

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 #4

October, 2006

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) will meet on January 13, 2007 at the Urbandale Public Library at 10:00 a.m. (Des Moines area). Take the 86th St. Exit off of Interstate 80 which is the next one west of Merle Hay Exit. Turn south as you exit and travel south on 86th St. across Meredith Drive and Douglas Avenue. Turn right at the next stop light. The Urbandale Library is located in the complex of buildings on the corner. For more information, contact Larry Davis. Telephone: 515-277-4917. E-mail: LD2mstone@aol.com

Holiday
wishes for

Greetings and best
2007!



Remember to pay your dues for 2007, unless you are a lifetime member. A membership application with details is included in this newsletter. SAPIC will be offering a limited number of grants for cemetery restoration this spring. An application form is included in this issue of Grave News.

SAPIC member, Sidney Louis, has generously shared several documents with us that may be copied and sent to SAPIC members upon request: (1) a report from the Office of the State Archaeologist on ground penetrating

radar that was conducted at the Schlicht Cemetery in Boone County on September 29, (2) Cemetery Manager Employment Contract, (3) Guidelines for selecting a cemetery manager, (4) Inspection Report, (5) Maintenance Check List, (6) Access Easement suggestions, (7) Forming a nonprofit cemetery association. It is Mr. Louis's wish that by providing this detailed information, others may be spared some of the legal hassles and expense that he incurred in his goal to insure the preservation of his family cemetery. If you wish to obtain copies of any of these documents for the cost of copying and postage, contact Pat Shaw.

Our word "coffin" comes from the Greek "kophinos", meaning "basket." It was in baskets woven of plaited twigs that ancient Sumerians (about 4000 B.C.) interred their dead. It was fear of the deceased that accounted for the origin of coffins. In northern Europe drastic measures were taken to prevent the dead from haunting the living. Often a dead man's body was bound and the feet and head removed. En route to the gravesite a circuitous course was taken so he couldn't retrace the path home. In some cultures the dead were removed, not through their home's front door, but by a hole cut in the wall and closed up afterward. Burial six feet underground was viewed as a good precaution, but entombment first in a wooden coffin was even safer. Nailing down the lid afforded extra protection. Not only were many coffins secured with numerous nails (far too many, archaeologists contend, than needed to keep the lid from coming off), but after the coffin (continued on page 2)

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

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mollyb@iowatelecom.net 641-484-6061

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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

Note: Newly elected officers and board members will assume their duties January 1, 2007.

**State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries
Board Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2006**

President Pat Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. at the Pinicon Restaurant in New Hampton, Iowa. The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Moved by Julie Eckenrod the minutes of the July 8, 2006 meeting be approved as read. Seconded by Carol Hoffman. Motion carried. The Treasurer's Report was presented, illustrating a balance of \$10,639.22, consisting of \$6,875.83 in the working account and \$3,763.39 in the Reserve account. Moved by Frieda Davis that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded by Pricilla Reisner. Motion carried. Valerie Ogren reported membership now stands at 146.

Cemetery Reporting Form: Tony Bengston presented a draft form for reporting neglected cemeteries. Bengston noted that the draft was based on a form previously designed by Brian Hoffman, and that a few more additions will be made before the final copy is presented.

Awards: President Pat Shaw reported that "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries Appreciation" certificates have been presented to some of the legislators that assisted in the passage of recent legislation relating to cemetery access, and a few more were yet to be recognized.

Non Profit Status: It was noted that the request for SAPIC non profit status was progressing, but final approval has not been received yet.

Nominating Committee Report: The Nominating Committee chaired by Carol Hoffman, presented the following slate of new officers and board members for 2007:

President.....	Pat Shaw
Vice President.....	Willis Hoffman
Secretary.....	Larry Davis
Treasurer.....	Valerie Ogren
Board Member.....	Tony Bengston
Board Member.....	Michael Magee

Moved by Richard Boroom that the slate of candidates for 2007 as presented by the Nominations Committee be accepted and that a unanimous ballot be cast for their election. Seconded by Frieda Davis. Motion carried.

The following persons remain on the Board until their terms expire:

Molly Beason
Frieda Davis
Julie A. Eckenrod
Marva Rowe
Jo Vernooy
Steve Story

Legislative Priorities: President Pat Shaw asked for topics that SAPIC should emphasize for 2007. After discussion, the following action was taken:

Moved by Richard Boroom that the legislative priority for 2007 be to strengthen the current laws relating to cemetery theft. Seconded by Gene Davis. Motion carried.

SAPIC Grants: Discussion was held in regard to offering grants again. It was noted the grant program was initiated in 2003 and when allocated funds were depleted, the program was temporarily discontinued. Moved by Frieda Davis that the grant program be re-activated for 2007, and that \$200.00 grants be made available to applicants but not to exceed a total of \$1,000.00. Seconded by Valerie Ogren. Motion carried.

It was noted by some that the grant selection committee give priority to Pioneer Cemetery Commissions and SAPIC members.

