

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535-8045

www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/

Volume #8 Issue #2

April, 2003

May is Cemetery Appreciation Month!



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

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, IOWANS ARE AWARE OF THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE RICH HERITAGE CONTAINED IN IOWA'S PIONEER HISTORICAL CEMETERIES; AND
- WHEREAS, THIS APPRECIATION OF THEIR ANCESTORS' RESTING PLACES, DEVELOPS A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR ANCESTORS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IN THEIR COMMUNITIES; AND
- WHEREAS, PRIDE AND RESPECT FOR OUR PIONEERS LEADS TO AN INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND THAT WE DEDICATE THIS MONTH TO THE CARE OF OUR PIONEER CEMETERIES:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY, 2003, AS

CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH

IN IOWA.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERE-
UNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND
CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE
OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES
MOINES THIS 4TH DAY OF APRIL IN THE
YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND
THREE.

THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

Thanks to the individuals and groups who planned special events to publicize Cemetery Appreciation Month in Iowa!

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will hold its next quarterly meeting on July 12, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in the West Union Public Library meeting room in Fayette County, Iowa.

A tour of Fayette County's restored pioneer cemeteries will follow the meeting.

For more information, contact Steve and Donna Story at:
E-mail: dstory@netins.net
or Phone 593-427-5354.

Check out this issue for the following:

Recreating "Period" Tombstones, by Sidney Louis, page 6

Memorial Day article from Des Moines Register, page 17

Glenn Pollock's observations on saving native prairie in a pioneer cemetery, page 19

The Madison County Genealogical Society hosted the April 12 meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries at the Winterset Public Library meeting room. Attendees enjoyed a sumptuous brunch and lunch provided by members of the Society with proceeds going to a fund to be used to copy the probate records in Madison County. Thanks to this group for providing a hospitable and enjoyable meeting environment!

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Joyce Wiese
2160 310th St.
Toledo, IA 52342 641-484-2599
tracers@pcpartner.net

Vice-President:
Larry D. Davis
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515-277-4917 LD2MSTONE@aol.com

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

Sally Youngquist, Web Page Manager
Sumner, Iowa
youngqui@iowatelecom.net

Molly Beason, Board of Trustees
106 East 11th Street
Tama, IA 52339
mollyb@iowatelecom.net 641-484-6061

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Calvin McVay, Board of Trustees
605 E. Buchanan
Winterset, IA 50273
641-462-9802 EMcVay7984@aol.com

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

Pat Shaw, Bd of Trustees, Newsletter Editor
21813 170th St.

Birmingham, IA 52535-8045
319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

Jo Vernooy, Board of Trustees
1240 235th St.
Leighton, IA 50143
641-673-8122 mahcem@kdsi.net

Linda Zintz, Board of Trustees
PO Box 384
Centerville, IA 52544
thee_z@hotmail.com

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

Dennis N. Britson, Director
Regulated Industries Unit
Iowa Securities Bureau
340 Maple St.; Des Moines, IA 50319
Dennis.Britson@comm6.state.ia.us
515-281-4441

The quarterly SAPIC meeting was held at the Winterset Library meeting room. Thanks to Beverly Cline and the McVays for making the arrangements. Meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Joyce Weise, President.

Minutes of January, 2003 were then read by Charly Stevens. No corrections were noted.

Treasurer's report was read and a summary of the accounts were then given from January 1, 2003 thru March 31, 2003. No objections were noted and the report will be filed for audit. Complete accounting details will be directed in the next newsletter.

Reports were then given. Larry Davis updated the group on the current grant applications that had been submitted to the Grant Committee, which met prior to the SAPIC meeting. 3 applications had been submitted from Mitchell (2) and Winneshiek Counties (1). Due to funding limitations, motion by Larry Davis to grant \$200 to Mitchell County and \$200 to Winneshiek County to assist them with their cemetery restoration projects, second by Phyllis Rothlauf. Motion carried. Respective counties will be notified by Larry Davis.

Legislation updates were mentioned by Pat Shaw, she reviewed correspondence from Dennis Britson in reference to draft legislation issues on cemetery access and farm bureau stance. T-shirts and bumper stickers are still available by contacting Sherry Wiley and Charly Stevens.

County reports were then presented. Buchanan County is forming a cemetery commission.

Old Business included a request on obtaining signage for Pioneer cemeteries which are available from Iowa Prison Industries, and location for July meeting. Steve Story will host the July 12 meeting in West Union, more details will be made available in the next newsletter. 2003 budget was also mentioned; Pat Shaw will contact Valerie Ogren on any expenses incurred, motion by Larry Davis to leave 2003 proposed budget as 2002 line items are written with an amendment if necessary, second by Maureen Wilson. Motion carried. Past due memberships/renewal notices were also briefly mentioned. Cemetery survey forms, need was stressed for proper documentation, the State Archaeologist office has similar forms and the Geological Bureau will note cemeteries on the map.

New Business included military stones, monetary contribution toward the Lost Landscape film project. Military stones are available - refer to Civil War veterans information in a previous SAPIC newsletter. SAPIC organization has been approached for a monetary donation to the Lost Landscape film project, a project being undertaken by several entities and the film covers tallgrass prairie and it's importance from a scientific standpoint and the need to preserve, restore and reconstruct the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. Motion by Calvin McVay to donate \$100 to the film project with the stipulation that SAPIC's name appears in the credits as the film's content may deal with pioneer cemeteries, second by Maureen Wilson. Motion carried.

May is "Cemetery Appreciation Month", Pat presented copies of the signed proclamation from Governor Vilsack for those interested and planning for events were stressed. October meeting location was discussed at length; it was decided to hold it at the Library in Urbandale. This meeting will be held the same weekend as the IGS conference - October 4th, 2003. Motion by common consent to reserve the Urbandale Library on October 4 and to finalize the details at the July meeting. Robert Carter award was mentioned; it is time to submit nominations to Phyllis Carter by the July 1 deadline. Pat McVay will work with Phyllis on the selection committee.

No other business to come before the committee, motion by Larry Davis to adjourn, second by Calvin McVay. Motion carried.

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES
 Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter - 1 January 2003 thru 31 March 2003

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2002, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$4983.88

Income

Dues	305.00
Bumper stickers	6.00
Videos (2)	60.00
Interest 1/31/03	2.61
Interest 2/28/03	2.38

Interest 3/31/03 (statement not yet received) - 0 -

Total Income \$375.99

Expense

Ck #138 - Postmaster - Birmingham - permit	150.00
Ck #139 - Postmaster - Jefferson - stamps	7.40
Bank Debit - check printing	9.25
Ck #140 - Void	
Ck #141 - Patricia Shaw - postage 3.36, newsletter 65.04	68.40
Total Expense	\$235.05

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2003 \$5124.82

Balance in Reserve Account 31 December 2002, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$2573.39

Income

Donald Holmes - Life Membership \$100.00
 Larry Davis - Life Membership \$100.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2003 \$2773.39

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.

Monday, March 31, 2003

treasurer's report

Page: 2

Combined Balance on Hand 31 March 2003 \$7898.21

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

Be sure to nominate your most deserving cemetery worker for the Robert Carter Award that is presented each fall by Phyllis Carter and SAPIC. Nominations should be received by Phyllis no later than July 1. Phyllis's address, telephone number, and E-mail address is on page 2 of this newsletter.

SAPIC was pleased to be able to award a limited number of grants to assist in pioneer cemetery restoration for the first time this year. An application form is available from the SAPIC web site or from chairperson, Larry Davis. Check page 2 of this newsletter for contact information.

Bev Larson from Elk Horn, Iowa has written a book inspired by the strength and courage of pioneer women titled, *The Brave Ones (Early Pioneer Women)*. As Larson wrote in her book's epilogue, frontier life was hard and women shared the workload. They came "to work, to give birth, to have occasional fun, carry on alone when a husband died, plant a garden, cook endless meals, shiver in makeshift tents and cabins and sod houses, become old at 35...and at last to die, to be buried in a tiny part of Iowa's soil, the toiling over, the hoe laid down, the tears dried, at last the well-earned rest."

We can honor the memories of these brave ones by rescuing their burial sites from neglect and apathy.

Several persons who attended the April meeting indicated an interest in learning of a contact person in the Iowa Farm Bureau from their area. Following are members of the Board of Directors of that organization: (District 1) -- Phil Hemesath, Calmar; (2) Charlie Norris, Mason City; (3) Phil Sundblad, Albert City; (4) Doug Gronau, Vail; (5) Lindsey Larson, Jefferson; (6) David Machacek, Alburnett; (7) Dan Johnson, Ottumwa; (8) Calvin Rozenboom, Oskaloosa; (9) Doug Beckman, Glenwood; Marilyn Poppen, Sibley, IFBF Women's Chair.

From the *American Profile* magazine, March 23-29, 2003: "Hometown Hero Mapping Hometown History," by Theresa Medoff. Pam Goffinet has an unusual job that's part detective, part historian, and part cartographer. She also does it in an unusual setting -- cemeteries. Goffinet, a resident of Rising Sun, Md., has a bachelor's degree in art anthropology. She provides new maps and computerized records of old cemeteries that are invaluable to genealogists, undertakers, and historians. She researches the cemetery by working from ripped, fading maps, incomplete deed records scattered in filing cabinets, and unwritten information in people's memories. Goffinet creates new, grid-marked maps and gives copies to several members of the cemetery's volunteer board to help ensure their survival. Information is also stored on computer, making it accessible by family name, plot number, and location. In addition, Goffinet creates notebooks cross-referencing burial information by last name and plot number and includes copies of the maps. Local libraries and historical societies often buy the books to help preserve the town's history.

"It gives me great satisfaction," she says, "to make sure these people are not lost, that a record of their existence survives."

Book: *Respectable Burial -- Montreal's Mount Royal Cemetery* is a beautifully illustrated history of culture, religion, and public space. The author, Brian Young, shows how the history of the Mount Royal Cemetery, founded in 1852, mirrors the evolving social makeup, changing mores, and tragic events of what was long Canada's largest city. The book covers the lives of elite and common citizens and shows how epidemics, train wrecks, and the deaths of soldiers or firemen challenged conventional notions of the family and reveals that the cemetery introduced new customs from other cultures to Protestant Montreal. It is available from: Direct Sales Manager McGill-Queen's University Press, 3430 McTavish Street, Montreal, QC H3A 1X9 Fax: 514-398-5443.

Recreating "Period" Tombstones

by

Sidney S. Louis

This is being written to inform those who would like to replace an old cemetery monument that has been destroyed by vandalism or deterioration, or those who wish to place stones over graves in old burying grounds, that a service exists whereby monuments of yesteryear can be copied, reproduced or recreated (which ever term you prefer).

There may be those who will decry this practice almost as apostasy, that it desecrates the historical. It is not my intent to argue for, or against, copying old monuments. I merely provide information that tombstones of any period can be reproduced, should this be desired, and give one source where such assistance is available.

*

My interest in recreating, or reproducing, period monuments began during restoration of the Schlicht family pioneer cemetery in Boone county, Iowa, near the small town of Pilot Mound.

The Mathias Stone

The tombstone of my great-great-grandfather, Mathias Frederick Schlicht, who had officially begun the cemetery in 1868, was broken and had been since the early part of the twentieth century. The stone was carved from Vermont marble, I was told, and marble from that area tended to undergo a change after many years of exposure to weather. The surface seemed to have crystallized, almost like sugar, and crumbled easily between the fingers. My ancestor's 1878 monument was deteriorating badly, and might one day totally fragment. Efforts at professional repair were fruitless, and only resulted in additional breakage.

It was decided a copy of the monument, as accurate as possible, would be made to preserve the design and script (what was engraved on the stone) of the original. The recreated stone would be placed on the grave, and the original would be preserved in a metal frame to hold the monument and cradle it from additional shocks and damage.

I checked in the Boone area for a monument firm that would be willing and able to reproduce my second great-grandfather's stone. I found no one that could help.

Returning to my home in Fort Worth, I began anew the search for someone that could produce the desired monument copy.

As luck would have it, I came across a relatively small monument company on Fort Worth's near west side with the name Fred Cheek Monuments. This firm has been in business since 1928. It is owned by Dennis and Sammie Peters. Sammie is the granddaughter of founder Fred Cheek.

The company both orders stock design monuments and produces custom stones in a wide variety of types for many purposes. There is a shop that seems to echo continuously with the sounds of cutting, grinding, polishing and other steps of monument production. Fred Cheek is rightfully proud of its creations.

When I told Dennis what I wanted, showing a photograph of the damaged stone, he immediately assured me a copy could be made. There would be some differences between the copy and the original, as the deep carving produced by hand more than a century ago was not available. He then told me the steps that would be followed in designing the reproduction.

Accordingly, a full-size rubbing of my grandfather's stone was made, and measurements taken of height, width and thickness. Using this data, Dennis turned out, for my approval, a design the exact size the new stone would be.

The reproduction was done in tan granite. It is probably as close to the original as could be expected. The monument was shipped to Iowa, where today it stands proudly over the grave for which it was intended.

Recreated Stones

The success of this endeavor spurred me on to other projects. Three graves of ancestors buried in the cemetery had never had monuments. These were my grandmother, Ellen Langan, my uncle, Jacob Schlicht, and Henry, the fourteenth, and last, child of my great-great-grandparents, who had died on the day of his birth in 1857. [He was probably the first to be buried in the plot which would not appear in documents until eleven years later, 1868.]

In providing monuments for these graves, I wanted to retain the pioneer atmosphere of the cemetery. Modern stones would be aesthetically jarring and out of place.

Again I went to Fred Cheek Monuments and told Dennis my wishes. He felt there was no problem, and told me how to start.

This began a pattern that would be followed for the remainder of stones I ordered.

