

# GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES  
21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535 www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/  
VOL. 11 ISSUE #3 July, 2006

It is always preferable to preserve old stone markers as long as possible over buying new "modern" ones. These old markers are the ones that our pioneer ancestors chose to have on their graves and they cannot really be replaced. The historical significance of old gravestones is considerable. Besides being the markers that our ancestors chose and that they are sacred to their memories, there are several reasons to preserve and maintain them.

It is considerably less expensive to repair stones and bases than it is to purchase new markers. If done properly, old stone markers can last a good many additional years.

The symbolism, stone composition, and stone carver's identity on old stones represents the historical time in which our ancestors lived. It indicates the ethnic groups to which they belonged, the affluence of the times, the sacrifice the purchasers of the stone made to attain them, and a record of their existence.

A "new" marker installed among old ones in a cemetery may appear inappropriate and detracts from the serenity of a historical burial site.

If there is no alternative other than purchasing a new marker for a pioneer grave, the following suggestions are made:

The old markers should be buried behind the old one. This will preserve whatever it left of the old marker better than if left to the elements. This includes foot stones. Often foot stones can be placed back to back behind the new stone. Burying an old stone or placing it behind a new stone will not impede mowing or maintenance of the grave. Never dispose of old markers by throwing them in a ditch, dump, or in an old building. Doing so has resulted in much confusion and speculation when they are later discovered, plus it is disrespectful. Donating the old stone to a historical society is not advisable, as most societies do not have the space or facilities to display them.

If a new marker is purchased, a note should be inserted into the burial/cemetery records of the family and any local genealogical or historical societies noting the date and circumstances under which a new stone was purchased and what happened to the old stone. A photo of the old stone should accompany the notation. The name and contact information of the monument dealer

from whom the new stone was purchased should be included in the records.

Every attempt should be made to replicate the old stone or, at least, purchase a marker that is in historical agreement with the time in which the deceased lived.

Adding a relatively inexpensive computer-etched man-made stone (such as corion) containing genealogical information to the grave has been successfully done in pioneer cemeteries. Much information can be engraved on a small stone (4" X 6" usually) and can often be attached to the back of an unreadable stone or installed behind the stone. Corion has proven to be impervious to the extreme conditions and changes in Midwest weather.

It is commendable that descendants wish to preserve the identity of their ancestors and the locations of their burial places. However, out of respect for their ancestors' life styles and preferences, old markers should be preserved if at all possible.

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will meet on October 14, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. at the Pinicon Restaurant in New Hampton, Iowa in Chickasaw County. Take Exit 201 off the Hwy 63 bypass west of New Hampton. At the stop sign go east 1 mile. At the next stop sign, take a left (north) and go about 1 mile. The Pinicon is on the left. A social time will precede the meeting. A visit to one or more restored pioneer cemeteries in Chickasaw County will follow lunch. Priscilla Riesner will demonstrate her method of filling in the gaps on broken stones. Lunch is on your own at the Pinicon Restaurant. The South Gate Motel is next to the Pinicon (1-800-728-4145 or 1-641-394-4145). There is a new Super 8 (1-641-394-3838 or 1-800-800-8000). Contact Julie Eckenrod for more information. Telephone: 641-394-3967 (home) 641-330-0886 (cell) E-mail: [jjeck@myclearwave.net](mailto:jjeck@myclearwave.net) or Fred Reisner at 563-237-6266

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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**

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  
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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  
July 8, 2006**

President Pat Shaw called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. at the Mutchler Recreation Center in Bloomfield, Iowa. The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Moved by Mike Magee that the minutes of the April 8, 2006 meeting be approved. Seconded by Frieda Davis. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was presented illustrating a balance of \$10,615.97, consisting of \$6,852.58 in the working account and \$3,763.39 in the Reserve account.

**Neglected Cemeteries Reporting Form:** Pat Shaw reported that a committee has been appointed to draft a form for reporting neglected cemeteries. Members of the committee are Brian Hoffman, Tony Bengston, and Larry Davis.

**2006 SAPIC Cemetery Conference:** Pat Shaw called on Larry Davis to report on the April 2006 conference. Davis reported that 65 attended and the financial summary shows a \$488 profit. There was some discussion in regard to the feasibility of having another conference in 2007. Pat Shaw asked members to respond to Larry Davis on their thoughts and the results reported at the October meeting.

**Future Meetings:** Pat Shaw reported that an invitation had been received from Chickasaw county to host the October 2006 SAPIC meeting. Moved by Mike Magee that SAPIC meet in Chickasaw county for its October 14, 2006 meeting. Seconded by Frieda Davis. Motion carried.

**Priorities for 2007:** Pat Shaw indicated she had received correspondence from a source that was reporting several instances of cemetery stones and art theft. Members were urged to monitor sale bills, E-bay, Flea markets, etc and report any indication of theft of these items.

**Awards:** State Representative Kurt Swain was recognized and presented a certificate from SAPIC showing appreciation for his support for the recent legislation involving access to pioneer cemeteries.

**Robert Carter Award:** The Hoffman Family, ( Carol Willis, and Bryon) were presented the Robert Carter Award.

**Miscellaneous:** Beverly Bethune presented a program on Moses Root who was a stone carver in southeastern Iowa.

Moved by Molly Beason that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was seconded and passed. The Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Larry D. Davis  
Secretary

Do you have new ideas and or suggestions for the preservation of Iowa's historic burying grounds? If so, please consider serving as an officer or board member of SAPIC. Contact Carol Hoffman, chairperson of the committee to compile a slate of officers and board members for 2007. Address: 505 W. Chestnut, Bloomfield, IA 52537. Telephone: 641-664-2852. E-mail: wilcar@netins.net

*STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES*

Treasurer's Report for 2nd Quarter - 1 April thru 30 June 2006

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2006, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$6765.67

Income

Dues	235.00
Conference Registration	428.00
Donations	11.00
Interest 4/30/06	3.26
Interest 5/31/06	4.45
Interest 6/30/06	<u>6.54</u>

Total Income \$ 688.25

Expense

Ck #183 - Prairie Learning Center - conf. rent	100.00
Ck #184 - Georgio's - conf. lunch	350.00
Ck #185 - Bill Whittaker - conf. mileage	87.31
Ck #186 - Larry Davis - conf. printing	7.63
Ck #187 - Pat Shaw - Newsletter Expense	<u>56.40</u>

Total Expense \$ 601.34

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2006 \$6852.58

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Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2006, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$3763.39

Income - (none to report this quarter)

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2006 \$3763.39

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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 June 2006 \$10615.97

Conference Income \$1,154.00 (registrations)

Conference Expense

Ck #181 - Pat Shaw	\$120.13	mailing
Ck #183 - Prairie Learning Center	\$100.00	room rent
Ck #184 - Georgio's	\$350.00	lunch
Ck #185 - Bill Whittaker	\$ 87.31	mileage
Ck #186 - Larry Davis	<u>\$ 7.63</u>	printing
Total Expense	\$665.07	
Balance - Income	\$488.93	

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



From the *Iowa Historian*, a monthly publication of the State Historical Society of Iowa.  
<http://www.iowahistory.org/>

"SAPIC Aims to Save Iowa's Historic Cemeteries," by Matt Hauge

For nearly a decade, SAPIC, or the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, has worked alongside various State of Iowa officials to protect and preserve Iowa's cemeteries.

