

# GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES  
21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IA 52535-8045 [www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/)  
Volume #8 Issue #3 July, 2003

## What to do?

So.....after much diligent research, you have a lead on the location of the burial site of Great Grandpa and Grandma. You know the county, the township, and (thanks to 911), even the street name. Your second cousin, once removed, has told you that it's down a long lane behind the old red barn that once belonged to your ancestors' brother-in-law.

You decide to visit the graves to see the stones for yourself, record the genealogical information, check for graves of unrecorded family members, maybe make a rubbing, take a picture, and just to stand where your ancestors once stood. You drive slowly along the gravel road looking for the barn, waiting for the dust to settle from a passing pickup truck, and hoping that you don't plow into a tractor or stray cow. After driving back and forth on the road twice and turning around in various rutty driveways, you conclude that there is no barn on this road. Luckily, you have the phone number of your informant, his wife is home, and she tells you that she thinks you are on the right road. You try the search once more while squinting at shoulder-high weeds (loosely referred to as "pasture") and paying little attention to the fact that you are dangerously close to driving into the roadside ditch that is at its deepest at that point of anywhere on the road. After swerving back on the almost deserted road just in the nick of time, your heart is racing as you imagine having to spend days in the ditch existing on the little packets of catsup in your car before you are missed or discovered. After calming down, you think you see a couple of old boards forming a tepee shape above the weeds. A filled-in area across the ditch and a rusty aluminum culvert suggests that it may have once been a driveway. "Should you really investigate this alone?" you ask yourself.

Well, who knows when you'll be able to come back? Besides, if the tepee boards were once

the barn and if this is, indeed, the lane to the cemetery, once you walk a short distance, the cemetery fence and stones should become visible. Fifteen minutes later, you have hiked 100 feet, your shoe laces and socks are full of cockle burrs and stick-tights, you and two rabbits have startled one another, and there's no indication that anyone has been here for a long, long time, not even to visit a nice, country cemetery. The lane is no more than a path now and is closed in on one side with a broken-down fence interlaced with hedge trees and the ever-present horse weeds on the other. The weed seeds are now stuck all over your clothes (which will later have to be discarded) and even your hair. The path ceases to exist at a wall of impenetrable jungle vegetation. There are some six-inch tall remnants of a fence here and there and what might be a gate. The multi-flora rose, Sumac, and saplings are battling for dominance amid the larger trees which have long ago fallen down. One rotting log is being held up by something, and you are horrified to detect that it is, indeed, a monument to some long-buried pioneer, not your ancestor, of course. The top has been sheared off by the falling timber and lays alongside. Your ancestors are here -- you know it, so you squeeze through the gate that will no longer open, but will bend back enough to let you through. There are small, flat stones -- all broken -- with names and ages of children that you weren't aware ever existed. They have the same last name as your ancestors -- how many children did they lay to rest here? You can't find their parents' stones because you can't go any farther. It's getting late and you must turn back. On the way back, you hardly notice the obstacles that slowed your way previously. You are thinking, "What can I do about this? Where do I start?"

Continued on page 5.

Meeting information on page 5.

**SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

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

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5716 Kingman Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50311-2006  
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112 E. Main  
Clarinda, IA 51632  
712-542-3864 chazstevens@hotmail.com

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

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*copy (241)  
521-  
6778*

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PO Box 384  
Centerville, IA 52544  
thee\_z@hotmail.com

*copy) A31-5409*

**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

mcvay wrote:

The quarterly meeting of SAPIC was held at the library in West Union on July 12, 2003. In the absence of the President and vice president, Pat Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. There were 32 in attendance. The cemetery commission of Fayette County hosted the meeting.

Steve Story introduced the commission members. Pat Shaw introduced the other attendees.

In the absence of the secretary and treasurer, Pat Shaw read the minutes of the April meeting and the Treasurers report. Phyllis Carter made the motion to accept the minutes as read, Calvin McVay seconded. Motion accepted. Treasurer's report was approved as read.

It was decided to print the by laws in the newsletter at least once a year.

There was discussion on the Lost Landscape project. Mike Magee will check to see if anything has been started on this project. Valerie Ogren will be instructed to send the \$100.00 check to the project that was approved at the last meeting.

It was decided by the grant committee to give Benton County Cemetery Commission a \$250.00 grant for use in their cemeteries.

Discussion was held on the remaining bumper stickers. Maureen Wilson made a motion to reduce the price from \$1.50 to 75 cents each. Mike Magee seconded. Motion carried.

Joyce Weise and Ethel McVay were appointed as the nominations committee for the slate of officers for next year.

Joyce Weise has invited SAPIC to have the January meeting in Tama County.

There was a discussion on having the meetings of SAPIC in the central part of Iowa. There wasn't any final decision made. The meetings are usually held where SAPIC has been invited.

Mike Magee was wondering how a person could get a cemetery deeded to the county. Pat Shaw reported that going to the auditor's office could do it.

Phyllis Carter announced that Mike Magee will be the 2003 recipient for the Robert Carter Award. Mike is very deserving of this award. Place and time of the presentation will be announced later.

Kevin Lee suggested that getting several organizations to work together would get more work done on cemeteries.

There were several county reports given.

Mike Magee made the motion to Adjourn. Calvin McVay seconded. Motion carried.

Everybody was transported by school bus out to Mt Pleasant Cemetery for a tour. This cemetery had been redone in 2001 and looks very nice.

*STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES*

Treasurer's Report for 2nd Quarter - 1 April 2003 thru 30 June 2003

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2003, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$5127.47

Income

Dues 270.00

Interest 4/30/03 2.60

Interest 5/31/03 1.56

Interest 6/30/03 1.29

Total Income \$275.45

Expense

Ck #144 - Patricia Shaw - newsletter 151.14

Total Expense \$151.14

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Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2003 \$5251.78

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2003, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$2773.39

Expense

Neal Du Shane -SAPIC Grant Ck # 142 - \$200.00

Winnishiek Co. Cem. Comm. - SAPIC Grant Ck # 143 - \$200.00

Total \$400.00

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Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2003 \$2373.39

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.

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Combined Balance on Hand 30 June 2003 \$7625.17

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

What to do? Continued from page 1

1. Chances are, the "ownership" of the cemetery was transferred to township trustees at some point and they are responsible for its upkeep. Go to the county auditor's office in the courthouse located in the county seat and ask if they have a record of the cemetery and if it is trustee-owned. If so, ask if they are getting county funds for its maintenance. Get the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the trustees and the township clerk so you can contact them.

2. If the ownership of the cemetery is uncertain, search land transfer records in the county recorder's office to see if the site and its access road were mentioned in a deed. Usually, that will indicate when it was turned over to the township trustees.

