

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535
VOLUME 13 ISSUE #3

www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/
July, 2008

The **October 11, 2008 SAPIC meeting** will be held at the St. John's Lutheran Church, 4110 E. Mount Vernon Road, Waterloo, Iowa 50703. Take Highway 63 north out of Waterloo to Dunkerton Road, turn right (east) towards Dunkerton, IA. to N. Elk Run Road, turn north and go one mile on gravel. Map inside newsletter.

A presentation of the Robert Carter Award to Mike Magee was held there in 2003. The business meeting will begin at 10:00 AM. The Bennington Township Cemetery containing many examples of native prairie plants is located adjacent to the church. A church-owned cemetery is also nearby. A tour of the restored Bennington Township country school will be offered following the meeting. For lunch information, contact Jerry Kramer: JerryJoAnn@aol.com

Telephone 319-233-4974

From the *LaPorte City Progress Review*, March 18, 1901: "Tombstone engravers are great fellows to put in a good word for a fellow when it's too late."

The **Robert and Phyllis Carter Award** will be presented to Wayne Blessing of Zeiring at 1 m. Sunday, Sept. 14, at the Price Cemetery in Marshall County. Mr. Blessing has spent many hours cleaning and repairing stones in the Price Cemetery in this formerly neglected burial site. He was nominated by SAPIC members Sharon Sturek and Jerry Hale, descendants of the pioneers whose graves are located in the cemetery.

Are you "Reddy" for Preservation?

Iowa's Statewide Historic Preservation Conference will be held Sept. 19-20 in Sioux City, Iowa. Highlights include speakers Lance Foster, cultural landscape specialist; Don E. Longwell, historic tax credit advisor; Tim Samuelson, cultural historian for the City of Chicago; Jennifer Sandy with the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and Bob Yapp, Preservation Resources, Inc. There will be a tour of the Floyd County Cemetery in Sioux City and a session on cemetery restoration. Contact Paul Barnes, City of Sioux City, at (712)279-6364 or

PBarnes@sioux-city.org to register

"Reddy Kilowatt" is used with permission granted by Reddy Kilowatt Corporation. SAPIC is a sponsor of conference.

SAPIC's new brochure designed by Carl Thoresen,

Superintendent of Oak Hill Cemetery Association in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is included in this newsletter. Please detach and make copies to display in your library, tourism office, and to distribute at meetings and other events. Thanks to Carl for providing his expertise! Carl can be reached at P.O. Box 1962; Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-1962. (319) 362-8452.

E-mail: carl-oakhill@cedar-rapids.net

AMK Manufacturing Pipe Locator

Locates PVC plastic pipe, iron or steel pipe, electrical cable, ceramic pipe, telephone cables, asbestos cement pipe, conduits, concrete pipe, fiber optics to 10 ft. deep. Detects magnetic fields, and aligns itself with pipes, etc. when found. No batteries. USA. \$24.99

NorthernTool.com 1-800-221-0516

Note: SAPIC offers this information as a possible device for locating unmarked graves, but does not endorse the product or receive any profit from mentioning it in its newsletter.

Please notify SAPIC of any address change as soon as possible. The United States Postal Service is stepping up its efforts to reduce undeliverable-as-addressed mail. On November 23, 2008, new Move Update standards take effect. To be ready, mailers must begin using addresses that were uploaded no earlier than August 20, 2008. The Move Update standards provide options for customers to reduce the number of mail pieces that require forwarding, return, or being treated as waste. Issues of *Grave News* that are returned must be re-sent at first-class postage cost. Thank you!

From *AARP BULLETIN*, July-August 2008: "Funeral Planning, the Online Way," by Keosha Johnson. You may not be able to choose when you go to your final resting place, but you can customize your sendoff for free on two new funeral-planning websites. At Minneapolis-based MyWonderfulLife.com members plan and share funeral details - including choices for music, and where and how burial will take place. The London-based YourDeathWish.com offers many of the same services as its U.S. counterpart. Members of the site can join an online community and share ideas for funeral services - or, as one member calls them, "going-away parties."

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Story
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641-664-2852 wilcar@netins.net

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515-277-4917 LD2mstone@aol.com

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515-462-9802 emcvay38@msn.com

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319-472-5348 davisduo2@mebbs.com

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641-394-3967 jjeck@myclearwave.net

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319-232-8762 Digger4045@yahoo.com

Board Member (2009): Marva Rowe
905 S. 21st. St.
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515-573-7658 marvaj@frontiernet.net

Board Member (2010): Tony Bengston
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319-415-1175 tonybengston@yahoo.com

Web Page: Connie Street
325 Franklin St.
Wapello, IA 52653 -1515
319-527-8164 ckcasey@louisacomm.net

WHERE TO GET PROBES

Agri-Drain
340th St.
Adair, IA 50002
1-800-232-4743
Sizes range from 4 1/2' to 8' -- \$18.50 and up

WHERE TO GET EPOXY

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

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

GCT Stone Epoxy and Hardener
Granite City Tool Co.
P.O. Box 411 11 Blackwell St.
Barre, VT 05641 mkewinter@aol.com
www.granitecitytoolvt.com

Superior Stone Products
(quickset acrylic adhesive)
8580 Byron Commerce Drive
Byron Center, MI 49315
800-493-5111 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
July 11, 2008**

President Steve Story called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. July 11, 2008 at the Hurstville Interpretive Center near Maquoketa, Iowa.

President Story presented the meeting agenda and asked for additions. Moved by Mike Magee that the meeting agenda be approved. Seconded by Tony Bengston. Motion carried.

The minutes of the previous meeting on April 12, 2008 were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Larry Davis in the absence of Treasurer Valerie Ogren illustrating a balance of \$11,843.19 consisting of \$1,951.43 in the "Working Account", \$4,628.39 in the "Reserve Account", and \$5,263.37 in certificates of deposit.

Grants: Five grant applications were received, presented and approved:

Hampton Cemetery
Hampton, Iowa

Washington Cemetery
Clinton County Iowa

Stillwell/Milgrove/Moore/Maloney (goes by all these names)
Poweshiek County Iowa

Union Chapel Cemetery
Madison County Iowa

Lone Tree Cemetery
Lone Tree, Iowa

The Robert and Phyllis Carter Award: President Story reported a nomination for the Robert and Phyllis Carter Award had been received for Wayne Blessing from Zeoring, Iowa. It was moved and seconded to present the Robert and Phyllis Carter Award to Wayne Blessing. Motion Carried.

Cemetery Flood Damage: It was noted that if members were aware of any flood damage to cemeteries, this should be reported to the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City, Iowa.

