

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535

www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/

VOLUME 15 ISSUE #3

July, 2010

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will meet at the Tama County Genealogical Library, 200 N. Broadway, Toledo, Iowa, on Saturday, October 9, 2010 at 10:AM. It is located diagonally across from the county courthouse. Map to site in this issue. A buffet lunch will be served by the Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Commission at a cost of \$5.00. Reservations for lunch may be made by calling Joyce Wiese at 641-481-0373 by October 1 or by contacting Pat Shaw at: 319-293-3899 or e-mail: patshaw@netins.net.

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

Maybe an urban legend, but still funny

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs.

Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a grave side service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. And as I played 'Amazing Grace' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for over twenty years."

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Read Before You Leap

There are several excellent books on how to preserve our Iowa cemeteries and each is full of highly respected information, photos, and easy reading. If you are contemplating cleaning a stone, repairing a grave marker or restoring a whole cemetery, the following books are good resources for information:

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<http://www.gov.on.ca/MCZRC/english/culdiv/heritage/memories.htm>

Cost about \$20 U.S. plus postage

King, Gregg G., Susan Kosky, Kathleen Glynn, and Gladys Saborio

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http://www.michigan.gov/documents/hal_mhc_shpo_Cemetery_Guide_105082_7.pdf

This book can be read on line at the above address.

Strangstad, Lynette

1995 *A Graveyard Preservation Primer*: Altamira Press, published in cooperation with Association for Gravestone Studies, Walnut Creek, California

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May be purchased from the Association for Gravestone Studies, 278 Main Street, Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301

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-- Contributed by John Heider

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying.

- Rodney Dangerfield

A new group called

Cemeteries-Historic-Preservation@rootsweb.com has been started. In addition to discussing cemetery restoration, the list administrators will send a monthly e-mail to members listing all the groups that are working to restore our cemeteries.

-- Carol Reed Kennedy and David Reed

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

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

Secretary: Frieda Davis
216 Riverview Dr.
Vinton, IA 52349-2360
319-472-5348 davisduo2@mebbs.com

Treasurer: Valerie Ogren
108 N. Oak
Jefferson, IA 50129-1841
515-386-4784 vjogren@netins.net

Board Member (2010): Molly Beason
106 East 11th St.
Tama, IA 52339
641-484-6061 neecnwy@iowatelecom.net

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21813 170th St.
Birmingham, IA 52535
319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

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1240 235th St.
Leighton, IA 50142
641-673-8122 mahaskapioneer@wildblue.net

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

Board member (2012): Gene Davis
216 Riverview Dr.
Vinton, IA 52349-2360
319-472-5348 davisduo2@mebbs.com

Board Member (2012): Julie A. Eckenrod
2211 Linn Ave.
New Hampton, IA 50659
641-394-3967 jjeck@myclearwave.net

Board Member (2012): Mike Magee
638 Englewood
Waterloo, IA 50701
319-232-8762 Digger4045@yahoo.com

Board Member (2012): Carol Hoffman
505 W. Chestnut St.
Bloomfield, IA 52537-1921
641-664-2852 wilcar@netins.net

Board Member (2010): Tony Bengston
1006 150th St.
Fairbank, IA 50629-8611
319-415-1175 tonybengston@yahoo.com

Web Page: Connie Street
325 Franklin St.
Wapello, IA 52653 -1515
319-527-8164 ckcasey@louisacomm.net

WHERE TO GET PROBES

Agri-Drain
340th St.
Adair, IA 50002
641-742-5211
Sizes range from 4 1/2' to 8' -- \$18.50 and up

WHERE TO GET EPOXY

GRANQUARTZ Stone Tools and Equipment
P.O. Box 2206
Tucker, GA 30085-2206
1-800-458-6222 <http://www.granquartz.com>

3-M 1838 B/A TAN EPOXY
PRAXAIR - GENEX 1700 2nd Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50314
515-244-3131

GCT Stone Epoxy and Hardener
Granite City Tool Co.
P.O. Box 411 11 Blackwell St.
Barre, VT 05641 mkewinter@aol.com
www.granitecitytoolvt.com

Superior Stone Products
(quickset acrylic adhesive)
8580 Byron Commerce Drive
Byron Center, MI 49315
800-493-5111 www.superiorstoneproducts.com

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

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

WHERE TO GET SIGNS

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

<http://www.cem.va.gov/>
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

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

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515-244-3131

GCT Stone Epoxy and Hardener
Granite City Tool Co.
P.O. Box 411 11 Blackwell St.
Barre, VT 05641 mkewinter@aol.com
www.granitecitytoolvt.com

Superior Stone Products
(quickset acrylic adhesive)
8580 Byron Commerce Drive
Byron Center, MI 49315
800-493-5111 www.superiorstoneproducts.com

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

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STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF IOWA CEMETERIES
(SAPIC)

SAPIC met Saturday July 10, 2010 at Cedar Memorial, 4200 First Ave.
NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Chair, Steve Story; Agenda
approved

Self introductions of all present conducted by the approximately 45 present.
Secretary's report: moved to approve by Bill Reedy, seconded by Mike
Magee, **Passed.**

Treasurer's report: by Valerie Ogren, moved to approve by Gene Davis,
seconded by Tony Bengston. **Passed**

Program: arranged by Carl Thoresen:

- Kirkwood Community College students' presentation on their efforts to implement a GIS (geographical informational system) survey of Oak Hill Cemetery. Thanks for a very informational presentation.

- Bill Paeth from Linn County Genealogical Society presented on the Society's efforts to document cemeteries in Linn County. Reported the concern that current practice of cremation and scattering of ashes without a physical marker will lose evidence of that persons documented life.

- Linda Langston (Linn county Board of Supervisors) presented her perspective about cemetery issues.

- John Linge, President of Cedar Memorial Cemetery, presented his concern of the cremation issue and also mentioned the Federal guidelines coming up. As a Memorial Garden the goal is to present a tangible place or record of memory. According to Mortuary records the location of cremation occurs but not what happens to the cremanses.

Agenda items:

- Tom Gaard, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) reported on photos of Civil War Monuments; please check out web site. The inscriptions differ with the civil war metal that was awarded. The 150th year celebration goal is to have a ceremony in each county with a civil war color guard, lay a wreath on a civil war grave and report the history of the civil war.

- Certified Local Government (DLG) Grant information from Paula Mohr presented by Pat Shaw. Information included in handout.

- Robert Carter Award Nomination: Pat Shaw directed that the nomination papers are in the handouts with three being made. The committee will determine the two recipients following today's meeting.

- Dodrill Cemetery Wayne County, South Fork Township materials distributed in the handout packets.
- Nomination for officers for SAPIC; are open, will accept volunteers, report at next meeting in Oct. Contact Pat Shaw to sign up.
- Nancy Gibson requested information concerning Funeral Home Records. See handout packet for specifics.
- Pioneer Patriots Day reintroduction of the idea from Lee County to be held in September
- Pioneer Cemetery at Panama, Shelby County on June 7, 2010 reported by Steve Story, with 51 attending. Today there should be a procession led by the sheriff in Panama to a Western IA Pioneer Cemetery (Commission made up of two counties) in celebration. Also Dubuque County wants to organize a commission.
- Rich Boroom Case still pending. Tim, his son, is continuing the case.
- Check out the Rochester IA cemetery in south Cedar County for use of prairie grass.
- Next meeting October 9, 2010. Need a meeting site?
- Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon by Chair, Steve Story.

A delicious lunch was provided by Cedar Memorial

Following lunch Carl and Jane Thoresen presented a program of their continuing efforts to promote the history and preservation of Oak Hill Cemetery. Carl demonstrated and explained his process of identifying and recording data and cemetery mapping. They also offered tours of the Chapel of Memories Mausoleum at Cedar Memorial Cemetery and/or tours of Oak Hill Cemetery. Thanks to them for their in-depth presentation.

Submitted by Frieda Davis, Secretary

For a copy of SAPIC By-Laws, contact Pat Shaw: patshaw@netins.net

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 2nd Quarter – 1 April 2010 thru 30 June 2010

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2010, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 2,933.42

Income

Dues \$ 245.00

Donation (\$50 for mailing + \$30) 80.00

Interest 4/30/10 .77

Interest 5/31/10 .72

Interest 6/30/10 .61

Total Income \$ 327.10

Expense

Ck #236 – Patricia Shaw – Newsletter \$ 34.92

Ck #235 – Patricia Shaw – Newsletter 68.25 -
Special mailing 73.76 142.01

Total Expense \$ 176.93

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2010 \$ 3083.59

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2010, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 3,228.39

(No additions to Reserve Account this quarter)

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 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 30 June 2010 \$ 6,311.98

Plus additional funds:

A CD in the amount of \$5,669.89 matured 1/16/10.

