

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535

www.rootsweb.com/fiasapc/

VOLUME 17 ISSUE #3

July, 2012

The next SAPIC meeting will be Saturday October 13, 2012, 10 am at Hurstville Interpretive Center in Jackson County, Iowa.

Hurstville Interpretive Center

18670 63rd Street

Maquoketa, IA 52060

(563) 652-3783

The center is located 1 mile north of Maquoketa on U.S. Highway 61 and 63rd Street.

Coffee, juice, rolls, etc will be available at checkin.

Lunch after the meeting will be buffet style and consist of three different kinds of sandwiches, two hot dishes, dessert & fresh fruit. Free will offering for lunch.

Contact Joann Caven at 1 563 652 2516 to make reservations for lunch. Program TBA.

Possible speaker will be David Dorff, an assistant in the Iowa attorney generals office. His topic may be "Statute of Limitations".

Unmarked Graves of Civil War Soldiers

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is very interested in making certain that graves of all Civil War Veterans are properly marked. It is usually possible to obtain a military headstone from the Department of Veterans Affairs for an unmarked grave. If SAPIC members need help in doing this, please contact me at Gaardt@aol.com. If possible, provide date of birth, date of death, the name of the regiment, and a name of a living relative.

-- Tom Gaard

From the *Linn County Register*, November 6, 1861: A Poser -- A son of Erin once accosted a Reverend disciple of Swedenburg thus:

"Mr. _____, you say that we are to follow the same business in heaven that we do in this world."

"Yes, that is in perfect accordance with reason; for our Creator himself is not idle, and should his creatures be?"

"Well, then, yer honor, do people die there?"

"Certainly not; they are as immortal as the Creator himself."

"Then I should like to know, yer honor, what they'll find for me to do -- for I'm a grave digger

in this world."

It is hardly necessary to say that the Reverend gentleman was completely nonplussed, and discharged Pat without giving the required information.

Contributed by Mike Magee

The \$300,000 plus appropriation for the restoration of the monument for Iowa soldiers who fought at Vicksburg was pushed by Senator Black in the Senate but in the House, the language was provided by State Representative Jeff Kauffman from Cedar County. He is also coordinating with the Governor on Iowa's participation at the Vicksburg ceremony next year. Jeff Kauffman has been consistently supportive of historical preservation efforts in the legislature, including pioneer cemetery concerns.

A COWBOY TOMBSTONE

Here are the Five Rules for Men to Follow for a Happy Life that Russell J. Larsen had inscribed on his headstone in Logan, Utah. He died not knowing that he would win the 'Coolest Headstone' contest.

FIVE RULES FOR MEN TO FOLLOW FOR A HAPPY LIFE

1. It's important to have a woman who helps at home, cooks from time to time, cleans up, and has a job.
2. It's important to have a woman who can make you laugh.
3. It's important to have a woman who you can trust, and doesn't lie to you.
4. It's important to have a woman who is good in bed, and likes to be with you.
5. It's very, very important that these four women do not know each other or you could end up dead like me.

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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

Vice-president: William Reedy
3046 Everly Ave
Brandon IA 52210
319-474-2443 reedypart@jtt.net

Secretary: Frieda Davis
216 Riverview Dr.
Vinton, IA 52349-2360
319-472-5348 davisduo2@fmtcs.com

Treasurer: Valerie Ogren
108 N. Oak
Jefferson, IA 50129-1841
515-386-4784 vjogren@netins.net

Board Member (2013): Molly Beason
106 East 11th St.
Tama, IA 52339
641-484-6061 neecnwy@iowatelecom.net

Board Member (2013): Pat Shaw
21813 170th St.
Birmingham, IA 52535
319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

Board Member (2014): Larry Davis
5716 Kingman Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50311-2006
515-277-4917 ld2mstone@q.com

Board member (2012): Gene Davis
216 Riverview Dr.
Vinton, IA 52349-2360
319-472-5348 davisduo85@gmail.com

Board Member (2012): Julie A. Eckenrod
2211 Linn Ave.
New Hampton, IA 50659
641-394-3967 jjack@myclearwave.net

Board Member (2013): Steve Story
18883 250th St.
Hawkeye, IA 52147
563-427-5354 dstory@netins.net

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

Board Member (2014): Vera Heck
4256 235th St.
Guernsey, IA 52221
319-685-4366 vmheck@netins.net

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

WHERE TO GET 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

The regular quarterly meeting of SAPIC met Saturday, July 14, 2012 at Kendall Place, Albia, Iowa.

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Mike Magee, President. Self introductions were made by the 44 people present. Welcome by Richard Haeussler, Monroe County Commission.

Minutes: from April 28 meeting was read with correction, "Steve Story reported dedication on Sat. May 26 of Otsego Cemetery in Fayette Co. where one new civil war stone has been placed. Three other new civil war stones are at Dover Public Pioneer Cemetery, South Windsor/Center Pioneer Cemetery, and one next week at West Union City Cemetery. Motion to accept by Gene Davis, seconded by John Heider, Passed.

Treasurer's report: by Val Ogren; Motion to accept and file for audit by Merrill Baker, seconded by Molly Beason, Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Report on Oak Grove Cemetery at Lehigh, IA. Some of the retaining wall at the back of the cemetery has broken out again (gully side). Mike will be visiting the area tomorrow.

- Old Danville Cemetery, Millersburg Cemetery. Pat Shaw reports that Herb Price is fencing and revitalizing the cemetery. He is working on cemeteries that have been in restricted area at old ammunitions plant and has now opened some for visits to ancestors. Four are sill in highly restricted areas.

- Millersburg Cemetery that was vandalized last month is now getting repaired.

- German Burial Ground Cemetery will be cleaned up soon
- Chickasaw county, Mike reported is progressing
- Iowa County, ladies that worked on Marengo Cemetery are now on County Home Cemetery along I-80 as it had no driveway but the DOT has drive into work area that public may use to get to the cemetery.

- Buchanan County; Bill Reedy identifying veterans in Spring Creek Cemetery with dedication of new marker and also civil war marker Sunday Sept. 16 in Brandon.(same Sunday as Brandon Cowboy Breakfast.). He is working on more. He shared information on how to obtain verification that they are war veterans.

- Mike and Jean Ripley attended a workshop at Alma Cemetery in Mason City which dealt with reading and cleaning stones, putting together broken stone, etc.

- Otsego Pioneer cemetery; Steve Story reported many people attended the May 26 event. Old Stone School Cemetery has civil war veteran, mapped another cemetery and have found 13 veterans so far. A current problem in cemeteries is Thistles! Use Milestone spray to kill them. Donna Story explained how to get proof of civil war veteran.

- Motion to move January meeting to second Saturday in February by Frieda Davis, seconded by Jean Ripley, Passed

- Albia is working on a "Welcome Home Soldier" sign near highway 5. The cost is \$150.00 to put a veterans name on it.

NEW BUSINES:

Grant applications: five have been received

- Sixteen Cemetery, Allamakee County. To pay 4-H group to do work on fencing line clean-up, etc. Is not a Pioneer Cemetery.

- Council Hill Cemetery in rural Monona. Owned by Trustees, No commission in that County.

- Cottage Hill Cemetery Association near Rickersville, IA, Dubuque, County. Had been plowed over. Want to fence it.

- Cottonwood Cemetery, Calhoun County requested by Shirley Duel, Cotton Wood Preservation Association. For preservation of the cemetery. Threatened by Gravel digging company.

