

GRAVE NEWS

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NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES
21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IA 52535-8045
Volume #9 Issue #2

www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/
April, 2004

May is Cemetery Appreciation Month:



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

PROCLAMATION

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY, 2004, AS

CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH

IN IOWA.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 30TH DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND FOUR.

Thomas J. Vilsack
THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR



ATTEST:

Chester J. Culver
CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

In this issue of *Grave News*, check out the exciting things that happened in Iowa during the months of April and May, 2004:

Organizational meeting in Davis County to request a pioneer cemetery commission, page 14

Pioneer Parent's Day observance in Lee County cemetery, page 16

Premiere of "America's Lost Landscape: The Tall Grass Prairie" in Blackhawk County, page 10

Work begins in Benton County at the McBroom Cemetery, page 10

The July 10, 2004 meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will be held in historic Lee County in the southeast corner of Iowa:

Where: Keokuk Middle School Cafeteria located at 2002 Orleans St. in Keokuk, Iowa
Map on page 6

Time:

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Coffee & doughnuts at the meeting place.

10:00 - 12 noon Tour of the National Cemetery and Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk (Bus provided)

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. General Meeting

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Board Meeting

Motels:

Super 8 3511 Main St. 319-524-3888

Fairfield Inn 3404 Main St. 319-524-9000

Hosts: Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, Terry Altheide, president.
508 South St., Keokuk, IA 52632

Telephone: 319-524-8772

E-Mail: sweetpeaandbigun@msn.com

July 9
79.80
AAA Rate

From John Grant jmgrant83@yahoo.com
In 1933, workers renovating the Bank of England buildings in London uncovered an unusually large lead box below the foundation. The 7 1/2-foot rectangular container turned out to be a coffin. A metal plate identified the occupant as "Mr. William Danl. Jenkins. Died 24 March 1798, Aged 31."

Researchers determined that Jenkins had actually been an employee of the bank. The 6-ft. 7-inch tall bank clerk was an unusually tall man for the 18th century and was of particular interest to the medical community. Several surgeons had offered to pay a reward of 200 guineas for his corpse. To keep Jenkins safe from body snatchers, his friends and colleagues decided the best place to deposit his remains was in the bank. The rediscovered remains were moved to the nearby catacombs of the Nunhead Cemetery.

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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Sally Youngquist, Web Page Manager
312 N. Railroad Sumner, Iowa 50674
youngqui@iowatelecom.net

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 1-800-697-6947

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**

April 2, 2004

Chairperson Joyce Wiese called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Valley West Inn, Des Moines, Iowa. Other board members present were Valerie Ogren, Michael Magee, Pat Shaw, Linda Zintz, and Larry Davis.

Minutes of the previous meeting, January 10, 2004 were presented. Moved by Valerie Ogren the minutes of the January 10, 2004 meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by Pat Shaw. Motion carried

The Treasurer's report was presented by Valerie Ogren. Income received in the working account from January 1 to March 31, 2004 was \$1,673.96 and expenses were \$309.60. It was noted that the income included \$1,102.00 for the April 2,3, 2004 conference, but the majority of the expenses had not been paid. The reserve account received \$200.00 for life memberships, bringing the balance to \$2,623.39 as of March 31, 2004.

Conference Planning and Board Meeting Site Selection Committee: Larry Davis reported the committee consisted of Linda Zintz, Molly Beason, Larry Davis, and was assigned to plan the SAPIC conference on April 2,3, 2004 and to develop a policy for selecting the quarterly SAPIC board meeting sites. Advance conference registration was somewhat less than expected at 45, but the estimated income should cover the expenses. Davis stated that if some unexpected expenses should occur that would exceed the meeting income, he recommended the treasurer be authorized to pay the excess expense from the reserve funds. No action was taken, but there was general agreement this would be satisfactory. Davis also reported the committee discussed selection of the future board meeting sites. The by-laws state the board will meet January, April, July, and October and be held on the 2nd Saturday except October, which will be the annual meeting and held in conjunction with the Iowa Genealogical Society conference.

The committee recommends the following site selection policy: The January and July meetings be alternated from the east half to the west half of the state, the April meeting site be flexible in case future conferences would be planned for that month, and the October meeting site continue to be held in conjunction with the Iowa Genealogical Society.

The committee also suggests the July 2004 meeting be held in Toledo, Iowa and that future meeting sites be selected by the president, officers, or board.

Pat Shaw reported that Lee county has indicated an interest to host a SAPIC board meeting, and perhaps could be held in July 2004 and move the Toledo site to January 2005. Pat Shaw will contact Lee County to obtain their current wishes.

Old Business: Pat Shaw reported receiving an invitation to attend a premiere showing of the new film "America's Lost Landscape: The Tall Grass Prairie" on April 30, 2004 at the University of Northern Iowa representing SAPIC. Mike Magee also received an invitation and will see if space would permit other SAPIC members to attend.

Membership: Valerie Ogren reported the current paid membership is 92, including 38 life members and 54 regular members. A total of 89 members are delinquent over the past three years, 55 as of December 2003, and 21 as of December 2002, and 13 as of December 2001. It was suggested that the 89 delinquent members be designated as delinquent, and removed from the newsletter mailing list.

Newsletter: It was noted that 200 or more copies of the newsletter are required to qualify for mailing under the bulk-mailing rate. When the current delinquent members are dropped from the mailing list, approximately 100 newsletters will be mailed, therefore requiring the mailing at regular first class rates. After considerable discussion, it was suggested to reduce the number of pages in the newsletter in order to reduce the weight and cost of mailing.

Board Meeting Format: A suggestion was received to include county reports in future board meetings, and encourage visitors and guests to attend as in the past. It was also noted that certain agenda items could be handled more efficiently when guests and visitors are not present. After considerable discussion, it was suggested that future board meetings might consider setting a time for board members to meet to handle association and business related items, a time for visitors and members to meet with the board for exchanging information, presenting county reports, etc, and a time for a speaker.

Life Membership: It was noted that Robert Carter award recipients receive a SAPIC life membership and the question was addressed that asked if funds should be transferred to the life membership account in the reserve funds. Moved by Larry Davis that as persons are granted life memberships through the Robert Carter Award program, the appropriate funds be transferred from the working account to the life membership fund in the reserve account. and this action be retroactive. Seconded by Mike Magee. Motion carried.

Secretary Position: It was reported that current secretary Charly Stevens has submitted her resignation due to her job related workload and schedule. The Board appointed Larry Davis as acting secretary until the election at the annual meeting in October 2004.

Other Business: Linda Zintz reported a contact is available to assist associations in filing for a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt status. Pat Shaw indicated SAPIC has considered applying for some time. This will be investigated further in regard to SAPIC preparing an application. Pat Shaw reported the Governor of Iowa has proclaimed May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month".