Future Meeting Sites: An invitation was received to hold the April 18, 2009 meeting in DeWitt, Iowa. The following meeting sites are now scheduled:

October 11, 2008.....	Blackhawk County
January 10, 2009.....	Polk County
April 18, 2009.....	Clinton County
July 11, 2009.....	Fayette County

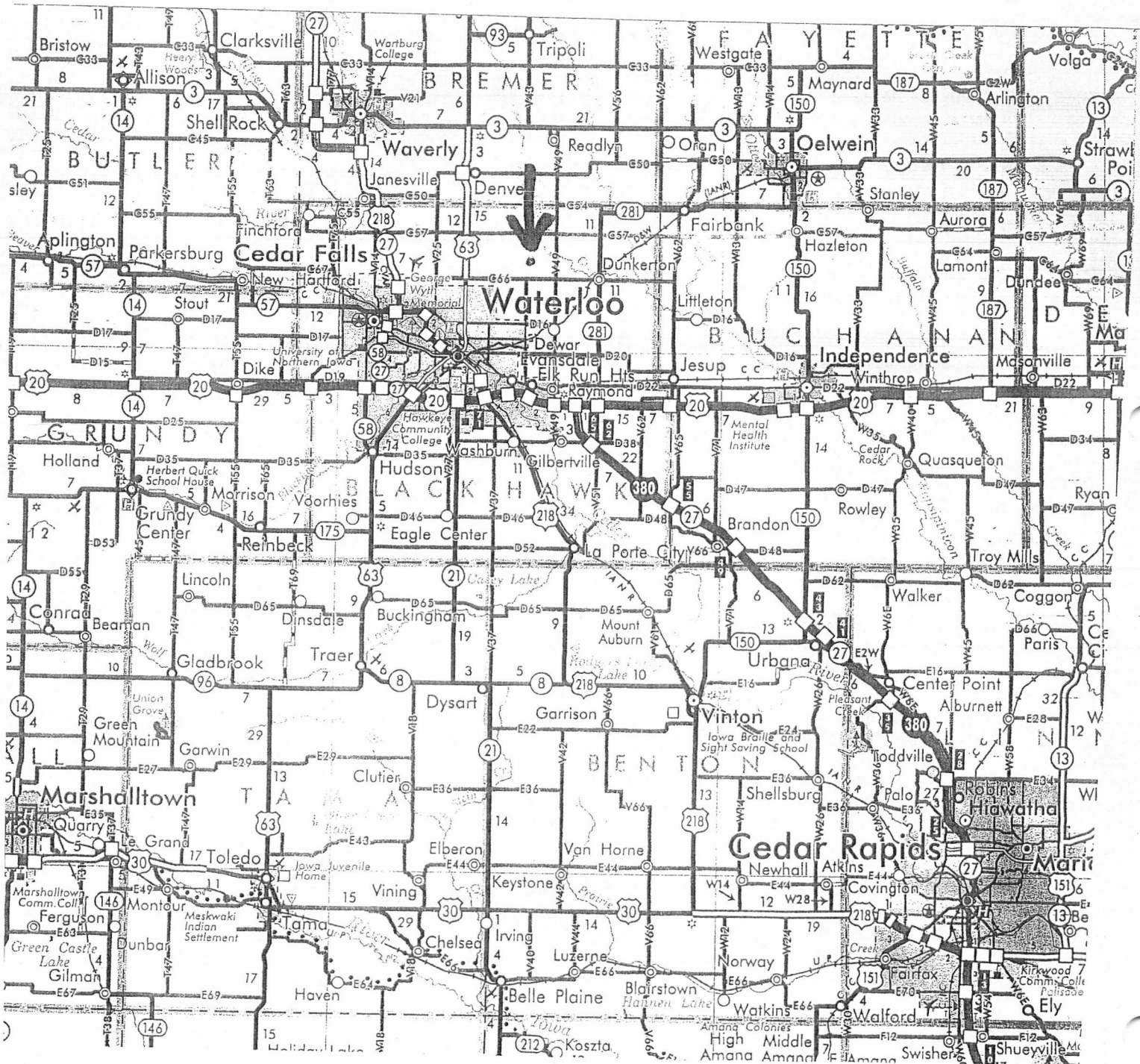
Miscellaneous: President Story reviewed a letter received from the Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Three gravestones had been removed from a burial site to assist in cleaning underbrush from the area. Now, there is reluctance from those initially involved to return them. The Commission was asking advice on how they could insure that the stones were replaced. It was the general opinion of SAPIIC members that this should be reported to the Office of the State Archaeologist since the burials were 150 years or older.

The program featured State Representative Tom Schueller, State Senator Roger Stewart, and Don Wentworth.

The meeting was adjourned.

Larry D. Davis
Secretary

Location of October 11, 2008 SAPIC meeting:



STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 2nd Quarter – 1 April 2008 thru 30 June 2008

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2008, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$2,031.88
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 305.00	
Interest 4/30/08	1.93	
Interest 5/31/08	1.90	
Interest 6/30/08	1.98	
Total Income	\$ 310.81	
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #206 – Postmaster – postage & stamps	\$ 9.17	
Ck #207 – U. S. Treasury – Tax Exempt fee	300.00	
Ck #208 – Patricia Shaw – newsletter expense	82.09	
Total Expense	\$ 391.26	

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2008 \$1,951.43

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2008, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 4,628.39

(no income or expense during 2nd quarter)

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2008 \$ 4,628.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 30 June 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>

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

A Cemetery Landscape Preservation Workshop, a workshop about managing historical cemetery vegetation, will be held at the American Cemetery in Natchitoches, Louisiana on Sept. 16-17. Workshop is sponsored by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. WWW.NCPTT.NPS.GOV
Debbie Smith at (318)356-7444. debbie.smith@nps.gov

July 28, 2008

Dear Ms. Ogren:

Patrick Palmer delivered the \$200.00 grant from SAPIC and we are most grateful. So far we have had 62 large historic stones restored or straightened and are in the process of raising money to restore more stones. This is a "long-term" project.

Please rest assured that we will put this money to good use. Thank you again.

Mickey Ferris, Friends of Hampton Cemetery, Inc.
ferris88@earthlink.net

Re: Grave News, April 2008, pg. 5, 2nd column
Response to cleaning agent suggestion

Dear SAPIC,

Reading "Grave News" allows a member to share their experiences while trying to preserve Iowa cemeteries. Most of the information is good sound advice, however occasionally someone provides information that may not be a good choice for preservation practices.

The product sold at NAPA stores to clean white wall tires contains bleach which IS NOT recommended for cleaning grave markers. Cleaning with bleach or a product containing bleach will produce, over time, a yellowing of white marble stone. Also, if bleach or any cleaning agent is not thoroughly removed with plain water, its residual ingredients may do more long term harm than the immediate, visible good.

There are several approved products available for cleaning grave markers and these should be used instead of using a product purchased from hardware, automotive, grocery, or building supply stores. Recommended cleaning agents are: (1) plain water; (2) ammonia and water in a 1:4 or 1:5 ratio; (3) non-ionic products; (4) approved commercial grave stone cleaners.

We are always looking for better, faster, cheaper, or easier ways to clean grave markers but we

also must remember that the growth or stain on the stones took many, many years to accumulate. Improving a stone's appearance may take several years of TLC and personal dedication.

Please don't ever be afraid to share information or ask questions because this is how we learn to improve our knowledge of preserving our historical heritage.

Sincerely,
John C. Heider, SAPIC member
Monticello, IL

From State Representative Mary Gaskill, June 12, 2008: "Vandalism will not delay veteran cemetery opening." Patrick Palmersheim, Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, announced that the Veterans Cemetery site was vandalized May 29th or early May 30th. He does not anticipate any delay in the scheduled opening of the cemetery on July 3rd. Palmersheim reported that someone threw chunks of concrete at several of the windows in the administration building. The damage broke through a center post of the windows, breaking the seals as well, so the entire window will have to be removed so the frame can be replaced.

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery will be the first state-owned and operated veterans' cemetery in the State of Iowa. The cemetery will serve the veteran population throughout the state. When construction is completed, any eligible veteran, their spouse and eligible dependents may be interred in the cemetery. State residency will not be a prerequisite to be interred at the cemetery.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 5, 2008: "New Iowa Veterans Cemetery is dedicated." Patrick Palmersheim, executive director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, says the cemetery will honor all men and women who defended and restored freedom around the world. Up to 80,000 people could eventually be buried at the 100-acre site, which is next to the Van Meter Exit on I-80. Dedication was held on July 3, 2008.

