

# GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535  
VOLUME 15 ISSUE #1

www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/  
January, 2010

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will meet at 10 a.m. April 10, 2010, at the Jasper County Museum and Historical Society Building, 1700 S. 15th Ave. W., Newton. It is located at the 164 exit off I-80 (Hwy 14). Go north on Highway 14 to the first set of traffic lights and turn right (east) and then take an immediate right down the frontage road (at Caseys) which is also W. 18th St. S. Continue on W. 18th St. S. until it curves around and becomes S. 15th Ave. W. The parking lot is on the south side of the street. For more information, contact Diana Wagner. [wagner@pcpartner.net](mailto:wagner@pcpartner.net)

10 Oakwood Ave, Newton, IA 50208  
(319) 792-6668

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SAPIC is a non-profit organization 501 (c) (3). Contributions are deductible under sections 170, 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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## Dean Gipple, one of the founders of SAPIC, dies

Dean H. Gipple, 92, of Columbus Junction, died at the Colonial Manor Home in Columbus Junction on Feb. 9, 2010. On March 13th, the family will receive friends at the Presbyterian Church in Columbus Junction at 9 AM and a Memorial service will follow at 10 AM. Memorials for Dean may be made to the Spring Run Church or the United Presbyterian Home of Washington, Iowa. Dean Hamilton Gipple was born on the family farm in the Pitch In community of Louisa County on Sept. 7, 1917 to Frank and Francine Gipple. He graduated from Wyman High School. Dean married Ruth Lois Williams on November 24, 1938. He farmed until back injuries forced him to give it up and began selling insurance for Farm Bureau from which he retired in 1987. Dean was a 4-H leader, school board member and was active in Spring Run Church. Dean enjoyed

woodworking, photography, hunting, and fishing. He also restored pioneer cemeteries, helped pass the present law to protect them and was a founding member of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries.

Dean was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Ruth, and two of his brothers, Max and Junior.

Dean is survived by his older brother, Ray of Florissant, MO, and his children Danny (Joyce), Melvin or Red (Irene), Susie (Jim) Stoutner, Nancy (Bob) Thorkildson, and Alice (Todd) Redalen. Also, nine grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

*Our sympathies to Dean's family. Those who care about the preservation of Iowa's pioneer cemeteries owe him a great debt.*

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<http://www.genealogue.com/2010/02/gravestones-under-glass.html>  
Saturday, February 06, 2010 "Gravestones Under Glass"

Someday we might all be carrying bottles of liquid glass to the graveyard. Spray-on liquid glass is transparent, nontoxic, and can protect virtually any surface against almost any damage from hazards such as water, UV radiation, dirt, heat, and bacterial infections. The coating is also flexible and breathable, which makes it suitable for use on an enormous array of products.

The war graves association in the UK is investigating using the spray to treat stone monuments and grave stones, since trials have shown the coating protects against weathering and graffiti. Trials in Turkey are testing the product on monuments such as the Ataturk Mausoleum in Ankara.

Web site: [www.nanopool.eu/couk/index.htm](http://www.nanopool.eu/couk/index.htm)

Note: SAPIC does not endorse products but provides this for your information only.

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Want to contact your Iowa legislators? Have his/her name ready...

House of Reps switchboard	515-281-3321
Speaker Pat Murphy	515-281-5566
Majority leader Kevin McCarthy	515-281-3054
Minority leader Craig Paulson	515-281-3521

Senate switchboard	515-281-3371
President Jack Kibble	515-281-3811
Majority leader Mike Gronstal	515-281-4610
Minority leader Paul McKinley	515-281-3560

Governor Chet Culver 515-281-5211

Or e-mail: [chet.culver@Igov.state.ia.us](mailto:chet.culver@Igov.state.ia.us)

## SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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641-664-2852 wilcar@netins.net

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319-415-1175 tonybengston@yahoo.com

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325 Franklin St.  
Wapello, IA 52653 -1515  
319-527-8164 ckcasey@louisacom.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](http://www.granitecitytoolvt.com)

Superior Stone Products  
(quickset acrylic adhesive)  
8580 Byron Commerce Drive  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
800-493-5111 [www.superiorstoneproducts.com](http://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  
515-242-5310 or 1-877-955-1212 (toll free)

## 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

Due to inclement weather, the January meeting had to be canceled. President Steve Story sent out the following "e-mail agenda" and a compilation of the responses he received is included. Items can be discussed further at the April 10 meeting.

From: Pat Shaw <patshaw@netins.net>  
Subject: Agenda for SAPIC "e-mail meeting"  
Date: January 8, 2010 7:33:22 PM CST  
To: SAPIC

**SAPIC Revised Agenda for 'e-mail meeting' on Saturday morning January 9, 2009**

Directions: Each item is numbered. If you have views on any of these topics, please e-mail me (Steve Story), including the number of the item and your comments, to (dstory@netins.net) tonight or very early Saturday morning so that I can try to compile them and e-mail the compilation back to each of you by 8:00am.

1. Oct. 10, 2009 minutes, mailed with SAPIC October 2009 Grave News
2. Treasurer's Report- 3rd quarter was included in Oct. 2009 Grave News. Valerie could e-mail or place 4th quarter report in our next newsletter. Valerie has previous permission to renew the CD that matures Jan. 16, 2010.
3. Syracuse Cemetery, Bremer County Trial. Several of us attended the trial. Bill Reedy has commented about 'what might happen and what we might need to do'. Bill, could you share your views with the membership?
4. Request from Terry Altheide (Lee County) for SAPIC to sanction (approve) a Pioneer Patriot Day—in the fall- could be held in counties that wished to specially honor a pioneer patriot (War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War) buried in a pioneer or other local cemetery. *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)* held such a day in cooperation with our *Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Association*- very well attended. This could be decided in April meeting- would not have to be in the fall, and up to each county.
5. Talleyand Cemetery, Keokuk County- I can report on this at April meeting. If you personally want information earlier, please let me know.
6. Request for cremains to be placed 'within' grandmother's grave-site in a pioneer cemetery. I contacted Dennis Britson today about the 'magic number' of 13 burials in a Pioneer Cemetery and causing loss of Pioneer status. He said that it might be possible for a cemetery to lose their designation in such a case, as the law reads. He also stated that it might be possible to 'set aside a special area' with legal deeding, etc. for new burials. In any event, he has always stated that all Iowa cemeteries contemplating accepting burials should have definite rules and policies in place before doing so. Of course, the courts often have the final say (without further legislation)
7. Primary or general election opposition for our legislative supporters? State Senator Bill Heckroth (Waverly) has general election opposition; State Representative Andrew Wenthe does not yet have opposition, but likely will have opposition in November. State Rep. Jeff Kaufman does not yet have opposition. What is the situation in your area? We have one more meeting before Primary elections, and three more before general elections.
8. Pat Shaw has asked to continue policy of awarding grants of assistance. This could wait until April, but what are your opinions at this time?
9. Will Jasper County host the April 2010 meeting? (Pat-do you know more about this?)
10. Any further info or desire to have Carl Thoreson of Oak Hill (Cedar Rapids) Cemetery host July 2010 meeting and perhaps a separate or included workshop. John Heider has great interest in a hands-on workshop.
11. Capitol -Feb.28 may be too early to sufficiently organize (brochures, Posters, signs, etc) March 3 might be better. WHO CAN BE THERE?