The group provides support and coordination to restoration efforts at pioneer cemeteries, which are scattered across the state, said SAPIC president Pat Shaw.

"I usually say there's an average of 30-35 (pioneer cemeteries) in each county," Shaw said. "They turn up all the time."

A pioneer cemetery is a site where six or fewer burials have taken place in the last 50 years.

To protect these sites, the group has lobbied legislators to make the preservation of cemeteries a priority. Shortly after its founding in 1996, the group won support for legislation that allows each Iowa county to form a commission to oversee and restore its pioneer cemeteries -- a step Shaw said roughly a quarter of Iowa counties have taken.

And, this spring, the group supported legislation that passed the Iowa legislature and should ensure easier access to landlocked cemeteries -- sites where volunteers had to cross landowners' property to reach the gravesites.

Shaw said occasional difficulties with landowners allowing access prompted the push for the legislation.

"Landowners become more cooperative when they realize that SAPIC volunteers aren't the kind of people who vandalize," she said.

Specifically, Shaw said, the legislation allows the county's board of supervisors or township's trustees to appoint a specific local group as the official maintenance organization for the area's cemeteries. Under the new law, the designated group would then be guaranteed access to the sites it maintains.

In the past, Shaw said, only direct descendants had this right.

Working for passage of the law made for an exciting legislative session, Shaw said.

"It flew through the senate but it got stopped in committee in the house --and we did not expect that," she said. After being added to a separate measure, she said, the cemetery legislation finally passed on the last day of the session.

The legislation will ensure that restoration projects performed by a number of groups across the state can continue unhindered.

"They're sort of quiet people who go out and do their thing," Shaw said of the restoration volunteers. "They don't usually get much fanfare."

She said that, often, retired individuals take on much of the task of preserving the sites.

"We're always looking for young, active, physically able people," she said.

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To subscribe to the *Iowa Historian* on-line, contact the Historical Society at the web site address above.

This is the language that is in the amendment to SF 2364 pertaining to cemeteries. Please disregard the amendment that was printed in the last issue of Grave News. A bill history follows.

70 19 a. A governmental subdivision having a cemetery, or a  
70 20 burial site that is not located within a dedicated cemetery,  
70 21 within its jurisdiction, for which preservation is not  
70 22 otherwise provided, shall preserve and protect the cemetery or  
70 23 burial site as necessary to restore or maintain its physical  
70 24 integrity as a cemetery or burial site. The governmental  
70 25 subdivision may enter into an a written agreement to delegate  
70 26 the responsibility for the preservation and protection of the  
70 27 cemetery or burial site to a the owner of the property on  
70 28 which the cemetery or burial site is located or to a public or  
70 29 private organization interested in historical preservation.  
70 30 The governmental subdivision shall not enter into an agreement  
70 31 with a public or private organization to preserve and protect  
70 32 the cemetery or burial site unless the property owner has been  
70 33 offered the opportunity to enter into such an agreement and  
70 34 has declined to do so.

70 35 b. A governmental subdivision is authorized to expend  
71 1 public funds, in any manner authorized by law, in connection  
71 2 with such a cemetery or burial site.

71 3 c. If a governmental subdivision proposes to enter into an  
71 4 agreement with a public or private organization pursuant to  
71 5 this subsection to preserve and protect a cemetery or burial  
71 6 site that is located on property owned by another person  
71 7 within the jurisdiction of the governmental subdivision, the  
71 8 proposed agreement shall be written, and the governmental  
71 9 subdivision shall provide written notice by ordinary mail of  
71 10 the proposed agreement to the property owner at least fourteen  
71 11 days prior to the date of the meeting at which such proposed  
71 12 agreement will be authorized. The notice shall include the  
71 13 location of the cemetery or burial site and a copy of the  
71 14 proposed agreement, and explain that the property owner is  
71 15 required to permit members of the public or private  
71 16 organization reasonable ingress and egress for the purposes of  
71 17 preserving and protecting the cemetery or burial site pursuant  
71 18 to the proposed agreement. The notice shall also include the  
71 19 date, time, and place of the meeting and a statement that the  
71 20 property owner has a right to attend the meeting and to  
71 21 comment regarding the proposed agreement.

71 22 d. Subject to chapter 670, a governmental subdivision that  
71 23 enters into an agreement with a public or private organization  
71 24 pursuant to this subsection is liable for any personal injury  
71 25 or property damage that occurs in connection with the  
71 26 preservation or protection of the cemetery or burial site or  
71 27 access to the cemetery or burial site by the governmental  
71 28 subdivision or the public or private organization.

71 29 For the purposes of this paragraph, "liable" means  
71 30 liability for every civil wrong which results in wrongful  
71 31 death or injury to a person or injury to property or injury to  
71 32 personal or property rights and includes but is not restricted  
71 33 to actions based upon negligence; error or omission; nuisance;  
71 34 breach of duty, whether statutory or other duty; or denial or  
71 35 impairment of any right under any constitutional provision,  
72 1 statute, or rule of law.

72 2 e. A property owner who is required to permit members of a  
72 3 public or private organization reasonable ingress and egress  
72 4 for the purpose of preserving or protecting a cemetery or  
72 5 burial site on that owner's property and who acts in good  
72 6 faith and in a reasonable manner pursuant to this subsection  
72 7 is not liable for any personal injury or property damage that  
72 8 occurs in connection with the preservation or protection of  
72 9 the cemetery or burial site or access to the cemetery or  
72 10 burial site.

72 11 f. For the purposes of this subsection, reasonable ingress  
72 12 and egress to a cemetery or burial site shall include the  
72 13 following:

72 14 (1) A member of a public or private organization that has  
72 15 entered into a written agreement with the governmental  
72 16 subdivision who desires to visit such a cemetery or burial  
72 17 site shall give the property owner at least ten days' written  
72 18 notice of the intended visit.

