

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535

www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/

VOLUME 16 ISSUE #4

October, 2011

The next meeting of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will be **January 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM** at the following location:

Urbandale Public Library
3520 86th Street
Urbandale IA 50322
(Des Moines area)
(515) 331-6765 / (515) 278-3918

Please note that this is a change from the second Saturday in January (the usual date). Directions to the Urbandale Library are on the web site.

Mapping & Documenting Cemeteries is a practical how-to book that guides the reader through the process of mapping and documenting a cemetery, using easily available tools and basic skills.

Included are:

- Instructions on creating a map;
- Gathering an inscription database;
- Assembling a spreadsheet of related information, such as deeds.

The Association for Gravestone Studies now carries *Mapping & Documenting Cemeteries* in their bookstore. Please visit [AGS.com](http://www.gravestonestudies.org/) to purchase: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org/>

Where our military headstones come from. (5 minute video)

<<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7367662n>

<<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7367662n>> >

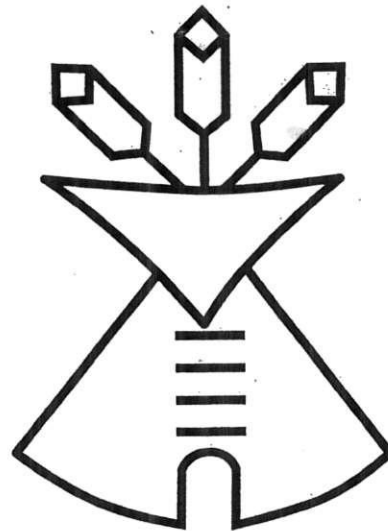
-- Mike Magee

From SAPIC member, David Gradwohl: Several weeks ago we were in Lincoln, Nebraska, for my 60th high school class reunion.

Lincoln's Wyuka Cemetery has established a new veteran's section (the older ones are apparently full). I observed two things there and was aware of their recent occurrences elsewhere: (1) Some of the new military gravestones have short epitaphs which were not formerly allowed in the U.S. - - though we have observed epitaphs on military gravestones in foreign countries, and (2) the use of a symbol for the Native American Church. I found the latter interesting because I first noticed these symbols in a civilian cemetery in Oklahoma and published those observations (along with other matters pertaining to American Indian identity) in 1997 (Markers journal). At that time, as far as I could ascertain, nobody else had published the use of symbols of the Native American Church in civilian cemeteries. I believe the use of NAC symbols on military gravestones is much more recent than in civilian cemeteries.

Best regards,
David

Symbol of the Native American Church



Please send photos and information about your cemetery work to the SAPIC web page manager, Tony Bengston. Thanks!

E-mail: tonybengston@yahoo.com

Check out the website for the Key Underwood Coon Dog Memorial Graveyard in Colbert County, Alabama. It has become a popular tourist attraction and is the only cemetery of its kind in the world.

<http://coondogcemetery.com/>

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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319-415-1175 tonybengston@yahoo.com

WHERE TO GET SUPPLIES

Probes: Farm Supply Store or a Forestry Supply --
Suggest length 48 inches
Basic Stone Cleaners: Ammonia (non-scented) --
purchase locally
Orvus (non-ionic) -- purchase at farm supply store
Biological Cleaners: Cathedral Stone Products, Inc.
1-410-782-9150
R.I.P., Ltd., 1-217-898-2422
Scrub Brushes (white-soft, bristle): -- purchase
locally
Epoxy: (clear-knife grade) Miles Supply, St. Cloud,
MN, 1-800-789-0815
Setting Compound: (light grey) Miles Supply
Setting Cushions: (1/16 inch) Miles Supply
-- Suggestions by John Heider

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
E-Mail: Dennis.Britson@iid.iowa.gov
(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

STATE ASSOCIATION for the
PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

SAPIC met Saturday, October 8, 2011 at the Moose Lodge, Marshalltown, IA.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Mike Magee, President.

Self introductions were made by the 26 members present.

Mike reported that the grants had been sent out and we have received 'Thank you's.

Minutes of July 8, 2011 were read and approved by hand vote. Passed.

Treasurer's report: Distributed by Valerie Ogren and explained. One new lifetime membership received and \$500.00 donation from John Heider. Report approved.

Agenda:

- **Pat Shaw report on Carter Award:** There were no applications this year. She reported that Wayne Blessing, who had received the Carter Award some years ago, will be contributing money to this award in the future. He is a professional stone mason.

- **County Auditors conference:** Bill Reedy was on the panel at the county auditors conference held last summer in Waterloo, IA. He said the participants were respectful, attentive and presented continuous questions. The Co. supervisors are responsible for Pioneer Cemeteries if they want to or not according to law. Pat Shaw reported that she had two phone calls for information following the workshop. Steve Story also reported a good meeting. Discussion of auditors, supervisors and trustees needing more information of their responsibilities.

- **Steve Story:** reported that his cemetery workshop held in Allamakee County at number 16 cemetery September 24 was well attended. He feels there is no purpose in criticizing anyone else's work in pioneer cemetery repair. He reminded us that we need to encourage the development of cemetery commissions and that it must come from the bottom up; to encourage collaborative efforts with County Genealogy society and Historical societies.

- **Photo display:** by John Heider of inappropriate gravestone restorations done by "professional restoration specialists". The primary rules for restoration are; 1) Do no harm and 2) make it reversible. John discussed how adhesives designed to be used on stone are necessary rather than 'any epoxy'. Also discussed that cemetery maintenance is crucial as much damage can occur if not done carefully.

- **Legislative report:** Steve Story, Bill Reedy and Pat Shaw appointed by Mike Magee to legislative committee. Our committee is working on a bill to clarify the state code because it contradicts itself in saying 'cemetery' doesn't apply to 'pioneer' in one area and in another it says both are

same. Farm Bureau wants to rewrite the entire code and remove some of the protections of cemeteries from it. Steve Story is meeting with Jeff Kaufmann to plan for next session.

