

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES
21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/
Volume #10 Issue #4 October, 2005

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) will meet on January 14, 2006 at the Urbandale Public Library at 10:00 a.m. (Des Moines area). Take the 86th St. Exit off of Interstate 80 which is the next one west of Merle Hay Exit. Turn south as you exit and travel south on 86th St. across Meredith Drive and Douglas Avenue. Turn right at the next stop light. The Urbandale Library is located in the complex of buildings on the corner. For more information, contact Larry Davis. Telephone 515-277-4917. E-mail: LD2mstone@aol.com

You know, people often ask me, "Why are you so fascinated with the past?"

Sure, the past is over. We have present concerns and present lives to live. The thing is, when we start looking into our and others' pasts, it makes us realize our mortality. It also makes us realize how short of a time we have on this planet. I always ask people who ask me questions..."Do you want to be remembered after you're gone?"

—SAPIC member, Rebecca Nicholson

Several years ago a highway had to be moved in northern Iowa and the only road leading to the local cemetery was apparently re-routed and ended so that it ran parallel to the new highway. Iowa law apparently requires a "DEAD END" sign to be placed at the entrance to all public roads that do not connect to the rest of the road systems. One day while traveling on the highway there was a funeral procession driving up the hill to the cemetery. As the hearse passed the large "DEAD END" sign, I thought it was in bad taste. Apparently someone must have complained because now the sign says, "NO OUTLET." Not much of an improvement!

— Thanks to David Hill

By the time SAPIC meets again, the Iowa legislature will be in session. SAPIC members from Davis County

have met with their legislators, State Representative Kurt Swaim and Senator Keith Kreiman. Both of these lawmakers are from Bloomfield. They are going to write an amendment to the Iowa Code (566.33) that presently allows descendants to access landlocked cemeteries to visit the graves of their ancestors. The amendment will also allow caretakers, preservationists, and veterans access to these sites. Other legislators have indicated that they can support this amendment. Please contact your legislator and ask him/her to vote for this when it comes up in the House or Senate. Sometimes, descendants are no longer in the area, cannot be contacted, or aren't living. Those of us who care about saving neglected cemeteries need the right to access them. Most counties will have a forum prior to the opening session where you can meet your legislators and express your concerns and tell them what is important to you. You can also send letters and e-mail messages.

I think I'd like to be remembered as someone who beat the odds through just plain determination ... that I persevered. Because I think that being somewhat of a pest in life, constantly plaguing and pursuing, will bring results.

— Sylvester Stallone, American Actor

A 1798 memorial now mounted on the wall outside St. Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge, South Devon, England to grave digger Robert Philip, nicknamed "Bone Philip," has this epitaph:

Here lie I at the chancel door.
Here lie I because I'm poor.
The further in the more you pay,
But here lie I as warm as they.

This is a class grumble about how only wealthy nob's could get buried inside the church, while poor grunts like Bone Philip had to make do with an outdoor grave.

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Newly elected officers and board members
will take office January 1, 2006.

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
PRAXAIR - GENEX 1700 2nd Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50314
515-244-3131

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/lin.htm>
Or telephone 1-800-697-6947

STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR

Dennis N. Britson, Director
Regulated Industries Unit
Iowa Securities Bureau
340 Maple St.; Des Moines, IA 50319
Dennis.Britson@comm6.state.ia.us
515-281-4441

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

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

SAPIC has a 35MM camera that may be borrowed
for photographing cemeteries and
gravestones, courtesy of SAPIC member,
Sidney Louis. Contact Pat Shaw for details.

**State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries
Board Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2005**

Vice President Linda Zintz called the meeting to order at 10:00 am at the Urbandale Library in Urbandale, Iowa with thirteen members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read.

Moved by Kerry McGrath that the minutes of the July 9, 2005 meeting be approved. Seconded by Marilyn Schmitt. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented illustrating a balance of \$9,186.86 consisting of \$5,563.47 in the Working Account and \$3,623.39 in the Reserve Account.

Robert Carter Award: Pat Shaw reported that no award will be presented this year, because no applications were received.

Membership: Two new members were welcomed; Rosemary Hoover and Kerry McGrath. Treasurer Valerie Ogren reported the current membership count is 150 which include 43 life members.

Pioneer Cemetery Access: Discussion was held in regard to the current legislation and access rights to Pioneer Cemeteries. The Willis Hoffman family from Davis County reported their success with local State Representatives in starting the process of adding an amendment to current legislation which would allow caretakers, Veteran groups, and preservationists to have access to such cemeteries. All members were urged to contact their state government representatives and show support for such legislation.

Recording Cemeteries: Kerry McGrath, Local Governments/CLG Program Coordinator with the State Historical Society of Iowa, Department of Cultural Affairs, explained the process and advantages of recording cemeteries and urged SAPIC to participate in this program as well as work together with other organizations with interests in cemetery preservation.

Nominations Committee Report: Ethel McVay, Nominations Committee Chairperson, was unable to be present, but submitted the following report:

Nominations for vacancies in 2006

President:
Vice President: Linda Zintz
Secretary: Larry D. Davis
Treasurer: Valerie Ogren

Board of Trustees: Julie Eckenrod
 Frieda Davis
 Marva Rowe

Carol Hoffman nominated Pat Shaw for President.

Moved by Kerry McGrath that the slate of officers and board of trustees, including Pat Shaw as President, be accepted and a unanimous ballot be cast for the election. Seconded by Marilyn Schmitt. Motion carried.

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

Molly Beason
Phyllis Carter
Ethel McVay
Michael Magee

Jo Vernooy
Steve Story

Future Meetings: It was suggested that the next meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries on January 14, 2006 be held at the Urbandale Library in Urbandale again. Larry Davis will check to see if the facility is available and make the reservations.

There was some interest shown to hold the July 2006 meeting in Davis County. Further discussion for this meeting site will be held at the April 2006 meeting.

Moved by Carol Hoffman that the meeting adjourn. Seconded by Willis Hoffman. Motion carried.

Larry D. Davis
Secretary

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 3rd Quarter - 1 July thru 30 September 2005

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2005, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$7022.35

Income

Dues 20.00

Interest 7/31/05 2.72

Interest 8/31/05 2.50

Interest 9/30/05 2.28

Total Income \$ 27.50

Expense

Ck #171 - Pat Shaw - newsletter expense 7.24

Ck #172 - Linda Zintz - registration to Nat'l Mtg. 695.00

Ck #173 - Larry Davis - " " " " 695.00

Ck #174 - Uptown Cafe - coffee & rolls 35.00

Ck #175 - Pat Shaw - newsletter expense 54.14

Total Expense \$1,486.38

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2005 \$5563.47

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2005, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$3623.39

Income

(none this quarter)

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2005 \$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 30 September 2005 \$9186.86

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION New Renewal Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____

E-Mail address _____ Telephone _____

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

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

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

Meet Your State Historic Preservation Office

As part of the Department of Cultural Affairs Historic Division, better known as the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Iowa State Historic Preservation is charged with locating historic properties, nominating them to the National Register of Historic Places, encouraging their continued use, maintenance and protection. A historic property can be a single building, structure, object, site or a district containing several of these.

A property is considered "historic" or "significant" if it can be shown to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 1) is associated with important developments or events, and/or
- 2) is associated with an important person or persons, and/or
- 3) is distinctive in its architecture, design, or construction, and/or
- 4) has the potential to yield significant information.

if it retains its "integrity" and is more than 50 years old.