2007 Cemetery Conference: President Pat Shaw reported that if SAPIC wanted a conference in 2007, Larry Davis has consented to organize it. Moved by Mike Magee that a Cemetery Conference be held in 2007. The motion was seconded and carried.

Bulk Mailing Permit: Pat Shaw reported the bulk mailing permit is up for renewal and has increased to \$160.00. It was the general consensus to renew the permit.

Iowa Genealogical Society: Discussion was held on the possibility of developing a working relationship with the Iowa Genealogical Society and the possibility of having SAPIC's October meeting with their conference in 2007. Judy McClure offered to pursue this possibility.

SAPIC Financial Investments: Valerie Ogren suggested SAPIC consider investing a portion of its finances into Certificates of Deposit. Moved by Valerie Ogren that \$1,000.00 be invested in a 7 year Certificate of Deposit and \$1,000 be invested in a 12 month Certificate of Deposit. Motion was seconded and passed.

January Meeting Site: The meeting site for SAPIC's January meeting was discussed. It was suggested that the January 13, 2007 meeting be held at the Urbandale Library in Urbandale, Iowa.. Larry Davis was asked to check on availability and make the arrangements.

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m..

Following the meeting, county reports were presented.

Larry D. Davis
Secretary

An essay titled "Grave Dowsing Reconsidered," by William E. Whittaker, Ph D RPA, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, is available from that office. The essay covers such topics as "What is Dowsing?, Real-World Tests of Dowsing, Tests of Dowsing in Iowa Archaeology, Discussion of Dowsing in Iowa, and What Makes the Wires Cross?" Mr. Whittaker's conclusion suggests that the wires cross when the dowser observes something of interest -- an example of the subconscious ideomotor effect. He also concludes that dowsing rods do not appear to be affected by the presence of large amounts of disturbed soil, but do make passable weathervanes. He says that dowsing rods do not appear to be attracted to coffin-like boxes or humans lying on the ground and probably not underground. He concludes that dowsing does not work and he recommends that cemetery caretakers stop using dowsing. For a copy of the report, contact the OSA at 319-384-0740.

An update from our lobbyist at the Statehouse: Democrats Take Control of Iowa House and Iowa Senate. George Eichorn and Danny Carroll, Republican incumbants who opposed our cemetery access bill, were defeated. David Lalk and David Miller, Republican incumbants who supported the bipartisan bill, were also defeated.

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 3rd Quarter - 1 July thru 30 September 2006

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2006, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$6852.58
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	60.00	
Interest 7/31/06	6.77	
Interest 8/31/06	6.80	
Interest 9/30/06	<u>6.36</u>	
Total Income	\$ 79.93	
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #188 - Pat Shaw - Newsletter Expense	<u>56.68</u>	
Total Expense	\$ 56.68	
Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2006		\$6875.83
<hr/>		
Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2006, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$3763.39
<u>Income</u> - (none to report this quarter)		
Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2006		\$3763.39
<hr/>		
I am keeping an accounting of the amount which had been held in savings and have added Life Memberships and Memorials to it; however, all the money is in one account at the bank.		
Combined Balance on Hand 30 September 2006		\$10639.22

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

10 October 2006

A presentation, "Cemeteries, Burial Places and the National Register of Historical Places: An Iowa Perspective," prepared by Douglas W. Jones, Archaeologist, State Historic Preservation Office, April 5, 2005, explores the different types of historical significance that cemeteries, burial places, and associated features in Iowa may have in regard to eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This presentation is based on the guidelines discussed in the Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places prepared by the National Park Service in 1992.

Contact information for additional questions about this topic:

Doug Jones, Archaeologist
515/281-4358
doug.jones@iowa.gov

BY-LAWS

- I. The name of this organization shall be the STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES.
- II. The goals of this organization shall be:
 - A. To identify all cemeteries in Iowa.
 - B. 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.
 - C. To provide guidance and educational materials for use by the people entrusted with the preservation of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
 - D. To compile and distribute information about the proper maintenance techniques for these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
 - E. 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.
 - F. To act as a monitor of 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.
 - G. To develop a system of determining who has the right to clean, repair, re-set, and otherwise work with the monuments in a cemetery.
 - H. To develop a system of determining who has the legal ownership of cemetery plots and monuments.
 - I. To encourage state and county cemetery commissions, work to help form them, and to cooperate with such organizations after they are formed.
- III. This organization shall be a membership organization. Membership is open to persons and organizations interested in the protection, preservation, maintenance, and use of cemeteries and the monuments contained in them. Organizational membership shall be considered one vote each for the purposes of voting in elections.
- IV. The Board of Trustees of this organization shall consist of no less than seven (7) and no more than thirteen (13) members. Officers and members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the general membership at a regularly scheduled meeting held during the fourth quarter of each calendar year. A quorum of the membership shall consist of those members present at the regularly scheduled public meeting, provided that at least ten (10) association members are present at said meeting.