Not enough SAPIC members were able to attend the "day at the state capitol building" to promote and raise awareness of our concerns to state legislators. Newsletters and brochures will be sent to legislators.

From: <dstory@netins.net>  
Subject: **Re: Agenda for SAPIC "e-mail meeting"**  
Date: January 9, 2010 8:06:55 AM CST  
To: "Pat Shaw" <patshaw@netins.net>  
Cc: "Connie Street" <ckcasey@louisacomm.net>, <stonecut@mchsi.com>, "Valerie Ogren" <vjogren@netins.net>, <reedyart@jj.net>, <tonybenngston@yahoo.com>, <digger4045@yahoo.com>, <davisduo@omebbs.com>

Good morning- It is a bit after 7:30 am, -20F on our outside thermometer here in rural Fayette county. Chores (2 horses, 7 sheep, 12 barn cats) done. Thank you for your responses. I am asking Pat Shaw to send this to all on the SAPIC list. Responses (some shortened) follow:

- 1) one motion, two seconds- approve minutes
  - 2) Treasurer Val has mailed her report- will send a report to Pat to include in next newsletter. She will renew CD at best available rate, which had prior approval. Thanks, Val.
  - 3) one request to know more about Syracuse Cemetery lawsuit- another request to hear more from Bill Reedy. Bill wrote this: "Bremer County takes the position that pioneer cemeteries do not fall under the legal protections that were primarily enacted to cover them, because the re-codified cemetery law makes a distinction between 'cemetery' and 'pioneer cemetery'. As no decision has been rendered in the case (so far as I know), we do not know whether the court will accept this line of thought. If it does, we will have to go to the legislature for an act to clarify the original intent of protecting (primarily) pioneer cemeteries." (my opinion- with no compromise in sight, this may become a reality- we will surely know the outcome before the April meeting but hopefully before the legislature adjourns?!)
  - 4) Varied opinions- I am going to (a) ask Terry Altheide (Lee County) to write an article for Grave News, (b) come as a guest to April 2010 meeting (c) tell what they have done in Lee County in an e-mail to Pat Shaw to send to all members. Pat Shaw has attended several of Lee County's Pioneer Patriot events and the ceremonies are far more than just placing flags on veteran's graves. They include historical info and -re-enactments, buglers playing Taps, refreshments, etc. They specifically honor one or more veterans, and they have the Governor's Proclamation! It is a worthwhile event.
  - 5) Info on Talleyrand can wait until April meeting
  - 6) Wide variance of opinions, including recent info from Kevin Lee (Winneshiek County) and Dennis Britson. Two remember Dennis saying that excess of (then 6, now 12) would not change status; now Dennis states that it could change status. I am asking Kevin Lee to send the full story of Green Burial to Pat to send on to all, or write an article for the next Grave News- it will be an April agenda item as far as advice to county Pioneer Cemetery Commissions needing rules if they choose to accept any burials.
  - 7) Only one response- did not know of opposition yet to that counties' legislators- we will know a lot more in April!
  - 8) Grants- Pat asked to continue policy. Valerie asked for hold on grants at October meeting, but no action was taken. Larry reminded us that we had a policy of no grants past 25% of SAPIC reserve, but favored grants in general. April topic!
  - 9) Jasper County hosting- Pat will continue to pursue the topic
  - 10) Considerable interest in Carl Thoreson (CR-Oak Hill) hosting a July meeting/possible workshop. Carl, please keep us all informed, talk to John Heider, and we will take a good look at this.
  - 11) Having a 'day' at Capitol favored- several ideas advanced- need people to be there- March 3 is better date?
- Please ignore the typos and fire back to me as needed or desired. Thanks, Pat, for sending this out to all.  
Steve Story



# STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter – 1 October 2009 thru 31 December 2009

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2009, Home State Bank, Jefferson	
\$2,496.86	
Income	
Dues	\$ 275.00
Donation	10.00
Interest 10/30/09	.67
Interest 11/30/09	.69
Interest 12/31/09	.69
Total Income	\$ 287.05
Expense	
Ck #231 – Larry Davis – Exp for IRS Tax Exemption	\$ 25.26
Ck #232 – Patricia Shaw – Stamps – newsletter exp.	8.80
Ck #233 – Postmaster – Bulk rate permit	185.00
Total Expense	\$ 219.06

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2009

\$ 2,564.85

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 October 2009, Home State Bank, Jefferson

\$ 2,828.39

Income – Donation from Hynek's

\$100.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2009

\$ 2,928.39

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 31 December 2009

\$ 5,493.24

## Plus additional funds:

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

Added interest payment of \$84.47 makes projected balance \$5,669.89

Rate of interest will not be known until renewal date.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Ogren, Treasurer

108 N. Oak

Jefferson IA 50129-1841

Ph 1-515-386-4784

E-mail: [vjogren@netins.net](mailto:vjogren@netins.net)

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

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

SAPIC is a non-profit organization 501 (c) (3). Contributions are deductible under sections 170, 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership application is included in this newsletter.

People can now have video footage play on their grave markers! [www.vidstone.com](http://www.vidstone.com)

-- Thanks to Tony Bengston

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"I see there's a funeral in town today."

"Yeah."

"Who died?"

"I'm not sure, but I think it's the one in the coffin."

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Thanks to SAPIC member Char Hixon from Iowa City who sent a number of interesting news articles from an old cemetery scrapbook, along with her dues. Some will be included in this and future newsletters.

From the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, August 30, 1870: "When 100 Died From Cholera in Iowa Settlement," The *Register's* Iowa News Service. ROME, IA. -- When the cholera epidemic of June, 1851, took its Iowa victims, Rome was in its path. In a small cemetery about two miles northeast of Rome (located west of Burlington on highway 16) the evidence is plain. Here are more than 100 graves due to cholera that June. Here lies as many as seven buried in one night's cover of darkness. The young and the old fell.

Night burial seemed less shocking, less catastrophic than daylight ceremonies. It is evident no one had time nor energy, to prepare hewn coffins.

It is doubtful if even those whose stone memorials are in evidence actually belong to the victim.

Often, men were drafted to dig graves, according to George H. Scott's Grandmother Maria. No one wanted to assist with cholera burials. She and her husband, William Scott, operated the first tavern and stopping house near Rome. One son, George H., lives on a portion of their one-time holdings.

"My Grandparents lived through the 1851 scourge," George says. "Grandmother told me about one traveler stopping at the tavern overnight who refused to assist with cholera victims for fear of contracting the disease, but 10 days later he caught cholera and died."

