

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170th St. Birmingham, Iowa 52535-8045
Volume #8 Issue # 1

www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/
January, 2003

This wonderful letter was written by Jerry Altheide of Keokuk, Iowa and appeared in the Keokuk Daily Gate City newspaper on November 16, 2002:

"Vets in pioneer cemeteries should be remembered, too"
To the Editor:

As I sat on a bench next to my wife on this past cold Veterans Day, I could not help but think of that old soldier buried on a hilltop nearly five miles away.

As the final echoes of Marika Estrada's "Taps" faded over the tombstones of heroes past, I felt a twinge of sadness in my heart for Andrew Oilar and the many other veterans buried in our pioneer cemeteries.

"Old soldier never die, they just fade away," said Douglas MacArthur to a joint session of Congress after his return home from duty in Korea in 1951. The truth of this statement never hit home more than it did this past Monday in Keokuk's National Cemetery, as many old soldiers and others paid tribute to those who have passed on, I thought of those buried in forgotten graves who gave service to this country, some who gave all.

I thought of Andrew Oilar, buried on a hilltop out on Valley Road since 1854, the fear he must have felt, when as a 16 year old he became a P.O.W. of the British in the War of 1812. Or of Archibald Gooley, who has a toppled monument in the Pitman Grounds Cemetery near West Point. What were his last thoughts as he lay on the ground at Shiloh, his life's blood slowly draining from his body as the sounds of battle raged around him?

And what about Lewis Phife, buried in Tierney Cemetery near Wever, a Lee County Medal of Honor winner from the Indian Wars. Why doesn't he have his name inscribed in gold on a Medal of Honor tombstone to which he is entitled?

I could go on mentioning others buried in Lee County cemeteries with names like Johnson, Pioneer, Dudley, Judy, etc. These

veterans, many of whom lie in cemeteries in deplorable condition, deserve to have their graves maintained, a Memorial Day flag, maybe even someone trudging up a hill or down a ravine to play "Taps" while some of us aging veterans stand at attention saluting.

There is a lot of truth in the old saying that "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." Next year at Memorial and Veteran's Day services, as we the living gather, as we should, in the meticulous manicured National Cemetery in Keokuk, maybe a few of us can go to the lonely hilltop on Valley Road and give a salute to an older soldier who almost "just faded away."

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will meet on April 12, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Winterset Library meeting room, located one block east of the northeast corner of the town square in Winterset, Iowa in Madison County. The Madison County Genealogical Society will host the meeting and will serve a noon lunch of sloppy joes, chips, salad, dessert, and drinks. The cost will be \$6.00. The society will use the money made from the lunch to help with the project of getting the probates records ready to be put on microfilm. Please make a reservation for lunch with Beverly Cline at: bacad51@aol.com or with Calvin & Ethel McVay at: emcvay@i-rule.net McVay's phone # : 515-492-9802

Thanks to the Chickasaw County Pioneer Cemetery Commission for hosting the January, 2003 meeting. The facilities were warm and comfortable on a cold, windy day and the food was excellent!

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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

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 - January 11, 2003

The quarterly SAPIC meeting was held at the Pinicon Restaurant in New Hampton, Chickasaw county. Thanks to Julie Eckenrod and Betty Tylee for the arrangements. President Joyce Weise called the meeting to order and sign in sheets were then passed.

Minutes of October, 2002 were then read by Secretary Charly Stevens. One correction was noted; should have read "Gene Davis of Benton County not Hardin county as previously stated."

Treasurer's report from Valerie Ogren was not available at the time of the meeting, a summary should be in the next newsletter.

Old Business included 2003 budget, historian position and retail of materials to repair stones. The 2003 budget was tabled until the April 12 meeting to allow for further discussion at that time. Discussion on whether SAPIC wanted to participate in the retail of materials to repair stones was reviewed at length, motion by Calvin McVay not to get into the retail part of repairing stones by providing materials, second by Mike Magee. Motion carried. The historian's books are now located at the Tama County Museum and Joyce Weise will continue the practice with a scrapbook.

New Business centered on location for April 12th meeting, Madison County(McVay's) will be the host county at the new library in Winterset. July's meeting will be in West Union with host Steve Story.

Reports then followed including fundraising, no further mention of the t-shirts but are still available by contacting the Wiley's. Charly made mention of the bumper stickers but there were no new expenses relating to those fundraising ideas. No membership report as Valerie Ogren was absent, but members were reminded on the dues. Legislative reports were given, draft of the 2003 cemetery draft (from Britson's office)page 36 & 37 were then read to the committee. Much work is still needed on legislation for cemetery preservation. Newsletter- Pat Shaw will continue to edit the newsletter and sending of. Pat mentioned that SAPIC website now has the cemetery survey that can be downloaded for neglected and pioneer cemeteries and that copies really need to be sent to county auditor and Dennis Britson's office as well. Also available to download is the grant application for funding requests. In reference to the grant funding, the grant committee met before the SAPIC meeting to review 2 applications that had been received for consideration. The grant committee agreed not to award any funds at their January meeting but will table the discussion and decision until the April meeting and in hopes that more applications will be forthcoming. The grant committee may award partial grants or none at all as funding is dependent on amount in reserve. The grant is intended to assist in 4 areas including cemetery preservation/maintenancce, protection, identification and legislation. Motion by Larry Davis, to allow up to 25% of the association's reserve funds for use towards the grants, second by Pat Shaw. Motion carried.

County reports were then heard from Tama, Benton, Chickasaw, BlackHawk, Mitchell, Poweshiek, Jones and Fayette. It was noted that 22 counties have pioneer cemetery commissions established. Pat Shaw also mentioned that there is a cemetery restoration workshop in Burlington on Saturday the 18th for those interested in attending.

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter - 1 October 2002 thru 31 December 2002

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2002, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$4648.25

Income

Dues	410.00
Interest 10/31/02	4.65
Interest 11/30/02	3.91
Interest 12/31/02	<u>2.83</u>
Total Income	\$421.39

Expense

Ck #136 - Patricia Shaw - postage	1.06
Ck #137 - Patricia Shaw - newsletter	<u>84.70</u>
Total Expense	\$ 85.76

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2002 \$4983.88

Balance in Reserve Account 30 September 2002, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$2563.39

Income

Margaret Ballinger - Francis Crane Memorial	\$ 10.00
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Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2002 \$2573.39

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 December 2002 \$7557.27

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

SAPIC Financial Report - 1 Jan 02 thru 31 Dec 02

Explanation	Income	Expense	Life Members & Memorials	Total
Balance Forward 1 Jan 2002	\$3,758.77		\$2,163.39	\$5,922.16
Dues	\$435.00			
T-shirts	\$35.00			
Interest	\$11.41			
Total Income Jan - Mar 2002	\$481.41			\$481.41
Patricia Shaw - newsletter		(\$138.40)		
Total Expense Jan - Mar 2002		(\$138.40)		(\$138.40)
Life Memberships & Memorials			\$300.00	
Total Jan - Mar 2002			\$300.00	\$300.00
Dues	\$140.00			
T-shirts	\$97.00			
Video	\$30.00			
Bumper Stickers	\$89.25			
Interest	\$12.47			
Total Income Apr - Jun 2002	\$368.72			\$368.72
Patricia Shaw - copies		(\$10.75)		
Spencer Shirtworks - bumper stickers		(\$218.50)		
Total Expense Apr - Jun 2002		(\$229.25)		(\$229.25)
Dues	\$685.00			
Donations	\$20.00			
Bumper Stickers	\$35.00			
Interest	\$13.19			
Total Income Jul - Sep 2002	\$753.19			\$753.19
Patricia Shaw - mileage		(\$120.00)		
Patricia Shaw - Newsletter, etc.		(\$222.46)		
Mike Magee - copies		(\$3.73)		
Total Expense Jul - Sep 2002		(\$346.19)		(\$346.19)
Life Membership			\$100.00	
Total Jul - Sep 2002			\$100.00	\$100.00
Dues	\$410.00			
Interest	\$11.39			
Total Income Oct - Dec 2002	\$421.39			\$421.39
Patricia Shaw - newsletter, etc.		(\$85.76)		
Total Expense Oct - Dec 2002		(\$85.76)		(\$85.76)
Memorial			\$10.00	
Total Oct - Dec 2002			\$10.00	\$10.00
12 Month Total	\$2,024.71	(\$799.60)	\$410.00	\$7,557.27
Balance Forward	\$3,758.77		\$2,163.39	
Income	\$2,024.71		\$410.00	
Expense	(\$799.60)			
Working Account Balance	\$4,983.88			
Life Memberships and Memorials			\$2,573.39	
Total in Checking				\$7,557.27

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

A message from Joyce Wiese, SAPIC president:

February 10th

To: Pat Shaw

I am sorry I am so late with this, and if too late that is all right too.

Membership renewal time is here. Many have already paid dues, My thanks go to you. Your support keeps this organization going. The more memberships we get the faster we can move forward in getting cemeteries restored, and keep our association solvent.