Nominations may be made by a Nominating Committee, and from the floor of the meeting. Ballot may be by voice, by a show of hands, or by paper ballot. Voting may be for individuals or for a slate of candidates. Election shall be by a plurality vote of the membership present, eligible, and voting.

At the initial election to the Board of Trustees of this organization, all persons elected shall draw lots to determine the length of terms. At least three (3) persons shall be elected for a three (3) year term, at least three (3) persons shall be elected for a two (2) year term, and at least one (1) person shall be elected for a

one (1) year term. In the following elections, all terms shall be for three (3) years.

All persons elected to the Board of Trustees shall be members of the organization, and must be members in good standing during their entire terms of office.

The officers and Board of Trustees shall act as the Executive Committee of the organization, or may designate a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees to act as the Executive Committee for a specified period of time.

- V. The officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

The President and Vice President shall be elected annually for a term of one (1) year, and may serve no more than three (3) successive terms.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected every two (2) years for a term of two (2) years, and may serve no more than three (3) successive terms.

- VI. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees or on the roster of officers shall be filled by the Board of Trustees, or by a special meeting of the membership called for that purpose. It shall be the decision of the Executive Committee as to which method of filling vacancies shall be used at any given time. Any trustee or officer may be removed and replaced if the Executive Committee, with the concurrence of the full Board of Trustees, deem such trustee or officer incapacitated, or are otherwise unable to fulfill the assigned duties.

- VII. This organization shall hold four (4) general public quarterly meetings of each calendar year, in January, April, July, and October, unless otherwise changed by action of the Board of Trustees. Each meeting will be held on the second Saturday of the month, with the exception of the 4th quarterly meeting, which shall be held in conjunction with the Iowa Genealogical Society Conference. The entire membership shall be notified of the date and place of each meeting at least one (1) month prior to the date of the meeting. This notification shall be by mail. A notification of the meeting placed in the quarterly newsletter is acceptable, and fulfills this qualification.

This organization may hold as many additional general public meetings as seems to fit the goals and needs of the organization. Upon the request of no fewer than ten (10) members in good standing of the organization for a special meeting, such a special meeting shall be scheduled. Notification of the date and location of such a special meeting shall be by the same procedure as that used for a general meeting. A request for a special meeting must be made in writing.

- VIII. All proposed amendments to the documents of governance of this organization must be submitted in writing, and presented to the Board of Trustees prior to September 1 of the year in which they are to be considered. These proposed amendments will be placed on the agenda to be voted on at the annual meeting next after the September 1 when they are submitted to the Board of Trustees. Any member in good standing may prepare and submit amendments.

- IX. Individual officers and members of the Board of Trustees of this organization shall not be held personally liable for any financial obligations incurred by the organization itself, and they may not be sued individually for the debts of the organization.

Note: These By-Laws were revised by the membership on October 7, 2000, after hearing a reading of the proposed changes at the January, April, and July, 2000 meetings. Revisions may be viewed in the January, 2000 SAPIC newsletter, Grave News or by requesting a copy from Pat Shaw.

(Continued from Page One)
 was lowered into the ground, a large, heavy stone was placed atop the lid before soil was shoveled in. A larger stone topped off the closed grave, giving birth to the practice of the tombstone. Those were days when family and friends never ventured near their dead. Now, of course, relatives affectionately inscribe a family member's tombstone and respectfully visit the gravesite. (Source: Panati's Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things, by Charles Panati, 1987 (Harper & Row: New York).

-- Contributed by Carol Bottin, SAPIC member from Chickasaw County.

Written in an autograph book in 1932: *"When I am dead and in my grave, no more talking will I crave, but on my tombstone will be seen, here lies the bones of a talking machine."*

BUGLES ACROSS AMERICA will provide buglers to play "Taps" to honor any military veteran at his or her graveside services.

www.buglesacrossamerica.org

William D. Hall, Assistant State Director -- Iowa. K9Trax@mchsi.com Ph 563-243-0393

One of SAPIC's founders in 1996 and the person most responsible for getting legislation through to create pioneer cemetery commissions, Dean Gipple, now resides at the following address:

1203 E. Washington St. Apt. 331
 Washington, IA 52353-2176

Dean would enjoy hearing from his long-time friends who remember his tireless work and his passion to preserve Iowa's pioneer cemeteries.

A new widow requested the epitaph "Rest in Peace" for her husband's tombstone. When she later found he had left his fortune to his mistress, she attempted to get the engraver to change the carving. This was impossible; the words were chiseled and could not be changed.

