

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES
21813 170TH ST BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535-8045 www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/
Volume #10 Issue #1 January, 2005

CEMETERY CONFERENCE

April 9, 2005

Sponsored by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) in the Prairie Learning Center at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge near Prairie City, Iowa. Included in the program offerings are: Recording Cemeteries as Archaeological sites, Eulogy for Remnant Prairie, Cemetery Legislation and Legal Matters. Need a registration form or more information? Contact Larry Davis or Linda Zintz (addresses, phone numbers, and/or e-mail addresses are on page 2.)

Want to be on an Internet mailing list that deals specifically with cemetery discussions? SAPIC member, Fred Reese, maintains the following Rootsweb sponsored list:
IA-Cemeteries-L@rootsweb.com

To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail message containing only the word *subscribe* in the message with no tag lines or subject to:
IA-Cemeteries-L-request@rootsweb.com
You will receive a confirmation from Rootsweb along with instructions. If you have questions or need assistance, Fred will help.
freese@netins.net

Remember that the month of May will be "**Cemetery Appreciation Month**" in Iowa. Plan to have some special activity to draw attention to your restoration efforts. The media looks for cemetery stories around Memorial Day and will usually welcome a story about the history of burial sites, deserving volunteers, the plight of a neglected cemetery, or the restoration of a site. Submit your story suggestion 2-3 weeks in advance to a radio or TV station, newspaper, or magazine.

SNAPPY IDEAS FOR CEMETERY PHOTOS

Write on a white page on a clipboard with a dark felt tip pen, the name of the cemetery

and the city and state clearly and large enough to show up in a photo of the stone. Before each shot, place the card at the base of the monument. Depending on the cemetery, placed at the left of the stone could indicate west and at the right could indicate north so you know what direction the stone is facing. With this sign, every photo is identified. From the Olmstead Co MN Gen Soc. Mar 2004

-- Contributed by Mike Magee

BIPARTISAN GOVERNANCE GROUP

The Governor of Iowa announced that there will be a link for this committee that can be accessed from the Governor's web site:

www.iowa.gov

The Governor is interested in including local governments in the group's discussions. One way to hear from local officials is to allow them to comment via the web site.

A new book from a nationally renowned photographer and author team, *Going Out in Style: The Architecture of Eternity* by Douglas Keister and Xavier Cronin is available from Amazon Books. The publication provides an engaging and at times surprising look at America's forgotten architecture: the mausoleum. Elegant, full-color photographs display the grandeur of the mausoleum, documenting the work of some of America's most noted architects and in some cases, the only remaining examples of a particular architect's work. Additionally, photographs of the interiors of some mausoleums show rarely seen Tiffany stained-glass windows. The book takes readers into beautiful and historic cemeteries in cities as New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Buffalo, Boston, Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, and many others. Intriguing captions, which accompany each photograph, reveal the story behind the structure, including a description of the architectural style, the life of the person or family whose monument is depicted, anecdotes and background information.

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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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 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**

January 8, 2005

Chairperson Joyce Wiese called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. at the Tama County Museum in Toledo, Iowa.

The minutes of the previous meeting, October 2, 2004, were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was given by Valerie Ogren (2004 financial report attached) and is summarized as follows:

2004 Financial Summary

		Working Reserve	Total
		<u>Account</u>	<u>Account Funds</u>
Beginning Balance (January 1, 2004).....	\$5,454.94	\$2,423.39	\$7,878.33
Income.....		\$2,387.07	\$1,200.00
Expenses.....		<u>\$2,006.63</u>	<u>0</u>
Ending Balance (December 31, 2004).....	\$5,835.38	\$3,623.39	\$9,458.77

Membership: Discussion was held in regard to issuing membership cards each year. It was agreed to issue cards to only those requesting it by sending a postage paid return envelope to Treasurer, Valerie Ogren.

It was noted that several Pioneer Cemetery Commissions are not members of SAPIC, yet some have requested funding from the SAPIC Grant Program. Moved by Steve Story that one of the criteria for Pioneer Cemetery Commissions to receive SAPIC grants is that they are a member of SAPIC. Seconded by Mike Magee. Motion carried.

Moved by Willis Hoffman that paid members be listed in the January 2005 issue of the newsletter, with a reminder to pay 2005 dues. Seconded by Mike Magee. Motion Carried.

It was also suggested that the list of paid members, a reminder to pay 2005 dues, and the policy of issuing membership cards to only those requesting it with a postage paid return envelope be put on a colored sheet of paper in the January 2005 newsletter.

Discussion also led to a recommendation to send a letter promoting membership in SAPIC to county Genealogical Societies, Historical Societies, and Pioneer Cemetery Commissions. Chairperson Joyce Wiese volunteered to draft the letter.

Bylaw Revision: A recommendation was received to revise the Bylaws by deleting the requirement to hold the 4th quarterly meeting in conjunction with the Iowa Genealogical Society Conference. This would give more flexibility to SAPIC for moving its meeting sites to different areas of the state.

Moved by Steve Story that the recommendation to revise the SAPIC Bylaws be acknowledged, which requests the second sentence in Section VII that currently reads "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". To be changed to read "Each meeting will be held on the second Saturday of the month". Seconded by Molly Beason. Motion carried.