- **Discussion:** To get on supervisor meeting agenda you need to contact the auditor.
- **Comment;** It is best to have a cemetery commission, then an issue would not go to court. Twenty-seven out of ninety-nine counties have cemetery commissions.
- **Website;** Please send pictures, news, etc. to Tony Bengston.
- **Suggestion:** Valerie Ogren suggested we consider meeting with the Iowa Genealogy Society when they met in October to help teach them some correct ways of doing some of the cemetery work.
- **Nominating committee:** Bylaws concerning offices and terms of office reviewed by Steve Story. One board member to be filled. Appointed by consent: Carla Huber, Pat Shaw and Judy McClure.
- **Motion made** to pay the Moose Lodge \$50.00 for use of the facility today by Gene Davis and seconded by Valerie; **Passed.**

Next meeting: Mike Magee will contact the Urbandale Public Library (Des Moines) for January 14, 2012 meeting. (Second Saturday)
Motion to adjourn by John Heider, seconded by Tony Bengston; **Passed**
Meeting adjourned by Mike Magee at 12:10 pm

Submitted by Frieda Davis, Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR SAPIC

New___ Renewal___ Date_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail address _____ Telephone _____

Individual \$10 ___ Household \$15 ___ Organization or Business \$20 ___ Lifetime Individual \$100 ___

Donation or Memorial \$_____ (List name of honoree, if desired) _____

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

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 3rd Quarter – 1 July 2011 thru 30 September 2011

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2011, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 2,982.01
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 145.00	
Donation	20.00	
Interest 6/30/11 (<i>from previous quarter - late statement</i>)	.60	
Interest 7/31/11	.59	
Interest 8/31/11	.67	
Interest 9/30/11	.61	
Total Income	\$ 167.47	
Ck #244 to John Heider – expense trans. to Reserve Account	200.00	
Adjusted Income	\$ 367.47	
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #250 – Patricia Shaw – newsletter	\$ 55.69	
Total Expense	\$ 55.69	

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2011 \$ 3,293.79

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2011, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 4,528.39
Life Membership – Tammy Mount	\$ 100.00	
Donation for Workshops from John Heider	500.00	
Ck #244 – Trans. from Working Account – pd to John Heider 4/21	(200.00)	
Ck #247 – John Heider – Cedar Co. Workshop	(200.00)	
Ck #248 – Clinton Co. Cemetery Commission – Grant	(200.00)	
Ck #249 – Cottage Hill Cemetery Association - Grant	(200.00)	
Total	\$ (200.00)	

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2011 \$ 4,328.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 30 September 2011 \$ 7,622.18

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

Thursday, 06 October 2011

From the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana (ACGSI):
November 9, 2011--Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mark Davis presented: "Hallowed Stones: Cemetery Preservation."

In 1980, the Society of American Archivists published a booklet entitled "The WPA Historical Records Survey : a guide to the unpublished inventories, indexes, and transcripts" by Loretta L. Hefner. The 42-page booklet had a sheet of microfiche in a pocket inside the back cover with additional information, telling where each state's unpublished WPA materials went. This booklet is widely held by academic and large public libraries. As a finding aid it might be very helpful.

Barbara Hill
Library Committee
California Genealogical Society

Please submit articles or information about cemetery restoration activities in your area for this newsletter -- thanks! Send to: Pat Shaw
21813 170th St., Birmingham, IA 52535 or
E-mail: patshaw@netins.net.

Two years after American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Partners in Preservation program gave \$1 million to historic sites throughout Greater Boston, you now have the chance to see firsthand how these historic places are thriving.

On September 17, fourteen historic places that received grant funds from American Express through the highly successful Partners in Preservation program will be open to the public for free or reduced-price admission. Sites will feature musical performances, children's activities, and lectures and tours focusing on recent restoration projects. Don't miss the opportunity to see how \$1 million and community support have catalyzed the successful preservation of historic sites throughout Greater Boston.

For more information on this event and itineraries to help you make your way around Greater Boston on September 17,

please visit our web site at

www.partnersinpreservation.com/Boston.

Participating historic places include:
Mount Auburn Cemetery (Cambridge, MA)

The Insurance Division has no authority in regard to Iowa Code Chapter 331 and very limited authority over pioneer cemeteries, so my comments aren't any more authoritative than yours and mere commentary.

I will provide the specific language below - with bold highlighting not in the statute to emphasize some of the language utilized:

- Iowa Code section 331.325(2) states that "Each county board of supervisors may adopt an ordinance **assuming jurisdiction and control** of pioneer cemeteries in the county."

- Iowa Code section 331.325(2) states that "The board shall exercise **the powers and duties of township trustees relating to the maintenance and repair** of cemeteries in the county as provided in sections 359.28 through 359.40 except that the board shall not certify a tax levy pursuant to section 359.30 or 359.33 and except that the **maintenance and repair** of all cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the county including pioneer cemeteries shall be paid from the county general fund. The **maintenance and improvement program** for a pioneer cemetery may include restoration and management of native prairie grasses and wildflowers."

- Iowa Code section 331.325(3) states that "In lieu of **management** of the cemeteries, the board of supervisors may

create, by ordinance, a cemetery commission to **assume jurisdiction and management** of the pioneer cemeteries in the county. The ordinance shall delineate the number of commissioners, the appointing authority, the terms of office, officers, employees, organizational matters, rules of procedure, compensation and expenses, and other matters pertinent by the board. **The board may delegate any powers and duties relating to cemeteries which may otherwise be exercised by township trustees** pursuant to sections 529.28 through 359.40 to the cemetery commission except the commission shall not certify a tax levy pursuant to section 359.30 or 359.33 and except that the expenses of the cemetery commission shall be paid from the county general fund.”

- 359.28 Condemnation. The township trustees are hereby empowered to condemn, or purchase and pay for out of the general fund, or the specific fund voted for such purpose, and enter upon and take, any lands within the territorial limits of such township for the use of cemeteries, a community center or juvenile playgrounds, in the same manner as is now provided for cities. However, the board of supervisors or a cemetery commission appointed by the board of supervisors shall **control and maintain** pioneer cemeteries as defined in section 331.325.

- 359.31 Power and control. They shall **control** any such cemeteries, or appoint trustees for the same, or sell the

same to any private corporation for cemetery purposes.

Finally, some mere commentary:

- I see nothing in Chapter 331 that evidences a legislative intent to transfer ownership of pioneer cemeteries.
- Although one could make the argument that “control” or “management” of a cemetery includes the right to sell interment rights, it seems the weaker argument given the other language in the section that is focused on “maintenance and repair” and not a position that I would argue or recommend.

- Interestingly, the powers and duties language regarding pioneer cemetery commissions is on its face broader, delegating “any powers and duties relating to cemeteries which may otherwise be exercised by township trustees pursuant to sections 529.28 through 359.40. Iowa Code section 359.31 suggests ownership in regard to the ability to sell the cemetery, but that probably just encompasses situations where a condemnation process under 359.28 has been utilized and the general rule is that you can’t delegate any greater rules or powers than you possess.

- Given the language of Iowa Code section 359.28 the township trustees are not involved with pioneer cemeteries and the path to ownership for either the county or a county pioneer cemetery commission would appear to be a condemnation process.

- If SAPIC is in favor of new burials in pioneer cemeteries I would recommend

that you seek amendments to Iowa Code Chapter 331.

Once again, just my personal commentary and not a legal opinion or a position of the Insurance Division or the State of Iowa.