72 19 (2) If the property owner cannot provide reasonable access  
72 20 to the cemetery or burial site on the desired date, the  
72 21 property owner shall provide reasonable alternative dates when  
72 22 the property owner can provide access to the member.

72 23 (3) A property owner is not required to make any  
72 24 improvements to that person's property to satisfy the  
72 25 requirement to provide reasonable access to a cemetery or  
72 26 burial site pursuant to this subsection.

72 27 Sec. 124. NEW SECTION. 523I.317 DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC  
72 28 ACCESS.

72 29 A cemetery shall provide or permit public access to the  
72 30 cemetery, at reasonable times and subject to reasonable  
72 31 regulations, so that owners of interment rights and other  
72 32 members of the public have reasonable ingress and egress to  
72 33 the cemetery.

72 34 Sec. 125. Section 523I.508, subsection 4, Code Supplement  
72 35 2005, is amended to read as follows:

73 1 4. DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS. A township having one or  
73 2 more cemeteries under its control may designate, not up to  
73 3 exceed two, officials from each cemetery as delegates to  
73 4 attend meetings of cemetery officials, and certain expenses,  
73 5 including association dues, of the delegates not to exceed  
73 6 exceeding twenty-five dollars for each delegate, of the  
73 7 delegates including association dues, may be paid out of the  
73 8 cemetery fund of the township.

Web site describing different types of markers:

[http://www.vintageviews.org/vv-tl/pages/Cem\\_Monuments.htm#materials](http://www.vintageviews.org/vv-tl/pages/Cem_Monuments.htm#materials)

From the web site: <http://www.everlifememorials.com/headstones/cleaning-tombstones.htm>

Environmentally friendly tombstone cleaning -- for those of you who are interested in a more environmentally friendly approach to cleaning tombstones, there is a rather unusual method of using snails. That's right ,, **snails!** Snails are known to consume lichens, mold, fungus, and algae. Many of these growths are what cause tombstones to become "dirty" and in need of cleaning. This is for information only. SAPIC does not necessarily recommend this method.



## Bill History for SF 2364

By Commerce.

A bill for an act relating to various matters under the purview of the insurance division of the department of commerce including the securities and regulated industries bureau, insurance premium taxes, the uniform securities Act, insurance division procedures including fees and an appropriation, regulation of insurance companies and other entities including administrative penalties, motor vehicle service contracts, county and state mutual insurance associations, reciprocal or interinsurance insurers, consolidation, merger and reinsurance contracts, insurance holding company systems, and cemeteries. Effective 7-1-06.

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March 7, 2006	Introduced, placed on calendar. S.J. 425.
March 7, 2006	Committee report, approving bill. S.J. 429.
March 13, 2006	Passed Senate, ayes 50, nays none. S.J. 483.
March 13, 2006	Immediate message. S.J. 485.
March 13, 2006	Message from Senate. H.J. 616.
March 13, 2006	Read first time, referred to Commerce, Regulations & Labor. H.J. 633.
March 15, 2006	Subcommittee, Hoffman, Horbach, and Oldson. H.J. 733.
March 23, 2006	Committee report, recommending amendment and passage. H.J. 883.
March 23, 2006	Pursuant to Rule 31.7. H.J. 883.
March 23, 2006	Referred to Ways & Means. H.J. 883.
March 23, 2006	Committee amendment <u>H-8376</u> filed. H.J. 887.
March 27, 2006	Subcommittee, Kurtenbach, Quirk, and Tomenga. H.J. 907.
March 30, 2006	Committee report, recommending passage. H.J. 1051.
March 30, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8441</u> filed. H.J. 1052.
March 30, 2006	Placed on calendar under unfinished business. H.J. 1049.
April 4, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8467</u> filed. H.J. 1172.
April 5, 2006	Amendments <u>H-8504</u> and <u>H-8505</u> filed. H.J. 1190.
April 6, 2006	Committee amendment <u>H-8376</u> adopted. H.J. 1205.
April 6, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8441</u> out of order. H.J. 1205.
April 6, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8504</u> adopted. H.J. 1207.
April 6, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8467</u> as amended, adopted. H.J. 1207.
April 6, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8505</u> withdrawn. H.J. 1208.
April 6, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8513</u> filed. H.J. 1208.
April 6, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8513</u> out of order. H.J. 1208.
April 6, 2006	Deferred. H.J. 1208.
April 6, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8530</u> filed. H.J. 1244.
April 20, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8564</u> filed. H.J. 1354.
April 25, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8583</u> filed. H.J. 1400.



April 27, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8588</u> filed. H.J. 1410.
May 1, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8597</u> filed. H.J. 1445.
May 1, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8597</u> adopted. H.J. 1446.
May 1, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8530</u> adopted. H.J. 1447.
May 1, 2006	Amendments <u>H-8583</u> and <u>H-8588</u> out of order. H.J. 1447.
May 1, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8564</u> withdrawn. H.J. 1447.
May 1, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8591</u> filed. H.J. 1447.
May 1, 2006	Amendment <u>H-8591</u> withdrawn. H.J. 1447.
May 1, 2006	Passed House, ayes 93, nays none. H.J. 1447.
May 1, 2006	Immediate message. H.J. 1448.
May 2, 2006	Message from House, with amendment <u>S-5242</u> . S.J. 1018.
May 2, 2006	Senate concurred with <u>S-5242</u> . S.J. 1025.
May 2, 2006	Passed Senate, ayes 50, nays none. S.J. 1025.
May 2, 2006	Immediate message. S.J. 1026.
May 2, 2006	Message from Senate. H.J. 1527.
May 3, 2006	Secretary's report on correction in enrollment. S.J. 1096.
May 3, 2006	Reported correctly enrolled, signed by President and Speaker. S.J. 1096.
May 3, 2006	Sent to Governor. S.J. 1096.
May 24, 2006	Signed by Governor. S.J. 1098.

From the front page of the *Iowa Today* section of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 28, 2006, "Remember the pioneers," by Orlan Love. Several pictures in color accompany this extensive article: (1) The name and years of a deceased person are etched into the concrete on this tombstone at East Eden Cemetery southeast of Vinton in Benton County. The information was engraved on the opposite side of the stone, but had become barely legible. (2) Lee Blossom, mayor of Quasqueton, prepares to mow and clean up Pioneer Cemetery just west of town May 18. The one-acre site was used between 1856 and 1871 for 50 to 75 burials. By 1980, nearly all the headstones had been stolen and the site was overtaken by brush and trees. Blossom annually cleans up the cemetery before Memorial Day out of respect for the deceased. The stone (foreground) was the base of a stolen headstone. Flags mark the sites of known burial plots. (3) Emily Beers and Payton Bunge check out some old gravestones May 24 at the pioneer portion of Rose Hill Cemetery in Mechanicsville. Fifth grade students at North Cedar Elementary in Mechanicsville have been studying the history of their town. (4) Eastman Cemetery near McGregor features an arch fashioned by the industrial arts department of Clayton Ridge School in Guttenberg. It contains the grave of Emma Eastman, who achieved notoriety in the 19th century for her nine marriages.

