

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 #3 July, 2004

The next meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Clive International Suites & Conference Center located at 11040 Hickman Rd. in Clive, Iowa (Near the Living History Farms in the West Des Moines area). SAPIC will have a room for its own use the entire day. It will be located adjacent to the Iowa Genealogical Society (IGS) Conference Headquarters. For more information, contact Joyce Wiese at 641-484-2599.

SAPIC members may be interested in attending the presentation at the IGS Library located at 628 East Grand Avenue in Des Moines titled "The Hazards of End-of-Life Research," on Thursday, September 30 at 7:15 p.m. This will deal with cemeteries and funerals. For more information, contact IGS at 515-276-0287 or E-mail: igs@iowagenealogy.org

SAPIC will sponsor a cemetery conference at the Prairie Learning Center located on the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge at Prairie City, Iowa on April 9, 2005. Mark your calendars for this event now!

Nominations are being received for SAPIC offices and board member positions. If you'd like to support SAPIC by serving in this way, contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Calvin McVay, Ethel McVay, or Pat Shaw.

From the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, State Capitol:

A County Outreach Program has been established to increase community leaders' connection and communication with state government, particularly the Governor's Office. The County Outreach Program is not limited in membership. If you'd like to be included in this program, send your name, E-mail address, and county to: Franny Starkey, Special Projects Coordinator
Office of Governor Vilsack and Lt. Governor Pederson
Iowa State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319
515/281-4294 (direct)
515/281-6611 (fax)
franny.starkey@iowa.gov

The County Outreach Program will give you a Governor's Office staffer as a primary point of contact who will address your questions and concerns. The Program will distribute to you, as appropriate, statewide information such as the "Condition of the State" and local information about visits to your area by the Governor, Lt. Governor, or First Lady. You will also be informed of opportunities to participate in state government by providing you with information regarding state Boards and Commissions, etc.

Cemetery: A marble orchard not to be taken for granite.

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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

Vice-President: Larry D. Davis
5716 Kingman Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50311-2006
515-277-4917

Secretary: Larry Davis, acting secretary

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

Molly Beason, Board of Trustees, Expires 2004
106 East 11th Street
Tama, IA 52339
mollyb@iowatelecom.net 641-484-6061

Phyllis Carter, Board of Trustees,
Term Expires 2006
2305 180th St.
Washington, IA 52353 319-653-6339
pecarter@IowaTelecom.net

Mary Dodson, Board of Trustees, Expires 2005
309 S. Dewey
Osceola, IA 50213-1402
641-342-4871 dodson@pionet.net

Julie A. Eckenrod, Board of Trustees,
Term Expires 2005
2211 S. Linn Ave.
New Hampton, Ia 50659
641-394-3967 jjeck@rconnect.com

Calvin McVay, Board of Trustees, Expires 2006
605 E. Buchanan
Winterset, IA 50273
515-462-9802 emcvay@i-rule.net

Michael Magee, Board of Trustees,
Term Expires 2006
638 Englewood
Waterloo, IA 50701
319-232-8762 GenieMan@aol.com

Pat Shaw, Bd of Trustees, Newsletter Editor
Term on board expires 2005
21813 170th St. Birmingham, IA 52535-8045
319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

Jo Vernooy, Board of Trustees, Expires 2004
1240 235th St.
Leighton, IA 50143
641-673-8122 mahcem@kdsi.net

Linda Zintz, Board of Trustees, Expires 2004
PO Box 384
Centerville, IA 52544 thee_z@hotmail.com

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

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Shirley J. Schermer, Director, Burials
Program
700 Clinton Street Building
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1030
319-384-0740 shirley-schermer@uiowa.edu

**State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries
Board Meeting Minutes**

July 10, 2004

Chairperson Joyce Wiese called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Keokuk Middle School, Keokuk, Iowa. Other Board members present were Pat Shaw, Linda Zintz, Michael Magee, and Larry Davis. Approximately ten guests and members were also present.

The minutes of the previous meeting, April 2, 2004, were accepted as mailed.

Valerie Ogren was unable to attend, but submitted a treasurer's report for the 2nd quarter, 1 April thru 30 June, 2004 which was presented by Larry Davis. The "Working Account" received \$390.97 income from dues, conference registrations, bumper sticker sales and interest. Expenses for conference, newsletter, and transfer of funds to the "Reserve Account" totaled \$1,550.34, bringing the "Working Account" balance to \$5,661.12. The "Reserve Account" received \$900.00 from life memberships bringing its balance to \$3,523.39. The combined balance of the "Working Account" and "Reserve Account" is \$9,184.51.

Newsletter: Pat Shaw presented the following options in regard to newsletter postage costs if the mailing drops below 200 copies:

1. Bulk mailing for required 200 newsletters averages about \$55 per mailing, which usually consists of 20 to 35 pages or 10 to 12 sheets of paper on both sides. It will be cheaper if /when we get non-profit status. This requires a catalog envelope plus three labels – mailing label to recipient, return address label, and bulk mailing information label. Would not need the annual \$125.00 fee. This is the newsletter that has been produced for the past five years.
2. Regular mailing (\$.37 per letter to approximately 100 persons (Members plus complimentary letters to State Genealogical Society, State Historical Societies, Allen County Public Library in Indiana, State Cemetery Regulator). Four sheets (8 pages) mailed in a #10 envelope. This would cost \$37.00 per mailing. Reports from secretary, treasurer, and counties would be condensed.
3. Same as above except eliminate the envelope. Can send five sheets (9 ½ pages) folded and taped. The last page would include the return address; bulk mailing information, and mailing label. This would need only one label for the address of the recipient. Some persons have said that their newsletter arrives in damaged condition when not in an envelope.

Labels cost about \$.03 each. Envelopes cost about \$.01 each. Catalog envelopes cost about \$.06 each.

After considerable discussion, it was suggested to delay action until a current report on membership is received. Moved by Larry Davis that discussion and action on the newsletter mailing be postponed until the October Board Meeting. Seconded by Michael Magee. Motion carried.

2004 Cemetery Conference: Larry Davis reported a successful Cemetery Conference held April 2,3, 2003 in Des Moines, Iowa. Approximately 50 persons attended, and the registration income exceeded the expenses by \$393.00. Larry Davis asked if the Board wished to have another conference in 2005. After considerable discussion, the following action was taken: Moved by Pat Shaw that a cemetery conference be held in April 2005. Seconded by Michael Magee. Motion carried. Larry Davis, Linda Zintz and Molly Beason were appointed as the 2005 conference committee.