3. Ask if the county has a pioneer cemetery commission that deals with cemeteries that have had six or fewer burials within the past fifty years. If so, get the name and contact information of the chairperson.

4. Contact the local genealogical and/or historical societies to see if they have a record of the cemetery. If they do have a record in their files, see when the last reading was done and if your ancestors are listed and if the location of their graves in the cemetery is indicated. Ask if other descendants or persons with an interest in the cemetery have contact the society.

5. Acquaint yourself with sections of the Iowa Code that pertain to cemeteries. You can conduct a search from FindLaw.com The Regulated Industries Unit can be of help. See contact information on page 2 of this newsletter.

6. A well-written letter to the editor of the local newspaper might generate interest from individuals or community groups, such as 4-H, FFA, or church youth groups, in assisting with clean-up.

The October meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will be held **Saturday, October 4, 2003** at 9:30 a.m. at the Urbandale Public Library. Please note time of the meeting.

**Directions:**

Take the 86th St. exit off Interstate 80 which is the next one west after Merle Hay Road exit. (Des Moines area). Turn south as you exit and travel south on 86th St. across Meredith Dr. and Douglas Ave.

Turn right at the next stop light and that takes you to the new Urbandale Library.

Lunch will be available from the restaurant in the library and they will serve it in our meeting room. Reservations are not needed.

For more information, contact:

Maureen Wilson

9107 Tanglewood

Urbandale, Iowa 50322-7422

Telephone: 515-252-0929

E-Mail: MDWILSON9@aol.com

Thanks to the members of the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission who arranged the July meeting in West Union. The meeting room in the public library was roomy and pleasant, the food was delicious, and our hosts were most congenial. The weather even cooperated all weekend making the tour to the recently restored Mount Pleasant Cemetery a very pleasant event, indeed!

Mike Magee of Waterloo, Iowa will receive the Robert Carter Award on **Saturday, October 18** at 1:00 p.m. at the Bennington Township Cemetery in Blackhawk County, where he has done considerable stone repair.

Directions to Bennington Twp Cemetery are: take Highway 63 north out of Waterloo, IA to Dunkerton Road, turn right [east] towards Dunkerton, IA, to N. Elk Run Road, turn north and go one mile on gravel to Bennington Twp. Cemetery.

Message from SAPIC president, Joyce Wiese:

I find it hard to believe school is starting and nights are becoming cool. Snow will enter into the picture before we can even think about it. This will mean another year gone by while we stop and contemplate what our next step should be to continue our restoration program of cemeteries.

I apologize for missing our last meeting, but THANKS to Pat for filling in. Election of officers will be coming up for the new year. Anyone interested in this job should contact myself or Ethel McVay.

Tama County is planning a tour in September. You can find the details in County News. Hope a few of you will be able to attend. We are always open for any suggestions so please speak up if you have any.

Our next meeting, coming up on October 4th, will be in Urbandale. Hope to see you there.

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Using FindLaw.com, one would be able to do a broad search on "cemetery" in their state's appellate and supreme court rulings. The courts provide the final "interpretation" of the law.

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Finding Scouts: There have been a number of cemetery cleanup projects by Scouts in the Sagamore council (north-central Indiana). Not all of them have been Eagle Scout projects. For Americans who wish to contact a local Boy Scout Council, get the address and phone number from: <http://www.scouting.org/nav/enter.jsp?c=lc>

Just enter your zip code and the council contact information and website will be displayed. It can also give you the contact information for the Order of the Arrow (OA). Among other things, the OA is a community service-oriented brotherhood of Scouts and adults. <http://usscouts.org/honorsociety/oahistory.html>

Contributed by J. Nelson Howell  
nelson@purdue.edu

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Please don't ignore your local Girl Scout troops. Americans can contact a local Girl Scout Council through the National Girl Scouts of the USA website: <http://www.girlscouts.org/>

Contributed by Connie Snyder  
cjsnyder@allte.net

Exploring All Options: A group of descendants concerned with an 1855 cemetery in south-central Texas decided to clean up and restore this historical site. The county was short of funds, but a judge gave them the assistance of nonviolent adult probationers sentenced to do so many hours of community service as a condition of probation. The cemetery looks great today. By posting messages to the various surname message boards of those known to be buried there, much information was collected and the descendants of others collected funds to have their ancestors' stones cleaned, repaired and reset.

Contributed by Betty B.

[bjrb@hotmail.com](mailto:bjrb@hotmail.com)

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A few years ago, I visited the U.S. Military cemetery in Cambridge, England. I had gone with a friend whose brother was buried there. All of the stones are white marble. The attendant asked if we were planning to take pictures and when we said, "Yes," he said he would get some supplies. He had a bottle of water and a little bucket of sand. He sprayed the lettering, then applied some sand and sprayed it again to wet the sand good. Then with the lettering so visible, our pictures turned out great. I would assume when the sand dried, he used a brush to remove it.

Contributed by Marj Kincade

[mlk@mddc.com](mailto:mlk@mddc.com)

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I was in Marblehead, Massachusetts recently and visited the old cemetery there. The method they use to create a support for old broken stones is to make a wood "template" by tracing the shape of the original stone. Then they pour a concrete round-top slab and set the wood template in it to create an impression the right size and shape. When the concrete is set and cured (5 days), then the wood is removed and the old headstone is set in the impression using latex "carpet backing." The end result looks very nice to me.

Contributed by Keith Hughes

[Keith.Hughes@swedish.org](mailto:Keith.Hughes@swedish.org)

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**PLEASE NOTE:** Neither the editor of Grave News nor the members of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries endorse the methods suggested in this newsletter, but merely present them for your information.

Chalk is chalk to most people; they don't think about NOT using colored chalk (on grave stones). How do you educate people to use only white chalk?

Concrete....ever try to restore a stone set in concrete? It's my enemy. The surface is ugly, puts way too much pressure on the stone, and a LOT of stones get broke off at the concrete line. Concrete is a high pressure product going up against a soft marble and limestone.... the stone always loses when push comes to shove. Plus, trying to get the stone out of the concrete is a nightmare. 50 percent of the stones break and have to be repaired while trying to remove concrete. Resetting a tablet stone with concrete encased around it now becomes an ordeal. Without concrete the stone could easily be reset, leveled and restored. Read Lynette Strangstad's book, "A Graveyard Primer" (available from the Association for Gravestone Studies) and you will see the effects of concrete. The proper way is to use soft mortars in slotted bases, not set them directly in concrete. Think about it....the people who set the stone 150 years ago didn't use concrete to set the stones. So why should I when I am trying to restore a pioneer cemetery? Concrete has its place....for replacement of slotted bases and foundations, but laying a stone horizontally in wet concrete is a death sentence for the stone. Every raindrop, every hailstone, every ray of sun, the mower than runs over it and hits that stone face up...it accelerates the destruction process. Concrete is way too rigid. The stones were meant to stand vertical and I will keep putting them back vertical without using wet concrete. Setting a stone in wet concrete is a "non-thinking" way to do it. You have to think differently by using restoration techniques that are proper for marble and limestone.

