

GRAVE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES
21813 170TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, IOWA 52535
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iasapc/>

VOLUME 18 ISSUE #2

April, 2013

Next SAPIC meeting-

Saturday July 13th, 2013 10:00 AM

Independence Public Library Community Room
801 1st St. E, Independence, IA 50644
Directions from Interstate 20: Take Exit
254 (the east Independence exit) onto
Hwy 150 turn north, go 1.5 miles to 1st
St. East aka "Main St." Go half a mile to
the library on the south side of 1st St. next
to the historic Capt. Daniel S. Lee
Mansion, first mayor of Independence aka
former People's Hospital. Parking for
meetings is recommended in the lot west
of the Lee Mansion next to the RFSW
Accounting Firm.

Coffee and refreshments will be provided
before the meeting. For lunch, many
restaurants are located along 1st St.
ranging from fast food to sit down
restaurants. The library has visitor
literature for Buchanan County available
right inside.

May is upon us once more, the grass is
green and the trees are budding. Some
areas received snow! Everyone is
anxiously awaiting the Memorial Day
weekend; some for a day off of work,
others to take out the boat on the water,
or to visit their deceased family members
at a cemetery. Whether they are a loved
one that recently passed or an ancestor
you have never met, remember to set
aside the time to honor them. Many are
not aware of the struggle cemeteries are
facing. In active cemeteries it is often a

financial struggle, while inactive cemeteries
are disappearing one by one. The State
Association for the Preservation of Iowa
Cemeteries (SAPIC) strives to preserve
them. We have worked since 1996 to
document, restore, protect from further
loss and learn. Not everyone is in favor of
these preservation efforts, but most are.
Please respect the landowners and private
lands. SAPIC has also worked with
legislators and state officials, preservation
specialists and archaeologists, farmers and
citizens in efforts to honor our ancestors.
We offer grants for cemetery restoration
and present awards to those whose
passion has driven them to the helm of
preservation. You can help with these
efforts by becoming better informed about
these activities and the changes constantly
taking place. We have great resources for
those interested in our cause. We would
love to hear from you and our meetings
and membership are always open.
Remember that most of our ancestors
deserve the best. Make sure these
memorials survive so that future
generations receive the same opportunity
to pay tribute.

Tony Bengston
SAPIC President

*It is hard to understand how a cemetery
raised its burial rates and blamed it on the
cost of living??*

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President and Web Page: Tony Bengston
1503 River Road Blvd.
Independence, IA 50644
319-415-1175 tonybengston@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 davisduo85@gmail.com

Treasurer: Valerie Ogren
108 N. Oak
Jefferson, IA 50129-1841
315-386-4784 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 (2015): Mike Magee
638 Englewood
Waterloo, IA 50701
319-232-8762 Digger4045@yahoo.com

Board Member (2015): Julie A. Eckenrod
2211 Linn Ave.
New Hampton, IA 50659
641-394-3967 jjeck@myclearwave.net

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

Board Member (2015): 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 (2015): Benjamin Mayer
317 E. Green St.
Winterset, IA 50273
515-462-5841 mayer_ben@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

THANKS FOR PAYING YOUR DUES for
2013 !

State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries

The regular quarterly meeting of SAPIC met Saturday, April 13, 2013 at the Heritage Center, 501 N. 4th Street, Burlington, Iowa.

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Tony Bengston, President. All were welcomed and introductions were made by the twenty three persons present. We thank Herb Price and Deb Olson from the Historical Association for arranging and hosting the meeting. Also thanks to Pat Shaw for providing snacks.

Minutes corrected for inaccurate web site address and removing 'Rock Island Arsenal' with 'Iowa Army Ammunition Plant'. Moved to accept by John Heider, seconded by Larry Davis, **Passed**.

Treasurer report presented as sent by Valerie Ogren. Motion to accept and file for audit by Carol Hoffman, seconded by Larry Davis, **Passed**. Bill presented by Pat Shaw for \$37.50 for half of room rent for today. Motion to accept by Carol Hoffman, seconded by Herb Price, **Passed**.

CD options: Motion that CD not be renewed by Larry Davis, seconded by Carol Hoffman, **Passed**.

Old business:

- **Bumper stickers: discussion:** Pat reported that in 2002 140 stickers were purchased for \$218.50, sold at \$1.50 each for a year and then reduced. Printed by Spenser Shirt Works.

- **Face book: discussion.** We have existing web site. Motion by Jon Heider that we appoint our president to devise a plan to put us on face book. Seconded by Gene Davis, **Passed**

- **Library Loans:** John Heider reported is going well. Have had many requests. Problem is that items are not being returned.

- **Legal signage:** no discussion.

- **Workshops:** John Heider discussed that there are lots of good information on the internet but also some questionable. Some states support workshops on a regular schedule. Discussed various ways and safe ways of reading old markers. John asked if SAPIC would consider sponsoring W/S on a regular basis. Pat offered to send out email to encourage local W/S's.

- **Grant Application:** one has been submitted so far (Johnson County). Dead-line is July 1 so encourage folks to apply.

- **Cemetery update:** Oak Grove in Lehigh- no further action is known. Viriden in Waterloo – nothing; Boulder – township were the ones to cut down all the trees; Durango/Ewing/Timber Diggings- descendants trying to identify who is owner; Fackler's Grove in Johnston Co is neglected being

pursued.

New Business:

- May declared as 'Cemetery Appreciation Month', Thanks to Pat Shaw.

- Bill Reedy discussed relationship of township trustees to pioneer cemeteries. Answered five questions (hand out) commonly asked – What is a pioneer cemetery? Who is responsible for the preservation and maintenance of pioneer cemeteries? Who owns a pioneer cemetery? Who pays for the preservation and maintenance of pioneer cemeteries? Can a pioneer cemetery accept further burials, or prohibit them? Also reported was how to access records to document veterans.

- Wayne Blessing donation: Pat presented background. Pat Shaw moved that 'the \$200 from Wayne Blessing be used as a Wayne Blessing grant for \$200. for this year with guidelines to be set up'. Seconded by Jean Ripley, Passed.

- Craig Poole-Western Iowa Cemetery Association – not present for report

- Wall Street Journal-farming's tilling virgin prairie; printed article brought by Tony Bengston concerning farming that may disturb prairie ground of a cemetery or historical burial ground. All types of burial sites, regardless of age or location on public or private property, are covered by Iowa's Burial Protection law passed in 1976. Violation is an aggravated misdemeanor punishable by up to two years in prison and a fine of \$500 up to \$5,000.

- Verda Baird genealogist from Fairfield: unable to present. Pat Shaw distributed article about Mary Prill.

- Program of Old Danville: presented by Joy Conwell and Herb Price. Thank you for an informative and interesting presentation. Interesting to note that Iowa State has photos of all of Iowa since 1920 which helped them identify the actual size and location of the Danville Cemetery.

July Meeting: discussion. Have had an invitation from the Sheraton in Iowa City. Location will be announced later for the second Saturday, 13th.

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

Meeting adjourned by Tony Bengston at 12:10 pm.

Option to visit Aspen Grove Cemetery, recently restored Civil War section.
Respectfully submitted, Frieda Davis, Secretary

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 1st Quarter – January 1, 2013 thru March 31, 2013

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2012, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 3,692.58

Income

Dues \$ 560.00

Donation 17.50

Interest 1/31/13 .32

Interest 2/28/13 .

