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# GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IA 52535

www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/

VOLUME 12 ISSUE #3

July, 2007

The next meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will be held in Benton County, Iowa (south of Waterloo and southwest of Cedar Rapids, Iowa) on October 13, 2007. Meet at the Redman Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. It is located by going to the junction of US 30 and IA 21, go north on IA 21 for 1/2 mile to 72nd St. Turn east on that street and go 1/4 mile and it will be on the south side of the road. A ceremony will be held at the cemetery honoring Ed Strellner as the recipient of the Robert and Phyllis Carter Service Award for his outstanding work in the restoration and preservation of pioneer cemeteries in Benton County. After the presentation, we will return to Belle Plaine, Iowa at about 11:15. Return to IA 21 and go south approximately 5 1/2 miles. The SAPIC business meeting will be held at the Belle Plaine Museum located at 901 12th Street near the railroad. Lunch will be served by the Museum board at a cost of \$6.00 per meal. Please RSVP for lunch to Frieda Davis at 319-25348 or e-mail at: [davisduo2@mebbs.com](mailto:davisduo2@mebbs.com)

The Robert and Phyllis Carter Education Award will be presented to Don Wentworth at the Reed Cemetery located 2 miles east of Spragueville on the Stromeyer farm in Jackson County, Iowa (far eastern Iowa) on September 22, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. September 22 is also the date of the All Barn Foundation tour in which the Stromeyer Barn and Reed Cemetery will be featured, so directional signs will be visible to assist anyone going to the cemetery award ceremony. From the north (Dubuque), take Hwy 61 south to Maquoketa. Turn left/east at the Hwy 61 and Hwy 64 intersection. Travel east through Maquoketa and continue approximately 14 miles along Hwy 64. Turn left/north on the county road to Spragueville. At the 4-way-stop/flashing light, turn left/west on Iron Bridge Road and travel 2 miles to the Stromeyer farm. From the south (Davenport), take Hwy 61 north to Maquoketa. From there, follow directions above. From the west (Anamosa), follow Hwy 64 east to Maquoketa. Weather permitting, visitors can drive through the pasture by the barn, around the field and to the pioneer cemetery on the

hill (overlooks the Maquoketa River.) In case of rain, the award presentation will be held at the North Bend Schoolhouse (1 1/2 miles west of the Stromeyer farm). There is an unmarked cemetery at this site. This is also where cake and ice cream will be served at approximately 2 p.m. Be sure to stop at the Stromeyer farm to visit a "must see" Barn of Distinction, summer kitchen, playhouse, as well as the restored Reed Cemetery. There is also a smoke house business on the Stromeyer farm where one may purchase smoked meat sandwiches. Proceeds will go the Iowa Barn Foundation. Places to see in Spragueville - Fairfield #4 Schoolhouse, Salem Lutheran Church (over 130 years old), Legion Building (former bank), and the Salem Lutheran Church Cemetery. Questions may be addressed to Caroline M. Bredekamp: Phone 563-689-4970 or 563-689-3581.

Suggestions for removing paint from marble stone:

From Cathedral Stone Products, Inc.

**Maryland: 410-782-9150**

**Toll-Free Phone: 800-684-0901**

<http://jahnmortars.com/CategoryMatrix.aspx>  
 Scroll down the first list of products and a fold out scroll will show paint stripping products available. One of the products is called S-307, Graffiti Remover; it's available in different quantities. You may have to take a small sample of the spray paint, and try different soluble materials to determine what kind of paint was used. Robert Sizelove, Ohio Genweb Cemetery Photo Project manager.

There is a company located in Lawrence, Kansas that specializes in graffiti removal; Prosoco Inc. recently cleaned several historic church buildings as well as Allen Fieldhouse where Kansas University plays basketball. Website: <http://www.prosoco.com/>

You can read further in the local newspaper: [http://www2.ijworld.com/news/2007/aug/01/erasing\\_vandalism\\_s\\_stains/](http://www2.ijworld.com/news/2007/aug/01/erasing_vandalism_s_stains/)

Michael McManness [mmcmanness@sunflower.com](mailto:mmcmanness@sunflower.com)

SAPIC does not endorse products, but offers these as possible suggestions/resources.

## SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Pat Shaw  
21813 170th St.  
Birmingham, IA 52535-8045  
319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

Vice-president: Willis Hoffman  
505 W. Chestnut St.  
Bloomfield, IA 52537-1921  
641-664-2852 wilcar@netins.net

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

Treasurer: Valerie Ogren  
108 N. Oak  
Jefferson, IA 50129-1845  
515-386-4784 vjogren@netins.net

Board Member (2007): Molly Beason  
106 East 11th St.  
Tama, IA 52339  
641-484-6061 mollyb@lowatelecom.net

Board Member (2007): Steve Story  
18883 250th St.  
Hawkeye, IA 52147  
5630427-5354 dstory@netins.net

Board Member (2007): Jo Vernooy  
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Leighton, IA 50142  
641-673-8122 mahcem@kdsi.net

Board Member (2008) Ethel McVay  
1111 N. 8th Ave. Apt. #16  
Winterset, IA 50273-1089  
515-462-9802 emcvay38@msn.com

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216 Riverview Dr.  
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319-472-5348 davisduo2@mebbs.com

Board Member (2009): Julie A. Eckenrod  
2211 Linn Ave.  
New Hampton, IA 50659  
641-394-3967 jjack@myclearwave.net

Board Member (2009): Mike Magee  
638 Englewood  
Waterloo, IA 50701  
319-232-8762 Digger4045@yahoo.com

Board Member (2009): Marva Rowe  
905 S. 21st. St.  
Ft. Dodge, IA 50501-5910  
515-573-7658 marvaj@frontiernet.net

Board Member (2010): Tony Bengston  
1006 150th St.  
Fairbank, IA 50629-8611  
319-415-5275 tonybengston@yahoo.com

Web Page: Connie Street  
325 Franklin St.  
Wapello, IA 52653-1515  
319-523-8164 ckcasey@louisacomm.net

## WHERE TO GET PROBES

Agri-Drain  
340th St.  
Adair, IA 50002  
1-800-232-4743  
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.  
P.O. Box 411 11 Blackwell St.  
Barre, VT 05641 mkewinter@aol.com  
[www.granitecitytoolvt.com](http://www.granitecitytoolvt.com)

Superior Stone Products  
(quickset acrylic adhesive)  
8580 Byron Commerce Drive  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
800-493-5111 [www.superiorstoneproducts.com](http://www.superiorstoneproducts.com)

## WHERE TO GET SIGNS

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

## VETERANS' HEADSTONES

<http://www.cem.va.gov/hm.htm>  
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 of Burials Program  
700 Clinton Street Building  
Iowa City, IA 52242-1030  
319-384-0740 shirley-schermer@uiowa.edu

**State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 14, 2007**

President Pat Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the nature center at Fontana Park, near Independence, Iowa with 30 members and guests present.