"In the case," she said, "please add 'Till We Meet Again'". www.gcfl.net/latest.php

Books About Cemeteries (available from Amazon.com):

Cemetery History, Art, Architecture
 Penny Colman, *Corpses, Coffins, and Crypts: A History of Burial*
 Douglas Keister, *Going Out in Style: The Architecture of Eternity*
 Richard E. Meyer, ed., *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture*
 David Robinson and Joyce Carol Oates, *Saving Graces: Images of Women in European Cemeteries*
 David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*
 Eric J. Brock, *New Orleans Cemeteries*
 John Gary Brown, *Soul in the Stone: Cemetery Art from America's Heartland*
 Robert Florence, *City of the Dead: A Journey Through St. Louis Cemetery (New Orleans)*
 Robert Florence, *New Orleans Cemeteries: Life in the Cities of the Dead*
 Janet Greene, *Epitaphs to Remember: Remarkable Inscriptions from New England Gravestones*
 Leonard V. Huber, *New Orleans Architecture Vol III: The Cemeteries*
 Matt Hucke & Ursula Bielski, *Graveyards of Chicago: The People, History, Art, and Lore of Cook County Cemeteries*
 Carolee Inskeep, *Graveyard Shift: New York City Metropolitan Area Cemeteries*
 Jack Neely, *The Marble City: A Photograph Tour of Knoxville's Graveyards*
 Vicki Blum Vigil, *Cleveland Cemeteries*
 Bryan Woolley et al, *Final Destinations: A Travel Guide for Remarkable Cemeteries in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana*
Famous Graves
 Gregg Felsen, *Tombstones: 75 Famous People and Their Final Resting Places*
 Arthur S. Koykka, *Project Remember: A National Index of Gravesites of Notable Americans*
 Robin W. Stanton, ed., *The Tombstone Tourist: Musicians*
Researching Cemeteries
 Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, *Your Guide to Cemetery Research*
 John F. Llewellyn, *A Cemetery Should be Forever*
 Lynette Strangstad, *A Graveyard Preservation Primer*

 My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying. --Rodney Dangerfield

COUNTY REPORTS

APPANOOSE

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 28, 2006: "Haunted History Tour" A tour was held at the Oakland Cemetery on October 28 at 6:30 p.m. on a luminary lit pathway visiting the graves of people from Appanoose County's past, including Enfys McMurry, Brad McConville and others. This "Snapshot of the Past" was provided by the Appanoose County Historical Society. To view all of the "Snapshots" to date, visit website: www.appanoosehistory.org A 2007 Appanoose County Historical Calendar is available for \$10 from local businesses.

BENTON

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, November 28, 2006: "Genealogy, cemetery bring distant cousins together," by Dean Close, Times Editor. Pictured are Al Schwartz of Vinton and Robert George of Anamosa, as they place a plaque on the grave of George's great-great-grandmother, Barbara Rosenberg George, at Carlisle Grove Cemetery north of Garrison. The cemetery is one of dozens of pioneer cemeteries in Benton County. Also pictured is a close-up view of the plaque, a larger view of the cemetery, and a picture of a stone that serves as a memorial for six infant siblings who died decades ago. During George's search for the burial site of his ancestor, he contacted the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Association, of which Schwartz is a member. The men discovered that they are distant cousins. Schwartz, who has helped place other markers at Carlisle Grove, also provided some history of the site.

BLACKHAWK

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 30, 2002: "Memory upgrade," by Dennis Magee. Pictured is Linda Musch of Waterloo as she pulls weeds from a family plot in Lester Cemetery north of Dunkerton. Each year, Claudia Eldridge Vokoun organizes a work day for the purpose of tending the Lester Cemetery, where her great-great grandparents' graves are located. The problem of finances is discussed in the article, since county budgets are often stretched to the limit and cemeteries are not a priority. Township trustees often mow cemeteries in order to help with maintenance. Also quoted and pictured is Jeanette Kottke of Chickasaw County who worked at Stapleton and Pearl Rock Cemeteries. Priscilla Reisner, also a volunteer in Chickasaw County, hopes that "sometime down the road, if somebody would trash my stone, somebody else would care enough to fix it up."

-- From the files of Mike Magee

Jerry Kramer, who works at preserving the Pioneer Cemetery in Blackhawk County, has found that the official name of the cemetery is "The German Burial Ground of Bennington Township." He has had an inquiry from someone wanting a burial plot and needs to make a policy on unclaimed places in old cemeteries.

BOONE

"Confederate gravesite found in Boone," by Susan Hildreth, October 5, 2006: Veterans Affairs Director, Paul Ladd, stated at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 4 that they have found the gravesite of Boone County's Confederate Soldier in Linwood Park Cemetery. "We have located the gravesite and found out his name but don't know much else," said Ladd. If they are able to find out his birth date and date of death, the VA will be able to put up a new tombstone at the gravesite. If they are unable to find that information, Ladd asked if the Board of Supervisors would consider paying for the stone.

