

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535

www.rootsweb.com/iasap/

VOLUME 16 ISSUE #3

July, 2011

The next SAPIC meeting will be October 8, 2011 at 10 am at the Moose Lodge at 1516 East Olive Street in Marshalltown, IA 50158-9110. (641) 753-1326. Lunch will be available at the lodge following the meeting. Contact Mike Magee for details: digger4045@yahoo.com (319) 232-8762

Thanks to Michael Murphy for making arrangements for the July SAPIC meeting and to Marty Beenblossom of Jones-Eden Funeral Home for hosting the meeting in his facility in Washington, Iowa.

How do I get my organization's tax-exempt status reinstated if it was automatically revoked? An organization must apply to have its tax-exempt status reinstated, even if it was not originally required to file an application for exemption. It must: (1) Apply for recognition of tax exemption by filing Form 1023 (if applying under a different Code section), regardless of whether the organization was required to apply for exemption; and (2) Pay the appropriate user fee. (See Revenue Procedure 2011-8 and Revenue Procedure 2011-36. In addition, write "Automatically Revoked" at the top of your application and on the mailing envelope.

Page last reviewed and updated: July 22, 2011
<http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=221591,00.html>

I coordinate the Geographic Information Systems Program (GIS) at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This year, I was awarded the endowed chair by Kirkwood to do research on pioneer cemeteries in three counties in SE Iowa: Van Buren, Des Moines and Lee. My primary goal is to get the data into a format that can be used for research. This includes the data base (each stone requires a unique code and layout),

shape files (a basic component of GIS), and photos to hot link. The data will also be available in the classroom for different projects. The data that I am gathering includes anything from the stones that I can read. When necessary, I try to match / verify that with data I can find online. GPS points are taken for each stone (latitude and longitude) so they can be placed in the correct order within a cemetery. (Note: this is only accurate in terms of where stones are in relation to each other, not an exact position of the stone since trees are ruining our reception.) I intend to make the data public for research / educational purposes. I'm not sure how that will happen. I am trying to acquire a grant to create an on-line GIS Library that will be hosted at Kirkwood Community College. All of the historical GIS data we are gathering will be hosted there (we are digitizing the Andreas plats of 1975, mapping changes in county boundaries, political districts, etc.) If Kirkwood cannot host it, I may create a website and host it myself.

— Gail Brown brown.gail@gmail.com
(See summary of news article about this project under Linn county report)

Many of Historic New England's properties are open at no charge to public on certain days. Learn more at <http://www.HistoricNewEngland.org>

"I received the \$200 grant from the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries. It will be used to rebuild the chain link fence in the front of the Cottage Hill Cemetery east of Rickardsville. The original iron fence surrounding the other three sides will be our next challenge.

Would you be so kind as to relate to the others involved in the grant project that The Cottage Hill Cemetery Association greatly appreciates what you have awarded us."

Sincere thanks,
Margaret Harvey,
President

In a cemetery in Hartscombe, England:

**On the 22nd of June,
Jonathan Fiddle went out of tune.**

In a Uniontown, Pennsylvania cemetery:

**Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake
Stepped on the gas instead of the brake.**

STATE ASSOCIATION for the
PRESERVATIONS of IOWA CEMETERIES

SAPIC met Saturday, July 8, 2011 at the Jones Eden Funeral Home, Washington Iowa. Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Mike Magee, President. We were welcomed by Mike Murphy local SAPIC member and the director of the Funeral Home, Marty Beenblossom. Mike Magee thanked them for hosting our meeting.

Self introductions were made by the 18 persons present.

Minutes: of April 9, 2011 meeting were moved to approve with several spelling corrections and clarification of a statement by Tony Bengston, seconded by Bill Reedy,

Passed.

Treasurer's report: distributed and reviewed. Motion to accept as printed by Gene Davis, seconded by Steve Story, **Passed.**

Agenda:

- **Legislative progress report by Steve Story.** Review of goal of the legislative item proposed and why. Much opposition by Farm Bureau as their goals or different than saving historical burial grounds. Steve suggested that we each talk to our county Farm Bureau legislative representative and explain. The recorder's office will have information on egress to cemeteries, a descendant has permission to cemetery and if a commission in the county they have a right to access. Steve asked to have Pat email the question out.

