

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES
21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IA 52535-8045 www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/
Volume #8 Issue #4 October, 2003

It's time to think about contacting your legislators about the cemetery bill that has been developed by Dennis Britson of the Regulated Industries Division that has jurisdiction over cemeteries in the state of Iowa. Only a small portion of the bill pertains to the preservation of pioneer cemeteries. Most of the proposal deals with issues facing funeral businesses and active cemeteries. However, we still need to make ourselves known to our elected officials and tell them of our concerns about the special needs of the burial sites of our ancestors who settled the state of Iowa. Attend the forums that are held in most communities prior to and/or during the legislative session and meet your elected representative. Write a letter or an E-mail message expressing your interest in this unique aspect of historical preservation. For a copy of the proposal, contact Maureen Wilson who will have copies available at the January 10 meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries or contact Dennis Britson. See contact information for these individuals on this page and the page two of this newsletter.

The January meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Urbandale Public Library (Des Moines area). Take the 86th St. exit off I-80 which is the next one west of the Merle Hay Road Exit. 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 is available in the library restaurant -- reservations are not needed. The meeting room is available until 11:30 a.m. For information, contact Maureen Wilson; 9107 Tanglewood; Urbandale, IA 50322-7422; Telephone: 515-252-0929; E-mail: MDWILSON0@aol.com

Thanks to Maureen for arranging the October meeting, also held at the Urbandale Library. It is a beautiful facility, centrally located, and easy to access. Hope to see you there in January!

From Michael Leonard leonard@neb.rr.com
At our local funeral home families are given the opportunity to chose the music they would like to enter the service to. One family requested the Elvis Presley hit "Love Me Tender." The day of the funeral arrived and the music started. Unfortunately the wrong track number was entered into the CD player and the family walked in to "Return to Sender."

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WHERE TO GET PROBES

Agri-Drain
340 St.
Adair, IA 50002
1-800-232-4742
Sizes range from 4 1/2' to 8'. \$18.50 and up

WHERE TO GET EPOXY

GRANQUARTZ Stone Tools and Equipment
P.O. BOX 2206
Tucker, GA 30085-2206
1-800-458-6222
http://www.granquartz.com

3-M 1838 B/A TAN EPOXY
GENEX 1700 2nd Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50314
515-266-4656

GCT Stone Epoxy and Hardener
Granite City Tool Co.
PO Box 411 11 Blackwell St.
Barre, VT 05641 1-800-451-4570
granitecitytoolvt.com mkewinter@aol.com

WHERE TO GET SIGNS

Iowa Prison Industries
Box B
Anamosa, IA 52205
1-800-336-5863 Ask for Tammy Deseberg

VETERANS' HEADSTONES

See <http://www.cem.va.gov/hm.htm>
Or telephone 1-800-687-6947

STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR

Dennis N. Britson, Director
Regulated Industries Unit
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515-281-4441

SAPIC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The quarterly meeting of SAPIC was held at the library in Urbandale on October 5, 2003. President Joyce Weise called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. There were 14 people in attendance. Thanks to Marlene Wilson for getting the library for us to meet in.

In the absence of the secretary, the minutes were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Valerie Ogren gave the treasurers report. It was approved as given.

Benton County sent a thank you card for the SAPIC grant given to them.

Larry Davis gave a report on the SAPIC Grant Program as follows:

The SAPIC Grant Program officially began accepting grant applications in January 2003. The current policy for funding the program provides up to 25% of funds assigned to the SAPIC reserve account.

Since the Grant Program began in January 2003, three grants have been issued:

\$200.00 Farley Cemetery & Old Newburg Cemetery in
Mitchell County, April 2003.

\$200.00 Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. April 2003

\$250.00 Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. July 2003

\$650.00 Total

This leaves a balance of \$45.00. The Grant Committee has elected to not issue any additional grants until adequate additional funds are received.

The need for financial assistance for cemetery preservation is certainly evident by the amount of funding requested in the five grant applications received since January 2003. A total of \$23,114.00 was requested. The SAPIC Grant Program was able to fund only \$650.00, which is 2.8% of that amount.

Pat Shaw gave a report on the meeting with Dennis Britson on House bill 633. This bill has been in the works since 1998. The part about access to cemeteries had been taken out last year but may be added later. Pat also said that every county should have a list of their pioneer cemeteries to Dennis Britson as soon as possible. As many Legislators would like to know how many are in the state.

There was no old business.

New business:

Election of officers was held and all officers were re-elected to their respective position.

Valerie Ogren suggested that we should have meetings in the western part of the state or to have the meetings centralized.

Larry Davis suggested a 2-day meeting with a board meeting, a business meeting, and speakers.

Valerie Ogren made the motion that "the president appoint a committee to select a place in each of four quadrants of the state to have SAPIC's quarterly meetings." This would hopefully increase the number of members in attendance at our meetings. Marilyn Schmidt seconded. Motion carried.

There was discussion for some time on the pro and cons of having our October meeting in conjunction with the I.G.S. Conference.

Linda Zintz and Larry Davis volunteered to plan a 2-day meeting. President Weise appointed them and Molly Beason to be the committee to select the places for the quarterly meetings on the 2nd Saturday of the months, January, April, July, and October.

Pat Shaw made the announcement that the Robert Carter Award would be presented to Mike Magee on October 18, 2003 at the Bennington Township Cemetery in Blackhawk County. Mike is more than deserving of this award so if you can make it to the presentation it would be appreciated.

Larry Davis suggested that every body think about other uses for the grant money besides working on cemeteries. New ideas are welcome.

County reports were given by:

Marilyn Schmidt on Jasper County

Pat Shaw on Lee, Van Buren, and Mahaska Counties

Larry Davis on Iowa County

Valerie Ogren on Greene County

Molly Beason on Poweshiek

Joyce Weise on Tama County

Linda Zintz on Appanoose County

Next meeting will be the second Saturday of January with the place determined by the committee.

Marilyn Schmidt made the motion to adjourn. Marlene Wilson seconded. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Ethel McVay, Secretary Pro Tem

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 3rd Quarter - 1 July 2003 thru 30 September 2003

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2003, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$5251.78

Income

Dues	230.00
Interest 7/31/03	1.13
Interest 8/31/03	.89
Interest 9/30/03	<u>.98</u>
Total Income	\$233.00

Expense

Ck #147 - Patricia Shaw - newsletter	<u>63.22</u>
Total Expense	\$ 63.22

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2003 \$5421.56

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2003, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$2373.39

Income

Life Membership - Lavern Lammers	<u>100.00</u>
Total Income	\$100.00

Expense

UNI Foundation -	Ck # 145 - 100.00
Benton Co. Cem. Comm. - SAPIC Grant	Ck # 146 - <u>250.00</u>
Total Expense	\$350.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2003 \$2123.39

I am keeping an accounting of the amount which had been held in savings and have added Life Memberships and Memorials to it; however, all the money is in one account at the bank.