From SAPIC member, Kevin Lee: Concrete against or adhered to an historic marker is a no-no. I have carved bases to replace broken ones with the slot for the tablet to set in. I drilled a weep hole on the bottom of

the base for water to escape into the crushed rock footing. I use lead wedging tapped into the joint parameter of the stone between the base and the stone.

This technique has survived many a winter in northeast Iowa. Good drainage with flexibility in the joint work is the key.

Concrete is an extremely hard material and when bonded against soft marble will in time destroy the marker. If there were to be a vandalism the break between the stone and the concrete would be almost impossible to fix. In preservation efforts one should always look for the original way the monument was constructed and model that using the same materials to repair it. One should think of ways that can be undone in repair so future repairers can have a successful time 80-100 years from now.

From *The Iowan* magazine, July/August 2008, p. 5: "Follow the Mormon Trail Across Iowa." Between 1846 and 1869, some 70,000 Mormons crossed Iowa between Navoo, on the Illinois side of the Mississippi, and Kaneshville (now Council Bluffs), on the Iowa side of the Missouri, en route to their ultimate destination and new home -- Salt Lake City. Many of the pilgrims stopped in Iowa to rest, re-provision, earn money, and take shelter during harsh Iowa winters.

The Mormons left their mark in many places along the original route used by the first pilgrims in 1846 and 1847. In Bentonsport, a major port on the Des Moines River, Mormon craftsmen built the Mason House Inn, which still operates as a bed & breakfast. At the other end of the state is the Kaneshville Tabernacle, where Brigham Young was installed as the church president before crossing the Missouri River to Nebraska. In between are a variety of buildings, cemeteries, and historic sites. In Keosauqua you can find the courthouse where Mormon musicians (Pitt's Brass Band) earned money by playing for local merchants. In Mount Pisgah there are a reconstructed log cabin, a cemetery, and several monuments.

Pictured is the *National Park Service's Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guide* and the Mason House Inn. The Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail was declared a national monument in 1978. Extensive detail on the experiences of the Mormons along the trail is documented in the *Guide*, providing descriptions of locations where visitors will find remnants of the trail and interpretive services. *The Mormon Pioneer Trail Across Iowa in 1846* is available online at

www.nps.gov/mopi/planyourvisit/brochues.htm
and can be ordered from the National Trails System office,
801-741-1012 ext. 116.

From the National Trust for Historic Preservation - Update: Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Report delivered to Congress: Cemetery Officials Commit to Repair, but Preservationists Must Remain Vigilant. In January, 2008, Congress, led by Senator Jim Webb and Senator Daniel Akaka, mandated that a report be prepared laying out all the options for the Tomb including repair. That report from the Department of the Army, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Arlington National Cemetery, was delivered to Congress on August 11th. In the report, federal officials have agreed to properly repair the Tomb in the immediate future, which is a dramatic turn-around from their previous position (replacement with a new monument) and a direct result of the action of preservationists, veterans, and other concerned citizens. Read the report to Congress at:

www.preservationnation.org/tomb
National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202.588.6000

From: <http://crp.cr.nps.gov/archive/19-10/19-10-6.pdf>
"Old Cemeteries, Arsenic, and Health Safety," by John L. Konefes and Michael K. McGee. From the Civil War until about 1910, arsenic was the main ingredient in the embalming fluids used widely throughout the country. Although effective, arsenic is toxic and persistent, and elemental arsenic will never degrade into harmless by-products. Progress in embalming practices during the late 1880s has left a legacy that can potentially harm the health of archeologists or cemetery workers, and impact the environment. Awareness of this potential problem is the first step in alleviating any real damage that might occur. Precautionary measures, such as protective clothing and equipment, housekeeping, and hygiene practices are important. Collecting and analyzing soil and groundwater samples from excavations is recommended.

John L. Konefes is the Director of the Iowa Waste Reduction Center at the University of Northern Iowa. With 20 years of environmental experience, he has been working on the arsenic embalming issue for more than five years. Michael K. McGee is a Certified Industrial Hygienist with over 15 years of experience. He is currently Cedar Falls Division Manager for National Environmental Testing, Inc. Melissa Johnson Williams of Chicago contributed to the historical research on arsenic embalming.

COUNTY REPORTS

Allamakee

Woodmansee notes, New Albin city cemetery (aka Ross cemetery), added the omitted burial of Deborah Ryan Seeley -- contributed by Paul Moritz.

Gravestone Photo Project (GPP). Twenty-six gravestone photos from Dorchester Methodist & Dorchester Catholic (St. Mary's) cemeteries from Erin Wilker.

Blackhawk

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 25, 1912:

"Monuments Cause Delirium Tremens (tremors?)."

Discovery that the grip (small travel bag) he had stolen contained "grave stones" and drawings of stones, proved too great shock to the emotional state of Frank MacKinnon and he developed a case of delirium tremens in the city jail last night.

MacKinnon, who is 31 and gives his residence as Asonia, Conn., was arrested last night on a charge of larceny for having stolen the grip of J. R. Canty of 526 Fifth Street East. The grip contained plates and samples of stones used in soliciting orders for granite and marble work. MacKinnon was captured in the north end with the grip in his possession. When taken to the police station he laughed about the "grave stones" he had stolen but this morning his mirth had turned to fear and he was in such shape that he could not be arraigned in police court.

From the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*, June 27, 2008: "Greenwood Cemetery's bluff crumbling after heavy rains," by Jon Ericson, *Courier* Staff Writer. Pictured is Mark Ripplinger, Cedar Falls parks manager, as he shows where the edge of Greenwood Cemetery is eroding into the Cedar River below. The cemetery has been losing ground to the river since heavy rains followed the spring thaw this year. Portions of the land right along the dropoff have cracked and fallen down the steep bluff. Although it's far enough back so as not to impact graves, it's still important to gain control so the ground will not continue to slide. Plastic sheeting and sand bags have been placed in the most affected area to prevent further erosion and the road is closed there. The city engineering division firmly believes they need a specialist to evaluate the situation.

Boone

No newspaper provided: "Old Cemetery Revealed." Cave-in on River near Scandia Exposes Indian Burial Ground. Nevada, Iowa, April 8 -- A cave-in of the river down at Scandia, a little mining town, over the line in Boone county, the other day unearthed a discovery of historical value. The river has been very high and in many places was out of its banks. Near Scandia the water flooded the neighboring farm lands and was the source of a great deal of loss to the mining interests.

Bremer

SAPIC member Mike Magee will be speaking to the Bremer County Genealogical Society about his cemetery repair work on November 4.

Butler

From the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier*, June 25, 2008: "Volunteer crews repair tombstones at New Hartford," by Josh Nelson, *Courier* Staff Writer. Pictured are Jay Mead and Kevin Schultz of McCall Monuments as they use a hoist to set a tombstone back in place. An F5 tornado on May 25 knocked down about 460 markers in Oak Hill Cemetery. Two weeks later, severe flooding claimed much of the rest of the town. Gordy Ballhagen, a councilman in New Hartford, and Lance Banwart of Black Hawk Memorial, made a plea through the Monument Builders of Iowa and solicited help. Crews traveled from Denison, DeWitt, and Nevada to help with repairs. This was the first time Banwart had seen damage on such a wide scale. The storm ripped stones weighing up to 2,000 pounds from their bases, tossing them on the grass like pebbles.