31 Interest 3/31/13 .33

Total Income \$ 578.46

Expense

Ck # 270 - Pat Shaw – newsletter \$ 55.05

Debit – check printing 17.00

\$ 72.05

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2013 \$ 4198.99

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2012, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 3,928.39

Jan. 26 - Life Membership, Ellen Zimmerman

\$100.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2013 \$ 4,028.39

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 March 2013 \$ 8,227.38

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

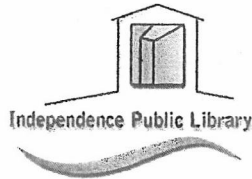
108 N. Oak

Jefferson IA 50129-1841

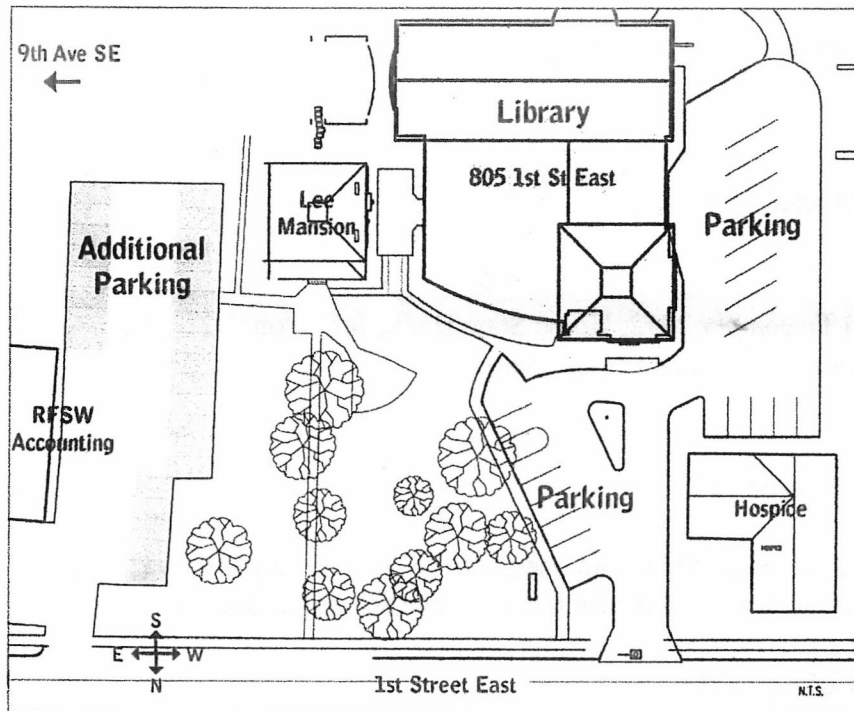
Ph 1-515-386-4784

From: Pat Shaw <patshaw@netins.net>
Subject: Fwd: July SAPIC meeting
Date: May 25, 2013 6:49:27 AM PDT
▶ 1 Attachment, 187 KB

Begin forwarded message:



Parking at the Independence Public Library



If you are coming to a meeting at the library, please park in the area between the Lee Mansion and the Accounting Firm. This is the highlighted area east of the library and is labeled Additional Parking on the map.

Please do not park directly in front of or to the side of the accounting firm during business hours or during tax season. Additional parking is also available on the streets around the library.

Thank you for your help!

NOTES ON IOWA PIONEER CEMETERIES

What is a pioneer cemetery?

A pioneer cemetery is any cemetery in which there have been 12 or fewer burials in the last 50 years. (523I.102 [39]. The designation applies regardless of whether the cemetery is on public or private property.

Who is responsible for the preservation and maintenance of pioneer cemeteries?

The county board of supervisors is charged with the preservation and maintenance of all pioneer cemeteries within its jurisdiction. (331.325; 359.29). The board may exercise this responsibility directly, or through a pioneer cemetery commission, or by contracting with individuals or organizations for this care. In many instances, this individual or group might be the owner and/or operator of the cemetery.

Who owns a pioneer cemetery?

The ownership of a cemetery does not change when the cemetery achieves pioneer status. The owner and/or operator of the cemetery remains responsible for maintenance of records, stewardship of funds, and assignment or transfer of inurement rights. (informal opinion from Dennis Britson in message to Pat Shaw November 8, 2011)

Who pays for the preservation and maintenance of pioneer cemeteries?

Expenses for the preservation and maintenance of pioneer cemeteries are paid from the county general fund, regardless of location or ownership of the cemeteries. Counties are prohibited from levying a tax for this purpose, as are townships. (331.325)

Can a pioneer cemetery accept further burials, or prohibit them?

A decision on this point would seem to be in the hands of the owner and/or operator of the cemetery. In some cases, an owner may not be able to close the cemetery to further burials because of guaranteed inurement rights contained in the charter or dedication of the cemetery.

-- Bill Reedy



LEOPOLD CENTER
FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Leopold director advises care before tilling ground for the first time

April 1, 2013

Ames, Iowa -- Analysts are expecting a record number of acres will be planted to corn this year. But with increasing costs and pressure to convert as much land as possible to crops, farmers are cautioned to check before tilling small patches of prairie or grassland for the first time.

Besides the loss of important habitat, diversity and ability to control soil erosion and nutrient runoff, these remnants may be protected by Iowa law, says Mark Rasmussen, director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

All types of burial sites, regardless of age or location on public or private property, are covered by Iowa's Burial Protection law passed in 1976. Violation is an aggravated misdemeanor punishable by up to two years in prison and a fine of \$500 up to \$5,000.

Rasmussen said recent events in other states have resulted in the destruction of small pioneer cemeteries that were poorly marked, overgrown or unknown to the person who was farming the land.

"Whether these actions were intentional or not, we certainly cannot afford to lose these historical relics and the legacy they represent," Rasmussen said. "Most people would agree that we have a moral obligation to protect these sites."

According to Shirley Schermer, director of the burials program for Iowa Office of State Archaeologist, some counties have made great strides in identifying and protecting pioneer cemeteries, defined as those with 12 or fewer burials within the past 50 years. Twenty-seven counties in the state have formed cemetery commissions.

Schermer said people can check with their county board of supervisors to see if their county has a Cemetery Commission. And if they know about a pioneer or historic burial site, they are encouraged to contact their Cemetery Commission, County Board of Supervisors, local historical society or genealogical society and provide its location to the State Historic Preservation Office to get it listed on their database.

Any disturbance of a cemetery or historical burial grounds should be reported to a local law enforcement agency as well as historical contacts in their county. Schermer said that if people are aware of a pioneer or historic cemetery on private property, they also can visit with the landowner to make sure h/she knows of its existence.

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries has identified 3,902 cemeteries in the state. The listing, which can be found at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iasapc/> does not distinguish whether or not the site is historic.

##

For more info contact:

Mark Rasmussen, Director, (515) 294-3711, markras@iastate.edu



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 10, 2013

VA and Ancestry.com Partner to Index Historic Burial Records

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs has partnered with the internet-based genealogy research firm Ancestry.com to bring burial records from historic national cemetery ledgers into the digital age. The effort will make the collection—predominantly of Civil War interments—accessible to researchers and Ancestry.com subscribers undertaking historical and genealogical research.

“We are excited to be able to share this wealth of primary documentation,” said VA’s Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Steve L. Muro. “With the help of Ancestry.com, we have opened the doors to thousands of service members’ histories through the information contained in these burial ledgers.”

From the 1860s until the mid-20th century, U.S. Army personnel tracked national cemetery burials in hand-written burial ledgers or “registers.” Due to concern for the fragile documents and a desire to expand public access to the ledger contents, VA’s National Cemetery Administration (NCA) duplicated about 60 hand-written ledgers representing 36 cemeteries using a high-resolution scanning process. The effort resulted in high quality digital files that reproduced approximately 9,344 pages and 113,097 individual records. NCA then transferred the original ledgers to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) where they will be preserved. In addition to the NCA’s ledgers, NARA was already the steward of at least 156 military cemetery ledgers transferred from the Army years ago.

