

# GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535  
VOLUME 13 ISSUE #2

www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/  
April, 2008

The July 12, 2008 SAPIC meeting will be held at the Hurstville Interpretive Center located about one mile north of Maquoketa on Highway 61. (Map is inside newsletter) at 10:00 AM. There will be coffee, juice, and rolls available prior to the meeting. Lunch will cost \$5.00. Please make reservations for lunch with Jo Caven at 563-652-2516 or e-mail Jeanett Kruse at: jlkruse@iastate.edu or phone 563-652-3269. Last year's winner of the Robert and Phyllis Carter Education Award, Don Wentworth, may speak about the books he has authored. The Hurstville Interpretive Center is designed for multiple uses, with an emphasis on environmental education and natural resource protection. In addition to the exhibits at the Center, there are many other attractions in the area, including 33 sites on the National Register of Historic Places, many parks and recreation areas, Jackson County Historical Museum, Maquoketa Caves State Park, and Banowetz Antiques. On the weekend of July 12-13, The Great River Threshers will be held at Miles, east of Maquoketa. For more information, contact the Jackson County Welcome Center at Sabula: 800-342-1837

Web site: [www.jacksoncountyiowa.com](http://www.jacksoncountyiowa.com)

SAPIC member, Ron Harris, shared a copy of a booklet, *Gravestone Restoration* by Ralph Hendersin of Sparta, Wisconsin. Ralph has graciously agreed to allow copies to be made and distributed to interested individuals. For a copy, contact Ron Harris at: [harris@wcto.net](mailto:harris@wcto.net) The booklet is a concise and informative guide with many photographs and sources listed. Ron Harris followed the suggestions in the booklet when restoring the Eastman Cemetery in Clayton County, Iowa.

Kevin Lee in Winneshiek County found the following interesting web site titled "Gravestones and Memorials, Julie Rezac Workshop." [www.rezacworkshop.com](http://www.rezacworkshop.com) Julie is a United States citizen living in Ireland who recreates ancient inscriptions on gravemarkers.

There is a sense of exhilaration that comes from facing head-on the hard truths and saying, "We will never give up. We will never capitulate. It might take a long time, but we will find a way to prevail."

-- Jim Collins, from his book, *Good to Great*

Nominate your deserving cemetery worker for the Robert & Phyllis Carter Service or Education Award. For a copy of the criteria, contact Pat Shaw. The Keith Street Memorial Award for a deserving youth who has worked in cemetery restoration is available. The application is on the SAPIC web site. Awards are presented in the fall.



IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

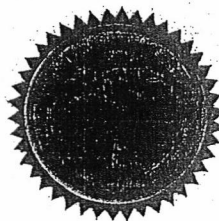
## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, IOWANS ARE AWARE OF THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE RICH HERITAGE CONTAINED IN IOWA'S PIONEER HISTORICAL CEMETERIES; AND  
WHEREAS, THIS APPRECIATION OF THEIR ANCESTORS' RESTING PLACES DEVELOPS A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR ANCESTORS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IN THEIR COMMUNITIES; AND  
WHEREAS, PRIDE AND RESPECT FOR OUR PIONEERS LEADS TO AN INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND THAT WE DEDICATE THIS MONTH TO THE CARE OF OUR PIONEER CEMETERIES:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY, 2008, AS

## CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH

IN IOWA.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERE-  
UNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND  
CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE  
OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES  
MOINES THIS 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL IN THE  
YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND  
EIGHT.

*Chester J. Culver*  
CHESTER J. CULVER  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Michael A. Mauro*  
MICHAEL A. MAURO  
SECRETARY OF STATE

SAPIC will be awarding grants in the amount of \$200.00 each in 2008. The grant application is inside this newsletter. Preference will be given to persons or organizations that have exhausted most sources of funding, have an interest in a neglected pioneer cemetery, and support the goals of SAPIC.

Web site on grave dowsing suggested by  
Ralph Hendersin:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/cemetery/messages/5118.html>

## SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Story  
18883 250th St.  
Hawkeye, IA 52147  
5630427-5354 dstory@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 (2010): Molly Beason  
106 East 11th St.  
Tama, IA 52339  
641-484-6061 mollyb@lowatelecom.net

Board Member (2010): Pat Shaw  
21813 170th St.  
Birmingham, IA 52535  
319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

Board Member (2010): Jo Vernooy  
1240 235th St.  
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

Board member (2009): Frieda Davis  
216 Riverview Dr.  
Vinton, IA 52349-2360  
319-472-5348 davisduo2@mebbs.com

Board Member (2009): Julie A. Eckenrod  
2211 Linn Ave.  
New Hampton, IA 50659  
641-394-3967 jjeck@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  
319-415-1175 tonybengston@yahoo.com

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

## SAPIC dues:

Individual for one year: \$10.00  
Household for one year: \$15.00  
Business or organization for one year: \$20.00  
Lifetime individual: \$100.00  
Send dues to Valerie Ogren (address above)

**State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries  
Board Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2008**

President Steve Story called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on April 12, 2008 at the Johnson County Historical Society Museum in Coralville, Iowa.

President Story presented the meeting agenda and asked for additions and approval. Moved by Frieda Davis that the meeting agenda be approved. Seconded by Molly Beason. Motion carried.

Moved by Frieda Davis that the minutes of the previous meeting on January 12, 2008 be approved as printed in the January 2008 newsletter. Seconded by Molly Beason. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Larry Davis illustrating a balance of \$11,923.64, consisting of \$2,031.88 in the "Working Account", \$4,628.39 in the "Reserve Account" and \$5,263.37 in Certificates of Deposit. Moved by Mike Magee that the Treasurer's report be received. Seconded by Frieda Davis. Motion carried.

Loren Horton was introduced and spoke of the history of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries.

A brief discussion was held in regard to current legislation for the state of Iowa relating to cemeteries.

**Grants:** Funds were authorized for five additional grants in 2008 for \$200.00 each, totaling \$1,000.00. Two previously authorized grants for \$200.00 each were not awarded in 2007. Therefore, funds are authorized for seven grants of \$200.00 each in 2008.

**Gravestone Insurance:** It was noted that some homeowner's insurance policies may have coverage for vandalism and other types of damage on gravestones.

**Pioneer Cemetery Commission:** Representatives from the Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission described their activities and current status. Funding and lack of local participation are the major concerns at this time.

**Cemetery Access:** It was reported that during recent highway construction in southeast Iowa, access to several cemeteries had not been properly provided for by the Iowa Department of Transportation. Members were encouraged to monitor Department of Transportation highway construction plans in their area to insure proper access to cemeteries is provided.

Moved by Frieda Davis that representatives of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries meet with the Iowa Department of Transportation at a proper time to emphasize the importance of coordinating highways and cemetery access during and after highway construction. Motion was seconded and carried.

**Cremations:** Discussion was held in regard to the current increase in numbers of cremations and the lack of recognition on gravestones and fewer records kept than traditional burials. Some genealogists have indicated concern about the difficulty to do family research in these instances.

**Family Heritage Days:** The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries had been invited to man a booth or table at the Living History Farm's Family Heritage Days over the Memorial Day week-end. After considerable discussion it was decided not to participate this year because of other family commitments by SAPIC members.

**SAPIC Brochure:** It was noted that the current membership brochure could be re-designed and updated for future prospective members and used for displays promoting SAPIC. Carl Thoresen offered to assist in this endeavor.

**Articles of Incorporation:** Larry Davis reported he and Pat Shaw were in the process of applying for tax

exempt statutes for SAPIC. During this process it was determined the Articles of Incorporation needed amended.

The proposed amendment revised the first sentence of Article III to read: "The Corporation is organized exclusively for educational purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code for the purpose of the preservation of Iowa cemeteries." The motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation. Motion carried.

**Future SAPIC Meeting Sites:** Invitations had been received for future meeting sites, and after general discussion the following sites were selected:

July 12, 2008.....	Jackson County
October 11, 2008.....	Blackhawk County
January 10, 2009.....	Polk County
July 11, 2009.....	Fayette County

The meeting was adjourned.

Larry D. Davis  
Secretary

# Hurstville Interpretive Center

### Summer Hours

April thru October  
Monday – Friday  
9 am – 4 pm  
Saturday & Sunday  
12 – 5 pm

### Winter Hours

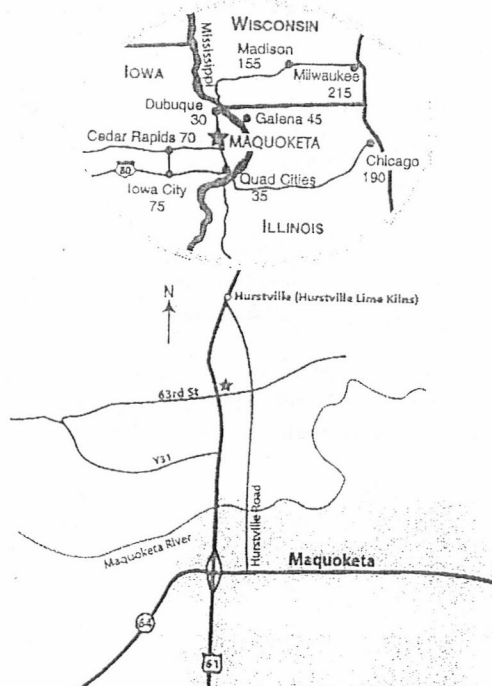
November thru March  
Monday – Friday  
9 am – 4 pm  
Saturday & Sunday  
12 – 4 pm

