

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 #9 Issue #1 January, 2004

Following is a letter to the editor of the *Des Moines Register* written by Don Aldrich of Keosauqua, Iowa, dated Jan. 14, 2004:

I admire the ventures of Dean Gipple, noted in the 11 Jan 04 article by *Register* Correspondent Lisa Livermore. As a charter founding member of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, I have several beliefs concerning our county cemeteries.

I believe the early residents who lived and died the trials and tribulations of forming our county, to develop it as it is now, deserve better than to rest beneath broken gravestones, weeds, and destructive roots systems of shrubs, plants and trees.

I believe cemeteries should not suffer neglect and should be given attention by residents of county-townships of locations. Each resident may honor their ancestors, in most instances buried in distant cemeteries to the east, by honoring ancestors of others who are buried within our county. If volunteers do not reconcile these cares, then all residents should contribute by taxation, which power is now given to Trustees of Township owned Pioneer Cemeteries.

I believe a person should be permitted to visit burial location of their ancestors, as well as volunteers attempting to administer care-giving to the cemetery grounds.

I believe a person purchasing or owning land with a landlocked cemetery should realize that access should be allowed to the grounds. I realize many of today's owners are not residents of Van Buren County, some residing hundreds of miles away, interested only in recreational purposes for their land, having no interest what-so-ever in our cemeteries.

As for invasion of privacy and property rights, both parties need to honor the other's rights. It was surely not the intention of whoever first set aside the land for a cemetery, to do so with the idea that descendants or maintenance should not be allowed. We have seen too many cemeteries bulldozed away, made into ponds or cornfields because "no body cares." We need an enforced law against such practices, which they evidently believe is their property "right," rather than a law preventing descendants visiting their ancestors or volunteers giving care to the cemeteries.

I know that Van Buren County has 115 known cemeteries, or which over 70 are designated Pioneer Cemeteries.

I know that the majority of Pioneer Cemeteries suffer from total neglect.

I know of Pioneer Cemeteries that are of Township Ownership, as well as Landowner Cemeteries, and are given no attention by township trustees, or landowners.

I know cemetery burial records of pre-1920 are so few, they many be considered non-existent.

I know it is estimated that 50% of State Birth and Death Records, of events occurring between 1880 and 1920, are missing.

I know the working volunteers of our Society's Gravestone Restoration Project, in 3 years, using Massachusetts Gravestone Association guidelines, has reset, straightened and/or replaced over 300 gravestones. At present rate, we have well over 100 years of work to do.

An edited version of Don's letter appeared in print in the *DM Register* on February 4.

Conference information on pages 7 and 8

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Sally Youngquist, Web Page Manager
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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
Iowa Securities Bureau
340 Maple St.; Des Moines, IA 50319
Dennis.Britson@comm6.state.ia.us
515-281-4441

STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

Board Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2004

Vice-President Larry Davis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Urbandale, Iowa library.

In the absence of the secretary, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the October 2003 newsletter. Motion carried.

Valerie Ogren presented the Treasurer's report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Valerie Ogren also presented a proposed budget for 2004. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposed budget for 2004 in the amount of \$1,850.00. Motion carried.

A committee was previously appointed to develop a 2-day conference and a quarterly Board meeting site rotation policy. The committee consists of Larry Davis, Linda Zintz, and Molly Beason. Larry Davis reported the committee has scheduled a 2-day conference for April 9,10, 2004 at Valley West Inn in West Des Moines, Iowa. Speakers are being contacted to cover various topics including cemetery legal matters, legislation, archaeology, and gravestone repair and preservation. Davis also reported the committee is recommending a policy that would alternate the January and July Board meetings from the west half to the east half of the state, the October meeting will be held at the same site or area as the Iowa Genealogical society, and the April meeting site be flexible in case 2-day conferences are continued, whereas adequate meeting facilities could be arranged.

Davis also reported Darrell Easton, President of the Iowa Genealogical Society, is interested in forming a committee to organize or coordinate different cemetery organizations that may be duplicating efforts in recording information and preserving cemeteries. After considerable discussion, Davis suggested anyone interested could contact Mr. Easton.

Considerable discussion was held on topics from the audience including current cemetery legislation, Iowa cemetery Commissions, and cemetery records.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Larry D, Davis
Acting Secretary

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 3rd Quarter - 1 October 2003 thru 31 December 2003

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2003, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$5421.56

Income

Dues	140.00
Donations	40.00
Bumper stickers	18.25
Interest 10/31/03	.99
Interest 11/30/03	.91
Interest 12/31/03	<u>1.08</u>
Total Income	\$201.23

Expense

Ck #148 - Charly Stevens - postage for bumper stickers	17.85
Ck # 149 - Postmaster - newsletter permit	<u>150.00</u>
Total Expense	\$167.85

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2003 \$5454.94

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2003, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$2123.39

Income

Life Membership - Marilyn Schmitt	100.00
Life Membership - Molly Beason	100.00
Life Membership - Ken Marlin	<u>100.00</u>
Total Income	\$300.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2003 \$2423.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 31 December 2003 \$7878.33

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

Explanation	Income	Expense	Life Members & Memorials	Total
Balance Forward 1 Jan 2003	\$4,983.88		\$2,573.39	\$7,557.27
Dues	\$305.00			
Bumper stickers	\$6.00			
Videos	\$60.00			
Interest	\$7.64			
Total Income Jan - Mar 2003	\$378.64			\$378.64
Newsletter permit		(\$150.00)		
Patricia Shaw - newsletter		(\$68.40)		
Stamps (treasurer)		(\$7.40)		
Check printing		(\$9.25)		
Total Expense Jan - Mar 2003		(\$235.05)		(\$235.05)
Life Memberships & Memorials			\$200.00	
Total Jan - Mar 2003			\$200.00	\$200.00
Dues	\$270.00			
Interest	\$5.45			
Total Income Apr - Jun 2003	\$275.45			\$275.45
Patricia Shaw - newsletter		(\$151.14)		
Total Expense Apr - Jun 2003		(\$151.14)		(\$151.14)
Neal Du Shane - grant			(\$200.00)	
Winnishiek Co. Comm. - grant			(\$200.00)	
Total Res. Exp. Apr-June 2003			(\$400.00)	(\$400.00)
Dues	\$230.00			
Interest	\$3.00			
Total Income Jul - Sep 2003	\$233.00			\$233.00
Patricia Shaw - Newsletter, etc.		(\$63.22)		
Total Expense Jul - Sep 2003		(\$63.22)		(\$63.22)
Life Membership			\$100.00	
Total Jul - Sep 2003			\$100.00	\$100.00
UNI Foundation			(\$100.00)	
Benton Co. Comm. - grant			(\$250.00)	
Total Res. Exp. Jul-Sep 2003			(\$350.00)	(\$350.00)
Dues	\$140.00			
Donations	\$40.00			
Bumper stickers	\$18.25			
Interest	\$2.98			
Total Income Oct - Dec 2003	\$201.23			\$201.23
Charly Stevens - post. bump stx		(\$17.85)		
Postmaster - newsletter permit		(\$150.00)		
Total Expense Oct - Dec 2003		(\$167.85)		(\$167.85)
Life Memberships			\$300.00	
Total Oct - Dec 2003			\$300.00	\$300.00
12 Month Total	\$1,088.32	(\$617.26)	(\$150.00)	\$7,878.33
Balance Forward	\$4,983.88		\$2,573.39	
Income	\$1,088.32		(\$150.00)	
Expense	(\$617.26)			
Working Account Balance	\$5,454.94			
Life Memberships and Memorials			\$2,423.39	
Total in Checking				\$7,878.33

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

STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

2004 Budget

Expenses:

Newsletter	
Bulk Mailing Permit.....	\$150.00
Postage.....	\$800.00
Copying	
Brochures.....	\$400.00
Legislative Expense.....	\$300.00
Mileage (SAPIC President).....	\$100.00
Robert Carter Award.....	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Expense	\$1,850.00

Income:

Membership Dues.....	\$1,100.00
Life Membership Dues.....	700.00
Donations.....	30.00
Interest.....	<u>20.00</u>
Total Income	\$1,850.00

Jo Vernooy of Mahaska County submitted the following well-written letter to the editor of the *Des Moines Register* on January 14:

My letter is in response to comments from the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation in an article entitled "Cemetery Act would preserve sites," by Lisa Livermore, dated January 11, 2004. The article was well written and I thank Ms. Livermore for her coverage of the meeting. I would state to Mr. Chris Gruenhagen of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, however, that farmers do not "own" Pioneer Cemeteries located on their land. Their land is "adjacent" to the Pioneer Cemeteries. The land in the Pioneer Cemeteries is "owned" by those buried there. This distinction is important. I would ask Mr. Gruenhagen, "How would you feel if you were not allowed to visit the graves of your ancestors? What if you were not allowed to see that their burial sites were properly cared for and lovingly tended?"