First, I would go out to Oakwood cemetery in Fort Worth. This burying ground dates back to at least the mid 1800s, and includes a wide range of ethnicity and socioeconomic levels. I would search among the monuments until I found exactly what

would meet requirements and limitations.

For my purposes, the stone had to be of the correct period. That is, the individual in the grave died in approximately the same year as the ancestor I was honoring. This would make the new stone authentic as to time.

Because shipment was a factor, the chosen marker had to be of a size that could be easily crated and carried by commercial motor-freight.

I avoided monuments, no matter how attractive, that were too intricately and deeply carved, as that work would not be reproduced. (Forget the darling little lambs reclining ever so decorously atop some monuments - it is doubtful that kind of hand carving is commonly available today.)

When the decision was made, a Polaroid picture was snapped which was taken to Fred Cheek Monuments along with precise directions on where in that huge cemetery the stone was located.

A worker from the company would find the stone and take measurements and other needed information. This all went into the design computer, and a printout was produced for my approval.

When all details were settled, the blank stone (Georgia marble) was ordered. Upon its arrival, finishing work was done, and I was called to come in for final approval before the monument was crated and shipped.

The Jacob Stone

A word has to be said about the difficulty in choosing an appropriate period stone for the grave of a child. I found many monuments for children of the late 1800s to early 1900s to be almost grim and overpowering. Frightening, if you will.

I wanted the stone for Jacob (who had died at around five years of age in 1901) to be something in which he would surely delight, were he able to see it.

Over the grave of a little girl who was of the same age, and died the same year as Jacob, I found what I was looking for. The basic design suggested a small house, perhaps a playhouse. The original stone had a carved scroll and flowers on the face, along with identifying information.

It was my decision to lose the scroll and flowers and substitute a toy soldier at the top of the face and a toy cannon at the bottom. I wished cemetery visitors to always know that here was the resting place of a little soldier. (Jacob had a very tragic, short life.)

A problem arose in that Fred Cheek Monuments did not have

a design for a toy soldier, and didn't know where to obtain one. I checked out of the library a book on antique toys, and from that volume was able to sketch a toy soldier from around the turn of the century. That design is on the stone today.

The toy cannon was easier, we used a drawing from an advertising flier.

The Ellen Stone

The stone for Ellen, my grandmother, who died in 1914, was much less of a problem. The design was copied entirely from the monument of a mother who had died at about the same time.

There was a quite unusual incident the day this stone was placed in the Schlicht cemetery.

I was present, and showed the workmen where the monument was to go. Then, I had to leave, as I had an appointment. I did not get back to the cemetery until around 4:00 in the afternoon. By this time (it was early October), the rays of the setting sun were almost parallel with the earth. They struck the slanting face of the stone and were reflected in such a manner the illusion was created that the monument was glowing. I thought: "She knows. And she is happy!" My grandmother, who lived in severe poverty almost her entire life, never could have dreamed of having such a fine stone. I took several photographs of the cemetery that day, and the Ellen stone "burned out" of every one.

The Henry Stone

The monument for Henry was surprisingly easy to select. A stone was found in Oakwood for a baby that had died the day of birth around the same time. This small stone was apparently a stock design of the period. Today the recreation rests between the graves of Henry's parents.

The Stones for Two Brothers

One final monument addition requires an explanation. My grandmother remarried after the death of her first husband (my grandfather). With her new husband, she would have four children. Two of these, small boys, died within three days around Halloween in 1908. (Can the pain and heartbreak even be imagined?) The family was very poor, and the children were buried as paupers in the old section of Hopkins Grove cemetery, south of Madrid, Iowa. No monuments were ever put in place.

Research in the late 1990s found no records had been kept as to exactly where the boys were buried.

When the family began to seek information about the two brothers, we had virtually nothing to guide us. We did not even know their names, age at death, cause of death. Now all those statistics have been collected and preserved.

I was determined those little boys would not be so lost and forgotten again.

Monuments were created for each of them, from a design that was accurate as to year of death. Because the brothers had died within days of each other, I felt my grandmother would probably have chosen identical stones for them, if funds had been available. This was carried out. The boys' stones are placed beside the grave of their mother, even though they have no grave, no remains.

Cost

The reader might well say: "Recreation of period tombstones is all very well, but what is the cost of such customized monuments?"

I found the price of special stones to be little more than that of stock design monuments, excluding crating and shipping charges. These last two items would be of no concern if a monument maker were located close by which would allow the completed stone to be trucked directly to the cemetery for installation. This would also eliminate the size limitation imposed by motor-freight fees and restrictions.

A Final Word

From all of this, it can be seen that recreation of period tombstones is a very real alternative to consider when it is necessary to replace a badly damaged monument, or to place stones in pioneer cemeteries.

The new stones will look "new" for years, but will gradually age as they weather. To prevent confusion decades from now, on the back of each recreated monument in the Schlicht cemetery is engraved the year it was set. Example: "Set 1995" This will let future family and scholars know the stone was not put in place at the time the individual in that grave was interred. In addition, there is a complete written history of the Schlicht cemetery which documents everything that was done during the restoration, including the setting of period monuments.

* * *

Author's note:

The names of Fred Cheek Monuments and its owners, Dennis and Sammie Peters, are used with permission.

Their use does not constitute an advertisement for, nor an endorsement of, that company.

I have no business interests or other connections with the firm.

I can say only that my relationship with all concerned at Fred Cheek Monuments was most pleasant. I found them understanding and accommodating, willing to help in any way.

This article is being submitted simultaneously to Grave News, the quarterly of the State Association for Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC), a volunteer organization, and The Bulletin, a quarterly trade publication for producers of cemetery monuments.

The purpose of this unusual action is to inform those interested in acquiring period tombstones that such a service exists, though it may take some searching to locate at the present time. It will also serve to make those who produce cemetery markers aware there may be a market for such customized stones. As a spokesperson for Fred Cheek Monuments said: "Others (monument firms) can reproduce period stones, if they would."

Fred Cheek Monuments can be contacted by any of the following methods. I have been assured any inquiries will be answered.

Mail: Fred Cheek Monuments
308 Greenleaf Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76107-2316

Phone: (817) 332-2689
Fax: (817) 332-5091
Internet: fcheek@earthlink.net

*

About the author:

Sidney S. Louis was born and raised in Boone county, Iowa. Retired military, he now resides in Fort Worth, Texas.

Since 1994 he has been working on the rescue, restoration and preservation of the Schlicht family cemetery.

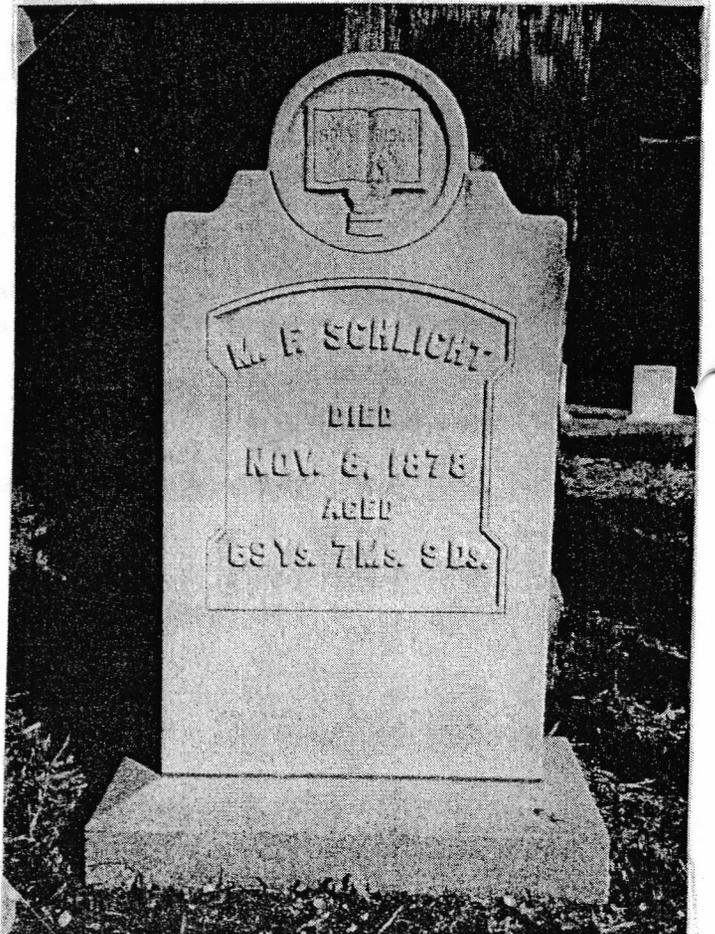
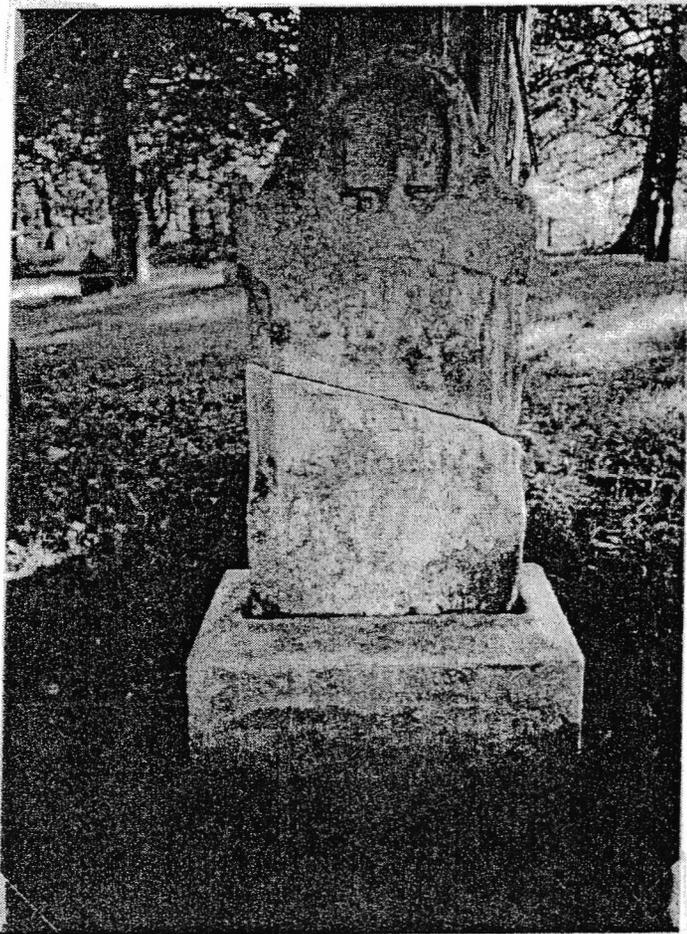
He is a member of SAPIC, a contributor of articles on the preservation of pioneer cemetery information, and has espoused the importance of making a photographic record of all pioneer cemetery monuments in Iowa and around the nation.

* * *

The monument that ignited my interest in recreating period tombstones.

The first photograph shows the severely damaged stone of Mathias Frederick Schlicht, dating from 1878, as it appeared in the Schlicht cemetery.

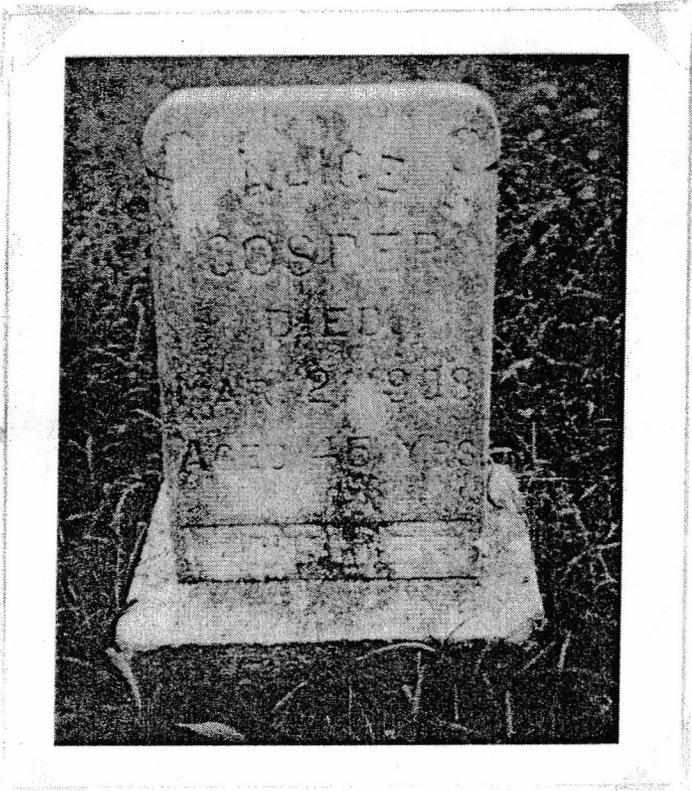
The second photograph is the recreated stone in place at the Schlicht cemetery.