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

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 50129-1841

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

On the show, "Pickers," that was aired n Monday, July 5, 2010 at 8:00 PM on the History Channel, a white cast iron cross was purchased for \$135.00. The seller said it was "probably a grave marker." The item was purchased in Kansas. The pickers estimated that it was 100 years old. There was an inscription on the marker containing the word "Margaret." Later in the show, an "expert" valued it at \$600-700 at auction. He said it was probably a Catholic marker and highly desirable by collectors. Pickers is a show in which two men from LeClaire, Iowa, travel throughout the Midwest visiting junk yards looking for items they can resell for profit. Although the Kansas State Archaeologist confirms that removing a marker from a grave in Kansas is a violation of cemetery laws, determining this would take considerable effort. He did, however, send a letter to A&E, the producer of the History Channel. The Office of the Attorney General in Kansas has made a record of the incident in order to watch for developing patterns of questionable acts and practices. The Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa and State Historical Society indicated that a joint statement would be submitted to A&E. www.aetn.com/global/feedback/contact.jsp SAPIC member, Ellen Zimmerman from Poweshiek County and others have written letters expressing concern that publicizing this illegal act could lead to more incidents of the theft of cemetery artifacts. If you'd like to visit the Pickers business, call, or write to them, the contact information is:

Antique Archaeology
P.O. Box 544
115 Davenport St.
LeClaire, IA 52753
Telephone 563-290-1530
Web site: www.antiquearcheology.com/

In a court case that has been followed by SAPIC members for several years, Richard and Tim Boorum of Cedar Falls brought action against the Bremer County Board of Supervisors to recognize and restore the Syracuse Cemetery, burial site of their ancestors. The judge in the case ruled on July 15 that a pioneer cemetery is excluded from the definition for "cemetery" contained in Iowa Code 5231.102(6) pertaining to neglected cemeteries and therefore not applicable. Therefore, the plaintiffs' request was denied and dismissed. The Booroms have not yet decided whether to appeal this decision. The Office of the State

Archaeologist, Attorney General of Iowa, and the Regulated Industries Unit of the Iowa Securities Bureau are working on wording that will be submitted to the next session of the Iowa Legislature that will include pioneer cemeteries in the definition of active cemeteries. For a copy of this ruling, contact Pat Shaw or go to: www.iowacourts.gov Select Online Court Records: then select Online Docket Search. On the Docket page, look to the right side of the page and select Trial Court and Case Research. On the next page, in the county field key Bremer and in the case type, key Civil Case. In the name field, key in Boorum and then Tim. All the filings and proceedings will appear.

In the April issue of *Grave News*, LaVerta Langenberg of Jones County asked how to kill day lilies. Day lilies are rhizomes and naturally reproduce underground and cutting their tops does not deter their prolific nature. Digging up tubers is labor intensive and unsightly, too. Day lilies and cemeteries go together but too many lilies around stone grave markers are a challenge to control or eradicate. To be successful in their control or removal: Do not cut their leaves because they are essential to their livelihood (and demise). Use a pump sprayer adjusted to a coarse spray. Purchase a 40-70% glyphosate concentrate (generic or Roundup). A lower percentage takes longer for the plant to die. Mix according to directions and (important) add a few drops of liquid soap to the solution. The leaves have a waxy coating to protect the plant and the soap will cut through the wax. Protect adjacent grave markers from spray. The salts in the concentrate will do harm to the stone. The leaves will begin to turn yellow and in a few weeks - bye, bye lilies.

- John Heider

An interesting new source for county boundaries: Atlas of Historical County Boundaries (now available online). The Newberry Library is pleased to announce the completion and release of its Digital Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, a dataset that covers every day-to-day change in the size, shape, location, name, organization and attachment of each U.S. county and state from the creation of the first county in 1634 through 2000. Nearly every aspect of American life can be described, analyzed, and illuminated through data gathered and organized by county or available in

county records, and knowing how and when boundaries changed is often the key to finding and understanding great quantities of historical data. For example, a farm may have been in one county for many generations, but over the decades changes in county lines may have effectively moved that farm from one county to another.

Douglas Knox, Director of Publication and Digital Initiatives, Newberry Library
60 West Walton Street
Chicago, IL 60610
E-mail: school@newberry.org
<http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>

From the Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter, Issue #86, June, 2010:

New publication: *Shadows in the Valley: A Cultural History of Illness, Death and Loss in New England, 1840-1916* by Alan C. Swedlund, professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Massachusetts. This richly textured study employs dozens of powerful case studies as well as mortality statistics and mourning rituals, medical treatments and emerging public health practices. <http://people.umass.edu/swedlund>

Badger Boneyards: The Eternal Rest of the Story by Dennis McCann. From the ornate tombs of Milwaukee baron Frederick Pabst to miniscule ancestral plots, Wisconsin cemeteries house memories of war, families, tragedy, and community. The book is available for \$16.95 from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

New Invention: Interactive Video Gravemarkers. Tony Pettry's invention, Everlasting Memories, is a line of headstones and grave markers featuring interactive video screens which display photographs, home movies and audio commentary of the departed.

Google: Everlasting Memories

From Fox News, August 9, 2010, "Tombstones Go Digital," Associated Press. Pictured is Glenn Toothman III, the founder and CEO of Memory Medallion holding a smart phone as he stands at Green Mount Cemetery in Waynesburg, Pa. The Memory Medallion is a small steel disc which is attached to a tombstone, monument or memorial that contains a bar code that can be read by most smart phones. It can direct cell phones to web sites and video about the deceased. A standard Memory Medallion remembrance package costs \$225 and can include a video played by a bar code called a QR code.

From the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, January 27, 1949: "Long series of Bills to House." The House of Representatives received a series of bills which have won committee approval, including a bill that would require township trustees to continue maintaining cemeteries that have been in use and maintained by public funds more than 25 years, and to give township trustees authority to dispose of long unused burial plots.

From *The American Legion*, May 2010, page 29: "The Whole Earth was Their Tomb," by Max Cleland, secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. Around the world, fallen heroes are not forgotten on Memorial Day. Overseas cemeteries serve as resting places for 124,917 U.S. war dead; 30,921 from World War I, 93,246 from World War II, and 750 from the Mexican - American War (1846-1848).

Another 94,135 U.S. servicemen and women who are missing in action, or were lost or buried at sea during the world wars and the Korean and Vietnam wars, are commemorated by name on Tablets of the Missing. Many of the dead are buried in cemeteries located on or near the battle-scarred field they died liberating. In all cases, host countries provide the cemetery lands to the United States in perpetuity, free of charge or taxation. The American Battle Monuments Commission's web site, www.abmc.gov, has descriptions of, and directions to, each cemetery, where landscaped graves and headstones of pristine white marble are meticulously maintained. Besides maintaining the beautiful and inspirational sites, the ABMC has a duty to perpetuate the stories of courage and sacrifice that those honored can no longer tell themselves. The poet Archibald MacLeish's younger brother Kenneth died in W.W.II, when his plane was shot down over Belgium. In his poem "The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak," MacLeish calls on the living to remember those who died in war and give significance to their lives: "They say, We leave you our deaths: Give them their meaning."

In 2010, The American Legion will deliver, free of charge, more than 20,000 new U.S. flags to be placed at the graves of those who died while serving in military operations overseas. The Legion's Overseas Grave Decoration Trust replaces flags as they are needed at ABMC cemeteries across Europe. More than 94,000 flags have been sent since 2005.

COUNTY REPORTS

AUDUBON

From the *Anita Tribune*, January 13, 1944: "Tells of Pioneer Cemetery Plots." When Lucretia Bowen, 13, came to Audubon county with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Bowen, in 1853, she said she wanted to build her future home on the hill to the northwest of the cabin the family was then living in.

Three years later Lucretia died from typhoid fever and she was buried on the hill where she had wanted her home to be built. In the years to follow the hill became the final resting place for many others, until today the knoll is dotted with white crosses. Bowen Cemetery is located about a mile and a half northwest of Highland church and just north of the Cass county line in Audubon county, and is one of the oldest burial plots in this part of the state.

According to Lizzie Bowen, 82 year old granddaughter of the man for whom the cemetery is named, and who lives in the Highland vicinity not far from the cemetery, early settlers in that territory buried their dead in the timber or in pastures, as there were no cemeteries until after Lucretia Bowen died. Then neighbors came to Bowen and offered to buy lots on the hill where Lucretia was buried. Two boys, according to the story handed down in the Bowen family, husked corn for two days for Mr. Bowen to pay for a lot in which to bury a younger brother.

Later, an acre of ground was fenced off with a board fence and later a woven wire fence with steel posts enclosed the burial tract. In early days each family took care of its own lot, but as teams were used in mowing the weeds by some of the lot owners, many of the graves were fenced to prevent the driving of horses over the graves. These fences still remain, although the cemetery is now carefully cared for.

BLACK HAWK

From the *Waterloo Sunday Courier*, December 6, 1951, "Unknown Soldier Buried in Waterloo Cemetery," by Robert M. L. Johnson. Pictured is the small government tombstone that marks the grave of an unknown Civil War veteran, located in Fairview Cemetery on the Carl Smith family plot. The soldier died penniless and without relatives. At one time, the name was known by the Smith Family, but has now slipped everybody's memory. Black Hawk county genealogist, Mike Magee, is going to attempt to research and identify the soldier so that a stone with his name can be installed.

The New Barclay Cemetery, established in 1838, is on Facebook and is advertising cemetery plots @ \$300 and requesting donations to help maintain this historic cemetery.

www.facebook.com/pages/New-Barclay-Cemetery/126586217371300

Mike Magee conducted a tombstone cleaning seminar on June 17 at Spring Creek Twp Cemetery from 9:00 AM - noon.

BREMER

In spite of the disappointing ruling by a judge in the Boorum/Syracuse Cemetery case some good news has come out of Bremer County. Rick Sturdevant, a family historian, recently inquired about the location of the burial site of Rev. Charles N. Martin, his wife Betsy, and William Spence, among others. In 1850, they settled south of what has since become Waverly. Rick's grandfather who oversaw the graves registration in the Great Depression last saw a single gravestone there 40 years ago. Ray Fredrick, who lives in the area, volunteered to show them the spot where he had heard a headstone once stood.