### Holiday Closings

Veterans Day, Thanksgiving,  
Christmas, New Years & Easter

### Admission: Free

Community Room rentals available



# STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter – 1 January 2008 thru 31 March 2008

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2007, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$1,351.14
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 710.00	
Donations	40.00	
Interest 1/31/08	1.73	
Interest 2/29/08	1.72	
Interest 3/31/08	<u>1.93</u>	
Total Income	\$ 753.38	
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck # 204 – Patricia Shaw		
(add'l permit \$15 – postage 8.64)	\$ 23.64	
Ck #205 – Patricia Shaw – newsletter expense	<u>51.00</u>	
Total Expense	\$ 74.64	
<u>Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2008</u>		<u>\$2,031.88</u>
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2007, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 4,028.39
6 Life Memberships: Carol Bottin, Brett Miller, David Stringfellow, Rosemary Hoover, Rex Adams, John Heider		<u>600.00</u>
<u>Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2008</u>		<u>\$ 4,628.39</u>

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

Combined Balance on Hand 31 March 2008 \$ 6,660.27

Plus additional funds:

182 day CD - \$1,000.00 - 5% - matures 1/08 – renew at 4.45%

12 month CD - \$4,000.00 - 5.25% - matures 1/16/2008 – renew at 4.50%

**NOTE:** These 2 CDs were combined into one and renewed 1/16/08

Total \$5,263.37 at 4.5% - will mature 1/16/09

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

Friday, April 4, 2008

SAPIC GRANT APPLICATION

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

NAME OF CEMETERY: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BURIAL SITE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Add any comments on the back.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS: JULY 1, 2008  
MAIL TO: STEVE STORY, 18883 250TH ST., HAWKEYE, IA 52147-8129  
OR E-MAIL: dstory@netins.net

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SAPIC DUES MAY BE PAID NOW FOR 2008

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION      New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Organization or business \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime (Individual only) \$100  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

From *American Profile* magazine, April 15 - May 12, 2008, "Ancestral Search -- Unearthing your family's roots," Marti Attoun. Pictured is Larry Kopet from Oconomowoc, Wis. as photographs tombstones as part of his contribution to the USGenWeb Project. He has photographed 250,000 stones. Other researchers mentioned in the story tell of finding clues about their families on crumbling gravestones and in other records. Genealogy is the fastest growing hobby in the US, according to Tina Vicery, national director of the USGenWeb. Kopet and his wife, Linda, have received thank-you notes from dozens of genealogists worldwide who have discovered details about their own ancestors from Larry's photos.

[www.americanprofile.com](http://www.americanprofile.com)

From [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com) vol. 31, no. 5, *FARM SHOW*, P.43. "Old Fashioned Burial Coming Back Into Style." Natural burials have started coming back into style. The idea is to eliminate embalming, fancy caskets and concrete vaults. Kimberley and Billy Campbell own the Memorial Ecosystems company that helps organizations and people establish "green burial" cemeteries or memorial parks. The first "green cemetery," Ramsey Creek Preserve was opened in 1998 in South Carolina. Altogether a burial, including a marker, costs less than \$5000. In addition to cost issues, many people feel that a green burial is a more natural and peaceful process. For more information, contact FARM SHOW Followup, Memorial Ecosystems, Inc., 111 West Main St., Westminster, S.C. 29693. Phone 864-647-7798.

E-mail: [kimberley@memorialecosystems.com](mailto:kimberley@memorialecosystems.com)  
Web Site: [www.memorialecosystems.com](http://www.memorialecosystems.com)

From Michael Carr, Camp Secretary, Sons of Union Veterans, Kinsman #23 located at Atlantic, Iowa:

Almost a hundred fifty years ago, our great nation fought its bloodiest conflict: The Civil War. Over four and a half million men served under the US flag in what was perhaps the four most crucial years our nation has ever faced.

Iowa had been a state just fifteen years. Yet, our great state sent over 76,000 of its sons off to fight. Considering there were only about 110,000 men of military age in Iowa at the time, it was an overwhelming contribution. This was the highest total per capita of any state, North or South! Of those 76,000-plus men who went to war, almost one in three was a casualty. One out of every 25 was killed in battle with one out of 10 dying of disease.

Iowa troops fought with distinction at the battles of Wilson's Creek, Shish, Pea Ridge, Iuka, Corinth, Champion Hill, Big Black River Ridge, Vicksburg, Allatoona Pass, Atlanta, the March to the Sea, Mobile and over a thousand smaller actions.

The Sons of Union Veterans (SUVCW) are committed to preserving the memory and deeds of what they suffered and died for.

SUVCW is a nation-wide organization taking the lead in preserving, rededicating and restoring battlefields, monuments, gravesites and other historic places.

The SUVCW is seeking those who have an interest in the Civil War and their ancestor's part in the War to join their organization. Proof of ancestry is preferred but not required to join. Contact Henry Krecklow, Camp Commander, Gov. Kirkwood #4 at 712-322-4700 or Michael Carr at 712-484-3647. E-mail: [Wgpcw@aol.com](mailto:Wgpcw@aol.com)

From the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Our March 2008 E-News, March 20, 2008: "Preservationists Win Temporary Reprieve for Historic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery." On January 29, President Bush signed into law a temporary reprieve for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which federal officials want to replace with a replica because of repairable cosmetic imperfections. Senators Daniel Akaka and Jim Webb successfully amended the Defense Authorization Bill to include a measure that will delay hasty action, mandate a new meaningful study, and require a report to Congress. The Arlington County government, Arlington Heritage Alliance, APVA-Virginia, American Institute for Conservation, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources each support repairing the cracks in the 1932 marble monument -- rather than replacing the authentic monument. -- Rob Nieweg

Robert Nieweg is the director of the National Trusts for Historic Preservation's Southern Field Office.

#### VETERAN AFFAIRS TO CONTROL COMMEMORATIVE PROPERTY

The House Veteran Affairs Committee approved Senate File 2333, which would expand control over all Veteran's commemorative property to the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. Currently the Department of Veterans Affairs has control over commemorative property in cemeteries if the commemorative property is 75 years old or older. The bill would expand control to veteran's commemorative property placed in all locations and the commemorative property no longer needs to be over 75 years old.

The bill defines veterans' commemorative property as memorials including headstones, plaques, statues, urns, decorations, flag holders, badges, shield, items of memorabilia, or other embellishments that commemorates any veteran or group of veterans, including any veterans' organizations or any military unit, company, battalion, or division. The bill allows the Department of Veteran Affairs to control the sale, trade, or transfer of the property.

A product sold at NAPA Stores to clean white wall tires on cars has been used successfully by some SAPIC members to clean stones covered with lichens. When you spray the product on the stones they may run red or green or yellow depending on the fungus. Do not be alarmed and don't try to wash it off. Nature will take care of it and the stain is from the dying fungi. It is not a stain that will stay -- the rain and sun and wind will take care of it. Cleaning the stones this way may take up to a year to see the difference, but it is far better than scrubbing the stone and removing some of the stone in the process.

SAPIC does not endorse any product or method, but offers this as a possible resource.

From *CAPPER'S* magazine, April, 2008: "Braille flag to be placed in Arlington Cemetery," Article from wire services. Pictured is Randolph Cabral, president of the Kansas Braille Transcription Institute, holding a bronze flag in Braille that will be dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery this spring. The tactile flag informs the blind of the flag's colors, along with the 13 stripes and 50 stars, and the Pledge of Allegiance in raised print. At least 5,000 of the flags have been distributed to blind veterans across the country. [www.Kansas.com](http://www.Kansas.com)

SAPIC member David Gradwohl shared this article that he wrote for the newsletter of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society in response to a call expressing concern about the upkeep of the Jewish Cemetery in Centerville, Iowa.



# The CHAIowan

*Newsletter of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society*

*Volume 10, No. 1, Fall 2007 / 5768*

## IOWA'S JEWISH CEMETERIES: MIRRORS OF HISTORY, DIVERSITY, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE

David Mayer Gradwohl, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Iowa State University

*"Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead,  
and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender sympathies of its people,  
their respect for the laws of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals".*

William E. Gladstone (19th century British Prime Minister)

Throughout history when Jews have settled new countries and cities, they have felt obligated to establish at least three essential things: a temple or synagogue in which to pray, a school in which to educate their young in Judaism, and a cemetery in which to bury their dead. In most societies around the world, cemeteries constitute what has been called "the final necessity". Jews normally bury their deceased in separate, ritually "consecrated" grounds, either in cemeteries apart from non-Jews or in existing cemeteries within designated sections typically having some sort of recognizable boundaries.

Early settlers in Dubuque, Burlington, Keokuk, Iowa City, Davenport, Sioux City, Des Moines, Muscatine, Ottumwa, Centerville and Cedar Rapids, for example, established cemeteries during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A Jewish cemetery was also founded in Council Bluffs during this time period, although many of that city's former residents have been buried in the various Jewish cemeteries located across the Missouri River in Omaha. Jewish cemeteries were also established in Waterloo and Mason City. In Marshalltown, a Jewish cemetery section was consecrated during the mid-twentieth century. Perhaps the most recently consecrated Jewish cemetery in Iowa is the Mount Sinai Section of the Ames Municipal Cemetery, estab-

lished by the Ames Jewish Congregation in 1990.

Some Jews may be buried within non-Jewish cemeteries across Iowa, although this would be atypical. Jews generally prefer to bury their dead in ritually consecrated graveyards, even if that means transporting the bodies to larger cities where separate Jewish cemeteries have been established. For example, in my own research in the Jewish cemeteries of Des Moines, I have noted the graves of families who actually lived in Fort Dodge, Marshalltown, and Knoxville (including Gradwohl relatives of mine who once lived there).