- **Invoice for cemetery workshop in Cedar County.** John Heider explained about the work shop and seminar that were very successful. John explained his requirement of licensure in Illinois and Indiana and the controls that are placed on him. He explained the challenge of miscommunication and that the only amount that SAPIC owes him is \$200.00. He verified that. We thank him for his work and consideration.

- **SAPIC Website:** Tony Bengston has been doing the website. Tony asked if someone should be overseeing his additions. He does updates, work shops, announcements, etc. Suggestions for pictures of improper work or good practices, award winners, include a list of all the county Commissions were given. Agreement to leave it up to Tony's discretion and if he has a question, he may seek guidance.

- **Cemetery appreciation month:** Pat Shaw reported that we have had proclamations from the governor's office since 1996. She contacted the Governors office but did not get an appropriate response or any. Will try again for May 2012.

- **Congratulations:** Pioneer Cemetery commission established in Marion County. Elected a board at their first meeting June 28. Have scheduled a work day in August.

- **Iowa State Association of County Auditors:** summer conference at Isle of Capri Hotel & Casino in Waterloo, IA July 28, 2011. Mike Magee, Pat Shaw, Bill Reedy and Steve Story are scheduled to answer questions on a panel.

- **Grant Applications:** (1) Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Clayton County Iowa is asking for grant money to be used for fencing project. Submitted by Margaret

Harvey, President, Cottage Hill Cemetery Association. After discussion it was moved to provide a grant of \$200.00 by Bill Reedy and seconded by Pat Shaw. **Passed**

(2) Hess Cemetery in Clinton, Clinton Co. IA. Grant money requested would be used for restoring a wrought iron fence around one of the cemetery's family plots. Submitted by Ruth Wilson, secretary of the Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery commission. After discussion it was moved by Steve Story, seconded by John Heider to provide the grant of \$200.00 **Passed.**

- **Reports:** Those present that are doing restoration projects or planned reported on their progress. One was to forward pictures especially of Veteran burial markers or restoration to be put on the website. Discussion of using inmates from penal institutions for restoration work, which some have utilized. Mike Murphy reported making progress with the help of Steve S & Donna S. and Pat Shaw.

Next meeting date and place: for October 8, 2011. A location in or near Marshalltown will be sought, to be held at 10 am as usual.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by John Heider, seconded by Gene Davis. **Passed.**

Meeting adjourned by Mike Magee at 12:00 noon.

Submitted by Frieda Davis, Secretary.

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 2nd Quarter – 1 April 2011 thru 30 June 2011

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2011, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 2,705.85
Income		
Dues	\$ 520.00	
Donation	25.00	
Interest 4/30/11	.58	
Interest 5/31/11	.64	
Interest 6/30/11 (statement not yet received)	---	
Total Income		\$ 546.22

Expense		
Ck #243 – Mike Magee – copies of treasurer's report	\$ 9.10	
Ck #244 – John Heider – April restoration workshop	200.00	
Ck #245 – Patricia Shaw – envelopes for newsletter	23.64	
Ck #246 – Patricia Shaw – newsletter	<u>37.32</u>	
Total Expense	\$ 270.06	

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2011 \$ 2,982.01

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2011, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 4,428.39
Life Membership – Lynn Peterson	\$ 100.00	
Total	\$ 100.00	

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2011 \$ 4,528.39

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 June 2011 \$ 7,510.40

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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641-394-3967 jjeck@myclearwave.net

Board Member (2013): Steve Story
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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@lid.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

Adair

From the State Historical Society of Iowa newsletter, July, 2011:

Obituary Search Uncovers "Old Bob"

Searching for biographical information about Iowa Legislators often involves locating an obituary. Library volunteer Helen Whannel, who has worked on collecting such information for the historical library's Iowa Legislator project for many years, often searches newspapers on microfilm for this information. When she was searching the Fontanelle Observer for such an obituary, the word "Died" at the beginning of a column caught her eye. Hoping she had found the obituary she was searching for, she read on and found this:

