

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IA 52535
VOL. 12 ISSUE #1

www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/
January, 2007

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) will sponsor a cemetery conference on Saturday, April 21 at the Stoney Creek Inn, Des Moines, Iowa. Topics will include: "Cemeteries, Burial Places, and the National Register of Historic Places: An Iowa Perspective," by Douglas Jones, "Legal Remedies for Pioneer Cemeteries," by Dennis N. Britson, and "Pioneer Cemetery Commissions," a panel discussion. A business meeting will follow the afternoon session. Directions to The Stoney Creek Inn: When on I-80 and I-35 going around north of Des Moines, take Exit #129 (86th Street). After exiting, go north to the first stoplight and turn right (east) and go about a block, then look for the motel off to your left. Stoney Creek Inn telephone #: 515-334-9000. Conference organizer, Larry Davis: LD2mstone@aol.com Phone: 515-277-4917 Watch for a special mailing about the conference!

Western Historic Trails Center has been designated as a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Certified Wildlife Habitat site, joining a prestigious group of NWF members across the country recognized for protecting and nurturing wildlife in their own yards, schools/educational settings and community spaces.

NWF began the Wildlife Habitation certification program in 1973, and has since certified over 75,000 habitats nationwide. Certified habitats can be found everywhere from post offices, hospitals and places of worship to community parks, corporate buildings and municipal facilities. The average habitat is between 1/3 and 1/2 acres, but certified sites range from urban balconies to thousand-acre sites.

In order to become certified, a property must provide the four basic elements that all

wildlife need: food, water, cover and places to raise young. It must also employ sustainable gardening practices. Habitat restoration is critical in urban and suburban settings where commercial and residential development encroaches on nature wildlife areas.

Note: This would be an ideal way to preserve and protect pioneer cemeteries and provide for wildlife at the same time.

Who are your legislators? To find the names of the Iowa lawmakers representing you (and how to contact them), go to this page at the Web site of the Iowa Legislature:

www.legis.state.ia.us/FindLeg/

If you don't have access to the Internet, call the Legislative Information Office at 515-281-5129.

Famous Midwest lines: "Lake Wobegon, where all the women are strong, all the men are good looking and all the children are above average." The trademarked (literally) line Garrison Keillor uses to describe his fictional Minnesota hometown on his Saint Paul-based radio show, A Prairie Home Companion. The show is named after a Moorhead, Minnesota, cemetery.

From *Midwest Living* magazine, February, 2007.

The report, "Grave Dowsing Reconsidered," by William Whittaker that was mentioned in the last issue of Grave News is on-line at the Office of the State Archaeologist web site at: www.uiowa.edu/~osa/burials/Dowsing.pdf

It's not too late to apply for a SAPIC grant to help finance the restoration of a pioneer cemetery in your area. Application form is in the October, 2006 issue of Grave News or contact Pat Shaw for information.

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mollyb@iowatelecom.net 641-484-6061

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319-232-8762 GenieMan@aol.com

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ckcasey@louisacomm.net

Jo Vernooy, Board of Trustees
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Leighton, IA 50143
641-673-8122 mahcem@kdsi.net

WHERE TO GET PROBES

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

WHERE TO GET EPOXY

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

3-M 1838 B/A TAN EPOXY
PRAXAIR - GENEX 1700 2nd Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50314
515-244-3131

GCT Stone Epoxy and Hardener
Granite City Tool Co.
PO Box 411 11 Blackwell St.
Barre, VT 05641 1-800-451-4570
granitecitytoolvt.com mkewinter@aol.com

WHERE TO GET SIGNS

Iowa Prison Industries
Box B
Anamosa, IA 52205
1-800-336-5863 Ask for Tammy Deseberg

VETERANS' HEADSTONES

See <http://www.cem.va.gov/hm.htm>
Or telephone 1-800-697-6947

STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR

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

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

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

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

**State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries
Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2007**

Vice President Willis Hoffman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Urbandale Library in Urbandale, Iowa with 13 members present.

The Minutes of the October 14, 2006 meeting was read and approved. The Treasurer's report was presented and accepted illustrating a December 31 balance of \$10,912.56 consisting of \$6,884.17 in the working account and \$4,028.39 in the reserve account.

Membership: Valerie Ogren reported the membership now stands at 155.

SAPIC Financial Investments: During the October 14, 2006 meeting the motion was made and passed "That \$1,000.00 be invested in a 7 month Certificate of Deposit and \$1,000.00 be invested in a 12 month Certificate of Deposit." Valerie Ogren recommended this motion be rescinded. This recommendation was approved and Valerie moved that \$4,000.00 be invested in a 1 year Certificate of Deposit at the rate of 5% and \$1,000.00 be invested in a 6 month Certificate of Deposit at the rate of 5%. Seconded by Bill Reedy. Motion carried.

