

# GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535  
VOLUME 15 ISSUE #2

[www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/](http://www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/)

April, 2010

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will meet on Saturday, July 10, 2010 at 10:00 AM in Cedar Rapids. The meeting is hosted by Oak Hill Cemetery Association, 1705 Mt. Vernon Rd., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403.

For more details about the meeting and presentations following, contact Carl Thoresen, Superintendent, telephone (319) 362-8452 mobile (319) 560-3534

E-mail: [carl-oakhill@cedar-rapids.net](mailto:carl-oakhill@cedar-rapids.net)

Or check the SAPIC web site for updates.

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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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From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 24, 2010: The Road Less Traveled column by Jeff Hutton. The unofficial start to summer begins this weekend and with that, many of us will break out the barbecue grills, homemade ice cream, the shorts and flip-flops.

And while there is nothing wrong with celebrating the summer season, Memorial Day Weekend should be a time to give thanks to those men and women who so valiantly gave their lives in defending our country and our freedoms.

During World War I, Lt. Col. John McCrae, a Canadian soldier and surgeon, wrote this poem.

It is a haunting reminder of the sacrifices that these brave members of the military made on our behalf. Let us not forget.

## In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row.  
That mark our place, and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below ...

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields ...

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from falling hands, we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields ...

- Jeff Hutton is the *Courier's* associate editor. He can be reached at (641) 883-5380 or via e-mail at:

[jeff@ottumwacourier.com](mailto:jeff@ottumwacourier.com)

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Clarion Technology will soon be manufacturing inexpensive plastic coffins.

[www.clariontechnologies.com/about/index.htm](http://www.clariontechnologies.com/about/index.htm)

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The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have put together a Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. They are looking for contacts who want to assist or head monument dedication, re-dedication, or graveside remembrance ceremonies during 2011-2015 to honor our 76,534 Civil War veterans. Iowa had the most men volunteer per capita of any state, and likewise suffered the highest percentage casualties, 13,001, of any state (about 24%).

They are also trying to locate all Civil War graves in Iowa and see that they are marked appropriately.

If anyone is interested or willing to help, please have them contact Michael Carr at:

POB 42, Carson, IA 51525

Ph. 712) 484-3647

email: [wGPCW@aol.com](mailto:wGPCW@aol.com)

Sincerely,

Michael Carr, Chairman, Dept. of Iowa  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Sesquicentennial Committee

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CHECK OUT THIS LINK FOR THE PRODUCT AND ALSO SEE VIDEO.

<http://www.cathedralstone.com/products/solution.aspx>

-- STAN D. CULLEY

(SAPIC does not endorse products, but provides this for your information)

## SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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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](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/>

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  
Char.laria@iid.state.ia.us  
(515) 281-5705 or toll-free (877)-955-1212

## OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

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STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION  
OF IOWA CEMETERIES

SAPIC met Saturday April 10, 2010 at the Jasper County Museum and Historical Society Building, Newton, IA

Steve Story, president, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Agenda item #7 will be a Power Point presentation from Jasper Co.

Steve thanked Jasper County for hosting the meeting and providing nourishment. Self-introductions of the approximately twenty attendee was conducted.

Secretary's report by Frieda Davis, moved to accept by Larry Davis, seconded by Valerie Ogren, **Passed**

Treasurer's report by Valerie Ogren, moved to accept by Gene Davis, seconded by Mike Magee, **Passed.**

Reflection on the life of Dean Gipple as a pioneer in getting legislation instituted on restoration and care of cemeteries in Iowa. Twenty eight counties now have commissions that work on restoration. Reflected on the life of Richard Booram and his life work to reestablish the cemetery of his ancestors. A sympathy card was passed for signatures to send to his wife and family.

A get well card was passed for signatures for Carol Hoffman who had knee surgery Wed.