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Larry D. Davis
Acting Secretary

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter - 1 January 2004 thru 31 March 2004

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2003, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$5454.94

Income

Dues	560.00
Donations	10.00
Conference Registration	1102.00
Interest 1/31/04	1.00
Interest 2/29/04	.96
Interest 3/31/04	<u>- 0 -</u>
Total Income	\$1673.96

Expense

Ck #150 - Pat Shaw - newsletter	86.46
Ck #151 - Pat Shaw - newsletter	6.60
Ck #152 - Pat Shaw - Conf. Mailing	102.11
Newsletter Exp.	114.43
Total Expense	<u>216.54</u> \$309.60

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2004 \$6819.30

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2003, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$2423.39

Income

Life Membership - Ruth Johnston	100.00
Life Membership - Vern Green	<u>100.00</u>
Total Income	\$200.00

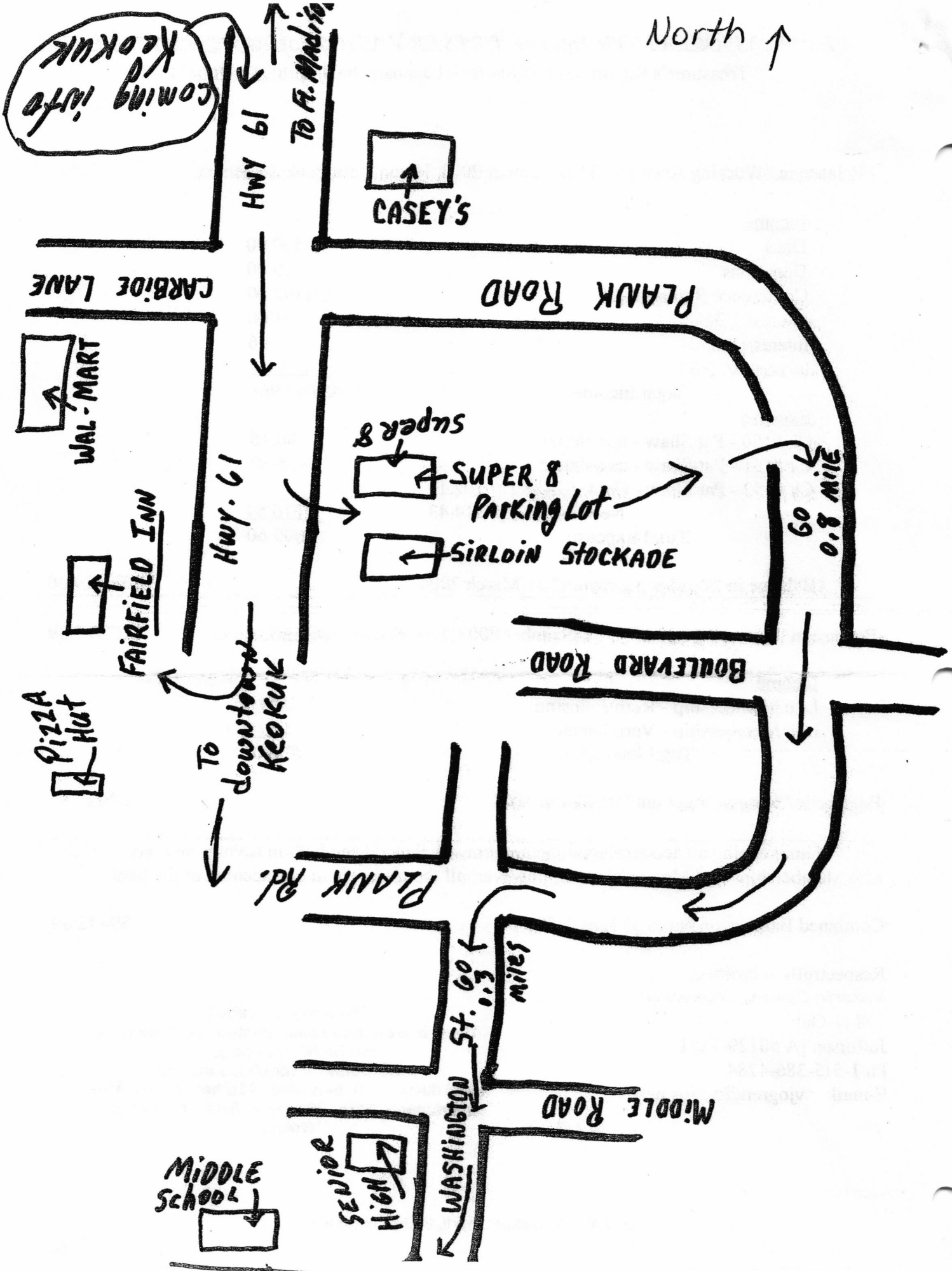
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2004 \$2623.39

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 March 2004 \$9442.69

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

Want to join SAPIC?
There is a printable membership application on
the SAPIC Web page:
www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/ or
send dues: \$10 individual, \$15 household, \$20
organization, \$100 lifetime individual to Valerie
Ogren.



■ People & Places

Cemetery Act would preserve sites

By LISA LIVERMORE
Register Correspondent
01/11/2004

SAPIC has a camera that can be borrowed to photograph gravestones and cemeteries. Contact Pat Shaw for details.

The six stitches in the center of Dean Gipple's head are a testament to his dedication to preserve Iowa's old cemeteries.

After a recent meeting with his local county supervisors, Gipple, of Columbus Junction, slipped and hit his head. The spilled blood was symbolic of the effort he makes to give people access to their loved ones' graves.

Gipple spearheaded a law passed by the Iowa Legislature in 1995 that created government entities to oversee the upkeep of pioneer cemeteries, grounds that have had six or fewer burials in the last 50 years.

Now Gipple, 86, who complains of old age and bad hearing, places his hand over one ear and strains to hear the new debate over how to protect this portion of Iowa history.

Gipple and other members of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries met Saturday at the Urbandale Public Library to discuss a strategy for the proposed Iowa Cemetery Act.

The act would require cemetery firms to keep detailed records of burials and establish endowment funds to maintain the cemeteries. The proposal could be introduced in the Legislature this month.

Lobbyists became interested in the issue after several reports nationwide showed poor management that allowed remains from a cemetery to scatter into adjoining woods and caused major confusion about burial records.

"You've got to accept the fact there's no records," Gipple said at a recent cemetery association meeting.

This year, he said, he's primarily interested in regulations that would permit any family member to visit a pioneer cemetery, even if it is on private ground.

"I think it's immoral to prevent ancestors from visiting," he said.

In an interview last month, Chris Gruenhagen of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation said the provision would violate property rights and privacy for farmers with old cemeteries on their farmland.

Gipple pointed out that progress on the issue is further threatened because advocates who lobby for local cemeteries are aging. Some have died.

"I lost some real good members," Gipple said. "I don't know how long I could venture to carry the ball."

Thanks to planning committee, Larry Davis, Linda Zintz, and Molly Beason for arranging the cemetery conference held in Des Moines on April 2 and 3. The speakers were Dennis Britson, Director of Regulated Industries Unit, Iowa Securities Bureau; Shirley Schermer, Burials Program Specialist with the Office of the State Archaeologist; and Beverly Bethune, Instructor at Indian Hills Community College. The generosity of these speakers in sharing their expertise was greatly appreciated by SAPIC members and others in attendance.