I am the Chairman of the Mahaska County Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries. I know that Pioneer Cemeteries are now landlocked due to changes in roads and larger farms. I have seen what some individuals, (yes, many of them were farmers), have done to these precious historical sites. They have taken down fences and allowed livestock to trample the stones to get to what little grasses there are in the Cemetery. I know that gravestones have been thrown in creeks, used as foundations in barns, or as a path to the outhouse. Gravestones have been removed from some of these wonderful, old cemeteries to gain less than one acre to plow up and farm. Don't misunderstand me, please. I have nothing against farms or farmers. I live on a farm. Mine is an issue of respect for the dead and preservation of our heritage. The pioneers' sacrifices and hard work, (and many times, early deaths because of their toil,) is part of what make Iowa a great place to live and work. We owe their final resting places dignity and respect - and restoration and maintenance - and the ability to be visited by those who came after them.

Submitted by Tim Boorum:

In response to the article by Lisa Livermore 1/11/04 regarding the Cemetery Act, I'm tired of hearing farmers claim they have rights concerning cemeteries located within private property. Open up the Iowa Code and refer to Chapter 566.35 which clearly states that a farmer with a cemetery located within private property has no right to prevent ancestors from visiting burial sites, and 566.32 clearly states that disturbing a burial site is a crime. A farmer who purchases property with a cemetery contained therein only has the right to maintain it. They do not have the right to deny access to it, and they do not have the right to destroy it.

As far as the editor of *Grave News* knows, these two letters, as well as others that were submitted, were not printed in the *DM Register*.

From Jodi Kerr, Fairfield, Financial Advisor:

A church is automatically tax-exempt from income taxes only. The 501c3 designation accomplishes the same thing for other charitable organizations. (i.e. foundations, civic centers, and others) But, churches or others with the 501c3 designation with the IRS, are not exempt from paying sales tax on their purchases. Only government entities are exempt from paying sales tax for normal operating purchases. Historical organizations can apply with the IRS to receive this type of designation (501c3).

Plan to attend the Cemetery Conference that will be held on April 2 and 3, 2004 at the Valley West Inn in West Des Moines. Directions to Valley West Inn: Take I-235 (which goes through downtown Des Moines). In the West Des Moines area, get off on Exit #1 which is labeled Valley West Drive. Take Valley West Drive north about one block and turn left (west) at the light on Westown Parkway and go about one block. The hotel is about one block west of Valley West Shopping Mall.

CEMETERY CONFERENCE

April 2,3, 2004

Valley West Inn - West Des Moines, Iowa

Sponsored by The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC)

Program

Friday, April 2, 2004

6:00 p.m. – Banquet and program on Cemetery Legal Matters, by Dennis Britson,
Director, Regulated Industries Unit, Iowa Securities Bureau

Saturday, April 3, 2004

8:00 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. – Cemetery Legislation Matters, by Dennis Britson

8:35 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. – Archaeology and Cemetery Preservation, by Shirley Schermer,
Archaeologist with the Office of the State Archaeologist

9:10 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. – Gravestone Repair and Restoration, by Beverly Bethune,
Instructor, Indian Hills Community College

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Questions & Answers

Hotel Room Reservations

Hotel room reservations can be made at Valley West Inn, 3535 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266 by calling 1-800-833-6755. Room rates are \$69.95 plus tax. Please indicate you are attending the SAPIC (Cemetery) Conference to receive this special rate, and make your room reservations by March 5, 2004.

.....

REGISTRATION FORM

Cemetery Conference

Name _____

Address _____

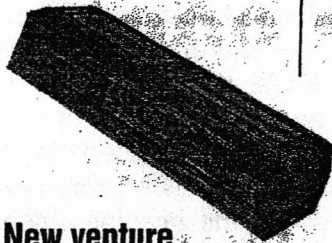
		No.	Total
Registration Fee	\$18.00 each	_____	_____
Banquet	\$22.00 each	_____	_____
		Total	_____

Submit this Registration Form and funds by March 25, 2004 to:
Make checks payable to: SAPIC

Valerie Ogren
108 N Oak
Jefferson, IA 50129

The Iowa Rural Development Council (IRDC), a partnership representing more than 70 state and federal agencies and associations has a web site: www.iowarural.org. The Council's director, Beth Danowsky, says that the members of IRDC are interested in having a link to communities and lowans. The web site is designed to link lowans, businesses and organizations with technical and financial assistance through the organizations's 70 members.

MADE IN IOWA



New venture

New Melleray Abbey was established outside of Dubuque in 1849 by Roman Catholic monks from Ireland who belong to the Trappist Order. Through the years, they made simple caskets in which they buried their colleagues.

In 1999, the monks went into the casket-making business, launching Trappist Caskets, to supplement the monastery's farming income. They ship their handmade oak, walnut and pine caskets throughout the Midwest and around the United States.

New Melleray houses about 35 monks, and eight to 10 work in the casket operation. The monastery sells several hundred caskets annually at prices ranging from \$695 to \$1,795. The monks also make cremation urns.

A conference, "The Essence of Place: African-American History in the Midwest," was held February 14, 2004 at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch, Iowa. Topics of discussion included Place in African-American History, Dred Scott at the Crossroads of History, Lincoln, Grant and the 1864 Election, George W. Carver: Slavery to Fame, The Legacy of Brown V. Board of Education: The Continuing Struggle, The DePriest Tea Incident: A Most Unusual Affair, and Building Iowa's African American Heritage. The symposium coincided with the Hoover Museum's winter exhibit, "In Search of African America; One Collector's Experience," which runs from January 19th to March 21st. For more information, contact Hoover Presidential Library Association; P. O. Box 696; West Branch, Iowa 52358; Telephone 319-643-5301.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Dec. 19, 2003: "Paying Tribute." Pictured in color are two servicemen who helped place one of 4,000 wreaths on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. The wreaths were placed on headstones by volunteers from as far away as Maine.

From Scott Johnson SJohnson@GOV.NU.CA On June 8, 1948, Cecil George Harris, a Saskatchewan (Canada) farmer, was repairing his tractor when he inadvertently put the vehicle into reverse, pinning his left leg underneath one of the rear wheels. Believing no one would come to his rescue, he used his jackknife to scratch onto the tractor's fender:

"In case I die in this mess, I leave all to the wife. Cecil Geo. Harris."

Although his neighbors eventually found him 10 hours later, Harris died of his injuries two days later. Soon after, the etched fender was admitted to probate as a valid holograph will. The fender and knife remained "on file" at the local Kerrobet Courthouse until it closed in 1996. The fender and knife are now on permanent display in the University of Saskatchewan's Law Library.