Grant Program: Larry Davis reported receiving a grant application from the Mayflower Cemetery Association (Jones County) in the amount of \$5,610.00. Davis also reported the Grant Program funds were nearly depleted and presented the following motion: Moved by Larry Davis that the Mayflower Cemetery Association grant application not be approved. Seconded by Pat Shaw. Motion carried.

October Meeting: Chairperson Joyce Wiese noted the next meeting will be in Des Moines during the Iowa Genealogical Society annual meeting, and more details will be available soon.

Nominating Committee: Chairperson Joyce Wiese appointed Pat Shaw, Calvin McVay, and Ethel McVay to the nominating committee.

County reports were presented and the meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Larry D. Davis
Acting Secretary

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

Valerie Ogren wrote:

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES
Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter - 1 January 2004 thru 31 March 2004
 (Amended copy to add March interest)

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	1.19	
Total Income		\$1675.15

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	216.54
Total Expense	\$309.60

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2004 \$6820.49

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

Income

Life Membership - Ruth Johnston	100.00
Life Membership - Vern Green	100.00
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 \$9443.88

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

Iowa Pioneer Cemetery Commissions

Appanoose

Ann Repp, Helen Johnson, Gary Craver, O. R. Parks, Linda Zintz
Contact person: Linda Zintz; PO Box 384;
Centerville, IA 52544-0384
E-Mail: thee_z@hotmail.com

Benton

Gene and Frieda Davis
216 Riverview Dr.; Vinton, IA 52349-2360
Ph 319-472-5348 E-mail: davisduo@webtv.net

Buchanan

William J. Reedy
3046 Everly Ave.
Brandon, Iowa 52210

Chickasaw

Jerry Tieskotter, Ron Maher, Mary Ann Crandall, Fred Reisner, Betty Tylee
Advisor: Carol Bottin
Contact person: Fred Reisner; PO Box 86;
Fredericksburg, IA 50630
E-Mail: freisner@iowatelecom.net

Clayton

Pres: Lawrence Fox, Clayton Center
V-P: Herbert Kann, Guttenberg
Contact person: Sec: Myra Voss, Elkader
E-mail address: vossrity@alpinecom.net
Don Sass, Luana
Gene Ruegnitz, Garber

Delaware

Fred Phelps, Lavern Lammers
Contact person: Lavern Lammers; 120 Hubbard St.; Colesburg, IA 52035
Ph 563-856-4675

Des Moines

John Foss, Bill Walker, Phyllis Rothlauf
Contact person: Phyllis Rothlauf; 1806 Sunnyside; Burlington, IA 52601
Ph 319-754-5595

Fayette

Laura Westendorf, Virgie Bruening, Doris Springer, Frances Graham, Merlin Begalske Donel Boie, Steve Story, Harvey Ungerer, Richard Vagts
Contact person: Laura Westendorf; 25067 Johnson's Mill Road; Waucoma, IA 52171
Ph 319-429-2892

Greene

Contact person: Shirley Clark; 1405 S. Elm; Jefferson, IA 50129
Ph 515-386-4905
Or E-Mail Valerie Ogren vjogren@netins.net

Hardin

Contact person: Dick Stone; 1301 5th St.; Eldora, IA 50627
Ph 515-858-2925 or 515-858-3164

Henry

Stan Hill, Don Rich, Charles Watkins, Wayne Moore, Chad White, June Klopfenstein
Contact person: June Klopfenstein; 211 S. Jefferson; Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
Ph 641-385-2387

Iowa

Randall Betz, Ed Gleason, Twila Gerard
Contact person: Randall Betz; 1992 G. Ave.; Marengo, IA 52301
Ph 319-623-3186

Jackson

Contact person: Joann Caven; 12901 119th Ave.; Maquoketa, IA 52060
Ph 319-652-2516

Jasper

Contact person: Marilyn Schmitt; 13059 S. 52nd St.; Mitchellville, IA 50169
Ph 515-674-3956

Jones

Ron Ruess, LaVerta Langenberg, Jim Christensen
Contact person: Laverta Langenberg; 21692 20th St.; Lisbon, IA 52253
Ph 319-432-6389
E-Mail: laverta@netins.net

Louisa

Contact person: Dean Gipple; 307 Flat Iron Drive; Columbus Junction, IA 52738
Ph 319-728-2344

Lucas

Contact person: Gwen Sims; RR 2 Box 58; Russell, IA 50238
Ph 515-535-2382
E-Mail: lucasgene@hotmail.com

Mahaska

Jo Vernooy, LeRoy Nugteren, Judy Swanson, John Jacobs, Ben Mayer
Contact person: Jo Vernooy; 1240 235th Ave.; Leighton, IA 50143
E-Mail: mahcem@kdsi.net

Monona

Contact person: Larry D. DuVal; 900 11th St.;
Onawa, IA 51040
E-Mail: duval@pionet.net

Monroe

Lee Ann Dickey, Rosalie Mullinix, Jane Jass,
Carol Gillaspie, Merle Regenold
Contact person: Lee Ann Dickey; 410 North A
St.; Albia, IA 52531
E-Mail: DICKEY@cknet.net

Ringgold

Contact person: Rick Wiley; RR @ Box 63;
Diagonal, IA 50845
E-Mail: richwiley@mtayr.heartland.net

Tama

Contact person: Joyce A. Wiese; 2160 310th
St.; Toledo, IA 52342
Ph 515-484-2599

Winneshiek

Contact person: Kevin Lee; 1672 Old Stage
Road; Decorah, IA 52101
E-Mail: stonecut@rconnect.com

*Note: Please send additional and current
information or corrections to the above list to Pat
Shaw.*

Coroner Completes Flight 93 Crash Investigation

The Somerset County (Pa.) coroner has completed his investigation of the United Flight 93 crash site in Shanksville, Pa. He reported that less than 10 percent of the human remains were recovered from the site and he considers it a cemetery.

Relatives of the victims have said they would like it to be treated as hallowed ground.

Since the plane crashed on Sept. 11, 2001, coroner Wallace Miller has presided over the site near Shanksville, about 60 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. He has lead searches to recover remains of the 40 passengers and crew and the four hijackers and other evidence.

Miller said a final search in July turned up "two or three handfuls of aircraft debris" but no remains. "I think that we have gone beyond a reasonable effort to take care of the scene," he said.