Mike Magee, Tina Kiester, and Pat Shaw were privileged to be invited to observe a ground penetrating radar demonstration at the Schlicht Cemetery on September 29. Bill Whittaker from the Office of the State Archaeologist was hired by Sidney Louis, a Schlicht descendant, to search for remains, particularly a "lost grave." Bill also demonstrated how to take core samples from grave sites to determine various levels of types of soils, thus indicating an area where the soil has been disturbed or is likely to have been removed and replaced for a grave. Sidney has made every attempt to restore the site as it would have been during his ancestors' time period, even down to plantings, such as peony bushes. The cemetery is protected by a chain link fence and is maintained by a caretaker. A graveled access road leads to the cemetery. A trust has been set up to maintain the cemetery and the access road in the future. We are indebted to Sidney who has generously shared all the paper work related to the protection of this site. Copies may be obtained from Pat Shaw.

CEDAR

From *Voices from the Prairie*, a publication of Humanities Iowa, Spring, 2006, page 5. This organization serves as your guide to the shared experiences of Iowans and is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and by individual gifts. "Seeing stories in Rochester Cemetery," by Stephen Longmire. Longmire is a photographer and writer based in southwest Wisconsin. He is currently at work on a photographic book about Rochester, Iowa's cemetery, a prairie remnant that remains an active graveyard. The book is scheduled for publication in 2009 by the Center for American Places. His first book, on the historic buildings of Sag Harbor, New York, is forthcoming next year from the same publisher. Longmire will tell the story of Rochester Cemetery and the rival views of land management that are part of its history.

CHICKASAW

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 23 Number 3, Third Quarter, 2006, J.L. Kottke, Editor: "St. John's Lutheran Church of Lawler." A history of the church which served the German immigrants who were coming to the Lawler area as early as the 1850's is given, including the first known burial in the cemetery in 1889. The New Hampton Trinity Lutheran Church maintains the cemetery which is located 1/4 mile south of Lawler in Stapleton Township. St. John's Church was disbanded about 1964. The cemetery records are included in the Chickasaw County Pioneer Cemetery Book distributed by the genealogical society.

DALLAS

From the *Waterloo Courier*, September 8, 1987, "Iowa cites rural cemetery decay." Pictured is Paul Maddy of Perry in an unnamed cemetery as he tries to bring attention to the plight of the nation's rural cemeteries, where crumbling tombstones and sinking grave markers are commonplace. Maddy, a retired State Department employee, became aware of abuse of cemetery markers caused by mowers at Arlington National Cemetery. Since retirement, he devoted much time, energy, and money to restore rural cemeteries in the Perry area and giving workshops around the state. Paul Maddy was one of the founders of SAPIC and currently resides in Perry.

-- From the files of Mike Magee

FAYETTE

A special presentation was made to State Representative David Lalk at the September 6 meeting of the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, recognizing him for his continuing effort on behalf of pioneer cemeteries in Iowa. Representative Lalk was instrumental in the passage of a bill during the 2006 legislative session that contains language allowing preservationists access to landlocked cemeteries. Priscilla Reisner and Michael Magee presented a "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" appreciation certificate to Lalk. The presentation was publicized in the *Elgin Echo* and *Fayette County Union* newspapers.

LEE

From *Preserving Our Past*, Number 11, Fall issue 2006, the newsletter of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association (LCPCA), page 5: "Spotlight on Blacksmith Cemetery," Franklin Township, Section 11. This cemetery, located about 3/4 of a mile back in a field owned by Kenneth Juhl, was the site of the Pioneer Families Day event held on June 24. Terry Altheide, Susan Alarie, and other members of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association spent many Saturdays cleaning the cemetery and uncovered a previously unknown burial, that of Hattie Helm, who died at the age of 4 years in 1870. Other articles in the newsletter include a tribute to Lee County pioneer, James C. Parrott, whose grave is located in the active Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. On the front page is pictured the funeral of someone named "Hazel." Part of the information under the picture states, "Those of us in the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association believe that a life once lived is a life worth remembering, regardless of the anonymity of the individual, the remoteness of the burial spot or with the passage of time."

From the *Daily Gate City News*, October 6, 2006: "Patriot's Day doesn't replace national holidays," by Terry Altheide. In this column, Terry responds to the question, "Why a Pioneer Patriot's Day. Isn't Memorial Day and Veteran's Day good enough?" Terry explains that it was never the intention of the LCPCA to equate Pioneer Patriot's Day to those 2 national holidays, but only to bring to the public's attention the pathetic plight of many abandoned graveyards where scores of veterans from our earliest conflicts now lie in shameful conditions. Pioneer Patriot's Day was held at the Wilson Cemetery on Oct. 7.

Included in the impressive ceremony were Rev. Craig Burton, Pat Shaw, Cassidy Stice (landowner), American Legion Auxiliary 41, American Legion Post 41, and taps played by Bugles Across America members, William Hall and Mike LeBlanc. Several descendants of the pioneers and veterans whose graves are located in the Wilson Cemetery were also present.