COUNTY REPORTS

BENTON

Submitted by Gene and Frieda Davis

From the *Vinton Times*, December 16, 2003: "Pioneer Cemetery Association presents first annual report," by Steve Meyer. In its first full year of operation, the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has conducted restoration efforts in eight pioneer cemeteries using all volunteer labor according to Gene Davis of Vinton, Chairman of the commission. Davis presented a report to the supervisors at their Dec. 12 meeting. Davis reported that 24 people volunteered time and effort in cemetery restoration in 2003, especially noting Ed Strellner from Van Horne and Alfred Schwartz from Vinton. The three men traveled nearly 6,000 miles and contributed 831 volunteer hours to pioneer cemetery restoration work in Benton County. Cemeteries worked on were: Houghton, Toogood, Kirchner-Henning, Luzerne, Prairie EUB, Prairie Lutheran, East Eden, and Wright. 204 headstones were restored in those cemeteries. Davis requested \$4,000 for 2004 for next year's budget, a 20 percent reduction from the 2003 budget of \$5,000. The commission received \$700 in donated funds. The commission was established in 2002. Thirty-three of the county's 71 cemeteries meet the criteria of a pioneer cemetery. Pictured is Gene Davis working to restore a historic tombstone during a work day in 2003.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, December 23, 2003: Volunteer Spotlight "Pioneer cemeteries are being restored in Benton County," by Steve Meyer. Gene Davis, commission chairman, is pictured with the article that relates the activities of the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission in 2003. The Volunteer Spotlight lets readers share the good works of someone crucial to an organization's success.

Submitted by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*, December 15, 2003: "Cemetery Commission restores oldest burial plots." The article summarizes the accomplishments of the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission in 2003 and reports on its budget request for 2004.

BLACKHAWK

Submitted by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 27, 1902: "Ghastly, Gruesome is a tale which is being told at Cedar Falls. Desecration of a Grave for Miserly Pittance in Silver. Money found in dust of casket after twenty years." The article relates the story of the death of a well known and wealthy resident of Cedar Falls whose wife had preceded him in death twenty years earlier. The family decided to open the grave of the wife and widen it to allow the husband's casket to be placed alongside. To save money, a son and son-in-law decided to open and widen the grave themselves. When the wife's body had been buried twenty years earlier, her purse containing some money was accidentally buried with her. At the time, the husband did not allow the body to be disinterred to retrieve the money, but now the relatives determined to do so. The two men searched among the bones only to find less than one dollar. They then decided it was a waste of time to widen the grave, so they gathered the remains, placed them in a small box, and buried it with the father. To save further expense, they filled up the grave themselves after the services at the cemetery. The story was told in awed whispers at women's sewing circles and business men heard the revolting tale with blushes of shame and mortification and anger that such a thing could occur in a civilized community.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, November 8, 1902: "School of Embalming to be held at Waterloo Casket Co.'s Factory." A school for

Have you renewed your SAPIC membership for 2004?

undertakers from several states will be conducted by Dr. W. S. Carpenter and his wife, Leonora, of the Des Moines College of Embalming. Also mentioned in the article are the various types and styles of caskets available, as well as shrouds and robes, and other goods related to funerals.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, November 8, 1902: "Funeral for Ten Cents." The article tells of the first person to die following the formation of an organization called the National Co-operative Burial Association, in which each member paid an initiation fee of ten cents and promised to pay an additional ten cents whenever a member of the association died. Mrs. Marie Hubert, who had paid her ten cents, was the first recipient of the service.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, 1903: "Find Pioneer's Bones." Mason City, May 21 -- While excavating in the heart of the city for a cellar, for an addition to the Ensign clothing store, workmen found the remains of Mrs. Stewart, the first white woman buried in this county in 1855. The coffin was of black walnut, sawed at the first saw mill erected here. It was in fairly good condition. Nothing but the bones and hair of the deceased was intact. The coroner removed the remains to the Elmwood Cemetery.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 24, 1902: "Desecrate Cemetery Hampton has desperate characters in form on humans doing deeds of devilry." According to the *Hampton Recorder* newspaper, the bronze door of the Harriman tomb in the cemetery was wrenched off. A reward was offered by F. A. Harriman for the apprehension of the vandals.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, April 1, 1903: "Novelty in Burial Plan -- The National Co-operative Ass'n of Black Hawk County -- Beck, Towne & Co. at head of new assessment project -- One hundred dollar burial furnished for small fee to each." A plan to provide a burial for members on an

assessment plan is outlined in the article.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, March 28, 1903: An ad for the Eureka Granite and Monumental Works was placed stating the J. R. Canty, proprietor of the above institution, has just received a car load of celebrated Barre Granite. This, in addition to the large stock already on hand, makes one of the most complete lines ever shipped into Waterloo. Those contemplating the erection of a monument to the memory of their friends or relatives, should examine this stock and see Mr. Canty, who is an artist in all monumental work. He will gladly submit designs and quote you prices.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, August 16, 2003: "Beauties and Activities in Waterloo Suburbs." The article tells of the offerings of the Waterloo Casket Co. A wide variety of caskets are available, including special orders, couches, state caskets and davenport. One special order was received only 57 minutes before the train to transport it to Illinois was due. All the work force was called in and work was done on the way to the train station. Because the train was late, the casket arrived on time. Two carloads of wood, including oak, birch, red cedar and poplar, are needed each month to supply the need.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, April 20, 1903: Recently a complaint was made to the city officers that an infant had been buried on a residence lot in the north part of the city. The body was removed and buried in the new potter's field at the poor farm. It was the first burial there.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 13, 1903: "Damages for Showing Corpse -- Novel Case up for Decision in the Des Moines Courts." A \$10,000 damage suit was brought against William C. Harbach, M. E. Pettiss, and the Pettiss company and the Rex Embalming Fluid company for displaying the body of John Allen without permission. It was expected that the body would be brought into court.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, June 14, 1904: "Indian's Bones are Unearthed -- Remains of several Red Men found near Cherokee." About a foot and a half from the surface in a gravel pit known as "Augur Hill," Frank McCord found many bones believed to be those of Sioux Indians. It was the custom of the Indians to place bodies on high platforms and then in a hole when the flesh was gone. The bones were delivered to Sexton Dowding of Oak Hill cemetery.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, September 11, 1905: "Wrong Corpse -- Bodies of Veteran and of Aged Lady mixed at Null, Iowa." An error of a driver caused the corpse of a woman to be buried with great solemnity by the old soldiers at Hull yesterday in place of the corpse of J. W. Bogess, an old soldier. Mr. Bogess died at Sheldon, Iowa and the remains were to be transported on the train to Null. Since the train was to be 14 hours late, the driver went to the train station at Sheldon and took the first corpse he found and drove to Hull with it, where it was buried with full military honors. It was not until the body had been laid in the grave and covered with mother Earth that it was discovered the wrong body had been taken. The old soldier was still at the depot in Sheldon.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, March 24, 1903: Two high school girls who were studying ornithology or botany in a local cemetery were mistaken for inmates from the "funny house" in Independence by a suspicious Simple Minded nearby resident. The girls were imitating the capers of a blue jay and were quite embarrassed when the police showed up to investigate.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 20, 1903: "Hero of the Revolution -- Bones of a Veteran are reinterred at Washington, Iowa yesterday." The bones of Timothy Brown, a veteran of the American Revolution, were reinterred in the Soldier's Circle of Elm Grove cemetery yesterday. For years the location of Mr. Brown's grave was not known

and was only discovered six weeks earlier in a deserted cemetery in the west part of the county, through the aid of an aged granddaughter. The bones were kept at the Washington National bank for safe keeping until a service was held on the anniversary of the surrender of Yorktown and the end of the war. Timothy Brown saw Lord Cornwallis surrender and took part in the siege of Yorktown. The brief ceremony was attended by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Union Veterans' Union, Grand Army of the Republic, Woman's Relief Corps, Company D, Iowa National guard, and McCutcheon's battery. Mr. Brown died May 30, 1952, when 92 years old. He served in place of his father, Joseph, who was drafted.

