners, Marv Smith Signs provide signage, Mahaska County GIS Coordinator Jon Lubke has created a map marking the sites, and the county supervisors have been very supportive.

“Even the state is involved,” said Vernooy. Because this preservation effort is mandated by legislation, there is a state pioneer cemetery commission which works under the State Insurance Commission. This commission has been instrumental in getting laws enacted for pioneer cemetery preservation, and most recently, access to these sites. There is even a state newsletter called “Grave News.”

“I started on the commission in 1997, intending to serve just a few years,” Vernooy said. “But you learn things, like many people were buried so when they ‘rise up’ they face the east, and you get hooked on the history.”

For more information about this Commission, how to get involved, or for a speaker on this topic, contact the commissioners through the County Supervisors at the Mahaska County Courthouse.

MONROE

Contributed by Lee Ann Dickey

It has been such a mild winter, we have been able to go look at cemeteries that need our attention. And have already been at work for about one month on a couple of cemeteries. Our meetings are held the first Thursday night of each month at 7:00 pm. We decided we wanted each grave we locate to have some kind of tribute to it, so it was decided that we would put a white cross on each grave that did not have a stone. The local school was contacted and agreed to have the kids in shop class make our crosses for us. The local lumber company, Falvey Lumber, has donated the lumber for us and we have a 4-H club who are going to paint them for us.

We have been working in Wayne Twp, on the Grady Cemetery. It is located right next to a gravel road, it was very much overgrown, fenced on three sides. There was a wrought iron fence about 20 feet by 20 feet, with about 10 stones showing in the whole cemetery. We have dug out seven more stones, all from 1860-1875, one gentleman has a big Masonic symbol on his, he died in 1863. We have put out 170 flags, where our two little wires tell us there is a grave. This cemetery is only about half the size it is supposed to be according to the deed, so we are working at putting it back to original. It is almost completely cleared except right along the fence line.

We have also started work on Buxton Cemetery, in Bluff Creek Twp. Floyd Hols has been cutting down old trees for us. We have been working on doing some clearing in it. This cemetery was very overgrown and is about 2 acres big. According to the legal description it extends on the west side of the tree line 60 feet, and on the east side there is a creek bed. On the east side of the creek bed it is also extended out a ways. I learned that this side is said to have been the white section of the cemetery. There are only two stones still standing, but are very hopeful we will find some buried. There are lilac bushes, honeysuckle, more irises and lilies than grass. So if any one is interested in helping we would gladly appreciate it.

The Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has a new address:

P.O. Box 234, Albia, Iowa 52531

Secretary: Lee Ann Dickey

Contributed by Gwen Sims

From the *Monroe County News*, April 2, 2002: "Pioneer Cemetery Commission reports on its initial findings," by Rosalie Mullinix. In September the Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission was formed and appointed by the county board of supervisors. The new commission members' first priority was to assess the cemeteries to see what they're going to need. They inspected St. Patrick's, Welsh, Old Georgetown, Judge family burial site, Grady, nine cemeteries in the northwest corner of the county including the Foutch Cemetery, Lemaster, Derby, Thomas Brandon, an unnamed cemetery in Pleasant Township, Piper, Barron's, Kirkendal, Buxton, and many others. A total of 21 cemeteries has been assessed. What a busy group! The article welcomed volunteers who might be interested in adopting a pioneer cemetery.

PAGE

Contributed by Charly Stevens and Ron Rope

POLSLEY CEMETERY COMMITTEE

In February 1999 the first meeting was held by the newly formed Polsley Cemetery Restoration Committee at Yorktown, Iowa city hall. The meeting was attended by 14 persons the meeting was held to look into improvements and preservation in the cemetery which was found in the mid 1800's, 2 miles southwest of Yorktown Iowa. The committee consisted of Ron & Denise Rope, Phyllis Craig, Elsie Annan, Joel & Nancy Wagoner and Julia Muller.

