

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 #4

October, 2013

The next SAPIC meeting will be January 11, 2014 at 10:30 at the Johnston Public Library (Des Moines area) located at 6700 Merle Hay Road. Take the Merle Hay exit #131 off Interstate 35-80 and go north on Merle Hay Road for 2 miles. Turn left on North Glenn Drive and you will see the library (North side of Johnston). Lunch is on your own following the meeting. Contact person: Larry Davis: LD2mstone@aol.com Phone: 515-277-4917.

Quad-City Times: Volunteers catalog grave sites of Iowa leaders

Nov. 9, 2013

By Barbara Rodriguez

Volunteers are driving hundreds of miles around Iowa in search of grave sites and markers belonging to former governors, lieutenant governors and other leaders, with the hope that their work may lead to some renovations for the aging symbols.

The volunteers, part of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, are on assignment from Gov. Terry Branstad, who made a formal request in August. The group is assessing the conditions of the sites and markers by photographing them from various angles.

"We are not being paid by anybody for doing this work, and we don't expect to be," said Steve Story, president-elect of the group. "We're very pleased that the governor asked us. It's something we can help do."

The group, which formed in 1996 with a focus on the preservation of some cemeteries with 12 or fewer burials, got to work almost immediately on the project, which includes documentation of federal

cabinet officials' graves.

In a letter to the group, Branstad noted that a comprehensive list of the grave sites and markers do not exist, and some need to be checked on because of possible degraded conditions. The catalog will help the governor's office determine whether, "any further actions might be appropriate to continue to honor Iowa leaders who selflessly served their fellow citizens," according to the letter.

"I have a keen interest in Iowa history, and I think that these sites should be preserved," Branstad added in a written statement.

Branstad said he was approached about the project idea by Sen. Dennis Black, a Democrat from Newton. Black said he plans to introduce legislation that would allocate money to restore governors' gravesites and markers.

"It's just not right," he said of some sites that are currently deteriorating. "Governors are special people."

With the help of documents provided by researchers at the state Department of Cultural Affairs, as well as other public records, a handful of volunteers have hit the road looking for history.

"We've got many different places to get lists," Story said. "But there's always some variation that may not be quite exactly accurate. We want to make sure we have every single one done accurately."

Jerome Thompson, curator under the department's State Historical Society of Iowa, said there are many records available of where former governors are located because of a project in the late 1970s and early 1980s that marked governors'

gravesites with a bronze state seal.

But that project didn't include lieutenant governors, so there's more work needed to complete the puzzle of where they're buried. That may mean looking up their obituary files from historical records to see burial plans, then searching within cemeteries.

"It is going to take a considerable bit of research to locate those gravesites," Thompson said.

Story said volunteers for the current project are doing the traveling and photography on their own. They're communicating via email and reaching out to Story when a gravesite assessment is complete. Story, who has visited about a dozen sites so far himself, is keeping track of the project in "one big notebook."

Story said he would ideally like to get the governors' sites completed before snow is permanently on the ground, but he's also realistic that it may take more time.

"It will take a while to do all of this, it will," he said. "We can't control the weather. We'll continue this next spring, I'm sure."

Thompson said cemetery preservation is important for Iowa. He noted that some gravesites are clearly marked, while others are hidden in large cemeteries, unbeknownst to visitors.

"They're significant people and in some instances, their gravesites may be one of the only tangible reminders of them," he said.

<http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/volunteers-catalog-grave->

sites-of-iowa-leaders/article_3dc69a9d-234a-5500-9016-dcc638b9a032.html

Note: Not mentioned in the article is Jeff Kauffman, former state representative from Cedar County who was instrumental in creating and implementing the project. Jeff, who has been an advocate for cemetery preservation over the years, now serves on the Cedar County Board of Supervisors.

Wreaths Across America

The Wreaths Across America organization hosted six events across Iowa on December 14. Those events took place at;

**Iowa Veterans Cemetery, Van Meter
Iowa Veterans Home and Cemetery,
Marshalltown**

**Lentz Funeral Home, Algona
Plymouth County Veterans Memorial
Park, LeMars**

**Ames Municipal Cemetery, Ames
Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk**

Every year during the holiday season, volunteers lay wreaths atop the tombstones honoring the fallen heroes laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

They're traditionally funded by individual donations, but this year they are about 35,000 wreaths short.

