

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535
VOLUME 13 ISSUE #4

www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/
October 2008

The January 10, 2009 SAPIC meeting will be held at the Johnston Public Library, 6700 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, Iowa at 10:30 AM.

Take the Merle Hay Road Exit #131 off Interstate 35-80 (North Side of Des Moines) and go north on Merle Hay Road for 2 miles. Turn left on North Glenn Drive and you will see the library (North side of Johnston). Lunch: On your own. If you have questions, contact Larry Davis: LD2mstone@aol.com Phone: 515-277-4917

The Gold Star Museum at the National Guard Armory is in this area. Address: Iowa Gold Star Museum, 7105 Northwest 70th Avenue, Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824. www.iowanationalguard.com/Museum/Museum.htm
Monday - Saturday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Free

Thanks to Larry Davis for arranging the January, 2008, meeting, also at the Johnston Public Library. SAPIC is grateful to all the 2008 meeting hosts -- Loren Horton who arranged a meeting in the Johnson County Museum in April, Jackson County Pioneer Cemetery Commission members who hosted a meeting in July, and Jerry and Joann Kramer who made arrangements for the October meeting in Blackhawk County.

SAPIC will be supporting a proposal for the upcoming legislature that deals with adverse possession in the Iowa Code. The term "adverse possession" refers to a provision of Common Law whereby one may gain title to a piece of property by occupying and using that property without the owner's consent for a period of time, usually ten years. Individual states have their own regulations regarding the application of this principle, setting conditions and limitations on its use. Public property is not subject to claim by adverse possession.

Cemeteries, particularly Pioneer Cemeteries, could be subject to such claims, especially if they have not been actively maintained. An adjoining landowner, or any other person, could farm or otherwise use the property for a period of ten years or more, and then file a claim for title. Such a claim may or may not be successful, but would have to be litigated.

The responsibility to resist such a claim would fall upon the County Board of Supervisors, as they are charged with maintaining the integrity of pioneer cemeteries. Whether they would actually do in any given instance is certain. In the roughly 25% of Iowa counties that care for their pioneer cemeteries through a commission, the commission would probably resist such a claim, but even they are powerless without the co-operation of the

County Attorney. In the remaining 75% of counties, where the supervisors administer care of pioneer cemeteries directly, resistance is entirely dependent on the supervisors' willingness to do so.

Many pioneer cemeteries are publicly owned, and are not subject to such claims. However, perhaps just as many are not. Title may rest with a church, or other religious or fraternal organization, or with a family group, or with an inactive or defunct cemetery association.

The legislation we have proposed would prevent the filing of such a claim in the first place, so that protection of the cemeteries would not be dependent upon the whim or willingness to act of officials in whichever counties such claims might arise.

The proposal reads, "A cemetery, as defined in Code section 5231.102(8), or a pioneer cemetery as defined in section 5231.102(39), shall be exempt from seizure, appropriation, or acquisition of title under any claim of adverse possession, unless it is shown that all remains have been disinterred and removed to another location."

5231.102(8): "Cemetery" means any area that is or was open to use by the public in general or any segment thereof and is used or is intended to be used to inter or scatter remains.

5231.102(39): "Pioneer cemetery" means a cemetery where there were six or fewer burials in the preceding fifty years.

Please contact your state representative and state senator regarding your concern about cemeteries being lost due to adverse possession. For more information, contact SAPIC member Bill Reedy of Buchanan County: (319) 474-2443 or e-mail reedypart@jtt.net

Contact information for legislators can be found on the official web site of the State of Iowa: <http://www.iowa.gov/state/main/index.html> Watch for dates of and information about public forums in your local newspaper where your state representative and state senator will be present.

SAPIC member Mike Magee found these examples of graveyard humor in the archives of the *Sioux City Journal*, 1900-07-22, copyrighted by the NewsBank and/or the American Antiquarian Society, 2004: *Omaha Bee*: On a headstone in a cemetery at Burlington, VT, are these lines:

She lived with her husband fifty years,
And died in the blessed hope of a better life.

Another, equally ambiguous, is found in Marshfield, Mass:
Here lies the bodies of Obediah Wilkinson and
Ruth Wilkinson, his wife.

Their warfare is accomplished.

Two couplets from the scriptures were engraved by a double widower upon the tombs of his deceased partners. Under the epitaph of the first wife was:

The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away;
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

On the tombstone of the second wife, which stands bedside the other, is this:

I called upon the Lord and he heard me,
And delivered me out of all my troubles.

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Story
18883 250th St.
Hawkeye, IA 52147
563-427-5354 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 neecnwy@iowatelecom.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 (2011) 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
319-527-8164 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

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)

Bill Reedy ready part 2 @ J77.net

**State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries
Board Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2008**

President Steve Story called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the St. John's Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Iowa with twenty two members and guests present.

President Story presented the meeting agenda and asked for additions. Moved by Mike Magee that the meeting agenda be approved. Seconded by Frieda Davis. Motion carried. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read. Moved by Tony Bengston the minutes of the July 11, 2008 meeting be approved. Seconded by Priscilla Reisner. Motion carried. In the absence of Treasurer Valerie Ogren, copies of the Treasurer's report were distributed for review illustrating a balance of \$10,693.53. Moved by Freida Davis the Treasurer's report be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Bill Reedy. Motion carried.

Pat Shaw reported on the Sioux City Preservation Conference.

Legislative Report: In July 2007, SAPIC gave priority to support law that would exempt a cemetery from seizure under claim of adverse possession. Bill Reedy presented the following information as favorable wording and definitions:

A cemetery, as defined in Code section 5231.102(6), or a pioneer cemetery as defined in section 5231.102(39), shall be exempt from seizure, appropriation, or acquisition of title under any claim of adverse possession, unless it is shown that all remains have been disinterred and removed to another location.

5231.102(6): "Cemetery" means any area that is or was open to use by the public in general or any segment thereof and is used or is intended to be used to inter or scatter remains.

5231.192(39): "Pioneer Cemetery" means a cemetery where there were six or fewer burials in the proceeding fifty years.

Election of Officers: The following officers were nominated to serve terms beginning January 2009:

President.....	Steve Story
Vice President.....	Bill Reedy
Board Member.....	Ethel McVay

The motion was made and seconded that the slate of candidates be accepted and that a numinous ballot be cast for their election. Motion carried.