From KWWL.com (Waterloo TV station), "Stones damaged at New Hartford cemetery," by Danielle Wagner. Numerous grave markers are either knocked over or damaged at the New Hartford Cemetery. The article quotes Fred Hersey of Waterloo whose parents' graves are in the cemetery. He was there about half an hour before the tornado hit. He and others could not believe that such big heavy stones could be blown over. Many stones lay on the ground, were cracked, and covered with mud as hard as cement. They are told the city should have a record of where each headstone goes and also a fund

to cover the cost of repairs.

From Mike Magee, June 1, 2008: The Catholic Cemetery in Parkersburg was mostly leveled. All trees were gone, the entry way arch was ripped apart. Not too many older markers there, mostly newer ones -- 1950s and on up. No adhesive was ever used on them, just a sealer. I assume that the strong wind allowed water to get under the polished granite ones and created a slippery situation and the strong winds just pushed them on over. Bases, too. A monument business in Waterloo is helping to set them back up. They will get a backhoe or a bobcat to reset the larger ones. Did not see much chipped or broken stones. I fixed a couple of old ones. Helped to reset a Civil War one. All of the bark on the large trees was stripped away and the branches on them all gone on the south side of town. Another cemetery about four blocks away was untouched.

Chickasaw

From the Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly, Volume 25, Number 2, Second Quarter 2008, J. L. Kottke, Editor, page 14: "Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission." The CCCC continues to meet the first Monday of each month at the New Hampton Library at 7:00 p.m. Recent work includes renovations at the Dresden Township Garden of Memories Cemetery. Most all gravestones needed new bases and stone repairs. Mike Magee and Bill Youngblut of Black Hawk county have been assisting Fred and Priscilla Reisner and others with this long tedious task. Neighbors have been bringing in equipment helping with the fence line in hopes to build a new fence soon.* The old fence and many downed trees and limbs are now removed. The grass is beginning to grow out and beginning to look very nice. Many Ann Crandall, secretary, has been bringing in lunch for the helpers. A new sign has been installed.

Fred Reisner and President Jerry Tieskoter announce that there is more work to completely finish the Cagley and Little Turkey Cemeteries. Hopefully this will be completed soon.

Priscilla has been researching information that was found on a gravestone which was abandoned in a ditch and found by county road workers. Next of

kin have been found and CCCC is awaiting word on what to do with the stone.

*A large group of workers organized by Fred Reisner got the fence installed on August 27. They used a skid loader with a post hole auger for the large posts.

A publication titled *St. Joseph Calvary Cemetery Burials, New Hampton, IA* will be available on October 1. The 3rd Quarter Newsletter will include this document on the order form.

From Priscilla Reisner, E-mail dated Sept. 3, 2008:

We've been getting quite a bit done at the Garden of Memories, W of Fredericksburg. There are over 50 stones reset, repaired & reset; & cleaned. There has been another footstone & a lg. base with a little of the headstone in it but we haven't located the headstone.

The weeds & brush have been cleaned out, some dirt brought in to level the ground under the fence the we were going to put in. Mike Reisner did the leveling with his skid loader.

On Aug. 27th we had a Fencing Day at G of M. Dave Wenthold brought his skid loader with an auger on it to put the fence posts in. Present were Mark Hageman, Joe Scmitt, Julie Eckenrod, & Thelma Allen of New Hampton; Dave Wenthold of Waucoma; Mike Magee of Waterloo; Craig Westendorf, Ralph Schultz, Fred & Priscilla Reisner of Fredericksburg; Mary Ann Crandall brought lunch & bars & Betty Tylee brought a cake, both are from New Hampton. The day went very well & after the work was done & lunch was eaten, we started getting a lite rain!

We had the F'burg Amvets install a new flag pole & flag on Thurs. or Fri. (We can't remember which day!!!)

Clayton

Cemetery Records -- Photos have been added to Garber, Hansel, Kann (St. Michaels) and St. Pauls cemetery pages from Helen Jennings.

Gravestone Photo Project -- 60 gravestone photos were contributed for Apostolic (Dunkard) cemetery from S. Ferrall. Gravestone photos for Strawberry Point, St. Mary's McGregor & Farmersburg- Wagner cemeteries from anonymous donors.

<http://www.sharylscabin.com/Clayton/journal.htm>

Davis

From the Schmitz Report, update from the Iowa Senate, July 3, 2008: State Senator Becky Schmitz reports that she was part of two ceremonies on June 8: a Medal of Honor Graveside Dedication Ceremony at the Mars Hill Church for Sergeant John Donaldson for service during the Civil War and a

rededication ceremony for the historic Mars Hill Church that was rebuilt after it was damaged in a 2006 fire. The church was originally built in 1857. Senators Dennis Black of Newton and Keith Kreiman of Bloomfield also attended.

www.iowasenate.com/democrats.org/schmitz/photos

Fayette

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, April 11, 1894: "Buried Alive." A West Union girl supposed to be dead is buried -- the coffin glass found broken -- hand stained with blood. After the burial of a 15-yr old girl who had received anesthetic during a tooth extraction, the family had the body exhumed and discovered the glass of the coffin broken, the girl's hand cut and blood-stained, and her hair torn out.

From the *Oelwein Register*, January 11, 1905: "Oelwein Cemetery History -- First Burial Occurred Over a Half Century Age, September 18, 1853."

The article quotes the following from the *Register* of September, 1886: The death of Elder Burch calls to mind some interesting facts regarding the first establishment of what is now the Oelwein cemetery. The site was selected in 1853 by Mr. Burch and a man by the name of Isam Edwards. Shortly after this Mr. Edwards died and his body was buried in the place he selected on September 18, 1853. It's believed that he was the first white man who died in this vicinity. Other burials from 1854-1857 are listed.

From the *Agri News, Iowa Edition*, May 22, 2008: "Pioneer Cemeteries -- It takes work to keep them up. They no longer are abandoned or forgotten," by Jean Caspers-Simmet. Pictured is Harvey Ungerer, a retired Hawkeye farmer, in a Fayette County cemetery. Steve Story and Harvey Ungerer spend at least one day a week preserving the county's pioneer cemeteries. Story, a retired high school principal, and Ungerer, a retired farmer and Korean War veteran, are members of the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Story is also president of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries. The commission's work crew has located and restored 18 pioneer cemeteries since it was formed in 1998. Inside the publication on page 2, Steve Story is pictured demonstrating grave

divining in Boale Cemetery near West Union. He uses the technique to locate graves when restoring pioneer cemeteries. Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery commission crew members take about 100 items with them into the cemeteries to do restoration work, including a generator. They try to identify graves that have never had markers or the markers are gone. Sometimes the cemeteries themselves have not been identified and they name it based on the names on the stones. Maintenance includes planting trees, cleaning lichen, digging out sod, mowing grass, and putting up signs. Steve says that sometimes hunters are their best friends as they keep them informed about what's going on in isolated cemeteries.

Caspers-Simmet can be reached at: simmet@agrinews.com

What can you do to help preserve pioneer cemeteries?

1. Respect the fact that cemeteries honor our ancestors.
2. Appreciate the history of the area that can be found in a cemetery.
3. Volunteer to help restore cemeteries in your area.
4. Encourage your county to form a Pioneer Cemetery Commission.
5. Be aware that the original Iowa pioneer soil can be found in cemeteries.