Best Regards,
Dennis Britson

Comments regarding a situation in Calhoun County in which a sand removal operation has been started next to a pioneer cemetery:

a) In actually, the ag lime(if this is ag lime) blowing onto the cemetery will greatly improve the quality of the soil!! Farmers add ag lime to the soil on a regular basis to reduce the acidity of the soil to improve crop growth.

b) The ag lime blowing onto the cemetery should not impact the gravestones. The amount of pitting should be very minimal. For one thing, the ag lime is going to be relatively unabrasive and should not be a problem given only a very small amount of the that material can be carried by the wind.

c) Now what I don't understand is given the location mentioned in the e-mail, what is apparently a sand and gravel operation and not a quarry, I cannot figure out why there would be ag lime in a sand and gravel operation unless the owner brought in ag lime from somewhere else to sell along with the sand and gravel products. Might check those products again. Is this a limestone quarry or a sand and gravel operation. If it's the small sand material being disturbed by the wind it would take a very very long time for any kind pitting to occur.

d) Frankly there is more opportunity for gravestone damage by acid rain than any kind of an aggregate operation unless the aggregate operation was in the cemetery and graves were moved.

-- Information obtained from a geologist via Mike Magee

From the University of Iowa News Services, August 18, 2011: "UI Office of the State Archaeologist discovers 7,000-year-old village in Des Moines." U. of I. archaeologists have confirmed that an exceptionally well- preserved site, nearly 7,000 years old, contains what are among the oldest-known structures and

human remains ever discovered in the state. Remnants of four oval-shaped deposits, possibly houses, as large as 800 square feet and furnished with hearths have been found. The field crew named the site "The Palace," because of its size and preservation quality. Two partial skeletons were unexpectedly found at the site late in the project. The remains of a woman and an infant are the oldest human remains found to date in the state by about 1,500 years. The site, found within the future location of a wastewater treatment facility in southeast Des Moines, was excavated from December 2010 to May 2011. A short documentary of the excavation is available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=eB4KQuXTpI

www.uiowa.edu/~osa/

<http://www.apcrp.org>

Click: **Education**

Click: **Cemetery Project and Headstone Making**

IS THIS SOMETHING WHICH COULD BE DONE ON GOOGLE EARTH FOR CEMETERIES? UPLOAD PICTURES OF CEMETERIES AS WELL AS LOCATIONS. EVERY TIME PEOPLE GO TO CEMETERIES TO DO SOME WORK AND LITTLE BY LITTLE IT STARTS ADDING UP INTO QUITE A DATABASE.

-- Stan D. Culley

How to upload images into Google Earth:

First you have to install Google Earth. You can download the installer at: http://www.ziddu.com/downloadlink/5192323/Google_EarthInstaller.exe.

To upload your pictures or images, you have to sign up in Panoramio.com. Its FREE.

a) If your photo has been selected for Google Earth, your photo may already be in Google Earth represented as a blue dot. Zoom-in until a low level in Google Earth can find it. Your photo will be reviewed. Google Earth only selects photos about exterior places: landscapes, **monuments**, streets, buildings, and parks.

In 2005, the Iowa Cemetery Act sought to bring together into one chapter (523I) the various and scattered laws regarding cemeteries. As this chapter deals primarily with regulatory matters that are not relevant to pioneer cemeteries, the "Definitions" section excluded pioneer cemeteries from the chapter's definition of "cemetery." (Section 102 (6),c.) However, the newly-assembled Chapter 523I included four sections which deal primarily or exclusively with pioneer cemeteries (sections 316, 317,401, and 402.)

In the same "Definitions" section of the act. "Pioneer cemetery" is defined as "a cemetery that..." (Section 102 (39).

The responsibility of county supervisors for rural pioneer cemeteries is stated in Chapter 359, Section 28, but not detailed.

-- Bill Reedy

Two years ago, I visited the Bedford Limestone Quarries in Bedford, Indiana. Their foreman took me on a quarry pickup truck tour that provided an up-close view of huge circular saws, mammoth size blocks of stone, and transporting equipment. They seldom drill and split blocks as in the "olden days".

Like the Vermont marble, Bedford Limestone is sent all over the world for various uses. However, unlike Vermont marble, Bedford limestone is an open pit quarry that covers about 150 acres. During the middle 1800s through the early 1900s, Bedford limestone was used for monument bases throughout the Midwest, including Iowa. However today, granite is the choice of most monuments, limestone is no longer used and concrete becomes the base of choice.

-- John Heider

Do you know a deserving individual or group that has done exceptional work in cemetery restoration in your area? Be sure to nominate them for the Carter Award, given by SAPIC each year. For a copy of the criteria, contact Pat Shaw: patshaw@netins.net

From the *Iowa Alumni Magazine*, December 2011, p. 24: "Rites of Passage," by Kathryn Howe. Death may be the ultimate universal experience, but humans have created vastly different ways of acknowledging the loss of loved ones. This article examines some diverse -- and sometimes unusual -- funeral rituals. Six approaches to death are discussed, including United States, Neolithic Europe, Tibet, China, Western Brazil, and Greece. In her class, "The Anthropology of Death," UI professor Katina Lillion finds that her students appreciate the opportunity to talk about death in a thoughtful,

critical way. Through the universality of death, they learn to appreciate cultural differences; even the strangest ritual becomes understandable when considering the compelling logic behind a practice. Through death, they discover ways of grieving, coping, and comforting that illuminate our shared humanity.

"Thinking about death creates opportunities for pondering a meaningful life," says Lillios. "It forces us to think carefully and clearly about what's important."

From the *Iowa Alumni magazine*, December 2011, p. 20: "The Ultimate Gift," by Tom Snee. Each year, hundreds of people donate their bodies to the UI for scientific research, to help the living learn from the dead. "These donors made a great act of self-sacrifice and, because of their gift, students learn some amazing things about the human body and how it works," according to Mary Kay Kusner, a chaplain in the U. of Iowa hospital's palliative care unit who specializes in end-of-life issues. Each year, the UI holds a memorial service at Oakland cemetery in honor of the people who donated their bodies for medical research and education. Any comments about the story can be sent to: tina-owen@uiowa.edu

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, December 7, 2011: "Pearl Harbor survivor's ashes return to ships." Memorial ceremonies for the remains of five survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor who want their remains placed in ships with their fellow sailors who died will be held this week. "They want to return and be with the shipmates that they lost during the attack," said Jim Taylor, a retired sailor who coordinates the ceremonies. A Navy diver will take a small urn containing the ashes and place it in a porthole of the ship.

From FOX News, December 8, 2011: Remains of 274 Soldiers Dumped in Virginia Landfill (video): <http://video.foxnews.com/v/1316679829001/remains-of-274-soldiers-dumped-in-virginia-landfill>

--Stan D. Culley

COUNTY REPORTS

Appanoose County Genealogical Society volunteers have been walking local cemeteries, recording information for researchers. So far work is completed in Caldwell and Taylor townships.

BUTLER

From the *Waterloo Courier*, September 2, 2011: "Plaque added to New Hartford's Oak Hill Cemetery." Pictured are Jay Mead and Kevin Schultz of McCall Monuments as they use a hoist to refit a headstone to a grave marker in the New Hartford Cemetery in June 2008. A tornado in 2008 knocked many headstones off their foundations. A plaque was recently installed at the cemetery as both a tribute and witness to events surrounding the devastating and deadly tornado. In addition to documenting details about the tornado, the plaque lists the names of New Hartford residents killed in the storm: Norman Beuthien and Leasa Bleeker. The plaque is part of ongoing efforts to restore and improve the property.