The minutes of the April 21, 2007 meeting were read. Moved by Mike Magee that the minutes of the April 21, 2007 meeting be approved. Seconded by Molly Beason. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented illustrating a June 30, 2007 balance of \$10,828.62 consisting of \$1,700.23 in the working account, \$4,128.39 in the reserve account, and \$5,000.00 in Certificates of Deposits. Moved by Sharon Sturek the Treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded by Fred Reisner. Motion carried.

It was noted that the current 6 month Certificate of Deposit of \$1,000.00 expires July 17, 2007. Moved by Molly Beason that the 6 month Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$1,000.00 be renewed. Seconded by Carol Hoffman. Motion carried.

**Cemetery Conference:** Larry Davis presented a summary of the 2007 Conference. A total of 40 registrants attended. Income received was \$1,565.00 including the SAPIC Board approved subsidy in the amount of \$750.00. Expenses were \$1,635.00, leaving a deficit of \$70.00. Davis also noted that SAPIC has now sponsored four conferences averaging 46 registrants per conference. President Shaw noted there has been some discussion of holding a conference every other year instead of every year, and schedule a speaker at one of the quarterly meetings in the off years. Future discussion will determine if a conference will be scheduled for 2008.

**Keith Street Memorial :** President Shaw reported that the Keith Street Memorial has been established to recognize youth that have worked in restoring cemeteries. The memorial will be a \$200 annual award in which the family will provide the funds and assist choosing the recipients. SAPIC will assist by receiving the funds from the family and paying the recipients. The first recipient may be selected in 2007.

**Robert Carter Award:** It was noted that recommendations have been received to change the name of "The Robert Carter Award" to "The Robert and Phyllis Carter Award". Supporters of this recommendation recognize all the work and support Phyllis Carter provided in cemetery restoration and education prior to her recent death. Moved by Robert Brimcomb that the "Robert Carter Award" be renamed to "The Robert and Phyllis Carter Award". Seconded by Mike Magee. Motion carried.

President Shaw explained that the Robert and Phyllis Carter Awards would be recognized at the October meeting, and that it would be appropriate to invite the founders of SAPIC to be present to witness the recognitions as well as SAPIC's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Legislative Priorities:** Bill Reedy reported that under provisions of Common Law, and under statutes of most states, one can obtain possession of real property by occupying and/or using it without the owner's consent for a given period of time. Under Iowa law, this period of time is ten years. Consequently, a person who has encroached upon a cemetery, either partially or fully, can, at the end of ten years of such usage, lay claim to that property. Perhaps we should give consideration to seeking a provision in law that would exempt a cemetery, as defined by statute, from seizure under claim of adverse possession.

It was the consensus of the SAPIC members present to give priority to support a law that would exempt a cemetery from seizure under claim of adverse possession. Bill Reedy, Carol and Willis Hoffman agreed to pursue this concept.

**SAPIC Grants:** President Shaw reported that two grant application had been received.

Alt Cemetery, Johnson County (Paul Druivenga Eagle Scout project)

Buffington Cemetery, Louisa County

Both grant applications were approved for \$200.00 each.

Pat Shaw thanked the Buchanan County Pioneer Cemetery Association, Bill Reedy and Tony Bengston for hosting the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Secretary  
Larry D. Davis

After the meeting, Brian Hoffman presented information on locating unknown cemeteries by using longitude and latitude coordinates (GNIS) system, and the Buchanan County Pioneer Cemetery Association displayed and explained the method they use to make replacement stone markers for graves.

At the July 14 meeting in Buchanan County, there was considerable interest in the headstone that was displayed. It was made by the Buchanan County Pioneer Cemetery Commission to place on unmarked graves. Bill Reedy and members of the Commission have graciously shared the method and sources for making stones.

-----Clip & Save-----

#### MAKING REPLACEMENT TOMBSTONES FOR PIONEER CEMETERIES

The form for stones can be made of any substantial material—steel, aluminum, etc. We have opted for stainless steel. Any local welding shop should be able to fabricate it. Our form is 13 inches wide by 36 inches long, with a rounded top. It is 2 1/2 inches deep. A very slight taper to the sides is helpful for removing the stone from the form.

We use a gridwork of 3/8 inch re-rod in the stone to alleviate breakage problems.

Preventing the stone from sticking to the form can present a problem. We tried using Pam, but it seems to react with the cement. At present, we are using WD-40.

The cement we are using is a white cement, available at most building supply stores. We use silica sand for the mix, to keep the stone as white as possible.

For the letters and numbers, we use foundry pattern reverse letters. They are probably the single largest investment, as a full set of letters, numbers, periods, commas are needed, along with extras of some letters and numbers.

We got our letters from  
Freeman Manufacturing & Supply Co.  
1101 Moore Road  
Avon, Ohio 44011

They are also available from  
The Kindt-Collins Co.  
12651 Elmwood Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

The second source seems to have a greater range of sizes. Check internet for product listings.



From: "Valerie Ogren" <vjogren@netins.net>

Subject: **SAPIC copy/paste**

Date: July 11, 2007 10:04:43 PM CDT

To: "Pat I. Shaw" <patshaw@netins.net>, "Willis & Carol Hoffman" <wilcar@netins.net>, "Larry Davis" <LD2mstone@aol.com>

Please note: the 6 month CD matures July 17th. You should probably vote on whether to renew for another 6 months (which would be my recommendation). The rate has not yet been determined. Interest was added in the amount of \$24.93. New maturity date will be 1/15/08. The 12 month CD will mature 1/16/08 so we can vote on both of them at the January meeting.

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STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES  
Treasurer's Report for 2nd Quarter - 1 April thru 30 June 2007

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2007, Home State Bank, Jefferson  
\$ 2,614.83

Income

Dues	\$185.00
Conference Registrations	640.00
Bumper Stickers	1.00
Interest 4/30/07	2.15
Interest 5/31/07	2.27
Interest 6/30/07	1.74
Total Income	\$ 832.16

Expense

Ck #193 - Pat Shaw - Newsletter 57.53, Copies 3.00	60.53
Ck #195 - Stoney Creek Inn - Conference room & meals	1,634.72
Ck #196 - Pat Shaw - Newsletter	51.51
Total Expense	\$1,746.76

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2007 \$ 1,700.23

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2007, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$  
4,228.39

Income -

Connie Lamb - Lifetime Membership	\$ 100.00
Ck #194 - Sharon Sturek (Marshall Co. grant)	(200.00)
Total Income (-)	\$ (200.00)

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2007 \$ 4,128.39

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 30 June 2007

\$ 5,828.62

Plus additional funds:

182 day CD - \$1,000.00 - 5% - matures 7/17/2007

12 month CD - \$4,000.00 - 5.25% - matures 1/16/2008

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Ogren, Treasurer

108 N. Oak

Jefferson IA 50129-1841

Ph 1-515-386-4784

E-mail: <vjogren@netins.net>

SAPIC dues: \$10  
Individual 15  
Household \$100  
Life \$20  
Organization

The Iowa Genealogical Society Conference will be held October 4-6 at the Best Western Regency Conference Center, located just off of Highway 30 in Marshalltown.

