

# GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535

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

VOLUME 16 ISSUE #1

January, 2011

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will meet on April 9, 2011 at 10:00 AM at the Community Center, 701 Main Street, Deep River, IA, 52222. Phone: (641) 595-4294. Brunch will be available at 9:00 AM and a noon meal for a free will donation following the meeting. A grave restoration seminar will be held at 1:00 PM. Nearest motel: Sleep Inn - 4130 Hwy 21, Brooklyn, IA. 52211, ph. 319-685-4500, just off of Interstate 80-exit 201.

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Also on April 9th; join us for a cemetery restoration program hosted by the Poweshiek County Cemetery Commission and SAPIC. The program will be from 1 to 4 pm and held at the Deep River Community Center. Our speaker, John Heider will share his knowledge restoring rural historical cemeteries. John, a retired educator, travels throughout the Midwest teaching cemetery restoration. He is a recipient of national and state awards, appeared in a university documentary and was featured on RFD America. During the lecture he will provide a restoration display, present a powerpoint presentation and National Park Service video, demonstrate dowsing as a tool to locate unmarked graves and answer questions. John also encourages the audience to participate during the program. Participants will receive a 75 page informational booklet. Seating is limited and registration is required. Checks need to be made out to the Poweshiek Pioneer Cemetery Commission and mailed to Vera Heck 4356-235th St., Guernsey, IA 52221. Seminar Registration Form inside this newsletter or can be printed from the SAPIC web site or obtained from John Heider: [jheider@mchsi.com](mailto:jheider@mchsi.com)  
977 Iron Horse Place Monticello IL 61856

A Basic Cemetery Restoration Workshop will also be held on Saturday, June 25th in a cemetery in Cedar County. More details later.

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SIGN AT A CREMATORIUM; "Urn more. Pay less."

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*Waterloo Courier* - 20 March 1895 Obituary:  
A Maine paper has a new style in obituary notice. The editor left himself open for a thrashing in the following:

"While it is almost a crime to speak ill of the dead, we feel it our duty to tell the truth about Miss May Beyer, who died last night. She never spoke a decent word about any being, living or dead, and slander sprang from her mouth like the toads

from the girl in the fairy tale. If she goes to heaven we don't want to go there, and we believe we voice the sentiments of every man, woman and lady in this 'berg. We gladly contribute a quarter for ice for Mary. She will need it."

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The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

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Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped verandah of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/>

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Missing for more than four decades, the remains of Maj. Tom Beyer, a Vietnam War pilot who died in 1968, were identified and returned home to Fargo, ND for burial in December.

--*American Profile* magazine, March 6-12, 2011

## SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Mike Magee  
638 Englewood  
Waterloo, IA 50701  
319-232-8762      Digger4045@yahoo.com

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3046 Everly Ave  
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319-474-2443      reedypart@jtt.net

Secretary: Frieda Davis  
216 Riverview Dr.  
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319-472-5348      davisduo2@fntcs.com

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108 N. Oak  
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515-386-4784      vjogren@netins.net

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106 East 11th St.  
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641-484-6061      neecnwy@iowatelecom.net

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21813 170th St.  
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319-293-3899      patshaw@netins.net

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1111 N. 8th Ave. Apt. #16  
Winterset, IA 50273-1089  
515-462-9802      emcvay38@msn.com

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216 Riverview Dr.  
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2211 Linn Ave.  
New Hampton, IA 50659  
641-394-3967      jjeck@myclearwave.net

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

Board Member (2012): Carol Hoffman  
505 W. Chestnut St.  
Bloomfield, IA 52537-1921  
641-226-3093      wilcar@netins.net

Board Member (2013) and Web Page: Tony Bengston  
1006 150th St.  
Fairbank, IA 50629-8611  
319-415-1175      tonybengston@yahoo.com

### 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      [rnkewinter@aol.com](mailto:rnkewinter@aol.com)  
[www.granitecitytoolvt.com](http://www.granitecitytoolvt.com)

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

Fastenal Corporate Headquarters  
2001 Theurer Blvd.  
Winona, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 and tax deductible.  
Send dues to Valerie Ogren, 108 N. Oak  
Jefferson, IA 50129-1841

## STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

SAPIC met Saturday January 8, 2011 at the Pinicon Restaurant, 2205 McCloud Ave, New Hampton, Chickasaw County, Iowa. Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Chair, Mike Magee. Mike thanked Chickasaw County Commission for hosting the meeting. Agenda approved. Self introductions of all 18 present conducted.

Secretary's report from October 9 meeting moved to accept with two corrections by Fred R., seconded by Jerry T., **Passed**.

**Memorials:** Members of commissions and SAPIC who have died in the recent past were presented.

**Treasurer's report:** printed report from Valerie Ogren distributed and discussed.

Motion made to reinvest matured CD by Julie E., seconded by Gene D., **Passed**. Bill for use of Pinicon will be paid by CC Commission.

Agenda:

- Proposed changes in Iowa code: Report by Steve Story and Bill Reedy. Printed background and discussion. Proposing to amend Iowa code section 5231.102(6)c. by adding: "However, a pioneer cemetery is a cemetery for purposes of section 316,317, 401, and 402 of this chapter." State Senator Tim Kkapucian and Senator Brian Schoenjahn are willing and happy to co-sponsor this proposed legislation. Please contact your representatives to encourage their support.

- SAPIC and county pioneer cemetery commissions are encouraged to participate in upcoming Civil War Sesquicentennial. The civil war continued for about four years. Beginning with this year encourage your local organization and commissions to organize and honor a Civil War Veteran with possible ceremony at the cemetery. Forms at Website Iowahistory.org.

- Proposed lending library of publications for cemetery preservation and information by John Heider. Motion made to have rules, list of materials, etc. available, on website by Bill R, seconded by Julie E. **Passed**.

- **Cemetery seminar:** Will be held April 9, 2011 in the afternoon with the regular SAPIC meeting in the morning at Deep River, IA Deep River Historical Society hosting the meeting and will be asked to host the registration, publicity, cost for program, preregistration, etc for that meeting. This will be a classroom event of about 3 hours.

- **Cemetery Workshop event:** Is a one day workshop in actual cemeteries. John will contact Cedar Co. to assess a cemetery that will work for the workshop with possible date in July. Cost to SAPIC will be \$600.00 to sponsor the event.

- **SAPIC membership in 'preservation Iowa':** Tabled until Pat Shaw is present for discussion and information.