Let's look at what the Historic Preservation office does and consider how these services can be used by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, County Cemetery Commissions, Cemetery Trustees and the general public.

Locating and Evaluating

First, to locate historic properties, the Preservation Office encourages and undertakes identification and evaluation projects. When you "record" the inscription on a grave marker, you are completing part of the identification process. The Preservation Office takes it a step further and records on Iowa Site Inventory forms the following information:

- the types of markers (style, shape and material),
- decorative treatments on markers,
- the treatment and condition of the graves (e.g. mounded, depressed, scraped),
- the layout or arrangement of graves,
- the vegetation associated with the graves,
- landscaping features such as pathways, roads, ornamental trees, shrubs, and lawns and gardens,;
- the presence of built elements such as fences, gates/entry ways, holding vaults, maintenance or administrative buildings, gazebos
- In addition, each of the graves in the cemetery photo-documented and mapped
- Landscaping and built elements are also photo-documented and mapped.

This information is filed in the historic preservation office as part of the State's Property Inventory.

Recordation is accompanied by research into the history of the cemetery. How, when and why was the cemetery established? Was it a family burial ground on a farm, associated with a church or a neighborhood, or did it begin as the town burial ground? Who was interred in the cemetery and why? How are burial locations marked and treated, does this reflect religious practices or those of a particular ethnic group or region? Were the grave markers made locally or imported and who made them? What

marker styles are used and are the markers decorated? If decorated, how and what is the significance of the type and motifs; does it tie into religious practices; ethnicity of the deceased; social status of the deceased; and/or burial customs of the period? Has the cemetery changed over time? If so, how has it changed and what do the changes reflect? Is it an active cemetery or one that is no longer used? Does the arrangement of graves have any significance, for example, are interments chronologically ordered or grouped according to family or household? These are the types of questions that research into the cemetery attempts to answer.

All of the data gathered through research is then used to evaluate the significance of the cemetery. For example, does research indicate that the cemetery was associated with the initial settlement of a region and reflects the early history of the area vis - a - vis burial customs and the individuals? If so, the cemetery may be significant because it is associated with and reflects the early development of a region. Does research indicate that the cemetery contains the burials of individuals who were instrumental in developing particular businesses, industries, communities or who were influential local, regional or state leaders? Again, this could indicate that the cemetery is significant because it is associated with persons who made important contributions to the area. Does research indicate that the cemetery contains grave markers that are distinctive by their material, manufacture, design and/or decoration? This might suggest that the cemetery is significant because of the design, style and manufacture of the markers and other built elements within it. Is the cemetery laid out in a park-like fashion, date to the nineteenth century and reflect the influence of the Rural Cemetery movement? In summary, the answers to each of these questions relates to the criteria that are used to evaluate historic significance.

Like the State Historic Library and Archives, the Historic Preservation Office is open to the public. The files in the property inventory are a resource for researching cemeteries and the history of the surrounding area. The public is welcome during business hours, 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. At present, the State Preservation Office does not have a special form for recording cemeteries. SAPIC could work with the Office in developing such a form that would insure complete recordation and research. SAPIC could also partner with the State Preservation Office in presenting training workshops on recordation and research. Another possibility is developing a training and public education program with the State Historic Preservation Office. This might involve developing a recordation and research manual and other materials that might be posted on both the SAPIC and State websites.

Nominating Cemeteries to the National Register of Historic Places

Second, the Preservation Office encourages formal recognition of the historic significance of the properties by nominating them to the National Register of Historic Places or to a City or County's list of historic places. The State website provides information and links to the National Register website to assist Iowans in preparing National Register nominations. In addition, you can submit drafts of nominations to the State staff for review and comment or visit the office and discuss the draft directly with State staff. You may download National Register nomination forms and bulletins from the State website and the National Register website. You can also obtain copies of completed and listed properties from the State office. Finally, each year the Historic Preservation Office offers at least two workshops for the public on preparing National Register nominations. Feasibly, the Preservation

office could expand the number of workshops to four and devote each workshop to a particular property type, for example, cemeteries, houses and neighborhoods, commercial buildings and downtown districts, farmsteads and other rural properties. For more information, go to:

The National Register Website:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/>

Iowa's Historic Preservation Office Website:

http://www.iowahistory.org/preservation/national_register/national_register.html

Maintenance and Preservation of Cemeteries

Third, the Preservation Office encourages owners of historic properties to maintain and preserve them through appropriate care. There is a large body of literature in print and on-line that discusses appropriate repair and rehabilitation of graves and other features in cemeteries. This information is supplemented by additional literature often intended for buildings but applicable to cemeteries. A wide range of topics are covered such as masonry cleaning and repair, on historic landscapes preservation, and on cleaning and repair of cast stone and metals. The Historic Preservation Office has sponsored a workshop on masonry cleaning and repair. SAPIC could partner with the State Office to host another and perhaps do an on-site repair training workshop in a National Register listed cemetery. For more information go to:

Technical Assistance Network, State Historical Society of Iowa:

<http://www.iowahistory.org/grants/tan.html>

Technical Preservation Services--Publications Catalogue, check out the Preservation Briefs and the Tech Notes

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/tpscat.htm>

Protection of Cemeteries

Fourth, the Iowa Historic Preservation Office encourages the protection of properties, such as cemeteries, that are historically significant and listed on the National Register of Historic Places and/or a city or county list of historic places. "Protection" involves a number of elements. One is guidance on how to protect through proper maintenance and repair. Cemetery design guidelines can help in repair of markers, care of graves, buildings, paths, fences, etc. Second, developing a long term historic preservation plan for a cemetery can identify activities that need to be done daily, monthly, and annually to insure proper care; can identify funding streams to underwrite maintenance and repair, and can identify ways in which the cemetery might be used as an educational resource and historic attraction. Third, various legal tools might be applied to protect the cemetery. The type of tool will depend on ownership of the cemetery (public or private) and where it is located in a municipality or in a county. Potential tools include designating the cemetery as a local historic district; having the owner convey a preservation easement; developing a maintenance contract or lease agreement between the owner and a preservation group (public or private). The Staff of the Preservation Office can assist in identifying the appropriate tools to use in protecting a cemetery.

In addition, the Preservation Office administers a federal program, Certified Local Government Program (CLG), that involves working with Iowa cities and counties that have set up local preservation programs and Historic Preservation Commissions to administer them. Your local historic preservation commission is a logical partner in any cemetery preservation effort. If the city or county participates in the CLG program, then the local Historic Preservation Commission has access to a small, but very user-friendly, grant fund that could underwrite all the above referenced activities.

For more information, go to:

List of Iowa Cities and Counties in the CLG Program:

http://www.iowahistory.org/preservation/clg_program/clg_cities_counties_list.htm

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's Landowner's Options outlines a variety of ways to protect cemeteries:

<http://www.inhf.org/landprotection.htm>

National Park Service People Protecting Community Resources provides a good overview of local historic preservation

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/workingonthepast/definehd.htm>

Funding

Finally, the Preservation Office can assist you in locating funds to underwrite these activities. The Department of Cultural Affairs, where the Preservation Office is housed, offers the following grant programs:

REAP Historic Resource Development Grants

http://www.iowahistory.org/grants/shsi_grants/hrdp/hrdp.html

Certified Local Government Grants

http://www.iowahistory.org/grants/shsi_grants/clg_grant/index.html

Iowa Community Cultural Grants

http://www.culturalaffairs.org/funding/iowa_community_cultural_grant/index.htm

Kerry McGrath

CLG Program/Local Governments Coordinator

Iowa Historic Preservation Office

Historical Building

600 East Locust St

Des Moines IA 50319-0290

515/281-6826

kerry.mcgrath@iowa.gov

Locating Unmarked Cemetery Burials

Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.
Burials Program: 319-384-0740.