Combined Balance on Hand 30 September 2003 \$7544.95

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

PLEASE SEND DUES TO VALERIE OGRENI
\$10 INDIVIDUAL
\$15 HOUSEHOLD
\$20 ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS
\$100 INDIVIDUAL LIFETIME

Thanks to Mike Magee for locating this information, all from the web site of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints: www.familysearch.org/Eng/library/fhcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=topicdetail&subject=34660&subject_disp=Iowa+%2D+Ceme

Cemetery directory of Amish and Mennonites in Iowa, Johnson and Washington counties of Iowa Gingerich, Mary A.

Cemetery records of Iowa Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Genealogical Society. Volunteer workers.

Cemetery records of Iowa Flake, Marion Stewart

Cemetery records of Iowa: Polk and Appanoose counties Taylor, Sybil

Cemetery records of various Iowa counties
Cemetery relocations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas St. Louis Genealogical Society (St. Louis, Missouri)

Civil War veterans burials from various states Pompey, Sherman Lee

Grand Army of the Republic records, Iowa posts: indexes to veterans; post membership records Grand Army of the Republic.

Department of Iowa

Iowa cemeteries Iowa. State Department of History and Archives

Iowa Cemetery and grave records by Grave Registration Project of the W.P.A. and D.

A.R. Iowa. State Department of History and Archives

Iowa cemetery inscriptions

Iowa cemetery locations: regions

4,6,7,8,9,1,2, and 5. Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines, Iowa)

Iowa cemetery records Fawkes, Lotty Jo Evans

Iowa grave records and genealogical date, 1800-1900 Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa)

Iowa marriage and cemetery records, 1945 Daughters of the American Revolution (Iowa)

Don't have a computer? You can learn how to access the Internet from your local public library or Family History Center.

From Wendy Ledbetter wendyl@ezclick.net
Gurdon, Arkansas:

I'm an editor with *Family History Magazine*, formerly *Everton's Genealogical Helper*. I'm a professional journalist but NEW to genealogy/family history. I'm out to learn as much as I can and I subscribe to lots of (Internet) mailing lists. I've found that the folks who participate in the lists are a great source of information/ideas to me. I'm planning an article about indexing cemeteries. I figure I can get some ideas/opinions from these lists before I start writing. I look forward to some interesting conversations. Thanks!

From Ryan Boxwell, Marketing Assistant,
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Arcadia is America's leading publisher of local and regional history books. Each of our titles includes more than 200 vintage photographs detailed by historically informative text. At Arcadia, we are currently publishing several cemetery titles that span the country, that all members of your organization and visitors to your site would enjoy. I would be happy to send you jpegs or samples for review. Individual purchases can be made by visiting our website, Amazon, and other national booksellers, or by calling our order hotline number at 1-888-313-2665.

From *Reader's Digest "How in the World?"*
Ingenious Solutions and Artful Ideas: "How does a dowser find underground water or minerals, using only a rod?" The article explores the history of dowsing and some scientific theories to explain its success in finding coal veins, mineral seams, pipelines, underground cables, and water. Albert Einstein thought the answer probably lay in electromagnetism. A dowser's muscles may react when he unconsciously tunes in to minute fluctuations caused by underground

water or other disturbances. A French researcher, Professor Yves Rocard of the Ecole Normale, Paris, claims that a good dowser has less electrical resistance between the palms of the hands than a poor dowser. Robert Ashford, a British dowser employed by Dorset County Council, described in 1977 how he felt electric shocks all over his body when he was near underground water.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Nov. 22, 2003: "Archaeologist discovers parts of New Testament verse." Pictured is a drawing of two Greek inscriptions uncovered on the facade of an ancient funerary monument in Jerusalem's Kidron Valley. The vertical inscription, found recently, refers to Simon the Just, a devout Jew who the Bible says cradled the infant Jesus and recognized him as the Messiah (Luke 2:25). The drawing was made by tracing a cast of the badly scarred facade. The inscription declares the 60-foot-high monument is the tomb of Simon. It was studied by applying a "squeeze" -- a simple 19th century technique of spreading a kind of papier mache over a surface. This is believed to be the first discovery of a New Testament verse carved onto an ancient Holy Land shrine.

From the *AGS Quarterly*: The Bulletin of the Association for Gravestone Studies, Vol. 27, No. 1 (Winter 2003), under the "Conservation News" section. The article, "Cemetery Landscapes," is by Fred Oakley with input from Martha Lyon of Northampton, Massachusetts. It deals with the lack of resources of many cemeteries to deal with the care of trees and shrubs at the perimeter or among the stones in cemeteries. The consequence is often the destruction of historic gravestones and monuments. Often, individual family memorials are obscured by untended growth of shrubs. The authors address the opportunities for successfully dealing with these conditions.

TREES. They can envelope stones if left to untended growth. Removing the offending tree and extracting the stone is difficult, but possible. The offending tree is sacrificed.

Stones can be damaged or completely destroyed when trees fall because of weather condition or age. Root systems of trees dislocate stones. Every effort should be made to remove and/or trim offending trees. Lacking funds for this, one should approach tree care companies for pro bono assessments. If trees are desired, replanting varieties indigenous to the area on the perimeter of the cemetery is effective. Thin the canopies to reduce resistance to high wind. Some states offer matching grants for landscape maintenance through their departments of environmental management. SHRUBS. Untended shrubs can be removed or pruned to remove growth impacting the stone. Attempting to communicate with descendants can remove the liability to volunteers or maintenance workers. Be careful that root systems of shrubs have not become part of the support system of mausoleums or stones. Before and after photographs of the site could be retained to substantiate the need to have removed or pruned the shrub should any question arise.

Many pioneer cemeteries in Iowa have become covered with day lilies or yucca plants that obscure the stones and whose roots systems even cause upheaval of stones. One or more applications of Roundup will eventually eliminate such plants. Regular mowing of the cemetery helps keep offending plants from excessive growth.

From *Forbes magazine*, October, 2003, "World's Best Cemeteries 2003," by Betsy Schiffman. The author explores the reasons for choosing a particular burial site: pleasant greenswards, neoclassic monuments, orderly rows of stones and flowers, being entombed with family or historical figures, or just making sure the site will be well-tended. A traditional burial, as opposed to cremation, can easily cost \$10,000. While the rich and famous can afford to rest where they choose, it is ironic that the graves of thousands of Americans are located in neglected historic cemeteries.

