

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170th St.

BIRMINGHAM, IA 52535

www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/

VOL. 11 ISSUE #2

April, 2006

May is Cemetery Appreciation Month in Iowa. It's still not too late to submit a news article to your local newspaper.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, IOWANS ARE AWARE OF THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE RICH HERITAGE CONTAINED IN IOWA'S PIONEER HISTORICAL CEMETERIES, AND
WHEREAS, THIS APPRECIATION OF THEIR ANCESTORS' RESTING PLACES, DEVELOPS A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR ANCESTORS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND
WHEREAS, PRIDE AND RESPECT FOR OUR PIONEERS LEADS TO AN INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND THAT WE DEDICATE THIS MONTH TO THE CARE OF OUR PIONEER CEMETERIES:
NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY, 2006, AS

CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH

IN IOWA.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERE-
INTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND
CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE
OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES
MOINES THIS 21ST DAY OF APRIL IN THE
YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND SIX.

Thomas J. Vilsack
THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Chester J. Culver
CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE
by J. H. ...

The bill containing language that will allow preservationists access to landlocked pioneer cemeteries has passed both the Iowa Senate and House and is on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature! Thanks to so many people, this very important addition to the Iowa Code will soon become a reality. It did not happen without a "roller coaster" ride through the legislature. We must thank several key legislators for their determined efforts to keep this issue alive this session on behalf of all of us who value the resting places of our pioneer ancestors: Senator Keith Kreiman and House Representative Kurt Swaim of Davis County, House member Jeff Kaufmann of Cedar

County, House member David Lalk and Senator Schoenjahn of Fayette County, House member Tom Schueller of Jackson County, House member Geri Huser of Polk County, House member Doug Struyk of Pottawattanie County, and Senator Brunkhorst of Bremer County. Special thanks to the many SAPIC members who (using the words of our lobbyist) created a "ruckus," by writing and calling their legislators and attending forums and committee meetings. Some of your sincere pleas in the form of e-mail messages are included in this newsletter. You are responsible for saving a valuable part of Iowa history.

The July 8, 2006 meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will be hosted by the Davis County Pioneer Cemetery Commission at the Mutchler Recreation Center, 900 East North Street, Bloomfield, Iowa. (4 blocks East of US Hwy 63, 3 blocks North of the Courthouse Square).

9:30 a.m. Registration, Social Hour

10:30 a.m. Welcome, Guest

Speaker Beverly Bethune, Business Meeting, Honoring special guests.

Noon to 1:30 Catered lunch --

Cost \$10.00 (proceeds going to Building Fund for the Mars Hill Church)

2:00 David & Debbie Truitt --

Demonstration on stone and base repair at Mars Hill Cemetery.

Reservation and payments need to be made by June 30, 2006 to:

Carol Hoffman

505 West Chestnut St.

Bloomfield, IA 52537

641-664-2852

wilcar@netins.net

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Pat Shaw
21813 170th St.
Birmingham, Iowa 52535
319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

Vice-President: Linda Zintz,
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Centerville, IA 52544 thee_z@hotmail.com

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5716 Kingman Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50311-2006
515-277-4917 LD2mstone@aol.com

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Jefferson, IA 50129
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marvaj@frontiernet.net

Pat Shaw, Newsletter Editor

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ckcasey@louisacomm.net

Jo Vernooy, Board of Trustees
Term Expires 2007
1240 235th St.
Leighton, IA 50143
641-673-8122 mahcem@kdsi.net

WHERE TO GET PROBES

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

WHERE TO GET EPOXY

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

3-M 1838 B/A TAN EPOXY
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

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
April 8, 2006

Vice President Linda Zintz called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. at the Prairie Learning Center on the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge near Prairie City, Iowa.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Moved by Steve Story that the minutes of the January 14, 2006 meeting be approved. Seconded by Mike Magee. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented, illustrating a balance of \$10,529.06 consisting of \$6,765.67 in the Working Account and \$3,763.39 in the Reserve Account. Valerie Ogren reported that 65 registrations were received for the SAPIC Conference held earlier this day.

Membership: Valerie Ogren provided the following current membership status:

44 Life Members
83 Regular Members
12 New Members
139 Total

Award Recognition: It was noted that even though proposed legislation may not be passed this year in regard to public access to Pioneer Cemeteries, several Legislators have been supportive, and several SAPIC members have spent considerable time in initiating such support. Moved by Steve Story that SAPIC award recognition to those individuals supporting the cemetery legislation and that a time and place for the award presentation be selected that is convenient and advantageous to the recipient. Seconded by Carol Hoffman. Motion carried.

Conference Registration Fee: Valerie Ogren noted that some registrants were confused on interpreting the amount of registration fee for the April 2006 Conference, since there was an option to also include SAPIC membership dues. Larry Davis explained that it was listed with the intent that it would give a non-member an opportunity to join, but since some confusion existed, future conferences would probably have only one registration fee which would be the same for members and non-members.

Future Meeting Sites: Pricilla Reisner invited SAPIC to hold its October 2006 meeting in Chickasaw County. The invitation was appreciated and will be officially considered by the Board.

The meeting was adjourned.