**This guide may be freely copied and distributed. Check the OSA web site for future updates
(www.uiowa.edu/~osa/burials).**

◆Introduction

Burials are often poorly marked in cemeteries, and many cemeteries suffer from poor or non-existent record keeping. Cemetery plots are typically treated as property, and conflicting claims on a plot can lead to legal headaches for everyone concerned. Likewise, the disturbance of an unmarked grave by a subsequent burial can be traumatic for all the families involved. For these reasons, it is important for the caretakers of a cemetery to do their best to verify that a plot is empty before someone is buried in it or before the plot is sold or traded.

This information is relevant only for the identification of graves which can reasonably be considered less than 150 years old. Older graves, including Native American and pioneer graves, fall under the jurisdiction of the Office of the State Archaeologist. If you are dealing with a grave you suspect is more than 150 years old, cease work immediately, cover any exposed remains, secure the area, and call the Burials Program of the Office of the State Archaeologist (319-384-0740).

This guide is intended to help cemetery caretakers and the general public understand the options that exist for locating unmarked graves in Iowa. The most common ways of locating graves are discussed, as well as their advantages and disadvantages. It should be noted that no process is foolproof in finding unmarked graves. There are specific laws related to disturbance of graves in Iowa. If you are unsure if you are allowed to conduct an investigation, please call one of the phone numbers at the end of this list before beginning work.

As cemetery caretakers well know, what you see on the surface does not always reflect what is below. Grave markers can be at the head, foot, or center of a grave, or can be some distance from the grave. Burials can be oriented in any direction relative to a marker or nearby burials. The markings on the grave stone may face towards or away from the burial. Multiple individuals may be buried under one marker. Many burials lack markers, typically because the original marker was made of wood or because of vandalism. Markers may be situated over empty graves. Well-maintained cemeteries typically do not have depressions over a grave; if there is a depression, it may be far larger or smaller than one would think necessary. Depressions are not always signifiers of graves, since grave diggers can borrow soil from nearby areas to fill in low spots, creating depressions that resemble graves.

In sum, you cannot assume that surface indications have anything to do with what is below the surface. If records are inadequate, some sort of remote sensing or subsurface testing is needed to locate burials. Described here are the most common techniques.

At the end of this report is a flowchart that explains some of the decision-making steps that an archaeologist or geophysicist go through to decide what survey technique to use, this chart may help you decide what survey technique is best for your situation.

◆Rod Probing

Probably the most common way to search for graves is to probe the soil in the area with a 6-foot-long rod with a blunt end and a T-shaped handle. These rods can be purchased commercially or be made by the user. The soil is probed in various spots looking for the resistance one would expect from a coffin or vault.

Advantages: Inexpensive, easy to use, generally accurate for recent burials in coffins or vaults.

Disadvantages: Invasive, so families may object. Cannot find burials that were not in coffins. Cannot find wooden coffins that have rotted, which is very common among graves from the 1800s and early 1900s. The coffin and remains decay and the coffin void fills in, leaving no resistance or voids to be found by the probe. Very difficult to find small coffins of infants or children. Rocks in the soil often give false readings, and it is very difficult to probe when the ground is hard or frozen.

◆Soil Coring

A more-exact method of probing is soil coring, in which a 3/4-inch or 1-inch diameter hollow tube is inserted into the ground above a suspected grave. The core is pulled out, and the soil examined for evidence of disturbance through comparisons with nearby undisturbed areas. This work should be done by a trained archaeologist or soils scientist, since the differences between a disturbed and undisturbed soil can be very subtle, especially if the soil is homogenous or very complex.

Advantages: better than rod probing, since it can detect burials even if the coffin is severely decayed. Cost is usually less than remote sensing. There are numerous qualified archaeologists in Iowa who can help; Iowa archaeology firms are listed at the end of this document.

Disadvantages: Invasive, so families may object. Requires an archaeologist or soils scientist, so cost is greater than rod probing. Difficult or impossible in rocky soil. Often, soil difference can be so subtle that even a trained archaeologist cannot tell if a grave exists for certain or not, especially if the original soil matrix is very homogenous or if the upper soil layers are disturbed by non-grave activity such as earth moving or burrowing animals. It is very difficult to core when the ground is hard or frozen.

◆Formal Excavation

The most-definitive way of determining if a burial exists in a plot is formal excavation. Formal excavation is different than grave digging; typically a grave digger will not notice if they are digging an occupied grave until it is too late and the coffin or burial is damaged or destroyed. Human remains are occasionally found in back dirt or borrow piles at cemeteries, since the grave digger cannot always tell if they have gone through an existing grave. Formal excavation is different than exhumation, in which a fairly-recent burial from a known grave is removed; many funeral parlors or medical examiners can arrange for exhumation. In contrast, formal excavation is the systematic removal of soil in a controlled fashion to locate suspected graves while causing minimal damage to them. Formal excavation is best performed by a trained archaeologist who has an understanding of soils and excavation methods. While there are many ways to perform formal excavation, a common way is to use a wide, toothless backhoe to slowly strip away the soil in

level layers a few inches at a time. This allows the archaeologist to check for evidence in the soil of a grave shaft (the filled-in grave hole) above the burial. Once evidence of a burial is encountered, archaeologists can map the burial and leave it in place. If a disinterment permit has been obtained from the Department of Public Health, an archaeologist can carefully excavate the remains for reburial elsewhere, after a consultation with the person who obtained the permit. If the remains and effects are removed, they can be studied to help determine the identity of the individual. Formal excavation can also stop well above the grave if there is evidence of a shaft.

Advantages: Almost fool-proof and, if properly done, will provide a definitive answer. Can be performed in any soil type, rocks are not a problem. Excavation can provide information about not just if a burial is located there, but can also provide information needed to determine the identity of the buried person. There are numerous qualified archaeologists in Iowa who can help; Iowa archaeologists are listed at the end of this document.

Disadvantages: Highly invasive, so families may object. Expensive; it requires an archaeologist and machinery, and possibly laboratory time. There is always a chance that a very ephemeral burial will be missed and destroyed by machinery, although this is unlikely.

◆Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR)

With GPR, a radio or microwave signal is sent into the ground and the reflected signal is recorded. The time it takes for the signal to return reflects the depth of penetration, and the returning signal can be stronger or weaker depending on the type of material it is passing through and reflecting off. This data can be used to make an image of the subsurface. A GPR technician will walk an antenna over an area, recording data. This data is processed in a computer to create a two- or three- dimensional image of the subsurface. Under ideal conditions, the grave shaft and possibly the coffin or vault will be visible, but under normal conditions, only the upper part of the grave shaft is visible.

Advantages: GPR is non-invasive, so families typically do not object. Under ideal conditions, it can provide a highly-detailed image of the subsurface. GPR can often see through surface disturbances. GPR is probably the best form of remote sensing if the clay content of the soil is low. Services are available in Iowa, for a fee, from the Office of the State Archaeologist (319-384-0724). Other regional practitioners can be found at the web page listed at the end of this document, or by contacting one of the archaeologists listed.

Disadvantages: GPR's effectiveness depends on soil conditions; it does not work well in clay-rich, rocky, or saturated soils. GPR can be expensive.