Presentations include:

The Quest for Ellis Island's Annie Moore  
Find That Obituary! Online Newspaper Research  
Organizing Your Research  
Lucas County Genealogical Society  
Networking Forum/Q&A  
Remembering Our Ancestors  
Sacagawea; Woman of History, Woman of Mystery  
Trace Your Roots with DNA  
Beyond DNA; Your Genetic Genealogy Options  
Personal/Family Story-Telling  
Fixing Your Photos The Easy Way  
Family Health History; A Viable Genealogical Tool  
Cases That Made My Brain Hurt

A "freebie" table will be available to display brochures, etc. relating to genealogically-related non-profits, etc. Materials of this type may be mailed to conference coordinator:

Denise Gripp, 1st VP  
311 E. 4th Avenue  
Indianola, IA 50125

E-mail: gripper5@mchsi.com

To register on-line for the conference or for more information, contact IGS at:

[www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)

Information from a presentation by Brian Hoffman at the July 14 SAPIC meeting:

## Locating Unknown Cemeteries (Using Longitude and Latitude Coordinates)

Once you have the longitude and latitude coordinates, it is easy to use a GPS unit to locate a cemetery. Other coordinate systems such as UTM may be used if location information is available in that format.

One of the best resources on the internet for finding cemetery locations is the U.S. Geological Survey's Geographic Names Information System or GNIS. <http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic>

Enter as much information as you know about the cemetery or area that you are trying to find in the search fields, select the Feature Class as Cemetery, and send the Query. Bear in mind that many cemeteries are known by different names, some are not included in the data at all, or it may indicate the wrong location.

### Query Form For The United States And Its Territories

Feature Name:  Feature ID:

Exact Match  Exclude Variants Feature Class: Cemetery [Definitions](#)

State or Territory: Iowa Elevation:

County: Buchanan  Feet  Meters

**Send Query** **Erase Query**

Here is a sample of the results for Buchanan, Iowa.

<a href="#">Hickory Grove Cemetery</a>	2000165	Cemetery	Buchanan	IA	422515N	0914513W	Quasqueton	971
<a href="#">State Hospital Cemetery</a>	461965	Cemetery	Buchanan	IA	422644N	0915532W	Independence	951
<a href="#">Mount Hope Cemetery</a>	459300	Cemetery	Buchanan	IA	422726N	0915330W	Independence	919
<a href="#">Oakwood Cemetery</a>	459790	Cemetery	Buchanan	IA	422746N	0915335W	Independence	906

Enter the coordinates into the GPS unit and use the "go-to" function to bring up the navigation screen. This will give you the distance and direction to the site. Depending on the level of roads shown on the GPS, a road map will help you choose the best route to your destination. For those new to using a GPS unit to navigate, there are many good sites on geocaching to help.

A map program, such as Microsoft's Streets & Trips, can also be used if a GPS unit is not available. These programs may require that the coordinates be converted from degree minute second to decimal degree format.

Using Oakwood Cemetery as an example

$42^{\circ}27'46''N \ 27/60=0.45 \ 46/3600=0.01278$  so  $42+0.45+0.012778=42.462778$

$91^{\circ}53'35''W \ 53/60=0.883333 \ 35/3600=0.009722=91.893056$  (West Longitude is negative so use -91.893056

Use the find function and enter the converted coordinates to see the location on a map.

Advanced users can save the data as a delimited file to be imported into a GPS or map program. I have converted the locations from GNIS for all of Buchanan County as an example.

International Cemetery and Funeral Association (ICFA)

The Cemetery Consumer Service Council (CCSC) has announced the results of its Activity Survey Report for the year 2005. A total of 237 complaints and inquiries were received during the year and 192 were resolved. Fifteen complaints and inquiries were pending at the beginning of the year while another 21 remained at year's end. These figures are based on the responses provided by 21 of the 40 state CCSC committees and state agencies where no CCSC committee exists.

Among the various types of complaints and inquiries received, 42 dealt with improper cemetery maintenance, 91 with questionable sales practices, 6 with Truth in Lending matters and other contractual issues, 38 with cemetery rules and regulations, and another 38 with a variety of other issues including simple inquiries into cemetery practices. Not all agencies track the types of inquiries they receive.

The Cemetery Consumer Service Council is now in its 27th year of operation and continues to improve its effectiveness to assist consumers. An increasing number of calls originate as referrals from Better Business Bureaus and similar organizations. The CCSC also contacts members of Congress to advise them of the assistance and information the Council can offer to their constituents.

CCSC is a non-profit organization created in 1979 and is funded by the International Cemetery and Funeral Association, the Cremation Association of North America, the Central States Cemetery Association and the Southern Cemetery and Funeral Association. Recently, new sponsors include the Western Cemetery Alliance, the Illinois Cemetery and Funeral Home Association, and the Cemetery & Mortuary Association of California. The sole purpose of CCSC is to assist consumers, without charge, in resolving complaints or answering inquiries regarding cemetery services or policies. Participation in the complaint resolution process is voluntary for both the consumer and the cemetery.

Industry members volunteer their time and experience to serve as CCSC representatives in their respective states. The Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, various state consumer protection agencies, and offices of attorneys general are periodically notified of CCSC activities and are among the major sources for consumer referrals. CCSC is listed in the Consumer's Resource Handbook, a U.S. government publication that is circulated to public libraries and consumer assistance agencies throughout the nation.

Complaints are handled by the state and regional committees with the national CCSC office in the Washington, D.C. area being the overall coordinator of the project and the



central contact point. Complaints received by the national office are logged in and each is given a file number for tracking purposes. A copy of the complaint is then forwarded to the appropriate state representative for investigation and action. At that point, many complaints are resolved by telephone and the consumer is notified of the results. It is rare for a cemetery to refuse to participate in the CCSC dispute resolution process. Where no committee exists, CCSC works with the state cemetery board or similar government agency to assist the consumer.

