

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535

www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/

VOLUME 14 ISSUE #2

April 2009

You are invited to attend the Saturday, July 11 meeting of SAPIC at 10:00 AM in Oelwein (Fayette County), at THE PLAZA (OELWEIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)

25 W. Charles St.

Doors open- 9:00 AM

Meeting – 10:00 AM

Lunch 12:00 NOON

Otsego Cemetery Tour- 12:30 PM

Whether you come from the north, east, south or west into downtown Oelwein, you will make one turn only- at the downtown junction of Iowa highways 3 and 150. This junction includes a Kwik Star gas station and convenience store and a Presbyterian Church. Turn WEST, and go two blocks to the Oelwein Chamber of Commerce Building (The Plaza) on the north side of the street. There is a large parking lot on the west side of The Plaza, and you will enter the WEST doors to the meeting rooms.

Free sweets, juice, coffee will be available by 9:00 am. Lunch will be in the meeting room, with 6" Subway, chips and drink available for \$5.00. Lunch orders will be taken early in the meeting. Your hosts are the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, Mr. Donal Boie, President. Questions? Contact Steve Story dstory@netins.net

The Iowa Legislature passed two bills this session. One will add this to the Code of Iowa: Sec. 139, Section 5231.316, Code 2009 is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION 7, ADVERSE POSSESSION. A cemetery or a pioneer cemetery is exempt from seizure, appropriation, or acquisition of title under any claim of adverse possession, unless it is shown that all remains in the cemetery or pioneer cemetery have been disinterred and removed to another location.

Adverse possession may occur when a non-owner uses land for a period of ten years or more with no objection from the legal owner and then may legally claim that land.

Also, the definition of a pioneer cemetery in Iowa will now be "a cemetery in which there has been twelve or fewer burials within the past fifty years."

Thanks to all SAPIC members and friends who supported our efforts by contacting their legislators regarding these changes. Thanks, also, to the House Members and Senators who worked for our interests and voted to pass these bills.

SAPIC member Marge Spencer provided these sources in east central Iowa for persons interested in acquiring an inexpensive marker. The AR-JAY Center in Cedar Rapids has lots of scrap corion from counter tops. Telephone 319-393-5885 and ask for Ralph Palmer. Letter Perfect in Hiawatha (Cedar Rapids area) charges a set up fee of \$60 and \$18 for engraving 4 lines on a piece of 4" X 6" corion. Check the yellow pages in your area for businesses that deal in building products and granite to see if they will donate scrap materials for making grave markers. Corion looks like stone and seems to hold up well in Iowa's harsh weather. Check for custom and computer engraving sources in the yellow pages.

From CAPPER'S magazine, May, 2009:

Memorial Day

*We pause on this remembered day
To bow our heads and humbly pray
For comrades who have gone before
To death upon some distant shore.*

*We ask, O God, lest we forget,
Remind us of the unpaid debt
We owe to those who gave their all
In answer to Old Glory's call.*

*Empower us with Your great might
To keep the flame of freedom bright,
And may your ever-outstretched hand
Protect and guide our blessed land.*

- L. L. Miller

Nominate your hardworking and deserving cemetery worker for the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award presented by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries. There is no nomination form -- write a letter about the person you wish to recognize and include some documentation (new articles, letter(s) of support, photos, etc.). Criteria may be obtained from Pat Shaw.

Send to SAPIC president Steve Story by July 1:

Steve Story
18883 250th St.
Hawkeye, Iowa 52147-8129

Phone 563-427-5354
E-mail: dstory@netins.net

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Story
18883 250th St.
Hawkeye, IA 52147
563-427-5354 dstory@netins.net

Vice-president: William Reedy
3046 Everly Ave
Brandon IA 52210
319-474-2443 reedypart@jtt.net

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

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

Board Member (2010): Molly Beason
106 East 11th St.
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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 mahcern@kdsi.net

Board Member (2011) Ethel McVay
1111 N. 8th Ave. Apt. #16
Winterset, IA 50273-1089
515-462-9802 emcvay38@msn.com

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

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2211 Linn Ave.
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641-394-3967 jjeck@myclearwave.net

Board Member (2009): Mike Magee
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319-232-8762 Digger4045@yahoo.com

Board Member (2009): Marva Rowe
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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@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

Fastenal Corporate Headquarters
2001 Theurer Blvd.
Winona, Minnesota 55987
Phone: 507-454-5374 FAX: 507-453-8049
Web site: <http://www.fastenal.com/>

Hilti, Inc.
5400 South 122nd East Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74146
Phone: 866-445-8827 FAX: 1-800-879-7000
Web site: <http://www.us.hilti.com>

WHERE TO GET SIGNS

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

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

STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR

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

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

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

**State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries
Board Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2009**

President Steve Story called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Central Community Historical Museum in DeWitt, Iowa with 30 members and guests present.

The January 2009 meeting was not held because of a snow storm, therefore meeting minutes were not taken. The Treasurer's report was presented as printed in the January 2009 issue of Grave News which is the official newsletter of SAPIC, showing a balance of \$11,462.87. Moved by Bill Reedy the Treasurer's report be accepted as printed. Seconded by Frieda Davis. Motion carried.

Legislation: Pat Shaw presented Representative Jeff Kaufmann the Friend of Iowa Cemeteries award for his support and interest in legislation relating to Iowa cemetery preservation. Representatives Jeff Kaufmann and Steve Olson welcomed those present and reviewed the status of current and pending legislation pertaining to Iowa cemeteries.

SAPIC Meetings: President Steve Story discussed the issue of January meetings and the potential for bad weather which prevents members from attending. It was noted that the last two years presented this problem and resulted in not having a January meeting in 2009. One option is to not have a January meeting or move to an earlier or later date. Story asked members to think about it and be prepared to discuss it during the July meeting.

SAPIC Display: President Story reported that SAPIC has been offered the opportunity to set up a booth or display at the state capitol. More details and information will be obtained before a decision is made.

Miscellaneous: Mike Magee briefly reviewed the status of the Syracuse Cemetery and Bremer County issue. A trial date is set for May 13, 2009 in regard to the county failing to properly maintain the cemetery. SAPIC member Richard Boroom has been attempting to solve this issue for many years.

Mike Murphy explained his family's dilemma in regard to the burial of a family member in a Washington County cemetery. Issues included lack of cemetery records, grave digging policies, difficulty in working with the county supervisors, etc.

Program: A program was presented by Emergency K-9 Operations, Inc. including locating grave sites.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Larry D. Davis
Secretary

From: "Valerie Ogren" <vjogren@netins.net>
Subject: **SAPIC - treas. report**
Date: April 8, 2009 5:29:49 PM CDT
To: "Pat I. Shaw" <patshaw@netins.net>

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter - 1 January 2009 thru 31 March 2009

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2008, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$2,106.64
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 310.00	
Interest 1/31/09	1.61	
Interest 2/28/09	1.54	
Interest 3/31/09	<u>1.81</u>	
	\$ 314.96	Total Income
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #221 - Patricia Shaw - Newsletter postage, etc.	\$ 58.50	
Ck #222 - Patricia Shaw - newsletter postage	<u>52.52</u>	
Total Expense	\$ 111.32	

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2009	\$2230.93
<hr/>	
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2008, Home State Bank, Jefferson	\$ 3,528.39
1/20 - Eleanor Jones - Life Membership	100.00
3/3 - William Reedy - Life Membership	<u>100.00</u>
Total	200.00
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2009	\$ 3,728.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 31 March 2009 \$ 5,959.32

Plus additional funds:

A CD in the amount of \$5,503.55 will mature 1/16/10.