Today there are many reasons why the living visit cemeteries and are interested in their preservation. Judaism, in particular, fosters the memory and honoring of the dead, the visiting of graves of deceased family members on their *yahrzeits* (death anniversaries) and as a part of special services held at cemeteries during the High Holy Days. Individuals interested in genealogy and family history find grave-stone inscriptions a treasure trove of information. Cemeteries are also historical repositories of art forms, architectural styles, literary references, kinship and family organization, social stratification, and differences in national origins and ethnicity.

My cemetery research over the past three decades is based on both personal and professional interests.

Much earlier, I recall being taken to Wyuka Cemetery (a municipal and state cemetery) in Lincoln, Nebraska, as a child. My parents and grandparents would take me to the Mount Lebanon Section of Wyuka Cemetery where Lincoln's Reform Jews, including three generations of my family, have been buried since the 1890s. My parents and grandparents would recite *Kaddish* over the graves of our deceased family members, and then they would walk around telling me stories about the people whose lives were represented by gravestones. Most of my age mates found cemeteries "spooky". But I always found trips to the cemetery instructive and enjoyable: I learned things about Judaism and about family history, including stories about the great grandfather after whom I was named. I never knew David Mayer because he died long before I was born, but he is alive in my mind.

My research interest in cemeteries began in the 1960s and 1970s at which time I, as a professional archaeologist at Iowa State University, was conducting Cultural Resource Management surveys along the Des Moines River Valley (now Lake Red Rock and Saylorville Lake) and the proposed Ames Reservoir along the Skunk River. Part of our task, in cooperation with the National Park Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was to identify historic and prehistoric burial grounds that might be impacted by the



construction of federal reservoirs. This experience heightened my awareness of cemeteries as resources for regional history and social sciences, in addition to genealogy and family histories. I was particularly intrigued with the degree to which gravestones often reveal ethnicity, various national origins, and differing religions — in other words the inter-group diversity in American society.

I also recognized that very little anthropological research had been conducted on Jewish cemeteries, particularly in the Midwest. So my wife, Hanna Rosenberg Gradwohl, and I decided to study the two Jewish cemeteries in Lincoln, our hometown. One cemetery (Mt. Lebanon) is associated with Reform Jews and "the Temple" (Congregation B'nai Jeshurun). These families were mostly Western Ashkenazim from Germany, France, Alsace-Lorraine, and Austria; spoke German or French; and followed the practices and principles of Reform rabbinical leaders such as Isaac Mayer Wise and David Einhorn. The other Jewish cemetery (Mt. Carmel) is a separate entity, originally purchased by the Chebra B'nai Jehuda Cemetery Association, and affiliated with "the Synagogue" (Congregation Tifereth Israel). These families were mostly Eastern Ashkenazim from Poland, Russia, and Lithuania; spoke Yiddish; and followed Orthodox Judaism and the emerging Conservative Judaism under rabbinical leaders such as Solomon Schechter and Isaac Leeser. Comparison of Lincoln's two Jewish cemeteries and their gravestones revealed, in material terms, a very explicit dichotomy between the two congregations in regard to national origins, linguistic differences, theological orientations, and ritual practices.

The results of our Lincoln study, in terms of the material culture which archaeologists study, emphasized the intra-group diversity of Jews — a topic which had not really been addressed by anthropologists and specialists in ethnic studies until the 1990s. This matter intrigued Hanna and me enough that we did similar studies in Des Moines and Louisville, Kentucky, and

came up with similar results. We expanded our observed population to other areas of the United States, the Caribbean, and Europe. Our intra-group diversity sample now includes Sephardic cemeteries in the Caribbean, U.S. Atlantic seaboard, and Portugal; and also the distinctive gravestones of recent Russian Jewish immigrants in the United States.

These observations, of course, are not news to most Jews since we have rampant jokes on the matter of intra-group diversity. For example, we are apt to say, "Where there are two Jews, there will be three opinions". Or tell the joke, with endless variations, about two Jewish men being marooned on a desert island. They build three synagogues: one for each of them, and one in which neither of them would set foot. I could discuss this matter further, but the issues are not usually laughing matters or restricted to desert islands, past or present. The point of our research, however, is that intra-group diversity is not carefully examined enough by historians and social scientists. And quite often — Jews are no exceptions, the resulting disagreements and conflicts are serious.

A brief consideration of the Jewish burial grounds in Des Moines illustrates the degree to which cemeteries reflect the settlement of this area by Jews and the diversity involved within the early pioneers, their descendants, and more recent newcomers. The discussion of Iowa's Jewish history usually begins with Alexander Levi, an immigrant from Alsace, who settled in the Dubuque area in 1833. In 1837 he distinguished himself by traveling to St. Louis and becoming the first foreigner to be naturalized as a citizen of Iowa (still a territory at that time). Levi died in 1893 and is buried in the Jewish section of Dubuque's Linwood Cemetery.

By 1846, the year in which Iowa achieved statehood, the community that would become Des Moines was already taking shape at the confluence of the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers. One of the earliest settlers was William Krouse, a merchant of Jewish faith who was born in Germany. In

1857, the state capital was moved from Iowa City to Des Moines, and the city's population continued to grow. That population included Jewish merchants, peddlers, businessmen and their families who moved there to join the burgeoning commercial enterprise. During the 1860s, Jewish families apparently met in private homes or business establishments to celebrate religious holidays.

By 1870, there was a Jewish population large enough in Des Moines to perceive the need for permanent religious institutions. The first corporate expression of Judaism in Des Moines occurred on July 22, 1870, when the Emanuel Burial Association was established. This Association purchased land adjacent to the Woodland Cemetery and established the Emanuel Cemetery, the first of the Jewish cemeteries in Des Moines. Until 1884, this was the only Jewish cemetery in Des Moines and, indeed, the only Jewish cemetery in central Iowa; earlier Jewish cemeteries had been organized in Dubuque, Burlington, Keokuk, Iowa City, Davenport, and Sioux City.

In the following decades, separate Jewish congregations formed in Des Moines along the lines of different theological traditions, ritual practices, and national origin. Also operating, as it did for many years and to some degree today, was the geographic factor of the Des Moines River, which divides the city's "Eastside" from the "Westside". The state capitol building was constructed on the Eastside between 1870 and 1886. The first major settlement, however, occurred on the Westside, and that area continued to be the favored location of residences and businesses for the more established and prosperous citizens. The majority of early pioneer Jews in Des Moines were Western Ashkenazim and they settled on the Westside. In 1873 they incorporated a congregation called Temple B'nai Jeshurun, and they soon embraced the principles and practices of Reform Judaism. In 1879, ownership of the Emanuel Cemetery at Woodland was officially transferred to Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

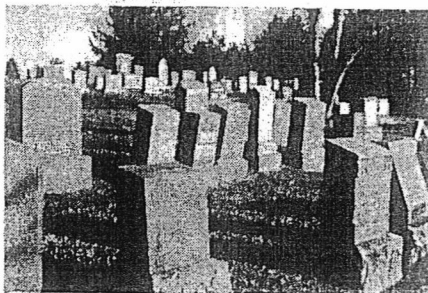
Meanwhile, Eastern Ashkenazim were settling on the Eastside of Des Moines. In 1876 a group of Orthodox Jews founded Congregation B'nai Israel, later known as the Children of Israel Synagogue. One group of Lithuanian Jews, however, felt that the Children of Israel Synagogue was not traditional enough. Hence, in 1881, this faction resigned, and in 1885 they formally established the Congregation Beth El Jacob which remains today as the most Orthodox synagogue in Des Moines — although an even more Orthodox group of Lubavitcher Jews also meets in Des Moines. Just as the Orthodox Jews and Reform Jews worshipped separately, so they wished to be buried separately. In 1884 the Children of Israel Synagogue established an Orthodox burial ground, referred to as the "Eastside Cemetery", at the corner of Easton Boulevard and Delaware Avenue.

In 1901 a second faction within the Children of Israel Synagogue perceived the mandatory practices of that congregation as too Orthodox. Therefore, they split off and founded the Tifereth Israel Synagogue which moved from some of the traditional customs of Orthodox Judaism to a more moderate position within the Conservative movement. Continuing today as a Conservative synagogue, the observances and practices of Tifereth Israel represent the middle of the continuum between the Reform Temple B'nai Jeshurun and the Orthodox Beth El Jacob Synagogue. (The Children of Israel Synagogue, it should be noted, dissolved as a congregation during the 1990s).

Conservative Jews in Des Moines felt the need for a separate graveyard as well as a separate sanctuary. They anticipated the general westward expansion of Des Moines, and established a large cemetery contiguous to Glendale Cemetery on University Avenue across from the Waveland Municipal Golf Course. This cemetery, generally referred to as "Jewish Glendale" although it is separate from the Glendale Cemetery per se, was purchased by Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Early on, Jewish Glendale actually

consisted of four separate sections: the largest owned by Tifereth Israel Synagogue and three others transferred to Beth El Jacob Synagogue, Children of Israel Synagogue, and a fraternal mutual aid sodality called Order of Brith Abraham (OBA). When the OBA lodge in Des Moines ceased to exist, their cemetery section was taken over and administered by Beth El Jacob Synagogue. Today the situation at Jewish Glendale is more complicated given (a) the increasing number of Reform Jews being buried in the Tifereth Israel section as opposed to the Emanuel Cemetery at Woodland, (b) the ceding of the defunct Children of Israel Synagogue's section to the other synagogues, and (c) the use of this burial area by recent Russian Jewish immigrants, some of whom have no temple or synagogue affiliation.

