

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES
21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535 www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/

Volume #11 Issue #1

January, 2006

2006 Cemetery Conference

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will sponsor a Cemetery Conference on April 8, 2006 in the Prairie Learning Center at the Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge near Prairie City, Iowa. Topics to be presented are: County Preservation Commissions and their Relationships to Cemeteries; Historical Significance of Pioneer Cemeteries; Strategies for Finding Graves; and legislative updates. The Conference starts at 9:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 2:30 p.m. A Registration Form is included in this newsletter or may be downloaded from the SAPIC web page. Further details may be obtained by contacting Larry D. Davis at (515) 277-4917.

Nominations may be received until July 1, 2006 for the Robert Carter Award that is presented to a person who has promoted cemetery preservation in Iowa by example or by teaching others. For a copy of the criteria for nominating a deserving person or group, contact Phyllis Carter or Pat Shaw -- contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter.

A Power Point presentation, "Pioneer Cemeteries and the Law," has been created by Jess Phelps, an intern at the State Historical Library during the summer of 2005. Contact the Historical Society for information.

At the January 14 SAPIC meeting, the

membership voted to hire a lobbyist, Jim Obradovich, to assist in getting a bill passed to allow preservationists to access to landlocked cemeteries. In a bulletin dated 2-14-06, Jim informed us that the initiative had made a major move forward in the Iowa Senate. The legislation, now Senate File 2208, was approved unanimously by the Senate Local Government Committee and now moves on for debate by the full Iowa Senate. The bill provides that if a public or private organization enters into an agreement with a governmental subdivision to preserve and protect a cemetery or burial site that is located on the property of another person within the jurisdiction of the governmental subdivision, the governmental subdivision shall notify the property owner of the location of the cemetery or burial site and that the property owner is required to permit members of the organization reasonable ingress and egress for the purpose of preserving and protecting the cemetery or burial site.

This bill also defines what constitutes reasonable ingress and egress for such purposes and provides that a governmental subdivision that enters into an agreement with a public or private organization for preservation of a cemetery or burial site is liable for any personal injury or property damage that occurs in connection with the cemetery or burial site or access to the cemetery or burial site. No word yet on when the full Senate will debate SF 2208.

Thanks to SAPIC members, Carol and Brian Hoffman and Steve Story for traveling to Des Moines to be present at the committee meeting.

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

STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR

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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
January 14, 2006**

President Pat Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. at the Urbandale Library in Urbandale, Iowa with 27 members and guests present. The minutes of the October 8, 2005 meeting were read. The Treasurer's report was presented, illustrating a balance of \$9,367.43 consisting of \$5,744.04 in the Working Account and \$3,623.39 in the Reserve Account.

Moved by Mike Magee that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded by Frieda Davis. Motion carried.

Newsletter: Pat Shaw reported that she has been receiving returned newsletters which were damaged, and in some cases it was not possible to identify the intended receiver. Pat also noted that the Board recently approved the practice of not sending the newsletter in envelopes and perhaps that decision should be re-considered. After considerable discussion, the following action was taken: Moved by Valerie Ogren that future issues of the newsletter be mailed in envelopes. Seconded by Molly Beason. Motion carried.

Future Meeting Sites: Pat Shaw reported that the July meeting is scheduled for Davis County, and it was suggested that the State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines be considered for the October meeting, it was also noted that the Iowa Genealogical Society headquarters in Des Moines would be another possibility.

Membership Clarification: Pat Shaw reported that some confusion has occurred in regard to the eligibility for Life Membership and pointed out that it is only available to individuals, not groups or organizations. Also, group or organization members are authorized only one vote per organization or group when voting on SAPIC business and issues.

2006 Budget: Pat Shaw indicated that SAPIC's financial activity for 2006 appears to be very similar to 2005; however, the cost of newsletter postage will probably increase to \$600. Moved by Carol Hoffman that the newsletter postage expense be increased to \$600.00 in the 2006 budget. Seconded by Kerry McGrath. Motion carried.