In 2011, NCA initiated a partnership with Ancestry.com to index its cemetery ledgers, allowing the data to be searched or browsed in a variety of ways. Ancestry.com spent more than 600 hours indexing NCA’s records at no charge to the government.

Ancestry.com has assembled the digitized and indexed NCA burial ledgers with those at NARA into a new collection, “U.S. Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960.” The burial records contain information such as name, rank, company/regiment,

date of death, age at death, date of burial and grave number. A large number of Civil War soldiers were buried where they fell in battle or in temporary cemeteries, and sometimes that information, along with religious affiliation, can be found in the ledgers.

The collection was posted on the ancestry.com website on Veterans Day 2012. The information can be accessed free of charge by VA personnel as well as by employees of the other federal agencies that maintain national cemeteries, the Departments of the Interior and Defense. Ledger data will also be available for free at all NARA facilities, and at public libraries that subscribe to Ancestry.com. NCA cemetery staff will use the database to answer requests from the public. The general public will have access to the database on their personal devices through Ancestry.com's regular subscription service.

This partnership between Ancestry.com and NCA supports NCA's ongoing Civil War 150th anniversary commemoration (2011-2015). For more information on this project, contact Sara Amy Leach (sara.leach@va.gov), NCA senior historian.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. Seventy two of VA's national cemeteries date from the Civil War. More than 3.7 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict — from the Revolutionary War to the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan — are buried in VA's national cemeteries on approximately 20,000 acres of land.

###

From the American Legion web site, June 13, 2013: "Farewell to the fallen," by Jeff Stofler. Pictured is Hans Hooker at the most-visited U.S. military cemetery in Europe, the Normandy American Cemetery. Hooker's 24-year career with the American Battle Monuments Commission will come to a close at Normandy. On June 6, the 69th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of World War II, he accompanied American Legion National Commander James E. Koutz and American Legion Auxiliary National President Peggy Thomas in a wreath-laying ceremony at the base of the statue, "American Youth Rising from the Waves." Of all the dignitaries who have visited the hallowed grounds under his supervision, none matter so much to Hooker's memory as the families of the fallen.

<http://www.legion.org/honor/216196/farewell-fallen>

Just in time for Cemetery Appreciation Month, we have received the following notification that we are on the National Register of Historic Places:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/listings/20130517.htm>

Jane Thoresen
Historian
Oak Hill Cemetery
Cedar Rapids Iowa
Explore your place in history

Congratulations to Oak Hill Cemetery and to Carl and Jane Thoresen for applying! A workshop about how to apply for the National Register of Historic Places will be held June 28, 2013 at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. Find out how to get your historic cemetery on the National Register.

Elizabeth Foster Hill

National Register/Tax Incentive Programs Manager
600 E. Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
Beth.Foster@iowa.gov
515/281-4137
FAX 515/282-0502
Hours: Monday – Thursday 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

From the American Legion web site: The Naval Order of the United States has selected the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial as the permanent home of the Admiral Nimitz Sculpture. Crafted by Oregon artist Rip Caswell, the 8-foot, 600-pound bronze statue pays tribute to the legendary World War II admiral, Chester William Nimitz. The statue is scheduled to be unveiled in conjunction with the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial's annual End of World War II ceremony on Sept. 2.

<http://www.legion.org/honor/214639/nimitz-sculpture-returning-pearl-harbor>

From the *Lion* magazine, May, 2013, p. 8: **OVERHEARD** "If you don't have that grave marker, you have no place to honor your fallen. All we have is the sea." -- Jay Jansson, a Navy veteran who lost four shipmates in the Vietnam War, speaking at a Memorial Day ceremony for those lost at sea held by Cayocus Lions at Cayocus Pier in California. From KSBY.com

Iowa Native Plants mailing list

[:Iowa-Native-Plants@uiowa.edu](mailto:Iowa-Native-Plants@uiowa.edu)

<http://atmos.cgrer.uiowa.edu/herbarium/MailingList.htm>

The Iowa Native Plants Mailing List provides a forum for those interested in Iowa's natural vegetation and in general conservation issues. Another objective is to promote the Iowa Native Plant Society. This list is owned and managed by Diana Horton, and sponsored by the University of Iowa Department of Biology.

For assistance, contact Diana Horton,
<mailto:diana-horton@uiowa.edu>

Information for Contacting Your Legislators

To find your legislators, go to <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislators/find.aspx> and type in your zip code. If you already know the names of your elected officials go to the following links for their email addresses and phone numbers:

In the House, for Representatives:

(<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislators/house.aspx>).

In the Senate, for Senators:

(<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislators/senate.aspx>).

You can also contact your legislators by phone, by calling the House switchboard at **515.281.3221**. To reach your Senator by phone, call the Senate switchboard at **515.281.3371**.

To contact the Governor, call 515.281.5211.

To find the committee members in the House and Senate, please go to

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/Standing.aspx> and click on the applicable committee listed. It is always a good idea to contact the chair, vice-chair, and ranking member on a given committee or subcommittee as well as contacting your specific elected officials. Cemetery issues are often addressed in the Local Government Committee.

From the Office of the State Archaeologist web site's main page, click on "Links" at the top of the page. That will take you to a number of links to other pages including SAPIC.
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/archaeologyli.htm>

We currently have 3,902 cemeteries mapped for Iowa. Unfortunately we do not track whether they are pioneer or not. One might have to contact every county cemetery commission to get at that number. An attribute sheet for the cemeteries that we have mapped to date is available.

Don Hirt, GIS Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
DCA Iowa

If you have any kind of conservation/preservation issues or questions please contact Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium - that is one of the reasons ICPC exists in Iowa. Our members have diverse backgrounds and can be very helpful for many situations or to answer questions.

<http://iowapublicradio.org/post/saving-our-stuff>

To join ICPC, please see the ICPC website:

[www.http://iowaconserveandpreserve.org](http://iowaconserveandpreserve.org) OR

contact me at the email address below.

-- Lucy David

Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium

lucydavid.silverlightworks@gmail.com

319-338-0514

IRS filing reminder! Remember to file form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service at the closing of your financial year. If your commission or society's income is less than \$50,000 annually, you can likely file on line with a 990EZ "post card." Consult with a tax professional to be sure. Some tax firms will do this for you annually for a nominal fee.

From the *Metro Edition, Des Moines Register*, May 21, 2013: "Crop prices entice farms to expand planting," by David Pitt. BIGGSVILLE, ILL.-- Examples of farmers plowing up golf courses, barn lots, wildlife preserves, and even pioneer cemeteries are given in the article. Tearing out fences and trees is being done in order to squeeze in more crops. In Minnesota, state archaeologist Scott Anfinson is investigating whether farmers plowed up pioneer

cemeteries. He will inspect an area where a farmer hired an excavator to bulldoze trees and headstones near a cemetery dating to the 1800s. The farmer, who is in his 90s and farms with his son, could be charged with a felony. In Iowa, the average cash rent for a corn or soybean field is about \$270 per acre.