From the *Daily Gate City News*, November 10, 2006: "Remembering the four freedoms on Veterans Day," by Terry Altheide. Terry refers to Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedom Speech, given to the U.S. Congress on Jan. 6, 1941. Terry pays tribute to the many veterans in our national and other cemeteries who made these freedoms possible for all of us: Freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

LOUISA

From the *Des Moines Register*, ca 1996: "Prairie plants in cemetery spark battle," by Cynthia Hubert. Pictured is Dean Gipple standing next to a tombstone as he tells of his hopes to preserve a cemetery south of Columbus City. Elm Grove Township trustees had turned the cemetery over to the Louisa County Conservation Board who wished to preserve a portion of the Spring Run Cemetery as a remnant of the prairie that once covered millions of acres in Iowa. Gipple, who organized a petition drive to give control of the cemetery to Spring Run Church, and others want the cemetery cleaned up, and trees and bluegrass planted. Dean Gipple is one of the founders of SAPIC.

-- From the files of Mike Magee

MAHASKA

The Keo-Mah Genealogical Society held a workshop on September 9 in Oskaloosa. Included in the program was a presentation by Pat Shaw, who spoke about the history and goals of SAPIC and the recent passage of a bill in the state legislature that allows preservationists access to landlocked cemeteries. Jo Vernooy, the chairperson of the Mahaska County Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries was unable to attend, but sent the following report:

The Mahaska County Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries came into existence in 1996. Mabel Daniels was instrumental in getting the Pioneer Cemetery Commission established, and we are grateful to her for that. Mabel served the first year the Commission was in existence. The members of the current Pioneer Cemetery Commission are myself, as Chairman, and Leroy Nugteren, John Jacobs, Judy Swanson and Edd Elder.

Approximately 40 cemeteries, that's nearly half of the cemeteries in Mahaska County, have been designated as Pioneer Cemeteries. The funds for the Pioneer Cemetery Commission come from the County's General Fund. Therefore, all County taxpayers contribute to the restoration and maintenance of these wonderful, old Pioneer Cemeteries.

The commission has worked with the Iowa Prairie Network on the Centennial, or Dunsmore Pioneer Cemetery, adjacent to the Henry Schuring farm north of the "Half Way Station." This cemetery has over eighty "prairie remnants." By prairie remnants, I am referring to prairie flowers and grasses that no longer grow in the County. The County and State have been re-introducing prairie flowers and grasses in the past few years, but those are from seeds purchased from businesses, some outside the State of Iowa. The prairie remnants in Centennial provide local seeds that we know will grow in this area. Prairie grasses and flowers have tremendous root systems so they hold the soil in place. That is another distinction between "regular" cemeteries and memorial gardens. Pioneer cemeteries are allowed to grow up in prairie grasses and flowers. At Centennial, some people are disappointed because we let the prairie grow and in some parts of the Cemetery, only the tops of the stones are visible. This is a true Pioneer Cemetery. Maintenance of the Cemetery is to have it burned off each year, or every other year. A lot of work was done by the Commission and Iowa Prairie Network to clear saplings and weeds from the Cemetery, to allow the prairie to take over. Centennial Pioneer Cemetery has been our main focus this year.

We are grateful for the help of the community and volunteer groups, and encourage you to "adopt" a Pioneer Cemetery to help bring it back to its former glory.

MARSHALL

Sharon Sturek, who has been working for several years to get the Price Cemetery fenced and restored, is hopeful that fencing will be installed this winter. Descendants, landowner, and township trustees will each be required to pay 1/3 of the cost of the fence. The landowner has agreed to install it.

MITCHELL

In an e-mail message dated September 17, Neal DuShane states that the existence of the Otranto Cemetery has been confirmed after 4 1/2 years of research. It had been dubbed "The Mystery of Mitchell County" as it could not be documented earlier. Roger Wilder, confirmed that he remembered the cemetery and gave directions to the site. Neal also included a picture of the site and a map showing its exact location. He had previously identified the site by dowsing. The confirmation of Otranto is believed to have completed the list all the known Pioneer Cemeteries in Mitchell County.

POTTAWATTAMIE

The Western Historic Trail Center partnered with the Historical Society of Pottawattamie County for a lecture on Victorian mourning customs on November 19. Linda Knell presented the program in full Victorian mourning dress. She discussed how and why we honor and mourn those who have passed.

STORY

Michele Kalsem, secretary and web master of the Huxley Historical Society reports the following web site and e-mail addresses:

KalsemTraining@huxcomm.net

or

hhs@huxcomm.net

www.huxcomm.net/kalsem

or

www.huxcomm.net/web/huxleyhistory/

The Huxley Historical Society has restored the Ballard Cemetery in Story County.

VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, October 5, 2006: "Voices from our past....Dodson Cemetery," by Don Aldrich. The location, history, and restoration of the Dodson Cemetery are given in this article along with a photo of the newly fenced and preserved cemetery. Don says the cemetery is now restored and ready for "adoption" for maintenance. All it takes is an hour or two per year to pull a few weeds and look over it. Fourteen of the Van Buren County's pioneer cemeteries have now been adopted by people who do not necessarily have connections to the cemetery, but do care. If interested, call Don at 319-293-3459.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, November 30, 2006: "Voices from the past....Upton Cemetery," by Don Aldrich. Upton is located about 3 miles southeast of Cantril and is the recipient of the only known remains of Montonye Cemetery, which are 5 gravestones. Montonye was originally located 1 1/2 miles north of Upton. A resident of the area remembers that her grandmother told her there were 22 graves, many those of children. In the 1930's, a farmer reported he found gravestones had been removed from the site used as a sidewalk from the rear of the house. Believing this to be disrespectful, he took them up and stored them in a shed. A recent purchaser of the property found 5 gravestones and contacted Don for assistance so they would not be discarded or broken. Since their original location can not be determined, the township trustees and others made the decision to place them in the Upton Cemetery, along with a memorial plaque. A photo accompanying the article shows the 5 stones and the plaque. The work of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society in repairing stones and restoring cemeteries is not subsidized by city, county, state, or federal governments. Contributions are needed and welcomed.

WAPELLO

From the *Des Moines Register*, April 24, 1987, "Forgotten cemetery plowed, to be restored," by Tom Alex. Pictured is a stone inscribed "Mother -- Anna Wall," that lays broken when a farmer unknowingly plowed unmarked graves in an old Wapello County cemetery. The area will be seeded and fenced to avoid another such incident. Most of the graves belong to residents of the Wapello County Home, now the Wapello County Care Facility. They may have had wooden crosses or flat stones between 1800 and the 1930's. Only one of the graves was marked and the farmer plowed around it. "Hundreds of those little cemeteries have become farmland across the state," said Elmer Van Arkel of Jasper County, "especially in southeastern and eastern Iowa because those areas were settled first."

-- From the files of Mike Magee

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 13, 2006: Letter to Editor, "Theft, vandalism at cemetery," written by Gina Moran, Dubuque. The writer laments that 3 potted plants have been stolen from her mother's grave in Calvary Cemetery in Ottumwa. She was advised that nothing could be done to prevent the thefts. She urges Ottumwa citizens to contact cemetery officials and ask them to provide surveillance.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, November 2, 2006: "Gravestone discovered under local driveway," by Scott Niles. Pictured is a grave marker that was found under a gravel driveway at 217 Keota St. in Ottumwa. Pat Parker discovered the gravestone the day before Halloween at his father-in-law's home. It marked the life of 2-year-old Arnold Swanson whose death date was Nov. 4, 1916. Gwen Swanson, a sister-in-law to the boy, said the family lived in that house around 1916. His father crafted the headstone to be placed at the Ottumwa Cemetery, but his wife didn't like it and had another one made. No one knows how it ended up under the driveway. Parker returned the stone to the Swanson family who will keep it in the family.

OUT OF IOWA

ARKANSAS

SAPIC member, David Gradwohl, delivered the banquet address at the meeting of the Arkansas Archaeological Society in September. En route to the meetings, he noticed a petition in Marshall, Arkansas, gathering signatures to the National Park Service regarding their decision to cut off access to community cemeteries in the Buffalo National River district (Newton, Searcy, and Marion counties). After discussing the situation with Ann Early, the State Archaeologist, David wrote letters to the congressional representative for northern Arkansas, the two Arkansas senators, the superintendent of the Buffalo National River District, the Director of the National Park Service in DC, and a formal letter to Ann Early. David states that he is all for preserving wildlife areas and pristine stretches of American rivers; but he does NOT think that should come at the expense of denying citizens access to community (or other) cemeteries.

Arkansas Archeological Survey
2475 North Hatch Avenue
Fayetteville, AR 72704
479-575-3556

www.uark.edu/campus-resources/archinfo/

Missouri

From *The Media*, Kahoka, Missouri, August 30, 2006: "Cemetery Fundraiser Helps Maintain Benning Cemetery," by Rodney Harvey. A cemetery tour of the Benning, Wolf, and Prairie Cemeteries in Clark County was held in July to raise funds for the restoration of the Benning Cemetery. The Benning Cemetery contains the graves of Joseph and Susan Benning and at least six of their children. The land on which their home stood became part of the Battle of Athens Park in 1975. There are thirty-three named burials there. In addition to the Bennings' graves are the graves of T.S. Thompson, a soldier in the Revolutionary War and Rev. Hill, a chaplain in the same war, and William McKee who was killed in the Civil War.