Lobbyists: Pat Shaw introduced Jim Obradovich and Bob Mulqueen, lobbyists, who presented a description of their services available to SAPIC in regard to its legislative interests which currently involves access to pioneer cemeteries. After Considerable discussion, the following action was taken. Moved by Larry Davis that SAPIC employ the services of Jim Obradovich and Bob Mulqueen as lobbyists for a fee of \$600.00 to represent SAPIC during the current Iowa Legislative Session, pending approval of the employment agreement. Second by Richard Booram. Motion carried.

2006 Cemetery Conference: Larry Davis reported plans were underway for the third Cemetery Conference which is scheduled for April 8, 2006 at the Prairie Learning Center located in the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge near Prairie City, Iowa. Considerable discussion was held in regard to various topics that might be considered. The Conference Planning Committee also includes Linda Zintz, Molly Beason, and Vera Heck.

Pioneer Cemeteries and the Law: Kerry McGrath introduced Jess Phelps, Intern-State Historical Society of Iowa who presented a power point presentation on Pioneer Cemeteries and the Law.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Larry D. Davis
Secretary

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter - 1 October thru 31 December 2005

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2005, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$5563.47
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	375.00	
Donation	10.00	
Interest 10/31/05	2.35	
Interest 11/30/05	2.28	
Interest 12/31/05	<u>2.29</u>	
Total Income	\$ 391.92	
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #176 - Pat Shaw - newsletter expense	61.35	
Ck #177 - Postmaster - Non-profit permit	<u>150.00</u>	
Total Expense	\$ 211.35	
Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2005		<u>\$5744.04</u>

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2005, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$3623.39
<u>Income</u>		
(none this quarter)		
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2005		<u>\$3623.39</u>

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 2005 \$9367.43

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

From: Pat Shaw <patshaw@netins.net>
Subject: Full text for Senate File 2208
Date: February 15, 2006 10:21:35 AM CST
To: SAPIC

Senate File 2208

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. Section 523I.316, subsection 3, Code Supplement
1 2 2005, is amended to read as follows:
1 3 3. DUTY TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT.
1 4 a. A governmental subdivision having a cemetery, or a
1 5 burial site that is not located within a dedicated cemetery,
1 6 within its jurisdiction, for which preservation is not
1 7 otherwise provided, shall preserve and protect the cemetery or
1 8 burial site as necessary to restore or maintain its physical
1 9 integrity as a cemetery or burial site. The governmental
1 10 subdivision may enter into an agreement to delegate the
1 11 responsibility for the preservation and protection of the
1 12 cemetery or burial site to a public or private organization
1 13 interested in historical preservation.
1 14 b. If a public or private organization enters into an
1 15 agreement with a governmental subdivision pursuant to this
1 16 subsection to preserve and protect a cemetery or burial site
1 17 that is located on property owned by another person within the
1 18 jurisdiction of the governmental subdivision, the governmental
1 19 subdivision shall notify the property owner of the location of
1 20 the cemetery or burial site and that the property owner is
1 21 required to permit members of the organization reasonable
1 22 ingress and egress for the purposes of preserving and
1 23 protecting the cemetery or burial site.
1 24 c. For the purposes of this subsection, reasonable ingress
1 25 and egress to a cemetery or burial site shall include the
1 26 following:
1 27 (1) A member of a public or private organization that has
1 28 entered into an agreement with the governmental subdivision

1 29 who desires to visit such a cemetery or burial site shall give
1 30 the property owner at least ten days' notice of the intended
1 31 visit.

1 32 (2) If the property owner cannot provide reasonable access
1 33 to the cemetery or burial site on the desired date, the
1 34 property owner shall provide reasonable alternative dates when
1 35 the property owner can provide access to the member.

2 1 d. A governmental subdivision that enters into an
2 2 agreement with a public or private organization pursuant to
2 3 this subsection is liable for any personal injury or property
2 4 damage that occurs in connection with the cemetery or burial
2 5 site or access to the cemetery or burial site.