Larry D. Davis
Secretary

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter - 1 January thru 31 March 2006

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2005, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$5744.04
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	1000.00	
Conference Registration	726.00	
Video tape	25.00	
Donation	50.00	
Donation (toward lobby expense)	50.00	
Interest 1/31/06	2.52	
Interest 2/28/06	2.71	
Interest 3/31/06	<u>2.76</u>	
Total Income	\$ 1858.99	
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #178 - Pat Shaw - newsletter expense	9.96	
Ck #179 - Jim Obradovich	600.00	
Ck #180 - Postmaster	7.80	
Ck #181 - Pat Shaw - Conference Expense	120.13	
Ck #182 - Pat Shaw - Newsletter Expense	<u>99.47</u>	
Total Expense	\$ 837.36	
Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2006		\$6765.67

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2005, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$3623.39
<u>Income</u>		
Life Membership	\$100.00	
Memorial	<u>40.00</u>	
Total	\$140.00	
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2006		\$3763.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 31 March 2006 \$10529.06

Respectfully submitted,

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

This is the amendment to SF 2364 that may give cemetery restorers access to cemeteries.

Sec. 137. Section 523I.316, subsection 3, Code Supplement

75 10 2005, is amended to read as follows:

75 11 3. DUTY TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT.

75 12 a. A governmental subdivision having a cemetery, or a
75 13 burial site that is not located within a dedicated cemetery,
75 14 within its jurisdiction, for which preservation is not
75 15 otherwise provided, shall preserve and protect the cemetery or
75 16 burial site as necessary to restore or maintain its physical
75 17 integrity as a cemetery or burial site. The governmental
75 18 subdivision may enter into an agreement to delegate the
75 19 responsibility for the preservation and protection of the
75 20 cemetery or burial site to a private organization interested
75 21 in historical preservation.

75 22 b. A governmental subdivision is authorized to expend
75 23 public funds, in any manner authorized by law, in connection
75 24 with such a cemetery or burial site.

75 25 c. As used in this subsection, "preserve and protect"
75 26 means to keep the cemetery or burial site and any records
75 27 thereof safe from destruction, peril, or other adversity, and
75 28 includes the placement of signs, markers, fencing, or other
75 29 appropriate features identifying the site as a cemetery or
75 30 burial site.

75 31 Sec. 138. NEW SECTION. 523I.317 DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC
75 32 ACCESS.

75 33 A cemetery shall provide or permit public access to the
75 34 cemetery, at reasonable times and subject to reasonable
75 35 regulations, so that owners of interment rights and other
76 1 members of the public have reasonable ingress and egress to
76 2 the cemetery.

76 3 Sec. 139. NEW SECTION. 523I.403 ACQUISITION OF ABANDONED
76 4 CEMETERIES == GOVERNMENTAL SUBDIVISIONS.

76 5 1. A governmental subdivision may acquire an abandoned
76 6 cemetery, including ownership of any unsold interment spaces
76 7 in the cemetery. A governmental subdivision that acquires a
76 8 cemetery under this section shall have legal title to the
76 9 cemetery and is authorized to acquire land for use of the
76 10 cemetery, receive gifts, and receive and administer endowments
76 11 for the care of the cemetery or any part thereof.

76 12 2. A governmental subdivision shall use due diligence in
76 13 identifying the owners of an abandoned cemetery and shall
76 14 provide notice of its intent to acquire the cemetery as
76 15 provided in this section. If the governmental subdivision is
76 16 unable to locate the owner of the abandoned cemetery, the
76 17 governmental subdivision shall publish notice of its intent to
76 18 acquire the cemetery for three successive weeks in a newspaper
76 19 of general circulation in the county in which the cemetery is
76 20 located.

76 21 3. A cemetery's owner may object to the acquisition of a
76 22 cemetery by a governmental subdivision. In order to reassert
76 23 ownership rights to the cemetery, the owner shall provide or
76 24 permit public access to the cemetery, at reasonable times and
76 25 subject to reasonable regulations, so that owners of interment

76 26 rights and other members of the public have reasonable ingress
76 27 and egress to the cemetery. If the cemetery's owner provides
76 28 or permits such public access within twenty-four months after
76 29 receiving notice of the governmental subdivision's intent to
76 30 acquire the cemetery, the governmental subdivision shall not
76 31 proceed with its action to acquire the cemetery.

76 32 Sec. 140. NEW SECTION. 523I.404 ACQUISITION OF ABANDONED
76 33 CEMETERIES == CEMETERY ASSOCIATIONS.

76 34 1. Any person who has a relative interred in an abandoned
76 35 cemetery or who owns interment rights in an abandoned cemetery,
77 1 may organize a cemetery association for the cemetery. The
77 2 cemetery association shall be incorporated as a nonprofit
77 3 corporation pursuant to chapter 504A. A corporation formed in
77 4 this manner may acquire legal title to the cemetery if an
77 5 owner cannot be located.

77 6 2. A cemetery association shall use due diligence in
77 7 identifying the owner of an abandoned cemetery and shall
77 8 provide notice of the association's intent to acquire the
77 9 cemetery as provided in this section. If the cemetery
77 10 association is unable to locate the owner of the abandoned
77 11 cemetery, the cemetery association shall publish notice of
77 12 intent to acquire the cemetery for three successive weeks in a
77 13 newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the
77 14 cemetery is located.