Source: Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Printed in *Agri News*, an independent agricultural newspaper published in Rochester, Minn., by Post-Bulletin Company, LLC. Address: 18 1st Ave. SE, Rochester, MN 55903-6118. (507) 285-7600 Midwest WATS: 1-800-533-1727

Hamilton

From the *Messenger*, Ft. Dodge, Iowa, July 10, 2008: "A visit to Homer's Past -- Inaugural cemetery walk draws 60 spectators," by Don Cogger, *Messenger* Staff Writer. Pictured is William McFarland, age 9, as he reads about the life of Presley Bell, born in 1824, during the Homer Cemetery Walk. McFarland was the youngest participant in the event. Spectators from Stratford, Webster City and surrounding area gathered for the first Homer Cemetery walk, sponsored by Hamilton County's Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Catherine Bergman introduced the audience to a short history

of the town of Homer which was followed by a stroll around the cemetery. Periodic stops were made at certain headstones, where young actors, decked out in old-time clothing, gave a short presentation about the person buried at that spot. Bergman, Doug Bailey and John Laird, all county employees, came up with the idea of a Homer Cemetery Walk as a way to introduce a new county project, the Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Bergman's son did his Eagle Scout project in a local cemetery, restoring old tombstones. That, along with the success of other walks such as those in Bonaparte and Fort Dodge, led Bergman to believe it would be a fun event. The young actors had just studied Iowa history in school. Contact Don Cogger at: dcogger@messengernews.net

Johnson

Iowa City newspaper, April 27, 1908: "Cemetery Vandalism -- Consecrated plat of ground is desecrated -- Heavy damage in Cemetery." A shocking piece of vandalism took place last night in the newly consecrated cemetery just north of Coralville when unknown offenders laid waste half a hundred evergreens and with wire pliers completely destroyed forty rods of woven wire fencing. The deed is one which baffles explanation because, aside from the mere destruction of property involved, it is an offense to the instinct toward the preservation of sacred things and is a desecration of ground which had been consecrated to the solemn use within human contemplation.

Apparently, according to the article, there was some opposition to moving the old cemetery. The sheriff and county attorney were called to the scene and the most vigilant efforts were put forth to find and bring to a just punishment the guilty parties.

Lee

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, June 30, 1888: In digging a water main in one of Keokuk's principal streets the workmen unearthed an old cemetery and tossed out a number of skeletons much to the horror of the citizens.

Linn

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, April 22, 1911: "Concerning Neglected Cemeteries." Letter to the Editor: May I be permitted to make a few

suggestions through the columns of your paper, a plea in fact for the neglected cemeteries in this and adjoining counties. It seems that the spirit of the dollar worship has taken hold of our people, and with the cry of \$200 land we do not have room for a God's acre here and there along the roads, but everything must make room for King Corn. While we are all happy to hear of our property going up in value and not in the least depreciating the corn crops which have made Iowa famous we cannot afford to neglect the graves and resting places of our ancestors.

Every farmer wants to plow up a cemetery. He wants to widen out his field, he says. He does not want it to grow up in weeds but wants to make something of it, hence his desire for extending a corn field and thus add to his corn crop in the fall.

It is true the sons and daughters of the old settlers have gone. Many in the second and third generations have passed away. We are beginning to feel that this is fast getting to be an old country. Nevertheless the fact remains that we should, from a sense of veneration, be taught to revere our ancestors and what they accomplished for us. One way to do this is certainly to keep up the cemeteries in some manner of repair. We find neglected fences at all, valued grave stones smashed, cemeteries filled with obnoxious weeds and doomed to become an eyesore and a disgrace to the community. These places oft times have become resting places for cattle, trampled upon and otherwise desecrated.

The remedy will be to have a few well kept cemeteries rather than many ill kept. The townships should keep up a cemetery by law and make a net charge to keep them up. In cemeteries neglected by families and others, the bodies should be removed to a suitable locality and some interest should be aroused in such manner that the locality as a unit should care for and properly look after a cemetery which contains the graves of the never too many early settlers.

It appears now that people will have to be buried in some ground common to all and the old church cemeteries will become a thing of the past. What interest have some of these sons and daughters shown toward their ancestors? Here and there all

over Iowa lies buried the mortal remains of men and women of the pioneer tribe, the propagators of the present generation of Iowans. The state will in time have to step in and guard these neglected places. Ill mannered persons amuse themselves in smashing the headstones with hammers. It is not necessary to mention the names of these cemeteries scattered over this and adjoining counties, but let us come to the rescue and from a sense of duty and honor due the dead, do something to perpetuate these places as worthy sons and devoted fathers.

--A SUBSCRIBER

Marion

From the *Cedar Rapids Republican*, Sept. 14, 1915: "Grave Robbers or Treasure Seekers?" Large Hole Found in Cemetery Established by Mormons. Knoxville, Sept. 13 -- Whether it was ghouls, engaged in the disinterment of bodies or treasure seekers, looking for supposed gold buried by the Mormons during their stay in this community on their way to Utah, is causing much speculation here as the origin of a large hole, 17 feet long, 7 feet wide and 6 feet deep, found in the old Mormon cemetery at Okika, near here.

It is evident that those engaged in digging the big hole were frightened away as the spades with which they had been working were found in the hole, which appeared between dark Saturday night and dawn Sunday morning. The scene of the trench digging is an old cemetery established fifty years ago by the Mormons during their trip across the state to Utah, and there have been tales of buried gold going the rounds of the community ever since they left.

Marshall

From the *Times-Republican*, Past Times magazine, July 2008: "Restoring a Resting Place," by Mike Donahey, Staff and Features Reporter. Pictured on the front page of this magazine is Wayne Blessing of Zearing holding a level against the tombstone of Simon and Temperance Price in the Price Cemetery. Assisting Blessing is Dennis Hughes of Rhodes. Looking on is Blessing's daughter, Tori. Prior to the level check, Blessing and Hughes had lifted a large section of the stone onto the existing stone, which surface was prepared with a special epoxy.

Most of this magazine is dedicated to the story of the restoration of the Price Cemetery. Inside is a 2-page layout with 3 pictures in color showing the cemetery as it was in its neglected state in 2001 and how it now looks. Another pictures show Wayne Blessing, Joe Sturek, Dennis Hughes, and Larry Ginter as they position the stone of Justus Richmond onto its base. The tenacity of Sharon Sturek and Jerry Hale is described in their quest to get the neglected cemetery restored and their concerns about who will now maintain it. Writer Mike Donahey also writes an editorial about the history of the cemetery and the need to establish a pioneer cemetery commission in Marshall County.

Mike Donahey can be reached at (641)-750-6611. E-mail: m donahey@timesrepublican.com

In an E-mail from Sharon Sturek dated June 7, 2008 she states that Wayne Blessing will build a brick monument at the back of the cemetery with a large cross and a plaque acknowledging the establishment of the Price Cemetery and a memorial to all those pioneers buried there. Plans are to plant some trees, also.

Wayne Blessing will be honored for his work at the Price Cemetery on Sunday, September 14 at 1:00 PM. He will be presented the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award that is given annually to a deserving cemetery worker by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries.

Mills

In an E-mail dated May 27, 2008, Floyd Lawrence reports a pioneer cemetery officially called Estes Cemetery located south of the old Pleasant Hill School. Because of its proximity to the closed Pleasant Hill School, the cemetery is also referred to by that name.

Monroe

From *The Iowa Griot*, the newsletter of the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa, Cedar Rapids, IA, Volume 8, Issue 3 Summer, 2008, page ten: "Collection Corner." The AAHMCCI plans an exhibit on the majority African American coal mining town of Buxton which existed on the Monroe/Mahaska county line from 1900 to 1923. Pictured is the annual meeting of the Grand

Chapter Order of the Eastern Star that was held at the Buxton Hotel in Buxton in 1913. Thanks to a grant from the Document Section of the Historical Records Development Program of the State Historical Society of Iowa and the collection from the H. Robert Wilson family, the museum will display Buxton items from August 2008 to March 2009. The Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has done restoration work in the Buxton Cemetery.