DIED---In Fontanelle, on Sunday, Dec. 19, 1886 at 2 p.m., Robert, the old and faithful family horse, belonging to J.H. Hulbert, aged about 36 years. "Old Bob," as he was commonly called was a very uncommon animal of the noble species. He was born in Kentucky about 1850, and when first discovered by Mr. Hulbert was in Chicago about five years ago, and it is a well known fact that Bob witnessed the great fire of that city, in which his pedigree was probably consumed. In his younger days, Bob was a very valuable horse, and could outstrip the average trotter on the race course. Only three years ago he won first prize at the Adair county horse fair making a mile in 2:36, notwithstanding his advanced age. Since he came into the ownership of Mr. Hulbert he has been allowed to live at ease, only being drove occasionally by the children, to whom he had become greatly attached, and was their favorite. Many a bitter tear was shed by Mr. Hulbert's family, upon learning of his death, which was occasioned by old age alone. His shoes have been removed and bronzed, and will occupy places on the doors of the children's bed rooms. He was interred with due solemnity on Monday. Then gather the

family around you Sunday morning, / Let the babies roll upon the floor; / To one and all is giv'n a timely warning / Never take the horseshoes from the door. (*Fontanelle Observer, Fontanelle, Iowa, December 23, 1886, p. 8, col. 2*)

Allamakee

No source or date given: Pictured is Birger Norman, a veteran of World War I, who has taken care of the grave of Joseph Reynolds, Jr., a member of "Pvt. Utleys Co., Vermont military, War of 1812." The grave is located in the midst of lilac bushes 10 miles east of Waukon. The lilacs were apparently planted at one time as a floral tribute. They have grown to cover a 25-foot area and completely surround the solitary stone. It is believed that Reynolds came to Iowa to farm land in Allamakee county given him for his military service in the War of 1812.

Benton

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, July 22, 2011: "Vinton still reeling from windstorm nearly two weeks later," photos by Kyle Webb. Two pictures showing fallen trees that were either snapped in half or uprooted completely and a number of toppled tombstones knocked from their foundations in Evergreen Cemetery in Vinton on July 11. The Cemetery Board has asked for help in restoring stones. Steve Meyer, Chair of the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and several recruits spent time working in the cemetery. There is still much tree work to be done there.

-- Frieda Davis

Blackhawk

From the *Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier*, August 5, 2011: "Grave markers ravaged by time, vandals restored at Elmwood Cemetery," by Jeff Reinitz. Pictured are workers from the Corson's Cemetery Monument Restoration and Repair in Hubbard as they replace the top piece

of John Labarre's headstone in Elmwood Cemetery in Waterloo. They were hired by Joe Fox who manages the cemetery. Another photo shows the leveling of a headstone. About 50 grave markers that had sustained damage from vandals and extreme weather conditions over the years were repaired. One marker hit by vandals this year was that of Horace Boies, a Waterloo attorney who was Iowa governor in the 1890s and ran for president of the United States, losing the Democratic Party nomination to William Jennings Bryan.

Note: Unfortunately, the Corson company's repair methods are in question because holes are drilled in the stones and wood supports are placed on the backs in some instances. It is advisable that the guidelines of the Association for Gravestone Studies be followed in repairing any grave stones, especially irreplaceable pioneer ones. <http://www.gravestonestudies.org/>

New Barclay Cemetery, Blackhawk County, Iowa:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Barclay-Cemetery/126585217371300>
--Nancy Gibson, caretaker

Bremer

At Everett Evangelical Cemetery located NE of Waverly, IA, not too far, in Bremer Co. A fifteen year old girl was driving a convertible, on a gravel road, and lost control, went through the cemetery fence, clipped a grave marker for a couple who had it placed before their death, broke a piece the size of a pack of cigarettes off from it, spun around backwards, down between the rows of stones and smashed into two other large grave markers. Knocked them over, one was a tall older one. Sheriff was called. They drove the car home I heard. Family wants to pay for all damages to avoid insurance company. They want to make a generous donation to the cemetery fund. Fence guy said that he can match up the fencing, I was there with the lady on the cemetery board. They are having a meeting tonight to decide how to go on this. They have someone with a crane that can set up the knocked over stones.