From the *Cedar Falls Times*, July 24, 2010: "Cemetery Mystery: Solved - Landowner pinpoints historic gravesite," by Amelia K. Dimitrova. Pictured are Mike Magee, Ray Fredrick and Matt Fox of Waverly as they

discuss the fragment of tombstone which marked the Spencer-Martin Cemetery on Fox's abstract. The stone was for the grave of William Spencer. Sturdevant was grateful Fox had allowed the newspaper access to the site and wants to find more segments of the tombstone and have it restored and have a memorial plaque placed with the names of the people who were buried there. Mike Magee was able to locate names of persons whose graves are there on the WPA 1930's Graves Registration Survey. Later, Mike accompanied the editor of the Waverly newspaper to the site. Landowner Matt Fox is agreeable to Mike repairing the stone and placing it upright in its original location.

CARROLL

From the *Carroll Daily Times*, August 17, 1954: Pictured is the entrance to the county's first family burial plot, McCurdy's cemetery on the Harold Turner farm south of Carrollton. Mr. Turner and his sons have started clearing the brush and weeds out of the cemetery and hope to have it seeded to grass next year. In another picture, Mr. Turner's sons are shown as they check one of the old grave markers in the cemetery. It is believed that when it was re-fenced some 20 years ago that some of the graves were left outside the area. The local Rotary Club studied the history of the cemetery and brought its neglected condition to the attention of its members.

From the *Daily Times Herald*, July 5, 2010: "Glidden dedicates veterans monument," by Butch Heman. On Independence Day, the community of Glidden remembered and honored it's military heroes with a special monument in the Merle Hay Memorial Cemetery. Glidden can boast to being home of Pvt. Merle Hay, the first U.S. casualty of World War I; and Enola Gay Tibbets, whose son Col Paul Tibbets named a B-29 after his mother and dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, in World War II. The monument contains the names of nearly 300 war veterans buried in the cemetery. Pictured is Iowa Army National Guard Lt. Col. Todd Jacobus as he spoke at the ceremony and thanked Glidden's veterans. The Glidden Legionnaires performed the first flag-raising at the monument.

CERRO GORDO

From the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, August 30, 1951: "Koenke Explains Old Contracts on Cemetery Plots." H.W. Koenke, president of the Memorial Park cemetery, said that courts have ruled it unconstitutional to limit burial grounds to members of the Caucasian race. Koenke made this statement in response to a query concerning contracts written by the privately-owned cemetery in which it was stipulated that use of burial plots was limited to the Caucasian race. The president explained that his company took over Memorial Park in 1945 and that old contracts, previously printed, were used for some time for deeds to burial plots. The new contracts no longer have this clause, he said.

Koenke also said that veterans of World War II were buried in the cemetery without regard to race, creed, or color. He said that a Chinese had been buried in the cemetery recently.

CHICKASAW

From an e-mail dated July 11 from Priscilla Reisner: I had been doing most of the mowing lately but I like to do that, it's so peaceful. I like to pull weeds too!!! Thurs. when I went to Pearl Rock, I noticed there was a bunch of big weeds, (I think they're called "pig" or "horse" weeds & some pretty new kind of thistle's I don't remember seeing before), along the fence on the west & north side, so I pulled most of them. Then I had to get rid of them so I called the Nashua City office to

see if the dump was open & they weren't & besides it was only for the city people!!! So, here I am without a place to get rid of it! I dumped them by the pile of brush by the corner post of the Catholic cem, Fred is going to call the one trustee over there that was cooperative to see if he knows where I can get rid of it. We also have a lot of brush to burn so I think I'm going to find out if some of the people from the Catholic Ch. can help us, some of it is theirs anyway & now they have a part of a big tree down on the C. side, thank God, it didn't hit any of the stones! Those stones all need cleaning again too!

There was a lake out at the Garden of Memories after this last big rain! I had been pulling the big weeds out there & it was getting too dry to pull them, so when the "rain" came, I took advantage of it & went out to the cemetery. The water was even up to the south post of the gate, I had to swing around it to get to a place I could step on! The road was even blocked off further down past the cemetery! Boy, did those weeds pull nice! When I pulled them, I got a real good "slapping" sound & sometimes there was even a night crawler or two pulling on the other end. A real good place for a fisherman to find his bait! I didn't want the weeds sprayed, (in case your wondering why we didn't spray them), because I knew the dead stuff would have to be pulled out & I'd rather not have the spray on them!

7/28/10... I GOT THE REST OF THE WEEDS PULLED TONITE, I WANT TO HAVE THE GRASS SEED SPREAD SAT. AFTERNOON. GOD SENT ME AN ANGEL, I HAD SPREAD A BUNCH OF THE PULLED WEEDS OUT OVER THE AREA THAT I HAD PULLED THEM FROM SO THEY WOULD DRY & THE BOY THAT MOWS, PICKED THEM UP FOR ME & HAULED THEM TO THE DUMP & HAS BEEN MOWING THE AREA AS I HAD BEEN GETTING THE WEEDS OUT, SO IT LOOKS PRETTY GOOD & LOOKS LIKE IT WON'T BE TO HARD TO GET GRASS ALL OVER THERE AGAIN!

Last fall the county gave us a whole lot of dirt, (after we finally had the grass growing on the low side). I don't think we could ever get enough dirt in there to not have a lake in there sometimes! So, this spring we had our son, Mike go out there & move the dirt around & level it off. Unfortunately, Fred was unable to plant the grass seed when it needed it & guess he didn't think about having someone else do it & I was gone to MN. for 3 wks, (our dau. had knee surgery), so I didn't think about it either! Too many other things to think about, I guess!

We do need to have a mtg. sometime but thought maybe this e-mail will fill you all in on what's going on in the cemeteries. The fence at Stapleton needs some painting done but think we can get by until next year! The McCrae stone fell over & needs to be put back up. That will be a job for 2 lifters & a gluer! I did think about it needing pins put in it to help keep it up but I have given it a lot of thought & think it's not a good idea to pin it because if it got knocked over again the bottom of the stone would be broken at the end of the level & I think it would better to just put it back up

with the break at the base edge! There are 2 kids' stones out there that don't have a top & thought maybe we could make a lamb out of the cement we sometimes have left over when we set a stone up. Also, if we had some creative people that wanted to make some "garden stones". We do have letters to put words on them!

The Ch. Co. Historical people have asked us to clean the stones at the West Cemetery down the st. & around the curve at the west side of town! There is also a lot of stone cleaning in the other ones to do if anyone has time. I could make up some kits for anyone that would like to do that when they had a little spare time or felt the need for some fresh air! Mike Magee had us go down to a cemetery south of Jesup to show the "genie" group how to clean stones. I have a few e-mail pictures to send. I have found out that I like using a spray bottle paint brush & to put the cleaner on the stones. Less mess & uses less cleaner, I think!

Last year I started working on putting a headstone together that was in 4 pieces, I'm pretty close to getting it finished & then we can install it upright! Looks pretty good if I do say so myself!!! I think I'm going to see if I can get the name put back on it but it's been long enough ago there might be more than I think! I hope it works because I hate to have to lay them down.

CLINTON

Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission - June 7, 2010

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.

From *The Bee*, Jefferson, Iowa, July 6, 2010: "Lincoln Highway Association holds national conference." Included in the article that tells of the activities at the conference in Dixon, IL on June 22-26, was the report that the Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission was awarded a grant of \$2,500 for the Hess Cemetery revitalization project to rebuild damaged headstones, add new wrought iron fencing and restoration of prairie grass. The cemetery is along the 1913 alignment of the Lincoln Highway. www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa/

A meeting of the Washington Cemetery Association was held April 30 at the home of Alice Mans in Maquoketa. Attending were president Randy Mohr, secretary Alice Mans, treasurer Ruth Wilson and directors Lyle Schepers and Harold and Anita Schepers. Dottie Burrichter is also a director. The members have decided to contact Stonehuggers Cemetery Restoration service to see about cleaning, straightening, and repairing gravestones in the cemetery. They will record all information in a binder and do research on the two Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery: Josiah Hudson and Hezekiah Gordon. The Washington Cemetery Association was formed in 1967 when the late Rev. Ed Mohr cleaned up the cemetery area in northwest Sharon Township in Clinton County. Anyone interested in helping with the cost of stone restoration can send a donation to Ruth Wilson, 2593 282nd Ave., DeWitt, IA 52742 or Alice Mans, 505 Milton Dr., Maquoketa 52060.

DALLAS

From the *Perry Daily*, July 3, 1913: "To Move Graveyard Fifty Feet North." The Milwaukee railroad has a problem because of the necessity of widening the big fill on the west bank of the Des Moines river between Perry and Madrid. The necessity of moving about one half of a graveyard is being faced and the company's agents have a serious problem in accomplishing its end. The company is now arranging to remove the bodies and the grave stones to a point at the north end of the cemetery and thus do away with the necessity of building a huge retaining wall. It is declared by railroad officials that the cemetery tucked away in the Des Moines river hills has caused more correspondence than any single piece of land used in the new double track right-of-way.

DES MOINES

From the *Burlington Hawk Eye*, September 6, 1880: A.V. Kendrick brought up the affair of an unused cemetery in Union township, and presented a petition from the people of that vicinity asking the Methodist Conference to allow them to use it.

From the *Burlington Daily Hawk-Eye*, September 8, 1880: "Nearing the End - A general Round Up of the Work of the Methodist Conference." Included in the reports that ended the conference is a reference to the cemetery property in Union township. The conference trustees were instructed to transfer all their right and title thereto, of the conference, to the trustees of Union Township.

