

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 #4 October, 2004

It's time to renew your membership in SAPIC for 2005! Your support is needed and appreciated. Please mail dues to: Treasurer, Valerie Ogren, 108 N. Oak, Jefferson, IA 50129. Individual membership: \$10, Household membership: \$15, Organization or business: \$20, Lifetime individual: \$100. Donations are appreciated, also.

Thanks so much!

The next meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will be held January 8, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. at the Tama County Museum, 200 North Broadway in Toledo, Iowa. There is a sign on Highway 63. Contact Joyce Wiese for more information: 641-484-2599.

Remember to mark the date, April 9, 2005, on your calendars when a cemetery conference will be held at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge at Prairie City, Iowa. If you have suggestions or requests regarding the conference, let the conference organizers, Larry Davis or Linda Zintz, know. (Addresses on next page.)

On a headstone in Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Los Angeles:

Helen Lois Schultz
Nee Jacobs

A very special person
whose greatest joy was
giving of herself

She is fondly remembered as a most gracious, devoted and special wife, mother, grandmother, friend and for correcting everyone's grammar.

Does she lay or lie here?

May 25, 1914 March 16, 2001

From Nicholas Dowd, who refers to himself as a SAPIC member "from afar."

One of my favorite short stories written by one of my favorite authors is "Neighbor Rosicky" by Willa Cather. In the story, a farmer by the name of Rosicky longs to return to his home in the county after spending some years of his youth in the city. He does return, raises a family and enjoys his life far from the crowds. At the end of his life he is laid to rest in the countryside that he loved so much.

In the story there is a beautiful passage describing Rosicky's resting place. It contrasts the city cemetery with one in the country. The scene described in the passage is seen through the eyes of Doctor Ed, the physician who treated Rosicky before he died. Doctor Ed has stopped by the fence which surrounds Rosicky's resting place.

"A sudden hush had fallen on his (Doctor Ed's) soul. Everything here seemed strangely moving and significant... Close by the wire fence stood Rosicky's mowing machine, where one of the boys had been cutting hay that afternoon... The new cut hay perfumed all the night air.

For the first time it struck Doctor Ed that this was really a beautiful graveyard. He thought of city cemeteries; acres of shrubbery and heavy stone, so arranged and lonely and unlike anything in the living world. Cities of the dead, indeed... But this was open and free, this little square of long grass which the wind forever stirred... Nothing could be more un-deathlike than this place; nothing could be more right for a man who helped to do the work of great cities and had always longed for the open country and had got to it at last."**

When I read about the work done by SAPIC, this passage often comes to mind.

** from "Neighbor Rosicky"
Willa Cather, 1928

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WHERE TO GET PROBES

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

WHERE TO GET EPOXY

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

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

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

WHERE TO GET SIGNS

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

VETERANS' HEADSTONES

See <http://www.cem.va.gov/hm.htm>
 Or telephone 1-800-697-6947

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

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

Forms for making markers for unmarked
 graves: Contact Pat Shaw

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

October 2, 2004

Chairperson Joyce Wiese called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. at the Clive International Suites & Conference Center, Clive, Iowa. Other Board Members present were Phyllis Carter, Pat Shaw, Linda Zintz, and Larry Davis. Other members present were Carol and Willis Hoffman.

The minutes of the previous meeting, July 10, 2004, were read. A correction was noted in the first sentence of the 2004 Cemetery Conference report.April 2, 3, 2003..... should read..... April 2, 3, 2004..... The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Valerie Ogren, Treasurer, was unable to attend, but submitted a treasurer's report for July 1, 2004 thru September 30, 2004 and was presented by Larry Davis. The beginning balance of the "Working Account" on June 30, 2004 was \$5,661.12. A total of \$12.34 income was received including \$10.00 for dues and \$2.34 for interest. Expenses were \$85.69 for the newsletter. The ending balance on September 30, 2004 was \$5,587.77. The "Reserve Account" had no activity during the quarter leaving a balance of \$3,523.39. The combined balance of the "Working Account" and the "Reserve Account" as of September 30, 2004 was \$9,111.16.

Newsletter: Considerable discussion was held in regard to delinquent members receiving the newsletter. It was generally agreed that only paid members should receive the newsletter. A membership report was presented dated September 10, 2004 listing 41 life members and 72 regular members for a total of 113 paid members. Currently, approximately 200 newsletters are being mailed which includes delinquent members. The current policy of using envelopes for mailing the newsletter instead of a self-mailer was questioned. It was noted some had reported receiving damaged newsletters. therefore the envelopes were used for protection. It was also noted it was an extra expense for the envelope and labor to insert the newsletter.

Moved by Willis Hoffman that the newsletter be mailed as a self-mailer, without an envelope, and beginning in 2005, delinquent members will only receive the January issue of the newsletter. Seconded by Pat Shaw. Motion carried.

Non-profit Status: Linda Zintz reported all paper work had been completed and the application for SAPIC to be classified as a 501(c)3 organization was in process.

Nominations Committee: Pat Shaw, representing the Nominations Committee, presented the following slate of officers and board of trustees to fill vacancies for 2005:

President – Joyce Wiese
Vice-President – Linda Zintz
Secretary – Larry Davis
Treasurer – Valerie Ogren
Board of Trustees:
Molly Beason
Steve Story
Jo Vernooy

Moved by Phyllis Carter that the slate of officers and board of trustees be accepted and a unanimous ballot be cast for their election. Seconded by Pat Shaw. Motion carried.

