

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535
VOLUME 18 ISSUE #1

www.rootsweb.com/iasapc/
January, 2013

The next SAPIC meeting will be on April 13, 2013, at 10:00 AM at the Heritage Center located at 501 N. 4th St. in Burlington, Iowa. While traveling west on Highway 34 through Burlington exit using exit 263, the last exit before you cross the bridge into Illinois. At the bottom of the exit ramp turn right. You will be at an intersect with traffic lights and should be headed back towards the west. Travel through the intersection up the hill on Columbia Street for two blocks. The Heritage Center sets on the north west corner of the intersection of

Columbia Street and North Fourth Street.

Coffee and doughnuts will be available prior to the meeting. Lunch will be on your own, but Big Muddy's on the Mississippi, located in a building on the National Register of Historic Places, is recommended. Built as a freight house in 1898 by the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad, this building has been more commonly known as "The Old Rock Island Freight House." Symbolizing Burlington's railroad and transportation heritage, it is the only substantial building of Victorian character directly on the riverfront today. In earlier years, both riverboats and other railroads used the freight house as a transfer point to send cargo as far north as Minneapolis, as far south as St. Louis and to many other points throughout the United States.

Big Muddy's has an extensive and varied menu.

Subject: Pearl Harbor after visiting hours

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgE2KiPd3xg&feature=youtube_gdata_player

In a survey conducted by the **Office of the State Archaeologist** with planning the future of its Education & Outreach Program, SAPIC member, Vicki Stinson, responded with this thoughtful reply: "I believe some Iowans would love the opportunity to assist State Archaeological teams with site work. For example, I have a passion for preserving Iowa Cemeteries and the information contained on the headstones. I would enjoy assisting OSA in surveying cemeteries. I recommend there be a place on your website where people could see upcoming

activities; add a place where we could sign up to volunteer our time to assist you."

Safe solutions for hard to read gravestones:
<http://www.ncgenweb.us/newhanover/cem1.html>

Sources for grants

Cemeteries are unique locations marked by the history of those who have been buried there. Weather and vandalism slowly erode away this important piece of history from the community. As a result erosion, the history of war generals, local governors and United States officials buried in these cemeteries also disappear. Several companies offer restoration grants to help digitize cemetery records, perform cemetery mapping and perform restoration and preservation of grave markers and cemetery monuments.

HTTP://WWW.EHOW.COM/LIST_6079679_GRANTS-CEMETERY-RESTORATION-PRESERVATION.HTML

A limited number of grants will be offered by SAPIC to help restore cemeteries in Iowa. Check the SAPIC web site or contact Pat Shaw for the application form.

Two entrepreneurs at a networking event tried to make small talk.

"Hey, do you believe in survival of the fittest?" one asked.

"I don't believe in the survival of anybody," the other replied. "I'm an undertaker."

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 4, 2013:
"Ceremony for Monitor sailors Friday." RICHMOND, Va. A century and a half after USS Monitor sank, the interment of two unknown crewmen found in the Civil War ironclad's turret is bringing together people from across the country with distant but powerful ties to those who died aboard. The ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery will include Monitor kin who believe the two sailors are their ancestors, as well as nearly 100 people from Maine to California.

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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

THANKS FOR PAYING YOUR DUES for
2013 !

STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

The regular quarterly meeting of SAPIC met Saturday, February 9, 2013 at the Johnston Public Library, Johnston Iowa.

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Mike Magee, President. All were welcomed and introductions were made by the 18 persons present. We thank Larry Davis for providing pastries and coffee.

Minutes of previous meeting, October 13, 2012 were read by Frieda Davis, Secretary.

Motion to accept by John Heider, seconded by Duane Ogren, **Passed**.

Treasurer's report by Valerie Ogren. Motion to accept and file for audit by John Heider, seconded by Larry Davis; **Passed**.

President read suggested slate of Officers for SAPIC for 2013: President – Tony Bengston, vice President – Bill Reedy, Secretary – Frieda Davis, Treasurer – Valerie Ogren.

Board Members (term to expire in 2015): Carol Hoffman, Julie Eckenrod, and Mike Magee. Nomination of Ben Mayer for board member from the floor by Tony Bengston, seconded by Carol Hoffman, **Passed**.

Steve Story noted that our bylaws state we can have more than 13 board members. The general feeling of the group was that the officers were considered board members also. Motion made to accept the officers and board members as slated by Mary Richards, seconded by Steve Story, **Passed**.

Mike Magee turned over the president's position to Tony Bengston.

Old Business:

- Bumper stickers. Discussion that they should more directly advertise SAPIC even though it includes the web site www.rootsweb.com/iasapic/. We need to advertise SAPIC more. Motion to table until we find out cost etc. from Pat, by Carol Hoffman. No one remembers where and when we got them printed.