Several members of SAPIC are quoted in this article that covers the better portions of two pages. Loren Horton, a co-founder of SAPIC, is quoted as saying, "We are talking about deceased people who settled the land and laid the foundation for our society." Comments by Steve Story, Pat Shaw, Myra Voss, Ron Harris, Joyce Wiese, LaVerta Langenberg, Laverne Lammers, Fred Phelps, and Kevin Lee are also included.

Orlan Love can be contacted by telephone at (319)934-3172 or by e-mail at: [orlan.love@gazettecommunications.com](mailto:orlan.love@gazettecommunications.com)

Copies of this article were contributed by several members and friends of SAPIC.

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN IOWA'S CEMETERIES?

Benton County: Frieda Davis, SAPIC board member from Vinton, sent copies of two articles that she submitted about Cemetery Appreciation Month in May. From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 23, 2006: "Preserve our cemeteries" and from *The Vinton Eagle*, "Cemetery Appreciation Month in Iowa in May." The news articles tell why cemeteries are not just burial grounds, but a record of a person's existence, a perpetual record of yesterday, a sanctuary of peace and quiet, and an outdoor historical museum.

Blackhawk County: Mike Magee, SAPIC board member from Waterloo, noticed that on June 4, 2006, Cornbelt Auctions in Waterloo listed a GAR grave marker for sale. Mike requested that the auction house owner be contacted to protest the sale, since the marker belonged on the grave of a Civil War veteran. State Cemetery Regulator, Dennis Britson, was contacted and cited two sections of the Cemetery Act that might apply: The first is Iowa Code section 5231.316(2) regarding disturbance of interment spaces. The second is Iowa Code section 5231.316(4) regarding confiscation and return of memorials. He asked that the state compliance officer, Doug Hodgson, gather information and contact the local police or sheriff to see if the memorial rightfully belongs on an interment space and, if so, to make arrangements for its return. The auction house owner, Don Shepard, withdrew the item before the sale. Thanks to Mike Magee for being alert and noticing this item. All SAPIC members and friends are urged to scan auction listings (including E-Bay, household and farm auctions), antique stores, and other businesses for possible sale of cemetery memorials and related items. Report them to local authorities or to Dennis Britson (address on page 2 of this newsletter.) Related stories of bronze markers being stolen and sold for salvage appears under Polk County, Iowa news and also Texas state news in this newsletter.

Mike was recently pleasantly surprised to find a note in a zip-lock bag attached to a grave marker that he was repairing in a cemetery in Blackhawk County. The grateful descendant who left the note was from South Carolina, but did stone repair in a state preserve in Georgia. Contact Mike (e-mail address on page 2 of this newsletter) for the address of the descendant's web site address showing the process of ground penetrating radar and cemetery restoration in Georgia.

Mike has provided several past news articles about cemeteries from his collection that will appear in the Buchanan, Floyd, and Jasper counties' news. More articles will be summarized in future issues of *Grave News*.

Bremer County: Frieda Davis contributed a news story titled, "Cemetery crypt gets face-lift," by Karen Heinselman, *Courier* Staff Writer, that appeared in the Cedar Valley news of the *Waterloo Courier*, May 23, 2006. Pictured is Neil Happel, owner of Happel Landscaping of Waverly, who oversaw a portion of the reconstruction effort of the crypt in Harlington Cemetery. Also pictured is the crypt itself that was constructed in 1887. Stone pieces that are more than 100 years old decorate the crypt. Until the 1960's, the crypt protected bodies of those who died during the winter. Burial in those days waited until spring. City officials recently decided to fix the historic landmark and plan to use it for education and tourism. It is believed to be one of only two of its kind left in the state.

Buchanan County: Mike Magee contributed this news story that appeared in the *Waterloo Courier* on July 17, 1988: "Cemetery ownership feud typifies growing problem," by Chris Hawes. The article was the first in a series titled, "The Dying Cemetery." Pictured are William Baldwin and Glenn Miller with the stone of Miller's great-grandfather, Justus Durham. It was the only stone remaining in the Kier-Union Cemetery near Littleton, which was bulldozed in May. The article states that thousands of cemeteries throughout Iowa have been forgotten and are disappearing. In a related article dated August 8, 1988, "Meeting fails to put cemetery issue to rest," by Chris Hawes, a stormy meeting between the owners of adjacent land who reportedly bulldozed the cemetery, descendants, and the Buchanan County Attorney was related. The problem was not resolved at that time.



Chickasaw County: Priscilla Reisner sent a draft of an article about Cemetery Appreciation Month on May 22 that she intended to submit to the Waterloo Courier. She mentioned the work of the Chickasaw County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and its relationship with SAPIC. The article also mentioned the joys of doing cemetery restoration and a plea for community service groups to help with this type of project. Later, Priscilla was somewhat dismayed with the way in which the wording was changed and some deleted, but at least she got some publicity! She also submitted an announcement about the rededication ceremony for the Cagley Cemetery that was held on May 29.

The *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 23, Number 2, Second Quarter, 2006 contains a news article about the Cagley Cemetery Dedication. The cemetery, located north of Nashua, now has a new fence, a flag pole, and two signs, one with the cemetery name and the other sign lists all the burials. A picture with the article shows all three of these improvements. Volunteers who are mentioned as having done significant amounts of work at the site are Marion Cagley, Fred and Priscilla Reisner, and Mike Magee. Jerry Tieskotter, CCCC President, thanked those who helped make the restoration a success. More than seventy people attended, including fifty Cagley descendants. The members and leader of the Ionia Rustlers 4-H Club were present and participated in the program. This group removed debris and repaired the lawn in 1996 and now provide maintenance. A history of his Cagley ancestors was given by Marion Cagley and a Roll Call of the deceased whose remains are interred in the cemetery was read, followed by Taps played by Jennifer Tupper.

