

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535
VOLUME 14 ISSUE #3

www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/
July 2009

The Oct. 10, 2009 meeting of SAPIC will be held at the Pizza Ranch at 520 Livingston Ave., Creston, Iowa (about a block north of Highway 34 on Highway 25) at 10:00 AM. There will be fruit pizza and coffee available prior to the meeting, which is being hosted by the Union County Genealogical Society. Weather permitting, the Robert and Phyllis Carter Award will be presented to Steve and Kathy Francis at one of the cemeteries in which they have worked. Contact person is Jessie Thompson. E-mail: jthompson@lyrix12s.net Phone 641-782-5366

SAPIC is pleased to have been able to award grants to the following:

Hickory Hill Cemetery, Clinton County
Old Quincy Cemetery, Adams County
Union Chapel Cemetery, Madison County
Concord Cemetery, Louisa County
Grant Township Cemetery, Monona County

The grants were approved at the July meeting that was held in Oelwein, Iowa. Thanks to the members of the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission for hosting the meeting.

FUNNY EPITAPHS

Bury me not when I am dead
Lay me not down in a dusty bed
I could not bear the life down there
With earth worms creeping through my hair.

Aaron S. Burbank (1818-1883)
Epitaph 186
Over Their Dead Bodies: Yankee Epitaphs & History, 1962
Edited by Thomas C. Mann & Janet Greene

I expect nothing. I fear no one. I am free.
Nikos Kazantzakis (1883-1957)
On his gravestone in Herakleion, Crete

MORE FUNNY EPITAPHS

We have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night.

John Brashear (1840-1920) and
Phoebe Brashear (d 1910)
Paraphrase from "The Old Astronomer
to his Pupil."
by Sarah Williams

Think of the poorest person you have ever seen and ask if your next act will be of any use to him.

Mahatma Gandhi (1856-1948)
Inscribed over his tomb

*It is so soon that I am done for,
I wonder what I was begun for.*

Unknown
For a child aged three weeks
Cheltenham Churchyard

A zealous locksmith died of late,
And did arrive at heaven gate,
He stood without and would not knock,
Because he meant to pick the lock.

Unknown
"Puritanical Locksmith"
Remains Concerning Britain, 1637
by William Camden (1551-1623)

Vivi, mortuus sum, non curo.
(I lived, I'm dead, I don't care.)

Unknown
Latin Epitaph

Excuse my dust.

Dorothy Parker (1893-1967)
Her own suggestion,
Vanity Fair, 1925.

-- Thanks to Stan D. Culley

Web site to various cemetery information links:
<http://potifos.com/cemeteries.html>

Arlington National Cemetery officials and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have committed to restore rather than replace the historic Tomb of the Unknowns. The institutions informed the National Trust for Historic Preservation that they have reversed course and restoration work is scheduled to begin in September 2009. The National Trust for Historic Preservation raised the alarm regarding possible replacement in September 2007.

members@nthp.org

www.PreservationNation.org

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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

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340 Maple St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
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515-281-4441

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

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State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries
Board Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2009

President Steve Story called the meeting to order at 10:05 am at The Plaza, Oelwein, Iowa with 31 members and guests present from Iowa and Illinois.

Welcome to Oelwein was offered by Mike Kennedy, Fayette County Supervisor.

Agenda: Motion to approve by Mike Magee, seconded by Fred Reisner; Passed.

Secretary appointment: Frieda Davis by Steve Story.

Introduction of Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery commission members and hosts of today's meeting.

Members present reported on activities currently under way.

Minutes: Motion to approve by Bill Reedy, seconded by Frieda Davis; passed.

Treasure report by Val Ogren: Motion to approve by Pat Shaw, seconded by Priscilla Reisner; Passed.

Newsletter report: Pat Shaw spoke to non profit status -- Larry Davis continues work on it. Pat open to suggestions.

Old business:

Mike Magee reported on status of Syracuse Cemetery in Bremer County. At the court hearing, negotiation was requested so it is in limbo again. Rick Boorum is not well so his son is pursuing the issue in his place.

Bill Reedy addressed the legal issues concerning the Syracuse Cemetery situation.

New Legislation: (1) adverse position was passed, also that (2) the definition of "pioneer cemetery" is one which there have been 12 or fewer burials in the preceding fifty years.

Display booth for SAPIC information for Iowa General Assembly; discussed by Steve Story and asked for volunteers to man the booth.

Grant applications: for \$200 each

1 Blakely from Monona County, Grant Township Cemetery; Moved to award the grant by Pat Shaw, seconded by Tony; Passed.

2 Sinkson from Clinton Co., Hickory Hill; Moved to award the grant by Pat Shaw, seconded by Mike Magee. Passed.

3 Floyd Lawrence from Adams Co., Quincy Cemetery; moved to award the grant by Bill Reedy, seconded by Fred Reisner; Passed.

4 Potabom from Madison Co., Union Chapel Cemetery (near Patterson); moved to award the grant by Val Ogren, seconded by Benjamin; Passed.

5 Eleanore Jones from Louisa Co., moved to award the grant by Priscilla Reisner, seconded by Bill Reedy; Passed

6 Rick Boroom, Syracuse Cemetery in Bremer County to pay for lobbyist to change wording in the law: Moved to table to October meeting for further discussion by Pat Shaw, seconded by Fred Reisner; Passed

Robert and Phyllis Carter Award: given to a cemetery worker either in education or service. Nominee this year is Steve Francis, Creston, IA; motion to approve this nominee by Pat Shaw, seconded by Priscilla Reisner, Passed.

Information sheet made available concerning Dennis Britson, cemetery advocate.

SAPIC meetings: October is a mandated board meeting, others in Jan, April and July. Discussion concerning changing meeting month as Jan. is usually cancelled or low in attendance because of weather. Be prepared to discuss at next meeting.

Next Meeting: Union County suggested by Pat Shaw. She will seek approval and location for October meeting.

Steve will appoint committee to seek nomination for officers and board members.

Twenty nine years ago Steve Story began restoring/renovating cemeteries!
Congratulations on your anniversary!

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon by Steve Story.

Submitted by Frieda Davis, pro tem

At 12:30 pm we motored to Otsego Pioneer Cemetery, near Oelwein and viewed work in progress!