Polk

From an unidentified newspaper: Notice. The following resolution was passed by the city council December 13, 1897: Whereas, The old cemetery at East Sixteenth and Lyon streets, in East Des Moines, has been abandoned as a cemetery for more than twenty-five years; and, whereas, the said cemetery ground has been for twenty years uncared for and been used as a pasture for cattle; and, whereas, the monuments are mostly destroyed and graves in many instances obliterated; therefore, be it

Resolved, That all persons having friends interred in said cemetery be requested to confer with the mayor and cemetery committee at one with reference to removing said bodies to the new cemetery. And the cemetery committee is hereby authorized to contract with such persons to remove all bodies in said cemetery to the new cemetery, and to provide suitable lots in the new cemetery free of charge, in exchange for deeds to the lots in the said old cemetery.

The said committee is also authorized to provide a suitable fence for said old cemetery and improve the same so it will have the appearance of a park, and not be a disgrace to the city.

Attest: N. B. Vertrees, City Clerk

From the *Des Moines Register*, June 24, 2008: "Retired man brings life to forgotten grave sites," by Daniel P. Finney. Duane Pierce of Des Moines begins each day checking the obituary pages of the morning newspaper, clipping out the obits and plotting the grave sites on his web site. He has assisted numerous persons trace their ancestry through his meticulous record keeping. He has also convinced Polk County Supervisors to take over

maintenance of many rural pioneer cemeteries. Pierce says he takes satisfaction in finding the forgotten pieces to other families' puzzles.

Daniel Finney can be reached at: daffily@dmreg.com

Pottawattamie

From the *Waterloo Courier*, February 21, 1912: "Sued for taking tree from grave." Charged with having cut the Christmas tree for their celebration at the nearby church from a grave in the Silver Creek cemetery, five men connected with the church celebration last Christmas have been sued for \$2,000 damages by the father of the child from whose grave the tree is said to be taken. Henry Reiber brought the suit and he charges in his petition Oscar Leaders and Frank Heckman, both well known farmers of that section, with having cut the evergreen tree which he had nourished on the grave of his child who died seventeen years ago, at the oral direction of Henry Leaders, Henry Brandes and Berhardt Eichenberger, who are said to have been the committee in charge of the entertainment at the church. All parties to the suit are well known farmers of the eastern portion of the county living west of Hancock and Oakland and south of Minden. Nearly all of them are landowners, and one, Henry Brandes, is a former member of the state legislature from Pottawattamie county.

From the *Des Moines Daily News*, Oct. 16, 1902: "Found an Old Cemetery." Council Bluffs, Oct. 16 - Graders on the Great Western uncovered the bones of human beings in a forgotten cemetery near Greendale in this county. The bones are those of Mormon pioneers.

From *The Daily Nonpareil*, Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 12, 2008: "Sons of the American Revolution honor America's veterans," by Lindsay Blake, Staff Writer. Pictured are Raynold and Julia Prusia as they participate in a service to honor Daniel Dow, the only known Revolutionary War patriot buried this far west of the Mississippi, on May 18 at the Grove Cemetery near College Springs. Raynold is working with the Sons of the American Revolution to create a chapter in western Iowa. Julia is in the process of joining the Daughters of the American Revolution. These are patriotic societies devoted to historic preservation and education. www.iassar.org

Scott

From the *Evening Gazette*, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jan. 26, 1884: "A Pauper's Bones." The body of a Scott County Pauper Disinterred and Carried Away -- Excitement in the Poor House. The twenty-one paupers who are inmates of the county poor house are in a state of nervous excitement because of the terror of body snatching. After being alerted, the steward of the poor house investigated and found the body of recently interred Frank Smith gone. The laws of the State allow the giving of bodies which are not claimed by friends, to medical colleges -- but prohibits such disposition of bodies after they have been arrayed for interment, or after their burial.

Van Buren

From the *Van Buren County Register*, July 3, 2008: Pictured is Don Aldrich receiving the Carleton Paschal outstanding Keosauqua Lions award on June 18. The award honors a person in the club who exemplifies a passion for community service. Aldrich is dedicated to his community, which is indebted to him for his tireless efforts in the Lions Club, improvement of cemeteries and genealogy work.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, July 24, 2008: "Voices from the past".... by Don Aldrich. Pictured is the Robb Cemetery located in Henry Township, the site of 14 burials dated 1840 to 1885. It is 1/4 mile from the nearest gravel road and has been neglected for many years. Don admonishes people not to plant trees within 25 ft. of a structure or gravestone as the roots cause upheaval of stones and great damage to rails and retaining walls. Iron pins used to hold monuments together rust, expand, and split pedestal stones and cause them to fall. Rev. Ellis Andrews and his wife, Beverly, asked to adopt the cemetery, but Don felt that his crew had to do much repair work before turning maintenance over to volunteers. After 91 man hours, carrying in nearly a ton of rock and cement blocks, repairing and resetting 15 gravestones, Don felt it was ready to turn the cemetery over to the volunteers. Owner of surrounding land, Virgil Cole, volunteered to remove trees that have damaged the stone wall.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 28,

2008: "Voices from the Past" By Don Aldrich. Pictured is the White Cemetery in Des Moines Township which once was, then it wasn't, and now it is again. An Iowa Cemetery Information Graves Registration Form 3-AGO-GRD was filed in 1940 by the current landowner stating that its name was "White." Lifetime resident, Ted Daugherty remembered the cemetery by said it had disappeared by 1980. Current landowner, Jim Reel, discovered a complete gravestone and a broken stone and felt that the stone should be reset and placed as a memorial as close to the original location as possible. The Van Buren Genealogical Society, Rich Lowe, and others determined the location and some information about those buried there. Wire panels were placed around the site and while there are many unanswered questions, the gravestones are now being shown some respect, not being allowed to be trampled over by farm animals or plowed under so corn might be grown, or fallen on the ground to be broken or lost. Don observes that "Badly, over half of our Pioneer Cemeteries are not receiving such respect." The Van Buren County Genealogical Society volunteers labor and tools and expenses for materials to restore such sites. The Society receives nothing from town, townships or county for materials. They do accept donations: P.O. Box 160, Keosauqua, IA 52565

Wapello

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 20, 2008: "Thieves have a lot of brass -- Veteran flag stands found removed in cemetery," by Mark Newman, Courier Staff Writer. Pictured are a number of veteran flag stands that were removed from the gravesites at Shaul Cemetery and placed in a pile. Persons hired to mow the cemetery found two piles of veterans' flag holders and surmised that thieves piled them there and planned to return for them or were frightened off. Denny Whitson, commander of VFW Post No. 775 says the number of thefts has been particularly high this year because prices for brass have dramatically increased. Police alerted metal foundries to be on the lookout for someone trying to sell grave markers. Whitson said that markers will be made of plastic from now on.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 26, 2008:

"Ottumwa man wanted for alleged theft of grave markers." An Ottumwa man is wanted by authorities who say he stole grave markers from cemeteries. Gerald Stiles is accused of trying to dispose of the stolen items at a scrap dealer in Davenport. Police have a warrant out for his arrest.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, August 18, 2008: Death Notice -- Charlotte Stober of Clear Lake died August 17. Funeral services were held at Reece Funeral Home in Ottumwa. Charlotte was instrumental in the restoration and maintenance of the Dahlonga school and cemetery in Wapello County.