Tips from Beverly Bethune:

Use Ivy Block before going to a cemetery to prevent poison ivy. Use Burt's Bees, a poison ivy soap, if you encounter poison ivy.

Lex-An, a product available at art supply stores, is a plexiglass strip that can be used for stone braces.

Contact Beverly for a copy of a directory of monument carvers and dealers that have been active in Iowa over the years. This directory was compiled by SAPIC member Loren Horton.

From Darrell Easton, Sales Manager of L & E Software LLC:

We now have on our website information about ordering the Aspen 2000 cemetery software program. Also on the website is a genealogy program containing charts and forms and background paintings for printouts. www.leswllc.com

E-mail: sales@leswllc.com

From SAPIC member, Kevin Lee:

Here is a site for the Campbell Center not far from Dubuque in the town of Mt. Carol, IL. This center is for historic preservation studies and a course on pioneer cemetery preservation was recently presented there. <http://www.campbellcenter.org/courses/prelim.shtml>

From *Bindings, News for Supporters of The University of Iowa Libraries*, Spring, 2004, pg 3: "Preservation 101," by Nancy Kraft, Preservation Librarian. Funding from the Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) made possible a series of preservation workshops sponsored by the Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium (ICPC). More than 150 Iowans attended at least one class. Those attending the entire series received 18 hours of lecture and 15 hours of hands-on training. ICPC is requesting HRDP funds for Preservation 102. <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu>

University of Iowa Libraries; 100 Main Library; Iowa City, IA 52242-1420

The Recording of a Cemetery
By Thelma Greene Reagan

Today we walked where others walked
On a lonely, windswept hill;
Today we talked where others cried
For Loved Ones whose lives are stilled.
Today our hearts were touched
By graves of tiny babies;
Snatched from the arms of loving kin,
In the heartbreak of the ages.
Today we saw where the grandparents lay
In the last sleep of their time;
Lying under the trees and clouds --
Their beds kissed by the sun and wind.
Today we wondered about an unmarked spot;
Who lies beneath this hallowed ground?
Was it a babe, child, young or old?
No indication could be found.
Today we saw where Mom and Dad lay
We had been here once before
On a day we'd all like to forget,
But will remember forever more.
Today we recorded for kith and kin
The graves of ancestors past;
To be preserved for generations hence,
A record we hope will last.
Cherish it, my friend; preserve it, my friend,
For stones sometimes crumble to dust
And generations of folks yet to come
Will be grateful for your trust.

There is a sense of exhilaration that comes from facing head-on the hard truths and saying, "We will never give up. We will never capitulate. It might take a long time, but we will find a way to prevail. - Jim Collins from his book, *Good to Great*.

From Cedar Memorial, Cedar Rapids, Iowa:

In regard to deeds to cemetery property, we typically issue deeds once per month. Our computer program generates a report that tells us which property was paid in full that month and we issue deeds to those properties. Recent proposed legislation suggested that cemeteries should get away from the use of the word "deed" and instead use something like "Certificate of Ownership of Burial Rights." The word "deed" tends to indicate that a person has purchased real property, when they have only purchased the right of burial.

From the Ministries of Francis Frangipane, Message of the Week, March 15, 2004: "As Christ's Passion Becomes Ours," by Francis Frangipane, 125 Robins Sq. Ct.; Robins, Iowa. 1-888-934-6243
RiverOfLifeMailer@InChristImage.org
comments@frangipane.org

There is a reason why societies memorialize those who, through their sacrifice or courage, were instrumental in shaping their cultural identity. To forget the legacy of one's forefathers is to actually lose some essence of who we are as a unique people. Thus, we honor our founders and heroes by creating memorials to them. We erect statues, name airports and cities after them and even have national holidays in remembrance of their sacrifices and accomplishments.

Yet, the power of our memorials goes beyond the tribute they offer to the past; they actually connect us to our heritage. For what we truly memorialize, we internalize and make a living part of our souls. Thus, each time a succeeding generation honors a national hero, as they appreciate what made their leaders great, the essence of whose values is transferred to them.

As our technology advances, our ability to memorialize has taken modern expressions. For African Americans, the book and movie *Roots* helped define the uniqueness of the black journey in America. While the movie touched and taught people in general, for those of African American descent, it went much

deeper: for many, it was a summary season that connected them with the genesis of their own souls. The movie communicated more than information; it brought with it impartation from the generations of Africans who suffered and died in slavery. It said: *Here is the great price our forebears paid. We owe it to them to prosper in this land of our affliction.* *Roots* was not just a movie; it became a memorial.

The Jewish people also have their unique memorials. Established in a number of different cities around the world are Holocaust museums, which are memorials to Jewish suffering. For those of us who are Gentiles, we visit, we are touched and we come away with a better understanding and love for the Jewish people. Seeing the history of their persecution helps us appreciate the passion Jews have for their homeland, Israel. Yet, the images of mass open graves and ovens, of people standing in lines before gas chambers, penetrate much deeper into the soul of a Jew. They see the sufferings of the Holocaust generation and it adds something to their soul, a mandate which rises in their hearts: Never again; never forget!

Such is the nature of memorials: they compel us to remember the sacrifice; they command us to never forget.

From Rootsweb, May 1, 2004:

VA Burials Database

Thanks to Patrick McKenney: "I came across a good site in the *US Stars and Stripes* newspaper regarding a searchable database for burials (and memorial markers) in military cemeteries:" www.cem.va.gov/ The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has set up an online database containing more than 3 million records that show where veterans have been buried in national cemeteries. The nationwide grave locator contains records of veterans and dependents buried in the VA's 120 cemeteries since the Civil War. It also has records of burials in state veterans' cemeteries and burials in Arlington National Cemetery. Some cemetery information (such as identity of next of kin) is subject to the Privacy Act and is not included online.

COUNTY REPORTS

BENTON

Contributed by Frieda & Gene Davis
From the *Vinton Times*, April 20, 2004:
"Work Day improves cemetery, offers lessons -- Students learn care, history at McBroom Cemetery," by Dean Close, Times News Editor. Pictured in color are two students who are reading a 100-year-old grave marker at McBroom Cemetery after flour was brushed on it to make the words more legible, volunteers from the Benton County Cemetery Association and many students working to clean the cemetery and repair some of its stones, Gene Davis showing the students how dowsing rods can be used to locate burials in places where the headstones are missing, and a tombstone of a member of the McBroom family. The cemetery is located between Urbana and Shellsburg. The students involved were from St. John's Lutheran Church in Center Point and the Center Point-Urbana High School service learning class. The project helped with the cleaning of the cemetery and it gave the students an opportunity to learn about cemetery history.

Frieda also writes that commission members, along with the county attorney, went to the Greenwood Cemetery on May 1 to gain permission to access the site and to try to determine what happened to stones that were present in the 70's and 80's. Frieda adds, "We meet new challenges all the time."