The gravestones in Des Moines' four Orthodox cemeteries (Children of Israel Eastside Cemetery plus the Children of Israel Synagogue, Beth El Jacob Synagogue, and Order of Brith Abraham sections at Jewish Glendale) have eight general patterns that characterize the memorials of Orthodox Jews throughout the Midwest and elsewhere in the United States. First, there are typically many vertical monuments for single individuals, giving the cemeteries a somewhat crowded appearance.



General view of Beth El Jacob Section at "Jewish Glendale". Note frequent use of single monuments for individuals.

Many of the gravestones are of uniform size, perhaps reflecting the equality in which all Orthodox Jews are supposed to be buried -- in simple wooden coffins and plain shrouds (*tachrichim*). Relatively few flush markers or large family plots are observed. No mausolea are present, evidence of the strong

rabbinical proscription against aboveground burial.

Second, relatively large numbers of red, pink, or black gravestones are noted among the twentieth century monuments, and the use of these darker stones is increasing today. This may be a carry-over from the Baltic countries or Eastern Europe, where darker colored gravestones are more available and preferred. We have, incidentally, noticed this preference among the gravestones of Christian Latvian-Americans buried in Lincoln. The selection of darker colored stones may alternatively have something to do with prestige factors, since these stones are generally more expensive than gray granites.

Third, most of the gravestones in the Orthodox cemeteries exhibit Hebrew inscriptions.



Monument for Jacob Panor at the Children of Israel Eastside Cemetery. Note use of stars of David and inscription in Hebrew.

Occasional inscriptions are in Yiddish. These inscriptions typically include the Hebrew name of the deceased, the father's Hebrew name, and the date of death in the Jewish ritual calendar. Hebrew letters also stand for abbreviations of the phrases "Here lies" and "May his/her soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life". Longer epitaphs in Hebrew may include Biblical passages, laudatory adjectives for the deceased, or the fact that the person died on Sabbath or a religious holiday.

A fourth Orthodox characteristic consists of the use of Judaic symbols, beyond the use of Hebrew letters: the Star of David, menorah, Torah scroll, tablets (the Ten Commandments), and lamp (representing a *yahrzeit* light or *Ner Tamid*, the Everlasting Light). The Star (or Shield) of David is typically found on the gravestones of males; the

menorah on the gravestones of females - - the kindlers of the Sabbath and holiday lights.

Fifth, we note emblematic or epigraphic references to the priestly castes.

Monument for Frank Blank at "Jewish Glendale" (Order Brith Abraham Section administered by Beth El Jacob Synagogue). Note Mr. Blank's status as a Kohen indicated by the raised hands symbol and the rendering of his Hebrew name.



The *Kohanim* or High Priests are indicated by a symbol depicting hands with spread fingers raised in benediction. In other cases, the High Priestly status is indicated in the name of the individual, for example "Reb Abraham bar (or ben) Moshe Ha-Kohen" (Mr. Abraham son of Moses the Kohen or High Priest). The High Priestly status, of course, descends patrilineally and can only be claimed by males. A woman whose father was a High Priest, however, might have her name rendered as "Rachel bas Moshe Ha-Kohen" (Rachel daughter of Moses the Kohen). Similarly, the status of the *Levites* or Temple Attendant Priests could be indicated by the symbol of a ewer and basin, since the *Levites* were in charge of the cleanliness of the sanctuary. More often, the *Levite* status is indicated in the rendering of the name of the deceased, for example "Reb Yitzach bar Shmuel Ha-Levy" (Mr. Isaac son of Samuel the *Levite* or Temple Attendant Priest).

A sixth Orthodox-associated trait is also exhibited by such inscriptions, namely the use of the title or term of address, "Reb". While this term can be an abbreviation for the title of rabbi, it is more often used as a term of respect, roughly rendered as "mister".

A seventh trait, probably associated with Eastern Europe, consists of the use of photographs on tombstones. Most frequently this occurs as an image printed on a small, oval-shaped, porcelain plaque. Officially

this practice is strongly discouraged by Orthodox rabbis, given the fact that the use of "graven images" is forbidden in Judaism. In this instance, folk tradition appears to win out over rabbinic proscription.

An eighth Orthodox-associated pattern consists of the presence of pebbles deposited on gravestones. This tradition may represent memorial "calling cards" left by mourners, or possibly a vestige of the very ancient practice in which funeral attendants actually filled the pit with dirt after the coffin was lowered into the grave. Interestingly enough, in the last twenty years, Hanna and I have observed this practice increasing in ALL Jewish cemeteries and even in Christian cemeteries!

The gravestones in Emanuel Cemetery along with those of many Reform Jews buried in Jewish Glendale (and throughout the Midwest and elsewhere in the U.S.) present six general characteristics that differ strikingly from the Orthodox cemeteries in Des Moines. First, in addition to monuments for individuals, there are large family plots with relatively imposing central monuments and associated flush or raised markers for individuals.



Emanuel Cemetery. Note presence of large family plots and two mausolea.

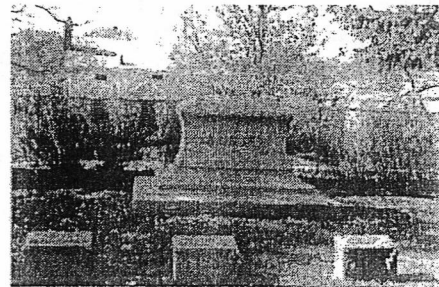
At Emanuel Cemetery, there are also two mausolea. Generally throughout the United States, we note that aboveground vaults for the dead are permitted in Reform Jewish cemeteries but strictly forbidden in the Orthodox tradition.

Second, most of the Reform monuments and markers are hewn out of gray granite, though recently the use of darker colored stones has occurred. Third, the majority of monuments and markers have no Hebrew epitaphs.

Inscriptions are normally in English only. Hebrew, if used at all, is normally limited to short and abbreviated inscriptions. Exceptions occur in Emanuel Cemetery's early gravestones since this was the only place where Jews (Reform or Orthodox) were buried prior to 1884.

Fourth, relatively few Judaic religious symbols are found on the gravestones dating from the nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries. Even the monument and marker of Rabbi Eugene Mannheimer, spiritual leader of Des Moines' Reform Jews for almost half a century, have no Judaic indicator other than the title "rabbi". Emblems of the *Kohanim* and *Levites* are not observed, since Reform Judaism, in a stride toward egalitarianism, repudiated those priestly castes during the nineteenth century.

Fifth, inscriptions are almost entirely in English.



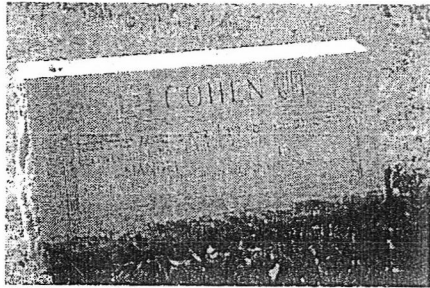
Samish family monument and individual markers at Emanuel Cemetery. Inscriptions are in English only.

The deceased are identified by their secular names, as opposed to their Hebrew names and the Hebrew names of their fathers. Dates of birth and death are given in the Gregorian calendar, not the Jewish ritual calendar.

Sixth, a significant number of gravestones in Emanuel Cemetery and other Reform cemeteries from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries indicate the deceased's place of birth - - almost invariably in Western Europe or the United States. The place names reflect that these people were Western Ashkenazim. Place of birth is only rarely indicated on gravestones in Orthodox cemeteries. One explanation may lie in the fact that many of the Eastern Ashkenazim were forced to leave their cities and shtetls in Rus-

sia, Poland, and Lithuania because of excessive anti-Semitism including horrible pogroms.

The intermediate position of Conservative Jews is, as expected, reflected in the Tifereth Israel section at Jewish Glendale. Here one finds many single monuments designating individuals in the Orthodox fashion, double monuments for husband and wife, and also some large family monuments with associated markers following the Reform practice.



Double gravestone for Mandel and Ida Cohen in the Tifereth Israel Section at "Jewish Glendale". Note Judaic symbols, inscriptions in Hebrew, and pebbles on top of the gravestone.

There is also one mausoleum in the Tifereth Israel section. Some monuments in this section have an impressive array of Judaic religious symbols (including the insignia of the *Kohanim* and *Levites*) following the Orthodox tradition. That minhag or custom is also manifested in the frequent use of photographs on tombstones as well as the presence of pebble "calling cards" deposited by the living at the graves of their deceased family members. One monument has an inscription in Yiddish, and the symbol of the *Arbeiter Ring* or Workmen's Circle, a fraternal organization oriented toward Yiddish culture and language. On the other hand, many gravestones in the Tifereth Israel section fit the Reform paradigm in their total absence of Jewish religious symbols and Hebrew inscriptions.

The differences between the gravestones in Des Moines' Jewish cemeteries are, of course, more complex, and a complete discussion is beyond the scope of this summary. Furthermore, some of these factors are shifting across time. A more detailed analysis must be made of these current

changes. But I predict with confidence, that the gravestones of recently deceased Reform Jews exhibit an increasing use of Judaic symbols and Hebrew inscriptions. This would parallel changes I have observed in Reform Judaism just within my own lifetime: more reading of Hebrew in religious services, specific rituals that were unknown in the temples I attended in my younger years, increased use of *tallesim* and *yarmulkes*, and much more. Similarly, my Conservative and Orthodox friends have commented to me that in their synagogues they witness "progressive" practices and rituals that they never observed in their younger years.