SAPIC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

COUNTY REPORTS

Appanoose

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 6, 2003, "Greene's grave mistake was 'blown out of proportion'" by Dan Ehl, Southern Iowa Newspaper Group. A controversy arose when an attempt was made by Bob Greene, Centerville City Council member, and a group of volunteers to permanently install metal veteran markers on veterans' monuments in Oakland Cemetery. Council member, Bill Milani stated that he had received two complaints that holes were drilled in monuments instead of foundations for the markers. A group of veterans who had served as volunteers for the project were present at the council meeting to defend Greene's actions. They were also prepared to rectify any damage done, if family members react negatively to the installation of permanent markers. Members of the council stressed that they were not blaming the volunteers.

Blackhawk

Mike Magee of Waterloo, Iowa, was honored on October 18 for his work in restoring cemetery monuments in Blackhawk County and eastern Iowa. Mike received the Robert Carter Award in the Bennington Township Cemetery northeast of Waterloo where he has done considerable restoration work. Phyllis Carter, chairperson of the Carter Award Committee, presented the award that is given each year in memory of her husband, Robert, who had an interest in the preservation of pioneer cemeteries and their monuments. Following the presentation, seeds from prairie plants in the cemetery were collected by the group led by Bruce Stiles of Cedar Falls. Refreshments and fellowship at the St. John's Lutheran Church followed the ceremony. Special thanks to Ivan and Mary Jane Averhoff for opening the church. Mike also demonstrated the straightening of a large monument in the St. John's cemetery adjacent to Bennington Township.

CONGRATULATIONS, MIKE!

Mike has straightened the stones in Turner aka Shaulis Road Cemetery using his new jack.

Blackhawk, continued

Contributed by Mike Magee & Frieda Davis
From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, November 10, 2003, "Uncommon Undertaking -- Student wins Hoover scholarship for Dike Cemetery Project," by Jessica Miller. Pictured is Joshua Tapper, 17, at the entrance to the Lincoln Township Cemetery near Dike, Iowa. Joshua has beautified the cemetery and has also compiled a comprehensive record of the tombstones for a scholarship competition. As a result, he earned a \$5,000 Herbert Hoover uncommon student scholarship in October, partly by reenacting some of his ancestors buried there. The scholarship contest is sponsored by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association. Joshua sent letters to descendants and interested persons that brought in more than \$7,000 for the project. The article quotes Herbert Hoover from his speech, "On the Uncommon Man:"

"Let us remember that the great human advances have not been brought about by mediocre men and women. They were brought about by distinctly uncommon men and women with vital sparks of leadership."

Buchanan

Contributed by Marlene Brown
The Buchanan County Pioneer Commission held its first official meeting July 31, 2003. The county supervisors had appointed 9 members to the commission who are meeting monthly. Bill Reedy was elected chairman and Ellen Foland, archivist. Twenty-six cemetery sites were listed as potential pioneer cemeteries and through investigation of land records and historical research, the list is now at 18. Signs marking the location and history of 3 pioneer cemeteries have been erected and 3 more ordered and planning to be installed before the ground freezes. In October, the commission members had a county tour to visit pioneer cemeteries. Other activities have included presentations by the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery officers and by the county auditor on

searching deeds.

BUTLER

Contributed by Carolyn Landergott

The Hardman Cemetery was in a sad state of disrepair, broken stones and tall weeds. Cows were pastured there. Mike Magee assisted Carolyn in the restoration of the site by digging for bases and pieces of stones, making new bases for stones and "gluing" pieces of stones together. The owner of the surrounding land, Dennis Ott, installed pole fencing around the cemetery. Carolyn is a descendant of John and Susannah Hardman whose graves are located in the cemetery.

CHICKASAW

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Third Quarter, 2003, "Pearl Rock Cemetery Restoration Completed." Pictured on the first page is the Pearl Rock Cemetery located in the southeast corner of Bradford Township that has been changed from a jungle of brush and trees to restored respectability, thanks to Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission members and friends. A story of the project along with pictures appeared in the *New Hampton Tribune* on August 22, 2003. It also was printed in two other county papers. A program of dedication was held on August 10 with Chickasaw Commission Chair, Fred Reisner of Fredericksburg, speaking along with Kim Waller of Belmont who spoke on behalf of her relatives whose ancestors' graves are there, and historian, Jeanette Kottke. A Civil War reenactment was held in honor of veteran Frank Slawson. SAPIC members Mike Magee, Steve Story, and Donna Story, who assisted with the restoration, attended. Refreshments were served by the Nashua Women of Today.

FLOYD

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Des Moines Register*, July 30, 2003, "Beloved Pets rest in peace at animals-only cemetery." Arlyn and Shirley Kukhan of Charles City have set aside an area that was once a hay field for the purpose of burying beloved pets. The cemetery, started 20 years

ago, contains the remains of over 400 pets.

IOWA

The Spicer-Spooner Cemetery east of Homestead, Iowa has been cleaned, stones repaired, fenced, gravel road installed, and a sign has been erected along Highway 6. This restoration project was spearheaded by Sandy Snyder of Cedar Rapids whose ancestors' graves are located in the cemetery. The Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission financed the project. SAPIC member, Larry Davis, was hired to repair the stones. A note of thanks was received from a grateful descendant of Nathan Spicer, Carolyn Spicer Carney. The grave of Newell Wright, ancestor of SAPIC member, Pat Shaw, is also located there.

JONES

Contributed by LaVerta Langenberg

The names of Steve Story, Donna Story, Darrell Wherry, and Gerry Wherry should have been included in the story about the restoration of the John Paul Beers Cemetery that appeared in the last issue of *Grave News*. Steve and Donna Story have also spent many hours on the Glenn Cemetery. Ron Ruess reports that he and his FFA Group will restore the Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Submitted by Steve Hanken

In the *Monticello Express*, February 19, 1885; R. A. Rynerson gives the location of the first burial on Bowens Prairie: Alfred Danson who was six years old. The burial was in a small grove near the house on the SW NE of Section 9. It is the first burial recorded in Richland Township.

AUDUBON

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Des Moines Register*, May 25, 2003, "Stop and read the headstones -- you'll find the sources of America's greatness," by Charles Carpenter. In this essay, the author uses the Viola Township Cemetery in northeast Audubon County as an example of how a rural cemetery can provide clues to the cultural heritage of a community. He states that "perhaps the common folks were the

greatest heroes."