Davis: A very successful quarterly SAPIC meeting was held in Bloomfield, Iowa on July 8 thanks to the efforts of the Davis County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and Willis, Carol, and Brian Hoffman. Beverly Bethune, SAPIC member from Ottumwa, gave a slide presentation about Moses Root, a stonecarver from Van Buren and Wapello counties, who carved many markers in area cemeteries and also carved the Iowa stone that is on the Washington monument in Washington, D.C. Prior to the meeting, a "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" certificate of appreciation was presented to State Representative, Curt Swaim, for his efforts on behalf of SAPIC in getting legislation passed that allows preservationists access to landlocked burial sites. A similar certificate will be presented to State Senator, Keith Krieman, at his office in Bloomfield at a later date. The meeting, attended by 40-50 SAPIC members and friends, was followed by a catered lunch. The proceeds from this lunch will be used to help fund the restoration of the historic Mars Hills log church that was vandalized during the winter. **During the meeting the Robert Carter Award was presented to Willis, Carol, and Brian Hoffman for their efforts in cemetery restoration, organizational skills in conducting meetings and fundraisers, and their tireless efforts in working with their legislators to get language into the Iowa Code beneficial to cemetery restorers. The Robert Carter Award is presented annually to persons who have done an outstanding job in cemetery preservation.** Most meeting attendees traveled to the Mars Hill Church in the afternoon to see a demonstration on making new bases for old slab-type stone markers by Dave and Debbie Truitt of Ottumwa. This dedicated couple have been working at cemetery restoration for nine years, mostly in the Roundpoint Cemetery east of Ottumwa. The event was covered by TV station KTVO and the *Ottumwa Courier* newspaper. A front page article, "A 'Grave' Day in Bloomfield," by Scott Niles appeared on the front page of the newspaper with a colored picture showing Debbie Truitt mixing concrete for a stone base and her husband, Dave, repairing the stone for which it will be used. Many positive comments were made by those in attendance about the facilities, programs, and lunch. Even the weather cooperated!

**Thanks so much, members of the Davis County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, for a great meeting!**

Dallas: By way of Phyllis Rothlauf in Des Moines County, an article was received that appeared in the *Des Moines Register*, Metro & Iowa Section, May 23, 2006, "Elderly assume care of rural cemetery," by Melissa Walker, *Register* Staff Writer. Pictured in color is Bob House, age 72, of Minburn as he trims grass and weeds near headstones at Panther Creek Cemetery. Volunteers, many of whom have family members buried at the site, took over responsibility for upkeep of the cemetery after Adams Township trustees decided they would no longer pay for it, unless ownership is turned over to them. Also pictured is Dick Stacy, 80, president of the Panther Creek Cemetery Association, who says that members likely will have to spend their own money to pay for upkeep of the cemetery. Descendants of those whose graves are located there are upset and are reluctant to turn over control and ownership to the township trustees. Many of them plan to be buried in family plots at the 152-year-old site and already have their stone markers installed. Trustees chairperson, Jim Turner, said that if the trustees controlled the cemetery, they would continue the tradition of providing free graves sites for residents.

Fayette: At the SAPIC meeting on July 8, board member Steve Story from Hawkeye provided a print-out of the correct language in SF 2364 that is now part of the Iowa Code that will permit preservationists access to landlocked pioneer burial sites. Steve also included a bill history for members present. Steve and Donna plan to present a "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" certificate of appreciation to State Representative David Lalk of West Union who was instrumental in the successful passage of the bill. The certificate will be presented on September 6 at the next meeting of the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. The county supervisors and other pioneer cemetery friends will be invited to the presentation.

Floyd: From the files of Mike Magee, a news article, "Workers unearthing information at cemeteries," by John O'Conner that was printed in the *Waterloo Courier* on September 15, 1986, was received. The article centers mostly on the efforts of Leona Montag, who is collecting genealogical data from cemeteries in Floyd and Mitchell counties. She, along with members of the historical and genealogical societies and the DAR, plan to eventually collect information from nine counties surrounding Cerro Gordo County. They were currently working in the Rudd Cemetery, one of 15 or 16 graveyards in Floyd County. Montag did not believe that vandalism of tombstones was a serious problem in northeast Iowa at that time, but did mention that stolen stones were in demand in New York City for home decorations, such as coffee tables. Books containing the collected information will be printed and sold for use by family history buffs.

Jasper: A news article from the *Des Moines Register*, February 17, 1986, "Descendants protest cemetery's use as a cornfield," by Steve Ballard, was contributed by Mike Magee. One hundred and ten years after Jacob Dearing, an early settler of Jasper County, was buried in a cemetery that he established south of Newton near the tiny community of Galesburg, his descendants are asking the Iowa Supreme Court to order a farmer to quit planting crops on the ground and to make Elk Creek Township restore the cemetery. The owner, Elvin Van Wyk, decided to remove the stone markers because he did not like having to swing his tractor around a fence erected in 1963 surrounding the Dearing graves. Said Van Wyk, "I don't think it's as bad to grow corn on it as it is to let the groundhogs eat it. Besides, there's a lot of abandoned cemeteries that are being farmed in Iowa."

Note: Jasper County was one of the first Iowa counties to create a pioneer cemetery commission and this incident may have prompted the movement to preserve these historic and sacred sites in Iowa.



Jones: From the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*, June, 2006, "Eagle Scout Inspired by AJE Story," by Susan Yario. Pictured is 15-year-old Ryan Husmann with the new gravestone of Garret Slingerland, a Union veteran of the Civil War whose grave was never marked. Ryan has been working on replacing veterans' headstones and flag holders at Riverside Cemetery in Anamosa as an Eagle Scout project. He was inspired by a news article written last May, 2005 and has now spent 145 hours of research and labor into the project. He has researched each of the six Civil War veterans who had never had headstones: Andrew Bennett, Jeremiah K. Bishop, Isaac Henry Brasted, Oliver Brundidge, Amster Cook, and Garret Slingerland. He has made an effort to locate descendants of each and to find out more of their personal history. The culmination of the project will be a dedication ceremony for the graves of the six Civil War veterans.

LaVerta Langenberg writes in an e-mail message dated July 2 that the Spear-Graft Cemetery has been completed, except for one stone that needs a support. One more 16-ft. cattle panel is needed on the north and the fence will be done.

Lee: From the *Daily Gate City News*, April 27, 2006, "Pioneer cemeteries pay homage to Civil War," by Terry Altheide. The 19th reenactment of the Battle of Pea Ridge held each spring in Keokuk inspired Terry to write of the final resting places of some of the veterans of the Civil War. Several graves are located in Iowa's only meticulously maintained National Cemetery in Keokuk, but Terry laments that many are in abandoned and forgotten places and are in deplorable condition. One such memorial stone is located in the Pitman Cemetery east of West Point and is for Archibald Cooley who was killed at the Battle of Shiloh. His burial site is in the National Cemetery in Pittsburgh Landing, Tennessee. Another grave is that of Charles Postlethwait, a soldier who served in Company H of the 21st Missouri Infantry, located at the Blacksmith Cemetery west of West Point. The grave of Augustus Hoffmeister, a Civil War surgeon, is located in Ft. Madison in the Hoffmeister Cemetery. This cemetery is unique in that the 10 graves there are covered by huge, concrete slabs. Terry lists several other cemeteries in Lee County that hold the remains of veterans and he implores his readers to join in an effort to bring dignity and honor to their burial sites.