- Discussed Face book development. Suggestion made to print up cards to advertise SAPIC. Could be done by individuals.

- John Heider: brought selected library materials to view. They are free or loan or for postage only.

- No news on Oak Grove Cemetery – discussion of salvaged left over concrete blocks.

- Legal signage for cemeteries: John Heider brought paper copies for those who wanted to take them back to their commissions. Green Co. Cemetery Commission has ordered them from Prison Industries (metal), size 15X18 for \$15 each. On corrugated plastic will be about \$10 each.

- John Heider drew our attention to "injection grout 10" which contains no chemicals. Use on marble grave stones, etc. Article is in October Newsletter.
- John Heider suggested promoting more workshops. Discussed.

New Business:

Larry Davis gave report of review of application for grant form. Membership form was removed from the grant application. Will ask if they are receiving funds from other sources. In looking at the finances, suggestion that SAPIC can present four grants at \$200 each for 2013. Moved to provide four grants at \$200 each by Larry Davis, seconded by Valerie Ogren, **Passed** Valerie and Larry will present at the July meeting.

- Tom Gaard: reported that the Iowa monument at Vicksburg has been restored and will be dedicated May 25, 2013, at 10:00 am The Sons of Union Veterans want events each month during this anniversary time. Steve Story recounted those taking place in his area. The organization wishes to identify all Civil War veterans' graves.

- Mike reported that Platt's Nursery, Waterloo under which the Virden burial ground is reported to be and where HyVee wants to put in a gas station and car wash has put everything on hold as University Ave. is reported to be under reconstruction soon. He is also looking into the cemetery that was at the Black Hawk county Poor Farm before 1909 after which time the home was moved to north of Waterloo.. No record of the graves being moved.

- Steve Story reported that August 25, Sunday a concert, etc. will be held at Claremont.

- Tony Bengston reported the Boulder Cemetery, Linn County, not a pioneer, had tree damage from a tornado but now someone has cut down all the trees, even those not damaged. No one seems to know who did this. Trustees are being contacted. It is a township owned cemetery.

Next meeting will be April 13th, second Saturday. Meeting place to be announced later. Suggestion that we ask Orville and Mary Prill to speak about the cemetery restoration and identification work down near the Rock Island Arsenal, in the Iowa Ordinance Plant. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm after motion made by John Heider and seconded by Mike Magee, **Passed**.

Respectfully submitted by Frieda Davis, Secretary.

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter – 1 October 2012 thru 31 December 2012

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2012, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 3,864.08

Income

Dues \$ 90.00

Interest 10/31/12 .35

Interest 11/30/12

32 Interest 12/31/12 .31

Total Income \$ 90.98

Expense

Oct. 3 - Pat Shaw – newsletter \$ 34.40

Oct. 15 – Pat Shaw – newsletter 20.08

Oct. 15 – Postmaster – non-profit permit 190.00

Oct. 16 – Postmaster – stamps 18.00

\$ 262.48

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2012 \$ 3,692.58

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2012, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 3,728.39

Donation from Wayne Blessing - \$200.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2012 \$ 3,928.39

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 2012 \$ 7,620.97

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

Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Training

Comprehensive training for volunteers and cemetery personnel help keep costs and mistakes at a minimum and as much in-house work as possible. Progressive sessions can provide workers with skills necessary for such tasks as mapping, documentation, surveying, photographing markers, site maintenance, investigating probing for buried markers, stone cleaning, resetting, and repair.

Training programs offer individuals the opportunity to gain experience in identifying problems they may encounter and hands-on experience in arriving at correct solutions. Sometimes the most valuable lesson learned is a clear understanding of what is best left to the experienced professionals.

A manual, photos, or video of the workshop will help train future people and will also make certain that the original effort is not lost to techniques which often deviate, more each subsequent year, from the standards set during the original class. Also, permanent documentation will serve as a review for each new restoration season.



Following with more in-depth intermediate training, volunteers can undertake elementary conservation efforts such as washing or resetting certain types of grave markers. An advanced course completes the training program and provides skills to meet the more complex preservation challenges.

Working with historical materials is very different from new construction (granite) and requires specific skill, knowledge, tools, and techniques appropriate to each circumstance. Correct techniques must be used in the stabilization and repair of each component within a burial ground. Appropriate materials and techniques will vary with each element and often with an individual stone, fence, or other feature. Failure to use appropriate practices can result in irreparable damage and diminish historic value.

It is important to be aware of what practices to avoid. Commonly-used, improper, and damaging methods include setting stones directly into cement, repairing broken markers with grey Portland cement instead of a correct replacement material, using harmful sealants, applying damaging cleaning solutions and techniques, using adhesives that are not meant for a particular stone type, and utilizing modern mortars that are too hard.