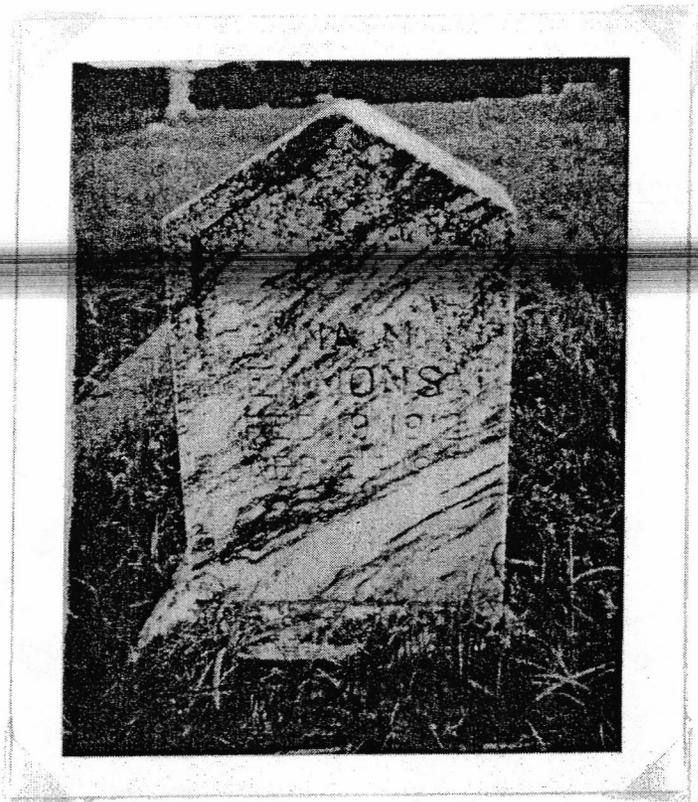
These photographs depict original monuments as they were found in Oakwood cemetery in Fort Worth. The pictures are not as sharp as might be wished, because each stone has weathered for over a hundred years. In addition, there is a century of grime, pollution and moss/lichen growth.

The second photograph shows the recreated stone at Fred Cheek Monuments just prior to crating and shipping.

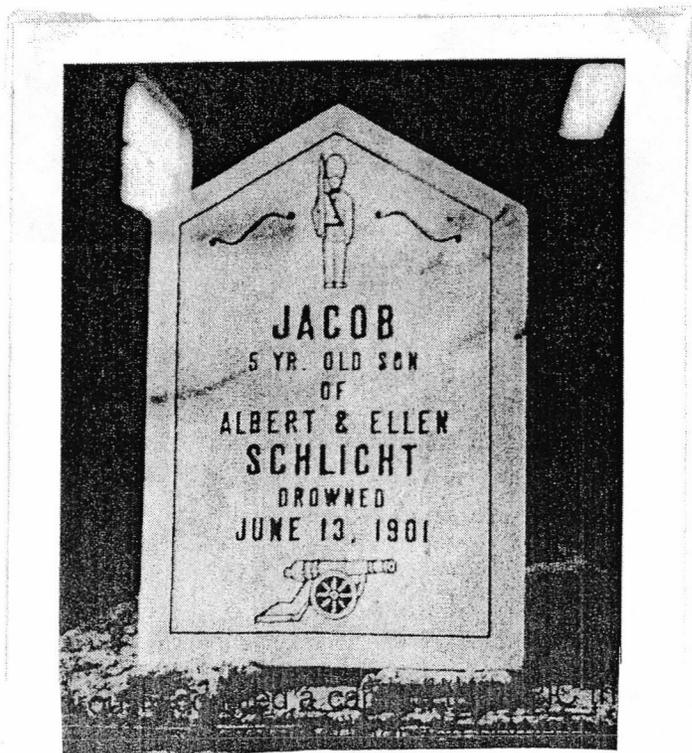
The Ellen Stone

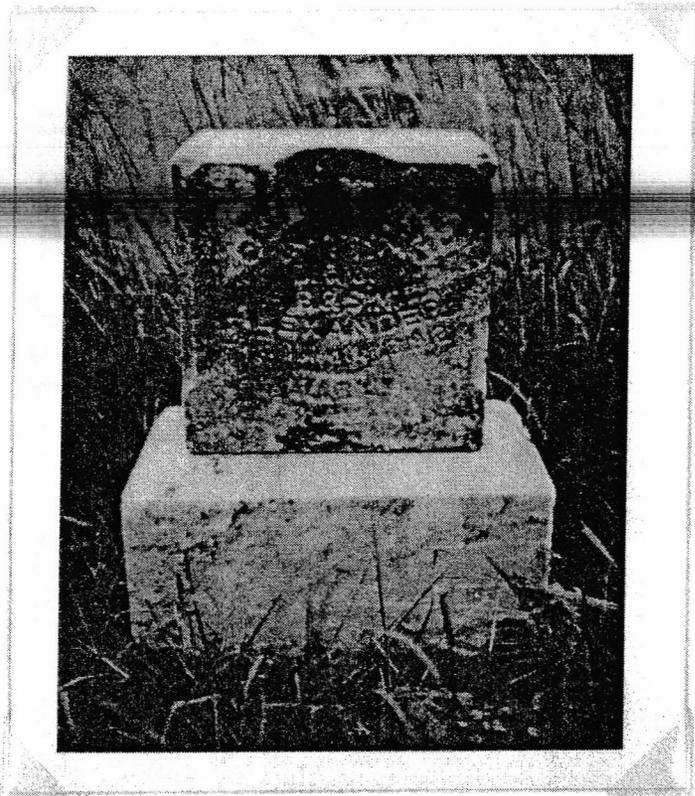


Note: Mr. Louis has generously donated a camera to SAPIC that can be loaned to groups or individuals for the purpose of documenting cemeteries and burials with photos comparable to these. Contact Pat Shaw for details.

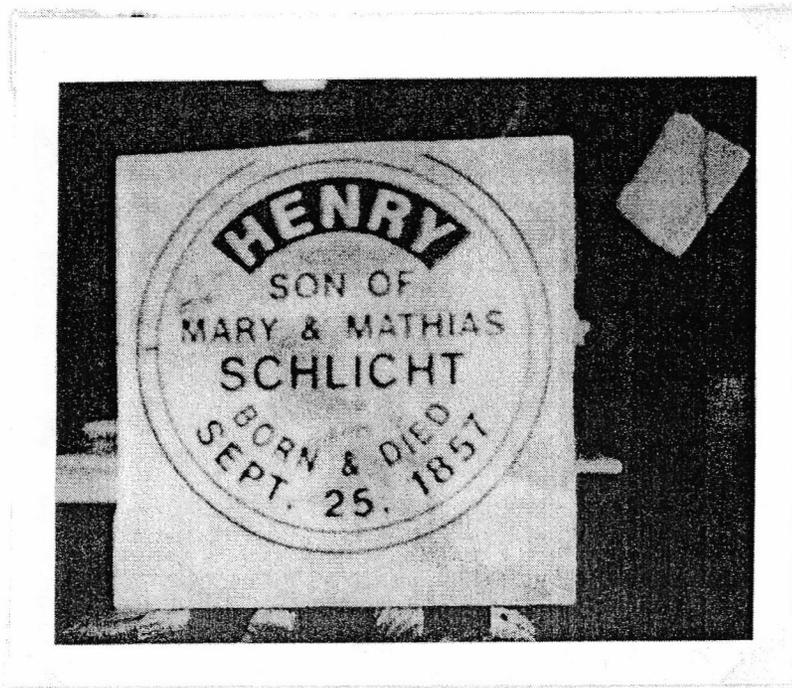


The Jacob Stone





The Henry Stone





The Stones for Two Brothers



Forebears forgotten in pioneer cemeteries

By **TARA DEERING**
Register Staff Writer
05/26/2003

Seemingly endless processions of cars will make their way through Iowa cemeteries today.

In most, American flags will fly next to the gravestones of veterans who braved past wars.

But not all will be recognized this Memorial Day.

Tall weeds and trees overshadow the graves of forgotten soldiers in Iowa counties' forgotten cemeteries.

Four Civil War veterans' graves were uncovered last week in a small pioneer cemetery about a mile northwest of Montour in Tama County. With the passing of time, the gravestones have become almost impossible to read. All of the men fought for the North. One, a captain, died after the war at age 82.

Dozens of such veterans' grave sites exist in hundreds of pioneer cemeteries throughout the state. Several groups of Iowans are working to make sure those who helped shape the state's history are not forgotten.

"I just feel that we owe those people a pleasant place to spend the rest of their eternity," said Joyce Wiese, president of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries. "I would hope someday that when I'm buried and gone, that someone would think enough of me to keep the weeds away."

State lawmakers have tried to preserve pioneer cemeteries, which are those that have had no more than six burials in the past 50 years.

A law enacted in 1996 allowed counties to take control of pioneer cemeteries and tax residents to help pay for their restoration and maintenance. While this law helped jump-start county cemetery restoration projects, cemetery advocates say money is still a problem.

"I'm not sure if politicians recognize the importance of restoring and preserving cemeteries," Wiese said.

Pat Shaw, a member of the state cemetery association, agreed. She said county officials are sometimes less willing to allocate money for pioneer cemeteries.

"They ask for money for the active cemeteries but not the pioneer," she said. "They ask for money for the cemeteries where people are going to whoop and holler if they're not maintained."

Shaw began her effort to restore pioneer cemeteries 10 years ago when she stumbled upon her great-great-great-grandfather's neglected grave near the Amana Colonies in Iowa County.

At least 21 counties have active pioneer cemetery commissions. The state's eastern counties contain more pioneer cemeteries because of their higher concentrations of early settlers. For example, Shaw said, about 80 of Van Buren County's nearly 115 cemeteries are pioneer cemeteries. The average for

<http://DesMoinesRegister.com/news/stories/c4788998/21348253.html>

the state's 99 counties is 25 pioneer cemeteries.

"We really don't know how many pioneer cemeteries there are in the state," she said. "They're turning up all the time."

Beverly Bethune, a sociology instructor at Indian Hills Community College, said the turn of the century sparked people's interest in genealogy.

"Genealogy has become such a huge hobby for people that it makes them get out in the cemeteries to look around," she said. "In the last three to four years there's been this boom of interest in restoration and preservation efforts."

In addition to money concerns, rural development also has caused problems for preservationists wanting to gain access to the cemeteries. Public entrances that once existed for the old, small cemeteries exist no longer. Many are now surrounded by farmland whose owners are sometimes reluctant to allow preservationists access to the plots.

Members of the cemetery association are pushing for the Legislature to pass a law granting them public access to clean up Iowa's pioneer cemeteries.

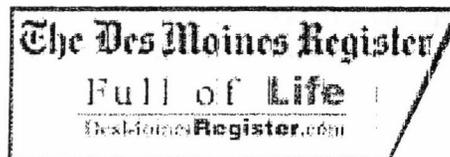
"Usually, most landowners are very cooperative that you're doing this," Shaw said. "But sometimes landowners don't want us to go across their land. We try to find people who have ancestors buried there, because they have a little more legal right to be there."

Finding volunteers to help clear trees, erect fences and raise gravestones can be difficult, Wiese said. It can take more than two summers to restore a cemetery.

"I think you have to reach a certain age before they do this," said Wiese, 74. "Young kids are busy working and raising kids, and they don't even think about keeping cemeteries."

Maintained pioneer cemeteries are good for Iowa's image, cemetery preservationists said.

"These small counties are garnering tourists who are seeking their roots. And when they see what terrible condition their ancestors' cemeteries are in, it doesn't look good for Iowa," Shaw said.



President John F. Kennedy captured the spirit of this holiday best when he said, "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

From: Glenn Pollock

Omaha, Nebraska

<pollockg@radiks.net>

I am writing this article because a friend asked me to answer this question. Why should we save a native prairie in a pioneer cemetery? Why question are difficult? They can be communication stoppers. Another friend states he does not due why questions. I will attempt this one knowing well that some people will not be swayed by my reasoning but I hope I will be able to provide some reason to save a bit of our natural heritage.

I see four major reasons to save the prairie and that being historical, medical, economic, and esthetics.

History

Two hundred years ago when Lewis and Clark traveled up the Missouri river more than 85 percent of Iowa was virgin prairie. Today more than 99.9 percent of the prairie has been plowed up. Ida county Iowa was 100 percent virgin tallgrass prairie. There is only one acre left and that is in a pioneer cemetery. We need to save what is left of the prairie in Iowa as much as we need to save the State Capitol. They are both important parts of our history.

Medical

The first white men and women who came to Iowa had to establish methods to survive. They had to build house, plant crops, dig wells and build roads. We some time forget that one of the first things necessary was to set aside a place to bury their dead. Some time this was one of the first things needed to be done. Diseases shorted the life of many a pioneer on the prairie. How did the native people survive in the same environment? The native people had lived on the prairie for thousands of years with success. They did not have trained doctors or hospitals, but they did have medicine men who had thousands of years of experience with the native plant of the prairie. Several years ago a botanist found a list compiled by a list of the plants and fungus found in a native American's medicine bag. He found over half of the plants in the medicine bag are now used to make modern pharmaceutical. What about the other plants in the bag of the medicine man. What suffering might they prevent? Do we want to throw away that information away? Did our pioneers leave us a gift?

Economic

The United States is now the most prosperous country in the world. The main reason for the success we have had is that our country has an abundance of natural resources. The US has the greatest amount of fertile soil in the world. Because of that large amount of fertile, we are able to produce the cheapest food with the smallest amount of people. This allows people to be free from the burden of growing food to allow the pursuit of learning. This learning has given us our comfortable live, our modern medicine, our technology. Consider a country in Africa were the majority of people must work to grow the little food that can be grown on their poor soil. We did our fertile soil come from the answer of course was because of the tallgrass prairie. Each year the prairie grew and plant materials died back in the fall and decompose into top soil. It took about 200 to 400 years to produce an inch of top soil. Much of Iowa's top soil has gone down the Mississippi river. Science does not completely understand the process of making top soil. We need the virgin prairie to study the process. We must understand this process if we want to maintain the food production of our country. We must find a way to restore our soil.

Are we willing to lose this information?

Esthetics

Our ancestor did not have plastic flower, flower shops, or could afford to buy plants from back east to decorate the early pioneer cemetery. I am reminded of the story of an early settler to Crawford County. On April 15,

1859, George King living in Millford township earlier of New York died at the age of 28. His wife and three young children chose a small corner of their farm to bury him. She selected a spot on a small hill that in June would be covered with a blanket of wild flowers that modern man cannot imagine. More than 100 different flowers and grasses grew on that spot. I am sure she saw it as a fitting memorial to her husband. As years passed other families chose the same spot to bury their dead. To this day one half acer of virgin prairie still exist. It still has a beauty that I cannot describe in words. I simple cannot understand why anyone would want to mow that bit of Gods creation to a height of two inches. If George King family could visit his grave today, they would not recognize the corn or soybean field, the plastic flowers or the European flowers planted by other families. They would recognize the flowers of the prairie and the beauty the Creator gave them.