Being new at this position, I'm not sure what should be written for our newsletter. Pat Shaw is one hard person to follow. I do hope each and every member will spread the word of SAPIC and the good ^{is} doing.

We have had a good year to do work on cemeteries -- very little snow in our area. Glad we don't live in the east. We didn't have any ground frost until January. What more can you ask?

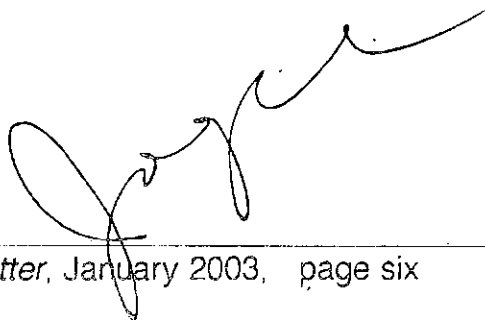
Questions I am asked almost daily are "Where did you get the Pioneer Cemetery road signs", What got you interested in restoring these cemeteries? and How do you fund the restoration?"

My reply is I want my ancestors to have as much courtesy as my relatives of today. The signs can be ordered through the Iowa Prison Industries, and the answer to the third question is, Wonderful County Trustees and a caring Board of Supervisors. Tama County Supervisors feel the care of cemeteries are the responsibility of the county unless it is a private family cemetery. Even then it should be kept up. Can you imagine what people think from away and come to find some history on their ancestors, including finding where they were buried -- only to find you can't walk through the jungle of weeds and brush. I am sure their first thought is "Thank God I don't live in this area anymore. We need to make people proud of our State, and this includes well kept cemeteries.

I am also on the Tama County Economic Tourism Committee. We are at present working on the histories of Civil War Time burials. We plan to have bus tours going through the county visiting the pioneer Cemeteries with a guide giving the history of each one. Hopefully this will work to our county's advantage.

Enough of my work. Good luck to all trying to get a group together to get the needed work started.

*The appearance of our cemeteries
reflect on ~~the~~ our county*



GRANT APPLICATION

State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries

Grants from the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) may be issued to individuals, groups or organizations for the purpose of preserving Iowa cemeteries. Emphasis will be placed on the following areas of interest.

Cemetery preservation and maintenance – Provide guidance, educational materials, and/or supplies for the purpose of the preservation and maintenance of Iowa cemeteries.

Cemetery Protection – Efforts to enhance the protection of Iowa cemeteries from danger by natural and human causes.

Cemetery Identification – Identification of cemeteries by county that could result in a listing of all cemeteries in the state of Iowa.

Legislation – Provide sound advice and information to assist legislation for protection, preservation and maintenance of Iowa cemeteries.

.....

Grant application may be submitted to SAPIC at any time during the year. The SAPIC Board will review each application or a committee designated for that purpose. Please allow 90 days for the review process.

Name of Individual, Group, Or Organization _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail Address _____

Name of Contact Person if Different from above _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail Address _____

Amount of Grant Applied for _____

Attach a brief description of the project with the application.

Hier Rubet Leib
by Joan Young JYoung6180@aol.com

I was in York County, Pennsylvania, looking for the graves of my ancestors in old German cemeteries. Two LEIB's emigrated in "William and Sarah." I descend from both of them. Ulrich LEIB settled in Lancaster County but bought land in York County which eventually went to his son Henry, my ancestor. The immigrant Johannes LEIB settled directly in York County. So I had lots of LEIB graves to search for in two townships in York County.

I searched and my husband had the camera in tow. The very first cemetery we visited seemed to hold the jackpot. I kept yelling to my husband, "Here's another LEIB, get a photo of this one," until I realized they all said "Hier Ruhet Leib," which translates to "Here Rests the Body."

Note from Pat: This reminds me of a story about my daughter-in-law, who lived near a German cemetery in Wisconsin for a short time. She has taken much ribbing about her comment: "There sure are a lot of people named MUTTER and VADER in this cemetery!"

CEMETERIES, OBITUARIES. SadNews.net Comprehensive site includes searches for cemeteries in the USA and worldwide, newspaper searches, obituaries worldwide, service directories, reference searches (includes photo gallery), Internet services, and more. It also publishes "Sad News Net Weekly."

<http://www.sadnews.net/index.htm>

Check out www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/
HUNDREDS OF NEW CEMETERY FILES FROM EVERY
US STATE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ADDED.

The Iowa Non-Profit Biennial Report for SAPIC has been filed with the Iowa Secretary of State, Chet Culver. Iowa law requires each non-profit corporation to file a Biennial Report no later than April 1 of each year.

From SAPIC member John Linge, Cedar Memorial in Cedar Rapids, Iowa:

"Dennis has sent the bill to the legislature."

This refers to State Cemetery Regulator, Dennis Britson. It's time to contact your state senator and/or representative and encourage their support of the bill. Most of the legislators prefer E-mail. You can access E-mail at your local public library or copying business, such as Kinko's, Office Max, etc. if your don't have it at home. Iowa General Assembly web site: www.2.legis.state.ia.us/ Or write them at State Capitol, Des Moines, IA 50319. Phone the Iowa House at 515-281-3221; Senate at 515-281-3371.

Carolyn Jacobee, cemetery activist from Wisconsin has chimed in on the bill. For more information about the content of the bill and how its passage will impact pioneer cemeteries in Iowa, contact Dennis Britson at the address on page 2 of this newsletter.

Posted in the AOL Genealogy Forum
Online Newsletter for February, 2003:
www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfnews/february03/index0203.htm

Theme: What Can Be Learned From Cemeteries

* Cemeteries

www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfnews/february03/theme40203.htm

*Cemetery Files Reap Rewards

www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfnews/february03/theme20203.htm

*Cemetery Research I

www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfnews/february03/theme50203.htm

*Cemetery Research II

www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfnews/february03/theme70203.htm

Many other cemetery related topics are available!

Need a little gift for your special cemetery workers? SAPIC sells attractive green and white bumper stickers that say:

I DIG STONES

The SAPIC logo and web site are also on the stickers. \$1.50 plus postage. Contact Charly Stevens to purchase one of these unique bumper stickers and support SAPIC at the same time! Charly's address is on page 2 of this newsletter.

For a selection of books and related materials illustrating how society and individuals have dealt with and memorialized mortality and death through the ages, contact:

Joslin Hall Rare Books
P.O. Box 516
Concord, Massachusetts 01742
Telephone 978-371-3101
www.joslinhall.com

Ask for the catalog titled, "A Grave Affair." Some of the titles include: Curious Epitaphs, A select Collection of Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions, An interesting archive of original gravestone photographs. ca. 1940s, In Search of Gravestones, Old and Curious, and Ancient Funerall Monuments.

Did you know that in 2000, Tom Day of Berwyn, Illinois founded Bugles Across America, a nationwide network of volunteer musicians who play Taps at veterans' funerals?

Remember the old Burma Shave signs?

If you would find
An early grave
Just keep your
Eye on.....
Burma Shave

A man who drives
when he is drunk,
should haul his coffin
in his trunk.
Burma Shave

Around the curve
the car went whizin'
the fault was her'n
the funeral hiz'n.
Burma Shave

What is a griot?

A griot (pronounced gree-oh) is a member of the group who keeps the history. A publication of the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa is called *The Iowa Griot*. To receive a copy of the newsletter, to donate African items, or send information, contact Susan Kuecker, Museum Curator, at 1-877-526-1863 or at P.O. Box 1626, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-1626.

African Americans have contributed greatly to Iowa's past and some of their historic burial sites are now being restored.

The Cemetery Service, National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue N. W., Washington, DC 20422 has records from 1861 to present. Its records identify almost all soldiers buried in national cemeteries and other cemeteries under federal jurisdiction. These records are arranged on cards alphabetically by name of soldier.

From T. Risinger: <knoxcone@yahoo.com>

I have found the best way for me to read the script on an old grave marker is to take several pictures of it with a digital camera. Use a good quality camera and the best pictures setting. Than view the pictures on your computer. You can even increase the size a bit if you have to. You can do the same with a 35 mm camera but you need to have large prints made and that gets expensive.

COUNTY REPORTS

BENTON

Contributed by Gene and Frieda Davis

Several articles you might want to mention in the newsletter. The guys are/have been making some good progress on work, with the weather being mild up till this last month. They have purchased some equipment, and signs for one and maybe two cemeteries are being ordered (depending upon money in the commission's account).

Our brochures arrived and members are distributing them to the courthouse, libraries, senior centers, etc.

They are anxious for spring to arrive and get back to manual work. So progress is being made.

From the *Vinton Times*, Nov. 2002: "Pioneer Cemetery Association works to improve historic cemeteries in Benton County." Pictured is Charlene Bender Hansen, Cedar Rapids, presenting a check for \$250 to Gene Davis for the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission's efforts in fixing Bender Cemetery in Union Township. Bender said at the presentation, "When I heard of this project, I wanted to find a way to help with the expenses for my Bender family cemetery. I wrote letters to relatives of some of those buried at the cemetery and received some nice checks, which I am turning over to you tonight."