◆Resistivity

Resistivity can often be useful in finding graves, it is based on the principle that soils have differing moisture retention properties and therefore will conduct electricity differently. A small electric charge is run between spikes placed in the ground, and the resistance is measured. When a soil is disturbed, as in a burial, different types of soil are brought near the surface which have very slight differences in electrical resistivity. The surveyor will probe at close intervals over a large area collecting data, which is then downloaded into a computer to show areas of disturbed soils. In a cemetery, these often correspond to marked and unmarked graves.

Advantages: The spikes only penetrate a few inches into the soil, so it is relatively non-invasive and families typically do not object. Can give some idea if disturbances are deep or not. Under ideal circumstances, resistivity is quite effective.

Disadvantages: Resistivity is ineffective if the upper level of soil is disturbed over a large area (for example, by previous bulldozing), and it is ineffective under certain conditions, such as when the soil is very wet or very dry. Can be expensive. May be adversely affected by rocky soil. Currently, there are no practitioners in Iowa; for regional practitioners, see the web page listed at the end of this document. Likewise, qualified archaeologists can also help you find a practitioner, a list of Iowa archaeologists is included at the end of this document.

◆Conductivity

Conductivity is often effective in finding graves. It works by applying a magnetic field to the ground surface. This magnetic pulse causes the soil to generate a secondary magnetic field, which is recorded to make a map. When a soil is disturbed, as in a burial, different types of soil are brought near the surface which have very slight differences in conductivity. The surveyor will walk an instrument over a large area collecting data, which is then downloaded into a computer to show areas of disturbed soils. In a cemetery, these often correspond to marked and unmarked graves.

Advantages: Conductivity is non-invasive, so families typically do not object. Can cover a large area in a fairly short period of time. It can be very effective under the proper conditions. Suitable instruments are often available from local soil scientists, but one must be certain the operator understands how to identify variation associated with graves.

Disadvantages: Conductivity is ineffective if the upper level of soil is disturbed over a large area. It is ineffective in the presence of ferrous metal (iron, steel, etc.), so the survey area has to be very clean and checked with metal detectors; metal markers, vases, etc., must be removed. It can be less effective if the soil is saturated, very dry, or rocky. It is affected by nearby power lines. Currently, there are no practitioners in Iowa; for regional practitioners, see the web page listed at the end of this document. Likewise, qualified archaeologists can also help you find a practitioner, a list of Iowa archaeologists is included at the end of this document.

◆Magnetometry

A sometimes effective way to quickly identify graves is with the use of magnetometers. Magnetometers are devices that measure minute changes in the magnetic properties of soil. When a soil is disturbed, as in a burial, different types of soil are brought near the surface which have very slight differences in magnetism. The surveyor will walk a magnetometer over a large area collecting data, which is then downloaded into a computer to produce maps that show areas of disturbed soils. In a cemetery, these often correspond to marked and unmarked graves.

Advantages: Magnetometry is non-invasive, so families typically do not object. Can cover a large area in a fairly short period of time. Can be very effective under the proper conditions.

Disadvantages: Magnetometry is ineffective if the upper level of soil is disturbed over a large area. Soils need to have significant iron oxide content, or it will not work. Ineffective in the presence of ferrous metal (iron, steel, etc.), so the survey area has to be very clean and checked

with metal detectors; metal markers, fences, vases, etc., must be removed. Because of its limitations, magnetometry is often less effective than conductivity or resistance. Magnetometry can be expensive. Currently, there are no practitioners in Iowa; for regional practitioners, see the web page listed at the end of this document. Likewise, qualified archaeologists can also help you find a practitioner, a list of Iowa archaeologists is included at the end of this document.

◆Dowsing/ Witching

A common way to search for graves is dowsing, or as it is frequently called in the Midwest, "witching," or occasionally "divining". The dowser walks over an area with two copper wires or rods bent in an L shape, holding the short ends in each hand and pointing the long ends forward. Dowsers believe the wires will cross over a grave. This practice is ultimately derived from an old English and German folk belief that willow or hazel sticks have an uncontrollable desire for water and will point to underground reservoirs. In America, the willow was replaced with copper rods and used not only to find water, but also graves. One common folk belief is that the two rods will converge if the grave is of a male, and diverge if it is female.

Supposedly the magnetic properties of disturbed soil or coffin hardware attract the copper rods. However, this is illogical. First, soil and coffin hardware do not attract metal, as simple experimentation will show. Soil is so weakly magnetic that a hyper-sensitive magnetometer is required to measure it reliably. Second, even if soil or coffin hardware were strongly magnetic, they would not attract copper wire, which is unaffected by magnetism—experimentation at home will show that you can't move a copper wire or penny with a magnet. Third, even if soil or coffin hardware were magnetic, and non-copper rods were used, the rods would *never* cross when exposed to a magnetic field; long metal objects always run *parallel* with strong magnetic fields. Remember the grade-school science project with iron filings on a glass plate over a magnet? The filings line up parallel and curve with the field, they do not cross each other. All credible scientific trials of dowsing have shown that dowsing is no better than random luck or common-sense intuition at finding graves or water (for further information, refer to Robert Todd Carroll's reviews of scientific tests of dowsing in the Skeptic's Dictionary [John Wiley & Sons, 2003], www.skepdic.com/dowsing).

Advantages: There are no advantages to dowsing.

Disadvantages: Dowsing is no better at finding graves than common-sense intuition. Dowsing could put yourself or your organization at legal and financial risk and could lead to public embarrassment. When you make determinations about the presence or absence of burials in a plot you are making decisions about other people's property which carries legal and financial liabilities. The court of law does not recognize folklore such as dowsing as valid scientific practice. While other technologies and methods described here are not foolproof, they can at least be explained and justified in court because they are based on scientific or observational principles.

◆Numbers to Call for Burials Issues:

Office of the State Archaeologist Burials Program (burials older than 150 years, can also answer general questions):

Shirley Schermer— 319-384-0740

Regulated Industries Unit, Iowa Securities Bureau (oversight of active cemeteries):

Dennis Britson, Director— 515-281-4441; Dennis.Britson@comm6.state.ia.us

State Medical Examiners Office:

Jerri McLemore, Associate State Medical Examiner—515-281-6726; jmclemor@idph.state.ia.us

Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Statistics:

Jill France, Chief, Bureau of Vital Records—515-281-6762; jfrance@idph.state.ia.us

Carol Barnhill, Office Manager, Vital Records—515-281-7824

Attorney General's Office:

Mike Smith, Assistant Attorney General—515-281-5351; msmith@ag.state.ia.us

◆How to Contact Geophysicists (Remote Sensing Practitioners) and Archaeologists:

Remote Sensing. A list of regional practitioners of remote sensing (GPR, magnetometry, resistivity, conductivity) can be found at the North American Database of Archaeological Geophysicists web site, <http://www.cast.uark.edu/nadag/>. Since geophysics is an unregulated profession, be sure to ask for references and examples of final reports. Geophysicists affiliated with archaeological or engineering firms may be better choices, since archaeology and engineering are regulated professions. Many archaeologists, listed below, can subcontract a geophysicist on your behalf.