The following persons remain on the Board until their term expires:

Phyllis Carter
Mary Dodson
Julie A. Eckenrod
Calvin McVay
Michael Magee
Pat Shaw

Cemetery Conference: Larry Davis reported a second Cemetery Conference is scheduled for April 9, 2005, and will be held in the Prairie Learning Center at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Linda Zintz reviewed the tentative program and speakers.

Special Projects: General discussion was held in regard to special projects and the 10th Anniversary of SAPIC. Some ideas were mentioned including a directory of Iowa Cemeteries. It was noted that the Iowa Cemetery Association had published a directory in 1973. Larry Davis was asked to contact the Iowa Cemetery Association for any information they have that would be helpful to SAPIC and perhaps a mutual working relationship in several interests could benefit both organizations.

Robert Carter Award: SAPIC will present the 2004 Robert Carter Award to the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission represented by Steve & Dona Story on October 10, 2004 at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

County reports were presented.

The next meeting will be January 8, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. in Toledo, Iowa.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Larry D. Davis
Acting Secretary

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 3rd Quarter - 1 July 2004 thru 30 September 2004

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2004, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$5661.12

Income

Dues	10.00
Interest 7/31/04	1.13
Interest 8/31/04	1.21
Interest 9/30/04	- 0 -
Total Income	\$ 12.34

Expense

Ck #158 - Pat Shaw - Newsletter	85.69
Total Expense	\$ 85.69

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2004 \$5587.77

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2004, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$3523.39

Income

None this quarter

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2004 \$3523.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 30 September 2004 \$9111.16

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Ogren, Treasurer

108 N. Oak

Jefferson IA 50129-1841

Ph 1-515-386-4784

E-mail: <vjogren@netins.net>

I am sending this report early due to an impending major surgery and a 2 week hospital stay. The current membership report as of this date is 41 Life Memberships, plus 72 other members in good standing for a total of 113. In comparing the membership list with the list of active county cemetery commissions, I note there are quite a few not paying dues. Some county commissions are only paying \$10 rather than \$20 for an organization. Much work needs to be done in actively seeking new members. We also need to make more effort to help other counties form commissions.

10 September 2004

For a selection of books and related materials illustrating how society and individuals have dealt with and memorialized mortality and death through the ages, contact:

Joslin Hall Rare Books
P.O. Box 516
Concord, Massachusetts 01742
Telephone 978-371-3101
Email <office@joslinhall.com>
Website www.joslinhall.com

Ask for booklet #232, A Grave Affair

From:

<http://entertainment.msn.com/news/article.aspx?news=167089>

"L.A. Cemetery Showing Movies," from the Associated Press. Amid the mausoleums and headstones at Hollywood Forever Cemetery about 1,700 living guests have unfurled picnic blankets and set up beach chairs, erected makeshift coffee tables with flowers and candles, and unpacked dinners of sushi, fried chicken or pasta salad.

They're here for cinema cemetery-style, an experience shared with the graveyard's 88,000 long-term residents. Later, the night's film will start, projected on a mausoleum wall.

It's the ultimate L.A. experience," film fan Mark Koberg said between mouthfuls of smoked turkey and arugula sandwiches, washed down with wine.

The story goes on to relate how the cemetery's previous owner ran it into bankruptcy, an earthquake left tombstones tilted and cracked, while El Nino rains flooded the site. Then Tyler Cassity bought the site, started revitalizing it and also began showing historic movies. Since it is neighbors to Paramount Studios and many former stars' grave are there, it made sense to Cassity and has been surprisingly successful.

From the *Custer/Little Bighorn Battlefield Advocate*, Volume XI, #4 Summer, 2004, page 4: "Reburial of Unknown Soldier from Ft. Phil Kearny," by Darrell Cook, LBBNM Superintendent, National Parks Service. A reburial service for the partial remains of an unknown U.S. Soldier from Fort Phil Kearny took place on June 25, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in the amphitheater, followed by graveside services with full military honors.

From *Yellow Book News*, September, 2004: "Horse-Drawn Funeral Vehicles -- 19th Century Funerals," released by the Carriage Museum of America, Bird-In-Hand, PA. This is the most comprehensive book to be published on horse-drawn funeral vehicles -- hearses, undertakers' wagons, embalmers' wagons, pall-bearers' coaches, and florists' wagons -- with specifications and engineering drawings for the different vehicles. The book includes the earliest known American hearse in the collection of the Maine State Museum and all of the hearses found in old trade journals. The second section is a collection of engravings from *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. The book contains 800 illustrations within 414 pages. For more information, contact the Carriage Museum of America; PO Box 417, Bird-In-Hand, PA 17505. Phone 717-656-7019. Web site: www.carriagemuseumlibrary.org

Contributed by Jerry Althoide

I have created a SAPIC e-mail list. I thought it would make it easy for all of us to communicate. Feel free to post messages to the group regarding anything of interest to SAPIC or cemeteries.