I wish to quote an Iowan Aldo Leopold as my last word on why to save the prairie.

"The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: What good is it? If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built some thing we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering."

Glenn Pollock is past president of the Iowa Prairie Network. He is dedicated to the preservation of native Iowa prairie and often finds undisturbed examples of these plants in pioneer cemeteries.

COUNTY REPORTS

APPANOOSE

Loren Horton, one of the founders of SAPIC, presented a program in Appanoose County on May 10 as part of its observation of Cemetery Appreciation Month in Iowa.

BENTON

Contributed by Gene and Frieda Davis

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, Vinton, Feb. 18, 2003: "Pioneer Cemetery Commission voices frustration over county budget process," by Steve Meyer. Benton County Supervisors gave the newly formed pioneer cemetery commission a "spending authority" of \$1000 which did not allow them to access funds that had been donated to the commission over that amount. The supervisors originally required the commission to add all donations to the county general fund. County attorney, David Thompson, pointed out that in other counties the commissions are given an allotment of money from the supervisors and are allowed to manage it in a separate account into which they can also deposit donations.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Feb. 23, 2003: "Benton Supervisors resolve cemetery budget impasse," by Steve Meyer. At their Feb. 21 meeting, the supervisors increased the commission's spending authority to \$1,500 for the current fiscal year. This allowed the commission to deposit and access \$500 in donations. The board also set the commission's spending authority at \$10,000 for next fiscal year, but will provide only the \$5,000 the commission requested. Cost for repairing headstones in Benton County are running only about \$10 each because commission members do the repairs themselves as opposed to hiring professionals. Commission members have volunteered their time to repair 78 headstone foundations in the Bender, Carlisle Grove and East Eden pioneer cemeteries, chairperson Gene Davis said. Members have done 210 hours in mowing, weed control, tree trimming and pioneer cemetery research.

Gene and Frieda Davis spoke to the Methodist Ladies Spring Luncheon in Mt. Auburn in April and received a good response. A workday is planned in a cemetery in western Benton County. Marlene Brown was asked by the Supervisors of Buchanan County to serve on a committee to set up a cemetery commission in that county.

BLACK HAWK

Contributed by Mike Magee

WATERLOO COURIER JUNE 7, 1901

EAGLE TWP. BLACK HAWK Co., IA

LAST WEEK THREE BODIES WERE REMOVED FROM THE GERMAN SCHOOL LOT, WHICH HAD IN FORMER YEARS BEEN USED AS A GRAVEYARD. THEY WERE PLACED IN THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY.

-THIS SCHOOL WAS ALSO KNOWN AS ST. CLEMENTS CHURCH. IT WAS USED AS A SCHOOL & CHURCH FOR THE GERMAN SPEAKING MEMBERS OF THAT PARISH. IN LATER YEARS IT CLOSED AND THEY MERGED WITH ST. MARY'S OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH WHICH WAS A FEW MILES EAST.-

~~~~~  
WATERLOO COURIER MAY 20, 1901

THE MEMBERS OF THE SAWYER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION IN SPRING CREEK TOWNSHIP DESIRE VERY MUCH TO POLICE AND FIT UP THE CEMETERY BEFORE DECORATION DAY. THEREFORE THEY DESIRE ALL PARTIES HAVING INTEREST IN THE CEMETERY TO MEET ON THE GROUNDS MAY 25TH AT WHICH TIME THEY EXPECT TO SURVEY THE GROUND AND PUT A MOVEMENT ON FOOT THAT WILL LEAD TO A PERMANENT AND MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENT IN THE CEMETERY GROUNDS.

[This cemetery is now called Pleasant Hill Cemetery]