The Henry County history written in 1879 scarcely mentions the June epidemic, but it happened along the Skunk River which borders Rome. The history does tell of the great river flood of May, 1851.

The population of Henry County in 1838 was less than 3,000. The average mortality rate for cholera was barely 50 per cent if not treated. The only means of infection, we now know, is through contaminated food or water.

There are few visitors to this graveyard. But George Scott keeps it tended. It rests on the Ed Jennings estate ground.

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From the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, July 28, 1968: "So they went 'Tombstone Rubbing,'" by Frances Craig. Staff pictures by Jervas Baldwin. An entire page is devoted to the story of the activity of a small party of women that is termed "half nostalgia and half adventure." They went "tombstone rubbing." The leader of the group,

Mrs. William Shawn of West Des Moines, is pictured beside rubbings of a seventeenth-century knight and a lady that she made while in Suffolk County, England. A group of five, including 3 teachers, used big sheets of rice paper and art fabric and sticks of a black "rubbing wax" from a shoe repair shop to make rubbings pretty enough to frame as art work. They worked in the historic Jordan Cemetery off Fuller road in rural West Des Moines. Some of the rubbings told poignant stories: One little double stone read of "roses budded on earth to bloom in Heaven." It marked one babe's death as 1873 and the other's in 1877. The women traced the design of doves, exclaimed tenderly over the inscription and found beauty in a long-gone anguish.

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From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 4, 1940: "Tombstone in Guttenberg Cemetery Provides Mystery." Found in a neglected corner of the older section of the burial ground, a stone purports to mark the resting place of a woman who died in 1769. Since Guttenberg's first known white settlers came in 1837, it appears that a mistake was made either by historians or a stone-cutter. The inscription, which is in German, reads "Here lies Maria, wife of A. Walz, Died Sept. 13, 1769, aged 54 years. Rest in Peace."

At first, local historians were inclined to believe that some early stone-cutter, perhaps working by candlelight, made an error in the date. But then it was found that the stone is set in a base which is completely swallowed up by the trunk of an ancient tree, obviously more than a century old. The lettering, too, is different from any other stones in the cemetery. And the stone is of a much harder type than the other memorials. A search of the county records revealed no family named Walz, and older inhabitants of Guttenberg can remember no one of that name.

One group of residents believes that the grave may have been moved to Iowa from some eastern state, while a second group claims that the stone was found by early settlers of the town and that decided the location of their cemetery.

The stone, of course, retains its dignified silence, and challenges historians to disprove its legend.

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From the *Tri-State Trader*, Knightstown, Indiana, March 21, 1970: "Grave Rubbing Gives Hoosier Pair Insight to Art, History," by Mary Holsinger Weinberg. Pictured is a rice paper rubbing of a Pennsylvania Dutch headstone showing the popular "Tree of Life" design with drooping tulips and hearts symbolizing both the passing and emerging of life. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Boehme of Griffith, Indiana have spent the last four years in cemeteries in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and England making rubbings of stones that are considered a form of folk art. Usually they work with white rice paper and colored inks or beeswax, working early in the morning when conditions are ideal. They also research the history of the area and the symbolism found on the stones.

## COUNTY REPORTS

### ADAMS

From the *Adams county Free Press*, July 7, 1977: "Topped tombstones hold untold tales," by Chuck Barnes. Pictured are broken cemetery stones discovered by Adams County road workers. The stones were taken back to the county engineer's office where they were cleaned up so the inscriptions could be read. One stone carried the inscription: "Infant of William and Rachel Munson, died Feb. 26, 1871." Two other stones had initials only. Research revealed a marriage record for the Munsons, owner of the land in 1871, and Mrs. Munson's maiden name. The stones were returned to the place where they were found and the road was moved a little to the south to avoid disturbing a possible burial site.

### BUTLER

From the *Iowa Recorder*, February 4, 1902: Court House items, furnished by Geo W. Conn, Abstractor, Allison, Iowa. Roelf A Meyer and wf to Wilhelm A Meyer except cemetery ground.

From the *Iowa Recorder*, March 11, 1931: Henry W. Burma, sheriff to State Bank of Dumont, sheriff's deed. W1/2 of SE1/4 of Section 19, except cemetery in NW1/4 of same.

### CERRO GORDO

E-mail from Neal DuShane, February 2, 2009: It was this date in 1959, at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, IA that Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and Richie Valens died in a plane crash about five miles NW of Mason City, IA airport. Dion and the Belmonts, as well as Waylon Jennings performed that night also. Waylon flipped a coin to ride on the airplane but lost (actually won by not being on the plane) a ride to Moorhead, MN for the "Winter Dance Party" next performance.

Neal states that he was at that performance and spoke with Buddy Holly. It was a brutally cold night with sleet and light snow falling. He has visited the crash site and the memorial that has been placed there.

Directions to the crash site: On I-35 at the Clear Lake exit, follow US Highway 18 west, go north on North 8th Street in Clear Lake for 4.7 miles. When the paved road (Grouse Avenue) turns to your left (west) take the gravel road (310th St.) to your right (east), then immediately left (north) on Gull Avenue. Follow Gull Avenue to the north for one-half mile, just past the grain bins to the first fence row on your left (west). Walk along the fence row towards the west for just under one-half mile. A small memorial is located at the place the plane came to rest. Four trees were planted along the fence row in 1999, one for each performer and the pilot. GPS - N43 13'13.08, W93 22'53.60"

### CHICKASAW COUNTY

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 1 26 Number 4, Fourth Quarter 2009,

J.L K. Editor, page 27: "Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission (CCCC) Report." Commission member, Priscilla Reisner reports that she and her husband, Fred, attended the July 11 SAPIC meeting at Oelwein. Mentioned was the change in the definition of a pioneer from "six or fewer burials within the past fifty years" to "twelve or fewer burials." Pioneer cemetery commissions work with the County Board of Supervisors who assume jurisdiction, management and pay other expenses of the cemetery board. Comments from president Steve Story and other attendees were included in the report. CCCC members will work in the Garden of Memories Dresden Township and Cagley Cemeteries in the spring. A record of county pioneer burials is available from the Genealogical Society, PO Box 434, New Hampton, IA 50659.

### CRAWFORD

From the *Iowa State Reporter*, February 24, 1875: "Stealing a Grave." Among the old stories of Denison as it was, which was revived by the cold snap, is the following, which is vouched for as authentic.

In the midst of the winter, when there were four feet of frost in the ground, a grave had to be dug, and a man, whom we shall call "Bird" for short, was hired to dig it for \$5. When he arrived on the cemetery grounds he found a Swede there engaged in digging a grave. On ascertaining that the Swedish funeral would not take place until after the one for which he was engaged to dig the grave, he coolly went off, and when the procession came, had the corpse put into the grave which the Swede had dug. When the second funeral came the grave had disappeared, and all hands had to turn in and dig for three hours to bury their corpse.

We have heard of many thefts before, but that of stealing another man's grave is certainly a novel procedure.

