

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535
VOLUME 17 ISSUE #1

www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/
January, 2012

SAPIC will meet on April 28 at 10:00 AM at the Colfax Community Center in Colfax, Iowa. 1720 Highway 117 S., Colfax, IA 50054. The contact there is Joy Conley, her e-mail is 58mohawk@gmail.com. Lunch is on your own. There are 2 restaurants in Colfax and numerous establishments in the I-80 and Des Moines areas.

Aerial views, information about 118,000 cultural resources now on-line

Iowa Site Inventory features architectural properties, historic districts and cemeteries

DES MOINES – The Department of Cultural Affairs today announced information about nearly 114,000 historical and architectural properties, 280 National Register districts, and **3,500 cemeteries** have been mapped and are now available on-line.

DCA has mapped and uploaded information from its Iowa Site Inventory to I-Sites Public, an online Geographic Information Systems (GIS) site co-hosted by Iowa State University's GIS Support and Research Facility and the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City. The I-Sites Public web page is at

<http://ags.gis.iastate.edu/IsitesPublicAccess/>.

“This is important because it marks the first time the statewide inventory of Iowa’s cultural resources is available to the public in this format,” DCA Director Mary Tiffany Cownie said. “This means anybody from historic preservationists to archaeologists to the general public can visit this site on-line and research places and properties in Iowa that have historical, archaeological and architectural significance or value.”

The Iowa Site Inventory files contain information about more than 123,000 architectural, historical and National Register-listed properties around the state. Information in each property file varies in scope from a single photograph to a full National Register nomination, newspaper clippings and project reports.

Each property is given a unique site number and basic information about the property is entered into the computerized Iowa Site Inventory database. This searchable information includes location details, property names, historic and current functions, building materials, architect and builder (if known), architectural style and National Register status.

The database also cross-references properties to photographs and 1,900 architectural and historical reports in the State Historic Preservation Office collections.

More information is available by contacting SHPO’s Berry Bennett at berry.bennett@iowa.gov or telephone 515-281-8742.

-- Jeff Morgan, 515-281-3858

Two ladies were on a shopping trip to a large mall. They were surprised to see a small enclosed cemetery in the parking lot. One expressed disbelief that a cemetery would have been preserved within the borders of such a commercial site. The other lady shrugged and said, “Well, that’s probably where you go when you shop ‘til you drop!”

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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9-415-1175 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

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

A lending library of books and other materials related
to cemetery preservation can be found on the SAPIC
web site.

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

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter – 1 October 2011 thru 31 December 2011

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2011, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 3,293.79
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 195.00	
Donation	22.00	
Interest 10/31/11	.64	
Interest 11/30/11	.64	
Interest 12/31/11	<u>.63</u>	
Total Income		\$ 218.91
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #251 – Marshalltown Moose Lodge	\$ 50.00	
Ck #253 – Birmingham P. O. (not-profit permit)	190.00	
Ck #254 – Patricia Shaw – newsletter	34.92	
Ck #255 – Postmaster – stamps for Pat	8.80	
Bank Debit (returned check)	<u>1.50</u>	
Total Expense		\$ 285.22
Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2011		\$ 3,227.48
Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2011, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 4,328.39
Donation from Wayne Blessing	\$ 300.00	
Life Membership – Larry & Mary Richards	100.00	
Life Membership – Tom Gaard	100.00	
Ck #252 – Oak Grove Cemetery, Lehigh, Webster Co., IA	<u>(200.00)</u>	
Total		\$ 300.00
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2011		\$ 4,628.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 31 December 2011 **\$ 7,855.87**

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 GRANT APPLICATION

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

NAME OF CEMETERY: _____

LOCATION: _____

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BURIAL SITE: _____

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

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

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

Have you approached the county supervisors about creating a pioneer cemetery commission? _____
Have you participated in any cemetery or stone restoration workshops? _____

You may copy this application and add any comments on the back.
Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of person making application:

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS: JULY 6, 2012
MAIL TO: MIKE MAGEE, 638 ENGLEWOOD, WATERLOO, IA 50701-5846
E-MAIL: digger4045@yahoo.com