Webster

From *The Messenger*, Ft. Dodge, Iowa, May 27, 2008: "Moving among the characters of the past," by Dawn Thompson, *Messenger* staff writer. The seventh annual Oakland Cemetery Walk is announced in the article that was scheduled to occur on June 14 at 1:00 PM. Each walk was expected to last about 90 minutes and included stories about eight historical personalities in Ft. Dodge's past.

The Walk was sponsored by the Friends of Oakland Cemetery, Hawkeye Community Theater, Webster County Historical Society and Fort Dodge Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. Tickets were \$5 with proceeds going toward the preservation of Oakland Cemetery.

From *The Messenger*, June 12, 2008: "The Oakland Cemetery Walk -- Journey Through the Unknown." This article give more details about the annual Oakland Cemetery Walk that will feature costumed characters relating tales that include enduring the rough and rugged life of the frontier, meeting the challenges of establishing innovative businesses, falling victim to the twists and turns of unexpected events or achieving fame through notable accomplishments. In 2000, Oakland Cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places, due in part to the efforts of SAPIC members, Jerry and Marva Rowe. Oakland Cemetery was part of the Rural Cemetery Movement and was designed by Egbert Bagg who combined beautiful landscapes of rolling hills and stately trees with public access.

From *The Messenger*, June 15, 2008: "A walk

through history -- Cemetery Walk takes glimpse at Fort Dodge past," by Don Cogger, *Messenger* Staff Writer. Pictured is John Bonner as he portrays former Fort Dodge Mayor George Pearsons who lived from 1830 to 1904. The Walk is described as an event that gives visitors a chance to experience Fort Dodge as it was, through some of the town's most influential residents. "We don't repeat the same characters twice," said Jerry Rowe, founder of the Walk. "There are so many characters and so many stories in this cemetery, and that's not including the over 200 Civil War veterans that are buried here."

Don Cogger can be reached at:
dcogger@messengernews.net (515)573-2141

OUT OF IOWA

Arizona

In an E-mail message from Neal DuShane dated July 4, 2008, he reports that the Arizona Pioneer Cemetery group has documented 171 abandoned and derelict cemeteries. Some were single graves of pioneers buried where they died. They also assisted 21 families find loved ones in graves that have been lost to time, elements and history. Recently they found a grave for a loved one, documented an additional 80 single graves in an abandoned cemetery, researched the Palace Station Pioneer Cemetery and found a single grave near Prescott. In total, they have found 6,859 graves, most unidentified or without headstones.

In an E-mail message fro Neal DuShane dated July 28, 2008, he quotes from the book "Octave God Mine," that a potential grave site was opened using dynamite due to the hardness of the ground caused by the amount of rocks in that area. Neal states that he had surmised the pioneers used dynamite to excavate graves in rocky areas and uproot tree stumps in the Midwest to clear fields.

Florida

From an Internet story dated June 22, 2008: You just can't make this stuff up!! When south Florida resident Nathan Radlich's house was burglarized recently, thieves ignored his wide screen plasma TV, his VCR, and even his Rolex watch. What they did

take, however, was a 'generic white cardboard box filled with a grayish-white powder. (That's at least the way the police report described it.)

A spokesman for the Fort Lauderdale police said, 'that it looked similar to high grade cocaine and they'd probably thought they'd hit the big time.' Later, Nathan stood in front of numerous TV cameras and pleaded with the burglars: 'Please return the cremated remains of my sister, Gertrude. She died three years ago.'

The next morning, the bullet-riddled corpse of a local drug dealer known as Hoochie Pevens was found on Nathan's doorstep. The cardboard box was there, too; about half of Gertrude's ashes remained. Scotch taped to the box was this note which said, 'Hoochie sold us the bogus blow, so we wasted Hoochie. Sorry we snorted your sister. No hard feelings. Have a nice day.'

Louisiana

From *Preservation*, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, July/August, 2008: Over the past 2 years, American Express in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation has given over \$2 million in grants to community-based preservation projects in San Francisco, Chicago, and New Orleans. Grant awards were determined by an expert Advisory panel of preservationists and community leaders whose deliberations were informed by public input through <http://www.partnersinpreservation.com/>

This year, American Express focused its attention on Gulf Coast Recovery in the New Orleans area. Five sites were chosen to receive grants for preservation work, with each site reflecting the unique cultural and architectural heritage that New Orleans adds to our nation's history in addition to having sustained damage during the hurricane season of 2005. One site, the Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 in the Garden District illustrates the uniqueness that the Crescent City has to offer and sparks the desire to preserve this resource for generations to come.

Missouri

From the Examiner.net, Independence - Blue Springs - Grain Valley, May 15, 2008: Independence, MO -- A future landmark in

Independence to trace family history is near completion. The Mid-Continent Public Library hosted members of the National Genealogical Society to a private walking tour of its new 52,000-square-foot Genealogy Center at Lee's Summitt and Kiger Roads. The Center opened this summer and will house one of the best genealogy collections in the country.

New Hampshire

From the *Dallas Morning News*, May 9, 2008: "New method of dealing with the dead is debated," by Norma Love, The Associated Press. A bio-friendly process that may be viewed as ghastly by many is being developed that dissolves bodies in lye with the brownish, syrupy residue being flushed down the drain. The 3-hour procedure, known as alkaline hydrolysis, mimics a faster, natural decomposition process, promising a more environmentally friendly alternative to interment or cremation. Pictured is Brad Crain, president of BioSafe Engineering, as he stands beside one of the company's steel cylinders in which corpses can be dissolved. The University of Florida and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. have used the method to dispose of cadavers since the mid-1990s and 2005, respectively.

Pennsylvania

From the *Waterloo Courier*, June 29, 2008: "Rest for eternity in eco-friendly urns," by McClatchy Newspapers. A German company, EcoEternity, uses biodegradable urns instead of caskets and mature trees instead of granite headstones. A portion of forest in Monroe County, Pa.'s Barrett Township is becoming the second EcoEternity cemetery in the U.S. It will offer this type of burial, a long -popular choice in Germany, Switzerland, and parts of Asia. To join an Eco-Eternity forest, you'd first go to a site and select a tree chosen by a forester based on shape, health and quality of soil. The remains of up to 15 people whose ashes are in biodegradable urns can be buried beneath a "friendship" or "family reunion" tree. Axel Baudach, EcoEternity's co-founder, says it will ensure that the forest will never be developed.

Tennessee

From the *Star-Telegram*, March 30, 2008: "A piling to give every 'Doe' back a rightful name," by Helen O'Neill, Associated Press. Pictured is Todd Matthews as he cleans up around the grave marker of "Tent Girl" in Georgetown Cemetery in Georgetown, KY., this year. He was instrumental in identifying her remains. Todd is a member of a network of volunteers who devote many hours to solving the mysteries of the missing dead, mostly by using the Internet. His obsession began two decades ago when his father-in-law found the unidentified body of a young woman wrapped in canvas. Locals named her "Tent Girl." In 1998, he stumbled on a message from the girl's sister on a web site and DNA confirmed her identity. The family decided to re-inter the body in the resting spot where it had been for thirty years. Beneath the stone etched "Tent Girl" they placed a small gray one engraved with her real name, the name that Matthews had restored. The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, aka NamUS, was launched last year and is made up of two databases, one for the missing and one for the unidentified.