LEE

Contributed by Terry Altheide
From the *Daily Gate City*, September 30, 2003, "Association observes first Pioneer Patriot's Day Oct. 4." The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association has designated the first Saturday in October as Pioneer Patriot's Day. The many veterans who served during the United State's early conflicts and are buried in the county's pioneer cemeteries were honored at the ceremony. The event was held at the Colvin Cemetery in rural Keokuk. The American Legion Post #41 and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #41 provided an honor guard particularly honoring Benjamin Brown, the only veteran buried at Colvin. Following is a copy of the proclamation issued by the State of Iowa regarding Pioneer Patriot's Day:

State of Iowa
Executive Department

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

- WHEREAS, IOWA CITIZENS ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE SACRIFICES THAT OUR VETERANS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR CHERISHED LIBERTIES; AND
- WHEREAS, THE APPRECIATION AND RESPECT FOR OUR EARLY PIONEER PATRIOTS FINAL RESTING PLACES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND HONORED BY THOSE OF US WHO BENEFIT FROM THE SACRIFICES MADE DURING OUR NATIONS EARLY CONFLICTS; AND
- WHEREAS, PRIDE AND UNDYING RESPECT FOR OUR VENERABLE VETERANS PROMOTES A PASSION IN AND RESPECT FOR OUR PAST; AND
- WHEREAS, IT IS WITH PASSION FOR OUR VENERABLE VETERANS THAT WE DEDICATE THE FIRST SATURDAY IN OCTOBER TO THE PRESERVATION AND CARE OF IOWA'S PIONEER PATRIOTS GRAVES WITH HALLOWED REVERENCE FOREVERMORE:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM OCTOBER 4, 2003, AS

PIONEER PATRIOTS DAY

IN IOWA, AND URGE CITIZENS TO APPRECIATE ALL THOSE WHO STRIVE TO PRESERVE AND CARE FOR ALL OF OUR HALLOWED AND SACRED VETERANS GRAVES.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 13TH DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND THREE.

Thomas J. Vilsack
THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:
Chester J. Culver
CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE



LEE, continued

From the *Daily Gate City*, October 7, 2003, "Black Civil War soldier honored during Patriot's Day." Pictured is Terry Altheide, president of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, speaking during the Pioneer Patriot's Day ceremony at Colvin Cemetery in Montrose Township, along with members of the American Legion Post #41. Fifty-three people attended the ceremony. Especially honored was Benjamin Brown, Co E 1 Regiment Iowa Infantry. Brown enrolled on Sept. 24, 1863 in Eddyville and was mustered out on Oct. 15, 1865 at DeValls Bluff, Ark. He died in 1887. The following tribute to Brown was given by Terry: "Today, we pay a long overdue thank you to such a veteran, born a slave in Tennessee who volunteered his faith in the great adventure called freedom, so that we, 116 years after his death, could walk as free men and women." Terry further commented that "Though Colvin Cemetery is a well maintained site, scores of Lee County pioneer graveyards are in deplorable condition. Many of these early burial grounds have veterans from every conflict since the War of 1812 and up to the First World War. No veteran whether they served during war or in peaceful times, should lie in graves decimated from the ravages of time, abandoned by the apathy of citizens or victimized by vandals."

From the *Daily Gate City*, October 17, 2003, "Halloween: Chilling word for preservationists," by Terry Altheide. Terry addresses the issue of vandalism that often occurs at Halloween time and the image that Hollywood has created about cemeteries that may contribute to the crime. He recounts two episodes of vandalism that occurred in Lee County, one in 1912 and the other only one year ago. In 1912, a band of "merry pranksters" snatched a "Bob White Cigar" wooden Indian and placed it atop a monument for Chief Keokuk whose remains are interred in Keokuk's Rand Park. It spurred concerned citizens to erect a proper statue of Keokuk. In 2002, 166 stones were knocked over by

THANKS FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

vandals in 2 cemeteries near Franklin. So far, those responsible have not been identified. Terry says of this act, "Hopefully, these dastardly darlings from the devil's workshop who slithered through the home of the dead during the black of night will one day be caught. When they are, I hope they're required to work long hours in area cemeteries. Maybe, just maybe, these vacant minded vandals can become vociferous voices echoing remorse for the pain and suffering they've caused so many."

On October 22, 2003 an observance to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of the Chief Keokuk Statue was held in Rand Park, Keokuk, Iowa. The event was sponsored by the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association and the Medicine Eagle Pow Wow Council. The monument to Chief Keokuk of the Sac Tribe is said to be the only one erected to an Indian which has deposited in its base the bones of the Indian so honored. The statue is the work of Nellie Walker of Iowa, who was commissioned by the Keokuk Chapter, DAR, to make it. The face of the statue was modeled from a daguerreotype of the old Chief. The following remarks were given by Terry Altheide, president of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association at the ceremony:

"This monument to Chief Keokuk, unveiled 90 years ago today, stands vigil over the great Father of Waters, the Mississippi. Though today's river is far different from the untamed rapids that Chief Keokuk viewed, perhaps from the very bluff we now stand upon, I believe it could serve as a reminder to what Isaac Watts, the great hymn writer, wrote:

"Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all it's sons away,
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day."

Let us remember, that Keokuk, the namesake of our city, had dreams as we all do, some fulfilled, some not. And let us, the living, remember not only the pioneers who were the foundation of the change we view today, but

remember likewise the great people who viewed the lands that time helped to forge before change came about. This statue not only stands vigil over today's placid river view, but also stands as a reminder that vigilance was once a way of life in an untamed frontier.

From the *Daily Gate City*, October 31, 2003, "Unveiling of Chief Keokuk Statue remembered with wreath." Pictured is Terry Altheide and Dee Hagmeier as they hold a wreath that was placed at the Chief Keokuk Statue in Rand Park. It commemorated the 90th anniversary of the unveiling of the statue, at which John Earl Keokuk, a grandson of Chief Keokuk was present.

From the *West Point Bee*, November 6, 2003, "Cemetery Association cleans up at Pitman Cemetery," by Arnold Dischler, treasurer of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association. Two photos and a story about the Pitman pioneer cemetery located 2 miles east of West Point nearly cover the front page of the newspaper. One picture shows members of the Pioneer Cemetery Association as they prepare to tackle the brush and undergrowth at the cemetery on November 1. Also shown is the stone for Archibald Cooley, a Civil War soldier who died at Shiloh, that was uncovered by the workers. At the bottom of the monument, after careful removal of dirt, the inscription, "He loved his country," was revealed. There is some controversy about whether Cooley's remains are actually at Pitman or at the National Cemetery at Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee. Corporal Cooley was honored at the Association's first Annual Banquet on November 7 by the reading of a poem entitled, "Shiloh."

On November 7, the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association held its banquet at the Homestead Restaurant in West Point, Iowa. Included in the program were "Shiloh -- A Requiem" by Herman Melville, "Dirge for a Soldier," by George Henry Boker, "Cemetery," by Josh Miller, a student at Van

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING SAPIC!

Buren High School, "All Quiet Along the Potomac," by Ethel Lynn Beers, and "A Farmer's Last Will," printed on the back of the memorial folder of a Garnet, KS farmer.

The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association has developed a schedule for the year 2004, including regular monthly meetings and workdays scheduled the first and third Saturdays of each month from February through October.

An application for membership in the Association has been developed by treasurer, Arnold Dischler, and is reproduced on the following page.