It was decided the first item was to clean the front area of the cemetery. Removing the old fence, trees and the old outhouse which was assumed was no longer needed. A new wider driveway was needed, and that was done. The Page County Engineer took upon themselves to reshape the front ditch for mowing purpose.

A fund drive was launched to install white fiber glass fencing in the front of the cemetery. The money was raised and it was installed by Memorial day "99". A new permanent sign for cemetery was the next order of business for the committee. A newsletter was sent out with ideas and suggestions on what people wanted. In the Spring of 2000 the new Polsley Cemetery granite marker was installed before memorial day. It was met with great remarks.

Future plans are possibly an annual cleanup day, information center for plots and also signs on roads leading to the cemetery.

As of this date there has been \$6884.00 dollars donated, three memorials have been graciously given to the Polsley Cemetery Fund, we have received donations from 61 families from 15 states.

We the Polsley Cemetery Committee are here for ideas and suggestions from all who are concerned about the cemetery future.

Sincerely yours,

Polsley Cemetery Fund

FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE!!

A GOOD CHOICE FOR MEMORIALS
ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

SEND COMMENTS OR DONATIONS TO:
POLSEY CEMETERY FUND
2175 M AVE
CLARINDA IA 51632
% RON ROPE Phone 712/542/3042

Cemeteries Provide Information and Learning Opportunities

Webster's New World Dictionary, college edition, tells us that a cemetery is a sleeping place, a place for the burial of the dead; graveyard. This is the basic purpose of cemeteries, but over the years they have been quietly collecting valuable information and excellent resources for learning. One can quite easily list several of these, such as:

- Sociology – Oldest gravestones can indicate when the community was settled. Nationalities of the community can be determined by family names on the gravestones. Engravings can tell of occupations in the area and death dates can indicate if a deadly disease or epidemic occurred. Size of gravestones can indicate the amount of wealth in the community.
- Military History - Veterans graves give account of our country's wars and military conflicts.
- Geology - Gravestones are made from different kinds of material, such as granite, marble, sandstone, limestone, etc. Each was formed by certain geological processes and contains different minerals.
- Botany - Cemeteries are good sources of prairie grasses, native trees, shrubs, and flowering plants, creating a good plant identification opportunity.
- Entomology - Hundreds of insect species can be found and observed.
- Mathematics - Dates on gravestones are used to determine dates of birth, death, and age. If one is mapping or surveying a cemetery, distance measurements and directions are used.
- Zoology - Many species of wildlife can be found and observed.
- Ornithology - An excellent place for bird watching.

These are but a few items one could list. The first goal listed in the By-laws of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) is "To identify all Cemeteries in Iowa". When this goal is accomplished and published, it will be a valuable resource for present and future generations.

Larry D. Davis
Pioneer Gravestone Repair Company

SCOTT

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, May 12, 2002: "Gardener finds tombstones, bones," from the Register's Iowa News Service. Davenport, IA -- Mike Bessenecker of Davenport found tombstones, coffin nails, and human bones when digging in his yard to plant hibiscus. State officials have restricted him from doing any more digging without a permit. A neighbor said the tombstones are from a cemetery belonging to a church across the street. Police say it's not surprising bones and other materials have been found because a lot of landscaping dirt came from the cemetery. They say the cemetery was closed and the remains were moved to other cemeteries years ago.

Note: The comment that "remains were moved" is a rather common response to those who voice cemetery concerns. Obviously, in this case (and also in many others), the moving was not done carefully and/or completely or not at all.

STORY

Contributed by Mike Magee

From a letter to the editor, *Des Moines Sunday Register*, April 21, 2002: FURTHER REFLECTIONS "They left their markers on the sod."

Friends and loved ones probably picked the spot for the cemetery. It was a quiet setting, at the crest of a very steep hill covered with prairie flowers and wild grasses and overlooking the meandering creek and timber growth at the bottom. It is a beautiful place for one to spend eternity. Entranced by the old markers, eroded by the rains and winds of more than 100 years, I read some of the names and comments.