It was also noted that the recommendation to revise the Bylaws will be presented to the SAPIC membership in accordance with the proper procedure prior to its adoption.

Cemetery Conference: Larry Davis reported plans were under way for the second Cemetery Conference to be held April 9, 2005, at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge Prairie Learning Center near Prairie City, Iowa.

Fund Raising: Chairperson Joyce Wiese indicated a member had sent a suggestion to SAPIC for raising money by organizing Booster Clubs. After discussion, no action was taken.

County Reports were presented.

SAPIC July 2005 Meeting: Valerie Ogren invited SAPIC to hold its July meeting in the Jefferson, Iowa area. The meeting will be July 9, 2005, and Valerie will arrange for the meeting site.

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Larry D. Davis
Secretary

From the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, December 5, 2004: "Dave Barry unwraps this year's guide to weird presents." #10 on the list is HEADSTONE CLEANER \$10 plus shipping and handling from Make Life Easier, 19465 Brennan Ave., Perris, CA 92599. 800-522-0227. This is a specially formulated headstone-cleaner in a handy spray bottle. According to the manufacturer, in just 60 seconds this product "deep cleans and renews luster as it quickly and easily lifts dirt, moss, mold and grime."

--Contributed by Mike Magee

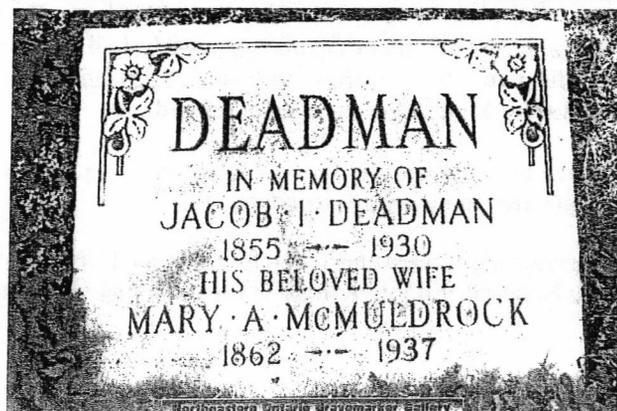
NOTE: SAPIC neither recommends nor endorses this product for cleaning stones!

From Rootsweb, January 26, 2005: "Canadian Photographer Turns up Befitting Stone." Murray Pletsch writes that his hobby and contribution to the family research world is to photograph entire cemeteries by township and by county in the vast area of northeastern Ontario, Canada. Pletsch puts these pictures up on his personal web site for researchers from all over the world to use at: <http://nocgg.maddoc.net/>

"One day, after almost finishing a cemetery in the sweltering heat, I was fighting off ravenous black flies, deer flies, horse flies, mosquitoes, watching for bears, and looking for the end of this huge cemetery and I was in great pain," he relates.

"Just as I was about to break prematurely for the day and head to my air-conditioned van, I had to take a second look at a headstone just ahead. The surname on this headstone was -- DEADMAN."

"After I photographed that stone, my pain left and there was a skip in my gait as I headed for my car in a state of amazement at the irony and shaking my head in disbelief," said Pletsche.



STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter - 1 October thru 31 December 2004

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2004, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$5588.90

Income

Dues	280.00
Donation	20.00
Bumper Stickers	4.00
Interest 10/30/04	1.09
Interest 11/30/04	1.21
Interest 12/31/04	<u>1.18</u>
Total Income	\$ 307.48

Expense

Ck #159 - Pat Shaw - Newsletter	53.60
Ck #160 - Postmaster - stamps	<u>7.40</u>
Total Expense	\$ 61.00

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2004 \$5835.88

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

Income

Life Membership - Frieda Davis	\$ 100.00
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Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2004 \$3623.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 31 December 2004 \$9458.77

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

Explanation	Income	Expense	Life Members & Memorials	Total
Balance Forward 1 Jan 2004	\$5,454.94		\$2,423.39	\$7,878.33
Dues	\$560.00			
Donations	\$10.00			
Conference Registration	\$1,102.00			
Interest	\$3.15			
Total Income Jan - Mar 2004	\$1,675.15			\$1,675.15
Conference mailing		(\$102.11)		
Patricia Shaw - newsletter		(\$200.89)		
Patricia Shaw - newsletter		(\$6.60)		
Total Expense Jan - Mar 2004		(\$309.60)		(\$309.60)
Life Memberships & Memorials			\$200.00	
Total Jan - Mar 2003			\$200.00	\$200.00
Dues	\$165.00			
Conference Registration	\$188.00			
Bumper stickers	\$34.50			
Interest	\$3.47			
Total Income Apr - Jun 2004	\$390.97			\$390.97
Valley West Inn - Conf. Exp.		(\$703.79)		
Larry Davis - Conf. Exp.		(\$72.73)		
Shirley Clark - Conf. refund		(\$18.00)		
Transfer to Reserve Account		(\$700.00)		
Patricia Shaw - newsletter		(\$55.82)		
Total Expense Apr - Jun 2004		(\$1,550.34)		(\$1,550.34)
Life Memberships & Memorials			\$200.00	
Transfer from Working Account			\$700.00	
Total Apr-June 2004			\$900.00	(\$900.00)
Dues	\$10.00			
Interest	\$3.47			
Total Income Jul - Sep 2004	\$13.47			\$13.47
Patricia Shaw - Newsletter, etc.		(\$85.69)		
Total Expense Jul - Sep 2004		(\$85.69)		(\$85.69)
Dues	\$280.00			
Donations	\$20.00			
Bumper stickers	\$4.00			
Interest	\$3.48			
Total Income Oct - Dec 2004	\$307.48			\$307.48
Patricia Shaw - newsletter		(\$53.60)		
Postmaster		(\$7.40)		
Total Expense Oct - Dec 2004		(\$61.00)		(\$61.00)
Life Memberships			\$100.00	
Total Oct - Dec 2004			\$100.00	\$100.00
12 Month Total	\$2,387.07	(\$2,006.63)	\$1,200.00	\$7,658.77
Balance Forward	\$5,454.94		\$2,423.39	
Income	\$2,387.07			
Expense	(\$2,006.63)			
Working Account Balance	\$5,835.38			
Life Memberships and Memorials			\$3,623.39	
Total in Checking				\$9,458.77