- **Presentation to SAPIC by Dan Higginbottom:** Suggestion sent by Pat Shaw. Dan discusses the discovery and robbery of remains that occurred in Polk County. Discussion at latter time.

• **Open Agenda:**

1 Mabel Banwell, Richmond Cemetery clerk: talked about having the Cemetery documented with locations of burials, with new map, etc. The importance of this project and information gained. Work done by Bob and Kathy Terry of Liscom.

2 Jeanette K passed out copies of the Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly which included a list and pictures from restored cemeteries in Chickasaw County. She thanks everyone who helped in restoration.

3 Wayne County Supervisors agreed to establish a pioneer cemetery commission

4 Tony B. reported that ISU educator who wrote the manual for trustees is updating the manual and would like feedback. Will need to wait for update of legislation concerning pioneer cemeteries.

5 Email from Danny Krock asking for legal guidelines concerning reclaim/planting over cemeteries. Frieda will forward email to Bill Reedy to respond.

6 Bill R. drew our attention to articles in Grave News, page 15 Linn county and page 13 concerning reclaiming of cemetery by River Products company, Inc.

7 Sandy Hook Cemetery; Steve S. volunteered to 'witch' it.

8 Discussed Facebook page for SAPIC. General consensus against Facebook page. Announcement of our meetings are being published in American Cemetery Magazine.

9 St. Peter's cemetery in Johnson County – email question  
Motion to adjourn at 12:15 pm by Jerry T., seconded by Fred H, **Passed**  
Next meeting: April 9, 2011 Deep River Community Center, Deep River IA Frieda Davis, Secretary

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Thanks to everyone who has paid dues for 2011. Your support is appreciated! Please send dues, donations, and memorials to treasurer, Valerie Ogren, 108 N. Oak, Jefferson, IA 50129-1841.

From: "Valerie Ogren" <vjogren@netins.net>  
Subject: **SAPIC treas. report**  
Date: January 7, 2011 11:05:11 AM CST  
To: "Pat I. Shaw" <patshaw@netins.net>  
1 Attachment, 31.5 KB

## STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter – 1 October 2010 thru 31 December 2010

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2010, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 2,918.26

### Income

Dues	\$ 95.00
Interest 10/30/10	.51
Interest 11/30/10	.57
Interest 12/31/10	<u>.55</u>
Total Income	\$ 96.63

### Expense

Transfer to Reserve – as per motion at meeting 7 Oct.	\$ 500.00
Transfer to Reserve – Upah Family – Robert Carter Award	100.00
Ck #240 – Mike Magee - copies	10.03
Ck #241 – Patricia Shaw – newsletter	<u>\$ 34.92</u>
Total Expense	\$ 644.95

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2010 \$ 2,369.94

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2010, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 3,528.39

Transfer from Working – as per motion at meeting 7 Oct.	\$ 500.00
Life Membership – Upah Family (Robert & Phyllis Carter Award)	100.00
Life Membership – Fred Reese	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$ 700.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2010 \$ 4,228.39

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

**Combined Balance on Hand 31 December 2010** \$ 6,598.33

### 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

(an int. pmt. of \$49 has been added, rate of int. on 1/16 had not been determined – but know it will be lower – web page shows 1.10% as of 11/26 – need to decide if you want the CD to renew OR cash it in on the 16<sup>th</sup>)

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Ogren, Treasurer  
108 N. Oak  
Jefferson IA 50129-1841  
Ph 1-515-386-4784  
E-mail: [vjogren@netins.net](mailto:vjogren@netins.net)

Thursday, January 6, 2011

SAPIC Treasurers Report... (31.5 KB)

SAPIC GRANT APPLICATION

A limited number of grants in the amount of \$200 each will be granted this spring to qualified and deserving groups or individuals who are in the process of restoring neglected cemeteries in Iowa. Preference may be given to restorers who are members and/or supporters of SAPIC. It must be proven that all community and other resources have been tapped or have been exhausted prior to submitting the application.

NAME OF CEMETERY: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BURIAL SITE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OWNER OF THE CEMETERY: (Township trustees, cemetery board, city, county, unable to determine)

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you contacted township trustees for funding? \_\_\_\_\_ County Supervisors? \_\_\_\_\_  
Descendants? \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran's Groups? \_\_\_\_\_ Community Clubs (Scouts, 4-H, churches, Lions,  
etc)? \_\_\_\_\_ Owner of surrounding land? \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you publicized the plight of the cemetery in local media? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you organized volunteer groups to clean the site prior to needing funding for fencing and stone repair?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you approached the county supervisors about creating a pioneer cemetery commission? \_\_\_\_\_

You may copy this application and add any comments on the back.

Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of person making application:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS: JULY 6, 2011  
MAIL TO: MIKE MAGEE, 638 ENGLEWOOD, WATERLOO, IA 50701-5846  
E-MAIL: digger4045@yahoo.com  
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SAPIC DUES MAY BE PAID NOW FOR 2011

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION      New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$10 \_\_\_ Household \$15 \_\_\_ Organization or business \$20 \_\_\_ Lifetime (Individual only) \$100  
\_\_\_\_\_

Donation or Memorial \$ \_\_\_\_\_ List name of honoree, if desired. \_\_\_\_\_

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

**CEMETERY PRESERVATION SEMINAR**  
**Deep River Community Center**  
**April 9, 2011**

Deadline for registration--April 1, 2011

**REGISTRATION FORM**

(Required for each individual attending seminar)

Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
First

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last

Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street, PO Box

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

Phone  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address  
\_\_\_\_\_

**If representing an organization, please identify**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cost per person: \$20**

**Married couple: \$30**

Amount of payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make payment to: Poweshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

**Reason for attending seminar**

Personal

Professional

Organization

Other

**Mail Registration with payment to:**

Vera Heck

4356-235<sup>th</sup> St.

Guernsey, IA 52221

Email: v

Telephone: 319-685-4366

If there is sufficient interest, the seminar may also be presented on Friday evening, April 8.  
Check the SAPIC web page for updates.

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries is partnering with Preservation Iowa to seek passage of HF 469 that will give pioneer cemeteries (those with 12 or fewer burials within the past 50 years) the same protection as active cemeteries and isolated burial sites. The Senate version is SF 43. Please attend legislative forums in your area or contact your State House Representative or State Senator and urge them to support these bills.