Various county reports were presented and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Larry D. Davis
Secretary

Note: Larry has served as SAPIC's secretary for a number of years and has requested that someone else step forward and assume the duties of secretary. Please consider helping out SAPIC and Larry by volunteering for the job. Contact Steve Story if you are interested. Thanks!

From *Newsweek*, June 9, 2008: "Graveyard Shifting -- The new American way of death? Keep those tombstones out of sight," by Malcom Jones. Books: Marilyn Yalom's "The American resting Place," her survey of American graveyards and burial practices, is the story of a disappearing act. Over the course of this nation's history, death has migrated from a position of prominence to one of near invisibility. Where once there were enormous Indian burial mounds, now we have modern memorial gardens. Instead of village churchyards in the center of town, now we have crematoriums discreetly tucked out of sight. Almost every visible sign of mortality, death and burial has receded from the American landscape and from public consciousness. As Yalom's fascinating tour of cemeteries across the country demonstrates so ably, we are the poorer for that.

She begins with a general introduction to American burial practices, showing how skulls on gravestones morphed into angels, how the 19th-century garden cemetery first created at Mr. Auburn in Boston laid the template for cemeteries across the land. And how the milder 'cemetery' replaced the more vivid "burial ground," "graveyard" or "bone orchard" in the lexicon of death. Then she embarks on her oddly beguiling road trip, beginning in the Colonial burial plots of the Eastern Seaboard and moving west, through the culturally polyglot graveyards of Texas and the upper Midwest, past the orderly ranks of graves in military plots, all the way to the Asian-influenced graves of Hawaii. Here, in the mausoleums of tycoons, the uniform marble slabs of Moravians and Amish and the unmarked resting places of slaves, is a weird but telling history of American mores.

Yalom is not much of a literary stylist. In the section on contemporary cremation practices, for example, she doesn't so much as flinch when citing that noxious coinage "cremains." Her son, Reid, however, who took 64 photographs with which the book opens, has a keen and discerning eye. But style is not really the point here. There are almost no decent surveys of American graveyards -- reflecting our tendency to turn a blind eye to what our forebears routinely dubbed "king of terrors" when talking about death. So "The American Resting Place" fills a true need. Respectful but never tedious, knowledgeable but not pedantic, it illuminates a too-often overlooked corner of our history with grace and not a little of the mordant wit once so neatly captured in the phrase "graveyard humor."

Available from www.amazon.com

From the *Fort Worth Weekly*, July 23-29, 2008: "Shop 'Til You Drop -- some savvy marketers are putting the fun back in funeral," by Mark Campbell (guest columnist). The writer lists several options now available for "easing the pain" of those who remain behind, such as choosing your own casket from a company called Celebrate Life. Choices include a NASCAR-themed "The Race is Over" (with checkered

flag), cowboy caskets, collegiate entombers, KISS, Harley-Davidson or "The Hunted" (with camouflage lining and a carved deer head on the lid.) Cremation is mentioned with several options -- such as having your ashes compressed into a diamond. One's ashes can be placed on a "talking tombstone" where you can record your voice. A grave tending service called Gravescape, based in Ohio, will tend the graves of your loved ones for a fee, including photographs. There is a warning at the end of the article from AARP, cautioning readers to beware of scams associated with prearranged funeral plans.

From the *New York Times*, September 15, 2008: "New Web Site to Track and Honor the Deceased," by Eric A. Taub. Tributes.com, a new Web site, hopes to serve as a portal for those looking to memorialize and learn about the lives of friends, family and the famous. Officially open to the public Sept. 23, it brings the social networking and archival features of sites like classmates.com and weddingchannel.com to the deceased. Jeff Taylor started the company after he noticed that "obituaries are the last section of the newspaper to migrate to the Web." Tributes.com will compete with Legacy.com, a 10-year-old site partly owned by the Tribune Company. There is no charge to place obituaries up to 300 words. It will earn money from user fees, revenue sharing with funeral homes, online advertising and the sale of flowers and grief-related books, CDs, and movies. Members can ask the site to alert them by e-mail message when a person has died based on last name, school, military unit or ZIP code. Eventually, users will be able to download their address book to the site to keep abreast of the passing of friends and relatives.

All the above articles were contributed by SAPIC member Sidney Louis. Thanks to Mike Magee who enjoys reading newspaper archives and who contributes many of the articles pertaining to cemeteries. Other contributors to this issue of *Grave News* include Frieda Davis, Donal Boie, Stan Culley, Ron Harris, and Rebecca Miller. If you would like a copy of any article that has been summarized, contact Pat Shaw.

Remember to renew your
membership in SAPIC for 2009.
Your support is needed and
appreciated!

Happy Holidays and best wishes for
a prosperous and healthy 2009!

Grave News, October 2008, page four

From *CAPPER'S* magazine, October, 2008, page 12:
"Woodworking art satisfies retiree's love for building new things," story and photographs by Ralph M. Frisch. Pictured is Bob Pike of Pavillion, N.Y. with some of his wood creations, including his own casket that features an intarsia piece that includes a tree with his and his wife's initials carved inside a heart. In the lid, he created a small drawer for the Bible he reads daily. When he embarked on the project in 2001, his wife was not enthusiastic, but when she saw the casket, she decided she wanted one, too. Their caskets are stored in the basement while the couple continues to enjoy retirement.

From *USA TODAY*, August 19, 1008: "Thieves loot cemeteries for metal," by Oren Dorell. Ghouls have made a resurgence in cemeteries throughout the United States, prying plates and ornaments from headstones and selling them to scrap yards. A rise in metal prices is driving the thefts, detectives say. Prices for copper, brass and bronze - metals that are commonly found in cemetery remembrances - have in some cases quadrupled in price in the past four years. Examples of theft in Florida, Delaware, Maryland, and Chicago are given in the article. The National Cemetery Administration, which replaces stolen bronze markers on the grave sites of U.S. veterans free of charge, has done so 104 times so far this year, compared with 104 in all of 2007 and 70 in 2006.

Contributed by Stan D. Culley

SAPIC member Rebecca Miller snapped a picture of the stones of Nels and Inger Golberg Bye in the Solway Cemetery in Solway, Minnesota in October. The identical stones stand side-by-side with the surname "BYE" in large letters on each, reading "BYE BYE."