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 2nd Quarter – 1 April 2009 thru 30 June 2009

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2009, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$2230.93
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 370.00	
Interest 4/30/09	.99	
Interest 5/31/09	.98	
Interest 6/30/09	<u>1.11</u>	
Total Income	\$ 373.08	
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #223 – Patricia Shaw – Newsletter postage, etc.	\$ 54.87	
& Postal Bulk Rate Fee	<u>185.00</u>	
Total Expense	\$ 239.87	
Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2009		\$2364.14
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2009, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 3,728.39
(no activity this quarter)		
Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2009		\$ 3,728.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 30 June 2009 \$ 6,092.53

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, July 8, 2009

From Iowa Public Television, "History Detectives."
CEMETERY ALARM Season 7, Episode 3. The
Detective: Wes Cowan. The place: Michigan, Ohio.
The Case: History Detectives tackles the case of a man
who collects war munitions and has snapped up an item at
an estate auction that looked like a Civil War-era weapon.
On closer inspection, and after consulting with other
collectors, he decides he has a grave alarm, an explosive
device meant to guard against grave robbers. These
bombs/torpedoes were placed in the casket or on top of
the casket when buried and if anyone tried to disturb the
grave potentially 3/4 lb. of black powder would explode
sending shards of flying metal in all directions.

FEATURE: BODY SNATCHING AROUND THE WORLD.
The dark practice of body snatching is directly tied to the
advancements in the study of anatomy and medicine. The
term was coined to describe the act of secretly removing
corpses from graves for sale, primarily to medical schools
where they were used for dissection and anatomy
lessons. Mass graves of the poor and bodies of criminals
were often targeted. It became common in Europe for the
relatives of the deceased to watch over their graves and
many means of prevention were developed, such as iron
coffins, grave alarms and more famously the iron bar
structure built around a coffin know as a Mortsafe. The
dark practice continues to haunt the dead today, as body
parts are sold for transplant and medical study. Although
there are many modern laws designed to prevent body
snatching, it continues to be a lucrative underground
business.

From the University of Nebraska Press: *Pioneer
Cemeteries -- Sculpture Gardens of the Old West* by
Annette Stott. Hardcover 2008. 404 pp. 978-0-8032-
1608-2. \$36.95. As pioneers attempted to settle and
civilize the "Wild West," cemeteries became important
cultural centers. Filled with carved wooden headboards,
inscribed local stones, and Italian marble statues,
cemeteries functioned as symbols of stability and
progress toward a European-inspired vision of Manifest
Destiny. As repositories of art and history, these pioneer
cemeteries tell the story of communities and visual culture
emerging together within the developing landscape of the
Old West.

Annette Stott traces this story through Rocky Mountain
towns on the western frontier, from the unkempt "boot
hills" of the early mining camps and cattle settlements to
the more refined "fair mounts." She shows how people
from Asia, Europe, and the Americas contributed to the
visual character of mountain cemeteries, and how the
sepulchral garden functioned as an open-air gallery of
public sculpture, as once a site for relaxation, learning, and
social ritual. Here, widespread participation in a variety of
ceremonies brought mountain communities together with
a frequency almost unimaginable today. Illustrated with
eighty-three striking photographs, this book shows how
the pioneer cemetery emerged as a site of public

sculpture and cultural transmission in which each carved or
molded monument played dual (and sometimes
conflicting) public and private roles, recording the
communities' history and values while memorializing
individuals and events.

Annette Stott is the director of the School of Art and Art
History and a professor of art history at the University of
Denver. She is the author of *Holland Mania: The
Unknown Dutch Period in American Art and Culture*.

2009 Colorado Book Awards, history category, finalist.

-- Contributed by Rosalie Ahrendsen

Civil War Graves web site:

www.geocities.com/austinblair2000/identifyingcivilwargraves.htm

From the *New York Times*, July 21, 2009: "Home Burials
Offering an Intimate Alternative, at a Lower Cost," by Katie
Zezima. PETERBOROUGH, N.H. --Pictured is the home
funeral for Nathaniel Roe, 92, who died on June 6. His
family handled the arrangements. They washed the
body, dressed it, and placed it in a coffin made by Mr.
Roe's son. "It just seemed like the natural, loving way to
do things," said his granddaughter. The Roes spent
\$250.

More people are inquiring about the lower-cost options,
said Joshua Slocum, director of the Funeral Consumers
Alliance, a nonprofit watchdog group. The cost savings
can be substantial. The average American funeral costs
about \$6,000.

"It's organic and informal, and it's on our terms," said
Nancy Manahan of Minneapolis who co-authored a book,
"Living Consciously, Dying Gracefully," about the
experience she had helping to care for her sister-in-law.

Also pictured is Chuck Laken as he assembles a pine
coffin at his home in Waterville, Me. The coffins are used
as bookcases until needed.

Jerrigrace Lyons, a "death midwife" from Sebastopol,
California, has opened a business called Final Passages to
help others plan home funerals. There are at least 45
organizations or individuals nationwide that help families
with the process, compared with only two in 2002. In 44
states, including Iowa, loved ones can be responsible for
the body themselves without the services of a funeral
director and burial can be made on private land.

Note: Kevin Lee of Winneshiek County reports that two
"green burials" have been made in cemeteries there.
Copies of this article will be available at the next SAPIC
meeting or may be requested from Pat Shaw. Thanks to
SAPIC member Sidney Louis for contributing the article.

Sign in a cemetery: **PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED
FROM PICKING FLOWERS FROM ANY BUT THEIR
OWN GRAVES.**

COUNTRY CEMETERY

Abandoned many years ago,
The church that stood here long since
burned,
Now only birds and small wild game
Still build and burrow, unconcerned.

On leaning stone and marble slab,
Old-fashioned to the modern eye,
We read the names, perhaps a verse,
Intriguing to the passer-by.

Blurred by the weather and the years
They cast a sweet and poignant spell;
Had we the time to listen close
They have a moving tale to tell.

"Our Darling" mutely testifies
Fond hopes and dreams were buried here;
While "Mother", "Father", "Husband",
"Wife",
Were once, to someone, very dear.

This spring, it seems, no one will come
To tend a single brambled plot,
Where sleep these sturdy pioneers
In what was once a hallowed spot.

We are not proud of how it looks,
This old memento of the past;
But super highways, schools and such
Consume tax dollars very fast.

-- G. A. C.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 23, 1941, Carlson's
Corner column. Contributed by Mike Magee.

To the SAPIC Board,

The \$200 grant check for the Louisa County
Pioneer Cemetery Commission has arrived. Thank
you so much for your consideration. We will be using
it, as stated, for the access road into Concord
Cemetery near Morning Sun. Our commission has
done work in the graveyard when the road was in
better shape so we are delighted to be able to bring it
back to the place where vehicles can once again drive
up to the gate. Then we will make sure it is
maintained. Again, thank you SAPIC.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Jones, Secretary

Thank you for the check from SAPIC I received
for the restoration of stones (some 150 years old)
at Grant Township Cemetery, Monona County,
IA. The restoration company will be here in the
next week or two and get the work done for us.

Our auxiliary - Grant Cemetery Society - is
grateful for the support of SAPIC and on behalf
of that organization, I thank you for your check.

Helen Blakely, Township Clerk and
Auxiliary Member.