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Did you know there is a Civil War Honor Guard unit that does Civil War headstone/monument dedications? Check out the 49th Iowa "Governor's Own Iowa Rifles" at their website: <http://www.iowavalor.com/>

If you would like them to be available for a dedication or just want to keep them posted on your activities related to Civil War graves, they would undoubtedly be very interested and grateful. You can contact 1st SGT David Lamb (digger1@q.com) for more information.

Check out the "Iowa in the Civil War" Facebook page.

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### **Mt. Soledad War Memorial Unconstitutional**

posted by: Jessica Pieklo, Care2 Causes web site, January 8, 2011.

A federal appeals court unanimously ruled that a 43-foot-tall Latin cross displayed by the government on Mt. Soledad in California violates the First Amendment Establishment Clause of the Constitution.

The cross has been a landmark in La Jolla, California after originally being erected in 1913. The original was dedicated at an Easter Sunday ceremony that described the monument as a "gleaming white symbol of Christianity". The cross has been replaced on several occasions, with this latest cross erected in 1954. In 2006 the federal government obtained title to the cross and its surrounding property by exercising its eminent domain authority, declaring the cross to be a national war memorial.

Once the federal government embraced the cross as a government symbol it was challenged by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America and several local residents. They argued that the

government was now essentially playing favorites and endorsing Christianity over other faiths. Unlike religious symbols on individual headstones that reflect the faith of the individual soldier, this act suggested that the sacrifices of some service members were more valuable than the sacrifices of all service members.

The decision reflects a pretty straightforward approach to First Amendment jurisprudence. The original acquisition of the property was controversial, and rightly so. Had the purchase expanded the site to represent a multi-faith approach to honoring fallen soldiers then there would be little grounds to complain. Instead it created an unnecessarily and unlawful display honoring the dead.

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Jonathan Appell, Monuments Conservator  
Upcoming Training and Events  
Preservation of Gravestones and  
Cemetery Monuments Level I  
(Mount Carroll, IL)

05/16/11 - 05/18/11

<http://www.gravestoneconservation.com/>

27 Miles Standish Drive :: West  
Hartford, Connecticut CT 06107

p. (860) 558-2785 :: f. (860) 232-6656  
[info@GravestoneConservation.com](mailto:info@GravestoneConservation.com)

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<http://www.gravestonepreservation.info/>

The genealogy website, Ancestry.com, is teaming up with Sears to digitize old Sears catalogs. Ancestry.com is a subscription based service, but many public libraries and municipal records centers provide free access to it. It might interest those who want to see how monuments and accessories, such as 'grave guards,' were marketed through mail order.

[http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1670&o\\_iid=46256&o\\_lid=46256](http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1670&o_iid=46256&o_lid=46256)



Abandoned cemetery web site:  
[http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM144W\\_First\\_Settlers](http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM144W_First_Settlers)  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Earth, Stone & Memories: Historic Cemeteries and What They Tell Us 02/08/2011

Earth, Stone & Memories: Historic Cemeteries and What They Tell Us offers a visual introduction to historic burial grounds and cemeteries and their development through the nineteenth century. Viewers will learn about the types of stone used to mark graves, inscription techniques, and how both change through time. Historians, archaeologists, and genealogists offer insight into the role of population growth and transportation in the development of the historic cemetery. The DVD offers bonus segments about three special topics: A detailed explanation of Illinois' abandoned cemetery law and what it means to anyone interested in repairing headstones or restoring historic cemeteries; archaeologist Mike McNerney's study of "necked-discoid" grave markers he's found in eleven states; and Memorialist George Bell demonstrates the creation of stone motifs using hand drawn, rubber stencil designs. Earth, Stone & Memories may be ordered through [www.southernmostillinoishistory.com](http://www.southernmostillinoishistory.com). The site features video previews, classroom handouts, and a transcript. The Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone produced the DVD to showcase the region's unique cultural heritage and to encourage further historical interpretation. Proceeds from the sale of the DVD benefit the organization's community and economic development projects.

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From *The Iowa Griot*, The Newsletter of the African American Museum of Iowa, Vol. 10, Issue 4, Winter 2010, pages 4-5: "Unconditional Loyalty: The Military Service of African Americans." A temporary museum exhibit that features stories about the struggles and triumphs of African Americans in the military from the Revolutionary War to today runs through December 18, 2011 at the African American Museum of Iowa, 55 12th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. [www.blackiowa.org](http://www.blackiowa.org)

Pictures include the grave marker of Cato Mead, the only Black Revolutionary War soldier buried west of the Mississippi.

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From the *American Legion magazine*, February, 2011, page 56: "In the Company of Heroes." is a painting that depicts a visit to the Luxembourg American Cemetery by six veterans of Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division-- the famed "Band of Brothers." In Germany, the veterans met 21st armored Division troops who had recently returned from Iraq who accompanied them to Bastogne to revisit the veterans' old foxholes and the cemetery. Upon returning, illustrator Matt Hall commemorated their experience in the painting. Valor Studios (570)435-4523 or [www.valorstudios.com](http://www.valorstudios.com)

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## COUNTY REPORTS

### Allamakee

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, 9-23-1951, "Time, River Are Burying a Cemetery," by the Sunday Editor. Harper's Ferry --The final resting place of the town's founder, Sandy Point Cemetery, is lapsing into history and falling into the Mississippi River. Several broken stones are pictured in the neglected cemetery. Because Harper was a Mason and because at least one veteran of the Civil War is buried there, it is hoped that something will be done to rescue it from the limbo state into which it has fallen. No one seems to know how many burials were made at Sandy Point. Harper's Ferry has one other cemetery: Paint Rock, on the heights overlooking the town.

### Benton

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, November 15, 1953: "Road Graders Unearth Old Grave." Pictured is Jimmy Ferguson, Tama high school student, as he points to a grave discovered by men who were grading highway 30 north of Belle Plaine. They said they believed the grave might be that of an Indian who was buried many years ago. The grave was about 18

inches below the surface. Charcoal was found at both the head and foot of the grave, leading to the theory that an Indian had been buried there in wintertime. Bone fragments were found. Some tribes are said to have buried their dead with ashes from a campfire. Similar Indian graves have been found in Nebraska. Remains of several campfires were found nearby.

### **Blackhawk**

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, June 23, 1947: "Receded Black Hawk Creek Yields Mystery Tombstone," by Robert M. Bliss. Pictured is E. M. Joines as he kneels beside the mysterious tombstone that was uncovered in his yard by recent flood waters of Black Hawk Creek. After two hours of sleuthing, the reporter is resorting to a plea to readers to help solve the mystery. Names on the stone are: Anna, wife of J. Heckt, (a name chiseled off), and Arthur Heckt.