From the National Trust for Historic Preservation, September 24, 2008: "Update on the Tomb of the Unknowns." The National Trust is grateful to Senator Jim Webb and Senator Daniel K. Akaka for their continued strong support for preservation of the authentic Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. On September 16, Senator Akaka, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, issued a statement regarding the recent report by the Department of the Army and Department of Veterans Affairs entitled *Report on Alternative Measures to*

Address Cracks in the Monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. In his statement, Senator Akaka observed: "While I understand the concerns about the cracks in the Tomb Monument, I along with many others believe that our national monuments are not diminished by signs of their age, many of our most treasured American symbols, from the Liberty Bell to the Star-Spangled Banner, are physically worn and weathered. This does not diminish their value or significance. I would argue that the same is true for the Tomb of the Unknowns." The full statement can be found on the National Trust web site: www.preservationnation.org/

COUNTY REPORTS

Blackhawk

From the *Iowa State Reporter*, Waterloo, April 10, 1878: "Protection of cemeteries - Among the acts passed by the 17th General Assembly was one for the protection of cemeteries, Sec. 2 of which reads as follows: Sec. 2. Any person who shall willfully and maliciously destroy, mutilate, deface, injure or remove any tomb, vault, monument, gravestones or other structure placed in any public or private cemetery in this State, or any fences, railing or other work for the protection or ornamentation of said cemetery, or of any tomb, vault, monument or gravestones, or other structure aforesaid on any cemetery lot within such cemetery, or shall will fully and maliciously destroy, cut, break or injure any tree, shrub, plant, or lawn within the limits of said cemetery, or shall drive at unusual and forbidden speed over the avenues or roads in said cemetery, or shall drive outside of said avenues and roads and over the grass or graves of said cemetery, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction, be punished by a fine of not less than five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not less than one nor more than thirty days in the desecration of the court, and such offender shall also be liable in an action of trespass in the name of the person or corporation having the custody and control of said cemetery ground, to pay all such damages as have been occasioned by his unlawful act or acts - which money, when recovered shall be applied by said person or corporation to the reparation and restoration of the property so injured or destroyed, if the same can be repaired or restored.

Sec. 3 makes it lawful for the trustees or officers of any cemetery to appoint watchmen, and all sextons, gardeners and agents, upon taking an oath similar to that required of constables, have power to arrest on sight any person violating the law in any manner.

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, June 1, 1910: DUNKERTON About forty men and women met at the North Lester cemetery on Decoration Day and remembered their departed relatives and friends with flowers, and giving the cemetery a good cleaning up and leveling. They appointed June 11 as the day for all interested in the care of the cemetery to be present and assist in setting posts in the fence where needed and placing a few new hitching posts, also to haul gravel to

be placed on the main walk and as many of the alleys between the lots as possible, which will add much to the beauty of the cemetery. The new cemetery north of town was also remembered by relatives and friends.

From the CommunityNewspaperGroup.com, *Waverly Newspapers*, October 9, 2008, "Babyland blossoms after flood," by Amelia K. Dimitrova. The final resting place of local infants on the north side of Waverly's Harlington Cemetery, has undergone a substantive upgrade, including making cement foundations and installing a stone walkway. Now the city council is asking the public to submit possible new names for the cemetery. The renovation cost \$79,000.

SAPIC held its quarterly meeting in Bennington Township, Blackhawk County on October 11. After the business meeting at the St. John's Lutheran Church, Bruce Stiles led the group on a tour of the Bennington Township Cemetery that contains a remnant of prairie landscape containing several species of native plants. The German Burial Ground was also visited that contains a "scattering section" for cremains. Jerry Kramer opened the restored Bennington Township country school for a tour following the cemetery visits.

SAPIC member Mike Magee spoke to the Janesville Lions Club on October 13. About 25 Lions Club members attended.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 14, 2008: "Stroll with Spirits' on cemetery walk." The Grout Museum District hosted "Strolling with the Spirits: An Interpretive Cemetery Walk," on October 18. The living history experience, designed for the whole family, included stops at the graves of William Galloway, Minnie Crippen, Calvin Kingsley, William Snowden, and Horace Boies, all personalities who helped shape the history of Waterloo.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 24, 2008: "Cemetery plan raises some grave questions," by Tim Jamison, *Courier* Staff Writer. Joe Jenkins, who owns land south of Gilbertville, wants to zone about half an acre on the property for a private family burial ground. The county Planning and Zoning Commission, however, has several questions about future maintenance of the site and possible costs of caring for the cemetery. The Commission tabled Jenkins's request until he can seek legal advice and check with funeral directors.

The Sullivan Brothers Museum in Waterloo was unveiled November 15 in Waterloo with an hour-long parade. SAPIC member Mike Magee was present.

BREMER

From the *Bremer County Independent and Waverly Republican*: "Former Bremer County Post offices have long passed into Oblivion." Listed are several post offices that were established, mostly in private homes, and have since disappeared. Often the cemeteries are the only remnant of these settlements to indicate their existence.

Mike Magee was scheduled to present a program to the Bremer County Genealogical Society in November, but was unable to do so because of illness. However, Mike left his video, "Cryptic Clues" at the Waverly Library and that was used for the program.

CASS

Press release from the Colonel William H. Kinsman Camp #23, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Atlantic, Iowa: "New Civil War Monument Dedication." Lewis, Iowa was the site for the dedication on September 27 in the City Park. It was dedicated to the men who served in Company I, 23rd Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Colonel Kinsman, for whom the post is named, was killed at the Battle of Big Black River Bridge on May 17, 1863. His grave is located at Council Bluffs' Fairview Cemetery.

From Michael Carr, Kinsman Camp secretary 712-484-3647

CLAYTON

Mary Homewood, formerly of Volga until the flood destroyed their home, died on September 19. She was a 'driving force' to compile and have printed the Volga City and Surrounding Area History book and the Volga City and Sperry Township Country Schools History book. She also was one of the 'Cemetery Ladies' - she and Alice Fox of Arlington worked for several years documenting and taking pictures of all of our county cemeteries (even if cows were around the gravestone) and working many days helping restore cemeteries and gravestones.

From Myra Voss, Broker

CHICKASAW

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 25 Number 3, Third Quarter 2008 J.L. Kottke, Editor. "Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission continues their Cemetery Restorations." After two years of work, the Dresden Township Garden of Memories, formerly known as Jones Cemetery, has received a new facelift. Fred and Priscilla Reisner of Fredericksburg have led the project to completion, with

assistance of many Commission members along with Mike Magee and Bill Youngblut from Waterloo. Pictured is the cemetery in 1999 before storms damaged many of the trees. The trees have since been removed, and a new sign, flagpole, a sign listing the burials, a new fence placed around the cemetery, shrubs removed, grass growing and more than fifty stones have been repaired. Also pictured are some of the workers, the cemetery as it appears today, a restored stone, and the last of the repairs in progress. Included in the article is a short history of the cemetery and a note of thanks to all who helped with the restoration.

