

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170th St. Birmingham, IA 52535-8045
Volume #7 Issue #3

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

No Stone Unturned.....

The personalities, talents, and priorities of active cemetery restorers are as diverse as the burial sites with which they are concerned. Some cemetery workers are quiet and reserved and some are exuberant. Some of these folks want to do museum-quality restoration and some are content to save as many burial sites as possible by basically just fencing the area. Some are concerned about family burial sites only and some find excitement in seeing any pioneer cemetery brought back, as nearly as possible, to its original (and sometimes, even better) state. Lots of these people are volunteers who are interested in doing something positive for their communities. A few of them do this work professionally. Some feel comfortable in working alone and without fanfare. Others like to teach groups and impart the enthusiasm that they feel for historic and sacred cemeteries to young people and others. Some of them may start to feel spiritual bonds of some type to the site. Some approach the task in a strictly business-like manner. Many live far away from their ancestors' grave sites and support

restoration efforts from afar. Our society is richer for all of them for preserving our culture in this unique way. We welcome all types of persons with the common goal of saving pioneer burial places into membership in the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC). *(Find application for membership in this newsletter!)*

THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES will meet on Saturday, October 5, 2002 AT 7:00 a.m. at the Iowa Genealogical Conference in Marshalltown, Iowa. Although you can attend the meeting without attending the conference offerings, there will be much of interest to SAPIC members, including the session, "Interpreting American Tombstone Art & Symbols," on Friday, October 4 at 1:15 p.m. You can register at the IGS website at www.iowagenealogy.org or contact IGS at 6000 Douglas Avenue, Ste 145; Des Moines, IA 50322-3300; call 515-276-0287 or E-mail: igs@iowagenealogy.org

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Pat Shaw
21813 170th St.
Birmingham, IA 52535
319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

Vice-President: Ethel McVay
605 E. Buchanan
Winterset, IA 50273
641-462-9802 EMcvay@7984@aol.com

Secretary: Charly Stevens
112 E. Main
Clarinda, IA 51632
712-542-3864 chazstevens@hotmail.com

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

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

Patrick Q. Palmer, Video Sales Coordinator
114 3rd Ave. NE
Hampton, IA 50441 yankeez@willowtree.com

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

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

Carol Bottin, Board of Trustees
124 E. Main, Apt. 13
New Hampton, IA 50659 515-394-4343

Phyllis Carter, Board of Trustees
2305 180th St.
Washington, IA 52353 319-653-6339
pecarter@IowaTelecom.net

Dean Gipple, Board of Trustees
307 Flat Iron Drive
Columbus Junction, IA 52738 319-728-2344

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

Steve Story, Board of Trustees
18883 250th Street
Hawkeye, IA 52147-8129
563-427-5354 dstory@netins.net

Mary Dodson, Board of Trustees
309 S. Dewey
Osceola, IA 50213-1402
641-342-4871
dodson@pionet.net

Jo Vernooy, Board of Trustees
1240 235th St.
Leighton, IA 50143
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

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter - 1 April 2002 thru 30 June 2002

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2002, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$4101.78

Income

Dues	140.00
T-shirts	97.00
Bumper Stickers	89.25
Video	30.00
Interest 4/30/02	4.34
Interest 5/31/02	4.30
Interest 6/30/02	<u>3.83</u>
Total Income	\$368.72

Expense

Ck #128 - Patricia Shaw - copies	6.52
Ck #129 - Patricia Shaw - copies	4.23
Ck #130 - Spencers Shirtworks - bumper stickers	<u>218.50</u>
Total Expense	\$229.25

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2002 \$4241.25

Balance in Reserve Account 31 March 2002, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$2463.39

Income

(none this period)

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 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 30 June 2002 \$6704.64

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

STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES
October 5, 2002 7:00 a.m. Marshalltown, Iowa

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Call to order -- Pat Shaw
Reading of July 13 minutes -- Charly Stevens
Treasurer's Report -- Valerie Ogren

Old Business --

Revised form for reporting neglected cemeteries
Approval of grant application form -- see July, 2002 newsletter
Booklet of examples of gravestone photos -- Sidney Louis

New Business --

Election of officers/board members for 2003 -- Calvin and Ethel
McVay, Nominations Committee
Change of meeting time at next annual meeting on October 4, 2003 --
3:45?
Approval of 2003 Budget

Announcements --

January 11, 2003 SAPIC meeting -- New Hampton, Chickasaw County

Reports

Robert Carter Award -- Phyllis Carter
Fundraisers -- Charly Stevens, Sherry Wiley
Membership -- Valerie Ogren
Friend of Iowa Cemeteries Appreciation Certificates -- Pat Shaw
Legislative -- Pat Shaw
Newsletter -- Pat Shaw
Web page -- Pat Shaw
County Reports -- submit in writing for the newsletter, in addition
to presenting at meeting

Adjourn

Check out page 30 for information about the presentation of the Robert Carter Award for 2002!

Iowa Pioneer Cemetery Commissions

Appanoose

Ann Repp, Helen Johnson, Gary Craver, O. R. Parks, Linda Zintz
Contact person: Linda Zintz; PO Box 384; Centerville, IA 52544-0384
E-Mail: thee_z@hotmail.com

Benton ** New commission!**

Gene and Frieda Davis
216 Riverview Dr.; Vinton, IA 52349-2360
Ph 319-472-5348 E-mail: davisduo@webtv.net

Chickasaw

Jerry Tieskotter, Ron Maher, Mary Ann Crandall, Fred Reisner, Betty Tylee
Advisor: Carol Bottin
Contact person: Fred Reisner; PO Box 86; Fredericksburg, IA 50630
E-Mail: freisner@iowatelecom.net

Delaware

Fred Phelps, Lavern Lammers
Contact person: Lavern Lammers; 120 Hubbard St.; Colesburg, IA 52035
Ph 563-856-4675

Des Moines

John Foss, Bill Walker, Phyllis Rothlauf
Contact person: Phyllis Rothlauf; 1806 Sunnyside; Burlington, IA 52601
Ph 319-754-5595

Fayette

Laura Westendorf, Virgie Bruening, Doris Springer, Frances Graham, Merlin Begalske Donel Boie, Steve Story, Harvey Ungerer, Richard Vagts
Contact person: Laura Westendorf; 25067 Johnson's Mill Road; Waucoma, IA 52171
Ph 319-429-2892

Greene

Contact person: Shirley Clark; 1405 S. Elm; Jefferson, IA 50129
Ph 515-386-4905
Or E-Mail Valerie Ogren vjogren@netins.net

Hardin

Contact person: Dick Stone; 1301 5th St.; Eldora, IA 50627
Ph 515-858-2925 or 515-858-3164

Henry

Stan Hill, Don Rich, Charles Watkins, Wayne Moore, Chad White, June Klopfenstein
Contact person: June Klopfenstein; 211 S. Jefferson; Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Ph 641-385-2387

Iowa

Randall Betz, Ed Gleason, Twila Gerard
Contact person: Randall Betz; 1992 G. Ave.; Marengo, IA 52301
Ph 319-623-3186

Jackson

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

Jasper

Contact person: Marilyn Schmitt; 13059 S. 52nd St.; Mitchellville, IA 50169
Ph 515-674-3956

Jones

Ron Ruess, LaVerta Langenberg, Jim Christensen
Contact person: Laverta Langenberg; 21692 20th St.; Lisbon, IA 52253
Ph 319-432-6389
E-Mail: laverta@mymailstation.com

Louisa

Contact person: Dean Gipple; 307 Flat Iron Drive; Columbus Junction, IA 52738
Ph 319-728-2344

Lucas

Contact person: Gwen Sims; RR 2 Box 58; Russell, IA 50238
Ph 515-535-2382
E-Mail: lucasgene@hotmail.com

Mahaska

Jo Vernooy, LeRoy Nugteren, Judy Swanson, John Jacobs, Ben Mayer
Contact person: Jo Vernooy; 1240 235th Ave.; Leighton, IA 50143
E-Mail: mahcem@kdsi.net

Monona

Contact person: Larry D. DuVal; 900 11th St.; Onawa, IA 51040
E-Mail: duval@pionet.net

Monroe

Lee Ann Dickey, Rosalie Mullinix, Jane Jass, Carol Gillaspie, Merle Regenold
Contact person: Lee Ann Dickey; 410 North A St.; Albia, IA 52531
E-Mail: DICKEY@cknet.net

Ringgold

Contact person: Rick Wiley; RR @ Box 63; Diagonal, IA 50845
E-Mail: richwiley@mtayr.heartland.net

Tama

Contact person: Joyce A. Wiese; 2160 310th St.; Toledo, IA 52342
Ph 515-484-2599

Winneshiek

Contact person: Kevin Lee; 1672 Old Stage Road; Decorah, IA 52101
E-Mail: stonecut@rconnect.com

Note: Please send additional and current information or corrections to the above list to Pat Shan.