Rate of interest at renewal was 3.00%

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

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

SAPIC dues:

Individual for one year: \$10.00

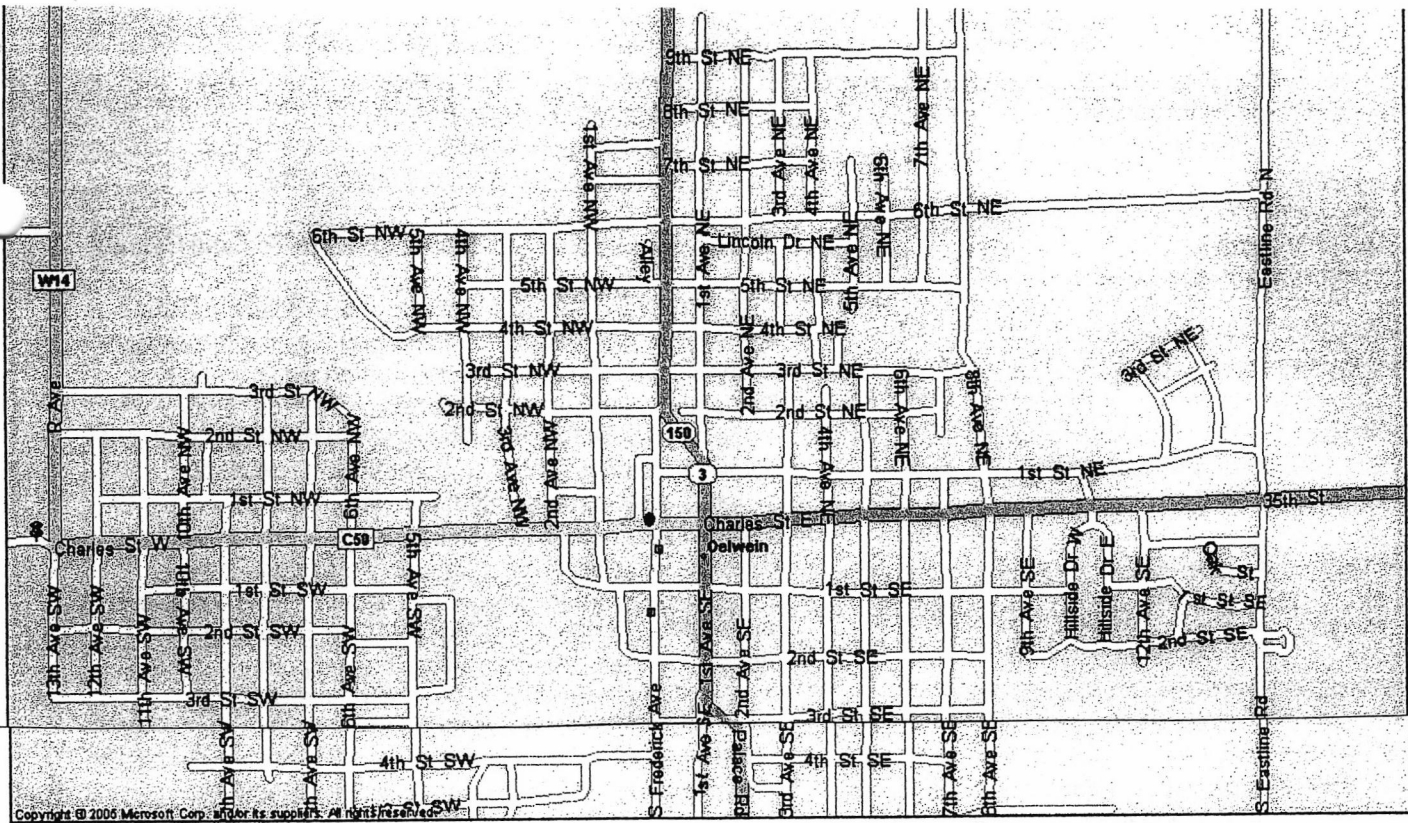
Household for one year: \$15.00

Business or organization for one year: \$20.00

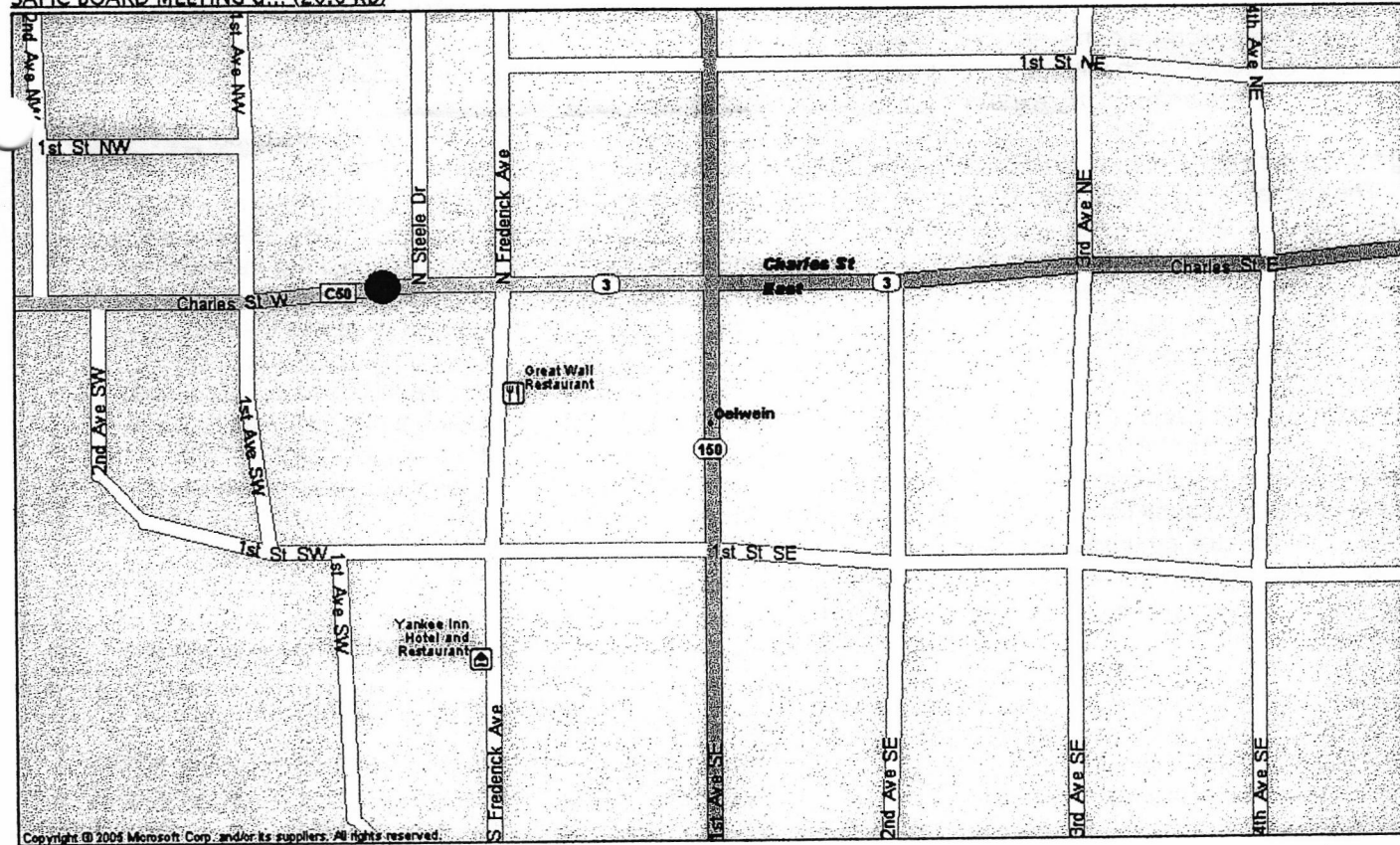
Lifetime individual: \$100.00

Send dues to Valerie Ogren, 108 N. Oak

Jefferson, IA 50129-1845



SAPIC BOARD MEETING d... (20.0 KB)



MAPS TO THE MEETING SITE OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES IN OELWEIN, IOWA. July 11, 2009

Sources for epoxy from Wayne Blessing, last year's winner of the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award:

Fastenal
<http://www.fastenal.com/>
2001 Theurer Blvd.
Winona, Minnesota 55987

Phone: 507-454-5374
FAX: 507-453-8049

Hilti, Inc.
5400 South 122nd East Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74146

Phone: 866-445-8827
FAX: 1-800-879-7000
Web<http://www.us.hilti.com>

At the April meeting of SAPIC in Clinton County, attendees were fascinated with the performance of and information about dogs that can locate unmarked graves. Thanks to Stan D. Culley who provided these web sites that contain videos of dogs locating unmarked graves.

<http://www.k9forensic.org/historical.html>
<http://www.k9forensic.org/video.htm>

Robin Habeger, Ames, works extensively with rescue dogs and has been working with various experts regarding the use of dogs to locate unmarked graves.