~~~~~  
WATERLOO COURIER MAY 30, 1901

VISITORS AT ELMWOOD CEMETERY TODAY WITNESSED AN UNUSUAL DECORATION OF ONE OF THE GRAVES. IT WAS A TWO QUART FRUIT JAR HERMETICALLY SEALED, AND CONTAINING THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DEAD HUSBAND OF A WATERLOO WIDOW AND PLACED ON THE INSIDE OF THE JAR ALSO WAS A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF DECEASED.

~~~~~  
WATERLOO COURIER  
NOVEMBER 4, 1901

*Today a deed was filed in the office of County Recorder Knapp in which D. E. Mullarky transfers to Archbishop Keane for St. Patrick's Church of Cedar Falls a plot of ground to be used as a cemetery.*

Note from Mike: *I suspect that this is for what was once called St. Bernard's Cemetery which is now part of Greenwood Cemetery in Cedar Falls, IA. Someday I will get a copy of this record.*

## BLACKBARK

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 8, 1901: "Stories of the Streets -- How Mr. Chafin Was Buried Alive in Elmwood Cemetery." William Whitney tells the story of how Mr. Chafin, who operated a grist mill in an old log building where the YMCA structure now stands forty years ago, was buried alive by some of his companions in a joke playing mood. In those days men used to imbibe a little for their stomach's sake as they do now. One night when Mr. Chafin was under the "infloence" a number of his companions conceived the scheme of frightening the jolly miller. They dug a shallow grave in Elmwood cemetery, procured a rough box, put the limp form of Chafin within, set the box and man in the hole, covered the top of the box with hay, dispersed and took positions where they were concealed and yet where developments might be watched. At dawn the moving of the hay was noticed, there was a crash of timbers and the end of the rough box was kicked out. Very soon the form of Chafin was seen silhouetted against the background. Chafin rubbed his eyes, took a hurried survey of the ghastly surroundings, the tombstones standing as silent sentinels in memory of the dead, then reached down to pick up his hat. This he swung high in air as he gave two unearthly whoops to break the awful stillness, afterwards shouting, "Resurrection morn and I am the first son of a gun up!"

From the *Waterloo Courier*, September 5, 1901: "For Grave of a Negro Daughters of American Revolution Will Petition Legislature For Memorial to Mark Grave of Charles Shepherd. Body is buried Near Millspaugh Mills, Henry County." The DAR, as part of its goal to mark the graves of all Revolutionary soldiers in the state, circulated blank petitions to all chapters of the DAR in the state, asking them to have them fully signed so they can be presented to the state legislature. The topic of the petition was to purchase ground and erect a monument to the memory of Charles Shepherd, who is buried in an unknown grave in Henry county. His grave had been neglected and unmarked. The petition read as follows: *"We, your petitioners, members of the Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, hereby respectfully desire to call the attention of your honorable body to the fact that there lies buried in Iowa soil the remains of a soldier of the American Revolution, whose grave is unmarked and its location will soon pass from memory unless action is taken to mark the spot in some suitable manner."*

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 26, 1901: "Used Tombstones as Target." Grinnell, Iowa, Oct. 26. -- Two college students, H. S. Dickinson and P. R. Trigg, were brought before Esquire Wilson, charged with defacing monuments in Westfield Cemetery. Westfield is a little village near Grinnell. The two went hunting in the woods adjoining the cemetery but also "made merry shooting at names on the tombstones." They pleaded guilty and received a fine. Dickinson was also an assistant instructor in the department of physics of Iowa College.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, June 5, 1901: "Gruesome Discovery -- Workmen on Illinois Central Find 13 Human Skeletons. Bodies Had Been Buried Two Feet Under the Surface - Are Uncovered by a Cave-in of Bank Near Deloit." Because of the disintegrated condition of the remains nothing definite could be ascertained about the cause of death or their identities.

## BLACKHAWK, *continued*

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, March 11, 2003: "Judge orders headstone to be removed from cemetery." Garrison -- A judge ruled Friday that a newer tombstone in the Kirchner Cemetery pioneer cemetery, located five miles north of Keystone, must be removed. The stone was placed by Denman Hennings of Garrison as a tribute to his parents, whose bodies had been cremated and their ashes deposited elsewhere. In making his ruling, Judge David Good said, "neither party has any title in the usual sense of the word to their respective burial plots." The judge directed the trustees to move the headstone outside the family plot.

*Note: Other news articles about this case have been summarized in past issues of Grave News.*

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, May 18, 2003: "Lasting Memory -- Cemeteries return to local ownership; ownership returns credibility," by Jennifer Kramer Williams. Between corporate bankruptcy, state investigations and service problems over the past seven years, the management of two local cemeteries has been far from peaceful. Garden of Memories Cemetery in Waterloo and the Cedar Valley Memorial Garden near Cedar Falls have returned to local ownership. Eight local funeral businesses have formed the Genesis Memorial group LLC which will take a more service-driven management approach. The first issue is to complete the mausoleum that the former owner started. The upgrade of the computer system and software has already begun.

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, May 18, 2003: "Old bones may be from pioneer days." A Spencer Iowa farmer recently found a skull, partial rib cage and other skeletal remains thought to be 100-150 years old. Clay County Sheriff, Randy Krukow, says indications are that they may be either early pioneer or Native American, as some items found in the area would tend to relate to that.

## BOONE

### **Contributed by Sidney Louis**

Mr. Louis, in addition to submitting the article, "Recreating 'Period' Tombstones" for this issue of *Grave News*, is also working on setting up a trust fund to provide maintenance for the Schlicht Cemetery in Boone County. He finds that setting up such a fund is "treading on new ground." He has been urged to write of the problems he has encountered and the solutions so that others may benefit from his experiences. His attorney speculates that the money used for restoration of the cemetery may qualify for an income tax break. This could be an important factor for others to consider in preserving these treasured cemeteries.

SAPIC looks forward to including Mr. Louis's insights in future articles in *Grave News*.

## CHEROKEE

### **Contributed by Pat Shaw**

Pat Shaw wrote a letter to the editor of the *Chronicle Times* in Cherokee expressing concern about the condition of the Rock Township Cemetery in Cherokee County. Cemetery Appreciation Month was also mentioned in the letter, suggesting that rescuing this burial site might be a good community project to commemorate this special month in Iowa. Pat also completed a form available from the SAPIC web site for reporting neglected cemeteries and sent it to the State Cemetery Regulator.

## CHICKASAW

Contributed by Betty Tylee

The Chickasaw County Genealogical Society has changed its web site address to:  
<http://www.chickasawcoia-geniesoc.org>

A "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" certificate of appreciation was sent to the Chickasaw County Pioneer Cemetery Commission to be presented to county supervisor, Sherry Mattke, as part of Cemetery Appreciation Month activities in Chickasaw County. Sherry is interested in the preservation of pioneer cemeteries and is personally involved in a cemetery near Fredericksburg.

Thanks to Betty Tylee for sending photos taken at the January SAPIC meeting.

## CLAYTON

Contributed by Ronald Harris

Received May 19, 2003:

Ronald Harris wrote:

I am sending this note out to those who have expressed an interest in the restoration of the Eastman Cemetery west of McGregor. Yesterday some more work was done on the Eastman cemetery. Herb Kann witched the site and said he found 42 burials--several children buried in one area. He marked the spots with flags. The cemetery site is mostly clear now except for a few stumps. They are going to put a herbicide on the area later since it was too windy yesterday. Lawrence Fox, who is the head of the Clayton County Cemetery Commission, probed the area but found no buried stones. There are a few broken pieces of the bases of stones. I stopped in to talk to property owners Gene and Kathleen Milewsky. Gene showed me the property abstract. I didn't have time to go over the whole abstract, but will stop in again and read it more carefully. The abstract does designate a quarter acre for the cemetery and a 40-foot easement for an access road. As I understand it, there will be an arch with the Eastman name mounted on decorative wrought iron supports which will be mounted on two brick pillars. The area will be fenced with a chain link fence on three sides--there is a farm fence on the fourth side which will be left in place. They tell me they are currently welding the iron supports and have the bricks for the pillars. No one said anything about re-establishing the original entrance road. For now, the surrounding land is in a conservation program and is not being farmed, thus driving to the cemetery through the field from Milewsky's home is not doing any damage to cropland. If the cemetery is ready by next year, the folks working on the Grand Excursion celebration of 2004 (commemorating the Grand Excursion of 1854) have expressed interest in having it as a "site of interest" since Emma's story is tied to that era. More info on the Grand Excursion is at [www.grandexcursion.com/](http://www.grandexcursion.com/) Gene said they used to plow up bricks on one end of the property. I walked south and there is a spring and some old apple trees in a low area. That may have been where the homestead used to be. Good mushroom country but didn't find any. Lawrence Fox said he heard there is some woman from Missouri who used to come up to the Eastman Cemetery--related to a James Cameron, who I have not heard of, except that Emma once complained that her son Jimmy was being mean to her. A man in Elkader says he knows where the Cameron farm used to be. Lawrence is going to check on this further. Emma was married to Peter Cameron and lived in La Crosse 1846-55. The current owners of the Daniel Cameron (the brother-in-law Emma shot) house in La Crescent, MN are in the process of doing some interior repairs but should be done by July so I can take some photographs inside. Please contact me if you know of new sources of information on Emma or the Eastman Cemetery. Photographs of family have been very difficult to come by, as have photos that show the whole Eastman Cemetery and the original placement of the stones. Ron Harris 2802 50th St. S. Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494 715-421-4113 [harris@wctc.net](mailto:harris@wctc.net)

Ronald Harris wrote:

## Emma C. Eastman

by

Ronald G. Harris

Not many McGregor residents recognize the name "Emma Eastman," but a mention of "Virgin Em" will still raise eyebrows on Main Street almost a hundred years after her death. Older McGregorites know that a mysterious lady is buried up on the hill west of town, and along with her, those husbands who some say number ten, keep her company.

It is not clear when the "Virgin Em" moniker was attached to Emma. Perhaps it was her private nature and penchant for sticking up for herself that enticed the local coffee klatch crowd to start the name calling. And that cemetery. The story was that Emma forced her husbands to go out to the cemetery that is located on the old Eastman homestead and whitewash the grave markers whenever she was displeased with one of them, as a preview of coming events if they didn't shape up. Some even said she faked the birth and death of a son, named Peter D. Cameron, in order to inherit the property of Peter Cameron, her fourth husband. She went so far as to make a grave marker with the phantom child's name engraved on it—so the story went.

By the time of Emma's death on February 7, 1905, the memory of her life and legend had so faded that the *North Iowa Times* did not even print an obituary. The *Monona Leader* had this terse notice:

Mrs. Joseph Wilson "Virgin Em": Mrs. Joseph Wilson, an old and eccentric character known as Virgin Em, died Monday Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at her home in the country. Deceased has been helpless for the past two years when she suffered a stroke of paralysis. She is survived by her husband. The funeral was held this Wednesday afternoon. McGregor News.

About this woman there might be quite an interesting bit of history written. At one time she laid claim to a considerable tract of territory within the borders of LaCrosse, but she was unable to profit by the claim, though the lawyers dug deep into the hidden recesses of a long string of transfers, claimants, etc. In that time she was known as Emma Van Sickle.

[Monona Leader, 16<sup>th</sup> February 1905]

Emma died at the home of her sister, Louisa Klotzbach, who cared for Emma during the last years of her life.

The *La Crosse Tribune* had a front page notice, but seriously confused the facts of Emma's life, marriages and place in La Crosse and McGregor history.

Emma Eastman was born to Peter Eastman and Mary Coleman Eastman in Fitchville, Ohio on April 14, 1823. Later, George W. D. Eastman, Anna, Louisa, and Marilla would join as a brother and sisters.

The Eastmans and Colemans came from New England to Ohio in the 1820's. Peter and Mary and family came to McGregor in 1838 and began homesteading land west of town. Emma's grandfather, Absalom Coleman, died in Fitchville in 1835. His grave marker can still be seen outside of Fitchville. The marker is carved on a "river stone," and when the carvers ran out of room for his last name, they put the last two letters above the rest of the name. The Eastmans had been in America since 1638 when Roger Eastman came from England to Massachusetts.

The marriage records of Huron County, Ohio show that Emma Eastman was married to Ephraim Kellogg in 1837, one year before the family came to McGregor. Emma was almost fourteen at the time. The Eastman family oral history says that Ephraim was an old man and died soon after the marriage, leaving Emma a fortune. Other sources say Kellogg was a young man who was a stage coach driver and went on to run a tavern in La Porte, Indiana.

The records of Grant County Wisconsin show Emma Kellogg marrying Moses Van Sickle in 1839. In 1841 Moses filed for divorce from Emma on the basis of her marriage in Prairie du Chien to William Cunningham that same year. Aside from the marriage record, there is nothing known about Cunningham.

The Van Suckles were early pioneers in Clayton County and they had been neighbors of the Eastmans in Ohio before 1838. Emma would later marry a brother of Moses, her sister Anna would marry another, and her mother marry yet another Van Sickle brother.

The next record of Emma's activities is her marriage to Peter Cameron in La Crosse in 1846—the first marriage in that town. A sketch of La Crosse done by artist Seth Eastman in 1848 shows a small cabin on the shore of the river, and little else. It is not clear where Emma met Peter, but he was a fur trader and entrepreneur who had grown up in New York and traveled throughout the east trading with the Indians. He set up a trading post in La Crosse and eventually built a saw mill, shingle factory, and at his death in 1855 had a steamboat under construction and a canal that would connect La Crescent, Minnesota to the main channel of the Mississippi. Neither the canal nor the steamboat were finished.

There are a number of letters that still exist from Peter to his family and letters they wrote him. In one letter he tells that "I got myself a wife sometime since." He also states in a letter dated 1854 that Emma and he had a child who died as an infant and that his name was Peter Daniel Cameron. Peter says in the letter that Emma went to visit her mother in McGregor because she was distraught over the death of the child. It is likely that Emma took the child's body with her on a steamboat and buried him in the family plot west of town. It seems the local wags in McGregor were wrong. There was a child after all.

The first burial in the Eastman Cemetery was Anna, Emma's sister, who died on January first of 1854. Emma's father died on January 12 and became the second burial. Peter Daniel Cameron would be the third of 1854. In all, the Eastman Cemetery would eventually contain over thirty burials of relatives, friends, and neighbors who preferred to be buried in the private site. Emma's sister Louisa, who died in the home of her adopted daughter Carrie Stone Klotzbach Boyle in 1916, was one of the last to be buried there.

Emma was a prominent character of early La Crosse social life. It was said in local papers that she carried a rifle as she rode horseback through town, and she attended all the gatherings and celebrations of that early town on the mud flats of the Mississippi. One report had her saving the town from an attack by Indians due to her knowledge of the Indian language.

In a dispute over ownership of some logs, Peter killed a man in 1849 and was charged with murder. He was placed in the Territorial Prison in Prairie du Chien. Peter's letters explain he was told there was a Mr. Dousman who would be friendly to him, but Peter says it turned out not to be the case. At one point while Peter was in Prison, Emma came down from La Crosse and kept house for Peter and the jailer. Some of Peter's

employees were keeping the business operations going in La Crosse in the meantime. In a letter to his father, Peter says that the jailer eventually quit because he had a better job, and so Peter was hired and paid fifty cents a day to watch over a lunatic who was also in the jail. Eventually, Peter got out on bail and a final verdict came in 1853 when he got off with a charge of manslaughter and a \$2500 fine.

After Peter's death in La Crosse in 1855, Emma spent a number of years fighting in court with the Cameron family to gain control of Peter's property. Newspapers reported that she eventually lost, although court records have yet to be found of exactly what happened.

Ralph C. Bowles was married to Emma in 1858 and according to some court records was helping her with some of the property disputes.