BLACKHAWK

Contributed by Mike Magee

The Cedar Falls Historical Society hosted a program on April 15 at the Victorian Home and Carriage House Museum in Cedar Falls. Dr. Tom Conners from the University of Northern Iowa spoke on the general history of US cemeteries from the colonial burying grounds to the modern memorial gardens. The Victorian Home and Carriage House is featuring a year-long exhibit "Victorian Celebration of Death," featuring such items as mourning garments, hair jewelry and more modern items such as photos and postcards. Throughout the year, special lectures and programs will focus on the exhibit. For more

information, call the Historical Society office at 319-296-5149. The Cedar Falls Historical Society is located at 303 Franklin St. in Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613. The following Tuesday, Dr. Conners spoke at the Northeast Iowa Genealogical Society about Cedar Falls Cemeteries.

On April 30, 2004, the premier of "America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie," a feature length documentary film produced for national television by Dr. Daryl Smith, Professor of Biology and Science Education and Director of the Native Roadside Vegetation Center, University of Northern Iowa, was held. The film is narrated by Annabeth Gish, film and television actress. Because of the huge public interest in the premiere, the event was moved to the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center on the UNI Campus. Mike Magee and members of the Chickasaw County Pioneer Cemetery Commission attended. SAPIC contributed to the production of the film. An article about the film appeared in the March, 2004, Vol 15 No. 2 issue of *Roadside Digest*, the newsletter of Iowa's Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program. Lost Landscape Website: www.uni.edu/~lostland

From the *Waterloo Courier*, September 15, 1904: A notice was printed asking those who had relatives buried in the Poyner cemetery southeast of Raymond to meet on Sept. 21 for the purpose of fixing up the lots and graves. The cemetery was in neglected shape. The attendees were asked to come early and to bring well filled baskets of eatables.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, September 24, 1904: The sexton of the Elmwood Cemetery reports that many children and people old enough to know better have taken vases. Strenuous efforts will be made to locate and arrest the guilty parties.

From the *Water Courier*, August 19, 1904: "To Enlarge Elmwood -- Another Section of Land to be Sub-divided -- Experts secured to beautify and enlarge grounds -- Tree cut down, new driveways and walks put in." The services of S. W. Rubee of Marshalltown

were secured to beautify the present cemetery and lay out lots in the additional section of ground. Mr. Rubee has had charge of the Riverside cemetery in Marshalltown for several years. He will be assisted at Elmwood by R. J. Lambert of Iowa City, a civil engineer and instructor at the state university of Iowa City. The article also reports that people are slow to purchase cemetery lots and compares such advance preparations to buying life insurance -- that if they had their life insured the people would think they were making arrangements to die.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, July 25, 1906: "Unearthed a Skeleton -- City Workmen make ghastly find this forenoon -- Remains dug up while excavation for roadway believed to be those of a child twelve years old." The bones were discovered at a depth of about 2 feet in what was in past years a rather lonely and secluded spot. The local police chief took charge of the remains and will make an effort to find the identity of the person. It was the opinion of many that the body was buried in that remote spot to conceal a crime. The site was also a former popular camping ground for Indians, but it was determined that the body was of a white child.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, July 30, 1906: A. J. Reber, will haul 5,000 to 8,000 loads of sand from a sand knoll on the Cedar Falls road for the upbuilding of the levy along the Black Hawk Creek in Red Cedar addition. Two skeletons have been exhumed from the sand knoll, which was the original farm of Charles Mullen, Sr., the first settler of Waterloo.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, July 27, 1906: "Find human skeleton -- well preserved bones of man unearthed at Oak Lawn is supposed to be the body of Joseph Shoemaker. Property once a burying ground. May find more." A burial in the 50's found where grading was being done may be that of Mr. Shoemaker who owned 240 acres 2 miles away and possibly died of Cholera. Relatives were notified and will probably take charge of the remains. It is reported that 6 or 7 other burials will probably be unearthed.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, August 2, 1906: "Third skeleton was exhumed -- A. J. Reber uncovers skull of under-sized person. Chief Sweitzer to try to locate relatives." A. J. Reber and his fellow workmen unearthed parts of a third skeleton from Mullan hill while hauling sand from the knoll. Police chief, Sweitzer, took charge of the remains and buried them near those believed to be those of Mr. Shoemaker, an early settler. He will attempt to notify relatives of the deceased.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, August 3, 1906: A. J. Reber's workman exhumed a fourth skeleton, that of a large man and well preserved. If the police chief cannot locate relatives, the remains will probably be buried in potter's field. All the teeth of the skeletons found were perfect, although no metal work can be found with the coffins, leading the observers to conclude that they were put together with wooden pins.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 1, 1906: "Coo in cemetery; arrested -- Joplin, Mo., Sexton to stop the desecration of holy cities of the dead." The article states that a cemetery is not a fitting setting for scenes of courting and cooing couples! The Joplin sexton warns that anyone found loitering about the place after nightfall will be placed under arrest. A similar order might be advisable in Waterloo for the Elmwood and Fairview cemeteries comments the writer.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, December 7, 1906: "Body is found -- Corpse lost for two weeks finally turns up." Ft. Dodge, Dec. 7 -- after having traveled over the railroads for over two weeks during which it passed through no less than nine different states, the body of William Wolfe, who died last month at Oakland, California, arrived yesterday at Grand Junction, where the funeral was held. The body was due to arrive on November 28, and the funeral procession met the train on that day, but no corpse arrived. It was finally located on the southern line of the C. & N. W.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, December 21, 1906: "Beautify the home of dead -- Cedar Falls Cemetery platted in 1865 to be

replatted and to make the site one of the most beautiful "silent cities of the dead" in the state.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, June 7, 1907: "A grave problem to solve." Sioux City, June 7 -- To solve a new cemetery puzzle, Mayor Sears would like to be a miracle worker. On some cold dark night when no one else was about he would like to go over to the Floyd cemetery and command a number of the dead to rise up out of strangers' graves and get into their own lots. He might stand and watch this ghastly procession of the tenants of the narrow house in great glee, for it would solve the puzzle he has asked the city attorney to assist him with.

William A. Lester, who died in December, 1890, is one of the trespassers who is sleeping several rods from his allotted long home. He has figuratively jumped the claim of E. Buckham, who was forced to stake out another for his relative who died in 1891.

While the bones of William A. Lester have been visiting away from home, the premises allotted to him have been seized by a whole family of the dead, the four loved ones of George Payne, and Lester's wasting form cannot return to its rightful resting place. His mother, Eliza Lester, who is living, has applied to Mayor Sears to find her a place where he may rest in peace without being a trespasser in a world to which he has long since bade adieu.