Archaeologists. A full list of qualified archaeologists working in Iowa, including out-of-state firms, is maintained by the Iowa State Historical Society on their web site:

http://www.iowahistory.org/preservation/review_compliance/consultant_list.html

All Archaeology Firms Based in Iowa Listed with ISHS (as of 9/1/05):

Bear Creek Archaeology (563) 547-4545

Consulting Archaeological Services (641) 333-4607

Cultural Heritage Consultants (712) 239-9085

Gradwohl, David (515) 294-8427

Iowa State University Archaeology Laboratory (515) 294-7139

Louis Berger & Associates (319) 373-3043

Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa (319) 384-0724

Prairie Archaeological Research Consultants (641) 757-7830

Tallgrass Historians (319) 354-6722

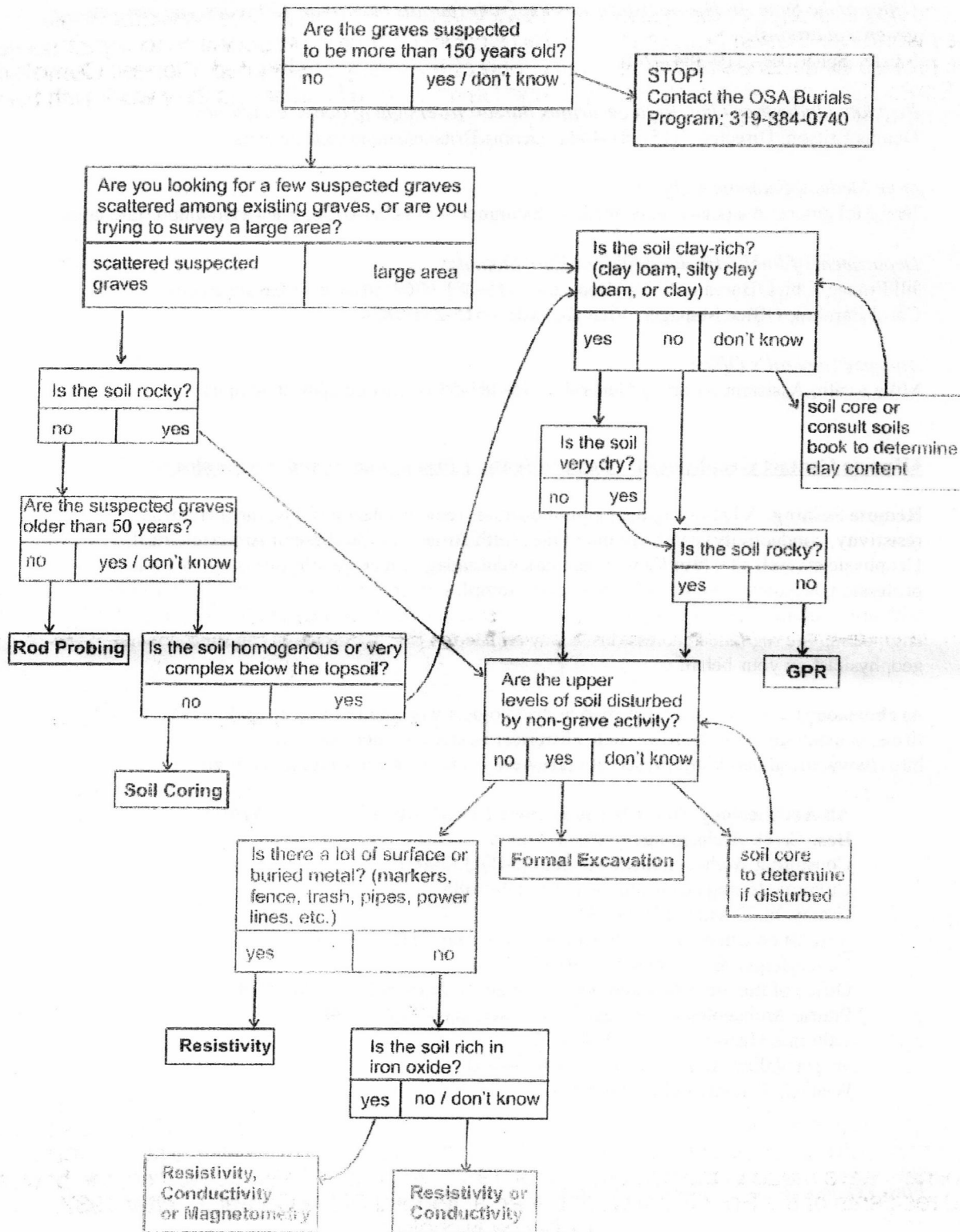
Wapsi Valley Archaeology (319) 462-4760

Weitzel, Timothy (319) 354-5290

First Version: 9/1/05, William E. Whittaker.

Decision-Making Flow Chart for Finding Unmarked Burials

This chart presents some of the decision-making criteria archaeologists and geophysicists use in deciding a method for finding graves. Contact an archaeologist or geophysicist for more information.



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BENTON

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, September 30, 2005: "Scouts help at Pioneer Cemetery." Pictured is Mike Keller, a local scout who is working at the Big Grove/Homer Cemetery near Garrison as part of his Eagle project. Mike and other scouts have been spending Saturdays at the cemetery, cleaning and improving it. The previous weekend, they worked with members of the Benton County Cemetery Association to repair some of the broken tombstones at the cemetery, one of the many designated 'Pioneer Cemeteries' in Benton County. Also pictured are Gene Davis and Ed Strellner as they work with two scouts. Gene is recovering from having hip surgery in July.

--Frieda Davis

BOONE

Mark Wiseman, an antique bottle collector from Des Moines, was digging for old bottles in an ash pit behind an old house in Moingona recently. He found a complete marble tombstone in the ash pit. Information on the stone is:

David F. Hamilton
Died August 25, 1862
Aged 44 y, 6 m, 23 d.

After searching on Ancestry.com, it was discovered that this man served in the 16th IA Inf, was born February 2, 1818 TN, married and father of 10 children. He apparently died in the Civil War and was buried in Boone County. Further research indicates that the death date on the stone may be incorrect, so there is speculation that a new stone may have been ordered and this one was discarded. Efforts are continuing to determine if David Hamilton was buried in Boone County, if he has a proper marker, or if this one should be returned to his grave.

--Mike Magee

Starting in December of 2000, Lyle Peterson and his brother began efforts to get a pioneer cemetery in Dodge Township cared for as the law required. After 5 years of trying to gain cooperation they were forced to sue the Boone County Supervisors, Boone County Weed Commissioner, Dodge Township Trustees, and the Boone County Attorney. On January 4 of 2005 Judge Danilson of the Second Judicial District Court for the State of Iowa issued an "Order for the Writ of Mandamus" ordering the above to "henceforth undertake the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of the aforesaid cemetery (White Cemetery)." Lyle has offered to share their experience and information in fighting this long and many times frustrating battle. He states, "Unfortunately, I know many times that families have given up the battle not knowing that the law was on their side, or were perhaps afraid to take on the governing bodies in their respective counties."

--Lyle Peterson

Note: Lyle and his brother have promised to write a full account of their experiences that will be printed in the next issue of Grave News.

For a number of years, Rebecca Nicholson and her mother, Phyllis, have been trying to get information about the Boone County Poor Farm Cemetery where they believe that their ancestor's grave is located. As a result of a fire, several bodies were interred in a mass grave in the cemetery. All the stones but one have disappeared from the cemetery. The county supervisors have authorized the construction of a road to the site and reportedly are planning to erect some type of memorial to those who died. It is hoped that a complete list of burials can be compiled and that some of the stones can be found. No burials were made in the cemetery after 1937. According to WPA records, the bodies of 38 residents of the Poor Farm were buried at Mineral Ridge Cemetery after 1937.