VoteVets would like to help them close that shortfall.

Each wreath costs about \$15 to make before they're driven down to Virginia and placed in front of a headstone.

If you would like to contribute \$15 today to pay for a single wreath, contact the VoteVets community.

<http://action.votevets.org/wreaths>

For a copy of the *Iowa Cremation Newsletter* printed by Cedar Memorial in Cedar Rapids, call 1 (888) 871-3361 or e-mail:

info.@IowaCremation.com

Visit the web site at: www.IowaCremation.com

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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: Materials Cooperation, 1-800-425-2214 (Wisconsin); Granite City Tool Co., 1-800-328-7094 (Minnesota); 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 jheider@mchsi.com

Note: SAPIC does not endorse products. Contact John Heider if you have questions.

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

Dues for 2014 can be paid now.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING SAPIC!

SAPIC tee-shirts are available from Jean Ann Ripley or from information on the SAPIC Facebook page.

The regular quarterly meeting of SAPIC met Saturday October 12, 2013 at the Stanhope Community Building, Hamilton County, Iowa. Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Tony Bengston, president. All were welcomed to Hamilton County by Jackie of the Hamilton County Cemetery Commission. Thanks were extended for their hospitality.

Introductions were made by the 28 persons present.

Minutes read by Frieda Davis. Corrected minutes to read "Alger Cemetery – 37 known burials with 24 markers. Commission has not gotten permission from owner to work on it."

Motion to approve with correction by Larry Davis, seconded by Shirley Melleo; **Passed**.

Treasurer's report by Valerie Ogren. Motion to accept and file for audit by Gene Davis, seconded by Catherine Bergman, **Passed**.

Old Business:

- Virden burials & Platt's Nursery burials; remains of two children were found but not of the little girl reported to be buried there. Archeologist is still looking.

- Alger Cemetery in Clinton Co.; clarified

- St. Mary's Cemetery, Ventura, CA (5 Iowa CW veterans); a protestant cemetery.

In 1969 the city turned the area into a park. No stones at this time.

- Annual clinic for preservation/care of gravestones. Motion by Frieda Davis for president to appoint committee to organize a work shop for next year; To identify sponsorship, location, host, cost, etc., Seconded by Linda Wild. **Passed**

- **Facebook page:** is up and running. Tony reported number of hits and likes.

- **Ripley's t-shirts;** Two samples of print and colors were displayed. Show of hands indicated 14 people were interested in purchasing. Motion by Valerie O to pursue the single color print shirt. Larry Davis seconded; **Passed** Shirts will be pictured on Facebook page with information to order. The more ordered the lower the price will be.

New Business:

- Cemetery markers for Iowa Governor/Lt. Governor/Cabinet members: Letter read from Gov. Branstad asking if SAPIC would locate and catalogue these past officers. Steve Story described what this entailed and presented pictures from a number of governors, including an Iowa map with locations of burial sites. Jerome Thompson from State historical Society has worked with Jeff Kaufmann and Steve Story this far. Gov. plans to get money from historical budget to cover cost of the 34 in Iowa, 9 Lt. Governors became Governors. Motion made to assist in project request by Governor to catalog locations and condition of burial sites by Larry Davis, seconded by Catherine Bergman, **Passed**.

- Jerome Thompson reported that there are Historical Preservation grants available upon applying. SAPIC may want to consider applying for grant to support the w/s planned for next year. Apply by May 1, available after first of the year.

- **Nomination Committee:** The nominations committee, consisting of Mike Magee, Frieda Davis, and Larry Davis, submitted the following slate of nominees for 2014 officers and board members: President – Steve Story; Vice – president – William Reedy; Secretary – Frieda Davis; Treasurer – Valerie Ogren; Board Member – Jean Ann Ripley (replaces Molly Beason whose term expires this year and she has requested not to be nominated for an additional term); Board Member – Pat Shaw (consented to be nominated for an additional term); Board Member – Gene Davis (Replaces Steve Story, whose term expires this year.). Nominations asked from the floor, there being none, motion to accept slate by Bill Reedy, seconded by Ben Meyer, **Passed**.

• Tom Gard: reported on Civil War soldiers, in Pella; three in unmarked graves and they are working on getting markers. Have two but third is unknown

• Oak Grove Cemetery near Leighigh; Phil Berglam, trustee, reported it is also known as "Bream Cemetery" and they do not know what to do.