So far, only six acres of the more than 1,600 acres sought for a memorial have been secured.

Mike Svonavec, owner of a coal company that owns 270 acres, including the impact site, said he will donate the land once it's appraised.

"I just want to see what's good for the memorial," he said.

Clear Marker Introduces the Memory Frame



After noticing many attempts to economically place photographs and other paper memorials at the graves of loved ones, Clear Marker, LLC, of Minnetonka, Minnesota, is pleased to introduce the Memory Frame (patent pending) as a solution to the problem of these memorials being destroyed by weather or other elements. Measuring three-inches by five-inches and constructed from durable, American-made, clear plastic, the Memory Frame protects a photo, drawing or special note one would place for a loved one from rain, snow and other elements that ruin conventional picture frames. Because of the Memory Frame's hinged front shield, if a memorial becomes sun-bleached or needs to be changed, the frame can be reopened, a new memorial can be placed inside, and the frame can be closed again while maintaining the frame's tight seal. To ensure the memorial remains at the loved one's grave, the Memory Frame secures into the ground by a four-inch, open-sided triangular stake molded into the bottom of the frame. The Memory Frame can become part of families' funeral purchase. To order or receive further information on the Memory Frame, please e-mail clearmarker@msn.com or call 952-931-3965.

AUG. 2003

Information on Iowa's newest
pioneer commission in Davis
County will be available soon!

BY-LAWS

- I. The name of this organization shall be the STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES.

- II. The goals of this organization shall be:
 - A. To identify all cemeteries in Iowa.
 - B. To take such measures as are necessary, possible, and reasonable to protect these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them from danger, from natural causes and from human encroachment.
 - C. To provide guidance and educational materials for use by the people entrusted with the preservation of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
 - D. To compile and distribute information about the proper maintenance techniques for these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
 - E. To provide advice and information to legislative bodies empowered to pass legislation creating a legal framework for the protection, the preservation, and the maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
 - F. To act as a monitor of the administrative and management personnel of these cemeteries, to ensure that the legal measures for the protection, preservation, and maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them are enforced.
 - G. To develop a system of determining who has the right to clean, repair, re-set, and otherwise work with the monuments in a cemetery.
 - H. To develop a system of determining who has the legal ownership of cemetery plots and monuments.
 - I. To encourage state and county cemetery commissions, work to help form them, and to cooperate with such organizations after they are formed.

- III. This organization shall be a membership organization. Membership is open to persons and organizations interested in the protection, preservation, maintenance, and use of cemeteries and the monuments contained in them. Organizational membership shall be considered one vote each for the purposes of voting in elections.

- IV. The Board of Trustees of this organization shall consist of no less than seven (7) and no more than thirteen (13) members. Officers and members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the general membership at a regularly scheduled meeting held during the fourth quarter of each calendar year. A quorum of the membership shall consist of those members present at the regularly scheduled public meeting, provided that at least ten (10) association members are present at said meeting.

Nominations may be made by a Nominating Committee, and from the floor of the

meeting. Ballot may be by voice, by a show of hands, or by paper ballot. Voting may be for individuals or for a slate of candidates. Election shall be by a plurality vote of the membership present, eligible, and voting.

At the initial election to the Board of Trustees of this organization, all persons elected shall draw lots to determine the length of terms. At least three (3) persons shall be elected for a three (3) year term, at least three (3) persons shall be elected for a two (2) year term, and at least one (1) person shall be elected for a one (1) year term. In the following elections, all terms shall be for three (3) years.

All persons elected to the Board of Trustees shall be members of the organization, and must be members in good standing during their entire terms of office.

The officers and Board of Trustees shall act as the Executive Committee of the organization, or may designate a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees to act as the Executive Committee for a specified period of time.

- V. The officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

The President and Vice President shall be elected annually for a term of one (1) year, and may serve no more than three (3) successive terms.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected every two (2) years for a term of two (2) years, and may serve no more than three (3) successive terms.

- VI. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees or on the roster of officers shall be filled by the Board of Trustees, or by a special meeting of the membership called for that purpose. It shall be the decision of the Executive Committee as to which method of filling vacancies shall be used at any given time. Any trustee or officer may be removed and replaced if the Executive Committee, with the concurrence of the full Board of Trustees, deem such trustee or officer incapacitated, or are otherwise unable to fulfill the assigned duties.
- VII. This organization shall hold four (4) general public quarterly meetings of each calendar year, in January, April, July, and October, unless otherwise changed by action of the Board of Trustees. Each meeting will be held on the second Saturday of the month, with the exception of the 4th quarterly meeting, which shall be held in conjunction with the Iowa Genealogical Society Conference. The entire membership shall be notified of the date and place of each meeting at least one (1) month prior to the date of the meeting. This notification shall be by mail. A notification of the meeting placed in the quarterly newsletter is acceptable, and fulfills this qualification.

This organization may hold as many additional general public meetings as seems to fit the goals and needs of the organization. Upon the request of no fewer than

ten (10) members in good standing of the organization for a special meeting, such a special meeting shall be scheduled. Notification of the date and location of such a special meeting shall be by the same procedure as that used for a general meeting. A request for a special meeting must be made in writing.

VIII. All proposed amendments to the documents of governance of this organization must be submitted in writing, and presented to the Board of Trustees prior to September 1 of the year in which they are to be considered. These proposed amendments will be placed on the agenda to be voted on at the annual meeting next after the September 1 when they are submitted to the Board of Trustees. Any member in good standing may prepare and submit amendments.

IX. Individual officers and members of the Board of Trustees of this organization shall not be held personally liable for any financial obligations incurred by the organization itself, and they may not be sued individually for the debts of the organization.

Note: These By-Laws were revised by the membership on October 7, 2000, after hearing a reading of the proposed changes at the January, April, and July, 2000 meetings. Revisions may be viewed in the January, 2000 SAPIC newsletter, *Grave News* or by requesting a copy from Pat Shaw.

Special **thanks** to The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association for hosting the July 10 meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries. President, Terry Altheide, and his group provided a hospitable environment for the meeting at the Keokuk Middle School. The morning began with coffee and doughnuts and conversation, followed by a tour to the Keokuk National Cemetery and the adjacent historic Oakland Cemetery. A bus was provided for transportation to the cemeteries. The SAPIC meeting was held in the afternoon. Thanks so much, Lee County! SAPIC meetings have been held in all four corners of the great state of Iowa: Decorah, Sioux City, Clarinda, and Keokuk and in many locations within the state. Each site has provided SAPIC members with a greater appreciation of the wonderful, caring people of Iowa who value the preservation of their past.