Steve, I would like to thank you and the SAPIC
organization for the \$200.00 grant for clean up
work in Clinton County pioneer cemeteries. It is
greatly appreciated. If you would pass this note
along to the rest of the organization. Thanks
again.

Ann Soenksen, President of the Clinton
County Pioneer Cemetery
Commission

"Cursed be he who removes his neighbor's
landmark." -- Deuteronomy 27:17

2009 Midwest Archaeological Conference
Sheraton Hotel 210 Dubuque Street
Iowa City, Iowa October 15-18, 2009

Organizer: John F. Doershuk, Ph.D., RPA
State Archaeologist University of Iowa
700 Clinton St., Iowa City, IA 52242-1030
Ph. 319-384-0751 john-doershuk@uiowa.edu
www.uiowa.edu/~osa/index.html

Cost: \$70.00 or \$25.00 per day.

Conference includes a session on historic
cemeteries. Historic Cemeteries (note: not the official
symposium name)

Contact; Robin Lillie (robin-lillie@uiowa.edu) (especially
needs additional participants!)

Perseverance is failing 19
times and succeeding the 20th.



COUNTY REPORTS

Appanoose

From the *Centerville Daily Iowegian*, June 23, 2009: "Court makes ruling in graveyard vandalism case," by Michael Schaffer. Three Centerville teens have been ordered probation, community service and restitution for their role in the April vandalism of Oakland Cemetery and the Centerville wastewater treatment plant. Judge William Owens ordered the youths to probation, 200 hours of community service, and to pay restitution. This involves the city's \$1,000 insurance deductible for damage to the wastewater treatment facility and nearly \$5,000 paid to the Centerville Monument Company owner Jerry Whisler who did repair work at a special price. Whisler's services could have cost 10 times more. Families affected by the vandalism contributed \$775. A fourth boy, age 10, was returned to his mother's custody. The judge issued a stern warning if any of the boys violate any term of the probation: "And I suggest you bring your toothbrushes with you, because you won't be going home after that hearing."

Boone

From the *Perry Daily Chief*, September 9, 1913: "Cemetery is Deeded to Township Trustees." Transfer of bodies in Old Williams Burying Ground located west of

Madrid was completed at a cost of \$4667.88 to Milwaukee Road. Eighty-three bodies were taken up from the ground which was needed to brace the gigantic fill which joins on the high bridge of the Milwaukee Road across the Des Moines River. An undertaker was present along with relatives of the deceased. New caskets and lots in other cemeteries were secured. Expenses included undertaker fees, railroad fare for the relatives, livery, board for relatives and incidentals, all arising from the transfer of bodies. The bodies were taken to Mount Hope Cemetery, Hopkins Grove, Fairview, Hull, Seevers and the Boone City cemetery.

Blackhawk

From the *Waterloo Daily Reporter*, May 26, 1898: "Cemetery Abandoned." James Holmes yesterday disinterred the remains of his son, Willis Holmes, from the cemetery out on Wm. H. Thompson farm in Eagle Township. The remains, together with those of an infant child of Alfred Emerson were brought to this city and reinterred in Elmwood cemetery. The cemetery in the Thompson area was established about twenty years ago. Eight bodies were buried there, but three have now been removed. The caskets were in a good state of preservation in spite of the fact they were buried eighteen or twenty years ago. Most of the families which were interested in the cemetery for years have now removed from the vicinity, and as the expense of keeping it up was considerable it was decided to abandon it and remove the bodies to other places.

From the *Waterloo Daily Times-Tribune*, July 2, 1907: "Bodies will be exhumed." Bodies will be taken up and removed from Elmwood to South Waterloo. Four bodies of the Anibal family, two of whom died of a contagious disease, will be removed. It was necessary to get a permit from the state board of health.

Bremer

From the *Waterloo Courier*, June 24, 2009: "Eagle Scouts." WAVERLY - Pictured are Randy Moeller and Matt Tolan

who were recognized at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at June 28 at the Trinity United Methodist Church. Moeller planned and supervised the building of three cedar benches for the Waverly Child Care & Preschool. Tolan charted, cleaned, repaired and straightened tombstones at Spring Lake Cemetery in Lafayette Township, a pioneer cemetery, as designated by the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries. The project involved 255 total service hours under his direction.

Carroll

From the *Carroll Times*, September 18, 1913: "Farm at Auction." H. N. Heller, owner of a farm, offers his 198 1/2 acre farm for sale in Carroll County with exception of one acre which has been designated for cemetery purposes.

Chickasaw

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 26, Number 2, Second Quarter 2009, p.10: The Chickasaw Co. Cemetery Commission had a Rededication of the Northeast Iowa Garden of Memories cemetery on Memorial Day, May 25th at 2:30 PM. Forty-three people attended from Des Moines, Waterloo, and the surrounding area. Syvilla Hewitt of Fredericksburg, whose descendants are buried in the cemetery, told of the area's history. The program ended with taps sounded by Mike Tupper (pictured). A list of burials, including 3 Civil War soldiers is printed. The Commission thanked all those who cleared the grounds, installed fence, helped with stone work, and furnished lunch.

-- Priscilla Reisner

Emmett

From the *Estherville Daily News*, December 24, 1968: "County Town That Faded Away," by Harriet Johnson. Pictured is Robert Woods as he checks the Oct. 2, 1879 date of the original plat of Swan Lake Village. The living room of his farm home is on the site of the village's post office. In 1948, the administrator for Woods' farm obtained a court order to vacate streets and

alleys in the original town. He was told to leave a road to the cemetery which is fenced off in a field. About seven tombstones are still standing, but many graves were dug up and moved after the withering of Swan Lake. A cemetery plat book, dated 1887, owned by Lewis Harvey, shows 120 plots. Plots were sold for \$3 a lot to residents, whose names are listed in the article.

Fayette

From the *Oelwein Daily Register*, July 14, 2009: "Group says cemeteries are window to the past." Pictured are SAPIC members who gathered at the Otsego Cemetery near Oelwein after their meeting on July 11. SAPIC president, Steve Story, and the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission hosted the meeting held at the Oelwein Community Plaza. Steve explained the purpose and mission of SAPIC in the article which also summarizes the discussions held during the meeting. SAPIC members say the public needs to learn to respect the fact that cemeteries honor our ancestors, and they should never be vandalized or be allowed to be vandalized. "We need to appreciate the history that can be found in a cemetery. Volunteer, encourage your county to become involved and form a pioneer cemetery commission. Be aware that original Iowa pioneer soil can be found in cemeteries," Story said.