From the *Daily Gate City*, November 10, 2003, "Let's not take them for granted," by Terry Altheide. Terry uses two songs from War of 1812 era to introduce the fact that Lee County cemeteries contain the graves of several veterans from that long ago conflict. Three lie in cemeteries recently cleaned up by the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association: Andrew Oilar, Isaac Beeler, and John Malcom. A fourth was named Frank Ballinger who was a drummer boy during the war. He was a circuit judge before coming to Iowa. His grave is in a "lost" cemetery near Sandusky. None of these men received a military tribute at the time of their deaths. With that in mind, Lee County created Pioneer Patriot's Day set aside the first Saturday in October of each year to honor these unknown heroes buried in small, neglected and abandoned cemeteries. Terry ends the column with thanks to the men who serve as honor guards at veterans' funerals and reminds the reader to "not take them for granted."

LINN

The African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa located at 55 - 12th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids held its grand opening on September 19 and 20, 2003.

Web site: www.blackiowa.com

BENTON

Contributed by Frieda Davis

From the *Vinton Times*, September 18, 2003, "Repair of stones continues at Pioneer Cemeteries," photos by Dean Close. Pictured are volunteers, Gene Davis and Alford Schwartz, as they work in the U.B./Dewalt Cemetery in Taylor Township, southeast of Vinton on 62nd Street. They are shown setting old stones in new foundations. Recently, an Iowa State professor and his wife spent three weekends at the cemetery, helping to repair the tombstones of his great-grandparents. Some of the stones date back to 1860.

LOUISA

Contributed by Connie Street
ckcasey@louisacomm.net

From the *Muscatine Journal*, November, 2003, Oakville, Iowa: It was an act of love - the love of history -- that spurred Richard Lehnert and wife, Jane, to restore an early Louisa County cemetery. In 1992, Lehnert discovered the old Smith Cemetery in disrepair and took photographs of the site. These became the centerpiece of 1996 legislation that created the definition of a pioneer cemetery and made it possible for each county in Iowa to have its own Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Dean Gipple of Columbus Junction led the push for legislation, and both he and Lehnert became members of Louisa County's commission. The article goes on to mention how Lehnert cut trees, put stones back in place, and made a sign. The workmanship of the grave markers, wrought iron fence and hinges are the work of a craftsman. The cemetery may have been used by neighbors who lived in the vicinity or have some connection to persons of the Mormon faith, as it is often referred to as the Mormon Cemetery.

Connie's husband, Keith, is one of the founders of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries. Connie writes regularly for the *Muscatine Journal* and other publications.

Pat: Thought you'd like to see the application that Arnold Dischler made up.

LEE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

A pioneer cemetery is one with less than six burials in the past 50 years. In Lee County, Iowa, there exist in excess of fifty pioneer cemeteries, most in dire need of restoration and preservation. Plagued by vandalism, greed, the ravages of time and neglect, our historic burial sites have been nearly destroyed. By joining the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, you can do something to help in the restoration and preservation of these cemeteries and the history they present.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Dues

Individual — \$10.00

Family — \$15.00

Students (under age 16) — free membership (if parents are non-members)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Township: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

E-mail: _____

WORK SPECIALTY: Believing that every person, no matter what age or physical status, has a special talent or gift that can be maximized for the benefit of the association, we are requesting that you share it with us. Please indicate the area of expertise or interest that you would be willing to render to the association.

Circle areas of expertise or interest:

Brush and/or tree removal	Photographer at work sites
Mowing	Consultation
Tombstone restoration	Attend seminars on behalf of the association
Promote the association by contacting: FFA, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church Youth Groups, etc.	Preparation of food and/or seek donations of food for clean-up crews
Man informational booths at local events	Pick up & deliver food to work sites
Other:	Other:

Please complete the requested information. Make checks payable to:
LEE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

Thank you!

MAHASKA

Contributed by Jo Vernooy

A Rededication Day for the DeLong/DeLashmutt Cemetery located in Garfield Township was held on September 13, 2003 at the St. James Episcopal Church in Oskaloosa, Iowa. The day's activities included a historical review of Mahaska County, family histories, review of the restoration project, lunch, and a Rededication Service followed by an Open House and refreshments at the church.

An article appeared in the *Oskaloosa Herald* prior to the Rededication Day announcing the event and inviting the public to attend. The article also tells of the history of the families whose graves are located in the cemetery -- the DeLashmutt, DeLong, and Wilson families who settled together in Mahaska County and remained friends throughout their lives. The DeLashmutt and DeLong families each donated a half acre of adjoining ground to create the Six Mile Cemetery in 1854; later it became known by their names. As with many old cemeteries, it fell into disrepair. In 1997, the Mahaska County Board of Supervisors established the Mahaska County Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries and in 1998, work on the restoration of this cemetery began.

After the Rededication Day, another story was printed in the *Oskaloosa Herald* telling of the day's activities. Due to the rain that fell on September 13, most of the approximately eighty persons in attendance chose not to visit the cemetery. They met in the sanctuary of the 1869 St. James Episcopal Church building for the day's activities, including the rededication ceremony. Plans had been made to transport the attendees from the public road to the Cemetery by mule/horse and wagon and having a mule pull a wagon with a coffin to the cemetery, with pallbearers and priest walking behind. Instead, a bucket of earth was taken from the cemetery, and a coffin with a floral offering lying on top were placed near the altar of the Church. The earth was blessed by Father Terrence Kleven,

Priest-in-Charge of St. James. After the ceremony, a dozen or so family members and members of the Pioneer Cemetery Commission braved the rain and mud and took the consecrated earth back to the Cemetery where one-half was placed on the DeLong portion and one-half on the DeLashmutt portion of the Cemetery.

Family members from as far away as California, Texas and Michigan, and many from Iowa were present. The majority of the family members attending had never met, but had corresponded mainly as a result of the restoration of the Cemetery. Because of this project, family alliances have been forged and genealogy information has been shared.

Without the foresight of the Mahaska County Board of Supervisors, concerned citizens and family members, this Pioneer Cemetery might have been lost and this piece of Mahaska County history gone forever.

Copies of the complete articles mentioned in *Grave News* may be obtained from the contributor or from Pat Shaw (address on page 2).