Monument companies....Grinding and recutting is NOT an option with me. The craftsperson who hand carved that marble should have that stone left as a testament to their work. I can't bring something back that is gone. When it's gone, then a replacement stone is an option. Most modern monument companies still think in "the granite box" and don't use the specialized techniques required for marble and limestone pioneer stones. That rips my heart out to think of them belt sanding the stone smooth and recutting the inscription and then using the black mastic to

highlight the letters. My choice would be to attach a bronze plaque with the information to the back face of the stone, die, or limestone base. I don't see how they can call it "restoring;" it's more like taking the original, blowing it away, then making a new stone out of the old. Webster defines restoration as "a bringing back to a former position or condition." Now how may people would apply paint over a masterpiece painting and start over again and call it restoration?

I am passionate about this because I have had to deal with good intentioned repairs that are absolutely the worst thing for the stone. Go restore 75 tablets that are in concrete and you will get a new outlook on why setting stones in wet concrete should not be an option with all the restoration info we have available.

Contributed by Mark Davis, Indiana  
md9105@skynet.net  
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If you must use a powder to bring out inscriptions on a stone, use white chalk powder (I use Strait-Line brand of carpenters chalk powder which is available in most large hardware stores. It is pure calcium carbonate powder, chemically identical to the mineral in the marble or limestone marker. Look for the yellow bottle with the white top -- about \$1.50 (US) per half pound bottle.

Contributed by Burt Lang  
burt@rocler.qc.ca  
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Several articles pertaining to cemeteries appeared in the *Family History Magazine*, May/June, 2003 issue: (1) "Mortuary Records A Valuable Resource," by Tauna Hinckley; (2) "A Mission of Remembrance," by Donna M. Brown; (3) Sources to Help Locate your Ancestor's Grave," by Noel R. Barton; (4) Sharing County Cemetery Records with the World: How to Compile Obituary Information for the World Wide Web," by John Sigwald; (5) "Cemetery Research Can Take you Places," by Noel R. Barton; (6) "The Search for Leola's Carver," by Tom Jenkins; (7) "Cemetery Research in the United States," by Noel R. Barton.

www.familyhistorymagazine.com  
Contributed by Betty Giese



July 31, 2003

Patricia Shaw  
State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries  
21813 170th Street  
Birmingham, IA 52535

Dear Patricia,

On behalf of the University of Northern Iowa, thank you for your recent gift of \$100 to the project *America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie*.

As you know, UNI is committed to promoting good stewardship of Iowa's environment through teaching and also through business and community consulting and public education projects like Professor Smith's video. We are very pleased that other concerned Iowans are assisting us in these efforts.

Once again, thank you for your support of the University of Northern Iowa. A gift receipt is enclosed for your records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Reinart". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Susan J. Reinart  
Stewardship Coordinator

Monday, July 28, 2003

sjr  
enclosure

Daryl Smith wrote:

Patricia

I would like to thank the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries for their contribution to the film project, *America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie*. We appreciate your interest in prairies and commend you for your work in preserving prairie plants pioneer cemeteries. In many ways, they represent the "Ghosts of Iowa's Past."

Please convey our appreciation to the Board.  
Daryl Smith

From the State Historical Society of Iowa:  
Historic Preservation Grants are Back!  
Historic Site Preservation Grant: DEADLINE  
SEPT. 14 (for December 2004 - June 2006).  
All applications and information are online at:  
[www.iowahistory.org](http://www.iowahistory.org)  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
600 E. Locust  
Des Moines, IA 50319

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Humor: Foenetiks  
Thanks to: Norece Embody [billembody@att.net](mailto:billembody@att.net)  
Who reports: "I recently received a 1903 death  
certificate. The cause of death was listed as  
"New Monia."

\*\*\*\*\*

From Susan E. Voss, First Deputy Commissioner,  
Iowa Insurance Division, August 12, 2003: Last  
year, the Iowa Insurance Division proposed House  
File 633, legislation to consolidate a number of  
Iowa Code chapters concerning the regulation of  
cemeteries including permits, fees,  
administration and enforcement procedures and  
penalties. The bill did not make it through the  
legislative process. A meeting will be held on  
September 10, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the offices  
of the Iowa Insurance Division at 330 Maple  
Street; Des Moines, IA to review the above bill  
and discuss those issues for which you may still  
have concerns. A copy of HF 633 may be  
obtained from the above address. Please let  
Susan know if you plan to attend the September  
10th meeting. Phone 515-281-6836.  
<http://www.iid.state.ia.us/>

\*\*\*\*\*

From <http://www.cem.va.gov/hmrepl.htm>  
Headstones and markers previously provided by  
the government may be replaced at government  
expense if badly deteriorated, illegible, stolen or  
vandalized, or if the inscription is incorrect. Call  
the Memorial Programs Service Applicant  
Assistance Unit between the hours of 8:00 a.m.  
and 5:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, at  
the toll-free number below:

1-800-697-6947

\*\*\*\*\*

The Iowa Conservation and Preservation  
Consortium sponsored a preservation workshop  
on June 6 at the Amana Heritage Society Museum  
in Homestead, Iowa. For information about this  
group, contact Nancy E. Kraft, University of  
Iowa, 100 Main Library, Iowa City, IA 52242-  
1420. [web.grinnell.edu/individuals/stuhrr/icpc/icpc/html](http://web.grinnell.edu/individuals/stuhrr/icpc/icpc/html)

## From the Association for Gravestone Studies' Spring 2003 Catalog:

*Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of  
American Culture*, edited by Richard E.  
Meyer. Essays examine burial grounds  
through the centuries across the land.

*Ethnicity and the American Cemetery*, edited  
by Richard E. Meyer. This book explores in  
detail the manner in which representative  
ethnic groups in American have made their  
cemeteries.

*GRAVEN IMAGES New England Stonecarving  
and Its Symbols, 1650-1815* by Harriette  
Merrifield Forbes. This book includes a  
thorough background of Puritan religion; a  
beautifully illustrated cataloging of symbols  
and their meanings; and sources and  
definitions of the major New England styles.

Also available: Most copies of *Markers*, the  
Journal of the Association for Gravestone  
Studies, many leaflet and kits, regional  
guides, and gift items.