There are three types of training steps: **Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced.**

Basic classroom training sessions are usually held indoors during the off-season (late fall through early spring). **Intermediate** and **Advanced** workshops are held (rain or shine) in a cemetery with hands-on learning situations. Each experience builds upon the previous session and provides a solid foundation for continued learning.

To discover how to care for a pioneer cemetery and repair grave stones, enroll in a contemporary cemetery preservation training class and workshop.

--Contributed by John Heider

What to Expect at a Cemetery Class or Workshop?

The purpose of a cemetery restoration class or workshop is to offer information that presents comprehensive preservation methods, products, and the use of related tools. In Iowa, there are no state laws, agencies or cemetery programs that outline a course of action for the preservation of a grave stone or cemetery; however there are available professional programs that teach the best preservation practices and standards. Some of these programs are available through the Federal government, national associations, foundations, community educational institutions, and specialized companies. Other sources include higher educational institutions that provide accredited classes or course work related to historic preservation. These programs offer the following information in their classes and/or workshops:

Cemetery Preservation Training Class

The course is designed to be a comprehensive classroom training program that will:

- Introduce current information.
- Provide modern methods.
- Present approved materials.
- Illustrate the application of suitable tools.

The class content follows methods, products, and tools that are approved by the National Park Service and non-governmental organizations.

Workshop

The focus of a workshop is to provide progressive hands-on training programs that present current preservation methods, accepted products, and simple, uncomplicated equipment.

Each part is designed to:

- Decrease unintentional damage to cemetery grounds.
- Reduce harm to individual grave markers or monuments.
- Demonstrate the application of suitable methods, materials, hand tools, and equipment.

The three workshops programs are:

Basic Cemetery Training
Intermediate Cemetery Training
Advanced Cemetery Training

Each workshop program is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the latest and best practices for gravestone and cemetery preservation.

Additional preservation resources may be obtained from:

The Association of Gravestone Studies, www.gravestonestudies.org

The Chicora Foundation, www.chicora.org

The National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training,
www.ncptt.nps.gov

REMEMBER THE PIONEERS OF HENRY COUNTY

Members of The Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission have since being formed in April, 1999 been quite active and creative by implementing a plan of action in dealing with location, protection, preservation and maintenance thereof of lost, abandoned/neglected known and unknown cemeteries and/or burial grounds that meet the requirements to be classified as Pioneer Cemeteries/Burial Grounds throughout Henry County. A Pioneer Cemetery is defined by Iowa Law as one in which twelve or fewer burials have occurred in the past 50 years.

Normally the Commissions Plan of Action involvement includes, but not limited to corresponding with land owner where Pioneer Cemetery is located or did at a time exist, establish location, clean-up, place identification (signs), repair and/or replacement of Grave Stones, fencing, maintenance(mowing and seeding) and other needs as deemed necessary, at no cost to the property owner.

The Commission has been since April 1999 directly and/or indirectly involved with providing assistance in accordance with The Commissions Statement of Purpose to insure that the protection, preservation and maintenance plan of action has been applied to 30 known Pioneer Cemeteries/Burial Grounds that are under the Commissions jurisdiction in Henry County. Henry County Township Trustees retain the responsibility for protection, preservation and maintenance of 4 Pioneer Cemeteries in Henry County.

Thirty of the 34 known Pioneer Cemeteries/Burial Grounds do have visible Grave Stones that identify some of the early settlers/pioneers who came to Henry County, died and were buried here. Others are only identified on paper on records of the past that has been collected and preserved by County Genealogical Societies, Historical Societies and caring people like we have serving on the Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Evidence/records available identify 4 Pioneer burial grounds/sites in Henry County that in the past had Grave Stones/Markers in place, but currently no original stones are visible at these locations.. Reality has proven that over time properties change owners and often times back in the 1800's things such as cemeteries did not get recorded in a land deed transaction therefore creating difficulty sometimes for our Commission to reestablish identity of a prior burial site that perhaps years ago did exist out in the middle of a field with no bonified access. We are talking about deceased early settlers/pioneers who settled our land and who laid the foundation for our society. However visual observation currently indicates

that these areas have been farmed over for several years and that the grave stones have all been lost, stolen or destroyed leaving the site beyond recognition. When the pioneers buried their loved ones they tried to put up Grave Stones , marking the graves for what they thought would perhaps be a long, long time. Often times Families moved on, leaving no relatives to care for the graves/deceased and unfortunately apathy, neglect and disrespect took its toll.