## **SUMMARY**

### **2005 Activity Survey**

21 out of 40 State Committees Reporting

#### **Number of Complaints and Injuries:**

- 1 Pending at beginning of year.....15
- 2 Received during year.....237
- 3 Resolved during year.....192
- 4 Inquiries pending at end of year.....21

#### **Categories of complaints and inquiries received:**

- 1 Improper maintenance.....42
- 2 Questionable sales practices.....91
- 3 Truth in lending and other contractual deficiencies.....6
- 4 Rules and regulations.....38
- 5 Other.....38

**Have any complaints or inquiries received by your committee during the year gone to litigation or other legal action? Yes—3 states**

**If yes, how many? 3 cases**

#### **Check the agencies and organizations that your committee has notified about the availability of its services:**

- 12 attorney general
- 6 better business bureau
- 1 local TV station
- 13 state cemetery board
- 4 Chamber of Commerce
- 2 newspapers

You can get a copy of the handbook by calling 1 (888) 8 PUEBLO (1-888-878-3256). The handbook can also be viewed and ordered online at [www.ConsumerAction.gov](http://www.ConsumerAction.gov)

The North American Cemetery Regulators Association is an Iowa nonprofit corporation. Its membership consists of governmental units vested by law with the authority or duty to administer or enforce a law having for its purpose the regulation or supervision of cemeteries. Each governmental unit is represented by individuals employed as an administrator, director, supervisor, investigator, examiner, auditor, attorney, compliance officer, or staff person.

The association's purposes and objectives include maintaining a forum for discussion of mutual problems and concerns of cemetery and other death care regulatory and enforcement agencies, allowing members to confer, consult, and assist each other and other governmental units, agencies and organizations in addressing problems affecting the public and the cemetery industry. The association's purposes and objectives also include promoting uniformity in legislation and the adoption of uniform policies, forms and other items related to cemetery and other death care laws and regulations.

Dennis Britson director of the Regulated Industries Unit, Iowa Securities Bureau is the contact person for Iowa. (Address on page 2 of this newsletter)

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At the July 14 SAPIC meeting in Buchanan County, Bill Reedy brought up the topic of Adverse possession and pioneer cemeteries for discussion. From a handout that Bill provided: "As we look at our legislative priorities, perhaps we should give consideration to seeking a provision in the law that would exempt a cemetery, as defined by statute, from seizure under claim of adverse possession." For the complete text of the handout, contact Bill Reedy (319) 474-2443 or e-mail: reedypart@jtt.net or Pat Shaw (contact information on page 2). Bill agreed to serve on a committee to bring concerns about this issue to the 2008 legislature. If you would like to know more about adverse possession or if you'd like to be part of this committee, contact Bill Reedy.

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From *American Profiles* magazine, August 12-18, 2007: Tidbits Did You Know.... IOWA - The state's oldest family-owned funeral home is Laufersweiler Funeral Home in Fort Dodge (pop. 25,136). Established in

1856, the business is operated by fourth-and-fifth-generation family members.

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From State Representative Mary Gaskill's Statehouse News, June 5, 2007:

Veterans Cemetery

The Commission received an update on the construction of the state Veterans Cemetery. The bids were opened for the cemetery project on May 1st and now the state is just waiting for the federal government to provide final approval of the project. The federal government has 90 days to review the project. The Department has been working with the state's Congressional delegation to move up the approval process, so construction can begin during the warm summer months.

Steve Young, the new director of the Veterans Cemetery, also reviewed plans to expand outreach efforts about the Veterans Cemetery. They will be improving the Department of Veterans Affairs website to keep the public informed on the construction process.

From State Senator Becky Schmitz, July 5, 2007: We took steps to protect Iowans from pre-paid funeral fraud by establishing stringent new standards. Too many Iowa families have discovered that records and payments were missing when it came time to make the funeral arrangements for their loved ones. Under the new law, records will be regularly examined. In addition, if the provider of funeral services and merchandise goes out of business, all money paid by the family and any interest generated by those dollars must be repaid within 30 days.

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Posted by David Samuelson on CEMETERY@rootsweb.com May 31, 2007:

(Concerning types of materials used for stones) Marble was easy available around 1780s in some areas but polished limestone was more widespread after the slates. Granite came into vogue around 1820s in some areas. There are several types of limestone, some durable and others aren't so. Same can be said for white marble - some durable and not others. Zinc markers ("white bronze") came into vogue around 1870s and lasted until 1920s. The company that did this folded up, taking the secret of the varnish recipe with them. No one has been able to recreate the recipe since then. The white bronze markers are very very durable anywhere. They're all over USA and Canada and used to be ordered from one company manufacturing the plates.

## COUNTY REPORTS

### ADAIR

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 28, 2007: "In memory -- Artist finds canvas on Freedom Rock. Pictured is Ray "Bubba" Sorensen with the patriotic paintings he's done for the past nine years on a 56-ton boulder, now called The Freedom Rock, near Greenfield, west of Des Moines. The paintings, done with latex house paint, attract thousands of visitors and have made the artist a celebrity in central Iowa. The 12-ft. rock was formerly covered with graffiti. A closeup of Lance Cpl. C.J. Miller of Greenfield, killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq last December, is featured on the 2007 Freedom Rock, as well as all branches of the service. This year, the ashes from eight deceased Vietnam veterans were mixed into the paint.

[http://bubbazartwork.com/patriotic\\_rock.html](http://bubbazartwork.com/patriotic_rock.html)

### ADAMS

In an e-mail from Floyd Harlow Lawrence dated May 31, 2007, Mr. Lawrence reports that the Old Brooks Cemetery located in Jasper Township is now totally abandoned. The property once belonged to his uncle, Jacob Lawrence. A few stones were moved to the Adams County Brooks Cemetery, but the remains were not moved. In an attached article (no date given) by Olive Walter, a history of the settlement of Brooks is given, along with several paragraphs about the cemetery and the known persons whose graves are located there. It says, "The area contains many wild flowers and plants which are extinct almost everywhere else." No road leads to this isolated area. There is no record of the cemetery being named, how large an area it encompasses or how many graves were ever there, nor where the graves were located.

### ALLAMAKEE

From *The Standard*, August 24, 2007, Waukon, Iowa: "Supervisors discuss variety of issues at Monday meeting," by Mike Martin. Doug Mullen of Lansing appeared before the Board regarding responsibility for maintenance of the county's pioneer cemeteries. Mullen was directed to identify which cemeteries in the county would be considered "pioneer." Supervisor Lennie Burke noted that, also according to the Iowa Code, maintenance might mean planting prairie flowers.

112 gravestone photos were submitted for the Smith Cemetery to the Gravestone Photo Project (GPP) by S. Ferrall. Also a photo of Oakland Cemetery was added to the main index page.