-- Contributed by Carl Nollen

From the *Des Moines Register*, May 24, 2013: "Another View: Resurrect monarchs in cemeteries," by Kelly Madigan. The attention of the public landed on monarch butterflies after reports in mid-March from their over wintering sites in Mexico indicated a staggering reduction in numbers. Monarch counts are down by over 58 percent and is the lowest recorded since measurements began in 1975. These diminishing numbers appear to be directly synched to the reduction of availability of milkweed plant. The monarchs lay their eggs almost exclusively on milkweed and the caterpillars that emerge from those eggs consume the leaves of the plants. The writer is proposing that milkweed plants be planted in cemeteries, thus providing "way stations" for the monarchs to lay their eggs and secure their survival.

From *Parade* magazine, May 26, 2013: "War and Remembrance." Pictured is the grave of a lone Union soldier buried alongside a former foe at Appomattox Confederate Cemetery in Virginia. A historian and Harvard professor, Drew Gilpin Faust, reminds us in her book *This Republic of Suffering* and the subsequent PBS documentary *Death and the Civil War* that Memorial Day means much more than a long weekend of backyard barbecue and fun. In an interview with Joe Kita, Ms. Faust relates how the first Decoration Day, as it was originally called, grew out of the losses by both sides after the Civil War. There are at least 12 towns across the nation that claim they introduced it. She likes to think of Memorial Day as being created together by a nation rather than a single town or individual. Probably half the Civil War dead were never identified, so it was a shared loss in the sense that so many unidentified dead belonged to everyone. A day for memorial was meant to restore the dignity of those lives.

From an e-mail from Stan Culley dated May 29, 2013: Memorial Day was started by former slaves on May 1, 1865 in Charleston, SC to honor 257 dead Union soldiers who had been buried in a mass grave in a Confederate prison camp. They dug up the bodies and worked for 2 weeks to give them a proper burial as gratitude for fighting for their freedom. They then held a parade of 10,000 people led by 2,800 Black children where they marched, sang, and celebrated. Pictured is the large band of children who participated in this event.

From *Civil War News*, May 2013: "VA Agrees to Modify Its Next-of-Kin Policy," by Kathryn Jorgensen. WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A Veterans Affairs official told a House subcommittee his agency is willing to make changes in federal regulations requiring next-of-kin authorization for headstones on unmarked veterans' graves. This requirement essentially meant that few if any Civil War graves could get a marker through the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs; (VA) National Cemetery Administration. Steve L. Muro, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, said the current Code of Federal Regulations 38.632 Headstone and Marker Application Process appeared to be "too restrictive," Remedial suggestions may allow military researchers, local historians and genealogists to apply for a stone; or to follow the National Archives and National Records Administration's policy that allows release of military records to other than next-of-kin for someone deceased more than 62 years.

-- Contributed by Tom Gaard

COUNTY REPORTS

BLACK HAWK

In an e-mail from Mike Magee dated May 25, 2013: Pictured is the gravestone of Nathan Clark Tardy who enlisted in the Confederate Army on November 3, 1862 at Lynchburg, VA. His service record shows that he enlisted in Co. D. Virginia 20th Heavy Artillery Battalion in March, 1862 and mustered out February 10, 1865. Conflicting facts on his service record say he deserted on February 16, 1865. He died August 29, 1931 in Waterloo, Iowa and was

buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Waterloo, 20 feet away from the grave of Governor Horace Boies. Tardy was born near Natural Bridge, VA on March 11, 1844 and married Margaret Adelia Simmons in Waterloo in 1866. He was a harness maker and horse racing enthusiast who lived in Waterloo after the Civil War.

From WCF Courier.com dated May 29, 2013: "New headstone to mark grave of slain toddler," by Jeff Reinitz. The brother of a toddler who was molested and killed in 1974 is raising money to replace her gravestone. Rodger Day was only 4 when his 2-year-old sister Michelle disappeared while under the care of a baby-sitter. Rodger, now 43 and living in Rockford, Ill, said the tragedy shaped who he is today by encouraging him to help others whenever possible. He is commissioning a new stone in pink granite with a bronze portrait of Michelle, a poem and a picture of an angel. Friends encouraged him to appeal to the community for donations to help defray expenses. The new marker will be unveiled on August 17 during the Michelle Lynn Day Memorial Run, a motorcycle ride ending at the Garden of Memories. Since the original stone was donated, he will turn it over to the cemetery to be donated to another family.

BUCHANAN

SAPIC secretary, Frieda Davis, had the article written for Cemetery Appreciation Month by SAPIC president Tony Bengston published in the *Vinton Eagle* newspaper on May 14, 2013. See page 1 of this newsletter to read Tony's excellent essay.

CERRO GORDO

From the Elmwood-St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery newsletter, "*ESJ Family & Friends Connection*," Spring, 2013: This semi-annual communication to friends and family of the Mason City Cemetery mentions the volunteers who are involved in ways to make the cemetery more beautiful, improve the sacredness of the grounds, preserving the rich history of the area and keeping the public informed of the happenings in the cemetery. Activities included serenity walks, a sentry program to deter theft and a gravestone preservation project.

CHICKASAW

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 27, 2013: Fredericksburg Amvets commander and Chickasaw County Veteran Affairs director Dave Jacobson poses with a new grave marker honoring LeRoy Vokes, a U.S. Army Medal of Honor winner from the Indian Wars who was buried in an unmarked grave near Fredericksburg. Photographed Monday, May 20, 2013. (BRANDON POLLOCK / Courier Staff Photographer)

From WCF.com, May 27, 2013: "Remembering a hero," by Pat Kinney. Pictured is the new military stone of Leroy H. Vokes that was formally installed on his grave on June 22. Vokes was a U.S. Cavalryman who fought alongside William "Buffalo Bill" Cody. He was one of four individuals who received the nation's highest military honor for leading a counterattack against a raiding party of Minneconjou Sioux near Loupe Fork of the Platte River in Nebraska on April 28, 1872. Local genealogist Jeanette Kottke found a 1924 *New Hampton Tribune* article on Vokes' burial and located his burial site in Rose Hill Cemetery. Paula Ellsworth of Iowa City, a grandniece of Vokes, credited Kottke's diligence in discovering the grave.

DES MOINES

Herb Price and Paul French have made a map of Des Moines County cemeteries with GPS numbers of locations. Paul is in the process of making a similar map for Lee County. For a copy of the map, contact Herb Price at: herbpcpa@yahoo.com

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, April 18, 1972: "Broken tombstone is found in yard." A broken tombstone dating back to 1855 was found in the back yard of a home in Burlington. Jerry Dean Price found the stone in the back yard of his mother-in-law's home. The stone has the name "Saraha" inscribed on it. Saraha was the

daughter of E.S. and M. J. Smith. She died Oct. 27, 1855 at the age of five months, 25 days.

FAYETTE

The Fayette County Pioneer Cemetery Commission has officially joined forces with geocachers in a program designed to help bring more interest to county pioneer cemeteries. Tobin Britt, a well known local 'geocacher', asked the commission to consider allowing geocache placements in only those cemeteries approved by the Commission. After consideration of easy and direct access, the Commission approved eight of our twenty pioneer cemeteries for geo-cache placements. Each of the selected eight are located alongside state or county roads. Commission members chose significant 'histories' or 'monuments' to be found, along with explanatory information. Within only a very few days, geo-cachers began the searches and all eight 'historical and special' caches were found and reported. In a few cases, geo-cachers reported that they had driven by the cemeteries many times before but never had entered them. Some reported they had never even noticed the cemetery!

Geo-cachers also have been tasked to the Fayette County Historical Center as a site to learn more about these eight cemeteries and the burials. The Center is open daily, Monday through Friday from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm and is on the web for internet, telephone and personal visits.