2 6 EXPLANATION

2 7 This bill provides that if a public or private organization
2 8 enters into an agreement with a governmental subdivision to
2 9 preserve and protect a cemetery or burial site that is located
2 10 on the property of another person within the jurisdiction of
2 11 the governmental subdivision, the governmental subdivision
2 12 shall notify the property owner of the location of the
2 13 cemetery or burial site and that the property owner is
2 14 required to permit members of the organization reasonable
2 15 ingress and egress for the purposes of preserving and
2 16 protecting the cemetery or burial site. The bill defines what
2 17 constitutes reasonable ingress and egress for such purposes
2 18 and provides that a governmental subdivision that enters into
2 19 an agreement with a public or private organization for
2 20 preservation of a cemetery or burial site is liable for any
2 21 personal injury or property damage that occurs in connection
2 22 with the cemetery or burial site or access to the cemetery or
2 23 burial site.

2 24 LSB 5276SV 81

2 25 av:rj/je/5

Thanks to all of you who contacted your legislators, attended forums, wrote letters to the editor, attended committee meetings, donated funds to help SAPIC pay for the lobbyist that was hired, and indicated your support for the passage of this bill in so many ways. At the printing of this newsletter, final passage in the Iowa Senate and House has not yet occurred, so it is not too late to contact your state senator or representative and request his/her support for this bill. It really makes a difference!

COUNTY REPORTS

CHICKASAW COUNTY

In April we drove over to the Pearl Rock Cemetery, just to see if it was still there I guess! Anyway, as we drove around the few headstones that were there, I saw a headstone laying on the ground near them. It belonged to the Ludden family so we called them & they were so excited. This fall we put it in a new base along side the rest of them!

We did some finishing touches on the Jacksonville Cemetery in May & then on Memorial Day we had a Dedication Ceremony. After that, I only got 4 hrs. put in in a cemetery as my summer flew by with other commitments until Sept. 11th, after the 75th reunion I had been working on was over. On Sept. 12th, I was able to get back to my favorite "job". Unfortunately, by the time I got there, it was getting into harvest time so the farmers had their crops to tend to; & Mike Magee from Waterloo, who had been helping out with the work at Cagley, had to quit & work on his own stuff. We sure appreciate his help. (I don't know if Mike minds if I mention his name or not, do you?) The crew had gotten a lot done this summer! Hopefully, we should be done there in time for Memorial Day!

Sometimes Fred & I would decide to run out to the Cemetery for a "few hrs." & since gas was so high we decided to just run out to the NE IA. Garden of Memories W. of town 4? mi. to work! Well, sometimes our "few hrs" would turn into more. We cut down a bunch of dead limbs & a few trees so the sun could shine in & maybe some day there will be grass. We have an abundance of moles out there. We got 13 headstones & 3 footstones straightened up & "cleaning". One of the trustees has taken quite an interest in cleaning up the brush & trees around it; it is really looking a lot better out there now. A lot of the headstones were tipping over & sinking underground. There are 3 civil war soldiers out there. I would like to see the 3rd soldier's stone straightened in time for Memorial Day as he has family that still put flowers there every year.

Fred & I learned a new thing, when placing a heavy headstone into a new base. We clamped a couple of 4 ft. boards on either side across the top

about a quarter of the way down to lift it into place. We also used the same method across the bottom with the braces resting on the frame to hold the headstone at a certain level in the freshly poured cement till it's hard. I did find that sometimes it's kind of hard to get the cement smooth under the braces so we're going to perfect a way to get the bottom braces up an inch or so by putting a block under the braces on the edges of the base frame! When we would take the braces off & the cement had the brace marks in them, it didn't look all that nice & smooth, I did find out that I could sand it off some as the cement was still a little damp under the braces. I used the strap sanding strips but could probably use a med. or rough sandpaper! It does show up a little different; I will have to see in the spring if it evens out. We hope by raising the braces we can eliminate that problem. Possibly, others have already figured out this method to be useful.

