

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 #4

October, 2010

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will meet on January 8, 2011 at 10:00 AM in the Pinicon Restaurant, 2205 McCloud Ave. in New Hampton, Chickasaw County, Iowa. Take the bypass around New Hampton and take Exit 201, then go north on Business 63 a short way to the restaurant. Coffee, juice, and rolls will be provided starting at 9:00 AM. After the meeting lunch can be ordered; a soup and salad bar will be set up and sandwiches are available to order. Cost is approximately \$10 for lunch. There are motels close by. Contact Julie Eckenrod, if you have any questions- jjack@myclearwave.net

Cemetery Swap

I am omitting the names and place to protect the guilty in this story, which I heard about ten years ago.

It seemed that a religious congregation was growing and needed to expand their building. It was an old one and was surrounded very closely by its cemetery.

When they applied for a town permit to build their extension, the congregation learned that regulations required at least twenty-five feet between the building and the nearest grave. On measuring, they discovered that there would be only eighteen feet available if the new extension was built as planned.

So, in the wee hours of the morning, a group of stalwart members of the congregation crept into the burial ground with shovels and flashlights and moved the first two rows of tombstones eight feet back.

When you look for ancestors' graves, you never know quite what you will find.

Thanks to Joy Weaver

Found a funny name or humorous tidbit in old records, or an amusing entry in census, parish, church, or other records? Send these and other genealogy-related humor/humor items to Editor-RWR@rootsweb.com.

Connie Street, who was the SAPIC web page manager, passed away suddenly on October 25. She will be greatly missed by SAPIC and many other genealogical and historical societies. Connie and her husband, Keith, were among the founders of SAPIC in 1996.

From the *Wapello Republican*, November 4, 2010:
Connie Alexander Street of Wapello, Iowa died at the

University of Iowa Hospital & Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa. Memorial visitation was held October 30 at the Ralph J. Wittich-Riley-Freers Funeral Home in Muscatine.

Web site about Connie Street:

http://iagenweb.org/louisa/about_connie.htm

Quote of the week from the *Sojourner's* magazine: "If I didn't have those people back there, I would never have had anything to write about. That's where I got all my stories from. My life is from them ... I'm going to do everything to keep up for them, in memory. That is my duty from now until I die."

-- Author Ernest J. Gaines explaining why he takes care of an old cemetery on the former plantation where five generations of his ancestors, going back to slavery, are buried. (Source: *New York Times*) Ernest J. Gaines was born in 1933 on the River Lake plantation in Pointe Coupe Parish, Louisiana, the setting for most of his fiction. He has written eight books of fiction and has been awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant, for writing of "rare historical resonance." He is Writer-in-Residence Emeritus at University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

The original version of *Taps* was called *Last Post*, and was written by Daniel Butterfield in 1801. It was rather lengthy and formal, so in 1862, it was shortened to 24 notes and renamed *Taps*.

SAPIC will be partnering with Preservation Iowa to make a change in the Iowa Code:

Amendment to Iowa Code section

523I.106(c): "However, a pioneer cemetery is a cemetery for the purposes of sections 523I.316, 523I.317, 523I.401, 523I.402 of this chapter."

This would include pioneer cemeteries under the law that protects active cemeteries. Watch for more details about how to contact your state legislator and to ask for his/her support in making this change.

To find out who won in your district, go to:

<http://www.iowaelectionresults.gov/>

Senate switchboard ... 515-281-3371

House switchboard ... 515-281-3321

The graveside service just barely finished, when there was a massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance. The little old man looked at the preacher and calmly said, "Well ... she's there."

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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

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
Donations welcome!
Send dues to Valerie Ogren, 108 N. Oak
Jefferson, IA 50129-1841

STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF IOWA CEMETERIES

(SAPIC)

SAPIC met Saturday October 9, 2010 at Tama County Genealogical Library, 200 North Broadway, Toledo, Iowa.

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

Agenda approved with two additions.

Self introductions of all present conducted by approximately 37 present

Secretary's report from July 10 meeting moved to accept by Fred W., seconded by Tony B., **Passed.**

Treasurer's report by Valerie Ogren, moved to approved by Larry D., seconded by Julie, E. **Passed.** Bill for \$10.03 submitted by Mike Magee.

Motion to accept & seconded to accept bill, **Passed.**

Agenda:

- **Report on SAPIC presentation of 'Friends of Iowa Cemeteries' award** September 22 in Marengo to LaVerna Moser and Beverly Blythe for their work in arranging to have 26 bodies moved from a mausoleum that was in neglected condition to pioneer cemeteries in Iowa County. Copy of the local newspaper report passed.

- **Financial discussion** led by Valerie Ogren & Pat Shaw. Low interest rate wherever money is. Motion to provide at least four \$200 awards for 2011 and up to 25% of reserve amount hereafter (upon approval of applications) made by Pat Shaw. Steve Hanken seconded. Addendum to motion to take \$500. out of general account to place in reserve account. Steve Story reviewed the goals of the organization which include education and restoration and maintaining the pioneer cemeteries. These grants would facilitate these goals.

- **Winter workshop proposal by John Heider.** After discussion Valerie O. made motion that SAPIC sponsor a classroom seminar, probably in April (with John Heider, open to the public), seconded by Julie, **Passed.** Sponsorship will cost \$200.00 with participant fee being \$10 or \$20 depending upon number attending.

- **Bremer County Law Suit Boroom family general discussion.** Identified a need to improve wording of law to prevent this same ruling from occurring again. Motion to go on record that current officers and board support legislative revision of cemetery codes to include 'Pioneer

Cemeteries' made by Valerie O. seconded by Tony B. **Passed.**

- Steve reviewed some 150 year history of the Civil War. Veterans' office is proposing that there be a ceremony in each cemetery that has a Civil War Veteran to honor that soldier during this year and the next. Have an article about what happened 150 years ago and profile of that Civil War Veteran if possible. Many served from Iowa and every small town has persons to recognize.

- **Nominations Committee:** Slate of officers presented: President – Mike Magee, Vice-president – Bill Reedy, Secretary – Frieda Davis, Treasurer – Valerie Ogren. Board – Steve Story, Tony Bengston, Molly Beason, Pat Shaw. Motion by Valerie Ogren for a unanimous vote for entire slate as presented. Seconded, **Passed.** Steve read bylaws for terms of office.

- **Carter Award for education** presented to the Tama County Cemetery Commission members: Joyce Weise, Wendy Waterbeck, Ardeen Cross, Frank Adair, Dave Currel, & Loren Empke. The Carter Award for service was presented to the Upah Family from Poweshiek County.

- **Next meeting;** we have been invited to Chickasaw County. Location to be announced. Date – January 8, 2011. Motion to accept this invitation by Valerie O. seconded by Tony B. **Passed.**

Adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Lunch was provided by the Tama County Cemetery Commission for which we thank them.