The history of the troublesome matter is related by Mrs. Lester in a petition which she sent to the mayor this week, and which was returned to him as too big a puzzle by the city council.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, February 25, 1907: "Twice believed dead -- man buried recently at Colfax declares he's alive." George Ritchie spent Saturday at the home of his niece, Mrs. Frank Roder, from where his funeral was held March 27, 1906. A stranger fell dead on the streets of Parsons, Kansas and Ritchie's sister declared that the dead man was her brother. Several weeks later, Ritchie showed up and notified his relatives in Colfax that it was all a mistake. He claims it was the second time he was

declared dead. The other time was when the skeleton of a man was found in the ashes of a straw pile in Colorado. Friends declared that he was the victim. A stranger was arrested and accused of the crime and would undoubtedly have been convicted if Ritchie not returned to the area and learned of the case.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 17, 1907: "No place for bodies to rest -- Bone of pioneers take from place to place. May find permanent interment on county farm." The article relates that Police Chief Sweitzer has a number of bodies on his hands and does not know what to do with them. One of these bodies is in a box in the vault at the city hall and four others repose in the sand knoll on Jacobs hill. Nobody knows for certain the identity of the individuals. When A. J. Reber set to work to grade down the hill, the coffins containing these bodies were uncovered. Four of the bodies were placed in new boxes and reinterred nearby on a knoll that is also to be cut down, so a new burial site must be found. No one seems to know just where to give the bodies permanent interment.

From the *Water Courier*, May 20, 1907: "Bodies go with land." The skeletons exhumed by A. J. Reber on Mullan Hill have finally found a permanent resting place on the farm. The county attorney ruled that the person who buys the land on which interments have been made must stand the expense of the removal of the bodies. What was on or in the ground goes with the land.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May, 1907: "Uncanny sounds from cemetery -- early settler tells of ghostly noises from Mullan Hill. G. W. Barnes noted trees would not grow there." Some early settlers claim that trees planted on and around the graves withered and died and only rank weeds grow there. Another says that the wind sighs and groans and shrieks like some wild and uncanny creature of the underworld. Mrs. America Mullan, who lived on the hill for nearly 60 years, was confident that there were but 5 or 6 burials there, but others claim there were more -- maybe victims of crime or disease, who were buried in the darkness of the night.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, June 7, 1936: New officers of the Old Barkley Cemetery association were named. The cemetery was laid out by early settlers of Barclay Township on a knoll surrounded by timber and grassy plains, but later the virgin prairie was broken up for fields. A broken slab in the old burial ground names three young brothers who went to the Civil War: Ephriam, Cyrus, and Alfred Shaffer.

CHICKASAW

Contributed by Mike Magee

Mike reports that he was at the Jacksonville Cemetery, north of Lawler, Iowa, helping the Chickasaw County group on May 1. There was a big turn-out, including a Lutheran group, 4-H kids, etc. A small building at the cemetery was resingled, big tree removed, many other trees were trimmed. They found remnants of some gravestones, but not the complete ones. There were other stones that had been cemented down on the backs in 1956-57 by a group of local historians. They also placed a nice plaque there. Mike was poking around the west fence line by the road in some lilies and found another gravemarker that was cemented down in 1956. The snowplow had moved gravel etc. over it as the years went by and it became covered over and unseen. The Chickasaw group is also working on a cemetery near the Little Brown Church.

CLAYTON

Contributed by Ron Harris

In an E-mail dated April 16, Ron attaches a draft of the wording for a temporary sign for the Eastman Cemetery. It will be professionally printed on a dark background with gold or amber print. It is assumed that a bronze marker will eventually be made, but a sign listing burials might be helpful for visitors this summer for the Grand Excursion Celebration. The base material for the sign will be aluminum and will last several years. It can be attached to the fence or mounted on 2 posts. It will be about 3 feet wide. The Milewskys have made a nice, small direction sign that will guide visitors to the cemetery. Ron is still trying to find out more information on the people buried in the

Eastman Cemetery and he had the Iowa Historical Society in Iowa City double check the WPA Cemetery Recording Project records.

In an E-mail dated May 18, Ron reports that the sign for the Eastman Cemetery was finished. It lists interments, project sponsors, etc. The sign is 3 feet wide and is dark green with beige print. It is intended as a temporary sign until final interments are confirmed at which time the names may be engraved on a stone tablet or cast in a bronze plaque.

DALLAS

Contributed by Valerie Ogren and
Iowa Genealogical Society newsletter
Vol 25/Issue 2 April 2004, page 12

The Dallas County Genealogical Society and the City of Adel will sponsor a Gravestone Restoration workshop:

What: A two-day workshop with hands-on learning taught by Dallas County Genealogical Society members with 12 years experience in restoring cemeteries and teaching.

When: Friday & Saturday, June 25, 26.
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Ongoing, come for part or all.

Who: All ages. If you can dig in the garden, you can restore gravestones.

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

Needs: Come and observe or learn by doing.

Many tools and supplies will be there. Dress for the weather. If you wish, bring lunch or go into Adel. Bring gloves, spade, pry pole, etc.

Why: With over 300,000 gravestones in Iowa alone needing repair, many may take less than 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 County Genealogical Society
Lorna Baldner Grow
515-992-3003
or
Michelle Fox
515-677-2416

DAVIS

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 4 and 7, 2004: "Meeting set on Davis County cemeteries and gravesites." The articles announced that a meeting will be held at the Davis County Fairgrounds in Bloomfield on May 11 to discuss general repair and clean-up of cemeteries, plotting and marking burial sites, and funding cemetery organizations. Community leaders, local 4-H Clubs, and volunteers will discuss issues relating to cemeteries. Website: www.davisco-cem.com

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 13, 2004: "Davis County citizens start cemetery preservation club," by Derek White, Courier correspondent. Pictured are Lana Doll and Alicia Huffman, members of the newly-formed Davis County Cemetery Preservation Club, as they view the markers at the Patterson Cemetery south of Bloomfield. About 50 concerned Davis County residents, including members of the Bloomfield City Council and the Davis County Board of Supervisors, were present for an informational meeting held for the purpose of planning for the future of burial grounds in the county. Willis and Carol Hoffman, organizers of the meeting, have spent the past several months trying to locate and record the locations of cemeteries and burial sites throughout the county. The couple has found between 100-110 of the areas so far. Willis uses his global positioning system device to record the exact location so that it will be easier to find in the future. Willis stressed that the purpose of the group is to locate, repair, and preserve cemeteries because they are important links to the past. He says, "It is vital to retain a piece of the past as if it were our own." Speakers at the event included Bill Rearden from the Bloomfield Monument Company, Pat Shaw of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, Ione Friend who is concerned about the Peden Cemetery, volunteers who maintain cemeteries, and State Representative, Kurt Swaim. The group voted to draw up a resolution to present to the County Board of Supervisors in hopes of creating a pioneer cemetery commission.

DES MOINES

Contributed by Phyllis Rothlauf

Mr. John Weyrick, a longtime proponent of the Old Danville Cemetery, died on March 30, 2004 at the New London Care & Rehab Center. Burial was in the Burlington Memorial Park Cemetery. A memorial was established for the Riverside Baptist Church. For several years, Mr. Weyrick has urged the restoration of the Old Danville Cemetery that was almost completely destroyed and used as a cornfield by the adjacent landowner.

FAYETTE

Contributed by Steve Story

The Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission re-elected all officers at the March 3 meeting held at the Fayette County Historical Center: Virgie Bruening, chair; Donal Boie, vice-chair; Frances Graham, secretary-treasurer. Rolley Miller and Charles Shipton were appointed to the Board's Advisory Committee. Both have volunteered their time and labor to previous pioneer cemetery restoration project.