She added, "Being a volunteer myself, I know how hard it is to get and keep volunteers, so I feel that every effort should be made to reimburse those working on the cemeteries for their expenditures....Thank you again to the commission and the wonderful caring volunteers.

From the *Vinton Times*, February 6, 2003: "Forgotten history -- Rural cemetery rediscovered south of Vinton," by Steve Meyer. Two photos accompany this article, one showing a jumble of stones at the base of a tree that is all that remains to note the land is a final resting place and the other is a scenic view of the Bellar or Lutheran Cemetery hidden in a grove of trees south of Vinton. The article mentions that at one time a church stood on the spot and a small wood lot across the road was home to a county school. Sadly, local folklore also says that the cemetery was once used to raise hogs. No cemetery plot exists and references to people buried there are few, although there is a clue that at least one Civil War Veteran, John C. Irwin, buried somewhere on the site. The stone of Irwin's two-year-old son, Wiley, is one of the few that has stood the test of time and still remains. A sign may be erected noting the cemetery and indicating that those at rest there are people who originally broke the land that gave rise to Benton County's agricultural industry.

BLACKHAWK

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, March 5, 1900: "Robs Grave of Terror -- Device of Sioux City Man Prevents Awful Death. Safety for Those who Chance to be Buried Alive. Permission is Asked to Equip Sioux City Cemeteries." Mr. Monroe E. Griffith invented a device that promptly indicated or announced any disturbance of the grave, vault, or body previous to or after burial. The device also provided a supply of fresh air to be furnished to a revived person within a grave. The rather complicated apparatus consisted of a metal pipe extending through the earth into the grave and attached to the casket, plus a series of electric wires attached to the casket and body

that would cause a bell to ring if disturbed, a pointed cap to prevent rain from entering, and the provision for a disinfectant to purify the air.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, April 27, 1900: "He Stole the Cadaver -- Body Snatcher Relates a Gruesome Tale in Court." Davenport: The story relates that Charles Donahoo, a medical student, A. D. Farber, and others agreed to provide a body to Professor Kinneman, demonstrator of anatomy, at Keokuk College, for which they would receive \$45-60 depending on the freshness of the body. They attempted to persuade the proprietor of the Rock Island County poor farm to give them the corpse of the next pauper who died, who refused. When Donahoo read of the death of Mrs. Casper Maurer at the farm, they dug up the body in the cemetery and shipped it to a fictitious consignee to whom all subjects for the Keokuk doctor factory were shipped. The article says that Farber testified against Donahoo at a preliminary hearing and that Donahoo was held to the grand jury under \$1,500 bond.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, Oct. 2, 1900: "Unveiling a Monument." The article tells of the unveiling of the monument of Sovereign Christian F. Eicker by the Woodman of the World, a fraternity to which he belonged. Other "camps" of the fraternity for a fifty-mile radius, along with the citizens of Waterloo, were extended invitations to attend the impressive ceremony that included a procession, military band, flower children and visiting sovereigns and friends.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, January 3, 1901: "Waterloo Casket Factory." The article tells of the recent establishment of the Myers & Thee Coffin Factory at a cost of \$12,000 by two well known Waterloo business men. Twenty-five skilled workman and two traveling salesmen will be employed. The chestnut, oak, and pine used for the caskets was to be shipped primarily from Tennessee.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, January 4, 1901: "His Own Graveyard -- Where Deputy Marshal Hec Bruner Buried His Victims." Tahequah, Indian Territory -- article tells of the cemetery named for the marshal where twenty-eight persons were buried, all victims who "brushed up against Bruner and got the worst of it." All the markers were wooden, except one marble headstone of a horse thief. His pals chipped in and bought the stone because he was a "good fellow."

From the *Waterloo Courier*, August 2, 1901: "Surprise at Grave -- Body Being Buried Claimed by Unknown Wife." Muscatine -- A grave stood ready at Nichols to receive the body of a farmhand named S. Martin, who drowned in the Cedar river the Sunday before. However, just as the last prayer was to be said over the body, a woman with a child appeared who stated that she was the widow of the deceased. She was able to prove this fact and had the body moved to Muscatine for burial there.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, August 27, 1901: A short paragraph states that Klinefelter Bros. have just received an elegant new pall bearer wagon made in Cedar Rapids by Beck & Son. The vehicle was an 8-passenger one with rubber tires, and made a nice appearance on the streets. Quote from article: "The purchase of this wagon gives this livery firm as complete and elegant a funeral outfit as can be found in the state."

In November, 2002, Mike Magee went gravestone repairing at the Spring Creek Cemetery and also at Washburn Cemetery. Mike has compiled a complete listing of all known Blackhawk county deaths and burials from the 1840's to 1900 which will be sent to IGS for revenue sharing. Updates are so important, as Mike has found that often those who read information on stones long ago often omitted information and some stones were not even recorded at all. Thanks to all "cemetery walkers" like Mike who update and document such information.

CEDAR PRAIRIE GROUP SUPPORTS LOST LANDSCAPE FILM PROJECT

America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie is a sixty-minute film documentary designed for national broadcast on public television. Tallgrass prairie, once a prominent feature of the North American continent, was nearly eliminated in less than one hundred years. The goal of this film is to inform and enlighten the general public about the historical, cultural, and environmental aspects of this lost tallgrass prairie landscape and to address critical questions about the future of agriculture in the former tallgrass prairie states of the Midwest.

At the time of Euro-American settlement in the 1830's, the nearly 240 million acres of tallgrass prairie was a major landscape feature of North America. Eighty per cent of Iowa, the heart of the prairie, was blanketed by an ocean of tall grass which covered 28 million acres. In one of the most astonishing alterations of nature in human history, most of the tallgrass prairie was converted to crop land in less than eighty years. The alteration of the landscape has been so drastic that the cultural imprint of the native population that once lived on the prairie has been reduced to a grid of non-English place names on maps. For the most part, present day Americans have little idea of what the Midwest was like one hundred fifty years ago. The biological legacy of the tall grass, the Corn Belt's rich black soil, is under appreciated and often taken for granted. In an effort to convey to the audience the vital significance of this once vast area, this film examines the human and biological legacies of the tallgrass prairie.

The film will be sponsored for national distribution via the Public Broadcasting System. To extend and enhance the educational utilization of this film, DVD copies will be distributed to schools within the tallgrass region. Special partnerships have been formed with the Grout Museum, the UNI Museum, and the Fossil and Prairie Learning Center of Floyd County. These organizations will include parts of the film in exhibits and will have it available for showing.

Daryl Smith, Ph. D., is serving as the project director and executive producer of the *The Lost Landscape Film Project*. The primary producers are David O'Shields, producer and film director, New Light Media, Inc., of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Dayton Duncan, writer/consulting producer, of Walpole, New Hampshire.

Principal humanities and science scholar/consultants are Andrew Burstein, Ph. D., History, Tulsa University; William Clohesy, Ph. D., Philosophy, University of Northern Iowa; Anton Treuer, Ph. D., History, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee; Wes Jackson, Ph. D., Biology, The Land Institute; David Hartnett, Ph. D., Biology, Kansas State University; Laura Jackson, Ph. D., Biology, University of Northern Iowa; Pauline Drobney, M.A., Biology, Walnut Creek Restoration Project; and Paul Christiansen, Ph. D., Biology, Cornell College.

It is important that *America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie* be made. The film will document both the prairie landscape as it once existed and the complexities of human interaction with that landscape, as well as the modern scientific inquiry that is vital to our future. The record of human struggle, triumph, and defeat that prairie history exemplifies will be examined, including the history and culture of the Native Americans who first lived on it and how and why the prairie was changed by Euro-American settlement. The role played by population levels as humans interact with nature will be discussed, and the "nature as sacred" view of the prairie held by Native Americans will be contrasted with the prevailing general European view of the same time period, that nature was to be subdued and exploited for maximum productivity. The film will examine the tallgrass region from a scientific standpoint. Viewers will learn about the development and evolution of what is now one of the world's most important agricultural areas and explore how climate, plants, animals, and fire through time created the fertile topsoil. The film will examine the complex prairie ecosystem and how and why settlers/farmers replaced native plants and animals with domesticated species. The film will also explore the ongoing scientific inquiry into farming methods designed to create a more sustainable form of agriculture based on perennial crops that mimic tallgrass prairie. The film will highlight efforts to preserve, restore, and reconstruct the tallgrass prairie ecosystem.