In 1859, Peter Cameron's brother Daniel came to Emma's house in La Crosse one evening and sought to get some deeds from her. Later, in a newspaper ad in defense of herself, Emma said it was a good thing she had her pistol under her pillow, because she thought Daniel would harm her. She took two shots at him—the first went through his coat, the second took off his little finger. The *La Crosse Democrat* reported the incident as an attempted murder. Apparently no charges were lodged against Emma. She insisted it was a case of self-defense. She said in her newspaper ad that ". . . I have no remorse of conscience in defending my own life in my own house, and in the dark in the absence of my husband.—Any one that has got a drop of true American blood with defend their own. My fore fathers fought in the Revolutionary War for their freedom and rights, and I hope their grand-daughter, Emma C. Bowles, has too noble a heart to let one Scotch Tory Rob her."

Late in 1859, Emma would petition the court in La Crosse for a divorce from Ralph. She entered into the court record a letter from Ralph mailed from Missouri in which he accuses her of infidelity, and states he should look her up and hang her, but on second thought, said it would ". . . nasty up a perfectly good rope." The letter released her from the marriage and she then married Nelson Sharp in Prairie du Chien in 1861. Other than the marriage record, no information has been found about Mr. Sharp.

In 1863 Emma married DeWitt Clinton Van Sickle and they lived on a farm outside of Elkader. The death of Nelson Sharp is noted on the marriage application. By this time Emma was 39 and this was husband number seven. Emma called DeWitt "Clinty," and when he died as a result of a runaway team of horses in McGregor in 1881, Emma had a grave marker made with this inscription:

Clinty, my heart clings to thee, love.

In heaven I hope to meet above.

You was ever kind and true to me

so was I to you. Emma G.V.

[This and other grave stones are missing from the Eastman Cemetery and are currently being sought to complete the restoration of the Cemetery under the direction of the Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission.]

Emma's second to last husband was Michael Stence, who was another Elkader farmer. He was 70 and she 58. They were married in Giard by Rev. Kaste on Christmas Day of 1881. No record of their life together has been found. The WPA Cemetery Recording Project lists Michael as being buried in the Eastman Cemetery.

As years passed, Emma would make journeys from Clayton County to La Crosse to visit friends. One newspaper story says that at age 70 she

walked from McGregor to La Crosse, but was able to buy a ticket for the trip back due to the generosity of Angus Cameron and others in La Crosse. (Peter Cameron had a brother named Angus who died in 1856. Another Angus Cameron, not related to Peter, was an attorney hired by Emma during some of the land disputes in La Crosse.)

Emma's last husband, Joseph A. Wilson, survived her, and although some written county history says he was seen driving away in an old wagon after her death, his name is listed by the WPA project as also being buried in the Eastman Cemetery.

So, Emma had nine husbands, and she would annoy some local people by saying she had tried to make it an even dozen. Three are buried in the Eastman site—DeWitt Clinton Van Sickle, Michael Stence, and Joseph Wilson.

Emma's signature on documents at the courthouse in Elkader are the only writings that have been found in her hand. The 1882 History of Clayton County includes two poems and some short aphorisms attributed to Emma.

Emma was a colorful character in McGregor's early history. It is unfortunate her letters and photographs were not saved as part of that history.

## Lost grave markers being sought for the restoration of the historic Eastman Cemetery, Mendon Township, Clayton County, Iowa

The Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission is seeking the markers that belong to the Eastman Cemetery (sometimes known as the "Virgin Em" Cemetery or "Van Sickle Cemetery"). Only two small foot stone markers are still on the site. The following are known interments: If you have information that could lead to the return of the grave markers, please contact Lawrence Fox, President, Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission at 563-245-1926.

ADNEY, (daughter of Alonzo); BALES, RALPH; BEE, BUKIE; BOYLE, ROBERT OWEN; CAMERON, PETER D (*large marker found/"P.D.C." foot stone missing*) ; CORNISH, ANNA; CORNISH, ANNA MARIAH; CORNISH, ARTHUR (or John); CORNISH, CHARLES; CORNISH, JENNIE A.; CORNISH, MARY; CORNISH, PETER; CORNISH, RAYMOND; CORNISH, SYLVESTER; CRUVER, (children); EASTMAN, EMMA; EASTMAN, GEORGE; EASTMAN, MARY; EASTMAN, PETER (*large marker and foot stone found*) ; FITCH, JULIA ANNE; KLOTZBACH, FRANKEY; KLOTZBACH, JACOB; KLOTZBACH, LIZZIE; KLOTZBACH, LOUISA; REGAL (children); STENCE, MICHAEL; VAN SICKLE, CHRIST; VAN SICKLE, DEWITT CLINTON (*foot stone found/large missing stone has poem to "Clinty" by Emma C.V. engraved on it*) ; VAN SICKLE, FRANCIS; VAN SICKLE, MARTHA; VAN SICKLE, MARTIN; VAN SICKLE, SHERMAN C.; WILSON, JOSEPH; WISEMILLER, MARILLA

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR  
DES MOINES COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY  
COMMISSION YEAR 2002

The following is a summary of the activities of the Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery commission for the year 2002

Cemetery restorations completed during 2002.

A. Porter Cemetery (Hunt Woods)

This restoration required considerable effort. Several truck loads of fill dirt were hauled in and spread to low places and depressed grave sites. Several broken stones were repaired and reset. There were five stones which were too large for the equipment which we had available. We were able to obtain the services of Allen Gugeler (Oakville) who has equipment and does this type of work. His work appears to have been very well done. A neighbor has agreed to do the mowing of this cemetery for the coming year. His pay will be added to the budget request for the coming year. The old fencing around this cemetery was mostly gone, so a new chain link fence and gates have been installed.

B. Freitag Cemetery

This cemetery has been completed. Many broken stones were uncovered and repaired. They were then reset. This cemetery was very badly overgrown with orange lilies and other plant growth. Spraying, cutting and digging has made it presentable. Spraying and ground maintenance will be necessary for the next couple of years. We were able to obtain the services of an interested neighbor to do the mowing.

C. Butcher Cemetery (Old German Cemetery)

This small cemetery in Pleasant Grove Township has been restored. Several stones were repaired and reset. We have made arrangements to put up a chain link fence and a gate. This will be installed this coming spring.

D. Old Danville Cemetery (Old Jagger Cemetery)

Preliminary work has been started on Old Danville Cemetery. Many stones are beyond repair and the exact location of the grave sites is not accurately known. The available stones will be placed in a symbolic small cemetery in the immediate area. We anticipate this will require about two more work sessions this coming summer.

In all, seven cemeteries have been completed since the formation of the Pioneer Cemetery Commission three years ago.

Approximately 300 yards of dead end road leading to Burris Cemetery has been repaired. This involved the cooperation of the County Secondary Road department to haul lime crete which was then used to fill several large holes and wash-out areas in the road bed.

#### Planned New Burials

To date we have had requests for and have sold sites for five new burials in the restored cemeteries.

#### Mediapolis Lions Club

The Lions Club of Mediapolis has been active in working on pioneer cemeteries in Yellow Spring Township. This past summer they have been able to largely complete one cemetery. They have indicated an interest in doing more of the six cemeteries in Yellow Spring Township. This Commission has functioned with the Lions Club in an advisory capacity.

The Commission has also served in an advisory capacity to the volunteer group which is working to restore the Catholic Cemetery on North Sixth Street here in Burlington.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Foss, Chairman  
Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

From the *Des Moines Register*, December 23, 2002: "Plant brought jobs, then questions," by Laurie Mansfield. The article tells of the economic benefits brought to Middletown in Des Moines County when the \$25 million Iowa Ordnance Plant was built in the early 1940's. County leaders were willing to move the living and dead to make way for the plant. It was decided that the 100-year-old Union Township cemetery and unmarked graves of early Iowa pioneers could remain on the property. Now the descendants of those early workers are seeking compensation for health problems possibly linked to working in and living near the plant.

## CRAWFORD

From the *PRAIRIE NETWORK NEWS*, Winter Edition 2003, page 9: "Annual Meeting in Denison." The 2003 IPN annual meeting will be Sept. 5-7, in Denison, at the Yellow Smoke Park "Lookout" shelter house. There are 5 cemetery prairies in the area, and Derald Dineson State Preserve is also nearby. Check web site: <http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org/>

## PAYETTE

From the *Iowa Historian*, the Newsletter of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Spring 2003, page 2: "Grand Reunion Centennial Celebration at Montauk." In June 1903 more than six thousand people assembled in the picturesque village of Clermont in northeastern Iowa. They gathered there for the Reunion of the 12th Iowa Veteran Volunteer Infantry and the dedication of the Lincoln monument and the David B. Henderson statue. A centennial celebration of that first Grand Reunion will be held June 20-22 at Montauk, the home of former governor, William Larrabee. Included in the celebration will be skits, impersonations, musical programs, speeches, food, and fun. For a complete schedule of events, contact Steve Story, activities and information chair for the Grand Reunion, by phone at 563-427-5354 or by e-mail at [dstory@netins.net](mailto:dstory@netins.net). Or visit the Clermont web site: [www.clermontia.org](http://www.clermontia.org)

*Note: Steve is a former SAPIC Board of Trustees member and has been involved in the restoration of several pioneer cemeteries in Payette and Jones counties. The July 12 meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will be held in Payette County.*

## HENRY

Contributed by Charles Larimer [clarimer@prodigy.net](mailto:clarimer@prodigy.net)

Mark the weekend of October 11-12 on your calendars. We will be having several dramatic readings of *Love and Valor* on that weekend and the previous weekend, but...on October 11 we will be having the Forest Home-Love and Valor Cemetery Tour, featuring a lot of our relatives, including Jacob and Emeline Ritner, Emeline's parents (Sam and Eleanor Bereman) and Emeline's brother, Thomas, who among other things, participated in Bloody Kansas before the Civil War, and then immediately after the Civil War, went down to Texas under the command of General George Armstrong Custer (as in Custer's Last Stand and the Battle of the Little Big Horn fame.) It will be a "Living History" type of tour, where we have 15 or 16 actors portraying people in the cemetery. Other notable spirits who will be rising -- Belle Babb Mansfield, who was the first woman lawyer in the United States (and maybe the world); Senator James Harlan and his wife Ann, whose daughter Mary married Abraham Lincoln's son Robert Todd Lincoln (Senator Harlan also has the distinction of having fired Walt Whitman from his government job, although we may leave that out of the tour); Frances "Frankie" Roads who helped found P.E.O., General George Stone who raised the first US Flag over Columbia, South Carolina during the Civil War; Joseph Leisenring, a photographer who took pictures of Civil War soldiers and also made extensive photos of Abraham Lincoln's grandchildren when they were in Mt. Pleasant; Captain Joshua Newbold, who later became Governor of Iowa; Reverend Thomas Corkhill who was born on the Isle of Man, between England and Ireland; and Frank Thomas the drummer. Also included will be Baron Crane who served in the 25th Iowa and his father, Reverend Eber Crane, who presided over the funeral of Emeline's father. There will be other activities in Mt. Pleasant that weekend, including the Wettach photos -- early Iowa farm photos taken by a man who worked for the Iowa Extension Office -- great photos.

*Note: Charlie Larimer has compiled letters that were written by Jacob and Emeline Ritner into a book titled, *Love and Valor Intimate Civil War Letters Between Captain Jacob and Emeline Ritner*. For information on how to obtain a copy, contact Charlie at the above E-mail address or contact the Sigourney Press at web site: [www.sigourney.press.com](http://www.sigourney.press.com)*

## LEE

### Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Daily Gate City News*, January 15, 2003: "Cemetery Vandalism s a shameful act," by Terry Altheide. Terry quotes the oft-used expression of Gomer Pyle, the character from the 1960's sit-com of the same name, "For shame, for shame, for shame," to describe his reaction to the vandalism that occurred last fall in the St. Peter's Presbyterian and the St. Peter's United Church of Christ cemeteries near Franklin, Iowa and in five other Lee County cemeteries within the past two years. Terry places this crime only a notch above grave robbing. He includes names and addresses of caretakers of the cemeteries to whom donations can be mailed.

From the *Daily Gate City News*, February 20, 2003: "If only we knew what they were thinking," by Terry Altheide. Terry contemplates what long-dead pioneers might have thought as they buried the bodies of their loved ones in what are now Lee County's pioneer cemeteries and family plots. He ponders, "Are these sad dramas somewhere stored within another dimension waiting to be played out one last time on judgment day? Do questions like thee really matter? As far as I'm concerned, they do." Terry incorporates his own poetry with others often seen in cemeteries in the following observation:

I went by a field of tombstones  
by a land desolate and alone  
Thorns had come up everywhere  
the graves were without care  
and many stones were in ruins.  
I applied my heart to what I observed  
and learned a lesson from what I saw:  
A little apathy, a little surrender,  
a little throwing of the hands in the air --  
And desolation will come on our  
forebearers like an outlaw  
Stealing their dignity and making  
our forefathers call,  
"Remember friends as you pass by  
As I am now, so once was I.  
As I am now so you must be  
prepare for death and follow me."

From the *Des Moines Register*, February 19, 2003: "Medal-winning Indian fighter being slighted, Jowan asserts," by John Carlson. The story tells of Terry Altheide's fight to get a proper marker for Medal of Honor recipient, Louis Pfeiff, whose grave is located in tiny Tierney cemetery near Wever, Iowa. Pfeiff, who was born in Des Moines County, received the award in the Indian Campaigns that ended about 1900. Because of Terry's efforts, Senator Tom Harkin informed him that an upright marble Medal of Honor marker had been approved. John Thorson from Armstrong in Emmet County, and another Medal of Honor winner, is buried in the National Cemetery in Keokuk in Lee County. It is the only officially designated National Cemetery in Iowa. Altheide believes 53 Medal of Honor recipients are buried in Iowa.

*Note: Due to Terry's efforts, a special ceremony was held on April 19 to place the stone and recognize the achievements of and pay homage to Louis Pfeiff.*

From the *Daily Gate City News*, March 14, 2003: "The story behind 'the angel on patrol.'" In this column, Terry relates the story of his discovery of the grave of Stephanie Hughes, a police officer in Florida, in the St. Patrick Cemetery in Missouri. Also included in the article is a tour of the historic graves in the cemetery during a St. Patrick's Day visit.

### LEE, Continued

From the *Daily Gate City News*, April 25, 2003: "Walking amongst the heroes in Civil War," by Terry Altheide. The column tells of Terry's concern with the 627 Civil War burials in the Keokuk National Cemetery, eight of whom are Confederate soldiers who died in Keokuk hospitals while prisoners of war and 21 that are labeled "Unknown." In 1912, a monument was erected by the Women's Relief Corps to honor these unsung heroes that features a Union Soldier standing guard. At the end of the article, Terry reminds his readers of Cemetery Appreciation Month and he encourages them to find a neglected cemetery, clean it up, and, out of respect for those who once were, give them a decent place to rest.

#### **Contributed by Judy Merschbrock**

Judy reports that the pioneer restoration group from Lee County is going to work at Locust Grove Cemetery on Saturday morning, May 4. Eight young people are assisting with the work, but Judy makes a plea for more volunteers to help, including a request for one or two more chain saws to go on Friday before the young people arrive on Saturday. The ambulance service has donated a First Aid kit. A 4-wheel drive truck and a four wheeler is available to get equipment and for workers who can't walk back to the cemetery.

*Note: Judy is an effective organizer which is evident in the number of cemeteries that have been cleaned up in Lee County in the short time that the grass-roots group has been in existence.*

### LOUISA

#### **Contributed by Dean Gipple**

Dean sent 3 photos of the Spring Run Cemetery showing the new entrance, a plaque telling of the village of Pitchin associated with the cemetery, and some of the volunteers who have been working there. The township trustees are now working with Dean on the restoration project and they have paid for the stainless steel sign and the marble plaque. Dean has a \$4,700 grant from the DOT. The local Future Farmers of America chapter planted 14 arborvitae trees and, with Dean's guidance, they are growing about 1200 wildflower plants in their nursery. He also had a nursery in Muscatine germinate 440 plants. He plans to have local 5th grade students transplant the flowers. After school is out for the year, the local 4-H Club members will finish the job.

*Note: Several SAPIC members inquired about Dean and his wife, Ruth, at the last meeting, so it was especially good to hear that he is still active in the restoration work that he loves. Ruth continues to reside in a nursing home in Illinois near one of their daughter's. Dean and Ruth will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary in November!*

### LUCAS

#### **Contributed by Gwen Sims**

Gwen reports that the members of their pioneer cemetery commission were relieved and pleased to learn that they will remain in control of the restored cemeteries in Lucas County and will continue to provide the maintenance for these sacred sites. They have purchased a bronze plaque with all the known surnames for the Douglass Cemetery. It will be attached to a large native stone donated by one of their members and the cemetery will be rededicated in a ceremony on June 1. Gwen submitted a "Letter to the editor" to the Chariton newspapers about Cemetery Appreciation Month. They plan to finish work on 7 pioneer cemeteries in the 4 South-East townships this month. Twenty-one of the 46 cemeteries in Lucas County are designated as "pioneer."

