

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535
VOLUME 16 ISSUE #2

www.rootsweb.com/iasap/

April, 2011

The July meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will be held at 10:00 AM on July 9 in the west banquet room of the Jones Eden Funeral Home located at 116 East Main Street in Washington, Iowa (1/2 block east of downtown business district -- across from the YMCA). Phone number of the funeral home is 319-694-3400. Coming from the north on Hwy #1/#92 (they join 4 miles north of town), follow #92 into Washington going east passing through two stoplights. #92 turns north for two blocks, stay in the inner lane. You will go to the 2nd stoplight and turn left. Jones-Eden Funeral Home is located on the north side of the street. From the north on I-218/380, turn at G-36 to the west and follow signs to Washington (approximately 8-10 minutes). At T intersection, turn right (west) on Hwy #92 and follow until 2nd stoplight and turn right (north). Proceed 1 block to the next stoplight and turn left. Jones-Eden is on the right (north). From the east, follow #92 to the 2nd stoplight and turn right (north). Proceed 1 block to the next stoplight and turn left (west). Jones-Eden is on the right (north side). From the south on Hwy 1, turn right (east) on Hwy 92 and use directions given for coming from north on Hwy 1. Coffee, lemonade, and doughnuts will be available prior to the meeting. A catered lunch will be provided at a nominal cost. Make reservations with Michael Murphy: Phone: 319-694-3400 e-mail: tothemurphys@hotmail.com

MEMO for those who Preach
Easter Sunday, 2011
Rev. Bill Cotton
cottonbillcotton@aol.com

Each year I receive an invitation to the Lone Oak Cemetery Picnic and Homecoming that meets back in my home community in Texas. Folks come from all over and bring their favorite dishes, and spend a day eating good food and remembering when.

My Great, Great Grandfather, Weaver Cotton (how about that for a name), allowed a wagon train to camp for the night on his land. During the night a child died and my Grandfather gave

permission for the family to bury the child under a lone oak tree. Later he set aside land for a cemetery, and named it Lone Oak, with the stipulation that families living in the community could be buried there at no cost.

Recently there has been some controversy because some of the families would like to begin charging rather large fees because a number of Hispanic people have moved into the community. My sister, who is President of the Association, has fought the good fight on that issue. She simply told the folks that everyone would be welcome and her Grandfather's wishes would be honored.

-- Rev. Bill Cotton, Des Moines, IA

Here are some sites given in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. You can see an example of unmarked graves found by ground-penetrating radar at the Web site of the Mt. Airy (Pennsylvania) Graveyard Association at: <http://goo.gl/xA8Bh> Several manufacturers of ground-penetrating radar equipment have interesting Web sites, including: GeoModel at [http://www.geomodel.com/graves/Sensors & Software, Inc.](http://www.geomodel.com/graves/Sensors%20&%20Software,Inc) at <http://www.sensoft.ca/applications/forensics/forensics.html>

You can learn more about this technology at: <http://www.archeologymapping.com/> and at <http://www.geophysical.com>

In an Albany, NY cemetery:
Harry Edsel Smith
Born 1903 -- Died 1942
Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the Car was on the way down. It was.

Civil War cannons book:
<http://iowacivilwarcannons.x10.bz/>

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

SAPIC met Saturday April 9, 2011 at the Deep River, Iowa Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Mike Magee, President. Mike thanked the Poweshiek County Commission for hosting the meeting. Pat Shaw was unable to attend due to her husband's health problems.

Self introductions were made by the 30 members and guests present.

Minutes of previous meeting read by Frieda Davis, Secretary. Motion to approve by Molly Beason, seconded by Tony Bengston, **Passed**.

Treasure report: Printed report distributed from Valerie Ogren. Motion to accept by Gene Davis, 2nd by Tom Gaard, **Passed**.