### **Bremer**

From the *Iowa Postal Card*, 12-07-1905: "Mob May Lynch Accused Man." Tales of the fear of a lynching of J.H. McWilliams, the father accused of murdering his wife and five children near Independence, have been coming into this city at a rapid rate of late. While the funeral of Mrs. McWilliams and the children was being held at Littleton the crowd in the cemetery was so dense about the graves that the ground caved in, necessitating the clearing of the cemetery of mourners. This incident has added to the intensity of the feeling against McWilliams.

### **Butler**

Poem that won first place in the *Lyrical Iowa* poetry magazine in the World/National Division.

#### **PARKERSBURG RESOLUTION**

Softball, barbeque--a perfect spring Sunday  
but across the western horizon, a storm line tugs  
a black cloud ever higher arid higher  
A seasoned weather watcher knows  
that only a fool would stand and look.

Now the sirens scream. He wraps his heart around his house  
The one-legged monster vaults the cemetery  
leaving the dead safe. Storm lusts for life.

Below the wall of sirens comes the plea of nails  
wrenched from wood meant to hold forever --  
Forever -- that measure now from one breath to the

next

Wind sucks at his ears, pulls at his lungs  
Monster stomps out the pattern of his town.

Silence. Then come sunshine, curious sunshine,  
peering into basements, finding new shadows.  
Anger, then a survivor's "yes" chokes his throat.

Now, standing on his driveway-to-nowhere, he knows  
"I can handle this," Only a fool stands and looks.

--Mary Logan Sweet

### **Cedar**

In a submission to IA-CEMETERIES Digest, Vol 5, issue 20, Jacie Thomsen reports that she has been photographing every stone in several cemeteries, including Rochester, West Bethel, South Bethel, Hanna and several others. She found the grave of a Civil War veteran who never had a headstone, but he does now, thanks to Jacie.

### **Chickasaw County**

The Pearl Rock Protestant Cemetery sits on a hill & we have some very big old Oak trees, the wind really swoops down through there & there is always a bunch of branches lying all over. I have entertained the thought that maybe I should wear a helmet when it's so windy, the son of a friend of mine was hunting for mushrooms this spring & a tree fell on him, pinning him to the ground. Fortunately, he had a couple of friends with him. He was off work for quite a while!

When I go out there to mow, I have to pick up the bigger branches, & with no place to put them, I piled them up by a corner fence post, in hopes of finding a place to burn them. Well, by fall I had a pretty big pile. A few weeks ago, Ralph & Fred were able to start doing some light work, so we went out to Pearl Rock & burned the wood pile & some of the weeds & leaves along the East & North fences of the Catholic Cemetery! In the course of my raking I found a film case

with a long strip of paper in it with dates & names in it, but none that might lead me to the "author" of the information inside!

Some of the people at the mtg. yesterday said it was part of game, so I need to put it back! -- Contributed by Priscilla Reisner

*Longtime SAPIC member, Carol Bottin, from New Hampton in Chickasaw County passed away January 20. She was an active member of the Chickasaw County Genealogical Society. Mary Ann Crandall of New Hampton who always provided a noon lunch to the Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission on its work days, died December 31st, 2010. Interment was at St. Joseph's Cemetery (Paint Rock) a spot she chose to join four previous generations of her family in quiet rest on the hill beside the banks of the mighty Mississippi.*

#### Clinton

Minutes of the Jan. 6, 2011 meeting of the Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission were forwarded by Ruth Wilson. Updates on the restoration projects at Hess, Hickory Hill, and Pleasant Hill cemeteries were reported. Next meeting was scheduled for Feb. 3 at the museum in DeWitt. The agenda included reports on the Hess, Hickory Hill, and Allison-Harrington cemeteries, budget request and spraying for weeds in 2011.

#### Cerro Gordo

From the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, August 21, 1929: "Found: Tombstone on Local Highway." A tombstone fallen by the wayside has met its good Samaritan. Several days ago a farmer brought a crated slab of granite into the sheriff's office. He claimed to have found it in the weeds along the edge of the road three miles southeast of Mason City. The block is a grey granite, inscribed with the following words: "Charles A. Kahler, 1913-1920." On the top of the stone is a kneeling lamb, chiseled in relief. Sheriff G. R. Cross asks owners to call for the gravemarker and identify it.

#### Davis

From *Forever Young*, a publication of the *Ottumwa Courier*, December 23, 2010: "A passion lives for Davis County Civil War Days," by Helen Hannan. Pictured is Nancy Clancy with trophies and ribbons won in black powder competitions with her husband, Brent, and other team members. The couple enjoys giving Civil War-related presentations for schools and other groups. Nancy occasionally acts as a consultant

for Civil War-themed weddings, as well as renting, lending or sewing clothing for the occasion. They host the annual Davis County Civil War Days located on the Guerrilla Trail recognizing the Oct. 12, 1864, Confederate Invasion of Iowa, otherwise known as the Guerrilla Raid. For more information, phone: 641-664-1304.

#### Des Moines County

From *American Profile* magazine, December 26, 2010 - January 1, 2011: In 1861, Sen. James W. Grimes, of Burlington introduced a bill that authorized the production and distribution of "medals of honor" to promote the efficiency of the U.S. Navy and to recognize gallantry during the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill for the Navy Medal of Honor.

From the *Muscatine Journal*, April 19, 1972: "Old tombstone found by police in Burlington." Burlington police were confronted Tuesday with the job of trying to find the owner of a 107-year-old tombstone. Jerry Price of Burlington told police that he picked up two pieces of white marble near the back porch of his mother-in-law's home, intending to use them for decoration in his yard.

But on looking more closely at them he found they were the two halves of a broken tombstone. The stone bore a picture of a lamb and the inscription, "Sarah, daughter of E.S. and M. J. Smith, died October 27, 1855, age 3 months and 23 days."

Police said they have no idea where the tombstone came from but were holding it so that any descendants of the Smiths could claim it.

#### Dickinson

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, 7-28-1968: "Sunken Lake Explored, Small Tombstone Found." SPIRIT LAKE -- A small gravestone found on a tiny lake bed near here has added to evidence there was dry land less than a hundred years ago in place of what is now known as a sunken lake. A science teacher discovered the stone deeply settled in clay while doing research. It was made to mark the grave of John Dickenson, whom it says died Oct. 13, 1877, at the age of 12 years, 9 months, and 22 days. Local legend says about a century ago a subterranean earth movement caused the land in the area to drop 30 feet and formed a sunken lake.