BUCHANAN

Contributed by Marlene Brown

The Buchanan County Pioneer Cemetery 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 three 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 a presentation by the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery officers and a presentation by the county auditor giving information about researching land deeds.

SAPIC is grateful to the county supervisors like those in Buchanan County who feel the need to restore and preserve the heritage of its citizens by initiating the creation of a pioneer cemetery commission.

ANNUAL REPORT
for
DES MOINES COUNTY
PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION
YEAR 2003

The following is a summary of the activities of the Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission for the year 2003.

Cemetery restorations completed during 2003.

A. Schnupper Farm Plot

This cemetery is a small family plot, located in Franklin Twp., just west of the county home, on the property owned by Allen Mohr. Several stones were repaired and reset and sunken areas filled to facilitate mowing.

B. Flint River Twp. Cemetery

This cemetery is located approximately 2 miles north of Burlington, just east of Hwy. 61. Several evening work sessions were needed to repair and reset many stones here. Mike Campbell, who is an adjoining land owner, assisted us with a small tractor and hydraulic loader in handling two stones that were too large to move by hand.

C. Northfield Cemetery

This cemetery is one of the larger cemeteries that we have to care for. It is located in Yellow Springs Twp., a couple of miles northeast of Mediapolis. Volunteer members of the Mediapolis Lions Club did the restoration work in this cemetery for us. This cemetery is now complete with the exception of three large granite stones, too heavy to reset by hand. We plan to hire professional help to pour new concrete bases and reset these stones this coming summer.

D. Hukill Cemetery

This cemetery is located in Huron Twp., in a farm field owned by Darwin Campbell. This is a small family plot with only 22 stones, most of which needed repair and resetting. This cemetery has been badly neglected over the years, as it was completely overgrown by tall grass and vines. Our work there made a tremendous difference in the appearance of the cemetery.

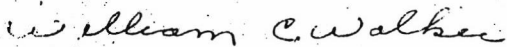
E. Wykert Cemetery

This cemetery is located about one mile north of Burlington, east of Irish Ridge Road, in Tama Twp. Several stones were repaired and reset. The work here was not completed, but will be next year.

This year's work brings to a total of eleven, the number of cemeteries that have been restored by this commission and our many volunteers. We especially wish to recognize the work of the Mediapolis Lions Club, and their volunteer members, who have completed the work at the Northfield cemetery and have repaired about one-half of the stones at the Hazel Grove cemetery. They have given us a commitment to help again next summer on all of the Pioneer cemeteries in Yellow Springs Twp.

The maintenance of our Pioneer Cemeteries was accomplished by hiring 9 people to mow 24 cemeteries on a regular basis. Three of our cemeteries were mowed by volunteers at no charge to the commission. We were able to do this with only a slight increase over the previous fiscal years' budget. We feel we can accomplish our responsibilities for the 2004-2005 FY with no increase in our present budget.

Respectfully submitted,



William C. Walker, Chairman
Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

In an accompanying letter, secretary Phyllis Rothlauf adds that the Des Moines County Board of Supervisors asked for photos of before and after work. The commission anticipates no difficulty in getting funding for their projects. They have not had to ask for more money for the 2004-2005 year.

FAYETTE

Contributed by Steve Story

From the *Union News*, November 26, 2003: "County's pioneer cemeteries laid to rest," by Mike Van Sickle. Pictured are Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission members, Steve Story, Kay Thomas, Woody Thomas, Richard Vagts, and Bill Moellering at the Brooks-Hendrickson Cemetery in Fairfield Township. Commission volunteers Harvey Ungerer, Alice Miller and Donna Story are not pictured. The Commission laid to rest its 15th pioneer cemetery of the past four years by the christening of the Brooks-Hendrickson Cemetery on the Mark and Sheryl Fedeler farm. This ends an odyssey by commission members that started in 1999 at the Boale Cemetery near West Union. Steve Story expressed his appreciation to every farmer on whose property a cemetery was located, as well as hunters, for their cooperation and tips in finding some of the cemeteries.

From the *Fayette Leader*, November 26, 2003: "Pioneer cemetery restored east of Fayette." Pictures are volunteers who worked on the Brooks-Hendrickson Pioneer Cemetery: Bill Moellering, Don Boie, Steve Story, and Woody Thomas. Thirteen grave sites were discovered at this cemetery, four of which had headstones with names engraved on them. A 16-foot by eight-foot slab on concrete was poured at the site and the four stones placed on top. A fence was placed around the site, after brush was cleared and damaged stones were fixed. This completes the restoration efforts in Fayette County, unless new pioneer cemeteries are discovered. The commission will focus on maintaining the sites for the next several years.

From the *Fayette County Union*, January 7, 2004: "Pioneer Commission receives funding," by Mike Van Sickle. The Hannah Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recognized the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission with a

\$50 donation recently. The counties of Allamakee, Winneshiek and Fayette were presented donations represented by its membership. A picture accompanied the article showing Ruth Brooks presenting the donation to treasurer Frances Graham, vice-chair Donal Boie, and chairperson Virginia Bruening.

In a letter dated January 24, 2004, Steve Story reports that he attended and spoke at a legislators coffee set up by State Senator Robert Brunkhorst and State Representative David Lalk on January 24 in Oelwein. He gave a copy of the most recent draft by Dennis Britson to Representative Lalk, a North Fayette 1966 graduate and former student of Steve's. Steve had spent an hour with Lalk earlier. Steve also attended a session in West Union. Both legislators promised Steve that they would contact him if and when any Pioneer Cemetery item came to them. The "condemnation" item in the draft is one that Steve cannot support as restoration and maintenance are not even mentioned.

HENRY

From the *Mt. Pleasant News*, November 21, 2003: "Cemetery Association Meets." The Pioneer Cemetery Association met at the courthouse on Nov. 3 with seven members present. It was reported that the foundation for the Hiram Smith stone is in and the stone is ready to be set at Bethany. While putting in the foundation, a stone of Canady was straightened and secured.

Chad White reported that progress is being made at Ebenezer and a large dead tree had been taken down. The stone repair at the old city cemetery by the Richland Methodist men was approved and a motion carried to pay the bill. Also, word was received of the 87 year-old man who was injured while working there is now home and improving, for which we are grateful.

Some clean up work has been completed at Pickard and a makeshift access has been provided by the Department of

Transportation. Negotiations are taking place with the city for construction of an access to Willeford.

On Oct. 14 several members were present for the rededication of the Hochreiter Cemetery in Scott Township. Through the efforts of Bill and Carol Klopfenstein, the Dennis Anderson family and Bub Kepper, this cemetery has been cleaned, restored and stones repaired.

The budget and proposed improvements for 2004 were discussed. Resignations were received from June Klopfenstein and Kenneth Olson. Allan Barnes has been appointed to fill one of those vacancies. This was the last meeting of the year and the next meeting will be on May 3, 2004.

JONES

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the newsletter of the Jones County Genealogical Society: Copied from "Abandoned Towns, Villages and Post Offices of Iowa by D. C. Mott." Reprinted from the "Annals of Iowa Volumes XVII & XVIII 1930-1932." Forty-three abandoned towns are listed. Some of these towns had a cemetery that is now the only evidence of its existence. An example is the Johnstontown Cemetery that was restored by the Cascade FFA Chapter in 1998. The FFA Chapter continues to maintain the site.