Pat Shaw briefly reviewed information of the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award. Pat requested nominations. Pat also reported on the Connie Street Award given to a young person who has been instrumental in doing cemetery work. Form is on website.

Capital Booth Day: Steve reported that it was set up very efficiently but due to unavailability of volunteers it was canceled. Need to look on that event for next year. Suggestion made that we think of a presentation.

Non Profit Mail Status: Pat and Steve presented Larry Davis with plaque of appreciation for all the work he did to accomplish this status. This also means that we can donate to SAPIC & can be deducted on our income tax. It is now easier to send information out to others for information.

Syracuse Cemetery Court case: what Rick Booram was pursuing, Mike Magee reported that there is nothing new. The judge continued the case.

Mt. Zion Court Case: Mike Magee reported that the judge's ruling that the stones were to be uncovered and replaced was not done and no one seems

to want to do anything about it. The sign was never replaced as the judge ruled. The present owner is worried about liability. The Courier has written an editorial about this which may stimulate action by someone.

Steve and Donna reported on a Linton Township, Cemetery "16" in Allamakee Co where an 86 year old woman had five lots set for her family and there had been a sign of all the lots used and sold which has been taken down. Someone else has been buried in one of the ladies lots and a large marker has been placed there.

Dubuque County, Johnson Cemetery: suggest that the county form a Cemetery Commission or continue to work on the supervisors.

Restoration report: John Heider presented a display table with many informative books and references. He presented a short talk about the importance and variances of restoration techniques. Reminded us of the Cemetery Restoration Workshop May 14-15, Southport, Indiana by John Walter, which is one of the best in the Midwest.

Jasper County Cemetery Commission presented a wonderful power point program about their pioneer cemeteries, locations, pictures, progress, etc. There are twenty-three cemeteries in Jasper County. They have done a tremendous amount of work.

Carl Thoreson presented on Oak Hill Cemetery, its historical significance and how he is recording information at the cemetery. It is a private cemetery association. He passed out a form asking participants to return them to him concerning "Cemetery Data Collection and Mapping System".

October 9, 2010 meeting: need location

Next meeting July 10, 2010 at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cedar Rapids

Applications for grants; forms can be found on the web page

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Frieda Davis

**SAPIC dues:**

Individual for one year: \$10.00

Household for one year: \$15.00

Business or organization for one year: \$20.00

Lifetime individual: \$100.00

Send dues to Valerie Ogren, 108 N. Oak

Jefferson, IA 50129-1845 I

## **STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES**

Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter – 1 January 2010 thru 31 March 2010

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2009, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 2,564.85
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 480.00	
Interest 1/31/10	.66	
Interest 2/28/10	.69	
Interest 3/31/10	.83	
Total Income	\$ 482.18	
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #234 – Patricia Shaw – Newsletter	\$ 104.81	
Ck #235 – Postmaster – stamps for treas.	8.80	
Total Expense	\$ 113.61	
Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2010		\$ 2,933.42
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2009, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 2,928.39
23 January – Life Membership (Carl Thoresen)	\$100.00	
23 January – Life Membership (Diane Wagner)	100.00	
9 February – Life Membership (Wanda Ewalt)	100.00	
Total Reserve Income	\$300.00	
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2010		\$ 3,228.39

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 March 2010** \$ 6,161.81

### **Plus additional funds:**

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

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

Rate of interest is now 1.71% until 1/16/2011.

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, April 7, 2010

Longtime SAPIC member, Richard Boorum from Blackhawk County passed away on April 3. Rick was a tireless advocate for the Syracuse Cemetery in Bremer County where his ancestors' graves are located. Notes from Mary Jane Boorum express her appreciation for the support of SAPIC members:

"Members: State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries,

Thank you for the lovely card and your thoughts of Rick's family at this time.

We had hoped that Rick would be able to see the court case settled for Syracuse. But of course I feel he still will be watching and waiting ...

Thank you for our support at the day the Judge heard the case. It helped Tim feel he was not alone on that day."