Submitted by:

Frieda Davis, Secretary

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 3rd Quarter – 1 July 2010 thru 30 September 2010

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2010, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 3,083.59

Income

Dues	\$ 70.00
Interest 7/31/10	.53
Interest 8/31/10	.57
Interest 9/30/10	.54
Total Income	\$ 71.64

Expense

Ck #238 – Patricia Shaw – Newsletter	\$ 51.97
Ck #239 - Postmaster – annual permit fee	\$ 185.00
Total Expense	\$ 236.97

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2010 \$ 2,918.26

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2010, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 3,228.39

July 26 – Life Membership – Joseph Furlong	\$100.00
“ “ “ “ - Steve Hanken	100.00
Sept. 25 - “ “ - Jon Finney	100.00
Total	\$300.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2010 \$ 3,528.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 30 September 2010 \$ 6,446.65

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

Thursday, October 07, 2010

From Wiki: A lychgate, also spelled lichgate, lycugate, or as two separate words: lych gate, (from Old English lic, corpse) is a gateway covered with a roof found at the traditional entrance to an (English) churchyard. They are primarily late 19th and early 20th century and at Anglican (Episcopal) churches or cemeteries. If anyone has any information or knows where there is a Lych-gate, please e-mail: MAWildasin@gmail.com

Gravestone Rubbing Kit -- Everything that you need to make a permanent record of a memorial stone. Kit includes two cupcake-shaped waxes (black and blue), 5 sheets of Aqaba brand gravestone rubbing paper (24 X 36 in.), natural bristle brush, special masking tape, and 60-page instruction book.
globalgenealogy.com/genealogy-general/resources/11050.htm

Thanks to Kevin Lee for finding this web site. Products are not endorsed by SAPIC, but offered for your information.

Remarks for Grinnell Conference November 29, 2010 by Steve Story, Past President and Current Board Member, State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries.

Thank you for the invitation to make comments concerning Pioneer Cemeteries and any relationship to prairie/wildflower programs, as in Rochester, Iowa, Cemetery.

My wife, Donna, and I began to restore 'pioneer cemeteries' in 1980 before the term had any legal meaning in Iowa. Our original intention was to simply straighten and repair one gravestone in a small cemetery in Jones County, Iowa. This monument marked the grave of my great-great-grandfather, a War of 1812 veteran and a pioneer settler in Jones County.

The cemetery in which he was buried was in very poor shape, with broken and tipped stones, some stones under the ground's surface, some overgrown with brush. After restoring this one monument, we decided to restore the entire cemetery by repairing each broken monument. We also cleared the brush, repaired and replaced the fence, seeded a few areas and brought the cemetery into a condition where mowing would be relatively easy.

We then decided to attempt to restore another old Jones County Cemetery, with several very large gravestones that could not even be seen from a short distance away. All stones had been knocked or fallen down by time, existing brush or fallen trees. This project took several years, as we were also still

employed. As with the first cemetery, it too would fit the legal 'pioneer cemetery' status to come years later.

We were not the only persons privately restoring old cemeteries. The late Mr. Dean Gipple of Wapello, Iowa had personally lobbied the Iowa General Assembly for several years to enact legislation that would permit counties to establish Pioneer Cemetery Commissions that could organize restoration of older cemeteries that had not been maintained.

By 1996, the General Assembly of Iowa had passed the Pioneer Cemetery law that permitted, but not required, counties to establish Pioneer Cemetery Commissions and set a limited tax levy for maintenance and repair. The bill defined Pioneer Cemeteries as any cemetery with six or fewer burials in the preceding fifty years.

Shortly after passage of the Pioneer Cemetery bill, a group of historians, genealogists and cemetery restorers organized the voluntary State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (commonly referred to as SAPIC) in 1996 with general goals of pioneer cemetery identification, protection, maintenance, and providing information.

At the present time, slightly more than one-fourth of Iowa counties have established Pioneer Cemetery Commissions. We also have members who are actively working in pioneer cemeteries that are attempting to convince their county supervisors to establish a commission in their county. As might be expected, most of our counties with pioneer cemetery commissions are in the earliest settled Iowa counties.

I am a charter member of SAPIC and along with many others, have been involved in ongoing pioneer cemetery restoration and SAPIC activities. We have been fortunate to have nonpartisan General Assembly support on Pioneer Cemetery legislation in recent years, including (a) guaranteed access (b) increasing the number of burials from six to twelve in past fifty years to qualify as a pioneer cemetery (c) freedom from restraint of 'eminent domain' by any landowner.

All of this has been simply to inform you of who we are.

Now, I want to deal with your interest in 'natural prairie' or 'wildflower presence' as they relate to SAPIC.

- (1) SAPIC has never taken any stand on 'natural prairie' in pioneer cemeteries.
- (2) Pioneer cemetery restorers are interested in locating abandoned and perhaps overgrown pioneer cemeteries. That interest then centers into finding, restoring and identifying the gravestones. This will be accompanied by clearing of brush and trees (if needed), so that the cemetery stones can be located in their proper place, again be visible and be protected from any further encroachment.

Restoration methods by restorers, even in the same county, will sometimes vary due to terrain, surrounding farmland or timber, and number of gravesites and monuments.

Although there is no official policy by SAPIC or even any one county pioneer cemetery commission on native prairie, it might be safe to assume that those restorers who 'found' the cemetery in brush or trees, perhaps also smashed down by livestock, then located and restored the gravestones, might have little or no interest seeing these restored stones covered again by soil, brush or trees that would again hide them from public view. Over the years, we have found that restored cemeteries do attract more descendants and visitors, flowers placed on gravesites increase, and greater awareness of the pioneer cemeteries and their own ancestors.

Please also note that most pioneer cemeteries are small (though some are very large) and we are not directly involved in non-pioneer cemeteries.

Members who have seen Rochester Cemetery undoubtedly have their own personal opinions.

I want to add that I have two ancestral families buried in Rochester Cemetery, which we visited yesterday. I have seen it when it was mowed, I have seen it when the flora was over my head, and I have now seen it when the flora and brush have been cut.

Steve Story

(563) 380-8317 cell

18883 250th Street Hawkeye IA 52147

(563) 427-5354 home

Fayette & Jones Counties Pioneer Cemetery Commissions

From the *Oelwein Daily Register*, November 28, 1947 (Newspaper ARCHIVE): Reader's Courtroom Column.

Question: May a cemetery prevent a lot owner from tending the grave of a loved one?

Answer: A widow hired a gardener to take care of her late husband's grave. Over the objections of the cemetery officials, the gardener cut the grass and removed the weeds around the headstone. The cemetery sued the gardener, claiming that its rules required all maintenance to be done by its own superintendent -- or at least under his control. The purpose of the rule was to bring income to the cemetery. But the judge said that the widow, as the lot owner, could have the grave tended in any way she saw fit, so long as she didn't infringe on the rights of others.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Sept. 17, 2010: "Arlington opens graves, finds 3 misplaced bodies." WASHINGTON (AP). Three people were buried in the wrong graves at Arlington National Cemetery, the Army said Wednesday as it followed up an investigation into bookkeeping problems and burial mix-ups at one of the nation's most hallowed sites. Requests from family members led to the exhumation of the graves and the remains of members of the armed forces in those graves were found to be in the wrong place. A fourth grave contained the remains of the correct person. An Army spokesman said, "We're gratified that the outcome was positive and they were able to gain some closure." A new chief of the cemetery has been appointed to conduct a more thorough investigation to sort out the mix-ups, after two civilian leaders were forced to resign.

From *Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library* No. 80, October 31, 2010:

Confederate Cemeteries

by Melissa Shimkus

Following the Civil War, the federal government created seventy-two national cemeteries for the burial of Union soldiers. In addition, in 1879, Congress permitted Union veterans not entombed in these federal cemeteries to receive government headstones. No corresponding federal actions to provide gravesites or headstones for Confederate soldiers were legislated. Instead, these services were performed at the local level by the Confederate Memorial Association and other patriotic organizations, as well as by local and state

governments. Records of these southern efforts are scattered and can be difficult for genealogists to locate and access.