LEE

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Shopper's Free Press*, April 3, 1974: "Only an occasional one discovered -- Grave Robbing was a problem in early Keokuk! Keys of Keokuk -- Reflections for Now from our Heritage," by Francis J. Helenthal. There was a time when area citizens almost felt the need to stand guard for a few days and nights over the fresh grave of an interred loved one. For the possibility of grave-robbing was a constant threat, especially in the days of the medical colleges here in Keokuk. Although a considerable number of thefts are on record, it was

believed that the ones discovered were far out-numbered by many others that went unnoticed. Isolated country cemeteries were particularly vulnerable to ghouls. One such example was related in 1906 of an elderly woman who had been a pauper and a resident of the Lee County Home. Her grave, located between Mooar and Summittville, was opened and the body dragged a considerable distance to a waiting buggy. Although the deceased woman's brother, along with the sheriff and coroner made an investigation of the local medical college, no corpse was found there. The article ends with this statement: "The home of the dead is a most sacred place, and there seems to be no crime so heinous as that of robbing a grave. The penalty is a severe one and the authorities should leave no steps untaken toward ferreting out the perpetrators of this most foul of crimes committed."

From the *Daily Gate City*, December 12, 2003: "What stories could three Lee County girls tell?" by Terry Altheide. While watching an episode of "Little House on the Prairie," Terry was reminded of the graves in pioneer cemeteries that "tug on his heart." Usually, these are the graves of children. He writes of the graves of three girls in Lee County who he imagines might have experienced a similar Christmas to that of the Ingalls family. Little Ann Trigg, who died on Sept. 9, 1849 at the age of a little over one year, is buried on the Linquist Farm on Ambrosia Lane. Terry is hopeful that the Lee County Cemetery Association can care for her grave in the future. The second girl is Rachel Malcom, buried in the Locust Grove Cemetery near Fort Madison since dying at the age of 6 on Aug. 24, 1851. Her stone, shattered into seven pieces by free roaming cattle years ago, will be restored next spring by the Association. Mary Billups, who died at 3 years of age on Sept. 20, 1859, is buried on a lonely hilltop near Vincennes in what is believed to be the old Quarry Cemetery. Her stone is propped against a tree. Terry hopes that someone will adopt her gravesite and place some flowers on it once in awhile.

Little Mary Billups's gravesite inspired Terry to write a poem that he titled "The Old Weathered Stone," sung to the tune of "The Old Rugged Cross."

On a hill near a town stands an old weathered stone,
a symbol of apathy, shame;
When I see that old stone where a child lies cold
they've forgotten little one's name.

(chorus)
So I'll furbish that old weathered stone
till my tools at last I lay down;
I will clean all the old weathered stones
and expect that some day they'll come around.

Oh, that old weathered stone they forgot to maintain
keeps a burning compassion in me;
For that dear child of God who left here so long ago
was borne by the angels ascending.
(chorus)

In that old weathered stone, stained with dirt over time
a wondrous beauty I see;
For once on that old stone angels smiling with wings
so carried a little child freed.
(chorus)

To the old weathered stone I hope we will go
our shame and apathy changed;
Then He'll call us someday to our hill near a town
where our stones forever will be cleaned.
(chorus)

*Merry Christmas Ann, Rachel and Mary.
You're not forgotten any longer.*

From the *Keokuk Daily Gate City*, January 23, 2004: "Parent waits and wonders about daughter," by Terry Altheide. In this column, Terry compares the near death experience of a missing child to the depths of

doubt, despair, and numbness to one's soul in the "cemetery of his imagination."

Note: Terry's daughter was, thankfully, found safely.

LOUISA

Contributed by Dean Gipple and Joyce Wiese

From the *Columbus Gazette*, December 10, 2003: "Gipple discusses Pioneer Cemeteries." Shown is Elmer Thomas, of the Louisa County Cemetery Commission, presenting a plaque to Dean Gipple in appreciation of his many years of work and dedication to the betterment and upkeep of pioneer cemeteries in Louisa County. Dean also submitted an update of his work. The Commission has excellent cooperation from the County Supervisors, County Engineer, and Township Trustees. Dean reported on the restoration projects at Spring Run, Morman, Morning Sun, and Concord Cemeteries. He mentions that Commission member, Richard Lehnert, along with his wife Jane, took it upon himself to restore and preserve the Morman Cemetery. Dean can no longer do manual labor, but will help by getting grants and private donations. He is working with Kate Lewis, the Columbus Junction FFA Advisor, to establish a display for native wild flowers at the Roundy Elementary School.

Contributed by Connie Street

In an article written by Connie Street: "The Coffin Family -- Conesville, Iowa." The history of the Coffin Cemetery is provided and the concern of descendant, Jan Coffin Peters of Abingdon, Illinois, is expressed. In a visit to the site about ten years ago, she was in shock to see the neglect and destruction of the cemetery. Records show that at least 73 burials are there, including the graves of seven Civil War veterans. Ken Hill of Conesville, who also has ancestors there, voices her concern. Peters has secured the agreement of the Louisa Board of Supervisors, Cemetery Commission and Township Trustees to get a path cleared to the cemetery.

MAHASKA

Contributed by Jo Vernooy

This year, we have a new member on the Commission. He is Edd Elder from Fremont. We are looking forward to working with Edd, who is very active in the Mahaska County Historical Society and worked with us on the DeLong/DeLashmutt Pioneer Cemetery Rededication.

We are sorry, however, to lose Benjamin Mayer as a Commission member. Ben is not a Mahaska County resident any longer. Ben and his wife, Crystal, live in Winterset. Ben is a marble worker and his wife is a teacher. You Madison County members should contact Ben if you have a vacancy on your Commission, or if you just need help. He has a wealth of knowledge about cemeteries in general, and is excellent about sharing that knowledge. Ben has been working in "old cemeteries" since he was a teenager, and before, and has been a great asset to the Commission. Ben is a "charter member" of the Commission for the time he served. We are grateful to Ben for his invaluable help and wish him the very best.

March will be our first meeting of the new year. Our goal set for this year is the Smith Cemetery in Scott Township. It has unique, flat marble stones on five graves, as well as other upright stones. I have written the State Historical agencies about the flat stones and requested help in finding someone to repair them. They need to be repaired soon as they are beginning to break and crumble. There are not a lot of visible stones, and we want to probe for buried ones. Larry Davis has been contacted about repairing the upright stones, and those that are partially submerged. We are awaiting information about approval of the budget to see if we can proceed with the repair and restoration of the upright stones. If anyone reading this report has any information about Smith Cemetery, Scott Township, Mahaska County, please get in touch with me. We know that a "commune" was near this Cemetery in the 1840's. We are like detectives -- searching for clues.

MITCHELL

Contributed by Neal Du Shane

From the 1st Quarter 2004 Newsletter: This fall and winter has yielded many achievements for MCPCR activities in Mitchell County. Plus gives MCPCR an opportunity to plan and prepare for 2004 summer projects. "A rolling stone, gathers no....." well, you know the phrase.

MCPCR's goal: To provide DIGNITY, HONOR, and RESPECT by restoring and preserving our Mitchell County Pioneer heritage. It has been expressed that these cemeteries should remain in their natural state. Most are in a state of decay and in an absolute derelict condition. In a few short years all evidence will be completely destroyed leaving no trace of some. We need to clarify MCPCR purpose, our goal is to IDENTIFY, RESTORE and PRESERVE any Pioneer cemetery in Mitchell County.

As defined by the State of Iowa; a Pioneer Cemetery is one with less than six burials in the past 50 years. Mitchell County has in excess of approximately 38 Pioneer Cemeteries, 60.32% of the known cemeteries are classified as Pioneer. Some are being maintained by individuals and/or the Township. 13 are in dire need of restoration, preservation and maintenance. Plagued by vandalism, ravages of time, decay and neglect, our historic pioneer burial sites are being destroyed.

(By) Becoming a Mitchell County Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Project Booster, you can do something to assist in the restoration of these cemeteries and the history they represent of our Mitchell County pioneer founders.