The first film footage for this project was acquired in the summer of 1995. Writing, research, and fund raising were initiated just prior to that time. Since then, the crew has traveled 35,000 miles and acquired approximately 75,000 feet of film. Tallgrass prairie remnants have been filmed in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and Missouri. On-camera interviews have been conducted with the following scholars and consultants: Dr. Daryl Smith (Biologist), Dr. Andrew Burstein (Historian), Dr. William Clohesy (Philosopher), Dr. Laura Jackson (Biologist), Dr. David Walker (Historian), Junean Witham (Educator), Dr. Wes Jackson (Botanist), Pauline Drobney (Restoration Biologist), Richard Manning (Writer), Dayton Duncan (Writer and Consulting Producer), Kirk Henderson (Prairie Roadside Manager), Dr. Paul Christiansen (Biologist), John Miller (Farmer and Conservationist), Dr. Anton Treuer (Historian and member of the Ojibwa tribe), Lance Foster (Landscape Historian and member of the Ioway tribe), Pete Fee (Farmer and Ioway Elder), Jerome Kills Small (Language Scholar and member of the Lakota tribe), Carl Leopold (Biologist and son of Aldo Leopold), and Nina Leopold Bradley (Conservationist and daughter of Aldo Leopold). Footage has been acquired of the contemporary Midwestern agricultural landscape, as well as hundreds of archival photographs depicting settlement, transportation, and Native American life in the 19th century. Renowned composer and producer Brian Keane will score the soundtrack. Iowa native and film actress Annabeth Gish has recorded the narration for the film. Filming has concluded, and the first round of rough cut editing was recently completed. For information and outreach, a web site and teacher's guide have been developed. The web site at www.uni.edu/~lostland is viewable at this time.

Cost of the film project is approximately \$511,000. To date, \$470,000 has been raised through grants and contributions. The ExCom (Executive Committee) of the Cedar Prairie Group has contributed \$500 to the project and urges group members and friends to make contributions. Checks should be made out to the University of Northern Iowa Foundation, with a notation that the donation is for the Lost Landscape Project. Please mail contributions to Daryl Smith, Native Roadside Vegetation Center, 2412 W. 27th Street, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0294.

CHICKASAW COUNTY
Submitted by Julie A. Entomoff

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS . . . On Memorial Day, we held a rededication ceremony at the Skipton Township Cemetery with approximately 40 people attending. SAPIC President Pat Shaw was a special guest and gave a short speech. Work on Pearl Rock Cemetery in Bradford township continued through most of the year. We've had several volunteers assisting with all the work and the grounds are looking beautiful. We have recovered 3 stones of this time and plan to set them early this spring. Research indicates there is one and possibly more Civil War Veterans buried in Pearl Rock Cemetery. Signs have been put up in both the Pearl Rock Cemetery and the Douglas Grove of the same name. Also continues with our research in determining burial plots and is being put on the map. It is Pearl Rock Cemetery and the grave site is marked. We are working to get a sign put on the grave site.

DALLAS

*A transcription of the Violet Hill Cemetery containing 8,864 burials was recently published on
Interment.net <http://www.interment.net>*

CLAYTON

Contributed by Myra Voss

Cemetery Software Program

The computer software program to help organize and preserve accurate historic records of any cemetery, big or small, has been rescheduled for Monday, 24 February 2003, beginning at 7:00 pm at the Peoples State Bank meeting room, Elkader, IA. The program is open to the public and is FREE.

Bill Heiken has designed this special computer software, specifically for cemeteries. The software has many features such as, a cemetery map ability to customize printing of maps for visitors, genealogy inquires, sales, status, price and locations by name, etc. Databases included in the basic program are for burial site, monuments, purchaser, deceased, obituary, care payments, site features and general notes and etc. Other reports, such as current records and instant name research are available. The program can also be enhanced to include digital photos and copies of historic records.

The meeting, sponsored by the Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, was postponed from 11 February. Any person involved with cemetery record keeping, or cemetery preservation of any kind, is invited to attend! Whether you live in Clayton County, or the surrounding area, the meeting is free. If you have any questions call Lawrence Fox (563-245-1926), President of Clayton Co. Cemetery Commission, or Myra Voss, Secretary (563-245-1065).

FAYETTE

Contributed by Steve Story

The Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery work crew started in late fall on Butler-Barnhouse Pioneer Cemetery, and will continue restoration as soon as spring arrives 'permanently'. Butler-Barnhouse is located .4 mile from the nearest county road on a hilltop in a CRP field. With the total cooperation

FAYETTE, continued

of the landowner, Butler and Barnhouse pioneer family burial sites and stones have been identified. The crew expects to fence with cattle panels and 6" x 6" x 8' treated posts in an area that will 'capture' all burials. All stones will be reset in a concrete slab. The Butler and Barnhouse family farms bordered each other in the 1870's, with the small cemetery near the border fence line.

This will be the twelfth Fayette County complete pioneer cemetery restoration, varying in number of stone resettings from three to over three hundred. One more cemetery, 'Brooks' in a farm field, awaits restoration.

Brooks may be the final restoration project for Fayette County. Fence maintenance projects are needed on at least two restored cemeteries, and are planned for 2003.

JONES

Contributed by Pat Shaw

Jim Christensen of Anamosa recently made a great video from slides that were made from a collection of photographs taken by John and Bertha Stimpson of cemeteries in Jones County in the 1950's and 1960's. The importance of documenting grave markers and cemeteries by photographing them is reinforced by completion of this project. Visiting cemeteries was a favorite pastime of the Stimpson's. Little did they realize how important their photos would be in later years.

LEE

Contributed by Terry Altheide and Judy Merschbrock

Our association has been on our local TV stations. Terry and Judy did a segment for KHQA and Terry and his wife, Linda, did one for WGEM. Terry's goal is to write at least one article per month for the local newspapers. They've been trying to keep their cause in the public eye. They've been having monthly meetings, including a Christmas party on December 16 and a regular meeting on January 20. In conjunction with Leyda, Burrus & Metz Monuments in Burlington, Iowa, they sponsored a Cemetery Restoration Workshop on Saturday, January 18, 2002 in Burlington that was well-attended. SAPIC member Don Aldrich from Keosauqua attended and reported that it was interesting to learn from the prospective of a monument dealer.

From the *Keokuk Daily Gate City*, December 20, 2002: "Christmas is a time to give back; remember forgotten cemeteries," Guest Column by Terry Altheide.

"And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn."

I can picture in my mind the Rev. A.H. Rumbaugh, faithful servant of God and shepherd to his flock, standing in the pulpit of a church, preaching the Christmas story from the second chapter of Luke each Christmas.

As I toured the old Pioneer Cemetery named Johnson, located about five miles west of Argyle, I came across the weathered tombstone of Rev. Rumbaugh. On the stone were clasped hands, symbolizing God's welcome to heaven. It brought to mind Matthew 25:21 which I'll quote in part, "...Well done, thou good and faithful servant..."

As I continued walking through this neglected cemetery with a dozen members of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, I saw many other tombstones bearing brief information of these long dead pioneers. An occasional stone would have a quote from the Bible.

God says in the Bible that those "who honor Him, He will honor." (1 Samuel 2:30).

In the process of surveying this old graveyard, I thought of the many years Rev. Rumbaugh faithfully served his God. Looking around this hilltop cemetery with its approximately 70 burials, located in what is known as "Happy Hollow," I wondered how in the world could the living let such a sacred place -- pardon the expression -- "go to the devil?"

Shouldn't we, who call ourselves Christians, be at the forefront of cemetery restoration?

If people are considered to be made in the image of God, shouldn't the care of these final resting places be considered as a sacred duty?

Shouldn't it be considered an honor and a privilege to care for those who are the foundation of our country?

I personally believe these pioneers of yore earned the right to be remembered and to have their dignity maintained even in death.

The Rev. Rumbaugh died on Oct. 20, 1877 at the age of 45. No obituary could be found on him in the old Gate City newspapers kept on microfilm at the library. The only other clues to his life that I know of are the stone of his wife buried next to him and the stone of his daughter who died at the age of 2 in 1858.

His denomination I do not know nor would I mention it if I did. Heaven, thankfully, has no such classifications. Suffice it to say, that Rev. Rumbaugh represents scores of others whose spirits are presently being honored in heaven while their bodies are dishonored in neglected cemeteries.

It is my hope, as well as others involved in cemetery restorations, that each individual, church, business and organization, would consider giving as a Christmas present, their time, talents, and maybe even a few dollars to help in future cemetery clean-ups. After all, each one of us could someday benefit from such a gift.

Note: Check on page 1 of this newsletter for another example of one of Terry's impassioned writings. They're better than some sermons I've heard!

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, December 30, 2002: "Hero's grave spurs Keokuk man to action -- Pioneer cemetery commission member wants Medal of Honor winner buried at Wever to have a proper grave marker," by Kiley Miller. kmiller@thehawkeye.com

Pictured is Terry Altheide and his daughter, Belinda Stice, at the grave marker of Lewis Phife. Phife won the Medal of Honor for his efforts in the Indian Wars and is buried in Tierney Cemetery, a pioneer cemetery northwest of Wever. Terry Altheide is requesting a special Medal of Honor headstone from the US Dept of Veterans Affairs to replace Phife's old worn marker that appears moments from dropping to the earth. Iowa has just 53 Medal of Honor winners. One other is in Lee County, also -- John Thorson, a World War II veteran. Since the article appeared, 2 Phife relatives have contacted Terry. The purposes and goals of the Lee County Cemetery Association and its desire for the county supervisors to advance the organization to the status of a commission are also stated in the article.