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

Please copy (if you wish) and return to Pat Shaw. Address on page 2. Thanks!

NEWSLETTER SURVEY

I read *Grave News*, the newsletter of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC): (Check all that apply)

- From cover to cover
- Skim through it and sometimes read it later
- Read portions (please specify) _____
- Refer to back issues for information
- Never

I usually read this first:

- Meeting information
- Minutes of last meeting and/or treasurer's report
- Tips on stone restoration and preservation
- County reports
- Other (please specify) _____

I rarely or never read this: (Check all that apply)

- Meeting information
- Minutes of last meeting and/or treasurer's report
- Tips on stone restoration and preservation
- County reports
- Out of state news
- Other (please specify) _____

I could receive the newsletter via E-mail:

- No, I do not have E-mail
- No. I have E-mail but do not wish to receive the newsletter in this form.
- Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter in E-mail form.
- Yes, if this would save money for SAPIC, I would accept it in this form.

I would not miss these items, if they were omitted from the newsletter:

- Human interest stories
- Secretary's and Treasurer's reports in full (summary of each would be sufficient)
- Humor and/or poetry
- County reports
- Out of Iowa news (other states and countries)
- Stone preservation tips
- Names and addresses of officers, board members, and contact people
- Other (please specify) _____

I would like to see more of this in the newsletter:

- Legal advice regarding cemeteries
- Other (please specify)

Comments: (format, print size, general content, important information, etc.)

Whereas Iowa's active rural cemeteries* provide an essential and irreplaceable link between current and future Iowans and those of previous generations; and

whereas much of our agrarian heritage and sense of rootedness is captured and preserved in rural cemeteries, which serve as enclaves of solemnity, quietude, and tranquility; and

whereas our ancestors, forebears, and family members, having selected rural cemeteries for their interment, are familiar with these special qualities that characterize rural cemeteries; and

whereas the selection of a rural cemetery for interment is made in the full expectation that the essential character and nature of these pastoral settings will be maintained in perpetuity; and

whereas any encroachment that dramatically alters the essential character and nature of a rural cemetery is a serious violation of the trust conferred by one generation to the next; and

whereas dramatically altering the character and nature of a rural cemetery is degrading and disrespectful of our Iowa heritage and desecrating to the memory of our Iowa ancestors;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, members of Advocates for a Cleaner Environment, seek the support of the state of Iowa to help protect rural cemeteries as hallowed community sites, to help preserve rural cemeteries as a legacy of our agrarian heritage, and to help maintain the solemnity and quietude, the dignity and tranquility of rural cemeteries – qualities that must be sustained by each successive generation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state make it illegal for any organization, company, or individual to violate the character and nature of Iowa's rural cemeteries by long-term plans or means that would break the peace with perpetual consternation, that would disrupt the quiet with noise unabated, and that would alter the dignity of these sites by juxtaposing adjacent structures incompatible and inconsistent with the respect due our rural Iowa ancestors.

Signed: _____

* Note: This focus of this resolution is active rural cemeteries, located more than one mile from an incorporated municipality of 1,000+ people. Rural cemeteries are different than "pioneer cemeteries," defined in Iowa as a cemetery where there have been six or fewer burials in the 50 preceding years.

This resolution was approved at the February 19 meeting of Advocates for a Cleaner Environment (ACE) that has its origins in Mitchell County, Iowa. ACE is motivated by the desire to make the public aware of the threats faced by rural cemeteries throughout the midwest and the great damage that would result from the inappropriate location of industry, hog confinements operations, etc. For more information about ACE, contact Kurt Meyer at meyer6601@aol.com

COUNTY REPORTS

BENTON

Contributed by Frieda Davis

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, Vinton, February 28, 2005: "War of 1812 vet finally honored -- Descendants will honor David Lambert at McBroom Cemetery April 1," by Dean Close, *Times* News Editor. Pictured is the new monument of Lambert that will be placed on his grave. Lambert moved to Iowa after serving in the War of 1812. Due to the efforts of his great, great granddaughter, Kelly Loveless, the government shipped the 250-pound marble monument that is like the ones seen in Arlington National Cemetery. Loveless has been working closely with Gene Davis of the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Association. Davis usually repairs old stones, but this time he will have the privilege of placing a brand new monument. They plan to have it in place for a dedication ceremony on April 1. Descendants of Lambert from all over the Midwest plan to attend.