SAPIC DUES MAY BE PAID NOW FOR 2012

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION New ___ Renewal ___ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address _____

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

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

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

Due to inclement weather, the January SAPIC meeting had to be canceled. A "virtual meeting" was held following that scheduled meeting. Items (1) and (3) were approved by SAPIC Board Members:

Please vote (YES or NO) on the items (1) and (3) and send to Mike Magee by February 10, 2012: digger4045@yahoo.com

(1) Approval of the following slate of officers (for 2012) and board members (3-year terms, 2012 - 2014):

President: Mike Magee
Vice-president: Bill Reedy
Secretary: Frieda Davis
Treasurer: Valerie Ogren

Board Member: Larry Davis (Polk County)
Board Member: Vera Heck (Poweshiek County)

Note: Up until 2010, there were nine SAPIC board members. In 2011, there were only eight. The board member whose term expires in 2011 does not wish to continue on the board.

Therefore, two board members can be elected in 2012 for 3-year terms.

(2) A proclamation from the Governor's Office proclaiming the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month" will be requested as soon as possible. If you can be present for the signing of the proclamation (and picture with the governor), let Mike know. This can be done only on Thursdays between 2:00 - 3:00 PM. Are there SAPIC members who are willing to go to DM to the Capitol in April to do this or should we just have them mail the proclamation to us?

(3) Pat Shaw has made a motion that SAPIC offer 5 grants @ \$200.00 each (\$1,000 total) for 2012 to groups that need to restore a pioneer cemetery and have no other or little other financial resources. Application will be in newsletter and on web page.

Announcements:

Check the State Historical Society of Iowa web site for information on how to nominate a person for the Loren Horton Award (Loren was a founder of SAPIC).

Program on historic cemeteries on February 21 at the Waterloo Public Library

Check the SAPIC web page for materials available from the SAPIC "Lending Library."

Web site showing the casing of concrete burial vaults:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zFUgYU5fjU&feature=related>

From SAPIC member, Carla Huebler: Got this "tip" from one of the people that took a picture for me on Findagrave.

Every time we take a photo of a very old stone we wonder how to get a good pic. The rules tell us to put water on the stone which works wonders, but today my husband had a wet paper towel which he uses to wipe off the stone. He laid the towel on the letters thinking maybe they would show. And sure enough the letters and numbers attached to the paper, so to speak, and we read the dates clearly. Learn something new every time we take a photo. This makes an exciting time for us. Hope you enjoy what we were able to accomplish. Peace, Bethalene

I am a member of the General society of the War of 1812 in the State of Iowa. One of the projects of our group is to document and mark as many of the Veterans of this war that are buried in Iowa.

If your members have any knowledge of War of 1812 Veterans buried in Iowa I would be grateful if they might pass it on to me.

Feel free to forward this e-mail or the information on as you see fit.

Thank you,

Mike Rowley 515-975-0498
MJR1825@gmail.com
1825 NW 129th Street
Clive, Iowa 50325

Member SAR Iowa www.iowasar.org
General Society of the War of 1812
www.iowa1812.org
Jamestowne Society
Mayflower Society
GSSR
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
www.iowavalor.com
Descendants of Washington Army at Valley Forge

In response to an inquiry about "black residue on stones" from Doug Carlson in Boone County:

The black color is an organic residue (fecal deposits) that remains from growing plants (lichen, fungus, algae, etc.) on on the stone.

After the surface plant growth was removed by lightly scrubbing, this dark color is what is left and the color can be diminished by using the chemical cleaners such as D2 or Stone Solution. After using either, it will take time, exposure to sun, wind, and rain, to really improve the

stone's appearance; likely several weeks to many months. Patience is the real answer; allow mother nature to do her work. Take photos before you start initial cleaning, after cleaning, and then again after 90 days.

Some professionals use more drastic cleaning methods that provide to us immediate satisfaction. But these practices only hurt the stone by removing material--much like using a power tool to improve the surface of a rough wood board. Power washing, drill wire or abrasive wheels, wire brushes are a NO NO!