"Rick appreciated the activities of the Cemetery Association.

As we are still waiting for the judge's decision, perhaps this case will either help or not for others in similar situations.

Thanks for your support thru all of this. We will keep you informed or Mike (Magee) will present the outcome."

-- The family of Richard Boorum

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SAPIC Board Member Carol Hoffman from Davis County recently had knee replacement surgery.

"Thanks to all my SAPIC friends for remembering me. I am almost back to new.

Looking forward to seeing you all in July."

-- Carol Hoffman

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From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter by Dick Eastman on 5/11/10: "Suggestion: Cemeteries Should Have Signs Saying 'No Dig Zone.'"

I frequently read about the destruction of cemeteries and ancient burial grounds. Time and again, uncaring or unknowledgeable individuals attack cemeteries with bulldozers, paving equipment, or other heavy equipment.

This week I published a story about a graveyard in eastern Kentucky that was bulldozed. In past months, I have published articles about cemeteries that were paved in order to create a parking lot, as well as another one that was leveled in order to build a new Wal-Mart store. Perhaps the most outrageous story was when an amusement park in Maine deliberately destroyed the final resting place of several veterans of the Civil War as well as some probable veterans of the American Revolution in order to build a new water slide.

Destroying a cemetery shows callousness and a lack of concern for the deceased. Such disregard for the dead also shows ignorance. In fact, it also shows a lawbreaker at work as most states already have laws prohibiting the destruction of cemeteries or graves.

How can we stop people from destroying graves and graveyards? Passing more laws strikes me as a waste of effort. If individuals and corporations are already ignorant of present laws or choose to ignore such laws,

passing additional legislation won't change anything. What is needed is a method of making people more aware of the present laws and social customs. I would suggest there is a simple solution.

As I travel around, I often see signs saying "No Dig Zone." These signs typically are erected over the top of buried pipelines, telephone cables, or other manmade subterranean construction. Why not do the same with cemeteries?

In fact, a sign saying "No Dig Zone" that includes a reference to the applicable state laws already in effect will serve to warn and educate construction workers who otherwise might start digging. The intent is to make every construction worker think to himself, "Hey, wait a minute...".

It strikes me that a sign or two on the edge of a cemetery is a simple and low-cost effort. I don't think large cemeteries with hundreds of tombstones are much of an issue. I am more concerned with the small cemetery, often on private land, that has only a few tombstones or perhaps has no tombstones at all remaining. The less conspicuous the cemetery, the greater the likelihood of damage, accidental or otherwise. Placing a sign on the edge of a cemetery or even in the middle would serve as a notice to those who are unaware of existing laws concerning desecration of cemeteries.

I am not naive enough to think that a simple sign will solve all future problems with cemetery destruction, but I do think such signs will prevent problems at a significant percentage of the cemeteries. I'll gladly settle for that percentage.

In theory, local and state governments should place signs that deal with local and state ordinances. However, in this day and age of shrinking government funding for any projects, I wouldn't wait for the governments to act. They already are overwhelmed with other concerns that will stop them from paying for signs or expending labor on erecting those signs.

The only method I see of having such signs erected is to ask those who have the most knowledge of local history to fund the efforts and perform the labor. Local genealogical societies, historical societies, and other, similar groups are the ones who care the most. The signs are not expensive. I'd suggest that local societies and similar organizations (Elks' Club, Lions, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or even a group of concerned private individuals) could raise the funds and have the signs made locally. A Saturday morning work project would also be needed to place the signs in the cemeteries.

Of course, nothing is ever simple. Before placing a sign on private property, someone will need to obtain permission from the landowner(s). That isn't all bad. Privately-owned cemeteries are probably the ones most in danger; so, making the landowner(s) aware of the laws and getting them to "buy into" the sign project is critical. Even if they decline to have a sign placed in the cemetery, those landowners will certainly be aware that "someone is watching" and is concerned. That alone strikes me as having a positive effect.

