

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535
VOLUME 14 ISSUE #4

www.rootsweb.com/lasapc/
October 2009

The January 9, 2010 meeting of SAPIC will be held at the Johnston Public Library, 6700 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, Iowa at 10:30 AM. Take the Merle Hay Road Exit #131 off Interstate 35-80 (North side of Des Moines) and go north on Merle Hay Road for 2 miles. Turn left on North Glenn Drive and you will see the library (north side of Johnston). Lunch on your own. If you have questions, contact Larry Davis: LD2mstone@aol.com. Phone 515-277-4917.

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery recently completed its first year of operation. Located 10 miles west of Des Moines near Van Meter, it's Iowa's first state-owned and operated veterans cemetery constructed with federal funds. Nearly 400 Iowa veterans and family members have been laid to rest there, and more than 3,300 applications for burial have been processed. Learn more at www.iowava.org/vetcemetery

If you know a volunteer who has gone above and beyond in service to Iowa veterans, consider nominating them for an Iowa Veteran Volunteer Certificate of Recognition. For more information, contact Jill Joseph at 515-242-1824 or Jill.Joseph@iowa.gov.

Items restricted on E-Bay:

You can list the following items, as long as they're new and have never been used:

- Burial plots
- Caskets
- Gravestones
- Headstones
- Tombstones
- Urns

Not allowed: Items taken from historical grave sites like battlefields, protected lands, or shipwrecks. Also used funerary items like headstones, markers, or urns. If you see such items listed on E-Bay, report it to the Security Center listed on the E-Bay web site.

Web site to try (thanks to Valerie Ogren):
<http://www.graveaddiction.com/index.html>

DNR PROVIDES A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Here's an announcement about a new online research tool for those of us working in Iowa. This project was funded in part by a Historical Resource Development Program grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The DNR's latest aerial photo postings can help flesh out what happened back in the 1930s, 1950s, and 2000s. Also available as jpgs upon special request. Aerial photos of the 1950s were posted on the DNR web site in August. www.iowadnr.gov

Media Contact: Kathyne Clark, geographic information services, (515) 281-4583, or Kathyne.Clark@dnr.iowa.gov

Johnny Mercer, who composed the song "Moon River" with Henry Mancini, was born and died in Savannah, GA. His grave is in the Bonaventure Cemetery next to his parents and wife. His family plot is near the Wilmington River which inspired the lyrics to "Moon River." Mercer and Mancini also wrote "Days of Wine and Roses" and "Charade."

From American Profile magazine, September 13-19, 2009.

Rely on the ordinary virtues that intelligent human beings have relied on for centuries: common sense, thrift, realistic expectations, patience, and perseverance.

-- John C. Bogle (1929-) American Investor



SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Story
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563-427-5354 dstory@netins.net

Vice-president: William Reedy
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515-386-4784 vjogren@netins.net

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641-484-6061 neecnwy@iowatelecom.net

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319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

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1240 235th St.
Leighton, IA 50142
641-673-8122 mahcem@kdsi.net

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515-462-9802 emcvay38@msn.com

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

Board Member (2009): Julie A. Eckenrod
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New Hampton, IA 50659
641-394-3967 jjeck@myclearwave.net

Board Member (2009): Mike Magee
638 Englewood
Waterloo, IA 50701
319-232-8762 Digger4045@yahoo.com

Board Member (2009): Marva Rowe
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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
641-742-5211
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, Minnesotat 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
October 10, 2009**

President Steve Story called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. at the Pizza Ranch in Creston Iowa with 21 members and guests present.

The minutes of the previous meeting held July 11, 2009 were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was presented by Valerie Ogren illustrating a balance of \$10,828.80, consisting of \$2,496.86 in the "Working Account", \$2,828.39 in the "Reserve Account", and \$5,503.55 in a Certificate of Deposit. Valerie noted that the current Certificate of Deposit will mature January 16, 2010. Moved by Frieda Davis that the Treasurer be authorized to renew the Certificate of Deposit when it matures. Seconded by John Heider. Motion carried.

Grants: President Story presented a grant application received from Jackie Zimmerman from Marshalltown for Marietta Cemetery. Moved by Frieda Davis that the grant application for Marietta Cemetery not be approved. Seconded by Pat Shaw. Motion carried.

It was noted that the Reserve Account has decreased considerably during the past year due to the number of grants issued. It was agreed to not issue any grants for the coming year.

Tax Exempt Application: Larry Davis read a letter from the Internal Revenue Service stating that SAPIC'S application for tax exempt status had been reviewed and has determined that SAPIC is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code, and is retroactive to January 20, 2000. Pat Shaw and others commended Davis for his efforts over the past two years to make this a reality.

Future Meetings: Considerable discussion was held pertaining to current meeting dates of January, April, July and October. It was noted that snow and ice has effected attendance in January meetings and a November meeting might have advantages relating to the election years and give SAPIC an opportunity to interact with new elected officials. Moved by Valerie Ogren that the current meeting schedule for January, April, July and October be continued and the January meeting be in the Des Moines area. Seconded by Bill Reedy. Motion carried.

Pat Shaw indicated the possibility of holding the April 2010 meeting in Jasper County. President Story directed Pat to pursue the April meeting location for Jasper County and Larry Davis for the January meeting in the Des Moines area.

Cemetery Restoration Workshop: John Hieder discussed this long time interest and experience in Cemetery restoration and offered his services to put on a workshop for SAPIC if there was interest.

Election of Officers: Pat Shaw, representing the Nominations Committee, presented the following slate of officers and board members for 2010 :

President.....	Steve Story
Vice President.....	William Reedy
Secretary.....	Frieda Davis
Treasurer.....	Valerie Ogren
Board Member.....	Julie A. Eckenrod
Board Member.....	Mike Magee
Board Member.....	Carol Hoffman
Board Member.....	Gene Davis

There being no nominations from the floor, Pat Shaw moved that the slate of candidates be accepted and that a unanimous ballot be cast for their election. Seconded by John Hieder. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Following the meeting and lunch, the Robert and Phyllis Carter Award was presented to Steve and Kathy Francis.

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 3rd Quarter – 1 July 2009 thru 30 September 2009

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2009, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$2364.14
<u>Income</u>		
Dues ⁷	\$ 310.00	
Interest ⁴ /30/09	.96	
Interest ⁵ /31/09	.70	
Interest ¹⁶ /30/09	.66	
Total Income	\$ 312.32	
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #229 – Postmaster – stamps	\$ 8.80	
Ck #230 – Patricia Shaw – Newsletter postage, etc.	70.80	
Robert Carter Award – transfer to Reserve	100.00	
Total Expense	\$ 179.60	
Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2009		\$2,496.86
Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2009, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 3,728.39
Ck #224 – Clinton County Grant	\$ (200.00)	
Ck #225 – Adams County Grant	(200.00)	
Ck #226 – Madison County Grant	(200.00)	
Ck #227 – Louisa County Grant	(200.00)	
Ck #228 – Monroe County Grant	(200.00)	
Robert Carter Award – Steve & Kathy Francis	100.00	
Total transfers	(900.00)	
Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2009		\$ 2,828.39

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 September 2009 \$ 5,325.25

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

PLEASE NOTE: Do not mail your dues to Pat. Doing so not only delays payment but also costs her an additional 44 cents to forward. Thanks!