Having trouble getting cemetery records from a township trustee? The caretaker is an employee of a local government thereby making him/her a "government employee" and the records in his/her possession are records belonging to the local government (town, city, village, etc.) As such, the records fall under the purview of the Freedom of Information Act. The local government has 72 hours to provide records after a request. The requester would have to pay only for the cost of copying.

From the *American Legion* magazine, May, 2009, page 28-32: "Missing in America" by Matt Grills. At funeral homes across the country, an unknown number of veterans' ashes go unclaimed. Legionnaires are helping to give them proper burials and honors. In May, 2007, the American Legion's National Executive Committee passed Resolution 24, formally endorsing the Missing in America Project (MIAP), a growing network of volunteers who want to see veterans properly laid to rest. Of the hundreds of thousands of unclaimed cremains in funeral homes nationwide, it is estimated that between 10,000 and 15,000 are veterans. Volunteers are proposing laws that will establish cooperation between veterans service organizations, VA, state and federal agencies, funeral homes and crematoriums in order to identify remains of veterans and move them to a national cemetery.

Missing in America Project
2874 Sandalwood St.
Redding, CA 96001
www.miap.us/miap_contacts2.html

The Difference Between Gray and White Portland Cement

Except for their color, white and gray Portland cements are essentially the same. Each product is manufactured by the same methods. However, in producing white Portland cement, iron and oxidation are more controlled.

The reference that "soluble salts" are present in gray but not white cement is not accurate. Neither product contains salts in the traditional sense.

All Portland cement, when combined with water, generates calcium hydroxide and alkali hydroxides through the hydration process. Calcium hydroxide is the most prevalent of the two types of salts produced and indeed soluble. Generally speaking, all portland cement products such as mortar or concrete mixes have an abundance of calcium hydroxide that can be transported to the surface of the concrete or mortar mix where it reacts with carbon dioxide to become calcium carbonate, commonly referred to as efflorescence. Efflorescence is typically a white or off-white deposit on the surface of aged mortar or concrete. Efflorescence is an aesthetic issue and practically speaking, not a structural concern. Because white cement typically contains less soluble alkalies than its gray counterpart, white cement is ever so slightly less likely to effloresce.

Other reasons white Portland cement is a good restoration material of choice: (1) high early strength gain, (2) consistency of color and strength, (3) may be color tinted. Because of these reasons, white portland cement is the better choice when repairing cracks or replacing a small, missing piece of a broken grave marker.

Gray Portland cement is primarily used for making a new concrete grave marker base when color is not a specific concern. The gray Portland pre-mixed concrete may be used to build a large replacement piece for a tablet-style marker. In many cases, the new concrete piece will closely color match the weathered stone. If extensive stone repair is planned, having both types of cement available provides a concrete choice for a particular situation.

--John Heider, SAPIC member from Monticello,
Illinois
jheider@mchsi.com

The articles, "CONCRETE AND CEMETERIES" and "Stone Base Replacement," on the following pages have also been provided by John Heider.

CONCRETE AND CEMETERIES

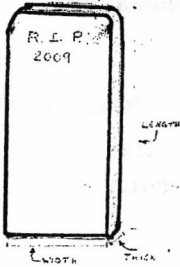
In 1935, during the Great Depression, the United States Government created the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA employed men to restore our rural cemeteries that had leaning or fallen gravestones. It was the practice to place these stones directly into a hole filled with wet, gray concrete. In the last seventy-five years, many of these marker stones have broken off at the concrete surface and leaving a tooth-like stub protruding from its parent concrete.

Today, many well-intending restorers follow the same cemetery practices of the WPA. It is not unusual to visit a cemetery and see 150 year-old marble stones set directly into a hole filled with fresh gray concrete. To the trained professional, this practice is almost a heart stopper because (1) this method will cause later damage, (2) the process is not reversible and, (3) people believed; (a) this method was the best choice, (b) the material was readily available and, (c) it was the least costly.

An epitaph relates: "Stranger, change your ways or ye shall follow me." These words of wisdom might also be applied to our restoration practices. We must change our methods or we will continue to make the same mistakes.

Concrete Use and Grave Markers

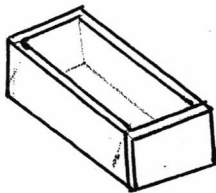
During the 1800's grave stones of sufficient length were placed directly into the ground and shorter markers were set in a keyway or slot of limestone base. This was the preferred method of "setting the stone". However, during the following 150 years, many grave stones would lean or fall because of time, weather, and gravity. These tilting or fallen grave markers are of concern today.



Many of the tall (48+ inches) stone tablet markers may be straightened or reset in a sand-pea gravel mix (50-50) and the tablet will remain upright for another 50-75 years. One hundred and fifty years ago, shorter tablet-style markers were placed into a keyway (slot) of a large stone base. Many of these bases became time damaged and cannot be reused. Hence, a new concrete replacement base is required for grave marker support.

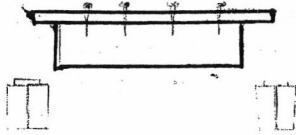
Making a New Concrete Base

Construct a wood, box-style form to hold about 1 to 1 ½ bags of pre-mix concrete. Measurements for a general use form should be about 8 inches deep, 10 inches wide and 24 inches long. These dimensions will allow about a 3 to 4 inch concrete border around the tablet. Box measurements may be adapted to fit a particular size marker by making a temporary insert that will make inside dimensions of the form smaller. Most tablet-style grave markers range in width from 10 to 20 inches. This general size form will serve well and avoid building a new form for every tablet shaped marker.



Slot Block and Keyway

A slot block is the form for making a keyway in a new base. Construct the slot block from two (2) 2 x 4s laminated together. Cut their length to be about 1 inch longer than the width of the tablet. Most tablet markers will fit into the thickness of a keyway made from two (2) laminated 2 x 4s. If not, shim the slot block as necessary. This slot block will have standard straight sides or it may be custom tapered which will improve removal from partially set concrete.

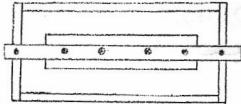


Another choice for a disposable slot block is a polystyrene foam insulation which comes in several different thickness, is inexpensive, and comes in pretty colors of blue, green, or pink. The foam, when cut to dimensions and placed in the concrete, provides a disposable slot block. After the concrete is cured, carefully break out the foam insulation.

Filling the Form with Concrete

With a concrete release material, coat all surfaces that have contact with wet concrete. The release material may be linseed oil, used engine oil, diesel fuel, or a commercial concrete release compound. If none of these are readily available, a plastic bag inserted into the form will serve as a substitute. Poke a few holes in the bottom of the plastic bag for water drainage.

Fasten the slot block to the form and fill the box with concrete. Gently tamp to compact the mixture and tap the form's perimeter to provide a nice smooth finish. With a small hand trowel, taper the concrete away from the slot. Allow the concrete to begin to harden until its surface becomes dull. Trowel the surface smooth and carefully remove the slot block. Allow the concrete to "cure" for several days before removing from the form. If a quick-set concrete is used, the new base may be used the next day.

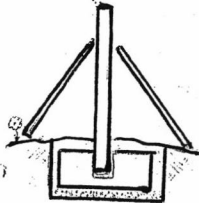


Bedding the Base

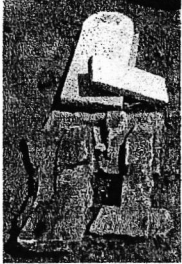
Place the new base on a bed of pre-mixed (50-50) sand and pea gravel. Provide sufficient fill to bring the top of the base to about 2-3 inches below ground level. An alternative method is to place the base top 2 to 3 inches above ground level; this will provide mower protection for a fragile stone.