My point is that the Jewish cemeteries of Des Moines, and elsewhere in Iowa, are irreplaceable mirrors of the history of Jews in our state. Gravestones in these cemeteries reveal our individual as well as group identifications. The Jewish cemeteries are reservoirs of information dealing with our intra-group diversity, the continuity of certain traditions, and the changes in other practices and observances. The Jewish cemeteries stand as material evidence that we have been participants in the history and development of Iowa from the beginning of the Euro-American settlement of the region, that we once lived in many towns and cities across the state, and that we are still integral in the social, cultural, political, and religious fabric of our state.

Finally, I must express a concern vis-à-vis the preservation of Jewish cemeteries, especially in communities throughout Iowa where there are no longer Jewish residents. Des Moines is fortunate that the temple, synagogues, and federation have taken proactive steps to insure that all of the Jewish cemeteries in that city are beautifully maintained. In some cities, such as Ames and Marshalltown, Jewish sections in larger cemeteries are being maintained under perpetual care agreements. But this is apparently not true for all of Iowa's Jewish cemeteries. Recently, for example, I received a telephone call indicating that there are problems in maintaining the Jewish cemetery in Centerville. To

address this matter, I propose that a consortium of federations in Des Moines, the Quad Cities, Omaha-Council Bluffs, and Sioux City, plus individual synagogues in other cities, be invited to collaborate and set up an endowment fund which could receive individual and corporate donations to maintain cemeteries in towns where there are no longer Jewish residents to take on this responsibility. Guidance could be sought from the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) on matters of cemetery maintenance and the repair of broken and vandalized gravestones. It seems to me that this is part of our joint obligation as Jews to honor the dead and preserve our heritage for the future.

*Acknowledgments: I am grateful to the following individuals for information on Jewish cemeteries in Centerville (the late Jean Cook), Council Bluffs (Sandra Kurland), Davenport (Debbie Gitchell), Iowa City (Nancy Osborn Johnsen), Keokuk (Jerry Klinger), Marshalltown (Arlene Johnson and Rita Kreft), Mason City (Michael Libbie), Ottumwa (Marsha Miller), Sioux City (Dave Arkovich), and Waterloo (Alan Levi). Photographic figures by the author.*

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### PERSONAL JOURNEY TO MT. SINAI IN AMES, IOWA

Mt. Sinai in Ames, Iowa:

No mountain, to be sure,  
rather a tree-studded terrace summit  
with vistas east over the Skunk River Valley  
and, in the imagination, thousands of miles toward the rising sun  
to the real *Har Sinai*  
where, it is said, Moses encountered Adonai  
and received the Decalogue.

Above cornfields, a stone monument  
marks a small portion of the old municipal cemetery  
today dedicated as a Jewish graveyard  
by three rabbis who recited ancient prayers  
and thereby set apart that place  
as consecrated ground for the dead  
and a symbolic space where the living reaffirm their  
immutable linkages to their loved ones on the other side.

This stone monument in Ames also serves as a cenotaph  
for extended kin and friends who lived in European cities such  
as Vilna, Minsk, Sonneberg, Berlin and Prague, and who, in the  
euphemism of today's speech, "perished" in the Holocaust. In truth  
they were murdered in concentration camps bearing abhorrent names  
such as Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, Treblinka, Dachau, and Buchenwald...  
but their existence is recalled in the *Kaddish* prayer  
and their souls are bound up in the bond of eternal life.

A Star of David chiseled into Mt. Sinai's stone  
represents a sense of permanence which  
many Jews now feel as part of the Ames scene.  
They come in these days, more than in the past,  
to assume positions in academe, professions or business ventures,  
to raise families, and some even to retire, rather than  
moving on to larger cities with complex tribal centers, or being  
ingathered, as imagined Diasporan exiles, to a fictive homeland.

Nearly three decades ago in Ames when  
there was no synagogue or religious school or Jewish burial ground,  
persons of diverse Judaic backgrounds formed a congregation.  
As invited guests, we met in the lounge of the First Baptist Church  
to say our prayers and instruct our children in the ways of  
our distinctive tradition -- ancient laws in a modern frame.  
Now as citizens of a generally tolerant community,  
we continue our religion in a separate house of prayer.

The Mt. Sinai section in the Ames Municipal Cemetery  
is a physical paradigm of that social symbiosis which also  
extends to other times and places: Wyuka Cemetery's  
Mt. Lebanon established by my mother's pioneering forebears  
who discovered their Zion in Lincoln, Nebraska,  
or Oakwood Cemetery's Magnolia Hill in Raleigh where  
grandparents she never knew lie in consecrated ground  
within a graveyard set out by pre-Confederate Christian Carolinians.

My personal journey to this Mount Sinai also stems back  
to Harrisonburg, Virginia, in the late 1860s, where my father's  
paternal ancestors, of blessed memory, helped found the  
Hebrew Friendship Congregation and Cemetery Beth-El.  
Even earlier, in 1842, his maternal great-grandparents  
traveled along the Ohio River and were among the charter members  
of Temple Adath Israel, in Louisville, Kentucky.  
They now repose there in that congregation's hallowed ground.

But today I stood at Mt. Sinai in Ames, Iowa, a Beth Olam  
or "House of Eternity" as the old ones used to say, demarcated  
by trees, topography, and roadways and a commemorative stone  
with English inscriptions and Hebrew emblems.  
It is much more, of course, in symbolic terms:  
a material expression of personal and group identities,  
of particularistic sentiments that transcend time and space  
and flow out into the universe of human thought.

David Mayer Gradwohl  
14 October 1990  
Ames, Iowa

## COUNTY REPORTS

### ALLAMAKEE

From an Allamakee County newspaper, April 29, 2008, "Supervisors discuss County Farm, other issues in regular Monday session," by Bob Beach.

Among other issues, Doug Mullen of Lansing addressed the Board on the issue of maintenance of pioneer cemeteries. He said that there is no organization or documentation for the upkeep of pioneer cemeteries. He pointed out that some townships contract for the mowing of cemeteries through trustees, and since trustees are technically county employees, there may be some liability issues that need to be explored. The Board agreed to consult with the County Attorney on the matter.

Contributed by Rebecca Miller

### BENTON

Frieda Davis submitted information to the *Cedar Valley Times* newspaper in Vinton about Cemetery Appreciation Month and, in response, editor Dean Close recounted the story of a tourist from California who stopped at his office commenting about an article on the restoration of the McBroom Pioneer Cemetery. He was able to solve a mystery about Evaline Gillis and her three children whose graves are in McBroom. Evaline was his great grandmother. She was probably suffering from post-partum depression when she poisoned herself and her three youngest children. He and an relative in Cedar Rapids were amazed at how well-kept the cemetery was and he wanted to express his appreciation.

### CASS

From the *Atlantic News Telegraph*, April 4, 2008: "Highland Cemetery Vandalism," by David and Julie Williamson, Jonathan and Brandi Hansen, Bryan and Shellie Ferguson, Charles and Brenda Vogl and Chris and Gwen Ullerich. The writers of the article, who are parents of members of the Benton Blue Ribbons 4-H Club, express disgust at finding 25 tombstones knocked over and destroyed in the Highland Cemetery south of I-80. For over 20 years, members of the 4-H Club have taken care of the secluded cemetery and for the past five years, have found it was vandalized. They challenge the parents in the county to teach their children respect for their ancestors and the history of their area.

Contributed by Rebecca Miller

### CHICKASAW

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 25 Number 1, J.L. Kottke, Editor. Listed on page 7 are several publications including nine books about cemeteries and burials in the county.

<http://www.chickasawcoia-geniesoc.org>

### CLAYTON

In an E-mail message dated April 28, 2008, Ron Harris sent photos of re-enactor George Italiano of the La Crosse (Wisconsin) Historical Society as he stands by the gravestone of Peter Daniel Cameron, son of Emma (Virgin Em) and Peter Cameron in the Eastman Cemetery in McGregor on April 26.

Also shown are close-ups of the gravestone that was broken in three pieces and has been restored, using the methods in Ralph Hendersin's book, *Gravestone Restoration*. Inscription reads:

*Lovely son thy pains are ended*

*Thy conflicts here are o're*

*By angels guards attended*

*Into the arms of Jesus go*

About 25 Historical Society members visited the cemetery as part of the Society's "Mystery Tour." Peter Daniel Cameron died in La Crosse in 1854 and was transported to McGregor to be buried in the Eastman family burial ground.

### CLINTON

In an E-mail message dated March 13, 2008, Ruth Wilson reports that the Clinton County Supervisors passed Ordinance 2007-05 on Dec. 17, 2007 which established a Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. The ordinance says it will have nine members with staggered terms. Ann Soenksen volunteered to chair an organizational meeting on March 18. Members of the Historic Preservation received \$5000 for the Commission to get started in FY 2009.

**Congratulations, Clinton County!**

### DAVIS

A ceremony to rededicate the Mars Hill Log Church that was severely damaged by fire on March 9, 2006, will be held on June 8, 2008. The church was reconstructed using original and period materials. There is a huge pine tree in the churchyard that stands like a Sentinel and is visible for miles. The adjoining cemetery, established in 1846, contains many pioneer and Civil War Veteran graves and is still in use today. A history book about Mars Hill, including a complete list of known burials, is now available. For more information about the ceremony that will include speakers, military rites, and re-enactors dressed in Civil War period attire, history book and tours, contact SAPIC member, Carol Hoffman at 641-895-3116 or E-mail: [marshill@netins.net](mailto:marshill@netins.net) [www.pbllimited.com](http://www.pbllimited.com)

### GRUNDY

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iagrundy/germantwpcemetery.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iagrundy/germantwpcemetery.htm)  
Shown on the web site are the ten remaining headstones that are cemented in the northeast corner of the German Township Cemetery. Local citizens and township trustees are working to preserve the stones and cemetery. Also listed are all the known burials. Thanks to Rick Gersema for supplying the information.