Johnson

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, April 1, 1908: "Moving an Entire Cemetery -- Coralville Secures More Convenient Resting Place for Dead." Iowa City, Iowa -- the residents of Coralville are preparing to move their graveyard which is rather inaccessible and has been used because it was the gift of Ezekiel 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 are worn down level with the rest of the ground and cannot be located. The others will be given a journey to the new burying ground.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, September 10, 1973: The county supervisors heard a report that a private cemetery exists on section 34 Liberty township of Johnson County. The Liberty township trustees requested the supervisors to assume control of the cemetery which is not fenced and does not have an access road leading to the three dozen tombstones. Ownership of the site is in doubt. The supervisors unanimously agreed to request the county attorney's office to investigate the county's responsibility. It is likely the county will assume responsibility of fencing and weed control on the location.

Keokuk

SAPIC member, Marge Spencer, reports on the progress of the Coal Creek cemetery issue. The graves of Marge's ancestors are located in Coal Creek, a Quaker cemetery. After numerous phone calls to various persons, she learned that the Conservative Friends Meeting has turned the cemetery over to the county. The clerk of the Prairie Township trustees reported that he received a \$500 check from the Friends Meeting, which may be used to repair the fence. He indicated a desire to mow the shoulder-high grass. Marge repaired and braced her ancestor's stone. He died in 1882 and his wife died in 1925. Their stones have appeared to be the same size for many years -- about a foot high. When dug up, his stone had a lot more writing on it and is nearly 2 foot high. The back was broken off of the base and the stone had sunk down into the ground! Her stone is set in about 2 handfuls of cement ... the whole thing can easily be picked up with one hand. There were a couple of pieces of cement in the ground around his stone, so Marge thinks that when they placed her stone, they put a little cement around his stone, also.

Linn

From the last will and testament of J. C. Leonard, February 5, 1932: "First, Feeling as I do that the old style inexpensive burial of our fathers, is much more to be desired than the vanities and extravagances of present age, we wish to be

buried as follows: Do not turn my remains over to any undertaker as he will drain the veins and arteries and fill them full of arsenical poisons or other chemicals which will injure the earth-worms that God created to consume it. We desire the cheapest coffin purchased that can be bought in the city, and after putting on the suit of clothes that we have last worn, put over it my old Galloway fur over-coat that has served me so faithfully in my mountain trips over the Continental Divide in the dead of winter. Also, in my coffin use the pillow with a fresh pillow case that I have used for years." The will continues with three more paragraphs of explicit instructions regarding the burial of his remains, including having no church service, no notice of death published, and no headstone erected.

Lucas

From the *Boyden Reporter*, July 23, 1935: "Strange Find." In the ruins of Dewey Jessup's home near Chariton, Iowa, which burned recently, Jessup discovered a grave marker made of native stone. It bore the inscription: "Emma, daughter of J. B. and C. L. Rodgers, died March 17, 186_." One theory is that the house may have been erected on a former cemetery site. Another and more likely one is that the stone never was placed on a grave, since the date is not complete. It is thought the marker was discarded and later used as part of the house's foundation.

Mahaska

From the *Oskaloosa Daily Herald*, July 3, 1950 (The Herald's 100th anniversary): "Mahaska's Cemeteries Located By Local DAR Chapter." The first cemetery in the county was on an acre of ground donated by Judge John White who lived on a ridge southwest of town near Jefferson school. A California emigrant who died on his way west was the first person buried there. The article provides a brief history of other early burial grounds and a listing of known cemeteries in the county.

From the *Keo-Mah Genealogical Society Family Research Center* newsletter,

July/August/September 2009, page 3: The writer, assumed to be editor Mabel Daniels, refers to the Old White Cemetery located east north of Penn College in which it is claimed that the college "has stolen part of the cemetery land to set a new building." The writer claims that stones are on the side of the drive made to get to the building and asks who gave them the authority to do such a thing or if they just decided to take the land. The caretaker stated that he found evidence of college students having parties there. The writer states that the college donated a few dollars for maintenance of the cemetery and wonder if this justifies what they have done. The writer encourages others to send letters to the Editor of the *Oskaloosa Herald* concerning the action.

Marion

From the *Pella Chronicle*, July 1, 1926, page eight: "Legion Boys Care for Old Soldier's Grave." A number of members of Van Veen-Van Hemert Post, The American Legion, drive to the farm of Mrs. H. Blom, seven miles southeast of Pella Tuesday evening and gave needed attention to the grave of Civil War veteran, Peter Howard, in a small cemetery on the place. Howard was a member of Co. A. 40th Iowa Infantry and died in 1882. The grave was neglected for several years being cleaned up and the stone reset.

Marshall

In an e-mail message from SAPIC member, Sharon Sturek, dated March 16, 2009, she reports on developments at the Price Cemetery. The Eden Township trustees are taking it over as an owned cemetery and will now be in charge of its maintenance. Wayne Blessing, who restored many stones there, will continue to do more work, weather permitting.

Muscatine

From the *Muscatine Journal and News-Tribune*, March 27, 1931: "Old Graves Discovered in Burying Ground Near High Prairie -- All Members of the Miller Family." Situated on a hill about three

miles west of the High Prairie church is an old private graveyard containing three graves whose headstones bear the dates of 1842, 1842, and 1870. A poetic description of the burial ground and the graves is printed in the article, along with historic events that put it into perspective. The 1870 grave is that of John H. Miller and the other two are presumed to be his children.

Mills

From the *Mills County Tribune*, July 7, 1892: "West Liberty Cemetery." A recent visit to the West Liberty cemetery, located about three and a half miles north of the city, revealed a condition of affairs that seems hardly credible. The entire cemetery is a wilderness of weeds and briars, and in many cases it is almost impossible to determine the location of the graves, or to recognize the stones to the memory of the dead, so surrounded are they by unsightly weeds and briars.

If this were a pagan community such barbarous neglect might not surprise us so much, but for a Christian neighborhood to allow the resting place of its dead to become one huge weed patch, is a crying shame and disgrace, that admits of no possible extenuation or excuse.

From the *Malvern Leader*, September 2, 1976: "Federated Women Need Assistance in Mills Bicen Graves Registration." An urgent call for help has been sent out by the Bicentennial Cemetery Registration committee of the Hastings Federated Women's club. This group has been working on a complete registration project for all of Mills county's 35 cemeteries. The article goes on to list several cemeteries that contain unmarked graves, loss from erosion or cultivation or tombstones or markers without surnames. The committee requests help from the public in identifying all known burials as soon as possible so the compilation of records can be published.