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ready-Made & Adjustable Concrete Form

It is not unusual to uncover a broken or non-repairable stone base and when that happens, a concrete base is usually its replacement. Typically there are two choices in making a concrete form: (1) dig a hole and the dirt sides become the form or (2) construct a custom wood form. Using the dirt method may not be possible when soft, loose soil will not keep a shape. Building a wood box may not be feasible because there may not be time, materials, or tools. However, if these common two choices are not convenient, try using an ordinary plastic container.

A plastic container or pan will substitute very well as an inexpensive, ready-made, adjustable form and may be purchased at a super-shopper or hardware store. When choosing a plastic container, select one that has a stiff top rim and is not made of hard or brittle plastic. Hard plastic tends to chip or crack when cutting while the softer plastic is more pliable and cuts easier.

Basic Steps

The form requires two identical containers.

Cut off one end of each container.

The containers will slide into one another making an adjustable form.

- Measure the thickness and width of the grave stone.
- Add about 4 inches to the width and that will give an approximate size for a concrete base.
- Adjust the form to fit the required base dimensions.
- Secure and seal the edges with duct or masking tape. Tape both the inside and outside seam.
- Using the dimensions of a standard 2 x 4 (1 ½" x 3 ½"), cut pieces of high-density foam insulation to fit the thickness and width of the marker. These pieces will become a disposable form for the slot or keyway.
- Use a fast-setting*, ready-to-use concrete mix. Mix according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Pour into plastic form and push the foam insulation into the semi-fluid mix.
- If the foam wants to float, lay a brick or other heavy item on top to prevent this action.
- After the concrete has set, break out foam material.

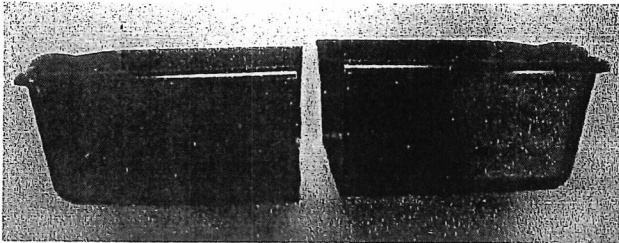
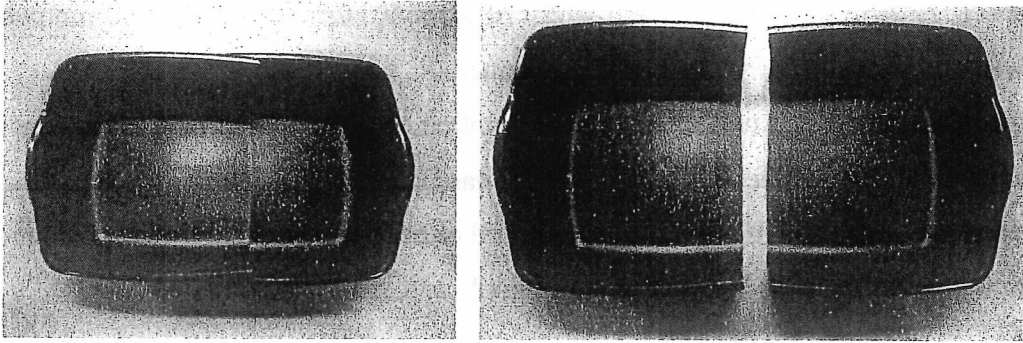
*Fast-setting, ready-to-use concrete is not required if you have several days for the concrete to cure.

Thanks to SAPIC member, John Heider, for contributing this information.
jheider@mchsi.com 977 Iron Horse Place, Monticello IL 61856

FORM EXAMPLES

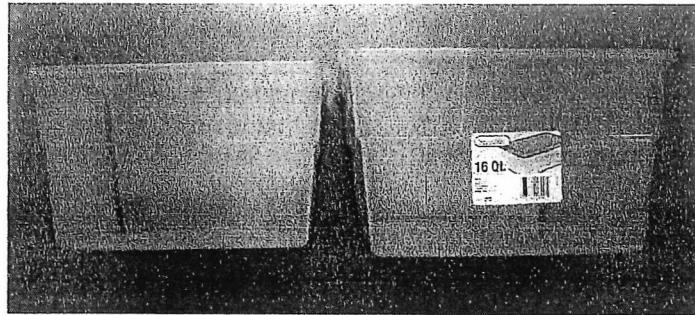
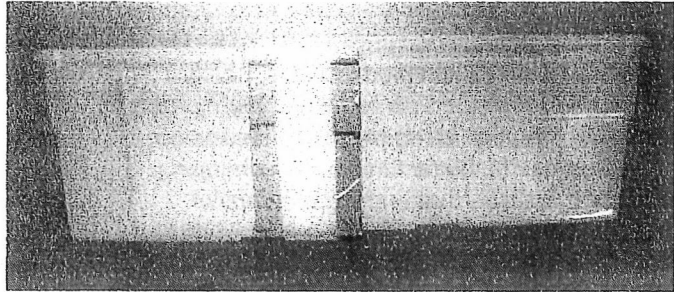
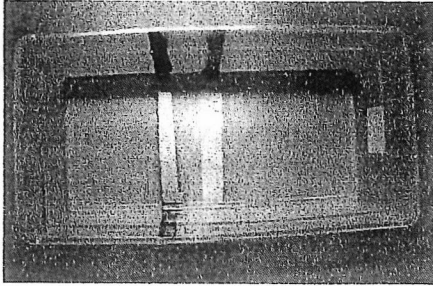
Container Dimensions

12 quart size: 5 ½ inches deep
11 inches wide
14 inches long

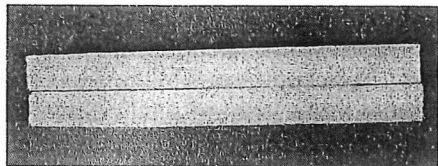


Container Dimensions

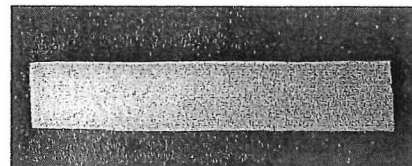
16 quart size: 6 1/2 inches deep
12 inches wide
16 inches long



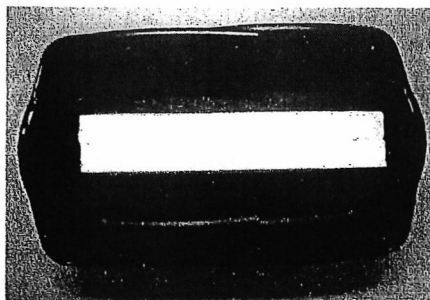
FOAM INSERT



Top View



Side View



Foam Insert & Plastic Form

From: <http://bulletin.aarp.org> October 2009: "The High Cost of Dying," by John S. DeMott. The article states that the average cost of a regular adult funeral in 2006 was \$7,323 up 45 percent since 2001. That figure does not include a cemetery plot, burial, grave marker, flowers or other items that can add thousands of dollars to the final bill. Grief over losing a loved one is compounded by the stress of dealing with higher-than-expected expenses -- and at a time when Americans can least afford it. Older Americans are particularly pinched. In July, nearly 700 bodies lay unclaimed at the Los Angeles County morgue in the first half of the year, often because families could not afford funeral costs. Many families are choosing cremation, home funerals that eliminate chemical embalming and metal caskets, or "green" funerals that provide simple burials in open fields with local rock as markers. Planning ahead is the key to savings and peace of mind, according to the author. When you have decided what you want and can afford, share your decisions with others and put the details in writing.