An article for the Des Moines Register written by John Carlson is scheduled to be printed in the February 19 edition. The topic of the article is Lee County's successful project at getting a Medal of Honor tombstone for Lewis Phife.

Terry reports that they continue to average about 30 in attendance at their regular monthly meetings and excitement is high in Lee County.

Terry and Linda now have E-mail: sweetpeaandbigun@msn.com

JEFFERSON

Verda J. Baird
2791 - 240th Street
Fairfield, IA 52556

Genealogist Stew

Take 1 Curious Beginner
Add: 1 Age Discrepancy
1 Unreadable Microfiche
1 Census Record written
in "disappearing ink"
Fold in 1 ton of correspondence
Simmer while awaiting answers
That's enough to make any
Genealogist Stew!

Jan 6, 2003

Dear Pat: for SAPIC newsletter.....

I know you have little news ever from Jefferson County, Iowa so thought I would tell you a little about the picture project just completed.

The picture book of the entrances to 79 cemeteries in Jefferson County is now on the research table of the Fairfield Library, with an alphabetical list of all the cemeteries no matter what name they are known by, a county map, also township maps included. The library opens at 9:30 six days a week and has a collection of over 6,600 family sheets on file of early pioneer families.

Each page lists township and section, years of burials, condition of the grave stones, as well as whether it is mowed, brush and trees fallen and date visited.

Enclosed are 6 articles that appeared in the Fairfield Ledger one a month starting in June 2002 completed Nov 2002. It really became quite overwhelming and in four cases have no pictures. Three of those are planted shut every year so there is no easy access except early spring or late fall. The fourth one had inscriptions last read about 1970 and the farm owner said there is no cemetery on their farm.

In the past three years there have been ³ burials made in front yards of farms so it must be a new trend starting?

It really raised a lot of interest as there has been little done to any cemeteries since I started as corresp. secy in 1976. Just mow "em and forget "em. The biggest cemetery association in the county short on funds with about 10,500 burials has 706 stones in terrible condition

The supervisors sure know who I am now as I have visited their office numerous times in last four years. And I certainly stepped on township trustees toes with the articles.

I closed my series of articles with something I had read in the Des Moines Register "One can judge the quality of a community and its people by the cemeteries and they way they are maintained".

Use any or all.

Verda

Jefferson County Researcher Since 1976
6,428 Early Settlers Family Sheets
And 223 Family Booklets

In The Fairfield Library For Reference

SAPIC newsletter, January 2003, page seventeen

Picture book project grows into report on county's 78 cemeteries

This is the first in a series of six articles about Jefferson County cemeteries written by local genealogist Verda Baird.

This all started Sept. 3. It was to just be a picture book of the entrance gates to all 78 cemeteries in Jefferson County for the Fairfield Public Library. However, it grew to include the following: township, section, name of cemetery, burial dates, condition of the graves and whether it was mowed.

I, as chairwoman of the project, am pleased to report that my friend Wilma Lewis and I are making great progress.

There are 48 cemeteries considered to be "pioneer cemeteries" in the county. A pioneer cemetery is one that has had fewer than six burials in the past 50 years. Some of the oldest in Jefferson County have had no burials since 1900.

I have taken photos of stones for out-of-state researchers as far back as 26 years ago and the county has done little to reset fallen stones. Yet there is clean-up work going on in several, mostly by unpaid volunteers.

Lewis and I visited 13 Lockridge Township Cemeteries to start and details follow. It takes walking in each cemetery to realize how many stones are flat and nearly covered with grass.

The 13 cemeteries we visited included and their conditions were:

- Section 7, Chilcott, burials 1845-1903; an overgrown mess,

CEMETERY HOPPING

made no attempt to climb the fence to find any of the stones, just looked in.

- Section 17, Berry/Peterson, burials 1841-1916; has had work in the past five years, but more is needed so that the entire cemetery can be m o w e d .

Seventeen stones need repairs.

- Section 18, Salina Cemetery, burials 1895-present; nicely mowed, all stones neat.

- Section 21, Sweden Lutheran, burials 1854-present; nicely mowed, all stones neat.

- Section 21, New Sweden Methodist, burials 1852-present; nicely mowed. Members did some restoration work in the past four years, but more needs to be done. Eighteen stones were flat on the ground or leaning.

- Section 22, Swedish Baptist, burials 1855-1911. See St. John Lutheran, below.

- Section 22, St. John Lutheran, burials 1901-1969; Swedish Baptist and St. John Lutheran are together on the big curve west of Four



VERDA
BAIRD

Corners. Mowing is done primarily around the stones, but the brush growing around the graves needs to be cut back and controlled.

- Section 22, Four Corners German Lutheran, burials 1875-1915; east of Four Corners, nicely mowed; nine stones flat on the ground.

- Section 27, Hopkirk Cemetery, burials 1847-1896; back in a pasture, through four gates — two that are padlocked, one that will open, and one that won't because of a tree that grew in the entranceway. An overgrown mess since before 1972 when cattle got in it. Fallen trees, poison ivy, brush and vines are on 55 known gravestones, but we couldn't find them all.

- Section 31, Union Cemetery, burials 1837-present; nicely mowed, stones very neat.

- Section 32, Bonnifield Cemetery, burials 1839-1846; cleaned up as a Bicentennial Project, then fell into neglect until a 4-H Club cleaned it up again in 1987. It is mowed periodically. Tree sprouts outside the fence were allowed to grow and are now tall with mis-shapen branches on two sides of the cemetery.

- Section 34, Lockridge Cemetery, burials 1848-present; nicely mowed, stones very neat.

- Section 35, Hopkirk Family Stone, burials 1875 and 1901; in a neatly mowed yard of a farm home at the east edge of Lockridge on 218th Street.

Baird asks for information on cemetery work

This is the second in a series of six articles about Jefferson County cemeteries written by local genealogist Verda Baird.

Among the newsletters I receive is Grave News of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries. This group has been organized for seven years with many counties already having their county cemetery commissions established. It is interesting to learn what other counties are doing. The Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission in the last three years has restored nine cemeteries. Webster County has a volunteer group taking digital pictures of gravestones and have 15 cemeteries completed.

Union County will be purchasing reflective signs marking the locations of rural cemeteries thereby making it easier to find those not located next to a traveled road.

There seems to be something unique in each cemetery I visit and want to share one with you from Winsell Cemetery. A small irregular shaped stone took my eye and it reads as follows: "If Tears Could Build a Stairway, and Memories a Lane, I'd Walk Right Up to Heaven and Bring You Home Again."

The 13 cemeteries in today's report were walked in October or November 2001. If there is restoration or clean up work presently under way in any of the 78 cemeteries, let me know and I will include it in this series.

- Blackhawk Township, Section 4, Blue Point Cemetery, burials 1841-present; very neat, nicely mowed; one leaning stone and one fallen stone. In November, it was noted that the moles had presented quite a problem for the mowing season.

- Buchanan Township, Section 10, Upper Richwoods, burials 1841-present. Mowed periodically; had lots of volunteer work in 1989, but

CEMETERY HOPPING

needs work again to remove more brush and repair eight stones that are fallen or leaning.

- Buchanan Township, Section 16, Seitzer, burials 1857-present; nicely mowed; several leaning stones.

- Buchanan Township, Section 34, Bethesda, burials 1850-present; nicely mowed; two fallen stones.

- Cedar Township, Section 4, Bradshaw, burials 1847-1884; back in Zillman's Hickory Hills on Glasgow Road; padlocked gate; log fence needs repair; not mowed, weeds were five feet tall in October. It needs a sign on an orange gate so visitors know where it is.

- Cedar Township, Section 10, Galliher Family, burials 1848-1895; cleaned up in 1993 and has stayed really nice since; nicely mowed and stones very neat.

- Cedar Township, Section 15, Wright, burials 1846-present; tree sprouts allowed to grow near some of the stones; nicely mowed; eight stones leaning or flat on the ground.

- Cedar Township, Section 21, Pattison, burials 1844-present; cleaned up in 1987-88. Nicely mowed; fence taken down about 1998; eight stones need repairs. The cemetery has a mail box containing a guest register for visitors to sign and state what graves they visited.

- Cedar Township, Section 36, Pioneer, one 1846 gravestone of the county's only Revolutionary War



VERDA BAIRD

soldier. It has a new board fence constructed as an Eagle Scout project. But because the fence is high and cannot be climbed over and because there is no gate, people cannot get in to do weed and brush control or take pictures.

- Des Moines Township, Section 4, Dunkard-Brethren Cemetery, burials 1843-present; cattle had been in the cemetery in 1999; 61 stones have fallen or are leaning and need work; mowed periodically.