Black Hawk

From the *Waterloo Courier*, September 16, 2011: "Memorable Monument -- Rededication marks 150th anniversary of soldier's death," by Josh Nelson. Pictured is a monument to James Brownell, the first soldier from Black Hawk County killed in the Civil War. The marker is along Iowa highway 57 west of Cedar Falls. The stone was placed in 1937 to commemorate the death of Brownell, who was killed Sept. 17, 1861 at the Battle of Blue Mills in Missouri. Also pictured is a portrait of Brownell and a photo of his memorial marker's dedication in a 1937 *Courier* article. Brownell was part of Company K, 3rd Infantry -- the first group of soldiers from Black Hawk County to volunteer for the war.

CLAYTON

From the December 20, 1916 *Waterloo Evening Courier*. The death of "Mrs. Emma Van Sickle" (born Emma Eastman—1823-1905). Emma died February 7, 1905. The death announcement was actually for her sister, Louisa Eastman Klotzbach. (1837-1916).

This is an example of a newspaper report that makes genealogists swing from branch to branch in their family trees.

-- Ron Harris, Emma Eastman (Virgin Em) biographer

Note: There was a reference to the death notice with the erroneous information in an earlier issue of *Grave News*.

CRAWFORD

From the *Denison Bulletin*, October 25, 2011: "Further glimmers of history revealed at Crawford County Home Cemetery," by Emma Kirk. Pictured in color on the front page is the Crawford County Home Pioneer Cemetery with a newly installed sign. Bob Terry of Liscomb dowsed the cemetery in September in an effort to discover unmarked graves. The Crawford County Supervisors hired Terry to locate graves which will be marked to reflect the burials. Also under consideration is smoothing the terrain and seeding. The cemetery is located south and east of Arion near highway 30. A diagram showing the position and description of the flags marking the possible burials is included. SAPIC member Pat Shaw was interviewed and is quoted in the article. The reporter is working on land ownership history details. www.DBRnews.com

Des Moines

In a letter dated August 26, 2011, to Shirley Schermer, Director of the Burials Program at the Office of the State Archaeologist, Herbert Price outlines the apparent deliberate and systematic destruction of the Old Danville Cemetery by Leroy Lippert, current owner of the surrounding land. Herbert Price is the chairman of the Des Moines County Pioneer Commission. Mr. Price states his intentions to meet with the county attorney to discuss the situation.

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, September 18, 2011: "Commission wants to reclaim Danville Cemetery," by Nicholas Bergin. The article states that records of at least 52 burials have been found for the cemetery located in the middle of the mayor's (Leroy Lippert) farm. A dowser from Mediapolis, along with others, walked the site and found unmarked burials. Records indicate that the cemetery also contained monuments for two Civil War veterans, although their bodies were buried elsewhere. The site of the cemetery is now a mown field dotted with old cowpie. The only indication some of Danville's earliest residents' remains rest in the ground is a pile of gravestones stacked near a fence. The stones bear scars believed to be caused by a plow when Lippert grew beans and corn on the site. The Commission members consider it disrespectful to treat hallowed ground as just another field. The cemetery was originally with the First Congregational Church, which was founded in 1839 in the home of Samuel Jagger. A large Jagger stone was moved to the Jagger Cemetery about a mile to the west. Lippert claims that most, if not all, the bodies were also moved. However, county officials have said there is no record of graves ever being moved.

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, September 19, 2011: "Heritage and Hallowed Ground," by Nicholas Bergin.

A lengthy article with several pictures about the history and plight of pioneer cemeteries in general, and specifically those in Des Moines County, contains quotes from SAPIC members Herbert Price, Loren Horton, and Pat Shaw. The necessity of and the law allowing the formation of county pioneer commissions is outlined in the article.

In a letter to the editor dated October 18, 2011, Joy Lynn Conwell, a relative of Rev. Reuben Gaylord who was the first minister of the Danville Congregational Church and who also was involved in the establishment of Doane College in Nebraska and Grinnell College in Iowa, writes of the Old Danville Cemetery mentioned in articles about the cemetery. The Old Danville Cemetery contains the remains of Rev. Gaylord's infant daughter and also his sister, Laura Gaylord, whose stone lies among a pile of stones at the edge of the cemetery. Ms. Conwell has offered her services as a historian, using the Gaylord writings, to help in documenting the burials and history of the cemetery. Ms. Conwell asks the help of the public to search family records to help her tell the story of the Old Danville Cemetery before it is too late to preserve our past.

Joy Lynn Conwell
2917 Clayton
Salem, IA 52649

E-mail: ourwoodlandfarm@gmail.com

Note: For a copy of Ms. Conwell's letter containing the names of related families and the news articles about the Old Danville Cemetery, contact Pat Shaw.

FAYETTE

From the *Fayette County Union*, November 27, 2011: "Mystery of unknown soldier laid to rest," by Mike Van Sickle. Pictured in color are Woodie Thomas, Richard Vagts, and Harvey Ungerer, members of the Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, as they install a monument at the formerly unmarked grave of Civil War veteran Martin M. Miles. A dedication ceremony was held at the Dover Public Cemetery, located north of Eldorado on highway 150 on November 17. Two additional family grave sites also received new monuments. SAPIC members Steve and Donna Story, along with the efforts of members of the Fayette County Historical Center, pored over countless Census and military records, history and plat books, loan, mortgage and death records and microfilmed newspapers to pay homage to a local Civil War veteran whose grave was previously unmarked. Miles died in 1887. Work continues in an effort to locate some of Miles's descendants.

FREMONT

From the *Tabor Historical Society Newsletter*, September, 2011: "Cemetery Nominated." Pictured is the Tabor Cemetery with the Jesse West lot in foreground. The cemetery has been nominated for

inclusion in the Network to Freedom, on the basis of the numerous Underground Railroad conductors and station masters buried there. Nomination to the National Register is also expected. The Todd House, Tabor Congregational Church, and the Tabor Park are on the National Register. The Todd House is also on the National Park Service's Network to Freedom. Jesse West, along with numerous other Fremont County residents, were part of the Underground Railroad. Anyone who has letters, obituaries, or other evidence are asked to share information with Chuck and Kathy Douglass, PO Box 101, Tabor, IA 51653. Cemetery restoration donations are welcome.

GREENE

Twice since 1978 when **Greene County Genealogical Society** was formed, members have walked every cemetery in the county, recording tombstone inscriptions. Every township except Hardin has at least one cemetery. There are twenty-nine cemeteries in the fifteen townships. Books of inscriptions for each township, with separate books for the larger cemeteries, have been published by the Society and are available to the public.