From: CBS The Early Show, April 12, 2008: "Deceased Lawyer Still Takes Calls," reported by Scott Rapoport of CBS Station WCBS-TV in New York. The headstone of John Jacobs, defense attorney who died two-and-a-half years ago, has the usual markings, plus his cell phone number. When you call it, his voicemail picks up. Jacobs was buried with his fully charged cell phone and the account is active. His wife calls him periodically. She has no idea how many people have called her husband since his death, since she doesn't have his "PIN" number.

From msnbc.com December 16, 2008: "Bury me with my cell phone," by Diane Mapes. Being buried with a favorite tech device, such as cell phone, BlackBerrys, and Game Boys is on the upswing, especially among those under 40. People want to surround their loved ones with the things they held dear and others do it to provide comfort to the loved ones.

-- Contributed by Tony Bengston

COUNTY REPORTS

Appanoose

From the *lowegian* (historical edition), 1933: "One Who Saw Mormons Leave Nauvoo and Later Followed Their Trail into Appanoose Co. Recalls Stirring Events," by J. S. Stamps, Franklin Township resident. The author recalls events associated with the famous "Old Southwest Mormon and California Trail." His grandfather lived in Lee County across from Nauvoo, IL from which the Mormons fled. He recounts recollections of his aunt, Zilpha Stamps Sager who saw the Mormons driven from Nauvoo in 1846. She later lived in within sight of the high prairie ridge in Appanoose County where she observed the Mormon migration and the trains of California gold seekers. She describes a pioneer cemetery in her recollections: On a beautiful white oak bluff overlooking Shoal Creek, on her

own farm, was a lonesome little pioneer cemetery where a few of her early neighbors had been buried beside sunken graves of "unknowns" who the earliest pioneers said had been buried there from the great and famous Mormon campground only a half mile away at "Kirkendall" branch.

Benton

From the *Iowa State Reporter*, July 29, 1874: There is no stone yet to mark the spot in Mount Auburn cemetery where Chas. Sumner is buried, and a lady who visited the cemetery, a few days ago found it, after hunting a long time, with a stake at its head bearing a visiting card, on which were the words, "Sumner's grave."

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, September 1, 2009: "Vandals devastate local cemetery," by John Jensen. Shellsburg -- Pictured in color are examples of grave markers that were pushed over during a recent vandalism spree at the Parker's Grove Cemetery. Authorities say it could be difficult to catch those responsible. Between 20 and 30 markers were broken, some in multiple places. "It's just really disgusting," Cemetery Board Member Donna Peacock said. Board Member Earl Dickinson agreed and said the situation is difficult to comprehend and that vandalism happens about every 3 to 5 years, but not to this extent. Those involved also tampered with the flag that hangs over the cemetery.

From the *Cedar Valley Daily Times*, September 22, 2009: "Local veterans honor unmarked vets' graves." Pictured are local veterans Dennis Miller, Gene Davis, Ron Geiger and John Gualtier in a cemetery in Benton County as they honor unmarked veterans' graves. Also shown are close-up views of bronze markers that are placed to honor veterans of the War of 1812 and GAR (veterans of the Civil War). The group is led by Gene Davis, a member of the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and a SAPIC board member. Davis has spent more than 3,800 hours volunteering in cleaning brush and repairing fences and markers in cemeteries in the county. Veterans organizations and Veteran Affairs Director Chuck James assisted in the project.

Blackhawk

In an e-mail dated September 13, 2009, Mike Magee includes a photo of 3 grave markers of infants in the Spring Creek Cemetery that were repaired by Bill Youngblut and Mike. Since then, the stones have had inscriptions inscribed on them and the words were painted inside the embossed lettering. Originally they only had the names on top of the stones which were getting very hard to read. Apparently, family members thought enough of them to have this work done.

From KCRG-TV News, October 30, 2009, "The Disappearing Waterloo Cemetery," by Justin Foss. Since 1986, Phyliss Morgan and Evelyn Winder have fought the court to try and reclaim the Mount Zion Union Cemetery on North Elk Run Road. They paid several thousand

dollars in legal bills to force the family that they say destroyed the cemetery to bring it back. Judge George Stigler made his ruling in 1991, and since then, that ruling has never been enforced. The web site includes court documents regarding the disappearing cemetery and a PDF of a book written about it. The news item ends with a request for funding to help the women with legal work.

justin.foss@kcrq.com

www.kcrq.com/news/local/67786722.html

Boone

In a letter dated October 15, 2009, written by SAPIC member Sidney Louis, he expresses concern that information about the Schlicht Cemetery appeared on a web site without his permission. The cemetery is privately maintained by Mr. Louis. He feels that the cemetery would benefit in no way from such publicity and might be opened to possible vandalism and theft. He asks the following questions about publishing such information on the Internet: Is it legal? Has permission been obtained for use? What possible negative outcome may result from using each bit of data? In a follow-up letter, Mr. Louis reports that there was no malicious intent involved and that the information has been removed. Mr. Louis feels that SAPIC should address this subject immediately and forcefully -- even to seeking laws to protect sensitive information.

Chickasaw

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 26 Number 3, Third Quarter, J.L. Kottke, Editor, page 18. A tribute to the memory of Georgena A. Stephan who died July 19, 2009, was printed. Georgena was an avid genealogist and founded the Chickasaw County Genealogical Society. Among many of her activities listed was the fact that she walked many cemeteries beginning in about 1970.

Decatur

From the *Midwest Country News: People, Places, Events*, September, 2009: "Lamoni's 7th Annual Civil War Days." Lamoni's Civil War Days held on September 4, 5 and 6 included a cemetery tour, a period dance, musicians, a period wedding, gourd banjo making and period photography. www.civilwardays.org

Des Moines

From *The Hawk Eye*, Burlington, April 11, 1995: "Board adopts 5-year plan," by Jeff Lehr. Included in the plan that dealt with road closings, was the 92nd Avenue closing that drew attention from Yellow Spring Township trustees, who are responsible for Round Prairie Burial Ground, a defunct cemetery located near the south end of the road. The last recorded burial in the cemetery occurred in 1915. Because a Civil War soldier is buried there, the cemetery has historical as well as ancestral significance.