-- Mike Magee

Butler

From the *Waterloo Courier*, June 10, 2011:
"Historical society to hold Cemetery walk on

Sunday." Shell Rock -- The Shell Rock Community Historical Society staged a walk at the Riverside Cemetery in Shell Rock. Organizers highlighted veterans of the Civil War on the 150th anniversary of that conflict.

Chickasaw

From the *Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Quarterly newsletter*, Volume 28, Number 2: "Leroy Vokes Medal of Honor recognition," by J. L. Kottke, Editor. A request was received last December asking in which Fredericksburg cemetery First Sergeant Leroy H. Vokes was laid to rest. After considerable research, it was determined that he was laid to rest beside relatives at Rose Hill, although there was no record of his burial. An old news article stated that he was laid to rest beside his sister in 1924 and, after visiting the grave and noticing a sunken area at the foot of the lot, researchers were convinced that they had found the burial site. The local Amvets have placed a temporary marker at this location and, later this summer, an official marker will be placed -- a suitable recognition (albeit, a few years late) for a soldier who served his country faithfully and courageously. Leroy enlisted in the Army in 1868 and assisted pioneers who settled in the West. As a result of an attempt to recover stolen horses, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for Gallantry in Action. His only brother, Calvin, died in the Civil War.

Note: Sympathy is extended to Jeanette Kottke and her family on the loss of her husband, John, who passed away on June 22.

Clayton

On July 1, I was up to North Buena Vista, IA. Myra Voss is active with the genealogical and historical societies, etc, up there. She wanted me to visit with the four guys who were repairing tombstones in the old Catholic Cemetery aka Public cemetery, [it definitely fits the pioneer cemetery status] it is on a very steep hill, they had a ATV with a trailer to haul the equipment. Older guys, they were not afraid of the heat and humidity. They were quitting for the

day about the time I got there. The main reason for me being there is so I could show her and the other guys the old farm that my great grandfather Henry Kamm had and the area down by the creek where a number of babies were buried, thinking that they would find the grave sites. No markers, all rock and weeds, etc. All I know is the approximate location and the names of the children.

-- Mike Magee

Clinton

We are busy as ever looking after the 26+ pioneer cemeteries in Clinton County. The Stonehuggers Cemetery Restoration group from Indiana will be working in Clinton County in the month of July on a couple of cemeteries, one of them the Washington Cemetery in NW Clinton County, one that has my great-great grandparents' burials. The Washington Cemetery Association has decided to use their money in CDs to do this work since the county pioneer cemetery commission has taken over the regular care of this cemetery. Our commission will be working on contracts for the lawnmowers for the 2012 mowing season and will be more specific in our bid specifications. We have found a wide variety in the quality of mowing that gets done.

--Ruth Wilson

Lee

From the *Daily Gate City*, July 18, 2011: "Coming to life -- Annual Veterans Cemetery Tour includes civilians as well as Civil War, WWI, Vietnam War veterans," by Celia Malm. Pictured in color is Persephonie Stark, in the role of Rozilla Height, as she describes the heartrending loss of all three of her children over the course of just five years. The final tragedy was the death of her 15-year-old son, Orlin, who was

killed in 1857 on Second Street in Keokuk by what was believed to be a stray gunshot. The mystery of the death was never solved. The third annual cemetery tour, held at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk, was expanded to include civilian graves in order to include more women. The tour raises funds to help the American Legion add local veterans' names to the memorial in Oakland Cemetery. About 30 people took part in the tour and most portrayed deceased relatives.