IN THE YEAR OF 2012 The Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission adopted a new and/or additional phase to The Plan of Action for Protection and Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries in Henry County. The idea of the new phase was introduced by Commission members ~~Mona Gates and Pat White~~ and the project was completed by Commission members Allan Barnes, Dave Gates and Ross Tweedy in The Williford Pioneer Cemetery located South of Linden Heights. The newest venture for the Commission in 2012 in Williford consisted of setting up 6 Grave Stones with names engraved on them of people recorded on paper and known to be buried somewhere in Williford Cemetery, but for some reason never had a Grave Stone/marker. Commission members recognize and believe that as a minimum the Early Settlers/Pioneers of years gone by who ventured to Henry County, died and was buried here, are deserving of and should be honored for their sacrificies devoted to Henry County. Abbey/Baltimore Pioneer Cemetery located South East of Mount Pleasant in Baltimore Township is scheduled to have this same thing done in 2013.

The County Pioneer Cemetery Commission is appointed by the Henry County Board of Supervisors in accordance with the provisions of law adopted by The Legislature of the State of Iowa. The Commission is granted the authority and is charged with the duty and responsibility to address conditions known and/or reported to them as relates to known and unknown Pioneer Cemeteries in Henry County. Funds for the Commissions operations is provided by the Henry County Board of Supervisors by a tax levy permitted by State law. There are twenty-seven counties in the State that have choosen to appoint a Pioneer Cemetery Commission .

The Pioneer Cemetery Commission consists of nine members, Stan Hill, Chairperson, Allan Barnes Vice Chairperson, Pam Stewart, Secretary, Mona Gates Historian, David Gates Member, Linn Hunsaker Member, Ross Tweedy Member, Pat White Member and Charlotte Zihlman Member.

The Commission meets the First Monday , during the months of April through December at 1PM in The Henry County Board of Supervisors room at the Henry County Courthouse. Those with Pioneer Cemetery concerns are welcome to attend.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, February 15, 2013:
Dear Abby column -- "Cemeteries peaceful repose shattered by kids and dogs." A letter written by a funeral professional who takes pride in helping families honor their heritage and transition from grief to recovery, lists several ways that well-meaning parents can educate their children when visiting cemeteries: teach them not to remove flowers, personal mementos, and flags from graves. Also addressed is the issue of walking dogs in cemeteries. Letter is signed: "The last person to let you down in California."

Abby answers: Folks, if your children are too young to understand when you tell them the cemetery isn't a playground, that they must remain quiet, respectful and not touch other people's property, then they should not be present at a burial. When entering or leaving a cemetery, children and adults should refrain from walking on the graves. Ditto for using it as a dog park. The Golden Rule applies here: Don't do unto others what you wouldn't want them to do ONTO you.

From the *Otter Creek Quarterly*, An newsletter of the Buchanan County Conservation Board, Spring, 2013 Vol. 28 No. 1: "Old Time Meals" On September 4, enjoy a meal of lamb chops or beef roast, stewed tomatoes, fingerling potatoes, peppers, and Amish bread. SAPIC president Tony Bengston will present a program about pioneer cemeteries.

From the *Homestead* newspaper, January 25, 1906: (Apparently, an advice column on legal matters) PRIVATE CEMETERY. F. B. sold his farm in Iowa to J. B. Four of the family are buried on the farm and J. B. knew it when he bought the farm, and made no objection. (1) Can J. B. remove the bodies without the consent of F. B.? (2) In case J. B. should remove the bodies without the consent of F. B., what penalty would he incur?

Answer: (1) We think that in order to remove the bodies J. B. would have to obtain an order of court upon due notice to the near relatives of the persons buried on the place. (2) The law provides that a person who disturbs a tomb or vault in a public or private cemetery is guilty of a misdemeanor and can be punished by confinement in the county jail not

exceeding one year, or fined not more than \$500, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Are you a genealogist who has run into the proverbial "brick wall" with regard to the location of the burial place of your ancestors? In several of the following reports, mention is made of burials being made in private cemeteries usually on farm land. If the burial site was not declared a dedicated cemetery or mentioned in an abstract, it may have fallen into neglect when relatives died and the graves could no longer be maintained.

COUNTY REPORTS

BLAWK HAWK

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, August 9, 1927: "Bodies and 12-ton Monument off to Hollywood, Cal." Percy Lane who succeeded his father as head of the Union Mill financial company, has been in town the last few days completing arrangement for the remains of his father and brothers to be transferred from Fairview Cemetery to a new family plot in Hollywood Memorial Cemetery in Los Angeles, Ca., along with a 24,000 pound monument. The father, Allen T. Lane, who died in 1887, was prominent in financial and banking interests in Waterloo. Percy Lane explained that in the interval of 26 years since leaving Waterloo, several other members of the family have died and are buried in California. A picture of the Lane monument can be found on the Find A Grave web site.

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, July 1, 1895: "Excitement at Hudson." Just as the funeral procession of "Grandpa" Roe, a pauper who died at the poor farm, was leaving the Baptist Church for the cemetery, a team of colts hitched to a lumber wagon nearby became unmanageable and ran into the funeral procession. Several persons on the wagon and in the funeral procession were injured seriously, but no one was killed. The runaway team went on about a half-mile further and was caught.