You mentioned using soap and a soft brush to remove the growth. Most soaps contain oils, fats, and other chemicals that remain even after, what we perceive as, a thorough rinsing. Plain water, ammonia and water (1 cup+1 gallon water), or the above named chemicals are better choices.

In the past, I have recommended using ORVUS, an nonionic soap cleaner. Several publications recommend this product, but I no longer encourage its use because it contains sodium lauryl sulfate, a salt product and a stone killer. Stay away from any product that have the words sodium or acid in their ingredients.

-- John Heider

From the Iowa Public Television web site:

www.iptv.org/legacy

Many friends of charities have benefited from a gift of land or a gift of land with a building or other structure. There are two main benefits for this gift. First, there is a charitable deduction, normally for the fair market value at the time of the gift. Second, if the real estate has appreciated the gift to a qualified public charity bypasses or avoids the capital gains tax. The combination of a substantial charitable deduction and a bypass of capital gain is an excellent double benefit. Many donors who sell other property or have substantial income will be able to use this charitable deduction to reduce their income taxes.

Iowa Code with regard to Pioneer Cemeteries

Under Iowa Code 331.325 the county board of supervisors controls and maintains pioneer cemeteries. Counties also have the option of creating a cemetery commission by ordinance under 331.325.

A county has the responsibility to "preserve and protect the cemetery or burial site." In addition to forming a cemetery commission, a county may enter into an agreement with a private or public organization to accomplish this objective.

Iowa's cemetery laws were re-written in 2005 and 2006 and consolidated into the new Iowa Code 5321.316. These changes increased the protection for pioneer cemeteries, increased the criminal penalty for those who don't protect pioneer cemeteries, increased the landowner's responsibility, and continues to give reasonable ingress and egress to visit a relative's grave.

Iowa Code 5321.316

Creates a duty for a government subdivision to "preserve and protect the cemetery or burial site as necessary to restore or maintain its physical integrity as a cemetery or burial site." This duty exists for all counties, regardless of whether they have formed a cemetery commission or not. This is very similar to old 566.33 except the new section also includes much more detail and process in addition to this basic duty.

The landowner's responsibility was expanded; it changed from prohibiting the removal, destruction or disturbance of a burial site for which the landowner received notice to prohibiting damage, defacement, destruction or other disturbance of an interment space regardless of notice.

-- Summary of Iowa Code by Bill Reedy

COUNTY REPORTS

Buchanan

From the *Independence Bulletin Journal*, August 18, 2011: "Cemetery Tour to benefit Wapsipicon Mill Roof," by Ben Frotscher. Pictured is the stone of Capt. D. D. Lee, the first mayor of Independence, that was addressed on the tour. More than 20 different sites were on the tour, some having local citizens portraying Charles Williams, Civil War veterans and a runaway slave. Demonstrations of stone rubbing and dowsing were also given. For more information on this fundraiser or the Buchanan County Historical Society, go to www.buchanancountyhistory.com.

Des Moines

It appears the US Board on Geographic Names has updated their web site correcting most of the errors I called to their attention in my letter dated July 11, 2011. Dankwardt Park has been removed; Driskell, Freitag, Gallaher, Millersburg and Newberry are now spelled correctly and Shinar Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery was added. Also added was Burlington (or Smith) Cemetery, Steingreaber and Walker Farm Plot.

-- Herb Price

Fremont

From the *Tabor Historical Society newsletter*, January, 2012, page 2. The summer of 2011 will go down in Tabor History as the summer the Tabor Cemetery was put on the map. The application to the National Park Service Network to Freedom submitted in July was approved in August.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom commends the historical significance of the Underground Railroad in the abolition of slavery and the movement of our national civil rights to replace slavery

with racial harmony and national understanding. Through shared leadership with local, state and federal entities, along with individuals and organizations, they promote programs commemorating and preserving sites and other resources associated with, and educate the public about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad.