NEW JERSEY

"Our Brothers Gone Before," by Charles Eckhardt and Robert MacAvoy, is now available. This new book (in two volumes) is published by Longstreet House (Hightstown, New Jersey). It's an inventory of graves and cenotaphs in New Jersey cemeteries for Union and Confederate Civil War soldiers, sailors, marines, surgeons, and nurses. Includes a full alphabetical listing of more than 40,000 burials from more than 1,000 cemeteries. Each entry lists soldier's name and cemetery, death date, regiment or ship, if known. Contact Dr. David G. Martin, PO Box 730, Hightstown, NJ 08520. dmartin@peddie.org

TENNESSEE

From *THE TENNESSEAN*, September 29, 2006: "Cemetery discovery offers clues to Revolutionary War family," by Charles Booth, Staff Writer. Pictured with the article is Clayton McWhorter as he talks about the Lavender Cemetery, which he restored on his property in southern Williamson County. When he bought the place, McWhorter didn't know the cemetery existed, as it was behind a thicket of trees and forest growth. Trent James, manager of Rolling Hills Farm, along with the farm's owner, Clayton McWhorter, discovered and restored the cemetery that contains the graves of the George Lavender family. George died in 1846 and was a teenager during the Revolutionary War. James and McWhorter have also discovered the old home site that, along with the cemetery, has become a cool, quiet refuge for the McWhorter family.

-- Thanks to SAPIC member, Nick Dowd

FLORIDA

From *The Ledger*, Polk County, Florida, September 6, 2006: "Landowner fences off dirt track through grove," by Bill Bair. Thelma Medley's husband, parents, grandmother and a variety of other relatives are buried in a cemetery established after her great uncle, Noah Whidden, provided land for it about 1920. Medley, 63, said her name is on the headstone purchased the death of her husband and she wants to eventually be buried beside him. But there is not longer an access road to what is known as The Whidden Cemetery from Whidden Cemetery Road. Medley said a private landowner has fenced off the grove through which access to the cemetery was always granted. In August, Medley filed a lawsuit against the present landowners to require that they allow access. Until the property was fenced, Medley had been mowing and caring for the cemetery.

www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20060906/NEWS/

Bill Bair's E-mail address: bill.blair@theledger.com or Telephone 863-676-7118

TEXAS

From the *Fort. Worth Star-Telegram*, August 12, 2006: "70 graves at cemetery are damaged in overnight spree," by Dan. X. McGraw, Star-Telegram Staff Writer. Five teens, ages 14-17, have been arrested on suspicion of vandalizing more than 70 stones and causing damage estimated at \$100,000 at the Azle's Ash Creek Cemetery about twenty miles west of Fort Worth. The graves date back to the 1870's and the cemetery contains the grave of Azle Stewart, the town's founder.

A 22-page publication, *Preserving Historic Cemeteries, Texas Preservation Guidelines*, is available from the Texas Historical Commission. Current cemetery laws, cleaning methods, protection for historic cemeteries, and cemetery restoration are the main topics covered in the publication.

Telephone 512-463-6255

ILLINOIS

From *Midwest Living* magazine, October, 2006, pages 56-58. A "Haunted Dead Walk" in Macomb, Illinois is held each weekend night from mid-September through early November. Garret Moffett, known as the "Ghost Guy" is an expert on local history and conducts the tours. In 2004, Garret's ghost walk won the Illinois Main Street Award for historical development, topping 55 competing tours. He now leads the Lincoln's Ghost Walk in Springfield. Tours vary each year, but may include the Episcopal church, Oakwood Cemetery, downtown alleys, and the 1872 Chandler Opera House -- all said to harbor spirits of the dead.

www.hauntedmacomb.com

Other ghost walks and tours mentioned following the article are:

"Downtown Ghost Walk," a 2 1/4 mile walk in downtown Wichita, Kansas.

www.wichitaghosttours.homestead.com

Bayfield Heritage Tours. This family-friendly, lamp-lit walking tour in Bayfield, Wisconsin, is led by an actor playing a 19th-century resident. It incorporates town history with ghost stories.

www.bayfieldheritagetours.com

Haunted Underground Railroad Walking Tour. Legends and folk tales feature slaves trying to escape and those who helped them in Westfield, Indiana. www.unseenpress.com



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SAPIC GRANT APPLICATION

A limited number of grants in the amount of \$200 each will be granted this spring to qualified and deserving groups or individuals who are in the process of restoring neglected cemeteries in Iowa. Preference may be given to restorers who are members and/or supporters of SAPIC. It must be proven that all community and other resources have been tapped or have been exhausted prior to submitting the application.

NAME OF CEMETERY: _____

LOCATION: _____

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BURIAL SITE: _____

OWNER OF THE CEMETERY: (Township trustees, cemetery board, city, county, unable to determine)

Have you contacted township trustees for funding? _____ County Supervisors? _____
Descendants? _____ Veteran's Groups? _____ Community Clubs (Scouts, 4-H, churches, Lions,
etc)? _____ Owner of surrounding land? _____
Have you publicized the plight of the cemetery in local media? _____

Have you organized volunteer groups to clean the site prior to needing funding for fencing and stone repair?

Have you approached the county supervisors about creating a pioneer cemetery commission? _____

Add any comments on the back.

Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of person making application:

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS: APRIL 1, 2007
MAIL TO: PAT SHAW, 21813 170TH ST., BIRMIINGHAM, IOWA 52535-8045
OR E-MAIL: patshaw@netins.net

SAPIC DUES MAY BE PAID NOW FOR 2007

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION New ___ Renewal ___ Date _____

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Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address _____

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

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