## MAHASKA

Contributed by Jo Vernooy

Pat: Here is the Report. Please get back to me as soon as you can about others I should name with regard to assistance with proposed legislation. Thanks!!! Jo

### MAHASKA COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION

Our Commission held its first meeting of 2003 in March. At that time we set our goals and discussed 2002 accomplishments. We are so grateful for the Mahaska Board of Supervisors, who continue to support us in our work, and for all of the volunteers, 4-H groups, FFA, and others, who give of their time and energy to make the preservation and maintenance of these Pioneer Cemeteries a reality. Letters were sent to all of those who help us by adopting or working with various Pioneer Cemeteries, thanking them for their efforts.

This year, we will be working with 4-H youngsters to digitally photograph gravestones, transfer them to the computer, and then have the means to disseminate those photographs to books, or web site. Speaking of a web site, we are SO grateful to Alice Veen who is working with us (actually she is doing the majority of the work) on a Mahaska County Pioneer Cemetery Commission web site. For those of you who think that setting up a web site is easy, you should think again. Alice has worked many, many hours on this web site for us, and we appreciate her efforts. We have been so blessed to meet and enjoy individuals we would never have met had it not been for the Commission.

Also this year, we will be rededicating a Pioneer Cemetery. The DeLong/Delashmutt Pioneer Cemetery will be rededicated on September 13, 2003. More details will follow.

A special thank you to Pat Shaw, Dennis Britson, and the lawmakers who worked so hard with SAPIC to introduce new laws regarding access and other Pioneer Cemetery issues. The Farm Bureau, who were against the legislation, is a formidable opponent, and the sad thing is that we don't want to take anything away from the farmers, we want to enhance what is already a part of our State. We are so fortunate to have Pat and the others working with us and for us. SAPIC is such a positive force in the restoration, preservation and maintenance of Iowa's Pioneer Cemeteries. Our Commission is proud to be part of such an organization.

Note: Jo asked for names of other SAPIC members who assisted Dennis Britson with the formation of the draft presented to the 2003 state legislature: Fred Reese from Bronson, Calvin & Ethel McVay from Winterset, Dean Gipple from Columbus Junction, Phyllis Rothlauf from Burlington, Jo Vernooy from Leighton, Steve Story from Hawkeye, Mike Magee from Waterloo, Joann and Bob Caven from Maquoketa, and Larry Davis from Des Moines come to mind. Please let me know if I missed mentioning someone who attended those meetings.

MITCHELL

## 2003 Bi-Annual Newsletter

By: Neal Du Shane

3/16/03

The week of March 2<sup>nd</sup> was a week packed with meetings, presentations, research, field trips, phone calls and most importantly vast advances forward. Curt Younker didn't even have to save my bacon (this time - must be slipping) J

**FFA STUDENT SUPPORT:**

Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Vivian Du Shane and I met with Frank Kisley at the Osage High School to review the support we need from his students. Frank was in favor and supportive of our efforts and will assist us in any way possible during the school year.

Specific assistance was discussed for Larry Fox and Marlene Kershner at the Dudley and Iron Spring Cemeteries. These two locations are close enough that students can get to them and accomplish work tasks within 2 hours from the High School. Frank felt this was the time frame we need to work with for his student's involvement.

If you have a project that could use these student, let Frank know by contacting him at the High School.

**MITCHELL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD:**

Held a meeting with Milt Owen to discuss support from his department. Milt also was present at our meeting on Wednesday night to bring the MCPCRP team up to speed on support they can provide and educate all of us on present conditions at these Pioneer Cemeteries. Milt will be working on the Gopher issues at Farley Cemetery in April.

**ADDITIONAL CEMETERY FOUND - EAST CEDAR TWP.**

We met with Steve Ham and his wife to discuss his findings of a new cemetery location in the same section as Lohr Cemetery. Steve reports he has identified the location and will be getting us a GPS reading shortly. Steve is also in the process of researching this cemetery to try and determine who was buried there. Other than it showing on the 1911 Mitchell County Atlas little is known.

**LOHR CEMETERY:**

Steve also reports his negotiations with the property owners at Lohr are getting close to being resolved. On 3/13/03 Steve and a neighbor cleared the Lohr Site of all the debris, and wind fall, to finally be able to see what was under all the rubble. As spring advances and the ground thaws, extensive probing and dowsing will be completed to determine exactly what is at this cemetery. Steve reports preliminary dowsing welded possible graves inside the battered fence posts and possibly two or three outside the post area. Steve's efforts are showing great rewards and allowing us to determine the extent of this cemetery. Up to this point almost nothing is known about those interred. It is reported that at one time, long time neighbors remember upright headstones at this site.

**4-H SUPPORT:**

Vivian Du Shane and I met with Neil Wubben and his Staff, to discuss their involvement with MCPCRP. Basically they will present to the individual 4-H groups our cause, see if any of the groups want to be involved with our project and provide them with our contact people. It is felt that there would be interest from the individual 4-H groups.

Make sure to contact Neil or one of his staff if you want to have them involved in one of your projects.

**ISU STUDENT AVAILABILITY:**

Larry Kershmer reports, Neil Wubben called him and informed Kersh, Neil has an ISU student assigned to his office for the summer. Part of the student's assignment is to put in 100 hours of community service and Neil wanted to know if we could find enough work for this student to put in the 100 hours? Contact Kersh or Neil with work assignments you might have on your individual projects. This can be in the form of research, assistance at the cemetery, etc. This student can be of great assistance to us, let's keep them busy with

MCPCRP tasks.

### **LEO/CARDIFF:**

Thanks to the Mitchell County Court House Staff I was able to locate several plot plans of various Ghost towns in Mitchell County. I was able to locate the original plot of the city of Leo/Cardiff which was dreamed to be a fairly large community.

From past telephone conversations with Ed Smolik, Vivian Du Shane and I met with Ed at his home. At 98 "going on 99", Ed was able to provide a lot of information related to this community. Where the streets were, how the old road cut through Leo and where the location of the existing buildings relate to the plot plan.

One of the research questions was, "where was the alleged cemetery located"? Ed provided us with an approximate location. Edith Putnam and nephew along with two additional historians, Larry Kershner, Dick Behr and I, were able to physically locate the general area of this Cemetery. Once spring arrives, dowsing and probing hopefully will provide exact location of this cemetery.

### **OSAGE ROTARY PRESENTATION:**

On Tuesday March 4, 2003, thanks to Larry Kershner and with his support, I was able to show the Rotary members the Power Point Presentation on MCPCRP efforts. Those that were in attendance, which numbered approximately 30, their support was asked for and it would seem their interest is great and our information is getting to the business environment in Osage.

### **CHRISTIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION:**

Larry Kershner, Vivian Du Shane and I had the honor of attending this evening meeting on Tuesday March 4, 2003. Approximately 35 people witnessed the MCPCRP Power Point Presentation. Many questions were asked and information relating to past cemeteries was exchanged. As with all of our presentations, the general public isn't aware these conditions exist nor do they know of these old abandoned Pioneer Cemeteries.

### **OSCAR PETERSON CEMETERY: (West Cedar Twp)**

I Drove to this Cemetery and documented it's location with a GPS reading. In addition we are starting to gather documented information with the assistance of Marilyn O'Conner and the Court House Staff.

We have not proceeded with any type of restoration here until the issues with the existing Land Owner can be resolved to the satisfaction of all involved.

Contrary to what is being expounded by the previous landowner, there is documentation coming forward that verifies the existence to this cemetery. Research continues, hopefully we can overcome the concerns of the existing landowner and be able to restore this site.

### **OTRANTO TOWNSHIP:**

With the assistance of Larry Kershner, Vivian Du Shane and I met with Mr. & Mrs. Loren Meyer at their home in Otranto Township. Discussion revolved around Otranto Trustees assistance at the Farley Cemetery in Mona, IA. Reviewed the To-Do List with them and discussed alternatives that Otranto Township can provide.

We were also able to bring the Meyer's up to date on MCPCRP goals, objectives and purpose.

Loren assured us we have a commitment from the trustees to provide \$500 per year for three years to help defray some of our expenses at Farley Cemetery.

More importantly, Loren felt he can provide us assistance with equipment, materials, and volunteers to accomplish the Farley Cemetery restoration. Loren indicated their church group has performed work on Pleasant Hill Cemetery and they know how to perform the work needed.

Loren asked that we provide him a contact person within MCPCRP to be his Go-To person for questions and scheduling issues. Merri Cross of Riceville will be that person for this project.

### **IRON SPRING CEMETERY: (on River Road)**

Marlene & Larry Kershner report this site is ready for some work with assistance from either the FFA or 4-H. They report this project will be started this spring, with a couple of good days they should have this cleaned up and ready for probing and dowsing. Additional historical anecdotal information has surfaced.

Ediths Elizabeth's father, the Cap. had a taste for the grape and wanted to share it with the community. In those days, you had to do, what you had to do! Keep this type of information coming, its great to find out information that presumable has been lost (ahum . . . misplaced).

**DUDLEY-CEMETERY:** (316<sup>th</sup> & Hickory)

Vivian Du Shane and I visited the Dudley Cemetery and the general area of Dudley. A plot plan has been obtained from the Court House of the Ghost Town of Dudley. Monica Lonergan of Austin, MN was contacted and information exchanged. Vivian Du Shane has been in contact with residents that are reported to have a plot plan of the cemetery at Dudley.

Jody Staff was contacted as to the actual physical location of the Ghost Town of Dudley. From the plot plan it looks to have been West of Rock Creek and South of the present day 316<sup>th</sup> St. Which would have put the community south of the Mill, and the School ? Cemetery would have been NE of the platted community up on the hill. More research continues.

Larry Fox reports that Dudley Cemetery Restoration is on his top priority list for this spring. Larry will be contacting Frank Kisley to obtain assistance from the FFA students.

While at this location we noticed debris from overhead wire trimming in the ditch. Heartland Power Co-op in St. Ansgar was contacted to remove the debris and Cheryl Jahnel reports the County will be notified and hopeful one of these sources will remove the tree trimming debris. Larry Fox's goal is to mow the ditch to help identify this cemetery. We should see nothing but branches, weeds, and dust flying at this location as Larry is fresh from a winter hibernation in Texas. Go Get Em . . . "Sun Tanned Larry"

**FARLEYCEMETERY:** (Mona, IA)

Made a couple of stops here (this location has a hold on me) before we met with the Otranto Trustees. One of my goals was trying to determine the size of the original cemetery. The plot plan recorded at the Court House listed it as 200' X 194'.

The best I can determine it's currently about half the size as originally plotted. We have been told by various sources; the former property owner used this field for crops, and would simple move the headstones inward when plowing and hitting one. It's unlikely we can ever identify the original location of the headstones and will make notation to this fact.

Very rewarding to see our efforts in November 2002, still standing and in the best shape it's been in for decades. Nothing has been accomplished here since last November but our plans for spring and summer are finalized with this site being one of our top restoration priorities for 2003.

**MCPCRP MEETING:**

Wednesday March 5, 2002 at the Osage Library we held an update meeting. Presentations included the MCPCRP Power Point Presentation given by Larry Kershner. Milt Owen provided us with an update from his Department.

Merri Cross, Vivian Du Shane, Steve Ham, Marilyn O'Connor, Deb Kuehne, Cheryl Jahnel and Marlene Kershner presented their projects, bringing all the staff up to speed and what assistance each needs, as well as progress on each project. Larry Fox was absent do to a prior commitment of being forced to lie in the sun in TX for the winter (we have pictures).

SAPIC Grant funding and support was discussed.

Discussion on future fund raising, management, goals, projects and involvement was discussed and resolved. A 50/50 was instituted in an effort to generate funds for our non-existent general fund. \$12.00 was generated, thanks to all that participated. We now have a balance of \$12.00 to fund our efforts. As one participant put it "Don't spend it all in one place".

Updated data sheets and information was handed out.

**OSAGE LIBRARY ? PRESS-NEWS:**

In the 1957 issues of the Press-News there were a series of articles written on Mitchell County Cemeteries during that year. If memory serves me, there were eight articles written on different cemeteries. The Osage Library has old copies of the Press-News as does the Press-News. Check them out, interesting reading.

**EDENCEMETERY:** (South of Meroa, IA)

Deb Kuehne is in the process of getting the data base completed at this cemetery with the assistance of Marilyn O'Connor. Deb is working to get this information to be posted on the Mitchell County web page on the internet.

**LIBERTYCEMETERY:** (Little Cedar, IA)

Deb Kuehne volunteered to complete the data at this cemetery. A data base was started with the names of those interred and their lots numbers has been built by Neal Du Shane. Birth/Death dates and inscriptions on the headstone will be completed by Deb.

**RIVERSIDE:** (Riceville)

Marilyn O'Conner has provided information to Deb Kuehne. Kermit Kettleson of IaGenWeb transformed the word document to Excel format and Deb will be working on getting this information gathered to be posted on the MitchellCounty internet web page.

**OLD NEWBURG CEMETERY:**

Is currently on hold until further notice.

**UNION VALLEY CEMETERY:** (South West of Orchard, IA)

To date, I have had a goal to walk to this site from the dead end road west of Orchard. Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2003, turned out to be a sunny (notice I didn't say warm) day. Parked the vehicle and walked the fence lines to this location. It's approximately a half mile walk (one way) and discovered what I term as a possible road that could have been used at the stagecoach road from Orchard to the Ghost Town of Watertown. It drops down from the upper hill to the fields in the river bottom and is approximately 400' north of the lone headstone of George Moore who passed away in 1863.

After research and historical writing's this cemetery once occupied one acre. With the exception of this lone headstone of George Moore, nothing is identifiable any longer.

Dave Brunner of Osage has indicated he knows where the mantle for the cemetery is located but at this point I have been unable to find it after four trips to this site.

Stopped at the Pat Rogers home, she indicated her husband and a few neighbors intend to speak to Harry Nolt (current property owner) and see if he will give them permission to cross his land and install a fence around the George Moore headstone to help preserve it. Go Pat Go . . .

**PIONEER CEMETERY SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY:**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003 have been selected as the publication date/s for Community support and assistance to help MCPCRCP clean-up these Pioneer Cemeteries.

Larry Kershner will be supporting this effort through publicity in the Press-News.

Merri Cross will be the Project Coordinator for Farley Cemetery,

Larry Fox for Dudley Cemetery,

Steve Ham for Lohr Cemetery,

Marlene Kershner for Iron Spring Cemetery

Cheryl Jahnel for Union Valley and Holbrook Corner/Nelson Cemeteries.

Participants ? volunteers need to provide, baggies, rakes, shovels, looping shears, chain saws, skid loader, cloth straps (for lifting headstones with skid loader), dimensional lumber suitable to pry headstones, Paper, pencils, chalk, spray water bottles,

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

While at the Court House I found Plot Plans and made copies of Glendale, Otranto, Leo/Cardiff, Newburg, Dudley and Jenkins Center. All are current Ghost Towns in Mitchell County. But the dreams of the founders of these towns can be seen in their plot plans, sad that they never developed. If you have the time, the Court House is a gold mine of historic information. But I digress!

Confidence is felt by all of the MCPCRCP staff that our goals and purpose will be achieved in the next couple of years.

If you would like to get involved with this extremely rewarding project please contact any of the above Coordinators or contact.

Neal Du Shane

1224 Canvasback Court

Fort Collins, CO 80525-8835

970-227-3512 Cellular (best way to reach me)

1-970-223-5156 Office

1-970-223-9742 Fax

## MITCHELL, continued

From the *Mitchell County Press-News*, April 29, 2003: "Work begins to restore Lohr pioneer cemetery," by Larry Kershner, Press-News Editor. Pictured are MCPCRP members working at the old Lohr pioneer cemetery site and also an old photo of the three Lohr brothers, whose graves are believed to be located in the cemetery. Workers in the pioneer burial site are using divining rods and flags to determine placement of graves. Four to eight graves may be part of this old family plot. The Osage FFA has agreed to work with MCPCRP members in restoring and researching the Dudley Cemetery. Restoration work includes locating, straightening and resetting headstones and markers, replanting grasses and finding organizations which will help maintain the old cemeteries and notify the organization if repairs are needed.