Association for Gravestone Studies  
278 Main Street, Suite 207  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
413-772-0836  
[www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

Home & Garden TV and the National Trust for  
Historic Preservation have joined forces to  
save some of the country's endangered  
cultural sites. HGTV donated \$1 million to  
help preserve 12 sites picked by the National  
Trust from the Save America's Treasures  
campaign. Listed on the web site of the  
National Trust are ten ways to preserve  
historic places, including (#10) Visit some  
sacred history -- cemeteries reveal the  
fascinating lives of those who came before.  
<http://nationaltrust.org/primer/10ways.html>

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From the *Archaeological Steward*, a new  
newsletter that will provide tips for helping to  
preserve Iowa's archaeological heritage: Use the  
form on the next page to report found artifacts

Copy this blank form before use, and distribute as needed.  
Additional copies can be printed from [www.uiowa.edu/~osa](http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa).

## UI-OSA Collection Cataloging Worksheet

Fill out as best you can, and use the back or add pages as needed.

Where was the item found? **ATTACH A MAP OF THE LOCATION TO THIS FORM.**

Location, Site Name, Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Near what town? \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Township: \_\_\_\_\_ N Range: \_\_\_\_\_ E or W?

Map or aerial photo attached? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Who collected the item? \_\_\_\_\_

When? Date and conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

What was collected? Describe the material type, size, weight, manufacturing technique, use, etc:

\_\_\_\_\_

Item # or #s: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there photographs of the item(s)?

Photo #: \_\_\_\_\_ is a photo of item #: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo #: \_\_\_\_\_ is a photo of item #: \_\_\_\_\_

Why were you looking there? List any other item #s found in the same area on other trips.

\_\_\_\_\_

How were the item(s) collected? How have they been cleaned and organized?



Write **other information** about the item(s) on the back of this sheet, or on another sheet.  
Consider drawing or outlining the artifact on the back of this sheet as well.  
Please send a copy of your information to UI-OSA, 700 South Clinton St., Iowa City, Iowa, 52242.

## COUNTY REPORTS

Benton -- From the *Cedar Valley Times*, Vinton, Iowa, June 23, 2003: "Historic cemetery getting new look," by Dean Close. Two large pictures, plus a story on the front page, show volunteers leveling a tombstone and Don Callahan using a corn cob to remove fungus from a tombstone. Other pictures inside the newspaper cover nearly half a page and include a close-up of a tombstone in the Houghton Cemetery in southwest Benton County honoring the burial place of one of the Houghton family members. Also shown are Freida Davis checking a stone to compare it with historical records, volunteers setting a stone, Gene Davis attaching a stone to a new concrete support, and Ervin Krug standing in front of his ancestor's stone marker. Houghton Cemetery was the first of the county's 30 pioneer cemeteries to be the site of an organized work effort. Gene Davis, president of the Benton County Cemetery Association, says the group plans more work days at area cemeteries in the future.

From the *Dysart Reporter*, July 3, 2003: "Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission completes first project," by Steve Meyer. Pictured on the front page is Alfred Schwartz from Vinton as he works on resetting a stone in the Houghton Cemetery on June 19. Nearly 20 people used jacks and hoists and mortar mix to square up tilted stones and make new bases for stones that had lain on the ground for years. Local folklore has it that there was once a school and a church at the site. Estimates are the cemetery contains over 200 graves.

From the *South Benton Star Press*, July 9, 2003: "Pioneer Cemetery Association works to preserve history in county," by Jim Magdefrau. Pictured are volunteers working on the Houghton Cemetery. Ed Strellner, who has worked as a mason his whole life, now finds his passion is preserving the cemeteries that date back to the 1800's and says, "It's very interesting." Other cemeteries that have been restored are the Bender, Carlises's Grove and East Eden. Steve Meyer of Blairstown has also worked in the Luzerne Cemetery in Leroy Township. The settings provide a peaceful working environment for the volunteers. "No one talks back, unless it's one of us," Strellner says.

Contributed by Gene and Frieda Davis

Blackhawk -- From the *Waterloo Courier*, March 21, 1901: "Cemetery Association First Steps Taken Towards that End Last Night. Citizens would have Elmwood Controlled by Incorporation. Committee will be Appointed to Investigate Other Localities." A group of Waterloo citizens, using a Marshalltown cemetery as a model, formed an association to care for the untended graves in Elmwood Cemetery. They will first visit other towns whose cemeteries are controlled by associations such as is being contemplated in Waterloo. Elmwood's first burial was in 1874 and contains about 700 burials.

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Iowa State Reporter*, October 22, 1901: "Hides a Mystery. Grave diggers made a ghastly discovery. Remains of unknown child, Disinterred while digging grave for another." While digging a grave for little Walter Finch in the Lester Cemetery, the sexton came upon a rough box containing the remains of another child indicating that the burial was irregularly done perhaps a year or so earlier. It was decided not to hold an inquest and the remains were again buried in a more suitable place. The circumstances of the child's death remain a mystery.

Buchanan -- From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, June 3, 2003: "County seeks funding to maintain acquired roads," by Jordan Drackley. Included in the article pertaining to county supervisors' decisions, a hearing was set for June 16 on a pioneer cemetery ordinance. The ordinance would create a nine-member group, which would assume responsibility and management of the county's oldest burial plots.

From the *Dysart Reporter*, July 17, 2003: "Brandon residents work on Buchanan Pioneer Cemeteries," by Steve Meyer. A newly created Pioneer Cemetery Commission in Buchanan County has come at the instigation of the county's Board of Supervisors as opposed to the usual means of a request from a citizens group to form a commission. Supervisor Ellen Gaffney of Hazelton said the supervisors starting setting aside money for the repair of pioneer cemeteries after attending an Iowa State Association of Counties meeting 3 years ago. About \$4,000 was accumulated by the time a commission was formed in July.

From the *Waterloo/Courier*, July 18, 2003: "Buchanan County establishes group to protect, preserve old cemetery plots," by Steve Meyer. County supervisors started the move to create a commission after an incident several years ago when a farmer wanted to plow over the Kier Cemetery in Fairbank Township. Court action prevented it. Commission Chairperson Bill Reedy of Brandon says all members to the commission have been appointed and all have an interest in historical preservation.

Contributed by Frieda Davis and Mike Magee

From the *Jessup Citizen Herald*, August 6, 2003: "Preserving the past one stone at a time," by Deb Holt. Pictured are Tony Bengston and Nyle McMartin standing near three of the 35 graves they have restored or remade at the Littleton (Prairie Grove) Cemetery. The men volunteer their time and resources to locate, repair and reset fallen and broken grave stones.

Butler -- In an E-mail message from Carolyn Landergott, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she states that she would like to have the Hardman Cemetery recognized as a pioneer burial site. It contains the graves of John Hardman, early Butler County pioneer, who died in 1858, and his family. The cemetery is in a sad state of disrepair with broken stones and tall weeds surrounding it.