Although ownership of the road will revert to adjacent property holders, the trustees retain a prescriptive easement to the cemetery. County Engineer Jim George said as a courtesy to cemetery visitors, the county will turn a closed bridge along the road into a passable low-water crossing and provide minimal maintenance to the road.

Dubuque

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 23, 2009: "Forgotten Iowa Graveyard stops condo development," by Michael J. Crumb. Pictured is A.J. Spiegel as he looks over the development site for condominiums atop a hill overlooking the Mississippi River town of Dubuque. Two years after a man stumbled upon a human jaw while walking his dog, Spiegel's plans for development have been put on hold. More than 600 sets of human remains, long ago buried and forgotten, were found by the Office of the State Archaeologist. Spiegel and his company, Peosta, Iowa-based River Pointe Development LLC, have filed suit against the Sinsinawa Dominicans Inc, an order of nuns from whom he purchased the land. Their attorney claims the religious order didn't know there were any remains remaining. Spiegel is seeking compensation for the costs of excavating the site for human remains, the relocation of the remains and the lost use of the site.

Iowa

In a letter dated September 30, 2009, Randall Betz, chairman of the Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, reports on a project in which the Commission became involved. For the past two years, the Commission has assisted Beverly Blythe and LaVerna Moser in moving 10 bodies from a mausoleum to the Titler and Old Marengo (pioneer) Cemeteries. Last summer, SAPIC member Larry Davis placed the marble "doors" on the crypts in cement by their graves, financed by the Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Randall included a copy of an article, "Marengo Mausoleum" from the Iowa County IAGen Web site. <http://iagenweb.org/iowa/hist/hist-mausoleum.htm>

Jefferson

A hand-out from the Fairfield Library Genealogical Section includes information about a 2-volume set listing the 78 cemeteries in the county in alphabetical order, maiden names added (color coded yellow) for the years 1839-1990 -- 31,117 burials; 4,836 no gravestones. Also inscriptions in 76 cemeteries are scattered throughout 11 volumes. References to specific cemeteries can be found in a general index in a blue folder.

Thanks to Doris Secor.

Lee

From the *Daily Gate City*, September 24, 2009: "Sandusky Cemetery chosen as site of ceremony Saturday," by Terry Altheide. The article announces the

Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association's seventh annual Pioneer Patriot's Day ceremony and summarizes the previous observations of honoring forgotten veterans in the county. The first such ceremony was held in the Colvin Cemetery in 2003. The cemetery association has joined forces with Keokuk American Legion Post 41, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 41, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3508 and the Iowa Branch of Bugles Across America to properly honor all pioneer veterans buried in forgotten outdoor museums with an actual military funeral style ceremony.

From the *Daily Gate City*, September 28, 2009: "Gone, but not forgotten," by Steve Dunn, *Gate City* Managing Editor. Pictured in color is Terry Altheide as he welcomes spectators to the seventh annual Pioneer Patriot's Day ceremony Saturday at the Sandusky Cemetery. The grave of War of 1812 veteran Elijah Wilkins, located in the cemetery, was the site of the ceremony. Also pictured are Cori Shedd and Laverna Moore as they place a wreath at the grave of Wilkins. Also participating in the ceremony were Pastor John Heath who gave the invocation, Dr. Eugene Watkins, site director of Old Fort Madison, Basil Reed, Honor Guard Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3508, firing party from the American Legion Post 41 & the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 41, and Taps played by William Hall, Bugles Across America, and Taylor Young, Central Lee High School. In his remarks, Dr. Watkins stated that of all the United States' early wars, the War of 1812 is one of the most forgotten. The men who fought were defending our nation's honor and our ability to trade freely with whomever we wanted wherever we wanted. It was truly a second war for independence. Bobbie Bonebright was the first person to be buried in the Sandusky Ceremony in 1854.

In recognition of Veterans Day, Terry Altheide sponsored a "Salute to Veterans" at the River City Mall in Keokuk on November 7.

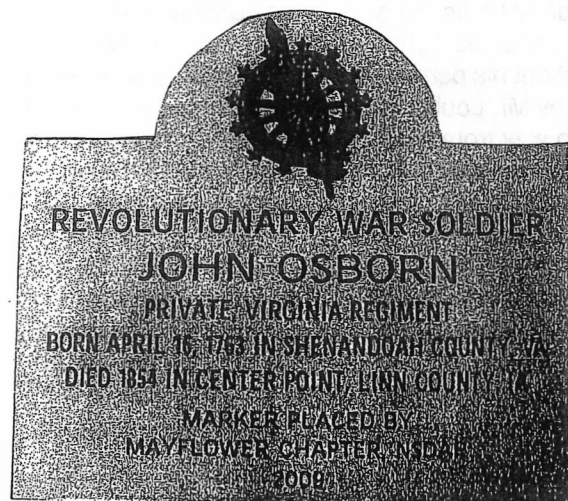
Linn

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, September 30, 2009: "Vandals hit headstones at cemetery near Palo." Vandals damaged headstones at the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, once known as Lewis Bottom Cemetery near Palo. Someone knocked over about 20 stones and tried to dig some of the markers out of the ground. Officials estimate the repairs will cost thousands of dollars. The Fayette Township trustees, who maintain the property, are in charge of repairs.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, November 11, 2009: "Revolutionary veterans rest eternally in Iowa," by Dave Rasdal. Pictured is the memorial to Nathan Brown, who served in the Revolutionary War, the largest monument in the Springville Cemetery. Also shown is the plaque commemorating John Osborn's service in the Revolutionary War that was placed on his grave at Center Point in May by the Mayflower chapter of the DAR. The

article states that there are 43 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Iowa. They fought in a war that ended in 1783, came to a land that wasn't part of the United States for another 20 years and died in a state that didn't join the union until 1846. They had to have been young in battle and old in death affirms Marilyn Lodge of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They are ties that bind us to the pioneers of freedom.

-- Contributed by Marge Spencer



Louisa

In an e-mail dated September 19, 2009, Eleanor Jones reports that the Louisa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission met on September 18 with a trustee from the Concord Cemetery to discuss what needs to be done with the grant money they received from SAPIC. Eleanor hopes that the grant will encourage some local interest in volunteering to improve the cemetery.

Mahaska

In an e-mail dated October 16, 2009, Ben Mayer attached before and after photos of his paternal Grandfather's and maternal Grandmother's graves located in the Beacon Cemetery near Oskaloosa, along with a headstone that he carved for a client in the city cemetery in Creston. Ben cut a new base for one of the stones and carved a stone for an infant from a broken piece of the baby's grandmother's marble stone located in the Baldwin Cemetery in rural northwest Mahaska County. The base is of Indiana limestone. To view photos of Ben's work, contact him at: mayer_ben@yahoo.com He is available to do custom stone work and stone restoration.

The Story of Bobbie Bonebright's Tombstone

Broken Slab of Marble Found in Cemetery at Sandusky — Private Grave Yard — The Bones of an Indian

Do you remember little Bobbie Bonebright?

Of course you don't, for little Bobbie dies sixty-two years ago and has long been forgotten.