The application, unlike much of the paperwork we have to do now days, was educational and a great learning tool. All who had a hand in doing the application learned a great deal about the cemetery and its history, especially as it pertained to the number of conductors on the Underground Railroad buried there. There are 20 plus conductors documented so far, with the possibility of more.

We are looking forward to the day that the National Park Service will install a marker similar to the one in the Tabor Park, indicating the importance of our cemetery in the history of our town as well as in our nation's history. Hopefully that will be when warmer weather permits in 2012.

--Chuck Douglass

From the *Tabor Historical Society newsletter*, January, 2012, p. 6. Pictured is Jim Morgans speaking at the Cemetery Walk on September 25 held at the Tabor Cemetery. He stood near the graves of Samuel and Caroline C. Adams, two of Tabor's founders. Graves of others recognized were Lester and Elvira Gaston Platt, who lived at Civil Bend and took an active part in the Underground Railroad operation, Jess West who was a blacksmith, hotel keeper, station keeper on the Underground Railroad and Tabor's first postmaster, and Marcus Speacs, who came on foot across the state in the fall of 1853.

Prior to the cemetery walk, a dinner was held. It was later determined that Matilda Hanks Utterback Anthony, whose grave is in the Waubonsie Cemetery, was a second cousin to Abraham Lincoln.

Also pictured in the same newsletter is the gravestone of Elmer and Altie Galt who spent 41 years as missionaries to China in the early 1900s.

Jasper

From the Newton Chamber of Commerce events calendar.

Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, March 20,
12:00 noon

The Jasper County Historical Museum, 1700 S 15th Ave W, will hold a Brown Bag Lunch & Learn in their library. Calvin & Kathy Winn will discuss the art of repairing, cleaning and resetting grave markers. Please attend and bring your lunch. Coffee and juice will be provided. For more information, call 641-792-9118.

Jefferson

Jefferson County has close to 35,000 burials,

about 4800 of which have no gravemarkers. The names of the deceased have been derived from deaths, guardianships, wills, probates, and old lot records. One of the society's active members continues to take pictures of gravestones, as requested. Over 12,000 pictures have been taken and many rural cemeteries are now complete. All cemeteries in the county are on-line and new burials are added regularly. There are 11,700 obituaries posted as of February 1, 2012.

Lack of maintenance of some rural cemeteries and access to them continues to be a problem. One rural cemetery, however, received a donation in 2011 which resulted in the resetting of 61 stones. Volunteer labor was responsible for removing all the brush and making repairs to the fence in the same cemetery.

--Verda Baird

Lee

Our main goal for 2012 will be to finish work in Judy Cemetery and maybe help get some work done in Pittman east of West Point with help of the landowner whose husband was buried in there last summer. It was cleaned up before his funeral by a group of his co-workers and they tell me a new fence has been put around it.

Sharon Little is willing to help get things together to help with the grant if they are still open. Guess our main need at this point is money for insurance later this summer and supplies. The Judy family has helped by getting the gravel and will buy glue for Judy Cemetery. There is at least one large stone that we will need a tractor to get back up. I spoke with the Boy Scouts last Sunday at our church and they are in line to help at Judy again.

Our group visited Pittman last fall before the fence was put up and visited with the widow. The stones are larger there and would require machinery to put them back up. Susan feels that something might be done there in the way of fund raising for that Cemetery or getting help to put the stones back up while owner's death is still fresh in his friend's and co-worker's minds. I have not checked the records but am almost sure he is the first burial there in many, many years.

-- Kim Irvin

Pat Morrison of the Old Fort Genealogical Society reports that she is just about done updating over 1600 pages of cemeteries for Lee County, IA.

From *Senior Lifestyles*, supplement to the *Van Buren County Register*, April, 2011: "Stockport woman remembers well the 1928 dedication of the Coleman Road," by Donna L. Muir. Pictured is the gravemarker of the Coleman family in the Bayles Cemetery in Lee County, where Alex Coleman is buried with his family. Alex gave Lee County a quarter of a million dollars to build a

standard, 18 foot paved highway from the junction of Highway 16 and 218 to Hillsboro nine miles west. He stipulated that the road had to wind past the old Coleman home, and also past the cemetery in which he planned to be buried. When he died in 1933, he left the balance of his estate to build an 18-foot highway from a relative's home to the Coleman Road. The will was contested and only half the road was paved.