77 15 3. A cemetery's owner may object to the acquisition of a
77 16 cemetery by a cemetery association. In order to reassert
77 17 ownership rights to the cemetery, the owner shall provide or
77 18 permit public access to the cemetery, at reasonable times and
77 19 subject to reasonable regulations, so that members of the
77 20 cemetery association and other members of the public have
77 21 reasonable ingress and egress to the cemetery. If the
77 22 cemetery's owner provides or permits such public access within
77 23 twenty-four months after receiving notice of the interested
77 24 person's intent to acquire the cemetery, the cemetery
77 25 association shall not proceed with its action to acquire the
77 26 cemetery.



The on-line National Register Bulletin -- *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering
Cemeteries and Burial Places:* <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletin/nrb41/>

--Shirley J. Schermer, Burials Program Director, Office of the State Archaeologist
700 Clinton Street Building
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242
319-384-0740

Grave News, April 2006, page six

Letters written by our wonderful SAPIC members to their legislators:

Dear Senator Gronstal,

As someone who has been interested in historical preservation for many years, I encourage you to bring SF 2208 - the cemetery access bill - up for a vote. When the bill does come up for a vote, I would appreciate your support with a yes vote.

Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Commissions have been formed in numerous counties across Iowa with the sole purpose of preserving and restoring the burial places of Iowa's pioneers. As the bill currently stands, only descendants of those persons buried in such cemeteries are allowed access. In nearly all cases, there are either no descendants - or they are living in distant states.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Valerie Ogren
108 N Oak
Jefferson IA 50129-1841
Ph. 515.386.4784
vjogren@netins.net

(Charter member of the State Association for the Preservation for Iowa Cemeteries)

Having spent several days in the last few years working on the first Pioneer Cemetery in Story County I am asking for your support of the Bill dealing with Pioneer Cemeteries.

The Ballard Grove Cemetery in Story County contains the graves of the first family to settle in Story County in the mid 1800s. Until recently the owner of the surrounding land would not allow even family members access. Grave stones were taken and all markings were destroyed. Due to a change of ownership on two sides of the cemetery I was able to gain access and started to restore the cemetery to some sort of order. We surveyed the boundary, cleared trees out, erected fence on part of the area and had a monument erected in memory of our ancestors and their contribution to Iowa history. At this time not even local historians could locate the cemetery without assistance.

The pioneers remains should be left untouched and shown some respect in the future. Without caretakers, other than descendents of those pioneers, having access to the cemeteries they will not be cared for in the future. Some of these cemeteries can even be used for education of our children and grandchildren.

I therefore join many others in asking for your support of the bill allowing others to have adequate access to maintain these cemeteries in the future.

Loren Larson
1615 Jackson Drive
Ames, Iowa 50010
lplclone@aol.com

(Loren sent at least 3 other similar messages, responding promptly whenever appeals were made)

Senator Shull,

I am writing you in support of Senate File 2008 by Kreiman (Companion to House File 2071 by Swaim). It is now in the Local Government Committee. It would expand access to old cemeteries, landlocked by private land, from descendents only to preservationists and people who want to restore and maintain the cemeteries.

In most cases there seems to be no problem in gaining access to these burial sites but in some cases it has been a problem. This amendment would make it clear that these places are valuable to the entire community around the site. It would allow preservationists to halt the deterioration of the sites that are unattended and being allowed to disappear.

I have been a member of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) almost since its beginning in the mid-90s. Members have committed thousands of hours of volunteer work to cemetery preservation. They have also worked continually for moderate changes in Iowa law that would help them accomplish this. The current president, Pat Shaw, is available to answer your questions at 319-293-3899 or patshaw@netins.net

Our local Warren County Genealogical Society is currently updating our cemetery book. We have found that in the past there have been instances in Warren County that small, old cemeteries have disappeared. There are references to them in old records but there is no evidence of them now. I didn't believe this would happen until I started working on this project. I hope that we can do something to make sure this doesn't happen in our time.

An accessible cemetery can be preserved for future generations. I hope that you will act favorably toward this small step that will honor our ancestors and preserve our history.

Thank you for your attention.

Ruth Hall
408 E. Salem Ave.
Indianola, IA
961-3201

Dear Sir: This e-mail is to encourage you to vote yes for SF 2208, the pioneer cemetery access bill. I am Chairman of the Mahaska County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and a member of the State Association for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries. This bill would require volunteers who will be providing maintenance for a pioneer cemetery to notify the affected landowner by mail prior to going to the cemetery. If the date selected by the volunteer does not work for the landowner, they may provide alternative dates to the volunteers.

I cannot stress strongly enough how necessary this bill is to those of us attempting to preserve our pioneer legacy. Please encourage other Representatives to vote "yes" as well.

Thank you.

Jo A. Vernooy
110 North Market Street
Oskaloosa, IA 52577-2827
Phone: 641-673-9451

From: "Kevin and Carrie Lee" <stonecut@mchsi.com>
Subject: **Fw: SF 2364**
Date: April 9, 2006 9:48:48 AM CDT
To: "Patricia I. Shaw" <patshaw@netins.net>, "Ferneva Brimacomb" <fbbrim2@mabelltel.coop>,
"David G. Stanley" <stanley1@iowatelecom.net>

----- Original Message -----

From: Kevin and Carrie Lee
To: chuck@chuckgipp.us
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2006 9:46 AM
Subject: SF 2364

Dear Chuck,

Please support and help with the passage of SF 2364 that concerns abandon and pioneer cemeteries access and egress.