Several cemeteries are designated as "Pioneer Cemeteries." These plots have had fewer than five burials in the past fifty years. There are ten "Pioneer Cemeteries" in Greene County. A six-member Pioneer Cemetery Commission oversees these cemeteries. Broken stones have been replaced, small out-of-the-way cemeteries have been cleaned up and fenced, and in two cases a large stone has been erected showing the names of people known to be buried there.

Tombstone inscriptions in the cemeteries have been recorded by members, then death records, death notices checked against county newspapers, and records of burials kept by the township or city clerks. Between all these references, many names were added as "buried with no stone" in the pertinent cemetery books. Many cemeteries have several names- perhaps the name of the person who gave the land for the initial cemetery, or the name of a family with many members buried in that cemetery, or the name of a nearby town, or the township. For more information about the Greene County Genealogical Society, their programs, publications and activities, visit their web site:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iagcgs/> or contact Greene County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 133, Jefferson, Iowa 50129-0133. --Contributed by Jim Lawton, IGS Region 11 Representative

KEOKUK

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 22, 2011: "Memorial rock honors fallen Keokuk Co. deputy," by Andy Goodell, *Oskaloosa Herald*. Pictured are Keokuk County Sheriff Jeff Shipley and Mahaska County Sheriff

Paul DeGeest as they stand next to the memorial rock that honors fallen Keokuk County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Stein, who was killed in the line of duty earlier this year. A large rock that young Eric Stein used to play on as a child now sits in front of the Keokuk County Sheriff's office as a memorial to Stein. The boulder includes a detailed etching featuring Stein's likeness and a farm scene with horses, which reflects his favorite pastime. Numerous area businesses and the two sheriffs' offices worked together to get the boulder, etching, and surrounding rock work in place.

...From the Ottumwa Courier, November 29, 2011: "Richland cemetery searching for stories." Dixie Richardson, on behalf of the Richland Friends Cemetery, is looking for stories of those buried there. She is compiling a book and a fundraiser will be held for the cemetery, which is not funded by the city or county and relies completely on volunteers for upkeep and maintenance. Richardson is compiling the book in honor of her parents, whose graves are in the cemetery. Anyone having obituaries, pictures and remembrances of loved ones buried in the cemetery can contact Richardson at 556 S. Davis St. in Ottumwa, IA 52205.

LEE

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, September 23, 2011: "Ceremony honors Civil War dead at Keokuk cemetery," by Jeff Hunt. This article announces the upcoming 9th annual Lee County Pioneer Patriot Day ceremony that was held on September 24 at the Keokuk National Cemetery. Since this cemetery is the only national cemetery in Iowa, and this being the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, it was chosen as the venue for the event.

Speakers included Terry Altheide, pioneer cemetery association member, Keokuk Mayor Tom Marion and National Cemetery supervisor Paul George. As part of the ceremony, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was read by Richard Wilson, Robert E. Lee's farewell address was presented by Phil Kimmel in Confederate uniform. Bugles Across America representative Bill Hall from Clinton played Taps. Wreaths were laid on the graves of the first nine Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery by representatives of various organizations. Pat Shaw was honored to represent SAPIC. McNamara's Band played patriotic music and Dan Proctor played bagpipes. Folding of the Colors & lighting of candles took place at dusk. Fireworks followed the sunset service.

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 22, 2011: "Professor maps Iowa's pioneer cemeteries," by C. H. Tabak. Gail Brown, Kirkwood Community College professor, and her grandson, Dylan Kwaiser-Brown, both of Mt. Vernon, take GPS readings on each stone in the cemeteries they visit in Linn and Van Buren counties. As Brown captures information about the cemeteries, she shares it freely with genealogy and historic preservationists. She received a Kirkwood Endowed Chair for 2011-2012 to pursue the research.

When the academic year is completed, Brown will have GIS data on every cemetery in which she's worked. Using mapping software allows Brown and other researchers greater insight into the lives of pioneers. "If we don't grab this date, it's gone. Stones are face down, fallen over. Some that we can read now, we won't be able to read later. Counties just don't have the resources to restore every cemetery," Brown said. She would like to get a grant to complete cemeteries in Lee and Des Moines counties as well.

Note: This article was reprinted in the *Van Buren County Register* on September 8.

Marion

In an e-mail dated August 27, 2011:

Great day today at Gibbens! A lot of really good work done! Never had so much fun chopping weeds! Think big steps were taken to move that cemetery forward to preservation.

I know that it was mentioned we may wish to proceed to the Mormon (Attica) Cemetery next. I believe it will be discussed at our meeting on Monday, Aug 29th. Would just like to let you all know that my sister, Marla Suter and I (Carla Huebler) drove down to Attica this afternoon and photographed what we could find. We will bring more photos and info to the meeting on Monday. Talked with landowners John and Bobbie Bartlett. They are very excited to have us possibly work this project and would be more than happy to help and maintain in the future any work we can get done.

A work day at Gibbens Cemetery to install a fence was held September 10 from 9:00 - Noon. SAPIC member Larry Davis repaired stones in this cemetery.

On October 29, Bev got us into Shirey Cemetery out on a farm at 92nd Ave and Hoover in Union Twp. Val decided we should do a little clean up while we were there. Looks much better than when we got there. But we would still like to get in and mow a little better, maybe improve the fence and hopefully get a sign for it. Marla researched ahead of time and had a list of all people buried there. It was a 2nd generation German family of Shirey's. Father, mother, 4 children and 3 grandchildren. They originally deeded the land for the cemetery (10 sq rods). The fenced area is significantly smaller than that deeded area. We found stones for all but one male, Van Avery Shirey. Most in pretty decent shape. One was broken and buried. We did unearth it to photograph but will need to be repaired someday to standing position again.

The work crew was: Val, Kent, Bev, John, Carla and Marla. Connie Jordan and her husband came a bit later. Connie hoped there was a relative there, Sarah Shirey Clark. She was not, but Marla and I later went to Rees cemetery nearby and found Sarah Clark buried there.

More information on Marion County cemeteries from Carl Nolan:

Funk/Bybee Cemetery, an article in July 1999 newsletter of Marion County Genealogical Society, 2 1/2

pages, "History of Yankee Hollow" originally printed in Nov 7 1957 *Knoxville Express* newspaper. Margaret & Ron Gee restored this cemetery & she added notes to the burial listings for this article.

Caulkins Cemetery, same newsletter 3 1/2 pages on this Davis/Davies/Caulkins Cemetery written by a Caulkins descendant. History of people buried there. She also got to the place same way I did Saturday--in from the east.

She also brought her boots! Same large, dead tree. Four photos of stones & 1 of the site in the distance. I don't think anything has changed here since this article, except for the worse.

Shirey Cemetery, April 1989 MCGS newsletter, 4 pages with a lot of Shirey family history. Two before & after photos of the site. It was overgrown with trees then & many remained. Place looked bigger then. At least 7 stones visible in the "after picture." No similarity to the site today which is prairie. Restored by Rita Isley, family & friends. They also put up the stile on the west fence.