#### Dubuque

From the *Dubuque Herald*, October 25, 1853: "An Excitement Spoiled." As some boys were playing in the basement of an unoccupied home,

they discovered a human skull in a pile of rubbish. Rumors started that a human skeleton had been found and visions of murder, midnight outrages, robberies and hobgoblins caused excitement. Some gentlemen visited the site and found no skeleton. It was most probable that the skull was brought from an old graveyard by boys where a number of skulls and portions of skeletons were exposed at one time.

### Fayette

From *The Fayette Leader*, March, 2011, page 5: "Pioneer Cemetery Commission plans restoration work and activities." Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission board and advisory members met March 2 to plan the 2011 restoration work and activities.

Having spent the last three years working in restoration work at Otsego-Union Cemetery southeast of Oelwein in Jefferson Township, work crews reported that the restored and enlarged front gate is nearly ready for reinstallation.

A new front fence and more perimeter brush clearing is also planned for Otsego-Union this spring. The board voted to plan a rededication ceremony at Otsego-Union this summer or early autumn.

In addition, board members were also alerted about the possibility of another pioneer burial site in Westfield Township, a relatively short distance northwest of the town of Fayette.

Maps and earliest plat maps were shown and distributed to members, resulting in a decision to investigate as soon as the snow is gone and terrain is firm. Each of the 20 Fayette County Pioneer cemeteries and burial sites will also receive early spring inspection.

Progress on Iowa General Assembly House File 193, which has passed the House State Government Committee and Subcommittee was discussed. An identical bill, Senate File 43, is in subcommittee in the Senate, awaiting further action in the House. The two bills, introduced by an equal number of Democrats and Republicans, still have several hurdles to cross.

All Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission board meetings are open to the public and are held the first Wednesday in March, June, September and December at 1:30 pm at the Fayette County Historical Center in West Union.

### Hardin

From the *Eldora Herald*, November 20, 1918: "To Improve Pioneer Cemetery Near City." At the annual meeting of the Eldora Cemetery Society, it was decided to improve what is known

as the Bailey burying ground south and east of Eldora. This plot of ground was the original cemetery and first burial place of the pioneer settlers of this vicinity.

Something like twenty-five bodies of the first citizens of this section of the state lie buried in this secluded and almost forgotten and neglected tract. In some instances markers or slabs were placed at the head of the graves, but many of these have toppled over and time's remorseless sway has all but blotted out the names of those who sleep in those windowless palaces.

A fence and gate will be placed at the entrance and the grass and weeds will be cut.

### Henry

From the *Iowa Postal Card*, Nov. 1, 1906: "Des Moines Letter -- Items of Interest from our Correspondent at the State Capitol." A cemetery may be a nuisance. If it is, the courts will close it. The town of Wayland sought to establish a new cemetery adjoining the old one north of town on top of a hill, from which there was drainage into streams which furnished water for the folks in Wayland, and their cows and other domestic animals.

When Henry N. Payne and others brought suit to enjoin the opening of the new cemetery, the Wayland authorities said: "Preposterous." Then Judge James D. Smyth took a modern view of the situation and issued the injunction prayed for. Wayland appealed. The supreme court affirmed the decision.

Drainage from a well filled cemetery may not injure the growing vegetation, but it is bad for the wells of water drinking people. The supreme court accepts the scientific theory of germs, sees how percolating draining water may carry them great distances, and decided it bad public policy to permit it longer.

### Johnson

From the *Oxford Leader*, September 9, 1926: "Old Tombstone found in rear of Burbank Building. The newspaper editor tells of discovering a marble slab, which has been used for a number of years as a doorstop, while alighting from his car in an alley. On the back, he discovered an inscription: "Edmond M. husband of M. J. Parrott, Died April 4, 1866, Age 27 years, 6 months, and 28 days." It may have been ordered through Fred Silas, who formerly was in the undertaking business in the Burbank building and either a mistake made in the carving or else the parties for whom it was ordered failed to call for it. Another

explanation could be that it was broken off in the cemetery and brought into town. The editor asks if any of his readers can shed some light on the discovery.

### Jones County

In observance of the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, Jim Christensen has started a database of the Civil War veterans' graves and if they have stones, flag holders and the locations on maps so the flags can be put out. You probably know the stones are free from the government and the flag holders are free from the county. Good Eagle Scout projects. Jim also mentioned that the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 will be observed next year. Some attempt should be made to locate and properly mark the graves of these veterans, also.

jimamy14@msn.com

### Lee

From the *Burlington Daily Hawk-Eye*, August 16, 1879: "City Briefs." Some workmen in Keokuk yesterday unearthed a lot of human bones and the fragments of a coffin. The town is so antiquated that even the oldest inhabitant can't remember when a cemetery occupied the ground.

### Linn

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 1, 1919: "Mary Durham writes of the First Settler of Linn County." Squire Abbe's wife buried in the Old Abbe Creek Cemetery near Mt. Vernon, the first cemetery in the county -- should be preserved and protected, she thinks. Olive Green Abbe, Squire Abbe's first wife, died not long after he came to Iowa. Her grave is not marked and the writer feels that a memorial stone should be erected as a memorial to these early settlers.

From the *Marion Sentinel*, May 28, 1942: "Tombstone Found While Excavating Dates Back to 1853." It is a flat marble slab with oval top, and the lettering is rather better preserved than stones of similar date left out in the weather.

It bore the legend: "Martha, daughter of J. and M. Scott, died March 16, 1853, age 19 years and two months."

It is not likely the stone marked the grave of anyone buried at that place. It is more than likely that when the stone was broken off at the base, as this one was, it was carried there to be repaired at some future time.

One can only be a little sorry for the girl who died so young and so long ago. Today practically no one died at such an age. Look over the death

records and you will seldom see that age appended to a death record.

From the Kirkwood Community College newsletter, January 13, 2011: "GIS Class 'Plots the Plots'" -- Ongoing project is mapping Oak Hill Cemetery in Cedar Rapids.

Once again, a Kirkwood class project also serves the community. For the second consecutive year, students in Gail Brown's Managing GIS Projects class have mapped sections of the historic Oak Hill Cemetery in Cedar Rapids. Gail expects the annual work to go on for a decade or more, with each new class building on the former students' work. She says the class and field work are a great match for the overall goals of Kirkwood learning.