DICKINSON

From the *Spirit Lake Beacon*, October 30, 1924: "Dealings in Real Estate in Dickinson County." Charles Masuen and wife to Wooster B. Wayt, excepting cemetery.

HARRISON/SHELBY

If anyone is interested, we have formed a somewhat new group called WIPCA - Western Iowa Pioneer Cemetery Association.

We are going to try and establish different places where we can meet and different cemeteries that need our attention.

This group (about 20) went to the LDS cemetery in Shelby County, on Saturday, July 10th, and cleaned it up and marked graves with no headstones and those needing repair. We then went to the Manteno park and had lunch, went back and put up 2 flagpoles and finished up.

We would love to have your participation, as we are looking to get Western Iowa involved.

Alvin Craig Poole
2008-2010 President
Harrison County Genealogical Society
2810 190th Trail
Woodbine, IA 51579-4063
cpoole@unmc.edu

"Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

-- Buddha

HENRY

From the *Davenport Weekly Gazette*, July 11, 1883: "Fight Over a Tombstone." Winfield in Henry County has been considerably agitated over a somewhat singular trial which was held in that town last week. A Mr. L. C. Phillips dying about a year ago, was buried by his parents in the cemetery of the Friends church, west of town. Mr. Phillips had belonged to the Order of Free Masons, and, after asking the consent of the relatives of the deceased and part of the cemetery committee, his Masonic brothers erected a small headstone, bearing a Masonic emblem, over the grave. Some weeks ago this stone was removed by four brothers named Cooper, who replaced it with one exactly similarly only without the Masonic emblem. The Friends did not sustain the action of these gentlemen, although they do not believe in secret orders, and the original was replaced. Three of the gentlemen signified their willingness to make every amend, but because of the ill-feeling of the fourth, proceedings were brought against all. The case was tried and the jury found a verdict of guilty upon the first ballot. \$5 each

and costs was imposed. An appeal was taken.

From the *Cedar Rapids Republican*, May 29, 1904: "Can't Use Cemetery." At the conclusion of a fifteen day's trial in the district court here, Judge Smyth rendered a decision to the Wayland cemetery from using the ground proposed for burial purposes. It is the first case of the kind ever tried in the state and has been watched with great interest by the state board of health. The expert witnesses for the plaintiff to Judge Smyth's mind greatly preponderated in weight as to the danger to the water in the neighborhood of this cemetery.

From the *Mt. Pleasant News*, October 3, 1947: Three neglected cemeteries are mentioned in the article -- Home Bethel, Woodlawn, and the old Williford that contains the graves of two brothers, one a soldier of the Union Army and the other of the Confederate. Who are the forgotten buried in these score or more neglected rural burying grounds in Henry County? Many of them are the pioneer men and women who fought the conquest of an undeveloped country. The men and women who suffered privation, discouragement and other enemy conditions of those early days. They are those who laid the very foundations of the communities of Henry County. They lived, they ventured, they labored and conquered. They died and were buried, and now quite forgotten. The grave stones are largely overturned or broken, the weathered inscriptions have faded. With some the plow, season after season, and furrow by furrow, have slowly covered the last vestige of the place where these pioneers find their last resting place.

HUMBOLDT

From the *Humboldt Republican*, April 22, 1938: "Address written by funeral director R. A. Skaugstad for Cemetery Meet." A lengthy address was written by Mr. Skaugstad and at the meeting he called to consider ways and means of improving the unkempt cemeteries of Humboldt county. He proposes that each township and town go together and levy a cemetery tax for the maintenance of all cemeteries within the county. As funeral director, he has observed the neglected condition in parts of cemeteries, specifically Union cemetery, as some families do not tend their relatives' graves. He offers to have rural cemeteries mowed at his expense and advocates mowing the cemeteries with a small mower instead of a horse drawn mower once a year. He ends with this plea: "Please talk this over with your neighbors and see if we can't all cooperate and make Humboldt county a county which will be talked about for the pride they take in respecting their dead."

IOWA

From the Iowa Genealogical society newsletter: The Iowa county Genealogical Society held its fourth annual "A Picnic in the Cemetery" in June. Participants took a sack lunch, lawn chairs and bug spray and met at 6:00 PM at Piersol Cemetery. Featured speakers were Bonnie and Scott Romine and Dave Jackson. Scott is the cemetery sexton, Bonnie portrayed several of her ancestors, and Dave spoke about a man that had been murdered and is buried in Piersol. "A Picnic in the Cemetery" has become the society's most popular program. Past years have included presentations on readying and caring for tombstones and understanding the meanings of the symbols on the stones. The last two years have included portrayals of people that are buried in the featured cemetery. ICGS meets the second Thursday of each month at the genealogical library in

North English. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact:

Iowa County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 207

121 Main St.

North English, IA 52316

Phone: 319-664-3194

E-mail: iacogen@netins.net

Web site: <http://iagenweb.org/iowa.research/ICGS.htm>

JONES

From the *Monticello Express*, February 29, 1872: The "surface-men" or "ballasters" on the new road have been for a long time obtaining sand with which to level the track from a bed near Oxford, something like twenty miles from this city. They have lately been compelled to stop, and for a singular reason. There is a grave yard closely adjacent, and such large quantities of sand have been taken out that the burial place has been literally undermined, and the workmen have ceased operations. There is a large bed of sand just east, and a smaller one just west of Kitty Creek bridge, close to our city, and from this the company will probably obtain their supply, at least for some time to come.

From the *Monticello Express*, December 10, 1931: Claude O. Sweet and wife to Harriet E. Rummell, except burial ground 2 rds square about 65 rods south of the corner of Nw1/4 sw1/4 sec 10-83-2. 118 acres, \$1.00.

From the *Monticello Express*, March 29, 1940: William W. Bixler and Myrtle, wife to Henry Bailey, excepting cemetery near nw corner said sec 1.67 acres.

From the *Monticello Express*, April 4, 1974: Real Estate Auction on Monday, April 15, 1974 at the farm premises located on Highway 151 approximately 4 miles northeast of Monticello, Iowa. 158 acre farm except Graveyard Lot containing about 1 1/2 acres in the Southeast corner of the w1/2 Sw1/4 of said Section 6.

LEE

From the *Daily Gate City*, February 12, 2010: "A bittersweet love story," by Terry Altheide. Terry's fascination with memorials statues and markers led him to find out more about the builder of a stone wall in Keokuk. The inscription on one stone of the wall reads "Built in 1927 by Nick Pokrajac." It seems that Mr. Pokrajac came to America in 1905, but due to much red tape, his wife was delayed for 27 years before being able to join him. Terry muses that the love the Pokrajacs had for each other is more than worthy enough to be remembered as a love that stood the test of time. He asks that if anyone has any information about this couple, he would greatly appreciate hearing from them.

From the *Daily Gate City*, March 25, 2010: "Who shot Orlin Heaight?" by Terry Altheide. Terry asks this question as he leaves the grave of this boy who was shot dead at the age of 15 by an unknown assailant on the evening of March 5, 1857. An inquest failed to produce anyone responsible for the crime. Orlin's parents lived for more than 30 years never having the satisfaction of seeing their son's killer brought to justice. They suffered the loss of two other children who died young of unknown causes. Terry ponders if Mrs. Heaight ever heard of a Greek writer named Sophocles who once wrote that "children were the anchors that hold a mother to life."

From the *Daily Gate City*, May 6, 2010: "Lee Co. Veterans Project has ceremony at cemetery." Pictured is Basil Reed of Keokuk VFW Post 3508 as he presents an American flag to Emily Esarey at the Lee County Project ceremony held recently at Oakland Cemetery, Keokuk. Ms. Esarey is a descendant of Maj. Henry Curtis who was massacred with approximately 75 other men after being captured by Confederate forces under the command of the notorious William Quantrill. She traveled from White Hall, Illinois to attend the ceremony. Remarks were given by Richard D. Grim, junior vice commander, Department of Iowa, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Opening remarks were given by Terry Altheide and the invocation was given by Pastor John Heath of Calvary Baptist Church. Britany Glockhart of the church's youth group held the flag before the presentation. The Second Battery of the Iowa Light Artillery served as the honor guard and Taylor Young of Central Lee High School played "Taps."

From the *Daily Gate City*, May 18, 2010: "Somber weather doesn't dissuade crowd at second Veterans Cemetery Tour," by Karyn Spory. Pictured is the Keokuk Veterans Memorial wall that contains the names of veterans from the Keokuk area. The tour was sponsored by the Lee County Veterans Project and features 10 veterans who served in wars ranging from the Civil War through Operation Iraqi Freedom, including Charles Van Ausdall whose family was present. He was the pilot of a B-17 that was shot down over Belgium. The cost of the tour was \$7 and wreaths were available for \$20. All proceeds went to purchase the engraving of four more names on the Memorial. The Keokuk Senior High School Speech and Drama Club and Ogo's Restaurant were saluted for their support of the tour.

From the *Daily Gate City*, May 25, 2010: "Respect, care for the past." Pictured are Keokuk Mayor Tom Marion, Terry Altheide and his grandson, Anthony Stice. Mayor Marion proclaimed the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month -- a time to dedicate to the preservation and care of cemeteries and appreciation for all who strive to deliver that preservation and care."