Cemetery Reporting Form: Tony Bengston distributed copies of a recently developed cemetery reporting form for review and possible adoption. After discussion, formal action on the form was tabled until the April meeting.

Legislative Priorities for 2007: Pat Shaw submitted information explaining that Representative Jeff Kauffmann has indicated interest in introducing a bill that would include stronger penalties for cemetery vandalism. Pat has responded to Representative Kauffmann indicating support to such a bill and encouraged him to include language requiring scrap iron dealers to get identification of persons attempting to sell bronze veterans markers from graves and cemeteries.

2007 Cemetery Conference: Larry Davis reported the 2007 Cemetery Conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, at Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, Iowa. The program was currently being planned and Davis led discussion on suggested program topics. Davis also noted that there was some interest at the last meeting for SAPIC to subsidize some of the conference to enable the registration fee to be kept as low as possible. After considerable discussion the following action was taken: Moved by Bill Reedy that the 2007 Cemetery Conference be subsidized in the amount of \$750.00. Seconded by Carol Hoffman. Motion carried.

Iowa Genealogical Society: Judy McClure reported she had contacted the Iowa Genealogical Society with the possibility of developing a working relationship with SAPIC as previously directed. The proposal was received with great interest and some contact has been initiated with SAPIC president, Pat Shaw.

Future Meetings: Bill Reedy presented an invitation to SAPIC to hold its July 2007 meeting in Buchanan County. The invitation was accepted unanimously.

Keith Street Memorial: Pat Shaw submitted a report indicating that a SAPIC member had donated funds to set up a "Keith Street Memorial" for the purpose of establishing a scholarship in his name for needy youth who have worked in cemeteries. Action and discussion on this project was tabled until further details are available and the Street family members have had an opportunity to determine their role and input.

Miscellaneous:

Pat Shaw submitted a statement indicating she will contact the new Governor to see if he is receptive to recognizing Cemetery Appreciation Month in May.

There have been no grant applications received as yet, so remind cemetery workers in your area of the program.

The Iowa Biennial Report to the office of the Iowa Secretary of State was electronically filed on January 7, 2007, which is for non-profit status if and when we achieve this.

Reminder to submit the name(s) of deserving cemetery workers for the Robert Carter Award.

Larry D. Davis
Secretary

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter - 1 October thru 31 December 2006

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2006, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$6875.83

Income

Dues	265.00
Donations	10.00
Interest 10/31/06	7.08
Interest 11/30/06	6.61
Interest 12/31/06	<u>6.42</u>
Total Income	\$ 295.11

Expense

Ck #189 - Pinicon Restaurant - rolls, coffee, juice	\$ 70.09
Ck #190 - Postmaster - permit	160.00
Ck #191 - Pat Shaw - Newsletter Expense	<u>56.68</u>
Total Expense	\$ 286.77

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2006 \$6884.17

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2006, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$3763.39

Income -

R. C. Pedrick - Lifetime Membership	\$ 100.00
Tony Bengston - Lifetime Membership	100.00
Fred & Vivian Jones Memorial - Receive from Morris Shaw	40.00
Keith Street Memorial - Received from Dean Gipple	<u>25.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 265.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2006 \$4028.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 31 December 2006 \$10,912.56