- Des Moines Township, Rominger/County Line, burials

1845-present; mowed periodically; eight stones leaning or fallen.

- Des Moines Township, Fell, burials 1841-present; nicely mowed; looks good from the gravel road, but a walk through it is an eye opener. The cemetery association is short on funds and the old section is a disaster area with 101 stones leaning or fallen.

- Des Moines Township, Winsell, burials 1838-present; nicely mowed; one leaning stone; has a new entrance sign, flagpole and family-installed park bench inside.

Baird visits nine cemeteries

This is the third in a series of six articles about Jefferson County cemeteries written by local genealogist Verda Baird.

The cemeteries in today's report, scattered in Penn and Walnut townships, were walked in September and October 2001.

All of us recall vividly what we were doing on Sept. 11 last year. My plans for the day were an appointment with a landowner with two cemeteries on her farm in Penn Township. It was 1 p.m., and we were tempted to stay in her home and watch television, but headed to the pastures in her four-wheel drive pickup.

The monarch butterflies were migrating that beautiful day and clung to the low lying branches of the trees in the peaceful quiet of the countryside. The first two cemeteries reviewed today are from that day.

- Penn Township, Section 33, Perlee Cemetery: burials 1848-1881. A farmer had plowed it up prior to 1964 when there were just five stones left, and they had been piled in a corner of the field. One small child's marker was moved to another cemetery where her parents were buried, unknown what happened to the other two as now just two stones remain. That cemetery must have been huge with the Perlee coal mines nearby and poor people unable to afford gravestones.

- Penn Township, Section 33,

CEMETERY HOPPING

Westhaver Cemetery: two stones dated 1864 and 1865. Through three gates, the pickup took us across a creek, making a big splash as we crossed, then back a mowed path along the lovely old trees until the owner spotted the area.

From there, we walked back a short distance through thick poison ivy and took pictures.

Back at the house, we headed for the television to see what the most recent pictures and news revealed.

- Penn Township, Section 32, Wheeler-McCarty Cemetery: burials from 1846-1862. Back off the dirt road in the pasture, there are 24 gravestones, one fallen. It is fenced in and has a nice gate, but there are so many 12-inch high volunteer cedars and so much flora rose that need to be controlled now before another year goes by or it will become a disaster area.

- Penn Township, Section 15,



VERDA
BAIRD

Walnut Creek Friends: burials from 1843 to the present. Not sure who startled who the most as back on the mowed path from the road were two teenage girls on their bicycles just about ready to leave when we arrived. Are their ancestors there? Wish we had asked. It is mowed periodically and many stones need lots of restoration work, with 20 fallen, broken or leaning, plus four more nearly overgrown with grass.

- Penn Township, Section 12, St. Joseph: burials from 1909 through the present. A very attractive entrance, I closed the gates before I took my picture so the name St. Joseph showed up with the flags standing against the beautiful blue sky. Nicely mowed and stones very neat.

- Penn Township, Section 2, Pleasant Plain Friends: burials from 1948 to the present. Nicely mowed and stones very neat.

- Penn Township, Section 6, Howard Grove: burials from 1864 to the present. Be sure and register at the mailbox. Nicely mowed, several stones leaning.

- Walnut Township, Section 19, Polishville: burials from 1877 to the present. Attractive new white fence since I had been there previously. Nicely mowed and stones very neat.

- Walnut Township, Section 22, St. Peter and Paul German Catholic: burials from 1863 to 1909. Cleaned up about 1988. Nicely mowed. Four stones need resetting.

LIFESTYLES

Baird continues cemetery tour

This is the fourth in a series of six articles about Jefferson County cemeteries written by local genealogist Verda Baird.

The cemeteries in today's report are scattered in Liberty, Locust Grove and Center townships. Most were visited in October 2001, so if there has been any restoration work since then, I am not aware of it.

- Liberty Township, Section 5, Smith Cemetery: burials from 1865 to 1898. Overgrown with tiger lilies; a tight fence of cattle panels enclose seven gravestones, two of which are fallen.

- Liberty Township, Section 22, County Home Cemetery: burials were made there many years ago, however, no records survive that I am aware of. This cemetery may have been plowed up.

- Liberty Township, Section 22, Thompson Cemetery: burials from 1869 to 1914. It is planted shut with corn or beans every year. It was nicely mowed many years ago, but not now. There is no gate, so just climb over the fence to find 16 graves. Six of those have fallen or leaning stones.

- Liberty Township, Section 27, Cumberland Cemetery: burials from 1842-1929. The gate at the road is padlocked periodically, so drive or walk one-half mile south, unwire a cattle-panel gate, then open a third gate at the cemetery. It is nicely mowed, but 85 stones have fallen, are broken or cracked. It is the only cemetery I have seen with so many poured bases, but the stones are long gone.

- Liberty Township, Section 36, Clinkenbeard family burials from 1845 to at least 1859 in the north half of the southeast one-fourth of this section. No stones were found in the 1960s, so no attempt was made to find them now.

- Locust Grove Township, Section

CEMETERY HOPPING

1, Brooks Cemetery: burials from 1847 to 1958, then one more added in 1982, but none since. It is nicely mowed. Thirty-six of the 106 stones are leaning or have fallen. Three were overgrown with poison ivy or small mulberry trees.

- Locust Grove Township, Section 5, Gray Cemetery: one burial of Mrs. Gray, who died in 1892. But I could not find the cemetery to take a picture. Can anyone lead me to it?

- Locust Grove Township, Section 6, Smith Branch Cemetery: burials from 1847 to the present. It is mowed periodically. Thirty-one stones are leaning or laying flat on the ground.

- Locust Grove Township, Section 10, Laughlin/Gantz Cemetery: burials from 1846-1952. A new fence was put in along the road in 2001, and the cemetery is nicely mowed. There are 111 stones, with 38 leaning, fallen or broken.

- Locust Grove Township, Section 16, Walnut Hill Cemetery: burials from 1857 to 1978. The cemetery, back through several farm gates, is nicely mowed. It has 44 stones, with 25 of them leaning or fallen. The friendly horses had to check on our activity.

- Locust Grove Township, Section 30, Holmes Cemetery: burials from 1854-1914. It is in the center of a



VERDA BAIRD

big planted field, surrounded by old trees and brush. A total of six stones were found, but only one of them was standing.

- Locust Grove Township, Section 31, Batavia Cemetery: burials from 1847 to the present. It is nicely mowed. Some dedicated Lions Club volunteers have an ongoing project to keep it in tip-top shape.

- Locust Grove Township, Section 36, McCleary Cemetery: burials were made from 1853 to the present. A small amount of brush was along the fence line. Since I had been there last, a flagpole has been erected. It is nicely mowed and stones OK.

- Center Township, Section 18, Moorman Cemetery: burials from 1843-1933. From an old Fairfield Ledger clipping of September 1961, at that time "You couldn't crawl through on your hands and knees before we started (to clean it up)." This is on the south side of the Brookville Road and has been kept neat ever since and mowed periodically.

- Center Township, Section 24, Armstrong: one large stone is located on the Maharishi University of Management campus. The husband died in 1879 and the wife in 1895. It is hard to spot between the tree branches. Thank you to Robert Tree for taking me to visit the area.

- Center-South Township, Section 18, Walmer/Roth/Crawford burials from 1847-1946, south on Highway 1 on the east side. If you have never seen a white bronze metal grave-stone, stop by as this cemetery has the largest one in the county, about six feet tall. You will wonder, as I did, "what made the unusual hole in the side?"

With camera and notepad in hand, this project will continue now that the pleasant fall weather has arrived. I am getting anxious to get it completed.

Baird surprised by cleanup in two Penn Township cemeteries

This is the fifth in a series of six articles about Jefferson County Cemeteries written by local genealogist Verda Baird.

I want to start out telling you about two most pleasant surprises found since my last column. Two Penn Township cemeteries have been mowed. Curiosity got the best of me, so Sept. 13, I visited the Wheeler Cemetery again and all those little cedars and other brush less than knee high had all been mowed not more than five days before my return visit. The Cholera Cemetery, also known as Moyer Cemetery, was all spruced up knowing I was coming again. I don't have names of who did the follow up on them, but thank you. They look great.

I went hopping around the country again for the 14 to report on in this column.

- Antioch Cemetery in Penn Township, Section 29: burials from 1848 to the present. It is nicely mowed with six stones needing repairs.

- McDowell Cemetery in Penn Township, Section 7: burials from 1967 to the present. It is nicely mowed, with one leaning stone. Some of the older maple trees need the volunteer sprouts trimmed off before the next growing season.

- Moyer/Cholera Cemetery in Penn Township, Section 19: burials from 1846 to 1900. The entrance is three-fourths of a mile back through CRP ground with thistles and goldenrod tall as the car. This is a most unusual cemetery. It is divided into two sections. A cholera epidemic in 1851 took 11 lives, mostly in just one family, and they are buried all in one long row fenced separately from all the rest. There are a total of

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11 leaning stones and six stones flat on the ground. Thank you to Dick Simmons for taking us back.