BUTLER

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, November 7, 1965: "He lies in the shade ..." A man's love of trees lives on at a rural Butler County cemetery north of

Vilmer. Here lies Johann Schroeder who at age 37 was killed by a team of runaway horses in 1884. When the team bolted, Schroeder fell on the wagon tongue and was fatally injured. As the family prepared for his burial, Schroeder's wife recalled her husband's words ... "When I die, I want a shade tree by my grave ..."

Schroeder had always loved trees. His idea of eternal peace was to sleep in the shade of a tree. So, Mrs. Schroeder followed his wishes and planted a tree by the grave. From 1884, it grew there -- the only marker at the grave. Last year, Schroeder's daughter decided a marker was needed. A bronze marker was made, bearing the name of Schroeder and his wife who was buried by his side. The plaque was attached to the tree, which stands as one of Iowa's most unusual grave markers.

CLAY

From the *Spencer Reporter*, January 24, 1906: The obituary of Mrs. Mary Wedericksen, aged seventy-eight years, mentions that funeral services were held in the Danish Lutheran Church in Royal and burial was in a private cemetery three miles south of Royal.

CLAYTON

From the *State Center Enterprise*, December 21, 1916: To be buried in her own private cemetery in a corner of her farm beside five husbands who preceded her to the grave has been arranged by Mrs. Emma G. Vansickle, who resides near McGregor. Over the bodies of all the husbands are headstones erected by the wife's own hands.

Note: Much research has been done about Emma ("Virgin Em") by SAPIC member Ronald Harris. To learn the true story of this legendary figure and to obtain a copy of Ron's book, *Eastman Cemetery*, contact Good Grit Press, 2802 50th St. S., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. harris@wctc.net

CLINTON

From the *Jackson Sentinel*, October 11, 1888: August Goblmann, a merchant of Goose Lake and a prominent German-American of Clinton County, died at his home Oct. 6, of inflammation of kidneys,

aged 53 years. The remains were laid to rest in a private cemetery at Charlotte. The funeral was largely attended, some eighty teams being in the procession. He leaves a wife and a large family of children to mourn the loss of a loving husband and kind father.

FAYETTE

From the *Arlington News*, August 9, 1906: The obituary of Elizabeth Filky Corbin mentions that the funeral was conducted at the Union Church and the remains were laid to rest in a private cemetery on the old home farm.

FREMONT

From the *Sidney Argus Herald*, January 17, 2013: "Friends of Thurman Cemetery repair head stones after storm," by Nancy Newlon. Friends of the Thurman Cemetery was started in 2009, with the purpose of repairing headstones in the cemetery. At the end of 2011, over 62 people had donated a total of \$5,545, the Scott Township Trustees had budgeted \$7,500 and 300 head stones had been repaired. The cemetery looked wonderful and most of the head stones had been repaired.

On April 14, 2012, a tornado struck the Thurman Cemetery. Many trees and head stones were destroyed. Only a few days after the tornado struck volunteers came with tractors, chain saws, and trailers and by the end of the first day of clean up, much progress was made. After a few more days of removing debris, stone repair was begun. After donations of money and labor, the work on the headstones is complete. Pictured are the before and after pictures of the Paul stone. All monument companies, volunteers, and contributors of the Friends of Thurman Cemetery were thanked for their support.

From the Tabor Historical Society newsletter, Vol 15, January 2013, p. 3: "Tabor Cemetery News" Pictured are staff members from the Milacek Monument Company of Omaha as they carefully remove stones for repair. Friends of Tabor Cemetery donated money for the repair of seven stones, costing approximately \$400 each. Many stones remain in need of repair. Donations can be sent to Friends of Tabor Cemetery, c/o Tabor Historical Society, PO

Box 584, Tabor, IA 51653.

GREENE

From the *Jefferson Bee*, October 19, 1921: "The First White Baby." In an earlier article concerning the death of Charles Culley, it was stated that he was the first child born in Jefferson and also the first boy born in Greene county. This statement was questioned by several readers, as it is known that three girls were born prior to Culley. But it is certain that Culley was the "first boy" born in Jefferson. However, Thomas Davis was born earlier in Greene county and died very young. He was buried in the private cemetery of the Davis family, which is located about a half mile east of the old Coon Valley Mill site. His was the first death within the borders of Greene county. It is also stated that a son was born to the Valentine Babb household at an earlier date than the Culley birth.

GRUNDY

Cemeteries? The Grundy County Conservation Board manages cemeteries? That's right! Present on these two cemeteries are native prairie remnants that give visitors a glimpse of what Grundy County looked like before settlement began in 1853.