CLINTON

To SAPIC: *Thank you so much for the \$200 grant toward the maintenance of the Washington Cemetery in Clinton County. It was very much needed and appreciated.*

Ruth Wilson, treasurer of Washington Cemetery Association.

HENRY

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 30, 1957: "Old Cemeteries." Last Sunday's article in *The Gazette's* Iowa news section about the old cemetery found in Geode State Park drew a couple of letters from readers with information about older cemeteries. One mentioned was the Baldwin Cemetery east of Anamosa in Jones County that has a tombstone dated 1925. The Union Cemetery near Lisbon in Linn County has inscriptions dated 1843 and perhaps even earlier dates on others.

From the *Golden Triangle Newspapers*, October 9, 2008: "Of 'Love and Valor'" by Mira Cash-Davis. Pictured is Charlie Larimer who portrayed Capt. Jacob Ritner in a cemetery tour at the Forest Home Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 21. The tour featured local and area players in a take-off of Larimer's 2000 book by the same title. Capt. Ritner was an ancestor of Larimer's.

IOWA

SAPIC members Virginia Larson and Netha Myer have contributed a great deal about cemeteries to the Iowa County genweb site: <http://iagenweb.org/iowa/whatsnew.htm> Virginia has posted 1391 cemetery photos so far! The Pioneer Cemetery Commission of Iowa County has added a Google-like map of all cemeteries in Iowa County. They expect a listing of all pioneer cemeteries in Iowa County to be added soon.

JASPER

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, May 4, 1948: "Howans Plow Up Cemetery, Plant it to Oat Crop."

Newton, Iowa - Jasper authorities Wednesday were investigating destruction in a rural cemetery southeast of Galesburg near the Jasper county line. Charges of desecrating a cemetery were being prepared for filing by Elk Creek Township trustees but names of the violators were not announced. County Attorney Arnold Myhrs said seven gravestones had been removed, piled against a tree and the ground had been plowed and planted to oats.

JOHNSON

From the *Iowa City Citizen*, April 8, 1908: "A Wrong Impression." "The communication in the *Citizen* on Monday about the Coralville cemetery gave the wrong impression," said Mr. Geo. Carson yesterday. "I gave three acres of land in a convenient location near the highway for a cemetery, because the old one was inaccessible and not in a place convenient for proper care of it, but I did not get the land of the old cemetery in exchange. That reverts to the former owner, by the terms of the deed, and the only way for me to get it to pay for it. Instead of getting more than I gave, as would be inferred from the article, I am actually out the entire value of the land I gave for the cemetery."

From the *Iowa City Press Citizen*, September 11, 1973: "County asked to Help Preserve Old Cemetery." Patrick Loan of rural Oxford asked the Johnson County Board of Supervisors for assistance in the restoration of an abandoned cemetery he says may be of historical value. Board Chairman Robert Burns asked for a county attorney's study to determine how the land might be deeded over to public ownership. The cemetery, located in Liberty Township, has several dozen graves including Loan's great-great grandfather, a Civil War veteran. The township clerk said, however, that the township's cemetery fund might be insufficient and that they might be reluctant to assume ownership.

JONES

From the *Monticello Express*, July 10, 1965: "Recalls customs of earlier day," by Esther Sinclair. The author mentions the Scot's eerie "keening" and the piper's wail at a death in the community and the long trip by team and wagon - running-gears only - to bring back lumber, nails and cloth for a shroud at the time of death and perhaps a bit of tea at 80 cents per pound for the bereaved family as a bit of luxury.

The Edinburg Cemetery was platted at the time the town of Edinburgh was laid out with the expectation

that it would be the site of the county seat. However, Anamosa became the county seat and Edinburgh is now the site of museums and preserved pioneer buildings with no inhabitants. The cemetery is nearby.

From *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 27, 1972: "Edinburgh Cemetery." Jennie Sanford Rathbun writes that the Edinburgh Cemetery was once part of her grandfather's farm. He gave the plot of land to the town of Edinburgh. In 1876, William Payne Sanford had a stone wall and fence built for his mother's and sister's graves. The stone was purchased from Stone City (west of Anamosa) and hauled by rail to Blue Cut railway station, then by stone boat to the cemetery. Eight trips were necessary from the station. Blue Cut Station later became the town of Amber. The plan was to build a church in Edinburgh, but when the county seat was moved to Anamosa, these plans didn't materialize.

LEE

A Pioneer Patriot's Day ceremony was held on September 27, 2008 at the Judy Cemetery in West Point Township, sponsored by the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association (LCPCA). The earliest marked graves at Judy Cemetery were in 1850 and the last in 1953. Originally called the Cooney Graveyard, this cemetery was known as Judy Cemetery by the 1880's. On November 1, 1862, James T. Cooney deeded 0.375 f an acre to West Point Township as a cemetery, in honor of the resting place of his parents, Matthew & Nancy Cooney. In a newspaper article dated May 29, 1889, it was reported that the Montrose G.A.R. had planted their cannon in the middle of the cemetery. No trace of the cannon remains today. Several family groups are listed in the program, including six veterans of the following wars: War of 1812, the BlackHawk War, the Civil War, and World War I. The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association works to reclaim abandoned and neglected pioneer cemeteries and to honor our forgotten pioneer patriots. Many of the 19th century veterans went to their graves without military honors and now lie in weeds and brambles. The Pioneer Patriot's Day Cemetery is an attempt to remember these patriots and their families. Included in the program: Welcome by LCPCA president Terry Altheide, invocation by Reverend John Heath, remarks by Pat Hogan, past commander of Keokuk's American Legion Post 41, placing of a wreath by Laverna Moore, presentation of the Flag by Basil Reed, Honor Guard

Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3508, firing party from American Legion Post 41, taps by William Hall of Bugles Across America, and retiring of the colors.

The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association's 6th Annual Banquet was held at Ogo's Restaurant in Keokuk on November 7, 2008. The program included a welcome from Terry Altheide, grace by Bob Moore, a reading by Laverna Moore, speaker Pat Shaw, Spirit of Our Pioneer Patriots and youth awards by Terry Altheide, presentation of the Donald Wagner Memorial Award, gift to Ogo's by Linda Altheide, and departing prayer by Rev. John Heath.