### JONES

From the *Jones County Historical Society* newsletter, February 6, 2008: A reprint of an article by Bruce E. Mahan from "The Palimpsest" that was published monthly by The State Historical Society of Iowa in November 1923. A history of the Scotch Grove Trail and the Highland Scots who came to Jones County in the late 1830's is written. They established the village of Edinburgh that is now the site of a restored historical village maintained by the Historical Society.  
[www.rootsweb.com/~iajchs/jchs.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~iajchs/jchs.html)

## KEOKUK

From the *Sigourney Newspaper*, August 1, 1878: "A Lonely Grave." "Hobbs Grove" just across Skunk River, south of town (Sigourney), has what should give to it a more sacred memory than the event which made it famous as the camping ground of the army which governor Kirkwood dispersed.

In the days of more than thirty years ago, Lancaster, then the county seat was a prosperous town, but at present has but few of its old landmarks left. The town plat is almost entirely vacant, with nothing to suggest its former prominence, life and business activity. In those days among the young men who afterwards won distinction Iowa, and the old town can claim number of them, Marcellus Monroe Crocker, Attorney at Law, was prominent. His father, James Gore Crocker was known in that neighborhood as an old democratic wheel horse, like his son, passionate and impulsive, but beneath and with this, kind hearted and brave. His death occurred during those early times long past, old settlers say in the fall of 1848, and his burial was in the grove above referred to.

It never became a cemetery, and his last sleep has for nearly a third of a century been alone beneath the trees where whimpering winds have murmured sweetly among the leafy branches, and the blasts of winter moaned sadly when cruel frosts had shorn them of their verdure. Recently this grove became the property of Josiah Utterback, and the trees have been cleared away to make use of the ground for agriculture purposes. Mr. Utterback has, however, left standing one elm tree which alone marks the grave of General Crocker's father.

We understand that the old settlers association now being organized intend that the father of the lamented General Crocker shall no longer rest in a nameless and, except to them unknown grave, and that at least a modest tombstone shall mark his silent home.

Note from Keokuk County resident Phyllis Nicholson: As far as I know this never happened (installation of a stone).

## FAYETTE

In an E-mail dated March 6, 2008 from Steve Story: The Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission voted Wednesday March 5, to recommend Donal Boie, Hawkeye, be appointed by the Board of Supervisors as chair of the commission. Alice Miller, Arlington, was recommended to the Supervisors for vice-chair, and Frances Graham, West Union, be re-appointed Secretary-Treasurer. In addition, Linda Voshell, Wadena, was recommended as a new member of the nine member commission. She has been a member of the advisory committee for several years and long time volunteer at Old Pioneer Cemetery on the south side of the Volga River at Wadena.

The nine member commission also includes Ed Gage (Wadena), Bill Moellering (West Union), Steve Story (Hawkeye), Harvey Ungerer (Hawkeye) and Richard Vagts (Eldorado).

2008-2009 Advisory Committee members include Glenn Burington (Fayette), Dorothy Gosse (Oelwein), Tex Heyer (West Union), Charles Jacobsen (West Union), Linda Johnson (West Union), Rolley Miller (West Union), Charles Shipton (Eldorado), Donna Story (work crew), Kay and Woody Thomas (Wadena) and Kathryn Weidemann (West Union).

The volunteer work crew plans for 2008 include completing the restoration at Center Grove Cemetery near Randalia. The crew also awaits an 'legal go-ahead' from the County Attorney and State Regulated Industries Division to begin restoration this year at Otsego Cemetery near Oelwein.

-- Submitted by Steve Story

## LEE

From *Preserving Our Past*, Number 17, Spring Issue, 2008, newsletter of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association. Pictured on the first page are Terry Altheide and his two-year old grandson, Anthony Stice, as they walk amongst the graves of our country's many heroes buried in Keokuk's National Cemetery. In his president's message, Terry emphasizes the importance of encouraging youth to volunteer their time, talents, and abilities to cemetery restoration. Included in the newsletter are tributes to Revolutionary War Soldiers Joseph Patterson buried in Oakland Cemetery and Andrew Oilar buried in the Oilar Family Pioneer Cemetery a few miles from Keokuk. Oilar was a first cousin to Abraham Lincoln. The mothers of both men were sisters with Hanks being their maiden name. Burials in the Pitman Cemetery in West Point Township are listed, including a memorial stone for Archibald S. Cooley who was killed at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. He is buried at the National Cemetery in Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee. An article assumed to have been published in 1926 tells of the young minister, J.P.M. Martin who preached the funeral sermon of outlaw Jesse James.

## MADISON

Mary Hart sent copies of cemetery surveys of over 40 cemeteries in Madison County that were completed by members of the Madison County Genealogical Society -- a yeoman's job! There are ten cemeteries left to survey. They hope to complete those this year. They also enclosed a copy of a map of the cemeteries of Madison County listing names, townships, directions to the cemeteries, information about the society, tourism information, and a list of towns and post offices no longer in existence. Thanks to this group of ambitious volunteers!

## MARSHALL

From an E-mail from Sharon Sturek dated May 23, 2008 concerning the Price Cemetery: After the long, cold and snowy winter we are placing stones in the cemetery. Wayne Blessing and Larry Ginter have been diligently working and my husband Joe and I joined them last weekend at the cemetery. We had a very productive day and all left with a feeling of pride and a sense of accomplishment. As each stone was reset it was a wonderful sight to see it standing upright in the bright green grass! There is no doubt now that those that drive by know there is a cemetery there!!! The stones and foot stones now set belong to the following: Justus Richmond, Asa L. Brown, Eliza J. Brewer, James E. Price and Leonor F. Elzy.

The very large base for the stone of Simon and Temperance Price is now upright. It was placed upon another large sandstone base found buried deeply

beneath it. Wayne and Larry dug it out and leveled it off. The marble base was then moved onto the sandstone base via a tractor and loader and manpower to guide it into the proper alignment. The base will be reinforced along the bottom and then the two large pieces of stone will be placed on top. They will be placed independently due to their size and weight.

By probing we were able to locate the base that fit the stone of James E. Price and were able to place his stone back in the original sandstone base. Although it was not a complete rectangle (part of it broken along the outside edges) the stone fit perfectly in. It was a great find for me and completed the placement where I know he was buried. I was so excited!

We also dug out another large square base that will be leveled and reset. Although we do not have a stone that fits it it will show that another grave is there. I think we all feel that there are probably other stones or bases lying beneath the soil and as time allows we will always be hoping to find another.....

To date we still have five more stones to set, besides the completion of Simon and Temperance Price (their foot stones are set). They are for Eliza Crisp (her foot stone is set also), Eliza Jane Nicholls, Sarahlew Ella Nicholls, Mahlon Howell and Sarah J. McNary.

The cemetery has been mowed and I took a large wreath over to place for Memorial Day. Larry visited with someone from the American Legion to make sure that during the ceremony it will be mentioned that Simon Price buried in the Price Cemetery served in the War of 1812.

I talked with Mike Donahey of the *Marshalltown Times-Republican* newspaper. He and his boss have agreed to do a follow-up story. They think it will be a good article to place in the Past Times issue which is inserted the first Sunday of the month in the *Time-Republican*. We will be working with Mike and hope we can complete the setting of the stones soon so that it can appear in a summer issue.

I will keep you posted as we continue to complete our journey. I'll get some photos off to you soon so you can see how much better it looks than the day you and I searched for graves!

Shirley Brown Martin called and sent a cemetery survey plus much more information about the Brown Cemetery north of Marshalltown. After 23 years, she and her husband moved back to Marshall County and discovered the Brown Cemetery to be in a state of neglect. They enlisted the help of Ryan Van Wyk and Scout Troop #310 to help with the restoration. Shirley has sent before and after pictures of the cemetery to relatives; they all said "thank that young man for them, what an improvement." Tombstones of people not related to the Browns were found. Shirley would appreciate a phone call if you have any information pertaining to these people: John Stubbs, Harriet Stubbs, Harriet Fanton, Hanna Clay, Richey, Wm. Moon, Rebecca Pilcher. Ph 641-488-480

## MITCHELL

Neal DuShane reports in an E-mail dated March 17, 2008 that Jo Ann Squier, one of the coordinators of the Mitchell County Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Project is undergoing chemo treatment through the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Without the dedication of Jo Ann and Gene to the Beaver Creek Cemetery near the ghost town of Brownville, it would have been a derelict cemetery years ago. They have maintained the grounds, fences, entrance, headstones and graves for many years. Neal suggests that Jo Ann would like a card, even if you do not personally know her: Jo Ann Squier, 2855 400th St., Riceville, Iowa 50466-8017.

## POLK

From *Family Living* magazine (Farm Bureau), October 2007: "Grave Work -- Des Moines Man Fixes Old tombstones." Pictured is Larry Davis, SAPIC secretary and board member, as he examines a stone that he has repaired. Larry began his gravestone repair business after working for the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Society for 24 years. He specializes in re-setting fallen stones, straightening leaning stones, and repairing broken ones, mostly from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. His working year stretches from June to November, when it gets too cold for the epoxies and glues to cure. Davis has worked in cemeteries all over Iowa and into Illinois and Missouri. He says southern Iowa has more cemeteries, speculating that it is because of the Mormon pioneers that crossed it. He enjoys working in nature and says, "When you're there alone, you can really hear the birds and see the wildlife that comes in." Larry Davis can be reached by E-mail at: LD2mstone@aol.com or phone 515-277-4917

## IOWA

LaVerna Moser is seeking funds to move remaining bodies from a mausoleum located in the Marengo Cemetery. The structure was built in 1921 and contained crypts for 200 bodies. In 1921, the owner went bankrupt and the mausoleum was turned over to the Odd Fellows organization. Later, the Odd Fellows in Marengo dissolved and it was turned over to the city. Due to roof damage in 1952, families were notified and all bodies were believed to have been removed. LaVerna is attempting to convince the IOOF (Odd Fellows) state organization to fund removal of about 20 bodies recently discovered and arrange for burial. The city of Marengo presently uses the building for storage.