<http://iowagravestones.org/>

### BREMER

From the *Waverly Democrat*, August 24, 2007: "Honoring local heritage: Waverly Scout restores headstones to earn Eagle rank," by Janelle Penny.

Pictured is Matt Tolan, 16, with fellow Scouts and friends in the Spring Lake Cemetery north of Waverly as they prepare to repair, clean, and straighten tombstones as part of his Eagle Scout project. In spite of rainstorms that have slowed the work, Matt says, "It makes me feel good that we're bringing history back to Bremer County." He remains dedicated to the project despite recent setbacks.

### BUCHANAN

At the SAPIC meeting in Buchanan County last July, many members who attended were impressed with the headstones that were made for unmarked graves by a member of the Buchanan County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Several SAPIC members went back to their home counties determined to duplicate the process. Bill Reedy and Commission members have graciously shared this method. Instructions are on page 4. This would be a great winter project.

SAPIC wishes to thank the members of the Buchanan County Pioneer Cemetery Commission for their hospitality, for arranging the meeting in a great facility, and for a delicious lunch. Your efforts are appreciated!

### CASS

Michael Carr, secretary for Colonel William Kinsman Camp #23, SUVCW, in Atlantic, Iowa reports that this group is commencing a multi-year project to repair, restore, and replace all Civil War gravestones and markers in Cass County as well as assist their sister-camp, Gov. Kirkwood #4 in Council Bluffs as they prepare to do Pottawattamie County. Members of this group requested that a SAPIC member attend their August meeting to provide information and advice. SAPIC member, Henry Heaton from Corning graciously agreed to meet with the group. Henry has been involved in cemetery restoration in southwestern Iowa for a number of years and is a past winner of the Robert Carter Award.

### CHICKASAW

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 24 Number 2, Second Quarter 2007, J.L. Kottke, Editor. Pictured on the front page are four photos from the Yankee Center enactment -- Memorial Day Recollections at Union Cemetery. More than 120 persons came and experienced history of 150 years ago at the rededication of the New Hampton Township Union Cemetery on May 28, 2007. The area at that time was at the center of Yankee Precinct later known as at the center of four townships, Fredericksburg, Dresden, Stapleton and New Hampton.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 28, 2007: Letter to the Editor, "Protect Cemeteries," by Priscilla Reisner. Priscilla states in her letter that she works with a Cemetery Commission (Chickasaw County) and SAPIC in restoring pioneer cemeteries and suggests that the readers might like to start a similar group in their communities. She goes



on to tell of the condition of neglected cemeteries, the methods used in restoring them, and the rewards one gets. She feels that involving children in cemetery work might eliminate vandalism.

Fred Reisner has been pulling out some fences at Garden of Memories and moved some brush. One tree was ready to fall down so the trustee cut it down & got rid of the big stuff, the wind blew another down, straddling a quite large head stone when it went, the trustee also got rid of that for us. Thank God for him!

Mike Magee, & Bill Youngblut, Jerry Tieskotter, Mary Ann Crandall, Thelma Allen, worked at Little Turkey one day. They leveled some stones, lowered a sign that was put in too high, Thelma cleaned stones, Mary Ann brought lunch.

At the (Utica) Little Turkey Cemetery we have a headstone that we don't have a clue where it belongs. We find no information for it! It is maybe 10 or 12" sq., old, & white. The name on it is...

Clarence  
son of  
AE & S  
Spaight

died  
January 31, 1877

The letters are very clear so there is no unsureness about it. Is anyone missing it? There is a Stephen L Slaight bd, Abt. 1807 dd. 02 Jun 1876, but can find no connection, if there was a mistake. The stone is in good shape! -- Priscilla Reisner freisner@iowatelecom.net

### DAVIS

We have been busy since the July SAPIC meeting. The meeting left us with ideas this could be a way for our Davis County Cemetery Commission to earn some funds (making headstones). Brian did research and found a place in Ottumwa that can make our forms. Our forms were ready for pick-up in 2 days after we placed the order. He talked to an Amish man that makes their stones and got further ideas. We have ordered our letters which came in 2 shipments about 2 weeks apart. The web site for ordering letters from one source is [www.freemansupply.com](http://www.freemansupply.com)

We have frame work for 2 stones and have been trying ideas on how to do the work. We have people ready to get replacement stones and in some cases where there never were stones due to depression and etc.

We put the trailer in the 4th of July Rodeo parade here in Bloomfield and received third place award for our float. Justin, our 9 year old grandson, had fun throwing out candy to all the people along the parade route. He wants to do it again.

We have spent many hours working on Mars Hill to raise money to rebuild. The trusses have been delivered. The roof

will be the next step and then for the chinking, which will take a long time to complete.

Brian and I set up a table at the Wapello County 4-H expo in Ottumwa with our cemetery maps for Davis & Wapello Counties. We were able to get several leads and one Wapello County 4-H group has asked us to train them in what needs to be done on a much neglected site.

As a community service we will be working on the Mars Hill Cemetery. We will be straightening stones, resetting them and building replacement stones as well as cleaning and any other things which need to be done. We will ask the Wapello County 4-H group that needs training so this will be a good learning experience for them as well.

Brian and I spent a Friday cleaning on a tipped over stone and got it ready to replace the base. We were told the base was usable but when we got our pry bars under it the base broke in to several big pieces. On Saturday a group came in and we poured a new base and tried out the new tripod that our supervisor commissioner so generously donated to us. While we were trying it out we lifted several big tall stones.

We hired a fence to be installed in one of our neglected cemeteries. Neighbors have cleared the brush so the next step is to reset the stones. There are 15-20 known burials and most of the stones have been toppled by cows running in the area. A deer hunter claimed one of the big trees for his deer stand.

We held a work night for the men to set stones for the July meeting. Some of the women had had enough of the heat and the chiggers. One more good work session should whip this one into shape.

From Carol Hoffman, Bloomfield

### DUBUQUE

From *The Des Moines Register* and RADIO IOWA, both dated June 28, 2007: Several bones have been unearthed at the site of a planned condominium project in Dubuque, the latest evidence that the area may have been a cemetery dating back to the 1800s. The bones - reportedly human - were discovered this week atop Kelly's Bluff as workers excavated the site for the condo project. The state archeologist's office was called to the area and scientists from the office are continuing to investigate the findings. While walking his dog this week, Fan Heckles, a Dubuque attorney, also discovered a jaw and part of a skull in the area. Kelly's Bluff was reportedly an early Catholic cemetery in the mid-1800s.

### FAYETTE

From the *Waterloo Courier*, August 21, 2007: "Historic tombstones vandalized in Clermont." More than a dozen historic stones from St. Peter's Cemetery were broken and windows in a storage building adjoining the cemetery were shot out with what appears to be a BB gun. The article also mentions the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission's restoration of 19 older burial sites in the county. an estimate of the cost to repair the grave markers is not available.