In an e-mail message dated November 11, 2008, State Archaeologist William Whittaker makes a plea to save Ft. Madison, that he states is arguably the most important historic site in the state of Iowa. It was the first U.S. Fort on the Upper Mississippi River, the location of the only War of 1812 battle west of the Mississippi, the location where Black Hawk rose to prominence, the location of the only real military battle in Iowa, the oldest U.S. military cemetery in the region, it has great symbolic meaning to Native Americans (especially Meskwaki and Sauk), and is well preserved under blacktop parking lots. The site is in danger because it was sold to a small-scale developer in 2007 who cannot afford to sell the property at a major loss. The probable soldier remains might be an obstacle to development, since human remains are legally protected, but it is not a permanent solution and is fraught with its own technical issues. According to Whittaker, we must find a way to purchase the property and preserve it. This must be done by citizens of Iowa. For more information, contact the Office of the State Archaeologist: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/burials/>

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, May 25, 1998: "Found a Skeleton." Workman digging for a foundation for a new cement walk came across it - The locality had been an old burying ground - one body still there. On Fifth Avenue and Eighth Street, a skeleton in a complete state of preservation was found about eighteen inches below the ground. The coroner estimated that they were the bones of a large middle-aged man that might have been there about twenty-five years. One resident remembered that the site had been a cemetery and all the remains were thought to have been removed to Oak Hill. The remains will be reburied.

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, April 24, 1900: "Sadly Neglected. The Graves in the Farm and Pasture Need Care." Some late history about the alleged ill-treatment of the McDaniel Cemetery - Living relative paid no attention to its condition. Perhaps the dead in the little cemetery six miles north of town would rest better if the living now and then gave a thought to them. As it is, little pieces of boards and broken stone are all that mark the last resting place of those who were once full of life. The present owner of the surrounding land has been falsely accused of plowing it up, but he states that he is will respect the site if relatives of the deceased will fence the area. No burials have occurred for at least twenty-five years.

From the *Des Moines Daily News*, July 28, 1906: "Finding of 'Baby Shaw's' Grave Reveals a Forgotten Cemetery in City's Heart." Party of picnickers stumble over mound and stone, which tells pathetic story. Weeds run wild over little city of dead - find spoils sale of otherwise valuable land in vicinity of Grand Avenue. A baby's tombstone found near the water's edge of Walnut Creek by Mr. Dr. W. S. Aldrich west of the city some time ago has been traced to a forgotten and deserted cemetery in one of the most valuable and choicest properties in the area. The stone that was found bore only the name "Baby Shaw" and was dated fifty-nine years before. The existence of the cemetery was unknown by the present owner and cost him the loss of thousands of dollars in an impending sale.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, September 14, 2008: "75 Years Ago: September 17, 1933" The Hahn Howard American Legion Post was working to raise money to preserve pioneer cemeteries around Mount Vernon. Members of the post put in more than 500 hours to restore the Craig pioneer cemetery, one of the earliest cemeteries in the county. Burials in the cemetery included Elias Doty, killed in 1841 while building the first mill in Linn County. Some of the stones in the cemetery marked the final resting spot of people who had been alive during the country's colonial era.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 16, 1970: "Tombstones Tell Tales," by Art Hough, Gazette Writer-Photographer. L.W. "Dutch" Schollman took up the unusual hobby of seeking out cemeteries to pass the time while he was away from home on business trips. A couple of weeks ago, he stumbled on an old cemetery near the new Duane Arnold Energy Plant near Palo. In

it he found the weathered gravestone of a soldier of the War of 1812, fought 34 years before Iowa became a state. Schollman finds spending time in cemeteries is a way of killing time and learning about past history.

"Dear friends for me pray, not weep,

I'm not dead, but here do sleep,

Within this solid lump of clay,

Until Resurrection day

And here, indeed, I must remain,

Until Christ shall raise me up again."

From the gravestone of Jonathan Trask in and old cemetery at Lexington, Mass. and copied by Mr. Schollman. Trask died September 19, 1763.

Oak Hill Cemetery, located at 1705 Mt. Vernon Road SE celebrated its 155th anniversary year by conducting a Fall Historical Cemetery Tour on October 11 and 12, 2008. Subjects covered general cemetery history, early pioneer families and interesting facts about the monuments. Proceeds will be used for restoration projects or go to the Friends of Oak Hill Cemetery Fund. E-mail: carl-oakhill@cedar-rapids.net

MADISON

The Madison County Genealogical Society completed surveys on the Viney, Sayre, Close (Steer), St. Charles or Clanton, and the Blair Chapel Cemeteries this summer. They believe that they have four left to get done!

MARSHALL

From the *Past Times* magazine, special publication of the *Times-Republican*, October, 2008, page 3, "In this issue," by Mike Donahey: Pictured is Wayne Blessing of Zearing receiving the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award from Pat Shaw for his role in the restoration of the Price Pioneer Cemetery near Rhodes. The award is presented annually by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries. A summary of the restoration of the cemetery and Blessing's involvement was covered in the accompanying article.

From the *Mid-Iowa enterprise*, September 25, 2008: "Wayne Blessing receives award for his work at Price Pioneer Cemetery." An extensive story about the cemetery, an interview with Wayne Blessing, and information about SAPIC are included. The story concludes with Wayne being asked why he did this. He said, "Because it's the right thing to do."

From the *Marshall County Sun*, September 25, 2008: Pictured is Wayne Blessing as he received the Carter Award. The stone of Simon Price is in the background.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 16, 2008: Letter to the Editor: "Construction infringing on cemetery is troubling." Is nothing sacred anymore? Last weekend I drove through the William Penn University campus to look at the new buildings and was very impressed by the structures. I was disturbed, however, that William Penn University found it necessary to desecrate the Old White Cemetery in the process of building their new technology building. I am disappointed that the university, city, design professionals and contractors would allow what has happened to take place.

When I was an engineering student at Iowa State University, my design professors made it very clear that there were some places you did not go and some things you did not do, and cemeteries were at the top of the list.

I find it hard to believe that with all of the capable and talented people involved in this project that the technology building could not have been built without infringing on the cemetery.

At what cost do we make it happen?