Connie Street
ckcasey@louisacomm.net

I've added you to my SAPIC group at Yahoo! Groups, a free, easy-to-use service. Yahoo! Groups makes it easy to send and receive group messages, coordinate events, share photos and files, and more. Anyone with news regarding Iowa cemeteries or questions about SAPIC is welcome to post to the list.

Description of the group:

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries is dedicated to preserving cemeteries in the State of Iowa. This list is for SAPIC members or anyone who is interested in the organization.

Important information about the SAPIC group
* To send a message to the members of this group, send an email to:

SAPIC@yahoogroups.com

* To leave the group, you can unsubscribe by replying to this message,
or by sending an email to:

SAPIC-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Report abuse:

Because Yahoo! Groups values your privacy, it is a violation of our service rules for moderators to add subscribers to a group against their wishes. If you feel this has happened, please notify us:
<http://help.yahoo.com/help/us/groups/abuse/index.html>

You may also change your email preferences to prevent group owners from adding you to their groups. To do so, please go here:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/s?tag=1J03Q8CHeE6xUJTnMy18RltpiUfFGFppC6kVLkBvHk3dib0X31Mf6SbyIOEUdkg1QkzV-0hxlqb1zbEstw>

Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to:
<http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>

To visit your group on the web, go to:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAPIC/>
Regards,
Moderator, SAPIC

From the *Des Moines Register*, September 26, 2004:

Dear Abby: Can you please tell me what "cemetery etiquette" is?

Abby says: It is behaving with respect for the people who are buried there, and being sensitive to the feelings of visitors or mourners. It includes: speaking quietly, dressing conservatively, and refraining from littering, stepping on the graves or blocking cars in the funeral procession on their way to the grave site. It also means the car stereo isn't blasting so loudly it will distract visitors or wake the dead.

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From *Yellow Book News*, September, 2004:

UndergroundHumor.com has added the following items to its web site: Hearse Wall Clock, Casket Tie Tack and Tombstone Tie Tack, Casket Humidor. Free shipping.

Frazer Consultants has created a comic strip geared towards funeral directors and published on a monthly basis.

www.frazerconsultants.com

Ground Penetrating Radar Information:

<http://www.geomodel.com/graves/>

COUNTY REPORTS

ALLAMAKEE

Contributed by Debra J. Richardson
richardson.debra@mchsi.com

In a letter dated Oct. 19, 2004, Debra expresses her concerns about the neglected condition of the Village Creek Cemetery. She encloses a copy of the cemetery survey form copied from the SAPIC web site and a Topozone map of the site. She is continuing to pursue possible means of getting the cemetery restored and preserved.

An article written by Debra and published in the May/June 2004 issue of *Ancestry* magazine tells of her distress at finding that the tombstones of her ancestors were missing from an Iowa cemetery last Memorial Day. She was relieved to discover that the stones were removed while a ditch was being filled in and that the caretaker planned to reset them on new bases. She was later informed that this had been done.

BENTON

Contributed by Frieda Davis

From the *Belle Plaine Union*, August 4, 2004: "TOMBSTONES: CHAPTER II -- Research into family graves answers - and creates - more questions," by Judy Schlesselman. A full-page story with 4 photos describes the aftermath of the discovery of grave stones that were unearthed from the floor of a garage in Belle Plaine. Don Hildahl simply wanted to fix the basement walls in his 101-year-old home when he discovered gravestones for Montgomery children. He phoned the Belle Plaine Police before proceeding further. After the collaborative efforts of the Benton County Genealogical Society, Nadine Thomasson and the Belle Plaine Community Library, Gene Davis and Ed Strellner of the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, Belle Plaine Police Chief Mike Smith, Don Prichard, Bev Winkie, Virginia Zamastil, David Hrabak, and Louis and Lillian Winslow, the stones were cleaned and placed on the Montgomery family plot at the Winslow Cemetery, south of Belle Plaine. After much research and speculation, interested people concluded that perhaps the Montgomery family replaced the stones of their children at one time. A cemetery caretaker may have lived at the residence now owned by Hildahl and placed the stones there.

BLACKHAWK

Contributed by Mike Magee

Mike reports that he has been helping at the Cagley Cemetery in Chickasaw County. He found a plat map of Bennington Township Cemetery at the Blackhawk County Courthouse. He made copies, dated 1880. Mike, an excellent researcher, found the map in an index to subdivisions in the county recorder's office. Other cemeteries and some towns were also found there. This might be a source of such maps in other counties, also.

Mike suggests this web site for cemetery searching: <http://teraserver-usa.com/image.aspx?t=l&s=10&x=2849&y=23438&z=15&w=0>
(Microsoft TerraServer Imagery)

BREMER

Contributed by Richard Boorum

After 10 years of research and work, Richard is nearing his goal of getting the Syracuse Cemetery recognized, restored, and maintained. His attorney has contacted the Bremer County Supervisors and asked them to accept responsibility for maintenance of the cemetery. Richard and his son located the legal description of the site buried deep in the bowels of the courthouse. In that information, they discovered that it was deeded to a cemetery association that is long gone. Richard also succeeded in retrieving the headstones from a local farmer.

"Perseverance is a great element of success. If you only knock long enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody."

Great job, Richard!