- Packwood/Prairie Center Cemetery in Polk Township, Section 14: burials 1876 to the present. Very nice.

- Abingdon Cemetery in Polk Township, Section 23: burials from 1845 to the present. Brush was cut in the spring of 2002 in the fence line by a volunteer, but because the fresh cuts were not treated, it is sprouting anew. The cemetery is mowed periodically. At least 50 stones are leaning, broken or flat on the ground. Very little trimming of mulberry, grape and poison ivy right beside stones June 9.

- Myers Cemetery in Polk Township, Section 34: burials from 1838 to 1906. Prior to 2000, the cemetery had not been mowed for about six years and had become an overgrown mess. A volunteer whose ancestors are buried there reset 28 of the 39 gravestones, did fence work, installed new gates and is keeping it mowed.

- Dallner/German Methodist Cemetery in Walnut Township, Section 27: burials from 1865 to the present. It is nicely mowed, and has



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one stone leaning.

- Hope Lutheran Cemetery in Walnut Township, Section 27: burials from 1843 to the present. It is nicely mowed, and has nine fallen or leaning stones, plus another five propped up beside trees.

- Courtney Cemetery in Walnut Township, Section 30: burials from 1852-1881. It was cleaned up in 1990 and several stones were found that had never been recorded before. Trustees have kept it nicely mowed ever since.

- Lower Richwoods Cemetery in Walnut Township, Section 32: burials from 1846 to the present. The cemetery is mowed periodically. Seven stones are broken or leaning.

- Mount Zion Cemetery in Round Prairie Township, Section 8: burials from 1839 to the present. It is nicely mowed. Some stones were repaired in the last four years, but there are still 14 tossed in a pile, fallen flat or leaning. The most recent one found flat on the ground, I was informed, was knocked over by the grave digger in 1998.

- Upland Swedish Lutheran Cemetery in Round Prairie Township, Section 11: burials from 1880 to the present. It is nicely mowed. Eight stones are lying flat or leaning.

- Glasgow Cemetery in Round Prairie Township, Section 21: burials from 1842 to the present. It is nicely mowed, and has two fallen stones.

What is left to do? There are 11 more cemeteries to report on, three I have never been in whatsoever. After I finish hauling corn and soybeans at our farm, I need to make some phone calls to landowners for help to bring this series to a close.

Baird wraps up cemetery visits

This is the final in a series of six articles about Jefferson County cemeteries written by local genealogist Verda Baird.

This is the sixth and final installment of the series which first appeared June 18 on the conditions of the cemeteries in this county.

I have included a picture of the entrance which most appealed to me and has to be quite old. There are several newer ones which are very eye catching. McDowell Cemetery is one no doubt you are unfamiliar with and it is not on the rural plat maps. To find it, turn east toward Pleasant Plain off Highway 1, go one mile to Mahogany, then turn south on a gravel road and go three-fourths mile. It is right on the east side of the road.

To finish up the cemeteries:

Fiedler Cemetery, Round Prairie Township, Section 19 — burials from 1850-1928. The overgrown mess was cleaned up in 1973, but the brush grew back and cattle got in it. It was cleaned up again in 1993 and a new fence was built, but there was no follow-up. In 2000, it was restored again by new adjoining land owners. The stones are all straight and grass is getting started.

Gilmer Cemetery, Round Prairie Township, Section 15 — burials from 1845-1885. This is the cemetery the chain gang from the prison helped restore in 1997. An out-of-state visitor at Fairfield Public Library told me there were weeds waist high this summer. I did not walk the three-fourths mile to reach the cemetery this year.

The Rev. Richard Jones family cemetery, Round Prairie Township, Section 19 — burials from 1861-1879. To reach the cemetery, you walk one-half mile through two gates and climb over two barbed wire fences. Mike Brokken took me to the spot. Three graves were recorded in 1964. All three stones are now propped up on a tree among the brush.

Morgan family plot, Des Moines Township, Section 2 — the newest cemetery to add to my list had one gravestone on the family farm.

Gregg family cemetery, Locust Grove Township, Section 25 — is located on the Hagans farm between Highway 34 and the railroad in the center of a farm field. In 1958, it had 14 stones. In 1971, the 11 left were all laying flat on the ground. This year, there are just four stones left. It is nicely mowed.

Forrest Cemetery, Polk Township, Section 19 — burials from 1846-

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1933. The cemetery is on the Wapello/Jefferson County line. I walked one-half mile and climbed two fences to reach it. It is nicely mowed, but has 13 fallen or leaning stones.

K o o n s Cemetery, Locust Grove Township, Section 23 — burials 1839-1879. Six stones were recorded about 1970. I did not visit in 2002.

Bidwell Cemetery, Walnut Township, Section 10 — burials from 1841-1906. The cemetery has 19 graves. When I last visited the overgrown mess in 1989, three stones were missing. I did not visit the site in 2002.

Armstrong Cemetery, Walnut Township, Section 2 — burials from 1843-1924. I last visited in 1989, it was an overgrown mess. Of the 16 stones, three had fallen. There are seven white bronze stones all in a row, eye catching, standing straight. There was one new burial there in 2001. I did not visit the cemetery this year.

After the recent Indian summer-type days, three of us finally got started on the ones in Fairfield:

Memorial Lawn Cemetery —



VERDA BAIRD

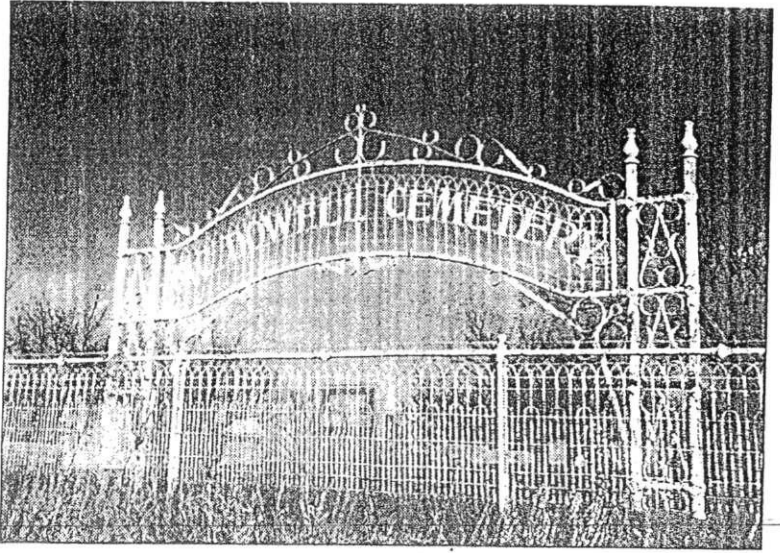
burials from 1935 to the present. There are many tipped bronze gravemarkers sinking usually toward the graves. Many of those have letters "shaved" by the lawn mowers.

Old City Cemetery — burials from 1939-1979. If you want to see a disaster up close, get out and walk. Forty-nine stones are flat on the ground; 168 are leaning; and 20 have parts missing — probably just thrown away years ago. It is nicely mowed and tax supported.

Evergreen Cemetery — burials from 1870 to the present. The three of us were unaware of the current conditions in the older parts of the cemetery. We surveyed the four older sections: Old plat, first, second and third additions. To summarize — there were 17 stones flat on the ground and 689 that were either leaning, sinking, sliding downhill, slipped off or loose on their base. The sexton told us we would come up with about 700 and he sure did not miss it very far. It is nicely mowed and the shrubs were neatly trimmed. It is not tax supported.

I have my own master copy of a picture book and conditions of each cemetery. The library will have a copy on the research table after it comes back from the bindery.

In closing, I will add my thoughts. From the Des Moines Register last fall, I clipped this comment: "One can judge the quality of a community and its people by the cemeteries and the way they are maintained." If you read this entire series, how would you grade our county? Why are some rural cemeteries ignored year after year?



The entrance which most appealed to author Verda Baird was at McDowell Cemetery.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

MITCHELL

Contributed by Neal DuShane

This group will have a meeting on Wednesday, March 5, 2003 at the Osage Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Items on the agenda include: Introduction of the Mitchell County "MCPCRP team," purpose of the organization, Power Point Presentation, overview of SAPIC status and cemetery property owners, presentations on progress of specific projects and appeals for assistance at individual burial sites. For more information, contact Mr. DuShane at n.j.dushane@attbi.com or call 970-223-5156 Web site: www.rootsweb.com/~iamitche/mcpcrp.htm

MONTGOMERY

Contributed by Pat Kennedy

January 7, 2003

Dear Pat,

I just wanted to write and let you know that the BAKER CUT CEMETERY, south east of Villisca, Iowa has been fenced.

Once the township trustee realized that they did, in fact, own the ground, they were very cooperative in aiding in the fencing project. Several of the descendants of those buried there also contributed funds to help defray the expense.