- Gilmer Cemetery in Jefferson County. Jan Fretheim requested for fencing, cleaning, to get trustees to take care of the cemetery. No specific person or organization identified for presentation of grant.

Motion to accept the first four requests, with consideration of number 5 (Gilmer Cemetery) after there is clarification of who would get the grant, made by Brian Hoffman, seconded by Steve Story, Passed

Cemetery signage: John Heider presented sample of signs with legal information to be posted at each cemetery. The sign announces to anyone who ventures into a cemetery of the State's protection and legally notifies anyone committing an infraction. John proposed that SAPIC make them available at cost. Pat Shaw moved that the decision be tabled until the next meeting, seconded by Jean Ripley, Passed

John Heider: drew our attention to the goals of SAPIC which includes

education and guidance. He provides an excellent library and proposed that we have in ongoing, annual workshops, two or three in various part of the state. Discussion followed including how to get people to continuing using knowledge learned at W/S's. Will put on next agenda for further discussion. We asked John Heider to write an article in Grave News.

Thank you: was extended to all attending, members of Monroe Commission and others for helping make this meeting a great success.

Next Meeting October 13, 2012 in Jackson County. Location TBA.

John Heifer moved to adjourn, seconded by Bill Reedy, Passed

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am by Mike Magee, President

Respectfully submitted: Frieda Davis, Secretary.

From the *American Profile* magazine, August 5-11, 2012, "Raising Charitable Kids," by Linda Wasmer Andrews. Whitney Koehn is only 13 years old, but she already has touched many lives in her hometown of Elmwood, Neb. (pop. 634). "I do a lot of volunteer activities with my 4-H Club, my church and the student council at my school," she said.

During the last few years, she helped create centerpieces for a senior center, deliver home-baked good to the elderly, clean up a cemetery before Memorial Day, and run a petting zoo for the town's 125th anniversary celebration, among other activities. "I think it's awesome to help other people," she says.

It's never too early to start surrounding children with the core values of generosity, compassion and empathy," says Candace Lindemann, an educational consultant in Miller Place, NY (pop. 12,339), and founder of a philanthropic website. "Show them how to be a giving person by example. Then allow them to participate as much as they can in age-appropriate ways."

Three dos for raising do-gooders: (1) Listen to their ideas about what to do. (2) Choose a cause they can relate to. (3) Tap into their talents and interests.
AMERICANPROFILE.COM

From the *American Profile* magazine, January 8-14, 2012: MISSOURI -- Founded in 2008 by Ross Gartman, of Delta (pop. 438), to honor his friend and fellow soldier Brad Skelton, Heroes Way allows relative of Missourians who died in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan to erect highway signs as memorials to fallen soldiers.

From *American Profile* magazine, January 8-14, 2012: SOUTH DAKOTA -- In May, 1876, Henry Weston Smith became the first preacher in the rough-and-tumble mining camps of the Black Hills and helped establish the Methodist Church in Deadwood (pop. 1,270). He was murdered the following August. A stone monument near Deadwood honors the pioneer preacher.

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 2nd Quarter – 1 April 2012 thru 30 June 2012

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2012, Home State Bank, Jefferson		\$ 3,669.75
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 150.00	
Donation	10.00	
Interest 4/30/12	.71	
Interest 5/31/12	.63	
Interest 6/30/12	<u>.33</u>	
Total Income		\$ 161.67
<u>Expense</u>		
Ck #258 – Patricia Shaw – newsletter	<u>63.36</u>	
Total Expense	\$ 63.36	
Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2012		\$ 3,768.06
<hr/>		
Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2011, Home State Bank, Jefferson (No deposits or withdrawals)		\$ 4,628.39
Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2012		\$ 4,628.39
<p>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.</p>		
Combined Balance on Hand 31 March 2012		\$ 8,396.45

Plus additional funds:

A CD in the amount of \$5,831.45

Rate of interest is 1.41% - matures 6/24/2014

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Ogren, Treasurer

108 N. Oak

Jefferson IA 50129-1841

Ph 1-515-386-4784

E-mail: vjogren@netins.net

From Cottage Hill Cemetery Assoc., Strawberry Point IA - Thank you for the 2012 grant award of \$200. It was received with gratitude for now it will be possible to build the second side of the Cottage Hill Methodist Cemetery fence. With the help of your 2011 grant and able volunteer workers, the east side was fenced in June. So, Please express our sincere thanks to all those involved in the awarding of grants. You continue to be greatly appreciated. Margaret Harvey, President
e-mail jhmj56@hotmail.com

From Cottonwood Cemetery Preservation Assoc., Lake City IA - We were delighted to receive your recent grant of \$200. It will help toward our mission of preserving and beautifying Cottonwood Cemetery, now more than 150 years old. Grants like these will help not only by providing funding (and encouragement) but also by creating awareness of SAPIC as a valuable resource. Our deepest thanks to you for this grant. Sincerely, Sandra Somers, Secretary

Revealing the secrets of the cemetery

The following slideshows provide a few important insights for genealogists conducting cemetery research.

- 1.#025: Cemetery Structures
- 2.#026: Cemetery Fauna Symbolism
- 3.#027: Cemetery Christian Virtues Symbolism
- 4.#028: Cemetery Religious Symbolism-Part 1
- 5.#029: Cemetery Religious Symbolism-Part 2
- 6.#030: Cemetery Flora Symbolism
- 7.#031: Cemetery Non Christian Symbolism

Available from Barry's Blog: MyGenShare.com
P.O. Box 1228 Riverton, UT 84065

The NPS National Trails Intermountain Region office, which administers the Mormon Pioneer NHT, often has funding opportunities for projects. In particular, we have a new local tour route signing program that might be appropriate for your cemetery project and for your tours projects. Please give me a call if you're interested, and I'll get you in touch with our staff leads.

Lee Kreutzer
Cultural Resources Specialist
National Trails Intermountain Region
National Park Service
Branch Office
224 S. State Street, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Phone: 801-741-1012 x 118
Fax: 801-741-1102
Email: lee_kreutzer@nps.gov

BENTON

Evergreen Cemetery in Vinton (not a Pioneer) will have a rededication ceremony at 1:00 on Oct. 27 for it's Civil War Monument. A "Living History" will be part of the event and the Civil War trailer will be there.

From the *Vinton Eagle*, September 4, 2012, p. A 20: "Saving sacred ground," by Molly Wade. Pictured in color is Austin Bader, 17, a senior at Vinton-Shellsburg High School who is restoring the Bellar-Eden Pioneer Cemetery as his Eagle Scout project. The cemetery sustained severe damage in a wind storm in July, 2011. Along with family and friends, Austin is working hard to clear away debris and damage. Bader said, "This project is helping me learn more about leadership by assigning work tasks and organizing volunteers." Once the project is completed, he hopes this will be a nice place to visit and reflect.

CERRO GORDO

From the North Iowa Media Group, June 23, 2012: "Cemetery volunteers get training in memorial maintenance." Volunteers from Ames, Webster City and several other Iowa cities learned how to preserve gravestones at the Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery in Mason City. Randy Opheim, cemetery director, demonstrated how to fill in areas around a stone with gravel and dirt and then use a level to make sure it was in the correct upright position. An afternoon session dealt with repairing broken gravestones, cleaning them and joining broken pieces together with special epoxy bonders. Training materials, equipment and supplies were purchased with funds raised from the Cemetery History Walk last year.