From the *Daily Gate City*, May 26, 2010: "Altheides saluted." Pictured are Terry and Linda Altheide of Keokuk as they receive a Community Pride Award. They are shown with grandson, Anthony, and the Community Pride Committee members, Rob Kelly and Tim Peevler. The picture was taken in front of the Civil War gravestone of Union soldier George Diggs who died in 1862. Terry has restored the stone, along with many others in the cemetery. The Altheides have furnished wreaths and decorations for the Memorial Walk.

The 2010 Pioneer Patriot's Day will be held in the Croton Cemetery on September 25 at 1:00 PM. For more information, contact Terry Altheide at: sweetpeaandbigun@msn.com

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Times*, December 19, 1872: "A Ghastly Spectacle -- the secret of a graveyard revealed." The article tells of a street being cut through the bluffs in the eastern part of the city that passed through a portion of an old cemetery. The remains were not removed but used with dirt to fill up the grade to the proper level. Heavy rains washed dirt from around the coffins and left many exposed. A small boy was observed carrying a packet of luxuriant hair that the boy admitted was obtained from one of the graves. He admitted that several other boys had found and removed hair from the

graves, also, and sold it for a "grand, round sum." The writer states that this information will probably be of interest to those who pride themselves so highly upon the quality and beauty of material composing their switches and chignons, and he leaves it to them to determine for themselves how many of them have been adding to their attractiveness at the expense of the old and almost forgotten cemetery on the bluffs.

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, June 29, 1894: The case of Nellie Gray vs J.M. Gray, an action to quiet title in a block of cemetery property, occupied the greater portion of the time yesterday. Decision has not yet been announced. The court is considerably behind with the assignment, and will hardly catch up by the work of tomorrow.

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, June 16, 1914: Lulu Skillman to Frantiska Biderman, quit claim deed except burial ground in nw cor. containing 1/2 acre.

From the *Cedar Rapids Tribune*, July 17, 1936: "March of Progress Turns Former Cemetery Into a Modern Linn Co. Farm," by Ernest Mickel. The article tells of F. Soukup, a farmer in northern Linn county, who turned a neglected cemetery into a hog lot, used a baby's stone for a porch support, and other granite and marble markers for a barn foundation.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, November 29, 1970: "Vandalism." Pictured are sixteen tombstones that were toppled by vandals on Thanksgiving night at St. John's Cemetery in Cedar Rapids. Also pictured is caretaker Clarence Meeker checking one of the large monuments that was damaged. The damage was centered in the older section of the cemetery.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, July 21, 2010: "Mount Vernon residents work at righting a wrong," by Chris Pratt. About 35 Mount Vernon residents, including Cornell College football players and coaches, were busy last night repairing damage to about 55 graves that were vandalized at Mount Vernon Memorial Cemetery between June 28 and July 8. They fixed disturbed headstones, using a back hoe as needed and used caulk to piece a few stones back together. C.J. McDonald, a running back for the Rams, said it was disturbing that vandalism had occurred in a place where the dead should be able to rest peacefully. "It's vandalism to the highest," he said.

LYON

From the *Lyon County Reporter*, August 16, 2000: "Mayor vetoes portion of cemetery resolution." Rock Rapids Mayor Keith Benson vetoed the council's resolution passed at the July 25 meeting regarding Riverview Cemetery. The council set plot, interment and monument fees and defined a "resident" as anyone living in Lyon County. The mayor did not feel this definition was in the best interests of the citizens of the city of Rock Rapids and did not feel it was fair to ask the taxpayers to pay expenses of non-residents. The council has 30 days to decide to accept the veto or override it. The discussion ended on an ironic note when it was announced that 20 acres of the cemetery were actually owned by Rock Township having been deeded to them in 1888.

From the LeMars Daily Sentinel, (no date given): Farmers in the area of Doon and the board of supervisors are investigating a now unused cemetery with the purpose in mind of adding it to cornland. The oldest marker is dated December 26, 1870. Most markers are for children of folks who settled

there before the town was established. The pioneer cemetery is 103 years old and the markers are difficult to read as they are overgrown with weeds, wild grass and flowers.

HARDIN

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, July 29, 1999: "Graves moved into path of Highway 20 plans." Some old bones and gravestones are showing up along the route to relocate U.S. Highway 20 near the Iowa River in Hardin County, and apparently they're freshly planted. A worker with the Iowa Department of Transportation stumbled upon what seemed to be three headstones near the west bank of the river about four weeks ago. The stones appeared to be markers from old burials, just the kind of thing that can hold up highway construction. An archeologist determined that they hadn't been there long. Authorities believe the bones and stones have been replanted to protest the highway's route near the Iowa River greenbelt.

HOWARD

From the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, October 5, 1929: "25 Volunteer Workers Spend Day Repairing Cemetery Near Cresco." Leveling grounds, filling sunken graves and straightening up monuments and markers at the New Oregon cemetery was the work accomplished by the volunteer services of 23 men, three women, and 13 teams. A list of names of those who participated followed.

MARION

From the *Pella Chronicle*, July 23, 1903: "Buried Alive." There has been a rumor afloat here the past few days that at a recent burial in Graceland cemetery in Knoxville, supposed the corpse was interred alive. It is said that the grave digger heard four distinct raps on the coffin lid when dirt was thrown in, and that two women who were present also heard it. The dirt shoveling was discontinued while the party listened, and when it was resumed two more raps were heard. At that juncture the women fled and the frightened workmen continued the work of filling the grave.

MILLS

From the *Glenwood Opinion*, September 28, 1921: "Remove Bodies from the Waubonsie Cemetery." The bodies of Nathaniel Dean and Winifred Scott Dean were moved from the Waubonsie to the family lot in the Glenwood cemetery. Nathaniel was buried in 1879 after dying of "old age." Winifred, a child, was buried in 1864 with a cause of death listed as "spotted fever" known today as spinal meningitis.

MARSHALL

From the *State Center Enterprise*, May 11, 1988: "In rural State Center ... Pioneer cemetery creates controversy." In the midst of corn fields, next to the road, a couple of miles southeast of the town of State Center, an old pioneer cemetery lies with its solemn gravestones, most of which date back to the mid-1800's. This pioneer cemetery has stirred recent controversy, but all agree that the old burial place should remain a respected and appropriate memorial to the pioneer past. What is appropriate is, however, the question in the controversy. Carl Kurtz and Gary Brandenburg, Director of Marshall County Conservation Board, feel that the native

grasses and flowers "fit well together" and that there is nothing wrong about the tall prairie vegetation in old burial places. On the other hand, Myrl Wilkey, rural State Center farmer whose relatives rest in the pioneer cemetery, has been mowing the cemetery at no cost because he believes its appearance should be neatly mowed and clipped. The conservation-minded people, however, urge the consideration of the cultural and historical value as well as the raw and wild beauty of the prairie as a fitting setting in which the pioneers of the past can rest.

MUSCATINE

From the *Iowa State Reporter*, August 24, 1881: At a recent burial in West Liberty, the *Muscatine Tribune* says, the grave was dug so close to one in which a child dying from scarlet fever was buried that the wall gave way and an overpowering stench arose. Two children of John Givans were standing where they received the full effect of the poisonous vapor and were soon after taken with scarlet fever, from which one of them died on the 25th.

From the *Muscatine Journal and News-Tribune*, July 2 (no year given): "City will Bear Cemetery Grass Mowing Expense?" Several local civic organizations are advocating that the city of Muscatine take over the mowing of Greenwood cemetery, which would result in a slight increase in taxes. The only places in the cemetery now mowed are the plots for which family has paid for perpetual care. The perpetual care fund would be used for raising sunken graves, straightening headstones, monuments and such other work; but all mowing of the grass would be done at city expense. The public is invited to express their views in the newspaper's opinion page.

PALO ALTO

From the *Palo Alto Reporter*, July 29, 1876: Editor Reporter -- Last week I again visited West Bend for the purpose of surveying a small cemetery, on Sec. 21, which has been under consideration for several years but has remained in a neglected condition until the right spirit influence of R.M.J. McFarland, Geo. Jacobs and David Achison, and now bids fair to be made a credit to the community, which has quite a number of friends buried there.

From the *Emmetsburg Democrat*, February 8, 1927: "Lot Owner's Right in Cemeteries." Court decisions on Matter Will Be of Interest to the Public; People Should Read Them and Be Posted. Title is Cemetery Lots.

One who buys the privilege of buying his dead kinsmen or friends in a cemetery requires no general right of property; he acquires only the right to bury the dead. --Dewenter vs. Geary.

Such right of burial is not an absolute right of property, but a privilege or license to be enjoyed, so long as the place continues to be used as a burial ground, subject to municipal regulation and control, and legally revocable whenever the public necessity requires. It is a right of limited use for purposes of interment, which gives no title to the land. --Page vs. Symonde

The holder of a lot in a cemetery belonging to a municipality or religious society for burial purposes, whether his evidence of title be by deed, or certificate, or other means, does not acquire an absolute title to the land, but has the right or license exclusive of any and every other person, to bury the dead upon the subdivided plot assigned to him; and a license once acquired cannot be revoked so long as the ground continues to be used as a place of sepulture. -- Gowan vs. Bessey.

In deciding that the grounds were assessable to the company for the construction of a sidewalk, the court held that the effect of a conveyance of a lot was 'no more than to confer upon the holder of a lot a right to use for the purpose of interments.' No such estate is granted as makes him an owner in such sense as to exclude the general proprietorship of the Association. The Association remains the owner in general, and holds that relation to the public and to the government. While subject to this, the individual has a right, exclusive of any other persons, to bury upon the subdivided plat assigned to him. He holds a position analogous to that of a pew holder in a house for public worship. It is a right, exclusive of any other of the congregation, but subject to the right of religious corporation, which represents the ownership of the property to the public, and is the legal owner of the fee of the property. -- Buffalo City Cemetery Association vs. Buffalo.