Beaver Township Cemetery & Prairie

The stones on this 3-acre area have been lost and destroyed over time, but prairie vegetation that was present when early pioneers were laid to rest there still remains. Actually, the stones were removed to the center of the cemetery years ago to allow the plowing and smoothing of the cemetery thus facilitating the "regular" mowing common in the majority of cemeteries today. While in this state, the Fern General Store burned and the cemetery records stored there were lost as well. The stones remained in the middle of the cemetery. No plowing or smoothing of the area ever took place. Ironically, fire, the tool that saves the prairie through suppressing competition and releasing nutrients saved this prairie from destruction in the form of this store tragedy. A stone and bronze marker containing the last names of people believed buried there stands in one corner. The remainder of the area is managed by the Conservation Board to maintain and enhance the native grasses and flowers that are found there. This management includes controlled burns in the spring every two or three years to eliminate woody vegetation and stimulate prairie growth.

Melrose Township Cemetery

Once the site of a Methodist Church, the building has long been gone but native grasses and flowers remain. The cemetery and stones are well cared for and interesting stories can be gleaned from a study of the dates and names found on them. The east third of the area remains undisturbed and contains the finest representative remnant of native prairie found to date in Grundy County! The area is managed by controlled burns in the spring and the Conservation Board involvement is one of consultation and public interpretive walks offered by our staff.

JONES

From the *Omaha World Herald*, December 25, 2012: "Iowa woman's cookie recipe memorialized on gravestone." Relatives of a northeast Iowa woman wanted a special way to remember her after she died, so they chose something that seemed most fitting: a family recipe for sugar cookies. The recipe for "Mom's Christmas Sugar Cookies" was engraved on the back of her stone and has marked her grave for nearly a decade.

Note: When the SAPIC meeting was held in Cedar Rapids in July, 2010, Jane Thoresen made this recipe for the attendees. Jane and her husband, Carl, manage Oak Hill Cemetery in Marion. Oak Hill and Cedar Memorial hosted the meeting. SAPIC member Steve Hanken discovered the stone.

MAHASKA

From the *Perry Daily Chief*, December 25, 1894: Applications have been made to the state board of health for disinterment permits for thirteen of the oldest known residents of Mahaska county, now buried on a farm in a private cemetery, the farm having now been bought by a party who wants to get the use of the land.

MARION

From the *Pella Chronicle*, April 7, 1913: In the obituary of Frank Cox, it mentions that interment was at a private cemetery on the L. Vander Linden farm near Howell.

From the *Iowa City Press Citizen*, August 18, 1925: Funeral services for Eldon Koons, 12, his brother Milburn Koons, 19, and Donald Hodgson, 18, victims in the triple mine tragedy here Saturday were buried side by side in a private ceremony on the Charles Hodgson farm.

MUSCATINE

From the *Davenport Democrat*, December 16,

1925: Mrs. Azuba Nye, widow of Benjamin Nye, was the first white female settler in Muscatine County. She died in the original home at the mouth of Pine Creek on March 4, 1879, and the old graveyard where she was buried beside her husband with the rest of the pioneers is a neglected spot. The fence enclosing the Nye family has long fallen and gone to decay. A few broken down pine trees mark the graves and the broken and fallen tombstones, the result of cattle, horses and sheep running over the graves. The sacred spot should not be forgotten.

POCAHONTAS

From the *Rolfe Arrow*, June 16, 1983: "Huffman rebuffs supervisors on Dover cemetery corn." Pocahontas county attorney, H. Dale Huffman, who apparently met with Dover Township Trustees about the conversion of the Dover Township Cemetery to farmland, refused to tell the supervisors whether he had advised the trustees to do this. Huffman did, however acknowledge that the trustees were not following his advice. He proposed to seek an attorney general's opinion, turn it over to the trustees, and then resign as their legal advisor. As a result of complaints about finding a grave site in the cemetery covered with corn, the county supervisors met with the township trustees who claim they had a right to allow farming in an abandoned part of the cemetery since taxes were being paid on it. Only four stones remain upright in the cemetery. Township trustees suggest that other bodies have been removed, although no records support this.

POLK

From the *Waterloo Courier*, January 15, 1896: No more grave robberies have been detected at Des Moines, but it is understood that the police are preparing to make new developments soon, that may implicate more people. The medical students arrested Saturday night declare that they are innocent, and regard the matter as a joke, but the police claim they can convict some of them, at least. Bodies were returned to the Saylorville Cemetery and the county poor farm.

SIOUX

From the *Elgin Echo*, October 24, 1907: At Granville, in Sioux county, an entire cemetery of 191 disinterments will occur. Disinterments must be under the supervision of a licensed embalmer and the metallic lined boxes must be used where the bodies are removed from one cemetery to another.

WASHINGTON

From the *Atlantic Daily Telegraph*, November 22, 1888: The body of Miss Eva Mitchell, whose tragic death occurred in Chicago last Saturday night, arrived here today and was interred by the side of her mother in Jackson township, ten miles northeast of Washington.