Received July 25, 2002 from state cemetery regulator, Dennis Britson, regarding possible revisions to the Iowa Code affecting cemeteries:

"I contacted the BMSE (Board of Mortuary Sciences) and requested a meeting. They requested a "current draft." So, I send them a new draft and requested a meeting. I haven't heard back from them yet. They are a Board and only meet so often, but before long I'll contact them again and request a meeting again."

A cleaning product called "ORVUS" that is available in farm supply stores (look in the animal/horse section) is used by museums for washing delicate antique textiles and is also recommended for cleaning grave markers.

Web sites on the topic of dowsing:
www.tommymarkham.com/BedfordCounty/dowsingforgraves.htm

www.archercousins.com/dowser.htm

www.rootsweb.com/~inposey/pub.htm

www.rootsweb.com/~kyboyle/hints/cemetery.html

<http://ghostfacts.com>
or enter +sex +grave +dowsing in Google

If your pioneer cemetery or old family burial plot is not recorded on official maps and documents, you can have it added by contacting: Geographic Names Information system
gnis_manager@usgs.gov
Web site:
<http://geonames.usgs.gov/gnishome.html>

A Yorkshireman gave instructions for the headstone for his recently departed wife. He wanted the words "She was Thine" on the stone. A short time later he was told the headstone had been erected, so he went to the cemetery to check. He was horrified to read "She was Thin."

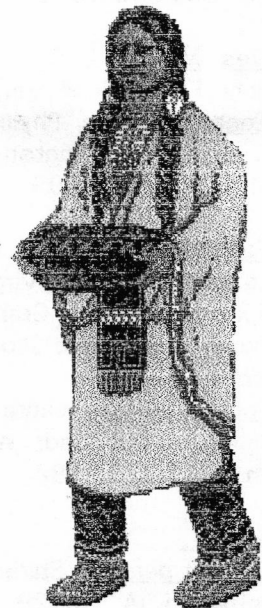
Naturally, he went straight to the monument masons to complain that they had left the "E" off his wife's headstone. He was assured the matter would be dealt with immediately. A day or so later he returned the cemetery to view the corrected inscription, only to read:

"EE, She was Thin"

Thanks to Hugh Norwood
<gen@honorwood.demon.co.uk>

....."A cemetery is not just a place to bury people. It is an reflection of the times people were living in, religious beliefs, customs, location in regards to original communities, type of community, etc. To better figure out a cemetery and what may have happened there you need to put yourself in that place in time, and think like they may have thought."

--Cindy Amrhein
Town of Alabama
Historian
Genesee Co., NY



www.2.pcom.net/cinjod/historian/

Experience the town of Alabama in Genesee County, NY. History, tombstone inscriptions, census records, history of the Tonawanda Seneca Indians and Iroquois. Enjoy a good murder mystery? Read about the murders of Polly Frisch.

Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.

-- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Members of SAPIC who attended the July 13 quarterly meeting in Ft. Dodge's new public library experienced the wonderful hospitality of hosts, Jerry and Marva Rowe. Library patrons can look out on the Des Moines River and its beautiful surrounding woods. Following the meeting and lunch at the library, Jerry and Marva led a tour of Oakland Cemetery, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to grave sites of notable historic persons, the cemetery grounds are contoured around gentle hillsides and contains unique and lovely sculpture and symbolic engravings on grave stones. SAPIC members appreciate the arrangements made by the Rowe's for this meeting!

SAPIC will be meeting Oct. 5, 2002 in Marshalltown, on Jan. 11, 2003 in New Hampton, on April 12, 2003 in Winterset, and on July 12, 2003 in West Union. If your commission, genealogical or historical society, or other group would like to host a SAPIC meeting in 2004, contact Pat Shaw. patshaw@netins.net

From Becky Adams Grigg, May 26, 2002:
<begrigg@yahoo.com>

On this Memorial Day morning I wondered once again where my cousin, who died in France in 1944, is buried. Tonight I read Missing Links, found the Web Link for the American Dead from WWII, and clicked on it. Not only did I find his burial plot, row, and grave number in the Normandy American Cemetery,

but also included were his rank, regiment and division, and his awards.

(American Battle Monuments Commission, World War II Dead (does not include those whose remains were returned to the U.S. for burial)

Search:

www.americanwardead.com/searchww.htm

Find links to other searches at:

www.abmc.gov/

Thanks to Dahlia Wyllarde

<dahliauyllarde@yahoo.com>

A sexton in England undertook a project to map all the graves in the churchyard and to create a complete record of the individuals buried there. After years of work and research he had identified all of the stones but one. The stone, flat on the ground and directly behind the old church, bore only the initials H.W.P. The sexton dug through every church record and could find no record of anyone with those initials.

One day the plumber was working on the old water pipes in the church and chatting with the sexton who proceeded to tell him with pride about his project and added that he was greatly troubled by the fact that one stone remained unidentified. The plumber asked which stone that might be and the sexton pointed out the flat stone.

The plumber smiled and replied that he could solve that mystery since he had placed the stone there himself -- H.W. P. marks the location of the Hot Water Pipe.



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. Estimated number of visitors to area because of cemetery _____

11. 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 Iowa's neglected cemeteries to persons responsible for maintenance, such as township trustees, county auditors, church caretakers, etc.

A copy should be sent to the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries,
21813 170th St., Birmingham, IA 52535 patshaw@netins.net 319-293-3899

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

COUNTY REPORTS

BENTON

Contributed by Gene & Frieda Davis

In a letter dated June 10, 2002, Frieda writes that Gene has had numerous meetings with the Benton County Attorney, which were encouraging. The county attorney seemed to want to proceed with the creation of a pioneer cemetery commission at that time.

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, June 11, 2002: "Pioneer cemetery commission meeting draws mixed opinions," by Steve Meyer, *Times* Correspondent. Pictured is a scene from a neglected cemetery in Benton County showing broken stones leaning against a tree. Caption: If Benton County had a Pioneer Cemetery Commission, decades of neglect such as this scattering headstones in the Lutheran Cemetery in Eden Township could be dealt with and vital history preserved before it is lost. Also pictured is Gene Davis of Vinton, a member of the State Association of Pioneer Cemeteries. The article relates mixed responses to a proposed pioneer cemetery commission by those attending a special meeting of Benton County township trustees and clerks at the courthouse June 8. Gene and County Attorney, David Thompson, chaired the meeting. Thirty-three of Benton County's 71 cemeteries meet the criteria of a pioneer cemetery, according to Thompson. The majority of township trustees present indicated that they would support such a commission. The use of volunteers and contributions, along with tax revenue, for the project was stressed. A note from Frieda mentioned that the Davis's attended a meeting of the Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, where they received needed support and advice. Frieda comments, "They (Tama County) are so helpful." Gene is working to get the American Legion members to support the cause.