CHICKASAW

Contributed by Priscilla Reisner

The work at the Jacksonville Pioneer Cemetery is moving along. The fence has been put in and the front gate has been painted. The little building with the altar in it has a new roof and replacement siding and repairs to the previous siding has been done. Also windows have been repaired and new drywall has been put on the walls and ceiling. The building also has been painted inside and out. Now the little building is a chapel, complete with a cross over the door. The flagpole was repaired and now has a flag. Stones have been straightened

and a few more will be placed this fall. In the spring we will have to go back and raise a few that the grass was growing over and put the footstones we found with them. On our first workday there, when Mike Magee was walking in the lilies by the fence with the probe in his hand, he found a huge stone that at sometime had been placed in cement but had sunk out of sight. It has been raised. Steve Story came out to do some "witching," but he said it was a hard one to do, which made me feel better because I thought I had lost my touch! The trustees and the 4-H Club were a great bunch to work with! We had started work at the Cagley Cemetery last fall. This spring we sawed down some of the trees that were dead or in danger of falling on some of the stones. After our intermission at Jacksonville, we've gotten back to work here at our Nashua location on Sept. 18th. Marion Cagley, who lives nearby, came with his tractor and bucket. He has been lifting some of the big stones off crumbling bases or that were sliding off the various layers of the huge headstones. Mike Magee came up, also there that day were Ron Hafer, Julie Eckenrod, Betty Tylee, Mary Ann Crandall and her son-in-law, Herb Hill, and Fred and Priscilla Reisner. On September 29th, Mike and Mr. Cagley got the main part of the big stone put back together. At sometime the pillar part of the top was knocked off or fell off and was broken. Some years ago, someone interested in cemeteries had cemented it together and a few others, but I think the job was too big for one man to do! Mike, Marion, and Fred made a base to replace a bad base of a large stone. Marion had to leave at noon (the harvest was calling) which was why our crew was kind of small. Mary Ann brought lunch, as she likes to cook with some of the other women in our group. After lunch, a young couple came to look around! He jumped right in to put a big base in place for us. We put a stone in that one and I got another small stone and base placed. We have found a lot of pieces of stones and bases, some on top of the ground and some beneath. We are getting some of the stones cleaned up and put in place, some in usable bases and some in new bases. There is a lot to do there yet but seems like we've gotten quite a big done in a short time.

If you are familiar with the words from the following poem that was engraved on the stone of a Civil War veteran at Jacksonville, please

let Priscilla know: freisner@iowatelecom.net

".....where the soldier is lying,
Tread with your lightest step."

DALLAS

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *West Central Valley Voice*, October 29, 2004, Dexter, Iowa: "Lightning strikes, destroys 100-year-old pine tree." Dexter residents were awakened early Tuesday by a thunderstorm that rolled through the area about 5 a.m. Rain and wind were not severe, but lightning strikes were felt by many in the area. One strike was felt hardest in the old section of the Dexter cemetery southwest of town. One of the two old pine trees was struck dead center and exploded into pieces that ranged in size from toothpicks to baseball bats and were scattered over an area 75 yards wide. "At first look, there may be one older, upright stone that has been moved off of its base, but until we get the tree debris cleaned out of there, we won't know if there were other markers damaged," said David Kuhn, local funeral director and member of the cemetery board. Pictured along with the news article is a large stone for the TODD family, which was in the path of the fallen tree.

DAVIS

Contributed by Willis & Carol Hoffman

A rededication ceremony was held on October 9, 2004 for the Patterson Cemetery in Grove Township in Davis County. The ceremony was prompted by the activities of many citizens in the community to improve fences, cleaning and resetting stones in the cemetery, to the memory of the unknown pioneers sleeping there, and to honor the memory of Thomas Hardy who was killed by guerrillas when they invaded Davis County on October 12, 1864 during the Civil War. Willis reports that about 100 persons attended the ceremony from Missouri, Minnesota, Illinois, and Texas, and many from Iowa. Included in the program was a flag raising by the American Legion, Honor Guard Salute by the Sons of the Union Veterans, introductions by State Senator Keith Kreiman, placing of a wreath by Carol Hoffman, histories by Willis Hoffman, Davis County Supervisor Max Leyda, State Representative Kurt Swaim, and Jack and Nell

Moore. The dedication was made by Bill Eakins, pioneer circuit rider minister. A local artist made a logo depicting a covered wagon being pulled by oxen with pioneers riding and walking past an old pioneer cemetery.

FAYETTE

Contributed by Steve and Donna Story

The Robert Carter Award was presented to the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and Work Crew on October 10, 2004 by Phyllis Carter, SAPIC member from Washington, Iowa. The presentation was made in the beautifully restored Mr. Pleasant Cemetery northeast of Mt. Union, Iowa. A reception was held following the ceremony at the United Methodist Church in West Union. Commission members are: Virgie Bruening, Donal Boie, Frances Graham, Alice Miller, Bill Moellering, Steve Story, Woody Thomas, Harvey Ungerer, and Richard Vagts. Advisory members and work crew are: Glen Burington, Tex Heyer, Charles Jacobsen, Linda Johnson, Rolley Miller, Charles Shipton, Kay Thomas, Kathryn Weideman, and Donna Story. The award is given annually to those who have made outstanding contributions to restore and maintain Iowa Cemeteries. Participants and observers were welcomed by Steve Story. Rev. Milton Johnson of the Richfield and St. John's Lutheran Churches gave the invocation. Others on the program were Virgie Bruening, Donal Boie, and State Representative David Lalk.