MITCHELL

Contributed by Neal DuShane

E-mail dated October 11, 2003: Great work day at Dudley yesterday. Sunny, 82 degrees, Japanese beetles, chain saw, wire cutters (barbed wire from the line fence...still more under the sod but hard to get at). We managed a huge ditch bonfire that lasted most of the day. We had to be careful. It's still kind of dry and several ditch fires in the area have gotten out of control this past week. We got along with muscle, sweat, and grit...no big tractors and toys to help us along. We're just poor folk, Didn't realize how much down wood (logs/limbs) was out there under the trees. The ground there is hard as rock at this time. I brought along a probe for kicks but it didn't have enough power...wondered if the MCPCRP budget could tolerate a diamond bit drill. An additional benefit of working out there yesterday is that we had several stop-by visitors to see how we

were doing. Don Risting (owner) came by twice...it was good. Two neighbors came by and were pleased with the efforts of MCPCRP. It's coming along. Will try to get in touch with Jody Staff to see if he can come with a truck some day and we can tote off a lot of stuff that we cut and piled up. Decisions will have to be made as to how and where to replace stones that we have. It's probably ready to do the "Dudley Marker," if that's in the works. We might be able to set the cement base on-site if we know the dimensions or have a form. However, making the monument and transporting it to Dudley is another matter.

MONROE

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 15, 2003, "Schedule set for Salute to Southern Iowa Coal Miners," by Sally Finder-Koziol, Southern Iowa Newspaper Group. The 3-day event sponsored by William Penn University, Penn Central Mall, Oskaloosa Public Library, Mahaska County Conservation and the Oskaloosa Area Chamber and Development Group paid tribute to those who worked in the coal mines in southern Iowa. On Saturday, a workshop was given by SAPIC member, Rosalie Mullinix who also led a trip to the Buxton Cemetery. Eric Smith from Chicago, who had family members at Buxton, and Allen Anderson, presented a history of Buxton.

CLAY

Contributed by Barbara Carroll

From *The Daily Reporter*, Spencer, Iowa, September 23, 2003, "A Walk Back Through History," by Randy M. Cauthron, Managing Editor. A front page story with a picture of an angel statue tells of the upcoming historic cemetery walk to be held at the Riverside Cemetery in Spencer, Iowa on Sept 28. The event was sponsored by the Parker Historical Society of Clay County. Ticket holders were guided through the cemetery to nine burial sites of some of Clay County's integral founding figures: LeRoy Whitney, a Civil War soldier who recalled Lincoln's funeral,

Leonard Carter, Rev. David Nelson Coats, Garret and Martha Marcellus, Joseph and Emily O'Brien, E. Joy Roberts, Roy Webb, Albert and Martha Perine, and Oscar Stouffer. Each character was represented by a costumed actor who shared the details of the former citizen's life. A group of reading students at the Spencer Middle School assisted the Parker Historical Society in preparing and researching background materials for the tour. Refreshments followed the tour.

From *The Daily Reporter*, Spencer, Iowa, September 30, 2003, "Ghosts from the Past," by Randy M. Cauthron. A full back page of the newspaper is given to the story of the first successful cemetery tour held in the Riverside Cemetery in Spencer. Large color pictures show 3 reenactments of some of Spencer's historic figures from the past. The tour, "Voices from the Past," was a joint project of the Parker Museum, Warner Funeral Home, and Warner Monument. At least 115 persons attended the tour that generated about \$1000 for the Parker Museum general fund. The sponsors, actors, and audience agreed that history is retained much more effectively by viewing such portrayals than from reading a history book. Jerry Fastenow portrayed LeRoy Whitney, who gave a first hand account of the funeral of Abraham Lincoln. Whitney also served a two-year term as Spencer mayor.

TAMA

Contributed by Joyce Wiese

From the *Inside Iowa Today*, a newspaper representing the *Dysart Reporter*, *Northern Sun-Print*, *Reinbeck Courier*, *Tama News-Herald*, and the *Traer Star-Clipper*, September 25, 2003, "From murder to "witching" -- Tama County cemetery tour proves fascinating," by Joyce Wiese, News Correspondent. A large front page story with 2 color photographs is dedicated to this article that tells of the Pioneer Cemetery Tour on September 6. A chartered motor coach filled with interested spectators toured eight cemeteries in Tama County. Joyce Wiese, one of the tour guides, is shown at the

beginning of the outing at the Tama county Home cemetery north of Toledo. The tour was sponsored by the Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission with cooperation of the Tama County Tourism Committee, Tama County Economic Development Commission, and Iowa Valley Education, along with financial backing from the 3 funeral businesses in the county, the County Board of Supervisors, and donations from private individuals and community organizations. Joyce stresses that this event proved to be a real tourism booster to the county. In addition to county-wide participation, persons from all four surrounding counties attended. Cemeteries visited were: County Home where the grave of the first recorded murder victim and a 100-year old chestnut tree are located, Fee Chapel, Baker's Grove, Wheaton, Dinsdale, Union Grove, Conant, and Mattingly. Demonstrations of witching and using flour to read the print on old stones were given at Union Grove Cemetery. These historic burial sites have been restored due to the efforts of the Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

VAN BUREN

Contributed by Don Aldrich and Pat Shaw
In an E-mail dated October 13, 2003, Don reported: "We spent Sept 27th with the Blackledge Cemetery Association and performed the "Jamison Tilt" on 4 large, leaning monuments. (This refers to a method of straightening large stones developed by Windy Jamison using a large jack). A couple dozen stones were cleaned, some tree limbs trimmed, some brush cut around perimeter. Was a nice day for outdoor work.

Would like to get back to Holsworth and get the growth cut down on the entire grounds. We have cut about 1/2 of the area. I have had absolutely no favorable response from the Township Trustees to assist in growth control.

Need to return to Egypt Cemetery to set up the one final stone and base that is ready, and that will finish stone work there. I have asked the county for some dirt to fill as needed, but chances are slim that we will get

any. There is also several large unused base and fill stones that need to be carried to the stone pile.

There is also some various needs back at Oaks. As the epoxy requires 60+ temps for cure, days are going to be limited for stone repair.

I had a free day last Tuesday when Shirley and Dorothy were spending the day at Leando Cemetery (reading stones), and went to Oaks and straightened that large Hargrove monument, which was just about ready to topple 800-1,000 pounds to the ground. Was successful in saving it.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 29, 2003, "Bentonsport Cemetery Association holding workshop." The Bentonsport Cemetery Association hosted a preservation workshop on October 4 at the Bentonsport Cemetery, led by SAPIC member, Beverly Bethune, who follows the guidelines of the Association for Gravestone Studies. Participants in the workshop, which was free, learned methods of cleaning gravestones, simple resetting techniques for leaning stone, and the types of epoxies to use as adhesive for broken stones. Beverly was instrumental in forming the Wapello County Pioneer Cemetery Committee whose members have restored several cemeteries in that county. She has also led workshops in Des Moines, Monroe, Van Buren, and Wapello counties. She may be contacted at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa where she is employed as a sociology instructor or at: bbethune58@hotmail.com

WAPELLO

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 17, 2003, "Bravo to Ottumwa Community Players for Lantern Tour Into Ottumwa's Past," letter to the editor from Cathy Penniston: "Great Job Ottumwa Community Players! On Saturday, September 6th, my family and friends joined me in attending the "Lantern Tour into Ottumwa's Past," performed by the Ottumwa Community

Players. At each site along the cemetery were volunteers from Ottumwa Community Players giving insight into the lives of citizens who had spent their lives in Ottumwa and who are buried in the cemetery. This tour was both educational and fun. What a neat experience to spend a beautiful evening in the Ottumwa Cemetery learning about the history of Ottumwa! Thank you Ottumwa Community Players for a job well done."