BLACKHAWK

Contributed by Mike Magee and Frieda Davis

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, February 27, 2005: "Monumental crime -- 146-year-old tombstone dumped in recreation area," by Matthew Wilde, *Courier* staff writer. Pictured is Tim Shea, Waterloo wastewater superintendent with the gravestone of David Elwell who died in 1859. Shea ponders why someone would vandalize a tombstone that was found in the Riverview Recreation Area in Blackhawk County. In his quest to return the stone to its proper place, to honor the deceased, and curtail cemetery vandalism, Shea contacted the *Courier* for help. Historians at the Grout Museum and SAPIC Board Member, Mike Magee, provided information about Elwell and his family, who were respected citizens in Waterloo and LaPorte City. Mike feels certain that he can repair the stone and have it in its place in the Waterloo Cemetery next to David's wife, Nancy, by spring.

From the *Cedar Falls Gazette*, April 27, 1900: The remains of Fong Ged, a Chinaman who died in this city November 1893, was taken up last Tuesday and shipped to San Francisco; from there it will be sent to China, for final burial. It is believed by all Chinamen that they cannot enter heaven unless buried in China. If that is the case, this poor fellow has been waiting at St. Peters door several years.

From the *Cedar Falls Gazette*, March 29, 1901: The Greenwood Cemetery Improvement Association will have a sunbonnet and apron sale, also serve a New England dinner consisting of roast beef and pork, tomato and apple sauce, Boston baked beans, brown bread, biscuits; doughnuts, cream and pumpkin pies, pickles, jelly, tea, and coffee all for 25 cents.

From the *Cedar Falls Gazette*, August 9, 1901: "To Enlarge Elmwood -- another section of land to be subdivided." The stockholders in the Elmwood Cemetery Association plan to make several improvements to the cemetery on the west side of the river. Trees will be cut down, new driveways and walks put in, and the grounds will be beautified and enlarged.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, September 16, 1904: Those who have relatives buried in the Poyner cemetery, southwest of Raymond will meet to fix up the lots and graves, as it is in very neglected condition.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, June 7, 1936: "Old Barclay Cemetery Ass'n Elects Officers." LaPorte City, IA -- the article lists the association's newly elected officers, along with a brief history of the cemetery, and recent improvements to the grounds. A broken slab in the burial grounds lists the names of three young brothers who went to the Civil War: Ephriam, Cyrus, and Alfred Shaffer.

CHICKASAW

Contributed by Priscilla Reasnor

Last fall, Priscilla found an inscription on a soldier's grave marker that was partly illegible. Since that time, she has been able to discover the entire poem:

South winds blow where the soldier is lying,
Tread with your lightest step, whisper more low.
Oh, waft to its home this spirit undying.
Never a mission more pure shall ye know.

DAVIS

Contributed by Willis Hoffman

Davis County Pioneer Cemetery Commission applied for the federal non-profit tax exempt number in December, 2004. This will allow that donations to our Pioneer Cemetery projects can be tax deductions to the people that gave dollars to cemetery improvement projects.

The 2005 monthly meeting schedule will begin March 7th. The items of business will include plans for projects for the 72 Pioneer Cemeteries in Davis County.

Willis & Carol Hoffman are working on access problems to pioneer cemeteries so that projects can be started this fall. The state lawmakers must help in solving some of these problems.

The Floris community/Lick Creek Township will hold a soup supper, April 1, 2005, at the community center. This will be to benefit the Peden Cemetery Improvement Project. This pioneer cemetery has been neglected for many years. Carl Boas, Lick Creek Pioneer Cemetery commissioner is organizing this event.

Willis Hoffman, Davis County Pioneer Cemetery Chair-person

KEOKUK

Contributed by Terry Altheide

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, December 4, 2004: "Vandals tip tombstones -- more than 100 stones hit in 2 cemeteries," by Nike Jensen. Pictured are headstones on the ground at Pleasant Grove Cemetery near Sigourney after vandals struck Nov. 22. About 65 stones, some more than 100 years old were damaged. Highland Cemetery in What Cheer also was vandalized 5 days later. About 57 stones were damaged there amounting to more than \$2,700 to fix. Four local men, including a masonry contractor, spent 2 days resetting tombstones in their upright positions. Big markers, such as a sandstone piece with a marble base dated to 1909, had to be lifted with a back hoe.

DES MOINES

Contributed by Phyllis Rothlauf

Phyllis reports that she had hip replacement surgery in November and resigned from active membership in the DM County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. She received nice notes of appreciation from the County Supervisors and the Commission. She was elected president of the Des Moines County Genealogical Society, so she is not retiring!

1-29-05
Bill Wacker

**ANNUAL REPORT
for
DES MOINES COUNTY
PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION
YEAR 2004**

The following is a summary of the activities of the Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission for the year 2004.