One helpful source is "Confederate Cemeteries" volumes one and two (973.74 AA1hugh) by Mark Hughes. The set's title is a bit misleading because the first two volumes only cover cemeteries in Virginia, but more than 20,000 burials are listed including those of some two hundred Union soldiers and about twenty civilians. One example of a civilian burial included in this work is that of fourteen year old Nanie Horan, killed 15 March 1863 in the explosion of C.S. Laboratory, a gunpowder plant, and buried in Shockoe Cemetery in Richmond. Source material for these volumes included tombstone inscriptions, cemetery records, unpublished manuscripts and burial lists from patriotic organizations, local, state and national archives.

Introductory matter in the books includes a section on how to use them, keys to the sources, a history of post-war burial efforts, and descriptions of each cemetery covered. The lengthy list of burials in each volume is arranged alphabetically by the name of the deceased and provides each person's state, unit, date of death or burial and place of burial. For example, J.T. Bookout of the 7th Georgia, H. Saunders of the 4th Virginia, and Corporal Emory Cook of the 9th South Carolina died in the Confederate Hospital at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. The final resting places of the first two men can be determined using the reference number key and cemetery descriptions provided by the author. Bookout's data notes that he died 17 November 1861 of disease and was buried in the Charlottesville Soldier's Cemetery. Saunders died in 1861 and was buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Charlottesville. Cook died 20 January 1862 of pneumonia, but no place of burial is given.

With no centralized collection of burial information for Confederate soldiers, a resource such as the "Confederate Cemeteries" volumes is important to genealogists despite its limited focus.

From the *American Legion* magazine, October 2010, pages 54-55: "A demand on my soul," by Alana Burke. Pictured is K. Maurice Johannessen, a Korean War veteran and retired California state lawmaker, as he stands in the Northern California Veterans Cemetery that he fought to get through the California state legislature. Now he is taking on the project of having a chapel erected in the cemetery. Johannessen, who was born in Norway, grew up during the Nazi occupation when the Americans and Allies made a strong

impression on him. At age 17, he joined the Merchant Marines and made his way to the U. S. He joined the army during the Korean War, learned English, and eventually became a U. S. citizen. In order to get a chapel erected in the veterans' cemetery, he has to call it a "veterans memorial building," lease a piece of ground, and build the chapel himself. Then he will hand over ownership of the chapel to the cemetery.

www.alanaburke.com

SAPIC is pleased to have the support of Preservation Iowa, an affiliate of the National Trust for Historic Places, in its quest to make a change in law to include pioneer cemeteries (twelve or fewer burials in the past fifty years) under the same protection as other cemeteries and burial places.

For information about Preservation Iowa, go to: <http://www.preservationiowa.org/index.php>

Preservation Iowa

PO Box 814 • Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

From the *Jackson Sentinel*, October 7, 1919: "Can Move Cemeteries." To move a cemetery, consent of all persons next of kin to those buried there is required, B. J. Powers, assistant attorney general, has decided. The opinion has been given in answer to a request from West Branch, where the board of education wants to build a new school a part of which it is found would be on the cemetery ground next to the present school yard. No burials have been made in the cemetery since 1876.

COUNTY REPORTS

BLACK HAWK

On September 27, 2010, Mike Magee, Randy Miller, Mike Mrzлак and several employees of Fairview Cemetery cleaned and edged the cement area in the GAR Circle where a Civil War cannon used to be placed. One of the grave markers surrounding the site had sunk down into the soil and was raised back to its proper height.

BREMER

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, November 8, 1926: "80-year-old Man killed here by Motor Truck re-identified thru Medium of his Clothing," Buried as Charles Tournier, 80, Civil War veteran, in the family plot in the little cemetery at Horton in Bremer County, the body of an aged man, killed by a motor truck on a Waterloo street Thursday, was identified by relatives yesterday as that of Richard Atkins, Jr., 80, also a Civil War veteran. Tournier, supposed dead, is in the hospital in Oskaloosa. Identification was made thru an

overcoat of the Illinois Central railroad in Waterloo as a car repairer.

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, January 5, 1927: "Dead, Buried -- Turneure here to collect 'I.'" Charles H. Turneure, an inmate of the Soldiers' home, Marshalltown, is in Waterloo today to recover damages for the burial, supposedly of himself, but in reality of Richard Atkins, in the Turneure family lot at Horton, Bremer county. Turneure declares the identification mixup damaged his cemetery lot in the amount of \$125. Mr. Atkins was killed last November while crossing Fourth Street at Walnut and his body was identified as that of Turneure. Mr. Atkins' body was exhumed and reburied in Waterloo. Turneure stated, "I do not want to appear unreasonable, but when the sexton dug into our lot at Horton he damaged it. I feel that I should be paid \$125 to replace the lot in its original condition. It is going to take a lot of work to put the turf back in the condition it was before."

From the *Nashua Reporter*, January 17, 1907: "Couldn't Find the Remains." Harry Hazlett, of Baxter, was a Waverly visitor last Thursday and Friday. He came in the hopes of finding the part of a skeleton which had been unearthed by workmen at the site of the sugar factory and which he hoped were the remains of a little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hazlett, who was buried in the old homestead of the Hazletts about forty years ago, before there was a cemetery in Waverly. The intention was to remove the body and place it in a cemetery as soon as one was established. The grave had been made between two trees; later these trees were removed and all trace of the grave disappeared. Some twelve or fifteen years ago the family engaged "Fisherman" John Smith to look for the grave but he was unable to locate it. Two workmen were engaged to dig and hunt for the box in which it was said the bones had been placed and reburied, but they were unable to find it.

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, February 2, 1967: "Waverly Park Project to Provide Work for Elderly." An application compiled by the Senior Citizens Board requesting a \$53,513 federal grant for development of a six-acre park at the north edge of Waverly has been filed through the Office of Economic Opportunity. Purpose of the project would be to provide additional park and recreation facilities for senior citizens and employment opportunities in the area. The six-acre plot was formerly the Cedar Hill Cemetery off Cedar Lane Rd. Graves were removed and the cemetery was abandoned about 20 years ago.

BUTLER

From the *Waterloo Courier*, October 16, 2010: "Cemetery Walk features local history." SHELL ROCK -- The Shell Rock Historical Society is organizing a cemetery walk for Sunday at Riverside Cemetery. Participants will study several gravestones and learn about the person buried there. The event is free and open to the public. Organizer Linda McCann is a longtime friend of SAPIC member Frieda Davis. McCann has written 5 books dealing with ancestors, cemeteries, and research in Butler County. Frieda states that she likes cemetery walks as they emphasize our history in the outdoor museum.

CEDAR

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 27, 1980: "Wildflowers, weeds spark Rochester Cemetery issue," by Margy McCay. Rochester Cemetery, established in 1836, is well-known to Iowa botanists and conservationists for its diverse native prairie, but not everyone is pleased with the condition of the cemetery, including some whose relatives are buried there. They want the Rochester Township trustees, who are responsible for the cemetery, to resume the twice-yearly mowing that was discontinued several years ago. The trustees say it's difficult to find someone to mow it, but say they will get someone to mow it in July after the spring wildflowers are done blooming. The relatives say they don't want the cemetery devoid of wildflowers, but want it taken care of so you can get around when somebody's being buried.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, September 24, 2010: "Relatives: Keep plants from burial site," by Mark Geary. Many of the gravestones in the Rochester Cemetery are surrounded by weeds and overgrown grass. Some say the place is an eyesore. Others call it a treasure. Rochester Cemetery is the resting place for about 700 people, and a continuing source of controversy. The trustees have let plants blossom at the burial ground on purpose -- it's also historic prairie.