--Denison Review

### DES MOINES

From the *Davenport Weekly Leader*, December 18, 1900: "Another Soldier." Another Revolutionary soldier who died in Iowa was William Blair, who came to Iowa in territorial days and settled in Des Moines County. Mr. Blair's military record is practically unknown, but there is no doubt that he was a Revolutionary soldier. He lived near Kossuth, and his remains lie buried in the Round Prairie cemetery not far from that village. His son, Thomas Blair, at one time represented Des Moines county in the Iowa legislature.

The soldier who fought on the British side, in the struggle of the colonies for independence was William Ross, an ensign in an English regiment, who served the entire seven years with his regiment and when the colonies were acknowledged as having won independence he returned to his home in England. But, he soon after resigned from the army and came to Lancaster, Pa. to live. In 1872 he went to Lexington, Ky.



where he built the first brick house in that town. He afterwards removed to Quincy, Ill., then to Burlington, Ia., where he died in about a year. His son, Dr. Wm. R. Ross, caused the body to be buried in a private cemetery on a farm four miles from Burlington.

It is believed these are the only persons who were actual participants in the Revolutionary war who knew Iowa.

#### DICKINSON

From the *Spirit Lake Beacon*, November 22, 1889: Real Estate Transfers. John Comstock to T.S. Seymour, subdivision 3 of plat of 18.98.36, except cemetery grounds. Consideration \$5,000.

From the *Spirit Lake Beacon*, March 16, 1939: "Several Unknown Burials Found in Local Cemetery." The article recounts the mysteries surrounding burials in local cemeteries found by Amanda Swailes who has been collecting data for the Iowa Grave Registration project, a State and Federal WPA project. To complete these records she studies old newspaper files and the burial registration book. A mysterious burial at Lakeview cemetery was discovered when a lot purchased by the Stoddard Family revealed an unknown burial in 1934. Several other graves, whose occupants are unknown, are on lots purchased by individuals in the 1800s. Ms. Swailes also tries to identify and record burials of war veterans. Stories of victims of small pox and multiple drownings were related. There were 1630 graves in the Lakeview cemetery at that time. The cemetery was first laid out in 1874, but no records were kept until after 1884.

#### FLOYD

From the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, March 26, 1934: "Registration of Graves is Made." Four CWA workers in Floyd County are putting up Veterans' Markers." A grave registration detail under the direction of H. W. Crossman of Charles City is being conducted for the American Legion. Seeking out veterans' graves and seeing that they are given a proper marking is a principal mission of the workers who are working in rural areas as well as larger cemeteries. One cemetery contained markers for 17 graves, when it was found there were actually 35 veterans' burials. In another cemetery, it was discovered that two veterans of the Civil War had been buried in potter's field. Reports were made in triplicate and copies given to the state graves registration project, the local Legion Post, and for the secretary of the cemetery.

#### GREENE

The Greene County Commission will start meetings in April. At that time we plan what we will be doing over the summer. We will start by taking a tour of the cemeteries to see if they are in need of any work and then we will proceed with what we find. We have taken on a family cemetery that has been abandoned and we hope to put up a stone with the names of those known to be buried

there and a fence to keep out the cows. This cemetery has been the site of some parties that resulted in the stones thrown down the ravine just for the fun of it. We are not anticipating any major problems but with the record snowfall this winter we will have to see.

--Ada Ross, Secretary <adadean@netins.net>

#### IOWA

From a Homestead newspaper, January 25, 1906, page 34: PRIVATE CEMETERY A subscriber, Yukon, Okla. -- F. B. sold his farm in Iowa to J. B. Four of the family are buried on the farm and J. B. knew it when he bought the farm, and made no objection. (1) Can J. B. remove the bodies without the consent of F. B.? (2) In case J. B. should remove the bodies without the consent of F. B., what penalty would he incur?

Answer -- (1) We think that in order to remove the bodies J. B. would have to obtain an order of court upon due notice to the near relatives of the persons buried on the place. (2) The law provides that a person who disturbs a tomb or vault in a public or private cemetery is guilty of a misdemeanor and can be punished by confinement in the county jail not exceeding one year, or fined not more than \$500, or both, at the discretion of the court.

From a Homestead newspaper, March 20, 1896: Cemeteries." Mr. Editor: Would you please tell me the law in regard to private cemeteries? Is is a fine for anyone to cut green brush or plow on the part where there are no graves, where the cemetery is in the corner of a field and unfenced. Does the state employ a man to see to it and bring suit for an offense, collect fines, etc.

Subscriber, North English, Iowa.

The subject is governed by section 2 of the act of April 3, 1878, as follows: Any person who shall willfully and maliciously destroy, mutilate, deface, injure or remove any tomb, vault, monument, gravestone or other structure placed in any public or private cemetery in this state, or other fences, railing or other work for the protection of ornamentation of said cemetery, or of any tomb, vault, monument, or gravestone, or other structure aforesaid, on any cemetery lot within such cemetery, or shall willfully and maliciously destroy, cut, break or injure any tree, shrub, plant or lawn within the limits of said cemetery, or shall drive at unusual or forbidden speed over the avenues or roads in said cemetery, or shall drive outside of said avenues and roads and over the grass or graves of said cemetery, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, or shall, upon conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction, be punished by a fine of not less than five dollars, nor more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not less than one or than thirty days, in the discretion of the court; and such offender shall also be liable in an action of trespass in the name of the person or corporation having the custody and control of said cemetery grounds, to pay all such damages as have been occasioned by his unlawful actor

acts, which money, when recovered, shall be applied by said person or corporation to the reparation and restoration of the property so injured or destroyed, if the same can be so repaired or restored.

There is no person employed by the state to collect fines or bring suits. As will be observed, the offense is a misdemeanor, and is triable as other misdemeanors, upon information made by anyone who desires to make it.

### JACKSON

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, June 9, 1925: "Tombstone Sold to Pay Upkeep of Lot: Villagers Protest." Maquoketa, Ia., June 9 -- A storm of criticism was being directed today against the trustees of Mount Hope Cemetery here because of their sale of a monument which marked the graves of Jennie and Winnie Davis, sisters who taught school in this county for many years. The monument was sold to pay for the upkeep of the lot which was in arrears for more than a quarter of a century.

The headstone originally cost \$300. It was sold for \$100 to a local man who had the inscription chiseled off and a new one engraved thereon. He then placed the stone on the grave of his family lot in another cemetery.

The Davis sisters were popular with the older generation. Their life story was a sad one. One died of tuberculosis after years of struggle on meager school wages, the disease brought on by wading thru snow to reach school. The other died in an insane asylum after a physical breakdown from exposure and hard work.

The sisters left only \$400. It was used to purchase the tombstone and pay for burial expenses. Friends kept up the grave expenses for a few years. Then the Davis sisters were forgotten.