The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, American Legion Post 41, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41, Sons of American Legion Squadron 41, and VFW Post 3508 will sponsor the 9th Annual Pioneer Patriot's Day to honor the first Civil War soldiers buried in the Keokuk National Cemetery in 1861. The sunset service will be held on September 24, 2011 at 6:30 PM, at the Keokuk National Cemetery, 18th & Ridge, Keokuk, Iowa. For more information: www.keokuklowatourism.org or call (319)795-1348 Gary Folluo.

Linn

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 22, 2011: "Uses GPS to help preserve historic sites," by C. H. Tabak. Pictured is Kirkwood College professor Gail Brown and her grandson, Dylan Kwaiser-Brown, 16, both of Mt. Vernon as they try to read the name on a gravestone at Skillman Cemetery near Mount Vernon. The cemetery is among many the two have mapped this summer as part of Brown's project that focuses on pioneer cemeteries. Brown, coordinator faculty of the Geographic Information System program at Kirkwood Community College, has received a Kirkwood Endowed Chair for 2011-12 to pursue

the research.

Brown, who participated in a workshop in Cedar County partly sponsored by SAPIC, is concerned about the hundreds of pioneer cemeteries in Iowa and the old headstones that are literally disintegrating or sinking into the ground. Without intervention, Brown said this part of history may soon be lost to preservationists, archivists, and genealogists alike.

GPS coordinates of individual gravestones are recorded and will be shared freely with genealogy and historic preservationists. She is interested in finding a way to make the information more easily and freely accessible.

In addition to Linn County, she is also working in Des Moines, Lee, and Van Buren counties.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 9, 2011: "WWII remains coming home to Iowa." The remains of a U.S. Airman from Iowa, Staff Sgt. Marvin Steinfeld, killed in Hungary near the end of WWII were buried in a memorial service at Cedar Memorial Cemetery in Cedar Rapids on June 21. Steinfeld, of Keystone, was part of the 10-man crew of a B-17 bomber which was shot down near Zirc in March 1945. He was buried in a mass grave with 26 Soviet soldiers.

Lucas

From the *Boyden Reporter*, July 25, 1905: "Strange Find." In the ruins of Dewey Jessup's home near Chariton, Iowa, which burned recently, Jessup discovered a grave marker made of native stone. It bore the inscription: "Emma, daughter of J. B. and C. L. Rodgers, died March 17, 186-" One theory is that the house may have been erected on a former cemetery site.

Another more likely one is that the stone never was placed on a grave, since the date is not complete. It is thought the marker was discarded and later used as part of the house's foundation.

Marion

It's finally final, and we have a Pioneer Cemetery Assn. in Marion County! The appointed board has met for the first time. So we're ready to dig in! Thanks for all your help along the way.

-- **Valerie Van Kooten**

This is to let you know that I'll be doing another Red Rock pioneer cemetery tour on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The morning tour will be a repeat of last year's tour and will visit Price, Karr, Teter, and Red Rock Cemeteries; the afternoon tour will be four new ones that are a little more remote--Competine, Mikesell (aka Yowell), Gibbens, and Klein. You will need good walking shoes and be able to walk quite a bit over pasture-type ground. Once again, we'll be traveling by school bus, and I can take 40 people on each tour.

In addition to visiting the cemeteries, I'll also be giving a demonstration on grave dowsing (also known as "witching," or "doodlebugging.") This is a way to find bodies where the headstones have sunk or are missing altogether. You can give it a try yourselves!

Tickets are \$10 for one tour and \$19 for both. They will go on sale tomorrow morning at the Pella Historical Society office (507 Franklin St.) If you live out of town and can't make it to Pella, send me a check, specify which tour(s) you're interested in, and I'll mail the ticket(s) to you. My address is 2051 Old Hwy. 163, Pella, IA 50219.

Advertising will hit the paper and radio stations later this week.

In a related note, I'm leading a tour Sept.

17-18 to SW Iowa on a "Haunted Iowa" tour through Book Vault in Oskaloosa. All of the places we're visiting are historic and we'll include a couple of cemeteries. We're staying overnight in Council Bluffs. This trip is about half full, so contact me soon if you're interested and I'll send you the itinerary. It's going to be a blast!