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, July 2, 2002: "Future of Pioneer Cemetery Commission decided soon," by Steve Meyer. Pictured is Gene Davis, as he discusses the possibility of forming a Pioneer Cemetery Commission at a recent meeting of the Benton County Supervisors. Davis has spearheaded the effort to start a local commission. The article states that the county supervisors will make a decision regarding the formation of and funding for a pioneer cemetery commission at their July 16 board meeting. Gene stresses that such a commission would "help the township trustees get them (neglected cemeteries) back in shape." Joyce Wiese, chairman of the Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, provided a report from that county noting funding and support from its supervisors. She states that she has received telephone calls from people all over the United State telling her how great their efforts are. Benton County Attorney, Dave Thompson, said that only one township trustee voiced opposition to forming the commission. "If we don't do this pretty soon, there won't be any (pioneer cemeteries) left," said Gene Davis.

BENTON, Continued

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, July 4, 2002: "Pioneer cemeteries may get more care," by Steve Meyer, *Courier* Correspondent. Article states that organizers pushing the idea of a pioneer cemetery commission may learn what the Benton County Board of Supervisors intends to do with the proposal this month. Supervisor Ed Sass said, "I don't want the misconception that the trustees aren't doing their job. Some of these cemeteries they didn't even know are there." A hearing on the issue June 18 attracted an overflow crowd, which forced the meeting to move to the courtroom.

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, July 19, 2002: "Benton County eyes Pioneer Cemetery panel," by Steve Meyer, *Courier* Correspondent. The article deals with the wording on a proposed ordinance for forming a commission. Language would include: Requiring four of the positions on the nine-member commission be filled by township trustees; the commission is responsible for maintenance; requiring the commission to submit a budget request to the supervisors by January 1; negotiating cemetery access where necessary with property owners. Bob LaGrange of Vinton, a proponent of the idea, is quoted in the article: "What it all comes down to is these people in pioneer cemeteries who broke ground here and started this county 100 to 150 years ago deserve better treatment than they're getting."

Contributed by Gene & Frieda Davis

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, July 22, 2002: "Supervisors set date to establish Pioneer Cemetery Commission," by Steve Meyer. The article states that the supervisors have set dates (August 6, August 9, and August 13) for readings of a proposed ordinance to establish a Pioneer Cemetery Commission in Benton County, after revisions were made.

A note from Frieda says she feels that "progress is being made. Then the work begins."

Contributed by Steve Story and Meg Doermann

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Aug. 10, 2002: "Pioneer Cemetery board nearly set Benton supervisors clarify funding," by Steve Meyer. The second hearing on an ordinance to create a pioneer cemetery commission resolved more questions and brought the ordinance closer to something agreeable with all parties involved. Third and final reading will be held Tuesday, Aug. 13.

Contributed by Gene & Frieda Davis

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, August 13, 2002: "Pioneer Cemetery Commission established in Benton County," by Steve Meyer. The Benton County Supervisors unanimously adopted an ordinance establishing a Pioneer Cemetery Commission following the ordinance's third reading at their Tuesday, August 13, board meeting.

Note: This is wonderful news and a good example of perseverance and hard work! Gene and Frieda have worked long and hard to achieve this goal.

BENTON, *continued*

Contributed by Marge Spencer

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 9, 2002: "Research leads to marker," by Steve Meyer. Pictured is Paul Belfield of Vinton who recently received a medal recognizing his grandfather's Civil War service. Isaiah Belfield, buried in the Cox Cemetery near Urbana, was with the 15th New York Cavalry at Appomattox when Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865. Another descendant, Melissa Brening from Illinois, discovered Isaiah's unmarked grave in researching the family. Another descendant, Anna Kelly from Cedar Falls, helped secure a military headstone through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (See information on page 2 of this newsletter.) A special ceremony conducted by his descendants and the Urbana American Legion Post 264 was conducted in mid-May.

BLACK HAWK

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Fall Courier*, May 30, 2002: "Preserving all-but-forgotten cemeteries," by Dennis Magee, *Courier* Regional Editor. The article focuses on the Lester Cemetery located north of Dunkerton, Iowa, to illustrate the pattern that has been replicated at forgotten cemeteries across Northeast Iowa: The people moved, the settlement and churches dissolved, and the burial plots were left to face the elements alone. Mentioned is volunteer, Claudia Eldridge Vokoun, who is pictured pulling weeds from a family plot in the cemetery. The effort was part of an annual work day organized by Vokoun. Also shown in another photo is a misplaced marker setting forgotten among the weeds along the boundary fence. Ruth Tucker, Cedar Falls, a librarian with the Northeast Genealogical Society, said, "It is a moral obligation of those of us who are living (maintaining the graves)." SAPIC member, Mike Magee, of Waterloo, has spent time repairing tombstones at Lester, along with doing the same in burial sites in nine other Iowa counties. Also mentioned is Pearl Rock Cemetery in Chickasaw County.

BOONE

Contributed by Sidney Louis

In a recent letter, SAPIC member, Sidney Louis, expresses his desire that all counties in Iowa document their cemeteries by the use of photography. Mr. Louis feels so strongly about this project that he has donated a camera and up to \$500 in film to SAPIC that is to be used expressly for that purpose. He also sent a booklet containing copies of the photographs taken in his family burial plot, the Schlicht Cemetery in Boone County. The detail and clarity of these photos are stunning. Mr. Louis's booklet was passed around and examined by the members in attendance at the July SAPIC meeting and will be taken to future meetings. His suggestions for documentation and photography are included in the July, 2001 SAPIC newsletter. A copy of this newsletter is available, if needed. **If you know of a historical or genealogical society, a high school history class, camera club, Scout Troop, 4-H Club, church youth group, or community-minded individual who would be interested in borrowing the camera and documenting this important part of Iowa history, please contact Pat Shaw for details. (Address on page 2)**

CEDAR

Contributed by Gene & Frieda Davis and Meg Doermann

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 22, 2002: "Students of history Kids Spruce up cemetery at Mechanicsville," by Duane Crock. Pictured are several fifth grade students from the North Cedar Elementary in Mechanicsville with Stefani Poduska in the foreground trimming grass around an old tombstone at the Pioneer

CEDAR, continued

grove Cemetery just northwest of town. Students from North Cedar Elementary annually go to the pioneer cemetery and do upkeep as part of their Iowa history studies. The cemetery dates to the 1840s at the original location of Mechanicsville. Another photo shows students, James Kost, Cale Pruess, and Ryan Frahm, as they try to dig out an old stump. Teacher, Ann Pruess, recalls the first time she and a local historian went to the site to check it out and discovered a bull standing in the corner. They ended their visit in a hurry! Students are trying to identify as many graves as possible, like Mary Rigby, the wife of a Civil War colonel who was the last person buried there in 1915.

Note: SAPIC members Steve and Donna Story worked with former classes here when their grandchildren were students at Mechanicsville.

CHICKASAW

Contributed by Steve Story

From the *New Hampton Tribune*, May 3, 2002: "Pearl Rock Cemetery Clean-up," by Priscilla Reisner. Pictured is Steve Story "witching" for graves while Mike Magee uses a probe looking for graves that have been overgrown with brush in Pearl Rock Cemetery. The article tells of the first workday at the Pearl Rock Protestant Cemetery located two miles south of Nashua on April 20. A huge amount of brush was moved in a short time by several workers. Some grass around the Catholic Cemetery was burned. The article encourages volunteers to join them at the next workday in this very rewarding work.

Contributed by Betty Tylee and Jeanette Kottke

From the *New Hampton Tribune*, June 11, 2002: "Stapleton Township Cemetery Rededication Ceremony held" by Priscilla Reisner. Pictured is the cemetery with the caption: Many older tombstones were uncovered from the thick brush cleared from the Stapleton Cemetery. Other improvements were also made, including reseeding the grass and the installation of a new fence. Also pictured are commission members and speakers present at the ceremony held on May 27. Fred Reisner was emcee. SAPIC members Steve and Donna Story and Mike Magee assisted in the 2-year restoration. The article was reviewed in the Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol 19, #2 along with an appeal for information about Pearl Rock, their next project.