### MILLS

From the *Glenwood Opinion*, June 7, 1906: "The Lost Loudon Cemetery." The Anthony brothers who inquired through the *Opinion* if anyone could give them the location of the old Loudon cemetery have received numerous replies. Their father is buried there. The answers received do not agree, although most agree that it is on the Kelly farm just north of the present site of Hillsdale. Loudon was the first town in Center township and had a school or seminary. The building was blown down by a storm and the railroad bypassed Loudon. The hopes of the founders that it would become a metropolis perished.

From the *Mills County Tribune*, December 29, 1892: The obituary of Mrs. Eliza Jane Dean states that her interment took place at the family cemetery which is situated on the home farm.

### LEE

In an e-mail dated December 27, Terry Altheide comments on confusion concerning birth dates on the stone of Frank and Jane Ballinger and their daughter.

Terry explains that the stone is in the Ballinger Cemetery about a mile north of Sandusky. A news article dated 1916 states the birth dates, but the stone cannot now be located, so it is not possible to check on dates. Terry hopes to have access to the property to search for the lost Ballinger Cemetery in the future.

From the *Daily Gate City* newspaper, December, 2009: "Pioneer group honors volunteers, confers awards." Pictured is Terry Altheide honoring Mary Sue Chatfield for her many years of researching genealogy and Montrose history. Mrs. Chatfield was also the featured speaker at the seventh annual banquet of the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association held in Keokuk. Awards were also presented to the youth group of the Calvary Baptist Church, members of the Sandusky Cemetery Board, and Spirit of Our Pioneer Patriots who honor the memories of veterans in some fashion. A certificate was given to Kirk Brandenberger for his yearly organization of the Civil War reenactment in Keokuk. Taylor Young received a certificate for playing "Taps" at ceremonies. Coffee mugs were presented to the owners of the Ogo Restaurant where the banquet was held and where they host yearly fundraisers for the cemetery association.

From the *Daily Gate City* newspaper, December, 2009: "Female veterans' contributions in wars have been overlooked," by Terry Altheide. The column reports on the difficulties experienced by women veterans on their return home. More than 230,000 American women have served in recent conflicts, resulting in the deaths of 120 of them and the wounding of an additional 650. Many of these veterans are having difficulty obtaining benefits and are scorned by the general public. Terry mentions Sarah Thompson who joined the Army as a nurse in the Civil War and is buried in the National Cemetery in Keokuk. Graves of Mary Fontaine Alexander Smith who served during WW1 and Catherine Williams and Mary Caufield who served in WWII are in Keokuk's Oakland Cemetery, along with Julie Lander who served for more than 20 years including a combat role in Iraq. Photos of these women, except for Smith, are on display at River City Mall. Anyone with a photo of Smith is asked to submit it for display.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, January 14, 2010: "Country Facts and Folklore," by Andy Reddick. In 1923, Alex Coleman drew up a will giving Lee County \$400,00 to build a standard, 18-foot paved highway from the junction of Highway 218, to Hillsboro, 9 miles to the west. His banker suggested that he give his money to charities but Coleman declined saying, "I want to get my neighbors out of the mud." In 1926, a codicil was drawn which provided the highway be built while he was still alive. It was to lie straight for several miles, then wind past his old homestead and the cemetery where he would be buried. On July 4, 1928, the highway was dedicated and was of great benefit to the communities of Hillsboro and Houghton. In 1930, Hwy 218 was paved including the footing that connected it with Coleman Road. Coleman died in 1933 before a new road was completed past the

farm he had given to Dolly Rohdy, who had cared for him and his aging sisters. His relatives contested the will, so that road was never completed.

#### LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, September 25, 1976: "Gravestone Found in His Back Yard." Pictured is Lt. Dennis Fiser of the sheriff's department as he examines two gravestones found at a Marion residence. Two stones of young children were unearthed on property owned by Stan Warner recently. Death records identified the children who were buried in Oak Shade cemetery and later transferred to Cedar Memorial. The property was owned at that time by T.A. Yocum, owner of a funeral home.

Officials theorized the stones were taken from Oak Shade Cemetery and placed on the property beside a barn which was later converted to a garage.

#### LOUISA

From the *Senior Lifestyles*, supplement to *The Van Buren County Register*, December 31, 2009: "Family plans cookbook to benefit cemetery association," by Connie Street. Pictured are members of the Keith and Katherine Carey family as they gather to make Christmas goodies at the Carey home near Columbus Junction. They and other family members are publishing a cookbook to raise funds for the Indian Creek Cemetery Association in Louisa County. The book will be a combination family history project with photos and captions to explain the recipes. The goal is to have the books available for the Carey's 60th wedding anniversary set for May 2, 2010. Many of the recipes have been converted to be gluten free, since some members of the family have celiac disease and are intolerant of gluten protein.

#### MAHASKA

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 6, 2010: "Cemetery loses second swan. by Andy Goodell, *Oskaloosa Herald*. The article tells of the death of one of the swans in the Forest Cemetery that was apparently struck by a vehicle. The death of this swan comes after one other water fowl of the same breed died at the cemetery a year ago. The swans had been a staple of the cemetery for several years and were fed and cared for by visitors and volunteers. The swans are buried in the pet section of the cemetery. Memorial Park Cemetery in Mason City has been contacted about finding two replacements for Forest Cemetery's fallen swans. This particular cemetery raises swans for themselves and other cemeteries.

From the newsletter of the Keo-Mah Gen. Soc. Family Research Center, Oskaloosa, IA, Volume XXIV, issue 1, January February March, 2010, page 11: "Pioneer History." Taken from the files of *The Saturday Globe*, Oskaloosa, IA, March 26, 1910 -- New Sharon (From the *Star*). The town of Oskaloosa, at that time, extended only

a little more than two blocks from the square, and had a population of 2,000 to 2,500. Forest Cemetery had just been located and was thickly covered with hazel brush, with only a small clearing on the rise near where the Gen. Rice monument stands. The first person buried in the new cemetery was the wife of Wm. Loughridge, afterward congressman from this district. It illustrates the change that the years have produced, mentioning that according to Dr. Waring's recollection he attended in the early spring of 1861 the funeral of the second person to be buried in the then new cemetery, the wife of E. W. Wells, then a resident here. Dr. Waring was the pastor of the Methodist Church, known as "Old Charge."

#### MARION

From the *Oelwein Daily Democrat*, August 18, 1925: "Single Funeral for Three Boys," by United Press. Pleasantville, Ia., Aug. 18 -- A single funeral service will be held for the three youths who were overcome by white damp and fell to their death down an abandoned mine shaft Saturday.

The boys, Eldon Koons, 12, his brother, Milburn Koons, 19, and Donald Hodgson, 18, will be buried side by side in a private cemetery on the Charles Hodgson farm today.