And little Bobbie's grave, up on the hill at Sandusky, beneath the pine tree is forgotten. You couldn't find it if you searched, for time and the elements have broken the tombstone off. It fell over on the sod and a heavy rain washed the marble slab away from its foundation.

Last Summer I picked up the stone half buried under dead leaves and earth, beneath the barbed wire fence which is the north side of the little country graveyard. The stone read:

ROBERT A.

Son of J. & S. Bonebright

Died Mar. 24, 1854

Aged 12 ys. 6 mo. 19 ds.

Is there a story in an old broken tombstone of a boy — in a little country cemetery — the neglected grave of a boy you did not know?

It was a day for imagination and rumination. The brown carpet of fall had spread itself about, the warm November sun was high enough in the sky to throw its bright glow through the stripped limbs of the trees. The noise of the city was forgotten. All was peach and quiet. The only sounds were the faint tinkle of a cow bell far away on the hill across the valley, the half asleep puffing of a steamboat five miles away and the rustling of the dead leaves in the elm tree, where a squirrel was enjoying his lunch, wondering why an intruder came.

But this story was to be about a cemetery and not about the glories of an Indian summer Sunday, spent out doors.

There are a hundred stories in the broken tombstone, but which is the one to write? Is it the story of the sad death of the little boy with the old timey name? Is it the story of neglected graves and how in time tombstones crumble and people are forgotten? Is it the story of comparison between the humble stone of an unknown boy and the costly imposing monument erected over the grave of the rich man's son?

You select your own story from the broken tombstone of the little boy who died a lifetime ago. The name Bonebright in itself has an atmosphere of romance about it. It may be of Indian origin but it sounds more like one of those interesting old names we read about in colonial time stories.

The Cemetery at Sandusky

The Sandusky cemetery is perched up on the top of a little hill overlooking the lake on one side and the entire surrounding country on the other. There are not a hundred tombstones in the small plot, scattered about beneath a half dozen or more tall cedars. The people of the vicinity see that the burial ground is kept in shape and many of the pioneers of that section rest beneath the sod there.

There are a number of handsome markers and many of the family lots are enclosed in iron railings. Names well known to the vicinity are on the monuments: Fowler, Reed, Tweedy, Phleps, Shadle, Wilson, Collins, Williamson, Utley, VanAusdall, Fiedler, Grimes, Nightengale.

The place must have been selected at an early day for there are a number of graves of people who passed away in the fifties. I noted these: Rev. John Graham died August 27, 1862, age 45. A Masonic emblem is on his

stone.

Colonel Julian Hulaniski, died February 21, 1860, aged 50.

James Ward, died Nov. 24, 1858, aged 58.

Margaret Wilson, died Sept. 27 1858, aged 47.

Private Burial Ground

One mile north on the old Ballinger place, now the Hollingsworth farm, about two hundred yards north of the big old house on the hill, stands a shaft eight feet high, upon which are the following inscriptions:

On the east side — In memory of Frank Ballinger, died Sept. 15, 1876, aged 65 years, 5 months, 9 days.

On the north side — In memory of Jane, wife of Frank Ballinger, died Nov. 21, 1865, aged 32 years, 8 months, 13 days.

On the south side — In memory of Susan, daughter of F. & J. Ballinger, died July 14, 1855, aged 20 years 8 months, 23 days.

There is also another of the Ballinger children buried here, but the name is not on the monument. The single shaft stands sentinel in a grove of trees and can be seen from the road. This little cemetery, with but four graves, was established in 1855 by a bereaved couple who had come from Kentucky and lost their daughter shortly after. They buried her near the family mansion and tenderly placed

the wild flowers of the country upon the newly made grave. Then, they too, followed and were buried on the farm.

The Indian's Grave.

The waves of Lake Keokuk, beating against the shore on the point at Sandusky, just north of the railroad bridge, unearthed the bones of an Indian this summer; bleached bones, which had once been the hand of a savage who grasped the tomahawk or bent the bow.

W. S. Phillips and Walter Maas, who have a summer cottage on the lake front close by, dug up the bones. They pieced them together and had an almost complete skeleton, lacking but a few pieces of the skull. When they returned to further explore the spot and secure the remaining parts, the water of the lake had been raised several inches and the grave had been submerged.

Their relic was almost entirely carried away one day by some fisherman, who helped themselves to pieces out of the pile of bones drying in the sun back of the cottage.

And that ends the story of Bobbie Bonebright's tombstone.

The above story was published in abt. 1916 in the Gate City Newspaper, Keokuk, IA and a copy of this story was given to us by Terry Altheide, Keokuk, IA.



Marshall

From the web site of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC), Issue 2, 2009: "Craft, Skill and Caring Ensure Full Measure of Respect to Final Resting Places." Conserving our historic cemeteries forges an indelible connection between long-departed ancestors and present and future generations. Whether as a quiet, devotional setting for the family of the deceased, or a source of significant clues and insights into a family's genealogy or an area's cultural or military history, these public spaces are an irreplaceable piece of our generational mosaic. Unfortunately, many municipalities and cemetery associations lack the resources to combat the eroding effects of time and the elements on these burial grounds.

Fueled by a unique appreciation for the special skills involved in stone restoration and a penchant for community service, a number of BAC members have stepped forward and volunteered their time and talent to fill this gap.

This doesn't surprise IU Secretary-Treasurer James Boland. "As Union masonry-trowel trades craftworkers, we owe a great deal to those who came before us -- for securing a voice on the job and handing down our craft traditions," Boland said. "This may be one of the reasons for the dedication our members bring to this unique public service, but whatever it is, their work is an admirable reflection on them and our Union, and we commend them for it."

Featured in the article are Tracy Carner in Pennsylvania and Wayne Blessing of Zearing, Iowa (recipient of the Carter Award given by SAPIC in 2008). Wayne is shown working in the Price Cemetery in Marshall County, along with before and after photos of the 1871 tombstone of Leanor Elzy. SAPIC member, Sharon Sturek whose ancestors' graves are in the Price Cemetery, has high praise for Blessing. "We could not have accomplished this goal (restoring the stones and cemetery) without him and he has truly been a 'Blessing' for us."

From the *Times-Republican/Past Times*, September 2009, "Marietta Cemetery Restoration," by Mike Donahey. Pictured is one of the approximately 400 headstones needing some form of repair at the Marietta Cemetery, located about 3 miles southwest of Albion on Iowa Highway 330. The Iowa Department of Transportation wants to make changes to the highway, but will not encroach upon the graveyard. The cemetery was established in 1850, according to Jackie Zimmerman, who lives nearby. An earlier cemetery was located north of Marietta and when closed, coffins were relocated to the existing grounds. Also shown are members of the Marietta club who, along with Central Iowa businesses and citizens, are donating time and money to make the cemetery a better place. Goals are to identify unmarked graves, install fencing, and plantings.