The 2004-5 budget, submitted in January to the Fayette County Board of Supervisors, was discussed in detail. Major items in the 2004-5 budget include fence repair at Dover Public, stump grinding at Old Pioneer, and contracted mowing at several cemeteries. Signage and maintenance are also included for each of the fifteen pioneer cemeteries in the 2004-5 budget. All labor continues to be donated by commission work crew members.

The next regularly scheduled Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission is June 2 at 1:30 PM in the Historical Center. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

LEE

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From *Smoke Signals*, the Keokuk Senior High School newspaper, January 8, 2004: "Cemetery Association...get involved," by Dorothy Hudnut, Staff Reporter. A detailed history and overview of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association is included in the article, as well as an appeal to students to join the group and volunteer their time and energy to help clean cemeteries in Lee County.

From the *Daily Gate City News*, February 27, 2004: "Summer, Cooper get long overdue attention," by Terry Altheide. In his column, the writer tells how he became interested in cemetery preservation by finding a book about Lee County cemeteries in the Keokuk Library. He gives much overdue credit to individuals who have toiled anonymously and otherwise in cemeteries over the years. One such person he mentions is Ron Summers who, in 1996, cleaned Yellow Banks Cemetery along with fellow firefighter, Don Hardin. In a brief history of Yellow Banks, he also tells of another couple, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Inman, who spent untold hours rescuing this important part of Lee County history. Larry Cooper of Hamilton, Illinois, along with family members, reclaimed the Miller Cemetery near Golden's Point Church in Illinois. Besides the two cemeteries mentioned, they have worked in many other graveyards in the area. Terry says, "The word dignity is an apt description for these two men."

From the *Des Moines Register*, March 6, 2002: (Letter to editor) "Restore pioneer cemeteries." The letter reads: Bravo to Iowa for refurbishing our Civil War flags ("25 Fragile Battle Flags to Get New Lease on Life," Jan. 24). Our history, in any form, should be honored and respected.

That's why I'm so dismayed at the condition of so many of our pioneer cemeteries. It's disgraceful how some of these history-laden localities have been forgotten and neglected.

We place buildings, bridges and even barns on the National Historic Register, but often the graveyards of early pioneers who may have helped build some of these places aren't even considered.

Iowa should embark on a pioneer-cemetery restoration project. Also, make stronger penalties for vandalizing any burying ground.

Surely all of our dead deserve better than to be abandoned.

--Terry Altheide, Keokuk

Note: A follow-up response to Terry's letter is printed under the Jasper County report.

The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association published its first newsletter, *Lee County Cemeteries*, dated Jan., Feb., Mar., 2004. An introduction written by president, Terry Altheide, gives a short history of the association, its membership, accomplishments, and goals. The 14-page newsletter contains a great deal of general information, a member spotlight, schedule of meetings, and a membership application. For a copy of the newsletter or to make suggestions or contributions, contact editor, Toni Boehm. E-mail: heroyalcakeness@yahoo.com

From the *Daily Gate City*, April 15, 2004: "Who was buried under Blondeau Street?" by Terry Altheide. Keokuk's earliest graveyard was established in 1932 and closed in 1855 when the city leaders decided to create Blondeau Street. The column tells of an 1857 news article which states "workmen cut away a portion of the old graveyard adjoining the Catholic Church and brought forth 15 or 20 skulls which with their kindred bones are now thrown into a promiscuous heap back of the church." Evidently, not all bones were removed in 1855 when it was advertised in the paper that those who had relatives buried there should remove them to Oakland Cemetery, because in 1918 a workman discovered two bodies when digging a cellar. The bodies were reburied in Oakland's Catholic Cemetery. It's speculated that they were the remains of Dr. Samuel Muir, the founder of Keokuk, and his beloved Indian bride, Sophia. The same workman also found 5 skeletons under a house on Des Moines Street in 1910. They may have been cadavers from Keokuk's medical colleges. John Gaines, Keokuk's first postmaster, notary public and operator of the saloon where the name Keokuk was proposed for the city, was also buried at the Blondeau Street site. Scores of victims of Cholera, drowning, and persons who died on river boats were buried atop the Blondeau Street bluff. It is believed that 25 victims of a steamboat explosion near Montrose were given a mass burial in the plot. Maybe some long ago buried soul presently lies peacefully under someone's lilac bush in the backyard,

as it is not known if all remains were removed.

From the *Daily Gate City*, May 13, 2004: "Delahoyde and Juhl made heroic contributions," by Terry Altheide. A tribute is paid to law officers, Harold "Toots" Delahoyde, Lee County sheriff, and Norman Juhl, the only policeman killed in the line of duty while serving on Keokuk's police department. Toots Delahoyde, elected sheriff in 1950, is remembered by Lee County children for his endless supply of Tootsie Rolls that he threw from his car window to waiting children. Terry fondly remembers these heroes from his youth and honors them during National Law Enforcement Week, May 9-15.

From the *Daily Gate City*, May 13, 2004: "Donations for veterans memorial." Pictured are veterans and State Central Bank officials as they celebrate the bank's \$25,000 donation to a veterans memorial that will be built at the entrance to Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. So far, the project has received \$108,000 in pledges and cash. Ground will be broken for the memorial in July.

The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association held its first "Pioneer Parent's Day" on May 15, 2004 at the Hoffmeister Cemetery in Fort Madison, Iowa. At least 12 burials have been made at the site that contains members of the family of an early Keokuk doctor. Unique grave markers that are nearly the length of the graves and set at a slight angle on the burial sites are inscribed with the names of those interred there. The ceremony included introductory remarks by Terry Altheide, invocation by Pastor Jon Heyland of the Harvest Bible Fellowship, remarks by Jerry Sloat, columnist and historian in Ft. Madison, placing of a wreath by Kenneth and Jean Hoffmeister, and concluding remarks by Arnold Dischler Landowners, Fred and Carol Vradenburg, are restoring and caring for the cemetery. The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association plans to honor a pioneer family each year in a Lee County cemetery. Guests at the ceremony were from Lee, Davis, and Van Buren counties.

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 6, 2004: "Bones discovered at the Iowa State Penitentiary." What appears to be bones from human skeletons were discovered on May 1 at a construction site inside the maximum security prison in Fort Madison. The bones were found scattered along a filled-in trench in the southeast corner of the prison following heavy rains over the weekend. Preliminary examinations have concluded some of the bones are those of a child. Prison officials are speculating that it could be part of a graveyard older than the prison itself, which was built in 1839. The bones were sent to the Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa to determine first if they are human.

JASPER

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Des Moines Register*, March 29, 2002 (Letter to Editor): "Maintain pioneer cemeteries." Regarding Terry Altheide's March 6 letter on pioneer cemeteries: Most people are not aware that when a stone is placed in the cemetery, it is the family's responsibility to take care of that stone.

In the case of our early settlers, some moved west, some to other towns, and other families simply did not have any descendants to maintain the early stones.