"I'm not sure what I enjoy most: The complexity of the issues the students deal with; watching them at the 'AHA' moments when they find a solution; or handing off data that they know is important to the future. It's an exhausting semester, but the payoff is wonderful," Gail told us.

You can read more about this ongoing work and see photos of last fall's students at work on the *Cedar Rapids Gazette's* Iowa Higher Education website:

<http://iowahighereducation.com/2011/01/kirkwood-class-project-builds-precise-maps-of-oak-hill-cemetery/>

### Mahaska County

We are attempting to obtain history and information about the Cherry Grove Cemetery near Fremont. Before our Commission was established, this Pioneer Cemetery was destroyed; however, we still want the history of this Pioneer Cemetery documented. This serves to reinforce in Commission members the importance of our work so this does not happen to other Pioneer Cemeteries in Mahaska County!

Ron Groenendyk and his Cadet group continue their work at the Muchakinock Pioneer Cemetery. Each workday the Cadet group has had, our Commission member, Edd Elder, and whenever possible, John Jacobs, have attended to assist and guide them about our wishes for this wonderful Pioneer Cemetery.

The City of Muchakinock and Muchakinock Pioneer Cemetery are such an important part of Mahaska county history. I don't know how many people in Mahaska County know that Muchakinock was established prior to Buxton, and was the original "Utopia of the Heartland". The City of Muchakinock buildings and houses were built on skids, and were pulled to Buxton after the coal ran out in Muchakinock. Ron's group became interested in our Pioneer Cemetery due to a talk

given to a women's group headed by Ron's wife, Judy, and as a result of that speech (and Judy's enthusiasm), Ron decided to work with his group at Muchakinock! (You never know what seeds you sow are going to bring results.) The Eddyville-Blakesburg FFA continues to provide portions of fence each year. We are honored to be a part of the restoration and repair of this Pioneer Cemetery.

Smith Pioneer Cemetery is one of the oldest of our Mahaska Pioneer Cemeteries. This year, Leroy Nutgteren of our Commission was able to repair the tabletop stones that have lain neglected and broken. Our newest Commission member, Margaret Ademeit, is a wonderful Mahaska County Historian, and will be working to trace the history of Smith Pioneer Cemetery and a commune that it is believed has members buried in Smith.

We continue to work with Lloyd Patterson in photographing gravestones in Mahaska Pioneer Cemeteries. We are so thankful for Lloyd and for his assistance to us. Lloyd is very well-known in the community and realizes the importance of saving our Pioneer Cemeteries.

Cone Pioneer Cemetery stones have now been repaired by Larry Davis. Larry does a wonderful job of restoring the stones to their former and authentic condition as markers of loved and revered Mahaska County Pioneers.

We are also working on the Mahaska County Home Pioneer Cemetery this year. We have been in contact with prior Mahaska County Home administrators. Sadly, these records are going to be difficult to find, but we continue to research these Pioneer Cemeteries to preserve the history, and stones, if possible.

-- Jo Vernooy, Mahaska County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

### Palo Alto

From the *Palo Alto Reporter*, July 17, 1880: "Cemetery Association." Emmetsburg Cemetery Association met at the Auditor's office on Tuesday, the 14th. Officers were elected. The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that the trustees shall appoint a sexton, who shall have charge of the cemetery and shall not dig any grave without a certificate from the president, as security that such person is entitled to some particular lot, and no person shall be allowed to dig a grave in the cemetery except such sexton; and the sexton shall keep the cemetery and all lots therein free from weeds at the expense of the respective owners, if the lots are not kept clear of such weeds by the owners thereof; and the trustees shall fix the price for which the sexton shall dig graves.

The secretary was instructed to notify each person in arrears for lots, to pay up.

The trustees were instructed that as soon as sufficient funds were collected, they are to have the cemetery fenced with a common board fence.

The secretary was instructed to procure a suitable record book for his use.

Secretary and treasurer were instructed to make full report to the trustees within thirty days.

Trustees instructed to set a permanent post at each corner of each block in said cemetery.

### Polk

From the *Des Moines Daily News*, July 28, 1906: "Finding of 'Baby Shaw's Grave Reveals a Forgotten Cemetery in City's Heart." Party of picnickers stumble over mound and stone which tells pathetic story. Weeds run wild over little city of dead. Find spoils sale of otherwise valuable land in vicinity of Grand Avenue. A baby's tombstone (pictured) found near the water's edge of Walnut Creek some time ago had been traced to a forgotten and deserted cemetery in one of the most valuable and choicest properties of the city.

### Story

From the *Ames Daily Tribune*, February 27, 1965: "Some light on source of stones." Mrs. John E. Sass, who has recorded many graves in Story County, identified markers found in the yard of a private residence as being from Ontario Cemetery. The caretakers of the cemetery said the markers had been misplaced some years ago and stored in a tool shed at the cemetery. It's still a mystery how they got to the yard of Wise Burroughs. Ames police presently have the stones and markers in custody and are storing them in a shopping cart behind the police station.

### Van Buren

From the *Fayette County Leader*, May 9, 1940: "Old Cemetery." Remains of what may be one of Iowa's oldest cemeteries was discovered recently in the R. E. Newcomb farm near Mt. Sterling. Stones indicate that the cemetery was established in 1839 or earlier.

### Wayne

From the newsletter of the Wayne County Historical Society, December, 2010: "Pioneer Cemetery Commission." The Wayne County Pioneer Cemetery Commission is a newly formed group interested in the preservation of pioneer cemeteries in Wayne County. Some of the group attended a Wayne County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 19 to establish a cemetery commission in Wayne County. After hearing some of the ways a

commission could benefit the county board of supervisors agreed to pass an ordinance establishing a commission.

There are 58 cemeteries listed in the Wayne County Cemetery Book, 32 are classified as pioneer cemeteries. Some are cared for and others are desperately in need of preservation work. Forming a commission shows respect for those who were here before us; they deserve a dignified resting place. Many of these people were the early pioneers of our county, the "movers and shakers" of the 1840s-1880s. There is a wealth of information to be gained from their stones and from the actual graveyards themselves. The stones and writing on them constitute some of the best examples of Victorian architecture and poetry to be found.

Dale Clark and Daniel Clark are pictured next to the stone that was set in the Dodrill Cemetery north of Promise City. They and other volunteers have worked for two years to restore this cemetery which brought attention to other derelict pioneer cemeteries in Wayne County and the usefulness of a commission to address those needs. Volunteers as individuals or in groups are encouraged to get involved and help save our pioneer cemeteries.