DAVIS

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 1, 2002: "Bloomfield celebration brings history to life Locals participate in 'Birthday times three' anniversary of city, cemetery and courthouse," by Hillary Wundrow, *Courier* staff writer. Pictured are Angie Rardin and Emma Griffin in a reenactment at the Bloomfield Cemetery in June as they portray students of H. C. Brown, whose career as school superintendent of Davis County schools spanned 29 years. Also pictured is Chris Griffin who portrayed Brown. The vignette was part of a cemetery tour, "Stroll through History," depicting the lives of early Bloomfield residents. Other pioneers depicted were Belle Hughes Steckel (director of the YWCA), Jennie

CHICKSAW COUNTY
Submitted by Carol Bottin

A Rededication Ceremony was held on Memorial Day at the Stapleton Township Cemetery. Approximately 40 people were in attendance. Among those present were trustees, Robert Leo Smith, Don Arens and Gene Arens, all of Lawler, Vice Chairman of the Chickasaw County Supervisors, Arnold Boge, Nashua, Cemetery Board Members, Gerald Tieskotter, Chairman, Ron Maher, Vice Chairman, Mary Ann Crandall, Secretary, all of New Hampton, and Fred Reisner, Treasurer, Fredericksburg. Guests Pat Shaw, President of SAPIC, Birmingham, and Steve Story, Hawkeye, shared information about restoring abandoned cemeteries.

Work has begun on Pearl Rock Protestant Cemetery, aka Thomas Cemetery, in Bradford township. The cemetery is located 2 miles south of Nashua on Highway 218. Brush and dead trees have been removed and burned, opening up the area.

Mike Magee, Waterloo and Steve Story, Hawkeye, who have been restoring old headstones and working in many neglected cemeteries in Black Hawk, Fayette, Jackson, Jones, Benton and Chickasaw Counties, came to help at our first workday. We appreciate the sharing of their knowledge about restoring Pioneer Cemeteries.

Several members of the Commission attended a Civil War Round Table meeting in Waterloo to learn more about researching information about Civil War Veterans. Research indicates that there is one and possibly more Civil War Veterans buried in Pearl Rock Cemetery.

Jeanette Kottke has been researching in Bremer, Butler, Chickasaw and Floyd Counties, resulting in the history of the cemetery and the persons who were buried there.

Three stones that had been removed from the cemetery have been recovered.

Workdays will continue throughout the summer and fall.

Note from Pat Shaw: I was pleased to be invited to the Rededication Ceremony at Stapleton on May 27. The weather was lovely, the cemetery beautiful, and the hosts were most hospitable and enthusiastic about saving this important part of Chickasaw County history. It was, indeed, a pleasure. I'm sure the other guests felt the same. The commission is a good example of many persons working together effectively to achieve the common goal of cemetery restoration. We look forward to going back to Chickasaw County for the January, 2003 SAPIC meeting.

DAVIS, continued

Rosylne "Rosy" Good (mother of 15 and president of the Temperance Union), Margaret Hockersmith (who discovered a fire in the Bloomfield Mill), Nelson Stuart (an Orphan Train Rider), and Mrs. Cleveland, the person who adopted him. Julie Griffin, whose entire family participated in the event, commented, "It's a neat time for everybody to be together and learn about history and a chance to see all the positive things about the people of the area."

DELAWARE

Contributed by Fred Phelps

A response to new SAPIC member, Bernice Allen in California, who inquired about the Plum Creek Cemetery:

I have received your letter from Mrs. Allen in California. I am happy to report that the cemetery has been completely restored and is now being taken care of very well. We even have a permanent steel sign cemented in the ground and standing tall in the air identifying it. We got a grant from the Dubuque Racing Association last year to do part of them and another grant this year. When the remainder of the signs are made we will then put them in place and all the Pioneer Cemeteries in Delaware County will be appropriately and permanently identified. Thank you, Fred Phelps

Note: *It's so great when we can tell a descendant that the burial site of her ancestors has been restored and preserved. Good job, Delaware County!*

JEFFERSON

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 10, 2002: Area Police, Fairfield: 1:39 p.m. Monday. Headstones and shrubs were damaged in a cemetery. Damage was \$1,300.

JONES

Contributed by Jim Christensen

In a telephone call on June 27, 2002, Jim reported that the Ristine -Wehling Cemetery was finished that day. Several commission members and volunteers worked in this site, along with members of the Anamosa United Methodist Church.

Contributed by Steve Story

From the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, May 26, 2002: "Museum offers glimpse of life inside prison. Memorabilia fills building near penitentiary," by Laurie Mansfield, Register Staff Writer. Anamosa, Iowa: Several photos, including one of SAPIC member Ken Marlin, who is a shift captain at the prison and the museum's registrar. Ken is wearing an early 20th-century inmate garb and is pictured in a replica of a prison cell. Ken was one of the first members of the Jones County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and has worked in several cemeteries in Jones County.

ANNUAL REPORT
for
DES MOINES COUNTY
PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION
YEAR 2001

The Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has been active during the workable weather season this past year.

Cemeteries presently completed:

Carter	Year 2000
Old Middletown	Year 2001
Chandler	Year 2001
Mohnike	Year 2001

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wetzel have completed the restoration of the Chandler and Mohnike Cemeteries. The Wetzel's are now making a plot map of the two cemeteries. This represents a great deal of work on their part, but will be a valuable document when completed.

At Porter Cemetery considerable work has been done to clear trees, brush and poison ivy vines. Eight cubic yards of fill dirt was brought in and distributed to the low spots.

Proposed work for the coming year 2002:

1. Porter Cemetery: Complete restoration work. This cemetery will require power equipment to straighten or reset the larger stones. We do not have the necessary equipment for this large task. We are in contact with Allen Gugeler (Oakville) to do this work. Mr. Gugeler does this type of work commercially and we have discussed and made him an offer to him to do this type of work at Porter. We have installed a new gate and we hope that we can eventually put new fencing in place.
2. Freitag Cemetery: We hope that during the summer months we will be able to clear brush from this cemetery.

The Commission has been in contact with the Mediapolis Lions club. It appears that they are interested in taking care of the Pioneer Cemeteries in Yellow Spring Township. We anticipate that this will require some guidance from a few members of the Commission.

The Commission has completed transactions with a Des Moines County resident who requested a burial in the Flint River Township Cemetery. The resident wanted to be buried in the cemetery next to other deceased family members. We sold a lot to him for his use when the need occurs.

Compiled by John Foss, Chrmn.

HENRY

MINUTES PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Pioneer Cemetery Commission met on May 6, 2002 at the courthouse for their first meeting for the year.

Present were: Stan Hill, Kenneth Olson, Wayne Moore, Chad White, Don Rich, Charlotte Zihlman and June Klopfenstein.

Stan Hill called the meeting to order. He reported that Mrs. Meade had contacted him about an access to the Irish Town Cemetery. It was decided that this was something for the Church to work out.

Chad White reported that he was going to be able to mow this summer. He underwent back surgery late this winter, and glad to report a good recovery. He had checked Willeford and Ebenezer and found that Willeford needed to be mowed to cut the lillies. He will check with the County Extension office to see if they could recommend a spray to kill the lillies.

Don Rich reported that some stones are left to be set up in the Wayland cemeteries. He had not heard from the group that were to set up stones.

Chad White presented information on a larger mower deck. Discussion was held on the purchase of this larger deck. Wayne Moore made a motion to purchase this larger deck. Charlotte Zihlman seconded the Motion. Carried.

Discussion was held on work to be done for the summer. Colora Hill needs to be fenced. Allen Barnes had applied for part time work. Chad White made a motion to hire him as soon as the work is organized. Seconded by Don Rich. Motion carried.

Wayne Moore reported that stones needed to be reset at Bethany Cemetery. Hiram Smith, the first white settler in Henry County, is buried here. His stone is in bad repair, He and Stan will check this and report at the next meeting.