Mahaska

Hawkeye Heritage News By Shirley Woodruff, IGS Secretary

The latest issue of the *Hawkeye Heritage*, published in February, includes a variety of interesting stories: Carl Nollen discusses all of the cemeteries in Mahaska County that he has personally visited.

Marion

From the *Journal Express*, January 23, 2012, "Supervisors leave pioneer cemetery borders to commission, property owners," by Steve Woodhouse. After a great deal of discussion, the Marion County Board of Supervisors decided it would be best to let the Pioneer Cemetery Commission and landowners who have pioneer cemeteries on their property, decide how to best mark the cemeteries. Marion County Engineer Roger Schletzbaum has trouble locating cemetery boundaries. It was noted that the County is responsible for pioneer cemeteries.

Monroe

Searching for Buxton

TV Schedule:

Fri, February 10, 2012 10:35 PM (IPTV)

Sun, February 12, 2012 4:00 PM (IPTV)

A young African-American goes searching for his family's past in a long-disappeared Iowa coal mining town and discovers that much of the prosperity and goodwill his relatives enjoyed nearly a century ago is elusive today. Narrated by Simon Estes.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, *Forever Young* section, December 29, 2011: "Leaving a digital map for the future," by Lori Faybik. Pictured is Gary Sample, as he marks the GPS coordinates of his great grandfather's grave. Sample discovered that a Global Positioning System can simplify locating cemeteries and also preserve the precise location of gravesites for future generations, thus saving hours of time searching for specific gravesites.

Van Buren

From the *Keosauqua Experience*, *The First 150*

years, 1839-1989," p. 9. Probably the most exciting event in the early history of Van Buren County was the hanging of a murderer by the name of McCaulley. People from all southern Iowa and northern Missouri came a foot, on horseback and by wagon loads several days before the hanging, camping on the Court House Hill awaiting the event. McCaulley's body was buried, head to the east in Oak Lawn Cemetery in Keosauqua. This position portended evil to his remains for that same night spooks or some persons removed him. No one knew the culprits, but two young doctors borrowed a big copper kettle from friends that night. His yawning grave stood unfilled for some thirty or more years, whether due to the lethargy of the people, or as a deterrent of evil doings, we cannot say.

Wapello

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, February 3, 2012: "Climbing Temperatures," by Mark Newman. Pictured in color is a contractor using a cherry picker to take down a dead tree in the Ottumwa Memorial Cemetery while temperatures climbed into the 50s.

Webster

In an e-mail from Mike Magee, December 22, 2011: I had a telephone conversation with Phil Berglund this morning. He is the township trustee in charge of the Oak Grove Cemetery near Lehigh, IA.

Progress report on the retaining wall is that it is mostly all done. The blocks have to have the caps placed on top, the fence done along the top, etc. Just a little finishing up. Several grave markers reset. The guys from the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility did a excellent job he said. If the weather stays like it is it may be almost done soon. He did not say if any photos were taken recently. The cemetery is now secure from any further erosion.

Work was all done by volunteers, materials donated, lunches, etc. Local newspaper has not done a story on the recent progress.

They all should be commended for their efforts.

-- Mike Magee

From the *Messenger News*, February 1, 2012: "Schultz recognized for Oak Grove restoration," by Brandon L. Summers. Tim Schultz, Vincent, was recognized by the Webster County Board of Supervisors for his efforts in restoring a portion of Oak Grove Cemetery near Lehigh, where heavy rains in 2009 caused an area to slide downhill, leaving coffins and bones exposed. With donations that he solicited, a road was constructed and a wall was built. The work entailed taking out 10 or 11 trees and digging a footing for the wall. The project was started on Nov. 27 and completed on Dec. 1.

For a photo of the wall, contact Mike Magee.