"There are hundreds of different wildflowers out there and at least a dozen species that only exist there," trustees Chairman Jon Zobel said. The trustees have the cemetery mowed twice a year, in June and October, so that's why the plants look especially tall right now.

Note: A conference was held in Grinnell on November 9 concerning the controversial cemetery. Past SAPIC president Steve Story was one of the participants in the panel discussion. His remarks are printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

CARROLL

From the *Carroll Daily Times Herald*, August 10, 1954: "Proposal to Restore, Improve Pioneer Cemetery -- McCurdy Plot at Carrollton is in Bad Shape," by Staff Writer. The oldest burial ground in the county is overgrown and stones are toppled leading to a proposal that the local Rotary Club to make improvements for historical value. The McCurdy Cemetery was started by the first settlers in the vicinity of Carrollton and occupies about 1/2 acre on a wooded hillside on the farm of Harold Turner. There is no access to the cemetery except through the Turner farm. Mr. Turner has attempted to clean it up and has sprayed the weeds. The Turners welcome visitors to access the site through their land. Since ownership still lies with the heirs of Jane and Robert Hill who obtained title in 1860, an attempt will be made to contact heirs and turn over ownership to the Newton township trustees.

From the *Carroll Daily Times Herald*, November 9, 1954: "Hear Vee Green, Ex-Grid Star, Coach in Gridiron Reminiscences." Although the program at the meeting of the Carroll Rotary Club was about football, much of the business meeting concerned the action to restore the McCurdy Cemetery southwest of Carrollton. A committee was appointed to investigate what the club could do to put the cemetery back in good shape and to develop a long-range program for maintenance. Owner of the surrounding land, Mr. Turner, has offered to clean the brush and spray at his own expense and members agreed that the club could assume the costs of repairs to the grounds. Some descendants of the McCurdy family have been contacted about the possibility of deeding the land to the county or township trustees. Some legislative action might be sought enabling the county to take over the care of the cemetery.

CHEROKEE

From the *Positive Herald*, September 11, 1991: Bloomfield Township Historical Society column. The Society met in September to elect officers, the progress of the Castalia Community Park and the placement of the Perry-Allen iron rod arch bridge in the park, sale of history books, and an application for an "Adopt a Highway" permit. The program was planned around the topic of cemeteries. The oldest cemetery was originally an Indian burial ground located about 1/2 mile west of Moneck and later used by white settlers. It was abandoned in 1900 and a stone marker was placed at the site. Another early cemetery was called the Mount Grove Cemetery near the site of the church by the same name. The burial

association of the Oakhill Cemetery was organized November, 1855. There is thought to have been over 100 burials in the cemetery which grew into weeds and neglect. In 1946, work was begun on a restoration project and it has since been kept up. The Bloomfield Cemetery was organized by a Unitarian Religious group, later the nearby church was sold to a German Lutherans and moved to Castalia. The Pleasant View Cemetery was organized by Baptists who disagreed with the Unitarians and refused to be buried in the Bloomfield Cemetery. Recent accomplishments in local cemeteries, including the avenue of flags and a brick memorial identifying the Pleasant View Cemetery and a cedar wood marker for the Bloomfield Township Cemetery, were related. A sign placed at the entrance to the town of Castalia reads, "This is a town of caring people."

From *The Marcus News*, November 4, 2010: "Your Loved Ones Are Not Forgotten," by Elaine Rassel. Pictured is Stan Cully as he kneels beside one of the stones he has recently fixed in the Marcus Amherst Cemetery. This lengthy front page story relates Stan's volunteer efforts in the resetting and cleaning of 18 gravestones, his training at workshops in Indiana, and his willingness to work with community groups.

Stan has contributed several items to past issues of *Grave News*

CLINTON

From the *American Profile* magazine, September 12-18, 2010: The Vietnam Moving Wall was in Clinton from September 30 - October 4. It was on display at Riverview Park.

DELAWARE

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, January 12, 1952: "East Iowa Churches -- Manchester -- After 78 years, Bay Settlement Church is now nearly abandoned," by Clarence Cox. Pictured is the Bay Church located about 11 miles southeast of Manchester. In 1873, it was founded as a Free Will Baptist Church. William Cosier donated land for a cemetery that adjoined the church land on the west. The cemetery is believed to be the resting place of at least 19 Civil War veterans and the earliest on record in Delaware County. Mr. Church is said to have been the first person buried in the cemetery. Pine trees planted at the head and foot of his grave are now more than two feet in diameter. The church is maintained in good condition, but is rarely used and is owned by the Bay Cemetery Association. Many spirited political meetings were held in the building.

DES MOINES

From the *Rake Register*, July 31, 1919: Fred Frederickson of Burlington, famous twenty-five years ago as a landscape gardener, and who entered the Des Moines County farm fifteen years ago with a richly cut black walnut casket, his only possession, has just died.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, August 27, 2010: "Des Moines county officials look into old burial law." In research conducted to update a county manual, an assistant county attorney discovered a law that may allow a person who died "in a public asylum, hospital, county care facility, penitentiary or reformatory, or found dead with the state, or which is to be buried at public expense" may be offered to medical schools for scientific purposes. Once a college or medical school has finished with the body, it must be properly buried or cremated. No body will be delivered to a medical school if the person before death expressed a desire to be buried or cremated, or if it's not the family's desire. The Iowa Department of Public Health says it's a "rare occurrence" that colleges or medical schools accept a body.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 2, 2010: "Funeral director: County misinterprets burial code." Burton Prugh of Prugh Funeral Service, who met with county officials, stated that the code was originally set up for indigent people who have been abandoned by their families and whose bodies are unclaimed, not for poor families. The county's new application for an indigent expense says if the person applying doesn't agree to the body being used for scientific purposes, the deceased does not qualify to be buried at taxpayer expense. Exceptions would be made for veterans and those who specify in writing what they want done with their body before they die.

DICKINSON

From the *Spirit Lake Beacon*, June 11, 1897: Notice of Sheriff's Sale of the estate of Thomas E. Oxley. The location of the property was identified and offered at public auction excepting one quarter acre in the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter for cemetery purposes.

From the *Spirit Lake Beacon*, March 16, 1939: "Several Unknown Burials Found in Local Cemetery." In the course of recording and collecting data for the state and federal WPA Project, Mrs. Amanda Swales has discovered several unknown burials in the Lakeview Cemetery. One "mysterious" grave was on the plat purchased by the Stoddard Brothers before 1890. When digging a grave on the plat, a coffin

was discovered. No one, including the family, was able to identify the person buried there. Other lots that have been purchased have also contained unidentified burials. The cemetery was laid out in 1874, but no records were kept until 1884. Records since that time are quite complete. Mrs. Swales has also found records of the deaths of war veterans whose graves have not been properly marked. There are also stories of persons having been buried on the farms or areas in which they died.