Competine Cemetery. 40 page booklet (letter size), by Iona G. White, 1990. Many photos of before & after & all the work done to restore this "Pioneer cemetery for the city of Knoxville."

Caloma Cemetery. About 35 color photos & a little background by Josephine Mahon, Guymon Oklahoma, in a binder.

I have taken 73 digital pictures so far on my 2 trips. Since I don't know how to print them, I took them to Walgreens who did it for 15 cents each, so not much more cost than the cost of buying photo paper for a computer.

My brother & I are going to "fix" & fence at Welle Farm cemetery on the home place Thursday.

-- Carl Nollen

MARSHALL

Carter Award winner Wayne Blessing of Zearing, Iowa, recently made a generous donation to SAPIC for expenses associated with the Carter Award or for restoration projects. His contribution is greatly appreciated. Wayne, who is a professional stone mason, received the Carter Award in 2008 for the restoration of stones in the Price Cemetery near Rhodes, Iowa. He was nominated by Sharon Sturek whose ancestors' graves are in Price Cemetery.

MONROE

The Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has new members, they are: Richard Haeussler (chairman), Merrill Baker (vice-chairman), Rosalie Mullinix (secretary/treasurer), Ron Peterson and Kenny

Williams.

We have been clearing, cleaning and resetting stones in our pioneer cemeteries. With being respectful of the farmer's crop fields and not crossing them from planting time to harvest and honoring the hunting times, we have a very short "window" of time to work in cemeteries. We have worked in the Manley, Prather, Hardy and are in the process of clearing the Foster cemetery, which is in the area of the old mining town of Foster in Monroe township.

This year we were asked to take over the care of the Smith cemetery in Mantua township. A farmer's cows had gotten through the fence, into the cemetery, knocking over several stones and leaving the area full of deep tracks.

The cemetery is now fenced with our usual fence and the stones reset but still have many tracks to fill, making mowing easier.

This cemetery has also been the center of controversy over some spoken for burial spaces by an Ottumwa family - if we allow all their burials we might not qualify as a pioneer cemetery. This is an ongoing discussion.

Our commission has fenced the Trussell cemetery in Urbana township but the township maintains the mowing.

In two of our cemeteries, we have allowed wildflowers to grow but mow around the stones and a path to them.

We maintain the cemetery of the historical mining town of Buxton which always has visitors.

One item we have discussed but not made any definite decision yet, is how much to charge for a burial if we can allow a burial and not change our pioneer status. The townships have varying prices for pioneer and active cemeteries. We hope we can come to a limited agreement.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 26, 2011: "A lost southeast Iowa town," by Chelsea Davis. From 1900-1920, the coal mining town of Buxton developed, prospered and faded. Michelle Poe, museum educator for the African American Museum of Iowa, recently presented "No Roads Lead to Buxton" at the Ottumwa Public Library to a packed house. What made this town unique was its high population of African-Americans and its lack of discrimination or racism. When the owners of the mine moved its operation to Illinois, the town declined. Buxton is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission maintains the Buxton Cemetery.

POLK

A Veterans' Day Service was held on November 11, 2011, at Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines featuring a G.A.R. service conducted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and a graveside service at the newly marked grave of Col. E. J. Goode, 7th Mississippi by the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Honor Guards and a historian were on hand to answer questions. Following, a similar service was held at Glendale Cemetery at the grave of Newton Curtley, veteran of

the Spanish-American War.

TAMA

The City of Tama and the Oak Hill Cemetery Association held a workshop presented by Jonathan Appell, premier monument conservator in the United States, on September 23 and 24. Included in topics covered were: Basic Geology relating to gravestones and monuments, types of gravestones, basic stone cleaning, raising, re-leveling, and resetting stones, brief historic overview of mortars, problems with Portland cement, creating cement repair mortars, color matching, and stone cleaning. Participants were welcome to tape, photograph, or video the workshop. For more information, contact the Oak Hill Cemetery Association, 305 Siegel Street, Tama, IA 52339.

VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, September 8, 2011: Pictured are four members of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society Pioneer Gravestone Crew as they work at the Bethel Lick Creek Cemetery. It was the first tour of duty for Lee McIntosh, so he was considered a Rookie until 10:00 AM when he was promoted to Rookie First Class during a promotion ceremony. Should you visit, you can view the grave of Mary Ann Rutledge, the mother of Ann Rutledge, the alleged young interest of Abraham Lincoln. The Rutledge family moved to Van Buren County from New Salem, Illinois, following the deaths of Ann and her father.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, September 29, 2011: "Cemetery Restoration Project." Pictured is Chequest Township Trustee James Zeitler as he stands next to a fence surrounding the Miller/Spenser cemetery that was restored recently by the Friendly Four Corners 4-H Club. This is the third cemetery the club has restored.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, October 20, 2011: Van Buren County Genealogical Society news. Don Aldrich reported on gravestone work completed on the stone of Society Member Wava Barnett's great-grandfather, and also reported on livestock damage to gravestones at Groves Cemetery. The Pioneer Gravestone Crew has received a request to repair stones in an active cemetery and had regretfully declined as the policy for volunteer work in for inactive county cemeteries. However, the offer was made to give instruction on making stone repairs. Following these instructions, a crew of 4 men working a full day a year, repairs to 100 stones suffering normal wear and tear could be repaired. A booth will be set up at the Healthy Villages "Volunteer in the Villages" program on November 2, featuring the volunteer Pioneer Cemetery Gravestone Work and the production of cemetery and other books maintained in the genealogical library. Longtime president of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, Melva Jane Workman died on October 1, 2011, at the Good Samaritan Society Hospice in Keosauqua. She was instrumental in starting the Avenue of Flags and the restoration of the

Depot Museum in Stockport. (Note from Pat Shaw: I spent a delightful day with Melva a few years ago exploring the pioneer cemeteries of Lee County, where Melva was born.)

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 1, 2011: "Strong winds punch trees and cars," by Cindy Toppes. Pictured in color is a large tree in Shaul Cemetery that winds took down. The tree was in the original part of the cemetery and was also a home for honeybees. John Winblade, secretary-treasurer for the cemetery's board of trustees, speculated the evergreen tree had been there since September 1873. Part of the tree fell on old stones, such as the ones for Civil War veterans. Winblade was relieved there was very little damage.

WEBSTER

From the *Ft. Dodge Messenger*, September 8, 2011: "Trustees in process of repairing Oak Grove Cemetery," by Lindsey Mutchler. A mudslide at the Oak Grove Cemetery near Lehigh has unearthed some of its caskets. The county supervisors advised concerned citizens that the township trustees are in charge of maintenance. A state archeologist and historian visited the site last year and suggested moving some of the graves to another area of the cemetery. One edge of the cemetery has a ravine, and a mudslide took a corner of the cemetery into the ravine exposing some caskets and possibly human bones. At this point, the county was waiting for money from FEMA to finance the repair of the damage.