Next meeting second Saturday in January. Larry Davis consented to find location in Des Moines.

Motion to adjourn by Jean Ann Ripley, seconded by Gene Davis, **Passed**
Meeting adjourned by Tony Bengston, president at 11:25 am.

Program by Shirley Duel Miller, from Ducombe-Webster Co, recipient of SAPIC grant. She explained and did power point presentation of the work done by Cotton Wood Cemetery Association. They put up a fence on the third side adjacent to the road that the gravel pit put in.

Lunch was catered; soup, sandwiches, cake at 12:00 noon for free will donation.

Program by Hamilton Co Cemetery Preservation Society Vice President on Homer Cemetery during lunch.

Submitted by Frieda Davis, Secretary

From the *Parade* magazine, October 20, 2013: "Tombstone Tourism."
What's spookier than a graveyard around Halloween? Cemetery directors across the country are luring intrepid visitors to attractions ranging from organ concerts to photo workshops to flashlight tours guest-starring local "residents." For a list of events nationwide, go to Parade.com/halloween

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 3rd Quarter – July 1, 2013 thru September 30, 2013

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2013, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 4,265.17

Income

Dues \$ 205.00

Interest 7/31/13 .38

Interest 8/31/13

33 Interest 9/30/13 .34

Total Income \$ 206.05

Expense

Ck #273 - Pat Shaw – newsletter expense \$ 89.82

Ck #278 – Pat Shaw – " " 68.03

\$ 157.85

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2013 \$ 4,313.37

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 June 2013, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 4,128.39

7/20 - Ck #274 – Marion Co. Pioneer Cem. Comm.

\$200.00

7/20 – Ck #275 – Hastings Cem.

Assn.

\$200.00*

7/20 – Ck #276 – Ely Comm. Hist. Soc. \$200.00

7/20 – Ck #277 – Cottage Hill Cem. Comm. \$200.00*

[*still outstanding]

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2013 \$ 3,328.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 30 September 2013 \$ 7,641.76

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

Carl Nollen in Marion County is interested in discovering the pioneer cemetery in Iowa with the largest number of burials. He is working in the Baldwin Cemetery in Mahaska County and has found 375 burials plus many unmarked. He would like to know if this is a record number. If you have a pioneer cemetery in your county that has more burials, please let Carl know!

nollenca@hotmail.com

Ralph Hendersin of Wisconsin generously donated a DVD of his restoration methods to SAPIC. Tony Bengston has added it to the SAPIC web site:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/17694644/hendersin.pdf>

It's a rather large file, so may take awhile to load.

Ancestry.com Acquires Find A Grave

Posted by Kristie Wells on September 30, 2013 in Company News

We are pleased to announce that Ancestry.com LLC has acquired Find A Grave, Inc., the leading online cemetery database.

With over 100 million memorials and 75 million photos, Find A Grave has amassed an unparalleled collection of burial information. Over the past 18 years, it has grown to become an invaluable resource for genealogists, history buffs and cemetery preservationists. Find A Grave will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Ancestry.com, and will continue to be managed by its founder, Jim Tipton.

Ancestry.com plans to bolster the resources dedicated to Find A Grave to launch a new mobile app, improve customer support, introduce an enhanced edit system for submitting updates to memorials, foreign-language support, and other site improvements.

Quotes:

Tim Sullivan, CEO of Ancestry.com: "Find A Grave is an amazing phenomenon supported by a passionate and engaged community of volunteers around the world. We at Ancestry.com are so excited...honored really...to take on the responsibility of supporting this community. We will maintain Find A Grave as a free website, will retain its existing policies and mode of operation, and look forward to working with Jim Tipton and the entire Find A Grave team to accelerate the development of tools designed to make it even easier for the Find A Grave community to fulfill its original mission to capture every tombstone on Earth."

Jim Tipton, founder of Find A

Grave: "Ancestry.com has been a long-time supporter of Find A Grave. They have been linking and driving traffic to the site for several years. Burial information is a wonderful source for people researching their family history and I look forward to working with Ancestry.com to help continue our growth and accelerate the pace of improvements."

The terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

- See more at:

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2013/09/30/ancestry-com-acquires-find-a-grave/#sthash.3eKH4vPK.dpuf>

At the Iowa Genealogical Conference on October 25: EXPLORING BURIED BUXTON – DR. DAVID GRADWOHL

SPEAKER Buxton was a town owned by the Consolidated Coal Company and was unusual in that many of its residents were African-American. During the early 1980's, the abandoned town was explored by ISU Archaeological Lab personnel using the techniques of historical archaeology. Work such as this can give insights into the daily lives of ancestors who were involved in coal mining.

Note: Buxton is located in Monroe County.

Wish You Were Here: Adventures in Cemetery Travel is a new book by Loren Rhodes. Book Description: Almost every tourist destination has a graveyard. You go to Yosemite National Park: there's a graveyard. The Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park: both graveyards. Some graveyards are even tourist destinations, themselves: the Old Jewish Cemetery of Prague, the colonial burying grounds in Boston, and Kennedy's eternal flame in Arlington. Jim Morrison's grave is one of the top five tourist sites in Paris. *Wish You Were Here: Adventures in Cemetery Travel* visits 50 graveyards, grave sites, and ossuaries around the world in 35 essays. The book is

available from Amazon.com.

It's available in paperback (\$11.17) and for the Kindle (\$3.99).

Here's a link to the book

trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6x1FBeQP80>

An lengthy epitaph that dates from 1824 and written for his own monument by Ezekiel Polk, grandfather of President James K.:

Here lies the dust of old E.P.
One instance of mortality;
Pennsylvania born, Carolina bred,
In Tennessee died on his bed
His youthful days he spent in pleasure,
His latter days in gath'ring treasure;
From superstition liv'd quite free
And practiced strict morality.
To holy cheats was never willing
To give one solitary shilling,
He can foresee, and in foreseeing
He equals most of men in being
That church and state will join their
pow'r
And mis'ry on this country show'r.
And Methodists with their camp
bawling,
Will be the cause of this down falling.
An era not destined to see,
It waits for poor posterity
First fruits and tithes are odious things
And so are Bishops, Priests and Kings.

This link will get you to a new study which is talking about original prairie soil organisms and how we have lost them and what that might mean for our ability to raise food in the future. It seems that pioneer cemeteries still hold these original soil organisms.

<<http://cirrus.mail-list.com/pfigeneral/30205226.html>>

An argument for permanent complete protection for cemeteries because of these organisms would be in order. The cemeteries could be used to seed these organisms back into the soils that have perennial prairie crops for human and animal consumption (Wes Jackson's Land Institute work with Kernza as the first

species); and those fields that are using native prairie species as strips in annual fields for erosion control and rebuilding soils.

New Cemetery Preservation Publication

If or when you ever wanted information on how to restore a graveyard, repair a single gravestone or learn how to care for a cemetery, this is the book that guides you on the right path. Anything you want to know about cemetery preservation is presented in a straightforward, easy to understand writing style with excellent photographs, essential documentation forms, and with up-to-date technology and conservation information.

This is the second edition of *A Graveyard Preservation Primer* by Lynette Strangstad.

It may be purchased through a local bookstore or an internet source such as Amazon.com. Cost is about \$25.00.

From the *American Profile* magazine, December 1-7, 2013: "Birth of the Nativity." The earliest known Nativity scenes date to ancient Rome and consist of murals painted on underground cemetery walls. During the Middle Ages, because many in their congregations could not read, priests interpreted the Bible through literal representations, using figures.

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with dramatizing the birth of Jesus in 1223 when he celebrated Christ's Mass in front of a hay-filled manger with live animals in Greccio, Italy. The Christmas crib scene eventually spread throughout Europe.

COUNTY REPORTS BLACK HAWK

From web site:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/wentling/messages/13.html>

We uncovered at a construction site recently one intact burial, likely that of Allen Wentling, who died at the age of two months in 1864 in Waterloo. He was the son of Adam and Laura (Rankin) Wentling, who migrated from Iowa to Kansas to Colorado, and Adam went on to Oklahoma following Laura's death. There are two gravestones, one for Allen and one for his sister Nora, who died at the age of 17 mos. Her grave appears to have been destroyed by a water pipeline trench in the 1960s. The intact burial is in the way of a building construction site and will need to be moved to a perpetual care cemetery. We have received state permission to disinter this burial and place both stones