Thanks, folks. The Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission had its first meeting last night; thanks to those of you who attended. We're taking the first step toward fixing up and preserving these little-known pieces of Iowa pioneer history.

Valerie Van Kooten

English Instructor/Technical Writing
Central College
(641) 628-9789
Valerie Van Kooten
<VanKootenV@central.edu>

Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

Our first work day will be at the Gibbens Cemetery, Summit Township on Saturday, August 27, 2011 from 9:00 to 12:00. We will meet at the Otley Coop in Otley at 8:45 a.m. to go to the cemetery. If you arrive later than 8:45, call Kent Van Kooten on his Cell phone 641-780-9484 and he will direct you to the cemetery. We will be cutting up a tree, mowing and finding the stones. Bring any tools to help in the clean up.

Our regular meeting of the MCPCC will be held Monday, August 29, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Knoxville Rural Fire Station located on W. Main, Knoxville, IA

Hope you can be at the work day and the meeting and bring anyone that would be interested in being a member of the MCPCC.

Bev Jones, Secretary

Taylor

From *Our Iowa* magazine, June/July, 2011, page 83: "Favorites from Readers ... Mixed with Fond Memories." Janell Black from Des Moines shares her recipe for Rhubarb Cream Delight Dessert and memories of her father, Kenny Black, who was a lifelong resident of Lenox in Taylor County. Among his many community interests was his special concern

for the poor condition of the older stones in East and West Fairview Cemeteries in Lenox. Some of them date back to 1870. He felt they should be restored for the sake of Lenox history as well as the families involved. He went so far as to research the project and discuss the feasibility of it with the local monument company, but he died before he could tackle it. The Black family decided as a memorial to Kenny that they would act on his wishes. So they published a collection of family recipes in *The Little Black Cookbook* as a fund-raiser for the cemetery restoration. The family hopes that the project will create some ongoing community support for the restoration. For information about the cookbook, E-mail: thelittleblackcookbook@gmail.com

Muscatine

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 23, 2011: "Civil War monument stands tall in Muscatine." Pictured is the new Civil War monument that was installed June 11 in front of the Muscatine County Courthouse in Muscatine. After months of work and thousands of dollars in donations, a 40-ft. monument dedicated to the 513 Muscatine County soldiers who died in the Civil War was installed. The granite weighs 30,000 pounds and arrived from Barre, Vt. on three flatbed trucks in eight sections. It replaced an older marble monument erected in 1875 that had deteriorated over time and was taken down in 2010.

Polk

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 18, 2011: "Upcoming events for veterans." Events to be held at the Resthaven Cemetery (801 19th St. in West Des Moines, Iowa) include: The Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall Motorcycle Escort from Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino to the cemetery on September 14 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM., the Dignity Vietnam Memorial Wall Display on September 16-18, and the reading of 58,000 names of U.S. Service Members Killed in Action in Vietnam from the Dignity Vietnam Memorial Wall Display on September 16. To

volunteer to assist or for more information, contact Rita Brim. E-mail: rita.brim@sci-us.com. Phone: 515-223-1230 or (cell) 515-290- 8023.

Van Buren

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 18, 2011: "Endangered Species Sighted," by Don Aldrich. Pictured are Jerry Boyer, Marvin Danneil and Don Aldrich, members of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society Gravestone work crew, as they pose in front of one of the ten gravestones they reset, repaired and/or straightened on August 10 at the Bethel Lick Creek Cemetery. Because of wet weather, hot weather, and a variety of events, performances, obligations, travel, etc., the crew was put on the "endangered species" list due to their infrequent outings for several months. Stan Knipfer and Morrie Shaw assisted the crew a few days later. Ann Skaggs, the Van Buren County Recorder who lives nearby, adopted the cemetery many years ago and keeps the area looking great.