I save broken pieces of headstones that don't have a place to go & pulverize it to sand & keep the different colors in separate containers. I found out that when I'm gluing, (epoxy), a broken stone together & if the corners have rounded off quite a bit, they looked kind of bad. I mix up the Akemi with a smaller amount of hardener in it than I use when putting a headstone together & mix in some of the sand that matches the stone I'm working on. Then I use Popsicle stick to mix & then I can fill in the spaces trying not to get any on the face or back of the stone as any dirt on it will stay there unless you can get it sanded off before it's hard, I have wiped some of it off with a Wet One, but wipe quick! Then when it gets almost hard, I sand it with a med. or kind of fine sandpaper, & it will look quite a bit like the stone, kind of whitish. This can really improve the looks of the stone.

Has anyone used the color to mix in with the Akemi that is mentioned on the back of the Akemi can? And if so, where did you get it?

-- Priscilla Reisner

CHICKASAW, cont.

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 2 nd quarter, June, 2005:

A rededication was held Memorial Day afternoon at the Jacksonville Cemetery located northeast of New Hampton. The cemetery got a facelift during 2004 when the Utica Lucky Fours 4-H Club leaders, 4-H members, Township Trustees, Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission members, surrounding neighbors and friends helped restore the cemetery to a place of beauty. They spent hundreds of hours cleaning, cutting brush, leveling, seeding the lawn and donating the use of their equipment in the restoration process. Once the brush was cleared, a new fence was built surrounding the cemetery with funds donated by Lutheran Brotherhood Branch #884. The stones received a facelift from labor donated by Priscilla Reisner. Mike Magee of Waterloo and Steve Story of West Union representing Sate Association of the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries also assisted.

Lawler Legion Veterans, dressed in their service uniforms, Ron Anderson, Jack McKone, Don Blazek and Norb Shilney began the program with a flag raising Mr. Shilney told the 4-H members and audience of flag etiquette. The 4-H Club members with their leaders, Judy Vsetecka and Carol Hageman continued the program. 4-H members played a number of instrumental music renditions appropriate for Memorial Day. Memorial Day readings were read by 4-H Members Sara and Brian Hagemen, Nathan and Spencer Schmitt followed with taps played on the flute by Ashley Vsetecka. She also read a poem. Commission Member Jeanette Kottke read the roll of burials and told the history of the cemetery. Also read at the ceremony was an inscription that is on a monument. *Respectfully dedicated to the old settlers who courageously met the loneliness of a new country waded sloughs, swam streams, breasted the storms of winter and played a part in crystallizing a forming civilization reducing a weed wet wilderness to comfortable homes and productive fields.* Rev. Ken Dethlefsen closed the dedication with a reading and prayer. Refreshments were served to the many who attended the event. Cemetery Commission President Jerry Tieskotter and Treasurer Fred Reisner expressed thanks to all who donated to the cemetery restoration.

The 2005 Cemetery Commission project includes continuing work on Cagley Cemetery in Bradford Township and the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Dresden Township.

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 4th quarter, December, 2005:

The Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission members this past year have accomplished many projects including the completion of the Jacksonville Township Cemetery restoration project with the help of Jacksonville area 4-H members and their families. Much volunteer work has been done at the Bradford Township Cagley Cemetery and it is hoped to be completed by Memorial Day 2006. Directors Fred and Priscilla Reisner have been very busy repairing tombstones and placing the stones on new foundations at the cemeteries. At the Dresden Township Garden of Memories cemetery so far they have repaired about fifteen tombstones with many more to do next spring. Township Trustee Terry Hirsch with his equipment has removed brush with more to do next spring. Director Mary Crandall brings lunch to the volunteers on work days which is very much appreciated. At the last meeting, led by President Terry Tieskotter, it was decided to begin the next restoration project at the Utica Township Little Turkey Cemetery.

DAVIS

Members of the Davis County Pioneer Cemetery Commission worked at Ottumwa's "Nights 'N Lights" Christmas display at the Ottumwa Park during the holiday season. Brian Hoffman worked at the main gate and directed viewers of the display to the Davis County booth where his mother, Carol, was selling pies and other baked goods. She sold over \$300 worth of pies and other goodies and took orders for more pies. Willis Hoffman worked at the chamber's fixed concessions. They plan to ask for a matching grant at Willis's workplace. They have also contacted the Lutheran Brotherhood for matching funds. It was hard work in a very chilly environment, but these dedicated members were determined to raise funds for cemetery work next spring and summer. The Davis County Supervisors indicated that they expected the commission members to earn some of their own money for this purpose when they created the pioneer cemetery commission last year.