Contributed by Carolyn Landergott  
caland36@aol.com

Chickasaw -- In April of this year, we held our first workday at Pearl Rock Cemetery. Many, many workers showed up to help with the finishing touches, picking up rocks, branches, etc. We plan to spend our next workday at Pearl Rock setting the stones in bases. Family members of one of the people buried there plan to place a headstone in commemoration of their loved one.

In May, Cemetery Appreciation Month, several commission members presented a "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" certificate to Chickasaw County Supervisor, Sherry Mattke, for her support in our cemetery preservation efforts.

Plans are being made to host a Civil War Enactment at the Pearl Rock Cemetery; probably sometime in August. Fliers will be mailed when all plans are finalized.

Contributed by Julie A. Eckenrod

Dedication of the Pearl Rock Cemetery, located south of Nashua, was held on August 10, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. A Civil War re-enactment was held. Reports from SAPIC members who attended were very complimentary.

Contributed by Fred Reisner, Betty Tylee, Steve Story and Mike Magee

Clayton -- Ron Harris E-mailed a photograph of the Eastman Cemetery taken by Nancy McClellan. Restoration of the site was done by members of the Clayton County Cemetery Commission and Boy Scouts from Guttenberg, Iowa. The project was an Eagle Scout project for Chris McClellan. New headstones have been ordered from the Veterans Administration for DeWitt Clinton Van Sickle (Emma Eastman's seventh husband) and his brother Martin who was married to Emma's sister Marilla. (Story in April *Grave News*). Both Dewitt and Martin served in the Blackhawk War of 1832. Some missing headstones have been located but most still have not been found.

Clayton, continued -- in an E-mail message from Chris McClellan dated June 29, he states the following has been accomplished in the Eastman Cemetery: (1) Cemetery has been sprayed and cleared of weeds. (2) Cemetery has been tilled twice. (3) Perimeter has been set around the cemetery. (4) Fence post holes have been dug out for all the posts needed to support the chain link fence. (5) Footings for the archway have been dug out and cemented. (6) The area has been seeded with grass and some oats (to protect the grass.)

Contributed by Ron Harris and Chris McClellan

Dallas -- In an E-mail message from Joyce Maddy, she reports that she and her husband, Paul (longtime cemetery preservationist and workshop presenter), have moved to a larger unit at Spring Valley Retirement Community; 559 - 12th St.; Perry, IA 50220-1931. Their telephone number and E-mail address remain the same.

Contributed by Joyce Maddy

Davis -- Lana Doll, co-chairman of a committee that each year puts together a historical cemetery walk in Bloomfield, Iowa, announced that this year's event was to be held on June 27 and 29. SAPIC newsletters and brochures were distributed to attendees. This is sponsored by Bloomfield Main Street.

Fayette -- From the *Fayette County Union*, July 30, 2003: "Iowa guests tour Mt. Pleasant Cemetery," by Rich Holm. More than half a page is devoted to covering the quarterly meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries on July 12 including 5 photos of the meeting and the visit to the Pleasant Hill Cemetery afterwards. The Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission hosted the meeting that brought several out-of-town guests to West Union. Following the business meeting, the group boarded a bus to tour the most recent cemetery restoration in Fayette County. Each county represented reported on the progress and problems encountered in its efforts. Fayette County is fortunate in that their cemetery restorers have encountered great cooperation from the Board of Supervisors and landowners.

Steve Story of Fayette County also reports that they had a great work day on July 16, finding two more missing head stones in the small Butler-Barnhouse Pioneer Cemetery on CRP land east of West Union. They should be able to complete this cemetery in 2-3 more restoration workdays. They will then return to the Brooks Cemetery, also land-locked in a field near Arlington. They have hopes of finishing the Brooks before late fall. Donal Boie and Merlin Begalske, who have been "on leave" due to recent health problems were present at the SAPIC meeting on July 12.

Contributed by Steve Story

Henry -- Love and Valor-Forest Home Cemetery Tour in Mt. Pleasant on October 11. Information on next page.

Jones -- LaVerta Langenberg reports that Lou and LaVerta Langenberg, Milt Luckstead, and Terry Kaufman worked in the John Paul Beer Cemetery, Glenn, and Highland Cemeteries in June.

From the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*, July 17, 2003: "Iowa ghost hunters seek local restless souls." Pictured are a group of persons who belong to Lights of the Other Side, a Cedar County organization that investigates reports of spiritual presences in Midwest burial grounds. Their last names and exact locations of their searches are not given due to the controversial nature of their activity. They report that they have found "a lot of activity" in Jones County.

Lee -- From the *Daily Gate City*, May 7, 2003: "Medal of Honor winner honored." Pictured are Earl Ferguson of the Keokuk National Cemetery; Keokuk Mayor Dave Gudgel; Pat Klapprott representing the Oakland Cemetery; Dick Sykes of the Keokuk Parks Department; and Terry Altheide representing the Lee County pioneer Cemetery Association, as the mayor proclaims May as Cemetery Appreciation Month. The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, along with American Legion Post #41 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron #41 of Keokuk, presided over the ceremony of the setting a new headstone for Medal of Honor winner, Sgt. Lewis Phife in the Tierney Cemetery near Wever, Iowa. Leyda, Burris & Metz Monument Company of Burlington set the stone in April. Over 80 attendees, including descendants from 5 states, witnessed the ceremony. With the help of Senator Tom Harkin, Phife's grave received the gold engraved tombstone to which Medal of Honor winners are entitled. Phife died in 1913.

From the *Daily Gate City*, May 30, 2003: "Medal of Honor has Lee County connection," by Terry Altheide. A history of the establishment of the Medal of Honor decoration is summarized, including quotes from President Truman and General George Patton. It was established by President Lincoln on Dec. 21, 1861 at the urging of an Iowa Senator, James Grimes. Lee County cemeteries contain the graves of two Medal of Honor winners: Lewis Phife and John Thorson. Other Lee County residents who have earned this honor are Horatio Birdsall in 1865 and James Dunlavy in 1864. The husband of a Keokuk girl, Edward "Butch" O'Hare, won the medal in 1938. O'Hare International Airport in Chicago is named in his honor. In all, Iowa can lay claim to 61 Medal of Honor winners that Terry refers to as "America's true super heroes."

From Steven Russell, June 4, 2003: An Iowa Civil War Medal of Honor winner, Norman Francis Bates, 4th Iowa Cavalry, will receive a headstone. His grave is located in Forest Lawn, Glendale, California.

scrussal@netins.net

Terry Altheide reports that the efforts in Lee County, Iowa have resulted in interest in cemetery restoration occurring in Kahoka, Missouri and Hancock, Illinois.