Dave Dickinson, Oskaloosa

From the *Ames Daily Tribune*, July 15, 1967: "Old cemetery holds its tales of the past." An abandoned cemetery near Oskaloosa has turned Iowa State Highway Commission right of way agents into agents of a different sort - they have been unable to determine the owners of the land. The Commission needs a portion of the cemetery's five acres to widen U.S. 63 about a mile north of Oskaloosa. There are only a few graves in the cemetery which may have been called Society of Friends Cemetery, though even the name is uncertain. The most recent burial was in the 1880's. The Commission has begun condemnation proceedings to obtain the land. It will take only part of the land from the front of the cemetery where there are no graves.

APPANOOSE

From the *Moravia Union*, September 24, 1931: "Hillcrest Name of New Moravia Cemetery," The name was selected by disinterested parties residing out of Moravia at the close of a contest recently conducted by the Town Council. About fifty names were submitted. Hillcrest was suggested by three different persons. Work of platting the cemetery has recently been completed and lots are now being offered for sale at \$25 each. There are 331 full lots 12X18 feet and 9 half lots 9X12 feet. Improvements to be added are a gate at the entrance and a fence when funds become available.

POLK

New SAPIC member Vicki Stinson has photographed over 1,000 stones in the McDivitt Cemetery in Urbandale and has started on the Des Moines Glendale Cemetery. She has posted these to the Iowa Gravestone Project. www.iowagravestones.org/ She writes, "It was so wonderful to see the law passed to preserve pioneer cemeteries. So many of these old cemeteries have been lost to time and to inconsiderate farmers who allow livestock to wander freely in unfenced graveyards. This happened in Missouri to my maternal grandfather's ancestors with graves dating back to 1850. It is also very appalling to find vandalized headstones."

PLYMOUTH

From the *Stoux City Daily Journal*, July 13, 1873: "Wilderness Blossoms." Something of what they are doing in Grant Township - two school houses have been erected, along with plans of the German Lutheran denomination to erect a church and parsonage. The other day fifteen of them turned out with their teams and ploughed 25 acres of it in 5 1/2 hours and fenced one acre for a burial ground in which they have already six graves. A view of these hardy pioneers as they contributed their labor for the purpose of an ultimate permanent foundation of religious privileges in their midst, is described as almost approaching the solemn. They went about their work with a zeal and earnestness which could only have been induced by its purpose, and everything was quiet and orderly as a Sabbath day's gathering.

POTTAWATTAMIE

From the *Hancock Herald*, April 18, 1885: "The Cemetery Muddle." The trouble over the location of a new cemetery has been at a fever heat for two or three weeks past. The owners of a 110-acre tract of high land about a mile and a half west of town have fenced in forty acres and laid it out for a cemetery, and of that the Odd Fellows have purchased ten acres as a burial place. People living in that locality have been protesting vigorously against the new cemetery, fearing that it may infect the water in their wells and render their location unhealthy, and have gone so far as to send the owners threatening letters, cut the fence, hill up new-made graves, and haul a dead animal into the enclosure. After a meeting of both sides, a compromise was reached that included constructing a canal and moving the cemetery northwest of town.

From the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, May 1, 1952: "Old Burial Place Ravaged by Cruel Missouri River." The Missouri river ravaged an unnamed cemetery, one of the oldest burial places in Southwest Iowa. With the exception of one grave, the river scoured graves and cedar trees away, and left a deep pond in its place. The cemetery is located in St. Mary's township, a half-mile south of the Pottawattamie-Mills county line. Remains found near the site will be reburied.

TAMA

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, July 5, 1953: "Iowan Cares for Graves as Hobby," by Staff Writer. Dysart - Pictured in Dr. H. R. Graham, a chiropractor, posing beside the tombstone which marks the burial place of his grandfather, the late James R. Graham, founder of the town of Redman and the Redman Cemetery, near Elberon. Seven years ago, Dr. Graham began a volunteer job of restoring the cemetery and caring for it. Mowing is done by the township, but Dr. Graham has made and set small concrete markers on unmarked graves, replaced the fence, graded and cleared sections of the cemetery, removed old dead trees, set out new trees, and reset grave markers. He believes there are about 100 now known burials in the little cemetery.

VAN BUREN

From the *Reporter*, Emmetsburg, Iowa, May 16, 1940: "Old Cemetery." Remains of what may be one of Iowa's oldest cemeteries was discovered recently on the R.E. Newcomb farm near Mt. Sterling. Stones indicate that the cemetery was established in 1939 or earlier.

From the *Van Buren County Quill*, published quarterly by the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, Volume 21 - Number 4, October, 2008, page 31: Note from the desk of the Treasurer, Don Aldrich. Several photos of the Valentine Cemetery located in Van Buren Township, NW of Pittsburgh are included in the article. Overseer, Blaine DeHart, requested some help in repairing the leaning, toppled, and broken stones. He brought his tractor, chain saw, and brush cutter to the cemetery to clear the area before and after the restoration crew arrived. Many local residents have ancestors in the Valentine Cemetery. Don is hoping that residents of the township and others will volunteer to spend some time caring for the cemeteries within their townships. Don observes that this is not happening in all areas, so he is hoping that a few might adopt or donate money for care.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, November 1, 2008: Letter to the Editor. "More protection needed for local burial grounds." Chris Campbell of Bonaparte writes, "I would like to see more protection for local burial grounds. I was told about small ones that were plowed under years ago near Croton, Iowa, and the farmers thought that because they might lose some land that they were all right in doing it.

The souls of the dead have a right to sleep easy knowing that these graves will be left alone or visited in the right way.

We must protect our sacred sites for future white persons and Native Americans, alike. Please ask the state of Iowa and all of the United States to protect these small burial mounds and prosecute anyone who has done anything to, or will do anything to these sites. I know there are laws on the books, but there is much more that must be done."

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 4, 2008: "Unknown tour visits Ottumwa," by Scott Niles, Courier Staff Writer. A replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was on display October 3-5 at Ottumwa Park. Pictured are visitors as they gather around the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier replica. Lynn Ellis of LaCrosse, Wis. helped construct the replica, which he and others bring to different locations across the country. Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #667 brought the memorial to Ottumwa to educate people on American history and provide a living history example of what has happened in previous wars. The tomb was escorted into the park by city and county emergency personnel, along with several motorcycle organizations. A ceremony followed with former Korean War POW Ted Sprouse as the guest speaker. The memorial, located in Arlington Cemetery, mainly represents three major American wars - World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. The body of a Vietnam War soldier that was in the tomb was identified by DNA testing and returned to his family.