CLAYTON

From the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, February 12, 2006, "Virgin Em' counted husbands on 2 hands," by Dennis McCann. The writer says that this week in February is known for amour, so he will tell the story of Emma Eastman because what speaks more of romance than a woman who married nine times? Well, a woman who married 10 I suppose, but there's no proof of that last one, only talk. About Emma there was always talk. Late in life, she regretted that she had not made it "an even dozen" husbands.

When the writer discovered that Em's grave is in the Eastman Cemetery an hour away from Milwaukee in McGregor, Iowa, he had to visit that "boneyard." He found that Emma, born in Ohio in 1823, married first at age 14 before moving to McGregor in 1838. By 1839, she had married twice more, apparently without the legal niceties of divorce. By age 39, Emma was on her seventh husband, Dewitt Van Sicle, brother of her second husband, Moses. Joseph Wilson is believed to be her final husband. When Mr. McCann visited the McGregor Public Library, he was surprised to learn that "Virgin Em" was well known in that town. In fact, the librarian handed him a flier for a Valentine's Day program on "The Many Loves of Emma Eastman," featuring Pat Matt of nearby Elkader as Emma. She also showed him a book called "Eastman Cemetery" by Ronald G. Harris, a resident of Wisconsin Rapids now but formerly of McGregor, where he grew up hearing stories about the mysterious "Virgin Em." Harris was intrigued enough to find the cemetery a few years ago, where he was disappointed to find it neglected and overrun with weeds. With the help of the Clayton County Cemetery Commission, he helped direct the restoration of the site and wrote a booklet about it, prelude to a longer book he would like to write about Emma's life. To obtain a copy of Ron's book about this interesting character and her burial place, contact Good Grit Press, 2802 50th St. S., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494.

FAYETTE

The Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has submitted their annual budget request to the Board of Supervisors and County Auditor. The nine member Commission and ten member Advisory committee meets four times annually.

2005 brought the first requests from two different descendant families to place two new monuments in Dover Public, a restored pioneer cemetery alongside Highway 150 about six miles north of West Union. One of the new monuments marks three infant burials from 1913-1916. The other monument will mark a 1933 burial. None of these burials were ever previously marked, but with the restoration completed, descendants have now come forth to honor their family members with appropriate monuments.

We have received a request from another family to restore the Nutting Family Cemetery near the Great River Road connecting Clermont to Eldorado. This cemetery qualifies as "Pioneer" and has been previously cared for by family. The commission will decide on a course of action at our March meeting.

Only six of our already restored and maintained fifteen Fayette County pioneer cemeteries border existing roads. The other nine are in farm fields, pastures, CRP acres or timber. Access to these nine has been made possible by previous easements and/or cooperation of the landowners.

Richard Vagts and Charles Shipton, both commission and work crew members, have constructed and installed large reflective crosses in seven of our pioneer cemeteries, with three more scheduled this spring and summer. The reflective material is purchased through Iowa Prison Industries, Anamosa. Crew and commission member Harvey Ungerer has given his expertise and experience to older monument repair and restoration in several non--pioneer cemeteries in Fayette County using everything from small hand tools to his skid loader.

We now need to commence bringing monument records up to date from the restored cemeteries to assist in the county, state and national preservation projects.

--Steve Story

JACKSON

From the *Maquoketa Sentinel-Press*, October 29, 2005: "Tombstone returned after 14 years," by Kelly Gerlach. Pictured on the front page is Earl Swanson of Fort Wayne, Indiana kneeling beside the gravemarker of his wife's great-great grandfather, Samuel D. Carpenter. After Swanson finally found the pioneer cemetery in which Carpenter was buried almost 150 years earlier, he removed the stone because of the deplorable condition of the cemetery and took it back to his house in Fort Wayne, Ind. Swanson returned the stone and worked with the Jackson County Pioneer Commission members to find its exact location and to ensure its proper care. Swanson was very pleased and surprised to see the amount of work the Commission members had done. Also pictured are members of the Commission as they right other broken gravemarkers in the Old Van Buren Cemetery. They began restoration of the site in 2003. The Commission was formed in 1993 to prevent such cemeteries from disappearing completely. They have since begun restoration efforts in many of the cemeteries scattered around the county.