In most Iowa counties, the responsibility for the upkeep of these cemeteries lies with the township trustees. In most cases, they do a good job, but funds are limited and only enough tax money is available for mowing.

The counties of Jasper, Lucas and Tama have set up their own cemetery commissions to oversee pioneer cemeteries. All three are funded, but normally only for the cost of materials. All labor is provided by its members and others on a volunteer basis.

Establish your own county cemetery commission. You will probably find a great many people willing to help in this endeavor.

--Verkland J. Beckham,

Jasper County Cemetery Commission, Newton

On a sign displayed in the window of a funeral home in Philadelphia: *We would rather do business with 1,000 al-Qaeda terrorists than with a single American.*

MITCHELL

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo -Cedar Falls Courier*, March 5, 2004: "Nature Center showcases pioneer cemeteries." Osage -- The Mitchell County Pioneer Restoration Project presented an audio-visual program on March 13 at the Mitchell County Nature Center, located one mile west of Osage on highway 9. The presentation featured the progress made in locating and restoring historical pioneer cemeteries in the county. Natural history displays, including many preserved animals, rocks, butterflies, and "live" trumpeter swans are also found at the Center. The event was sponsored by the Veterans Dinner Group. Contact person: Phil Fleischer Box 453; St. Ansgar 50472. Phone 641-736-2346

VAN BUREN

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Van Buren County Register*, March 11, 2004: Mt. Sterling column by Jo Hamlett. Melody Brewer had a birthday last week. This birthday was somewhat memorable. She received a cardboard replica of a tombstone at work at Barker's. Charlie (the older) gave her a cemetery plot some years ago so she is ready for any contingency.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, March 18, 2004: Van Buren County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet on March 10 at 1:30 p.m. Donald Aldrich will present the program: Cemetery Reconstructions.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, March 18, 2004: "Warren Beatty involved in community volunteerism," by Don Aldrich. Pictured is Warren Beatty (of Keosauqua, not Hollywood) who was honored as KTVO TV (Kirksville, MO & Ottumwa, IA) Station's Heartland Hero on February 4. Many of Warren's community service activities were listed in the article, including his work with the Genealogical Society Gravestone Restoration Project, in which over 300 gravestones have been given much needed attention. Many of these gravestones had to be approached by chainsaw, with Warren spending hours of cutting and clearing.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, April 8, 2004: Miller Report by State Senator, David Miller. One piece of legislation that I got passed concerns the use of inmate labor. "The Department of Corrections in cooperation with townships, the Iowa Cemetery Associations, and other nonprofit or governmental entities may use inmate labor to restore or preserve rural cemeteries and historical landmarks. The department in cooperation with the counties may also use inmate labor to clean up roads, major water sources, and other water sources around the state. Any governmental entity or nonprofit agency using inmate labor pursuant to this subsection shall be immune from civil or employer liability." Any governmental entity or nonprofit organization wanting to avail themselves of this opportunity should contact John Baldwin, Deputy Director of Administration for the Iowa Department of Corrections at 515-242-5704.

David Miller 515-281-3371
david.miller@legis.state.ia.us
www.senatormiller.com

From the *Van Buren County Register*, April 29, 2004: "Restoration work done in cemetery," by Don Aldrich. Pictured on the front page is the Van Buren County Genealogical Gravestone Restoration work crew that ventured out on April 15 to visit Egypt Cemetery and Oaks Cemetery near Milton. Ernie Birchmier, Jackson Township Trustee, assisted by using the bucket on his tractor to upright a dozen large monuments. The article suggests that area residents might wish to "adopt a cemetery," giving a few hours a year to keep the grounds clean after the initial clean-up is completed. The Society believes the pioneers of Van Buren County deserve more than what many are receiving. Surely, the residents would not wish their own parents, or ancestors, to be totally neglected in their places of rest.

On April 27, Don and Shirley Aldrich welcomed a group of 15 interested persons from Davis County to the Oaks Cemetery near Milton. The Aldrich's demonstrated the techniques they have used to repair gravestones in Van Buren County.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 13, 2004: "Cemetery Appreciation Month Proclamation," submitted by Pat Shaw. The text of the proclamation signed by Governor Vilsack was printed in the article, along with some facts about Van Buren County pioneer cemeteries. Van Buren County has within its boundaries over 113 cemeteries and more than 80 of these burial sites have been designated as "pioneer cemeteries." Persons wishing to know more about the preservation of historic burial sites in the county were urged to contact Don Aldrich at 319-293-3459.

WAPELLO

Submitted by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 2, 2004: "Vandals sack cemetery -- Dog statue broken, head is missing," by Cindy Toopes, Courier Staff Writer. Pictured is Bob Swanson, superintendent of Ottumwa Cemetery, as he surveys damage caused by vandals over the past weekend. Also shown is a dog statue with its head broken off. The statue, which has been in the cemetery for at least 100 years, has worn a variety of collars, usually leather. It is shown wearing flowers in an earlier picture. The dog statue is a popular item at the cemetery. "When schools visit here, all the kids want to see the dog," Swanson said. Many stories have surfaced over the years of how the greyhound came to rest in Section 1, Lot 21. It may represent the favorite dog of T. J. Nash, an early resident of Ottumwa.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 3, 2004: "Bank establishes reward, repair fund for canine statue," by Cindy Toopes. Officials at South Ottumwa Savings Bank announced that 2 funds have been set up in response to the vandalism at the Ottumwa Cemetery last weekend. Even if the head is never found, the statue will be repaired. A tall monument at the nearby Nash grave was knocked into about 5 pieces. Numerous flag holders were pulled up and other gravestones were overturned. The Bank is offering a \$1000 reward to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the vandalism. They have also set up a "Guardian of Our Heritage Fund" to which interested persons may contribute. It

will be used to repair the dog statue and other monuments.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 3, 2004: "Horace Mann students upset about decapitated dog statue," by Mark Newman. Third grade teacher, Joan Fall, says in the article that her students were not at all pleased by the damage. They were in the habit of looking to see if there were flowers around its neck or if it was decorated for the holidays. The cemetery itself, along with the dog statue, plays a part in third-grade history for Fall's class. "A lot of people we talk about in Ottumwa history are buried over there. It's part of the curriculum." Her class visits the Ottumwa Cemetery each May.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 3, 2004: Lifestyle Section "et cetera" column by Judy Krieger. The writer states, "It's appalling, isn't it, what happened to our guardian dog statue in the Ottumwa Cemetery. Few people take better care of a cemetery than Bob Swanson, and I suspect that he feels worse than anyone about the vandalism." She goes on to say that everyone will help find the culprit and see to it that the statue is repaired. To prevent further damage, she suggests that citizens will need to be more vigilant and let officials know when something doesn't seem right.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 4, 2004: "Time to crack down on vandalism," (Letter to the editor from Terry McNutt.) The writer expresses the view of many Ottumwans when he states that the time has come to start cracking down on vandalism and crime in Ottumwa. He cites break-ins at schools and the damage to the Ottumwa Cemetery estimated at \$50,000. He urges all citizens and law enforcement to pull together to find out who is involved.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 5, 2004: "Damaged dog statue can be repaired," by Cindy Toopes. Ottumwa Cemetery Superintendent, Bob Swanson, said that Kent Whitney of Whitney Monument in Fairfield will donate his time and materials to repair the statue of the greyhound dog. Estimated repair costs are \$20,000. Adding a bronze collar to the dog is being considered to