I am the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission Chairperson and also on the Historic Preservation Board for Winneshiek County.

I have had difficulty in several instances with landlocked and "owned" cemeteries that are in disrepair or uncared for many decades. Situations involving adjacent owners and developers cropping into cemetery and burial sites are not uncommon with one occurrence of adverse possession to claim part of a pioneer cemetery for a private drive!

Old avenues that had been historically established to visit landlocked cemeteries have been removed to give way to development and new ownerships that are not sensitive to the public in a quest for ancestors or historical / genealogical and cultural information.

This bill, SF 2364, will resolve access issues and help greatly with the concerns that active citizens of the county have to protect a vanishing part of our heritage.

These cemeteries are a vital link that makes a cultural study complete and a quest for family histories an adventure. Many folks with good intentions have been barred from access by, in my opinion, unethical greed and protectionism by owners that assume their assets are worth more than common decency and respect for our ancestors and the pioneers that established our towns / rural communities.

Thank you for your cooperation and , hopefully, positive response for this thoughtful bill.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Lee

Winneshiek County Pioneer
Cemetery Commissioner

Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration*
Helen Wildermuth
1653 E. Old State Rd. 46
Nashville, Indiana 47448
317-796-6133
<http://www.stonehugger.com>
Helen@stonehugger.com

*Note: for information only -- not endorsed by SAPIC.

The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies
203 East Seminary
Mount Carroll, IL 61053
Phone 815-244-1173
Offers cemetery preservation workshop on odd numbered years.

Tax credits to rehab historic buildings increased. A bill to provide additional tax credits to rehabilitate historic buildings passed the Economic Growth Committee and presumably both Houses of the legislature. The bill would raise the amount of available tax credits in the program to \$20 million. It is administered through the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

There are three grant programs through the Department of Cultural Affairs which potentially could be used to work on cemeteries. To qualify the cemetery would need to be on the National Register of Historic Places. Two of the programs are administered through the Historical Division/State Historical Society of Iowa. One is the REAP Historical Resources Development Program Grants (REAP-HRDP grants) and the other is the Certified Local Government Program Grants (CLG Grants). For more information on REAP, go to www.iowahistory.org, click on SHSI grants (left side of screen), then click on REAP Historical Resource Development

Program grants. For information about CLG grants, go to www.iowahistory.org, click on historic preservation and then click on CLG Program. The third grant is administered through the Department of Cultural Affairs and is the Iowa Community Cultural Grant Program. These funds could be used to underwrite survey and evaluation, nomination, planning, and actual rehabilitation work. For information, go to www.culturalaffairs.org and click on grants.

-- contributed by Kerry McGrath

CEMETERY ADVICE

This time of year when the nights are cool and the days warm and sunny, be prepared to see snakes. They are coming out of hibernation and they are looking for big stones to sun on. Tombstones with their flat surfaces work perfectly for this. Cleaned off cemeteries are fairly safe. If surrounded by woods, be on your guard.

* Buy good hiking boots. These come up on the ankles for several reasons. There are often holes in cemeteries from animals digging and fallen trees. Boots can save many a twisted ankle.

*Wear jeans, even if it is hot. Jeans can protect you from bites of all kinds. A good bug spray and sunscreen are advisable, too.

*Check in with neighbors. Some are protective of cemeteries. They may also check on you if you seem to be there too long.

*Take a buddy. If you get hurt, you will be glad you did.

*Take a cell phone. Note the 911 location number of the nearest house.

*Buy a good digital camera that uses AA batteries. A local grocery will carry that size but not specialized camera batteries. Do not leave dead batteries in the cemetery.

-- Teresa Elliott Cheasa@bellsouth.net

COUNTY REPORTS

BLACKHAWK

From the *LaPorte City Progress Review*, Oct. 3, 1907: To improve cemetery. Steps are being taken to make improvements to the Engledow Cemetery, including the installation of a woven wire fence with cement posts. This cemetery is located about 5 miles southwest of LaPorte City and 3 miles northwest of Mt. Auburn and is one of the oldest in this vicinity. It is the resting place of many of the first settlers of this section, and it is well for those who are now enjoying some of the fruits of the hardships and privations of these pioneers to give a little time, effort and money to keep their resting places protected and in respectable condition. A well fenced, neatly kept cemetery is a credit to the vicinity in which it is located, while the want of care does not speak well for those who have loved ones interred there. It is but a mark of civilization and a duty owed to the dead to keep our cemeteries protected and free from weeds. Let the friends turn out and help improve this country cemetery.