JONES

LaVerta Langenberg has made some corrections to the report that was submitted for the October, 2004 issue of *Grave News*. The Spear-Grafft Cemetery is not finished. Cattle gates have been taken to the site, but not installed. The Co-op at Onslow did not donate the steel posts. Chairperson, Ron Ruess, bought them at the Anamosa lumberyard.

LEE

From the *Daily Gate City* newspaper, December 23, 2005: "Little Birdie's' death noted in pioneer cemetery," by Terry Altheide. Terry tells of the display of the lowly cardboard box in the National Toy Hall of Fame in New York because of its appeal to many children, sometimes being preferred over the toy that it held. He recalls a trip that he and his family made to the Belinda Toy Museum in Lucas County a year earlier. This museum is housed in the old Belinda Christian Church owned by George and Linda Pierschbacher. He gives a short history of the town of Belinda, including the notable softball teams it produced. While there, the Altheide family visited the Belinda Swede Cemetery nearby. On one tombstone that caught Terry's eye was etched, "Little Birdie" Peterson, marking the grave of a month-old baby and dated July 8, 1881. This continues to be one of Terry's favorite pioneer cemeteries because of this particular grave.

Items of interest in the Winter Issue, 2005, of *Preserving Our Past*, the newsletter of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association: An account of the third annual Pioneer Patriot's Day at the Locust Grove Cemetery that contains the graves of two War of 1813 veterans, John Davis and John Malcolm, an article about "Bugles Across America," and a spotlight on the Colvin Cemetery in Montrose Township. Two buglers of the Iowa branch of "Bugles Across America" played echo TAPS at the Pioneer Patriot's Day ceremony on Oct. 1.

PAGE

The article that was summarized in the October, 2005 issue of *Grave News* titled, "Who were they?" was printed in the *Shenandoah Valley News*, not the *Clarinda Herald-Journal* as stated.

SCOTT

From the *Quad City Times*, January 15, 2006: "Foes fear road will disturb cemetery," by Deirdre Cox Baker. Pictured are some of the headstones in the Chapel Hill Cemetery, just west of Davenport in Buffalo Township, dating back to the 1870's. Developers are poised

to build upscale homes on the land north of the cemetery and said that a new access road will not have a negative impact. Township Trustees who have faithfully maintained the site and descendants of Civil War veteran buried there, Columbus Winfield, oppose the new housing development. There is no law requiring a buffer zone between a cemetery and a road and construction can damage fences and headstones. There is a concern that development may unearth old bones that might be located outside the fence line in unmarked graves. In the case of Chapel Hill Cemetery, "grave witcher" Steve Story of Hawkeye, Iowa was unable to find evidence of any graves outside the fence line. He recently found several unmarked graves inside the boundaries. Neighbors of the cemetery fervently oppose residential construction in the area and even drove tractors into downtown Davenport to hearings to emphasize their views.

VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Quill*, published quarterly by the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, January 2006: "Locating Unmarked Cemetery Burials," by Don Aldrich. Don comments on the various methods of locating graves that was outlined in the article distributed by the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and was printed in the October, 2005 issue of *Grave News*. Although the OSA contends that dowsing is no better at finding graves than common-sense intuition, Don does not entirely agree and believes that "there is something there."