Cemetery restorations completed during 2004.

A. Wykert Cemetery

This cemetery is located about 200 yards east of the residence at 12268 Irish Ridge Road, in a wooded area, on private property, and contains about 40 graves. Two of the grave sites here were enclosed by an old wrought iron fence which was badly deteriorated. Jay Jennison, as a Boy Scout project, removed, sandblasted, painted, and reinstalled the fence. He did a very nice job and it really adds to the look of the cemetery.

B. Schilb/Bolick Cemetery

This cemetery is located 1/8 of a mile west of 14726 - 145th Ave., on the south side of the road. It contains about 30 graves. Several of the stones were repaired and reset, and a new fence and cemetery sign were installed.

C. Pleasant Grove Cemetery

This cemetery is just east of the Shinar Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in the town of Pleasant Grove. It contains a large number of graves, and several work sessions were needed this summer to repair and reset the markers there. A cemetery sign was also installed.

D. Meyers Family Plot

This plot is located east of Flint Hills Golf Course, on a hill facing east in a wooded area. The plot contains about 17 graves. We cleaned the site of much brush and small trees and restored all but two stones. These stones were too large for us to handle manually, and are inaccessible to mechanized equipment.

E. Sourwine Cemetery

This cemetery is located at the west edge of the road, at 4617 Sullivan Slough Road. It contains about 15 graves. Markers were straightened and repaired in just one work session.

F. Hazel Grove Cemetery

This cemetery is located 1/8 mile northwest of 12474 - 260th St., on private property, and contains 17 graves. Volunteers from the Mediapolis Lions Club did the restoration work here.

G. Talbert Family Plot

This plot is located 50 yards east of 4582 Sullivan Slough Road, in a wooded area on private property, and contains only 3 graves. Commission member, Fred West, restored this plot on his own early this summer.

This year's work brings to a total of 18, the number of cemeteries that have been restored by this commission and our many volunteers. We especially wish to recognize the work of the Mediapolis Lions Club, and their volunteer members, who have completed the work at the Northfield and Hazel Grove cemeteries. They have given us a commitment to help again next summer on all of the Pioneer cemeteries in Yellow Springs Twp.

Something new that we are doing this year, is to install signs at the cemeteries that we have restored, indicating the cemetery's name and that they are a Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery. We are able to order our signs from Iowa Prison Industries in Anamosa, Iowa for a very nominal price of \$12 each.

The maintenance of our Pioneer Cemeteries was accomplished by hiring 11 people to mow 26 cemeteries on a regular basis. We feel we can accomplish our responsibilities of maintenance and restoration of the county's Pioneer Cemeteries for the 2005-2006 FY with no increase in our present budget.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Walker

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

FLOYD

Contributed by Mike Magee

From the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*, December 5, 2004: "State shuts down Charles City funeral home," by Jessica Miller. Dennis Britson, director of the Regulated Industries Unit, announced that the agency found owners of Sunnyside Memory Gardens sold pre-need funeral arrangements without a license and there is concern that the situation may go beyond licensing violations. The Unit maintains a web site for public information and complaint filings at: www.iid.state.ia.us

JASPER

Contributed by Robert Mick

January:

- Barbara Hug announced that the Newton Union Cemetery records are now available on the internet.
- Antle Cemetery was added to the list of Pioneer Cemeteries in the county which brings the total to 18.

March:

- The Jasper County Engineering Department completed the surveying and legal description of the Rinehart Cemetery.
- It was decided to prepare a set of guidelines for funeral homes and tombstone companies to use in the siting of burials and tombstones for all cemeteries in the county.

April:

- Guidelines similar to those in use at Wittensburg Cemetery will be given to various tombstone companies to follow in setting stones.
- We will attempt to have the county addresses assigned to each of the cemeteries in the county.

May:

- The Jasper County Zoning office has added a cemetery layer to the county mapping system.
- Work has begun on a brochure to describe the Cemetery Commission and our reasons for existing.
- Two work days, April 17 and 21, were held at Adamson Grove Cemetery rather than Seay because of wet weather.
- Diana Wagner, Zetta Rae Stock, Bob Mick and Verland Beckham met at the German Methodist Cemetery on May 14 to raise the fence panels so that the grass around and under the fence can be mowed.

June:

- Bob Mick presented copies of the summary of the survey inspections of all cemeteries in the county.
- A preliminary proposal of the brochure describing the commission and its mission was shown.
- Bill Ponder reported on the county survey of Rinehart Cemetery.
- Approval of a transfer of \$2000.00 to the County Engineering Department for the surveying of Pioneer Cemeteries was granted.

July:

- Because of wet weather and inability to get to Seay Cemetery, the commission members worked in the Jasper County Burying Grounds doing a major trimming job on the pine bushes on June 19.

August:

- Bill Ponder made a new grave marker for the Robert Coleman grave at Prairie City. Bob Mick made four stones for members of the Wilson Family at Palo Alto Cemetery.
- All members of the commission signed a proposed letter to the township trustees offering our assistance and training.