Signs will weather and deteriorate over a period of years. The sponsoring organization will probably need to improve or replace the signs every few years.

I would suggest that the time to start is NOW, before another cemetery is damaged. Raising awareness of the need to preserve cemeteries should be an ongoing process; let's start now and continue forever.

If you would like to start an effort to place "Do Not Dig" signs in your local cemetery, please let me know, and I will give you and your cohorts some publicity in this newsletter. That will hopefully attract others with similar interests to your project. The bigger the group, the less work and financial burden for each person.

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/)  
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From the *United Methodist Reporter*, March 12, 2010 : "How funerals can better reflect Christian faith." Christian funeral practices have drifted off course from their theological heritage, says Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology. Dr. Long wrote *Accompany Them With Singing: The Christian Funeral* (Westminster John Knox, 2009) as a guide for pastors who preside over funerals. He disagrees with the idea of the funeral as a celebration of life, as he feels that it is a denial of death and focuses on the grief of the survivors and the community instead of about the deceased.

In an interview with Dr. Long by Robin Russell, managing editor. [rrussell@umr.org](mailto:rrussell@umr.org)  
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From *The Iowa County*, May 2010 (newsletter of the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP): "Pioneer Cemeteries: Who's Responsible?" by Russ Sporer, County Risk Management Services, Inc. During an educational seminar at the Iowa State Association of Counties' Spring School of Instruction, questions arose regarding coverage of pioneer cemeteries. The article defines a pioneer cemetery and outlines the process of creating a pioneer cemetery commission. The issue of liability is addressed for appointed commission members and volunteers acting within the scope of their duties. The article states that it is important to know who qualifies for coverage when working on the commission's behalf. Members should contact their local agent in order to effect such coverage. Non-ICAP cemetery commissions should contact their insurance professional to determine what options exist for this type of coverage. Copies of this article will be available at the July SAPIC meeting.

-- Thanks to Frieda Davis and Charly Stevens for contributing these articles.  
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From the *Des Moines Register*, April 7, 1971, Home and Family: "Cemetery Carvings Reveal Victorian Sentiments," by Ralph and Terry Kovel. Pictured are weeping willows and lambs that decorate a cast-iron fence made in the nineteenth century. The white painted iron was probably a part of a cemetery fence. It was found in

New York State. Weekly visits to the cemetery, careful cleaning of the gravestone, replacement of the flowers and a casual family visit were all part of the activities at any local cemetery during the late nineteenth century. Cast-iron chairs, benches, vases, elaborate carved tombstones, and scrolled cast-iron fences were necessities. It was part of a Victorian's life to mourn deeply and continue to visit and care for graves for years. The carved stones often were decorated with realistic marble interpretations of flowers, wreaths, ivy, crosses, tree trunks, draped fabrics, fringed pillows, and lifelike statues of animals or people.

A bridal wreath was the symbol of tragedy showing the departed was a young bride. A rosebud indicated an infant was a part of the tradition of the tombstones carver.

Almost every cemetery was filled with carvings or castings of willows, lambs, doves and weeping angels, the symbols of sadness. Ivy was the symbol of life. This seems to be sentimental and strange by today's standards. It was less strange than the eighteenth century filled with skull and crossbones and grinning angel faces.

Cemetery art is impossible to collect. Pictures or rubbings of the tombstones and visits to old cemeteries are a part of the collector's interest. It gives a new feeling for the era of our ancestors. The history of art, health and family sentiments can be learned through a careful study of pre-1900 cemeteries.  
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From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 26, 1968: "Grave Marker Symbols -- A Record in Stone," by Ellen Fenn. Pictured is a blank stone that marks a gravesite among the dandelions in a portion of an old Henry county cemetery which is no longer cared for. It is theorized that the stone marks an Indian grave.