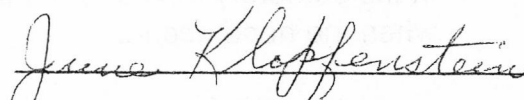
No report has been received from the DOT regarding the Pickard Cemetery.

Charlotte Zihlman reported that all materials were purchased and the fence would be put in as soon as the weather permits, at Leech-Traxler cemetery.

Work on resetting stones was discussed. Stan Hill will contact Larry Davis and arrange for him to come down and look over some stone work.

Marcy Hassenfritz resigned from the Commission. Wayne Moore made a motion to accept her resignation. Seconded by June Klopfenstein. Motion carried. A replacement will need to be named. Chad White volunteered to write the article for the newspaper.

The next meeting will be June 3, 2002 at 2:00 P.M. in the Supervisors office at the courthouse.



HERB, continued

M I N U T E S

The Pioneer Cemetery Commission met on June 3, 2002 at the courthouse for their regular meeting.

Present were: Stan Hill, Don Rich, Charles Watkins, Wayne Moore, Chad W and June Klopfenstein.

Stan Hill called the meeting to order. Pat Shaw, the State President, was a guest. She stated that Henry County was one of the fortunate counties with an active Commission and with funds available to work on the Pioneer Cemeteries. Resetting of stones was at length. Mrs. Shaw stated that Beverly Bethune at Indian Hills College at Ottumwa could be available to hold a work session with the Commission on the resetting of stones. Larry Davis will be in Mt. Pleasant on June 17th to check on stone work he will be able to do this summer. He will be setting up the stones in Old Irish Town the week of June 17th. Stan had a copy of a letter from the St. Alphonsus Church to the City of Mt. Pleasant regarding the establishing of an entry to the Cemetery.

Willeford Cemetery: Our Commission will work with the City in getting an easement and entrance to the cemetery. Also fencing will be done. Stan Hill reported that he had talked to a man who knows the names chiseled off the stone in Willeford. This will be checked,

Betheny Cemetery: Stan and Wayne Moore will try to check this soon.

Ebenezer Cemetery: More mowing and cleaning is to be done. The County Engineer has promised to check the easement for some grading work.

Wayland Cemeteries: Chad White has mowed Kirsch and Haines. Don Rich will see the man who owns adjoining land and ask about securing an entrance into Shively Cemetery.

Leech or Traxler: The new fence has been finished.

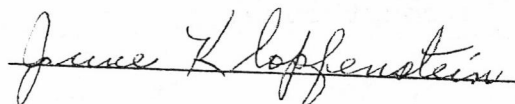
Pickard: No report from the Iowa DOT regarding this Cemetery.

Cholora Hill or Sample: Allen Barnes is cleaning fence rows, putting in new posts and a gate. We will reset stones if Mr. Davis can work it into his schedule this year.

Discussion was held re filling the position vacated by Marci Hassenfritz. Motion by Charles Watkins to appoint Betty Inglebright. Seconded by Wayne Moore. Motion carried.

Bills were presented by Chad White for mowing for \$302.62. Also a bill at Orschlens for \$4.99. Bills allowed.

Next meeting will be July 1, 2002 at 2:00 P.M. in the Supervisor's Office at the courthouse.



Secretary

MEMO, continued

M I N U T E S

The Pioneer Cemetery Commission met on July 1, 2002 at the courthouse for their regular meeting.

Present were: Stan Hill, Don Rich, Wayne Moore, Charles Watkins, Betty Inglebright Charlotte Zihlman and June Klopfenstein.

Wayne Moore made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Seconded by Don Rich. Carried.

Don Rich reported that he had contacted the land owner, who lives in Missouri, regarding an entrance to Shively Cemetery. He was given permission to cut the fence to gain entrance into the cemetery. The Commission will need to install a gate.

Haines-McClintock-Babtist: Work has been completed on these cemeteries,

Old Irish Town: The stones have been reset and all work completed. Mark Fitzpatrick was present to represent the Church. He asked if the Commission HAD ANY objection to putting a lock on the gate to help detour vandalism. There were no objection. He asked about marking two civil war vets graves. He also submitted a bill for resetting stones in the amount of \$2590.00 and asked if the Commission could help the Ladies organization in paying part of the bill. Discussion followed. June Klopfenstein made a motion that the Commission pay one-half of this bill amounting to \$1295.00. Seconded by Charlotte Zihlman. Motion carried.

Don Rich submitted a bill for \$680.00 for resetting stones in the two cemeteries at Wayland. June Klopfenstein made a motion to allow this bill. Seconded by Wayne Moore. Motion carried.

Stan Hill and Larry Davis checked some cemeteries and an estimate was given as follows: Cholora Hill has 54 stones to be reset for \$5235.00; Traxler or Leech has 10 stones to be reset for \$915.00; Crook in the Road has 6 stones to be reset for \$220.00. There is a question that there may be more then 6 stone Don Rich made a motion to accept these estimates. Charles Watkins seconded. Motion carried.

Charlotte Zihlman made a motion to hire the Richland Methodist Men to reset stones at the old Richwoods Cemetery this fall. Seconded by Wayne Moore Motion carried.

Cholora Hill: Fence rows had been cleaned and sprayed. Trees and brush had been cut, fence repaired and a gate will be installed. A bill from Orchleans for fence and supplies for \$658.36; bill from Allan Barnes for \$1308,65; bill ^{for} ~~for~~ Evy Barnes for labor for \$360.00 were submitted. June Klopfenstein made a motion to allow these bills. Seconded by Charlotte Zihlman. Motion carried.

Willeford: No report

Pickard and Bethany: No report.

Old City Cemetery: Stan Hill reported that he and Larry Davis checked and

found 13 stones that had to be re-glued. Mr. Davis stated that he would do this work at no charge to the Commission.

Next meeting will be August 5, 2002 at 2:00 P.M. in the Supervisors room at the courthouse.

Jane Klappenstein
Secretary

Additional notes from June: Our Pioneer Cemetery Commission has been suggested as a member of the Henry County Historical Society. Isn't that "cool?" (Yes, June! All of our societies and groups with the common interest of historical preservation can be much more effective, if we work together.)

Contributed by Pat Shaw

It was a delight to attend the June 3 meeting of the active Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission at the Henry County Courthouse. I had previously met only one member of this commission, Wayne Moore.

On the afternoon of June 7, Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission Chairperson, Stan Hill, and Pat Shaw presented two sessions on cemetery preservation issues at a cemetery adjacent to the grounds of the Old Threshers Theater Museum in Mt. Pleasant. The event titled "S.O.S. Save Our Stuff!" was part of the annual conference of the Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium. For more information about this group, contact: University Libraries/University of Iowa; 100 Main Library; Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1420.

Pat provided information about SAPIC and Stan told of the activities and accomplishments of the Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Stan also had pictures of the cemeteries that have been restored.

Note: It was a pleasure to meet and work with Stan, who is so conscientious about preserving the grave sites of Henry County's early settlers. Ken Marlin, a SAPIC member who is associated with the museum on the grounds of the Anamosa State Penitentiary, also attended the conference.



FAYETTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION

July 8, 2002

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(please rewrite as needed)

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

Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission volunteers completed the restoration of Peters Cemetery near Brainard last week. Pioneer Cemetery identification signs have been installed in the cemetery and on County Road F, off Golden Road.

Sixteen grave sites were found in Peters, requiring brush and small tree clearing. A fence of 6 x 6 treated posts and 'combo' panels has now been installed around a cement slab, which supports the few remaining gravestones that were found, mostly underground.

The volunteer crew will next turn their attention to Barnhouse Cemetery, located in a CPR field east of West Union. Work is planned to start on Tuesday, July 23, weather permitting. Any descendants or relatives of William and Mary Barnhouse, who died and were buried in 1878 and 1883, are asked to please contact the Fayette County Historical Center in West Union for help with the history of the Barnhouse and Butler families.