Note from Pat Shaw: LaVerna reminded me that we had met in a cemetery (where else?) in Iowa County several years ago and that I had given her a short lesson in witching. She even sent a photo to prove it! It sounds as if LaVerna's witching skills far exceed mine now as she can determine sex of the deceased and in which direction the body is lying.



## VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 1, 2008: "Cemetery Appreciation Month." The article contains a copy of the proclamation from the Office of the Governor of Iowa, Chet Culver, that names the month of May as Cemetery Appreciation Month. Persons across the state who are interested in preserving these sacred, historic "outdoor museums" for future generations will be planning and participating in activities related to their restoration and maintenance. A plea is made for persons to volunteer to assist genealogical or historical societies or county cemetery commissions in the preservation of Iowa's cultural heritage in this unique way.

From the *Birmingham Newsletter*, Volume 7, February, 2008: "Abe Lincoln's Connection to Birmingham."

New Salem was only two years old when young Abe Lincoln arrived there in 1831. He boarded with the Rutledge family while working as a clerk in a nearby store. Folklore has it that while he lived in New Salem, his sweetheart was Ann Rutledge. Ann Rutledge died of typhoid fever on August 25, 1835 in New Salem, Illinois. Within a few months, her father died of the same disease. Mrs. Rutledge took her six surviving children far into Wisconsin Territory in the fall of 1837. According to a newspaper article written on January 16, 1898, Nancy, Sarah, Robert and William Rutledge attended a small log cabin school in 1838 taught by J. N. Norris. Their farm was located in Lick Creek Township of Van Buren County, near the Jefferson County line.

Mary Ann Rutledge, mother of the celebrated Ann Rutledge, is buried in the Bethel Cemetery west of Birmingham.

From an E-mail from Don Aldrich dated May 16, 2008: I finished the spring growth cut at Landess-Watkins Cemetery. Was afraid I was going to run out of work days before Memorial Day so cut it yesterday. Did not get the State side growth cut, outside the fence, hope to get that done. Don't have a lot of hopes that the State will get it cut, although they did a good job last September. (Don did cut 800 sq. ft. on the state right-of-way later.)

Will try to get out to Dobson Cemetery and cut growth before Memorial Day. Had a call requesting it's location a couple weeks ago. (Don did cut and clean this site).

We will return to Robb Cemetery, as soon as the weather allows and finish the work there. Rev Andrews has already been out and cut the growth there.

Have received word on a stone found over in Milton area, am planning to view it, and attempt a trace on it. Name is Holland, as I understand.

Trying to establish more information on what we call "White" Cemetery NW of Mt. Sterling. Conflicting locations. Would like to get those Entler stones set. Would like to begin work on Dulin Cemetery and Miller Cemetery as well. Don't appear those that "adopted" them are going to proceed. Had to report on Cell Tower

and Miller Cemetery conflict. I couldn't see any conflict. I thought if they built the tower at cemetery site they might keep it mowed. Don't know why Mt. Sterling wants cell reception.

Have had several calls from Chequest Township Trustees, of work they are planning on Roush Cemetery, and then we will add that one to our "to do" list.

Had request to work stones at Valentine, wanting it done before Memorial Day. Said we would, didn't say what year.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 15, 2008: Don Aldrich's column, "Voices from the Past -- Where in the world is Leona?" While researching in the County Recorder's Office recently, Don encountered Mark and Carolyn Wenke of Jackson Township who told Don that they knew of a gravestone in a barn on land that Mark is farming and wanted to find out where it should be. The inscription on the stone is "Leona Robey 1905-1928." Don searched Van Buren County Marriage Records and found that Leona Lindbloom married Lee Robey in 1925. Both were listed as residents of Centerville, Iowa. Don contacted the Appanoose County Genealogical Society and learned that both Leona and Lee were buried in the Oakland Cemetery in Centerville. In all probability the small stone was set at Leona's death in 1928, then upon the death of Lee Robey in 1974 the small stone was removed and the larger stone with both inscriptions was set. Questions remaining are: Why were Leona and Lee married in Keosauqua when both were born at and resided in Centerville? The short life of Leona? Why was the small stone that was removed, carried to Jackson Township where it is now found?

Don states that he owes a thank you to Gary of the Appanoose County Genealogical Society and a special thank you to Mark and Carolyn Wenke of Jackson Township for their concern and question, "Where is Leona Robey?"

Van Buren County (population 7000+) has no stoplights or fast food restaurants, but telecommunications towers seem to be springing up like weeds. A few years ago, a tower was erected north of the historic Bentonsport Presbyterian Church and, according to some historically-minded folks, sullies the panoramic view of the church and its peaceful surroundings. The Van Buren County Preservation Commission has responded to the construction of a proposed tower in the Mt. Sterling area by requesting that neither the tower nor the support wires be within the confines of a small cemetery that is between the proposed site and the town. A response states that Eckhardt Research in Iowa City investigated the FCC area of Potential Effect by records search and field survey and that, per the report, the proposed tower will have "No Effect" on historic surroundings. Phase One intensive archaeologist report by the Office of the State Archaeologist will also be done.

## WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 3, 2008: "Sharing the joy of genealogy," by Dee Hall, President of the Wapello County Genealogical Society. The article states that genealogy is fun, addictive, and surprising: going to the libraries, cemeteries, and courthouses. She tells the location, hours, and address of the Wapello County Genealogical Society and invites the general public to start researching their family histories and offers help.

## WASHINGTON

From the *Washington Journal*, date unknown, "Thoughts of a Woodchopper," by Chuck Hotle. The Schrock Cemetery is one of the largest country burial grounds in this area, located on W55 north of Coppock. As near as historians can tell there never was a church there. According to Jerry Schrock who lives between Frytown and Sharon Center, the cemetery got its name from Abe Schrock who was buried there in 1879. It is possible that there were others from the Schrock family, none of whom have lived in the neighborhood for well over a hundred years. Records show that a Nancy Scranton was buried there in 1846, probably the first. Other early burials include names of Keith, Van Sant, Deeds, Coppock, and Beenblossom. A new fence was recently built around the cemetery, one of eleven in the one township.

Another cemetery that warrants mention is the Pattison Cemetery located in the very northwest corner of Washington Township in the county of the same name. For about a hundred years there were only a couple of stones lying in the Philips pasture. Genealogists found that a fraction of an acre had been deeded for a cemetery in very early days by Richard Pattison and others. Pattison was an early settler who came to the county in 1839. Several people combed the ground in the area and old records were examined. There seems to be at least 22 people buried there, the first being David Wilder in 1848.

Several interested persons searched for markers and the location was surveyed. Ferd Marie, whose great aunt was buried there, mowed the place. The county put in an entrance and Jim Marsh, myself, and others of the genealogical chapter staked up the stones, and put up a sign on the fence that can be seen from Highway 92 as identification. Names of some buried there, nearly all before 1860, include Dayton, Wilder, Davison, Mann, Swift, Southard, Wolf, and Pattison.

While on the subject of local history, I might mention that the first burial at Pleasant Hill Church was of a boy drowned in the nearby creek in 1866.

The Coppock Mill was built by John Coppock and Tommy Tucker in 1859. Tucker was connected to the construction of several mills in Henry and Washington counties.

Adam Ritchey, maybe the first settler in Washington County, died across the line in Henry County in 1848

## OUT OF IOWA

### ARIZONA

In an E-mail message dated March 23, 2008, Neal Du Shane reports that information on Walnut Grove and Walnut Grove Cemetery has been posted to the APCRP web page: <http://www.apcrp.org>

Click -- Ghost towns

Click -- Walnut Grove

In an E-mail message dated April 8, 2008: "67 Graves never exhumed from fort," by Melanie Dabovich, Associated Press writer. Working in secret, federal archaeologists have dug up the remains of dozens of soldiers and children near a Civil War-era fort after an informant tipped them off about widespread grave-looting. The exhumations, conducted from August to October, removed 67 skeletons from the parched desert soil around Fort Craig -- 39 men, two women, and 26 infants and children, according to two federal archaeologists who helped with the dig. They also found scores of empty graves and determined 20 had been looted.

The investigation began with a tip about an amateur historian who had displayed the mummified remains of a black soldier, draped in a Civil War-era uniform, in his home.

Investigators say the historian, Dee Brecheisen, may have been a prolific looter who spotted historical sites from his plane. Brecheisen died in 2004. The remains are being studied by Bureau of Reclamation scientists. Most of the men are believed to be soldiers. The children may have been local residents treated by doctors at the former frontier outpost.

The mummified remains were recovered, but most of Brecheisen's collections were sold after his death. There are no plans to investigate his family members.