--Mike Magee

BOONE

From the *Boone New Republican*, April 27, 2006: "County Cemeteries to be restored," by Jeff Miller, staff writer. About 5 years ago, Tina Keister was interested in finding out more about her family history and with her grandparents already deceased the task was a difficult one. Researching her family history evolved into something even bigger as she became interested in finding out just where her family members were buried. The end result was the founding of the Boone County Cemetery Preservation Restoration Project. Keister's goal is to preserve and restore all of the grave sites in the more than 73 cemeteries in the county, some of which are private cemeteries. Many of the stones are in poor condition. Keister is asking volunteers to join her at Quincy Cemetery located in Marcy Township and others to help clean these historic stones. Many Civil War veterans were buried in Hull aka Meadow Grove located in Worth Township. Keister believes that many of Daniel Boone's descendants were buried in the county. For more information about the project, Keister can be contacted at 515-275-2323 or e-mail at skeezicks86@netins.net. Web sites: www.iagenweb.org www.iowagravestones.org www.newrepublican.com

--Tina Keister

CLINTON

From the *Clinton Herald*, April 1, 2006. The article concerns a stolen car that was torched March 31, 2006 in the Springdale Cemetery. The car was found "really deep into the cemetery." It stated that "had it not rained that night, the fire could have been disastrous." It had scorched trees as high as 10 to 12 feet off the ground. There was tall grass all over the area where the car was found. The article did not state if there was any damage to tombstones in the cemetery.

--Barbara Kelley <bjkelley@mchsi.com>

DAVIS

Willis and Carol Hoffman, members of the Davis County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, appeared on KTVO-TV news (channel 3 in Kirksville, MO and Ottumwa, IA) on May 18 and 19, 2006. They spoke about the bill that was passed by both Houses of the Iowa Legislature this session that contained language pertaining to accessing landlocked pioneer cemeteries. They were interviewed in a cemetery in Bloomfield, Iowa that contains the graves of Carol's great grandparents. Although it is not a pioneer cemetery, the reporter indicated that Carol's interest in finding the burial site of her ancestors led her, along with her husband and son, to discover many neglected cemeteries in Davis County. House Representative, Kurt Swaim, also from Bloomfield was interviewed about the bill. He was instrumental in getting an amendment attached to an insurance bill after the original bill was killed in the House Local Government Committee by the chairperson of that committee. The bill passed the Senate and House on the last day of the session. He said that the Hoffman's were good examples of people who had no experience in lobbying for a bill, but were persistent in their efforts by visiting committee meetings at the Statehouse and keeping the issue in front of legislators. Willis and Carol first contacted their local State Senator and House Representative last fall about the concerns they had with access to landlocked burial sites.

Be sure to attend the next SAPIC meeting that will be held in Bloomfield on July 8!

--Pat Shaw

Gravestone Restoration Workshop

A good learning & service project for 4-H, Scouts, church in your area

Fri-Sat
June
16th -17th
2006

Where: East Linn Cemetery

1 mile north of Redfield, Dallas Co. IA. From I-80: exit 100 N through Redfield on Co Rd P46. Watch for signs.

WHO: All ages
If you can dig in the garden you can restore gravestones

WHEN: 9 to 4
ongoing: Come for all or part. Hands-on Learning: Techniques/Safety/Supplies/etc.

BRING LUNCH
if wish: Dress for weather/gloves/camera/spade/Sunscreen/wire brushes/etc. A friend.

Sponsored by:
Dallas Co. Conservation,
Dallas County Genealogical Society.

Contact: Lorna B. Grow
515-992-3003/ ljbgrow@earthlink.net
or Michelle Fox 515-987-2416/ jmf@netins.net
Or DC Conservation: 515-465-3577

ANNUAL REPORT
for
DES MOINES COUNTY
PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION
YEAR 2005

The following is a summary of the activities of the Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission for the year 2005, plans, and proposed budget information.

Cemetery restorations completed during 2005.

A. Pleasant Grove Cemetery – Pleasant Grove Twp

This cemetery is just east of the Shinar Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the town of Pleasant Grove. It contains a large number of graves. The work session was to complete the work started and nearly completed in 2004.

B. Millersburg Cemetery – Pleasant Grove Twp

This cemetery is located about ¼ mile east of the residence at 21479 Pleasant Grove Road. This is one of the larger cemeteries in the pioneer cemetery system and it required several work session to complete. The cemetery is now in very good condition. We may need to revisit this cemetery in 2006.

C. Carter Cemetery – Pleasant Grove Twp

This cemetery is located about 200 yards east of the road at 16708 Danville Rd. This was the first cemetery that was restored, several years ago, by the Pioneer Cemetery Commission. The work session was to evaluate our past work, cut down some tree branches, and re-adjust some of the stones. The cemetery is still in fairly good condition.

D. Linn Grove Cemetery – Yellow Springs Twp

This cemetery is located on the northeast corner of 160th Avenue and Mediapolis Road. We are working with the Mediapolis Lions Club on this restoration.

During most of the months of daylight savings time the Pioneer Cemetery Commission scheduled two work sessions each month. These work sessions were at 5:30 pm on the

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2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. This year we had to cancel several of the work sessions due to weather conditions being either too hot or too wet. Our monthly meetings were held in conjunction with the 4th Thursday work session.

We continued to install signs at the pioneer cemeteries. The signs indicate the cemetery name along with "A Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery". Signs are purchased from the Iowa Prison Industries in Anamosa, Iowa. We are fortunate to have been able to obtain several sign posts from the county highway department. We have now installed signs at a total of 12 cemeteries. The signage project is ongoing with ten (10) more to be installed during the spring of 2006.