From the *Glenwood Opinion-Tribune*, May 15, 1939: A Resolution adopted by the Mills County American Legion is printed. It will be presented at the district meeting at Harlan and, if adopted, will go on to State.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: During the course of the work of the American Legion in Grave Registration we have had opportunity to check on the condition of our cemeteries and,

WHEREAS, we have found in Mills County and are reliably informed that in the entire State of Iowa, the condition of a large number of our cemeteries are in such a deplorable state as to render them a disgrace to civilized people and,

WHEREAS, many cemeteries are in danger of losing their identity, some even being used for cow pastures and hog lots, and,

WHEREAS, many billions of dollars are invested in the cemeteries of Iowa with no assurance that they in time may not become as neglected as some already have and,

WHEREAS, we deem the last resting place of man, whether he be a soldier or civilian, is, and properly should always be SACRED GROUND,

WHEREAS BE IT RESOLVED, that The American Legion of the State of Iowa, do urge and recommend to the State Legislature of Iowa, passage of legislation making it compulsory for the Township Trustees in Iowa to levy sufficient taxes to restore and keep in a fitting condition all cemeteries in that township, with failure to do so punishable by law, and to set aside sufficient funds to enable the State Director of Grave Registration, in the Adjutant General's Office at Des Moines, to enforce said laws by means of inspection of all cemeteries in the state at regular intervals.

Adopted by Harvey T. Rimel Post American Legion, No. 141. Glenwood, Iowa, March 6, 1939.

DAVE N. BARNETT, Commander.

Adopted by the Mills County American Legion Association, April 10, 1939.

H. C. SLATER, Commander.

Mitchell

The State Historical Society of Iowa is seeking information to confirm the burial site of a Medal of Honor recipient in Iowa.

John Keenan, an Irish immigrant who was probably born in the 1840s and died March 18, 1906, is believed to be buried in the

McIntire City Cemetery or in St. Patrick's Cemetery near McIntire in Mitchell County.

Keenan served with the 38th Ohio Infantry Regiment in the Civil War. He was discharged following the war, but re-enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1866 in San Francisco and served during the "Indian Wars" until 1871. While assigned to Fort Stanton, N.M., to recover from a war wound, he suffered an eye injury that left him nearly blind.

Keenan received the Medal of Honor in 1869 for his actions in New Mexico against the Hualapai Apache, which were also known as the Pais.

The Pais resented the incursion of American settlers, ranchers and miners into the Arizona Territory - the Pais' ancestral land. In response, the Pais struck with quick raids along transportation routes.

Keenan's cavalry unit, among others, set out to defeat the Pais. The outnumbered our out-armed Pais held out for two years, but the persistent efforts of Keenan's unit significantly helped in keeping the territory open to settlement.

Anyone with relevant information is encouraged to contact Bill Johnson at (515)281-5627 or bill.johnson@iowa.gov

More information about Medal of Honor recipients can be found at www.iowahistory.org

Pottawattamie

From the *Davenport Daily Republican*, October 17, 1902: "Forgotten Cemetery Disturbed." Council Bluffs. Oct. 16 - The gang of graders on the Great Western extension a few days ago since exhumed the bones of a number of human beings. The place where they had been buried was in a cornfield just east of Greendale and not far from this city. An investigation has been made and it is discovered that the place is an old cemetery and the bones those of Mormon pioneers who were buried at what was known as Cartersville cemetery. All visible traces of the burying ground, which has for years been used as a cornfield, have long ago disappeared.

Sioux

From the *Sioux City Herald*, March 20, 1879: The trustees of Nassan township have purchased five acres of land from the Kilburn estate, of which D.T. Gilman, of Sioux City, is agent. The land lies just across the Floyd River, near Jacob Henrich's farm. The cemetery is to be fenced in and gotten in shape.

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, October 9, 1907: Records for any single day broken at the office of the state board of health, when application was made for 191 disinterment permits. Up at Granville, in Sioux County, the entire cemetery is being moved. Since the new law went into effect, disinterment cases must be under the supervision of a licensed embalmer, and metallic lined boxes must be used where bodies are removed from one cemetery to another.

Union

From the *Creston News Advertiser*, June 15, 2009: Pictured in color is the grave marker of Dennis Castillo at Graceland cemetery after family members installed the stone and attached a large metal art likeness of Castillo. It was created by Nate Berning from a picture of Castillo riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Steve and Kathy Francis of Creston have been chosen to receive the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award presented annually to an outstanding cemetery worker(s). They were nominated by the Union County Genealogical Society for their work at the Claypool Cemetery and others in Union County. In a letter from SAPIC member, Jessie Madden Thompson she states:

"Although Steve is not considered to be old, he has been active in saving and preserving cemeteries and working to enhance them for several years.

"He and his wife Kathy first noted the poor condition the Claypool Cemetery was in when he was working on the sign project. Along with her and other members of the family, they got this cemetery in order -- as well as discovering several of Kathy's relatives were buried there. Our society is proud that Steve took an interest in this

project -- not only for his family's sake but also all others who are interested in Claypool Cemetery.

He and Kathy were very instrumental in getting signs made for all the cemeteries in Union County -- and then put them up, thus marking many small forgotten pioneer cemeteries!

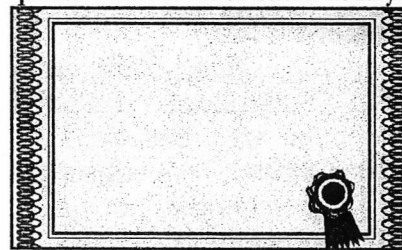
Although he is paid for the spray, Steve still takes his own time and equipment and sprays several cemeteries each year.

We need more people like Steve Francis in the world who are interested in our pioneer cemeteries where our ancestors and early settlers are buried! Thank goodness for SAPIC, a group of people who are trying to SAVE and PRESERVE IOWA CEMETERIES."

Sincerely,

Jessie Madden Thompson

Note: Steve and Kathy Francis will receive the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award at the SAPIC meeting on October 10, 2009, at the Pizza Ranch in Creston or, weather permitting, at the Claypool Cemetery following the meeting. Please come and support the efforts of these deserving individuals who have done so much to preserve cemeteries in Union County!



Van Buren

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 8, 2009, the *Van Buren County Register* and the *Farmington Record*, July 9, 2009: Letter to the Editor from SAPIC members, Jerry & Betty Boyer: "Maintenance at cemetery needs to be addressed." The letter tells of the death of their only son, his grave in the Kilborn Cemetery, the lack of maintenance, and the Boyers' offers to assist with upkeep and to improve the cemetery. The offers have been rebuffed by the cemetery board and a trespassing complaint has been filed against Jerry.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, July 9, 2009: "Valentine Cemetery is spruced up." Pictured are five volunteers and three children who spent June 30 at the Valentine

Cemetery 3 miles north of Pittsburgh. Not pictured is crew leader, Don Aldrich, who provided information about the 38 stones that received attention, as well as the entire area being cleaned and cleared under direction of Blaine DeHart, whose ancestors' graves are located there. Needed materials are funded by the Van Buren County Genealogical Society. Volunteers donate their own time and tools with no expenses to the cemetery, township, county or state.