# Love and Valor



Intimate Civil War Letters Between  
Capt. Jacob & Emeline Ritner  
Edited by Charles F. Larimer

The Harlan-Lincoln House  
will be open Saturday Oct 4  
9:30-10:30am & 4:00-5:30pm  
and Saturday Oct 11, 9:30-10:30am

## The Harlan-Lincoln House Renovation Committee

Presents

### Two Mt. Pleasant Civil War Love and Valor Events

*Dramatic Reading & Forest Home Cemetery Tour*

*All proceeds benefit development  
of the Harlan-Lincoln House at  
Iowa Wesleyan College*

*October 2003*

**Dramatic Reading:** *Love and Valor* is a moving Civil War story told through actual letters between a soldier from **Mt. Pleasant, Iowa** and his wife. Includes a **rare feminine view** of the war and an **Iowa home front** deeply impacted by the ravages of the war. Expressive, perceptive and engaging. Featured Civil War Book - Smithsonian - October 2001.

## Love and Valor Dramatic Reading

Step Back to Mt. Pleasant During the  
Civil War and Follow Our Soldiers

When: Friday Oct 3, 8pm - \$10  
Saturday Oct 4, 8pm - \$15  
Sunday Oct 5, 2pm - \$10  
Friday Oct 10, 8pm - \$10  
Saturday Oct 11, 8pm - \$15

Saturday Night Performances followed by  
*The Ghost Stories of Love and Valor*  
and Talk-Back with Charles Larimer

Refreshments Served After All Performances

Where: Old Main at Iowa Wesleyan  
College, Room 300,  
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

*Seating is limited to 80  
Advance tickets recommended*

Tickets: Jerry's Restaurant, Mt. Pleasant  
Brown's Shoe Fit, Mt. Pleasant

Or Contact: Lynn Ellsworth, IWC Archivist  
(319) 385-6320; [iwcarch@iwc.edu](mailto:iwcarch@iwc.edu)

## Love and Valor-Forest Home Cemetery Tour

When: Saturday October 11 - \$10  
Every half hour from  
1:00pm to 3:30pm

Rain Date Sunday October 12

Where: Tours begin and end at the south  
entrance of the Theatre Museum,  
Midwest Old Threshers

*Each tour is limited to 25  
Advance tickets recommended*

Contact: Lynn Ellsworth, IWC Archivist  
(319) 385-6320; [iwcarch@iwc.edu](mailto:iwcarch@iwc.edu)  
Office hours Monday through Thursday  
9am to 1pm

**Cemetery Tour:** Watch many of Mt. Pleasant's most noted citizens come alive during this entertaining **living history** presentation of Mt. Pleasant during the Civil War, including **Senator James Harlan**, **Ann Harlan**, **General George Stone**, **Captain Jacob & Emeline Ritner**, **Lieutenant Baron Crane**, **Reverend Eber Crane**, **Reverend Thomas Corkhill**, **Belle Babb Mansfield** (1st woman lawyer in the US), **Major Thomas Bereman**, **Photographer Joseph Leisenring**, **Drummer Frank Thomas**, **Graybeard Sam Bereman** and his wife **Eleanor**.

From the *Daily Gate City*, June 23, 2002: "Cemetery group hears about Beeler Cemetery clean up." Arnold Dischler, treasurer of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, reported about the clean up at Beeler Cemetery located two miles east of Primrose, Iowa.

Nine descendants of Isaac Beeler from Illinois, Georgia and Texas who were attending a family reunion, assisted five members of the Association. They discovered one intact stone that was previously unknown among the 5 known burials. The work of members of the Day Treatment program of Young House Family Services was recognized for their contributions to the clean up of the Locust Grove Cemetery north of Ft. Madison. Judy Merschbrock was sent a note of thanks for her many contributions to the Association. A donation was sent to caretakers of the St. Peters Presbyterian Cemetery near Franklin who are in the process of repairing vandalism damage.

From lifetime SAPIC member, Betty Giese of Chicago, Illinois, June 9, 2003: Betty sends a photo of her and her husband and expresses her gratitude to Judy Merschbrock for the energy she has given to the clean up of the Wilson Cemetery. Betty enjoys reading *Grave News* and is happy to see so many people getting into caring about their loved ones passed over.

From the *Daily Gate City*, July 17, 2003: "Dam's Lake Keokuk covers old cemeteries," by Terry Altheide. The mythical city of Atlantis is compared to the submerged town of Montebello north of Hamilton on Highway 96. It was the site of the first courthouse in Hancock County, Illinois. When the Keokuk dam was completed in 1913, it backed the Mississippi River up to form the 50-square-mile lake containing 60 billion gallons of water and covered towns like Montebello, Sonora Landing, and parts of Nauvoo, Illinois. Sadly, it also submerged the Montebello Cemetery. The burial site was founded so early that no one now living knows who was buried there, but they were probably early pioneers and possibly Indian burials. The burial ground has been referred to as "The Forgotten Men of Montebello Cemetery." Other pioneer cemeteries in the area are mentioned, and the reader is asked to imagine what it was like before dams and highways were constructed. The article ends with the following observation: "Let is simply be

said that for a century and a half the pioneer dead in these graveyards have slept in peaceful tranquility, oblivious to man's relentless pursuit of progress."

Contributed by Terry Altheide

Mahaska -- A rededication for the DeLong/DeLashmutt Cemetery in Garfield Township will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2003. Activities, including sharing of family histories, historical overview of Mahaska County, and report on the restoration project, will take place at the St. James Episcopal Church in Oskaloosa. For more information, contact Jo Vernooy, Chairman of the Mahaska County Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries; 1240 235th St.; Leighton, IA 50143; ph 641-673-8122; <mahcem@kdsi.net> or Alice Hoyt Veen; 1212 Quinlan Ave.; Woodward, IA 50276; ph 515-676-2301; <njajveenmsn.com>

Contributed by Alice Veen

Mitchell -- A Power Point Presentation for Mitchell County Pioneer Cemetery Project (MCPCR) has been completed. Slides and pictures of the fruits of their labor, including before and after pictures of the Lohr, Mona and Dudley Cemeteries Restoration, have been added. A copy to use for preservation purposes is available from Neal DuShane. The presentation may be viewed from the web site of the group at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~iamcpcrp>

Contributed by Neal DuShane

Page -- SAPIC secretary, Charly Stevens, has donated a copy of the video, "Gravestone Restoration 101" to the Nodaway Valley Historical Museum in Clarinda. A few copies of the video made by Paul Maddy and Pat Palmer are still available. Contact Pat Shaw or Joyce Wiese for information.

Tama -- The Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, the Tama County Tourism Committee, and the Iowa Valley Community College District are partnering together to coordinate a Pioneer Cemetery Tour through the northern half of Tama County. Details on following page.