Bill presented by Mike Magee for printing treasure's report for distribution at \$8.60. Moved to pay by Steve Story, seconded by Bill Ready, **Passed**

Legislative progress report: Bill Ready gave a brief history. He and Steve Story have made a number of trips to defend the wording change (update). Please contact your representatives early this week and any Republicans you can and encourage them to support HF-469 if and when it comes up for a vote. This change in wording may help from losing more pioneer cemeteries.

Travel expense reimbursement: Mike asked if SAPIC should pay travel expenses for those members who have traveled to Des Moines to help update the code. Bill and Steve spoke for Pat Shaw and declined receiving a travel allowance.

Herbert Price: Chairman of Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery commission asked questions concerning a commission's responsibilities; 1) if inside city limits- depends upon who owns the cemetery, 2) can lots be sold? Only the owner can sell lots. The Commission doesn't take ownership but just caretaker, 3) Is there any Federal money for veterans in pioneer cemetery? 4) If the cemetery is abandoned who is responsible? If it is deeded to the county, they are responsible for the cemetery. If no commission then the deed would be to the city. Informative discussion occurred.

Marion County questions: They are in the process of establishing a commission and asking for input in forming their guidelines. Would be interested in having a booklet of guidelines and responsibilities for commissions, maybe a compilation of the current commission's guidelines.

Sandy Hook Cemetery in Washington County. Mike Murphy asked for information in how to manage his situation. How to go about mapping when everything is uneven and out of line. Has a Native American section as well as a newer and currently used section but does not have record of where burials are and what spaces have been sold or reserved. He also has a second cemetery with 20% used but no stones. The cemetery is 9 miles south of Washington on highway 1, 4 miles from Brighton. Mr. Murphy was referred to the State ~~Genealogist~~ ^(Miller) ^{seven miles south} ^(Sandy Hook)

Archaeologist

May is Cemetery Appreciation Month in Iowa. Proclamation by Governor Terry Branstad will be made. Encourage all to get the information out by writing a letter to the newspaper, etc. Tony will put it on the web site.

Iowa State Association of County Auditors: is having their yearly summer conference July 27-29 in Waterloo, IA at the Isle of Capri. Butler County is in charge. Steve Story, Bill Ready, Pat Shaw and Mike Magee will speak in regard to rural cemeteries.

Iowa Civil War Sesquicentennial: Tom Gaard reported on the 1875 Civil War Monument being rebuilt in Eddyville. In Muscatine an early monument of marble is being rebuilt in granite with dedication July 2. Encourage everyone to do something beginning April 12 (start of the Civil War) in their community.

ISU educator who is updating the manual for trustees – Tony will report at next meeting.

Open Agenda:

- **Des Moines County map** of cemeteries explained along with other materials that were on display. Showing 89 cemeteries, red active, white lost, green pioneer mowed and blue not mowed.

- **Discussion:** liability in cemeteries. If there is a county commission, then the county is liable.

- **John Heider** will be conducting the class seminar starting at 1:00 pm today.

- **Next meeting:** July 9, 2011 in Washington Iowa, at the funeral home.

Motion to accept invitation by Bill ^{Ready} ~~Ready~~, 2nd by Molly Beason, **Passed**

Motion to adjourn by Molly Beason, 2nd by Gene Davis, **Passed**. Mike Magee adjourned meeting at 11:35 am.

Motels in Washington, Iowa, include the Super 8 at 119 Westview Drive off of Highway 1 north of town and the Hawkeye Motel in the same area at 1320 W. Madison.