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Ogren, Treasurer

108 N. Oak

Jefferson IA 50129-1841

Ph 1-515-386-4784

E-mail: <vjogren@netins.net>

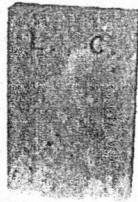
TYPES OF MONUMENTS

Thanks to Tony Bengston



Pulpit

Footstone

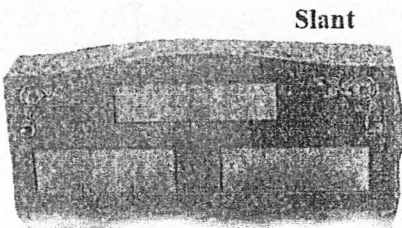


Lot marker/
Corner marker

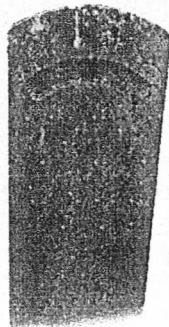


Gothic

Die on Base with Cap



Slant



Headstone

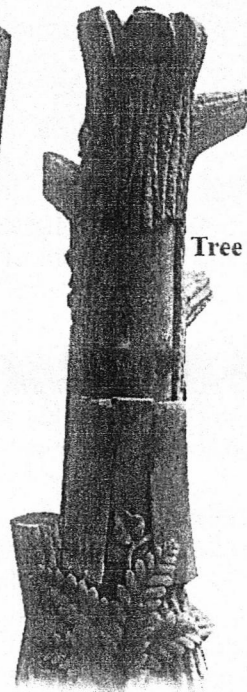
Government Issue
Civil War Type



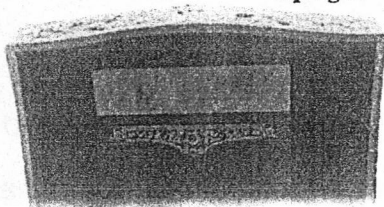
Pillow



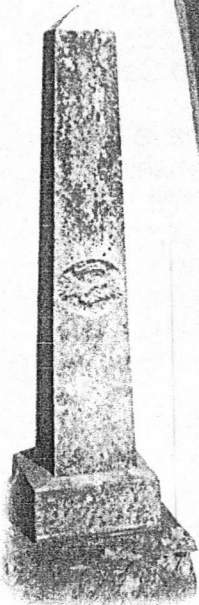
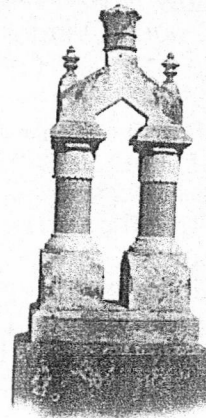
Tree Stump



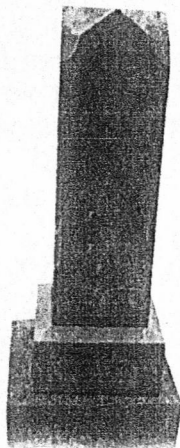
Upright



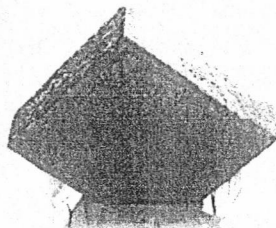
Double
Column
Arch



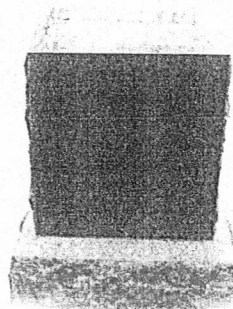
Obelisk



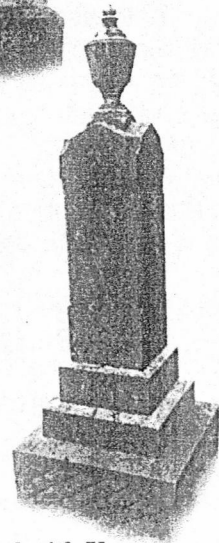
Diamond Die



Pedestal with
Vaulted Roof



Die on Base



Pedestal with Urn

What's going on in Iowa cemeteries?

Adams County: Floyd Lawrence reports that several stones in danger of being lost to erosion were removed from the Old Brooks Pioneer cemetery, located near a riverbank southeast of the village of Brooks, Iowa, to the 1861 Brooks Cemetery. The remains were not removed. Floyd's uncle, Jacob Strait Lawrence, once owned the land. The cemetery is completely landlocked.

Blackhawk County: Mike Magee has resumed reading the 1870-1900 LaPorte City, Iowa newspapers on microfilm and has found the following articles:

LaPorte City Progress, March 19, 1879: A meeting of the ladies of LaPorte and vicinity was held in the parlor of the Presbyterian church Tuesday at 3 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of devising ways and means to improve the cemetery. The article goes on to say that the ladies will give an entertainment in the vestry of the church on March 28th to raise funds for the project. The following appeal is made, "We appeal in the name of humanity, to each and everyone to come forward and liberally aid us in this work, that our cemetery may no longer be open to the vile hog who roams at large and wallows over the graves of our precious dead." The editor of the newspaper endorses the project and encourages his readers to support the ladies "to adorn and beautify their resting places of the departed."

LaPorte City Progress, April 30, 1879: The ladies of the cemetery committee of this place have concluded to name it the "Westview Cemetery," which, we think, is a very appropriate name.

LaPorte City Progress, June 11, 1879: In a letter to the editor signed "Many Citizens," the writer admonishes some "God forsaken reptile in human form" for robbing the cemetery of its locks. It was thought that someone removed the locks because they wanted to drive their carriages through the grounds instead of hitching outside and walking in. It is hoped that the guilty party will be brought to justice.

Chickasaw County: From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 23 Number 4, Fourth Quarter 2006: "From the President's Desk," by Jannette Hendricks. The Society has changes in its existing cemetery publications. St. Mary's Cemetery (Assumption Catholic Parish), Little Turkey and Sacred Heart Cemetery, Reilly Ridge will be presented as one document and is in revision. St. Mary's Cemetery (Visitation Catholic Parish) of New Hampton is currently being updated and will be presented as a single document. Two new cemetery burial record publications are also in-work and they are going to try to have them completed some time in 2007. The two new burial records are for St. Mary's Cemetery (Immaculate Conception Parish), North Washington and Calvary Cemetery (St. Joseph Catholic Parish, New Hampton).

The Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission leaders and members have been doing restoration work on the Utica Township Little Turkey and the Dresden Township Garden of Memories cemeteries. Dedication ceremonies are being planned for the Utica Township cemetery which restoration is nearly complete. It is the hope that the Garden of Memories restoration will be completed in the summer. Grass will be seeded next spring for the Bradford Township Cagley Cemetery. Mike Magee and Robert Youngblut of Back Hawk County have been helping at the Garden of Memories as well as several local volunteers, including several young people. Fred Reisner, CCCC President, thanks all who helped with the cemetery restoration this past year.

Fayette County: From the *Fayette Leader* and the *Elgin Echo*, both dated December 13, 2006: "State Senators host listening post in Fayette last week," by Janell Bradley, Editor. Iowa Senators Brian Schoenjahn and Bill Heckroth met with Northeast Iowans in Fayette to discuss issues ahead of the 2007 legislative session. Much of the discussion addressed concerns of funding education, but Hawkeye resident Steve Story said while he and other advocates of pioneer cemeteries were pleased with legislation last year allowing access to landlocked burials sites, he hope eminent domain laws won't take away those rights.

Fayette County, continued: From the *Elgin Echo*, December 27, 2006: "Pioneer cemeteries get 21st century update," by Jessica Nystel, News Writer. Pictured in color on the front page are Steve Story and Dawn Amundson as they view the restoration work of a headstone in George pioneer cemetery outside of Eldorado. Amundson was helping Story record pioneer cemeteries' waymarks as part of a Global Positioning System project. Amundson of Gilbertson Nature Center and Steve Story of the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission recently spent a day waymarking most of the county's 17 pioneer cemeteries. A waymark is a physical location marked by longitude and latitude coordinates using a Global Positioning System unit. With her hand-held GPS unit, Amundson took the coordinates of the entrances to the cemeteries and other spots that may be helpful to help others to find the sites. If the information was put together into a brochure, a map could be provided and also the coordinates to find the cemeteries. Another picture within the newspaper shows Dawn Amundson and Donna Story checking the coordinates in the Nutting Cemetery just off Great River Road outside of Clermont. A similar story was printed in the *Fayette Leader* newspaper on January 3, 2007.

Lee County: From *Preserving Our Past*, newsletter of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, Number 12, Winter issue 2006: Pictured on the front page are William Hall and Michael LeBlanc of the Iowa Chapter of Bugles Across America. The duo played taps at the fourth annual Pioneer Patriots Day ceremony held on October 7th at the Wilson Cemetery in rural Ft. Madison. 65 people attended the ceremony that honored 20 veterans buried at Wilson Cemetery. Keokuk's three veterans groups, American Legion Post 41, the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 41 and V.F.W. Post 3508 provided an honor guard and firing party for the ceremony. A flag was presented to cemetery caretaker Steve Wilson by V.F.W. member Basil Reed. The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association created the annual ceremony to not only honor the county's many forgotten veterans lying in pioneer cemeteries, but to also draw attention to the pathetic plight of many old graveyards.

Retired Keokuk firefighter John Davis recently "adopted" the Oilar Cemetery located on Valley Road five miles west of Keokuk. The cemetery has four burials, including Andrew Oilar and three of his infant children. Oilar, first cousin to Abraham Lincoln and a War of 1812 soldier captured by the British, died in 1854 at the age of 58.

Terry Altheide and Larry Cooper attended the Green Plains marker dedication on Highway 96 a few miles south of Warsaw, Illinois on September 9. The ceremony was to mark the site of the old village of Green Plains and the Old Pioneer Cemetery located about 300 feet east of the marker. About forty individuals are believed to be buried in the old graveyard, which was plowed under in 1938.

From the *Daily Gate City*, December 15, 2006: "Honoring those who served -- Wreath ceremony in Keokuk part of national observance," by Cindy Iutzi, Gate City Staff Writer. Pictured is Vietnam Veteran John Shield, Keokuk, as he places a memorial wreath at Medal of Honor holder John Thorson's grave during the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Keokuk National Cemetery. The ceremony was organized by American Legion Post 41 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 41 Iowa Detachment to coordinate with the event at the Arlington National Ceremony in Virginia and other ceremonies nationwide. Every year, Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company, Maine, has provided 5,000 decorated holiday wreaths to all the participating National Cemeteries this year. Keokuk National Cemetery, the only national cemetery in Iowa, received six wreaths from Maine. Organizers intend to expand the number of wreaths in Keokuk in the future. About 100 people from all walks of life joined at the historic cemetery's flag circle to watch the six symbolic wreaths as they were placed at six graves honoring men and women in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, and those who were prisoners of war or missing in action. Also pictured are members of the color guard as they call cadence as they participate in the ceremony. Six veterans accompanied by students from area schools and several members of the armed forces walked among the graves and placed the wreaths.