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 1, 2003, "Thanks to those who made cemetery tour a success," letter to editor from Robert Swanson, Cemetery Superintendent and Mary Ann Lemon, Library Director: "Volunteers made the difference! On behalf of the Ottumwa Board of Cemetery Trustees and the Ottumwa Library Board, we would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of "Ottumwa's Lantern Tour Into the Past," at the Ottumwa Cemetery on September 6th. The weather was perfect and those who took the tour learned a bit of Ottumwa history. A big thank you to South Ottumwa Savings Bank for sponsoring the event. This event would not be possible without the efforts of the employees of South Ottumwa Bank, Cemetery and Library Staff, and volunteers from the community. Thank you all for making this an enjoyable evening. Your contribution made a real difference in making this a successful event. By the time the evening was over, a total of \$1,144 was collected to benefit the Ottumwa Public Library. We would like to thank those who took the tour and contributed to this worthwhile cause. Planning is underway for next year and any suggestions would be most appreciated. With over 28,000 burials in the Ottumwa Cemetery alone, there are many stories yet untold."

WASHINGTON

Contributed by Marjorie Ann Neil
The Phillips Cemetery is being restored as a Boy Scout project by Marjorie's grandson with a projected completion date of Memorial Day, 2004. Marjorie, who is the librarian at the Washington County Genealogical Library, plans to assist him with the project. The

library is located in the second story of the Washington Public Library.

WINNEBAGO

Contributed by Romona Powers-Perkins
romona p@hotmail.com

Graveyard hunting in Iowa. "My parents and I just returned from two separate family reunions in Iowa and Minnesota. While in Iowa we went to the courthouses of Worth, Winnebago, Cerro Gordo, Kossuth and Hancock Counties. We found a few records but not the one we wanted most." After searching in courthouses with no luck in finding any mention of her ancestor, Lee Barton, Romona went to the small city hall in Buffalo Center, Iowa, in Winnebago County. There she found indexed cemetery records and plat maps that contained information about Mr. Barton. She was given information about how to contact the caretaker of the cemetery, who showed them the interment card containing a wealth of information. He also took them out to the cemetery and they found all four markers for the plot. He agreed to probe the site so that a headstone could be erected in the correct spot. He also provided the name for the Bingham Township Cemetery in Hancock County where other ancestors' graves are located. Romona wants to make the point that one should check out the "little places" to look for information. She provided the caretaker of the Olena Mound and Graceland cemeteries with information on how to get the cemetery online, as his son has it all on a CD.

LEE

Contributed by Terry Altheide
From the *Daily Gate City*, Keokuk, Iowa, July 29, 2003, under wedding news: Tammy Davis and Randy Sollenberger were married June 7, 2003, at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk, with the Rev. Sandy Ingham of Burlington officiating.

SAPIC president, Joyce Wiese, will be having major back surgery soon. I'm sure she would appreciate a word of encouragement from her fellow cemetery preservationists. Her address is on page 2 of this newsletter. Vice-

president, Larry Davis, will be conducting the January 10 meeting in Urbandale, Iowa.

Web site information from Mike Magee:
www.cwc.lsu.edu/links/links10.htm#Funerals

Under Funerals and Burial Practices:

American Funeral Museum
Army Mortuary Affairs History Page
Mortuary Science and the Civil War
Civil War and Mid-Victorian Mourning Rituals
Civil War Era Headstones
Debate Continues Over Civil War Grave Markers
Disease, Death, and Mourning in Antebellum Louisiana
General DeRussy's Funeral
Mourning Experiences and the Civil War
National Museum of Funeral History
Origins of Undertaking
Reputed Civil War Remains Divide Historian and a Town
A Short History of Identification Tags
Tombstone Inscriptions in Allegheny County, PA
Undertaker, Wife Among Reenactors
The Undertaker's Role in the Civil War
Union Soldier's Grave Finally Marked After 133 Years
Wakes & Funerals
"Wife of Famous General Reinterred in Confederate Cemetery"

Submitted by Terry Altheide

The National Yellow Book of Funeral Directors is published annually by Nomis Publications, Inc.; PO Box 5159; Youngstown, Ohio 44514
1-800-321-7479 www.yelobk.com

Submitted by Pat Shaw

From the *Farm Bureau Spokesman*, "Talk to Your Legislators." Georgia Soliday, director of state legislative affairs for the Iowa Farm Bureau, spoke to 300 members and guests at the Henry County (Iowa) Farm Bureau Annual meeting on Sept. 11. Soliday spoke on what Farm Bureau has accomplished through the grassroots policy development process. She urged those present to talk to their legislators, let them know what you think -- communicate.

The life that conquers is the life that moves

with a steady resolution and persistence toward a predetermined goal. Those who succeed are those who have thoroughly learned the immense importance of plan in life, and the tragic brevity of time.

-- W. J. Davison

Contributed by Terry Altheide
(I don't want to be)

The Richest Man in the Cemetery
by Charles Newman and Allie Wrubel
I don't want to be the richest man in the cemetery,
I wanna spend, I wanna lend to any friend around,
Don't wanna wait till it's too late, and I am six feet under the ground.
I don't want to be the richest man in the cemetery,
To lose your health, obtaining wealth is certainly sin.
A fortune big, ain't worth a fig the moment rigor mortise sets in.
I wanna dance! I wanna sing!
Open the windows of my mind to enjoyment!
Why should I fret and get upset?
Why give my psychiatrist employment?
Tho' I sure don't got a million bucks in a banking account,
I got my teeth, I got my hair, I got my appetite,
I never will take sleeping pills to go to sleep at night,
'Cause I don't plan to be the richest man in the cemetery.

Copyright 1948 by Blossom Music Corporation

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *American Funeral Director*, July 2003, "Faith Sparks Interest in Wicker Coffins." When British pop star Adam Faith died, he probably was not aware that his funeral would start a run on wicker coffins. Demand for hand-woven wicker coffins has tripled since Faith was buried in one in March, according to a British funeral director. Wicker coffins cost \$670, about twice the price of the solid pine option. Each coffin takes two days of skilled work to craft,

and with only 40 weavers left in Britain, supply is limited.

From the *American Funeral Director*, July, 2002, "Ancient Maltese Tomb Opens to Public." The 4,500 year-old Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, a subterranean burial chamber carved out of solid bedrock beneath a Neolithic temple on the island of Malta, has been opened to the public. Restoration of this archaeological treasure took nine years and cost more than \$1 million. The remains of 7,000 people were recovered there by scientists. The Hypogeum culture disappeared around 2000 B.C.