Pioneer Cemetery volunteers have recently been asked to evaluate the need for restoration in three old, but non-Pioneer, cemeteries in Fayette County, including Otsego, Waucoma and Oakdale. By definition, Pioneer Cemeteries are those with six or fewer burials in the last fifty years.

Area historian Dorothy Blunt has provided crew members with her personal list and map of old cemeteries. It appears that Barnhouse or possibly one other site near the Turkey River will be the final restoration in Fayette County at this time. However, at least two rural cemeteries could become eligible for Pioneer Cemetery status within the next eight to fifteen years if they accept no more burials.

100 N. WALNUT STREET
WEST UNION, IOWA 52175

(563) - 422-5797

FAYETTE

Contributed by Steve Story

From the *Elgin Echo*, July 31, 2002: "Restoration of county's pioneer cemeteries nearly complete." Pictured are Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission members Steve Story and Bill Moellering as they stand beside the Peters Cemetery recently restored near Brainard. The accompanying article states that the restoring of the county's pioneer cemeteries is nearly finished, but the commission will continue to maintain each of the cemeteries and, within the next 8 to 15 years, at least two more rural cemeteries could become eligible for pioneer status. After the area containing the Peters Cemetery was cleared of brush, a fence was installed around a cement slab that supports the few remaining gravestones that were found. The volunteer crew has now turned its attention to the Barnhouse Cemetery, the last pioneer cemetery known in the county. Descendants or relatives of William and Mary Barnhouse, who died in 1878 and 1883 are asked to contact the Fayette County Historical Center in West Union for help with documenting the family's history. Since 1999, the commission has restored 12 pioneer cemeteries: Boale, Dover Public, S. Windsor, Center, Eden, George, Mount Pleasant, Pitts, Groat, Prairie View, Sawyer, and Peters.

Note from Pat Shaw: *I was pleased to have visited two of these sites on May 27 and to see the creative methods used to preserve burial sites in Fayette County that have nearly been lost.*

From the *Union*, July 24, 2002: "SAPIC comes to West Union." The article reports the plans that have already been made to host the SAPIC meeting on July 12, 2003 in West Union. SAPIC members look forward to meeting in Fayette County, where so much has been accomplished by its commission.

GREENE

**Contributed by Shirley Clark, Secretary
Greene County Pioneer Cemetery Commission**

The Greene County Pioneer Cemetery Commission meets monthly. This is our third summer working toward the goal of cleaning up and establishing Pioneer Cemeteries, the 10 that are in Greene County.

We have established the ownership of all of the 10. Eight have been designated as "a cemetery as burial ground" and the other two are family plots on private land.

The "Old Rippey Cemetery" was our first endeavor. With the help of county crews, the trees in the fence line were eliminated. Only a few stones needed repaired as the cemetery had been rejuvenated several years ago by clubs from Rippey. It is completed with the exception of two stones and installing our Pioneer Sign. This cemetery is taken care of by the township.

Our next cemetery was the old German-Patterson Cemetery. Its fence was in disrepair and a family descendant had it removed and had put in a three wire barbed fence. Originally, the cemetery was a full acre, but a number of years ago the farmer who owned the surrounding land knocked down stones and piled them in a corner. These later came up missing. He then proceeded to farm the area around the few remaining stones. We will install short posts (like those in parks) to keep vehicles from driving through and also we will acknowledge it with a Pioneer Sign. The families had erected two flag poles in the front of the stones. The township also takes care of the mowing in this cemetery.

This summer we tackled the old "Franklin Cemetery." This one is landlocked in the

GREENE, *continued*

middle of a section. The county traded the land owner farm ground for some rough land around terraces and a wildflower patch, and this is the path that we use to get to the cemetery. The fence around the cemetery had fallen down years ago, and the cattle grazed in there at will. On June 13, 2002, 13 people showed up to cut down about 30 trees and to use weed eaters to get rid of the tall grass and weeds. Most of the trees were thorny locust and some were quite large. All stones were flat in the ground. A woven wire fence with two barbed wire strands has been put around it and a gate installed. Our next step is to erect the stones approximately where they were. Nobody has been buried here for over 125 years. Some bodies were exhumed and moved to the new Franklin Cemetery near Cooper. There are still 22 buried in this cemetery. One descendant is going to have his family stones repaired professionally of which there are several. Also, a sign will be erected there.

Our county conservationist has been helping with equipment and some man power. It also helps that he is on our commission. We are also fortunate to have a former owner of a monument company on our commission.

Greene County Supervisors has given us \$1,500 each year to reestablish these cemeteries.. This money has helped with surveying, materials, and our new signs which we ordered from the state prisons. These signs give the name of the cemetery, year established, and also proclaim it to be a Pioneer Cemetery

HAROLD

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, June 7, 2002: "Historic tours planned for Rainsbarger Daze." An announcement of the 2002 Steamboat Rock Cemetery Theater's annual tour, held this year on June 27-28, is made in the article. Community members portray 10 historic figures during six performances each evening. For information about next year's event, contact Mary Jo Gast at 641-858-2445 or Kay Roelfsema at 641-868-2357.

IOWA

Contributed by Pat Shaw

In a letter dated July 25, 2002 from Randall Betz, Chairman of the Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, Randall states that a workday was scheduled for the Spicer-Spooner Cemetery for August 5. Sandy Snyder, Cedar Rapids, who is a descendant of the Sherlock family whose graves are located in this cemetery, has spearheaded a letter-writing campaign to the county supervisors and commission members to restore and preserve the site. Sandy and her husband attended recent meetings of the supervisors and commission. At its July 24 meeting, the commission voted to join SAPIC. Sandy reported that another work day was held on August 6. Assisting in the clean-up, is Gary Nelson, a volunteer from Belle Plaine, Iowa.

The Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission meets at 7 p.m. at the Pioneer Museum, 675 E. South St. in Marengo, Iowa on the 4th Thursday of each month.

KEOKUK

Contributed by Pat Shaw

On May 23, a group of descendants of the SAMPSON family met to repair the grave markers of Isaac, Ezekiel, and Polly Sampson located in the Springfield Cemetery. The project was organized by Marge Spencer of Anamosa, Iowa. Marge did a great deal of research into the proper way to reinforce the broken stones and bases. She enlisted the help of Corky McQuaid of Anamosa who works for the Stone City Quarries. Holes were drilled inside the stones of Polly

KEOKUK, *continued*

and Ezekiel for the purpose of inserting stabilizing rods. The bases were leveled and the parts of the monuments were cleaned and then glued with special epoxy. The stones were braced and protected with plastic wrap until the epoxy set. Marge returned later, removed the plastic, and filled in areas with a concrete repair mixture. The obelisk of Isaac was leveled and reglued. Those in attendance were: Charles Larimer, Chicago; Laura and Norman Shishler, Oskaloosa; Pat Shaw, Birmingham; Paul, Susan, Tim, and Zeke Brackin, and their employee, "Buck," Pella; and Herb and Marge Spencer, Anamosa. The Brackins own a landscaping business and furnished equipment and manpower. Later, some members of the group discovered the site of the town of Springfield nearby where many of Keokuk county's early settlers lived.

SAPIC member and Sampson descendant, Charles Larimer, recently published a book, *Love and Valor*, about his Ritner ancestors in Henry County. The book contains the letters written during the Civil War between a husband and wife. Excerpts from the book were read at the ball held in conjunction of the Battle of Pea Ridge reenactment held annually in Keokuk, Iowa in Lee County. Charles is planning to publish a sequel to the book titled, "The Cemeteries of Love and Valor." He has also edited and published "Tales of Dunlichity, the Stories of Willie MacQueen." Willie lives near the childhood home of Charles's ancestors in Scotland.