Setting the Stone

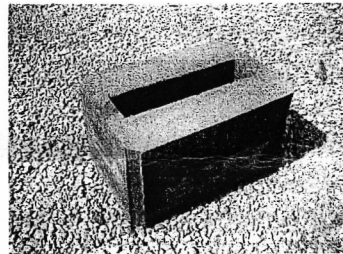
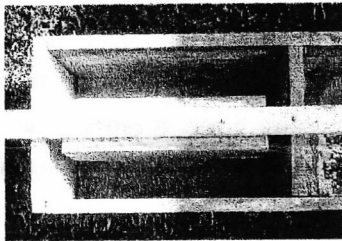
Use a high lime mortar mix (1 part Portland cement, 4 parts hydrated lime, 8 parts washed sand). Combine with sufficient water to produce a nearly dry, stiff mix (if it will retain a ball shape, perfect!). Lightly mist the keyway with water and lay a bed of mortar in the bottom of the slot. Coat the sides of the key with mortar (more at the bottom and tapered toward top). Spray water on the bottom of the marker and carefully place it into the slot. Plumb for vertical and level. Shape a small mortar bead around the stone to allow water run-off. Brace marker with short boards and re-check all procedures. After about one week, remove braces. Fill all voids and slope topsoil away from grave marker.



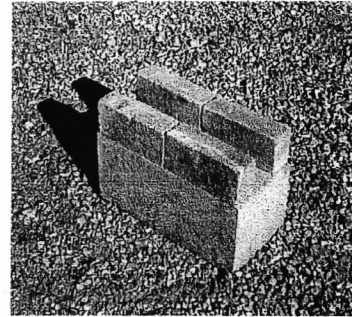
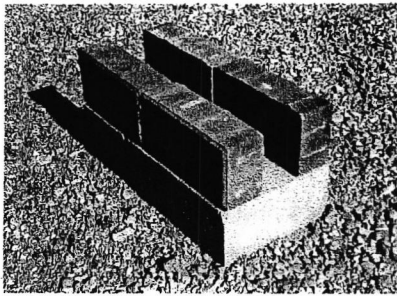
Stone Base Replacement



When an original stone base is discovered, occasionally it may be broken and not repairable. The base material is usually a soft sandstone or limestone that, due to many factors, is broken in several pieces or split in layers. To keep the restoration original, it would be appropriate to repair the broken base pieces, however practicality leans toward making a new and solid, one-piece foundation.



Since the original base cannot be repaired or reused, a new concrete base is the practical substitute. To make this type of replacement requires some carpentry skill, wood, several wood working tools, concrete, and concrete mixing-finishing tools. The regular pre-mix concrete may take several days to cure and a pre-mixed, fast-set concrete may take several hours to set. However, there is another choice; the readily available, pre-formed, solid concrete blocks and bricks.



The solid concrete block comes in several sizes and weight. The recommended sizes are: 4" x 8" x 16" and 8" x 8" x 16". Note: Do not use the common building block with two hollow spaces. Building or patio size bricks form a keyway or slot. Use epoxy on all brick to brick and block to brick contact surfaces. This option of a concrete base construction requires no tools and is ready to use within few minutes. Also the design may be custom made to fit a particular stone and will accommodate grave markers up to 4 inches thick and 16 inches wide.

Use a high lime slot mortar mix* when placing the stone in a keyway. If the mixture is almost dry, very little mortar will be lost with the open ends.

* Slot mortar mix: 1 part white Portland cement, 4 parts hydrated lime, 8 parts clean, washed sand. Application; Use just enough water to make an almost dry mix (if it will make a ball, the mixture is about right).

COUNTY REPORTS

ADAMS

From the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, July 24, 1977, "Road crew unearths 'lost cemetery' near Prescott," by Chuck Barnes. CORNING, IA -- Pictured are stones that were unearthed by members of the Adams county road crew. Three stones were found along the fence line northeast of Prescott. The stones were taken back to the county engineer's office. Although no records could be found about the burials, the county decided to alter the county road slightly to miss the possible cemetery.

-- Mike Magee

APPANOOSE

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 10, 2009: "Vandals strike C'ville cemetery," by Jeff Hutton. Pictured are damaged headstones at Oakland Cemetery in Centerville surrounded by police tape. Nearly 60 headstones damaged; four juveniles charged. More than \$100,000 in damage was done to a local cemetery and the city's wastewater treatment plant. Three of the boys are age 14 and the fourth boy is age 10 -- each boy was charged with two counts of first-degree criminal mischief, a Class C felony and one count of third-degree burglary, a Class D felony.

From the *Des Moines Register.com*, April 24, 2009: "Act of vandalism breaks hearts; city's response is heartwarming," by Daniel P. Finney. Four boys are charged in the crime spree that left 164 tombstones toppled. A court hearing was scheduled for May 7.

Oakland Cemetery has some of the state's oldest graves, including that of Francis Marion Drake, the former Iowa governor, Union brigadier in the Civil War and the man who gave the money to begin Drake University in Des Moines. Jerry Whistler, owner of Centerville Monument Co. and his crew restored most of the monuments with a special crane and other heavy equipment. He reset the stones for \$30 apiece. His normal rate is more than 10 times that. The local funeral director, along with others, donated money.

BLACKHAWK

From the *Waterloo Courier*, March 31, 2009: "Vandals cause more damage at Elmwood Cemetery," by Jeff Reinitz. Pictured are overturned stones in the Elmwood Cemetery in Waterloo where vandals returned over the weekend, wreaking more havoc than a visit two weeks ago. Two weeks ago, about a half dozen stones -- some more than 100 years old -- were toppled or damaged. Officers were also called to Fairview Cemetery where 33 stones were tipped and one was broken. Police increased patrols following the initial damage.

jeff.reinitz@wcfcourier.com

CEDAR

From the *Van Buren County Register*, April 23, 2009, and *Muscatine Journal* and other newspapers: Pictured is

State Representative, Jeff Kaufman, as he receives the "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" award at the April 18 SAPIC meeting. Kaufmann was honored for his past and present nonpartisan legislative efforts on behalf of Iowa's Pioneer Cemetery County Commissions. Kaufmann, who is from Wilton, Iowa, spoke to the SAPIC members and guests in attendance, outlining how the system can and does work across party lines, especially when common public interests can be addressed.

From *The Democrat and Leader*, Davenport, Iowa, September 4, 1949: "What to Do With Early Quaker Cemetery; Now in Heart of Town, Again Worries Citizens of West Branch," by Bernie Corbin. Pictured is the Quaker Cemetery that was established in West Branch in 1850 and abandoned 70 years ago. The town has grown up around the burial grounds and threatening to overrun the once sacred grounds. What disposition to make of the old burial site is a major headache of West Branch officials and citizens today. With the death of the village blacksmith in 1880, a new cemetery was established. Jesse Hoover, the father of former president, Herbert Hoover, was the first to be buried in the new plot. The original cemetery now contains rank weeds and tottering markers.

From the *Iowa Outdoors magazine*, July/August, 2009, pages 28-31: "Hallowed Prairie -- Managing a rural, country cemetery has an eastern Iowa community divided," by Sam Hooper Samuels. Photos by Clay Smith. The Rochester Cemetery may be considered a disgrace, a historic site, a rare and precious patch of native Iowa prairie, a family plot, a political hot potato, an ecological time bomb, or a sanctuary for some of the stateliest white oak trees anywhere in Iowa. Although individual graves may be mowed and well-manicured lawn-like islands, there remains controversy about whether the entire site should be maintained as a traditional cemetery or as a prairie plant preserve.

CHICKASAW

The Chickasaw Co. Cemetery Commission had a Rededication of the Northeast Iowa Garden of Memories was held on Memorial Day, May 25th at 2:30 PM. The cemetery is located on Newell St., Dresden Township, rural Fredericksburg. There were 43 people in attendance from Des Moines, Waterloo, & the surrounding area.

There are 48 burials listed from 1862 - 1960. There were headstones found that were not on the list, all children. Those names are Miney Gardner; F.L., K.A., & Bobbie Delap; Wallie & Nettie Crofts; 3 partially unreadable, one stone I think has the name Crofts on it; one has Our Pet on it, but I can see the name Randall & dates; & one unreadable; also, another base was found! There are 3 Civil War Soldiers, V. Allen; Eugene D Bell; & August F Koeppel.

We would like to thank everyone who came to clear the brush & trees out of the cemetery, tear out the old fence & help with the clearing the grounds under & around the old fence & putting in the new one, helping with the stone work, & the

installation. Also, thanks to our lunch lady who kept us fed when she could! And thanks to everyone one who came to share in rededicating the cemetery& honoring those who rest there.

--Priscilla Reisner

Note: Priscilla also sent several pictures of the day's events, including the speaker, Syvilla Hewitt, and Pastor Ron Pinkney.