CALHOUN

From the *Pomeroy Herald*, March 17, 1932: Real Estate Transfers. T.O. Yates, widower, W.D. to Hugo Johnson, \$1.00 and other. E1/2 SW1.4 17-80-31 except cemetery tract.

CARROLL

From the *Carroll Sentinel*, May 18, 1892: About the oldest cemetery in the county is on part of the Baron farm, and was in a very dilapidated condition till recently some parties that were interested, met there and fixed the

Preservation Work Done on Battlefield Preservation
Project Receives Half Support

Congressman Dave Loebsack (D-Iowa) announced July 6 that the City of Davenport will receive a \$47,105 grant from the National Park Service for battlefield preservation. The funding comes from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), and will be used to help preserve, protect, document and interpret America's significant battlefield lands. Davenport will receive funding for an archaeological dig at Credit Island.

"Our nation's battlefields are hallowed ground," Loebsack said. "Preserving them ensures that the service and sacrifice of previous generations will never be forgotten. I am excited at the possibility of a National Register nomination, which would add to Davenport's already rich cultural heritage and support economic development. I am looking forward to seeing what they discover at the site."

Credit Island is one of the westernmost battles of the War of 1812. It was on this island in 1814 that Brevet Major Zachary Taylor was defeated by British allied Sauk and Black Hawk American Indians. The City of Davenport, following up on a Certified Local Government grant, is looking to do a subsurface archeological investigation of the site. It is hoped that the data recovered can be used for a future National Register of Historic Places nomination.

-- From the State Historical Society e-newsletter, July 23, 2012.

Published on *The American Legion* web site:
(<http://www.legion.org>)

Statue honoring fallen heroes

The American Legion - July 26, 2012
National Commander Fang Wong recently greeted famed New York sculptor Greg Wyatt at the The American Legion's Washington, D.C. office. Wyatt unveiled a statue that will be displayed in the lobby of the D.C. offices until it moves to a permanent home.

A work by famed New York sculptor Greg Wyatt was unveiled in a July 25 ceremony at The American Legion's Washington, D.C., office. The 7-foot tall cast bronze statue, "Angel and the Dying Unknown", was created as a tribute to the sacrifices of America's fallen warriors. The sculpture depicts a guardian angel cradling a dying unknown soldier.

The unveiling was officiated by the artist and American Legion National Commander Fang Wong who said, in part, "I feel humbled not just by the fame and skill of the artist, but by his subject. I think this beautiful work pays tribute not only to the unknowns who have sacrificed anonymously in battle, but to all of those whose names are known, whether their souls were lifted from a battlefield, or from a bed decades after their war."

Wyatt then thanked Wong for his "moving words" and told those attending the ceremony of the sculpture's history and role as one of four such tributes to service he had created.

Wyatt's sculpture is to be displayed in the D.C. office lobby for the summer. The Legion is working to establish a permanent place for the sculpture at Dover Air Force Base, the home of the U.S. Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center, and the homecoming station for the men and women lost in service in Europe and Southwest Asia.

Nathan Edward Kendall, a Representative from Iowa; born on a farm near Greenville, Lucas County, Iowa, March 17, 1868; attended the rural schools; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1887 and commenced practice in Albia, Monroe County, Iowa, in 1889; city attorney 1890-1892; prosecuting attorney of Monroe County, Iowa, 1893-1897; member of the State House of Representatives 1899-1909 and served as speaker in 1909; elected as a Republican to the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congress (March 4, 1909-March 3, 1913); was not a candidate for renomination in 1912 to the Sixty-third Congress; resumed the practice of law in Albia, Iowa; moved to Des Moines, Iowa, in 1921; Governor of Iowa 1921-1925; resided in Des Moines, Iowa, until his death on November 5, 1936; remains were cremated and the ashes interred on the lawn of "Kendall Place," his former home in Albia, Iowa.

The July 14 SAPIC meeting was held at the historic Kendall Place. Thanks to the Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission for making arrangements.

fence in good shape, but the graves should be filled up and the monuments reloaded in their bases. But the burden is heavy on two or three.

From the *Carroll Daily Herald*, March 2, 1933: Real Estate Transfers. Franklin Bruggeman W. D. 1-14-33, \$10,000, to Harold Bruggeman et al. SW1/4 11 exc. 5 acres cemetery tract.

CHICKASAW

From the *New Hampton Chickasaw County Tribune*, July 3, 2012: "Cemetery group preserves history -- Commission volunteers dedicated to their cause," by Staci Schutte. Pictured in color is SAPIC member Priscilla Reisner of Fredericksburg as she digs up a stone in the Pearl Rock Cemetery south of Nashua during a work day for the Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission. About a dozen volunteers cleared a fence line, dug up sinking grave markers and more on a hot day in July. They work to preserve the integrity of 14 pioneer cemeteries across Chickasaw County. "It's just really peaceful and calming when you're out there working," said Priscilla. "And it's great exercise."

DES MOINES

From the *Burlington Hawkeye Gazette*, December 26, 1946: "Find Old Iron Caskets in Aspen Grove Lot." Grave diggers at Aspen Grove cemetery experienced difficulty in preparing a new grave as they continued to find cast iron caskets possibly a hundred years old buried beneath a family lot. The diggers are reported to have uncovered 4 old fashioned cast iron caskets were said to be full size, one just smaller than full size and one evidently made for a baby. Cemetery officials said the lot was located in the old section of the cemetery opened over 100 years ago and not much is known about the owners. A site for the new grave was prepared and the old coffins covered without being disturbed cemetery officials said.

DICKINSON

From the *Our Iowa* magazine, August/September, 2012, p. 68: "In a Lather Over Her Research," by Sandy Ladegaard.

Pictured is Jan McDonald as she demonstrates using shaving cream on gravestones to enhance the writing so she can record information. She enters the data she collects into computer software to make digitalized maps for each cemetery. The project was completed in 2007, but she continues to update using information from newspapers, funeral homes and web sites.

Note: There is some controversy about the use of shaving cream on stones, due to the chemical content that could cause deterioration. Most preservationists recommend plain water on stones or the use of a mirror to reflect the inscriptions which enhances the images and does no harm to the stone. Nevertheless, the accurate recording of data on cemetery stones is a commendable endeavor and of great use to genealogists and concerned descendants.

FLOYD

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 26, 1964: "Clear Mystery of Gravestone." CHARLES CITY -- The mystery of the gravestone found by nine-year-old Leo Gahwiler, in the alley behind his house at 407 Cedar St. was cleared up Monday. It was disclosed that it was not taken from a cemetery. In fact the gravestone had been stored in the garage at the James Huxsol home at 412 Clinton St. Huxsol said the gravestone belonged to his landlord, Frank Spencer, Waterloo. Huxsol said the gravestone had been in the garage as long as he had lived at the above address, and that he had moved it outside while he cleaned the garage. Huxsol said he had contacted his landlord to find out what he wants him to do with the marker.

FREMONT

From the *Tabor Historical Society* newsletter, volume 13, June, 2012, p. 2: Pictured is the Gates family plot at the far east of Tabor Cemetery. Young James Gates was ill when his family landed at Civil Bend in 1853. Within a few days he died and was taken to Tabor for burial, the first burial in Tabor. A year later

William and Emily Gates lost an infant daughter and she is also buried at Tabor. There are some unmarked graves in the plot. William and Emily joined the Tabor Congregational Church in 1853. They were the first signers of the pledge of the Washington Temperance Society. The members of the Tabor Congregational Church will celebrate its 160th birthday this fall.