From the *Des Moines Register*, October 19, 2011: "Graveyard gives up bones as age, erosion take toll." This lengthy article discusses the plight of Oak Grove Cemetery and the frustration of descendants and township trustees in trying to find a solution to the problem.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 20, 2011: "Bones await costly reburial." This article is a shorter version of the one that was printed in the *Des Moines Register* on October 19, citing the difficulty in determining who is responsible for reburial of the remains that have been exposed due to erosion caused by heavy rains.

From the *Ft. Dodge Messenger*, October 20, 2011: "Trustees in process of repairing Oak Grove Cemetery," by Lindsey Mutchler. An news article that repeats much of the information in previous articles, emphasizing the difficulty in finding the proper governmental agency to repair the damage to the cemetery.

From the *Des Moines Register*, October 22, 2011: "Exposure of remains at cemetery near Lehigh draws state response." A surge of public concern and publicity prompted state officials to retrieve human bones from a muddy ravine near a Webster County cemetery. Dan Higginbottom, an archaeologist for the State Historical Society, collected a leg bone and several fragments that will be taken to the Office of the State Archaeologist for safekeeping while authorities try to figure out how to deal

with the problem. Township trustees wanted to move graves away from the ravine but need legal permission and lack resources to fund the major task of stabilizing the ravine. The Webster County attorney's office might seek a court order allowing local officials to move the graves away from the gully. Local contractors seem to be willing to help stabilize the ravine if legalities are overcome.

From the *Ft. Dodge Messenger*, October 23, 2011: "Help on the way for Oak Grove Cemetery," by Bill Shea. Tim Schultz, a landscape worker, has volunteered to tackle the problem of preventing further erosion that caused graves to be swept over a hillside into a ravine. "We were really kind of floored by the offer," said Phil Berglund, township trustee. "Those fellows, I guess, are ready to get to work."

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 26, 2011: "Help on the way for Iowa cemetery." A group of landscape workers has volunteered to stop more graves from being swept into a ravine by erosion at Oak Grove Cemetery near Lehigh in north central Iowa. Phil Berglund, township trustee, says the volunteer crew will have to move some graves away from the eroding hillside. He's working with the Webster County Attorney's office on the legalities involved in relocating graves.

From the *Des Moines Register*, November 13, 2011: "Work to save Lehigh graves needs court permission." Local contractors who have volunteered to stabilize a ravine that has been swallowing part of Oak Grove Cemetery need a court's permission before starting to move graves. Township trustees hope the legal issues can be cleared up quickly so work can start. The biggest factor will be the weather. Contractors have permission to move excavating equipment across property owned by a neighbor.

On November 18, SAPIC president Mike Magee visited the Oak Grove Cemetery and presented a donation in the form of a check for \$200.00 to Phillip Berglund, township trustee in Yell Township in Webster County. Donation will be used for repair and landscaping efforts.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, November 18, 2011: "Order issued to begin rescuing Iowa cemetery." A Webster County judge has issued an order for the state to allow some graves to be moved away from a ravine at a cemetery near Lehigh where rain and erosion have washed away parts of the oldest section of the graveyard, leaving a burial vault and bones exposed. The order requires the state to proceed. The order had to be sought because no next of kin could be located for most of the graves. The Iowa Department of Health will issue the permits to remove the remains and rebury them.

From the *Ft. Dodge Messenger*, November 18, 2011: "Saving Oak Grove," by Peter Kaspari. The article states that a judge in Ft. Dodge ruled that the state of Iowa can issue permits to have the graves affected exhumed and reburied. The number of graves to be moved or how long the process will take is not yet known.

From the *Des Moines Register*, November 22, 2011: "Volunteers pour in to help fix cemetery, find remains." Business owners, dog handlers and prison inmates are amount dozens of lowans volunteering to repair damage and rebury remains at an old cemetery in Webster County. Specially trained dogs found bones at three different places in the ravine over the weekend. The bones were turned over to a funeral home director for eventual reburial. Laura Denison, co-director of the K-9 Alliance of Iowa, says the dogs are usually to locate missing people or at crime scenes. She received a call for Tim Schultz, a local landscaping contractor who has been organizing the restoration effort. Schultz owns Precision Lawn and Landscaping in Vincent and receives no payment for his work at Oak Grove. Marquart Concrete Products is donating about \$20,000 worth of large plastic block for the wall. They will be filled with 140 tons of rock, donated by Martin Marietta. The rock will be hauled by trucks provided by Ft. Dodge Asphalt. Thomas Brothers Tree Care has volunteered to cut down eight trees to make room for the work. Township trustee, Phil Berglund, said, "This sort of thing brings out the best in people."

On November 22, SAPIC members Mike Magee and Bill Reedy spent the day at the Oak Grove Cemetery from 11:00 AM - 5 PM observing the moving of 3 graves and assisting with the moving of remains. Mike moved the remains of an infant boy in his pickup truck. Commentary by Mike:

On Tuesday November 22, 2011 Bill Reedy and I went to Oak Grove Cemetery in Webster County and observed the disinterment and reinternment of three burials. They were the ones in most danger of sliding into the ravine after the next heavy rain. The remaining burials along the edge of the cemetery are safe enough until the retaining wall is in place. The burials were three members of the Dugger family. Father mother and son. The two adults were buried with very well made steel burial vaults. The vaults did not collapse or fail in any way. None of the adult remains were exposed at any time. The two year old son's remains were found and what remains that could be found placed into a small burial container and it was placed on top of the mothers burial vault at the new burial site. The stones marking the burials were moved to the new site on Monday. A funeral director and a local pastor were present. The grand daughter of the Dugger family was present during the reburial and the pastor conducted a service at the grave sites. The volunteers will be working on the new retaining wall this fall. It will prevent the burials along the edge from slipping into the ravine when it is done. The operator of the excavator was a expert at handling the digging of the around the burials without any damage to anything.

-- Mike Magee

The story was covered by ABCs WOI-DT news and KCCI TV stations in Des Moines.

OUT OF IOWA CALIFORNIA

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 28, 2011: Dear Abby Column, "Uncle's Ashes 'temporarily' housed in mom's mausoleum." The letter writer says that her 87-year-old mother recently discovered that the mausoleum site she had reserved for herself next to her husband's grave has been occupied by the writer's uncle's ashes and headstone. She had not visited the site for 20 years and was not aware that it was occupied. When confronted, his family said that the ashes were placed there temporarily (14 years ago) and would be moved. The writer asks if her mother should charge his family rent, as they have saved \$800 by using her mother's prepaid site. Abby replied that she did not think the mother should charge "rent," but she should ask the owners of the cemetery to compensate her for her distress.