#### PALO ALTO

From the *Democrat*, Emmetsburg, IA, May 24, 1979: Pictured is the gravestone of Henry W. Correy, the only one still visible in the nearly forgotten North Vernon Cemetery in the northeast part of the county. The Methodist church nearby was moved to Emmetsburg years ago. As many as 17, or perhaps more, are thought to be buried in the cemetery. Someone has come to the cemetery nearly every year on Memorial Day. A quart jar with a message "If you visit my mother's grave, my address is ..." was found many years ago. An attempt was made to move the cemetery but failed. Adjacent property owner John D. Hall cleared the ground and built new fence.

#### POLK

SAPIC member Vicki Stinson renewed her membership and included information about an organization to which she belongs, the Supernatural Research Society of Iowa: [www.srsoi.com](http://www.srsoi.com) or [www.myspace.com/srsoi](http://www.myspace.com/srsoi) She mentions that their society has adopted a section of Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, established in 1848, and tends to graves making sure to remove old plant growth, fallen tree limbs and advise the city of toppled headstones. They have photographed every readable headstone and uploaded them to the Iowa Gravestone Photo Project.

#### POWESHIEK

From the *Daily Citizen*, Iowa City, IA, January 21, 1893: "Mrs. Mossman was Petrified." In June, 1884, Mrs. Abigail Mossman was interred at the Hazelwood cemetery in Poweshiek county, IA. Not long since relatives



determined to remove the remains to another cemetery. The workmen engaged to perform the job found the coffin filled to overflowing with red colored mineral water. This was drained off, whereupon it was found that the corpse, with the exception of the fingers and toes, was perfectly petrified. The hair was perfectly natural, as was also a bouquet of roses that lay on her breast. After a thorough examination by relatives and friends the coffin was again closed and covered up.

#### WINNESHIEK

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, May 11, 1941: It took a woman over 93 years old with a memory as long as the calendar and as sharp as her Irish wit to locate the old military cemetery at Fort Atkinson in northeast Iowa, which was all but forgotten when soldiers abandoned the fort in 1848.

She is Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Sabin, now of Minneapolis, Minn., who returned to the fort for the first time since post-Civil War days, to help find the forgotten cemetery whose location has been an unsolved mystery for many years. Mrs. Sabin is the mother of Mrs. D. J. Rosebrook of Fayette.

#### WARREN

SAPIC member Rosemary Hoover sends an e-mail dated January 31, 2010 reporting that pictures of stones, obits, new items (sometimes only 2 sentences) or biographies of persons buried at our cemetery, Webb Cemetery, have been posed to Find A Grave.com web site. A lot of transcribing went into the project to comply with copyright laws. Research, via funeral homes records, continues in an effort to identify persons buried in unmarked graves. The original plat map hung on a wall in the storage shed at the cemetery. It was destroyed by fire in the early 1950s.

Perhaps you or our members can answer this inquiry. The daughter of our former grave digger told me that her father used to sing a little ditty as he went about his digging. This was back in the 1940s & 50s. She couldn't recollect all of the words. A few years ago a visitor to our cemetery rattled off the verse spontaneously. I failed to write down the verse or the visitor's name. Think our members would have some knowledge of it?

--rillysh@netzero.net

#### OUT OF IOWA

##### ARIZONA

In an e-mail from Neal Dushane dated February 15, 2010, he states that the Arizona cemetery restoration group has identified an additional 55 derelict and forgotten graves making a total of 11,056. One cemetery restoration is in progress of completion (Helvetia) with another two starting next month (Twin Buttes & Del Rio) pending weather conditions. Research for lost graves continues at Big Bug, Big Bug Mesa, Howells, Walker and many other locations. Two headstones were made and

placed at Tussock Springs. <n.j.dushane@comcast.net>

In an e-mail dated January 19, 2010, Neal DuShane reports that the Arizona group has gained 41 cemeteries and 490 graves.

#### ILLINOIS

From the *Nauvoo Independent*, October 28, 2009, page 7: "Keeping the 'final' in final resting place." State laws aim to protect historic and prehistoric burial sites. Randolph County -- The Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440; 17 IAC 4170) administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA). makes it a crime to disturb unregistered graves and grave markers, including burial mounds, that are more than 100 years old. This most often applies to Native American burials, but also includes pioneer graves, unmarked paupers' graves, and other burial sites that dot the state. Thieves dug into a Late Woodland burial mound and tossed aside human bones for artifacts that could be sold to unscrupulous or unsuspecting collectors and the case is being investigated by law enforcement. Violations are a Class A Misdemeanor and penalties could include a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to one year in jail, plus forfeiture of all equipment, including vehicles used in the crime and payment for all costs to restore damages. Disturbances may include removing grave markers from an abandoned cemetery in a field to make it more convenient for farming, or they may be as egregious as looting known burial sites to extract artifacts for profit.

SAPIC member John Heider conducts workshops in Illinois to train volunteers and cemetery personnel in skills necessary for such tasks as mapping, documentation, surveying, photographing markers, site maintenance, investigating probing for buried markers, stone cleaning, resetting, and repair. There are three types of restoration workshops: Classroom, Basic, and Advanced. Information about upcoming workshops is listed on the SAPIC web page or information may be obtained from John Heider: (217-353-2055). E-mail: jheider@mchsi.com Web site: www.parkland.edu

#### GEORGIA

From *American Profile* magazine, March 7-13, 2010, page 12: "Built on Granite," by Stuart Englert, senior editor. Pictured are John & Kaye Campbell who own the Dixie Granite Co. in Elberton, Ga., which sits atop a giant granite deposit and is home to dozens of stone quarries including Beaver Dam Quarry (also pictured). Dixie Granite workers saw the blocks of granite into slabs, polish, shape and inscribe the stones and ship them to cemeteries, war memorials and historic sites across the nation, just as the company has done since 1928. The town of Elberton was founded in 1803 and named after Revolutionary War Gen. Samuel Elbert. Over the years, Elberton granite has been used to make millions of memorials, including the WWII Memorial in Washington DC.

## LOUISIANA

From *The Dallas Morning News*, October 22, 2009: "Wrong body is cremated," the Associated Press. Pictured are Guy, Chaka Khan and Kenneth Joseph whose mother's body was mistakenly cremated. They are trying to recover their mother's ashes. Her body and the body of another woman were picked up from a hospital by the wrong funeral homes. The mistake wasn't discovered until the family arrived to view their mother's body before services. Both bodies were properly identified with ID bracelets, toe tags and ID stickers on the body bags, but the tags weren't checked. The hospital has changed its protocol in the morgue. At least, two hospital employees will oversee the process and provide verification before a funeral home takes a deceased patient.

## MASSACHUSETTS

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, December 30, 2009: "Mom fights to be buried with soldier son," Washington (AP). Denise Anderson lost her only son in Iraq. Now she's determined not to lose her fight to be buried with him in a national veterans cemetery. Her son, Army Spc. Corey Shea was buried at the Massachusetts National Cemetery, but only children and spouses are allowed to be buried with a military person. The Veterans Affairs Department grants waivers and has approved four similar requests from dead soldiers' parents since 2005. However, under the VA's policy, she has to die first to get one. She doesn't understand why her request can't be granted now. She is challenging the VA's burial policy with support from her congressmen, Rep. Barney Frank and Sen. John Kerry. They have introduced the Corey Shea Act, a bill that would allow burial privileges for biological or adoptive parents of dead veterans who are buried in any of the 130 cemeteries run by the VA's National Cemetery Administration.