Wapello

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 16, 2011: "The Great Grave Robbers," by Sue Parrish, retired museum director and author of the book, "Days Gone By." The Eldon Public Library contains a history of the early settling of Washington Township in Wapello County titled "Early Days in Iowa: 1850-1900," by I.T. Flint, a local newsman and minister. In the book, he relates how the flooding of the Des Moines River in 1851 caused hundreds of Indians to be stolen from their burial sites. They were often buried close to the river, as that is where they camped, and the burial close to the river would give the dead an overview. They were buried close to the surface, as in the case of Chief Blackhawk who was buried in a seated position with only his body partially covered. The Indians and the pioneers did not appreciate the opening of the floodgates of heaven then, any more than we do today.

Out of Iowa

Delaware

From *USA Today*, July 15, 2011: "Historians, volunteers work to save old cemeteries," by Mike Chalmers. In forgotten cemeteries across the USA, almost unreadable headstones lie broken, toppled and overgrown by weeds, preservationists say. Thousands of old and inactive cemeteries could face such fates because they rely on aging volunteers to mow the grass and keep the vandals at bay. "Unless someone knows it's there and has the time and energy to devote to it, they're vanishing every day," said Brian Cannon, who conducts tours of historic graves at the Old New Castle Court House in New Castle, Del. Amateur genealogists and history buffs nationwide are working to spur interest in restoring and preserving old cemeteries. In some cases, states and communities are assisting them by raising money and educating volunteers. The Delaware legislatures created the Delaware Cemetery Board two years ago to catalog the state's cemeteries and oversee a fund to help those with maintenance troubles. The board collects about \$100,000 per year from a \$2 fee tacked onto the cost of a death certificate. Elsewhere: Preservation Virginia put family cemeteries on its list of endangered historic sites. In Massachusetts, towns have spent more than \$4.5 million on historic cemetery restoration projects over the past 10 years. Jennifer Stucker, of Corea, Maine, has been working with volunteers for the past five years to restore the town's first cemetery. It contains headstones of victims of an 1869 shipwreck and at least one Civil War veteran. In many Illinois communities, cemetery restoration has become a popular effort, said Foxie Haggerty of the state's chapter of Saving Graves.

Nebraska

From the *Norfolk Daily News*, May 28, 2011: "Cemetery given new life," by Sheryl Schmeckpeper. On May 26, a dedication ceremony was held at the 130-year-old Granville Cemetery near Humphrey where Francis Henry Baker and around 65 of his fellow pioneers are buried. It was the culmination of efforts spearheaded by SAPIC

member Nancy Hartman of Bellwood, who organized volunteers to protect and restore the neglected and threatened cemetery, including legal action against a farmer who planned to run an irrigation system over the site. Grateful descendants of those buried there told stories of their ancestors and of the battle to save their resting places.

--- www.norfolkdailynews.com/

Maine

From David Reed, List Administrator for the ME-IRISH CEMETERIES list, in an e-mail dated July 16, 2011: The Pejepscot Historical Society conducted a cemetery tour of St. John's Cemetery in Brunswick, Maine on July 17, entitled, "The Farmers vs. the Catholics: How Rural Brunswick Became Urban," featuring stories of Irish and French immigrants. The event was free to the public.

Minnesota

From the *The American Legion* magazine, July, 2011, Page 51: "Minnesota teen Legion's Eagle Scout of the Year." Pictured in Robert B. Rasmussen of Hutchinson, Minn. who will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for making more than 700 concrete markers that were placed on unmarked veterans' graves in a local cemetery. He also created a walking tour of the cemetery to help visitors find their loved ones. Rasmussen plans to pursue a psychology or law degree at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

From the *Star Tribune*, June 25, 2011: "The eagle couldn't have picked a better person," by Jon Tevlin. A dramatic photo taken of an eagle perched on the grave of WWII veteran, Sgt. Maurice Ruch, in the Fort Snelling National Cemetery was taken by Frank Glick on a hazy spring morning. Thinking that a relative might like a copy of the picture, contact was made with Ruch's widow, Vivian, and his best friend, Jack Kiefner. Ruch served four years in the military and earned a Bronze Star. They related how Ruch was known as Mr. Precise because of his love of order and his knack for fixing things. "He also loved nature and photography,

so he would have absolutely loved this picture," Vivian said. Ruch died from a form of Parkinson's in 2008 at age 86.