From the *Spirit Lake Beacon*, May 30, 1940: "210 Veterans of Wars Known to be Buried in Dickinson County." Mrs. Amanda Swales has completed her research into the burial of veterans for the WPA project and is hosting an open house at her apartment to invite interested groups to view the records. Members of the DAR, American Legion and Auxiliary and other organizations are especially invited. Names of all the veterans and their places of burial are listed in the article, along with three questionable burials of which Mrs. Swales would like more information from the public.

FREMONT

From the *Rake Register*, July 31, 1919: While excavating for a furnace under the home of W. H. Campbell, west of Sidney, the men discovered three skeletons, those of two grown persons and one of a child. The bones were reburied in the local cemetery. It is said by pioneers that an old trail wound over the farm and it is supposed some unfortunate travelers were taken ill and died and were buried there.

DUBUQUE

From the *Dubuque Telegraph Herald*, November 16, 2010: "Bodies on top of Bodies - Remains of 900 uncovered from Kelly's Bluff cemetery," by Mary Nevans-Pederson. In a story mentioned in an earlier issue of *Grave News*, it was reported that A. J. Spiegel and his River Pointe Development LLC had purchased land from the Dominicans Inc. (a group of religious sisters) and in the process of preparing the land to build condominiums, human bones were unearthed. All construction work ceased. As workers continue to dig up human remains in long-lost graves on a scenic bluff overlooking Dubuque, Pat Leonard of Leonard Funeral Home and Crematory is preparing to rebury the bones in consecrated ground once again. Spiegel has brought suit against the Dominicans and the case will go to trial in June, 2011. After three years of field work, archaeologists from the Office of the State Archaeologist Burials Program have found most of the intact bodies of about 900 burials.

FAYETTE

From the *Oelwein Daily Register*, Fall, 2010: "Fear Factor -- Not a part of cemetery commission's mission." by Pat Taylor. Pictured are members of the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and several views of the Ostego-Union Cemetery south of Oelwein that they have been working in for the past three years. The jovial group of retired residents was formed about 12 years ago, two years after the State of Iowa authorized the establishment of such groups. The Ostego cemetery is the 16th cemetery they have restored and completes the major restoration work in Fayette County. If pioneer cemetery funds can be approved for use within Oelwein, the old city cemetery and the nearby Catholic cemetery would qualify as potential sites to be restored. The Otsego-Union Cemetery sign and gate and a new fence will be installed next spring, followed by a re-dedication and open house.

HARDIN

From the *Hardin County Ledger*, February 2, 1928: "Old Cemetery Records." R.E. Elerding, residing on the South Fork, has promptly and kindly furnished Open Fire Chapter, Eldora, Daughters American Revolution, the names of those persons who were born in 1820 or before, that are buried in Duke Cemetery, Pleasant township. Fifteen names are listed, including Alphous McIntire who was the only soldier of the War of 1812 buried in Hardin County. There are, perhaps, a dozen old cemeteries in the eight south townships and anyone with information is asked to report information about them to the DAR. The north half of the county is cared for from Iowa Falls.

From the *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, February 8, 1923: "Carter Presents Bill to Assess Cemetery Lots." State Representative L.V. Carter has introduced a companion bill in the senate to assess cemetery lots for caretaking. Both bills provide for levying an assessment of 2 cents per square foot for cemetery lots and for taking up ownership of unused lots or portions of them on which the payments have been delinquent for five years and in which no burials have been made for thirty years. The passage of this bill will mean much in the way of perpetuating the upkeep of cemeteries that are too often neglected and become a disgrace rather than a credit to the community.

(No report was found that the bill was passed.)

HUMBOLDT

From the *Humboldt Republican*, June 21, 1961:

"Grave Markers of Years Ago." Pictured are two grave markers from a cemetery a mile east of Rutland. The inscription on one marker reads, "James W. Reed, May 9, 1850, 15 years old and 25 days." The other marker reads, "Laverna May, daughter of A. E. and N. E. Worster, died Sept. 2, 1891, four years, 9 months, 2 days." The 2-acre burial area was cleaned up by members of the Humboldt FFA chapter after it had grown full of weeds and wild roses until it was almost impossible to find the old markers. The cemetery was next to the Myron Whipple farm and was used from 1879-1889.

IOWA

From the *Pioneer Republican* of Iowa County (Marengo), September 16, 2010: "The mausoleum project," by Nick Narigon. In a front page story (and continuing inside), the mausoleum located at the I.O.O.F. Marengo Cemetery and "Friend of Iowa Cemeteries" recipients LaVerna Moser, John Kloster, and Beverly Blythe are pictured in color along with the story of the relocation of 26 bodies 'forgotten' in the mausoleum. Kloster, owner of Kloster Funeral Home in Marengo, who nominated Moser and Blythe, stated, "These ladies were relentless in getting these bodies found. It was absolutely wonderful. It had to be handled with absolute dignity and care." It all started with a 1948 newspaper article regarding the mystery of an unknown World War I soldier. A query about the article led the two Iowa county women to eventually find homes for the remains of 26 people entombed in the abandoned mausoleum. The project was completed with all volunteer labor and did not cost anything to relatives or taxpayers. The unknown soldier mentioned in the article was not the body marked "unknown" in the mausoleum, but DNA analysis proved that the remains were those of Adam Haist, surprisingly the brother of the first wife of Moser's grandfather. Pictured is the stone on his grave where his remains were buried in a plot next to the mausoleum, along with 4 others for whom they were not able to find family members.

"We had 10 intense months," said Blythe. "But you know, we did this for the right reason. We decided to do something about it, so we did it. We did it quietly, we did it properly, and we did it legally."

Kloster Funeral Home provided documentation, handled legal issues, and conducted burials.

SAPIC members, Carol and Brian Hoffman, Steve and Donna Story, Mike Magee, and Pat Shaw were privileged to attend the presentation of the awards by SAPIC president, Steve Story.

RINGGOLD

From the *Homestead*, February 2, 1905: "Abandoned Land -- Title." Wife of a subscriber, Shannon, Iowa asks: In the year 1868 a husband and wife deeded three acres of land to the trustees of a church, to be used for church and cemetery purposes. No one has been buried there for the last twelve or fifteen years, and only fourteen bodies now remain buried there in one corner. A year ago the church disbanded. Excepting the corner where the graves are, who should now have the land?

Answer -- It is impossible to answer this question with certainty without inspecting the deed made by the husband and wife. If the deed conveyed the land absolutely to the trustees of the church, it belongs to the persons who were members of the church when it ceased to exist, and should be sold and the proceeds distributed among them; but if said deed conveyed the land to the trustees of the church, to be held by them and their successors only so long as it should be used for church and cemetery purposes, and to revert to the grantors when it should cease to be so used, then the husband and wife, or their heirs, should now own the land.

SCOTT

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, October 7, 1951: "Millionaire's Dollars Saved Rural Graves," by Grant White. WHEATLAND -- Pictured is the Parker or Pioneer cemetery, located five miles southwest of Wheatland, as it stands trim and neat and walled, thanks to the widow of John F. Murray, who made a fortune in the advertising field and chose to be buried in his native Iowa. Through his efforts, "Juicy Fruit" became a well-known trade word. Murray's death and burial were followed in 1945 by the death of his wife, Bessie Dutton Murray. Their memorial contains a white marble bench and sun dial that also mentions their 2 dogs and a parrot that had been part of the family.

Another notable burial in Pioneer Cemetery is that of Rhoda Chaplin Parker, the daughter of a Revolutionary War soldier.