Also pictured is the new sign for the Valentine Cemetery, possibly the first sign since 1842, that reads: "VALENTINE CEMETERY --161 KNOWN BURIALS -- 1842-1955." Visitor to the site, Ken Smith from Minnesota, commented: "I had tears in my eyes when I have had to park on the gravel and wade through chest high growth to walk the nearly 1/8th mile into the cemetery and then nearly unable to locate grave sites." He continued, "I have brought my gas powered trimmer with me before, and with Warren Beatty, cut down the weeds and growth, but am no longer able to do that." People do care.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 13, 2009: "Van Buren Genealogical Society asking for help for Holsworth Cemetery," by Don Aldrich. A description of the location of the cemetery is given, plus the story of its renovation by the Van Buren Genealogical Society, and its adoption by a local couple who can no longer maintain it but are still interested in it. Don outlines the work of the Society over the past ten years that entails restoration of over 650 gravestones, including several at the Holsworth Cemetery.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 20, 2009: "Boyer volunteers to mow cemetery," by Don Aldrich. Pictured is SAPIC member Jerry Boyer as he mows nearly 2 years of growth at the Holsworth cemetery on August 14. Jerry can hardly be seen through the tall growth and was forced to mow slowly due to the low stones and tree stumps, but finished in a couple of hours. Don states that this will aid in the first cut next spring and will encourage anyone wishing to adopt the cemetery.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, September 5, 1977: "DAR project is completed," Pictured is Neva Moore Kisling with the three completed volumes listing the 103 Van Buren County cemeteries, a Bicentennial project of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Kisling and the late Marion Flake McCrary headed the project that includes 25,000 burials, plus cemetery names and locations. The volumes will be sent to the DAR Headquarters in Washington D.C. The project took twelve years and has been microfilmed by the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Wapello

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 10, 2009, Ask Tony Column: "Graveyard gets a makeover." Question: I'm waiting to hear what is being done about the graves at the County Home? Perhaps I should contact the state about this matter. Answer: This cemetery dates way back with the last burial believed to be in the 1950s. We don't know the exact border that surrounds the cemetery. There was a wire hog fence that marked it years ago. An engineer and I went to the site and walked a half mile one way and 100 feet another way and finally did find the old rusted and down fence. We have marked the area that we feel is the cemetery and plan to have a new fence and a monument placed in honor of all the graves that are there. It will be mowed and maintained on a regular basis and given the attention and respect it deserves.

Source: Wapello Co. Supervisor
Jerry Parker

OUT OF IOWA

Arizona

In an e-mail message dated July 3, 2009, Neal DuShane reports that an additional group of single graves has been found and documented on the Scenic Loop Road outside of Wickenburg. A cemetery of the ghost town of Owen has been found four miles south of Wikieup. Death certificate research continues on Helvetia, Twin

Buttes, Greaterville and Greelee County. 300 abandoned cemeteries or single lone graves have been found and identified. Most have been restored to original condition, but there is little evidence of what the originals looked like or who is interred. This represents 10,442 total graves that have been identified, but prior to the Arizona Pioneer Cemetery group were long forgotten.

California

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Aug. 29, 2009: "Bid for crypt above Marilyn Monroe falls through." LOS ANGELES (AP) - The attorney for the owner of the \$4.6 million crypt above Marilyn Monroe says the bidder declined. The crypt was offered on the E-Bay auction site. There are no plans to remove the present occupant until a new owner is found. Bidding started at \$500,000 on Aug. 14. The final bid was \$4,602,100 on Aug. 24. The attorney is working with E-Bay to resolve the outcome.

Colorado

In an e-mail message dated July 7, 2009, Neal DuShane reports that the coordinator for Mountain View Cemetery in Ft. Collins is starting to offer "green burials." No coffin, vault, or concrete is involved. You can have a headstone but no concrete base. The plots are 4' X 10'.

Neal also reports that he and the supervisor of Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins tried some samples of a headstone cleaner called D/2 Biodegradable which is manufactured by Simple Green for:

www.cathedralstone.com

(See more information in this newsletter). They used a plastic putty knife to scrape the first layer of lichen and moss off the headstone, then sprayed it with D/2, waited 10 minutes and scrubbed the face with a natural bristle brush. Neal states that the product really works and water is not necessary.

E-mail: n.j.dushane@comcast.net

Illinois

From chicagotribune.com, July 9, 2009: "Bodies unearthed at Alsip cemetery," by Lolly Bowean, Steve Schmadeke and Alena Scarver, *Tribune* reporters. Five employees of the historic Burr Oak Cemetery in Alsip were taken into custody after authorities learned numerous bodies had been dug up and the grave sites were illegally resold, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart said. Detectives discovered a pile of bones -- from more than 100 decomposed bodies -- above ground and uncovered in an overgrown, fenced-off portion of the cemetery, Dart said. Devastated families have started to check on their loved ones' graves. One of the first predominantly African-American cemeteries in the area, Burr Oak is home to many historic figures, including Emmett Till, blues legend Dinah Washington and heavyweight boxing champion Ezzard Charles. Authorities are working with forensic medical examiners to try to identify the remains. The alleged scam has been going on for about four years and probably took in around \$300,000.

From the I-Team Report, July 15, 2009: "There are grave concerns about how some Chicago-area cemeteries do business," by Chuck Goudie. The anxieties follow the discovery of a plots-for-profit scheme at Burr Oak Cemetery in Alsip. Concerned relatives of people buried at cemeteries across the Chicago area are contacting the media about whether loved ones were actually buried where the cemeteries claim. Inquiries have been made into practices at Homewood Memorial Gardens, Oak Woods, and Waldheim Jewish Cemetery. Persons who believe they have been victims of unlawful practices regarding cemeteries are given sources to call: The Illinois Comptroller's Cemetery Care Hotline at (877) 203-3401, the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association web site at: <http://consumer.iccfa.com/faq2> and The Illinois Cemetery and Funeral Home Association for owners and operators of businesses within those industries: <http://www.icfha.org/>

From the WLS-TV/DT (ABC7) Local News, July 17, 2009: "Difficult history of black cemeteries revealed," by Charles Thomas. What has happened at Burr Oak Cemetery may seem like an unthinkable crime. But in some historically African-American burial grounds moving remains from plots was part of the purchase agreement. Some relatives report that if families of deceased didn't have the money for a plot, they rented less expensive, temporary plots called "select singles" for 20 years. At the end of their terms, the graves can be re-opened and the bodies sometimes moved to mass, unmarked burial sites. Governor Quinn appointed a task force to examine for-profit burial grounds in the state.

SAPIC members Jim and Micki Judge provided the following sources from the state of Illinois:

Caring for Your Local Cemetery, the Illinois Preservation Series, Number 9, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Division of Preservation Services. Old State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62701.