This year proved to be productive and enjoyable. We had good attendance from our members at the summer work sessions and the regular monthly meetings. In 2006 we will continue our restoration efforts and we hope to inspect the pioneer cemeteries located on the Iowa Ammunition Plant grounds.

In 2005 the Commission hired twelve (12) people to mow, trim and maintain 28 of our Pioneer Cemeteries on a regular basis. We have several cemeteries that, at this time, do not require mowing due to the size, location, and condition of the plots. We have about 48 cemeteries in the system.

For fiscal year 2004-2005 the Pioneer Cemetery budget was \$20,000.00 Of that amount only \$16,868.20 was expended. For fiscal year 2005-2006 our budget is again \$20,000.00 To date we have expended \$7,010.01 with mowing contracts for the first half of 2006 expected to expend \$7,220.00 for a total of \$14,230.01 In addition to the normal expense for office supplies and restoration supplies we plan to do some fencing and resetting of several large stones before the end of this fiscal year.

For the 2006 mowing season our mowing contracts are about 9% above the cost of the 2005 season. The 2005 mowing cost was about 2.5% above the cost of the 2004 season.

For the fiscal year 2006-2007 the Commission is again asking for a budget of \$20,000.00 with \$14,500.00 allocated for maintenance, \$5200.00 for restoration and \$300.00 for office supplies and petty cash.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Werner for Larry Werner

Larry Werner, Chairman

Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

LEE

From the *Daily Gate City News*, February 24, 2006: "Six Revolutionary War Veterans buried in county," by Terry Altheide. Terry ties in the birthdays of U.S. Presidents Lincoln and Washington with the fact that there are 44 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Iowa cemeteries, six in Lee County. He credits the work of former Ft. Madison resident, Thelma Shepherd, for her 10-year research project compiling the list. All known veterans are listed in the DAR book, "Revolutionary War Soldiers and Patriots Buried in Iowa." Though Lee County itself was nonexistent during the War of the Rebellion, it nonetheless can boast that at least six of its citizens rubbed shoulders, if ever so slightly, with some of the Founding Fathers of this country and served with honor with some of its great heroes: Timothy Brees, Adam Clark, Amos Glover, Cato Mead, Joseph Paterson, and George Perkins.

From the newsletter of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, *Preserving Our Past*, Spring Issue, 2006: "Spotlight on Johnson Cemetery, Van Buren Township, Section 24, Lee County, Iowa." During the spring of 2002, Bob Holtkamp, along with Susan Alarie and Bob & Laverna Moore, began the tedious process of clearing away years of accumulated growth of brush and weeds. In 2003, new fencing was installed and the owners of the surrounding land were hired to mow the site. The cemetery was established in the 1840's and has around 70 burials. Amongst those buried at Johnson is Caroline Johnson, grandmother of Laverna Moore, who died in 1905. Thanks to several volunteers and the township trustee, the souls buried there can once again rest in peace and dignity. The newsletter also contains the obituary of Caroline Johnson and a tribute to Laverna Moore. A message from president, Terry Altheide, that encourages the association members to stay focused on their goal of cemetery preservation is on the first page of the newsletter.

The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association sponsored a chicken dinner fundraiser on April 3 at Ogo's Restaurant in Montrose, Iowa.

From the *Des Moines Register*, April 29, 2006, "Grave in Keokuk, marker in D. M. The story behind the stone emerges after 31 years of mystery," by Tom Alex. The article tells the story of a military marker that was left behind after a cemetery was moved from the old Fort Des Moines Army Post #3 Cemetery. For years it rested against a tree near the Des Moines Regional Police Academy on East Army Post Road. The stone belonged to Pvt. Michael Saroff who died in 1918, probably of influenza. It was discovered that Pvt. Saroff's remains are buried at the Keokuk National Cemetery along with the remains of 158 other soldiers and family members that were exhumed and moved in 1948. At that time, Saroff apparently received a new white stone and the old stone was left behind in Des Moines. The stone has now been moved to the grounds of the Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center at 75 East Army Post Road.

MARION

From *The Iowan*, May/June 2006: "Collecting Cemeteries," an essay by Valerie Van Kooten. The writer tells of her family's hobby of "collecting" cemeteries -- not the new, carefully laid out, cold, and sanitary graveyards, but the old, crumbly, out-of-the-way resting places that crop up in the backs of fields, down beaten paths, and in unusual locales. She and her family make note of them throughout the year and begin their pilgrimages around Memorial Day each year. Mentioned are the Karr Cemetery near Robert's Creek, another small cemetery north of Knoxville, and the Red Rock Cemetery also north of Knoxville. She states that she wants to be buried there someday, overlooking Lake Red Rock among the old trees "where there is life" -- not in some modern assembly-line cemetery.

MARSHALL

Sharon Sturek continues to pursue her goal of having the Price Cemetery cleaned and fenced before another planting season begins. In January, she was informed by the Regulated Industries Unit that its compliance officer, Mr. Hodgson, was planning on beginning procedures to implement a proposed resolution regarding the restoration of this pioneer cemetery within the following 2-3 weeks. So far, she has heard nothing regarding the proposed resolution and is concerned that crops will soon be planted closely bordering the cemetery. She would like to know the status of the project so that she and other descendants can proceed with restoration efforts.