From the *Mitchell County Press-News*, May 9, 2003: "Pioneer cemeteries get needed facelifts," by Larry Kershner. Pictured are Roger Miller of Lyle, MN and his daughter, Stephanie, digging out a pair of old buried bases for headstones they discovered at Farley Cemetery. The article states that Mitchell County has 15 to 18 pioneer cemeteries. Farley Cemetery is located south of Mona, Iowa. The Dudley Cemetery is located at the site of an old ghost town of the same name and it also received attention on a workday held the first part of May.

Received in an E-mail from Neal DuShane, May 9, 2003: *Wanted to take this opportunity to thank SAPJC for the \$200.00 grant. Received the check this week. It will be put to good use by MCPCRP. We are off and running on the restoration projects in Mitchell County for this summer. Two of which were continued this past weekend. A third has been cleared and research continues. Double click on the hyper-link below and check it out:*

<http://www.mcpress.com/MCPRESS/sites/MCPRESS/0155edition/myarticles639637.asp?P=639637&S=453&PubID=10951>

Neal

## MONROE

Contributed by Rosalie Mullinix

**To:** [dien@albianews.com](mailto:dien@albianews.com) **Sent:** Sunday, April 06, 2003 5:01 PM **Subject:** pioneer cemetery update

The Pioneer Cemetery Commission has gotten started with our ongoing project of cleaning and repairing the older cemeteries of Monroe County. In February we turned in our budget to the Board of Supervisors for operating money in 2004. This has been approved. Last year our first cemetery to clean was Buxton. We have it to finish up which will include setting stones, probing for more stones especially in the sunken areas. Then getting those areas filled ( we have some loads of dirt and a volunteer to fill them) and the ground leveled. Buxton will be fenced and an entrance gate installed. Jim Keegel, landowner of area around Buxton, will do the fencing. We have checked on pea gravel and sand prices to use in stone repair. In doing the repair we will go by the recommendations giving us by Beverly Bethune at her workshop we attended last year. We have a volunteer to repair stones at the Bridgeport cemetery. Brent Fenton, who mows that cemetery now, wants to learn how to repair stones. We're happy to have his offer of this job. The Enix and Babbs cemetery have been cleaned up by Mike Johannes. Now Babbs can be seen from the road with the brush and trees in fence line gone. We need to fence Enix but Babbs has a good fence. Hogeland cemetery is one we want to get cleaned and fenced this year. Mike Beary (land owner of two sides of this cemetery) and family have offered to help on this cemetery. LeRoy Hogeland, land owner of other two sides of the cemetery, is favorable to the cleaning and fencing. It's good to have such cooperation supporting our efforts. If anyone wants to volunteer to help with cleaning our Pioneer Cemeteries, just contact a Commission member: Lee Ann Dickey at 932-3360, Carol Gillaspie at 932-7297, Jane Jass at 932-7396, Rosalie Mullinix at 932-5085, or Merle Regenold at 726-3588.

## PALO ALTO

Contributed by Charlotte Stober

From *County* magazine, April/May, 2003: "Whispers from 'Silent Majority' Echo Here -- Members draw upon the heritage of parishioners who have gone before them," by Al Oppedal, Ruthven, Iowa. Pictured is a grave stone with the following caption: "VOICES FROM THE PAST. Lost Island Lutheran Church is still guided by the wisdom of members who now rest in the church cemetery." The story tells of an ambitious building improvements program taken on by the small congregation that is influenced by those who rest across the road in the church cemetery. The bequests made by former members and their great wisdom continue to guide present decisions. The writer refers to them as the "silent majority" and he imagines their presence at church meetings, including women who were not allowed to vote at such gatherings until 14 years after they received that right in our country's elections.

## STORY

Contributed by Charly Stevens

STORIES FROM THE STONES  
PIONEER CEMETERY TOUR  
SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 10:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION CENTER  
FEE is \$5.00 per person

Participants will tour several cemeteries in the county looking at gravestone symbolism and other interesting facts about the people and places where these pioneer are laid to rest. Bring a sack lunch to picnic along the way. Light to moderate hiking may be involved. Pre-registration is required, space is limited to 18 participants.

For more information contact Story County Conservation Board @ 515.232.2516 or email at [www.storycountyconservation.org](http://www.storycountyconservation.org)

## TAMA

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, March 7, 2003: "Suppers support efforts to replace military markers." The Toledo American Legion Reinig-Friedrichs Post 72 wants to make certain 200 Civil War veterans buried at Woodland Cemetery get due recognition. They intend to replace rusted military markers by the sesquicentennial celebration to be held Sept. 28-Oct. 5. A cemetery walk is part of the event. The \$250 cost of the Grand Army of the Republic markers will be financed by sandwich and soup suppers on Fridays and Saturdays through March and April.

Contributed by Gene and Frieda Davis

From the *Vinton Times*, March 31, 2003: "German Civil War Diary brings historian to Traer," by Steve Meyer. Pictured is the large grave marker of Balthasar Best in the Buckingham Cemetery near Traer, along with Historical Society members, Dave McMillan, Judy Robb, and Gordon Robb. Also shown in a small photo of Mr. Best who was a German immigrant who served in the 1st Minnesota Infantry and fought at Gettysburg. He kept a diary of his experiences that has only recently been translated into English. In Traer, he operated a restaurant and hotel.

## VAN BUREN

Don Aldrich of Keosauqua was honored on KTVO-TV (channel 3) based in Kirksville, Missouri and Ottumwa, Iowa on its "Heartland Hero" segment aired on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2003. Don was cited for his involvement in many community service activities in Van Buren County with emphasis on his recent project of organizing volunteers who clean up neglected pioneer cemeteries. Don follows the guidelines of the Association for Gravestone Studies when repairing and resetting fallen and broken gravestones. Some of the coverage was filmed in the Winchester Cemetery near Stockport, Iowa where Don recently repaired gravestones. Don is a member of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society that finances the project.

**Contribued by Rich Lowe**

The IOWA Gravestone Photo Project, which was introduced the first weekend in January, has already topped 10,000 gravestone photo records after only 10 weeks online. These photos are yet another useful vehicle for researchers to use to make connections with others who share interest in the same surnames. Of at least equal importance, images of stones that are in many cases deteriorating before our eyes are being preserved in a digital form that should make them available for generations to come.

Thanks go out to all who have made this such an exciting and useful new addition to the Van Buren Co. and IAGenWeb projects. The backlog of photos just waiting for a home has surprised all of us. With spring around the corner, we expect these numbers to swell considerably in the months ahead.

I want to encourage each of you who have ancestors buried anywhere in Iowa to add your photos to the database if you have them. You can search for surnames and submit photos to any of Iowa's 99 counties including Van Buren Co. by going to the following link.

[http://iagenweb.org/grave/index.php/cid\\_89/](http://iagenweb.org/grave/index.php/cid_89/)

Or, you can do a statewide search of the entire database at:

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

Contributions of your photos will help make this a most valuable tool.

Thanks in advance!

Rich Lowe  
Van Buren Co. IA GenWeb Coordinator  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iavanbur/>  
IAGenWeb Gravestone Photo Project Coordinator  
<http://iagenweb.org/grave/>

## WAPELLO

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Sun*, January 16, 2003: "Ottumwa's Historic Districts: Ottumwa Cemetery," by Doug Potter. The attraction and mystique of the Ottumwa Cemetery Historic District is covered in this article that mentions a life-size statue of a greyhound dog placed on the lot of Thomas J. Nash at about the turn of the century. Legend has it that the dog belonged to Nash's four-year old grandson, George Jr. When George died in 1904, so the story goes, the grief stricken pet visited his young master's grave every day. Then one day he was found dead of a broken heart on the burial spot. The boy's grandfather had the statue cast as a monument to the devoted dog.

The cemetery was established in 1857 after outgrowing an older cemetery. The Commission says that in 1887, an ornate receiving vault was constructed. Shortly thereafter, a romantic design wrought iron fence was built. The keystone to the entrance is the Edgerly Gateway, a Bedford limestone arch built in a classical Roman triumphal arch. In 1906, the Gothic-style office/chapel was dedicated to the Union soldiers and sailors of the Civil War.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 7, 2003: "No better view than from Sioc," by Cindy Toopes. Pictured is panoramic view of Sioc Cemetery, located near Eldon. The writer says it offers an exhilarating view of Wapello County. One would be hard pressed to find a better location to view Southeast Iowa's beauty. The grave of Wapello County historian, Alvie Harding is in the Sioc. The writer was able to find 4 articles written in earlier editions of the *Courier* about Harding, who died in 1990. In one story, Alvie wondered why early pioneers chose to be buried in the Southeast Iowa effigy mounds located in this cemetery. He nominated the site for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, but it is not known if it was accepted.

## OUTSIDE OF IOWA.....

From the *Daily Gate City* (Keokuk, Iowa), February 17, 2003: "Is southern Illinois plot a slave cemetery?" Near the town of Equality, Illinois, lies a burial plot that Harlan Booten believes may be a slave burial site. It is located on his farm to which he recently leased the mineral rights to a coal company. The Illinois Constitution of 1818 allowed the operators of vast saltworks near the site to rent slaves from Kentucky, some of whom might be buried on Booten's farm. When he leased the property to coal executives, he warned them, "Them people's got a soul, just like you and me." The mystery surrounding the crude cemetery is another case of the some of the darker chapters of Illinois history, including a possible slave house that was operated a few miles from the cemetery.

From the *Ft. Madison Daily Democrat*, April 3, 2003: "Miller Cemetery back on the map," by Doug Endres, MVM News Network. Hancock County, Illinois, is dotted with forgotten cemeteries and one of them is being cleaned up by Larry Cooper and his family. The Miller Cemetery is the burial site for several important figures in the county history, including Nauvoo founder Captain James White and members of the Golden Family who founded Golden's Point Church in the area. Cooper believes there are more than the 12 graves that are recorded, the oldest being 1843. He will begin work on a cemetery in Clark County, Missouri when he's done with Miller. "I feel you should show the dead the same respect you show the living," he said. "People should not be forgotten."

From the Ft. Worth, Texas *Star-Telegram*, March 17, 2003: "Gravely needed work," by Lori Elmore-Moon. A retired couple from Cleburne, Texas has worked to clean up and maintain cemeteries that had fallen into disrepair. They have help from some Johnson County Jail inmates. Doris and Leroy Lanfear set up the Johnson County Cemetery Association, a six-member board to help raise money, identify graveyards and provide maintenance. Their goal is to maintain as many old cemeteries in Johnson County as possible. One significant discovery was the unearthing of a sculpture of an angel that had once stood on a 14-foot pedestal.

From the Ft. Worth *Star-Telegram*, March 18, 2003: "Grave Concerns," by Kelly Melhart. The McCombs Cemetery Association, which was created in 1990, is attempting to determine the boundaries of the McCombs Cemetery before the town of Flower Mound can expand a two-lane road into a major thoroughfare. It is believed that at least 125 people are buried within the split-rail fence surrounding the site, but more bodies may be outside the gate. Geo-Marine, an engineering and environmental services company, is painstakingly peeling back inch-thick layers of dirt looking for stones and other artifacts. The Association filed a lawsuit against a former property owner claiming that under Texas law, no one can own land that has been dedicated as a cemetery. As part of the lawsuit, the land was excavated to prove that people are buried there.

From the *Star-Telegram*, April 2, 2003: "Grave-moving stirs controversy." Pictured are workers who are fencing off an area in the 115-year old Pioneer Cemetery from which several graves will be relocated. Black residents of the Brazoria area say history is being lost to build a bridge. The Texas DOT and residents of the town agree that moving a cemetery is "a process we prefer not to do." However, they have few options in this case. The newly relocated graves will have permanent markers noting that the remains have been moved.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Feb. 24, 2003: "Ohio cemeteries provide link to heritage - End cost of destroyed graveyards is lost history: Preservationists." by Judith Brozek. Pictured is the Hickcox family cemetery as it sits in the middle of the parking lot in a shopping center in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. Jared Hickcox, his wife and two sons were the first pioneers to settle in Middleburg Township in 1809. Also included are photos of the graves of Willis M. Hepburn, a Civil War veteran, and three stones in a neglected burial site near Powell, Ohio. It is unknown how many such small cemeteries have been destroyed since the state was founded 200 years ago or how many still exist but have not been discovered. No statewide preservation group exists, so community groups and individuals have tried to preserve cemeteries that contain the graves of veterans and notable Ohioans.

From the Associated Press, "Washington Tribe Looks for graves at cemetery." The same technology used by U.S. Troops in Iraq to uncover land mines is being used by an American Indian tribe to look for unmarked graves at a cemetery nearly 150 years old. The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians is using ground-penetrating radar at Red Springs Cemetery in Shawano County, Wisconsin to determine whether family members are buried in the cemetery.

From the Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association, Inc. *OHCA Ledger*, "The Saga of a Pioneer Statue's Head," by Ruth Lake Holmes. For nearly 100 years, the 25-foot tall, 8-ton blue marble statue of a Civil War soldier with his rifle at rest has stood guard over his 51 fallen comrades buried in Eugene Pioneer Cemetery in Oregon. The head was broken off and stolen in December, 2001. It was restored by local artist and sculptor, David Miller. Mr. Miller took over 100 hours to carve the replacement. An inscription at the base of the statue reads, "Soldier rest; Thy war is o'er; Sleep the sleep that knows no waking; Dream of battlefields no more."

\*\*\*\*\*

*Please feel free to copy the brochure on the following page for your genealogical, historical, and public libraries. Thanks!*

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

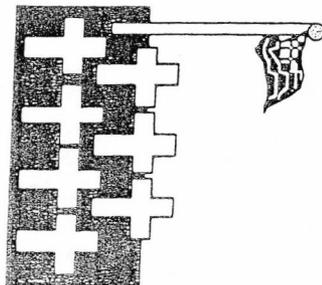
Donation or Memorial \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (List name of honoree, if desired) \_\_\_\_\_

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

State Association for the  
Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries  
21813 170th St.  
Birmingham, IA 52535-8045

Dedicated to the Protection,  
Preservation & Maintenance of  
Pioneer Burial Sites in the Great  
State of Iowa

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STATE  
ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF  
PIONEER  
BURIAL SITES  
IN THE  
GREAT  
STATE OF IOWA  
(52535)

## GOALS OF OUR ORGANIZATION

- \* To identify all cemeteries in Iowa
- \* To take such measures as are necessary, possible, and reasonable to protect these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them from danger from natural causes and from human encroachment.
- \* To provide guidance and educational materials for use by the people entrusted with the preservation of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- \* To compile and distribute information about the proper maintenance techniques for these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- \* To provide advice and information to legislative bodies empowered to pass legislation creating a legal framework for the protection, the preservation, and the maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- \* To act as a monitor for the administrative and management personnel of these cemeteries, to ensure that the legal measures for the protection, preservation, and maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them are enforced.

## SAPIC HISTORY

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) was formed in 1996 as a result of legislation that allowed for each of Iowa's ninety-nine counties to create a County Cemetery Commission. The focus of these Commissions was to rescue untended pioneer graves and cemeteries and to take responsibility for the upkeep of such sites.

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EACH YEAR, THE MONTH OF  
MAY IS PROCLAIMED  
"CEMETERY APPRECIATION  
MONTH BY THE GOVERNOR  
OF THE STATE OF IOWA.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Meetings

*Meetings are held on the second Saturdays of January, April and July. The last meeting of the year is held in conjunction with the Iowa Genealogical Society's Annual Conference in October. Meetings are held in various locations in the state of Iowa. Places are announced in the quarterly newsletters.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in the restoration and maintenance of pioneer cemeteries in Iowa.

Membership entitles each member a subscription to the quarterly newsletter and rights to hold office and vote at meetings.

\*\*\*\*\*

## QUESTIONS?

Phone 319-293-3899

E-mail: [patshaw@netins.net](mailto:patshaw@netins.net)

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