The universal practice of connotations carved in stone attests to the fact that cemetery markers carry vital statistics of history and customs of people. Those dedicated to the study of symbols on tombstones, representing various beliefs through Biblical images or other media, find fascinating the changes throughout the years. For example, the first Quaker cemetery west of the Mississippi is at Salem in Henry County. Here crude stones, hand chiseled, date back to the 1830s. One word: Friend, speaks louder than a dozen photos. Stones are rowed as to each decade. There's nothing artistic, showy, or huge. Just a plain memento attesting to brotherhood as simply and plain as Quaker lives were. A mound of stones in Sandy Hook cemetery in Washington county is presumable an Indian burial site. A many-branched tree on some tombstones represents the tree of life withheld from the one who would pluck the fruit (Genesis 3:22). Other symbols discussed include cut flowers, the cross, dove, clasped hands, a finger pointing upward, lamb and harp. Historical events such as epidemics and times of war can also be discovered in the tablets of bronze, stone, or alloy.

## COUNTY REPORTS

### ALLAMAKEE

From KWWL.com, April 8, 2010, "Effigy Mounds building possibly damaged burial grounds," by online reporter, Jamie Grey. HARPERS FERRY (KWWL) -- The National Park Service says Iowa's only national monument, Effigy Mounds, violated national acts by building a boardwalk and maintenance shed on top of what is likely American Indian burial grounds. They say Effigy Mounds did not seek proper approval before doing the project.

Around 1,400 years ago, American Indians, living in what is now northeast Iowa, built mounds around their buried ancestors. "The State of Iowa was named for the loway people. This was our aboriginal grounds at one time, as well as several of the tribes," Patt Murphy, an loway tribe member said.

Park Service archeologists are doing a thorough survey looking for where the mounds are or were. The scientists will comb over hundreds of grids with an instrument that measures the magnetic field underground, a noninvasive type survey. Representatives from two tribes, the Upper Sioux and loway, are watching the entire process, making sure the grounds aren't disrupted.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 24, 2010: "Team inspects Iowa's Effigy Mounds for damage," MARQUETTE (AP). Unauthorized construction projects may have damaged the ancient cultural features that Effigy Mounds National Monument was established to protect. A team of archaeologists is working to determine what, if any, damage to the mounds may have been inflicted by the unauthorized construction of a maintenance shed in the north unit and an elevated boardwalk trail on the Nazekaw Terrace directly across Highway 76 from the visitor center.

### BLACK HAWK

From the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, November 29, 1970: "A sign you can believe," by Dorothy Widmann. Pictured is a highway sign with the words, "REST AREA" that appears to be directly across from a cemetery. The sign actually refers to a picnic area about 100 yards down the road on US Highway 218 just south of Black Hawk County's LaPorte City.

On St. Patrick's Day March 17, 2010, SAPIC member Mike Magee participated in an Ancient Order of Hibernians/ The Five Sullivan Brothers Division I annual ceremony at Sullivan Park in Waterloo. Kelly Sullivan Loughren, a descendant of one of the Sullivan brothers, was also part of the ceremony.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, March 28, 2010: "Buried in the past: Relatives, historians bemoan loss of pioneer cemetery," by Tim Jamison. Historic records reveal anywhere from 25 to more than 50 people were interred from 1883 to 1912 in what had been known as Mount Zion Cemetery that was obliterated and now appears to be

the lawn of a home on North Elk Run Road just north of Waterloo. "They're still there," said SAPIC member Mike Magee who has researched the history of the cemetery. "Other than two bodies moved to Fairview Cemetery in Waterloo, there were never any disinterment permits to prove anybody else has ever been moved."

"If you step out the front door," he added, "you're in a cemetery."