From the *Huffington Post*, The Internet Newspaper, <[www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)> December 30, 2009: "Why a Mom Should be Buried with her Dead Soldier Son," by Mona Gable. The author of this blog states her opinion of the policy described in the preceding article. <[www.twitter.com/monalg](http://www.twitter.com/monalg)>

## MISSOURI

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, November 19, 1890: They have discovered a lead mine in Missouri. Local scientists positively state that it is not simply a forgotten cemetery, but the fact that Missourians are usually buried with lead in their bodies casts serious doubts upon the discovery.

From the *American Profile* magazine, January 24-30, 2010: The 1,490 acre Painted Rock Conservation Area, near Westphalia, Missouri (pop. 320), shows evidence of American Indian occupation as far back as 9,000 years ago. A burial cairn, built between 500 and 1,500 years ago, is visible.

## NEBRASKA

From *American Profile* magazine, December 27, 2009-January 2, 2010: Army Spec. Donald Grella is back home in Laurel (pop.986) after being listed as missing in action for more than 40 years after a 1965 helicopter crash in Vietnam. The soldier's remains were recovered and returned to his hometown for burial in October.

From the <[Columbustelegram.com](http://Columbustelegram.com)> "Farmers appeal order preventing irrigation system over cemetery," by Heather Koontz, Telegram Staff. February 1, 2006: Calvin and Steve Sjuts of Humphrey, Nebraska purchased land in 1974 and filed a suit in 2003 claiming they had used the Granville Cemetery on the property for ten years and wanted the court to grant them a prescriptive easement. They wanted to run their center pivot irrigation system over the cemetery. However a Platte County judge's ruling prohibited them from doing so, calling cemeteries "consecrated ground" and the Granville Cemetery Association a "quasi-municipal corporation." The Sjuts have filed an appeal.

From the *Columbus Telegram*, Columbus, Nebraska, July 29, 2006: "Farmer loses case over 125-year-old cemetery." A Platte County farmer has lost his bid to run a pivot irrigation system through a cemetery that contains the grave of a Civil War veteran, along with 16 other burials and possibly 20 unmarked graves. The Nebraska Supreme Court rejected a case brought by Calvin Sjuts to take ownership of the cemetery by a quiet title. Nancy Hartman began contacting descendants a few years ago to help restore the cemetery and said the graves in old cemeteries must be protected, even if families of the deceased cannot be found. "Somebody loved them," she said. "Somebody cared about them."

From the monthly newsletter published and copyrighted by HEIRLINES Family History & Genealogy, PO Box 893, Salt Lake City, UT 84110, <[www.heirlines.com](http://www.heirlines.com)> August, 2006: "Good guys have won." The above article was printed on the web site. <http://court.nol.org/>

## NEW YORK

From the *New York Times*, October 14, 2009: "From Bones of Immigrants, Stories of Pain," by Jim Dwyer. From the late 18th century, people arriving in the United States were examined by doctors in New York Harbor. Those suspected of having an infectious disease were sent to a quarantine station at Marine Hospital in St. George, Staten Island. Those who died were buried in a rude graveyard on the grounds. In 1858, wealthy neighbors shut the facility down, moved sick immigrants into New York, and Ellis Island opened. The buildings were burned. Over the next century, fine homes were built over the old burial ground. In the late 1990s, the city began planning a new courthouse on the site. A forensic anthropologist was hired by the state to examine the bones that were discovered. His findings showed the ravages of poverty, illness and birth defects. Compound

fractures and arthritic joints in men and women not yet 40 years old were evident. Lynn Rogers, director of the Friends of Abandoned Cemeteries of Staten Island has arranged an interfaith service and a traditional 19th century wake for the remains of 36 people. The Staten Island borough president provided funds to build a memorial green, where all the remains will eventually be placed when the courthouse is finished.

From the *New York Times*, November 13, 2009: "Gravestone Leads to Irishman's Life," by A. G. Sulzberger. A 210-year-old gravestone of James Jackson was discovered in October, buried several feet beneath Washington Square Park in New York City. Using centuries-old tax records, city directories, court files and medical examiners logs, historians have begun to piece together the life of Mr. Jackson, an Irish immigrant. He was 28 when he died of yellow fever on Sept. 22, 1799. The stone will be returned for display when renovations are complete in the park.

#### NORTH CAROLINA

From *Consumer's Report*, December 2009: "A Grave Matter." An ad in this publication reads:

**THE WOODWORKER'S SHOP**  
**WE RESTORE, REPAIR, REFINISH**  
**AND CUSTOM BUILD**  
**CASKETS.**

**HWY. 226 SOUTH**

Yup, a woodworker in North Carolina will give new life to old caskets. No word on any exhumation fee (if that's not bad enough, picture being fitted for a custom-built model.)

From the *Times-News*, Henderson County, NC, December 19, 2009: "Goats uncover cemetery," by Beth Beasley. The Ballard Family Cemetery in North Mills River is the subject of a new experiment: using goats to clear vegetation from historic cemeteries. Jennie Jones Giles, director of the Henderson County Heritage Museum, suggested using goats to uncover stones on the 26 graves. So far, only two stones have been found. During her tenure as a *Times-News* staff writer, Giles wrote an award-winning series of stories about the county's cemeteries from 2003 to 2005. The stories highlighted the need to protect cemeteries from neglect and development. Significantly, Giles' stories inspired state legislation to protect North Carolina's historic cemeteries.

#### OHIO

From the Association for Gravestone Studies: 2010 AGS Conference in Granville, Ohio. Registration is open: E-mail: [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org)  
Workshops on stone carving, conservation, photography, gravestone rubbing and foil impressions will be offered. In addition, new workshops this year will be: Paranormal Sharing Workshop, Re-Defining the Historic Cemetery Workshop, Gravestones as Archaeological Artifacts Workshop, and Self-Publishing Workshop.

#### TEXAS

From the *Dallas Morning News*, October 24, 2009: "Day of the Dead Tributes honor deceased, educate," by Mercedes Olivera. Increasingly, Americans are embracing the spiritually comforting Mexican tradition of remembering the dead on Nov. 1-2. Family members will build an altar at the Latino Cultural Center in Dallas in honor of their departed loved ones and serve food. Teatro Dallas, a theater group will present a play at the Center.

From the *Star-Telegram*, December 19, 2009: "More churches offering members place for afterlife," by John Austin. Pictured is the Rev. Lamar Smith, a pastor at First United Methodist Church in Fort Worth as he stands in front of the new columbarium being constructed at the church. The practice of churches providing burial sites on their grounds is being revived with phenomenal results. Homecoming Inc. in Scottsdale, Arizona has built columbaria in 826 churches of various denominations in its 25-year existence. 25-40% of church members typically opt to take advantage of the convenience and relatively low cost. As well as providing a Christian burial, the project is profitable. One church uses the proceeds to pay for two community college scholarships each fall.