SHELBY/HARRISON

From the *Harrison County IA Genealogy Society 3rd quarter 2010 Newsletter*. Twenty-five volunteers from Harrison and Shelby counties have banded together to create an association called Western Iowa Pioneer Cemetery Association -- WIPCA -- to help in efforts to clean up and try to restore damaged grave headstones in abandoned and somewhat forgotten pioneer cemeteries. The group has started a page on Facebook -- search for WIPCA.

VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, November 18, 2010: The Van Buren County Genealogical Society held its last meeting of 2010 on November 11 at the Keosauqua Public Library. It was reported that the Mathias Cemetery, where the Society has worked on gravestones, has been fenced by the Friendly 4 Corners 4-H Club. Marvin Danneil reported on a stone that was found at the Mike Rippey residence in Keosauqua. The 18"X18" stone was inscribed "A. Wilkin P.M." Abraham Wilkin was Keosauqua postmaster twice and owned various city properties. Mr. Wilkin died in 1906 and is buried, along with his family, in Purdom Cemetery. There is no solution as to the exact nature of the stone, or why it was at this location. The program, "The Search for Isabell Graham" was presented by Gianna Barrow. Using various displays, she told of her search, resulting in finding her grandmother's gravestone. Gianna made needed repairs to the stone during her summer trip to Pennsylvania. It was an intriguing story of the chain of events of finding her ancestors who were in the Civil War.

A total of 42 cemetery books each containing an every name index, inscriptions, maiden names Index and maps are available from the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, PO Box 160, Keosauqua, IA 52565. Contact Don Aldrich for more information. daldrich@netins.net

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 2, 2010: "1873 law and the disappearing corpse," by Sue Parrish. The sad story of an Swedish immigrant who could speak little English and who was wrongly accused of a crime is related. F. O. Johnson was "lynched" in 1893 and hung from a staircase at the corner of Market and Main Streets in Ottumwa. Ottumwa's Swedish citizens, enraged by the events, demanded that the lynched man be given a proper burial. The undertaker, holding the body for five weeks while trying to locate relatives, agreed to do so. However, the citizens' suspicions were aroused when a "dead box" was shipped out of Ottumwa, and they demanded the grave of Johnson be opened. A burial law enacted in 1873 (see the Des Moines County report in this newsletter) allows for the disposition of a corpse who died "in a public asylum, hospital, county care facility, penitentiary or reformatory, or found dead with the state or which is to be buried at public expense" can be released to a medical school unless the family or the individual before death objects. The suspicions of the Swedish community were well

and in an instant a big fat cottontail rabbit was bounding across the soft green slopes. Poor bunny! He thought a tombstone of 1861 behind a picket fence was a sure retreat, and no doubt had been carefully eyeing my approach till I passed the danger line and then he jumped.

-- V. A. R.

From the *Cedar Rapids Tribune*, July 17, 1936: "March of Progress Turns Former Cemetery into a Modern Linn Co. Farm," by Ernest Mickel. This article about farmer F. Soukup who destroyed a cemetery, has been summarized in a past issue of *Grave News*, but there is speculation that the site of the cemetery mentioned might be on the Soukup Farm at 3751 Lafayette Road, Center Point, IA (Washington Township, sections 24 & 25). The article states that gravestones were being used as supports to the front porch and as part of the barn foundation and the area was "farmed" in 1879. A hog house stands on the once hallowed cemetery ground.

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, May 30, 1887: The front page is filled with events in the area that paid tribute to the heroes who have fallen. Memorial Day Observances at more than forty communities are reported, as well as those within the city of Cedar Rapids.

MUSCATINE

From the *Muscatine Journal*, March 27, 1931: "Old Graves Discovered in Burying Ground -- All Members of Miller Family." Situated on a hill about three miles west of the High Prairie Church in an old private graveyard are three graves whose headstones bear the dates of 1842, 1842, and 1870. All stones are in good condition and a wire fence protects the graves. The peaceful setting of the burial site is described. John Miller, who died in 1870, was born Dec. 8, 1800, less than a year after George Washington died. Had he had the opportunity, he could have shaken the hand of 17 U.S. presidents after Washington. He could have remembered the War of 1812 and the Civil War. The children whose graves are nearby were buried before the invention of the telegraph, before Iowa was a state, and before the discovery of gold in California.

POLK

From the *Algona (Ia.) Upper Des Moines*, November 29, 1966: NOTICE: All graves presently located on land the Federal Government is buying for the Saylorville Reservoir will be relocated to sites outside the reservoir area. Next of kin and groups controlling cemeteries and graves involved will be contacted by Government representatives. Any information would be appreciated concerning public or private cemeteries or individual graves, other than those listed below and believed to be located on land to be bought for this project. Cemeteries affected in Boone and Polk counties were listed.

From the *Des Moines Register*, October 25, 2010: "A grave profession," by Valerie Van Kooten. Several pictures of SAPIC member Larry Davis as he repairs gravemarkers in a cemetery south of Knoxville and some examples of his completed work are shown. Larry has worked in cemeteries in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois for the past 17 years after being employed by the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Society. While pursuing genealogical research, Larry noticed a lot of old stones needing repair and decided to try restoration for three years. Word of his work has spread and his work year stretches from June to November. The article briefly outlines his methods, his observance of wildlife in these peaceful settings, and the litany of community and family life found in cemeteries.

A side story gives a brief history and goals of SAPIC, along with some laws pertaining to cemeteries and touches on a few problems, such as theft of bronze markers.

From the *Iowa Griot -- the Newsletter of the African American Museum of Iowa*, Fall, 2010, page six: "A Funeral Home at the Center of the Community," by Curator Katharine Hardy. Through the first half of the 20th century, white-owned funeral homes in Iowa refused to serve African American families in their times of loss. In order to give their loved ones respectful and dignified funeral rites, African Americans all over Iowa established their own funeral homes. These businesses have become some of the most successful and longest-standing pillars of the African American communities that they serve. L. Fowler and Son Funeral Home, established in 1919, was one of Des Moines' oldest and most venerable African American-owned businesses. They held funerals for nearly every African American person who passed away on the east side of Des Moines. The business was passed down through the family until 2000, when the building was torn down for urban renewal.

others who were captured and held as prisoners-of-war, many of whom died in captivity, often under the harshest of conditions. Mentioned in the article are local men who were held as POW's, including Andrew Oiler in the War of 1812 and Beryl Roberts in World War II. Howard Piersee was MIA in the Korean War and John Davis was shot down over Vietnam's Bay of Tonkin. Undoubtedly, Keokuk's most famous POW was John Ferguson, a Civil War veteran buried in Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. He joined the Iowa Infantry, lost his right arm and sustained many injuries, and was taken prisoner. Later he was paroled and got treatment at a Keokuk hospital. He became a Methodist minister, and later the superintendent of the national cemeteries in Jefferson City, Missouri and Keokuk. In 1903 he traveled to San Francisco to attend the National Association of Union Ex-Prisoners of War, was elected chaplain, and participated in "The Great Parade" of former prisoners of war. His obituary stated that "Mr. Ferguson has had an eventful life, at one time on the fields of war and later in the pulpit of peace." Terry ponders if anyone will visit his grave to thank this brave and humble man.