Despite lawsuits filed decades ago by family members and others seeking restoration -- at the very least, recognition-- of the cemetery, there's nothing there today memorializing the dead. Original land owners Daniel and Mary Hewitt deeded a portion of their farm to start the Mount Zion Cemetery in 1883. Court records indicate that in 1975, a couple removed grave markers and deeded the cemetery to themselves for \$1 in 1976, claiming it had been abandoned and that no bodies were still there. In a 1992 court ruling, an Iowa Supreme Court ruling stated that "The bodies of the people interred there still rest under Mr. Buehler's front yard." In 1990, the county supervisors and Buehlers agreed to place a flat marker in the county right-of-way south and east of the cemetery. However, a lawsuit filed in 1991 asked for the grave markers that were buried on the land to be dug up and replaced. A District Court judge granted the cemetery land to the Buehlers but also ordered them to restore it. Despite the county settlement and the ruling, no markers were installed at the site. Descendant Phyllis Morgan will be satisfied if a monument recognizing those buried there were erected.

From the *Waterloo Courier* Opinion page, April 5, 2010: "Lay cemetery issue to rest." Country music legend Merle Haggard once commented in an interview years ago that you can get all the justice you want in America if you have the money. Some Black Hawk county residents interested in saving a rural cemetery didn't. So a 1991 court ruling they won to restore the cemetery has never been enforced. Mount Zion Cemetery is in northeastern Black Hawk County. The opinion of the editors is that it's time for Black Hawk County to step in and erect a monument recognizing those buried there.

On May 20, 2010, Civil War Roundtable members, including Mike Magee and four others, raised and straightened a Civil War grave stone in Waterloo.

### CASS

From the State of Iowa web site, January 23, 2003: "Securities Bureau Announces Regulatory Action Regarding Atlantic Cemetery Association." The Bureau received complaints, inquiries and requests for assistance from individuals alleging problems regarding the Atlantic Cemetery. An investigation indicated poor record keeping was the likely cause of instances in which an interment space was sold twice.

[www.iid.state.ia.us/docs/press012303.pdf](http://www.iid.state.ia.us/docs/press012303.pdf)



## CLAYTON

In an E-mail message dated March 18, 2010 from Ron Harris: "Emma Eastman, aka Virgin Em." In the last issue of *Grave News*, an article from the *Waterloo Evening Courier* dated 1916 was printed about Emma Eastman. Ron who has researched the life of Emma Eastman and was instrumental in the restoration of her burial site, states that the article is a good example of "twisted" reporting. Actually, it was Emma's sister (Louisa Eastman Klotzbach) who died in 1916. Emma (she had these surnames during her "career" -- Eastman, Kellogg, Van Sickle (Moses), Cunningham, Bowles, Sharp, Van Sickle (DeWitt Clinton -- brother of Moses), Stence, Wilson. Emma died in 1905. Emma's death certificate reads "Emma Wilson." There are only three of Emma's husbands in the cemetery rather than five (DeWitt Clinton Van Sickle, Michael Stence, and Joseph A. Wilson). She could not have "erected the stones by her own hands," since her father's stone must weigh about 400 pounds (It is in my truck now awaiting four strong men to unload it so I can make some repairs.) That is the "Peter" stone that is not a husband, but her father. The small stones are foot stones. P.E. = Peter Eastman (her father), D.C.V. = DeWitt Clinton Van Sickle (husband seven), P.D.C. = Peter Daniel Cameron (her infant son). The tombstone bearing the poem is missing, although there is a photo of it. Someone probably has it, since Emma was such a local "Woman of Fame." We are still looking for that stone in order to repatriate it.

This will be a lesson in how not to trust everything in print.

## CHICKASAW/FAYETTE

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 27 Number 1, First Quarter 2010, J.L.K. Editor, page 6: Query: Linda Schoenfeld is working on burial records for St Rose Cemetery, Eden Township, Fayette County. Many of her ancestors are buried there and also many of the early pioneers who lived in and around the Chickasaw County Lawler area (and also New Hampton). She is requesting obituaries, death records, excerpts from family Bibles or any other evidence that would contribute to documenting additional burials.