Eighteen volunteer Commission and work crew members hold business meetings four times a year, meeting in the Fayette County Historical Center. Over one-half of the pioneer cemetery volunteers are also volunteer workers at the Historical Center.

Each of the twenty pioneer cemeteries and burial sites have been checked for any 'winter damage'. The work crew will start this month visiting and repairing in each cemetery as needed. In addition, crew members have been tasked with attempts to find two long-abandoned burial sites. Three requests for permission to be buried in pioneer cemeteries have been approved unanimously, all three easily within the 'limit of twelve burials in fifty years' rule. One burial has already taken place.

The Commission began work in 1999, realizing that not all of the original founders and workers would see the total restorations completed within their lifetimes. Although we can never forget their friendship, skills and hard physical work, we are fortunate in replacing their numbers- a difficult but not insurmountable task.

-- Steve Story

FREMONT

From the *Tabor Historical Society*, June 2013 newsletter: Listed on the Tabor Veterans Memorial are the names of veterans of World War I who went to school at Tabor (continued from the January newsletter). Veterans who attended Fremont-Mills High School, or a veteran who has been a resident or business person in Tabor for more than 20 years are eligible to have their names on the memorial. Also listed are two veterans of the Spanish-American War: Lorenzo D. Donaldson and Sanford Wolain.

The same newsletter contains an article "Death of a Soldier," by Wanda Ewalt about the military service of Lorenzo Donaldson, and his funeral service in 1943 in Tabor. He was awarded the distinguished service medal, a citation for bravery, a certificate of merit signed by his Commander in Chief, the President of the United States, and other medals.

GUTHRIE

From *American Profile* magazine, May, 2013: "Freedom Rock," by Marti Attoun. Pictured is Iowa artist Ray Sorensen standing beside the granite boulder near Menlo that he paints each May to honor U.S. military veterans, including a prisoner of war and a sailor wounded in Afghanistan. Visitors quietly watch him work on what has come to be known as The Freedom Rock. Sorensen, 32, didn't set out to create a permanent roadside memorial to veterans in 1999. He intended to paint a one-time patriotic tribute after being inspired by the movie, *Saving Private Ryan*. So many veterans urged him to continue painting patriotic scenes on the rock that he decided to make it a Memorial Day tradition. Sorensen operates Sorensen Studios in nearby Greenfield with his photographer-wife Maria. A painting of a Vietnam War-era chopper is left unchanged each year, except for touchups. Since 2006, he has added the ashes of 40 Vietnam veterans to the chopper's green paint. Sorensen dreams of painting similar tributes for a Freedom Rock tour across the United States. (See Wapello County).

JASPER

From the *Newton Daily News* web site, April 17,

2013: "A Wrong Made Right," by Tammy Krock. Pictured is a group of local volunteers in McKeever Cemetery, north of Colfax after they installed a new headstone for Cpl. Jacob S. Binkerd, who served in the Iowa Infantry during the Civil War but was mistakenly given a Confederate Army headstone.

From the *Newton Daily News*, May 12, 2013: "Binkerd dedication service to be held in May," letter to the editor by Tom Gaard, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Iowa Memorials Officer. In his letter, Gaard writes of the contributions to the Civil War by the Binkerd family. Jacob had the honor of being the color bearer for his Regiment and fought in a number of the major battles in the war. His brother, Joseph, was wounded in the battle of Shiloh and received a disability discharge due to his wounds. Another brother, Levi, died of disease in the Army and is buried in the Marietta, GA National Cemetery. With such a strong contribution by the family, it is particularly unfortunate that the wrong headstone was placed on Jacob's grave. A dedication ceremony was held on May 11 at the Binkerd gravesite. A SUVCW color guard, the 49th Iowa Infantry Regiment in Civil War uniforms, attended. Larry Hurto, archivist of the Colfax Historical Society, delivered the main address.

JEFFERSON

The ashes of Robert Burnett who died in California in April, 2013, will be interred in Bethesda Cemetery about 3 miles east of Fairfield. The sexton of Bethesda helped stake out the spot for the gravestone and there will be no hole made for ashes. Instead they will be "implanted" into the gravestone by Whitneys Monument Co. of Fairfield.

--Verda Baird

JOHNSON

Civil War Memorial Service May 25 in Johnson County
The public is invited to help dedicate a memorial to Civil War Corporal Jacob H. Detwiler and Private Christian Detwiler, Jr., Memorial Day Weekend, on the 150th anniversary of their service and ultimate

sacrifice.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. at the Thompson (Cherry) Cemetery located on Utah Avenue just south of Highway 6 near Iowa City. For more information, contact Jeff McDowell, (319) 351-6678 or jeff.mcdowell@live.com.

Corporal Jacob H. Detwiler served in company K, 22nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry while his brother, Private Christian Detwiler, served in company B. Both were wounded in action during an ill advised suicidal frontal assault of heavily fortified Ft. Beauregard, Vicksburg, Miss., on May 22, 1863. Christian died two days later; Jacob died May 28, after having his leg amputated. Jacob was 24 and lived in Iowa City. Christian was 20 at the time of his death.

According to a report from the 22nd Iowa adjutant concerning the attack, "...The enemy was on the alert and, as our colors rose above the crest of the hill, a thousand bayonets glistened in the sunlight above the parapet at Fort Beauregard.

"The strong work against which the main attack was directed covered about half an acre of ground, the walls being about fifteen feet high, surrounded by a ditch ten feet wide. A line of rifle pits connected it with others of the same kind, each of which was so arranged as to enfilade the approach to the other. A few officers and about fifty men, succeeded in reaching the ditch surrounding the fort, but, having no scaling ladders, they were unable to enter the works. Sergeant Joseph E. Griffith of the 22nd, with some fifteen or twenty men, succeeded-by raising one another up the wall-in gaining an entrance and capturing a number of prisoners, but the fire from the enemy's rifle pits in rear of the fort, and the lack of reinforcements coming to their aid, rendered

the place untenable."

Only two men of the 22nd Iowa who entered the fort survived. This was the last frontal assault of Fort Beauregard ever attempted. Afterwards Vicksburg was defeated using long term siege tactics. Few of the men killed outright or who died shortly afterward of wounds are listed in Vicksburg National Cemetery. The others were likely buried in an unidentified mass grave.

JONES

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 20, 1972: Our recent item about a tombstone under a downtown Cedar Rapids street brought a note from Esther Sinclair in Scotch Grove who recalled that a neighbor once dug up a tombstone "as polished as new and ready for installation." Glen Goldsmith found a black marble stone marker with a large "R" carved on it. Nobody who had lived there, or old-timers in the community, had heard of any family with a name starting with R, so it was suggested that a tombstone salesman might have had it as a sample as he drove his horse and buggy around the neighborhood. Diggers also found leather straps and iron buckles possibly explained by the fact that the home was near an old blacksmith shop.

All of this talk about tombstones reminded the editor of a news item about a candy maker at the All-Iowa fair who worked on a marble slab and always maintained that some day the same slab would adorn his grave.

KEOKUK

From the *Keokuk County Historical Society* newsletter, April, 2013: A reminder of a historic date related to the Civil War era and to Keokuk County is the 150th anniversary of the Tally War which occurred on August 1, 1863. The eruption of gun fire in South English on that day resulted in the death of Cyphert Tally and quickly

precipitated the call for Governor Kirkwood to calm the excitement. A marker is erected in South English and the grave of Tally is in Rock Creek Cemetery near Ollie.