## TAMA COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY TOUR

The Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, The Tama County Economic Development Commission, The Tama County Tourism Committee and Iowa Valley Community College District are partnering together to coordinate a Pioneer Cemetery bus tour through the northern half of Tama County.

The tour is scheduled for Saturday, September 6th. The group will meet at the South Tama High School parking lot located on Highway 63 between Tama and Toledo at 8:45 A.M. to load the bus. Cost for the tour will be \$14.00 and participants will be responsible for the cost of their lunch. Most likely the buses will stop in Traer for lunch.

The general public is invited to sign up for the tour. Space is limited so early registration is important. To sign up please call Joanne Husak with the Tama County Economic Development at 641-484-3108 or Ann Rebik at 641-236-3334. On line registration is available at [www.iavalley.cc.ia.us/ivce/registration](http://www.iavalley.cc.ia.us/ivce/registration).

The tour will include eight cemeteries leaving the high school parking lot and traveling to The Tama County Home Cemetery (earlier known as "Potters Field", going north to Fee Chapel, Wheaton, Bakers Grove, then stopping for lunch. The afternoon will cover Dinsdale, Union Grove, Conant and Mattingly.

Narrators for the trip will be Joyce Wiese and Ardene Cross, both members of the Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. A history of the cemetery being visited will be given, as well as information on some of the persons buried in the cemeteries.

The Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission was organized in 1997 with an ordinance being passed and a nine-member commission being appointed to start the restoration of twenty-eight cemeteries. All but one of these has been restored.

The Tama County Board of Supervisors, the Tama County Township Trustees and many individual people of Tama County have cooperated to get this project to the point it is. This group feels proud to participate in a tour so people can see what the commission has accomplished.

Wright -- From the *Wright County Reporter*, Dows, February 9, 1928: After a long and glowing account of her life, the last line in my Great-Grandmother's obit reads: "Mrs. Oleson was burned in the cemetery by the church." That's one shocking typo!

Contributed by Laura to rootsweb  
Raisndustbunys@aol.com

Van Buren -- On June 12, the Iowa Gravestone Photo Project topped the 25,000 mark for gravestone photo records. The idea for the web site was conceived by Rich Lowe of Keosauqua. The mission of the project is to capture and preserve digital images of the gravestones of our ancestors. As decades pass, many stones are becoming harder, if not impossible, to read the inscriptions they originally contained. By archiving the images, we can help save these important records and also assist researchers to make connections using this resource. The web site is linked to the SAPIC web page.  
<http://iowagravestones.org>

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 22, 2003: In the Mt. Sterling column, Jo Hamlett states "will have a goodly number of people looking for old cemeteries." He also says there are only 3 normal people in Mt. Sterling -- him (the mayor) and 2 others.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 5, 2003: "Historic Cemetery Tour." Pictured are Greg and Penny Jones, teachers in the Van Buren Community School, who performed at Bonaparte's Historic Cemetery Tour on June 7. This tour has been held for eight years. A variety of Bonaparte's past citizens visit to enlighten guests of their era and life experiences. It is an evening of living history in the first person. Half of the proceeds go to the Bonaparte Cemetery Association for the cost of mowing and upkeep of the large burial site.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, July 17, 2003: "Around the Bend," column by Mary Ovrum. A one-man crew, Harold "Windy" Jamison of Birmingham, has taken on the renovation of Oak Lawn Cemetery on the north side of Keosauqua. Windy's great-grandfather and other relatives' graves are located there, along with the founder of Keosauqua, Edwin Manning, and other historical figures. The

ancestors of Phil Stong, who wrote the book, "State Fair" are also there. June Wiley, former Keosauqua resident, donated money for mowing through the years and to purchase a sign that Windy installed. Often working alone and using a chain saw and weed eater, he spends nearly every day cutting and removing dead trees, bushes, and other debris. When asked by his wife, Barb, what he wanted for his birthday, Windy said he wanted a flagpole for Oak Lawn. He flew the flag for the Fourth of July.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, July 24, 2003: In a Letter to the Editor, Windy states that he has repaired and straightened over 50 gravestones and a few other markers. He thanks Mary Ovrum for the story in the July 17 paper, but also wishes to give credit to the Ace Hardware and Whitney Monument who donated materials. Volunteers, Kevin Bentzinger, Merle McDonald, and Warren Beatty have assisted with lifting heavy stones, filling in sunken graves, and trimming high tree branches. Jim Hamberg, a professional tree remover, gave Windy a special price to take out an old, dead tree.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 7, 2003: "Windy, a man with a mission," by Diana Goemaat. Two pictures, showing Windy in front of his new flagpole at Oak Lawn Cemetery and using witching rods to locate unmarked graves, appear in this edition. More details of the history of the cemetery, the art of "witching," and Windy's restoration efforts are given. When asked why he has undertaken such a monumental, time consuming task that not many people will even notice, Jamison replied with a chuckle, "I have 200 plus friends here. It is a relaxing hobby. I even give a lifetime guarantee with my work. Of course, I'm 75 so what is that worth?" As is the case with most cemetery workers, Windy is involved in many other community services. As volunteers, he and his wife, Barb, run the Senior Dining Site in Birmingham.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 14, 2003: "Milton's 'Flower Fairy'" by Diana Goemaat. Two photos show the Sunnyside Cemetery at Milton with flowers decorating ALL of the 1800 graves on this past Memorial Day. This is the fourth year an anonymous person has collected and placed flowers on graves.

Wapello -- From the *Ottumwa Courier*, August 14, 2003: "Police investigate cemetery vandalism." The Ottumwa Police department is investigating a criminal mischief incident at the Ottumwa Cemetery that occurred in August. Several grave markers and headstones were damaged or destroyed resulting in several thousands of dollars in damages. The police welcome anonymous tips.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, August 14, 2003: "The cost of vandalism," photo by Cheri Lord/*The Courier*. A large picture showing Bob Swanson, Superintendent of the Ottumwa Cemetery, and Dennis Donaldson of the ground maintenance crew as they clean up headstones and grave markers following vandalism.

Contributed by Pat Shaw

Winneshiek -- The Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, the Decorah Genealogy Association, and the Winneshiek County Historical Society have joined together to have a new brochure, "Cemeteries of Winneshiek County," printed. All the cemeteries in the county are listed in alphabetical order with their locations. Other information, including the goals of the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery, and a map of the county make up the brochure. For a copy, write to the Commission at Decorah Public Library; 202 Winnebago; Decorah, Iowa 52101-1812. Telephone: 563-382-8559 Ext. 107

Contributed by Susan Jacobsen

## Outside of Iowa:

Illinois -- From the *Daily Gate City*, May, 2003: "Oak Grove Cemetery gets attention from area volunteers." Pictured are thirteen volunteers who joined together to clean the north side of Oak Grove Cemetery in Wythe Township, Hancock County (rural Basco, IL) in May. The group will meet in late fall after a hard freeze to start work on the south section of the cemetery.