Our Pioneer Cemetery Commission work crew continues working at Center Grove Cemetery near Twin



Bridges Park. The excessive heat and humidity called for some 'vacation' days in July-August. The cemetery, once belonging to the United Brethren Church, has been mowed for many years by township trustees. However, a need for monument restoration and heavy tree-brush incursion into the cemetery perimeter called for action!

Three more large reflective crosses have been placed this summer to help travelers identify pioneer cemeteries. Commission members and workers Richard Vagts and Charles Shipton have built the crosses, using diamond grade reflective material from the Anamosa Penitentiary. Commission and work crew member Harvey Ungerer has helped install the crosses.

With fall coming on, the crew hopes to complete work at Center Grove, plus check all of our Pioneer Cemeteries for any additional or new needs before December, 2007.

We have been asked to survey the Wauvoma Cemetery (non-pioneer) for suggestions and cost estimates for volunteers to repair many monuments. We also face the daunting challenge of restoring Otsego Cemetery, near Oelwein, which will join the ranks of legal Pioneer Cemeteries in 2011. Commission members plan to meet later this fall with the Fayette County Supervisors, County Attorney, Township trustees serving Otsego-Union and local law enforcement officials to discuss an 'earlier' start and labor from district correctional facility residents.

Commission member Aliice Miller has made several presentations to local groups on the best selling book 'Hattie Big Sky'. 'Hattie', originally from Arlington in southeast Fayette County, is a direct descendant of the Brooks family buried in our restored Brooks-Hendrickson Pioneer Cemetery. Crew members restored the cemetery before the book was published, and all feel a special link to Montana and Iowa history.

-- Steve Story

### FLOYD

From the *Charles City Press*, July 14, 2007: "County holds off on cemetery aid," by Staci Schwickerath, Staff Writer. The request for funding from the county general fund by the St. Charles Township Trustees for the Sunnyside Memorial Gardens was denied by the Board of Supervisors, even though \$40,000 was budgeted to be used only if necessary. The supervisors felt that the township could borrow money from their fire fund until tax money becomes available in September. Control of the cemetery was taken by the State of Iowa from former owners and turned over to the trustees after a 2-year investigation. The cemetery is presently operated on funds from grave openings. The supervisors said they will revisit the issue if necessary.

### HENRY

From MPNEWS.NET, May 30, 2007: "Henry County man: Apache fighter remembered," by Andy Dygert. Pvt. John P. Yount was a Medal of Honor winner in 1871 while fighting Apache Indians in Arizona. He died over a year later of typhoid fever at Fort McPherson in Nebraska. Through the

Iowa Gravestones website, a picture of Yount's grave was posted. The director of the Ft. McPherson National Cemetery saw the photo and helped obtain a gravestone for Yount's grave from the government. The Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and local historical society, along with some recently located family members, placed the marker in the Oak Grove Pioneer Cemetery in Marion Township. A formal ceremony may be held later this summer.

In an e-mail from Stan Hill, chairman of the Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, dated June 26, 2007: All is well in Henry County and a lot of progress has been made in regards to Pioneer cemeteries since we began in Feb., 1999. The supervisors support us very well financially so we are able to keep moving. We are about to take responsibility for the Farlow aka Reece Cemetery. Up to 85-90 stones need some repair. The group meets the first Monday of each month in the summer at 1PM at the Courthouse.

### JACKSON

From the *Maquoketa Sentinel Press*, April 25, 2007: "Schueller honored for preservation work." Pictured is State Representative Tom Schueller receiving a "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" appreciation certificate from Jackson County Pioneer Cemetery commissioners and SAPIC members, Joann Caven and Jeanett Kruse. Schueller was recognized for being instrumental in the passage of a bill containing language allowing cemetery preservationists access to landlocked pioneer cemeteries.

From the *Maquoketa Sentinel Press*, May 16, 2007: "Commission, volunteers liven up cemetery," by Kelly Gerlach. Pictured on the front page are AmeriCorps volunteers doing the back-breaking work of repairing bases, monuments, and footstones at the East Union Cemetery 8 miles east of Maquoketa along Iowa highway 64. Working with the AmeriCorps volunteers were members of the Jackson County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Each year, the Commission chooses 2 cemeteries on which to focus its attention. This year's chosen two include East Union and Dark Hollow. Commission member, JoAnn Caven stated that East Union was in excellent condition compared to many of the other cemeteries they have worked on, due to good maintenance over the years by the Ray Johnson Jr. family. However, the Commission noticed a visible shifting of monuments with some beginning to slide off their bases and other tilting at awkward angles. The Commission had fenced the cemetery in 2000 to protect it from animals and vandals. Three other pictures of the two groups working at the site were inside the paper as the story continues. A history of the cemetery was given, along with a description of the dowsing process, and information about markers and symbolisms. The Commission will continue to work on pouring solid bases and erecting monuments as weather permits.

### JEFFERSON

From the *Fairfield Ledger*, June 7, 2007: Letter to Editor -- "Fairfield's past needs preserved, respected," by Stuart Smith, Des Moines. The writer says that he is shocked by the many tombstones that are tipped over and covered with some form of fungus that appears to be destroying the face of the tombstones in the Fairfield Cemetery. He feels that Fairfield should see to it that its past is preserved and those who made it what it is

today are remembered with the respect they deserve.

### JOHNSON

From the *North Liberty Leader*, May 23, 2007: "Soaring to the top -- Stuart Druivenga works to earn his Eagle wings," by Lori Lindner. Pictured is Stuart in the Alt Cemetery off North Liberty Road. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout by cleaning up the cemetery and restoring the stones. About 5 percent of all Boy Scouts achieve this rank that requires leadership, service, and outdoor skills. After last winter's destructive ice storm, Stuart looked for a clean-up project. Township trustee, Jim Tallman, mentioned the state of the cemetery which only receives minimal mowing and maintenance. After initial cleaning, Stuart learned about people who are interred there and the history of the area, and decided to repair the grave markers, also. As a final acknowledgment of his hard work, the North Liberty American Legion's annual Memorial Day ceremony was held at the Alt Cemetery with recognition of his project. Note: A SAPIC grant was awarded to Stuart to help defray the cost of epoxy and other expenses.

### JONES

From the Jones County Historical Society, June 2, 2007: A cemetery walk was held at Riverside Cemetery in Anamosa on June 10 from 1 to 4 PM. during the Grant Wood Festival. This was a fundraiser for the Historical Society. Riverside Cemetery is the burial site of artist Grant Wood who was born east of Anamosa in Jones County.