CEMETERY
By Josh Miller

As I push through the rusted, rickety fence the cool, wet sensation of dew hits my feet. The air smells still, dry, cold, almost dead. The sight of the stones strike my eyes, some new and still shiny, others old: cracked, and decayed. Some have flowers at their base, and others look like they were left not to be remembered -- the lost souls. All the names give me chills: some children, some adults, some girls, some boys. None say what happened or why. They all say things like "parent," "son," "daughter," but none of them say if they were any good at it; maybe that's so one assumes they were, then no one says differently. Some never even had a chance to be mean, bad or nice. Some poor souls were just alive long enough to breathe. A little stone building sits in the middle of it all. The poor, the lost. The sides have started to fell from lack of care for it is packed with the unremembered, the unfortunate. The sight of the old building almost saddens me. It basically tells me this was for the ones that are better off left a closed case, no memories, nothing. I hear the sound of footsteps but then realize the steps I am hearing are my own. The paranoia is taking over. I creep back into my hole, my box, my last stop...

Josh Miller is a student at Van Buren High School, Keosauqua, Iowa.

Louisa County: Pioneer cemetery restoration and preservation in Iowa lost a dedicated crusader on December 13 when Keith Street of Wapello, Iowa died at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City. Keith was one of the founders of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries and served as one of the first members of the Louisa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. A memorial service was held on Sunday afternoon, December 17 at the Bloomington-Muscatine Friends Church in Muscatine. Burial will be at a later date in Hesper, Iowa. A memorial fund has been established that may be used to reward youth who work in cemetery restoration.

Mitchell County: From the *Mitchell County Press News*, June 27, 1957: "Mona, Population 66, once thriving railroad terminal," by Mrs. Clyde Roehr (transcribed and edited by Neal DuShane): A history of the town of Mona, located about one mile south of the Iowa-Minnesota line, mentions that the village was platted in 1869, shortly after the railroad arrived and the town became a notable railroad terminal. Included in the article is the origin of the Mona's first cemetery that was given to the town as a public burying ground by J.P. and Mary Farley in 1879. The Pleasant Hill Cemetery south of Mona began with the burial of William C. Caine, a native of Isle of Mann. The Oak Lane Cemetery was started by the Mona Lutheran congregation located on the road east of Otranto. That group later purchased the Pleasant Hill Cemetery from Caine.

Montgomery County: Floyd Lawrence reports that the Baker Cut Cemetery has had some restoration work and has been recently fenced. There is no road to the cemetery. Floyd has sent an updated burial list to the Montgomery County Museum in Red Oak. Floyd also sent a list of burials for Baker Cut and Findley Cemeteries in Montgomery County. The last burials were in the 1800's when horses and wagons were used.

O'Brien County: Radio personality, Tim Torkildson, of station KIWA in Sheldon, Iowa expressed interest in doing a radio show on the topic of pioneer cemeteries. SAPIC member Fred Reese of Bronson, Iowa provided information. It is not known when the program will be aired.

Polk County: SAPIC members, Larry and Mary Richards, presented a "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" certificate of appreciation to State Representative Geri Huser on January 26 at the Statehouse. Ms. Huser was honored because she was instrumental in the passage of a bill containing language that allows cemetery preservationists access to landlocked pioneer cemeteries. Representative Huser researched numerous bills before finding one that contained mention of cemeteries, so an amendment could be added regarding access.

Pottawattamie County: From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, February 19, 1874: Judge James, of Council Bluffs, has been sending prairie chickens to Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati. It is thought by a slight surgical operation to one of the wings of each bird they can be permanently kept in the grounds. The keeper of the cemetery has been very successful in taming and keeping many varieties of beautiful and rare birds which each year rear their young in the thickets and hedges within the enclosure.

Story County: From the *Des Moines Register*, February 7, 2007: "Cemetery stones make history come alive -- Story County cemetery researcher unearths glimpses of life long ago," by Eric Lund, *Register* Correspondent. Pictured on the front page of the METRO & IOWA page is Amy Yoakum, a naturalist with the Story County Conservation, as she walks among the headstones in Pleasant Grove Cemetery in rural Story County about eight miles northeast of Ames. Her talks on Story County's pioneer cemeteries are standing-room-only gatherings, and her research breaks new ground about what killed scores of children in the early years. The Madrid woman has discovered everything from the grave site of Story County's first murder victim to evidence of a diphtheria epidemic that swept the area more than a century ago. She will present a program, "Stories in Stones," on March 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ames City Auditorium. Cost: \$2.00. The program will include early Iowa culture, local history, diseases and other influences, such as the Civil War.