The courts quite generally hold, however, that the purchaser of a lot in a public cemetery, though the deed be absolute in form, does not take any title thereto. The mere privilege of license to make interments in the lot so purchased, exclusive of all others, is all that is required thereunder. -- Kincaid's Appeal, Anderson vs. Acheson.

A lot holder in a cemetery acquires only burial privileges in the lot and does not acquire title to the land, according to a decision handed down by the Michigan Supreme Court in the case of William E. Rowley of Laingsburg, against the Laingsburg Cemetery Association. The decision of the high court means that Rowley has lost in his appeal from the decision of Judge J.H. Collins in circuit court.

Judge Collins also held that purchase of a cemetery lot does not carry title to the land but simply conveys burial right, and that if Rowley declined to pay assessments legally levied, the association would forfeit his burial rights. The supreme court upheld the lower court in all its holdings.

Another point of misunderstanding is rights of a husband or wife in a cemetery lot owned by either. A lot standing in the name of the husband, on his death, descends first to his children or to the husband's brothers or sisters or father and mother, never to the wife, nor has the wife any dower right or control over the lot, except that she has the right to be buried beside her husband. Likewise, a lot purchased in a married woman's name will, on her death, go to her children or to her brothers or sisters or her father and mother, never to her husband, he having, however, right of burial therein. -- Fairchild Cemetery Manual

From the *LeMars Daily Sentinel*, August 17, 1968: "Sentence four in cemetery vandalism." Vandalism at LeMars Memorial Cemetery has resulted in jail sentences and work sessions for four 18-year-old youths. Mayor Adler sentenced all four to 30 days in the county jail and 40 hours of work each week during the jail terms, to be spent at the city cemetery and on LeMars streets without pay. The boys appeared with their parents at the 8 p.m. hearing. 42 tombstones had been pushed over resulting in \$20,000 in damage. Some of the old grave markers are irreplaceable. Under state statutes, provision is made so lawsuits can be filed by the city or individual owners of the stones. There may be a possibility that homeowners' insurance or perpetual care paid through the cemetery may cover the costs.

However, some stones date back before the turn of the century with no descendants in the area.

PLYMOUTH

From the *Ireton Ledger*, August 28, 1924: "Unused cemetery lots to be taken over." The Le Mars Cemetery Association has filed suit to vacate the title of a number of lot holders, who have not taken care of their plots in the Le Mars Cemetery for 10 years or more, in accordance with the law and the association's files. The lots were not used, and the owners have moved away. Some died and were buried elsewhere.

RINGGOLD

In an e-mail from SAPIC member, Charly Stevens, dated July 21, 2010: "Ringgold County Cemetery Headstones Vandalized." (Mount Ayr) -- More than 40 gravestones are demolished in a Ringgold County pioneer cemetery. The sheriff's office asks the public for information on the vandalism that took place between July 11th and 17th at the Tedrow Cemetery in Athens Township near Mount Ayr. The damage is estimated at more than \$20,000. Most of the headstones were restored five years ago.

SCOTT

From the *Davenport Democrat and Leader*, June 7, 1929: Notice of Executor's Sale, the executor of the last will and testament of Geo. Frauen, will offer for sale at public auction the property of the deceased excepting cemetery lot in the Northwest corner.

TAYLOR

From the *Blockton News*, September 29, 1932: "Skeleton Unearthed." Workmen engaged in road work on the Iowa-Missouri state line unearthed what is supposed to be the remains of a human skeleton. Bones and teeth were found about four feet under the surface with the head to the north, face downward.

VAN BUREN

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 24, 2010: "Isaiah's stone," by Gianna Barrow. Better late than nearly never, members of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society are pictured as they set Isaiah Bringham's stone in the Bentonport Cemetery 155 years after his death. Isaiah died Feb. 4, 1955 but probably due to controversy with his estate, his stone was never set. The stone was found in the basement of a Bonaparte building buried in layers of mud from years of Des Moines River flooding. It was given to a person in Muscatine who returned it to Bonaparte in 1990. Researchers surmised that his grave was probably next to a daughter who died 4 months before he died. Through all the travels and handoffs the stone has not suffered from any damage. The base was traveling with it and was used below the ground in the setting of the stone. Also pictured with the article is Isaiah's stone showing that he was a veteran of the Mexican War. Stan Knipfer, Jerry Boyer, Tom Gould, Marvin Danniell assisted Don Aldrich in setting the stone.

WINNEBAGO

From the *Rake Register*, January 16, 1908: Quite a number who have some of their dead buried in the old graveyard on Thore Sundum's place have moved them during the past week and re-interred them in the new graveyard one half mile east of town. Upon opening the graves in the old place they found the

caskets standing in more than a foot of water. The new place is far better in that respect. The ground is high enough that but very little water can collect in the graves. The old cemetery has been transferred back to Mr. Sundum.

WOODBURY

From the *Malvern Leader*, November 17, 1904: "Sioux City Cemetery." Through a series of mistakes in cemetery records a large number of bodies buried in the Floyd Cemetery are missing, and it is believed that ghouls, profiting by knowledge of the errors, have stolen the remains. As a result, over 200 graves have been opened, the bodies taken out, and efforts are to be made toward identifying them. The sexton has identified and reburied all but 130 bodies. Many pathetic experiences have marked the investigation of remains by relatives. A large number of bodies buried in family plots are nowhere to be found.

WRIGHT

From the *Wright County Monitor*, March 29, 1951: (Advertisement) \$10,000 Protection for your Family for only \$10 With the Family Legal Liability Policy. What Premises Are Covered? Residence, including outbuilding and grounds; vacant land, other than farm land; cemetery pots or burial vaults, temporary residences not owned by an insured.

OUT OF IOWA

ALABAMA

From ABC 33/40 NEWS, July 12, 2010: "33 Stolen Headstones Recovered, by Ana Jasen. Birmingham Police found 33 stolen headstones sitting in a man's yard in Ensley, AL. They may have come from Oakland Cemetery, a few blocks away. The 51-year-old suspect, a homeless man who has been living in a shack on the empty lot for ten years, has been taken into custody and his mental state assessed. Police believe he used shopping carts to transport the stones at night.

ARIZONA

From the *Daily Courier*, Prescott, AZ, March 30, 2010: "Mother Nature prevents dowsing for gravesites," by Jerry Herrmann. Pictured is Neal DuShane, founder and president of the Arizona Pioneer Cemetery Research Project, shown as he demonstrates how his dowsing rods work to find a specific person's gravesite in the old Del Rio Cemetery. Also shown is Kay Jones, president of the Chino Valley Historical Society, as she looks at gravesites in the Shivers family plot while dowsing is done in the Del Rio Cemetery. Winds gusting up to 33 mph prohibited the dowsers from accurately identifying unmarked graves, however. A Private Fisher, who was stationed at Fort Whipple in the 1860s and killed by an Indian arrow, is believed to be the first person buried there according to records at the Sharlot Hall Museum.

From the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, July 29, 2010: "Discovery of human remains delays construction project in Arizona, by Dave Hawkins. More than 100 bodies remain in an area used as a cemetery from 1900-1917 in Kingman, Arizona that is now a high school football field and parking lot. Bones and suspected coffins were unearthed as construction crews dug a trench in an effort to install a new sewer. The Mohave County medical examiner was called to recover the remains and work was stopped as required by law, as well as the state

museum director. The cemetery closed in 1917.

From the *AZ magazine*, Summer 2010, page 28: "Common sense gets buried in pioneer family's cemetery dispute with state," by Laurie Roberts. DOUGLAS -- The Wells family are mired in red tape with the state of Arizona over ownership and the right to visit their 104-year-old cemetery in the desert northeast of Douglas. They have been trying to buy the cemetery since 1916, but the state wasn't interested in selling such a small tract and the family can't afford to buy a huge tract. Over the years, there have been 80 graves added and the family gathers once a year to tend the graves. They have been told they're trespassing and that the state is going to gate the road. Because of the \$2,000 application fee and \$1,000 for a required boundary survey, the family can't afford to lease the land. Also, leasing is legal for cattle, not for cemeteries. In order to purchase, the state wants a detailed survey of the land, marking every object on the before it can appraise the land and set an opening bid at auction. This survey could cost \$5000-6000. The family does not want to abandon the cemetery and leave its care to the state even though it is a historical property.

CALIFORNIA

From the *American Legion Magazine*, July 2010: "Mojave cross torn down by vandals." Less than two weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that, for now, Mojave Desert Cross could remain in its location, vandals tore down the memorial to World War II veterans, leaving only the bolts in Sunrise Rock as evidence. The incident sparked outrage among supporters of the cross, including The American Legion, which filed crucial amicus (friend-of-the-court) briefs in favor of the cross remaining at its location. The box that had been covering the cross during the ongoing lawsuit had been removed, along with the cross. Park law enforcement is investigating and asking for the public's assistance. Liberty Institute, which represents the Legion, is offering a \$125,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

From the *Lion* magazine, April, 2010: "Lions Lay Wreaths to Honor Veterans." Pictured is the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon showing red ribbons on wreaths placed by members of the Dixon Lions Club that decorate each grave. The project, Wreaths Across America, is an extension of one that began at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia in 1991. Funds were collected to decorate 500 graves prior to the holidays.