### TENNESSEE

From the files of Rebecca Miller, SAPIC member from Cedar Rapids (the writer is her mother's cousin). "Isaac Jones," by Earl Craig. Isaac Jones was born in Virginia in 1784 and died in Kingston Springs, Tennessee on January 17, 1856. He acquired large masses of land, along with Methodist ministers named Samuel Kingston, Samuel Mays, and Henry Hutton. When the writer, Earl Craig, purchased the land in 1996, he discovered the headstone of Isaac Jones that had been broken off by grazing cattle. With the help of several others, he was able to reconstruct the gravesite and dedicate it in Mr. Jones's honor on 17 May, 2003 with the entire volunteer work crew in attendance. The history of the site was made possible by the outstanding research conducted by Pastor Von Unrah, pastor of the Kingston Springs Methodist Church, who also presided at the dedication.

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Web site for locating cemeteries: [www.uscemeteries.net/](http://www.uscemeteries.net/)

## ILLINOIS

From the *Dallas Morning News*, March 22, 2008: "After two years, grave still missing," by Jeff Mosier, Staff Writer. Pictured is Mary Hurst, holding a photo of her father, Dragoljub Ilic, in 2005. She has tried to find his grave site to fulfill a wish of her mother, Irmgard Ilic, who wanted to be buried with her husband. Dragoljub died in 1966 and was buried in St. Sava Cemetery in Libertyville, Ill. according to funeral documents. However, after using ground penetrating radar and a plumber's scope with a camera, Mrs. Hurst examined 107 graves. She found 19 unmarked graves, but none belonged to her father. She now guesses that he was moved in the late 1970s during a dispute over who owned the cemetery, but there are no records. She has become an advocate for other missing and misplaced bodies at St. Sava and has been able to help other people's relatives.

Contributed by Sidney Louis.

## NEW YORK

From the *New York Times*, March 24, 2008: "Searching by Number for Loved Ones in New York's Potter's Field," by Cara Buckley. Pictured is Melinda Hunt, who said many people have contacted her desperate to track down relatives who were buried on Hart Island, and her lawyer, David Rankin. Also pictured are Paul Devaney and Pat Doherty who received help in locating the grave of a great uncle of Mr. Devaney's: Michael Kilmurray whose legal surname was Gilmurray. Hart Island is home to New York's Potter's field, the place where hundreds of thousands of the city's anonymous, indigent and forgotten have been laid to rest, tightly packed in pine coffins in common graves. Each trench containing 3 to 5 bodies is marked with a numbered concrete block. The island and, until recently, the ledgers detailing names of the people buried there were inaccessible to the public. But recently Ms. Hunt obtained the records of 50,000 people buried on the island since 1965. She is hoping to create an online database that people can use to search by name or date of death. "People have the right to know where their family members are buried in the city," she said. "I'm trying to show a hidden part of American culture that I think is important, that I think is overlooked. These are public records. They belong to the people of New York."

Contributed by Sidney Louis

## PENNSYLVANIA

From the *Dallas Morning News*, February 14, 2008: "Love and death: Cemetery tour offers tales of romance," by Erika Hayasaki, *Los Angeles Times*. Pictured are photos of Blanche Oelrichs and actor John Barrymore leaning against the grave of Leonard Moorhead Thomas, once married to Ms. Oelrichs. The love story of Blanche and John Barrymore was among those featured in a Valentine's tour of Laurel Hills Cemetery in Philadelphia called "Love Stories of Laurel Hill." Gwen Kaminski, a history buff who worked in the cemetery's main office

research the archives for 2 years and wanted to tell the love stories to the public. She decided to host a tour the Saturday before Valentine's Day. Stories included one of Mary Peterson, who died in 1912, and requested that her heart be removed and buried alongside her first husband. Leo and Ralda Davendish dated for seven years before marrying and Ralda died of a brain aneurysm 3 weeks after their wedding. Leo took a job at the cemetery office "undoubtedly as a way to still be close to her." Another story tells of Theodore Jaeckel, who requested that his ashes be mingled with those of his wife, Violet, for all of eternity. One phrase Ms. Kaminske sees over and over is: "Love is stronger than death."

Contributed by Sidney Louis.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

From the *Dallas Morning News*, March 9, 2008: "A buried legacy for black vets," by Dahleen Glanton, *Chicago Tribune*. Pictured is Howard Wright as he visits a South Carolina cemetery where black Civil War vets lie in unmarked graves on the bank of Skull Creek Harbor on Hilton Head Island. These former slaves who fled the plantations to fight for freedom on the side of the Union Army are unknown heroes that few people know about. Mr. Wright has set out on a mission to get the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs to provide headstones for the more than 3,000 black in South Carolina who served. So far, he has received 300 markers, including one for his great, great grandfather, Caesae Kirk-Jones. Eventually, he hopes to have veteran headstones placed on the graves of all 200,000 black Union veterans nationwide.

Contributed by Sidney Louis.

## TEXAS

From the *Dallas Morning News*, February 17, 2008: "Volunteers help spruce up cemetery." More than 200 youths from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently cleaned up McCombs Cemetery, near Garden Ridge and Bellaire boulevards in Flower Mound. Pictured are volunteers Whitney Smith, Derek Thompson, Gareth Jones, Seth Cosby, and Sean Wise as they removed a dead tree from the site.

From the *Ft. Worth Star Telegram*, February 26, 2008: "Here, history was doubly buried," by Michael Hines. Michael Evans, pastor of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, is seeking help to maintain the historical black Mansfield Community Cemetery. The church members pick up trash and straighten tombstones and also paid for a sign to mark the graveyard. The adjoining Mansfield Cemetery has been approached to care for its black counterpart, but they aren't sure if they can afford it. "We haven't been able to find who really owns it," said JoAnn Harris, president of the association.

From the *Ft. Worth Star Telegram*, March 3, 2008: "Graveyard will get its moment in the sun," by John Austin.

Polytechnic Cemetery, where burials were held from 1867 to 1992, is being designated by the state as a historical site, due in part to the efforts of Brenda Matthews, a Texas Wesleyan history professor who has helped investigate the cemetery. Her husband helped survey the cemetery, and her classes have helped clear the site. On March 5, state historical representatives, Texas Wesleyan University officials and descendants of those buried there gathered to celebrate Polytechnic, the 1,000th cemetery to receive state historical designation. Nobody is sure how many burials there were between 1867 and 1992, the last burial, but about 100 is estimated. Over the years, vandals have stolen headstones and other "grave goods." About half the stones, especially those that have angels and lambs, are collectible and often placed in gardens. There is no association to administer maintenance, although a small trust exists that generates about \$500 per year.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, March 16, 2008: "Thieves targeting cemetery visitors," Associated Press. More than 30 vehicles of visitors to Houston cemeteries have been broken into with thieves stealing everything from credit cards to sandwiches, authorities said. The victims are typically middle-aged to older women who visit cemeteries alone. Cemetery management has posted signs urging visitors not leave valuables in cars. Most thieves are doing identity fraud crimes.

From the *Ft. Worth Star Telegram*, March 23, 2008: "Preserving community -- Handley Hill Community Cemetery, along with outreach programs, given new life with help of sponsorship," by Muriel L. Whetstone Sims. Pictured is the Rev. Bruce Datcher as he checks on Handley Hill Community Cemetery, which was renovated with help from Quicksilver Resources and Exelon Corporation. The Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church purchased the Handley Cemetery for the Colored Citizens in 1888 and many buried there are among the community's oldest settlers and leaders. It is the last memorial to the African-American founders of what is now known as Stop Six. After the church was moved in 1930, the cemetery deteriorated over the years and was vandalized. In 2007, two of the cemetery's corporate neighbors, Quicksilver Resources, Inc. and Exelon Corporation, stepped up and offered to refurbish the historic burial site. They saw how the cemetery was being constantly vandalized and asked if they could be good neighbors. They sponsored the construction of a wrought iron fence, used a sonogram to detect unmarked graves, paved the roadway, and created a gravel parking lot. On Memorial Day, 2007, the site was rededicated during a ceremony attended by church and community members including Mayor Mike Moncrife, Congressman Michael Burgess, and council member Frank Moss. Quicksilver also donated approximately \$5000 for the creation of a 501c3, Brighter Outlook, Inc.

From the *Ft. Worth Star Telegram*, February 22, 2008: "News of the Weird -- The entrepreneurial spirit." The New Lucky Restaurant has been around since the 1950s in Ahmadabad, India, serving diners among the gravestones located at various points around the tables. No one is certain who was buried under the restaurant, according to a December Associated Press dispatch, but Indians aren't much spooked by the experience. The main concern is that waiters know the floor plan and don't trip over the ankle-high monuments.

Contributed by Sidney Louis.

From the web site of the Chicora Foundation and contributed by SAPIC member, Kevin Lee: Chicora Foundation, Inc., PO Box 8664, Columbia, SC, USA, 29202, 803-787-6910

Only gravestones that are severely tilted should be reset since there is always the possibility that resetting may cause other damage to the stone. Assume that all stones are fragile and have some form of internal cracking or damage. A detailed list of instructions for safely resetting stones is given.

Some monuments require little more than releveling. Your first decision must be whether you can handle the task in a manner that will be safe for both you and the monument. If in doubt, do nothing and hire a stone conservator. If, however, the monument is small and you have the appropriate tools, then some suggestions are given.

Some markers are broken off at ground level and found laying flat in the cemetery. This exposes them to damage from mowers, pedestrians, as well as increased damage from acid rainfall. Such stones may be good candidates for resetting in a new socket. First, you need to be certain that other than the one break, the stone is otherwise sound -- there should be no cracks, spalling, or other damage. Another condition is that the stone must be able to be reset without hiding or burying any of the inscription.

If your stone meets these two conditions, creating a new socket for the stone is really pretty easy and involves essentially two steps -- creating the socket and then resetting the stone.

Contact the Chicora Foundation for instructions.