From the *Daily Gate City News*, May 4, 2006: "Volunteers help fix grave fit for a queen," by Jason Crooks. Pictured are Roger Chatfield, Donna Riddle, and Vic Riddle as they mix cement to fix the eroding cement base of the Kalawequois headstone in Linger Longer Park in Montrose. Also pictured is a close-up of the finished product, the monument on which is engraved, "GRAVE OF KALAWEQUOIS 1887 PRINCESS OF SAC AND FOX INDIAN TRIBE ERECTED BY JEAN ESPY CHAPTER D.A.R. FORT MADISON, IOWA" The princess died in 1837 of consumption and was buried in Montrose. The marker was placed in 1923, but Mary Sue Chatfield of Montrose and others noticed that it was beginning to crumble, so a project to repair it was started. Dee Hagmeier paid for the concrete in memory of her late husband.

From the *Daily Gate City News*, May 25, 2006, Terry Altheide writes in his column titled, "Military chaplains have played important role," about the bravery and often unheralded exploits of military chaplains. He tells of two chaplains that are buried in Keokuk: Laurence O'Conner in Oakland Cemetery and Frank Roper in the National Cemetery. Little is known of either of these men and Terry asks for anyone who knows of them to share information.

From the *Des Moines Register*, May 28, 2006, "A Soldier's true color -- Iowa cemetery honors discovery that Revolutionary War fighter was black." by Juli Probasco-Sowers, *Register* Staff Writer. Pictured in color is Gerome Crayton, 37, of Keokuk who portrayed Cato Mead, who fought in the Revolutionary War and was later buried near Montrose. Mead's grave was featured in a cemetery walk on Memorial Day weekend.

One of the 41 Revolutionary War soldiers who died or were buried in Iowa, Mead may be the only black Revolutionary War soldier buried west of the Mississippi River, according to Maurice Barboza, founder of a Washington, D.C. based organization dedicated to erecting a monument to the more than 5,000 blacks who fought in the War for Independence. Residents of Montrose have known for years that the area was the final resting place for a Revolutionary War soldier, but only discovered last fall that he was a "freed man of color." Crayton, who portrays Mead, says he identifies with him in that he is also "looking for peace" in southeastern Iowa.

The summer issue 2006 of *Preserving Our Past*, newsletter of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, salutes and honors the thousands of pioneering fathers who died before their time, struggling to turn a piece of land into a home, oftentimes failing and deserting loved ones, thrusting boys into manhood at an early age. No matter the reason, the blood, sweat and tears of our early pioneering men needs to be remembered and honored. Also included in the newsletter is a biographical sketch of William Washington Jones, Jr., a Civil War veteran, an obituary of Mary Alma Kay who documented many Lee County cemeteries, and a spotlight of Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association member, Bob Moore.

Members and friends of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, as well as descendants of the Blacksmith family, gathered on June 24, 2006 at the Blacksmith Cemetery in Franklin Township for a "Pioneer Families Day." The cemetery is on the farm of Kenneth Juhl, about three fourths of a mile back in the field. It was fenced, but one side was down and cattle were running through it in 1970. In 2006, the LCPCA cleaned and fenced the site and, in the process, discovered another grave -- HELM Hattie, daughter of W.O. & M. E., died 17 Apr 1870, aged 4y 10m 17d (born 31 May 1865). During the ceremony, LCPCA member, Susan Alarie, placed a wreath on Hattie's grave. Other persons participating in the event were Terry Altheide, Rev. Barb Krueger of the United Methodist Church in Donnellson, Pat Shaw of SAPIC, and Laverna Moore who presented a bouquet of flowers to landowner, Lola Juhl.

Marshall: Sharon Sturek continues in her quest to get the Price Cemetery in Marshall County fenced to protect it from encroachment by farming operations. In a letter dated June 7, 2006 from Doug Hodgson of the Iowa Securities & Regulated Industries Bureau, several actions and compromises are outlined in a proposal to achieve this goal. Descendants, Sharon Sturek and Jerry Hale have agreed to the terms in which they would be required to bear part of the cost of the fence. Landowner, Gary Buck and Eden township trustees would also share in the cost. It was also suggested that the township purchase a sign for the cemetery. However, the trustees have indicated that they have no funds and efforts to move forward with the project have again stalled.

Monroe: From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 28, 2006: "Hocking gets back on map -- Monroe County community of Hocking no longer ignored by IDOT," by Helen Hannan, *Courier* Correspondent. Pictured is Ernest Corso standing next to the sign he erected along Highway 5 promoting the small community of Hocking. Corso has been working hard to have Hocking reinstated on the Iowa Department of Transportation's road map. Corso's request was approved in March and the town can now be found on IDOT's 2006 road map. Requirements to be recognized by the IDOT include a population of 25 people, church, school, park, community activities, business, or a **cemetery**. Corso credits George Frye and Dean Stocker with help in providing help in the existence of the Manley Cemetery which he believes was a big factor in his success. Frye provided a diary showing dates of death and place of burial of the three Matthew and Orca Manley children. Stocker located the graves by witching a brushy area in Hocking. Ann Militech recalled the tiny cemetery near her childhood home.

Polk: From the *Des Moines Register*, June 23, 2006: "Thieves sell cemetery markers for scrap." by Tom Alex. Des Moines Police Detective William Boggs is shown with a display of cemetery markers recently turned in at American Scrap Metal. The unidentified man who sold the markers as scrap was paid \$22. Boggs is trying to find out which cemetery is missing the markers. High scrap metal prices have driving thieves to steal almost anything metal, including flag holders and markers from cemeteries. American Scrap Metal became suspicious about a box full of cemetery items and contacted police. Woodland Cemetery workers in Des Moines have noticed markers disappearing. Anyone with information should contact police at 515-283-4864. A news story about a similar problem is printed in the Texas news in the "Out of Iowa" section of this newsletter.

"Unearthed pioneer grave held remains of 1 person." DES MOINES -- one person was buried at a pioneer grave site that was unearthed late last week at a West Des Moines construction site, state archaeologists said Tuesday. "Sometimes in situations like this, burials are removed and then reburied in another located," said Shirley Schermer of the state archaeologist's office. No decision has been made.