Super 8: 319-653-6621 or toll free 1-800-800-8000

Hawkeye: 319-653-7510

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter - 1 January 2011 thru 31 March 2011

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2010, Home State Bank, Jefferson
\$ 2,369.94

Income

Dues \$ 330.00

Refund from Chickasaw Co. (Oct. 2006 Pinicon Restaurant) 70.09

Interest 1/31/11 .57

Interest 2/29/11 .53

Interest 3/31/11 .59

Total Income \$ 401.78

Expense

Ck #242 - Patricia Shaw - newsletter \$ 65.87

Total Expense \$ 65.87

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2011 \$ 2,705.85

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2010, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 4,228.39

Life Membership - Don & Grace Hertz \$ 100.00

Life Membership - Benjamin Meyer 100.00

Total \$ 200.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2011 \$ 4,428.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 31 March 2011 \$ 7,134.24

Plus additional funds:

A CD in the amount of \$5,766.69

Rate of interest is now 1.10% until 1/16/2012

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Ogren, Treasurer
108 N. Oak
Jefferson IA 50129-1841

Ph. 1-515-386-4784

E-mail: vjogren@netins.net

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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

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 641-394-3967 jjeck@myclearwave.net

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 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 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 and tax deductible.
 Send dues to Valerie Ogren, 108 N. Oak
 Jefferson, IA 50129-1841

Nominate your deserving cemetery volunteer for the 2011 Robert & Phyllis Carter Award! Visit the SAPIC web page for details.

**The 34th Annual Association for Gravestone Studies Conference
June 14-19, 2011 at Colby College,
Waterville, Maine**

Visit <http://gravestonestudies.org/conferences.htm>

Cremation? Think outside the box.

Serve Your State by Serving on a Commission

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service ("Volunteer Iowa") is seeking service-minded individuals to serve as commissioners for terms to begin on July 1, 2011.

Volunteer Iowa is the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS), a state government agency that works to: 1) help organizations fulfill their missions using service as a strategy/solution and; 2) engage Iowans in their communities, empowering them to address Iowa's most pressing challenges.

Commissioners are responsible for developing and communicating a statewide vision and ethic of service and promoting that vision throughout Iowa in addition to establishing policy and awarding funding to many of Iowa's service and volunteer programs.

How Can I Become a Commissioner?

Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to three-year staggered terms and may serve no more than two terms. Our commissioners represent a broad and diverse collection of expertise: education, national service programs, older adults, community-based agencies, local and state government, labor, volunteer programs and

business, among others. No more than 25 percent of the members may be state employees.

If you are interested in serving on the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, please submit a Gubernatorial Appointment Application as soon as possible. Visit <http://openup.iowa.gov/application/>, where you may apply online or can download a paper form to submit. Make sure to indicate "Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service" in the Board/Commission Desired section - the 2011 appointment process will begin very soon!

Is an open feedlot or a concentrated animal feeding operation being constructed near a cemetery in your area? Questions about construction permit requirements should be directed to an engineer of animal feeding operations (AFO) Program at (515) 281-8941 or go to <http://www.iowadnr.com> (select link to "Animal Feeding Operations." For questions regarding combining animals in confinements and open lots, contact Ken Hassenius at (712) 262-4177.

Lisa Kudrow, 47, says genealogy can be life-changing. "Once you see what your ancestors endured, what allowed the next generation to exist, which then allows you to exist, (to know) that you're part of a bigger picture -- it just gives you some perspective. Kudrow is executive producer of *Who Do You Think You Are?* (NBC, Fridays, 8 p.m.ET), which traces the genealogy of celebrities.

From the Care 2 web site, January 25, 2011: "Would you Swim in a Pool Heated by a Crematorium?" by Kristina Chew. A town in the UK, Redditch in Worcestershire, has proposed a rather novel way to heat its new Abbey Stadium sports center and swimming pool, save money (about \$22,886 a year), and combat global warming and reduce its carbon footprint. The Redditch council proposes to use heat from a neighboring crematorium to heat the new sports facilities and pool, the January 24 *Guardian* reports. The project would have been the 'first project of its kind' in the UK. A public meeting to discuss the plan was scheduled to decide if the proposal is an idea 'ahead of its time' or simply too sick to merit further consideration.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 26, 1968: "A Record of Life in Stone," by Eileen Fean. Life opens, life closes, like the chapters of a book, and civilized nations bury their loved ones in a dignified manner.