-- Contributed by Frieda Davis

Monroe

From the *Monroe County News*, September 15, 2009: "When there is no one left to say, 'I miss you,' others take over," by Brian Chambers, News Editor. Pictured on the front page in color are the Prather and Hardy Cemeteries in which native wildflowers and grasses have been allowed to grow. The cemeteries are located at either side of the Melrose turnoff on Highway 34 -- Hardy to the east and Prather to the west. Rosalie Mullinix, a member of the Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission since it's formation eight years ago, has encouraged efforts to allow the pioneer cemeteries to return to a state that most reflects how the site would have looked 100-150 years ago. The Commission brought in experts, including naturalist Pete Eyheralde and others to explain proper burns. If there are roots and seeds in the soil, this allows the original flowers to come back. Other pioneer cemeteries are monitored as to how many and what type of wildflowers are present in the hopes that sometime down the road the Hardy and Prather experiment can be used on them. Since these cemeteries do not require as much mowing, they cost less to maintain.

Pocahontas

From iowa@rootsweb.com: There is a small cemetery on highway 10 about 2 miles west of Laurens, IA by the name of Swan Lake Township Cemetery. This is an old cemetery with about 90 stones in it, some broken, some covered by trees and bushes, etc. It sits on the side of the hill close to the highway with no parking except along the shoulder of the highway. I live about 130 miles from the cemetery. I just received a notice that a group of volunteers from the Laurens area are starting to renovate the cemetery. Old fence has been removed, donated land has provided a parking area where none existed except along the road and trees and bushes that are or will damage the stone have been or are being removed. New fence and steps are being installed. Bob in Iowa

-- Contributed by Judy McClure

Story

The ISU Cemetery, historically speaking, is one of VERY few cemeteries established by public universities in the U.S. The first burials go back to 1875 and were not faculty. But in 1876 Iowa State College established a cemetery. There were several foreign students buried there early on, but the cemetery is reserved for faculty and staff. Now there are regulations restricting the cemetery to tenured faculty who have been here for a while (I think at present one has to have been here 20 years) plus their spouses. One cannot reserve a place, but has to apply at the time the faculty member or his/her spouse dies. Now I think there is space only for cremation burials. Coleen Nutty included the ISU Cemetery in her thesis, later published in the *Journal of the Iowa Archaeological Society* (Volume 31, 1984) entitled "Cemetery Symbolism

of Prairie Pioneers: Gravestone Art and Social Change in Story County, Iowa."

I'm aware that there are universities that are establishing columbaria or cemeteries for alums. Clever way to make money!! I also know that coffin manufacturers are making coffins in school colors with the school's logo.

-- Contributed by David Gradwohl

Union

From the *Creston News Advertiser*, October 7, 2009: "SAPIC to hold meeting in Creston on Saturday." A short history and purpose of SAPIC was printed in the article and a notice that the October 10 meeting will be held in Creston. Following the meeting, the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award will be presented to Steve and Kathy Francis.

From the *Creston News Advertiser*, October 27, 2009: Pictured are Steve and Kathy Francis who were presented the Carter Award by SAPIC president, Steve Story of Hawkeye, Iowa. They were honored for their volunteer work in the pioneer cemeteries of Union County, including the Claypool Cemetery. They have also installed signs for all the cemeteries in the county and Steve sprays several cemeteries each summer to control weeds using his own time and equipment. They were nominated by Jessie Thompson of the Union County Genealogical Society.

Van Buren

From the *Van Buren County Register*, September 3, 2009: "Voices from the past..." by Don Aldrich. Pictured are Jerry Boyer and Stan Knipfer in the Wolf Cemetery located 5 miles south of Bentonsport. Also known as Harden - Lorton - Wolf Cemetery, it is a small cemetery with 8 stones maintained by Stan and Linda Whitten who live nearby. On this workday, the crew dealt with two small gravestones that were loose and leaning badly and one large monument that needed straightening. Drainage basins were dug for the smaller stones and "wings" were attached, a method developed by Paul Maddy. The "plinch" stone that contacts or sets into the ground on the larger monument was raised and the area below was filled with 1/4 inch fine unwashed chat. Other volunteers on prior work days have been Tom Gould, Marvin Danneil, Don Aldrich, and Linda Whitten.

From the *Burlington Hawk Eye*, September 21, 2009: "Restored History -- Couple's efforts bring pioneer cemetery back to life," by Nicholas Bergin. Pictured is Gary Wallingford as he looks at the restored Wright Family Cemetery located near Farmington. Gary and his wife, Denise, restored the cemetery out of respect for those buried there with help from the Van Buren County Genealogical Society. The couple purchased the property containing the cemetery in 2002 from Denise's mother. Denise grew up exploring and playing in the woods behind her family's house and knew about the cemetery. She has since researched its history.

From the Van Buren County, Iowa Quill III, Volume 22 - Number 4, October, 2009: "Note from desk of the Treasurer (and work crew chief)." An overview of the work history of the Harden-Lorton-Wolf Cemetery located in Vernon Township and maintained by the Whitten family is printed. Repairs were made on 3 gravestones at the request of the Whittens. A previously unknown stone was found during the repair work, although specific identities and locations of stones are not known due to lack of record keeping. Although the Whittens have no family there, they are dedicated to supporting and maintaining the grounds.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, October 8, 2009: Letter to the Editor from Tom Gaard, Memorials Office, Department of Iowa, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

"An important turning point in the Civil War occurred when the Confederates surrendered Vicksburg on July 3, 1863. This opened up the Mississippi River to the Union and separated Confederate forces west of the River. Iowa soldiers had an important role in battles leading up to the surrender of Vicksburg; 30 Iowa regiments fought in this campaign and were on the siege line at Vicksburg.

One of these regiments, the 19th Iowa Infantry, was made up of soldiers from Van Buren County and southeast Iowa. Company H and Company I of the 19th were composed entirely of Van Buren County soldiers. They fought at Vicksburg and served under Iowa General Francis Herron.

In 1906 the State of Iowa provided funds for monuments honoring these brave soldiers. In addition to a large state monument, there were 13 monuments at the brigade level honoring specific regiments. Today, all of these monuments, except one, are well maintained by the National Park Service. The monument for the Iowa regiments in General Herron's Division (Iowa 19th, 20th, 34th and 38th Infantry Regiments) was cut off from the others when Interstate 20 was constructed many years ago. This monument is overgrown with brush and the bronze plaques are missing (presumably stolen) for each regiment.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are working with the National Park Service at Vicksburg to restore this monument and correct the deplorable condition that exists today. The fundraising goal is \$5000 to replace the 4 regimental bronze plaques and provide security and access to the monument. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are interested in locating descendants or relatives of soldiers in the Iowa 19th, 20th, 34th and 38th. They plan to have a rededication of the monument when it is restored. Contact Tom Gaard at: Gaardt@aol.com
Tax deductible donations can be made to:

Iowa Rifles Vicksburg Monument Project
c/o 1st Sgt. David Lamb
1305 Locust Street #7
Des Moines, IA 50309