May – Pioneer Cemetery Appreciation Month
For Pioneer Cemetery Restoration

As the Mitchell County Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Project (MCPCRP) Coordinator, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that have assisted in research and physically restoring some of the 39 derelict and forgotten cemeteries of our counties pioneering founders.

Did you realize there are 63 known Cemeteries in Mitchell County not counting Mennonite Cemeteries? Of the 63, 39 qualify for Pioneer Status (as defined by the State of Iowa - having less than 6 burials in the past 50 years)

Support from various dedicated MCPCRP Management Project Coordinators, Osage School FFA, Loren Meyer Trustee of Otranto Township and Cedar Townships financial contribution, the Press-News for keeping their readers aware of our efforts and Neil Wubben. Mitchell County Court House Staff opened its doors and in some cases their vaults to let us rummage through historic records.

I have personally researched, located and stood at every known cemetery in Mitchell County. Personally want to thank the unknown individuals that have taken it upon themselves to maintain various pioneer cemeteries by mowing and keeping the weeds at bay. My eternal gratitude, to all these unsung hero's, that care enough to preserve, restore and maintain dignity to our pioneer ancestry.

Leadership from local government is exemplified by Cheryl Jahnel, Mitchell County Board Of Supervisor's who was a leader and instrumental in appropriating "In-Kind" funding for materials and equipment for MCPCRP. Cheryl has physically rolled up her sleeves and helped our teams walk remote areas, trying to locate these forgotten cemeteries, physically helped with the Beaver Creek Cemetery restoration. Cheryl arranged for delivery of ditch clean out dirt, to assist in restoring a decaying driveway at Beaver Creek Cemetery. Cheryl's leadership exemplifies her dedication and support to Mitchell County. Cheryl's foresightedness and perseverance to Mitchell County is worthy of your support.

Loren Meyer, Trustee from Otranto Township deserves special recognition, for his unwavering dedication to restore and maintaining the Old Otranto Cemetery. Leadership like Cheryl and Loren is more than political spin. Their leaderships end results is obvious for all to witness. Loren and I have stood in the great alone at Otranto Cemetery, it literally brings tears to my eyes every time I witness his accomplishments.

Next time you drive around the country side and see a cemetery that you didn't know existed, very likely it has been restored with dedicated volunteers of MCPCRP. My hat is off to everyone that has assisted us over the past four years. My apology to anyone or organization that I have overlooked that deserves recognition.

Unfortunately, a few of these pioneer cemeteries have been plowed under and no trace of there existence remains except for what is written in history books.

Much remains to finish the other 33 MCPCRP derelict pioneer cemetery projects. If you would like to assist please contact. Neal Du Shane 1-970-227-3512 or n.j.dushane@comcast.net

POLK

From the *Des Moines Register*, April 8, 2006: "Unmarked Graves have a story, too," by Abby Simons, Register Staff Writer. Gerald LaBlanc, director of restoration and tours for Woodland, St. Ambrose and Odd Fellows cemeteries in Des Moines, is undertaking a project to purchase a granite marker honoring the history of St. Ambrose and to remember those whose graves have no markers. They are believed to be early Irish Catholic pioneers who built the railroads and roads in the area. In the late 1800's, about 30 bodies were exhumed from another Catholic cemetery south of Des Moines and moved to St. Ambrose. The wooden crosses that once marked their graves are long gone. The monument would cost about \$4,500 and would be a measure to honor both history and religion. Research will be done to identify as many as possible. For more information, LaBlanc may be reached at (515)967-7708.

VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, February 23, 2006: "There will be no charge for the portrait," by Andy Reddick. Under the penname "Old Timer," Charlotte Ratcliff wrote weekly columns for the county newspapers and included many stories about her family, pioneering adventures, and her friends. Her parents celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 1858 and had gone to Schamps Portrait Studio in Fairfield to have pictures made to commemorate this occasion. While the photographer explained the procedure to her parents, a man entered the studio carrying an old-fashioned frayed carpet bag. He tearfully pleaded with the photographer to take a picture of his little boy. The urgency in the man's voice caused Charlotte's father to indicate that his family would wait for their photo session and let the man go ahead. The photographer asked him to bring his little boy into the studio. The man placed the bag on the counter and with trembling hands took out a little bundle wrapped in cloth. He then turned back a piece of folded white muslin revealing the curly head of a dead child. The mother's wish was for the child to be held in his father's arms once more for a "likeness making" and so it was soon done. Mr. Schamp did not charge for the portrait. Charlotte treasured the "likeness" made of her family that day, but here was a tug at her heart every time she looked at the picture because she was reminded of the backwoods Jefferson County man and his baby. Old Timer Charlotte Morrison Ratcliff was Andy Reddick's great grandmother.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 4, 2006: "Governor issues proclamation," by Don Aldrich. A copy of the proclamation from the Office of the Governor of Iowa proclaiming the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month" was printed along with a list of pioneer cemeteries and their "adopters." Don makes a plea for other volunteers to adopt cemeteries. Instruction and guidance given at no charge.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 11, 2006: "The Story of Rebecca Tylee," by Don Aldrich. A large natural stone boulder located in the Purdom Cemetery at Keosauqua is inscribed only with the word, "TYLEE" and a bronze plaque attached that reads, "Real Daughter -- placed by the Elizabeth Ross Chapter DAR." Rebecca Smith was the actual daughter of a Revolutionary War Soldier, Nathaniel Austin Smith who died in 1846 and is buried in Oswego, NY. Rebecca enjoyed the distinction of being one of the original five Daughters of the American Revolution. Rebecca and her husband, Edward R. Tylee, came to Van Buren County in 1829, constructing the first brick house in Keosauqua. Rebecca died in 1905. In 1928, the Elizabeth Ross Chapter of DAR placed the plaque during an impressive ceremony held at the cemetery. Don researched the story of Rebecca from obituaries, various census records, newspaper stories, and county land deed records.