John Prine, the Walshes, some Sees and others who lived the good life on the Iowa prairie in the 1800s and early 1900s. There are no clever epitaphs. Just things like "Called home by God at the age of 80 years 3 months and 22 days." I was looking for something more like "I told you I was sick," but these folks were sensible. Simply, "Beloved wife of Henry," or "Loving husband and father of..." etched in the soft stones that now lean in odd directions.

I thought about the wonders these Iowa pioneers had seen during their lifetimes and the history that passed them by like a blink in time. Some were in their graves before the California gold rush. Others had read of the assassination of Abe Lincoln when it occurred and some possibly veterans of the Civil War. One wonders what they were doing here in the early 1800s. Just eking out a living in the rich black earth that now covered them? It had to be tough, but some of the things they enjoyed are still enjoyed and marveled at today.

Can you imagine what they thought upon seeing their first sun-dog? Looking out the cabin window when it was 20 below zero and seeing the sun coming up in two or three different places at the same time. Amazed while they watched the dust devils in spring spin across the open fields they had planted as the new seedlings bent and danced in the tail of the miniature twister. I think about the annual migration of thousands of passenger pigeons pausing in the trees for a brief rest and the sounds of the coonhounds baying on a moonlit night along the creek as they jump at the trunk of the huge cottonwood tree that still towers there.

As I looked down into the valley to the north and across the corn stubble, two deer came out of the timber to feed. A hawk circled lazily overhead while a small gathering of gold finches flitted among the red sumac. There was a chill in the air, and the sun burned red in the west.

Looking back at the path that had guided me up the hill, I thought of what a good team of horses it would take to pull a hearse up this grade. They were surely glad to reach the top.

--Bud Strum, Nevada

Submitted by Loren Larson

On March 29, 2002, Loren cut trees and did some cleanup at the Ballard Grove Cemetery. Calvin McVay came up and witched to determine grave locations. Calvin located several graves outside the present boundaries of the cemetery, which surprised Loren, but is often the case with pioneer cemeteries. Calvin estimated there were 50-60 burials.

Iowa State University

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Agricultural Education & Studies
217 Curtiss Hall
Phone: 294-0897
Email: trexler@iastate.edu

Communication

DATE: April 8, 2002

TO: Pat Shaw, president of SAPIC

FROM: Cary J. Trexler
Assistant Professor

RE: Bloomfield Cemetery

Thank you very much for supporting my students' efforts to rehab the Bloomfield Cemetery located in Franklin Township, Story County, Iowa. By the end of the semester, I believe the students learned an invaluable lesson about community service and about preserving Iowa history and heritage.

Through the project the students learned about:

- 1) deeds and land owners
- 2) township trustees duties
- 3) private property/trespass laws (the cemetery was land locked and the renter called the sheriff on the students—they weren't arrested, but were a little scared)
- 4) working with county attorney's and township trustees (after the trespass incident)
- 5) WPA records of cemeteries
- 6) repairing grave stones
- 7) fencing
- 8) working with others
- 9) fundraising
- 10) and many other invaluable lessons

I believe the class ended up restoring 17 stones. There was only one standing when the project began. In addition, the class worked to establish a permanent right of way with the trustees and placed a sign at the site that identified it as Bloomington Cemetery.

We appreciate the support SAPIC offered Iowa State University's Agricultural Leadership 315 course during the Fall 2001 semester.

Find enclosed pictures of class members that worked to restore the cemetery. Please return the photos after you are finished with them.

RINGGOLD COUNTY

Submitted by Ethel Campbell, Ringgold County Supervisor

Pioneer Cemetery Contract

The Ringgold County Pioneer Cemetery Board
enters into contract with

Name of Contractor _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Cemetery Name _____

Type of Work _____

Specifications _____

Total Price _____

Date to be Completed _____

Signature of Contractor _____ Date _____

Signature of Pioneer Cemetery Board Chairperson _____ Date _____

Signature of Pioneer District Representative _____ Date _____

Payment upon completion of work.