Tabor is the site of the Todd House, a stop on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, a program promoted by the National Park Service. For books about Tabor's history, contact the Tabor Historical Society, PO Box 584, Tabor, Iowa 51653.

Fremont County is named for John Charles Fremont (1813-1890) who was an explorer, politician, soldier, and writer.

HAMILTON

From the *Daily Freeman Journal*, June 22, 2012: "A lesson in history." RANDALL -- About 65 area residents attended the pioneer cemetery program held at the Boe Cemetery in rural Randall earlier this week in spite of the sweltering heat.

Many of those present had some connection to the cemetery, whether it was a family connection or simply having grown up in southern Hamilton County. Others in attendance simply had an interest in history. The event was coordinated by the Hamilton County Cemetery Preservation Society. Guests were given a brief history lesson about the cemetery, which is located on the west bank of the Skunk River. The last recorded burial in this cemetery was in 1946. Those present had a chance to run grave stones under the direction of Hamilton County Naturalist John Laird and cleaned one stone with guidance and demonstration by Cathy Dayton. Attendees learned about the establishment of the Hamilton County Cemetery Preservation Society. The group intends to partner with township trustees to preserve the historic cemeteries in the county. One of the first projects of the group will be to erect entry signs at the graveyards that do not have one.

For more information about the cemetery preservation society, contact Catherine Bergman at 832-9575 or hamcseed@wmtel.

HARDIN

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 15, 1953: "Old Cemetery Plat is Found at Iowa Falls." An old plat of Union Cemetery, believed to date to the '70s, has been found of H. M. Lutz, superintendent of the cemetery. It is the oldest plat in existence. The main streets on the plat are Woodlawn, Prairie, Auburn, Locust, Marble and are not shown on newer plats. It shows which are now being used for burials. Most of them have names for trees, plants or persons. The spelling is interesting as one finds "avenuew," "cemetary," and "prarie." The plat has been framed that it may be better preserved.

HOWARD

From the *Elma New Era*, September 11, 1941: "Road Grader Uncovers Indian Burial Ground." A road grader, cutting down a hill on Highway 193 south of Jackson Junction, uncovered a former Indian burial ground. Old settlers in the vicinity tell of an Indian village and an epidemic that wiped out many members of the tribe, and that the remainder of the tribe moved away. The outbreak occurred in 1870 and was forgotten until the blade of the road grader uncovered the graves.

IOWA

From the *Our Iowa* magazine, August/September, 2012, p. 69: "Alone But Not Forgotten," by Marilyn Meyer. The article recounts the story of a small lone tombstone that sits on an embankment north of Highway 6 west of Homestead. The fence has a sign hanging from it with the words "Granny Sprague Cemetery" written on it. The writer assumed it was the grave of a pioneer grandmother, but found it is, in fact, the marker for a six-year old girl named Mary Wright. When the Rock Island railroad came through the area, there was a small cemetery in its path. Some histories suggest that graves were

moved by the railroad to nearby cemeteries, but Mary's small stone was overlooked. When the railroad realized the mistake, they agreed that the original grave of this small child should remain where it was and forever be maintained. Local folklore also suggests that during the final moment of every year, a pale blue light has been seen over Mary's grave ever since she died in 1854. These days, the Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, not the railroad, makes sure the small gravesite is still mowed and maintained.

Note: Mary Emma Wright was the younger sister of my great, great grandfather, James Madison Wright and the daughter of Newell and Mary Ann Barnes Wright who operated a stage coach stop near the cemetery. Longtime Iowa County genealogist, Pauline Lillie (now deceased), did not have such a romanticized opinion of the railroad. She contended that the rich and powerful railroad simply laid its tracks through the cemetery, destroying the wooden markers that were on most of the graves. Apparently, Mary's grave was not in its direct path and the fact that she had a stone marker, kept her burial site from being obliterated. The Good Samaritan RV group maintained it for a few years before it became the responsibility of the Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

-- Pat Shaw

Saving the "Poor Farm" Cemetery

The Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission was asked by the County Supervisors to begin overseeing the Iowa County Poor Farm Cemetery in Troy Township about three years ago. My interest in this cemetery goes back to my childhood. I can remember making trips there with my mother and grandmother and some cousins when I was around five years old. My great-great-grandparents are buried there -- thank goodness they have a nice tombstone to mark their burial location. They should not have ended up there, but circumstances dictated otherwise.

The elderly parents, John and Dora Gamlien Kenke, were living with their son, Fred and his wife who had six children ranging in age from four to sixteen. In the summer of 1891, Dorothy was experiencing a difficult pregnancy. Somehow, it was decided that the elderly parents would move to the Iowa County Poor Farm to lighten the load in the household until the new baby arrived. As it turned out, my great-great-

grandmother became ill at the Poor Farm home and died on 01 October 1891; the baby was born and died on 07 October 1891; the mother died two days later on 09 October 1891; and my great-great-grandfather passed away on 18 October 1891. Their son had his hands full with the children and, under the unfortunate circumstances, probably didn't even consider making arrangements to have them buried with family in another cemetery. So, because they are buried there, I have a lifetime of history in visiting this cemetery and placing flowers on their graves. The Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission assigned one of their Board members, Beverly Blythe, this cemetery to keep tabs on and report its condition at each meeting. She noted that some grave sites had temporary markers so she asked a couple of other gals and me to help do some dousing to make sure the markers were actually on the graves. By the time I arrived on the designated day, I had to park beside the fence on the east side of the cemetery. As I hopped out of the car, they were dousing inside the fence, and I asked Beverly what she was going to do about the graves under my car. She got a shocked look on her face when I told her the new fence had not been built where it should be. We started dousing outside the fence and found a lot of graves. I knew that would be the case because, going there as a child on Memorial Day, I could remember seeing fruit jars with cut flowers in them way out to the east of my great-great-grandparent's graves. Oddly, I can't remember any tombstones on those graves, but stories say there had been tombstones, and one of the County Home stewards had them removed so they could farm the area. My guess is that it was probably pasture initially and, as the stones got damaged, he just decided to do away with them. So we now know we are dealing with more graves outside the fence than there are inside the fence! Steve Meyer, president of the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, came out, doused the area, and marked out many of the graves for us. We are now positive we have a whole new situation on our hands -- a cemetery whose original driveway was taken away when Interstate 80 was built beside it in the '50s, and one that is much, much larger than originally assumed.

As Beverly and I start the research process, she found deeds for the purchase of the Poor Farm property by the county in 1866 and 1867, and an old plat book showing one acre marked off as the cemetery. We (with Beverly doing most of this) read the County Supervisor's minutes from the first day of Iowa County, and looked at death records in the Iowa County Courthouse to find all those who were listed as being buried there. We poured through Poor Farm records and scoured old newspapers and census records. We used all of the names we found in these resources, along with the names listed in Pauline Lillie's book, "Cemetery Stones With History, 1844-1976," to document as many proven burials as possible. This research is still ongoing. Meanwhile, since there was no driveway entrance to

the cemetery, I contacted the DOT office to see what options were available. A very nice gentleman, Dave Ramirez, who was filling in temporarily in the Cedar Rapids office actually offered to come out and look over the situation. He thought we might be able to get a 'run-away' ramp at the end of Exit #216 on I-80 that would lead directly into the cemetery, and we could have an entrance off to the side of that.