Wapello County: From the *Ottumwa Courier*, January 8, 2007: "Citizens quiz state's lawmakers at *Courier* forum," by Mark Newman, *Courier* Staff Writer. Pictured with State Senator, Becky Schmitz, is SAPIC member, Carol Hoffman, as they discuss cemetery issues for the 2007 legislative session. Four area elected officials answered questions about the upcoming session from members of the public.

Woodbury County: From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, February 19, 1874: Patrick Kennedy of Sioux City, while digging a cellar for his new house, exhumed a human skeleton, and has been compelled to put up his house on the alley end of the lot, as his wife declares she will never go into that cellar, and Mr. Kennedy has been put to so much trouble about it that sometimes he half wishes the man hadn't died.

What's going on outside of Iowa?

The Association for Gravestone Studies Thirtieth Anniversary Conference will be held at Rivier College, Nashua, New Hampshire on June 21-24, 2007. Topics covered will be Cemeteries in the Digital Age, New Resources for Cemetery Research, Development and Promotion of Cemetery Tours, and Current Issues in Preserving Cemeteries. For more information, contact: Association for Gravestone Studies, 278 Main Street, Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301. E-mail: info@gravestonestudies.org

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, February 21, 2007: "Archaeologists unveil 3,000-year-old tombs" in Saqqara, Egypt. Archaeologists recently unveiled the tombs of a pharaonic butler and a scribe that have been buried for more than 3,000 years -- proof, they say, that Egypt's sands still have secrets to reveal. Some estimate that only about 1/3 of what lies underground at the site of the country's most ancient pyramid and burial site of kings has been uncovered.

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, October 23, 2006: "Poor farm's tiny cemetery threatened," by Gary Mays, *The (Freeport, Illinois) Journal-Standard*. Because businesses and roads are hemming in the cemetery, the Stephenson County officials are considering moving it. In the late 1800's, the bodies of 50-60 residents of the Poor Farm Cemetery were buried there. Now a Wal-Mart Super-center is moving in next door and this final resting place for those who likely had little rest in life will be surrounded by a busy intersection and vast parking lots. John Blum, County Board Chairman, says the county is considering moving the remains to a more appropriate and dignified location.

From *The Director* magazine, August, 2006: "Mystery Body from abandoned Detroit funeral home identified," by Benjamin Lund. The body of Jimmy Lee Adams was recently identified more than a year after it was found in a casket in the abandoned Pope Funeral Home in Detroit, Michigan. According to an article in the *Detroit Free Press*, Adam's family thought his body was buried in the Ft. Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Michigan. Usually, dental records are used to identify bodies, but Adams had no teeth. In fact, no death certificate was filed for Adams. Authorities are still trying to figure out why Adams' body remained in the funeral home after it closed. Adams' family still wants to bury his body at Ft. Custer.

From *The Director* magazine, August, 2006: "VA puts gravesites of national cemeteries online." The Department of Veteran's Affairs recently added online maps of gravesites in national cemeteries, making it easier for visitors to locate the more than three million veterans and dependents buried in them. The gravesite locator can be found at:
<http://gravelocator.com.va.gov>

From the *Indianapolis Star*, December 26, 2006: "Here lies my ancestor, who deserves notice -- Man wants to return lost grave markers to a Clinton County field," by Nicole Brooks, *The (Freeport) Times*. Pictured is Robert Wilcox as he points to a boundary of what used to be Davis Cemetery in Colfax, Indiana. It is now a plowed field. Wilcox says his great, great grandfather is buried there. Wilcox would like a sign noting that the land was used as a cemetery. In another picture, Wilcox holds a photo of his ancestor, John Franklin Crick, who was a Civil War veteran who died Oct. 31, 1910. Wilcox believes the people buried deep in that soil deserve more than to be plowed over and forgotten. Jeannie Regan, cemetery registry coordinator for the State Department of Natural Resources, recommends a plaque be placed on the half acre, since it will be almost impossible to identify and mark all the graves that once were there.

From *CAPPER'S*, January 2007: "Boy Scout earning his badge by mapping out rural cemetery," by Greg Miller, *Columbia Dairy Tribune* (Missouri): Pictured is Ken Hainsworth, 16, as he copies headstone information with help from his friends David and Christi Bergin at the Walnut Grove Cemetery near Columbia, MO. Hainsworth, along with his grandmother, Sonja Nordyke and other family members, has made a map of the cemetery to help him qualify to become an Eagle Scout. More than 320 graves are known to be in the cemetery. The map will help visitors locate their ancestors' grave sites. Hainsworth also got help from Mark Child, a Yale University graduate with a doctorate in archaeology.