UNION

Contributed by Jessie Thompson

From an E-mail message dated March 3, 2002:

Over a year ago I started researching my family cemetery and was going to write a paper on it and prepare a project with pictures, etc. for the Union County Fair. In the process I went to the courthouse to get information on it and was given a sheet with the cemeteries of the county and the person to contact concerning them. My aunt, who was listed as being in charge of Grove Chapel Cemetery (my family cemetery), has been dead for 20 years, and I saw several other similar incidents. I spoke to Irma Miller and Dorothy Eyeberg concerning this, and we decided that we would update the list. In the meantime I contacted our 911 coordinator who was putting up street numbers for the cemeteries, which we would be including in our new cemetery sheet. Then our Union County Genealogy Society applied for and was given a grant for cemetery signs, so Steve Francis became involved with us, too. To make a long story short, we have updated the cemetery list, are in the process of getting signs for every cemetery in Union County (which the county has agreed to put up), are sharing the cost of a tube to be able to get across a ditch so people can get to an old cemetery, plan to place a stone that has been lying in the Union County Historical area in a cemetery and give it proper recognition, and several other things. It is a joint effort by several people, and we are very pleased that it is finally falling into place. The only problem is that Irma is very ill right now and in the hospital in Des Moines, and we don't know what is ahead for her. She is such a wonderful person and has done so many things in the course of her life even though she is confined to a wheel chair as the result of an automobile accident many years ago. She has the information on her computer, but a couple of us have it---would just have to retype it. I have wanted to let you know about our effort and how happy we are to be able to do it---and hopefully I can send/tell you the end results soon---although it does take time! Steve Francis is a young man and does so many things for all the cemeteries---even though he has no ties to them. He has helped do things at my family cemetery----clean out a fence row, clean up after we had the cedar trees trimmed, and burned the stuff. His wife has a little sibling buried there---but he is just interested in doing good things! An unusual young man---maybe a candidate for the CARTER AWARD.

CLINTON

IOWA. Clinton County, Iowa, Gateway Genealogical Society.
Funeral home, old age tax, cemetery, and other records.
<http://www.clintongatewaygensoc.homestead.com/>

JACKSON

Submitted by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo Courier*, June 9, 1925: Maquoketa, Ia., June 9 -- A storm of criticism was being directed today against the trustees of Mount Hope cemetery here because of their sale of a monument which marked the graves of Jennie and Winnie Davis, sisters, who taught school in this county for many years. They have been dead for more than 30 years. The monument was sold to pay for the upkeep of the lot which was in arrears for more than a quarter of a century.

The headstone originally cost \$300. it was sold for \$100 to a local man who had the inscription chiseled off and a new one engraved thereon. He then placed the stone on the grave on his family lot in another cemetery.

The Davis sisters were popular with the older generation. Their life story was a sad one.. One died of tuberculosis after years of struggle on meager school wages, the disease brought on by wading thru snow to reach school. The other died in an insane asylum after a physical breakdown from exposure and hard work.

The sisters left only \$400. It was used to purchase the tombstone and pay for the burial expenses. Friends kept up the grave expenses for a few years. Then the Davis sisters were forgotten.



WINNESHIEK COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION

c/o Decorah Public Library • 202 Winnebago, Decorah, IA 52101 • 563 382-8559 Ext. 107

March 1, 2002

State Assoc. for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries
21813 170th Street
Birmingham, IA 52535-8045
Attention: Pat Shaw

Dear Pat:

Since Kevin Lee is actually the Winneshiek County SAPIC liaison, I generally let him correspond with you. But..... I am so excited about our new stationery and business cards I had to share them with you.

Since we cannot get out in the cemeteries right now we are keeping busy researching land records for our pioneer cemeteries. We feel it is useful to know whether or not the land was ever officially set aside for a cemetery. In one case we have a family who insists there is not a cemetery on their land. Records show the plot is still being exempted as a cemetery. (This may be interesting.)