Texas

From the *Dallas Morning News*, March 28, 2008: "Fundraising under way for war memorial," by Eric Aasen, Staff Writer. Pictured is an artist's rendering of the memorial planned for the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. The Texas National Cemetery Foundation hopes to start the first phase in 2009. The cemetery plans include a tribute to troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Texas National Cemetery Foundation has collected about \$30,000 so far for the project. P.O. Box 210606, Dallas, TX 75211-0606. Eric Aasen can be reached at: eaasen@dallasnews.com

Wisconsin

Several documents have been provided by Ralph Hendersin of Sparta, Wisconsin, including the Cannon Family Cemetery, Gravestone Cleaning, County Burial Ground Restoration, How to Straighten a Leaning Gravestone, How to Survey old Cemeteries with burials that have no markers, and repairing problem stones.

Ralph writes, "Enclosed are a few of my experiences in this cemetery (Cannon Family) and gravestone restoration "hobby." Perhaps your members will be able to glean some helpful ideas from this material. After you sought my permission to use the "Gravestone Restoration" booklet it dawned on me that perhaps your members would like to know about some of my other experiences. Feel free to use anything in here -- I believe we're all in this together."

Here is a web address that gives some insight into the art of color matching grout:

<http://www.masonrymagazine.com/1-04/mortar.html>

Here is a web address that is a good starting point if you should have a need for decorative cemetery fencing:

<http://www.hutchinson-inc.com>

From the *Jackson County Chronicle*, undated, by Michelle Weyenberg. Pictured is Ralph Hendersin as he points to a picture of one of many gravestones that he's restored. Hendersin was the guest speaker for the Gravestone and Restoration workshop sponsored by the Jackson County History Room at the Black River Falls Public Library. Also one of the many photos that show examples of cleaning and restoring gravestones is pictured. Hendersin is shown tamping the sand base under a gravestone in the picture. During the 2-hour program, he demonstrated how gravestone cleaning and restoration can be done by anyone in the hope that interest in the project will be generated. He has restored several cemeteries in Monroe County and works closely with individuals and groups interested in preserving cemeteries.

No newspaper or date given: "'Witcher' shares information on cleaning and repairing gravestones," by Pat McKnight. Pictured is Ralph Hendersin as he points to a photo of a gravestone he cleaned. A workshop on the topic was presented at the Black River Falls Public Library April 1. Witching rods were displayed, their use in finding burial sites was explained, and using the rods was demonstrated.

SAPIC thanks Ralph for sharing his expertise in these documents which will be reproduced with his permission in future issues of *Grave News*.

TO STRAIGHTEN A LEANING GRAVESTONE

1. The first step will be to remove enough of the soil on all sides of the base to allow free movement of the base. Remember throughout this project to "do no harm" so be careful not to make any shovel or metal bar marks on the stone or it's base. Save the sod for replacement later. Do not disturb the soil directly under the base.
2. The second step will be to place a short piece of 2X4 (a fulcrum for your pry bar) on the side of the trench near the low side of the base.
3. The third step will be to place the tip of your pry bar under the low side of the base and over your 2X4 fulcrum. Using a short piece of angle iron between the bar and the stone base to distribute the pressure over a larger area of the base thus preventing any chipping of the base.
4. The fourth step requires an assistant with small pieces of various thickness boards, (shims). While the low side of the base is being pried upward the assistant will place appropriate sized shims at the corners of the base to achieve a level condition in both horizontal axes. Be very careful to prevent the pry bar from slipping here because a rocking motion of the base dropping back down could cause the stone to slip off it's base. (Many are not anchored, they just sit on the base.)
5. The fifth step involves tamping moist sand into the voids that have been produced under the base by raising the low side of the base.(A short piece of 1X4 lumber works well for this). The moist sand should be packed under the base with enough force to produce a surface as hard as the pre-existing surface there.
6. The sixth step will be to carefully remove the shims that were placed under the corners of the base in step #4 and replace them by forcefully packing moist sand in their place.
7. The seventh step involves a squaring up and aligning of the stone and the base with the other stones in the cemetery. If necessary the stone may be moved on it's base by attaching your pry bar to the stone using a nylon tow strap, placing pieces of lumber between the bar and the stone to prevent metal marks on the stone and/or chipping of the stone.
8. The eighth step involves replacing the soil around the base, leveling it to the surrounding area, packing it well and replacing the sod that was removed earlier and/or scattering grass seed on the disturbed area.
9. The ninth step is to proceed with cleaning of the stone and base. See ("GRAVESTONE CLEANING".)

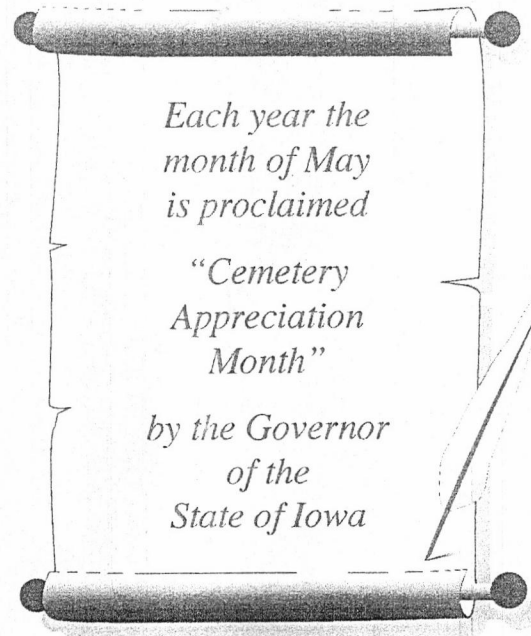
GOALS OF OUR ORGANIZATION

- To identify all cemeteries in Iowa
- To take such measures as are necessary, possible, and reasonable to protect these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them from danger due to natural causes and from human encroachment.
- To provide guidance and educational materials for use by the people entrusted with the preservation of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- To compile and distribute information about the proper maintenance techniques for these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- To provide advice and information to legislative bodies empowered to pass legislation creating a legal framework for the protection, the preservation and the maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them.
- To act as a monitor for the administrative and management personal of these cemeteries, to ensure that the legal measures for the protection, preservation and maintenance of these cemeteries and the monuments contained in them are enforced.

— SAPIC HISTORY —

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) was formed in 1996 as a result of legislation that allowed for each of Iowa's ninety-nine counties to create a County Cemetery Commission.

The focus of these Commissions was to rescue untended pioneer graves and cemeteries and to take responsibility for the upkeep of such sites.



Meetings

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October.

Meetings are held in various locations in the State of Iowa.

Places are announced in the quarterly newsletter, Grave News, and on the SAPIC web site.

Membership

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

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

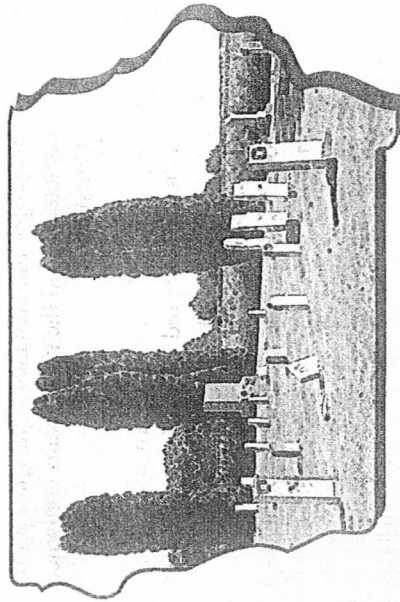
Questions?

Telephone: 319-293-3899

E-Mail: patshaw@netins.net

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STATE
ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF
IOWA CEMETERIES
— SAPIC —



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

Membership Application for SAPIC New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail address _____ Telephone _____

Individual \$10 _____ Household \$15 _____ Organization or Business \$20 _____ Lifetime Individual _____

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

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