[www.prairietrailsmuseum.org](http://www.prairietrailsmuseum.org)

From *The New Era*, October 15, 1901: "Regarding the Cemetery." I am anxious to settle my cemetery business and have made an estimate of the cost of caring for cemetery lots. All who will pay me fifty cents a lot by November 1, 1901, will receive a receipt in full for 1901.

I want to say a word to the few people who have friends buried on the lots which are unpaid for. I could have sold those lots but did not do so because I feel you ought to have them; and if my successor sells them to other parties you can only blame yourselves. I have had but one desire and that was to make the cemetery a credit to the community at as little cost to the people as possible. How well I have succeeded I leave to the public to say.

I am thankful to the council and all others who have assisted me in this work. -- J. T. Riggle

### Wapello

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 2, 2011: "Investment in Cemetery Arrives," by Pat Shaver. A 16,000 pound granite structure, known as a columbarium, is shown which will be used to hold cremains at the Ottumwa Cemetery. Pictured is the structure as it is being installed by a crane. It is the first of its kind in the cemetery, with two more planned. The structure was built in St. Cloud,

Minnesota and the acquisition was in the planning stages for three years. The landscaping and concrete walkways will be finished by Memorial Day.

[www.cityofottumwa.org/cemetery](http://www.cityofottumwa.org/cemetery)

### Woodbury

From *Ackley Enterprise*, May 10, 1889: Sioux City, May 4 -- Bodies in the cemetery lying north of town on Price Street, are being removed to Floyd's cemetery by friends as quickly as possible. Graders, who have been at work grading an extension of Price Street, plowed heedlessly through the sacred spot, digging up coffins and entering numerous graves. Marshall Shanley went out to the old cemetery this morning where the graders have been for a week plowing up graves and throwing coffins and remains over the dump. He tells a reporter that about twenty-five coffins could be seen, and that a large number of coffins and the remains have been plowed up and thrown over the dump. He ordered the graders to molest no more graves.

### Worth

*The Mason City Globe-Gazette*, November 7, 1949: "Traffic Whirrs Past Lone Grave on Side of Highway." Pictured is a lone marker by the side of Highway 9 about 3 1/2 miles east of Manly. It stands out by itself, with farm land all around. It was believed once to have been a cemetery. It marks the grave of an infant, the son of C. and M. Hensel. The inscription on the stone is still plainly visible.

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The month of May is "Cemetery Appreciation Month" in Iowa. Ask your town mayor or chairperson of your county supervisors to issue a proclamation and publicize the occasion in your local newspaper!

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## OUT OF STATE

### ALABAMA

From the *Waterloo Courier*, January 21, 2011: "News of the Weird -- Verifying pedigrees." The Key Underwood Memorial Graveyard near Cherokee, Ala. is reserved as hallowed ground for burial of genuine coon dogs, which must be judged authentic before their carcasses can be accepted, according to a December report in *The Birmingham News*. The Tennessee Valley Coon Dog Hunters Association must attest to the dog's having had the ability "to tree a raccoon." In March, a funeral for

one coon dog at Key Underwood drew 200 mourners.

### ARIZONA

From the Care2 website, January 14, 2011, blog by Ann Bibby: Trappist monks in Iowa handcrafted and donated the casket for 9-year-old Christina Green's funeral. Christina was the youngest victim of the Arizona shooting spree that claimed the lives of five others and left 13 wounded.

A representative of the Green family contacted the monks at New Melleray Abbey, which is located near Dubuque, Iowa, after her death. The monks, who do not make children's caskets, agreed to custom make one just for Christina.

Sam Mulgrew, a craftsman who manages Trappist Caskets for the monks, said, "We didn't want to send an adult casket, which would be too big. We wanted something just for her."

Christina's casket was crafted from red oak. The monks maintain a forest area from which they procure the wood they use. It was designed specifically for her with her name, date of birth and death inscribed on the lid. The monks also made a cross for the casket and five smaller keepsake crosses for her family, carved from the same wood.

The monks, whose casket making is viewed by them as a ministry, are especially hard hit by the death of a child. They don't like to sell child caskets and so don't keep them in stock and have a small fund put aside to cover the costs. Before the casket was shipped to Arizona, the monks blessed it in ceremony in their chapel.

### GEORGIA

From CNN.com: "Neglected graves home to 'invisible dead.'" The story centers around Duncan Shropshire as he takes his daughter to visit the graveyard of their ancestors in the Appalachian foothills outside Gore, Georgia. Experts say that if slaves or former slaves are buried at the site, it would be a unique archeological find.

"In Appalachia, it would be extremely rare to have a black or slave graveyard," explained Ruth Little, co-author of 'Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers.' The farms in

Appalachia were small, and there were few slaves." Slave graves were marked with field stones, wooden stakes, seashells, iron pipes, broken dishes, cups, bottles and live cedar trees. Michael Trinkley, Chicora Foundation Executive Director, says, "You can think of the people buried here as the invisible dead. And not knowing where they are, or how many there are, makes them susceptible to loss."

Shropshire and his granddaughter also visit the white cemetery nearby where they stop at the grave of Wesley Weatherspoon Shropshire, one of the colonels in the Civil War for the Confederacy. He had five children with a slave he owned by the name of Molly and they are Schropshire's ancestors.

[www.cnn.com/2011/US/02/26/forgotten.gravesindex.html](http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/02/26/forgotten.gravesindex.html)

### INDIANA

From Stan Culley, December 18, 2010 in an e-mail message: Pictured is a grave dedication held on November 13, 2010, at Round Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis at the grave of Sgt. John George who was a drummer boy for President George Washington during the Revolutionary War. A consortium of SAR, DAR, Tippecanoe fifer, 42nd, Old Guard and Percussive Arts Society organized the service. Compatriot Jim Smith led the service. The muskat salute was commanded by the drum commands.

[culleysd@frontiernet.net](mailto:culleysd@frontiernet.net)

### KENTUCKY

From the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Feb. 17, 2011: "Volunteers Restore African American Cemetery in Kentucky," by Margaret Foster. Pictured is the Cooper Chapel Cemetery that the community of Okolona, Ky., just outside Louisville, is restoring led by Katrina Epperson of the Okolona Historical Society. The oldest grave dates to early 1800s and probably is the only remaining evidence of the history of the blacks that came to this area. Charles Cole, a freedman who came to Jackson County, Ky. in 1788 is most likely buried there. Longtime resident Deborah Lord Campisano who has researched the site says, "As our institutions dissolve and our buildings fall down, these little community cemeteries are the last things



left that say anything even existed. That's why it's so important to preserve them."