Somewhere there is a memento for each chapter. Cemeteries are not conducive to losing the blues, but they make interesting study as each marker carries vital statistics of history and customs of peoples.

The universal practice of connotations carved in stone attest this fact. Here are traces of culture, religious beliefs, life spans, wars and sometimes of epidemics. In short, a wealth of information is available for those who seek it.

Pictured is a blank gravestone among dandelions in a portion of an old Henry county cemetery which is no longer cared for. It is theorized that it marks an Indian grave.

Also pictured is a stone with the symbols of a tree, cross, and cut flowers in an Ottumwa cemetery.

One researcher feels we tend to focus more on this life span, not the next, in today's culture. We do not express our religious beliefs via biblical symbols or we do not possess the faith of those gone before.

COUNTY REPORTS

ADAMS

From the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, July 24, 1977: "Road Crew unearths 'lost cemetery' near Prescott," by Chuck Barnes. Pictures are stones found along a fence line by a road crew near Corning, Iowa, during work on a county road. Since Iowa law states that no road can go through a cemetery, the road has been changed and the stones have been replaced where they were buried.

From the *Adams County Free Press*, March 12, 1931: "Charles Munns Has Interesting County Map." Munns, who works in the county engineer's office, has just completed a map of the county showing geographical and historical aspects, including churches and cemeteries. Listed are the rural cemeteries and mentions that the oldest in the county, until recently, was sadly neglected and grown up in weeds. However, many are kept in fine shape and a few are exceptionally beautiful.

APPANOOSE

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 5, 2011: "Grave dedication for Confederate Veteran." A ceremony provided by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Sons of Union Veterans and the Order

of the Confederate Rose, was held for William Bryant, Civil War Confederate veteran, Private Co. H 2nd Regiment Kentucky Calvary at Keysburg, Ky. at the Salem Cemetery near Udell. The military service of Bryant (June 3, 1840-April 5, 1918) honors him and his descendants represented by Dennis Bryant of Udell. Bryant served under Gen. John Hunt Morgan known throughout the war as the leader of Morgans Raiders and "The Thunderbolt of the Confederacy." He was taken prisoner on a raid in Ohio and transferred to Camp Dodge, Ill., where he was released on May 17, 1865. He later settled in Appanoose County where he raised his family and some of his descendants still live. He is buried in Salem Cemetery under a new headstone provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

BLACKHAWK

From the *Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier*, May 31, 2011: "North meets South at Civil War roundtable," by Pat Kinnery. Pictured is SAPIC president, Mike Magee, along with Laurel Kurtt, and Sherman Lundy as they hold artifacts from Lundy's great grandfather, Azariah Lundy, a corporal with Company G of the 22nd Virginia Cavalry in the Confederate army. He was at General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia in 1865. Lundy holds a large Western-style pistol used by his great grandfather. A picture of Azariah is included with the article. Also pictured are Madison Abel, George Sullivan, Thomas Sullivan, Francis Sullivan, Alleta Abel Sullivan and Genevieve Sullivan. Abel served in the Union Army during the Civil War and was the great grandfather of Waterloo's five Sullivan brothers killed during World War II. Abel served in the battles of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain. Lundy and Magee are charter members of the 10-year-old Cedar Valley Civil War Roundtable, a group of local residents with an interest in the watershed American conflict which started 150 years ago last month.

CEDAR

From the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, April 24, 2011: "Native Prairie, Cemetery Still Yield Surprises," by Mike Kilen. Graveyard in Rochester, Ia., offers up a treasure trove of history about settlers and savannah plants. Two entire pages with numerous color photos are devoted to telling the story of the Rochester Cemetery, a prairie remnant reported to be among the finest in the Midwest. Visitors from across the country

stop along the Cedar County gravel road and step to the sandy hills under giant white oaks along the Cedar River, with awe and reverence to see which of the more than 400 prairie plants are in bloom. The article covers a brief history of the cemetery, the controversy surrounding it, and the attempts to preserve it. Volunteers, including local residents, are documenting burials and discovering new plant species. A prairie burn was recently conducted for the first time in twenty years. An upcoming book, "Life and Death on the Prairie," will include photos of plants and the cultural and biological diversity of the cemetery. SAPIC member and Iowa Representative, Jeff Kauffman, who has more than 70 family members buried there, is quoted: "The impact that this place has had on me is significant."