CLINTON

At the April meeting of SAPIC in Clinton County, attendees were fascinated with the performance of and information about dogs that can locate unmarked graves. Thanks to the newly created Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission for hosting the meeting at the beautiful Central Community Historical Museum in De Witt, Iowa., and to William Hall and Mike LeBlanc for bringing their dogs.

Stan D. Culley from LeMars, Iowa, provided these web sites that contain videos of dogs locating unmarked graves.

<http://www.k9forensic.org/historical.html>

<http://www.k9forensic.org/video.htm>

From the *Observer*, DeWitt, Iowa/ Oct. 11, 2008, Page 11: "Pioneer cemetery commission plans first project," by Jeremy Huss. A full page of pictures and text outlines the first project tackled by the new Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, the Hess Cemetery on 13th Avenue North in Clinton. Twenty-six pioneer cemeteries have been identified as "pioneer." Other cemeteries that will be getting attention are the Pleasant Hill in rural Clinton and the Hickory Hill Cemetery west of Goose Lake. The accompanying photos show the neglected condition in all three cemeteries.

From the *Observer*, DeWitt, Iowa/Nov. 15, 2008: "Cleanup efforts at pioneer Hess Cemetery deemed successful," by Jeremy Huss, Staff Writer. Pictured is the Hess Cemetery after being cleaned by the members of the Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. The cemetery commission and the Clinton County Conservation Board (CCCB came up with a compromise to improve access and restore grave markers while allowing prairie to remain in some areas. CCCB director, Walt Wickham, deemed the efforts a success. Poor weather prevented CCCB from burning the prairie and instead the site was mowed, which was permissible since the prairie was dormant.

DES MOINES

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 9, 2009: "Cryonic group wants Burlington body disinterred," AP. An Arizona foundation is asking a court to disinter a Burlington man who died in February so his remains can be preserved through a low-temperature process known as cryonic suspension.

Alcor Life Extension Foundation wants to dig up the remains of 81-year-old Orville Martin Richardson, who they claimed is a member and wrote in his will that he wanted his body delivered to the organization.

FAYETTE

Our volunteer pioneer cemetery work crew is back at Otsego Cemetery again this spring for the second year,. Otsego has well over 300 known burials, and was near the settlement of Otsego close to the southern border of Fayette county and the northern border of Buchanan County. When the railroad went through Oelwein , Otsego

residents moved to Oelwein. All that remains of Otsego is the pioneer cemetery and its many tombstones.

Otsego was not scheduled, by law of six burials or fewer in the past fifty years, to become a Pioneer Cemetery until the year 2011. Jefferson Township Clerk and historian Dorothy Gosse arranged for trustee funds be used for materials in the restoration which began in 2008. The new law, twelve or fewer burials in the past fifty years, permits Fayette County to be responsible for materials cost.

Otsego Cemetery will be featured at the July 11 SAPIC meeting in Oelwein, when those in attendance will have the opportunity to see the cemetery work in progress following lunch. Those wishing to visit Otsego on any other date can easily find it as follows: Coming from the north, east, or west turn south at the junction of Iowa Highway 3 (East of Oelwein) and Neon Road. Otsego Cemetery is approximately 2 1/2 miles south of that junction. Those coming Forman the south on highway 150 before the Oelwein city limits, turn right (east) on W10 which is hard surfaced for about 1/2 mile, then continue on gravel to Neon Road, where you turn right (south) and go less than one mile to Otsego Cemetery.

-- Steve Story

HENRY

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 17, 1937: "Convicts Working in Iowa Park find Old Cemetery," by Bob Neese. What might be the oldest cemetery in Iowa was recently discovered by prisoners working in Geode State Park. While hunting for a site for a gravel pit, nine hand-hewn headstones were found buried in brush and timber on a bluff overlooking the Skunk River.

JACKSON

Jackson County Pioneer Cemetery Commissioner, Gerald B. Hingtgen, sent a photo of an unusual tombstone base that measures 36" X 12" and made of cast iron that was found in the Canada Hollow Cemetery. It could have been made about 1860 by local blacksmiths who are buried in the cemetery . There are slots for two markers -- one on each end -- with plantings in the large center opening or possibly it held a glass center to display a burial record. If you have information about such an unusual marker, contact Gerald at: gbajkhb@netins.net

From the *Davenport Democrat and Leader*, August 14, 1927: "Tombstone of Pioneers Ely Problem Now -- Maquoketa Jurist Seeks Advice Upon Disposition of Markers." Workmen at the power dam at Lakehurst uncovered some gravestones that apparently were for the graves of two children of the Cleveland family who lived in the area during the 1860s. At first, a fence was erected around the graves. Later, it was decided that the graves would be in danger of being washed out, so the remains were moved to the Buckhorn cemetery. Judge C. L. Ely, owner of the land, must now decide what to do with the stones.

JASPER

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, May 4, 1949, "Iowans Plow Up Cemetery, Plant it to Oat Crop." Newton, Ia. Jasper county authorities investigate the destruction of a rural cemetery southeast of Galesburg near the Jasper County line. Elk Creek trustees filed charges against unnamed individuals who supposedly removed seven gravestones, piled them against a tree, and plowed the site.

JOHNSON

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, April 1, 1908, "Moving an Entire Cemetery -- Coralville secures more convenient resting place for dead." Iowa City, IA.-- The residents of Coralville are preparing to move their graveyard. The burial place is rather inaccessible and has been used because it was a gift of Ezekial Clark, one of the prominent men of early Iowa. It has been arranged to trade the lot for another nearer the town. The graves are being located and marked. Sixty persons are buried and forty-three graves have been located. The cemetery is so old that many of the graves are worn down level with the rest of the ground and cannot be located. It is supposed that those of the pioneers who cannot be found will be left where they are now resting. The others will be given a journey to the new burying ground.

LEE

From the *Daily Gate City*, April 28, 2009: "Civil War vet honored," by Steve Dunn, Gate City Managing Editor. Pictured in color is Alan Ourth of the Southeast Iowa Civil War Roundtable as he speaks during a ceremony honoring Civil War veteran John Keppel whose grave site is in Keokuk's Oakland Cemetery. Also pictured are Basil Reed of V.F.W. Post 3508, Darien Hives, Mary Sue Chatfield, Johnnie Keppel, Kortney Calhoun, and organizer of the event, Terry Altheide. Chatfield and Keppel are descendants of John Keppel. Keppel was wounded at the Battle of Shiloh and died from his wounds at St. Louis on May 8, 1862. A history of the Keppel family, who came from Holland, is given. More than 300 Civil War veterans are buried in Oakland, including John Ferris, John Ferguson, Fred Gosewisch, William Albertson, and Oliver Conn. The event was sponsored by the Lee County Veterans Project.

A Veterans' cemetery walk was held at the National & Oakland Cemeteries in Keokuk on May 16, 2009. The event was sponsored by the Lee County Veterans Project in association with Ogo's Restaurant and featured actors from Keokuk's Great River Players Theater Group. Veterans featured were: Sarah Thompson, Civil War Nurse and the first woman veteran buried in Keokuk's National Cemetery; John Thorson, only Medal of Honor recipient buried in the National Cemetery; Howard Piersee, Korean MIA who has a Memorial Stone in the National Cemetery; Joseph Patterson, one of only 7 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Lee County; William Davis, native of England who joined a Kansas Regiment in

the Civil War; Jimmy McGhghy, World War II Soldier who was killed in action in France; John Drain, a former slave who became Lee County's last Civil War Veteran; and John Keppel, 21-year-old Civil War soldier who died from wounds received at the Battle of Shiloh.

Organizer Terry Altheide would like to have a Pioneer Patriot's Day statewide on the last Saturday in September.

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, March 26, 2009: "Grave concern," by Adam Belz. Pictured is the grave of a veteran in the Springville Cemetery. The Office of Linn County Veterans Affairs is working on standardizing reimbursement for the care of veterans' graves -- concerned that perhaps some cemeteries unknowingly are double charging for that care. Don Tyne, Linn County's director of Veteran Affairs, said maintenance of many veterans' graves in Iowa is paid for twice (from county and township), and the system needs an update. In a survey of Iowa counties, 29 (about 1/3 of Iowa's counties) responded. 15 counties pay for the care of veterans' graves and 14 don't. Benton County pays \$5 per veteran to each cemetery which comes out to \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.