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, January 9, 2006: "Lawmakers hear voter concerns," by Mark Newman. Area legislators are pictured as they discuss the issues prior to the '06 legislative session at a forum held at the Hotel Ottumwa. Among issues discussed were local control over the construction of large corporate hog lots, highway construction, the tone of the upcoming legislative session, education standards, and access to pioneer cemeteries. Also pictured are members of the Davis County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, Willis, Carol and Brian Hoffman, and Carl Boaz from Bloomfield, and Pat Shaw from Birmingham.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, January 19, 2006: "Receiving vault a remnant of times gone by," by Sue Parrish, Wapello County Historical Society. Pictured is the receiving vault that was built in the Ottumwa Cemetery in 1887. Built in the High Victorian Gothic design, this style was past its zenith and well on its wane when the red brick structure was built, giving it, along with the natural process, the appearance of a structure much older. Many a loved one rested in this vault after the ground was frozen and until the earth could be turned for their final resting place in the cemetery. Bodies in caskets were stored here until interment was possible. Even though it has not been used for many years, it is an aesthetically pleasing memorial to past burial customs and a comfy home for many -- usually black -- velvety winged creatures which like attics and chimneys and are associated with Halloween.

OUT OF IOWA WISCONSIN

From Rootsweb Review: "Original Name a Mystery," by Jake Jacobs. I am a member of the Oconto County Genealogical Society in Wisconsin. We have recently completed transcribing all the cemeteries in our county and needless to say, we have encountered several "unusual" findings. In the Evergreen Cemetery is listed JOE DONTGOHOME. That piqued my interest, so I looked up his death certificate. However, it only states he was born in Bohemia in 1849 and died 24 November 1918 in the hospital following an appendectomy at the age of 69.

ARIZONA

From *The Director*, November, 2005: "Plundered Past," by Patrick Gorlick. The author asks, "Can the Hopi people ever hope to rest in peace?" Imagine that you and your family visit the graves of your ancestors, only to realize that archeologists had, in the name of science, dug up their graves and removed their skulls in order to place them in a research laboratory for study. Events like this are documented among the Hopi people within the 20th century.

Imagine going into a museum and feeling shocked by a display that includes the skeleton of a tribal member, possibly your relative, displayed with family heirlooms. Events like this were a common occurrence to the Hopi people until as late as 1994.

Imagine a cemetery with a wire mesh fence, filled to capacity, bearing a few faded headstones and nothing but weeds for "landscaping." Such is the state of affairs of the Upper Village of Moenkopi Hopi Cemetery. With the arrival of missionaries, the Hopi were forced to adopt the concept of "cemeteries" for burial, but they remain without the financial wherewithal to support their burial sites in the manner of the Anglo culture. The author of the article makes a plea for donations to help finance the purchase of stone and the labor costs to construct a wall to enclose the cemetery and also to provide headstones and landscaping.

CALIFORNIA

From www.recordnet.com, November 4, 2005: "30 grave sites unearthed -- work stops on portion of Stockton's University Park." A construction crew working in University Park unearthed close to 30 graves containing human remains believed to be patients of the former Stockton Insane Asylum. Kevin Huber, CEO for The Grupe Co., a Stockton developer, has leased the property to build offices, but has stopped the work until he receives recommendations from state authorities on how to proceed. "The company will do whatever is recommended," Huber said. "The best thing from our perspective would be to cover the site, landscape it and put a memorial plaque here."

.....
REGISTRATION FORM
Cemetery Conference

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Address _____

Registration Fee:	<u>No.</u>	<u>Total</u>
SAPIC Member (Includes Box Lunch).....	\$17.00 each	_____
Non-member (Includes Box Lunch).....	\$27.00 each	_____
*SAPIC Dues.....	\$10.00 each	_____
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Make Checks payable to SAPIC 108 N Oak
*Nonmembers wanting to join SAPIC may pay the Jefferson, IA 50129
\$10.00 dues and \$17.00 registration fee.

DEAR ANCESTOR
(Thanks to Pat Howk of Bloomfield, Iowa)

Your tombstone stands among the rest, neglected and alone
The name and the date are chiseled out on polished marbled stone.
It reaches out to all who care; It is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist, You died and I was born.
Yet each of us are cells of you in flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse entirely not our own.
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled one hundred years ago
Spreads out among the ones you left, who would have loved you so.
I wonder if you lived and loved, I wonder if you knew
That someday I would find this spot, and come to visit you.

--Author Unknown

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