The Keokuk National Cemetery was originally part of the city-owned Oakland Cemetery, and was known as the Soldiers' Burial Ground. It occupied an area of 2.75 acres which was donated to the United States by the city of Keokuk. The area now consists of 22.7 acres with a total of 3,340 burials. Original interments were the dead from the Army general hospitals that were established at Camp Ellsworth near Keokuk. In 1871, 627 burials were listed, including a few Confederate soldiers who died as prisoners of war. The present superintendent is Dane B. Freeman, who spoke to the SAPIC about his duties at the cemetery. Freeman, a former Marine, impressed his listeners with his reverence for and dedication to the maintenance of this historic site.

COUNTY REPORTS

BENTON

Contributed by Frieda & Gene Davis

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, July 3, 2004: "Resting places unearthed —

Slowly, Belle Plaine man finds

discoveries no prank," by Jim O'Neal.

While excavating dirt and brick to

rebuild a foundation wall at his home in

Belle Plaine, Don Hildahl uncovered

several tombstones. When he

unearthed the bottom edge of a

headstone in the floor of his garage last

fall, he thought it had been left there as

a prank. Now, he suspects that several

members of a family named

Montgomery had been buried on the

lot on which his home was built about

1903. After he eventually turned up

petrified bone fragments, he left the

area undisturbed. The county attorney

and members of the pioneer cemetery

commission will work with Hildahl and

the county historian to determine what

to do with the site.

Gene Davis has been exploring stump

removal at the McBroom Cemetery,

fencing in the Greenwood cemetery,

and completing work at the Kirchner

Cemetery. Signs are being placed in

several cemeteries. Frieda reports, "We

are blessed with having a very

supportive and cooperative county

attorney."

BLACKHAWK

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo Courier*, April 16,

1907: The Rev. Father Forkenbrock

and the Rev. Father Cooney visited the

Catholic cemetery this morning with a

view to approving plans for the

beautifying of the grounds. They were

accompanied by E. Mullaney, a

member of the committee appointed

for that purpose, and also J. P. Kieffer,

county surveyor. Grades were

established and that portion of the

grounds now below the level will be

filled in and others will be lowered. The

cemetery will be made beautiful this

summer by the planting of flowers and

shrubby.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 2, 1907: "Beautiful Elmwood. Drives Cut Down and Low Places Filled With Earth."

A. J. Reber, with a large force of men, is making notable improvements in

Elmwood Cemetery, cutting down the

driveways, leveling up the depressions

and doing other work which will

transform the appearance of the

cemetery into a beauty spot. Terracing

sides of the driveways, planting

shrubby and flowers, and also

erecting a new fence are in the plans.

The grave of J. H. Leavitt, who helped

lay out the cemetery, is located in a

circular plot on the highest ground of

the cemetery. A monument will be

erected there. The first man buried in

Elmwood was the father of the Drs

Bickley.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, April 8,

1908: "Afraid of Grave Robbers." Iowa

City — The relatives of Mrs. Sarah Figg of

Muscatine, recently deceased, who was

buried in Oakland cemetery, have

hired a private watchman, Albert

Cooper of Muscatine, to watch the

grave and prevent medical students of

Iowa university from stealing the

remains. After spending one evening

on duty, Mr. Cooper reported nothing

worse than a few ghosts. According to

popular legend a grave was opened

by the students about thirty-five years

ago.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, April 10,

1908: "Hilarity at Undertakers'

Convention." Sioux City — Wild scenes

marked the closing sessions of the 28th

annual convention of the Iowa Funeral

Directors' association, when a number

of wild-spirited members took the

cadaver, stretched it out on a platform

in the convention hall, dressed it up in

Sunday clothes and placed a cigar in

its mouth. The previous morning, the

body was denuded, laid out on the

table, and flowers were strewn around

the corpse, while the hilarious

participants danced in gay abandon

about the platform. The body was that

of an unclaimed person.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, April 14, 1908: "Keep Soldiers' Graves in Order – D.A.R. Members Want the Board of Supervisors to Co-operate. Would Have Members Look After Cemeteries in Their Districts." The members of the Grand Army of the Republic of Black Hawk County have asked for help in caring for the graves of soldiers who are buried in cemeteries of the county and who have no relatives to look after them. The request was sent by the Robert Anderson Post in Waterloo. The members of the Post also ask that tombstones for the unmarked graves be procured from the government.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, April 1, 1908: "Revived Just Before Burial." Mrs. W. R. Sherwood, aged 25, of Auburn, Iowa, came back to life hours after being laid out for burial and just before her body was to have been embalmed. At 2 a.m. watchers heard sounds in the room and rushed in just in time to see her arise with a shriek. She will recover.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, July 20, 1908: "New Cemetery to be Platted Under Direction of Maywood Cemetery Association – Forty Acre Plot Near the Wm. Blowers Farm." A company has been formed to be known as the Maywood Cemetery Association for an additional burial place. The capital of the new company will be \$17,000. The oldest burial place in Waterloo located south of town on Eagle Center Road contains the graves of early settlers. Later, Elmwood, Fairview, and the Catholic cemeteries were platted.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, January 25, 1909: "Sons of Jacob Buy Burial Ground Here." The Waterloo congregation of the Sons of Jacob, of which Jacob Cohn is president, have contracted for the purchase of a tract of ground one and one-half acres in extent in the new Hill Crest Cemetery on the east bank of the Cedar. The Hebrews of Waterloo have been compelled to take their dead to Cedar Rapids or other points heretofore. Price of the ground was \$650.00.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, September 27, 1909: "Big Policemen in Cow Boy Role Drive Herd of Cattle Out of Elmwood – Cattle Belonging to Louis Miller Stampeded in Elmwood." Officers Anton, Robinson and Dietz played the reckless role of the dashing cowboy for an hour and a half Saturday night, when they made a round-up of a big drove in Elmwood cemetery. Eighty-six cattle belonging to Louis Miller escaped from their pasture and visited the cemetery, tramping on graves and running with reckless abandon among the tombs. The luckless policemen dashed madly to and fro through the darkness heading off a run of the crazy brutes and starting them towards the gate. The work was made more difficult in the darkness which was broken only by the flashes from their pocket lights. Officer Robinson distinguished himself by stopping a stampede by knocking down one red faced heifer cow with his club. Several times the policemen had narrow escapes from being walked upon by concentrated beef extract. Finally, the officers succeeded in driving the animals into the Great Western stockade and it was there that the owner found them Sunday morning.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 11, 1909: "Team Ran Away With the Hearse – Distressing Accident at Imogene Funeral." A most unusual and horrifying accident happened while the body of Mrs. Mike O'Brien of Council Bluffs was being conveyed to the cemetery. As the funeral cortege was leaving the Catholic church for the cemetery, the team which was hitched to the hearse became frightened and ran down a steep hill east of the church. The driver was unable to manage them and was thrown from the hearse, receiving some bad bruises. Undertaker Dempsey, who was riding on the hearse would surely have been dashed to pieces had he not jumped and escaped injury. The hearse was a total wreck but the casket and body were not injured in the least.