--Rebecca Nicholson

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DAVIS

The landowner of the land where Peden Cemetery is located finally gave permission in writing allowing workers to start cleaning on November 7th. At the end of the day, workers had started pulling out the old fence. The cemetery is in a lot worse condition than it was when visited in 2003. The trustees of Lick Creek Township stated they will help with getting a fence in place because there is a Civil War veteran buried in the cemetery. They are going to help with part of the cost of the fence, which they estimate will cost over \$1000. There is around \$400 in the Peden account. The trustees suggested getting a six-strand barbed wire fence using steel posts with braces at the corners and a gate. Cattle panels, that were first suggested, were determined to be too costly.

-- lone Friend

The Davis County Pioneer Cemetery Commission is waiting for the county attorney to draw up descriptions for the Peden Cemetery. This is needed to record the no hold harmless agreement. Carol Hoffman and her son, Brian, headed a fundraising project for the cemetery fund that included taking orders for homemade pies to be picked up Nov. 22. Six members sold orders for 79 pies! This group is also participating in the Holiday Nights & Lights Christmas event in Ottumwa. They will have bake sales offering treats to sell for a total of 9 nights. They will host the July meeting of SAPIC in Bloomfield and have already invited members of their Civil War Roundtable group to attend.

-- Carol Hoffman

JONES

The Jones County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has finished work on the Madison Village Cemetery. Co-chairman Ron Ruess and the FFA group have finished Walnut Grove and the Spear-Grafft Cemetery was finished in September. Jim Christianson is mowing that cemetery. Cattle guards donated by a neighbor were installed to keep cattle out of the cemetery and the Co-op at Onslow donated steel posts. The Commission is grateful for these donations. LaVerta Langenberg took some members of the Pioneer Cemetery group on a tour of Jones County cemeteries in July. Most of the time, the participants didn't know where they were going, as they were on unfamiliar pioneer trails. In spite of the heat, they had a good time.

-- LaVerta Langenberg

LEE

From the *Daily Gate City*, September 23, 2005: "Heroes come in many forms in different times," by Terry Altheide. Members of the Keokuk Coast Guard unit that were dispatched to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the sentinels at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, and the memory of two local men honored at the Lee County POW/MIA Day were mentioned in the article. It is hoped that more POW/MIA individuals will be honored in the future as Congress has set aside the third Friday in September as a national day of observance for those held captive or are unaccounted for. The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association has spent considerable time at the Locust Grove Cemetery north of Ft. Madison for the past two years restoring the old graveyard. A ceremony, Pioneer Patriot's Day, will be held there on October 1 honoring the memories of two War of 1812 veterans and one from the Civil War. For more than 200 years, the men and women of our armed forces have risked their lives maintaining the freedom and safety for all Americans. They deserve our respect and never ending gratitude.

From the *Daily Gate City*, October 27, 2005: "Lizzie Borden case, Villisca ax murder recalled," by Terry Altheide. The murder of the parents of Lizzie Borden in Fall River, Massachusetts in 1892 and the subsequent trial of Lizzie for the crime is compared to the ax murders that occurred in Villisca, Iowa in 1912. The burial site of the eight Villisca

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victims along with one of the suspects in the case is located in the local cemetery. It is a beautiful cemetery surrounded by a rock wall built sometime during the Depression by workers on a government program. Speculation continues as to the circumstances of both of these unsolved murders. Such ponderings are only hypothetical thoughts, best left untouched and unknown by those of us who delve into the past for a better understanding of today's world.

From the *Daily Gate City*, November 9, 2005: "Pioneer Patriots' Day honors early veterans." Pictured are members of several Lee County veterans groups who participated in Pioneer Patriots' Day. More than 50 people gathered for an observance that honored the memory of veterans Andrew and Sylvester Dye, John Davis, and John Malcolm whose graves are or once were located in the Locust Grove Cemetery. Charles F. Larimer, author of "The Love and Valor Cemeteries of Henry County, Iowa," was present and spoke during the ceremony. He read a portion of a letter written by his great, great grandfather, Jacob Ritner, in 1864 while in the army hospital at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee. Two members of Bugles Across America, William Hall and Alan Walker, played echo Taps at the ceremony.

From the *Daily Gate City*, November 10, 2005: "Thorson gave up his life for others," by Terry Altheide. John Thorson, born near Armstrong, Iowa in 1920, was a soldier during W.W.II who gave his life to prevent injury and possible death to remaining members of his platoon in the Philippine Islands. Several events from Thorson's life while growing up on an Iowa farm are mentioned, portraying him as a humble Christian boy who not only lived his faith, but surrendered his life in faith also. His grave was originally located in a military cemetery on Leyte Island in the Philippines, but his family requested that his remains be returned to the United States. His memory is now honored annually at his grave in Keokuk's National Cemetery. The Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to Thorson in May, 1945. That medal and the Purple Heart have been donated by his family to Keokuk's American Legion Post 41 for permanent display.

MARSHALL

Sharon Sturek of Nebraska and Jerry Hall of Florida have been attempting to save the Price Cemetery located near Rhodes, Iowa, for a number of years. A description of the cemetery ground was included in a survey of the farm ground in 1989. The county auditor has agreed that this is sufficient evidence of the perimeters of the cemetery. It is hoped that a fence can be erected this fall to protect the cemetery from livestock and encroachment by farm implements. A "compliance officer" from the Office of the State Cemetery Regulator was dispatched to speak with the landowner and county officials in November, 2005. Pat Shaw and Sharon Sturek visited the site and dowsed a number of graves on November 5.
-- Sharon Sturek

The Spinning Wheel Chapter of the DAR in Marshalltown, Iowa has cut all the weeds in the old Ballard Cemetery in Iowa Township, just north of Albion. The oldest tombstone in there is dated 1844 and believed to be Mormon, as they were in the area in 1844-1845. The next oldest stone appears to be 1848, but there may be older ones with no dates inscribed. They are gathering resources through the winter to learn how to restore the stones correctly so they will be ready to continue the project in the spring.
-- Shirley Price

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR SAPIC MEMBERSHIP
FOR 2006! SEND DUES TO TREASURER, VALERIE
OGREN. THANK YOU.

Mitchell County Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Project (MCPCRP)