with that burial in a registered cemetery. Allen and Nora were the siblings of Cora (Baxter), Carrie Irene (Shepherd), Cora, Dora, Eva S., Mary Isabelle (Belle) and Willis E. Wentling, and Leona E. (Fraize). I do need to make attempts to contact as many of the next of kin that I can locate, and you appear possibly to be one of them. We would like to be sure that the descendants have no objections to disinterment and if they have any preferences for reburial. Right now, the property owner will rebury at their own cost in a Waterloo cemetery but any out-of-state reburial would have to be covered at family expense. We need to disinter starting next week because construction on this site is on hold until we remove the burial. There is no way to leave it on site. The burial location was built over by the 1960s by a commercial nursery and was never in a protected cemetery. Unfortunately, any agreement the Wentlings may have had with the Hannas (who owned this land in the 19th century) to bury these children on this ground was never formalized and the graves were badly neglected after the Wentlings left Iowa. In the 1960s, Nora's grave appears to have been destroyed by a water pipeline trench excavation (the workers simply laid her headstone face down on top of the pipeline trench!); however, Allen's grave appears to be fairly intact next to where Nora's stone was found. I can send you a formal letter, but will need a mailing address to send it to. The burial will be excavated by hand by (professional archaeologists) starting Monday the 19th of August in order to reduce the construction costs coverage that is piling up because of this delay. The remains will be treated with the utmost respect and reburial will be in a child-sized box, with both gravestones set in place on the plot. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Leah Rogers, email: LDRog215@aol.com

Photos of the Wentling children reburial at Elmwood Cemetery are on the SAPIC Face Book page.

In 1960 a *Waterloo Courier* newspaper columnist interviewed Dean Platt. He was at that time beginning construction of some buildings for his new business, Platt's Nursery. This was located on what is now University Avenue in Waterloo, IA. In the interview he stated that on the property was a small cemetery where a tombstone existed that said Mary Virden. She died in 1848 at age two years from the effects of burns received when her clothing caught on fire. The Virden family was one of the early pioneer settlers in that area of Black Hawk county.

The Platt's Nursery business closed and the property was sold. In 2012 the Hy-Vee grocery store chain announced that it was going to build a combination gas station and car wash on the site of the former Platt's Nursery. Michael Magee saw the 1960 newspaper article about Platt's Nursery while doing some research. Since the Mary Virden burial was over one hundred and fifty years old, it was protected by Iowa state law. He contacted the Iowa

archaeologist burial program director and also Hy-Vee via the real estate business that handled the property sale to Hy-Vee about the existence of the burial. After a period of time demolition of the existing buildings on the site began in preparation of construction of the new facility.

Archaeologists from Tall Grass Historians L.C. were on the site during the demolition process watching for any indication of the burial for Mary Virden during the summer of 2013. While doing their search for the burial they discovered two grave markers side by side buried on the site. One had the inscription "Allen s/o A. & L. Wentling, died June 8, 1864, age 2m, 12d". The other one was inscribed "Nora d/o A. L. Wentling age 17m, 2d". No dates appeared on that stone. The remains of Allen Wentling were found under his grave marker. Next to it where Nora Wentling was buried, no remains were found. At some point in time a underground pipeline was installed and it went right through the grave for Nora Wentling, destroying any evidence of her remains. The two grave markers were recovered and the remains for Allen Wentling disinterred. On October 17, 2013 the remains of Allen Wentling were reburied at Elmwood Cemetery in Waterloo, IA. A burial ceremony was conducted at the grave site. The two grave markers are in place at the site of the reburial.

The burial site and grave marker for Mary Virden has not been found. Possibly Hy-Vee will at some time in the future place a memorial marker for her on the site of the new facility.

From the *Our Iowa* magazine, October/November 2013: "Miracle Meeting in Marietta -- Transplanted Iowans didn't have a clue who was sitting in pew nearby," by Merrilee Morris, Marietta, Georgia. The author, a transplanted Iowan, tells of attending a church service in Marietta and commenting to her husband: "Lord, Stan, you'd think you were an Iowa farmer who needed to disk a field or something the way you fret about the weather."

An unfamiliar voice from behind warned, "Watch what you say about Iowa!" Both couples found, unbelievably, that they were from Waterloo, had attended the same elementary school, shopped in the same grocery store, and even had burial plots not only in the Garden of Memories Cemetery north of Waterloo, but in the same garden portion, no less!