The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association sponsored a Pioneer Patriot's Day on September 25, 2010, at Croton Cemetery located at the village of Croton in western Lee County. The main focus of the program was the grave of Revolutionary War veteran, Amos Glover, born April 3, 1762, in Delaware. He joined a company of raiders at age 15, enlisted at age 18 and served as a drummer and fifer. He died in 1843 at the age of 81. Although it rained, the event was well attended. Remarks were given by Roslyn Hogan, Regent, Jean Espy Chapter, Fort Madison, Iowa. Taps were played by William Hall of Bugles Across America and Taylor Young of Central Lee High School. Quote on the program read, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten"

-- Calvin Coolidge, 30th U.S. President

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, May 9, 1896: "Their Golden Days -- Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Usher Celebrate their 50th Anniversary." Mr. Usher came to Clinton Township in Linn county at the age of 16 and was married in 1846, the year Iowa became a state. Much of the article deals with his good relationship with the Sac and Fox Indians and details are written about the death of Ki-ne-sa, one of their chiefs whose body was returned to the area for burial. The body was buried in a sitting position with artifacts by his side.

A cabin was built over the grave which was later destroyed by a tornado in 1860. A few years later when the cemetery was being cleared of rubbish a number of human bones were found which were supposed to be those of the Indian chief. They were given a decent burial and the spot is still marked in what is now the Clinton township cemetery, located on the Vinton road in the northern part of the township. This was originally an Indian burial ground and early settlers buried their dead in the same ground with the Indians and later they were set apart for public cemetery purposes.

From the *Marion Pilot*, April 16, 1903: "Reministic and Poetical." The writer tells of strolling through the cemetery located near Indian Creek. He continues -- people who want antiquities ought to get a few of the tombstones out there. Some of the real owners would not care for they were buried away back in 1841. Just think of having laid there twenty years before the civil war began! Or long before there was any thought of moving the county seat to Cedar Rapids! Terrible that; mayhaps Cedar Rapids will claim the old tombstones and deny to these long dead people the right of rising on the last great day in sight of their own green hills.

With apologies to Macauley --

Keep your pungent packing house, your Cedar River smells,
Your avenue and pavements, your fire-trap hotels,
Your stately union depots, islands of garbage cans,
The vaunted Federal building, your crowd of baseball fans.
The Cherry Sisters snubbed us, have, since they first met you;
They say they're from the Rapids and this their old home too!
You have these boasted blessings, you have them, keep them still!
Our eyes have seen your greatness; they ne'er with envy fill.
Have ye not parks and colleges, and rails for Quaker Oats?
Have ye not thriving lily ponds, and sure Bohemian votes?
Ye get our ready money: Oh, we are willing worms
If ye will keep your hands off our courthouse and tombstones!

Time has worn some of the dates on the old stones and when I stooped down to read an obscure date there was a great rush and leap

JASPER

From the *Homestead* newspaper, March 16, 1905: "Cemetery Land." Question from a Subscriber, Prairie City, Iowa: A. deeded an acre of land to the township trustees for a public cemetery. Several bodies were buried there. A. died and his real estate went to heirs. Can one of the heirs sell three-fourths of the acre and the township trustees or any two of them execute a lawful deed therefor? Answer -- Neither the heirs nor the township trustees can sell and convey the cemetery land nor any part of it.

JOHNSON

From the *Iowa City Press Citizen*, July 19, 1946: "Cemeteries Point Up the Facts." To illustrate, take the Castex cemetery, for instance. It is in this spot that you must go to find what remains of the original settlers. Names on the stones include DuPont, Hopkins, Irvin, Armstrong, Cloud, Davis, Miller and Leonard. But where are these people now? All gone! The Bohemians have taken over. They have entered not only their cultivated fields, but even the old cemetery, and are now burying their dead among and over the original settlers who somehow were not constituted to stick to their soil.

There is a similar situation with one significant difference. This is the Newport cemetery. Here, too, the Bohemians have taken over the land completely but they did not take the graveyard. Here there was an incompatibility in religion. They abandoned the old burial ground, retired a short distance to the east and consecrated a new piece of ground for their church and their burial place. So here the original settlers now lie in an abandoned graveyard without even a handful of their children left to give them the customary care and respect after they left this world. These two cemeteries provide a very concrete illustration, rather exaggerated I admit, of a general pattern of migration and early land settlement rigidly adhered to all the way from the eastern sea coast to Johnson county, Iowa. It should explain why there are only 22 century farmers in this county today.

The article goes on to expound the virtues of the original farmers who "gave Iowa stability and real value." It will take many more farmers like them to prevent a constant fluctuation in land values, to prevent a continuation of our vicious soil erosion, to maintain our wonderful soil fertility, and to keep Iowa the granary of America.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 27, 2010: "I.C. (Iowa City) company restores 19th century cemetery," by Gregg Hennigan. Pictured is the Cline Cemetery that was not maintained for several years. River Products Company, Inc. bought the land a few years ago for a sand pit and restored the cemetery that contains more than 50 graves. Company workers have spent the past four years restoring the small graveyard. A white fence surrounds the site, a corner of the yard has been landscaped and many of the markers have been repaired. A ribbon cutting at the cemetery was held on August 27. Attending was Patrick Loan whose great-great grandfather, Pvt. William H. Loan, who fought in the Civil War, is buried there. Patrick's wife, Betty said, "It's important to remember our forebears -- the lives they lived, the legacy they left for all of us."

Eleven burial sites that couldn't be identified were given limestone markers engraved with, "Rest in Peace."

LEE

From the *Daily Gate City*, April 3, 1903: "Second-Hand Tombstone -- Man could not see necessity for changing tombstone." During the recent cross-examination of President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers, former Attorney-General Wayne MacVeigh told a story in illustration of ignorance.

"A man came to a maker of tombstones," said Mr. MacVeigh, "and asked for some sort of stone for his mother. The dealer showed him one design after another, and finally the man said, 'I wish to take this one.' 'Very well,' replied the dealer. "Only this is one that had been returned to me. It has the name of Jane Shaw on it. Give me your mother's name, so that I can change it."

'No,' said the man, 'you needn't bother to change the name, for mother couldn't read and she won't know the difference.'"

From the *Daily Gate City*, September 15, 2010: "Fixing up tombstones." Pictured are William Johnson, Anthony Stice, Gene Setters and Greg Dunston as they help repair tombstones in Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk in conjunction with the Lee County Veterans Project and members of the Calvary Baptist Church of Keokuk. So far, 16 stones have been refurbished. Contact Terry Altheide at 319-795-6289 for more information on the Veterans Project.

From the *Daily Gate City*, September 16, 2010: "P.O.W. Ferguson held in high esteem," by Terry Altheide. September 17 was POW/MIA Day, set aside to remember the thousands of men still missing from our nation's many conflicts and to honor the thousands of

founded, as it was discovered after opening the grave on January 6, 1894, by order of the board of health, the coffin was filled with newspapers, rocks and straw with the body having been sent by the undertaker to the medical school at the University of Iowa without a permit from the board of health.

While a small child living in Ottumwa, Edna Ferber witnessed the hanging body as she came around a corner, and her memory of this is depicted in the book "Bobbed Hair and Bathtub Gin" by Marion Mead. She remembered something that looked like a giant spider flailing in the air. (The sight never left her mind, and we wonder why she hated Ottumwa so. That is reason enough!)

Several years later, a man in Wyoming reportedly confessed to the crime for which Mr. Johnson was accused.