COLORADO

From KUSA-TV, 9NEWS: Story Tellers, Longmont, Colorado, April, 2010: "Unearthed headstone leads to forgotten soldier," by Jeffrey Wolf Kyle Clark. The government stone of Union Army veteran John H. Demarest was unearthed in the yard of Mark and Jeni Kolby in Longmont. A reporter with a passion for genealogy helped determine the headstone's story. Demarest was born in 1845 in Illinois, joined the Union Army at age 16, and served in garrisons in northern Virginia. After the war, he worked as a farm laborer in Colorado. He died in 1911 and was buried beneath a civilian headstone at Elmwood Cemetery in Brighton. His military headstone was taken to the cemetery and set next to his original stone by cemetery manager Neal Nahler. A distant relative of Demarest, Sharon Hattel, visited the grave and was pleased that his grave will now get a flag on Memorial Day. There is no obvious answer as to how

Demarest's military headstone ended up in Longmont.

CONNECTICUT

From Eyewitness News Channel 3, July 28, 2010: "Green Lady Headstone Stolen." Police are investigating the theft of a headstone that marked the grave of a woman known as the "Green Lady" in a cemetery in Burlington, Connecticut. The original headstone on the grave of Elisabeth Palmiter, who died in 1800, was replaced in the 1970s and weighs over 200 pounds. According to legend, Palmiter's ghost has been seen wandering the graveyard in a green mist.

From the *Burlington Hawk Eye, Ottumwa Courier, Cedar Rapids Gazette, and Mediacom*, July 4-7, 2010: "Towns grapple with tidying forsaken cemeteries," by Stephanie Reize, The Associated Press. Pictured is the grave of Hannah Forsyth in an abandoned and unkempt cemetery in Montville, Conn. Connecticut recently became one of a growing number of states to enact a law allowing towns to take over abandoned cemeteries, provided they can prove nobody's been buried there for decades and nobody has an interest in maintaining them. But the new law only allows for acquisitions and clean-ups. It doesn't require towns to do so or allocate any money to pay for the work. Usually it's up to volunteers to clean and tend the old cemeteries. John Clauser, a former archaeologist for the state of North Carolina, has established a business called "Of Grave Concerns" that helps landowners restore or move cemeteries discovered on their property. The cost varies, depending on number of plots, condition of the markers, type of terrain and whether remains need to be moved. If towns do take over cemeteries, the cleanups are usually paid for with grants, donations and an "adopt-a-grave" program.

For a copy of this article and any other in this issue of *Grave News*, contact Pat Shaw: patshaw@netins.net

ILLINOIS

In an e-mail from SAPIC member, John Heider, dated June 5, 2010: The Parkland College cemetery class and the workshop conducted by John were at full capacity. SAPIC board member Tony Bengston attended one of the sessions. The workshop was held on the University of Illinois campus and the cemetery had lots of good restoration examples, the weather was excellent, and all participants were very tired by closing time. The students cleaned, repaired, or reset twenty-one grave stones.

From the *Tri-State Trader*, Knighttown, Ind., March 14, 1970: "Literary Inspiration Gained From Cemeteries," by Grover Brinkman, Okawville, Illinois. Pictured is the tombstone of Ann Rutledge, beloved of Abraham Lincoln, at Petersburg, Ill. The author of the article gives several examples of unusual tombstones that contain not-so-common epitaphs that are part of the local folklore. Included is the grave of William Milford Rees, whose stone has an engraving of him operating an old steam threshing engine that he restored. The stone of John Kinyon contains the verse found on many stones throughout England and carried over in pioneer burials in the states: *Remember Friends, as you pass by,*

As you are now so once was I;

As I am now you soon must be,

Prepare for death and follow me.

Under this verse some wag cut into the stone the following:

To follow you I'll not consent,

Until I know which way you went!

Other examples are the grave of King Neptune, a pig who was the mascot for the U.S. Navy from 1941-1950, the stone of James Thompson, a surveyor who surveyed and laid out the city of Chicago, the pet cemetery of Max and Elda Fischer in Florissant, Missouri and the marker of Ann Rutledge in Petersburg, Ill. The author of the epitaph on the Rutledge stone was Edgar Lee Masters, whose grave in is the same cemetery.

But of me unworthy and unknown,
The vibrations of deathless music!
With malice toward none, with charity for all,
But of me unworthy and unknown, millions,
And the beneficent face of a nation,
Shining with justice and truth,
I am Ann Rutledge who sleep beneath these weeds,
Beloved of Abraham Lincoln,
Wedded to him, not through union
But through separation.
Bloom forever, O Republic,
From the dust of my bosom!

KANSAS

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 31, 2010: "Body parts found at Kansas medical waste company." Pictured are containers holding unidentified body parts being stored by the Wyandotte County coroner in Kansas City. They were discovered in a truck at a medical waste company. Three individuals have been identified so far and the coroner is working to identify the remaining body parts. Each tub had a shipping label from The Learning Center, affiliated with Bio Care, an Albuquerque, NM company that distributes bodies for medical research. Some of the remains were supposed to have been cremated.

Colby, Kansas Police Investigate Cemetery Vandalism, August 13, 2010:

Here's another sad commentary of our society. The KAKE.com web site has a story about recent vandalism at the Beulah Cemetery in Colby. One hundred sixty-eight headstones were toppled. Some of the headstones suffered damage while others only needed to be reset. Damages are estimated at \$25,000 but could climb as high as \$100,000.

Those with family buried at the Beulah Cemetery are being asked to contact their insurance company.

Anyone with information about the crime is being asked to call the Colby Police Department at (785) 460-4460.

KENTUCKY

From WKYT, Louisville, Kentucky, May 18, 2010: "Cemetery in eastern Ky. bulldozed, families upset." Dorothy Linger and other family members were upset when a bulldozer, contracted to Vinland Energy of London, Ky, plowed through their family cemetery near Fourmile, in southeastern Kentucky. The bulldozer operator and Vinland Energy appear to be remorseful. The spokesman said the company had no idea that the cemetery was there and pointed to maps of Bell County, which don't list the graveyard. Bill Dunn, a Middlesboro resident with family buried in the cemetery says, "We just want the site cleaned up, so we can see how many graves there are and recreate the cemetery."

MISSOURI

From the *Homestead* (Iowa) newspaper, August 24, 1905: "Plowing Graveyard." A subscriber, Wyatt, Mo. -- I bought a farm on which there is an old graveyard that has not had a fence around it for years. It had grown in briars and bushes. It was bought by me as part of the place. Nothing was said about it in the deed. Last spring I planted the field in which it is situated to corn. There was no tombstone, or plank, or any sign of a grave where I plowed. People have recently cleaned off the graveyard and wish to fence it. I demanded that they place the fence online with my plowing corn, but they claim I have plowed over one grave and they insist on fencing so as to take twenty or thirty feet of my corn ground within the enclosure. (1) Have I the legal right to designate where the fence shall be placed? (2) Can I prevent further burying in the graveyard?

Answer -- The facts which you state are very indefinite. You do not say how the graveyard came to be located on the land you purchased. There must be records somewhere telling of a dedication or reservation in some deed of a former owner of the land or a clause in some conveyance setting apart a certain parcel of ground for a grave yard. Until investigation is made as to such matters, no very reliable advice can be given. Meanwhile it is not safe for you to interfere with the ground occupied by the graveyard, nor to plow any of it or plant it in crops. You have no right to arbitrarily fix the place for the fence until you ascertain the true boundary line of the burial ground. (2) We think not.

NEBRASKA

From *American Profile* magazine, May 30-June 5, 2010: In 1877, hundreds of Ponca Indians were forced to leave their Nebraska homeland and moved to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. On the journey, White Buffalo Girl, daughter of Black Elk and Moon Hawk, died and the people of Neligh (pop. 1,651) provided a Christian funeral. Black Elk's last request was that his daughter's grave be honored by the townspeople, and a marble monument was erected in 1913 for White Buffalo Girl, whose grave still is maintained and decorated.

OHIO

From the *American Profile* magazine, May-June, 2010, page 4-5: "A Modern-day Betsy Ross," by John Gladden. Lois Csontos-Nielsen of Sharon Township drives to the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman to repair flags that fly in its Avenue of Flags. She has repaired more than 13,000 flags as well as sewing buttons on uniforms of veterans who perform military honors for funeral. She has saved the cemetery thousand of dollars by repairing the flags. In addition to her seamstress work, she maintains volunteer records, answers the telephone, and responds to questions about veterans benefits. She also volunteers at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center in nearby Brecksville, making beds and washing clothes.

PENNSYLVANIA

From the *Lion* magazine, April, 2010: "A Day Unlike Any Other," photo by Fred Adams/*The Times Leader*. Mark Kowalczyk, president of the DuPont, Pennsylvania, Lions Club is shown cutting the overgrown grass at Pittston Cemetery. The day before Veterans Day on Nov. 11, Mark and his employees at his landscaping company cleared the high grass and overgrown vegetation at the cemetery that had made flags placed on graves of veterans so hard to spot. "The veterans buried there gave everything for us," he explained. "The least we could do is to give them a day. I just thought something should be done to get the cemetery ready for Veterans Day."

From the *Waterloo Semi Weekly Courier*, March 27, 1900: "Struggled in the Grave -- Evidence Found That a Boy was Buried Alive." Philadelphia -- at Mullica Hill, NJ near here, the startling discovery has been made that a boy had been buried alive. An undertaker was exhuming bodies of the members of the Smitzer family, who lived at Mullica Hill about twenty-five years ago, for burial in this city. One coffin contained the skeleton of a boy and its condition bore evidences of an awful struggle after the supposedly dead body had been buried.