-- no date or newspaper source available

Scott: From *The Des Moines Register*, July 14, 2006 and the *Ottumwa Courier*, Aug. 14, 2006: "Groundhogs robbing graves of some bones," by Brian A. Hernandez, *Register* Staff Writer. Pictured is a groundhog peeking out from its burrow at the Davenport City Cemetery in Davenport July 7. Groundhogs have been digging tunnels, compromising headstones and scattering bone fragments. As of Thursday, 15 have been trapped in the cemetery. The problem surfaced over the July 4 weekend when a visitor to the cemetery found human bone fragments on a mound of dirt next to a groundhog hole, officials said. The bones were reburied.

Story: The Huxley Historical Society recently assumed the project of cleaning up and helping preserve the Ballard Grove Cemetery. The cemetery is located .7 mile east of the Huxley City Maintenance Building on Oak Boulevard and is the burial site of the first two European-American settlers in Story County, Simon Ballard who died around 1850 and Adam Ballard who died June 25, 1860. The Ballard Grove Cemetery had fallen into a state of disrepair with overgrowth and trees since the Ballard descendants had erected a memorial headstone at the site in 2003. The project's brainchild and Vice President of HHS, Don Duncan, with the help of Ron Krull, Mike Orgler and Craig Henry mowed, cleared downed limbs and brush, both in the cemetery's enclosure and the pathway to it. SAPIC member Loren Larson of Ames and a Ballard descendant said about the project, "For the family, I want to thank all of you for the work already done." More information about the cemetery and the Society can be found at:  
[www.huxcomm.net/web/huxleyhistory/](http://www.huxcomm.net/web/huxleyhistory/)

Van Buren: From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 8, 2006: "Gravestone restoration continues," by Don Aldrich. Pictured are members of the Gravestone Restoration Crew, Dick Elliott, Shirley Aldrich, Dorothy Calhoun, Carol Gould, Tom Gould, and Jim Yeager. Don Aldrich is the chairman of the work crew. On June 2, time was spent at Oaks-Russell Cemetery in Milton repairing 7 freshly-broken stones that were first repaired by the group four years ago. This time, a moisture drainage basin was dug and the gravestone bases were reconstructed, a procedure that will allow the stones to remain standing much longer.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 15, 2006, Mt. Sterling News by Jo Hamlett. Jo tells about taking his 5-year old "Buddy Pal Friend," Jenna Stiles on a historical jaunt to the Mt. Moriah Cemetery. They saw Howard Hughes's grandparents' graves, also



Smith Brookheart's grandparents' graves. Smith Brookheart was a U.S. Senator from Iowa from 1922-1933. His parents' farm was west of Mt. Sterling on High Street. Several Brookheart children are listed in a school registry book dated 1898-1902 for the Valley School District. Senator Brookheart was a resident of Washington when elected. Brookheart studied law at Keosauqua and married Jane Hearn of Keosauqua. Jenna didn't appreciate the history lesson but she found two big blacksnakes and one snakeskin. The cemetery visit was a success.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 29, 2006: "Cemetery Restoration," by Don Aldrich. Accompanying the news article are before and after pictures of the Wright-Coleman Cemetery that is located atop a bluff just northwest of the Des Moines River Bridge at Farmington. Denise Wallingford contacted Don in 2004 and volunteered to restore the burial site. Denise, Gary, and Hunter Wallingford have removed trees and debris, probed for additional stones, repaired broken gravestones, and have taken pictures to record their progress.

Wapello: From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 27, 2006: "Remember When," by Sue Parrish. Pictured are members of the Pauline Cushman Tent No. 4, Daughters of Union Veterans as they gathered in 1928 with seven remaining fathers and a small crowd for the unveiling of a plaque placed in a boulder in Hamilton Park. The plaque read as follows: "Dedicated to the Union Veterans by Their Daughters." Hamilton Park is now situated in a long forgotten, overgrown ravine, and often identified as in an "all-natural" state. The park was named for Civil War veteran, Major Augustus H. Hamilton who walked 600 miles after escaping from the Confederate Prison in Tyler, Texas. Pauline Cushman was an actress on the New York stage and Union sympathizer who became a Union spy by dressing as a Confederate soldier.

Washington: From the *Riverside Current*, June 1, 2006 and the *Washington Journal*, May 26, 2006: "Finding Grave of 19-year-old leads retired Army man to do three years of cemetery restoration," by Mary Zielinski. Pictured is Arlen Nickolan as he kneels near the grave of Florinda Lingo, his arm on her tombstone which he restored and re-set as part of his efforts to restore the Kupka Cemetery near his rural Riverside residence. Florinda's grave and others in the cemetery had vanished under decades of growth and neglect, as well as her memory until Arlen Nickolan arrived in 2005. "Having two daughters of my own, I thought it very sad that the only proof of Florinda's mortal existence, however brief, was a broken, otherwise lost and forgotten, partially buried piece of marble. Her gravesite wasn't even made a matter of record during the WPA survey." Arlen researched her life and found that she was married and had a son. He speculates that she died in childbirth. He cleaned the cemetery and has restored six gravesites so far. Arlen's late father-in-law, Gordon Denton, had a cross from St. Mary's Catholic Church erected at the eastern edge of the cemetery "as a nondenominational remembrance to all who were buried here" when the church was remodeled some years ago. Arlen would like to know more about the cemetery and its "residents" and wants to record both with the Washington County Historical Society. Arlen and his wife, Billie Lee, also a military retiree, are new members of SAPIC.

To obtain a copy of any of the news articles that have been summarized in this newsletter, contact Pat Shaw.



## Out of Iowa

**Arizona:** From the *Big Bug Canyon News*, May 24, 2006: "Dowser helps locate bodies in old cemeteries like BCC's (Black Canyon City) Memorial Park," by Bruce Colbert. While living temporarily in Arizona, Neal DuShane offered his expertise as a dowser to help locate unmarked graves to the Memorial Park and the Humboldt Historic Society. He has worked at Crown King, Vulture City, Humbug, Gillette, Tip Top, Copperopolis, Bradshaw City, and other cemeteries in Arizona. DuShane, who has done extensive cemetery restoration work in Mitchell County, Iowa, lives in Colorado.