CHICKASAW

Contributed by the Chickasaw County Genealogical Society, Jeanette Kottke, Editor
From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 21 Number 2: Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission is busy restoring cemeteries. The members are working on Cagley and Jacksonville cemeteries. The Utica Lucky Fours 4-H club members and leaders, several CCC Commission members and CCGS members helped on clean up day resulting in groomed grounds at the Jacksonville Cemetery. Other cemetery work is in the works.

DAVIS

Contributed by Pat Shaw

On June 14, 2004, Willis Hoffman informed the SAPIC editor that the Davis County Supervisors created a pioneer cemetery commission. The county supervisors were so supportive of the new commission that they waived the necessity of having three readings of the ordinance creating the commission.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 25, 2004: "Davis County citizen claims prior attempt to restore cemeteries," by Derek White. Dan Smith was outraged when he recently read a story in the *Courier* about the Davis County Board of Supervisors plan to approve the formation of a cemetery preservation group. Smith claimed he attempted to get the neglected White/Newton Cemetery cleaned up in 2002 and volunteered his time and energy to do so, but that the supervisors refused to help him financially. Supervisors who served at that time do not remember promising any money and advised Smith to contact township trustees. Smith alluded to the fact that the refusal was racially motivated, as a black person may have been buried there. Supervisors denied that race was a factor in the neglect. One supervisor said he will be personally buying the fencing for the pioneer Peden Cemetery and helping to clean it.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 28, 2004: "Cemetery controversy catches genealogist's eye." Letter to the editor by Bill Hansen, List owner – Wapello County Genealogy Discussion List, Ottumwa. Mr. Hansen suggests that Martin Freeman, whose grave is located in the Newton Cemetery in Davis County, was probably the brother of a one-time school teacher in Fabius township. He provides documentation including census records that show that Martin and his brother, John, were the children of Joel and Elizabeth Freeman who were most likely born near the town of Winchester in Van Buren County. Some of their children moved to Davis County in the 1870's. Another brother, William, is buried in the cemetery at Bloomfield. This disputes the statements in the June 25 article that states that Martin Freeman was a servant of a local farmer and took his name.

DES MOINES

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, July 18, 2004: "A Lasting landscape," by Bob Hansen. Gerald Goddard, an attorney and former trustee of the Aspen Grove Cemetery in Burlington, takes the reader on a tour of the beautiful and historic cemetery that contains more than 78,000 burials. He points out that the cemetery has three distinct areas: an old section that contains graves disinterred from the Old Burial Ground near today's Central Avenue and Valley Street, a section called Rural American that dates from 1875 to the 1930s, and the newest section known as the "lawn" plan of design. Goddard's personal favorite is the Rural American section that uses a park-like landscape design that was part of the Romantic Movement, or return to nature, that was sweeping America at that time. The woods and ravines compliment the setting and the roads curve, inviting the visitor forward, but yet not revealing what lies around the next corner.

August 17, 2004
JEFFERSON COUNTY, IOWA
by: Verda Baird

After realizing I was the only one in the Jefferson Co. Gen. Society that knew the locations of the county's 79 cemeteries, at the March meeting of that group I suggested we purchase 41 signs for the unidentified cemeteries in our county.

But first we needed someone to install them, so I attended the board of supervisors meeting and the county engineer volunteered his road crew. Order for 41 signs was sent to Iowa Prison Industries in Anamosa for \$1,016.33 . Accompanied by genealogist Janet Roberts, together we visited the 41 cemeteries and decided the wording needed on each one and the exact spot for the posts. Most ^{cemeteries} were on gravel or dirt roads, back in pastures or middle of unplanted fields as they were pioneer cemeteries.

Erection was started June 2nd with picture on front page of the June 4th Fairfield Ledger of 2 of the road crew (driving the post) and myself (holding the sign), The last sign went in the ground August 2nd

We bought 18 x 24 inch blue signs with white lettering. If there was any cemetery identification of any kind, or was located next to a church, we did not install a sign. Nor did we mark the recent burials of three in front yards of farm families in 1988, 2000 and 2001. There was no one acre set aside in any land transaction for any of them. Our chapter of 11 members about depleted their funds, most of which were earned thru sale of profit sharing booklets thru IGS over the years. That source of income has come to a standstill since the internet hit. There have been many nice compliments from the public on this undertaking. We have no county cemetery commission/association.

Verda

FAYETTE

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo Courier*, June 16, 2004: "Grandview Cemetery seeks donations for restoration." Grandview Cemetery committee member, Karla Garvin, comments favorably on restoration work completed by Cemetery Restoration of Liscomb on more than 100 stones. Grandview is older than the town of Fayette, which was established in 1854. A Civil War monument standing 25 feet tall is a special point of interest. The restoration cost per headstone was about \$35. For information or to make a donation, contact Don Vandersee in Fayette, Iowa.

Steve and Donna Story of Hawkeye will be the 2004 recipients of the Robert Carter Award given by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries each year to honor persons who have contributed greatly to the restoration and preservation of Iowa's pioneer cemeteries. Steve and Donna have worked extensively in restoring neglected pioneer cemeteries in Jones, Fayette, and Chickasaw counties. Details on the date and location of the award presentation will be sent by E-mail and placed on the SAPIC web page.