From the Jones County Historical Society, June 29, 2007: (Reprint from the *Monticello Express*, July 10, 1965) "Johnsontown -- Only tiny cemetery marks former town," by Esther Sinclair. A history of the settlement of Johnsontown is related, beginning in 1851 when the first families came from Indiana and Kentucky. At one time, there was a post office, physician, druggist, shoe stores, church, harness maker, blacksmith, general store, wagon and carriage shop, grocer and tinware, watchmaker, carpenter and woodwork shop, and creamery. The last building, a branch of St. John's Lutheran Church, was erected in 1915. Today the only thing to remind a passerby of the once thriving prairie town is a tiny cemetery located next to farm land owned by the Paulsen family. Note: This cemetery was restored in 1998 by the Cascade FFA Chapter whose members continue to maintain the site.

### LEE

From *Preserving Our Past*, newsletter of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, Number 14, Summer Issue, April, May, June, 2007. This edition deals with veterans of the Civil War who were interred in Lee County cemeteries. On the front cover, an emblem showing Confederate and Union officers shaking hands is followed by the following quotation: "American has no north, no south, no east, no west. The sun rises over the hills and sets over the mountains, the compass just points up and down, and we can laugh now at the absurd notion of there being a north and a south. We are one and undivided." -- Sam Watkins, 1st Tennessee

Inside is a list of the Civil War veterans buried in Lee County Pioneer Cemeteries, a spotlight on the Rudd Cemetery, and obituaries of John Johnson and Edward Alvis, ancestors of LCPCA members. Also included is a column by LCPCA

president, Terry Altheide, that appeared in the *Keokuk Daily Gate City* newspaper on April 25, 2003, titled "Walking amongst the heroes in Civil War."

### LINN

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, August 15, 2007, "Prairieburg grave digger carries on family tradition, by Dave Rasdal, *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*. Pictured is Kay Beranek, 55, of Prairieburg as she digs a grave by hand among a row of tombstones at St. Joseph's Cemetery south of Prairieburg. Kay has dig as many as 15 graves in one year. So far, she has dig 4 in 2007, earning \$450 for each. She took over the job from her father, Frank Drexler who had dug graves since 1935. He died in 1984 at the age of 84 and worked until then. Each grave is 38 inches wide, 8 feet long, 6 feet deep. She plans two days to open and dig a grave.

### LOUISA

The Louisa County Cemetery Commission placed an engraved boulder at the former County Home, 12635 County Road G56, about three miles north of Wapello. The boulder signifies the location of the abandoned cemetery where several county home residents were buried in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The exact location of the cemetery is unknown. Grave witching by the Louisa County Genealogical Society and ground penetrating radar by the state archaeologist's office were inconclusive. Area residents remembered that the graves were placed in the orchard east of the original building and were able to identify the approximate location of the orchard. The current building, built in the 1970s, is being used as a county-owned office building. A new jail will be built east of the current building in 2008.

### MARION

In an e-mail from LaRhee Henderson dated July 17, 2007, she expresses concern about the Mikesell Cemetery south of Monroe, Iowa, where the graves of her ancestors are located. She says the gate is down and animals have been allowed to tromp on the stones that are all down and broken. She will follow up on suggestions to contact the township trustees, county auditor, county assessor, county recorder, and the local genealogical society.

### MARSHALL

From the *Times-Republican*, Marshalltown, Iowa, August 12, 2007: "Pioneer Cemetery restoration begins," by Mike Donahey. The article tells of several descendants and interested persons gathering at the Price Cemetery to install a sign identifying the cemetery, cleaning the site, and dowsing for burials. Included in the group were Sharon and Joe Sturek, Larry Ginter, Jack Cardani, Jerry Hale, Wayne Blessing, and Alice Karsjens. Sharon and Jerry are descendants of persons whose graves are located in the cemetery. They have taken action to get assistance in maintaining the cemetery from the Eden Township Trustees, who claim that the cemetery is the responsibility of the county supervisors.

From the *Marshall County Sun*, August 23, 2007: "Price

Pioneer Cemetery Restoration," by Alice Karsjen, MC Sun Staff Writer. Pictured is the sign identifying the cemetery as the "PRICE PIONEER CEMETERY," along with Sharon and Joe Sturek, Larry Ginter, and Wayne Blessing as they erect the sign, install headstones, and move new bases to the grave sites. Jerry Hall has created several web sites containing pictures and additional information. [www.pricecemetery.org](http://www.pricecemetery.org)  
Note: Sharon Sturek received a grant from SAPIC to help defray the cost of the fence that was recently installed.

### POLK

From the *Des Moines Register/Ankeny Press-Citizen*, May 16, 2007: Pictured are Larry and Mary Richards as they present the "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" appreciation award to State Representative Geri Huser for her efforts to pass a bill allowing preservationists access to landlocked cemeteries. Drs. Larry and Mary Richards represented SAPIC.

### SHELBY

In an e-mail message dated July 7, 2007, Denny Williams questions the disappearance of a database from the Shelby County web site that documented the Bowman's Grove Cemetery. The database was created as a demonstration project by Iowa State students in 1999. A description of their work is contained in a web site operated by Schneider Corporation which acquired ProMap Corporation, the originators. The Shelby County Auditor thought the data had been given to the State Historical Society, but it cannot be found there. It cannot be found at the Iowa Genealogical Society. Denny is planning to photograph the stones and do the work over for Bowman Grove and Rosehill Cemeteries, if it cannot be found.  
[www.cemeterymap.com/news1.asp](http://www.cemeterymap.com/news1.asp)

### STORY

The minutes of the Huxley Historical Society meeting on July 23 included information about the Prairiefest to be held August 24, 25, and 26. Secretary, Michele Kalsem also presented a short amount of information on the Iowa Pioneer Cemetery Association and getting the Ballard Cemetery listed with them. She also noted an article about grave probing. The Huxley Historical Society restored the cemetery and maintains it.

### WAPELLO

From the *Fairfield Ledger*, July 2, 2007, "Area historical society to exhibit Victorian-era mourning clothing." The Wapello County Historical Society presented "Death in the Parlor: An Exhibit of Victorian Mourning Clothing," featuring artifacts related to 19th century mourning practices on July 7. The program was given by Kelly Schott at the Museum. A display of items will continue. Telephone: 641-682-8676

### WINNESHIEK

Members of the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission were saddened by the sudden death of Commission member Robert "Bob" Melvin Brimacombe, age 57, on August 4, 2007. Bob was also a member of SAPIC and had attended SAPIC meetings that were held in northern Iowa. Services were held on August 8 at Burr Oak Lutheran

Church with burial in Burr Oak Cemetery.