Purpose - Guidelines - Procedures

8/5/05

1. **MCPCRP** is a Not-For-Profit Team of qualified, interested historical cemetery preservation volunteers.
2. **MCPCRP** goal is to document, locate then restore honor and dignity to our Pioneer ancestors who are interred in Mitchell County in forgotten abandoned derelict cemeteries, through restoration.
3. **MCPCRP Board** consists of the **Coordinator** and currently appointed **Project Coordinators**.
4. Prior to any restoration, a **MCPCRP Project Coordinator** will be appointed by the **Coordinator** to supervise and submit for approval all research findings, activities, work in partnership plans, volunteers, materials, equipment needed and/or expenditures.
5. Only cemeteries that are defined by the State of Iowa as "Pioneer" will qualify.
 - 5.1. Six (6) or less burials in the past fifty (50) years. (defined by the State of Iowa)
 6. Other cemeteries will be reviewed on a "per cemetery" bases for reimbursement of expenditures.
 - 6.1. Factors relating to approval/disapproval are:
 - 6.1.1. Projected expenditures for projects already underway by **MCPCRP**.
 - 6.1.2. Funds - **MCPCRP Project Coordinators** and volunteer's availability.
 - 6.1.3. "In Kind" Funds available from MC Board of Supervisors or other sources.
 - 6.1.4. Current restoration techniques, guidelines and rules are followed per **MCPCRP**.
 - 6.1.4.1. If **MCPCRP** guidelines and rules were not followed, the project will not qualify.
 - 6.2. A **MCPCRP Project Coordinator** will be appointed to administer all activities.
 - 6.2.1. Review & submit for approval restoration plans by individual/s not authorized by **MCPCRP**.
 - 6.2.2. Explain, execute, and administer proper restoration techniques.
 - 6.2.3. Authenticate all work is in accordance with current Cemetery Restoration standards.
 - 6.2.4. Final endorsement of a **MCPCRP Project Coordinator** will be required.
 7. Restoration techniques outside the approved current standards of Federal, State, County, will require approval of the **MCPCRP Board**.
 8. Volunteers wishing to assist **MCPCRP** will understand, support and abide by current Federal, State, County, Township, SAPIC, IaGenWeb, landowners, as well as **MCPCRP** guidelines, regulations and laws.
 9. Individuals working on cemetery projects without administration and endorsement of **MCPCRP** will not qualify.
 10. A written estimate of costs as well as a plan of action, prior to starting a project must be filed with **MCPCRP** for approval and assignment of a **Project Coordinator**.
 11. No decision will be made, granted or implied relating to removal of any artifact, no matter the reason, from a cemetery without written approval of the **MCPCRP Board**.
 - 11.1. When research is found that is relevant to restoration, a written summary will be submitted to **MCPCRP Board** for review, recommendations and a plan of action.
 - 11.2. Within two weeks a decision, recommendation, plan of action, will be forthcoming.
 12. **MCPCRP Project Coordinators** do not have the authority to individually approve expenditures, remove artifacts, make decisions outside current guidelines and laws etc. This authority will be granted by the **MCPCRP Board** after review.
 13. **MCPCRP** will document and verify ownership of all Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Projects through the Court House in Osage.
 14. **MCPCRP Board** will gain the landowners written approval, if on private property, before starting or recommending any

restoration.

15. All decisions will be final, based on the out come of the **MCPCRP Board** recommendations.
16. When submitting pre-approved reimbursement requests:
 - 16.1. Only **original** receipts will be accepted.
 - 16.2. Copies of receipts are not acceptable.
 - 16.3. All original receipts will be given to Lowell Tesch at the Mitchell County Court House.
 - 16.4. Once Lowell notifies Neal, he is in receipt of the originals receipts and they total the amount requesting reimbursement, **MCPCRP will reimburse you directly.**
 - 16.5. Receipts will total the amount you will be reimbursed from **MCPCRP, NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - 16.6. One check will be written per submittal to the individual submitting the request/receipts.
 - 16.7. It will be up to that individual to disperse funds within their volunteers, based on expenditures.
 - 16.8. **Mitchell County Board Of Supervisors** – will approve and reimburse **MCPCRP** when funds are available and pre-approved, with “In Kind” funds. The current year dollars available is \$500.00.

Revised 080205

From the *Press-News*, August 18, 2005: “10 rewarded volunteers...and one happy cemetery,” by Larry Kershner. Pictured is a broken grave marker in the Beaver Creek Cemetery located near the former town site of Brownville. The 10 tired volunteers were feeling pretty good about the hours they spent sprucing up Beaver Creek Cemetery. The result restored dignity to a cemetery where settlers of east Mitchell County were laid to rest. “It was rewarding,” said Monte Kloberdariz of rural Osage. He had heard about the cemetery restorations and wanted to see how it worked. “This is an excellent vehicle for help to preserve a part of our history,” he said. “It’s almost irreverent not to do it.” A total of 12 stones were straightened or reset. Work coordinator Jo Ann Squier said the 10 -person crew accomplished more than she had expected.

-- Neal DuShane

Neal DuShane, who is residing temporarily in Arizona, gave a PowerPoint presentation on cemetery restoration at the Pioneer Arizona Cemeteries (PAC) meeting on September 11 in Phoenix.

Neal has been working on some pioneer cemetery restorations in Arizona, specifically Yavapai County.

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From the *Clarinda Herald-Journal*, August, 2005: "Who were they?" by Staff Writer, Tess Gruber. Pictured is 96-year-old Mabel Baker of Northboro standing on land where 52 unmarked graves were found. Her father, Herman Sickman, rented and then purchased the land from Arthur Peck in 1923. Larry Posley, a grave douser from Blanchard, found the site and believes the 52 graves are the remains of those on an 1850's wagon train heading west. The graves were discovered by Larry Peterson, a Shawnee, Kansas author, doing a story on the history of Page County. Peterson, who grew up in Page County, interviewed long-time resident, Bob Henderson, as part of his research for the book. Henderson, now deceased, told him of the unmarked cemetery. Records show there were once several businesses including a stage stop and post office where the graves were located. Mark Cutler, who has been renting the pasture for cattle for years, said, "I hope they can somehow find a way to preserve the area, desecration is desecration no matter when they were buried."

-- Charly Stevens

UNION

Tribute was paid over Memorial Day weekend to Mormon pioneers who operated a way station settlement on the middle fork of the Grand River at Mt. Pisgah in Union County fro 1846 to 1850 during the Mormon exodus from Nauvoo, Ill., to Salt Lake City. The public memorial service was held at the old Mt. Pisgah cemetery located approximately six miles northwest of the intersection of U.S. Highways 169 and 34. Officials of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) were in charge. A monument in the center of the one-acre park includes the dates that the settlement was operated and the names of the men, women and children who died during the three years it was maintained. The park is surrounded with a neat chain link fence erected by Mormon elders from Des Moines and is well cared for.

-- Pat Shaw

VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, September 15, 2005: "Now you see it, now you don't, now you do again," by Don Aldrich. Pictured are three gravestones that were recently repaired and reset in Union Township by six Van Buren County residents. The burial site is located approximately one-half mile east of the former community of Winchester, close to where a stage trail ran. John Topping obtained the land about 60 years ago. A previous landowner had removed the gravestones in order to plant crops. John collected as many gravestones as he could locate (only three) and placed them at a field corner. When John sold the land, he told the current landowner where the burials had been located. The Van Buren County gravestone restoration crew visited the area, found the stones, and witted the area for graves. They found multiple indications of burials. Stone repairs were made, drainage basins dug, and filled with rock and sand. The stones were placed back into the area believed to be the original grounds. The present landowner stated that he would like to have a perimeter fence placed around the three stones.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, October 6, 2005: "Don and Shirley Aldrich, grand marshals," by Rusty Ebert, Editor. The Aldrich's, long-time community volunteers, were honored for their efforts as Parade Grand Marshals of the Keosauqua Forest Craft Festival. They have been involved in a number of civic organizations over the years, including setting up sound equipment for the Keosauqua Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, and the Van Buren County Genealogical Society. One of the society's biggest projects, the reading of over 70 of the 115 cemeteries in the county and the restoration of gravestones, has been achieved largely due to the organizational skills of Don and Shirley. They have been involved in the restoration of over 400 gravestones and instrumental in

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encouraging the "adoption" of at least 15 cemeteries by individuals and families in the county.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, November 3, 2005: "Cemetery Restoration," by Don Aldrich. Pictured at the Farnum Cemetery in Harrisburg Township are four members of the Stanford family who have "adopted" the cemetery. Although a small cemetery, Farnum has a large amount of work to be done. It is one of eight cemeteries in the township and is located 4 miles northwest of Bonaparte. The current landowner expressed appreciation to the Stanford family for clearing the site of fallen trees, brush, and debris. A Farnum descendant has expressed his desire to set a new monument at the site after clean up is completed. The Van Buren County Genealogical Society appreciates the efforts of such volunteers that honor the pioneers who deserve more than fallen trees, brush, and debris covering their graves. The Stanfords are not only donating time and hard work, but also expenses incurred to complete the project.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, November 17, 2005: "Cemetery Restoration," by Don Aldrich. Pictured are four members of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society at the Henry Township-owned Dodson Cemetery located about one-half mile south of County Road J-40. The cemetery, deeded to the township in 1857, is totally neglected with merely indications of what was once a fence. Livestock have evidently knocked over the few gravestones. It is hoped that the stones may be set and the area protected by a fence. Minimum annual maintenance would be required after that, and the article suggests that it would be a good project for someone wishing to "adopt" a cemetery.