From the *Cedar Rapids Tribune*, July 17, 1936: "March of Progress Turns Former Cemetery Into a Modern Linn Co. Farm." P. Soukup, northern Linn County farmer, has farmed over land that contains a small family burial plot with 13 graves. It was abandoned 57 years ago. A small but well-kept monument for a baby's grave dated 1857 is used as a support to a corner of the front porch. Remnants of markers are now seen in the barn foundation.

LOUISA

From *Louisa's History*, October 2008, page 18: "New Look for Old Cemeteries." Two primitive cemeteries in Louisa County have had 60 gravestones re-set by Terry's Cemetery Restoration Co., Liscomb, IA, including 40 in the Coffin-Carpenter Cemetery in Oakland Twp. and 20 stones in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Grandview Twp. There are 42 pioneer cemeteries in Louisa County. Other cemeteries renovated over the years are Thompson by the FFA enlisted by Dean Gipple and fenced by Royce Bonnichsen, the Smith-Mormon Cemetery done by Richard and Jane Lehnert, and the Buffington Cemetery by Larry Prior. Commission Chairman, Royce Bonnichsen (319-729-2321 and Secretary, Eleanor Jones (319-523-5654) ask that persons who would like to volunteer to work in pioneer cemeteries to contact them.

MAHASKA

From the *Annals of Iowa*, Winter, 2009, "Muchakinock," by Pam Steck. Steck, a graduate student in history at the University of Iowa, describes the development of a flourishing African American community from the small Iowa coal camp at Muchakinock. She shows how the attitudes and business practices of the coal company executives as well as the presence of strong African American leaders in the community contributed to the

formation of an African American community that was not subjected to the enforced segregation, disfranchisement, and racial violence perpetrated against blacks in many other parts of the United States at that time. (The Muchakinock Cemetery has been restored by the Eddyville FFA Chapter). "Annals of Iowa" is published quarterly by the State Historical Society. Contact the Publications Department at (319)335-3916.

MARSHALL

Wayne Blessing reports that as of March 28, the lime stones have been restored and returned to the Price Cemetery. The bases were set the following weekend. Wayne, who is a professional stone mason, is willing to do repair work in most any cemetery in Iowa on weekends if his mileage is paid. Wayne Blessing, 501 N. St. Zearing, IA 50278. dei1998@netins.net

MONROE

From *The Iowa Griot* – The Newsletter of the African American Museum of Iowa, Volume 9, Issue 1, Spring, 2009, pages 6 and 7: "Buxton -- In Their Own Words." From 1980-1982, scholars from Iowa State University researched Buxton and its former residents. While archaeologists excavated the Buxton site, historians conducted more than 70 oral histories with the town's former residents. Excerpts from the family histories along with several photos are included. (The Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has restored the Buxton Cemetery.)

POLK

From the *Iowa Genealogical Society Newsletter*, June, 2009, page 2: "Historic Cemetery Walk." IGS will cooperate with Woodland Cemetery to conduct a Historic Cemetery walk on Sunday, Oct. 4. They are looking for volunteers to serve as actors and guides. Please contact co-chairs, LaWanda Nepstad, (515)-252-0283, snepstad@prodigy.net or Kaye Sanchez, (515)276-5396, KKCS@aol.com. This will be a very fun event.

STORY

From *Ames "About People and Advertiser"*, May 20, 2009: Pictured is Judy Smith, as she stands by the graves of her ancestors in the Arrasmith Cemetery. The Gilbert Community Historical Society toured the cemetery on April 30, located north of Ames on the west side of Dayton Road. The earliest burial was in 1854; the last recorded burial was in 1865. Many of our pioneer cemeteries are being lost because of lack of interest and neglect. The owner of the land on which the Arrasmith Cemetery is located has taken it upon himself to care for and maintain this small but important piece of our local history. He is doing this with permission of the township in which the cemetery is located and with the gratitude of all of us who treasure the past as we look to the future.

UNION

From the *Creston News Advertiser*, May 14, 2009: "Cemetery Appreciation Month." The text of the

proclamation designating May as Cemetery Appreciation Month was printed, thanks to SAPIC member, Jessie Thompson of Creston. Jessie is a trustee on the board of the Grove Chapel Cemetery and has compiled a set of rules and regulations for the cemetery. This board was organized in 1880 and has never had any regulations. If you have any suggestions for Jessie or wish to share a list of guidelines/regulations, contact her at: 1481 130th St., Creston, Iowa 50801-8025. jthompson@lyrix12s.net

VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 14, 2009: Letters to the Editor -- "Show me the manner in which a nation or a community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people -- their loyalty to high ideals -- and their regard for the laws of the land." -- William Ewart Gladstone (1809-1898) was four times Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Gladstone was known affectionately by his supporters as "The People's William" or the "GOM." (Grand Old Man). Winston Churchill and others cited Gladstone as their inspiration.

In a proclamation signed by Governor Chet Culver on May 2, the month of May was proclaimed "Cemetery Appreciation Month" in the state of Iowa. Please check out the sacred and historic resting places of your ancestors and loved ones to see if they are being respectfully maintained. If so, say "thanks" to the cemetery workers who restore the grounds and markers and conscientiously maintain them.

--Pat Shaw

The Van Buren County Supervisors proclaimed the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month" in Van Buren County at their meeting on May 11, thanks to SAPIC members, Jerry and Betty Boyer.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 14, 2009: "Cave Cemetery history posted online." An article on the history of the Richard Cave Family Cemetery which was located in Bonaparte Township was recently posted on the Iowa GenWeb Project web site for Van Buren County.

<http://iavanburen.org/cavefamilycemetery/>

The history is an expansion of a talk given by Mike Miller at the April 9th meeting of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society. Miller is president of the Bonaparte Historical Society. Richard Caves, who homesteaded with his family near Farmington in 1836, was a mill-wright who also built and captained a steamboat. The location of the now vanished cemetery, known burials, status, and the recommendation for placing a road sign listing the known burials is printed at the end of the article.

WINNESHIEK

From DECORAHNEWS.COM, posted May 5, 2009: Pictured are the Winneshiek County Supervisors with a signed proclamation recognizing May as Historical Preservation Month and Pioneer Cemetery Month. The county board met with local historic preservation representatives Steve Johnson, Kevin Lee and Roger Bergen on Monday and signed the proclamations.

Progress Report of the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission for year 2008.

January: Lee and Meyer met with County Board of Supervisors on Jan. 21, 2008. At that time they presented a Progress Report of WCPCC's activities during 2007 and the organization's fiscal year 2009 budget.

March: WCPCC receive \$125 from the Madison Township Trustees.

April 23rd members attended the Prehistoric Burial Sites and Cemeteries Property Management Workshop at Four Mounds Estate near Dubuque.

May 9th members attended the National Register of Historic Places Workshop in Decorah

May, 12th Winneshiek Board of Supervisors designate May as Pioneer Cemetery Appreciation Month.

May, 20th cemetery tour

May 24th Work day at Garfield Cemetery with tree removal for fencing and survey work.

July: Winneshiek County Fair Booth

Wednesday evening, July 16, the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and the Czech Heritage Partnership joined together in touring the cemeteries in the Spillville area with Michael and Steven Klimesh presenting the unique history of each cemetery.

The final Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission Cemetery Tour for 2008 was held Saturday, September 27. Those participating were: LaVonne Bjergum, Ron and Kathy Dehning, Donna Eberling and daughters Keona and Kiele, Charlie and Glenda Emery, Vickie Harvey, Harvey and Lorraine Houck, Susan Jacobsen, Midge Kjome, Kevin and Carrie Lee, Warren Linnevold, Janelle Pavlovec and Steve Steinberg.

October: The North Building Basement at Wellington Place was toured and considered for a workshop location. Mold issues and cleanup were determined to be too high a project cost with a decision to not pursue the workshop location at this time.

Nov, 8th Don Johnson was buried at big Canoe Methodist Cemetery using a Natural Burial process.

December: Vickie Johnson attends meeting to outline the Natural Burial process.