LEE

A ceremony honoring Verlin K. Hart, a Keokuk Civil War veteran was held on April 27, 2013 at his gravesite in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. Verlin K. Hart was born in Indiana in 1837 and came to Keokuk about 1855. He joined the army in 1861 with the 19th U.S. Infantry and saw combat the Battle of Chickamauga where he was captured and sent to Libby Prison. He was moved to other prisons before escaping in November 1864 and finally reached Union lines in December. He served in the 7th Cavalry under General Custer until becoming ill in 1875 and was put on sick leave before returning to his home in Keokuk. As a result, he was not with Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Major Hart continued to serve out west until he died of heart problems on February 17, 1883, while in command of the U.S. Cavalry at Fort McKinney, Wyoming Territory. He was buried in Keokuk's Oakland Cemetery and was joined by his wife, Juliet, in 1909.

The ceremony included welcome remarks by Terry Altheide, remarks by Hart biographer Walt Cross, presentation of the flag, 2nd Battery Iowa Light Artillery Honor Guard, playing of *Taps* by William Hall of Bugles Across America, and the retiring of colors.

For copies of author Walt Cross's books, including *Custer's Lost Officer*, *From the Little Big Horn to the Potomac*, *Out West with Custer and Crook*, and six other historical works, contact Dire Wolf Books at: www.lulu.com/greenpheon7

A cemetery tour and reenactment was held at the Keokuk National Cemetery on May 11. Actors from Bluegrass Auction Service,

Calvary Baptist Church, Great River Players Theater Group, & Keokuk Senior High School told the stories of the following individuals: Keokuk's Annie Wittenmyer, Civil War heroine & social reformer; Edward Caldwell, Buffalo Soldier; Mary Collins, Christian missionary to the Plains Indian tribes; Eerie Leech, Civil War veteran; Leo LeBron, WWI soldier killed-in-action; Oliver Conn, Civil War drummer boy; Verlin K. Hart, Civil War soldier & career army officer; Harriet Townsend, mother of Keokuk Medal of Honor recipient Julius Townsend; and Hannah Tasker, Mississippi River drowning victim. The \$7 admission fee will be used to place names on Keokuk's Veterans Memorial.

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, March 11, 1997: "Broken tombstone mystery many be solved," by Dick Hogan. A broken piece of a 132-year -old tombstone that sat in the Marion Police Department for five years may be back in its rightful place if funds can be found to have it reset. The police chief went public in February seeking information about where the stone of Rebecca Barrett belonged. The Linn County Genealogical Society members recorded in 1985 that the stone was in Oak Hill, but in 1991, they noted that most of Barrett's stone had been broken off. The stone was seized in 1992 from a residence. The occupant claimed that he had received the stone as payment for a keg at a New Year's party. When weather and ground permits, an attempt will be made to reset the stone. Rebecca was married to James Barrett and died at age 26 in 1865. They had a son, James Jr. whose grave is with his father and step mother in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Cedar Rapids.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, April 30, 2013: "Groups 'Join Hands' for annual service day," by Stephen Mally. Pictured are volunteers resetting sinking headstones during the annual Join Hands Day at the Czech National Cemetery in 2012. The Join Hands Day is organized each year by local CSA Fraternal Life and Western Fraternal

Life Association lodges. The Cedar Rapids Lodge 13, CSA Prokop Velky No. 137, and CSA Junior Americans cleaned up the Czech National Cemetery with Boy Scout Troop No. 24. Other projects in 2013 included making fleece blankets, weeding at the Wickiup Hill Nature Center, helping with A Tanager Place festival, and joining in the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Walk. The WFLA and CSA Fraternal Life are not-for-profit financial service providers that use their profits for community service projects and benefits to members.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 4, 2013: "Aging graveyards bring challenges," by Rick Smith. Pictured is John McGovern cutting grass at Boulder Cemetery near Central City. Eleven dead trees were removed from the cemetery over the last couple of years, just one of the challenges that come with keeping up the 70 or so rural cemeteries of Linn County and the countless ones throughout a state that has been losing its rural population for decades. Township trustees are often responsible for maintenance of rural cemeteries, but local residents and descendants may disagree with decisions by trustees with regard to tree removal. The Buffalo Township Trustees plan to plant new trees to replace those that have been removed.

– Contributed by Frieda Davis

MARION

From the minutes of the October 29, 2012 meeting of the Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission:
ATTICA/MORMON CEMETERY - Kent Van Kooten and Don Roorda have been working on the arch on the cemetery. Precision Pulley rolled the metal for the arch and Kent and Don are installing the lettering.

SCHLOTTERBACK CEMETERY - October 20, 2012 – Val & Kent Van Kooten, Marla Suter, Linda Burton, Carl Nollen and Bev Jones worked on the fence at the cemetery. We need to find a small gate

for east side of the cemetery. Stones are all repaired. In the spring, we plan to have an open house for the public to view the cemetery.

Signs have been ordered for Price and Attica/Mormon cemeteries. Signs to be ordered are for Pendroy and Timber Ridge (Vander Linden).

TIMBER RIDGE (VANDER LINDEN) – Howard Pothoven reported that the cemetery is north of the North Overlook. There are no stones but some bodies are buried there and some bodies have been moved and there is a new fence. Howard and Val have visited with some people on who is buried at the cemetery. It was decided to wait until spring to order a sign to make sure we have all the names of the bodies that are buried there.

KARR CEMETERY - The fence is in bad shape and needs to be completely replaced or repaired.

Cemeteries to work on next spring:

Caulkins/Davies Cemetery – First on list, 6-7 bodies buried at the cemetery and will need 4-wheeler to get to the cemetery.

Price Cemetery – North side of the cemetery the fence is down and 50-70 stones need to be repaired.

Carlisle Cemetery (Northeast of Attica) – Front fence is good, W, N, S side of the fence needs to be repaired and cemetery needs clean up. About 40 stones are there.

Bridges Cemetery – 13 stones on Hollingshead property.

Wheeling Cemetery – Stone repair

Hughes and Pendroy cemeteries do not need any repair.

Val Van Kooten is going to check to see if anyone is mowing Attica/Mormon Cemetery and contact Larry Davis about stone repair at Shirey cemetery.

From the Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, May 15, 2013: Hello, all. On this beautiful afternoon, we got the arch, gate and signage at Attica Cemetery done, and it looks great! There are still a few little things that need to be finished...a bracket that didn't fit right, etc.

The photos of our afternoon are on the website, under "News."

www.marioncountycemetery.wix.com/mcpcc

Valerie Van Kooten

(641) 628-9789 VanKootenV@central.edu

From the *Pella Chronicle*, October 29, 1975: "Over the Back Fence," by Sonja Overman. Norma Gaass has been gathering information and identifying the grave sites in North Lake Prairie Township as part of a Bicentennial celebration project in Iowa to create a statewide grave registration in order to provide genealogists or anyone interested in family history with information about burials in Iowa.

Eighth grade students have gone to local cemeteries to take rubbings of markers resulting in tracing their family trees as part of the PEA Bicentennial activities. Many have found that they are of full Dutch ancestry.

MONROE

The most complete set of Buxton records in existence has been recorded in a recent book by LeeAnn Dickey: *Buxton Roots* by LeeAnn Dickey with LeAnn Lemberger and Michael W. Lemberger. In *Buxton Roots*, she has documented the black residents of Buxton through marriage records, censuses, cemetery lists and photographs. Less than 50 years after the Civil War, and just about 50 years before the Civil Rights Act, the small unincorporated coal-mining town of Buxton, Iowa became a model community where racial integration and equal pay for equal work were the accepted policy. For a copy of *Buxton Roots*, contact Lee Ann at: dickeyleeann@yahoo.com or at PBL Limited, P.O. Box 935, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501-0935. www.pbllimited.com

Lee Ann is currently working on the restoration of stones in the Eddyville Cemetery and has written a book about the history of Eddyville.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 17, 2013: "The mystery of the lost ring," by Curt Swarm in his column, Empty Nest.