New York

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 9, 2011: "NYC project IDs Civil War graves." Pictured are workers installing a headstone over the previously unmarked grave of a Civil War veteran at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn on May 3. A project at the cemetery hopes to identify the nearly 8,000 Civil War soldiers buried beneath the green expanse in the New York City borough. The first casualty to be buried in Green-Wood was a 12-year-old drummer for a New York regiment. Clarence McKensie, a local boy fatally wounded in an accidental shooting in Maryland, was buried June 14, 1861, two months after the Union garrison at Fort Sumter surrendered to Confederate forces. He was followed to the grave 12 days later by Adolph Vincens, a 23-year-old London-born jeweler who was the first Civil War battle casualty buried at the site. By the time the war ended four years later, about 200 other soldiers and sailors who died in the Civil War were buried at Green-Wood, established in 1838 in what was then a rural section of Brooklyn. Thousands of others from both sides would join their comrades over the years. So far, about 1,300 new VA markers have been installed. Several thousand graves still need to be identified.

Utah

From the *Mormon Times*, May 28, 2011: "Typical LDS headstones in the cemetery," by Lynn Arave. Stroll through the Salt Lake City Cemetery and you'll find the graves of 11 of the past presidents of The Church of Latter-Day Saints. You'll also discover a wealth of resting places for numerous LDS Church members -- representing a large variety in both epitaphs and monument styles. One of the most popular images to be engraved is the Salt Lake Temple. Other temple images appear, too, and it can be a challenge for monument markers to keep up images of the newer

temples. While regular members favor images of temples on graves, LDS church presidents don't follow that trend. They may have large stone monuments, but not images on them. The most popular epitaphs are: "Together forever," "Families are forever," and "For Time and Eternity." Perhaps the key LDS-oriented feature is the emphasis on genealogy. Listing children on headstones is a practice widely done. While not unique, far more LDS members do it than the general public. Pictured is a typical LDS headstone that includes some family history and a list of the names and locations of LDS Church presidents' graves in the cemetery.

Virginia

From the *American Legion* magazine, August, 2011, page 18: "New Arlington boss tightens oversight," by Tom Philpott. Like a lot of veterans, Patrick Halliman was stunned by last year's Army Inspector General (IG) report that revealed widespread mismanagement at Arlington National Cemetery. The IG found scores of misidentified graves, and even cremated remains neglected and lying in a spoils area. Halliman, who was at the time director of field programs for the VA's National Cemetery Administration, was detailed to Arlington and confirmed the IG findings. He is now the Arlington Superintendent and has put retirement on the back burner to deal with the troubles and controversy. He says that families can now be confident of Arlington operations today. Arlington is "hallowed ground," consecrated by the American heroes interned here. Mistakes of the past cannot detract from their service. We need to restore operational honor to this place.

France

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 9, 2011: Solemn Remembrance." Pictured are U.S. soldiers and World War II veterans in a ceremony in honor of the 67th anniversary of D-Day at the Pointe du Hoc in Cricqueville en Bessin, western France on June 6. World War veterans and Senator John Kerry commemorated the D-Day landings in

Normandy at an iconic and eroding cliff. The visit was one of several events along the coast marking 67 years since Allied Forces landed on a swath of beaches in Nazi-occupied France. The June 6, 1944, invasion and ensuing battle for Normandy helped change the course of the war.

Germany

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 28, 2011: "Bones of Hitler deputy burned." Pictured is the Wunsiedel graveyard in Bavaria where the grave of Rudolf Hess, until recently, was located. The remains of Hess, who was Adolf Hitler's deputy, were removed, burned, and the ashes secretly scattered at sea after his grave became a shrine for thousands of neo-Nazis. Workers removed the remains with permission of his relatives. With the lease on the burial plot coming up for renewal in October, Hess's relatives and Lutheran church authorities in the town decided it was best to remove the remains and level the grave.

Location of October 8 SAPIC meeting at Moose Lodge in Marshalltown: 1516 E. Olive St. (east of golf course). PH 641-753-1326