From the Ft. Worth *Star-Telegram*, February 10, 2007: "Buried in the past," by Adrienne Nettles, *Star-Telegram* Staff Writer. Pictured are scenes from the Mosier Valley Cemetery that is one of the last historical fixtures of the community founded by emancipated slaves in Tarrant County, Texas. Most blacks born and raised in the county are buried in the Mosier Valley Cemetery, but elders believe the earliest residents rest in a separate, unmarked cemetery off Trinity Boulevard just feet away from Bell Helicopter Textron's south plant. Recent excavations have found no bodies. Black residents grew concerned when Lennar Homes, a national home builder, began work at the site. The residents wanted to move any bodies found to the Mosier Valley Cemetery. Lennar can proceed with construction but promises to be on the lookout for any possible abandoned grave shafts.

From the Ft. Worth *Star-Telegram*, January 12, 2007: "Tombstone discovered," by Domingo Ramirez, Jr., *Star-Telegram* Staff Writer. Pictured is the tombstone of the infant son of G.T. & S.I. Hagan who was born and died on August 25, 1900. Richland Hills, Texas, police found it at a vacant business lot in their city recently. They asked the public for information in an attempt to return it to the proper cemetery. As a result of the story, a man came forward and admitted that he had removed the monument twenty years earlier and had kept it in his room, but recently hid it in the brush where it was found. A TV news segment showed the marker being matched to its base in the cemetery.

From the Lincoln Journal Star, February 20, 2007: "Police look for help where stolen grave markers belong," by Lori Pilger. After the death of a Lincoln, Nebraska man, his family made the unusual discovery of 47 gravestones in 3 storage units he had rented. With the help of police, they are trying to return the stones to relatives or cemeteries. After a call for help from the public, the police and the man's sister are finding some relatives of the deceased. The man's sister explained that he was mentally ill and obsessed with death, but was not a career criminal.

From the web site: amazon.com *Book, Stones and Bones of New England: A Guide to Unusual, Historic, and Otherwise Notable Cemeteries* (paperback), by Lisa Rogak. The author tells the tales of nearly one hundred of the most intriguing burial grounds in all seven New England states, including Hope Cemetery in Barre, Vermont, where elaborately carved sculptures of angels and Greek goddesses can be found next to engravings of an oil truck and a soccer ball. The highly readable guide also provides all the tools you need to explore on your own, with location information and glossaries that demystify the meaning behind hundreds of commonly carved symbols and headstone abbreviations. Insightful commentaries and interesting facts about funeral customs and traditions make this an engaging resource for casual visitors and ardent taphophiles alike. Cost: \$11.66 new or used copies are available from \$1.64.

From *The Daily Herald* (Maury County, Tennessee), Dec. 21, 2006: "Man fights to save cemetery," by John Henson and Susan Thurman/Staff Writers. Johnny Eskew believes the old Liberty Church of Christ cemetery he has been caring for the past two years may be in danger. His great, great grandfather, a Confederate veteran, was buried in the cemetery. A new neighbor recently bought a farm adjacent to the old cemetery and started clearing the land, including having the land surveyed and taking 3 acres from the original property line. That land was the site of the Liberty Church of Christ that was omitted from the exclusion of the cemetery on the deed. Pictured is county historian, Bob Duncan, who has found depressions indicating that the cemetery may have extended beyond a new fence recently installed. Eskew has been told by older residents where the cemetery was. Two recognizable graves are in the cemetery, but several graves are unmarked.

Neal DuShane has prepared a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation on the life and times of Jack Swilling, early pioneer of Black Canyon City, Arizona. In his presentation, DuShane offers information that portrays Swilling as a soldier, kind hearted, loved his family, generous to a fault, a hard worker and a true gentleman -- not as bad a fellow as some historians portray him. In his research, DuShane has connected with Joe Bejarano, a great grandson of Swilling, who had tried unsuccessfully to find the graves of his ancestors about four years ago. Recently, Bejarano returned to attend an Open House, tour the remains of Swilling's stone house and to see the five headstones honoring Swilling, his family, and friend, Col. Jacob Snively, placed there by DuShane and BCHS president Bob Nilles. The graves were previously unmarked.

From the BB/CC News by Bruce Colbert and transcribed by Neal DuShane

From the Ft. Worth *Star-Telegram*, November 24, 2006: "Mystery of lost gravestones solved." Two lawmen on the trail of possible drug activity stumbled on a stack of baby girls' headstones more than 120 years old in an abandoned house. Their discovery led to a collaborative effort with local history buffs and the return of the markers to a small family cemetery where they had been missing for about 15 years. All three girls were only a year old when they died in the 1880's. The stones were returned to the Taylor Family Cemetery in Oak Point, Texas. The proper location was determined by the foot stones marked with the girls' initials.