Ernie Corso of Hocking (south of Albia) found a class ring in a rental property ten years ago that hung on a chain above his desk until recently when he noticed the name, "Debbie Hammick" inscribed inside. After researching on the Internet, the owner of the ring was located in Ohio. Debbie has never been in Iowa and has no idea how the ring wound up in Hocking. Ernie has returned the ring. Some details about Ernie Corso: he is 82 years old and lives in a house that was converted from the school that he attended in Hocking. Hocking isn't a town any more, but it was once a mining town of 2,000 people. Ernie was instrumental in getting the town's name back on the Iowa map in part because he was able to point out where mines and old cemeteries used to be. He and a friend located the cemeteries with the help of a "witching stick."

MUSCATINE

From the *Muscatine IA Journal*, July 5, 1967: Three representatives of Boy Scout Troop 99 of Jefferson school are pictured working at the old Nye cemetery near Wild Cat Den. Members of the troop spent the past two Saturdays working at the cemetery cutting down small trees, mowing grass, and cleaning out brush. Their efforts will help them earn conservation medals. The Nye cemetery is believed to be one of the first cemeteries in Iowa. It belonged to the Edgar Kemper farm. The Kempers donated it to the Muscatine Conservation Commission that fenced the cemetery and made a parking lot near it. Troop 99 and the Conservation Commission take pride in helping to restore dignity to the burial place of those who have been long ago forgotten.

POLK

From the KCCI 8 News web site, June 13, 2013: "A promise made to a father on his death bed." The Enterprise, a neglected cemetery in Polk County, is located east of Ankeny. A push to restore it as the cemetery nears its 100th anniversary is

underway. "I feel that these people here deserve more respect than what they've gotten," said Sioux Choido-Newberg, an advocate for the cemetery. She is the third generation of her family to help take care of the cemetery. "It was a promise my husband and I made to my father on his dying bed. This land is my dad," said Choido-Newberg.

VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, April 4, 2013: In a letter to the editor, Richard Breckenridge, president of the Purdom Cemetery board, discusses the ongoing problem of vandalism usually in the older part of the cemetery where the stones are brittle. They are small and thin, or tall with decorative balls or spheres on their tops that are easier to break off. If the stone is broken in half it becomes hard to read the person's name. We have in the past tried to repair some of these, but once broken it is very hard to restore them. It is expensive and in most cases there are no family members left to help defray the cost. What is sad is that these stones are memorials left by their loving families. They are our forefathers and the pioneers of our community. I am sure these families wanted to be recognized to future generations just as we do today. So let us all get the word out there that vandalism in our cemeteries, or anywhere, is wrong. Then we can let the memorial markers of the families that came before us stand tall and proud again.

From the *Van Buren County Record*, May 9, 2013: "Restoration crew may be looking for you." The article mentions the dedication of the Iowa monument in the Vicksburg National Park in 1906 and the dedication of the restored monument last Memorial Day that was attended by a delegation of 150 Iowans, including Governor Terry Branstad. The installation and dedication of the Union marker for the grave of Corporal Jacob

Binkerd of Colfax is given as an example of the diligent work of genealogists, historians, and preservationists in Iowa. These events coincided with the proclamation from the Office of the Governor naming the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month" in Iowa. Locally, Don Aldrich and Windy Jamison have restored numerous monuments in Van Buren County cemeteries over the years. The article provides contact information if members of the public would like to volunteer to help these dedicated workers.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 16, 2013: "A Taste of History & the Civil War." Bonaparte Main Street hosted its annual Taste of History June 8 at the Whiteley Opera House in downtown Bonaparte. A three-course dinner with a unique adaptation of a cemetery tour combines the comfort of indoor seating with a meal and entertainment. Locals present living history in the first person in costume and character relating their individual tales between each course over the evening. Guests sit at tables designed and set by area women reflecting the era, story, or character while the actors serve as waiters. This year the sesquicentennial of the Civil War was the theme. Music enhances the event and is used as an introduction to each character. In conjunction with the Taste of History a Civil War Experience was held throughout downtown Bonaparte with a horse drawn wagon providing transportation through the Bonaparte Cemetery. In the cemetery, the American Legion displayed an Avenue of Flags and marked the graves of 34 Civil War veterans.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 23, 2013: "Lions maintain Watkins Cemetery," by Don Aldrich, Keosauqua Lions member for 38 years. Pictured is the grave of Civil War veteran, Perry Phillips, who served in the Co. E. 15th Iowa Infantry.

The Keosauqua Lions Club restored the cemetery and has maintained it for over 20 years. The estate of Laura Daugherty, who owned the surrounding land, arranged a fund to assist with maintenance. Current landowner, Royce Huff, worked to provide a clear view of the cemetery from both directions on Highway 1 south of Keosauqua.

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 17, 2013: "Honored in Stone -- Memorial rock honoring veterans coming to Ottumwa," by Chelsea Davis. An artist is winding his way through Iowa's 99 counties creating memorials honoring veterans, and he will land in Ottumwa next year. Ray "Bubba" Sorensen has painted a boulder on Iowa Highway 25 in western Iowa on Memorial Day every year since 1999. His work honors veterans, their families, and the sacrifices they have made.

(See Guthrie County report). The Ottumwa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 775 and the Ottumwa Park board are working toward securing Wapello County's rock in Ottumwa. They have reserved Sorensen for next summer, put down a deposit, and are working to secure funding and deciding on an image. www.thefreedomrock.com/tour

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April, 2013: "Cemetery restoration program April 23." Lee Ann Simmers Dickey of Albia presented a program at the Ottumwa Public Library, "Be-witching Work: Restoring Iowa's Old Cemeteries" that related her mission to restore and preserve these relics of times gone by. Dickey, a member of the Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, was instrumental in the restoration of the Buxton Cemetery and is now working in the Eddyville Cemetery.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 24, 2013: "Be-Witching Work: Restoring Iowa's Old Cemeteries," by Laura Carrell. Lee Ann Dickey's presentation at the Reminisce Society's program at the Ottumwa Library detailed the work that she and others are doing to restore and document historic pioneer cemeteries. (See Monroe County report).

OUT OF IOWA

ILLINOIS

From the *Iowa City Press Citizen*, February 12, 1969: "Lincoln Kinfolk Cemetery Rediscovered at Keokuk." FOUNTAIN GREEN, ILL. -- Abraham Lincoln, a namesake of the Civil War president, and dozens of other Lincoln kinfolk are buried in a forgotten little cemetery in this village just east of Keokuk, Iowa. The Abraham Lincoln whose broken tombstone lies in the middle of a cow pasture was a first cousin of the president. The burying ground was rediscovered by a Lincoln buff, Howard Manuel, who is waging a battle, thus far unsuccessful, to restore the site as a historical landmark.

The father of the Abraham Lincoln buried there was Mordecai Lincoln Sr., who froze to death in a blizzard during the winter of 1830-31. He is reportedly buried nearby but Manuel has been unable to find his grave.

The president's cousin died Jan. 22, 1852 at the age of 54 and never knew the fame achieved by his martyred relative.

Cousin Abraham and his wife Elizabeth, also buried in the cemetery had a son, Robert -- the name also given to the president's son.

Robert, who was a captain in the Union Army, was buried in the Fountain Grove Cemetery in 1868.