14 Pioneer Cemeteries were cared for during the year.

Our Pioneer Cemetery Commission has been in existence for over 10 years. Involvement of its members and associates has produced a wealth of knowledge and preservation of not only the pioneer heritage but also retention of a historic landscape with prairie type plants and reclamation of burial boundaries lost to development other than the intention of our ancestors.

Thanks go to the County Supervisors, Decorah Genealogy Association, Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission, Winneshiek County Historical Society and The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries as well as many other individuals volunteering to help all of us.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lee, Chair

From the Sioux City Herald, Orange City, IA, July 28, 1887: The Norwegians of Washington Prairie, near Decorah, have erected a \$350.00 monument in memory of the old settlers buried in an unused cemetery in their neighborhood. The cemetery has not been used for burial for many years, the last burial being in 1864, and it had fallen into decay and desolation.

OUT OF IOWA

ARKANSAS

From *CAPPER'S* magazine, May, 2009: "Honoring veterans:" Pictured is National Junior Honor Student Sara Goldshall, 14, of Horace Mann Magnet School, as she pauses to read the stone marking a veteran's grave as she and her classmates place flags at National Cemetery in Little Rock, Ark., in honor of Memorial Day.

ILLINOIS

From the *New York Times*, March 9, 2009: "A Funeral Museum at Death's Door, by Dirk Johnson. Pictured are prosthetics for preparing bodies, an embalming supply cabinet from the 1920s and Duane Marsh, the chief of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association, on a horse-drawn hearse. All are located in the Museum of Funeral Customs, a stone's throw from Lincoln's Tomb in Springfield. Due to the economy and its failure to attract enough customers, the museum is experiencing financial difficulties. Mr. Marsh said he was working on a plan to keep the museum from closing.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 2, 2009; "Little Girl's tombstone headed back to family." MARION -- In Joliet, Ill., Gina Wysocki's search for a long-lost cemetery dug up a tombstone belonging to Jenete Bissell, who died at less than 2 years in 1952 during a cholera outbreak. Through the Internet and family genealogy web sites, she and Julie Bissell of Marion, Iowa, have pieced together the mystery of how and why the stone was found in a forgotten cemetery in Joliet. Gina is an archaeologist and author of "Digging Up the Dirt: The History and Mysteries of the Will County Poor Farm and Potter's Fields." When many of the graves in the cemetery in Illinois were moved in 1855, Jenete's family had moved to Iowa and couldn't be located. Therefore, her grave was left behind, along with a few others. Her stone will be moved to the Massena Cemetery in Cass County, Iowa and placed beside her older brother.

From *CAPPER'S* magazine, May, 2009: "Bus tours roll in windy city." Chicago Neighborhood Tours, a division of the city's Office of Tourism, has added several new themed half-day bus tours to its offerings. Among them is the "Land of Lincoln" tour (next offered Aug. 1), which travels to Civil War grave sites at Oak Woods Cemetery, the Stephen A. Douglas Tomb and Monument, Grant and Lincoln Parks, and the Chicago History Museum's collection of Lincoln memorabilia. (312)742-1190

www.ChicagoNeighborhoodTours.com

GEORGIA

TODAYShow.com, June 9, 2009: "Largest forgotten cemetery discovered." Bud Merritt was hiking this spring in Milledgeville, Ga., when he discovered a lost cemetery of patients at the largest mental hospital in the United States. Founded by the Quakers in 1842, Central State Hospital once housed more than 13,000 people. Scattered in the surrounding area lie an estimated 30,000 dead -- more than the current population of Milledgeville.

Many were given just numbered markers. This month, a new national memorial dedicated to remembering those unnamed graves of the mentally ill will break ground at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C. A descendant of one such patient, Casey McClain, says that marking these graves is "like our Arlington. It recognizes all of the unknowns and gives them dignity in death that they didn't have in life."

Bud Merritt, c/o Central State Hospital
620 Broad St.
Milledgeville, GA 31062
info@centralstatehospital.org

KENTUCKY

From the *Lexington Herald Leader*, March 16, 2009: "Church, genealogist in tussle --It doesn't want him sharing photos, info from cemetery," by Beverly Fortune. Genealogist David Shannon found graves of several relatives in the Old Union Christian Church Cemetery and proceeded to document the information by posting photos, names, birth and death dates of 475 documented burials on an independent web site. The church board of Old Union felt Shannon's actions were an invasion of privacy and took offense. The Kentucky Department for Public Health's division of vital statistics consider birth and death dates public information. What is inscribed on a tombstone also is public, according to the University of Kentucky College of Law. Some genealogists expressed surprise at Old Union's prohibition on sharing family genealogy information.

bfortune@herald-leader.com

MAINE

<http://www.wmtv.com/cnn-news/19478183/detail.html>
"Revolutionary War Grave Granted New Grave Marker." SHAPLEIGH, Maine -- Shapleigh's superintendent of cemeteries, Ron Rivard, was responsible for providing a new marker for Revolutionary War soldier, Pvt. John Meldrum in the Shapleigh Cemetery. The U.S. Veterans Administration provided a special marker that was unveiled on May 16.

NEW YORK

From the *New York Times*, January 20, 2009: "Under Bus Depot, An Old Cemetery?" by David W. Dunlap. The writer asks if an African burial ground that may have been started at the location of the Reformed Low Dutch Church of Harlem that was founded in 1660, making it one of the few remaining African-American historical sites from the colonial period. An archaeologist will be on site in case excavation reveals any artifacts when the 126th Street Bus Depot is rehabilitated and the replacement of the Willis Avenue Bridge is underway. Robert B. Tierney, the chairman of the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission, is "very interested in a careful review to determine the appropriate level of recognition" if any burial plots are found.

From the *New York Times*, January 29, 2009: "Luxury Quarters, Preowned, Big Markdown," by Alan Feuer.

Pictured is the majestic mausoleum of William Bateman Leeds, a tin-plate magnate who was laid to rest in 1910 at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. Five years ago, his family transferred his remains to Indiana, and his mausoleum is now for sale at an asking price of \$3.5 million. The Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery, a nonprofit group, is overseeing the sale. The front is a bas-relief by Adolph A. Weinman (who designed the Supreme Court) and a door of Gorham Bronze. The sarcophagus is of Italian Carrara marble; the lid alone weighs more than 3,000 pounds.

PENNSYLVANIA

From *Ulster Ancestry* -- Ancestral and family history research in Northern Ireland. www.ulsterancestry.com "Emigrant graves discovered in Philadelphia." Researchers have discovered a mass grave for 57 Irish immigrants who died of cholera just 3 weeks after traveling to Pennsylvania to build a railroad. The bones were found in Duffy's Cut, a wooded area named after Philip Duffy, who hired the immigrants from Fahan, County Donegal, Tyrone and Londonderry City. Researchers plan to extract DNA from the bones and find living descendants of the men in Ireland. The goal is to identify them all and either repatriate their remains or give them proper burials.

SOUTH CAROLINA

From the *Star-Telegram*, April 4, 2009: "Mutilation of corpse of 6-foot-7 preacher prompts investigation," The Associated Press. James Hines, preacher and funk musician, was so big that after he died in 2004, a macabre rumor began circulating in the small town of Allendale that an undertaker had to cut off his legs to fit him in the coffin. This week, Hines' body was exhumed, and the gruesome story appeared to be all too true. The coroner's office has opened a criminal investigation as under state law, destroying or desecrating human remains is punishable by one to 10 years in prison.

TEXAS

From the *Star-Telegram*, January 17, 2009: "A marker for a notorious bit of Fort Worth history," by David Casstevens. Pictured are local author, Rick Selcer, and Fort Worth police Sgt. Kevin Foster as they set a headstone at the grave site of Mary Porter, a one-time Fort Worth madam. Mary Porter, who died in 1905 at age 75, was buried in an unmarked grave alongside three other prostitutes in a plot called "Soiled Doves Row." Donna Donnell, a member of the North Fort Worth Historical Society, Richard Selcer who wrote *Hell's Half Acre*, and Clara Ruddell each contributed to have the marker engraved "Call Me Madam." In Selcer's new book, *Fort Worth Characters*, one chapter will be about Mary Porter.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, January 22, 2009: "Vandals desecrate soldier's grave," The Associated Press. Pictured is Philip Ford at the grave of his son, Cody, where thieves stole a memorial at Jones Creek, Texas. A battle cross that stood 5 feet tall and weighed out 350 pounds, along with his bronzed jump boots,

bronzed assault rifle, and bronzed helmet were stolen. The vandals could face charges of felony theft and misdemeanor desecration of a venerated object.