Illinois Historic Cemetery Preservation Handbook - A Guide to Basic Preservation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1512. 217-782-4836 www.illinois-history.gov

Indiana

From *American Profile* magazine, June 28-July 4, 2009: The nation's largest manufacturer and distributor of coffins is Batesville Casket Co., which makes 1,000 caskets per day. Founded in 1884 and headquartered in Batesville (pop. 6,033), the company was bought by Hillenbrand Industries in 1906.

Kentucky

From the *American Legion Magazine*, July 2009, page 48: "Scouting out Lincoln's heritage," by James V. Carroll. Pictured are Boy Scouts from the Bardstown Methodist Church Troop 142 and leaders Susan Miller and Sherrie Frazer as they discuss ways to clean up the cemetery beside the Kentucky Lincoln Trail. Decades

before Abraham Lincoln became president of the United States, he wandered the hills and dales of Kentucky around his birthplace near Hodgenville. Here is where his infant brother, Thomas, is buried near a stretch of the Kentucky Lincoln Trail. In 1942, the 32.2 mile trail from Elizabethtown to Hodgenville was laid out and walked by two Scouts. Between 1942 and 1997, the Trail was used as a walking pathway, marathons, and a bike trail. Over time, the trail fell into disrepair and parts are now on private property. Today, Scouts are working to preserve parts of the trail and have a plan to restore the hilltop grave of Thomas Lincoln. In 1959, Boy Scout Post 15 from Des Moines placed a grave marker on the grave. Also pictured are a metal marker placed on a tree in 1992, a bronze and granite memorial statue of Lincoln in the Hodgenville town square, and a replica of the cabin in which Lincoln was born.

Pennsylvania

From the Science Daily web site, October 7, 2007: "New Scanning System Identifies Illegible Names on Old Gravestones." Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh is developing new technology that could revolutionize the way archaeologists work. Software that will scan 200-year-old gravestones at Old St. Luke's Church in nearby Carnegie will help the pastor identify all the names on the cemetery's tombstones. "We are very excited and pleased that the research team is helping us reclaim our past by identifying some of the 20 graves at our cemetery," said Rev. Richard Davis, director of the church. The church was established in 1765 as a stockade church for British soldiers. Students have been storing images of the stones on laptop computers which will be examined and the surfaces reconstructed by filtering and detection algorithms for revealing the words on the archaic surfaces. "Our goal is to take the guess work out of archaeology and make this reconstruction technology available for a variety of other industry sectors in security and medical fields," said Yang Cai, director of the Ambient Intelligence Lab at Carnegie.

New York

From the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, July 4, 2009: "Group hopes to save possible grave site," The Associated Press. FISHKILL, N.Y. --Historical evidence has pointed to a grove of trees in the Hudson Valley as the final resting place of hundreds of Revolutionary War soldiers posted in Fishkill when it was the main supply source for Gen. George Washington's northern army. Today, commercial development has whittled the wooded parcel down to about 12 acres. A group of preservationists, history buffs and civic leaders is trying to save what could be the nation's single largest-known burial site for Revolutionary War soldiers. "They didn't fight and die for this cause just to have a mall built on top of them," said Ed Spaeth, a possible descendant of one of the soldiers.

Oklahoma

From the *neatoday* magazine, August/September, 2009: Letter to the Editor, "Cemeteries as history." I applaud Linda Prater's study of historical cemeteries through a wide range of curriculum ("Try This: Get Them to Try Something New," May). My colleagues give me a hard time with one of my hobbies: cemetery hopping. An avid genealogist, I was raised in a small town in which my grandfather was cemetery caretaker. Over the years, all cemeteries have fascinated me, especially one in east Texas where a small site has veterans of seven wars. Now *that* is a history lesson.

Terri Keck, Marlow, OK

From the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, May 23, 2009: "Vet whose ashes were found in a footlocker will be laid to rest," by Chris Vaughn. Army Pfc. Warren A. Nichols was seriously wounded in 1967 while serving in Vietnam and died in 1987. The poignant story of a young veteran, seriously wounded in the head in Vietnam at the age of 18, suffered from paralysis and dementia, and died at age 39. His cremated remains, boots, Purple Heart, and the remains of his mother were found in a foot locker that was purchased at a yard sale by an antique

dealer who contacted the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a result, the manager of the Floral Haven Memorial Gardens in Broken Arrow decided to do more than offer a free burial space. Nicholls's remains, his boots, and his mother's remains will be placed in a large granite bench and set on the upper level of the cemetery's "freedom shrine." A military burial was held last Memorial Day.

Texas

From the *Dallas Morning News*, May 10, 2009: "A final rest for die-hard Aggies," by Michael Graczyk, The Associated Press. The city of College Station is putting the finishing touches on an eternal resting place for folks who are really devoted to Texas A&M University. Pictured is the twin-column "Spirit Gate" at the Field of Honor, the 57 acre Aggie-oriented cemetery section within view of Kyle Field. It was open for burials in mid-July. "I think this is another opportunity for former students to be someplace close to campus when they're gone," said Ross Albrecht, A&M Class of '84, the marketing supervisor for the cemetery.

From the *Star-Telegram*, May 14, 2009: "Bill punishing thieves who steal markers sent to Perry," by Dave Montgomery. The bill would make it a state jail felony to steal a military emblem from a headstone. Striking at what they see as a shameful disrespect for American veterans, Texas lawmakers are targeting thieves who strip military emblems from graves and sell them for scrap or as souvenirs.

Punishment of up to two years in a state jail and a maximum fine of \$10,000 would be imposed for anyone convicted. In 2007, thieves used a crowbar to pry at least 2 dozen plaques from headstones in New York.

From the *Star-Telegram*, May 31, 2009: "Graves -- If you take military emblems or markers from graves --and sell them as scrap metal or souvenirs, -- you could spend as much as two years in a state jail. Governor Perry has signed this bill into law (HB1466).