WOODBURY

From the *American Profile* magazine, September 7-13, 2008: IOWA - The only fatality of the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition was Sgt. Charles Floyd, who may have died of a ruptured appendix and is buried in Sioux City, Iowa. A 100-ft-tall stone obelisk marks his grave.

Cemetery Computer Program: www.legacymark.com

OUT OF IOWA

ARIZONA

November 5 was scheduled to be the first official outing to the Wickenburg Massacre Site NW of Wickenburg. Denise Whittenmore has invited APCRP to tour derelict historic pioneer cemeteries she has identified in and about Coolage/Florence AZ. APCRP will make a headstone for "Kentuck" at Fort Misery and place it this fall. Jack Swilling's headstone will be made by APCRP and placed in Yuma this fall. The marker for Mattie Blaylock at the derelict historic Pinal Cemetery is in the planning stages with Bob Boze Bell. Neal DuShane would like to visit Curly's Place and Palace Station at Shelley.

COLORADO

Neal DuShane reports that there are two very interesting Ghost Town cemeteries in the Pawnee Grass Lands. He will be visiting the Sligo Cemetery to document and record it. It is located between Sterling, CO and Cheyenne, WY. The Keota Cemetery contains 105 identifiable graves with probably 20 - 30 more identified by dowsing. Many deaths occurred in 1917 and 1918 indicating a probable outbreak of Diphtheria and Plague. Keota may have had a population of 1,000 to 1,500 in the peak of its existence. Keota was going to be the Weld county seat at one time, but Greeley won out. There are allegedly some 500 Indians killed by warring factions of various tribes near the Pawnee Butte's east of Keota.

LOUISIANA

From the *Dallas Morning News*, August 28, 2008: "Slow march becomes a race to the finish for memorial," by John Moreno Gonzales, Associated Press. The Hurricane Katrina Memorial, shaped like a storm's eye, includes six mausoleums for the 85 unclaimed dead. New Orleans is scrambling to complete the memorial by the 3rd anniversary of the storm. At least 7 of the dead will be marched to the site on August 29 during a traditional New Orleans jazz funeral. Human fragments have been recovered and meticulously documented from the old Charity Hospital site, formerly a paupers' graveyard. Louisiana State University donated the grounds and about \$200,000 in private donations was received. The site will have perpetual care.

MAINE

A web site designed and maintained by Thomas Feeney memorializes the First Parish Cemetery in York

Maine. It is a project of the Parish Council Historical Committee. The trustees have identified over 6,150 burials and surveyed the existing records of burials.

E-mail: thomasfeeney@fpyork.info.

Telephone: 207-351-5851

NEBRASKA

From the *Sioux City Journal*, September 17, 2008: "Community rallies for historic cemetery," by Terry Turner, *Journal* correspondent. LaPorte Cemetery, a historic pioneer cemetery southeast of Wayne, is being saved to honor the rugged individuals who settled the area. Steve Gross of Wayne heads the effort to restore and maintain the cemetery. The first burial took place in 1871 and the last in 1914. Several veterans, including one who fought in the War of 1812 and the Civil War, are buried there. A cooperative effort of the county, volunteer groups, and students from Wayne State University has resulted in cleaning the site. The students use the cemetery to study and gather seeds of native prairie plants and are planning to help with erecting a fence and a historical marker.

OHIO

From news.Cincinnati.com, November 23, 2008: "Lost graves disturb families," by Cliff Radel. E-mail: cradel@enquirer.com

Springfield Twp. - Due to neglect and mismanagement at Beech Grove Cemetery, family members have found someone else buried in loved one's plots and the exact location of some previously buried bodies cannot even be determined. The township has declared the graveyard a public nuisance and assumed ownership from the Bethel AME Church of Lockland. The first burial was in 1898. If no exact records can be found, the township may prevent future interments.

TEXAS

From the *Dallas Morning News*, July 16, 2008: "After 26 years, family succeeds in tracing tombstone's roots," by Donna Fielder. Pictured is Donna Ballard with the tombstone of William Potes, along with his descendant, Roy Wilkerson, in the cemetery where Potes's wife, Sarah, is buried. The stone was found in a dormitory room in 1982 at the Texas Women's University in Denton. Donna located Wilkerson on a web site where he had inquired about Potes's burial place in 2006. He has looked for Potes, his ancestor, for most of his life. Potes was buried in the countryside somewhere between Dougherty and Nebo, Oklahoma and no one knows who removed the stone.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, July 16, 2008:
"Cuckoo's Nest' hospital to be replaced," by Brad Cain, The Associated Press. The Oregon State Hospital, the mental institution where the 1975 movie *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* was filmed, is making way for a new complex. Most of the dilapidated, 125-year-old main building will be torn down and replaced starting this fall. Politicians had been talking for years about the need to replace the hospital but didn't get serious about it until a group of legislators made a grim discovery during a 2004 tour: the cremated remains of 3,600 mental patients in corroding copper canisters in a storage room. The lawmakers were stunned. The chamber was dubbed "the room of lost souls." The remains belonged to patients who died at the hospital from the late 1880s to the mid 1900s, when mental illness was considered so shameful that many patients were all be abandoned by their families in institutions. The front section of the building will be preserved as a museum on the history of mental health care.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, July 3, 2008:
"Driver jailed on DWI charge apologizes for damaging graves," by Donna Fielder, Staff Writer. A driver who plowed down 16 gravestones in a Denton's Oakland Cemetery says she didn't realize she hit them and wants to apologize. An anonymous caller helped officers identify and stop the woman. She claimed she was visiting the graves of her grandmother and other relatives and decided to leave by threading her way among the graves.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, July 5, 2008:
"Officials fight over burial site," by Steve Friess, The New York Times. A Waller County justice of the peace, DeWayne Charleston, who is black, ordered the body of an unidentified white woman to be handled by a black-owned funeral home and buried in a black public cemetery. However, Judge Owen Ralston decided that cost - not race - led to her burial in a white cemetery. Charleston has accused Ralston of racism. Ralston claimed that a white mortuary charged considerably less for the same service and that he did not know the victim was white. Charleston is threatening to have the body exhumed.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, July 7, 2008:
"Modern age taking toll on historic areas," by David McLemore, Staff Writer. A large part of the state's historic legacy - thousands of archaeological sites and old cemeteries - is under attack by vandals, urban