Reports on the following cemeteries were printed: Mona, Dudley, Smith Family (formerly Iron Spring Cemetery), Oscar Peterson, Union Valley, Eden, Lohr, and Liberty. Dale Hemingson of Des Moines has been working to develop a mold with changeable letters, in which to pour the cement, allowing us to build our own cement monuments to identify cemetery projects.

Note: To obtain copies of complete articles or newsletters mentioned, contact the contributor or Pat Shaw (address on page 2).

TAMA

Submitted by Joyce Wiese

Joyce reports that she is recovering successfully from her recent back surgery and plans to attend the Cemetery Conference in Des Moines in April.

Submitted by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo Courier*, January 28, 2004: "Tama County Cemeteries," by Joyce Wiese. Nearly 10 years ago, a couple of Tama County residents got together to discuss the condition of old, abandoned cemeteries. Twenty-eight cemeteries have been identified. These suffered broken stones, dead trees and brush, etc. The county Board of Supervisors was contacted who supported the idea by creating a Commission and providing funding. To supplement their budget in the future, they are reaching out to relatives who have ancestors buried in these cemeteries. They will also use fund raising activities, such as cemetery tours and walks and the publication of a book with histories of the cemeteries and the people buried in them. An appeal to relatives and volunteers is made at the end of the article to contact the Commission in care of Joyce Wiese (address on page 2).

VAN BUREN

Submitted by Don Aldrich and Pat Shaw

From the *Quill*, a publication of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, January, 2004: "Note from desk of the Treasurer" The Sunnyside Cemetery Record is now for sale. It contains 131 pages, the largest Cemetery Record we have yet put to book form and offered for sale. The price is \$20 and is available from the Society at P.O. Box 158; Keosauqua, Iowa 52565.

The process of reprinting a cemetery takes time as the re-reading of the cemetery is

required, along with checking current information with WPA and other records. In reading gravestones, one should not use any material or equipment that will harm the stone. The skin softeners in shaving cream will destroy the binders within the stone. Correctly applied flour to the stone will produce amazing results, being sure to brush away remnants with a soft bristle brush. That wire brush will remove lichen but also stone, which you will notice falling as a colored powder. If you wish to remove lichen, use product such as photo-flow and soft bristled brush. Sometimes a brushing with only water will produce desirable effects. A spraying of a solution of such as "pool shock" will help prevent the regrowth of lichen, but it will return.

Stones lying face up are at the mercy of the freeze-thaw process, possibly pre-aging the stone 10 times normal. At times in repairing of badly deteriorated and broken stones, placing them in cement, face up, might be only solution left, but I believe it should be done only as last resort. Allowing the broken pieces of stones to lie about, and carried off to wherever, is worse than giving attention to the stone by rebonding. Setting a broken stone, standing, into cement is not recommended due to the difference in expansion will cause stone to re-break. A stone must have certain structural strength to survive this treatment.

Many of our cemeteries have become covered by day lilies, yucca plants, shrubs and trees that obscure the stones and whose root systems cause upheaval of stones. Cemetery associations need to have regulations on planting of trees, shrubs, and plants within the cemetery.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, February 21, 2002: "Progress 2004 -- Southern Iowans Who Make a Difference -- Don Aldrich Restoring the Past," by Erica Richards. Pictured is Don as he tells of his efforts to restore the 76 pioneer cemeteries in Van Buren County. Don says, "I think they (ancestors) deserve more than a broken gravestone and a plot full of weeds."

Please note Don's letter to the editor of the *Des Moines Register* printed on page 1 of this newsletter.

On February 23, Warren Beatty of Keosauqua, Iowa was featured on the Heartland Hero segment of TV station, KTVO, located in Ottumwa, Iowa and Kirksville, Missouri. Warren was honored for his participation in many community service events, such as Lions Club activities, Red Cross Blood Donor Program, and church. Although not mentioned, his volunteerism in the restoration of pioneer cemeteries in Van Buren County is also appreciated.

WAPELLO

Contributed by Mary Ellen Lanigan

In a E-mail message dated September 4, 2003, Mary Lanigan tells of her restoration efforts in the Calvary Cemetery in Ottumwa: A few years ago, my sisters and I on a very hot summer day, dug up and cleaned off a lot of stones in Calvary Cemetery. I told the Ottumwa Cemetery people to please go out and write down the info that was contained on these stones. Apparently, this wasn't done. I have to go back this past summer and re-dig up a lot of these stones again, as the earth seems to want to repossess these old stones. Mary was looking for the resting places of her great grandfather, John Lanigan, and great grandmother, Mary Burns, which she was unable to find. Mary Lanigan includes genealogical information from over 100 stones, along with epitaphs of interest. The old original part of Calvary Cemetery was started by an Irish Catholic priest by the name of Father John Kreckel of St Mary's Church of Ottumwa. circa: 1855

Ms. Lanigan would like feedback on the preservation of these stones and burial records. She would also like ideas for possible fund raising to finance the restoration and preservation of the stones.

Mary Ellen Lanigan

P.O. Box 1450

Brentwood, CA 94513

Mary Lanigan1942@aol.com

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Progress 2004 Southern Iowans Who Make a Difference, February 21, 2004: "Bob Swanson -- a history lesson in the making," by Cindy Toopes. Pictured is Swanson, the superintendent of the Ottumwa Cemetery for 20 years, whose family is the third one to live in a 1906 historical home provided by the cemetery. He reenacts history by portraying an early 19th century Salk Indian warrior, along with pursuing other historical interests. The Ottumwa Cemetery Association is a member of SAPIC.

WINNESHIEK

Submitted by Kevin Lee

In an E-mail dated December 27, 2003: On 4-23-03, the Frankville Fire Department burnt off dead grasses and brush at the Pugin Cemetery. With this burn a better type of grasses and plants will grow.

Avenues are mowed to the stone locations for the public to visit in the prairie cemetery setting. During the summer the usual maintenance of cemeteries was accomplished by the folks involved in last years work.

On 5-09-03, the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries awarded a grant to the Commission to be put forth to fence the Plymouth Rock Cemetery.

On 6-05-03, Bob Brimacombe and Kevin Lee attended a State Convention and meeting of Iowa Cemetery preservationists and Commissioners in West Union.

On 6-12-03, Zelda Productions designed and Anundsen Publishing printed a map brochure of all the cemeteries for the public use.

Stonework was done on markers. This work was done by volunteer labor. It is our hope that this progress report will enlighten you as to the work that continues to be done to save our ancestry and heritage of Pioneer Life and death in Winneshiek County.

Note: Kevin's business card is reproduced on the next page.

Lee Stone- masonry

Stonework
Restoration
Monument
rehabilitation

Kevin Lee

2526 173rd Ave
Decorah, IA 52101

563-380-8375

lee@stonecraft.com

Charles Andrea Sr. of Spillville, Iowa produced molded metal markers that were distributed throughout the central US. The oldest section of St. Wenceslaus Cemetery, located in Spillville, is covered with these markers. The church is modeled after one in Bohemia (Czech). Spillville is a Bohemian town where Antonin Dvorak lived when he

worked on his New World Symphony in 1893. The markers feature a cross shape with skull and cross bones for "they thought about their end while they were with us." The markers are also located in a nearby church cemetery in a neighboring town. Between them is a country cemetery signed the "National Bohemian Cemetery."

WORTH

Submitted by Charlotte Stober

From the *GlobeGazette*, Sept. 16, 2003: "Our Dear Rose -- Baby's tombstone finds way to family plot," by Deb Nicklay. Pictured are Gene Watson and Irv Benjegerdes with the Karl Plath tombstone found on Manly property in September. Just over Watson's right shoulder is the Plath family plot, where it is thought the baby's parents are buried.