From the *Herald-Whig*, June 15, 2003: "Vegetable garden in cemetery creates controversy," by Rodney Hart. A Quincy, Illinois family may take legal action against the owner of Graceland Cemetery in the city. Pictured is Harold Smith standing at the edge of a vegetable garden located about ten feet from a row of graves that was planted by the cemetery's owner. Many persons whose family graves are

in the cemetery consider the act disrespectful. The new owner, Dave Eversen, also will not allow Smith to erect an upright stone over his wife's grave. An attorney for the Illinois Cemetery Funeral Home Association says that requirements and restrictions are not retroactive and cannot change with new ownership. Although the Office of Comptroller cannot tell Eversen to remove the garden because the site is privately owned, he could lose its property tax exemption.

Contributed by Terry Altheide

Illinois -- From the *Register-Mail*, Galesburg, IL, June 14, 2003: "Searching for Emma's Grave," by Susan R. Ward. Pictured are descendants of Emma Corbin in the Henderson-Myers Cemetery. Family members spent 5 years restoring the cemetery after finally finding her grave in the neglected cemetery. Emma died following childbirth in 1865. Persifer Township trustees were helpful with a legal deed and providing a grass easement to the site. The cemetery was dedicated on Aug. 11, 2001 when 80 of Emma's descendants attended from California, Florida, Missouri, and Illinois.

Contributed by Mike Magee

California -- From the *YB News*, May, 2003: "Carriages By Margaret adds Horse-Drawn Hearse to serve Southern California Funeral Homes." An ornate horse-drawn carriage has been added to the company's line of carriages and is available for funerals. Family members can walk behind the hearse or ride in an authentic, antique opera coach. The company plans to obtain a white caisson similar to the one that carried the casket of John F. Kennedy. To view the entire selection of carriages, visit: [www.carriagesbymargaret.com](http://www.carriagesbymargaret.com)

Wisconsin -- From the *American Funeral Director*, April, 2003: "Cemetery Director Proposes Harley Celebrants Set Up Came Near Graves." The director of Prairie Home Cemetery, Waukesha, Wis., has invited Harley-Davidson motorcycle riders to camp at the city's graveyard during this summer's 100th anniversary celebration, which could net the cemetery hundreds of thousands of dollars. The bikers would be confined to a 10-acre plot that does not contain graves.

Contributed by Terry Altheide

Pennsylvania -- From the *American Funeral Director*, April, 2003: "Biker Burials Celebrate One-Year Anniversary." A custom-built motorcycle hearse that is actually a sidecar assembly attached to a Harley-Davidson Road King may be available to transport the casket of an avid rider to a cemetery. It is the invention of Albert Skinner of Wrightsville, PA. Web site: [www.bikerburials.com](http://www.bikerburials.com)

Gettysburg Police turn to Rootsweb: Little Emma Grace Coming Home -- Vee L. Housman. Even though the Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg can't locate a record as to where the remains of Emma Essick (1876-1878) may have eventually been buried there, the cemetery has already taken the stone. It will be placed on the plot where her parents are buried. Emma's small stone was turned over to the local police a year ago and they turned to Rootsweb, an Internet genealogical web site for assistance when the Adams Historical Society couldn't find a record of her death.

A workshop on "Reading Tombstones of Pioneer Cemeteries in Western Pennsylvania" was held on August 19, 2003, sponsored by the North Hills Genealogists. Information on preserving vintage inscriptions on fragile grave markers was presented.  
[www.NorthHillGenealogists.org](http://www.NorthHillGenealogists.org) or  
[pioneerbook@juno.com](mailto:pioneerbook@juno.com)

Kentucky -- Information on Kentucky Cemetery Preservation Workshops is available from Ann Johnson; Cemetery Preservation Program; Kentucky Historical Society; 100 West Broadway; Frankfort, Kentucky.  
Phone 502-564-1792.  
E-mail: [AnnG.Johnson@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:AnnG.Johnson@mail.state.ky.us)

Alabama -- From *Capper's*, July 22, 2003: "Lost for decades, slave cemetery now preserved by descendant," by Bob Johnson. Pictured is Donald Stone kneeling at the grave of his ancestor Marina Rivers at the old slave cemetery in Snow Hill, Ala. Rivers died July 31, 1898 and over the past 10 years, Stone has made an effort to clean up and preserve the graveyard. He believes that more than 100 people were buried there, although few headstones remain. He recently got word that he can fence the area to keep logging trucks out.

New York -- From *Capper's*, June 10, 2003: "Graves of Frederick Douglass' kin discovered," by Ben Dobbin. The long-forgotten graves of Douglass's eldest daughter, Rosetta Sprague and her family have been located in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, NY. Rosetta was a focal point in Douglass's 12-year battle to open Rochester's public school to blacks. He later sent her to a private school in Albany and hired tutors for her and her four siblings. The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery was set up in 1980 to help restore the nation's first municipal Victorian cemetery to its former glory.

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Jewish Week*, June 6, 2003: "Weeding out an Eyesore," by Julie Wiener. Beverly Rapiz, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Brooklyn, NY, participated in a cleanup effort sponsored by the church in May. Approximately 300 Mormon volunteers helped clean the 161-year-old Bayside Cemetery in Ozone Park, Queens, a Jewish burial ground owned by the Congregation Shaare Zedek.

Michigan -- From Ryan Boswell of Arcadia Publishing: "Detroit's Woodlawn Cemetery," by A. Dale Northup. The release of the book, *Images of America: Detroit's Woodlawn Cemetery* provides a repository of community memory, exquisite architectural structures, and lasting tributes to the departed. The author is an architectural historian, journalist, and scholar. He is Professor Emeritus at St. Clair County Community College and has been an adjunct professor at University of Michigan-Dearborn and Lawrence Technological University. The book is available at Barnes and Nobles, Borders, Waldenbooks, Books-A-Million, local independent retailers, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com); [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com)

England -- The Council for British Archaeology has a book, "Recording and Analysing Graveyards" by Harold Mytum published in 2000, ISBN 1902771095. It has a section giving different shapes, names, etc. Very detailed with many sketches and photos. It is written from the perspective of professional archaeologists.

Contributed by Mike, Redruth, Cornwall.  
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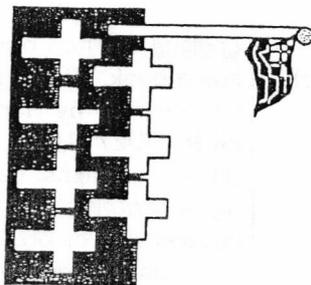
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