Out of State

California

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Jan. 16, 2012: "Researchers, tribes clash over Native bones," by Sudhin Thanawala, AP. On a bluff overlooking a sweep of Southern California beach, scientists in 1976 unearthed what were among the oldest skeletal remains ever found in the Western Hemisphere. Researchers would come to herald the bones -- dating back nearly 10,000 years -- as a potential treasure trove for understanding the earliest human history of the continental United States. But a local tribal group called the Kumeyaay Nation claimed that the bones, representing at least two people, were their ancestors and demanded them back several years ago.

For decades, fights like this over the provenance and treatment of human bones have played out across the nation. New federal protections could mean that the vast majority of the remains of an estimated 160,000 Native Americans held by universities, museums and federal government agencies, may soon be transferred to tribes. Researchers claim that studying the bones provides important opportunities to understand contemporary medicine and diseases such as diabetes and other illnesses.

Connecticut

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Jan. 7, 2012: "Race questions cloud lawsuit over Jewish Cemetery." A black cancer victim who died in 2010 and was buried in an interfaith section of a Jewish cemetery is the subject of a law suit brought by a person claiming that the burial should not have been allowed and seeking to have her remains exhumed and moved. The congregation board's lawyer filed a court document in December alleging that the suit was brought about because the person was black. The interfaith section was created in 2009 for interfaith couples, their non-Jewish children and other non-Jews.

Indiana

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/48268847@N06/>
This is a web site for the Floyd County Cemetery Restoration group in Indiana. At the bottom of the page you can click on the numbered photos to see many, many other photos of work this group has done.

From the FOX59 News, Jan. 20, 2012: "Indiana cemetery to be auctioned off next month." Grandview Memorial Cemetery in Madison, Ind., near Louisville, is going on the auction block. The cemetery has a history of problems, including water-logged graves and lawsuits dating back to 2006. The bank has now foreclosed on the property and will auction it off.

New York

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, Feb. 7, 2012: "Despite

ceremony, N.Y. fort's skeletons not buried." For decades, tourists visiting Lake George, NY, would gape at the skeletons of soldiers from nearby French and Indian War sites. Then in 1993, a somber reburial ceremony was held to finally put the remains to rest.

Only that never happened. Almost all of the 18th century skeletons were never buried, but were actually taken to Arizona and Canada for study and have yet to be returned for reburial. "You're reaching the time when they should come home," said David Starbuck, a New York archaeologist who has written about the history behind Fort William Henry's skeleton collection. At the 1993 ceremony, no mention was made that only three of the skeletons would actually be buried.

Rhode Island

From the *American Profile* magazine, January 22-28, 2012, pages 14-15: "Chiseled in Stone," by Sean Conneely. Pictured are Nick Benson and his father, John, in their Newport, R.I. shop where they inscribe many national monuments. Also pictured is Nick at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C. that he and his crew etched and was dedicated in October. As owner and creative director of the John Stevens Shop -- established in 1705 in Newport and one of the nation's oldest continuously operated businesses -- Benson has left his mark on hundreds of projects from small slate gravestones to the massive National World War II Memorial, also located in Washington, D.C. Though computerized machines do most contemporary letter carving, Benson carves by hand, using techniques that originated in ancient Greece and Rome.

Washington D.C.

From *Preservation Magazine*, January 26, 2012: "The Resurrection of Congressional Cemetery," by Betty Crosby. Twenty years ago, the Congressional Cemetery was a no-man's land two miles from the U.S. Capitol. It had become a popular hangout for prostitutes and drug dealers, as well as salvagers and satanic worshippers stealing urns, statuary, and remains. Finally, volunteers formed the nonprofit Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery (HCC). Several of the volunteers were persons who walked their dogs in the cemetery. The collapsed burial vaults have been restored, their contents properly identified and reinterred. Tombstones have been righted, roadways repaved, trees planted, and eyesores eliminated. Today, HCC focuses on dramatizing the lives of those buried at the cemetery through walking tours, themed soirees, and concerts.

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