Measurements and pictures were taken, drawings were made, and application forms filled out. We made it through the county and district offices with this proposal, but we were turned down at the state level. However, during the nearly two years as this transpired, I discovered that when the DOT eliminated the original entrance to the cemetery, they designated a new space on the original construction drawings for I-80 as "cemetery entrance." It was further down the fence-line to the south of the cemetery, and the gentleman from the DOT office came out again and helped me locate the designated entrance, using the state right-of-way markers. As it turned out, the Iowa County Maintenance Department was using that space as a driveway to their facility!

We have a terrific group of County Supervisors. They knew we had been unable to get approval for the run-away ramp to use as an entrance, so they were sympathetic to our request to build a roadway from their driveway on the previously-designated area. They instructed the County Engineer to build us a driveway and parking area and provided all the equipment and labor. And they are adamant that the ENTIRE cemetery will be properly fenced and protected. The Cemetery Commission is covering the cost of culverts, rock and fencing.

While I was working with the DOT, Beverly was working on getting a memorial monument installed, telling the story of the cemetery and where available records can be found. I helped her some with the wording, but otherwise, she has completed this part of our restoration project. We will continue to search for any records that will help us document more burials in this cemetery. I recently became a member of the Board of the Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission and plan to continue "my style" of getting things done. I feel strongly about protecting the history of our pioneer cemeteries, not rewriting it. Include photos – before / after if possible!

-- LaVerna K. Moser – Amana, IA, Member of the Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 23, 2012: "Two Boys Suspected in Vandalism at Iowa Cemetery," by Kara Kelly. Authorities say two boys are suspected of damaging dozens of headstones at a cemetery in eastern Iowa. The Iowa County Sheriff's office on Friday says authorities identified two juveniles responsible for the damage. No other details, including the boys' names were released. Three dozen headstones at Millersburg Cemetery were knocked over or moved. Local business man Alan Husband spearheaded a restoration and repair

project.

JACKSON

From the *Jackson Sentinel*, August 16, 1877: "ELECTION NOTICE." In accordance with a resolution of the City Council, of the city of Maquoketa, directing me to give notice to the qualified electors of said city, that a Special Election will be held to vote upon the question of the purchase of land for Cemetery purposes, adjoining Mt. Hope Cemetery, such tract of land being known described as lot 4, Stephens' addition to the city of Maquoketa, Iowa.

I hereby give notice that an election will be held Tuesday, August 21st, 1877, in the building known as the Old Methodist Church, the ballots to read, "In Favor of the purchase of land adjoining the Cemetery grounds," or "Opposed to the purchase of land adjoining Cemetery grounds."

Maquoketa, August 10, 1877

W.M. STEPHENS, mayor

JOHNSON

Robert J. Libby, 91, of 1 Oaknoll Court in Iowa City died Saturday, August 25, 2012 at home. Bob was a longtime, devoted member of SAPIC and will be greatly missed.

JONES

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, July 28, 1893: A convict named Reed died in the prison in July, 1890, and was at once interred in the prison cemetery. The hospital steward about that time or a little later, stated to the warden that he wanted to get a human skeleton, and the warden replied to him that no guard was kept over the prison cemetery, but he did not want to know anything about what he (the steward) would do in the matter. The steward took it that he had the warden's consent to rob the prison cemetery, and the latter part of the year, late in the night, he passed out of the walls with a trusty convict and the two disinterred Reed's body. They took the remains inside the walls and boiled them in some kind of a chemical preparation in the "soap house" for the purpose of cleansing the bones. The boiling created a most offensive odor, which permeated throughout the prison.

From the *Pella Herald*, April 6, 1894: A few years ago a female convict died at the Anamosa penitentiary. She was only a young girl, and parents and relatives, when notified of her death, refused to care for the body of the wayward daughter and sister. Resident ministers of the city and the prison chaplain gave the girl a Christian burial in the prison cemetery. Last week the prison convicts erected a beautiful monument at the head of her grave, bearing her name, etc., all

their own work, the monument being cut out of Anamosa stone. One the base of the stone they cut these words: "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone." Every visitor on seeing this inquires the circumstances, and the tears of sympathy generally flow on the telling of the story.

-- *Times Republican*

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, April 19, 1889: "A FINAL DISCHARGE -- Rickard, the Youth, Sent to the Penitentiary from this City for Assault Dies a Prisoner. Rickard Dead in Prison." Ira A.C. Richard, a convict, sent from Cedar Rapids, died at seven o'clock at the prison. He was afflicted with hip disease and occasional abscesses before his incarceration, and the blood poisoning final culminated in his death. He was twenty-six years old the day he died, and his mother had been attending him. The funeral service will occur this afternoon under the direction of Chaplain Gunn and the remains will be interred in the prison cemetery. The deceased came from Cedar Rapids and was incarcerated Nov. 23, 1885, for ten years for assault.

From the *Oelwein Daily Register*, June 6, 1924: "PRISON INMATE DROWNED." Anamosa, June 6 -- Martin Brunstein, aged 22, a convict of the state reformatory, was drowned in the Buffalo River at 10:30 Tuesday morning. He was filling his bucket from the river for the bucket brigade watering the prison truck farm when he slipped and fell in. As the current is very swift at that spot, he was carried about a mile below to the ten-foot hole where his body was recovered an hour later. Two of the convicts attempted to rescue him, but could do nothing because he disappeared almost at once. He had been in the reformatory for chicken stealing from Bremer county for about a year. As he is an orphan, he will be buried in the prison cemetery if his one brother cannot be found.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, April 30, 1988: "all but forgotten on Memorial Day," by Donna Lee Olson. Pictured is an American flag as it flutters above the grave of a former inmate at the Anamosa prison. The breeze cut the heat of the sun while inmates worked in the

cemetery of the Anamosa Men's Reformatory. This graveyard is a small one, pie-shaped, with stones neatly lining the bare hillside and trees shading the land below. The stones look more like a row of ancient fence posts than grave markers. Square and plain, wind and time has dirtied the limestone carved years ago by prisoners for the prison dead. The cemetery was dressed for Memorial Day, with flowers planted randomly before a few graves -- red geraniums against the graying stones. Small American flags also colored the prison cemetery. The only identified veteran is "Ben Perry," who died in 1962. Other flags are placed in different areas of the cemetery, as it's assumed there are other veterans from the Civil War, Spanish American, and other wars. A inmate working in the cemetery said, "It's good. Even though he did go to prison, he fought for his country."

From the *Anamosa Journal Eureka*, June 14, 2012: "Discovery in Four Horn Cemetery." Pictured are Rita Balichek, Rosalie Ahrendsen, Daryl Wherry, and Steve Story as they uncover and reset a headstone in the Four Horn Cemetery. A new gravestone was found during the workday for the Pioneer Cemetery Commission at the Four Horn Cemetery. While repairing the stone of Mattie Moncrief, the commission members discovered the buried footstone, which contained initials that validated the connection to the headstone. The footstone marked the end of the gravesite in pioneer cemeteries. Because Mattie was a 9-month-old infant, her footstone was located close to her headstone. The pioneer cemetery group has been working at Four Horn for the past three summers and discoveries like this are like finding a lost soul, according to volunteers. In July, they poured new bases for several stones.

From the *Anamosa Journal-Eureka*, July, 2012: "Volunteers needed to restore cemetery." Pictured is the sign to the Four Horn Cemetery in Wayne Township before and after workers cleaned it, removing lichens from the stone. A plea is made in the article for volunteers to help in restoring the history of the

county found in pioneer cemeteries. One can learn how to repair broken stones, raise stones that have disappeared into the earth, straighten stones, and properly clean gravestones. All volunteers are welcome; no experience is necessary.