October:

- The workday at Seay Cemetery was quite successful with many stones repaired and straightened and bushes and trees trimmed.
- 911 addresses have been assigned to all cemeteries in the county.

November:

JASPER, continued

- Commission members met at the Ritter-Worth Cemetery on 13 Nov 04. Cleaning of brush and trimming trees was continued from our previous work day in 2002. An additional stone was found bringing the total to 11 known graves. During our work in the cemetery it was decided that the scope of work was beyond our abilities that we should elicit the help of either the county or the state inmates with the work.
- A meeting with the county attorney was slated to determine the legal aspects of access to cemeteries located where private property must be crossed to gain access. Also a provision of exempting the Campbell Cemetery from the property in which it is located needs to be written.

December:

- Commission members met at the Ritter-Worth Cemetery on the 8th of December and worked with six Riverview Release Center inmates who did a great job in cutting and burning trees and brush from the cemetery grounds. At least two more days will be needed to complete the clean-up.

Respectfully submitted

Robert E. Mick, Secretary

LEE

Submitted by Terry Altheide

Certificate of Achievement

awarded to:

STATE ASSOCIATION PRESERVATION
OF IOWA CEMETERIES

LEE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 3, 2004

Date

Terry Altheide
Signed **LEE COUNTY PIONEER
CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

Thanks, Lee County! This certificate will be placed in the SAPIC Historian Book that is kept at the Tama County Genealogical Library.

LEE, continued

Submitted by Terry Altheide

From the *Daily Gate City*, November 18, 2004: "Veterans memorial site marked off Wednesday," by Cindy Iutzi. Pictured are Jerry Roberts, commander of Keokuk VFW Post 3508, Ron Sourwine and Amy Lane of Leyda, Burrus and Metz Monuments of Fort Madison and Burlington, and Kent Peters, member of the Keokuk Veterans Memorial Committee, as they place a marker for the memorial's footings. George Morgan, president of the Committee, says they are close to reaching their goal of raising \$150,000 for the black and gray granite memorial, and he believes it will be completed in the spring.

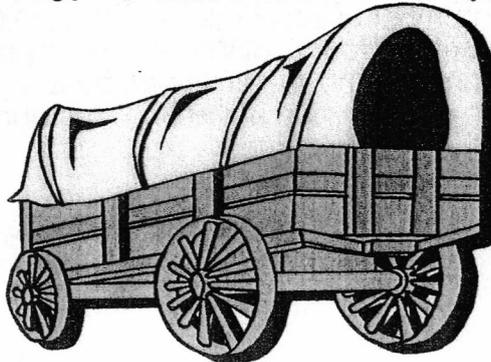
From the *Daily Gate City*, December 10, 2004: "Cemetery group has annual banquet." Pictured is Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association President Terry Altheide as he gives the Donald Wagner Memorial Award to Erma DeRosear of Donnellson who has spent many years researching county history. The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association held its second annual banquet on Dec. 3 in Montrose with 42 in attendance. A summary of the group's activities in 2004 and the plans for next year were shared. Several certificates of appreciation were given to those who assisted the group during the year.

From the *Daily Gate City*, December 31, 2004: "Land owners provide assistance with cleanups," by Terry Altheide. In this column, Terry expresses appreciation to the landowners who have been cooperative with and helpful to the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association in its efforts to restore and preserve several neglected burial sites in the county during the past two years.

The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association distributes a newsletter 4 times per year. In the Winter 2004 issue, the Johnson Cemetery near Argyle is featured. Also included is a calendar of future meetings, a poem by a member, and summary of their garage sale fundraiser.

From the *Daily Gate City*, February 11, 2005: "Lover's deaths compared to 'Romeo and Juliet,'" by Terry Altheide. Terry relates the story of an apparent suicide pact between two young people who had left a note saying they had drowned into the Mississippi River, but instead were found shot near Alexandria. The reason for their actions remains a mystery to this day. Their graves are in the Frazee Cemetery. He also tells of a pastor, Rev. Shipley Elmore, who died the day after his wife, Rebecca. Their graves are located in the Meeks Oakland Cemetery near Vincennes. Terry speculates that these four individuals left this world with hearts full of love that even the fear of death could not conquer.

Each year, the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association holds a "Pioneer Parent's Day" to commemorate the lives of parents and children who were part of a pioneer family who lived in Lee County. Last year, this impressive ceremony was held in the Hoffmeister Cemetery located in Ft. Madison. This year, the event will be held on May 21st. For the location and other details, contact Terry Altheide at 319-524-8772 or E-mail at: sweetpeaandbigun@msn.com



This last year an event in my life occurred that I knew would come "someday", and brought so much sorrow and loss when it did occur. My Dad died on August 17, 2004, at the age of 79 years. He was my kindred spirit and I inherited many of his attributes. I was raised to do the "right thing" for those who could not do it for themselves. You may wonder where this is going - it is this: I believe that we at SAPIC are doing the "right thing" for those who were buried so long ago and do not have anyone to speak for them. They were fathers, mothers, daughters, sons, aunts, uncles, etc. They were important to "somebody", and now they are important to us. May we never forget that we speak for those who can no longer speak for themselves.