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, August 23, 2005: "That's how we roll....." Pictured are City of Ottumwa Cemetery Department workmen, as they roll huge sections of an elm tree onto a back hoe for removal from the Ottumwa Cemetery.

-- Pat Shaw

WOODBURY

From the *Sioux City Journal*, October 30, 2005: "Former educator examines the lighter side of cemeteries," by Joanne Fox, Journal staff writer. Pictured is Don Keck at the Floyd Cemetery standing in back of the gravestone of Civil War Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Edward Spalding. In his retirement, Keck has started looking at the lighter side of Siouland cemeteries and giving talks about them. After he retired, he started walking for health reasons and found cemeteries an ideal location for his activity. He became intrigued with the idea that history could be found in our own backyards by reading inscriptions on markers and researching the lives of those interred there. Some of the interesting stories the cemeteries tell are about the life of Ms. Bloomer, an early women rights activist for whom the underwear was named, the brother of Al Capone who changed his name and moved to the Midwest to become a U. S. Marshall, and 3 lifesized statues of a husband and wife at different stages of their lives. Another monument north of Sioux Center stands in front of Trans Ova Genetics and honors a bovine named MIKE. Keck averages eight to ten speaking engagements per year.

OUT OF IOWA KENTUCKY

In an E-mail message dated November 3, 2005, from Sandra K. Gorin <sgorin@glasgow-ky.com> to the KYRESEARCH-L@rootsweb.com mailing list:

TIP #564 - A LONELY GRAVE On November 1, the Governor of Kentucky sent representatives to Barren County, KY to present a matching grant in the amount of \$2000 to the Barren County Cemetery Board for the cleaning and preservation of two cemeteries -- the McDaniel's and the Burton. The State of Kentucky is awarding matching fund grants for the restoration of cemeteries in the various counties based on historical significance, diversity, and need. From the hundreds of cemeteries that have fallen into disrepair, it was difficult to choose only two. The McDaniel's Cemetery contains the remains of several families, related by marriage. Seven Confederate soldiers lie buried there. The Burton Cemetery is an African-American cemetery lying close to the L&N railroad tracks. Three stones are found, but more burials were done there; one a Union soldier. In the McDaniel's Cemetery about 50 trees must be cut and removed; many downed over the years, then the cemetery cleaned of undergrowth. Then a fence will be built, white rock put all over, flowers planted, a sign placed to recognize the cemetery, the cemetery platted, and pictures taken. Then they will move on to the little Burton Cemetery to do the same. The author makes the following suggestions for raising awareness of other neglected sites:

1. Talk with the local historical society after visiting one of these overgrown cemeteries. Try to encourage them to become involved in restoring even one cemetery!
2. Speak before a civic organization about the need.
3. Write an article for the local paper.
4. Write an article for the historical society quarterly.
5. Make some phone calls!
6. Talk to your children, grandchildren about their history, encourage them to want to learn about their heritage, take them to the cemetery with you (they really don't mind that much). There you can point out the graves of the family and maybe tell them a story about that individual.

-- Used with permission from Sandra K. Gorin

ARIZONA

From the *Daily Courier*, September, 2005: "Genealogist gets national recognition," by Joanna Dodder. As many as 250 million people now know about Judy Wight Branson's quest to record every grave site in Yavapai County to preserve their vital historical information. The September issue of *Good Housekeeping* magazine features a story about Branson's work, alongside a *Daily Courier* photo that accompanied an October 2004 *Courier* story about her. The cover of *Good Housekeeping* claims a readership of 250 million people each month. The magazine called Branson in January after seeing the *Daily Courier* story on the Associated Press wire, and interviewed her about a dozen times before printing the short story. Branson and her husband Wayne have photographed and recorded over 13,000 gravestones in Yavapai County and helped with other counties, including Madison County, Iowa after finding out that her ancestors lived there. What drives Branson and others to photograph gravestones? "They hold genealogical information," she said. "Putting them on the web site has connected people with their relatives' final resting site where they'd never find it and if they did, they wouldn't know how to get there."

CALIFORNIA

From the *Los Angeles Times*, November 22, 2005: "Graves found outside Evergreen Cemetery in LA," by Hector Becerra, Times Staff Writer. Forgotten Graves Unearthed Crews digging an MTA Gold Line extension in Boyle Heights find more than 100 century-old skeletons at the site of an old crematorium. Some were found under the

driveway of a 123-year-old Boyle Heights landmark that for generations served as Los Angeles' potter's field. Others were uncovered beneath an old retaining wall, and under mature oak trees and bushes. In all, workers digging an eastern extension of the Gold Line railway found the skeletal remains of 108 people -- as well as 43 arms and legs. Scattered among the remains, beneath otherwise nondescript grounds leading to the brick-bedecked crematorium, were old coins, empty coffins, metal objects and even garbage. The discoveries stunned Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials and surprised residents, because they unearthed a layer of history that most had forgotten ever existed. MTA's head of construction says they want to give these people a proper burial because it's obvious they were not given a proper burial in the first place. They are believed to be vestiges of L.A.'s original cemetery for the poor and unclaimed. Most of the remains date back to at least the 1890's. When the arms and legs were first uncovered in June, work immediately stopped and research was done so more burials were not disturbed. MTA officials says that some kind of monument will be erected after burying them all in one section and that a special ceremony will be held.

PENNSYLVANIA

From *the Lion*, November 2005, page 50: "Service." Pictured are John Early, Robert Schmoyer, Ned Witmer, and Jeff Calhoon of the Hummelstown, Pennsylvania Lions Club as they apply the final touches to the entrance sign of the Hummelstown cemetery. The project included painting the sign, gilding of the lettering, adding plants and a Lions statue.

From the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, October 27, 2005: "Long road for long-dead to dry ground," by Dennis B. Roddy, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. JOHNSTOWN -- One hundred years after he survived the Great Johnstown Flood, 109 years after he died, and five hours after a judge granted a petition to move him to higher ground, Henry Leckey was out of the clay of Sandyvale Cemetery and en route to the suburbs. Henry's remains and those of his wife were loaded into a concrete vault and driven to Grandview Cemetery where they will share a common grave. "I don't want my great-great grandparents under a pond," said Donald Leckey, a Michigan engineer who spent years seeking his ancestors and, upon finding their grave, was mortified at plans to turn their cemetery into a memorial botanical garden, complete with decorative pond, fruit trees, and a recreation area. Mr. Leckey spent \$17,000 of his own money on research and exhumation. "It's a cemetery. No matter how many years ago it happened, the people who are buried here meant something to a lot of people while they were on this earth," Mr. Leckey said.

CHINESE bamboo is famous for its fast growth. Yet a farmer can water and fertilize a plant for four years but see very little growth. Then in a period of five weeks a sprout can grow 90 feet! Actually it takes five years for the plant to grow 90 feet. If during the first four years the worker were to stop taking care of the sprout, the plant would die. Instead, after years of hard work with almost no visible results, the farmer receives a reward for being persistent.

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

-- Longfellow

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