LEE

Myself and a small group of Boy Scouts and Nancy Kempker worked in Judy Cemetery one evening in June. We have another work day July 23 planned. Work is slow but we got 4 or 5 stones restored that night.

Also in June I went with Pat Morrison and the Old Fort Gen. group and we did a reading on Big Mound or Buena Vista Cemetery. This was to update readings from many years ago. July Pat plans for us to read Little Mound. Both these Cemeteries are in Jackson Township, Lee County, Iowa.

-- Kim Irvin

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, October 23, 1904: "N.E. BROWN FURNISHES VALUABLE INFORMATION -- Responds to Request for Data as to Former Pioneers of the City." N. E. Brown has provided information requested by the members of the Crescent lodge, A. F. & A. M. concerning former members, including John Vardy, who emigrated to Texas many years ago. His son-in-law, John G. McCloud, lies buried in what is perhaps the oldest cemetery in Linn County. This cemetery is located upon one of the highest hills of the Hubbard or Cold Stream farm, a couple of miles northeast of Cedar Rapids. When a boy, Mr. Brown says he visited the little old burying place of pioneer days, and often wondered whether it and its occupants would be as completely forgotten as they seem to be.

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, February 26, 1912: "Would Present City with Cemetery." At the meeting of the city council Paul N. Clark offered to present Cedar Rapids with the half acre of ground containing the old McLeod cemetery, located in the new addition that is being platted at the Mound farm north of the Marion boulevard. Under the law the cemetery cannot be disturbed for any purpose, and Mr. Clark is of the opinion that it would be used as park property.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 7, 2012: "Remains of Vietnam soldier found." The remains of a Vietnam War veteran from Cedar Rapids will be returned to his family after being located and identified. The Department of Defense says Lt. Col. Dennis L. Eilers is among six servicemen reported missing in action in a crash in southern

Laos in December 1965.

In 2010 recovery teams excavated a crash site located by a villager. The team recovered human remains, personal items, and military equipment. Three additional excavations last year recovered additional human remains and evidence.

Military scientists used dental records and circumstantial evidence in the identification.

Burial services were held for the six airmen in a single casket on July 9 at Arlington National Cemetery.

From *The Gazette*, August 10, 2012: "Veteran of War of 1812 arrived here in 1846," by Dave Rasdal. Pictured is the remnants of an original 1860 tombstone for the War of 1812 veteran John Kirkpatrick that reveals the last few letters of his last name. The single grave north of Ely and Highway 30 sits on a raised area in the center of a cul-de-sac that's surrounded by a housing development. Tom Vavra of Ely, a longtime Legion member, raises a flag by the grave every Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. John Kirkpatrick was a private who fought with the Ohio Militia under Capt. Taylor during the War of 1812, and he died in 1860. John Wilkinson of Marion located a relative, Tamara Gray-Becker of Phoenix, who provided information that Kirkpatrick's father, Andrew, was a Revolutionary War veteran and his son, Andrew Jackson Kirkpatrick, was a chaplain in the Civil War. The Kirkpatricks came from Scotland. John came to Iowa in 1846, when Iowa became a state. His son, Andrew Jackson, was born in Ohio and came to Louisa County. He was a Methodist preacher in Mt. Pleasant and enlisted in the Union Army. His grave is in Brighton, Iowa.

MARION

Carla Huebler and Marla Suter visited the Schlotterback Cemetery on July 11. It had been mowed. They counted the stones and pieces of stones that are partially visible. Counted 23 graves. So hopefully they can piece together enough info to get them all located. Some stone pieces only have partial info on them without names. Carla is hoping with a process of elimination they can account for most if not all burials out there. Below is a list of names believed to be there. If anyone knows of more, please let Carla know. Also, if you have information on the last two rows of 3 pillars each (approx 24" high) in the northwest corner, would love to know what they are too. We could see no writing on any of the pillars. But the 1976 cemetery book says that one had 12 Feb 1868 -

58 y 1 m 2 d visible. The cemetery book says there are 9 rows there running north/south. The first row as you walk in on the east has the most with 9 in it.

Alexander Black
Louis C Black
Nancy Black
Elizabeth Clark
William M Clark
Charley Davis
Martha Ellen Schlotterback Elder
Nellie Elder
Mary Ann Essex Jones
Daniel James
Elias James
Anna Maple Jones
Hanna Nicholson Jones
Jehu Jones
Catherine Livengood
John Livengood
Martha J Schlotterback
Denny C Schlotterback
John Schlotterback
Daily Schlotterback
Elizabeth Hartman Schlotterback
Lucy Schlotterback Snow
Rebecca Jones Thompson
Catharine S Wilson
-- Carla Huebler chuebler73@gmail.com

IN DEPTH: Oldest Cemetery in Knoxville -- a radio interview on a Knoxville radio station with 3 members of the Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission:

Posted: Thursday, August 2nd, 2012 at 2:00 pm
Author: KNIA/KRLS News-Dr. Bob Leonard

What's the oldest cemetery in Knoxville? Where is it? Who was buried there first, and when? What are some of the stories of these early settlers in Knoxville? Join us today as Dr. Bob Leonard goes "In Depth" with Carla Huebler, Marla Suter, and Bev Jones, with the Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

These questions and others were answered in a great radio segment that provided much positive publicity.

MUSCATINE

From the *Muscatine Journal & News Tribune*, February 24, 1931: "More Old Graves Found Near Here -- Old Settlers Who Died in 1848 and 1851 Buried on Farm Property." Two historic resting places of early settlers located about a mile and a half off highway 61 on a road

which turns off that highway at Eisele hill. The grave markers, with their legends still plainly visible, are enclosed in an old wooden fence and an ancient elm tree stands in the center of the enclosure. Placed against this tree is a headstone with the following words: "Mary, wife of Sam Holliday, died July 18, 1848, aged 62 y's, 10 mo's." The other stone bears the following inscription: "Wilson Holliday, died Aug. 24, 1851, aged 27 y's, 3 mo's, 9 d'ys." According to residents of the vicinity, the Hollidays died of cholera.

PALO ALTO

From the *Ruthvan Free Press*, January 11, 1939: Registration of the graves of people who have been buried in Palo Alto county, which is being carried out under a government project this winter, has disclosed considerable information of a local historical interest and also a number of unusual circumstances connected with early burials in this section of the state. The first settlement was made in this county in the vicinity of West Bend 84 years ago next May, and during the first 25 years or so of this time this northwest part of Iowa was little more than wild prairie and many of those who passed away were often buried "where they fell," and as a consequence we find many unmarked graves and burials in what today seem out-of-the-way places. Many of the early settlers took little pains to provide permanent markers for the departed and sometimes only a mound of earth, a few prairie boulders, or a tree marks the resting place of some pioneer man or woman who had the courage to brave the hardships of those early days to lay the foundations of our modern civilization. A few of the unusual and interesting circumstances brought to light include the first white men to die in what is now Palo Alto County, Captain Johnson and Private Burkholder in April, 1837. They came to bury the dead in the Spirit Lake massacre and died in a blizzard. A woman by the name of Mrs. Shipley died at her home in a sod house in 1857 and was buried on her premises. An early cemetery near Rodman still harbors the remains of eleven early unknown residents. About seventy years ago, a homesteader was buried in a shallow grave near his home. Members of his family had to keep a lighted lantern over his grave to keep the wolves away. A small marker in a cemetery bears this inscription: "Here lies the remains of the _____ family. Where'er they went or how they fared nobody knows and nobody cares." An attractive monument in the West Bend cemetery was made from a large prairie boulder by a man to mark his wife's grave.