Wapello

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 23, 2009: "A land of wild beasts," by Sue Parrish. Pictured is the gravestone of early pioneer John Guy Gray in McCormick Cemetery at the same spot his greyhound chased and caught wolves. The article tells of the very early settlement of southeast Iowa in 1844 when there were no white settlers in the region, except those connected with the Indian Agency. In ten short months after the territory was opened to white settlement, there was no stopping the wagons from coming as settlers poured in daily for years to come with some barely putting down roots before moving farther west. The area was a wilderness inhabited by savages and wild beasts, but quite different when John Gray died in 1895.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 26, 2009: "Fighting for a lost son -- Steve Allgood spent 19 years trying to catch a vandal who targeted his son's grave," by Matt Milner. Steve Allgood of Eddyville visited his son's grave nearly every day since his son was killed by a drunken driver in 1990, and would find the flowers, plant hangers, and other momentos torn up and broken when he returned. He worked with Deputy Matt McCain of the Mahaska County Sheriff's Department to obtain pictures of the person in the act. Five counts of criminal mischief were filed against Linda Theresa Mathias -- each charge carries up to two years in prison. It took 19 years in this case, but Steve doesn't regret the time it took or how he remade the gravesite each time it was torn apart. For Steve, it all comes down to a single question: "What else can I do for him?"

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, November 21, 2009: "Mathias pleads not guilty in vandal case," by Matt Milner. The woman accused of systematically vandalizing a grave in Eddyville, has pleaded not guilty in the case. Her parents' and ex-husband's graves are nearby. A pre-trial conference is scheduled for Dec. 21. She has waived her right to a speedy trial.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 3, 2009: Pictured are workers unloading the traveling display of the Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknowns as it arrived in Ottumwa on Oct. 2. The display remained in Ottumwa near the veterans' memorial over the weekend.

OUT OF IOWA

Arizona

In an e-mail from Neal DuShane dated October 26, 2009: We use an unscientific rule of thumb in trying to determine graves or the size of a community this way. We call it the "Ten Factor." If you find 14 graves, multiply by 10 to determine the potential population of a given community (140 people lived in and about the area of one to three miles). Conversely, if we know the population as written in history books or at the courthouse, we divide the known population by 10 to determine the possible graves in a given cemetery that we are searching for or the potential

of a cemetery in a given area. A third way is if you know the size of a given cemetery and there are few, if any, markers, we have a spread sheet that will formulate the amount of potential graves that can be in that given area. Often the size will be larger than the amount of graves, as the cemetery may be laid out with planning for a given amount of graves but limited interments were actually placed. Then there is the possibility that the cemetery may have been more than the current size because of farmers encroaching on and over the unmarked graves.

In an e-mail from Neal DuShane dated October 18, 2009: Only a few hours old and the furor over the removal of Mattie Blaylock Earp's marker from Historic Pinal Pioneer Cemetery by the Tonto National Forest Service is raging. Historians throughout the state are weighing in from the Arizona State Historian Marshall Trimble, on down.

Information on the restoration of the historic Helvetia, Arizona Pioneer Cemetery by a Boy Scout this past weekend has been posted at: www.apcrp.org
Click: Restoration Project Click: Helvetia

From the Fort Worth, Texas, *Star-Telegram*, July 29, 2009: "Burial for Buffalo Soldiers," by Melanie Dabovich, Associated Press. Pictured are members of the Tucson-based Arizona Buffalo Soldiers Association as they carry the remains of one of three Buffalo Soldiers in a military burial ceremony at Santa Fe National Cemetery in Santa Fe, NM. on July 28. Pvts. Thomas Smith, Levi Morris and David Ford died more than 130 years ago. Buffalo Soldiers were all-black regiments of the Army who served at remote outposts on the Western frontier in the years after the Civil War.

California

From the *American Legion Magazine*, September, 2009: "Monumental Challenge -- the Supreme Court's decision on the Mojave Desert cross may set a precedent for veterans memorials everywhere," by Steve Brooks, Senior Editor. In a remote area of Southern California, a judicial firestorm over the constitutionality of allegedly religious symbols in public places is raging. In 1934, World War 1 veterans erected a cross and plaque at Sunrise Rock in the Mojave Desert to remember fallen troops. In 1999, the National Park Service denied a request to erect a Buddhist statue near the cross and indicates that it intends to remove the cross. In 2001, Congress prohibited the NPS from spending federal funds to remove the cross. In 2002, Congress designated the cross and surrounding property as a national memorial for W.W.I veterans. Congress also agreed to give Veterans of Foreign Wars one acre of property where the cross is located, in exchange for five acres of privately owned land. The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California ruled the cross unconstitutional and ordered its removal. Congress authorizes NPS to transfer the land surrounding the cross to the VFW. In 2004 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the district court that the cross must

be removed. In 2005 the district court enforced a permanent injunction against the cross. In 2007 the Ninth Circuit rules that Congress cannot cure an establishment-clause violation by transferring land. In 2008 the Ninth Circuit refused to hear the case again. Liberty Legal Institute files an amicus brief on behalf of the American Legion and others, asking the Supreme Court to hear the case. The case was scheduled to be heard on October 6. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to deliver a decision in following months.

Illinois

In an e-mail dated December 6, 2009, SAPIC member John Heider reports that he has been working with the State of Illinois and the city of Peoria who have 10,000 gravestones to repair. He will be teaching restoration methods to their maintenance staff. In the spring John will be teaching two classes on cemetery preservation at his local community college. He and his father-in-law have traveled to Pattonburg, Illinois and removed two large and broken marble grave markers for cleaning. Each weighed about 250 pounds and are about 72 inches long. In Illinois, cemetery workers must apply for a state permit each time they work in a cemetery that is unregistered and over 100 years old. Most pioneer cemeteries fit that description. Sometime in January, John will start to clear brush and trees from an abandoned cemetery west of Bloomington, Illinois. The relative who contacted John lives in Montana and plans to return in the spring and help with stone restoration.

Note: Thanks to John who contributed an article on making concrete bases to this newsletter.

From the *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, July 11, 2009: "Gravedigging Scheme -- anger, grief grip families," by M. Spencer Green, The Associated Press. Shown is the original casket of lynching victim Emmett Till that was found rusting in a shack at the Alsip Cemetery near Chicago. After a 2005 investigation of his death, Till was reburied in a new casket, which remained undisturbed. The original casket was supposed to be kept for a planned memorial. SAPIC member Sidney Louis who recalls the incident said that Till's mother insisted that his body was to be viewed in a glass-topped casket, as she wanted the world to see how badly he had been battered before he was lynched. Living relatives are appalled that the casket was found in such poor condition.

South Dakota

Jean Newman, who operates the Grave Groomers cemetery beautification and stone cleaning service, is willing to work in the Minneapolis and Sioux Falls, SD areas. E-mail: newman579@msn.com Phone: 712-320-3549.

SAPIC offers this for your information, but does not endorse services or products.