LEE

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Daily Democrat*, Ft. Madison, June 18, 2004: "Most of us can only imagine the hell these families endured," by Terry Altheide, President of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association. Prompted by the discovery that one of his wife's distant relatives disappeared after being sent to a prisoner of war camp during the Civil War, Terry wonders how parents and other family members are able to endure the hell on earth of never knowing what happened to their loved ones as a result of war. Terry gives as

examples two Lee County men, Francis "Johnny" Davis and Howard Piersee, both of whom have tombstones in Lee County cemeteries standing atop empty graves. Piersee's marker stands vigil over an empty grave in Keokuk's National Cemetery that contains 22 "In memory of" stones can be seen on the right as one enters the gate at the eastern half of the cemetery. Terry admonishes the reader to take a few minutes to ponder the meaning of the black and white POW/MIA flag that is a symbol of hope and perseverance for a countless number of American families. Terry was inspired to write the following poem for the children of POW/MIA soldiers:

*So Sad Without Dad
Lonely is the word gone
Sorrow is the word left
Believe is the word dawn
Doubt is the word Death*

*Standing at his window looking for him through the
pane/pain*

*Feeling like a spindle holding what spins without
gain*

*So sad without dad
Only song
He's ever had.*

*Anger is the word why
Without is the word lone
Forgive is the word try*

Understand is the word moan

*Standing on the field looking at strangers with faces
Starving and never filled for a father to take him
places*

*So sad without dad
Only hunger
He's ever had.*

*Cry is the word want
Love is the word together
Fear is the word haunt
Apart is the word never*

*Running away from only your being taken from him
Having the word lonely leading him into stumbling*

*So sad without dad
Only path
He's ever had.*

From the *Daily Democrat*, June 16, 2004: "Pioneer cemetery association is helping families they never met," by Jerry Sloat. The activities of the first annual Pioneer Parent's Day that was held in Ft. Madison on the Carol and Fred Vradenburg property in Ft. Madison last May was related in the column. The history of the cemetery that contains mostly members of the Augustus Hoffmeister family states that the site was cleaned up at least three times over the years. The grave markers are unique in that each is a massive, square stone slab that covers the entire grave. Augustus Hoffmeister, who died in 1896 and is buried there beside his father, wife, and other family members, would no doubt be pleased to know how many people have helped keep alive the memory of his family -- a family none of them ever knew!

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, June 15, 2004: "Trashed grave flags disturb families," by Craig T. Neises. Ray Hollenbeck of Burlington was appalled to see small American flags in a trash pile on Flag Day. They had been placed there by groundskeepers of the Burlington Memorial Cemetery along with floral tributes, so that family members could have the opportunity to retrieve them, if they wished. Cemetery owner, Rik Work, said he will make sure his groundskeepers are more sensitive in the future. Hollenbeck feels that the flags should be picked up separately from the flowers and disposed of properly. Flags and flowers in vases were left there. At the larger Aspen Grove cemetery in Burlington, flags are left in place in permanent flag holders until they are torn and tattered. Larger flags are then placed in a box in the cemetery office and smaller ones go in the garbage.

From *Preserving Our Past*, Summer, 2004 (newsletter of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association) -- Mission statement: "Organized in 2002, the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association has as its objective the preservation of pioneer cemeteries, listing of burials at each site, and obtaining the history of each grave yard. Its members share the knowledge of research, exchanging historical information on a equitable basis." The newsletter contains a member spotlight, humor, cemetery spotlight, calendar of events, and copies of proclamations made by the mayors of Fort Madison and Keokuk proclaiming the month of May as Cemetery Appreciation Month.

LOUISA

Contributed by Terry Altheide
From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, July 2, 2004: "3 Wapello youths charged in vandalism at cemetery." Three youths, ages 12, 13, and 14 have been charged with second-degree criminal mischief, a class D felony. The damage to the cemetery was reported June 18 and included graffiti on eight headstones, a flagpole and other items. The damage was estimated at \$10,000.

MITCHELL

Contributed by Neal DuShane
Loren Meyer, Otranto Twp Trustee, is mowing the Mona Cemetery and is starting to work on the headstones. Work is starting on the Smith Family Cemetery on the River Road. The monument for the Dudley Cemetery was completed by Steve Ham and Dale Hemingston and has been installed by the Osage FFA students.

TAMA

Contributed by Joyce Wiese

Tama County will sponsor a tour of eight cemeteries in the southern half of the county on September 18, 2004. A chartered bus will pick up participants at the High School located on US Highway 63 between the towns of Tama and Toledo at 8:30 a.m. Cost will be \$25.00 and will include a mid-morning snack and lunch. Call Joyce Wiese to make a reservation for this exciting event: 641-484-2599.

WINNEBAGO

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Director*, December 2003 (a publication for funeral businesses): "Did you know.... A Funeral Director is Responsible for Winnebagos?" In 1934, John K. Hanson became the youngest person to receive a mortician's license in the state of Iowa. By his death in 1996, Hanson was founder and chairman of the board of Winnebago Industries, Inc., a company with annual revenues that exceeded \$450 million. That's right - those huge recreational vehicles and campers you see barreling down the highway to their camping destinations were made popular because of a funeral director from Forest City, Iowa. In 1951, Hanson was the owner of Hanson's Furniture and Funeral Home, International Harvester Implement, and the Oldsmobile dealership in Forest City. After taking a trip to California in a travel trailer, he decided to go into the travel trailer business. He redeveloped and revolutionized the travel trailer itself, and also the way they were made. Today, Winnebago Industries has more than 3000 employees. Hanson died in

1996.

VAN BUREN

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Van Buren County Register* June 3, 2004: "Prairie View Cemetery Association holds meeting," reprinted from the *Memphis Democrat*. The minutes of the May 15 meeting recorded by Stan Kerr, secretary, list discussions regarding the group's investments, mowing fees, work done on tilted and fallen stones, resurfacing of the driveway, the razing of a building on the site, and construction of a new, smaller building. A separate ad lists names and addresses of persons to whom contributions for upkeep should be sent.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 3, 2004: At the meeting of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society held at the Keosauqua Public Library on June 10, Bill Printy of Bentonport gave a presentation on a proposed cemetery trail for Van Buren County.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 10, 2004: Letter to the Editor by Fay Davis of Douds, Iowa. The writer states that five items have been taken from the grave of her son at the Lebanon Cemetery over a period of time. She further states that stealing from the dead is not a prank, but a crime. It is a desecration and contemptible. She hopes that people in the county will take notice of any unusual activity and report anything suspicious in the future.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, July 29, 2004: "Pioneer cemetery adopted by local 4-H group," by Don Aldrich. Pictured is the Ten Eyck Cemetery near Lebanon in Chequest Township that has been adopted by the Friendly Four-Corners 4-H Club. Members of the club have been working at the Ten Eyck Cemetery for two years, states leader Michele Wenke. The club received a grant from Pioneer that made possible clean-up, gravestone work, placement of angle

iron along the top of the fence, painting, resetting of the gravestones, and spreading of additional top soil. Ten burials of the Ten Eyck family are recorded. Don Aldrich of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, who assisted with the work, stated that he was extremely pleased that the 4-H club stepped forward and spearheaded this community project. Don says, "Our pioneers who built churches, schools, and communities deserve someone who cares."