growth and development, state officials said. But the biggest threat is indifference. There are over 50,000 old cemeteries in Texas, the majority of them small, isolated sites that range from abandoned 19th-century family graves to long-forgotten Indian burial grounds. Within Dallas County alone, there are 212 old cemeteries, such as the Brickyard Cemetery, an empty-looking field that hides about 80 graves dating from the early 1900s. It is the final resting place of African-Americans workers at the old Dallas Pressed Brick Co. that closed in 1950. The rapid urbanization of the state and the creation of large, sprawling suburban areas has led to the loss of many old cemeteries. About 90% of the recorded archeological sites have also been damaged or destroyed, including ancient pictographs and rock carvings.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, July 11, 2008:
"Nature, neglect hit black settlers' cemetery," by Stephanie Sandoval, Staff Writer. Volunteers are trying to care for the Carrollton Black Cemetery, located north of Dallas, but damage from an April storm has thwarted their efforts this year. The site is owned by a bank in Houston, but the city has been unable to get the bank to mow it. Willie Rainwater, whose great grandfather is buried there, hopes the city will help drum up community support for upkeep. Mr. Rainwater said, "We really can't afford to lost the history."

From the *Star-Telegram*, July 13, 2008: "The graves of Bonnie and Clyde, Dallas." Pictured is the grave of Bonnie Parker in the Crown Hill Memorial Park. Clyde is buried at Western Heights Cemetery in Dallas' Oak Cliff neighborhood with his brother (and fellow outlaw) Buck, who died in a shootout near Dexter in Dallas County, Iowa in 1933. Buck's wife, Blanche, was captured at that time, but Bonnie and Clyde escaped to commit 13 murders and many robberies, according to the FBI. Bonnie and Clyde were killed in an ambush in Louisiana on May 23, 1934. www.findagrave.com

From the *Dallas Morning News*, September 10, 2008:
"Making permanent arrangements," by Bob Moos, Staff Writer. Pictured is Joan Muser, owner of Lots for Less, who helps grieving families quickly find burial plots at reduced prices. She matches them with sellers who no longer want theirs because they have moved or plan to be interred elsewhere. In a typical year, she coordinates about 100 transactions. Many clients are referred to her by clergy and funeral directors.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, September 16, 2008: "Bluesman's casket disturbed by storm." Hurricane Katrina chased bluesman Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown from his adopted home in New Orleans to his hometown here on the Texas Gulf Coast, where he died in exile. Now, another hurricane has disturbed his rest. The 1982 Grammy Award winner's casket was one of dozens that emerged from the ground when gulf and rain waters from Hurricane Ike flooded Hollywood Cemetery, an all-black burial ground on the west side of Orange, Texas on the Sabine River.

WISCONSIN

From the *North Iowa Times*, September 6, 1970, McGregor Historical Notes, "Old Grave Stone," by Lena D. Meyers. The article tells of a pile of broken grave stones near a home on the west edge of town (probably McGregor, Iowa) that were once placed on the graves of some infants and J. G. Walton, for whom Walton Avenue was named. He was the first person murdered in McGregor's Landing in 1854. Ron Harris of Wisconsin contributed the article that was found by Richard Pettit and Michele. The Pioneer Cemetery (Clayton County Commission?) voted last year to restore the Walton site. There were 10-12 burials in the 1960s, but no records have been found so far.

From the *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison), September 27, 2008: "Worker restores cemetery," Associated Press. A forgotten cemetery has come back to life in Chippewa Falls, thanks in large part to maintenance worker Mike Winscher. He was cutting grass when the mower hit something hard. It turned out to be a gravestone. When Winscher began investigating, he found records at the Chippewa County Historical Society and located 262 gravestones, all of them overgrown with grass, weeds and even trees. Now the grave sites have been leveled and gravestones reset with the help of inmate crews from the nearby Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility. The graves, dated from 1901 to 1965 are mostly from the old county facilities for the mentally ill and homeless. The historical society plans to erect a sign to mark the cemetery.

Ron Harris sends photos of the grave of Belle Boyd who died in Kilbourn, Wisconsin while on a speaking tour after the Civil War. She was a Confederate spy for the South. Kilbourn is now known as Wisconsin Dells. The grave is within a fenced area with a stone foundation containing a bronze plaque.

Ralph Hendersin of Sparta Wisconsin has furnished SAPIC with a number of documents pertaining to his cemetery restoration activities. Copies of these will be available at the January SAPIC meeting in Johnston, Iowa. If you'd like a copy of any of these mailed to you, contact Pat Shaw. They include: County burial Ground Restoration 2005-2007 (Ralph placed a little concrete marker for each of the 86 burials there), the Cannon Family Cemetery 2004-2005, a manual on Gravestone Cleaning, and information on stone repair.

Copies of an entertaining speech given by SAPIC member David Gradwohl to the Arkansas Archaeological Society will also be available at the January SAPIC meeting. Through personal experience, cross-cultural insight, and touching humor, Gradwohl presents the history of his research into the sacred places we call cemeteries in this highly informative essay. The speech was reprinted in the *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society*, Volume 54, 2007, Michael J. Perry, Editor. www.uiowa.edu/~osa/iahome.htm

SPAIN

From the *New York Times*, September 19, 2008: "Poet's Family Approves Grave Dig." The family of Federico Garcia Lorea, the Spanish Civil War poet, said it would allow officials to dig up a common grave in which he is believed to be buried, Agence France-Presse reported. Relatives of the poet told the newspaper El Pais that they will allow the grave, which also includes the remains of three other men executed by the fascists in 1936, to be unearthed. The granddaughter of one of the men petitioned a judge to open the gravesite to verify that her relative is buried there.

CANADA

From the *Star-Telegram*, June 14, 2008: "Back home after a century away," The Canadian Press/Jonathan Hayward VIA AP. Pictured are members of the Tseycum First Nation as they carry caskets holding the bones of about 55 Tseycum ancestors from the indigenous people's longhouse on Vancouver Island in Canada. The remains were returned from New York's American Museum of Natural History and buried Friday on sacred land on the Tseycum reserve.

BELARUS (Formerly part of USSR)

From the *Dallas Morning News*, April 13, 2008: "Prejudice lives on at old cemetery," The Associated Press. Pictured is Yevgeny Malikov with some bones from an 18th-century Jewish cemetery that was unearthed by workers rebuilding a sports stadium.