Jo Vernooy, Chairman

SAPIC member, Dwight Bunting, 91, of Oskaloosa, died Feb. 20, 2005 at the New Sharon Nursing and Rehab Center. Dwight and his wife have been members since 1998.

TAMA

Contributed by Joyce Wiese

SAPIC members held their January 8 meeting at the Tama County Museum in Toledo hosted by the Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Thanks to the members of this group for their hospitality!

From the *Grinnell Times Republican*, Fall, 2004: "Cemetery provides learning lesson," by Christina Meide. For twelve years, the teachers at Grinnell-Newburg Middle School have used the Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell as a site for an interdisciplinary unit of study. In September or October of each year, the field trip to the cemetery takes place. Each student is given a packet of activities to do for the day which includes forms to fill out for the different classes involved. Before departing for the cemetery, they are shown a slide show entitled, "Cemeteries of Yesterday and Today." Data collection and grave rubbings are done before lunch. After lunch, the students must complete activities related to reading, math, social studies, science, and english. The data collected is used throughout the year in certain subjects. Students are even given a lesson in dowsing. Local officials believe that vandalism has gone down in the last twelve years because the students have learned to respect the cemetery during their interdisciplinary unit field trip.

Joyce Wiese would like to implement something of this nature for the Tama County schools.

From the *Tama News-Herald*, October, 2004: "Tour features eight Tama county Pioneer Cemeteries." On Sept. 18, the Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission hosted a bus tour covering eight cemeteries in the south half of the county. The cemeteries that were visited were the I.O.O.F. in Chelsea, Iowa, the Wilkinson, National (a Czech Cemetery), Dvorak Cemetery, Flathers-Walton-Hancox, Rouse, Dunham (Butlerville), Asher, and Korn. Because of the large number of infant burials at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, it became known as Babyland. Also, there are four Civil War veterans' graves there. Five Civil War veterans are buried at the Dunham. Shown with the article is a group picture of those who participated in the tour. Lunch was provided at the Big-T restaurant.

VAN BUREN

Contributed by Don Aldrich

From *The Van Buren County Iowa Quill*, newsletter of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society: "Note from desk of the Treasurer" Don relates the mixed emotions that he experienced while he and Tom Gould replaced the old sign at the Cook-Leach-Watts Cemetery last November. They were happy to have a shiny, new sign purchased from the Iowa Prison Industries, along with posts and braces furnished by the county. The sad part was having to remove the old sign that was made of plywood and installed years ago as a 4-H project by the daughters of Stan and Juanita Strait who live nearby. After conferring with the Strait's, volunteer Darrell Ramsey took the old sign home to do some restoration work on it. He will then wire it to the fence from which it was removed.

WAPELLO

Contributed by Mike Magee and Pat Shaw

From *Wapello Biographies* maintained by Deborah Lynne Barker with the WeBBS 4.33 Genealogy Modification Package by WebJournymen.net: "Moses B. Root," posted by Beverly Bethune <bbethune58@hotmail.com> December 16, 2002. Beverly tells of her passion for collecting epitaphs that has taken her into many cemeteries in Wapello County and surrounding areas. One name kept popping up on the stones -- Moses Root. For eighteen months, she pieced together the story of this stonecutter. Born in Massachusetts in 1815, Root eventually ended up near Keosauqua in Van Buren County. There was a limestone deposit on the farm he purchased, and he eventually went into business as a stonecutter with a Mr. Mapel. At some point, Root began working alone. In addition to cemetery markers, he made the Iowa stone that is located on the Washington Monument in Washington DC. After moving to Ottumwa, he established the Ottumwa Marble Works with Ashiel Brainaird. Root, again working alone (and later with his son, Frank), created many unique monuments. He was a highly esteemed citizen and prominent business man. He died in 1890 and was buried in Ottumwa City Cemetery.

Reported on KTVO-TV, December 7, 2004: The dog statue that was vandalized in the Ottumwa Cemetery is now completely restored and back in its original place.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, December 24, 2004: "White Christmas unlikely, but it will be a cold one," by Scott Niles. Pictured is Dennis Donaldson who works for the Ottumwa and Calvary Cemeteries as he puts a Christmas wreath on a grave. Families purchased wreaths to be placed by the headstones of loved one. Donaldson and other cemetery workers were mentioned as examples of persons who must work outside and sometimes face freezing weather conditions. Digging graves is especially difficult. Cemetery clerk Randy Terrell said that historically people used to put the deceased in the receiving vault until the service tree bloomed to let them know that it was warm enough to bury the held bodies.

WOODBURY

Contributed by Pat Shaw

From *The Bivouac* -- Dealers in quality Civil War books, art & music: "The Fighting Chattins of Iowa," by Steven Russell. <scrussal@netins.net> Russell relates the story of five brothers who served in the Union Army during 1861-1865: John, Henry, William, Charles, and Henry who were the sons of James and Mary Foster Chattin of Marion, Linn County, Iowa. John was the only brother to remain in Iowa, but the others returned from Oregon to enlist. They served in five different regiments. After being mustered out, John returned to Linn County and eventually moved to Anthon in western Iowa where he was a member of William Baker Post #298 GAR. He was a well-respected farmer and carpenter who built school houses. The four living brothers were reunited at a GAR Encampment in Salt Lake City, Utah after 42 years of separation. According to Lisa Hoth, a descendant of John Chattin, her grandfather and mother made the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" that is located in Oak Hill Cemetery near Anthon to honor unknown soldiers. Pictured is the cross and the border that was made from handmade forms and concrete by the father and daughter team.