From the *Fort Worth Weekly*, March 3, 2009: "Dead-End Deal," from Static, a column expressing opinions of area events. SAPIC member, Sidney Louis, who contributed the article, explains that a deposit called "Barnett shale" underlies much of north Texas and is purported to hold huge amounts of natural gas. Chesapeake Energy wants a waiver to create a high-impact drill site at Greenwood Memorial Park, a cemetery on White Settlement Road. Some homeowners in the area are objecting to the truck traffic that would result.

From the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, March 4, 2009: "Chesapeake is given the OK to drill at Greenwood," by Mike Lee. The City Council voted unanimously to give Chesapeake a high-impact permit for the site, but the company must first install a saltwater-removal pipeline. A Chesapeake spokesman estimated that the site would produce \$14 million in royalties to landowners, including Greenwood Cemetery. The pipeline supposedly would reduce the need for some truck traffic. The cemetery will use its share of the royalties for capital improvement.

From the *Star-Telegram*, March 5, 2009: EDITORIALS "Barnett Shale -- Urban drilling -- Fort Worth has just provided a 'how-to' lesson in urban gas drilling." The editorial concludes that in today's faltering economy, the enticing prospect of \$14 million in royalties is a good reason for finding common ground between Chesapeake and the Crestwood neighborhood residents.

From the *Star-Telegram*, March 21, 2009: "Fort Worth policeman is finally honored at his final resting place," by David Casstevens. Pictured is Tom Wiederhold, president of the Fort Worth Police Historical Association, dressed in a replica of an early 1900s police uniform at the grave of Louis Park Moore, one of Fort Worth's finest police officers. Also pictured is Deborah Moore Clark, a family genealogist and ordained minister, with the marker she purchased for the grave of her great-great-uncle. Louis Park Moore died in 1908 at the age of 56 and was laid to rest in an unmarked grave.

VERMONT

From the *Skeptical Inquirer*, Volume 33, Issue 2, March/April, 2008, page 16-19. "Searching for Vampire Graves," by Joe Nickell, PhD. www.joenickell.com The author tells of his search for vampire cases in Vermont. The earliest reported vampire incident took place in Manchester in 1793 involving the wife of Captain Isaac Burton, Rachel Harris. After she died of consumption shortly after their marriage, Captain Burton married Hulda Powell. She became ill with consumption and the family believed that if the vitals of the first wife could be consumed by being burned in a charcoal fire, it would effect a cure for the second wife. After researching manuscripts and family history, he confirms the sequence of marriages and deaths, but there is no mention of the

vampire tale. If it did happen, the anti-vampire magic was no cure for consumption, as the second wife died later that year. Other vampire stories include one in which sources claim a vampire's heart was burned on the public green around 1829 in Woodstock. This was an attempt to cure a man of consumption by burning the heart of his brother who had died six months before. Another case involving consumption and superstition has been interpreted as a "vampire incident." After six or seven children of Leonard Spaulding had died of consumption in 1788, a vine or root of some kind grew from coffin to coffin. When it reached the last coffin, another one of the family would die. The only way to destroy the influence or effect was to break the vine by taking up the body of the last one buried and burn the vitals. This was done to save the life of the last daughter, Olive, who did live on for years. These tales, along with some references to vampires in New Orleans, are mentioned in the article. Acknowledgments and references are included at the end of the article.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, April 6, 2009: "Ex-worker calls vets' mortuary 'disturbing,'" The Associated Press. A funeral home that helps handle veterans awaiting burial at Arlington National Cemetery left corpses in an unrefrigerated garage, hallways and on makeshift gurneys, according to a former embalmer who has given his photographs and notes to authorities, *The Washington Post* reported. Steven Napper, who worked for the Houston-based Service Corporation International, saw as many as 200 corpses not properly cared for. An investigation by the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers is underway. In 2003, Service Corporation International reached a \$100 million settlement with hundreds of families over allegations involving two Florida cemeteries.

WISCONSIN

From the *Wisconsin State Journal*, May 16, 2009: "Old cemeteries not forgotten," by Ron Seely. Pictured is the Pioneer Cemetery, one of three historic burial places on the grounds of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant in Sauk County. The ownership, maintenance, and preservation of the Pioneer, Miller, and Thelke Cemeteries have been one of the final issues preventing the transition of the 7,354 acre former munition site into restored prairie and oak savanna. A tentative agreement has been reached with the city of Sumpter and the Sauk County Historical society to assume ownership. The proposal calls for an independent group, such as a friends organization to take responsibility for the basic upkeep. The Badger Cemetery Committee is currently looking for help in finding descendants of the people buried in the three cemeteries to have input and the group is also looking for volunteers to help protect and care for the cemeteries. If you or someone you know is interested, contact the Sauk County Historical Society, P.O. Box

651, Baraboo, WI 53913 or e-mail: bteemas@msn.com

ITALY

From the *Skeptical Inquirer*, September/October 2008, pages 27-29. "Hunting for Spooklight," by Massimo Polidoro. www.massimopolidoro.com
The author and his colleague, Luigi Garlaschelli, are investigating the "will o' the wisp" phenomenon or spooklights usually seen around graveyards and marshes at night. Folklorists have collected legends related to these mysterious lights, including the fact that they could be some form of spirit lights or have a paranormal origin. Some scientific theories are that they are a parasitic kind of fungi known also as "honey fungus," barn owls with luminescent plumage, or that the lights are generated piezoelectrically under a tectonic strain (faults in rocks that cause heat, vaporizing water in them). One of the most popular scientific explanations for ghost lights is that the oxidation of hydrogen phosphide and methane gas produced by the decay of organic material may cause glowing lights to appear in the air. Although Luigi was able to replicate the lights in a laboratory, they were not able to see them up close in a cemetery at night.

CHINA

From the *New York Times International*, April 8, 2009, "Activist Beaten in Cemetery Near Beijing," by Sharon LaFraniere. On tomb-sweeping day, when the Chinese traditionally honor the dead, Sun Wenguang came to the cemetery to honor Zhao Ziyang, a former prime minister and Communist Party general secretary who sympathized with the student-led pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square in 1989. As Mr. Sun entered the cemetery in the city of Jinan, he was beaten by four or five men. He is now in a Jinan hospital with broken ribs and other injuries, according to China Human Rights Defenders, a Hong Kong-based group. A statement by the group said that Chinese authorities are staging a campaign of terror to intimidate and suppress expressions of commemoration for the 1989 Tiananmen massacre.

IRELAND

From the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, February 11, 2009: "Unbaptized babies -- correcting 'mistaken theology.'" The Associated Press. DUBLIN -- Archaeologists began searching for unmarked mass graves containing hundreds of unbaptized babies and infants buried by the Catholic Church on the edge of Belfast Cemetery. The Catholic Church teaches that baptism is essential for a soul to enter heaven. Newborns and infants who died before baptism were deemed ineligible for salvation and were not buried in consecrated ground. The Church has no formal doctrine on the matter. In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI reversed that teaching.

Thanks to all contributors to this newsletter. A copy of any article may be obtained from Pat Shaw. Copyrighted materials may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

SAPIC GRANT APPLICATION

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

NAME OF CEMETERY: _____

LOCATION: _____

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BURIAL SITE: _____

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

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

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

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

You may copy this application and add any comments on the back.

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

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS: JULY 10, 2009
MAIL TO: STEVE STORY, 18883 250TH ST., HAWKEYE, IA 52147-8129
OR E-MAIL: dstory@netins.net

SAPIC DUES MAY BE PAID NOW FOR 2009

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION New ___ Renewal ___ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address _____

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

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

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


State of Iowa
Executive Department

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

PROCLAMATION

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

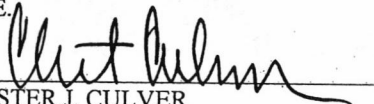
NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY, 2009, AS

CEMETERY APPRECIATION MONTH


IN IOWA.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERETO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 1ST DAY OF MAY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND NINE.


CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:


MICHAEL A. MAURO
SECRETARY OF STATE