**California:** *Great-Great-Grandpa Found at Golf Course "Raking the Ashes,"* by Nancy Simons Peterson (222-page paperback), is a research book of interest to anyone doing genealogical research in California and San Francisco. Following a trail of clues in the public records, it became clear that the author's earliest California forebear, a pioneer arriving in San Francisco in 1847, now rests with other early settlers under putting greens and fairways at Lincoln Park Municipal Golf Course. Just released, it is available from the California Genealogical Society at:  
<http://www.calgensoc.org/> Cost: \$19.95

**Idaho:** From the *Lewiston Tribune*, July 24, 2006, "Pioneer headstones missing in northern Idaho," The Associated Press. The search is on for the missing headstones of a couple who helped settle Oregon and northern Idaho in the mid-1800's. The stones of Robert Newell, who died in 1869, and his wife, Rebecca Newell, who died in 1867, were removed from Normal Hill Cemetery about three years ago for restoration. Nobody remembers who removed the stones or where he was from. The teacher of a class of gifted and talented students who are mapping the cemetery noticed that the stones were missing.

**Illinois:** From the *Daily Herald*, September 18, 1997, "Elgin Bluff City Boulevard Cemetery tour no quiet affair," by James Kimberly, *Daily Herald* Staff Writer. Mike Magee provided this article that tells of the tenth annual cemetery walk in Elgin, Illinois. Each year, the walk has grown in scope and popularity. One of the most beautiful monuments on the tour is the mausoleum of George M. Peck that contains a stained glass window in the back wall.

**Michigan:** The Flint, Michigan Genealogical Society has a plaque honoring a veteran of World War II and would like to find the grave or vault it belongs on. The society got the bronze plaque, which is about 5.5 by 8.5 inches, from the Davison Historical Society, which received it from the Davison VFW. The plaque reads, "Clyde N. Lehew, Tech 5 US Army, World War II, Feb. 1, 1920 - July 15, 1994, Purple Heart." The Society would like to give the plaque to a family member who could see that it is installed as intended.

**New York:** From the *Daily Herald*, September 30, 1997: "Prof probes path through death's door," by Mary Esch, Associated Press. Robert V. Wells,

professor of history and social sciences at Union College, has spent the last decade chronicling the "king of terrors" using the 300-year history of Schenectady. He chose this town not only because he lives there, but because it has evolved from a farming village to a major industrial center and a large influx of immigrants made for cultural diversity. There are more than 20 cemeteries to study, showing that life spans and causes of death changed as science revealed that illnesses were caused by germs and not the whim of God. The approach to death changed from a primarily religious and personal focus to a scientific and professional one. Epitaphs on stones and stone composition demonstrate evolving attitudes about death. Wells was able to obtain eight personal diaries that provided insights into attitudes and customs surrounding death from a variety of perspectives.

**Nevada:** From the *Des Moines Register*, May 28, 2006: "Soldier's family fights for Wiccan headstone," by Scott Sonner, Associated Press. Pictured is Roberta Stewart whose husband, Patrick, was killed in Afghanistan last September. Sgt. Stewart was a follower of Wicca, whose members say their religion is based on respect for the earth, nature, and the cycle of the seasons. There is no emblem for this faith available from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Stewart's family and the state's head of veterans affairs are "diligently pursuing" the matter to include the symbol along with Stewart's name on the memorial wall in Fernley, Nevada.

**Texas:** From the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, June 14, 2006: "Precious memorials stolen from graves," by Deanna Boyd, *Star-Telegram* Writer. Bronze vases at cemeteries are among the items targeted by thieves as prices of metal rise. Pictured is Stanley Carr showing the spot where thieves stole a vase from the grave of his wife, Donna, in Mount Olivet Cemetery. SAPIC member Sidney Louis, who sent the article, felt that a proposed ordinance drawn up by police and local officials in Fort Worth might be effective in Iowa. Under the proposal, which is similar to one on the books in Dallas, metal recycling companies in the city would be required to log the seller's identification, the property being sold, and the identification of the seller's vehicle in which the property was brought. The companies would then be required to hold the merchandise for 72 hours. "The idea is that authorities could check the inventory every couple of days to see if they see something that sticks out to them as stolen," said assistant city attorney, Matthew Wallis. It's already against the law in Texas for scrapyards to buy bronze cemetery vases, receptacles or statues from a person other than the manufacturer or fabricator unless they have a bill of sale.

**Virginia:** King George County Historical Society, P.O. Box 424, King George, VA 22485, recently published *King George County, Virginia Cemeteries -- Volume II Private Cemeteries*. It is available at a cost of \$34.50. *Volume I Church Cemeteries* also is available at a cost of \$35 postpaid. The society's web site has details and an order form at:  
<http://www.kghistory.org/>

## GOALS OF OUR ORGANIZATION

To identify all cemeteries in Iowa

To take such measures as are necessary, possible, and reasonable to protect these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them from danger from natural causes and from human encroachment.

To provide guidance and educational materials for use by the people entrusted with the preservation of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.

To compile and distribute information about the proper maintenance techniques for these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.

To provide advice and information to legislative bodies empowered to pass legislation creating a legal framework for the protection, the preservation, and the maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.

To act as a monitor for the administrative and management personnel of these cemeteries, to ensure that the legal measures for the protection, preservation, and maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them are enforced.

## SAPIC HISTORY

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) was formed in 1996 as a result of legislation that allowed for each of Iowa's ninety-nine counties to create a County Cemetery Commission. The focus of these Commissions was to rescue unintended pioneer graves and cemeteries and to take responsibility for the upkeep of such sites.

\*\*\*\*\*

**EACH YEAR, THE MONTH OF  
MAY IS PROCLAIMED  
"CEMETERY APPRECIATION  
MONTH BY THE GOVERNOR  
OF THE STATE OF IOWA.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Meetings

*Meetings are held on the second Saturdays of January, April and July. The last meeting of the year is held in conjunction with the Iowa Genealogical Society's Annual Conference in October. Meetings are held in various locations in the state of Iowa. Places are announced in the quarterly newsletters.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in the restoration and maintenance of pioneer cemeteries in Iowa.

Membership entitles each member a subscription to the quarterly newsletter and rights to hold office and vote at meetings.

\*\*\*\*\*

## QUESTIONS?

Phone 319-293-3899

E-mail: patshaw@netins.net

Visit our web site at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/>



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

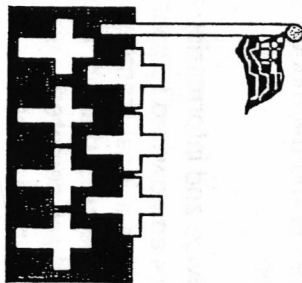
Donation or Memorial \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (List name of honoree, if desired) \_\_\_\_\_

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

State Association for the  
Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries  
21813 170th St.  
Birmingham, IA 52535-8045

Dedicated to the Protection,  
Preservation & Maintenance of  
Pioneer Burial Sites in the Great  
State of Iowa

21813 170th St.  
Birmingham, Iowa 52535-8045



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(தரதரத)