PLYMOUTH

From the *Northwest Iowa Genealogical Society* newsletter, Volume 34, Number 3: "Stan Culley, Cemetery Preservationist." Pictured are some stones showing before and after photos of cleaning and the various stages of repair. Stan has attended cemetery restoration training seminars affiliated with the Indiana

State Historical Society. He cleans the stones in the Veterans sections of the Memorial Cemetery in Le Mars yearly. In the article, he outlines how to clean and repair stones.

POCAHONTAS

From the *Rolla Arrow*, June 16, 1983, Vital Records, Laurens, IA (January 1, 1900): As a result of complaints received from a Mankato, Minn., resident about finding a grave site at the Dover Township Cemetery covered with corn, Supervisor Vincent Reis along with Supervisors Jack Fisher and Robert Schoon, current chairman of the Board of Supervisors, met with Dover Township Clerk Vernice Olberding and Trustees Donal E. Broen, Arthur Imming, and Eugene Huegerich at Imming's home south of Varina Wednesday, June 8. Mrs. Florence MacVey, president of the Pocahontas County Historical Society, and several members of the society were also present at the meeting to discuss the condition of the cemetery. Only four tombstones remain upright in the cemetery at the present time. Township officials suggest that other bodies may have been removed to other cemeteries, although they have no records to support this. A 1904 county history book reports that a fire destroyed a large number of wooden grave markers in the cemetery.

After a search of county records, the supervisors could find no official record of the cemetery having been abandoned and reverting back to the town trustees.

POTTAWATTAMIE

From the *Cedar Rapids Republican*, October 16, 1902: "Plowed through Mormon Cemetery -- Graders Disturbed Bones of Long Departed Mormons." Pioneers were buried at what was once Cartersville, a town established by the Mormons many years ago. The Great Western cuts through one corner of the old cemetery and a number of skeletons came to light. Graders on the Great Western extension exhumed the bones of a number of human beings in a cornfield just east of Greendale and not far from Council Bluffs. It was discovered that the place is an old cemetery that has for years been used as a cornfield. Cartersville was established by the Mormons emigrating from Illinois to Utah, many of whom stopped to rest in this vicinity. In 1850, Cartersville was a flourishing community of about 800 people and the principal stopping place for the emigrants enroute west. Rev. Henry DeLong who came west with the first Mormon emigration and assisted in burying a number of people there, visited the site and readily located the grounds.

POWESHEIK

We have been busy this year in a number of our pioneer cemeteries. The popular website, Find a Grave, has sparked much interest in our group. The website

indexes many of our pioneer cemeteries but does not exactly match the ones we have on file from actual visits to the cemeteries and past records. We have been researching and comparing past burial information with the new names and find that many family members are contributing information to this website. We are still finding many unmarked graves but find the website information helpful.

We have replaced all the signage on all the pioneer cemeteries.

We have been using tile flags to chart graves in Norwegian Lutheran and Blake cemeteries and have been amazed at the patterns that formed with use of the flags. We place the flags according to the dousing wires and we have found many of the "missing" graves in Norwegian Lutheran (one row outside the fence line). In Blake we were amazed to realize that part of this cemetery had burials pointing north/south in one section and another section they were east/west. This had been along an old stagecoach line and many of the burials were never recorded.

-- Ellen Zimmerman

STORY

From the *Ackley World Journal*, December 5, 1918: "The Cemetery seems to be a Lively Place." -- *Ames Tribune*. They say the hogs are rooting around the graves in the cemetery, and some person had better be looking out. Attention was called to this matter several weeks ago and it was said that the porkers had been penned up, but if they have the gate has evidently been left open. The sexton gets a grave nicely rounded up and making a place of beauty when along comes Mr. Pig and snoots around and leaves it a very disreputable place. The new fence which recently arrived has not been placed in position as yet, but those who have the matter in hand expect to have the work done in a short time. Then what is the

man going to do that pastures his hogs in the cemetery?

VAN BUREN

From the *Quill*, newsletter of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, January, 2012, Volume 23, Number 1: "Cemetery News," by Don Aldrich. A recount of cemetery activities in 2011 is provided: (1) the area in front of Oak Lawn Cemetery on the north edge of Keosauqua has been cleaned of junk and seeded down by a new owner, which is much appreciated. Repair of a broken finial on a tall obelisk was requested by Windy Jamison, who has done a great deal of work at Oak Lawn. (2) Lee McIntosh requested help with repairing a stone in Wolfe Cemetery. Don repaired the stone at home and returned it to the Wolfe Cemetery. (3) The Watkins, Dodson, and White Cemeteries were mowed making them presentable for Memorial Day. (4) During June, July, August, and September 8 workdays were spent at the Bethel Lick Creek Cemetery repairing, resetting, and straightening 16 stones. (5) Did extensive repairs on the stone of Wava Barnett's great grandfather and reset it in October. (6) Inspected cattle damage to stones in the Groves Cemetery. (7) The genealogical society was nominated for Outstanding Volunteer Organization for its work in cemeteries and its resource materials at the public library.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 21, 2012: "One man crew on a mission," by Don Aldrich. Pictured is Don Aldrich as he straightens stones in the Boston Ellis Cemetery in Des Moines Township.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, July 19, 2012: "Windy Jamison, stays active, uses gifts at 84," by Rusty Ebert. Pictured on the front page of the newspaper is Windy as he works on one of his paintings that usually are of Native Americans or mountains. Other pictures inside the paper show Windy straightening a stone in a cemetery and his garage in Birmingham that has two barn quilts attached that he has painted. He has straightened and repaired numerous stones in the Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Maple Hill cemeteries in Birmingham as well as Oak Lawn in Keosauqua

and others in the county. Much of the repairs are done at his own expense. At the Methodist Cemetery, a "pet robin" visits when he digs there looking for a worm.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 22, 2012: "Preserving History," by Laura Carrell. Pictured is Deb Barker and Rich Lowe as they gather information in a local cemetery for the Iowa Gravestone Photo Project (IGPP). Lowe created the online gravestone database in 2002. Barber is the county coordinator for Wapello and Davis counties. Through the help of volunteers across Iowa, anyone in the world can find pictures of their ancestors' gravestones without ever stepping foot into the state by accessing the IGPP web site. The purpose of the photo project is to preserve history through photographing rapidly deteriorating headstones. In addition, the database makes it possible for anyone with a computer to access photos of gravestones that volunteers have uploaded to the site. Last year alone, 221,627 visits were registered at iowagravestone.org.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, July 26, 2012: "Long awaited memorial in place." Pictured are Lewis and Elnora Davis who had a headstone placed on their graves more than 100 years after their deaths in 1907. Also pictured is the new headstone placed at the Center Chapel Cemetery by members of their family in conjunction with the Heminger-Davis Reunion that was held in Bonaparte on July 15.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 16, 2012: Pictured are members of the Gravestone Crew of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society as they work in the Boston-Ellis Cemetery. Of the 15 stones needing repairs, 8 were finished that day. The work is done at no expense to towns, townships, county or state. The Society does accept contributions that may be sent to PO Box 160, Keosauqua, Iowa. Volunteers pictured were Don Aldrich, Jerry Boyer, Lee McIntosh, Tom Gould, Marvin Danneil and Stan Knipfer.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 16, 2012: "Lebanon Cemetery Headstones restored by Leo Club," by Mike Johnston. The 21 members of the Leo Club, sponsored by the Keosauqua Lions Club, recently spent 3 sessions in the Lebanon

Cemetery straightening, resetting, and regluing over 50 headstones. Several members are pictured in the cemetery and enjoying a reward for their efforts afterward in a local restaurant.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, August 23, 2012: Pictured are Stan Knipfer with his tractor, Tom Gould, Marvin Danneil, Lee McIntosh and Don Aldrich as they reset two Ellis monuments weighing approximately 2,000 pounds each at the Boston Ellis pioneer cemetery. They invite volunteers who work in active cemeteries to come and learn their methods.