See naturalist Pete Kollasch explaining the botanical diversity at the Rochester Cemetery by visiting: DesMoinesRegister.com/videos

CHICKASAW

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Volume 28, Number 1, First Quarter 2011: This issue includes a memorial tribute to Carol Bottin, longtime member of the Society and former board member of SAPIC. She was responsible for collecting and recording cemetery data and obituaries and for advising the Chickasaw County Pioneer Cemetery Association. She is described as "leaving a great legacy."

In the same issue, a list of available publications by the Society includes ten pertaining to cemeteries in the county. Contact: CCGS, PO Box 434, New Hampton, IA 50659-0434

DES MOINES

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, July 31, 1947: "4 Veterans of American Revolution Buried in County," by Philip McPartland. This is the last of a series of articles on old Des Moines county and the early history of this area. The article begins with noted burials within the county, including Frederick Ware in a cemetery north of Kossuth, William Black in Round Prairie, and John Morgan in Aspen Grove Cemetery. Another veteran who fought for the British, the father of William R. Ross, is believed to be in an old cemetery, now the site of the Burlington High School.

The history of other significant burial sites in the county include Aspen Grove containing samples of old style markers and headstones, vaults, and monuments. Interesting burials and monuments include the Potter memorial, a massive granite arch over the main gateway, the graves of Aunt Kitty

and Uncle Ben, who were former slaves who were later enabled to purchase their freedom. The Corse memorial chapel, a small brick and stone structure was erected in 1831 in memory of Brevet Gen. John Murray Corse, U.S.

Volunteers, and his wife Ellen Ward. He was the hero of the battle of Altoona during the Civil War. The Mathias monument, a 12 foot limestone shaft contains near its base a likeness of Gen. Charles L. Mathias, U.S. Volunteers, reputedly the first Iowan to volunteer for service in the Union Army. The Perkins memorial spire marks the burial place of Charles Elliot Perkins, one time president of the Burlington railroad. The Civil War veterans memorial is a square 20-foot column of unpolished white granite bearing on its top a life-size statue of a Union soldier. An anchor from the old ferry, John Taylor, set in a cement base, marks the grave of Capt. Thomas Peel, who captained the boat for many years. Other distinguished figures buried in Aspen Grove are Henry Dodge, James W. Grimes, Augustus C. Dodge, John H. Gear, Dr. Salter, Charles H. Wachsmuth, and James Clark.

Kossuth Cemetery contains about 5000 graves and is one of the oldest in the county. Other pioneer cemeteries mentioned are Round Prairie, Rock Spring, Shiloh, and St. Mary Catholic, and Sacred Heart Catholic.

EMMET

From the *Vindicator and Republican*, September 28, 1937: "New Burial in Prosser Cemetery." Elmer Overon's Remains first interred there in many years -- grounds have been restored. Overon had been employed as a farm laborer and had been living at the county farm. In 1865 an acre of land was set aside by Calvin A. Prosser for the purpose of starting a cemetery which is located five miles northeast of Estherville. The first burial was that of Russell Stillman in 1865, a Civil War veteran. Calvin A. Prosser lost his life in a blizzard in 1867 while returning to his home following a meeting of the county supervisors. He was found near Swan Lake frozen to death. His team of horses were also found but alive in a snow drift. Many of the bodies were removed from the cemetery and the land was farmed, but was restored in 1935 and a bronze marker erected in honor of the pioneers buried there. Remains which were removed will be returned to the cemetery, including 3 Civil War veterans.

IOWA

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 24, 1948: "Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery is Lonely Now," by Doris McCartney. A lonely cemetery,