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 20, 2006: "Historic preservation part of civic responsibility," by Jeff Hutton. A fire set by vandals that destroyed the historic log Mars Hill Church last winter is a reminder that we should not take for granted or forget the importance of the past. The church, along with other buildings, monuments and memorials, are representative of our collective history. Thanks to Beverly Bethune, chair of the Wapello County Pioneer Cemetery Committee (WCPCC), one is reminded that cemeteries, especially pioneer cemeteries, are just as valuable and need to be protected and maintained. Since 2000, when it was founded, WCPCC has staged at least one preservation project or workshop each year and has located and mapped several of the neglected cemeteries in Wapello County. They plan to work on the Sterner, Myrick, Brumsey Family, Agency (old end) and McGlothlen Cemeteries this summer. For more information call (641)683-7792.

OUT OF IOWA LONDON, ENGLAND

From the *USA Today*, 2002: "Archaeologists unearth 1,300 skeletons." A large medieval cemetery containing around 1,300 skeletons has been discovered in the central English city of Leicester. The bones were found during a dig before the site is developed as part of a 350 million-pound (\$630 million) shopping mall. University of Leicester archaeologists say the find promises to shed new light on the way people lived and died in the Middle Ages. The graveyard was probably used from the 12th century until the demolition of the church at the site in 1573.

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/2006-01-24-britain-skeletons_x.htm?csp=34

NEW JERSEY, USA

From *Archaeology*, May/June, 2005: "The Dead of Snake Hill," by Kristin M. Romey. A man's search for his grandfather sparks an unusually moving excavation along the New Jersey Turnpike. Patrick Andriani, grandson of Leonardo Andriani, found his grandfather's burial site in the Hudson County Burial Grounds that was part of the Snake Hill complex that included an almshouse, penitentiary, lunatic asylum, and tuberculosis, smallpox, and isolation hospitals. It was established in 1820 as a poorhouse farm. Snake Hill's institutions were emptied out after the Depression and the New Jersey Turnpike was run through the site in 1950, with a bridge built to span the burial ground. The excavation of the site has revealed the identity of individual burials and led to the reinterment of them plus their personal effects, as well as a monument commemorating their reburial. More than 100 people worked for nine months to excavate the site.

www.archaeology.org

TENNESSEE

From the *Washington Post*, March 27, 2006: "More Family Cemeteries Dying Away in the South," by Theo Emery. As rural land is developed, ancestral graves are relocated, bulldozed or encircled by construction. The Chandler family cemetery located about 25 miles east of Nashville will soon be moved so that a factory or warehouse - the developer is not yet sure - can be built nearby. It includes the graves of Revolutionary and Civil War veterans, slaves, and generations of a sprawling Colonial family. As cities from Atlanta to Memphis radiate outward, the growth is swallowing rural land that swaddles the graves. State archaeologist Nick Fielder estimates that about 100 family cemeteries fall in the path of development in Tennessee each year, about two times as many as a decade ago. Under state law, there's nothing sacred about burial sites. "You get to rest in peace -- unless someone wants to do something where you rest," he said.

KANSAS

From *CAPPER'S*, April, 2006: "Kansas man uses divining rods to search for unmarked graves," by Tim Unruh, *The Salina Journal*. Pictured is Lee Modrow who is on a mission to locate all of the unmarked graves located in the Lincoln Cemetery. He uses the 5,000-year-old practice of divining, witching, or dowsing to find the graves. He uses two 36-inch welding rods with bent handles. He claims that each time he walks over a grave, the rods swing outward. At the grave of a child, only one of the rods will swing out. The rods will swing one way for a woman and the other way for a man. His explanation: That the rods react to the magnetic field and minerals in the bones of the corpses. All this is doubted by Randy Thies, an archaeologist for the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka. Thies said that of the 63 purported gravesites found by various witchers he has checked out, all produced negative results.

OREGON

From the *Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association Ledger*, Volume 14, Issue 3: "Rejected rejoin sundered section of cemetery," by Lynne Pagan. The Chinese, the insane, the poor, the women: the despised and rejected of their time, shunted aside into one corner of the cemetery, left behind when others were honored, bulldozed over for progress; these are the ones whose final presence and last remains finally sealed the return of the Chinese Cemetery section to Lone Fir Cemetery. In 2004, when overwhelming protest and resistance stopped Multnomah County from summarily selling cemetery land from Lone Fir to developers, a task force was formed to assess options. In January 2005, official archeological digging was commenced and artifact and human remains were found. The diggings were then re-buried and the area is now slated to become the newest corner entrance to the cemetery.

www.oregoncemeteries.org