They believe that it was pre-ordained that God smiled down and blessed the four of them with a loving and profound bond and that the bond will continue even after they've been planted in that garden north of Waterloo,

From the *Mayport Mirror* (Florida), November 26, 2013: "USS The Sullivans Honors Fallen Brothers," by Lt. j.g. Sean Menezes, USS The Sullivans Public Affairs. The guided-missile destroyer USS Sullivan

(DDG 68) held a memorial ceremony to honor the 71st anniversary of the sinking of USS Juneau (CL-52) Nov. 13. The sinking of the Juneau resulted in the loss of the five Sullivan brothers for whom the destroyers DDG 68 and former DD-537 are named -- 700 other Sailors also perished as a result of the sinking. The ship's crew mustered on the flight deck as Communications Officer Ensign Michael Fleck read the memorial service script. It was during the battle of Guadalcanal on November 13, 1942, that George (28), Francis (27), Joseph (24), Madison (23), and Albert Sullivan (20) lost their lives in a catastrophic explosion and sinking caused by a Japanese torpedo.

CEDAR

Good News for Cedar County (and SAPIC)- The Cedar County Board of Supervisors voted to establish a Pioneer Cemetery Commission on November 19, 2013 with a 4-1 vote. On November 21, the Board of Supervisors appointed nine members to the Pioneer Cemetery Commission, which includes Supervisor and Pioneer Cemetery advocate (for many years) Jeff Kaufman. The vote was 4-0, as Jeff abstained, which I believe would be courteous and traditional. These are from the official Board Minutes which can be found on-line under Cedar County, Iowa, Board of Supervisors.
-- SAPIC President, Steve Story

CLINTON

In an email dated September 20, 2013: My name is Ann Soenksen, chair of the Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. I read the July issue of "Grave News" and I would like a correction made on the minutes from the July meeting. Under old business:

Alger Cemetery-Clinton Co. reported about 35 burials with 8 markers.

This is incorrect information. There are 37 names and 24 markers.

(The information provided at the July meeting was obtained from the Find-A-Grave web site.)

From the *Clinton Herald*

October 2, 2013

Tipped tombstones keep cemetery workers busy

By Samantha Pidde Herald Staff Writer

CLINTON — Every morning for the past month, Groundskeeper Darrell Mueller arrives at Clinton's Springdale Cemetery, wondering how many tombstones will have been tipped over.

"I do not know what fun it is to do that," Mueller said about the gravestones that he's found tipped over. "It's definitely disrespectful."

At first, Mueller would find one or two markers down.

From there it snowballed to multiple tombstones in the more remote areas of the cemetery.

"If there's one down, there's usually three or four down in the same spot," Mueller said.

As he arrives at the cemetery each morning, he wonders how many toppled tombstones he'll find.

Last Wednesday, he filed a police report for nine tombstones that had been tipped over in a 12-hour

time period. The report estimated the damage at \$500.

Throughout his years as groundskeeper, Mueller experienced other incidents of people knocking over tombstones. However, he said these were typically one-time occurrences, with the cemetery quieting back down afterwards. In this case, he said it has become an ongoing issue.

Luckily, Mueller has not had to repair any of the markers. While he has discovered a few chips and dings, there has not been any major damage. He added it is more time consuming than anything.

"What takes the kids five minutes to knock over takes us eight hours to put back," Mueller said.

HAMILTON

From the *Daily Freeman-Journal*, Tuesday, May 21, 2013: "Webster City's history carved in stone," by Nancy Kayser. Pictured are some of the monuments, weighing about 20 tons, at Graceland Cemetery, which date back to the 19th century. The history of the cemetery which was founded in 1865, also lists specific elaborate monuments in the article. One unique stone, the circus monument, was erected for James Richardson, an employee of the Ringling Brothers show who was shot and killed on July 23, 1888. On June 10, 1893, circus performers and the circus band dedicated the monument at the cemetery.

HENRY

Henry County's First Annual PIONEER CEMETERY DAY honoring early settlers and veterans buried in our pioneer cemeteries was hosted by the Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission on

Saturday, Sept. 14th, 2:00 PM at the Willeford Pioneer Cemetery. Stanley Hill, Chairman of the Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, greeted the crowd and shared the history of the Commission. Several descendants of the pioneer Willeford family were in attendance.