Population losses impact townships

Posted: 7/16/2003 12:00:00 AM

It has been suggested in order to reduce government in Iowa, consideration should be given to eliminating the township trustee level of government.

There are approximately 1,700 townships in Iowa. Some townships are also experiencing difficulty in finding individuals to serve as a trustee.

A three-member board of township trustees and a township clerk serves each township. If the township has a taxable valuation for property tax purposes of \$250 million or more, there is a five-member board.

Township trustees have three primary responsibilities: serving as fence viewers, levying property taxes to provide fire protection and emergency medical services and maintaining cemeteries in the township. The board of trustees is required to meet at least two times a year.

Voters who reside in the unincorporated areas of each township elect the township trustees and township clerk.

However, the county board of supervisors may pass a resolution allowing the board of supervisors to appoint trustees and a clerk within a township.

Voters who reside in that township must approve the appointment of township trustees and township clerk by the county board of supervisors. Both township trustees and the township clerk are elected to a four-year term.

Township trustees are compensated at an hourly rate while engaged in official business. The county board of supervisors establishes the compensation rate. However, the county board of supervisors may establish a minimum per diem rate for trustees attending a scheduled meeting of the trustees.

Township trustees are required to prepare and adopt a budget annually showing expenditures, income from sources other than property taxes, and the amount to be raised by property taxes, including the tax rate per thousand.

Trustees have the authority to levy a property tax sufficient to pay for the improvements and maintenance of cemeteries in their township. Trustees also have the authority to levy up to 6.75 cents per thousand of property taxes to maintain and improve any cemetery located in the township but not owned by the township.

Trustees may implement a levy up to 40.5 cents per thousand in order to provide fire protection, emergency warning systems, and emergency medical services.

However, townships located in a county having a population of 300,000 or more, the board of trustees may levy an annual tax not to exceed 67.5 cents per thousand for these services.

If the initial levy is insufficient to provide these services, the board of trustees may implement an additional property tax levy up to 20.25 cents per thousand.

Discussion questions:

1. Can the county board of supervisors carry out the responsibility township trustees currently have in a more efficient manner?
2. Is it becoming more difficult to surface individuals in your township to serve as a township trustee?
3. Could services such as fire protection and emergency medical services, maintenance of cemeteries and fence viewers be enhanced for township residents if responsibility was given to county board of supervisors?

Life Members

Rosalie Ahrendsen
Margaret Ballinger
Molly Beason
Richard Boorum
Phyllis Carter
Bill Colwell
Harley Crain
Ardene Cross
Carol L. Dale
Ava Lough Darnell
Larry D. Davis
Frieda Davis
Mary & Michael Dodson
Julie A. Eckenrod

Frances A. Davison Ellis
Betty Robertson Giese
Dean Gipple
Vern Green
Henry & Doris Heaton
Donald D. Holmes
Loren N Horton
Ruth Johnston
William L. Kendall
Eugene J. Kopecky
Lavern Lammers
Kristin L. Macy
Paul & Joyce Maddy
Michael Magee

Ken Marlin
Calvin & Ethel McVay
Donna J. Nord
Valerie Ogren
Patrick Q Palmer
Phyllis Rothlauf
Steven & Sarah Roy
Marilyn Schmitt
Patricia Shaw
Gwen Sims
Keith & Connie Street
Judith Lomax Swanson
Joyce & Gail Wiese
Wayne A. Wright
Linda Sue Zintz

Other paid-up members

Frank Adair
Mary H. Arnold
% Sandra Harmel - Cedar Co. Hist. Soc.
Janet Christian
Beverly Cline
% County Auditor - Davis Co. Cem. Comm
Des Moines Co. Gen. Soc.
Arnold & Carolyn Dischler
Larry DuVal
Dorothy Eyberg
Jon Finney
David Gradwohl
Vera Heck
% Stan Hill - Henry Co. Cem. Comm.
Carol & Willis Hoffman
Pat Howk
% Randall Betz - Iowa County Cem. Comm
& Pam White - Iowa Prairie Network
% JoAnn Caven - Jackson Co. Cem. Comm.
% Diane Wagner - Jasper Co. Cem. Comm
Jones Co. Gen. Soc
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Ellen Loomis
% Chariton Library - Lucas Co. Gen. Soc
Madison Co. Gen. Soc.

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Larry & Mary Richards
% Angie Hynek - Ringgold Co. Cem. Comm
Marva J. Rowe
Ms. Michal L. Scott
Richard Stone
Steve & Donna Story
Edward W. Strellner
% County Auditor - Tama Co. Cem. Comm
E. Elmer Thomas
Jessie W. Thompson
Union Co. Gen. Soc.
% Donald Aldrich - Van Buren Co. Gen. Soc.
Jo Vernoy
Rosemary Wade
Diana Wagner
Wayne Co. Gen. Soc.
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