Tennessee

From the *Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram*, October 11, 2009: "Remains of soldier who fought in Civil War are reburied," by Erik Schelzig, The Associated Press. Pictured are James Brown and Harold Becker whose fathers fought on opposing sides in the Civil War as they attend a tribute to a Civil War soldier whose remains were found in a battlefield grave on the Franklin, Tennessee Battlefield. The soldier's name and military affiliation are not known. "This soldier represents all of the soldiers, the thousands that were lost and are still buried across the South," said Robin Hood, chairman of the Franklin Battlefield Task Force, which organized the event. Nearly 2,000 were killed in the 1864 Battle of Franklin. The coffin, draped in Confederate and Union flags, was transported from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which served as a barracks and hospital during the war, to Rest Haven Cemetery in a horse-drawn carriage accompanied by Civil War re-enactors.

Vermont

From the web site of the Vermont Agency of Transportation Archaeological and Historic Resources, October 6, 2009: "The Swanton Church Street Cemetery Revitalization Project." The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC), a statewide program that strives to instill the values of responsibility, hard work, education and respect for the environment in young people between the ages of 16 and 24 by engaging them in projects designed to enhance Vermont's natural and cultural resources, took on the task of improving the appearance of the Church Street Cemetery. The historic cemetery contains the graves of some of the town's oldest citizens from as early as 1800, as well as Civil War heroes Corporal William A. Church and Lt. Stephen F. Brown. The cemetery has been closed to new arrivals and the funds they bring with them since the 1950s. For four weeks, the VYCC cleared brush and cleaned the periphery of the cemetery to install fencing, landscaping and beautifying as they went. They worked together with Gravestone renewal expert, Authur Hyde, from the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, who volunteered his time and knowledge to erect and fix the stones, fallen and broken from years of neglect.

Bahrain

From the *New York Times*, September 18, 2009: "In a New Age, Bahrain Struggles to Honor the Dead While Serving the Living," by Michael Slackman. Pictured are hundreds of burial mounds near the village of A'all in Bahrain, a small archipelago kingdom of 36 islands in the Persian Gulf. The country has the world's heaviest concentration of graves dating from the Bronze Age. New development and changes in the lifestyle of Bahrain's citizens are threatening to destroy ancient burial fields to make way for modern businesses and housing.

England

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 23, 2009: "Roof rot hits church over Shakespeare's Grave." The beam that supports the roof over the grave of William Shakespeare and the church where he lies is urgently seeking 50,000 pounds (\$80,000) for repairs. The Rev. Martin Gorick, vicar of Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon, said the problem was discovered three weeks ago by workmen on the roof of the church, who were alarmed to find bits of the beam falling off.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 29, 2009: "Britain faces a literal grave crisis -- London cemeteries running out of room for burials." Pictured are fallen gravestones at the City of London Cemetery & Crematorium in east London. London is rapidly running out of places to put new burials and, as a result, the city is trying to persuade Londoners to share a grave with a stranger. Many other European countries regularly reuse old graves after a couple of decades, but Britain does not. Victorian hygiene obsession, piecemeal regulation and national tradition discourage the practice. Graves in Britain are regarded as eternal and not to be disturbed and reusing old graves remains illegal. The City of London is exploiting a legal loophole that allows graves in the capital with remaining space in them to be reclaimed after 75 years. Cemetery staff are also digging up old remains and burying them deeper allowing new corpses on top, in what have been dubbed "double decker" graves.

China

From the *American Legion Magazine*, February, 2009: "Revelation of a U.S. POW held in China during the Korean War gives hope to families that have waited so long for closure," by David Fisher. The military's Defense Prisoners of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) continues to reunite a slow but steady stream of lost soldiers with their long grieving families by matching DNA. More than 8,000 U.S. Troops and airmen are still missing from the Korean War theater. The disclosure by Chinese officials in 2003 that Sgt. Richard Desautels of Shoreham, Vermont had died as a POW in Shenyang, more than 200 miles inside Chinese territory, have led to hopes that a long-suspected but never-solved mystery may finally yield an answer --that American POWs were secretly held in communist China during and after the Korean War. The Chinese have steadfastly denied this and refuse to allow U.S. and U.N. personnel to see original documents. U.S. investigators may soon get their best chance in more than five decades to find out what the Chinese know about the fate of 8,000 people missing in action. In an agreement signed in February, 2008, the People's Liberation Army Archives Department offered to let Chinese researchers, approved by the Chinese and DPMO, go through broadly defined sets of archives. Any information found is supposed to be forwarded to DPMO every six months. Americans will cover the cost up to \$150,000 a year, in the

hopes that their ultimate fate may finally become clear. Delores Alford, national chairperson for the National Alliance of Families, states, "I don't think we'll ever resolve the prisoner-of-war issue, but we'll keep trying."

Ireland

From the Ulster Ancestry (Northern Ireland) web site: "The graveyards of North County Down." Origins and histories of several graveyards of North County Down are listed, along with names of persons and families buried there: Magheralin, Moira, General Synod of Ulster, Donaghcloney, and Clare (Parish of Tullylish).

Russia

From the *Dallas Morning News*, October 7, 2009: "Short on space, Moscow residents long for place to bury loved ones," by Michael Schwartz, *The New York Times*. Of the 71 cemeteries in the city of Moscow, only one is open to new burials. The shortage of space has left relatives without room in family plots to choose between burial far from the city and cremation, a practice that is frowned upon by the Russian Orthodox Church. Officially, some 10.5 million people live in the city of Moscow, but unofficial estimates put the figure at millions more. For the families of the 120,000 people who die annually in Moscow, the search for an afterlife dwelling is a singular challenge. Most Russians still believe funeral arrangements to be the government's responsibility, as it was in Soviet-era times, so they often fail to plan ahead. "Our people are not ready for a market-based funerary industry," said Anton Avdeyev, director of the Union of Funeral Agency Workers.

For copies of any article summarized in this newsletter, contact Pat Shaw. patshaw@netins.net

Thanks to the contributors of news articles and other information to the newsletter.

"Show me your burial grounds and I'll show you a measure of the civility of a community."

-- Benjamin Franklin

Don't forget to pay your dues for 2010 -- thanks for your support!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Marengo Mausoleum

LaVerna Mosier and I went to the meeting of the Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission on June 26, 2008. We asked permission to bury the remains of 12 people in two pioneer cemeteries. We wanted the 10 Haas family members to go to the Old Marengo Cemetery and the 2 Titlers to go to the Titler Cemetery. They gave their approval.

On August 21, 2008 John and Carolina Titler were moved to the Titler Cemetery and buried next to the Titler family.

On September 23, 2008 we moved all 10 of the Haas family to the Old Marengo Cemetery. Six of them were buried there at the time of their deaths and later moved to the mausoleum. We moved them back to their family lot with the four who had not been buried there. All 10 are in the Haas family lot where the gravestones of the first six still stand.

We asked the Commission if they would help us set the gravestones for the 12 in the pioneer cemeteries and in the October 23, 2008, meeting they agreed to set the stones.

The doors on the crypts in the mausoleum had their names on them and we used them for gravestones. During the summer of 2009 the doors were set as gravestones for all 12 people.

We are grateful to the commission for their assistance.

Beverly Blythe