From the *Van Buren County Register*, July 29, 2004: "Summer intern enjoys working with history," by Megan McGonegle. Megan is a senior at Iowa State University from Ft. Dodge majoring in Anthropology with a minor in Geology who spent a 10-week internship during the summer in Van Buren County working with the Van Buren County Historical Society and the Villages of Van Buren Tourism Office. In addition to producing photo displays at the Pearson House and Ellis School House and organizing a labeling system at the Twonbly Museum, she assisted with tourism events, such as Canoe Van Buren. She spent a great deal of time making a user friendly **cemetery map** to give out to people when they come to the county asking for directions or information about the many cemeteries. She worked with maps that had been put together by County Recorder Jon Finney and persons in the County Engineer's Office. She then scanned each township into the computer and worked with it in a photo editing program, cleaning it up using special features to sharpen the lines and correct the contrast. She erased all section lines and numbers so all that was left were major roads, rivers, old railroads and parks. Then she color coded the cemeteries according to whether they were active or not. After this two-week project, she checked with several people for accuracy. After a great deal more editing, the map was printed and

copies placed in county offices

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 12, 2004: "Holsworth Cemetery 'adopted'," by Don Aldrich. Pictured with the article are Kenneth and Gay Smith of Crystal, Minnesota, who have ancestors in the Holsworth Cemetery, resting on benches that were placed there by caring volunteers. Due to a plea in the form of a letter to the editor written by Don, Gianna and Roy Barrows of Bonaparte responded by agreeing to "adopt" the Holsworth Cemetery. This was great news to Don and his volunteer cemetery clean-up crew, as they have battled the forces of nature for two years in keeping this cemetery from becoming overgrown as it was when first encountered. Rich Lowe of Keosauqua also escorted Steve and Sandy Alexander from Missouri to the site and were delighted at the condition of the cemetery with the special addition of the red benches. Don reports that he received several calls from concerned individuals as a result of his letter and some offered material assistance with the endeavors of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society Gravestone Restoration work.

WAPELLO

Contributed by Pat Shaw

Michael Welch, a Boy Scout from Wapello County, was honored as the recipient of KTVO-TV's "Heartland Hero" Award on May 31, 2004. Michael and his father, Kevin, spent two years restoring the Anderson Hill Cemetery as his Eagle Scout project. SAPIC member, Beverly Bethune, spoke on Michael's behalf and expressed her appreciation to Michael. The setting for the TV segment was in the cemetery.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 2, 2004: "Cemetery theft angers family," by Mark Newman. Pictured is Pam Evans at the grave of her brother, Rich Orman, in the Shaul Cemetery in Ottumwa as she adjusts a lantern that is lit nightly at the site. She is angered because lanterns have been stolen

recently from his grave and that of another brother. John Winblade, secretary/treasurer of the cemetery says that theft is not unique, but not common either. He says they have had very little vandalism and theft.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Aug. 12, 2004: "Dog Statue goes in for repairs – Court releases head, replicas to bring in funds," by Cindy Toopes. A statue of a greyhound dog that sat in the Ottumwa Cemetery for several years, was recently beheaded by vandals. The head was retrieved as evidence, and after the conviction of the person responsible, the court released it to Bob Swanson, superintendent of the cemetery. Kent Whitney of Whitney Monuments in Fairfield offered to donate his time and materials to repair the statue. He has cleaned the statue and will repair the damage. If sculpting is needed, that will be done by artist Chris Bennett of Bentonsport. The Ottumwa Savings Bank launched a fund-raising project to help pay for the costs of the statue's restoration and upkeep by commissioning artist Bill Greenley of Ottumwa to make 300 replicas. The first one was auctioned off for \$175. Others sell for \$12.50. Swanson reported that \$2,500 in direct donations have also been received. Swanson stated that the statue will be placed back in its original position in the cemetery with a security light on it.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Aug. 21, 2004: "Off for repairs..." Pictured in color on the front page are Matt Nelson and Kent Whitney of Fairfield as they operate a lift to transport the Ottumwa Cemetery dog statue into their truck. The statue will be cleaned, repaired, and later returned to the cemetery.

WEBSTER

Contributed by Jerry and Marva Rowe
The Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) had an overnight stop in Fort Dodge on Monday evening, July 26th. The Chicago Urban Bicycling Society

(CUBS) stayed at Gunderson Funeral Home, located directly across the street from Oakland Cemetery. Charles Larimer, the Civil War author, was riding with the CUBS group. Charlie has written two *Love and Valor* books, one of his ancestors' Civil War letters, also the *Love and Valor Cemeteries of Henry County, Iowa*. Therefore, the connection. There are over 200 Civil War veterans buried at Oakland. The tour mainly covered some of Fort Dodge's Civil War history. We visited graves of some of the Civil War veterans, plus a few notable local people and some of the outstanding monuments in the cemetery. One of Oakland's residents, momentarily revived by a presenter for the cemetery walk held in May, came to life again that evening to tell his story. He was an early potter in Fort Dodge and also presented the early history of the cemetery for us. The weather was perfect and it was a delightful evening.

WINNESHIEK

Contributed by Susan Jacobsen

From the *Decorah Journal*, May 27, 2004: "Scout reclaims a lost cemetery," by Wanda Gardner. Ross Hanson of rural Decorah is just 14, but wears the uniform, badges and sash of a dedicated Boy Scout heading to Eagle status. As a child, he'd heard the story of a forgotten cemetery in Springfield Township, just a mile and a half from his family's home. The idea of tombstones lost amidst crop land intrigued Ross, and when he selected an Eagle Scout service project, he decided to repair that small cemetery. Working with the guidance of the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, Ross located "Bruvold Farm Cemetery" in local history records, showing two graves on the farm, where early settlers buried a boy and girl who died in 1857. Only one stone was standing and half of the other was missing. Ross carefully probed the area, locating the missing stones. After cleaning and repairing

the stones, he enclosed the small cemetery with a chain link fence and has planted grass at a total cost of approximately \$225. The information on the graves is written in Norwegian. Pictured in the article is Ross with Susan Jacobsen, a member of the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, and also before and after photos of the grave site. The article asks for more information about the graves and also for donations to cover expenses and future projects of the commission.