### OKLAHOMA

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, March 28, 1923: "Stop Oil Company from Drilling in Pioneer Cemetery." Newkirk, Okla. The Knox Oil company was restrained last night by Judge Durall from drilling for oil in the United Brethren cemetery in the heart of the rich Tonkawa field. Relatives of the 250 pioneers buried in the plot asked that the company be barred from drilling there. Before taking court actions they posted armed guards to keep drillers from entering.

### OREGON

The Oregon State Hospital has made public a list of patients who died and their cremains remain unclaimed. These patients were from the following institutions: Oregon State Mental Hospital, Oregon State Tuberculosis Hospital, Mid-Columbia Hospital, Dammasch State Hospital, Oregon Penitentiary, and Fairview Training Center/Feeble Minded Institute. The dates were between 1914-1970's. There are still many unclaimed remains at the hospital. For anyone who is searching for a name/family member, check this list and pass this information around to anyone who is doing family research.  
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/mentalhealth/osh/cremains.shtml>

### SOUTH CAROLINA

From the National Historic Trust for Historic Preservation, Jan. 27, 2011: "Leave 'Em Rest," by Dwight Young (online only). Over the past few years, historic sites ranging from Colonial Williamsburg to Mount Vernon have reexamined and expanded their interpretive programs in an attempt to give visitors a broader, more accurate picture of African Americans' role in Southern life before and after the Civil War. One such effort at Drayton Hall, a National Trust Historic Site near Charleston, SC focuses on the plantation's African American Cemetery. The burial ground dates back to the 1790s and is one of the oldest such cemeteries still in use. A wrought iron arch was designed for the entrance by late master blacksmith, Philip Simmons and is crowned by three words: "Leave 'Em Rest." Spoken by Richmond Bowens, a descendant of slaves who was buried there in 1998, the phrase provides a

stunningly eloquent introduction. About 40 graves have been identified so far. The site tells a story of the African American experience with a compelling power that words on a page and artifacts in a display case rarely achieve.

Dwight Young is author of "Road Trips Through History" and "The Back Page" column of *Preservation*.

From the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Nation -- Helping People protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them, February 22, 2010: "Seeing the Invisible at Drayton Hall," by John Saunders. A history of the Drayton family who came from England in 1675 and brought enslaved people with them is given. The African American cemetery at Drayton Hall was dedicated in 2010. John Saunders is a historical interpreter there.

### WISCONSIN

In honor of his final wishes, Marvel Comics writer and editor Mark Gruenwald, born in 1953 in Oskosh, was cremated and his ashes placed in ink for a comic book. Gruenwald, who was a writer for *Captain America* and the *Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe*, died in 1996.

-- *American Profile* magazine, March 6-12, 2011

### VIRGINIA

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Jan. 26, 2011: "Walmart vs. Civil War site: Battle heads to court." Residents of Locust Grove and preservationists are objecting to Walmart's proposed new store to be built near the Battle of the Wilderness, which is viewed by historians as a critical turning point in the Civil War. General Grant's headquarters and his senior leaders were encamped near the site of the proposed store and Union casualties were treated there. A gravestone marks the spot where the arm of General Stonewall Jackson is buried near the Ellwood house in Locust Grove.

### BRAZIL

From *American Cemetery* magazine, Feb. 2011: "Woman Wakes up in Casket Before Her Funeral," Maria das Dores, 88, woke up in her own casket three days after being declared dead on Dec. 24. She was rushed back to the hospital, but sadly, died two days after the incident. Police want to know if poor medical treatment and misdiagnosis contributed to her death.

## ILLINOIS

### Abandoned Cemetery, Dundee Township, Kane County, ILLINOIS in Jeopardy of Being Destroyed

The "Burying Ground" aka Schroeder Cemetery is an abandoned pioneer cemetery in Section #19 Dundee Township, Kane County, Illinois. It is located west of Randall Road on Route 72, approximate 1 mile east of Gilberts, Illinois. The approximate one acre piece of property with stately oak and hickory trees, lies in the midst of an industrial complex, and has been purchased by a land developer. Unfortunately, Illinois statues do not protect pioneer cemeteries. The statue states: "in order to improve your property you may remove the remains". The developer then has to pay the cost of removal of the body and re-interment. The re-interment will happen only . . . if 1) the remains can be identified, 2) a living descendant of the pioneer can be found to claim the body. If a living descendant does not claim the body - the remains are placed in a box and stored indefinitely, in Springfield, Illinois.

Believing that the land developer would probably not attempt to determine who is buried in the graveyard and locate living descendants of these pioneer families, a team of genealogists from Kane County began the research. Linda Eder of the Kane County Genealogical Society and H. Jane Smith of the Elgin Genealogical Society, project coordinators, spearheaded the research.

There were no visible tombstones remaining on the property, and no written record to document the persons buried at Schroeder Cemetery. We started our research by looking at land records of the property. Bingo . . . in 1845 we find Isaac George and Sarah his wife deeding a one acre piece of property from their farm to 21 pioneer neighbors to be used as a "burying ground and none other". Included with the deed, is a survey of the "burying ground" indicating specific lots assigned to each of the property purchasers, including Isaac George. With these names we began our genealogy research to determine if they, or any members of their family, were buried in the pioneer "burying ground", aka Schroeder Cemetery.

The men and one woman, named in the deed and survey are:

Ananias Aldrich	Walter Houston	David Rankin
George Aldrich	William Hudson	John Rankin
Lorenzo Aldrich	Whiting Hull	William Rankin
Horace Barber	David Mason	Marshall Sherman
William Bradley	Lawson McCloud	Stanley Sherman
Chauncey Cochran	Samuel Nott	Jennett Thompson
Isaac George	J. M. Peyton	Moses Wanzer
Albro Gilbert		

Three more men with close family ties were researched also: Buel Sherman, brother to Marshall and Stanley Sherman; Noah McCloud, brother of Lawson McCloud, and William Rankin, Jr. brother-in-law to Jennett Thompson.

Some of the Dundee Township pioneer families connected with Schroeder Cemetery migrated to Delaware, Howard, Kossuth, Winneshiek, Allamakee, and Chickasaw counties in Iowa. For more information, contact H. Jane Smith, 817 Murray Ave, Elgin, IL 60123. Telephone 847-697-3069. E-mail: [hjbsmith@wowway.com](mailto:hjbsmith@wowway.com)