Finally, we are also developing a brochure of all Winneshiek County cemeteries - both active and inactive. It will include a brief history of each cemetery plus its address and a county map for those who may want to visit a participate cemetery.

Sincerely,

Susan Jacobsen
Susan Jacobsen
Chairperson WCPCC

Outside of Iowa.....

A few days after my father died in 1999 I went to Hopkinsville, KY (his hometown) to arrange for his burial. I also drove out to the northern part of the county to try to find two early Meacham family cemeteries. I was shocked by their condition -- most of the gravestones had fallen down, many were broken in half, and everything was covered in a thick tangle of vegetation. I was especially moved when I brushed away the soil and vines that were covering the beautifully carved but broken gravestone of my 4th great-grandmother. It was an emotional moment, and I vowed then and there to restore the two cemeteries. In the words of a civil war veteran who put up a monument to his unknown comrades buried in Hopkinsville: "There are hours in everyone's life when the spirit of the past rises from its tomb, and will not depart until it is appeased with sacrifice."

A long series of inquiries led me finally to John Walters of Connersville, IN, highly recommended but 6 hours away by car. Eventually I arranged for him and his wife to come down to Hopkinsville, met them there, put them up for 3 nights in a motel, and we finished both cemeteries in 14 hours of field work. Total cost, including some preparation and tree-cutting before he arrived, was about \$600 per cemetery.

The process and the results can be seen in the relevant article on my website: "Early Virginia and Kentucky Meachams" <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wmeacham/>

There might be a lot of people out there who feel more daunted than I was, as an archaeologist, at the prospect of organizing cemetery restoration work. But anyone willing to spend a little time and money to do it right can accomplish wonderful things. The reaction of the cemetery specialist at the Kentucky Historical Society to the photos up on my website was simply "Wow!"

If you don't want to plug John Walters directly, please feel free to mention the article on my website and invite anyone who is interested in doing something similar to contact me.

Sincerely,

William Meacham

You may contact William Meacham at: wmeacham@hkusua.hku.hk

Illinois -- "The choicest flowers of springtime" should be used to decorate comrades' graves, wrote Gen. John A. Logan, who was born Feb. 9, 1826, in Murphysboro and founded Memorial Day on May 30, 1868.

Illinois -- The largest remnant of native tallgrass prairie in Illinois is in the 2,838 acre Goose Lake Prairie State Preserve near Morris in Grundy County.

Colorado -- From *The Rocky Mountain News*, March 28, 2002: "Who let the prairie dogs in? Superior is finding that critters in graveyard are a problem," by Owen S. Good. Pictured is a tilting gravestone with the following caption: Prairie dogs are invading the Superior Cemetery. Officials are brainstorming ways to keep the rodents out of the cemetery because they are burrowing into old graves and unearthing clothing and bones. Boulder County owns the land and wants to title it back to the city of Superior, which wants to make sure the area is rodent free before undertaking an \$80,000 restoration effort. The town has no plot of the graveyard and if the town sinks a subterranean barrier to keep the dogs out, it could split an unknown grave. Once the prairie dogs have been removed, the city will act swiftly to prevent future colonies from taking roots there. A fence would cost \$43,000, with other improvements costing about \$40,000 more. So far, the city has budgeted only \$5,000 to rehabilitate the cemetery. A private landowner has pledged \$30,000 and hopes the county will chip in \$26,000, or half the remaining cost.

-- Submitted by Harlene Husmann, Anamosa

Washington -- From CEMETERY LINKS. "Unclaimed dead get final resting place." On Wednesday, May 8, 2002, 37 unclaimed dead were laid to rest in Kitsap County, Washington. They were buried by volunteers of the local Parks and Recreation staff at the Old Silverdale Cemetery off Anderson Hill Road in Kitsap County. The cremated remains had been stored at the county morgue over a period of about 10 years. Under the leadership of the county coroner, the community pulled together and gave these individuals a final resting place, including donation of cemetery lots, flowers, gravesite markers, and a religious service.

--Submitted by Barbara Byrd barbjbyrd@yahoo.com

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