WAYNE

From the minutes of the Iowa Mormon Trails Association meeting, November 3, 2012:

An Eagle Scout project was started at Mt. Pisgah.

The Tharp cemetery signage project is a National Historic Trails project and they need to contact the local landowner to emphasize that it is national. Jim Armstrong in Fairfield is head engineer for Iowa Department of Transportation and is the person to be involved in this situation. At this point the project is fruitless.

WRIGHT

From the *Iowa State Reporter*, August 5, 1886: Over in Eagle Grove Township resides a German farmer who, at first glance, would not be regarded as very wide-awake, but recent events go to show that his head contains something beside "hayseed." An effort was being made to establish a road across his farm at a point where it would be a serious detriment to him and he tried to effect a compromise by offering to give the right of way provided the road was located on the section line. His offer was refused and a few days later, a surveyor was seen at work laying out a private cemetery on the German's farm at a point where the proposed road would run through the center of it. The plat has been duly recorded. As the laws of the state do not allow highways to interfere with cemeteries, it looks as though the road would have to go on the section line or not at all.

--Wright Co. Monitor

OUT OF IOWA

ALABAMA

From *American Profiles magazine*, March 14, 2013, p.12,14: "Hometown Hero -- Te-lah-nay's Wall," by Gail Allyn Short. Tom Hendrix is pictured next to the mile-long rock wall, including a prayer circle, that he built as a memorial to his great-great-grandmother, a Yuchi Indian named Te-lah-nay. She was forced to move from the Tennessee River area of northwest Alabama and relocate to present-day Oklahoma on the 1,000-mile route known as the Trail of Tears. After one winter at her new home, she began a five-

year journey back to her homeland.

"There's a stone in the wall for every step she made, theoretically," says Hendrix, who estimates he had laid about 8.5 million pounds of rock in tribute to Te-lah-nay, which means Woman with Dancing Eyes.

"I wore out three trucks, 22 wheelbarrows, 3,700 pairs of gloves, three dogs and one old man," states Hendrix.

ILLINOIS

From the website of the *Chicago Tribune*, July 1, 2012: "Archaeologists believe they found remnant of Civil War site in Near South Side Park," by Mitch Smith. Scott Demel and a group of mostly volunteer diggers are uncovering limestone that likely made up the foundation of Camp Douglas, the most important legacy of Chicago's role in the War between the States. After Demel and other archaeologists spent several years mapping out potential sites, a team from Northern Michigan University, Loyola University in Chicago and the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation honed in on what is now Lake Meadows Park. Named after U.S. Sen. Stephen A. Douglas, who owned the 60-acre site where the camp's 200 buildings stood, Camp Douglas was initially a training site for about 25,000 Union soldiers, many of them black. In 1862 it was adapted as a prison camp where more than 4,000 rebel soldiers died.

From the *Davenport Democrat*, December 16, 1925: "Murdered Family Buried in one Grave at Batavia." Batavia, Ill. -- In a dress that was bought as Christmas presents, Henry Jeske, 35, his wife, Eva, 32, and their 6-year old son, Ralph, were lowered into a single grave today. Mr. and Mrs. Jeske and the little boy were murdered Saturday night by a burglar at their farm home two miles of here. They were set upon by the killer as they came home from this city where Mr. Jeske was employed as assistant cashier of the Batavia National Bank.

Mrs. Jeske's shroud was a brown silk dress which her mother and sisters had made up for her with tender thoughts of the Yuletide in mind. In her hair and on her breast were pretty fur bellows and ornaments her husband had bought for her.

NEBRASKA

Is a metal finial missing from your ancestor's gravemarker? Currently it is at Bloomfield Forum, an independent senior living facility at 9804 Nicholas Street in Omaha, Nebraska, but we are wondering what building it came from. If you know, or have a guess, e-mail us at info@restoreomaha.org.

From *American Profile magazine*, January 20-26,

2013: The infamous Boot Hill Cemetery of Ogallala (pop.4,737) dates back to the 1800s and, according to local lore, was named because its inhabitants were buried with their boots on. One such unfortunate soul was Rattlesnake Ed, killed over a \$9 bet in Cowboy's Rest Saloon.

NEW YORK

From YAHOO!NEWS, February 22, 2013: "N.Y. man who died on way to late wife's memorial buried beside her." Norman Hendrickson, 94, a retired assistant postmaster in an Albany suburb, stopped breathing in the limousine on the way to a wake for his late wife, Gwen, who died earlier this month. Funeral home staffers laid Hendrickson in a casket and placed him beside an urn containing his wife's remains in a viewing room, while daughter Merrilynne posted a light-hearted sign for arriving mourners: "Surprise -- it's a Double-Header -- Norman and Gwen Hendrickson -- February 16, 2013."