From the *Fayette County Union*, October 20, 2004: Five photographs of the cemetery and the award presentation appeared in the newspaper. A large panoramic view shows Virgie Bruening, chairperson, accepting the award along with approximately 50 persons who attended. The caption states that the commission set over 230 headstones at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Other photos show Charles Shipton and Richard Vagts who constructed and installed a white cross at the cemetery, Donal Boie who shared a brief history of the commission, and Representative David Lalk who praised the commission for its work.

From the *Fayette Leader*, October 23, 2004: "Award ceremony at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery." Three pictures show Phyllis Carter with the Commission and Work Crew and State Representative David Lalk.

FAYETTE, continued

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*, September 2, 2004, "It's beginning to look a lot like fall," by Doris Hartwig, Olin News Correspondent from her weekly column, "Toe Prints." Doris tells of attending the annual organ concert sponsored by the Clermont Historical Society and the State Historical Society of Iowa at a Sunday School in Clermont. Jones County and Olin connections are abundant at this event. Steve and Donna Story grew up in Jones County, but spent their professional lives in Fayette County and contributed much to the educational and cultural development in northeast Iowa. Steve, who is a talented organist, has done extensive studies about the history of the area. Donna has researched the political career and family life of Governor William Larabee, whose home is a museum atop a scenic hill site above the community. The organ concert featured selections popular 100 years ago and which were featured during the 1904 World's Fair known as the "Louisiana Purchase Exposition." Steve compiled the program and wrote the narration. Several descendants of Governor and Mrs. Anna Larrabee were present. The governor donated the pipe organ to the church. Doris's daughter, Dr. Gayle Hartwig, graduated from Wartburg College with the guest organist, Ruth Ann Poppen.

From *Iowa REC News*, November, 2004: "A face in the crowd," by Gary Anderson from his column, "Wit and Wisdom." Anderson tells how he was captivated by the face of a "beautiful, barefoot girl in a long, flowing dress, hair falling gracefully across her shoulders as she sat in a thoughtful pose upon a pile of ancient Iowa limestone, holding a wreath of flowers in her hand. She was a classic beauty in every sense, and there was a timelessness about her that haunted me from the first moment I saw her." He tells of visiting her regularly, sitting on a bench in front of her and reading the familiar words at the base of her pedestal: Eline Leis, May 21, 1884 - March 14, 1897. He ponders the mystery, mixed with a slight air of sadness, that surrounds this beautiful headstone. He almost hears her whispered invitation to sit on her bench and think of beautiful things. He wonders, "What more beautiful tribute could anyone ask?" Anderson lives at Elgin, Iowa.

FREMONT

Contributed by Danette to the SAPIC Yahoo web site.

The Fremont County Historical Society will host its fall open house on Sunday, October 31, 2004 at the Ferrell House Museum in Randolph, Iowa. The theme is "Mr. Anson Roods's Victorian In-Home Funeral Setting." Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this unusual and educational event; black clothes, hats, and hankies are optional. The Ferrel House will be adorned with appropriate mourning decorations befitting the 1898 death of its prestigious original owner. Special speakers, costumed portrayals, music, and exhibits await visitors eager to learn more about Victorian mourning customs and memorabilia.

BUCHANAN

Contributed by Nyle McMartin

Nyle, who lives in Jessup, reports that he is continuing to work at the Littleton Cemetery.

JONES

Contributed by Ron Ruess, Co-Chair of the Jones County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, to the SAPIC Yahoo web site

We have completed two restorations of Pioneer Cemeteries in Jones County this year. Edinburg which is located at our County Home and Fremont-Sams located in Cass Township. Each had about 30 graves to reset and glue. We have 9 members on our board and we do the work along with some other volunteers, mostly spouses. In the past FFA Chapters, 4-H Clubs and Church groups have volunteered to do a certain cemetery. We have 24 or so pioneer cemeteries in the county and have restored 15 of them. Some are only 5 graves or so. Our largest is over 100 graves. We have restored most of the larger ones. The Olin FFA Chapter started on their 3rd restoration at Walnut Grove, but have not finished it as yet. I am the FFA Advisor at Olin and we just haven't found time to finish it. Will do so in 2005. We also have a young family working on another cemetery. Next year we plan to repair some of the stones in our earlier restored cemeteries. Deer, weather and maybe our inexperience in mixing the glue etc. have caused some stones to break. Also we plan to restore Madison which is mowed by the township trustees, but contains many 1800's graves. Our biggest

concern as a committee is a request to buy 2 gravesites in one of our pioneer cemeteries. This has caused much discussion and the motion is currently tabled. LaVerta Langenberg is our other Co-Chair.

From the Jones County Historical Society newsletter, October 9, 2004 and reprinted from the Fall 1974 *Historical Review*: "First cemetery is used as family plot." Just as success was a part of Horatio sanford's life, so was sadness. On Christmas day in 1858, the 20-year-old daughter of the Sanfords died of a lung ailment. There had not yet been a need for a cemetery at Edinburg, so now a little plot of ground was chosen on the Sanford homestead to be used for a family burial place. Just three years later, Horatio's wife, Lydia, died at the age of 57 and was laid to rest beside her daughter, Lucinda. Later on Horation donated this cemetery, which is located across the road from the present Museum Bulding, to the community of Edinburgh. Later, members of the Sanford family were buried at the nearby Four Horn Cemetery. In 1877, William Payne Sanford, Horatio's son, erected a stone wall around the site. Edinburgh eventually became a ghost town, but many Sanford descendants continued to live in the surrounding areas. Now it is the site of the Jones County Historical Society's museum complex that includes 2 museums, shops, school, church, and homes.