stabilize the head and to inscribe the words, "To Our Guardian." The statue is made of Bedford limestone and is carved, not molded, so it is considered a piece of art. Whitney will also fix the tail that was chipped a long time ago. Lights may be installed in the area for security. An arrest of a 15-year old male has been made in connection with the vandalism.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 11, 2004: "Ottumwa's response to cemetery vandalism commendable," by Robert Swanson, Ottumwa Board of Cemetery Trustees. The writer expresses the roller coaster of emotions connected with the vandalism that occurred the past week. The week ended with joy when the head of the greyhound dog statue was found in the possession of the culprit. Mr. Swanson expresses his thanks to the Ottumwa Savings Bank for posting the led to the quick resolution, to the Ottumwa Police department for their investigative work and persistence, and to Kent Whitney for donating part of the future repair work. The statue, placed in 1906, will be removed while repairs are made which will take a considerable amount of time and money. It will be placed in its original location when completed -- the same location where Theodore Nash placed it in memory of his grandson, Georgie. Continued decoration of floral tributes is encouraged to show that vandalism, in any form, will not be tolerated.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 22, 2004: "Every dog shall have his day," by Cindy Toopes. Pictured is the greyhound dog statue along with a second reclining dog in the Ottumwa Cemetery. The photo was taken some years ago. The reclining dog has been in a private home for years. The writer summarizes the 3 basic legends associated with the statues and tries to blend them with facts that she has found and her own speculations. Thomas J. Nash and his family moved to Ottumwa in the 1890's. He may have ordered the dog statue to honor the memory of a favorite pet. The statue was in his yard for years. The Nash's left Ottumwa in 1906 to live in Illinois and may have returned the statue to the carver, a man

named Naugle. Both statues ended up at a home bought by "Link" Reynolds, when a man came and asked for one of the statues to put on his grandson's grave. The writer thinks that man was Thomas Nash.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 22, 2004: "Pioneer cemetery road sought -- Agency trustees would like to build a road to the cemetery," by Ray Weikal, Courier Staff Writer. In response to the request by relatives to visit the Garrison Rock Park's Pioneer Cemetery, the Agency Township trustees have asked the county supervisors to build a road to the site. Mowing crews now have to walk about 100 yards to get equipment there. An access road would have to cut through private property. Wapello County officials say they have to wait for further word from the historical society before proceeding with a decision.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 30, 2004: "County conservation director leery about development of Pioneer Cemetery," by Ray Weikal. Any development of Garrison Rock Park and the Pioneer Cemetery in southeast Wapello County is sure to be delicate, complicated and contentious, according to Conservation Director, Kurt Baker. He feels that any attempt to develop it will ruin it. According to Shirley Schermer of the Office of the State Archaeologist, experts would have to closely examine the area to determine marked and unmarked graves. Baker believes that, although visiting the park and cemetery takes some work, having a quiet, natural spot in the county is worth the effort. All plans for the site are currently on hold.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 8, 2004: "Gaskill returns to detention," by Cindy Toopes. Nicholas Gaskill, 15, charged with first-degree criminal mischief and second-degree theft for damaging the greyhound statue and other headstones at the Ottumwa Cemetery, will remain in detention until a suitable shelter facility becomes available. A judge has ordered a psycho-social evaluation his parents' homes.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 6, 2004: "Shaul cemetery focus of state audit," by Matt Milner, Courier Staff Writer. The ongoing audit of Shaul Cemetery in Ottumwa was sparked by concerns about the cemetery's duties as a perpetual care cemetery. Dennis Britson is quoted in the article as saying that "the audit is more broadly based....and right now, we're just fact finding." Jack Fuller, president of the cemetery's board of directors, said the questions do not involve finances. There are an estimated 12,000 graves contained within the cemetery.

OUTSIDE OF IOWA

ILLINOIS

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Daily Gate City*, March 12, 2004: "Declaration of Independence signer's descendants are buried in local pioneer cemeteries," by Harley Griffin. The writer mentions an account printed in a 1925 news article of two direct descendants of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Abraham Clark, who are buried in Hancock County, Illinois. In the Daugherty Cemetery about six miles south of Warsaw, Illinois, is the grave of Abram Clark, a grandson of Abraham. Another descendant, Jothan Clark, is buried in the old Clark Cemetery in Wilcox Township north of Illinois Route 96. These cemeteries are examples of lonely, forgotten places where many of the first settlers of this area rest. Many area volunteers have taken on the monumental task of cleaning up the grounds and resetting grave markers, giving the old cemeteries a respectable appearance again. This effort should be applauded, as our founding pioneers certainly deserve better.

From the *Daily Gate City*, March 19, 2004: "Cemetery Board sets clean-up Apr. 3." Pictured is a new sign that was recently put up at the South Oak Grove Cemetery in Wythe Township, Illinois. This is the first time that cemetery and the North Oak Grove Cemetery have been identified for more than 100 years. Volunteers will meet on April 3 to clean and re-erect stones at the McGee, Oak Grove, and Kiser cemeteries. Lunch will be served.

OREGON

From the *National Yellow Book of Funeral Directors*, February, 2004: "Linkville Cemetery One of the Oldest Cemeteries in Klamath County." The Linkville Cemetery Association was organized in 1885 with its first order of business being the relocation of about 300 graves from an older cemetery in the downtown area. The association purchased twenty acres for this purpose because the Ankeny Canal was going to cut through the original cemetery. Many of these early burials were never identified. A monument near the cemetery entrance reads simply, "Erected to the Memory of the Unknown Pioneers Sleeping Here." In 1923, the cemetery was deeded over to the city of Klamath. In March, 1951, the adjacent IOOF Cemetery was also deeded to the city. The earliest monument was for Ernest L. Smith, who died in 1869 at age 1. No more plots are for sale; however, there are still burials every year for those individuals whose family purchased family plots years ago. The Linkville Cemetery records were recently computerized and may be searched at: www.klamath-falls.or.us

CALIFORNIA

Contributed by Betty Giese

From *Family History Magazine*, November-December 2003: "Ask a Librarian -- Contact Us!" by Loretta Evans. The writer reports that she sent a query to the Pasadena Public Library's Web page which featured a service called "Ask a Librarian." She asked for a copy of her cousin's obituary and received it within 12 hours: www.ci/pasadena.ca.us/library/
On the Forest Lawn Cemetery Web site home page she found a feature called "Contact Us." She asked if the cemetery had sexton records and if they could determine if the cousin's husband was also buried there. The contact person at the web site gave her the cremation date, name of the New York crematorium, and the date his ashes arrived at Forest Lawn. Almost all libraries, cemeteries, and mortuaries have web pages that can give one almost instant information and will photocopy their records.