From the *Dallas Morning News*, May 26, 2009: "Volunteers turn neglected black cemetery into a Field of Glory," by Richard Abshire. Pictured are the Dallas County Buffalo Soldiers before a memorial service for veterans buried at Ross Cemetery in McKinney. The Allen Heritage Guild hopes to have Ross designated a historic cemetery in an effort to keep it well-maintained. The cemetery contains the graves of more than fifty black veterans who have never had recognition. Their resting place was an overlooked adjunct to the larger Pecan Grove Cemetery and a makeshift dump where trash hid tombstones and many graves were unmarked. Ken Byler has been researching the story of one veteran, John Jones, a WW1 Infantryman, whose grave is in the cemetery. He started writing about the neglected and vandalized cemetery and the Allen Heritage Guild adopted the site as well as the nearby church. The Blaine Harding American Legion Post 321 honor guard held a flag ceremony, funeral salute, and the playing of Taps at the Ross Cemetery on May 25.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, June 21, 2009: "Funeral home held body since '04 after family couldn't pay." The body of a woman dead since 2004 was left in a San Antonio funeral home that had shut down a week ago. Forest Park Home administrator Willy Hardy said the family of the dead woman could not pay for a funeral service or burial and that he has moved the body each time the business went to a new location.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, June 26, 2009: "Man accused of hiding marijuana in casket," by Steve Thompson. Dallas police arrested a William Dale Crock, accusing him of possessing bundles of marijuana being transported in a casket. Police found almost 100 pounds of marijuana underneath the casket's cover and pillow. Crock was being held in the Dallas County Jail on \$100,000 bond.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, May 24, 2009: "Wreath to be laid at Confederate marker," by Marjorie Korn. Since the tradition was begun by President Woodrow Wilson, a wreath has been sent to the

Confederate Memorial, among other monuments at Arlington National Cemetery, on Memorial Day. This year, a petition with 66 signatures was sent to President Obama urging him to cease the tradition because they want to end the glorification of the Civil War and recognize the Confederacy's links to slavery. Jane Durden, president general of the United Daughters of the Confederacy -- the group that erected and maintains the monument -- said the controversy over the wreath reflects a misunderstanding that the Civil War was a defense of slavery rather than a patriotic call to arms. An Arlington National Cemetery spokesperson confirmed that the Obama administration will send a wreath to the monument.

From the *Star Telegram*, May 16, 2009: "Dedication slated for black cemetery," by Susan Schrock. The Arlington (Texas) Historical Society will hold a dedication ceremony at the Arlington African-American Cemetery, the only known burial place for black residents of Arlington from 1920s to the 1950s. The Society will install a marker and attempt to identify unmarked graves.

Mississippi

From the *Clarion-Ledger*, June 10, 2009: "Buried nearly forgotten at mental facility's site," by Jerry Mitchell. Barbed wire and a chain-link fence guard the dead in a remote corner of the University of Mississippi Medical Center campus. Only numbers are etched on the gray markers to identify the graves of residents of the former state mental asylum. Friends of Mississippi State Hospital are now working to restore the cemetery. They received help from a dozen AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps members who helped build a chapel on the grounds. One time employee, Sadie May Green, petitioned for 650 grave markers to be purchased and also created a data base of known dead. She would like to see a memorial built to honor the forgotten dead.

South Dakota

From the *Waterloo Courier*, August 30,

1894: "Probably An Old Battlefield."

Miller, S.D. -- A few days ago a grave was unearthed near town, the slab upon which bore this epitaph: "William Dunn, Linn, Iowa; died May 11, 1861: Indians." A number of graves have been discovered in this vicinity during the past few years, some of which contained well preserved skeletons, and the inference is that a severe battle was fought here in the early 60's between the United States troops and Indians.

Spain

From the *New York Times*, July 2, 2009: "School Built on Cemetery Provides Lesson in History," by Victoria Burnett. Toledo, Spain, once the capital of a thriving Jewish community, is also the site of an ancient Jewish cemetery containing at least 103 graves that were excavated last year during the construction of a school building. The exhumation drew international condemnation from Jewish representatives and became an important battleground in the quest to preserve Jewish cemeteries all around Spain. In late June, a group of Jewish leaders reburied the remains in a quiet ceremony with prayers and a plea for forgiveness for disturbing the peace of the medieval souls. The issue of Jewish graves raises questions about how modern, secular Spain reconciles itself with dark chapters of its history, like the expulsion and forced conversion of thousands of Jews and Muslims during the Inquisition.

Iraq

From *Newsweek*, June 29, 2009: "Living With the Dead," by Larry Kaplow. Pictured is the Iraqi city of Najaf, the spiritual capital of Shiite Islam and actually a vast cemetery. Thousands of Iraqi citizens are buried there each year to be near Shiite forefather Imam Ali, so he can vouch for their souls in heaven. Houses, shops, and hotels rose on top of the graves. Most of the dead, their names drawn on headstones of sandy brick and plaster, erode into anonymity in a few decades. A proverb says that God purifies the land every 50 years.

Germany

From *The Dallas Morning News*, May 30, 2009: "ID for a body in basement," The Associated Press. A corpse found in the basement at Berlin's Charite hospital may be that of German Communist Party founder, Rosa Luxemburg. She was killed by right-wing militiamen during a failed uprising and dumped into a Berlin canal in 1919. A living relative is being sought so a DNA comparison can be made.

Australia

From the *American Legion Magazine*, August, 2009: "Leave no man behind." The Australian military is exhuming hundreds of bodies near the northern French town of Fromelles, after it was discovered that Australian troops killed in a World War I battle had been buried in a mass grave and were never given a proper burial. The disinterment, identification and reburial process should take 15 months, with the new graveyard and memorial scheduled to open July 19, 2010, according to CNN.

Canada

The Miramichi Branch of New Brunswick Genealogical Society, Room A1104, A1105 provides assistance with family tree search, focusing on Northumberland County, using the census for the years 1851 1861, and 1871. They have complete cemetery transcriptions for most parishes in the county.

www.canadasirishfest.com/schedule.html

Thanks to the SAPIC members who have contributed news articles and other information to this issue of Grave News.

Your support is appreciated.

Note: SAPIC does not endorse products. This is provided for your information.
Cathedral Stone Products (CSP) is known around the country for its masonry restoration products. They are used on projects as diverse as the White House, The Alamo and Watts Tower in Los Angeles. Please take a minute of your time to read about one of our sustainable products, D/2 Biological Solution. It is "The Way" to remove mold, and mildew from buildings, headstones and monuments. Can I send you a sample?

Did you know that the **National Park Service's Center for Preservation Technology and Training** in Natchitoches, Louisiana recommends using **D/2 Biological Solution** to clean headstones and remove biological growth? Are you using D/2? You should.

It is what **The National Park Service** uses. It is also used by:

**The Alamo
Loyola University
Antietam National Cemetery
Natchez National Cemetery
Vicksburg National Cemetery
Congressional Cemetery
Tomb of The Unknown Soldier
U.S. Navel Academy Cemetery**

In Savannah, Georgia **The Girl Scouts of America** use D/2 to clean headstones in nearby cemeteries.
So you know it has to be safe!

D/2 Biological Solution:

- * **Won't harm plants such as grass and ivy**
- * **Requires no special safety equipment**
- * **Contains no bleach or acid**
- * **Is Biodegradable**
- * **And lasts up to 2-3 years.**

And if time allows, you can just spray it on and walk away, rain and sun will remove all biological growth over the next several weeks/months.

Can I send you a sample of **D/2 Biological Solution**?

Ted Kinnari, Building Conservator
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GSA Advantage

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