Sue Parrish is a retired museum director, author of the book, "Days Gone By," and current president of the Wapello County Historical Society.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 3, 2010: A letter to the editor complaining about the lack of perpetual care for which family members have paid a fee to the Memorial Lawn Cemetery was published. A similar letter from a different person was published on August 31. Complaints ranged from grass and weeds not being trimmed around stones to crosses and other decorations being knocked down and impassable roads.

PLYMOUTH

From kcautv.com Sioux City, Iowa, October 20, 2010: "Human Bones Discovered at Home of American Popcorn Co. Owner." Human bones were discovered on the 32-thousand block of Fox Avenue about 5 minutes from Sioux City. A contractor working at the residence found bones that appeared to be human while digging to install water lines. A neighbor says that relics that may have been those of Plains Indians were found in the area about 25 years ago. Carlton and Kathy Smith, owners of American Popcorn Co., own the property.

OUT OF IOWA

WISCONSIN

Ramaker and Associates, located in Sauk City, Wisconsin, a developer of computer software for cemetery information and record keeping held its annual CIMS user conference at the Kalahari resort complex in the Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin on October 7. One of the speakers was Ralph Hendersin describing his experiences cleaning gravestone and locating unmarked burials. Ralph

has graciously shared his cemetery manual, "Gravestone Restoration" with SAPIC. To borrow the manual, contact Pat Shaw.

INDIANA

From the *Positive Review*, August 26, 1896: "New Use for Glass." A glass company in Indiana has been making molds in different shapes for tombstones. They claim that a tombstone made from glass is far more durable than one made of either marble or granite. It is a well known fact that wind, rain, heat and cold can obliterate the lettering on stone in the course of a century or so. No such effect is produced by the weather on glass. The slabs will be made in all ordinary sizes and can be made to closely imitate the finest granite or marble in appearance. The lettering is made by the sand blast process and is very distinct.

-- *Chicago Chronicle*

ILLINOIS

From the *Hawkeye*, July 21, 1993: "Volunteers keep cemetery tidy." Pictured are Greg Mummey and Chad Ponder as they move the gravestone of Ann M. Hahn recently in the 160-year-old Timber Cemetery, which is being restored near Rio, Illinois. The cemetery holds the remains of about 40 people, including a veteran of the War of 1812. A stone has been ordered for his grave. Funds are being raised for a new fence and a monument naming all the known persons buried there. The first burial was in 1833 and the graveyard was leased to the state for 99 years with an option to renew indefinitely. About 20 years ago, a neighbor planted a garden on the site and tombstones were used as walls and stepping stones. Jim Harrell, who stumbled on some crumbled gravestones, organized volunteers to restore the cemetery.

GEORGIA

From the *American Legion Magazine*, December, 2010, page 56: "Walk of Memories - Legionnaire spends 56 years building Georgia memorial, one brick at a time," by Heather Larson. Pictured is a memorial made of nearly 8,000 bricks that memorialize the fallen men and women from Georgia, those who were held captive, and their families. Nineteen years ago, J.R. "Chief" Wages envisioned a place of tranquility to honor men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the nation's wars. Wages researched the names and information, secured donations, ordered the bricks and personally installed them. Now he maintains the grounds as a volunteer. He also acquired a helicopter, tank and military gun for the site and created a plaque telling the story of the helicopter pilot, Frederick E. Ferguson who received the Medal of Honor. www.legion201.org

MISSISSIPPI

From *Senior News*, November 2010: "Retiree keeps up abandoned cemetery," by Manivanh Chanprasith, *Vicksburg Post*. The Brookhaven Church and School, built in 1940, was one of four small community churches built on property given in 1921 by plantation owner William F. Brabston. The church closed in 1999 and the school many years before. Wayne Beard, who cut the grass there when a teenager, began cleaning the grounds and fixing the graves in 2008 out of respect for his aunt's memory and respect for the 40 people buried there. He has filled in sunken graves and welded iron crosses for those with missing markers. He and his wife, Susan, place flowers on the graves. Beard and former deacon, Charles Winston, agree that the church should be restored but lack resources to do that. He wants to get a sign made that says "Brookhaven Church and Cemetery."

NEBRASKA

From the *American Profile Magazine*, November 14-20, 2010: The first Nebraska State Veterans Cemetery was dedicated in August on land in Alliance (pop. 8,959) that once served as a U.S. Army air base.

From the *World-Herald* (Omaha), September 22, 2010: "Discovery solves mystery," by Christopher Burbach. For 16 years, ever since he died in Knoxville, Tenn., World War II veteran Howard H. Biggs' family has wondered what happened to his military headstone. So imagine his daughter's surprise when a reporter told her that his gravemarker had been discovered, along with 11 others, in a garage at 8623 C St. in Omaha. Police discovered the markers on Sept. 13 in a vacant house. Only three of the markers included complete names -- each was a World War II veteran. No theft reports have been made to explain the markers. The owners of the house, who live in Indiana, were aware of the stones that were apparently left by a former tenant and had been calling veterans' groups to determine what to do with them. The Edgewood cemetery in Tennessee claimed that they never received the marker for Howard Biggs from the government. Biggs' daughter wants to know, "How did it get there (Omaha)?"

RHODE ISLAND

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, July 12, 1920: In an ad for the Burlington Granite & Marble Co., is pictured a tombstone from an old, unused cemetery in Providence, R.I. close to the Rumford Baking Powder Company. It is 47 years older than the Declaration of Independence and 3 years older than the father of our country. It can be

viewed any day at the Burlington Granite and Marble Company. Also pictured is a monument that the business erected in the Aspen Grove Cemetery for Washington Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F. They take pride in this fine piece of work.

FRANCE

From the *American Legion Magazine*, November, 2010, page 62: "One family at a time." Simone Renaud watched in horror as misdropped U.S. paratroopers descended into a deadly firefight in the town square of Ste. Mere-Eglise, France, in the early-morning hours of June 6, 1944. Before the eyes of her three children, German forces turned their machine guns on 82nd Airborne Division soldiers who gave their lives to begin the Allied invasion that would liberate Europe 11 months later.

Renaud, the wife of the World War II mayor of Ste. Mere-Eglise, would never forget that sacrifice. In the weeks following D-Day, she took it upon herself to care for the graves of some 15,000 U.S. troops who were buried in three temporary cemeteries in and around the town.

When a photo of her decorating one of those graves -- that of Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., a founder of The American Legion -- appeared in *Life* magazine, she was besieged with mail from U.S. families. They wanted to know if she could take pictures of their battlefield resting places.

Thus began a 44-year relationship between the French mother and thousands of U.S. families. She spent the rest of her life writing letters, shooting photos, organizing ceremonies and corresponding with those who'd lost loved ones at Normandy. She worked eight to ten hours a day on a mission that would last until her death in 1988.

Her story is told in a documentary film, "Mother of Normandy," produced by Doug Stebleton of Iron Mike Entertainment and co-written by Jeff Stoffer, editor of *The American Legion Magazine*. Accepted and screened at the 2010 GI Film Festival in Washington, the film features French star Leslie Caron as the voice of Simone Renaud.

As a companion to the film, a new book titled, "Mother of Normandy: The Story of Simone Renaud," written by Stoffer and designed by American Legion Magazine Art Director Holly Soria, has been published and is available for purchase through Emblem Sales, Amazon.com or by visiting www.motherofnormandy.com on the web.

Proceeds from book sales are applied to The American Legion's Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund. The fund provides U.S. flags, free of charge, to place at gravesites of U. S. war dead buried in foreign lands.