#### VIRGINIA

From the *Dallas Morning News*, December 28, 2009: "Cemetery tradition an honor that grows," by Keven Ferris. For the third year, Morrill Worcestor has provided wreaths for graves at Arlington National Cemetery. About 6,000 volunteers placed 15,000 donated wreaths in five sections of the cemetery. Wreaths Across America now collects donations for 150,000 wreaths at ceremonies at 405 military cemeteries and monuments around the world and on at least one U.S. Navy ship at sea.

From the *Dallas Morning News*, November 14, 2009: "Vet's ashes taken from van rented for burial." An urn containing the ashes of a decorated Korean War veteran has been stolen from a van that the soldier's family rented to attend his burial at Arlington National Cemetery. The family of retired Army Col. Norbert Otto Schmidt went ahead with the burial Friday. Instead of the ashes being put in a grave, Schmidt gets a headstone in a part of the cemetery for former soldiers whose remains are missing. The 83-year-old Schmidt, of Satellite Beach, Fla., died Aug. 4.

From the *Martinsville Bulletin*, January 6, 2010: "Virginia Historical Group Receives \$10,000 Grant for Cemetery Work." The Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) has been awarded a \$10,000 grant to document and preserve historic African-American cemeteries. The Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust awarded the grant. The Dan River Basin Association assisted in the grant application and helped design the project.

<http://www.martinsvillebulletin.com/article.cfm?ID=21976>



## WISCONSIN

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, December 20.

1916: "To Lie Near 5 Husbands Her Deathbed Desire."

To be buried in her own private cemetery in a corner of her farm near the graves of her five husbands was the last wish of Mrs. Emma C. VanSickle, who died Monday. Over the graves of the husbands are tombstones erected by the wife's own hands. One has this verse inscribed upon it:

"Clinty, my heart clings to thee, love,  
In heaven I hope to meet above,  
You was ever kind and true to me.  
So was I to you, Emma C."

Another reads:

"Peter, died Jan. 12, 1854, aged 53 years.  
By Emma."

The other three stones are small and the inscriptions brief. One reads, "D.C.V." Another, "P.D.C." and the third, "P.E."

Note: This cemetery has been restored and much written about "Virgin Em" by SAPIC member, Ron Harris.

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## CYPRUS

From the *Star-Telegram*, December 12, 2009: "Cyprus outraged after grave robbers steal body of former leader," by John Leonidou, The Associated Press. Grave robbers stole the corpse of former hard-line President Tassos Papadopoulos, digging up his coffin during a thunderstorm just before the first anniversary of his death. There was no immediate indication of a motive. Mounds of fresh earth were piled near the fenced-off grave site at the Deftera Village Cemetery as about 80 police officers and two pathologists combed the area and nearby fields for clues.

## GERMANY

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Jan. 21, 2010: "Experts may have found princess' bones." An international team of scientists has uncovered a skeleton in the Magdeburg Cathedral in eastern Germany. They are speculating that they are the bones of English princess Eadgyth, a 10th century noblewoman who has been compared to Princess Diana. She married one of Europe's most powerful monarchs and dazzled subjects with her charity and charm in the 10th century. Should the skeleton be positively identified as belonging to Eadgyth, it would be the oldest remains of any English royal discovered so far. Tests using strontium isotope analysis on tooth enamel will be performed to determine where the person lived.

## SINGAPORE

From the *New York Times*, December 15, 2009: "In a Scramble for more Space, the Dead are Moved to Make room for the Living," by Seth Mydans. Pictured is Alex Wong Shun Feng, a professional gravedigger, as he digs out an expired grave in a hillside at Choa Chu Kang Cemetery. The remains of the dead are sent to be

cremated and placed in multistory depositories, called columbaria, that look very much like the government apartment blocks where many of them had lived. By law, bodies must be exhumed after 15 years to make room for new burials. As the graves are recycled and more families opt for cremation, the cemetery will be able to keep pace with the turnover. With a population that is expected to rise by 40 percent, to 6.5 million, over the next half century, Singapore illustrates the growing scarcity in Asia of land. Other attempts at dealing with lack of burial space are underground repositories of urns, encouraging the scattering of ashes at sea, transporting bodies to New Zealand and even into outer space.

## VENEZUELA

From the *New York Times*, December 11, 2009: "Cemetery Plunder Shows That in Venezuela, Even Death May Not Bring Peace," by Simon Romero. Pictured are vandalized graves in Cementerio General del Sur in Caracas. Along with soaring levels of murders and kidnappings, thefts of human bones reflect a new crime wave in Venezuela. Grave robbers are looting graves of prominent and powerful people for human bones, answering the demand from some practitioners of a fast-growing transplanted Cuban religion called Palo that uses the bones in its ceremonies. Many families have given up visiting the cemetery because of drunken thugs roaming its passageways and police corruption. A citizens' group, Aprofamiliares, was formed last year to protest the trade in human bones.

## SWEDEN

The *Star-Telegram*, November 18, 2009: "22 looted skulls are returned." With a solemn ceremony in Stockholm's antiquities museum, Sweden marked the return of 22 skulls looted from a native Hawaiian community more than a century ago. The symbolic ceremony on Saturday -- attended by guests from Hawaii and the Nordic countries' own indigenous Sami population -- was part of an effort to return indigenous remains collected by scientists across the world. The Swedish government in 2005 ordered its museums to search through their collections and has since returned more than 20 human remains.

-- The Associated Press

## POLAND

From the *Dallas Morning News*, December 8, 2009: "Red Baron death certificate found." A Polish historian says he made a surprising find when poring through World War I archives -- the death certificate of Manfred von Richthofen, the German fighter ace known as the "Red Baron."

Maciej Kowalczyk said the one-page handwritten form was found in 1918 death records in the western Polish city of Ostrow Wielkopolski. It's notable in that it treats Richthofen, Germany's top ace, like any other casualty.

# Vietnam Wall Memorial

This even lets you click on a person and read about them. Very touching. Someone sent me the link below which is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Viet Nam war with the names, bio's and other information on our lost comrades. It is a very interesting link, and those who served in that time frame and lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

Click on a state or a name.....then when it opens .....then it should show you a picture of the person or at least his bio and medals.....

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

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Skullduggery: 45 True Tales of Disturbing the Dead is a new book by Brian Kannard. His book features true stories of grave robberies, desecrations, and other disturbances of the dead. Stories include the postmortem histories of: Elvis, Charlie Chaplin, Thomas Paine, Groucho Marx, Abraham Lincoln, Eva Peron, and Che Guevara, and a story about the alleged body snatching of the Skull and Bones Society.

For more information and to order, visit: [www.skullduggerythebook.com/](http://www.skullduggerythebook.com/)

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