Visiting Britain's Churchyards and Garden Cemeteries

<http://www.timetravel-britain.com/columns/roots/roots04.shtml>

Churchyard Chest Tombs, by Jonathan Taylor

<http://www.buildingsconservation.com/articles/chesttombs/chesttombs.htm>

The Church Monuments Society
<http://freespace.virgin.net/john.bromilow/CMS>

From the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*, June 17, 2006: "Unknown Cowboy," by Art Chapman. Pictured are the small, concrete headstones dotting the Belcherville Cemetery in Montague County. One such headstone, marked "Unknown Cowboy," was stolen recently. He had worked for less than a full day for the Melton Ranch and was killed in a fall from a bucking horse and buried in the 1880's. No one knew his name. Capt. Jim Wright of the Montague County Sheriff's Department doesn't expect to ever see the old concrete headstone again, although he has put the word out that he would pay for its return out of his own pocket. However, Jim Richards of Richards Monuments in Gainesville has crafted a new, finer one, about twice the size of the old marker at no charge. It is a polished stone inscribed with "Unknown Cowboy" and a pair of cowboy boots at the corner.

From the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*, June 25, 2006: "At the portal of the tombs," by Don Woodward. The writer describes his visit to the beautiful Davidson Cemetery near Strawn, Texas, where he visits the grave of a former acquaintance, Mrs. S. J. Stuart, whose family was very important in the early Texas Pacific Coal and Oil Co., which owned the town of Thurber. As he takes in the beauty of the place, he discovers a little brown dog and recalls the oration of U.S. Senator George Graham Vest that he made to a Missouri jury in a case involving the killing of a hunting dog by a sheep farmer:

"The absolutely one unselfish friend that a man can have in this selfish world is his dog. He will sleep on the cold ground where the wintry wind blows and the snow drives fiercely if only he may be by his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer. And when the last scene of all comes, and death take the master in his embrace, and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way; there by the grave side will be the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true, even in death."

From the TOMBSTONES-L@rootsweb.com mailing list, submitted by
ScotlandForever7@aol.com

The writer tells of a visit to his ancestors' graves in the Prestonkirk churchyard in Scotland. On a previous visit in 2002 he was told NOT to clean the stones as scientists wanted to study the mold, etc. that was growing on the stones. He felt that this was a little extreme since the stones were deteriorating and soon would be illegible. Upon his return 4 years later, he found several stones were UNREADABLE! In only 4 years!!! After a detailed discussion with East Lothian Council workers, he discovered that the the genealogist who told them not to clean the stones was lying. East Lothian prefers that the headstones be kept up and cleaned. They showed him a stone left by the King family that had intricate carving containing pictures of Tantillion Castle and other scenes. They explained that no one ever visits the grave and that soon it would be illegible. If you have stones in Scotland, he would strongly suggest that you contact the council district in which they lay, and obtain their direction. After having visited several yards in all parts of Scotland, he had observed many of them are in terrible shape. The grass may be cut, but stones that fall over are left, and no one cleans them up. His relatives also state that plots are often reused and some of their very affluent ancestors now no longer have stones because the headstones deteriorated and the plots were reused. He was shocked by all this, but has been shown documentation to prove it.

Moral Ya got stones, preserve 'em.

CEMETERY CONFERENCE

April 21, 2007

Stoney Creek Inn, Des Moines, Iowa

Sponsored by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC)

PROGRAM

9:30 a.m. Registration

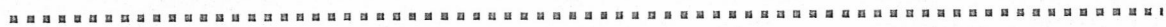
9:50 a.m. Opening and Announcements – Larry Davis, Session Chairman
Welcome – Pat Shaw, President of SAPIC, Birmingham, Iowa

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Cemeteries, Burial Places, and the National Register of
Historic Places: An Iowa Perspective**
Douglas W. Jones – Archaeologist, State Historic
Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Iowa

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon **Legal Remedies for Pioneer Cemeteries**
Dennis N. Britson – Director, Regulated Industries Unit,
Iowa Securities Bureau

12 noon – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch** (served on site)

(Program continued on back side)



REGISTRATION FORM
Cemetery Conference
April 21, 2007

Name _____

Address _____

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration fee (Includes Lunch).....\$20.00 each	_____	_____

Submit this Registration Form and payment by April 13, 2007 to: Valerie Ogren
108 N Oak
Jefferson, IA 50129

Make Checks Payable to SAPIC

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Pioneer Cemetery Commissions

Pat Shaw – President of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC), Birmingham, Iowa. Panel Discussion including:

- * What are Pioneer Cemetery Commissions?
- * How to establish them
- * Overcoming obstacles

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Questions and Answers

2:30 p.m.

Adjourn

2:45 p.m.

**State Association for the Preservation of Iowa
Cemeteries (SAPIC) Business Meeting**