CLINTON

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Des Moines Register*, November 11, 2004: "Police say teenagers damaged gravestones." Two 13-year-old Grand Mound girls have been charged with causing more than \$10,000 in damage to historic gravestones at two cemeteries. The unidentified girls have been charged in juvenile court with first-degree criminal mischief. Clinton County sheriff's Sgt. Steve Kundiff said the girls confessed that they toppled or broke more than 40 tombstones while playing a game on Oct. 22. Kundiff said some of the markers were 100 years old. "The problem with some of the tombstones out there, a lot of the families are all gone," he said. "We're not sure who's going to pay to get the tombstones fixed."

LEE

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Daily Gate City News*, August 12, 2004: "Keokuk has rich professional baseball heritage," by Terry Altheide. In his column that appears regularly, Terry states that he often wonders about the long dead souls lying in Lee county's many cemeteries. When the Keokuk baseball reunion was held Aug. 13-15, Terry began to wonder how many of the early pioneers may have played or witnessed some of the country's earliest baseball matches. He learns from Shane Etter, Keokuk's baseball historian, that the first recorded game was played Aug. 14, 1867. Lee County produced six men who went on to play in the big leagues: Cal McVey born in Montrose, Cliff "Farmer" Carroll born in Clay Grove, Jerry Harrington from Keokuk, Roxie Lawson born in Donnellson, Croton's Jack Saltzgaver, and Joe Lutz from Keokuk. At least 3 are buried in cemeteries in Lee County or adjoining Van Buren County.

From the *Daily Gate City News*, October 1, 2004: "Lee County's cemeteries -- Many colorful stories don't always stay buried as murder reveals," by Carolyn Sheridan, MVM News Network. Pictured in color are Ken Merschbrock of Keokuk using diving rods to find the location of burial sites in the Busch Cemetery and Erma De Rosear, librarian at the Donnellson Library. Ken has found 11 graves so far. He and his wife, Judy, have marked them with white crosses and have fenced the site. Erma, who has been researching the cemetery for years, located it in a field even though the tombstones had been removed and the graves all grown over. It was the first Mennonite Cemetery west of the Mississippi. Ken also located, by witching, the four holes where the corner posts of a nearby church once stood. The cemetery is connected to the murder of an early pioneer named Henry Leisy and his father-in-law, John Miller, a minister. They were killed by a band of Danites, with alleged ties to the Mormon Church in Nauvoo. Two men were identified, charged, indicted, and eventually hung for their crimes in Burlington. Fallout from the crimes led to formation of an Anti-Mormon ticket in Lee County and all Mormons being expelled from the county. Resources used in researching the event can be found at the Donnellson Library Genealogy Room.

LEE, continued

From the *Daily Gate City News*, October 4, 2004: "Pioneer patriots recognized at ceremony." Shown in a color photo is the honor guard of veterans groups as they give a 21-gun salute during the second annual Pioneer Patriot's Day in Lee County. This year's ceremony was held at Johnson Cemetery near Argyle which had lain unattended since shortly after the Depression until recently. Terry Altheide, president of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, stated that five Civil War veterans were honored at the ceremony: Chancy Bloomfield, Christopher Johnson, Frank Jourdan, Orlo McPherson, and James Roseberry. Terry added, "I believe it is up to us, the living, and especially living veterans, to help keep the memories of these pioneer veterans alive. No veteran should lie in a weed-infested cemetery or beneath free roaming cattle." In the past two years, a new fence has been erected, caretakers have been hired, the site has been mowed, trees cut down and 32 stones were reset.

From the *Daily Gate City News*, November 4, 2004: "Make vandals pay stiffer price -- Buena Vista Cemetery has been vandalized three times in past two years," by Terry Altheide. Terry refers to the desecration of a Catholic priest's mausoleum in 1945 and sadly concludes that vandalism is nothing new. He tells of the history of Buena Vista or Big Mound Cemetery near Keokuk that contains the graves of more than 30 veterans and has experienced the crime of vandalism recently. Terry feels that it's way past time to stop slapping the hands of those who vandalize our outdoor museums and create stiffer penalties to punish these individuals. They need to pay not only hefty fines, but also be made to go out and help fix the damage they have done. He urges his readers to contact state lawmakers to create laws that protect the dead from these acts. He ends his column with the following words: Decency and common sense should demand victory over disgustfulness and stupidity.

From the Lee County Pioneer Association's newsletter, *Preserving Our Past*, Fall Issue 2004: A message from Sharon L. Little, secretary of the group mentioning highlights of the past year, reprint of a column by Jerry Sloat, *Daily Democrat* columnist, Ft. Madison,

Iowa, and color pictures of the Pioneer Parents Day held at the Hoffmeister Cemetery are included in the newsletter. A special thanks is extended to the Leyda, Burrus & Metz Monument Company of Burlington which has assisted the Lee County group in restoring and replacing monuments and has performed many other acts of community service with regard to the restoration of pioneer cemeteries. A reprint of Terry Altheide's column titled "Christmas is a time to give back; remember forgotten cemeteries," and a poem "Remember Us" written by Dawn M. Laughary are also included in the newsletter.