LINN

Contributed by Marge Spencer

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 2, 2002: "War of 1812 veteran gets new gravestone Man's descendant requested monument from government," by Steve Meyer. Pictured is a photo of Russell Wyckoff standing before his great-great grandfather John Wyckoff's grave in the small Ashlock family cemetery in Linn County. Wyckoff helped secure a new headstone commemorating John's military service. For decades, the deteriorating headstone stood atop a hill in the cemetery overlooking the pastoral farmland surrounding it. Russell is quoted in the article: "One reason we did this was we got angry about a (radio) news broadcast a few years ago that said no one ever visited this cemetery. The fact is, we visit this spot every year."

LOUISA

Contributed by Dean Gipple

In a letter dated July, 2002, Dean enclosed a picture of the stainless steel sign that has been erected at the entrance of the Spring Run Cemetery at a cost of approximately \$700, that is being paid for by township trustees. A planter has been installed at a cost of \$300. The county has hauled in about twenty loads of dirt. There will be a stainless steel flag pole, partly donated by Dean. A new seeding of wild flowers and 9 Arborvitae trees will be added in the future.

Dean suggests the idea of matching funds when making grants from the SAPIC treasury.

MAHASKA

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 6, 2002: "Cemetery Walk planned for Osky." The article announces that the Oskaloosa Public Library is sponsoring a cemetery walk on the following Tuesday at Forest Cemetery. Local citizens will portray 10 famous Mahaska County people of the past: Anna Elizabeth Michener, Semira Hobbs Phillips, Virginia Knight Logan, General Samuel Rive, John F. Lacey, Effie Hoffman Rogers, John A. L. Crookham, Clifford "Bud" Knox, C. L. Barnhouse, and Lillian Mae Nelson. For information about this event and possible future walks, call the library at 641-673-0441.

MONROE

Contributed by Lee Ann Dickey

Buxton is going well, the west side to the creek is all cleared of debris and Rosalie Mullinix's husband has been resetting stone. The east side of the creek is being cleared now. Beverly Bethune of Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa and a member of the Wapello County Pioneer Cemetery Committee has visited the site. Dee Ann and her husband have been resetting and fixing stones at Hardy/Grady Cemetery and Prather cemetery over by Melrose. Hardy also has a new sign up that Merle Regenold made.

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 12, 2002: Obituary of G. Robert Kocur. George Robert "Bob" Kocur, 75, died July 9, 2002, at his home in Lovilia. SAPIC lost a supporter and determined cemetery restorer in the passing of Bob Kocur. Bob and his son-in-law, SAPIC member, Bill Colwell, restored the Foster Cemetery in Monroe County as a tribute to Bob's late wife, Georgean, whose ancestors' graves are located there. Bob edited and published the book, "Foster, Iowa and Kinser Valley and Monroe County, Iowa." He had worked for newspapers in Albia, Ottumwa, and Des Moines and had a county western band that performed weekly on the radio. He also composed several songs. The obituary requested that memorials be made to the Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission; P. O. Box 234; Albia, IA -- a further demonstration of Bob's commitment to the preservation of Monroe County's pioneer cemeteries.

Note from Pat Shaw: *I visited the Foster Cemetery with Bob and Bill in June, 2000. Bob was a gentle, caring individual who accomplished a great deal before Monroe County had a cemetery commission.*

UNION

Contributed by Jessie Madden Thompson

From the *Afton Star*Enterprise*, April 18, 2002: "Greenlawn Cemetery will be Site for 1875 Stone." The article tells of the rescue of a grave stone that was found in Afton a few years ago. The stone was for the graves of twins, Muriel and Benny White, who were born 3 days apart and died May 10, 1875. It was given to the Union County Historical Society for safekeeping. The Union County Genealogical Society recently had the stone repaired with the help of SAPIC member, Calvin McVay. It will be placed in Greenlawn Cemetery at a memorial service at a later date.

From the *Creston News Advertiser*, April 30, 2002: "Governor proclaims May cemetery appreciation month." A copy of the text of the proclamation was printed.

From the *Afton Star*Enterprise*, June 27, 2002: "Signs for Cemeteries." The article reports that new signs for 23 Union County Cemeteries that were otherwise unmarked and largely forgotten have been erected. A grant from the Pillar Foundation of approximately \$500 helped with the expense. Steve Francis coordinated the project that involved the setting of 63 signs in all. The county engineer's office assisted.

VAN BUREN

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 20, 2002: "Russell-Oaks Cemetery receives sign," by Diana Goemaat. Pictured are six members of the Friendly Four Corners 4-H club, along with their leader, who erected a beautiful cedar sign at the Russell-Oaks Cemetery, north of Milton, Iowa. The club used money obtained from a Pioneer Grant which is available to organizations in all 99 Iowa counties with 32 being awarded yearly. This 4-H club has received the grant for ten consecutive years. Money from a donation by an individual whose relatives' graves are in the cemetery, and profits from a book, *The Milton Book*, the history of Milton's first 150 years, were also used to purchase the sign.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 20, 2002: "Genie Talk" by Ramona M. Clark, Stockport, IA 52651 <talkgeni@netins.net> Cemetery copying -- Shirley Aldrich and Dorothy Calhoun are busy updating cemetery inscriptions. Approximately 40 cemeteries have been updated. Most had not been updated since 1965. Cemetery clean-up and stone repair -- The crew has been busy. Many volunteers are needed to help. A plea is made for readers of the column to adopt a cemetery and learn how to best repair old stones. Ramona suggests that they get a crew together, have a picnic at the cemetery, and see how much work they can get done in a day.

From the *Quill*, published quarterly by the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, July, 2002: From the desk of the President, Melva Jane Workman: Earlier in the summer, the rain prevented the society members from venturing into the cemeteries. In May, 6 gravestones were reset and/or repaired at the White Cemetery. In May, several members reset and repaired 7 gravestones in the Oaks Cemetery at Milton. A monument company reset 3 large multiple piece monuments. This was made possible by donations. The Thompson and Greenglades Cemeteries are being re-read. Three cemetery books are available for purchase. The Society wishes to thank those who have donated time, money, and materials to our Cemetery Restoration Project.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 1, 2002: "Annual cemetery tour coming next Saturday in Bonaparte." Pictured is Connie Morris, in costume, who portrayed Anna Wilson in the Bonaparte Cemetery Tour. The Bonaparte Main Street and the Bonaparte Cemetery Association co-hosted the seventh annual Historic Cemetery Tour on June 8. Spectators were taken to the site from the Whitely Opera House every 30 minutes from 6 - 8:30 p.m. Nearly 12 stops were made at graveside sets allowing guests the opportunity to hear form a vast array of characters from Bonaparte's past. "Living history in the first person," is how Main Street Organization Chairperson Gianna Barrow describes the tour. Half of the proceeds from the tour go to the cemetery.

WAPELLO

Contributed by Beverly Bethune and Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 20, 2002: "Preserving Wapello County history Local historical committee restores gravestones ravaged by sands of time," by Emily Gaumer, *Courier* staff writer." A large color photo shows Becky Fisher, Wapello County Pioneer Cemetery Committee member, and her son, Kaleb