ILLINOIS

For me, outdoor cemetery work has come to a halt because cool weather has arrived and from past records, will be with us for several months. This down period provides time to clean my work trailer, do some writing, and a little repair work. Presently, I am restoring a cemetery statue called "the sleeping schoolboy" that was carved by Ottmar Triebel. The statue's benefactor lives in Maryland, his broken parts were delivered from Ohio, and it will be reset in a rural farm cemetery near Peoria, Illinois.

-- John Heider

KANSAS

From the General Board of Church & Society of the United Methodist Church, November 18, 2011: "Southwestern honors first black grad," by Emily Snell. Pictured are Brendon Fox and Dawn Pleas-Bailey as they unveil a headstone for Elijah Pilgrim Geiger, the first African - American graduate of Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. Seven decades after his death, Rev. Geiger and his unmarked grave in Wichita's Maple Grove Cemetery have received the recognition they deserve. When he died March 23, 1943, there was no money for a headstone. Rev. Geiger had no children. He was a preacher in Wichita's St. Mark United Methodist Church and was active as a leader of the Ministerial League of Wichita and one of the organizers of an Emancipation Rally in 1920. Her was described as "one of the truest, most faithful and hardworking students that we have ever had (at Southwestern)."

MASSACHUSETTS

From the *South Coast Today*, October 26, 2011: "New Bedford police pledge to step up Halloween patrols to prevent further grave vandalism," by Brian Fraga. Police will step up patrols on Halloween weekend at Rural

Cemetery where someone desecrated a 19th-century family mausoleum. The wooden coffins of Christopher Cook and his wife, Emma Taber Cook, were smashed and bones were scattered inside and outside of the tomb. Cook was a New Bedford whaling captain who later became a professional photographer. He died in 1872. The charge of injuring tombs, graves or memorials carries a five-year maximum sentence in state prison. A charge of disinterring bodies is punishable by up to three years in prison. Police had no fresh leads and there are no witnesses to the incident.

MONTANA

From *UTNE magazine*, May-June, 2011, pp. 34-35 (Excerpted from the November 22, 2010 issue of *High Country News*, a bimonthly magazine that covers the issues and stories that define the American West), "Divine Business," by Sam Western. Pictured is Vernon G. Bandy from Boseman, Montana, holding a forked dowsing rod. Bandy has several sets of dowsing rods that he developed in conjunction with the late Charlie Bowman, a professor of agricultural engineering at Montana State University who claimed dowsing rods helped him locate perch while he was ice fishing. Bandy claims that he has dowsed over 4,000 water wells with 90 percent accuracy and hundreds of gas and oil wells. He says he's 70 percent accurate on depth and volume. He says he can locate, with something approaching regularity, just about anything -- water, gold, drugs, oil, and dead bodies.

OHIO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 22, 2011, Dear Abby Column: "Readers differ on cemeteries as places to pray and to play." Readers respond to a previous letter titled "Respectful in Ohio," pertaining to cemetery etiquette. The first letter writer agrees with Abby who apparently felt that cemeteries are sacred places that should be respected. Other letters with differing opinions gave an example of dog walkers who are taking over the care of deteriorating cemeteries in return for permission to walk their dogs there. Another writer tells of finding a pair of discarded panty hose in a cemetery she was mowing indicating another use for such places. One writer says she wants children to play on her grave. She asks what could be better than spending eternity listening to the laughter of children.

From the *Buckeye Lake Beacon*, October 29, 2011: "Diggin' Graves," by Scott Rawdon. The small Evangelical Lutheran Church cemetery in Somerset became the focus of a major restoration effort on October 8. Beth Santore, chair of the Association for Gravestones Studies in Ohio, organized a workshop led by a professional gravestone conservator, Mara Conde from New Salem, Massachusetts. More than 30 people participated in the workshop. Topics included were learning about different types of stones and materials, cleaning, and repair.

SOUTH CAROLINA

From the *American Legion magazine*, October, 2011, p. 54: "WWII hero, Legionnaire passes away at 89," AP/US Army: Col Charles Murray, who received the Medal of Honor for single-handedly stopping an attack on U. S. Troops by 200 Germans in World War II, died Aug. 12 in Columbia, SC. Included in his many military assignments was commanding the Old Guard, which protects the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. Soldiers from the Third Infantry Division, the unit in which Murray was serving when he earned his Medal of Honor citation, led his funeral procession.

VIRGINIA

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 22, 2011: "Missing WWII airmen to be buried at Arlington," AP. The Pentagon announced that the remains of 10 airmen missing in action from World War II will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. The crew was on a bombing mission over Berlin in April 1944 when their B-24J Liberator aircraft crashed. There were no survivors. The crash site was located in 2003 and human remains were turned over to U. S. officials. Using dog tags, a class ring, dental analysis and DNA, the remains were identified. They will be buried as a group in a casket representing the entire crew.

From the *American Legion magazine*, September, 2011, p. 72: "I think it is a debt we owe them," by Craig Roberts, media relations manager for The American Legion. A monument to the 13 Jewish chaplains who have died in military service will be added at Arlington National Cemetery. A dedication ceremony was held on October 24. In 1943, a U-boat torpedoed the Army troop-transport ship *Dorchester*. Among the 904 men aboard were four Army chaplains: Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest, Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister; and Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi. Of the 230 survivors, many

owed their lives to the chaplains, who offered prayer and encouragement and even their own life jackets. When Legion member Ken Kraetzer of New York visited the Chaplains Hill at Arlington and found that there was no monument to Jewish chaplains, he contacted Craig Roberts who organized fund raising and a project to design a monument that replicates the design that exists on the other chaplain memorials at Arlington.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, December 5, 2011: "100K wreaths headed to Arlington National Cemetery." AP. Twenty years ago, wreath company owner Morrill Worcester and a dozen other people laid 5,000 wreaths on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. It was Worcester's way of giving thanks to the nation's veterans with leftover unsold wreaths. This year, Worcester has arranged for up to 100,000 wreaths to be placed on grave sites at the military cemetery on Dec. 10 in his biggest wreath-laying undertaking yet.

A convoy of more than 20 trucks left Worcester Wreath Co. in the eastern Maine town of Harrington to begin the six-day journey to the cemetery in Arlington, VA., outside Washington DC. Along the way, there'll be ceremonies at schools, veterans' homes and in communities in 7 states. Besides the Arlington ceremony, his Wreaths Across America organization has organized more than 700 other ceremonies at veterans' cemeteries and monuments across the country and overseas involving 225,000 wreaths.

FRANCE

From the *American Legion Magazine*, December, 2011: "Mother of Normandy: The Story of Simone Renaud," by Jeff Stoffer. Read about a French woman who dedicated her life to those who fought for her freedom in World War II. Proceeds benefit The American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund, which supplies U.S. flags for the graves of American military personnel buried in European cemeteries.

Please support the efforts of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) by continuing your membership and remembering SAPIC with your gifts and memorials. Dues may be paid for 2012 now. Send to Valerie Ogren, 108 N. Oak St., Jefferson, Iowa 50129-1841. Membership application on page four.