It is my hope that in the spring we can now do the needed repairs and resetting of the stones. Henry Heaton, who has done a lot of work in other cemeteries in our area, has agreed to help in this endeavor.

I would like to get a sign made and erected and would like to see an access road or at least a walking path to the grounds. But for the present, I'm content with the fence.

I want to thank you for the prompt response to my inquiries. Going to the trustees with my home work done helped immensely.

Sincerely,

Pat Kennedy

VAN BUREN

Contributed by Don Aldrich

From the *Quill*, Volume 16 - Number 1, January 2003: "This about That" It was 8 Jan 03 and the temperature was to break a 40 year record by touching near the 70 mark in Keosauqua. What better a day to pay a visit to Snyder Cemetery? That was the question, posed by my Wife, Shirley. Snyder is located about 3 miles east of Bonaparte. I contacted other Society Members Tom Gould and Warren Beatty, both of whom had voiced a desire to see the Cemetery. A call to the landowner obtained permission to proceed through the trail to the grounds which are located about a quarter mile from the county gravel road. The last reading of the stones was completed in the mid 1960's and is noted that "it is almost completely overgrown with tall trees, and is a tangle of fallen trees, brush, etc. Trees have fallen over tombstones, and only 9 stones were standing." The record indicates 31 burials.

The access trail was firm and solid leading to Snyder Cemetery allowing driving right to the location. Remains of fencing stand. But what did we find? It is almost completely overgrown with tall trees, and is a tangle of fallen trees, brush, etc. Trees have fallen over tombstones, and only 7 stones were standing. They cannot be felled without removing in sections. We need a lumberjack. And I get a nosebleed at a height of 4 feet! We found all of the gravestones recorded as found in last record except for one. We did some probing, as best as possible, finding several bases. Most of the broken stones will be repairable. The broken bases can be replaced. But first, the problem of the trees, then fences, must be solved. (Add to the "to do" list.) Once again, the problems of uncontrolled tree growth arise. I'm sure not all of the trees were planted, but the growth should have been controlled many years ago. I again have praise for the Cemetery Associations or Trustees that impose heavy regulations on the plantings allowed near grave sites.

Snyder Cemetery is also known as Gabby Cemetery, and has created some controversy on whether the Mormons did or did not bury at this location as they remained near this location for a time, as their trek westward began.

Contributed by Rich Lowe

Rich and his son, Jeff, of Cedar Rapids have created a database to be used to collect and post gravestone photos on a state-wide basis. Several counties have already joined Rich in this endeavor and there is a link to the web site from the SAPIC web page. Photos will be taken (usually with a digital camera) and submitted to the web site, along with text of inscriptions and other pertinent information about the cemetery or head stones. The site is designed for the casual visitor pursuing genealogy to search and submit photos tied to their lines and to thus make connections with other researchers of the same surname. It will also serve as a good tool for documentation of the existence of pioneer and other cemeteries. The link to the site is:

<http://iagenweb.org/grave/>

Outside of Iowa

Illinois

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Quincy Herald-Whig*, August 11, 2002: "Lost souls," by Rodney Hart. Pictured is Al Witte standing beside the tombstone of John Tournier, who fought with Napoleon in the battle of Waterloo in 1815. His tombstone is barely legible and badly in need of restoration. The tombstone of Revolutionary War hero Zachariah Lierly, also pictured, is in a similar neglected state. Both graves are in Lierly Cemetery near Liberty, Illinois. The grave of another veteran of Waterloo, Harm Franzen, is pictured in the beautifully maintained South Prairie Cemetery near Clayton. A detailed inscription on the stone tells of his involvement in the battle and when he settled in the area. Tournier and Franzen fought on opposite sides of the battle and Witte marvels that the two men found their final resting places less than 20 miles apart in Adams County, Illinois. Mr. Witte enjoys finding old cemeteries and reading up on the people whose graves are located near his Quincy home. He is concerned that no one else will know about these old burial sites after he passes on.

From the *Quincy Herald-Whig*, September 4, 2001: "In Search of Revolutionary War Veterans' graves A DAR Chapter in Pike County hopes to turn the spotlight on burial sites of local soldiers," by Deborah Gertz Husar. Pictured are Garrill Allensworth and Mary Lou Chamberlain, two descendants of Revolutionary Veteran Hugh McNary, standing beside his tombstone in the Petty Cemetery near Pittsfield, Illinois. Chamberlain and other members of the Betsy Ross Chapter of the Daughter of the American Revolution hope to find the grave sites of 15 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Pike County.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Contributed by Pat Shaw

The New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association's web site is now up. NHOGA is an organization dedicated to the preservation of New Hampshire's historic graveyards. In addition to information about the association and its activities, the site contains a locator database for all graveyards and cemeteries in New Hampshire. Each individual graveyard entry is linked to a map showing its location, even in remote areas. More information will be added to the web site as it becomes available.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nhoga/>

NEW MEXICO, TEXAS, ALABAMA

74 Cowen and related burials by Lisa L. Hale: <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/cemeteries/>

MICHIGAN

Monroe County. Hitchcock Cemetery, Lewis Avenue just south of Sterns Road, Bedford Township. 366 records; Carol L. Morrison: <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/cemeteries/>

MISSOURI

Shannon County. Pilgrims Rest Cemetery: 62 records; Anita Campbell: <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/cemeteries/>

KANSAS

By **JEFF WELLS**
Morning Sun Staff Writer

YALE, -- A group of Pittsburg (Kansas) State University students are using modern satellite technology to help preserve a piece of the past. Students in Michele Barnaby's introduction to geographic information systems are preparing a computer map of Yale Cemetery.

Debbie Swindle, an administrative specialist for the PSU Department of History, and members of the Lighthouse Temple Church of God in Christ in Pittsburg are working to restore and maintain the cemetery. According to Swindle, the cemetery, located on the Missouri side of the state line on 600th Street, was the burial place for black coal miners and their families from Yale and the surrounding area -- and many of the graves are unmarked.

The church has worked on the upkeep of the cemetery since last spring, but the cemetery's rough terrain caused by sunken graves damaged mowers, prompting Swindle to begin filling the depressions.

While spring rains slowed improvement efforts, Swindle decided to suspend filling in the graves.

"I realized that I was destroying evidence that there is a grave without putting some sort of marker," Swindle said.

She then turned to the geographers for help.

Barnaby, a geography instructor, said she has spent the semester preparing the class's seven students for the project.

"This is their last project for the term and what we are hoping to accomplish is to make a digital, very accurate map of that cemetery so that she can fill in those areas where the ground has subsidized and they can mow around," Barnaby said.

The students embraced the project but expressed some hesitance because they realized the importance of their work, Barnaby said.

"The students have really taken this serious," she said.

The class is using a global positioning system satellite receiver to map and electronically record the locations of the graves for storage on a computer map.

"What that does is track the points and we are trying to put a point where we think there is a grave," Barnaby said.

The students are also placing flags at the head of the graves.

By using that technology," Barnaby said, "hopefully we are going to plug it into a computer and produce a digital map that she can have that forever."

The digital map will also contain any information currently known about each grave.

"As soon as we finish the map we plan on going back and filling in the graves but we want to have documentation first where the graves are before we continue on," Swindle said.

Swindle said the cemetery opened in 1893 and the final burial there was in 1963. It sat abandoned for decades before Swindle began researching it in the early 1990s. She said there is evidence of 248 graves. Swindle has confirmed the names of 117 people buried there, with a list of more than 200 more unconfirmed.

Western Coal and Mining Co. founded the cemetery after it brought coal miners in from the South and an active black community formed in southeast Kansas, Swindle said. Many of the miners later moved on to other coal mining regions and the town and cemetery faded.

"I take it for granted that I can go and visit my family's graves but here for years these people have not been able to because the community died out," she said.

She said it was overgrown and unkempt for decades.

"You couldn't even see the stones," Swindle said. "It was like walking through a jungle because the weeds were taller than an adult."

Located in Missouri but historically tied to Kansas, preservationists and scholars overlooked the cemetery.

"It had fallen through the cracks as far as being researched on either side," Swindle said.

Swindle said she became interested in the cemetery because she wanted to find some way to document who is buried out there for people who are working on their genealogies.

In the fall of 1990 the brush was burned off the cemetery.

"We were amazed at the rows and rows of unmarked graves," Swindle said.

Some of her findings have been published on the Internet at library.pittstate.edu/docs/PSU/yale.html.

She is still seeking pictures and information on the cemetery. She can be reached at history@pittstate.edu or 235-4312.

"It's definitely collaborative effort," she said. "There is no way one person could do everything that has been done out there."

Swindle said she is discussing further improvements with the landowner and complimented those working for the cemetery's future.

"Everyone working together is what makes it happen," Swindle said.

Staff Writer Jeff Wells can be reached at jwells@morningsun.net or at 231-2600, Ext. 137.