Manuel, a jailer at the Warren County, Ill. jail said he has discovered evidence that Lincoln visited these relatives while on a speaking tour in 1858.

"Maybe some group like the Highway Commission could undertake the job of restoring the cemetery," Manuel said. "It'll be a shame if we continue to let an historical site like this grow up in weeds."

OREGON

From the *Portland Tribune* web site, May 13, 2013: "Tombstone finds final resting place," by Cliff Newell. On April 20, 40 members of the Samantha McAlister family gathered at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery to celebrate the recovery and restoration of her tombstone that lay in a field in Lake Oswego for perhaps decades, covered with weeds and totally lost to the family. Samantha was

one of the greatest pioneer women of Oregon whose stone was first set in 1896. An non relative, Sarah DeMerritt discovered the stone last July near an old barn on the Kruse Farm. Although she was not able to determine how the 450 pound stone got there, she acted quickly to contact historical societies, cemetery officials and descendants to retrieve it and move it back to Eugene. On August 18 the stone was lifted onto a truck by 4 men, moved to the cemetery, and lifted by a crane onto its original resting place.

From the list of *Heritage Bulletins* from the Oregon Field Service office:

Historic Cemeteries

Heritage Bulletin # 1 - State Laws Pertaining to Historic Cemeteries

Heritage Bulletin # 2 - How to Spread the News

Heritage Bulletin # 3 - How to Clean Cemetery Markers

Heritage Bulletin # 7 - A Sampling of Oregon Gravestone Symbols

Heritage Bulletin # 8 - Choosing Consultants and Contractors

Heritage Bulletin # 9 - Ways to Protect a Historic Cemetery

Heritage Bulletin #12 - Research Tips and Sources

Heritage Bulletin #13 - How to Organize a Cemetery Clean Up Day

Heritage Bulletin #14 - Cemetery Vandalism: Tips to Avoid It and Respond to It

MISSISSIPPI

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 24, 2013: "Vicksburg marks anniversary of Civil War siege," The Associated Press. Pictured are the graves of some of the 10,142 Union soldiers in the Vicksburg National Military Park who were killed during the Civil War at the Vicksburg military campaign. A brief history of the Vicksburg attack and siege that began on May 18, 1863 is presented in the article. The Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau

decided more than a year ago to set their sesquicentennial commemoration to coincide with the beginning of the siege, so history buffs and travelers wouldn't have to choose between Gettysburg's anniversary of July 4. Gettysburg and Vicksburg combined weakened the Confederacy and gave momentum to Union forces, but Gettysburg has received more attention. Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and others from Iowa were present for the rededication of Iowa's monument in the 16-mile long military park. The park's web site lists three artillery groups, three cavalry groups, and 38 infantry groups from Iowa that fought at Vicksburg.

PENNSYLVANIA

From *American Profile* magazine, June 16-22, 2013, page 6: "Gettysburg -- Sesquicentennial of an epic Civil War battle," by Stuart Englert, Senior Editor. Pictured are Henry Clay Pickett and Darren Gallaher who are honoring their ancestors who fought at Gettysburg by portraying them in a reenactment at the battlefield. After three days of intense battle, Gen. George Meade and his 90,000-man Army of the Potomac prevailed, redeeming the Union army's battlefield reputation and repelling the invading Rebels. On America's Independence Day, July 4, 1863, Lee and his battered army retreated, beginning their long march back to Virginia, pursued by Union forces. The Union victory at Gettysburg -- and simultaneous Confederate surrender of Vicksburg, Miss. -- proved crucial because it halted a series of Northern defeats and commenced the beginning of the end for the South. The epic battle will be remembered June 27-30 and July 4-7 as thousands of historical re-enactors converge on Gettysburg to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the ghastly and legendary engagement. President Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address during dedication of Soldier's National Cemetery, where graves are decorated with flags each July to commemorate the battle.

VIRGINIA

From the American Legion web site, May 16, 2013: "13 lost in Mayaguez Incident laid to rest at Arlington," by

MOTHAX's Blog. Thirteen servicemen who were killed when their CH-53 Sea Stallion, helicopter, known as Knife 31, was shot down during the final battle of the Vietnam War, were buried together on May 15 at Arlington with full military honors. They were preparing to rescue the American merchant vessel SS Mayaguez and its crew that had been detained by Cambodian Khmer Rouge forces on May 15, 1975. Families and veterans gathered to pay homage to their fallen loved ones and comrades, including Marian Boyd of Norfolk, Va., whose son, U.S. Marine Pfc, Walter Boyd, was among those remembered at the service.

WISCONSIN

From the *Lion* magazine, May, 2013, p. 24: The Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington, Virginia. John Bradley served as a *Lion* for 31 years in Antigo, a small Wisconsin town. He also served his country. A Navy Corpsman in World War II, he was one of the six American soldiers immortalized in the flag raising on Iwo Jima in 1945. He's second on the right on the memorial statue (also known as the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial) near Arlington National Cemetery. Iwo Jima, a small island 660 miles south of Tokyo, was the last territory that U. S. Troops recaptured from the Japanese. Bradley, who ran a funeral home in Antigo, also ran just about everything else in town: the Lions, Elks, school board and PTA. When he died in 1994, the Antigo Daily Journal remembered his valor: "John Bradley will be forever memorialized for a few moments' action at the top of a remote Pacific mountain. We prefer to remember him for his life. Bradley's quiet, modest nature and philanthropic efforts shine as an example of the best of small-town American values."

IRELAND

From UlsterAncestry.com:

Aghagallon Cemetery Gravestone Inscriptions:
1792. This stone was erected by Arthur Doyle in memory of 4 of his children. viz. Henry, Arthur, Catherine and John who all died young.

The burying place of Samuel Falloon of Ballinderry. 1860. Erected by Elizabeth Falloon of Aghagallon in memory of her loving husband Abraham Falloon who died 24th August 1873, aged 60? years. Also the above mentioned Elizabeth Falloon who died 29th January 1899 aged 84 years. Also her son Charles Falloon who died 2nd September 1909 aged 73 years. Also their son James Falloon who died 3rd August 1922 aged 80 years. Here lyeth the body of Owen Falloon who died April 23rd 1765 aged 72? years. Also Mary Falloon his wife, who departed November 12th 1776? Aged 50? years.

FRANCE

From the American Legion web site:

By Jeff Stoffer - June 6, 2013

Posted in National Commander, Honor & Remembrance

American Legion National Commander James E. Koutz had one word to describe his experience at the Normandy American Cemetery on the 69th anniversary of D-Day: "emotional."

Koutz and American Legion Auxiliary National President Peggy Thomas joined other veterans and Legionnaires to raise the U.S. and French flags when the cemetery opened June 6. As visitors entered, including hundreds of schoolchildren, the commander and president toured the hallowed resting place of 9,387 Americans who lost their lives in the June 6, 1944, battle and the weeks that followed.

Among the graves is that of Theodore Roosevelt Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient and a founder of The American Legion. "Seeing Teddy Roosevelt Jr.'s grave was very important to me," the national commander said.

The commander and president laid wreaths at the "America Youth Rising from the Waves" statue, as did representatives from USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. The USAA group joined the commander and president of visits to Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc and Utah Beach as the day unfolded. The anniversary day of ceremonies concluded in Ste. Mere-Eglise, the first town liberated in the Normandy invasion. There, the commander and president both placed wreaths at the town square where U.S. paratroopers jumped in the early morning darkness of June 6, 1944.

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher.

Second section of faint, illegible text, also appearing to be bleed-through from the reverse side. The content is mirrored and mostly unreadable.