The stone was unearthed from a Manly residential lawn and was erected on its own family's grave plot in the Manly Cemetery 115 years later. A city crew found the stone while working to install a new sewer line. Karl Plath, who died in 1888 at the age of 6 months, was the son of H. and M. Plath. The inscription, written in German, reads, "Our dear rose, in whom we have been pleased, rests here in this grave, in God's safe hands." Watson and Benjegerdes asked for the help of the newspaper in finding descendants. As they posed with the stone in the Manly Cemetery for a photograph, Watson glanced at the name on a nearby monument. Incredibly, it was inscribed with the names of the baby's parents. It is believed that the baby was originally buried on the family's farm before the Manly Cemetery was founded in 1897.

OUT OF IOWA

Contributed by Joyce Wiese

Found in a Scottish newspaper, Haddington, 18th May, 1852: "Grave-Digger's Fees." The town council agreed on the listed fees to be paid to the grave-digger. The sums include lining, dressing up of the ground, removal of nettles or other rubbish, but not a new turf.

ARIZONA

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From a story in the *Herald/Review* in Naco, AZ by Michael Maresh. <svhnews@c2i2.com>

A new Mexico couple plans on building a home on top of a lot where there are clearly marked graves and county officials are saying it is perfectly legal to do so. Boyd Nicholl of the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum said the cemetery was called the Naco Graveyard, and added he estimates that more than 10 bodies have been buried there. The couple, Michael and Tanya Dondelinger, have been required to place ads in English and Spanish in local newspapers so that relatives will have time to claim the remains. The ads will run 6 times over the next six months. Since there are no ordinances that would prevent building on historic cemeteries, it is considered private property and the owners may build there.

FLORIDA

Contributed by Betty Giese

From the *Family History Magazine*, November/December, 2003, page 21: "Orlando, Fla. Undertakes Records Project for Historic Greenwood Cemetery." The Orlando City Clerk's Office has created an online database of more than 80,000 interment cards and thousands more deeds to cemetery plots in the historic Greenwood Cemetery. Established in 1880, it includes 82 acres of rolling hills. The database is searchable by a number of categories such as name, date and funeral home. It is available through the city's web site at:

www.cityoforlando.net

Greenwood Cemetery is located at 1603 Greenwood Street, east of Mills Avenue and south of the East-West Expressway (State Road 408).

ILLINOIS

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Tri-State Trader*, Knightstown,

Ind., May 5, 1973: "Reading Old Cemeteries - Recent Illinois Hobby," by Sallie Bristow, Mattoon, IL. Called graveyards in early days; burial places later, and finally cemeteries...the years and man's progress may eventually wipe out all recollections of early resting places were it not for the "readers" and the "workers" who are striving to restore and preserve the early pioneer burial sites. People who settled and pioneered the area, now owned and farmed by a later generation, often used a section of their land as a family burial ground. Cemeteries were also provided for the "city folk." In fact, cemeteries were also used as parks in the early days, since there were no plots of land set aside for park areas. If a family was traveling westward and a member died, he or she was often buried by the roadside. Highway and railroad construction destroyed many burial sites, causing many unhappy residents to resent progress. One family lost both the father of the family and their cow because of a railroad accident. To get even, they melted the old cow into tallow and greased the rails thus causing much delay for trains traveling through the area.

From the *Daily Gate City News*, October 25, 2002: "Grave Robbing common practice in 1800s," from the files of the *Warsaw Bulletin*. The story tells of the death of a farm hand, John Douglas, who was involved in a farm accident and died as a result of his injuries. William Andrus, for whom he worked, held a grave side service for Douglas and buried his body in a small orchard located on the farm. Andrus and his family became suspicious of a stranger who made several trips up and down the road during the service. Around midnight, Andrus was awakened and returned to the site where he observed two men rearranging the coffin after having placed the corpse in a sack. Andrus fired a shotgun at the men, wounding one. The other man escaped. Discovering the wounded man, they moved him to the house, where he died. Before dying, he admitted being a grave robber for 9 years for Dr. Hughes of Keokuk.

From the *Daily Democrat*, Ft. Madison, Iowa, April 3, 2003: "Miller Cemetery back on the map," by Doug Endres. Hancock County, Illinois is dotted with forgotten cemeteries. Larry Cooper and his family are making sure that one of them is given the chance to be remembered again. They have spent 3 months working on the Miller Cemetery in Sonora Township. The site contains the graves of several historic figures, including Nauvoo founder, Captain James White and members of the Golden family who founded Golden's Point Church. Cooper found the cemetery as a boy growing up in Hamilton. He will begin work on a cemetery in Clark County, Missouri when he's done with Miller Cemetery, where the graves of some of his relatives are located. He said, "I feel you should show the dead the same respect you show the living," he said. "People shouldn't be forgotten."

From the *Quincy Herald-Whig*, May 15, 2003: "A Mystery from Beyond the Grave -- Researchers find clues in records to return a misplaced tombstone to the cemetery where it belongs," by Deborah Gertz Husar. Mary Schlatter and Ray Benn, volunteers at the Kibbe Hancock Heritage Museum in Carthage, recently helped return a tombstone for Emma Katharina Tenhaeff to its rightful place in the Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery or South Prairie Lutheran Cemetery, an Adams county burial site. Emma died Feb. 19, 1883.

From the *Daily Gate City*, September 24, 2003: "Finding more pieces to her family's past," by Doug Endres. Hope Siegrist found the graves of her ancestors in the Miller Cemetery, thanks to the efforts of Larry Cooper who restored the cemetery. As a result, she has written an article for "A New Day," which discusses the art of family research. She is hoping it will motivate others to take up the activity.

From the *Daily Gate City*: "McGee Cemetery features new look signage -- next step is to erect stones." The McGee Cemetery in Wythe

Township has a new look. Because of local volunteers and area descendants, this cemetery has not only been cleared of excess trees, brush and debris but now has a new sign. Pictured is the sign that was designed, constructed, painted and donated by Dusty and Karen Taylor of Hamilton.

GEORGIA

From the *New York Times*, February 8, 2004: "Histories Vanish Along with South's Cemeteries," by Andrew Jacobs. Hundreds, maybe thousands, of people lie buried beneath a noxious carpet of brambles and poison ivy in the Old Mill Cemetery near Thomaston. Diane Caldwell, a genealogist who lives nearby, comes once in awhile to tear out saplings and vines, but she knows nature is winning. There are thousands of graveyards like this in the south. Time, development and neglect are swallowing abandoned cemeteries, historians and preservation groups say. African-American burial grounds seem to be the most imperiled, according to historians. Ms. Caldwell accuses Thomaston's funeral directors of casting aside old headstones and graves to make room for new interments, which they deny. Her goal is to stop burials, fence in the grounds and form a group to restore the cemetery.

KANSAS

Contributed by Marilyn Finke

In an E-mail dated May 15, 2002, Marilyn tells of speaking to a genie society in Hiawatha, Kansas in the northeastern part of the state. One of the attractions in Hiawatha is the Davis Cemetery Monument in the city's cemetery. Marilyn also forwarded several photos of this spectacular monument that includes several life-sized realistic sculptures of people. Contact Marilyn for a brochure that tells the story of the creation of the monument.

marilyn.finke@nara.gov

MISSOURI

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo Courier*, January 19, 1903: "In a Lonely Grave -- Publicity may help to solve this mystery." O. W. Duer of Sinkin, Shannon County, Missouri writes: I found in the woods ten miles north of Eminence and three miles south of Blue Springs, Mo., a lonely grave, and cut on a rough limestone slab by a fine artist was the following:

"R.T.G., Co. F., 3d Iowa Cav."

If Iowa papers will copy, someone may learn of a dear boy's resting place. I will give all the information I can, for I have a brother in the same situation in West Missouri.