From the magazine, *People Who Make a Difference*, May, 2003, published by Gate City in Keokuk, Iowa, pages 4, 5, and 29, "Altheide brings reverent touch to Lee County cemeteries," by Cindy Iutzi. Terry Altheide is profiled for his work in many areas of community service in the Keokuk area, but most especially for his interest in the historical and sacred pioneer cemeteries in Lee County. The story tells of his meeting with Judy Merschbrock whom he had contacted in 2002 to learn how to dowse for graves. Together, they formed the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association whose members have been instrumental in restoring several burial sites, including the Conlee Farm Cemetery. The group has regular monthly meetings and plans to restore 2 or 3 cemeteries each summer. Gary Foluto, fellow member of the Sons of the American Legion, says of Terry that "activist" is a good word to describe Altheide. "He picks up the ball and runs with it. He is a very motivated person, and other than that, he is a heck of a nice guy."

ILLINOIS News

From the *Quincy Herald-Whig*, May 17, 2003, "Tombstone comes back home to rest," by Deborah Gertz Husar. Pictured is Ray Benn as he touches up the mortar around a tombstone belonging to the grave of Emma Katharine Tenhaeff that was reset at South Prairie Cemetery in May. The stone was found behind the Hancock County Jail in a

storage building and was returned to the cemetery to be near the graves of her parents.

From the *Daily Gate City*, September 5, 2003, "Recovering the Past." Two large color photos by Cindy Iutzi appear on the front page of the newspaper, showing a group of volunteers from Wythe Township, Ill., and the Tri-State Area as they clear brush from the Oak Grove Cemetery near Elderville, Ill. in Hancock County. A crew from Crop Production services, Ferris, Ill., cut trees and brush while others braved poison ivy to clean stones dated as early as 1855.

From the *YB News*, October, 2003, "New Headstone for Fallen Chicago Police Officer unveiled at Mount Greenwood Cemetery." Pictured is Mount Greenwood Cemetery president Paula K. Everett as she speaks at a headstone unveiling sponsored by the Pipes and Drums of the Chicago Police Department on July 30, 2003. The headstone was for the grave of fallen officer, George Neil, who died on duty May 18, 1930, after he came to the aid of Nathaniel Lawler, a black customer who was being harassed by two White men at a local diner.

From the *Daily Gate City*, October 7, 2003, "Cemetery cleanup set for Oct. 25." The Wythe Township Cemetery Board has set a date for a workday for the McGee Cemetery in the on-going campaign to bring the cemeteries of the township to decent, respectable order. The cemetery holds a larger percentage of granite monuments than in any other cemetery in the county. A free lunch was provided for volunteer workers.

COLORADONews

From the *Rocky Mountain News*, October 25, 2003, "New life for old tombstones -- Cemetery searchers uncover, preserve epitaphs for the ages," by Jim Sheeler. Several photographs accompanying the story show Gail Meyer Kilgore who photographs and catalogs tombstones and grave sites in Leadville's Evergreen Cemetery. Kilgore is a part of the Colorado Tombstone Transcription Project and she hopes to transcribe all the state's tombstones and put them on the Internet for genealogists and other

PLEASE SEND DUES TO VALERIE OGRENI

researchers.

rootsweb.com/usgenweb/co/costones
rootsweb.com/cemetery/colorado.html

MISSOURI News

From *Profiles* magazine, October 19-25, 2003, "Epitaphs and Engravings," -- Diamond, MO. On November 8, persons learned to decode the history behind the symbols and writings on the Carver family headstones in the pre-Civil War cemetery at George Washington Carver National Monument.

From *Profiles* magazine, October 26-November 1, 2003. Established about 1808, Cold Water Cemetery in Florissant, Missouri (pop. 50,497) is the oldest Protestant cemetery still in use west of the Mississippi.

From *Profiles* magazine, November 2-8, 2003. Established in 1842, Heaton-Bowman-Smith & Sidenfaden Chapel in St. Joseph is the state's oldest funeral home. One room serves as a museum, displaying the wicker body basket that carried outlaw Jesse James and the ledger book from his funeral.

A publication titled, *The Dead Beat -- The Caregiver's Soapbox* is dedicated to providing information about the people and places involved in the funeral industry.

The Dead Beat (or *YB News*)

P.O. Box 145

Golden City, MO 64748

NORTH CAROLINA News

From the *American Funeral Director*, July, 2003, "Up Front News -- 'Last Confederate Burial' Set for April 17, 2004." The eight crewmen from the H. L. Hunley will finally be laid to rest, 140 years after the submarine disappeared under the sea. The submarine, which was discovered back in August 2000 by a dive team funded by adventure author Clive Cussler, was lost after ramming and sinking the Union Blockade ship Housatonic on Feb. 17, 1864. It is estimated that 10,000 people will attend the memorial that will be held at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston where two earlier Hunley crews are buried. They were lost in test missions along with the sub benefactor, Horace L. Hunley. The crew, along with the Union crew of the Housatonic, will be honored at the ceremony.

Tentative plans include Civil War reenactors and a four-mile funeral procession.

PENNSYLVANIA News

From the *YB News*, July, 2003, "St. John Neumann Students honor Civil War Veterans at Allegheny Cemetery." For the past nine years, the seventh and eighth graders at St. John Neumann School in Lawrenceville, PA have upheld an important Memorial Day tradition. Prior to Memorial Day each year, they place flags on 839 graves in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) lot. Afterwards, the children received refreshment provided by the cemetery in appreciation for their efforts. The GAR is across from the Allegheny Cemetery Soldiers Memorial that was made with native stone quarried from the cemetery hills.

CALIFORNIA, NEW MEXICO, TEXAS, GEORGIA

From the *Dead Beat*, Summer, 2003, "Many Mental Patients Regaining Dignity in Death," by Ron Harris, AP story. The graves of patients who died anonymously in mental institutions and were buried in poorly marked plots are getting identification markers and proper memorials from volunteers who are working closely with state officials.

NEW ENGLAND News

A very large collection of New England gravestones is now available courtesy of the American Antiquarian Society and David Rumsey Associates at:
www.davidrumsey.com/farber/

MINNESOTA News

The Minnesota Genealogical Society's new cemetery project is working toward creation of a full searchable database inventory of cemetery locations in the state and publication of burial transcriptions. Volunteers and interested persons may contact the Minnesota Genealogical Society; 5768 Olson Memorial Highway; Golden Valley, MN 55422-5014.

OHIO News

A group of volunteers helped save the Wesleyan Cemetery in Hamilton County which has 17,000 burials.

www.rootsweb.com/~ohhamcem/

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!