TENNESSEE

In an e-mail from Terry Jackson, Project Coordinator for the American Association for State and Local History dated May 27, 2010: The Nashville City Cemetery is reinterring the remains of Charles Dickinson who fought a duel with Andrew Jackson. He has been buried in someone's front yard for about 200 years. Descendants will take part as well as Jackson's ggggg grandson. www.thenashvillecity.cemetery.org

The McLean County Historical Society is working on a book project with AltaMira Press on cemetery walks and using cemeteries for teaching and touring. They are looking to interview people who have put on cemetery walks so they can have a wide variety of examples. Please contact: Mschierman@mchistory.org

From Channel 9 News, Chattanooga, TN, 2010, Freedom Communications: "Court Finds Cleveland Cemetery Owner Negligent.:" A chancellor in Cleveland has ruled in favor of a woman who sued over the dilapidated condition of Fort Hill Cemetery. The chancellor found the Louisville Land Company and owner Joe V. Williams were recklessly negligent for failing to maintain the cemetery. The Chattanooga Times Free Press reported Williams must pay \$250,000 in punitive damages and \$45,000 in compensatory damages to Betty Saint Rogers, who sued over cemetery condition back in 2004.

UTAH

From the *Denver Post*, Aug. 3, 2010: "Utah woman finds gravestone behind shower wall." A woman in Hyde Park, Utah, who was renovating her basement found a gravestone dated 1900 behind her shower wall. The gravestone says it is that of 13-year-old Earl Stephen Balls. It was found that the previous owner's 15-year-old son was finishing construction on the

basement in the 1970s when he remembered a broken gravestone that was near an old cabin in the house's backyard. He decided it might be funny to seal up the stone inside the wall for someone to find years later.

VIRGINIA

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 30, 2010: "As Many as 6,600 graves at Arlington National Cemetery could be mixed up." The system used to track grave sites relied on a complicated paper trail that was vulnerable to error. The former superintendent, John Metzler, who ran the military burial ground for 19 years, blamed his staff and a lack of resources for the scandal that forced his ouster. He was charged with repeatedly failing to ensure burials were being done properly and of failing to respond after unmarked graves were discovered. Metzler's deputy, Thurman Higginbotham was also forced to retire because of accusations of botching contracts and creating an "unhealthy organizational climate" for employees. He asserted his Fifth Amendment rights not to respond to many questions during an oversight panel on the Senate Homeland Security and Government Reform Committee.

From the *Los Angeles Times*, June 11, 2010: "Arlington National Cemetery's top supervisors ousted in Mismanagement case," by Julian E. Barnes, Tribune Washington Bureau. Army Secretary John McHugh said an Army inspector general's report raised questions about 211 gravesites and found unmarked graves, burial sites with the wrong headstones and improper handling of cremated remains. There are 330,000 bodies buried at Arlington, including Presidents Kennedy and Taft. As many as 30 funerals are held there each day, some for veterans of past wars and others for military personnel killed Afghanistan or Iraq. Kathryn Condon, a senior Army civilian official, was appointed as executive director of the Army National Cemeteries program, a new position to advise on the oversight of burial ground. Two former senators – Bob Dole and Max Cleland – will help form the commission.

From the *American Legion* magazine, July, 2010: "The Unknown Revolutionary," by Christopher Lancette. Pictured is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution in a tiny, hidden cemetery in Alexandria, Va. The inscription reads, "Here lies a soldier of the Revolution whose identity is known but to God." Few tourists visit the grave in comparison with the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. The Old Presbyterian Meeting House cares for the grave in its churchyard's cemetery. Richard Azzaro, a former guard at the more famous Arlington tomb and a Revolutionary War reenactor, has been organizing wreath-laying ceremonies at the tomb for more than 20 years during Alexandria's annual President's Day parades. For more information, visit: www.opmh.org Click on "About Us."

WORLD NEWS

From the *American Legion* magazine, July 2010: Andrew W. Reese, Alexandria, Va. comments on the

story in the May issue, "The Whole World as Their Tomb," the story of military personnel buried overseas. While stationed in Germany from 2000 to 2004, he and his family visited every American Battle Monuments Commission cemetery and most of the monuments in Europe. They reflected on the heroes who gave their lives for their country. He states that the ABMC and the host countries do a magnificent job of keeping the cemeteries in pristine condition.

Arrangements to have flowers placed at the grave of someone buried in an ABMC cemetery can be made through the ABMC's web site:

www.abmc.gov/services/index.php

HOLLAND

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 1, 2010: "Unusual 17th century Dutch horse burial site found" Archaeologists searching for prehistoric human settlements near the Maas River in Borgharen unearthed a mass grave with the complete skeletons of 51 horses buried side-by-side, probably the victims of a 17th century battle over a strategic Dutch river.

EGYPT

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 31, 2010: "Door to afterlife from ancient Egyptian tomb found." Pictured is the nearly six-foot tall slab of pink granite used as a false door in the tomb of User, the chief minister of Queen Hatshepsut, which has been unearthed by archaeologists. The 3,500-year-old door was found near Karnak temple in Luxor, according to Egyptian antiquities authorities. A temple dedicated to User has also been discovered further south in the hills near Aswan. False doors were placed in the west walls of tombs and faced offering tables where food and drink were left for the spirit of the deceased.

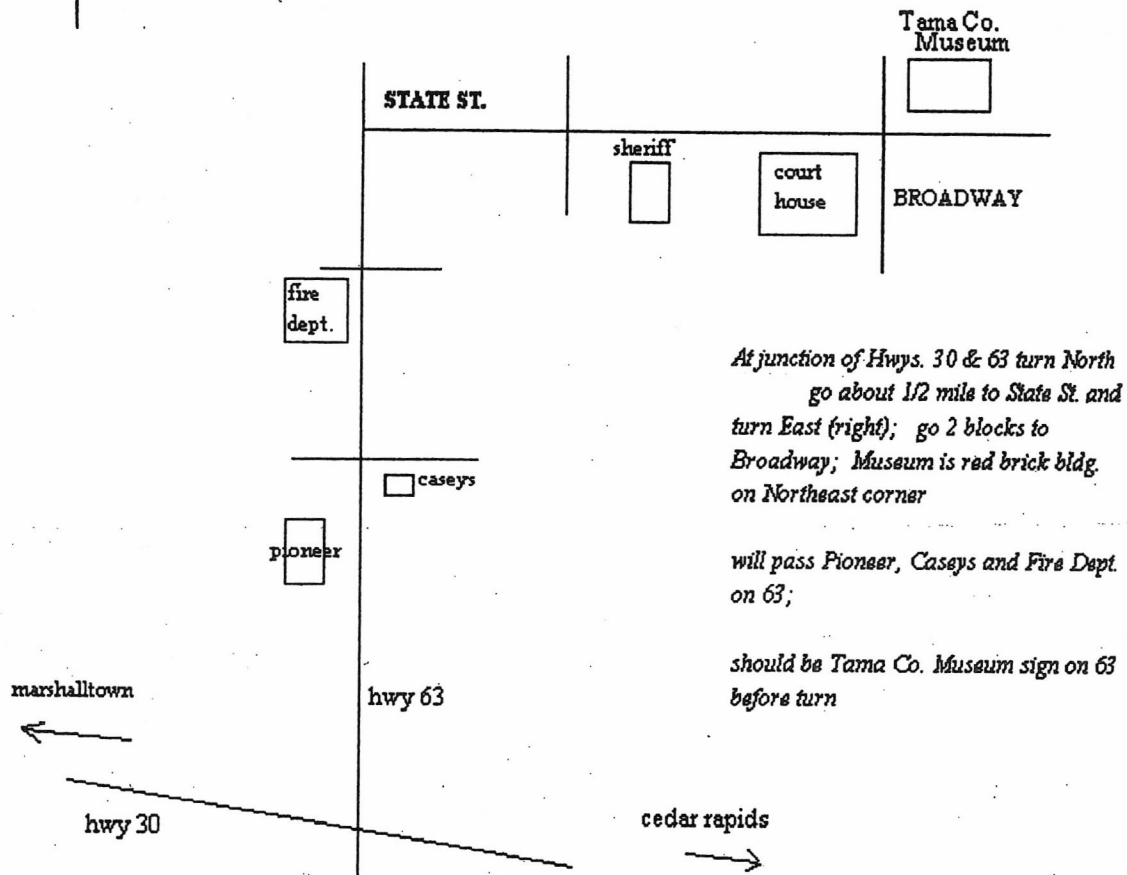
ROME

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 23, 2010: "Lasers uncover first icons of Peter and Paul." A new laser technique that allows restorers to burn off centuries of thick white calcium carbonate deposits without damaging paintings has uncovered the first representations of Peter, John, Andrew and Paul surrounding Christ in a square ceiling painting in an underground tomb at the Santa Tecla catacomb, near where the remains of apostle Paul are said to be buried. Other paintings in the tomb are from the Old Testament, including Daniel in the Lions Den and Abraham and the sacrifice of Isaac.

You may be aware that listening sessions are being held across the country this summer encouraging public input on **America's Great Outdoors**, a new initiative of the Obama Administration to promote and support innovative community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and to reconnect Americans to the outdoors.

(<http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/>).

Map showing location of the Tama County Genealogical Library, site of the October meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries



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