NEW YORK

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Des Moines register*, September 2, 2001: "Grave of little girl who died unites two families years later," by Helen O'Neill. For more than forty years, the Boscia children wondered how Annie McGuire had died. Her grave was near their father's and each year on the anniversary of his death, they would visit the cemetery. One son, Mike Boscia, took a special interest in Annie's grave. He built a picket fence around it and planted flowers there. After Mike's own death, his sister, Celie tended the grave. On one such visit, she found a tiny package in a plastic bag. Inside was a note that read: "Tell me who you are, you who have so faithfully tended the grave of little Annie McGuire all these years. If you find this, please phone me." Celie rushed home and dialed the number. Mary Walsh of Bel Air, Md. answered. Her husband's grandfather had been married to Maggie McGuire, Annie's sister. After much research and publicity, the mystery of Annie's death was revealed by Mildred Cahill of Tuchahoe, NY. Annie was her father's sister. Generations of McGuires, she said, had suffered from a congenital heart disease that struck them suddenly. Her own daughter had died of it only last December.

From the *Buffalo News*, no date available: "Crumbling cemeteries -- Local graveyards, especially the smaller ones, are deteriorating and being abandoned, leaving towns with a dilemma," by Jay Rey. Pictured is a broken fence surrounding the Concordia cemetery in Buffalo, NY, that illustrates the poor condition of the burial site. But there were signs of hope as about 100 people attended a recent reorganizational meeting of the cemetery association and selected a new board of directors. Weeds and grass obscure the stones marking the graves. Concordia is just one example of the dozen or more cemeteries that are abandoned each year, turned over to the care of reluctant municipalities, according to the state Division of Cemeteries.

NORTH DAKOTA

From *North Dakota Living*, Mandan, North Dakota, April 2003, pages 18-20: "Iron Crosses: Sentinels of the Prairie," by Jo Ann Winistorfer. The story centers on the death of 7 year-old Friedrich Krukenberg who was stricken by diphtheria in 1892. His grave is marked by an iron cross in a peaceful country graveyard north of Hazen. The cross is typical of thousands found in cemeteries around the American heartland -- from central Canada to Kansas, from the Mississippi to the Rockies. The cross represented the sacred; the iron represented strength -- attributes of the pioneers they honored. The wrought-iron markers were usually crafted by local blacksmiths and were of various nationalities. Most prevalent in North Dakota are the crosses of the Germans from Russia. Their craft was learned on the steppes of the Volga and the Black Sea region of Russia. Dr Timothy J. Kloberdanz, associate professor of sociology-anthropology at North Dakota State University, recently released a documentary called *Prairie Crosses, Prairie Voices: Iron Crosses of the Great Plains*. He stresses that the size, shape, style, color, design and symbols all have cultural significance. The Catholic cemetery near Hague, ND features 70 crosses.

TEXAS

Contributed by Sidney Louis

From the *Star-Telegram*, October 29, 2003: "Halloween decorations had grave importance," by Susan Schrock. The article tells of the police finding granite tombstones in the Arlington, Texas apartment of a couple who were being investigated for a drug lab. They finally admitted that they took them from the historic P.A. Watson Cemetery and were planning on painting them for Halloween. They face charges of theft from a grave site -- a felony punishable by up to two years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. The markers were returned to the correct graves in the cemetery.

From the *Star-Telegram*, November 3, 2003: "Vandals wreck 62 cemetery markers -- Trespassers strike a historic Crowley graveyard and could face felony charges," by Bill Teeter. Gravestones in the historic Crowley Cemetery were knocked over, smashed, and scattered on Halloween weekend. The damage was mostly in the older section of the cemetery. About 1,100 people are buried there. The first known grave, which was not harmed, is that of an 8-year-old boy who died in 1857. One marker is for a Confederate soldier killed in battle in 1862. Because the cemetery has a historical designation, charges could rise to a third-degree felony with a punishment of up to 10 years in prison.

From the *Star-Telegram*, November 10, 2003: "Grave vandals hinder efforts to preserve history," by Bill Teeter. Vandalism in several historic cemeteries in the last decade has destroyed many old headstones with original information. "Even if they can be repaired, the stones are never the same," said Gerron Hite of the Texas Historical Commission. Two teens were arrested in the recent vandalism at the Crowley Cemetery. Repairs to the stones there may cost more than \$20,000. Several suggestions for protecting burial sites were put forth in the story, including public education.

From the *Star-Telegram*, November 6, 2003: "Two teens arrested in connection with cemetery vandalism," by Bill Teeter. Police received a phone tip that a pair of teen boys, age 15 and 17, had talked about committing the crime. They were picked up by officers at a Crowley apartment on November 5. The boys said they had been drinking alcohol and vandalized the cemetery on the spur of the moment. The cemetery association is assessing the damage and trying to decide how best to repair it.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Renewal Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail address _____ Telephone _____

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

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

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

Preparing for this summer -- Gravestone Restoration Workshop
Dallas County Genealogical Society and City of Adel, Sponsors

The Dallas County Genealogical Society, for the past 12 years has been conducting a workshop to teach persons how to safely restore gravestones that have been neglected for possibly a hundred years. So put on your calendar June 25 & 26 for the Gravestone Restoration Workshop. The hands-on learning stresses techniques, safety, facts and fiction about neglect as well laws pertaining to care and restoring of pioneer cemeteries. With over 300,000 gravestones in Iowa alone needing repair the goal is to teach persons so they can go back to their community and begin to restore or help others become active in restoring neglected stones or cemeteries. Dallas County Genealogical Society will be glad to give a presentation to a club or group wishing to learn about this topic.

What: Two day Gravestone Restoration Workshop with hands-on learning taught by Dallas Co. Genealogy Society members with 12 years experience in restoring cemeteries and teaching.

When: Friday & Saturday, June 25, 26. 9:00 - 4:00. Ongoing. Come for part or all.

Where: Old Adel, Van Fossen, Rodenbaugh Cemetery, west of Adel, IA. Watch for signs those days.

Who: All ages. If you can dig in the garden you can restore gravestones. A good service club project

or a chance for families to learn together. Send township trustees, cemetery caretakers, 4-H, FFA, BSA, GSA, Camp Fire or other youth groups.

What: Techniques, safety, supplies needed; hands-on learning, laws regarding, public policy, facts and fictions about neglect, etc.

Needs: Come and observe or learn by doing. Many tools & supplies will be there. Dress for the weather. If wish bring lunch or go into Adel). Bring (and label) gloves, spade, pry pole, etc.

Why: With over 300,000 gravestones in Iowa alone needing repair, many may take less that 15 minutes to treat. Anyone can restore a stone and our goal is to teach so you can go back to your community and not just talk, but to take action to begin the job of restoring a long neglected stone or cemetery.

For more information contact: Dallas Co. Genealogical Society

Lorna Baldner Grow 515-992-3003

ljbgrow@earthlink.net

[<mailto:ljbgrow@earthlink.net>](mailto:ljbgrow@earthlink.net)

Michelle Fox 515-677-2416

BLACKHAWK COUNTY, IOWA (Contributed by Mike Magee)

WATERLOO COURIER OCTOBER 17, 1905

Bennington Column

Our township graveyard has been in very poor condition for some time, and the fence wires and gates are in bad shape, allowing stray cattle to tramp all over the grounds. but last Friday our zealous and accomodating township trustees Sam Wetzal, John Schmidt and Henry Schuette, appeared wtihout any notice on the ground with the necessary new posts and wires and in less than a day and a half everything was done and we now have a fence around our graveyard, which makes the place look better.

These guys deserve a posthumous thank you.

From Jerry Kramer, Blackhawk County, Iowa:

Mike,

Thanks for the note about the Bennington Township Cemetery. That was very timely in that we just had a long discussion about it at the last Trustees meeting . I think we will also put it in our neighborhood association newsletter. We need to remind people of the importance of that little plot of ground. John Schmidt that was mentioned in the story was my wife's grandfather, so JoAnn will accept their thanks posthumously.

Jerry Kramer