MITCHELL

Contributed by Neal Du Shane

Check out the new and revised Mitchell County Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Project (MCPCRP) web page:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/iamcpcrp/>
Included are links to an article titled "Maintaining Integrity of Pioneer Cemeteries," with several pictures by Larry Kershner, editor of the *Mitchell County Press-News*, August 19, 2004 and summaries of many other activities and accomplishments of the group. The Dudley, Lohr, Mona, Old Otranto, and West Cedar cemeteries are some of the sites that are mentioned. The MCPCRP presented a program to the Historical Society Board on November 14 at the Cedar Valley Memories meeting room.

POTTAWATTAMIE

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 15, 2004: "Reward offered for vandalism in cemeteries." A local business is offering a \$5,000 reward for information about those responsible for more than \$125,000 damage to headstones in two cemeteries. About 85 tombstones at St. Joseph and Walnut Hill cemeteries were vandalized in August. The Cutler-O'Neill-Meyer-Woodring Funeral Home is offering the reward, to be paid through the Council Bluffs Crime Stoppers program. Many of the stones had crosses on them that can't be repaired, police said. Also damaged was a monument built by former stonecutter Bernard Connor, who designed a life-sized statue of himself for his grave.

POTTAWATAMIE, continued

From the *Crescent Connection*, Crescent, Iowa: "Indian Burials of Pottawattamie County," reprinted from "Indian Stories" by O. J. Pruitt. The writer, who was the curator of the county museum, was approached by a group of Cherokee Indians in 1932 to help them locate the grave of their ancestor, Two Bear Claw, that they thought was in Pottawatamie County. It is not known when the article was written. He accompanied the group of about 20 to a site that he thought might be close to the burial site, Mosquito Creek, about four miles east of Council Bluffs. The oldest member of the group who was the grandson of Two Bear Claw said that if they dug near a big oak tree they would find a big red rock, which they did. Near the rock was unearthed the skeleton of a human, broken pottery shards, 3 flint arrow points and a stone ax. And thus the grandson was able, after the lapse of many years, through his memory of a spot of ground, to locate the last remaining resting place of his ancestor.

SCOTT

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Des Moines Register*, September 12, 2004: "Man tends what may be cholera victims' mounds," by Dan Sherman, Davenport parks maintenance superintendent. Legends claim that at least 102 cholera victims are buried in layers in two mounds amid acres of tombstones in old Davenport City Cemetery. The cholera mounds began in 1873 when river towns were stricken with the deadly plague. The pauper dead were not buried in caskets, but quickly interred in what has been generally accepted as "burial mounds" alongside Rockingham Road and US Highway 61. Recently, Bob Ross was hired to look after broken headstones in the cemetery and became concerned that there were no flowers or markers on the mounds. Supt. Sherman says that the city has considered putting markers there, but needs proof that there are actually burials there. Ross was hired to make new foundations for markers and assembling others that had been broken into pieces, after becoming interested in the cemetery's history while walking his dog there. He would like to see the mounds probed or X-rayed to see if they contain bodies that should be memorialized.

VAN BUREN

Contributed by Don Aldrich

In an E-mail message dated August 28, 2004, Don reports that the Watkins Cemetery located about 3 miles south of Keosauqua on the east side of Highway 1 has had its grounds cleared, fallen tree limbs removed, bank somewhat cleared, and supports were installed for a retaining wall for ground stabilization. One gravestone had slid under the perimeter iron fence. It's looking a little better -- still work to do, but we have a good start.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, September 16, 2004: "Steps forward in the task of cemetery restoration," by Don Aldrich. Don reports that he was pleased to receive a call from Darrell Ramsey of Birmingham who expressed a desire to learn gravestone restoration so that he might repair the stones at the small Cook Cemetery that is located 2 miles southwest of Kilbourne. After mowing the site the day before, Darrell met with Don for their first workday. Also present was Juanita Strait, who has been mowing the cemetery. Pictured with the news article is Darrell with the gravestone of John Beggs, who died in 1885. The stone was broken into 6 pieces. Since this, Darrell and others have finished repairing the stones at Cook, and Darrell has begun work at the Old Presbyterian Cemetery in Birmingham. Don and the members of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society appreciate Darrell for adopting these pioneer cemeteries.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, October 14, 2004: "Lions Club places new cemetery sign." Pictured is the new sign that was purchased from Iowa Prison Industries for the Landess/Watkins Cemetery located south of Keosauqua. The Keosauqua Lions Club adopted the cemetery nearly 20 years ago and have attempted to control growth within the grounds each year. This year a major erosion control wall was erected to protect the movement of soil that was occurring. The Van Buren County Genealogical Society Gravestone Restoration Crew also reset and repaired 4 gravestones within the enclosure, as well as removing and repairing a section of the wrought iron fence that was damaged by a falling tree limb.