WAPELLO, continued

Carroll, of Ottumwa, as they reset one of the gravestones in Dahlonga Cemetery. Fisher's husband, Lee, looks on. The article describes the methods used in resetting about six stones at the cemetery. Future plans are to finish resetting all the fallen stones, contributing funds to the township trustees in replacing the fence, and ordering a new sign. The committee members will also work on the Hook Cemetery near Hedrick, which started as a community service project for a high school student. The goal for this summer is to finish the fence, plant day lilies, and install a new sign. Fisher says she got interested when she starting doing rubbings of stones. The article also mentions May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month" in Iowa and SAPIC. Persons interested in volunteering to help are given a phone number to call.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 1, 2002: "Tours planned at opera house, cemetery during Gothic Days" The annual cemetery tour was held on Saturday, June 7, with the theme, "Life in a River Town." Actors brought the stories to life of those who have passed on. Seven sites in the Eldon Cemetery, complete with costumed actors and appropriate props, were chosen to depict persons in Eldon's past. A shuttle transported spectators from downtown Eldon. A golf cart was available for those who had difficulty walking. Benches were located at each site.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 10, 2002: "Gothic Days celebrate past, present, future Eldon's visitors tour historic sites and enjoy modern fun," by Cindy Toopes, *Courier* Staff Writer. Pictured on the front page in color is Ron Glasgow, portraying ice man George W. Gonterman, as he describes the cutting of ice blocks during a reenactment at the Eldon Cemetery. The late Mr. Gonterman was one of several historical figures portrayed by costumed actors during a Gothic Days Cemetery Tour. The tour was introduced by Galen Schwochow, as he sat barefoot and in bib overalls under a shade tree. He offered the visitors a stirring version of "Old Man River." The focus of the tour this year was the effects of living near the Des Moines River. Also pictured on page 2 is the Gothic House which was used in the famous painting by Grant Wood, "American Gothic." Tenant Bruce Thiher is shown being interviewed by a crew from National Geographic. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In an E-mail from Beverly Bethune, July 6: "The Wapello County Pioneer Cemetery Committee is slowly making some progress. We worked a full day on a Saturday in June with a group of youthful offenders that are required to do public service as part of their sentencing. It went very well and we are planning future workdays with the coordinator of the program. We are trying to finish up some projects started last summer as well as beat back the "jungle" in two cemeteries just recently put on our priority list. I am doing a lot more weed whacking than I am stone cleaning this year! Oh well, that is part of preservation, too."

From the TV and Entertainment section of the *Ottumwa Courier*, August 23, 2002: "Stranger, stop and cast an eye." On the front page is pictured the photographic artwork of Frank Calidonna, past president of the Association for Gravestone Studies. Calidonna's work will be on display at the Indian Hills Community College Art Gallery beginning Monday, August 26. A reception and gallery talk will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Sept. 11. The exhibit will be on display through Sept. 26 at the gallery located in the Ottumwa Campus Library and is open from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 4:30 - 9 p.m. Sundays. The unusual title comes from an epitaph commonly used on gravestones during the Puritan Era in the United States.

WAYNE

Contributed by the Wayne county Genealogical Society

In an E-mail received July 5: Wayne County Genealogical Society is currently undertaking a project to purchase road signs to identify all the small historical cemeteries within the county. The signs are brown with white lettering, and were purchased from Anamosa Prison. The employees from the County Engineer's Office will do the actual placement of the signs. The Society has purchased ten signs and has orders for nine more. Money for this project has come from personal donations and purchases by some township trustees. We are also attempting to put together a History Booklet of each cemetery in our county.

From the *Times-Republican*, Wayne County's Community-Oriented Newspaper, June 11, 2002: Pictured in color on the front page are volunteers who are interested in Wayne County's Pioneer cemeteries as they gathered to show off the markers before they are placed across the county. Cemeteries who will have new signs posted are: Hart-Woods, Higley, Greenlee, Greer, Lewisburg, Hickerson-Stacker, Bollman, Pleasantview, Tharp, and Genoa.

From the *Seymour Herald*, June 13, 2002: Pictured on the front page are Walnut Township Trustee, Tom Sager, and trustees from Monroe Township, Milo and Helen Snider, holding new signs for the cemeteries in their areas. Made at the Anamosa Prison, the cost of the signs is \$13.50 plus tax and shipping via UPS. The 18" X 24" signs are brown with 4" white letters. A green background is also available. Sager noted that all stones had been repaired and straightened at Bollman, Tharp and Hickerson Cemeteries and new rock had been spread. The Sniders noted the trustees are in the process of putting in new fence around Pleasantville Cemetery and all the stones in that cemetery, as well as Genoa and Harris, had been repaired and rock spread. Roberta Amdor, who has a special interest in restoration and preservation of cemeteries, stated that the trustees are to be applauded for their efforts as they continue the work in maintenance of the rural cemeteries.

WEBSTER

Contributed by Jerry and Marva Rowe

From the *Messenger/Fort Dodge, Iowa*, July 2, 2002: Information about the upcoming meeting of SAPIC to be held on July 13 was featured on page 3A in a shaded box. Arrangements for lunch to be served at the library by Once Upon a Thyme and a tour of Oakland Cemetery were announced.

Note: *Thanks to the Rowe's for organizing these events!*

Mike Magee brought an old copy of *Supplement to the Code of Iowa*, containing All the Laws of a General and Permanent Nature enacted by the Twenty-seventh, Twenty-eighth, and Twenty-ninth General Assemblies, with complete annotations to the code and supplement, down to, and including the decisions rendered at the May Term, 1902, of the Supreme Court; Bernard Murphy, State Printer, 1902, to the July SAPIC meeting. He had marked some entries that pertain to cemeteries: Page 30, Chapter 5-A, of appointment of trustees by district court to manage, control, and invest cemetery funds; Page 53, Chapter 10, of townships and township officers (cemetery funds).

Outside of Iowa.....

California: From the *Los Angeles Times*: Gene-o Platt has been restoring the markers of 483 Civil War veterans at the Santa Ana Cemetery for 3 1/2 years, but has been ordered by the trustees of the Orange County Cemetery District to stop, as they feel he may have seriously damaged the historical stones. However, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the groundskeeper applaud his efforts. Platt has received awards for his work from his state representative and from the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society.

Missouri: Democrats are buried on the west side, and Republicans on the east side, in the Civil War-era Gooch Cemetery in Browning (pop. 317)

MISSOURI. Northwest Missouri Cemeteries. Collection of thousands of names of people buried in various locations in this locality. Contains cemetery information, pictures, and locations as well as some family relationships. The site is searchable and always under construction.
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~familycollecting/NWMissouri/>

Illinois: "Political graveyards," by Mike Conklin. To the elders of the tiny Illinois town of Carlock, party loyalty used to be a very big deal. How big? There is one cemetery for Republicans and another for Democrats. The history of the cemetery dates back to the 1850s, when politics was splitting the nation apart and feelings ran deep. Abraham Carlock, for whom the town is named, called himself "The Old Democrat." State Comptroller, Dan Hynes, who is a Democrat, was recently part of a clean-up of the Democratic side that had fallen into disrepair. Illinois has a special maintenance program for pioneer cemeteries and the one at Carlock was the 30th such face-lift for cemeteries over the past three years.

Book, *Your Guide to Cemetery Research*, 2002, by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack contains nine chapters dealing with researching one's family using cemeteries, death records, overlooked aspects of tombstones, and burial customs. Also included are preservation and transcription techniques, gravestone art and symbols, historical time lines, medical glossary of causes of death, a case study, and a sample cemetery transcription form. The author of this fine book will be a presenter at the Iowa Genealogical Conference in October (see page 1 of this newsletter for details.) She is the author of 12 other books.

www.SharonCarmack.com

Published by Betterway Books, an imprint of F&W Publications, Inc., 4700 East Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236. 800-289-0963. First edition.

The Robert Carter Award has been presented annually since 1996 to one or more persons who have made a substantial contribution to the preservation of Iowa's pioneer cemeteries. Chairperson, Phyllis Carter, hopes to make this year's presentation at Johnsonsontown Cemetery in Jones County on September 29. The recipient will also be announced at the IGS Banquet on Friday, October 4. Contact Phyllis at 2305 180th St., Washington, IA 52353; 319-653-6339; pecarter@iowaTelecom.net

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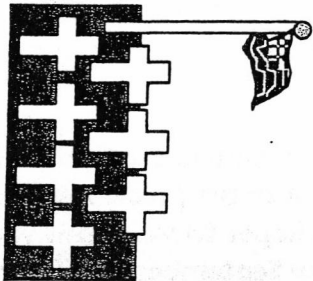
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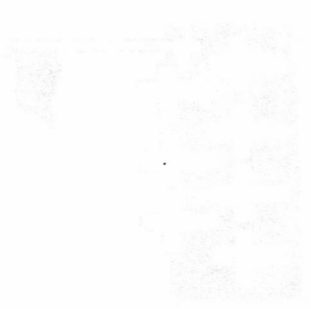
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