### WOODBURY

In an e-mail from Patricia Flemming dated July 29, 2007, Patricia expresses concern about a family cemetery located near Correctionville, Iowa. She writes that only one monument is standing, others are under bushes and buried, and there is a horse in the cemetery. No one has been buried in the cemetery since 1898. Reportedly the remains were moved to the Catholic Cemetery in Anthon in 1937. A cousin whose land adjoins the cemetery will pursue the matter of getting it cleaned and recognized as a cemetery.

### OUT OF IOWA

#### ALABAMA

From the *Decatur Daily*, July 19, 2007: "Limestone's guardian of the dead -- Woman is serious about protecting final resting places," by Holly Hollman. Sherrie Breckon is pictured beside the grave marker of Willis M. Donaldson located in a family plot in eastern Limestone County. Sherrie, a volunteer with the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance, is working to save the grave, along with 3 others, from bulldozers by designating the area as historic property. Graves that are 75 years or older cannot be destroyed without a permit from the Alabama Historical Commission. A state law passed this year gives public access to cemeteries and family plots on private property. Anyone who wants to protect or restore a cemetery or family plot can contact the Alabama Preservation Cemetery Alliance through its web site:

[www.alabama-cemetery-preservation.com](http://www.alabama-cemetery-preservation.com)  
or by mail at P.O. Box 3932, Montgomery, AL 36109-0932

From the Associated Press, August 31, 2007: "Graves dating to before the Civil War being relocated at Town Creek. The remains of more than 200 people buried at historic Foster Cemetery are being moved following the sale of the property last year. The Southeastern Anthropological Institute at Northwest Shoals Community College is relocating the remains that was part of Thomas Jefferson Foster's plantation in the 19th century. Foster was born in 1809 and served in the Confederate Congress. Many of the names were of slaves. Archaeologist and volunteers have cataloged more than 100,000 items. Excavation was completed in June.

#### ARIZONA

Neal DuShane of the Arizona Pioneer Cemetery Research Project (APCRP) reports that this group is currently on line with a new web site: <http://www.apcrp.org>  
Neal urges everyone to keep checking this new site as it will change daily for some time.

#### GEORGIA

From the *New York Times*, June 17, 2007: "New Homes Confront Old Burial Grounds," by Kate Galbraith. Ray W. Gunnin, Sr., president of a small, mostly residential development corporation in Georgia, discovered a small, rural cemetery containing the grave of a veteran of 1812, on property that he purchased for a housing development. He hired an archaeologist to determine the number of graves and to



determine the precise boundaries of the cemetery. He cleaned up the site and erected a chain link fence around it to protect it. The total cost to him was about \$40,000 including the money lost because he couldn't sell the lot. Sometimes, the remains are moved to another cemetery at a cost of \$2000 per grave.

From <wyte-hawk@att.net> Southern Soldiers Remembrance has installed about thirty headstones this year and there is another ten on order. A dedication ceremony will be held at Hollywood Cemetery on Saturday, October 6th at 12:00 noon until about 2:00 p.m.

### NORTH CAROLINA

From Scotch-Irish-Culture@rootsweb.com: Submitted by LK Ramsey <lkr Ramsey@comcast.net>

The New South associates, Inc. have announced that the Colonial-era remains discovered in March at the construction site located in Charlotte, NC have been recovered and will be reentered with a ceremony to be held at the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church on July 14. Many of the remains are those of the family of Thomas Spratt who settled in Mecklenburg County, NC about 1740 and was an ancestor of James Knox Polk, president of the United States.

### MINNESOTA

From *American Profile* magazine, August 26 - September 1, 2007: The oldest human remains found in the state belonged to the Browns Valley Man, who lived about 9,000 years ago. His remains were discovered in 1933 in a gravel pit near Browns Valley (pop.690).

### MISSOURI

Extensive vandalism occurred to the stones in the Old Callao Cemetery near Callao in northeast Missouri sometime between July 1-15. Authorities made a plea for help in getting information about the crime on station KTVO-TV, Kirksville.

### TEXAS

From the *Ft. Worth Star Telegram*, May 8, 2007: "Recognition is sought for black graveyard," by Cynthia Neff. Geraldine Mills, head of the Arlington, Texas Historical Society, and Eulysee Pointer have been trying to get an old African American cemetery recognized by Tarrant County and the Texas Historical Commission. To be considered for the Historic Texas Cemetery designation, a cemetery must be at least 50 years old and its history must be documented. They will submit a third application for the recognition this year.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, July 6, 2007: "Cemeteries get new life as public gardens," by Maureen Gilmer. Pictured is a cemetery in which irises and wildflowers are sown on a broad scale. A movement is afoot to go beyond the "one day a year of decoration" that occurs on Memorial Day and plant flowers that will survive year after year, beautifying and preserving the site for historical purposes.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, July 8, 2007: "No rest for land near cemetery -- Dallas: Owner hoping to sell property will first have to unearth its past," by Roy Appleton. Pictured is Frances James, the unofficial guardian of the Garvin Memorial Cemetery, who says research suggests at least 30 people are buried in the private land adjacent to the graveyard. The land could be sold if an archaeological survey shows there are no graves there or if any remains are properly reinterred.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, July 13, 2007: "Priest describes 'beautiful scene' at Johnson home -- Loved ones prayed, sang minutes before former first Lady died," by Karen Brooks. Pictured is the Rev. Bob Scott, a longtime Johnson family friend, who was with the family as Lady Bird Johnson lay in a coma. Although Mrs. Johnson was Episcopalian, not Catholic, the priest conducted a simple prayer service to "give her a welcome from all the saints in Heaven."

### WISCONSIN

From the Associated Press, June 7, 2007: "Cemetery flag thefts have tale attached." Caretakers of the Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah noticed around Memorial Day that about 25 U.S. flags were missing from veterans' graves. But the haphazard pattern of the thefts and the fact that the wooden dowels remained intact led them to believe that the thieves weren't human. Such thefts have happened before. Squirrels took flags in Oshkosh and used them to line their nests a few years ago, and an Eau Claire cemetery groundskeeper found dozens of missing flags in a squirrel's nest in 2006.

### VIRGINIA

From MSNBC, June 20, 2007: "Confederate group wants to maintain cemetery," by Ray Daudani, NBC12 News. The Sons of Confederate Veterans would like to take over maintenance at Oakwood Cemetery, but can't get a meeting with the busy mayor to get authorization. The SCV has the money and the state's blessing, thanks to legislation passed in the General Assembly last year. Members of the SCV are concerned about restoration practices currently being used by city employees, including the use of Gorilla Glue to bond some monuments.



Photo of the impressive headstones made by the Buchanan County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Photo courtesy of Jerry Hale.