OUT OF IOWA CONNECTICUT

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Yellow Book News*, March 2004: "Evergreen Cemetery receives award from Descendants of Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment C.V. Infantry." Dale J. Fiore, Evergreen Cemetery and Crematory Association of New Haven received a flag, Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment shirt, and honorary membership in The Descendants of the Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment C. V. Infantry on 31 January 2004 for his dedication to the members of the 29th and Evergreen Cemetery and Crematory Association of New Haven's continued support of the organization. Members promote awareness of African American, Native American and Caucasian officers who served under the Union and many past members are buried in the civil war plot at Evergreen.

From the Westport, CT based web site, www.UndergroundHumor.com, one can purchase books, movies, t-shirts & more items that explore the humorous depths of death. One offering that recently became available is the 2004 "Frozen Dead Guy Days" official t-shirt from the Frozen Dead Guy Days, an annual celebration held every March in the town of Nederland, Colorado. The celebration came about when it was discovered that the frozen body of Bredo Morstoel was being stored in a makeshift cryogenics lab in his daughter's backyard.

ILLINOIS

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, July 5, 2004: "Genealogists try to pinpoint burial sites – Historians verify three Revolutionary War soldiers buried in central Illinois," from the Associated Press. At least 3 Revolutionary War veterans are buried in Coles County, Illinois, an area that wasn't settled until nearly 40 years after the War. Local genealogists are using pension applications to aid in their search for verification. There may be as many as twenty graves of veterans of this War in the county. The three veterans whose graves have been found are Jonathan Cullum, William Galbreath, and Charles Pennington.

From the *Herald-Whig*, Quincy, IL, April 6, 2004: "Ceremonies at Pike County cemeteries will mark the graves of two war veterans buried in Pike County," by Deborah Gertz Husar. The Sangamon River Chapter of the National Society of the United States Daughters of 1812 wants people to remember and honor the veterans of the largely forgotten War of 1812 that was fought with Great Britain. At special ceremonies, the graves of Jacob Waggoner and Ebenezer Franklin were marked with memorial markers available from the government.

From the *News-Gazette*, Champaign, IL., July 12, 2004: "On the hunt for grave sites," by Tracy Moss. A demonstration of dowsing was presented by Stan Pentecost of the Illiana Genealogical and Historical Society at the Pate Cemetery. The rods and procedure are described in the article along with comments by the 20 persons in attendance, several of whom wished to learn how to locate unmarked graves in old cemeteries.

INDIANA

Three Batesville Casket over-the-road drivers were recently honored for driving more than 4 million accident-free miles. www.Batesville.com

NEW YORK

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Yellow Book News*, March 2004: "DeMarco-Stone Funeral Home offers Town Use of Its Historic carriage to Transport Remains of Revolutionary War Figures." When three 214-year-old graves were located at the Great Flats Nature Trail in Rotterdam, NY, the city considered moving the graves to an active cemetery. The Cobblestone Reformed Church donated a plot and the DeMarco-Stone Funeral Home offered its services to open the graves and transport the remains in its beautifully restored horse-drawn carriage built in the 1880's. However, after locating descendants of John Teller, his wife, and son, the family voted to leave the graves undisturbed. Respectful of the family's request, the town plans to clean up the historic site and maintain it as an educational destination for students.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Capper's* magazine, May 11, 2004: "Historic sub crew given funeral." Thousands of men in Confederate gray and Union blue and women in black hoop skirts and veils recently escorted the crew of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley to Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, SC. The hand-cranked Hunley made history Feb. 17, 1864 when it rammed a spar with a black powder charge into the Union blockade ship Housatonic. It was the first sub to sink an enemy warship. The Hunley crew never returned from its mission – it sank outside Charleston Harbor. It was found nine years ago and was raised in 2000.

TEXAS

Contributed by Sidney Louis

From the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, March 24, 2004: "A historic north side cemetery is getting a cleanup," by Bill Fairley. Mitchell Cemetery, one of Tarrant County's earliest burial grounds,

is getting a long-overdue cleanup, thanks in part to the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department and people who are performing community service work as their punishment for minor, non-violent crimes. The workers are supervised by Chief Deputy Hank Pope, a member of the Tarrant County Historical Society. Research shows that about 75 people may be buried there. Sidney finds it ironic that offenders are doing the cleanup considering that a former county judge and the county's second sheriff are buried there.

From the *Star-Telegram*, May 8, 2004: "Vandals deface the grave of Jasper hate-crime victim," by Pam Easton. James Byrd Jr., a black man who was dragged to death by three white men in 1998, has now had his grave, located in Jasper, Texas, defaced. City workers have offered to help restore the grave. The case is being investigated as criminal mischief but could become a felony if the damage exceeds \$20,000. If proved to have occurred because of "bias or prejudice," it can be prosecuted as a hate crime.

From the *Star-Telegram*, May 12, 2004: "Teens charged with marring Byrd's grave." Two white teens were charged Tuesday with criminal mischief in the damage of Byrd's grave. Racial slurs and profanity were etched into a steel plate covering part of the vault and the stone was knocked over. The pair have admitted the vandalism.

From the *Star-Telegram*, August 2, 2004: "Old cemeteries mapped by GPS – Locating the Past," by Ellena F. Morrison. Pictured is Nicole Dogan, a Flower Mound employee, who found the abandoned cemetery in the town of Flower Mound, Texas. Nicole uses a global positioning device to locate cemeteries. She speaks of her distress at the fact that small family cemeteries are disappearing from the Texas landscape due to cattle, vandalism, development, and neglect. She is using GPS to locate and research such sites.

This Remote Spot

by

Homer Sherrill

I rest in peace in this remote spot,
not in a City Cemetery well kept lot.

I came here many years ago,
mourned by people that loved me so.

This Cemetery is small and not well known,
covered by sod from seed well sewn.

It seemed a likely place to dwell,
as far as our survivors could tell.

When we came here the land was young,
and not many large towns had sprung,
City Cemeteries were not yet started,
we were placed close to people we parted.

These lonesome and forgotten places,
now unkept and far from peoples faces.

It is a shame to see this disrepair,
for people that need someone to really care.

Please don't forget that we are here,
while having fun and such good cheer,

We are a part of your history past,
please help to make our memories last.