WAPELLO

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, August 25, 2004: "Anderson Hill Cemetery to be rededicated." Anderson Hill Cemetery, located on the Wapello-Monroe County Line Road, was rededicated during a brief ceremony on August 29. Michael Welch, a student at Eddyville-Blakesburg High School, completed a restoration project at the cemetery as part of his requirements for attaining Eagle Scout status. Michael was chosen "Heartland Hero" by KTVO-TV, Ottumwa, in May.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, TV and Entertainment edition, Sept. 10-17, 2004: "Journey into the past..." Pictured is Abbey Vermillion of Ottumwa as she rehearses her part in South Ottumwa Savings Bank's 2004 "Lantern Tour Into Ottumwa's Past." The tour was scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 18 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Vermillion portrayed Adine Edgerly, who was active in her church and numerous charitable organizations.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 20, 2004: "A walk through Ottumwa's history -- Ottumwa cemetery historical tour stimulates the senses," by Mark Newman. Tours started every fifteen minutes and guides took visitors to six different sites featuring individuals from Ottumwa's past. The route and each site were lighted with luminaria. The actors found the experience a very meaningful one that required a great deal of research. Visitors were impressed by the re-enactors' knowledge and delivery of their stories. "This is a chance to see some real history, not the kind you're going to find in a book." said Ron McClain of Ottumwa. Ottumwa Cemetery Clerk Randi Terrell said, "What we're trying to show is that the cemetery is a place to memorialize the loved ones who have passed on. It's the history of the people who started and built the community."

OUT OF IOWA

Indiana

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From *Capper's*, October 12, 2004, "Found old family cemetery." The writer tells of finding the cemetery of her husband's family for which they had been searching for many years. The cemetery had approximately 100 graves, but they didn't know which ones

belonged to their family. The day after finding the cemetery, a friend at her workplace asked what she had done over the weekend. She said they had found the family cemetery within 10 miles of their house in a small town called Whitestown. The co-worker not only knew where it was, but her aunt lived next door. Her aunt was able to provide an abstract of the cemetery, including who was buried there.

Missouri

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From *The DeadBeat*, late summer, 2004:

Help!!

Award winning documentary group for PBS station in Kansas City (KCPT) is currently hard at work on a documentary about cemeteries, tentatively titled "Stories Under the Stone," with noted Kansas City Star columnist Charles Gusewelle as writer and host. We're searching for help finding, among other things, epitaphs and tombstones of unusual interest, or poignant in nature, or even on the funny side, that might make nice additions to our show. Our documentary covers an area bounded by St. Louis on the east, Des Moines, Iowa on the north, western Kansas on the west and probably somewhere around the Arkansas border on the south. If you know of anything that fits this description, or maybe you just know a darned interesting story from that area that we should know about, we'd really appreciate the tip. You can call Michael Murphy 816-756-3580 x 4272 or Pamela Reichart at 816-756-3580 x 4237 with any ideas, or you can email us at: Michael_murphy@kcpt.org.

ARKANSAS

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From *The DeadBeat*, Summer, 2004, condensed from *Arkansas Democrat/Gazette*, May 16, 2004: "Endangered Historical Site - The Fraternal Cemetery -- Little Rock, AR. This site is one of the five most endangered historical sites in the state. It was established in the late 1800's by the city at the request of several black organizations including the Knights of Tabor and the Mosaic Templars of America. It is now surrounded by a school, strip mall and a bus storage lot and is an easy target for vandalism.

MINNESOTA

Contributed by Terry Altheide
From the *Teamsters Joint Council*,
September, 2004: "Local 120 on
strike....Pension/Health benefits main issues
in strike at Brown-Wilbert Burial Vault."
The union is picketing the company and at
cemeteries and grave sites in the dispute with
the administrator of Brown-Wilbert. The
union claims that their members have not
crossed picket lines, but do carry signs for
informational purposes. They step out of the
way for hearses and processions. Brad
Slawson, Sr. of Local 120 says the strike may
last up to one or two years.

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, August 1,
2004: "Vault workers faulted for picketing
cemeteries." Some grieving families think
the Teamsters 120 is making a grave
decision. The union is picketing cemeteries
even when funeral services are in progress in
its strike on the Twin Cities' biggest maker of
burial vaults. Even though the pickets stay
near the cemetery gate and don't picket near
the burial site, some relatives feel a picket
line at a cemetery is disrespectful. Brad
Slawson, Sr. said the union members have a
legal right to strike where they work, which
in this case includes cemeteries.

OKLAHOMA

Contributed by Pat Shaw
From *Capper's*, October 12, 2004:
"Grandad's grave no longer neglected." After
visiting the grave of her grandfather, the
writer found the cemetery in a neglected state
with no stone marking his grave. Her
husband offered to install a stone if she would
research her grandfather's birth and death
dates, order the stone and secure permission
to place it. A year later, when she and her
sister visited the site, she found a lovely
flower arrangement there. She wonders who
might have put it there, speculating that it
could have been a former customer of her
grandfather when he ran a grocery store
during the Depression. She remembers many
pleasant times spent with him when she and
her parents lived in the store building. She
was moved by the flowers that were placed on
his grave, and the kindness makes her realize
that someone else still appreciates her
ancestor.

CALIFORNIA

Contributed by Terry Altheide
From the *Yellow Book*, September, 2004:
"Musical Event held at Mountain View
Cemetery." During the month of May, a
modern dance, music, and still life event was
presented in the cemetery near Oakland.

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