NORTH DAKOTA

From the *American Profiles magazine*, January 20-26, 2013: A stone obelisk, erected in 1932 outside of St. Anthony's church in Fairmount (pop. 367) is known as "The Sermon in Stone." The obelisk and another column are made of various stones, petrified wood, fossils and religious symbols.

WISCONSIN

January 24, 2013: Beloit police say an Illinois man has been arrested in the theft of grave vases and military markers stolen from a Wisconsin graveyard. Police in Roscoe, Ill., arrested 27-year-old Kristopher Kaehler Wednesday. An arrest warrant had been issued for Kaehler in the theft of grave vases and military markers from Eastlawn Cemetery in Beloit. The warrant charges Kaehler with criminal damage to a cemetery and theft of more than \$10,000 in property. Beloit police began investigating the thefts in late December. As of mid-January, police had recovered 181 vases and 112 military grave markers from area scrap yards. Kaehler is being held in the Winnebago County Jail in Illinois, awaiting extradition. Online court

records do not list a defense attorney.
http://host.madison.com/news/state-and-regional/man-arrested-in-beloit-cemetery-thefts/article_c1e3adda-d0d4-5d81-bd6f-32eb262f21be.html#ixzz2J00hMmQr

FRANCE

From the *American Legion Magazine*, February, 2013: "Normandy Academy." The National World War II Museum and National History Day are joining forces to offer high school students the chance to research and eulogize U.S. heroes who gave their lives in Normandy, France nearly 70 years ago.

Normandy Academy's "D-Day Stories of Service and Sacrifice" program begins in March, when students are assigned the names of U. S. military personnel laid to rest at the American cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. Before gathering in New Orleans in July, students will research the history of the fallen service member, his unit and hometown, working with a mentor from the National World War II Museum.

The program offers exclusive access to museum archives and artifacts, opportunities to meet with veterans who were part of the pivotal World War II invasion and a chance to see in person the battle sites in France. Once the students have completed their work, they will give eulogies at the Normandy American Cemetery.

www.normandyacademy.org

IRELAND

From the *American Legion Magazine*, March 2013: "A Sacred Priority," by Jeff Stoffer. Pictured is Legionnaire Ron Howko placing a flag at a U.S. soldier's grave in County Mayo, Ireland. The soldier, Pvt. James Forkan, was one of 62 Irish-born soldiers and sailors who in 1922 were repatriated for burial in their home soil after losing their lives while fighting for the United States in World War I. They were initially buried in military cemeteries in other parts of Europe until their families, give the option, had them exhumed and brought back to Ireland. One reburied, their associations with the U.S. military were disregarded and the fallen troops received no U.S. military honors, flags, headstones, or playing of Taps, and were in unmarked graves for 90 years. The American Legion, Mayo Peace Park and Post IR-03 in Claremorris (named for commodore John Barry, Irish born father of the modern U.S. Navy) rededicated the

graves with full military honors. So far, Howko and his fellow Legionnaires have obtained official military headstones and conducted services for 12 Irish men who died in World War I, plus one for another veteran who received the Medal of Honor while serving in the U.S. Navy during the Spanish-American War.

POLAND

From the *Dallas Morning News*, August 22, 2012: "Israeli excavates death camp," by Aron Heller, The Associated Press. After learning that two of his uncles were murdered in the infamous Sobibor death camp in eastern Poland, archaeologist Yoram Haimi embarked on a landmark excavation project that is shining new light on the workings of one of the most notorious Nazi killing machines, including pinpointing the location of the gas chambers where hundreds of thousands were killed. Pictured are Israeli students as they watch a dig at the former Nazi camp. The heavy concentration of ashes has led an archaeologist to estimate that more than 250,000 Jews were killed there. The most touching find thus far has been an engraved metal identification tag bearing the name of Lea Judith de la Penha, a 6-year-old Jewish girl from Holland. Haimi calls her the "symbol of Sobibor."

MEXICO

From the *Dallas Morning News*, October 29, 2012: "Grave desecrations upset migrants," by Alfredo Corchado. Pictured is Baruch Moreno Elias, a store owner in San Luis de la Paz, Mexico. He is upset over a shocking video showing long-entombed remains being crudely discarded at a local cemetery in the central Mexico town. The identity of the remains is unclear, but their crude disposal -- presumably for lack of space or nonpayment of taxes -- revives for many immigrants worries about losing what is left behind when they move north. The video is a troubling reminder of what could happen if the immigrants are unable to return regularly to look after the gravesites of loved ones. "We need to remind authorities back in Mexico that even though we're not here, they need to respect our culture and our dead."

Do you know of a deserving volunteer who has worked diligently in a pioneer cemetery in your county? Consider giving him/her recognition by nominating that person for the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award that is presented by SAPIC annually in the fall. Criteria is available from Pat Shaw.