Editor Note: This cemetery is located near the Chickasaw County line in Fayette County.

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## CLINTON

Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission (CCPCC) members have had productive monthly meetings since being formed in 2008 and being hosts for the SAPIC meeting in April 2009. Currently the commission oversees 27 pioneer cemeteries with approximately 20 of these being mowed on a regular basis with contracts with seven different people who are mowing the lawns and doing minor maintenance.

The county supervisors have turned over the care of all pioneer cemeteries in the county to the commission with tax levy

funding which previously went to the townships for these cemeteries now in an account under the CCPCC. Our treasurer oversees income and expenses for each of the cemeteries with a running spreadsheet.

The commission is concentrating on restoring three of the neglected cemeteries which have been completely overgrown with trees and brush. Number one on our list is the Hess Cemetery in Hampshire Township within the Clinton city limits. This cemetery is on the original Lincoln Highway route and thus the commission applied for the Lincoln Highway Association grant, winners of which will be announced June 25. This cemetery has native prairie grass in areas around the grave markers and we are working with the Clinton County Conservation director to restore and maintain this prairie which was long neglected and encroached with noxious weeds. This summer of 2010 we hope to work on stone restoration at this cemetery.

The commission is also attempting to control weed growth at two other cemeteries, Pleasant Hill and Hickory Hill, which have been long neglected. Some of the trees and brush were cleared from these cemeteries in 2008 and it is hoped to do more work on clearing trees and stumps and preparing the ground for seeding in the next few years.

Thanks to the Jackson County commission members for their assistance in helping us get started. Last November Clinton County members met with Jackson County members at the Canada Hollow Cemetery in Jackson County and they explained to us how they restore a neglected cemetery. This is a very attractive spot which they have restored with markers for each grave, restored stones and a comfortable iron bench to sit on. Members of this commission also helped to make a grid and dowsed Ames Creek Cemetery in Clinton County which had approximately 18 burials and only two stones remaining along a fence line.

We hope to continue the work here as well as in all other pioneer cemeteries in the county.

## JONES

In an E-mail message dated April 30, 2010 from LaVerta Langenberg, Jones County Pioneer Cemetery Commission member: Last year our group decided to restore 4-Horn cemetery. It is beautifully mowed but contains MANY day lilies. They have taken over and cover many stones so the first job was to take weed whackers and grind them out. Darryl Wherry and Jim Christensen did this last fall. However the flowers grew back. We hope to eventually kill them by spraying. This will take awhile. The brush and a pine trees needed trimming also so Kris and Mark Doll and Lou and LaVerta Langenberg went over one day last fall and the men trimmed trees and cut brush and piled it up. Someone has burned that pile of brush. We don't know who but many thanks. Our work day was rained out so hopefully our next one will be nice weather. Lou talked to the secretary of the 4-Horn association and he said he would see about putting a new gate in place of the old one. John Lacock volunteered to put a new fence at Madison Village if we bought the material, which we did.

## LEE

In an E-mail message dated May 5, 2010 from Kim Irvin: One of my board members (Sandusky Cemetery) went to the National Cemetery (in Keokuk) today and talked to them about setting a stone. They put a lime four or five inches, then put about 18 inches of the stone in the ground. Tamp a lime in around the stone. Not what I would have thought of but makes sense. A replica of the Galland School (first school in Iowa) is located north of the Sandusky Cemetery and contains an impressive monument as a tribute to a Mormon family in the adjacent Galland Cemetery. A Galland (aka Mormon Cemetery) Cemetery is also located in Shelby County in western Iowa.

## UNION

Longtime SAPIC member Jessie Thompson, 84, of Creston died June 3, 2010. Jessie had organized the October, 2009, SAPIC meeting that was held in Creston when Steve and Kathy Francis were presented the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award for outstanding work in cemeteries in Union County. Jessie had nominated the couple for the award. Jessie was active in many genealogical and historical organizations, including being a trustee for the Grove Chapel Cemetery.

## VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, April 15, 2010: "Voices from the past ..." by Don Aldrich. The attendees of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society meeting on 8 April were treated to a display of the aged wooden grave marker of Joseph Rabb, pictured, by descendants Mike Miller and Rich Lowe, Society members. Although difficult to read, it is inscribed "Born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. April 19, 1788, Died in Iowa June 22, 1866." Rich Lowe presented facts of the Joseph Rabb family as well as copies of the Last Will and Testament of Joseph. In his will, Joseph instructs his survivors in how to construct his grave marker. After over 130 years of Iowa weather it finally succumbed to an apparent attempt of vandalism in the Bonaparte Cemetery. It was rescued and has been placed in the Bonaparte Historical Society Museum. See Joseph's will at: <http://iavanburen.org/rabb> Plans are to reproduce the marker and foot marker and use them to remark his grave alongside his wife Ann.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 16, 2010: "A Taste of History coming to Bonaparte." A three-course dinner to be presented April 24 at the Whiteley Opera House in downtown Bonaparte includes a unique adaptation of a cemetery tour that combines the comfort of indoor seating with a meal and entertainment. Local actors (pictured) perform in costume and character relating stories in the first person between each course of the evening. Guests sit at tables designed and set by the actors reflecting the era, story or character they portray. The actors also serve as waiters. Music is used to introduce each character.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 27, 2010: "Pioneer Cemetery maintained by Lions Club," by Don Aldrich. Pictured is the Landess-Watkins Cemetery located south of Keosauqua on Highway 1. The Keosauqua Lions Club has maintained the cemetery for the past 20 years. The Landess-Watkins Cemetery is a pioneer cemetery, of which there are 74 out of the 115 known cemeteries in Van Buren County. Included in the 17 burials are two Civil War Veterans, John F. Watkins and Perry Phillips.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 27, 2010: "Looking back: A collection of photographs and stories from Van Buren County's past," by Donna Muir & Kurt Mielke. This special full-page collection includes articles and pictures including the shooting of Major Charles H. Fletcher by longtime resident, John Brown. The details leading up to the shooting, the trial, and the "not guilty" verdict are told. Articles about the origin of Memorial Day, local Civil War hero Voltare Paine Twombly, and the Grand Army of the Republic Park Monuments and Cannons are also included. The cannons and war monument can be seen just west of the courthouse on Highway 1.

## WINNESHIEK

From the *Newspapers of Fayette County, Elgin Echo, Fayette Leader, and Ossian Bee*, March 3, 2010: "County's oldest cemeteries not just for pioneers?" by Janell Bradley, Editor. The article addresses the issue of whether modern burials should take place in pioneer cemeteries. Two members of the pioneer cemetery commission sought guidance from the County Board of Supervisors, addressing potential scenarios associated with green burials and/or modern burials in pioneer cemeteries. Supervisors said when the pioneer cemetery commission was created in 1997 it was given jurisdiction and management of all pioneer cemeteries, including future burials. According to state advisors, new burials are allowed in pioneer cemeteries and the burials do not have to be "green." A green burial involves no embalming fluids and may or may not involve a casket. The top of the casket must be three feet below the top of the earth, and the burial site should be at least 100 feet from a well or other water source. The burials must occur within 48 hours after a person's demise.

In an E-mail message from Kevin Lee, former member of the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, he includes correspondence from Steve Steinberg of Winneshiek County and State Cemetery Regulator, Dennis Britson. The conclusion is that a pioneer cemetery commission can legally sell plots in pioneer cemetery, but if enough interments take place, the cemetery could no longer fall within the definition of a pioneer cemetery. The ability to locate unused spaces could also be an issue.

From the Winneshiek County Historical Society, a copy of Rules and Regulation of the Board of Health, 1902, dealing with bodies of persons who have died of disease.