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 23, 2012: Letter to the Editor -- "Security necessary at historic cemetery site," by Sue Parrish. The letter writer mentions the history of the McCormick Cemetery in Highland Township that contains the graves of seven generations of her family, including herself in the future. After vandals demolished the monument of her great grandparents in the Agency Cemetery, she is asking that the main gate at McCormick be closed to deter a similar occurrence there.

WASHINGTON

From the *Rake Register*, August 21, 1903: "May Honor His Memory." The next legislature may be called upon to appropriate a small sum for a monument to Timothy Brown, a Revolutionary soldier, and one of the troops that fought with Washington, who lies buried in a pasture down in Washington county. The location of the grave is likely to be soon forgotten, although Brown was an early and quite prominent pioneer, coming to this state more than a half century ago. The legislature has in the past made one or two appropriations of this kind, and it is entirely possible the same kindness will be shown to the memory of Brown.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, 2004: "Washington man works to preserve paupers graveyard," by Dave Gosch. Mike Murphy, who works part-time at Orchard Hill Res-Care, is concerned about the encroachment of farming operations on the county home cemetery. He also would like a small access route to the cemetery so it

can be mowed. His concern was prompted by the discovery of the Washington County paupers registry that lists the names of people committed to the institution from 1876-1937.

Note: Mike Murphy arranged a recent SAPIC meeting that was held in Washington.

WEBSTER

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 9, 2012: "More problems for Iowa cemetery plagued by erosion," Associated Press. Pictured is the retaining wall that was built at the Oak Grove Cemetery to prevent erosion into a nearby ravine. Unfortunately, the wall that was built last year with volunteer labor and donations (including one from SAPIC) has collapsed. The township trustees in charge of the cemetery do not know what to do to remedy the problem, but fear that the entire wall will have to be torn out and the project started over.

WOODBURY

From the *Sioux County Herald*, June 10, 1875: The citizens of Grant Township are moving toward securing a cemetery on section 19,43.

From the *Ackley World Journal*, September 24, 1936: Mayor V. R. Dewey and Marshall Robert Smith of Correctionville, Woodbury County, are wondering what to do with an old grave marker they found the other day. The officers were called to remove the marker, which was lying in the road near a farm home. Stains appearing on it show that it had been set for some time but no one knows where it came from. Upon it appears this inscription: Mother, Christiane Madsen, Dec. 1, 1856, Sept. 27, 1934. The officers are at a loss to know what to do with it.

OUT OF IOWA

ILLINOIS

From NBCCHICAGO.COM: July 13, 2012: "Fallen Chicago Firefighter Receives Headstone 60 Years Later," by Sharon Wright. Pictured is a group of Chicago firefighters as they honor John Francis Minich in a ceremony on the anniversary of his death with a permanent grave marker. Minich died after

... saving many lives from a burning building 60 years ago, but until this year there was nothing to mark his grave. "One of the lives saved that day was my mother, pregnant with me," said Debbie McCann who discovered Minich's unmarked grave and brought it to the attention of officials. His name is etched in granite at the Stockyard memorial and his badge is mounted on the Wall of Honor at Quinn Fire Academy in memory of his heroic actions. However, there was nothing to honor the hero in the All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines where his body was laid to rest. McCann's mother was one of 12 people Minich rescued during an arson fire on October 25, 1952.

WISCONSIN

From the *Wisconsin State Journal*, September 22, 2011 -- LIVINGSTON: "Vandalism at Rock Church Cemetery shocks families, caretakers," by Rob Schultz. The caretakers at Rock Church Cemetery spend many hours each month honoring the dead by making sure everything is perfect among the evenly spaced rows of graves. It's truly a sacred place out in the middle of nowhere. So when this cemetery, with grave sites dating to before the Civil War, was desecrated recently -- 108 headstones and grave markers were damaged -- it was more than an attack on an area landmark. For many, it was personal. Three young man have been charged as adults and may face charges of felony criminal damage that involves prison time. The damage could amount to as much as \$50,000. A local fundraising drive is underway.

From the *Dodgeville Chronicle*, August 18, 2011: "Cemetery Vandalism shocks Livingston area community," by Jean Berns Jones. A similar story about the vandalism at Rock Church Cemetery that occurred on August 9th is related. A steady stream of people from several states came to see how their families' markers had fared.

From the *Wisconsin State Journal*, date not available: "Catching Up: Three grave vandals get jail time," by Rob Schultz. Three young men were sentenced to jail time and ordered to pay thousands for the damage they caused when they vandalized more than 100 grave sites at Rock Church Cemetery

near Livingston last August. An unusual part of the sentences took place May 21 at the Livingston Fire Station when they were forced to meet with families who had relatives' or friends' graves vandalized. Reportedly, each man apologized to the group of about 40 people and then sat and listened as they spoke. Most of the damaged gravestones have been fixed, but many of the oldest ones are merely cobbled together. "The cemetery will never be the same," said Rita Riley, a Livingston resident whose great grandmother's grave was vandalized.

From the *Postcrescent.com* newspaper, Appleton, Fox Cities, Wisconsin, July 16, 2012: "Siblings document cemetery history." WHITEHALL -- Charting and photographing cemeteries might not seem like a popular item on someone's list after retirement, but that's what Jim Seidelman is doing, and the work is proving to be extremely valuable.

Seidelman, of Los Angeles, and his sister, Sue Feltes of Osseo, have produced about two dozen collections of cemeteries in the Eau Claire area over nine years and are working on others. The two photograph complete cemeteries and include as much information as they can. Copies of the completed compilations are given to the appropriate cemetery associations, churches, and the library at no charge.

NORTH CAROLINA

From *United Press International, Inc.*, June 11, 2012. DEEP GAP, N.C.: "Young girl killed by tombstone at church." A 4-year-old girl died after a tombstone at a church cemetery fell on top of her, officials said. The girl was killed just before she was to attend a vacation Bible school study at Mount Paran Church in Deep Gap, WSOC-TV, Charlotte, reported. Pastor Rick Cornejo said several children were running around in the church backyard before Bible study. The girl was standing on a headstone when a massive cross fell on top of her, crushing her. Church members said they are in shock.

FRANCE

From the *American Legion Magazine*, July, 2012: Several letters to the editor referring to the American cemeteries in France were written by veterans and their relatives who served during WWII in France and Belgium.

Copies of any article in this newsletter may be obtained from Pat Shaw at:
patshaw@netins.net PH 319-293-3899

A copy of a proposed sign for pioneer cemeteries containing legal information suggested
by John Heider at the July meeting may be obtained from John at: jheider@mchsi.com

11.13
2:22

3 hrs 10 min

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