LEE

From the *Daily Gate City*, September 23, 2013: "Bataan Death March survivor Slee honored," by Celia Malm. A survivor of the Bataan Death March who died in a Japanese prison camp a few months later was recognized during the fourth annual POW/MIA memorial ceremony sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion 41 at Sunset Memorial Park in Keokuk on September 21. Terry Altheide, Squadron 41's vice commander, led the ceremony. This year's ceremony honored William Slee, who survived the Bataan Death March in April 1942, only to die in a Japanese prison camp a few months later on July 17. Slee was born in Quincy, Ill., in 1920, and spent most of his teen years at the Chaddock School in Quincy before coming to live with relatives in Keokuk. Other Keokuk citizens who participated in the Bataan March were Lewis G. Adams, Frank Nelson and Hillis L. Russell. Remarks by Keokuk Mayor, Tom Marion, presentations of a wreath and a flag, and the playing of Taps were included in the ceremony.

A Pioneer Patriot's Day sponsored by the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association and the Lee County Veterans Project was held on September 28, 2013, at the Yellow Banks Cemetery in rural Keokuk. The ceremony honored Civil War veterans Allen Adams and Joseph Danford. After an invocation by Rev. Dan Davis of Calvary

Foursquare Church, the American Legion Honor Guard gave the traditional words spoken at a military funeral and presented a flag to Dick Lofton, a descendant of Joseph Danford. A rifle salute and playing of Taps concluded the ceremony.

From the *MVM News Network -- Montrose/Donnellson News and Notes Page*: "Volunteers refurbish rural Lee County cemetery." Pictured are members of Boy Scout Troop 30 of Montrose as they reset a gravestone at the Judy Cemetery. The Scouts began work on the ceremony in Spring, 2011, after descendants of the Judy Family and the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association removed brush, trees, and brambles from the neglected site. Harrison Monuments in Warsaw, Ill. assisted with the last two very large stones. On the evening of October 14, the scouts, leaders, family members and friends gathered to celebrate a job well done.

MARION

Open house at Watkins Cemetery was Sunday, Oct. 20, from 4-6 p.m. Brendan Finan is a local Boy Scout who has spent the past year fixing up Watkins as part of his Eagle Scout badge. He has had stones repaired, replaced fence, and installed signage.

Directions to the Cemetery: Go west of Knoxville on four lane 5/92 across Whitebreast Creek. At the first crossroads (92nd Ave) turn right going north to first crossroads (Jewel Dr.) Turn right, going east, first house and drive into field. Look for signage along the road. Check out Brendan's work if you're in the area!

Price Cemetery – Larry Fudge pulled the fence, Vermeer's chipped up everything and pulled two posts. C & D Sales will get started on the fence in a couple weeks. Summit Township has agreed to pay for the new fence on the East and South side. Val is working with Larry Davis for a quote to fix the stones at Price. Piles of old fencing needs to be thrown away.

Shirey Cemetery – Larry Davis needs to repair the stones after the crops are out.

Caulkins/Davies Cemetery - Carl Nollen reported that he had a copy of the deed for 1865 when Caulkins deeded 1 acre for a grave yard to Knoxville Township. On the Marion County site the cemetery is listed Davies/Caulkins Cemetery. Tom Caulkins would like the cemetery to be listed Caulkins/Davies Cemetery. Cemetery book the cemetery is listed Davis Cemetery. Janet will visit with the Knoxville Township Trustees about the name change and report to Val. Val will then send our recommendation to Ed Bull to change the Marion County Site to read Caulkins/Davies Cemetery. Spaulding owns the property. Top priority in 2014 will be to work on this cemetery.

Mikesell Cemetery – Ron and Sue Yowell from Sylva, NC came to the cemetery on September 10, 2013. Doug, Joyce and Preston Van Wyk were there, property owners and several MCPCC members. Ron's Great Great Grandfather, William Yowell was in the War of 1812 and the MCPCC handed Ron a memorial marker and flag to put on the grave. He is willing to pay for the stones to be repaired for his great great grandparents. Larry Davis needs to give us a bid for fixing the stones at the cemetery.

www.marioncountycemetery.wix.com/mcpcc

Dixie Roorda, one of our MCPCC members, was part of a "chain" kidney transplant. Dixie donated a kidney earlier in December to a woman for whom she was a match (no relation).

Her son Brad said she is doing well, was up and around walking the first night after the surgery, and is going to meet the recipient. Also, there's an article in the December 5 issue of the **DM Register** about it!

VAN BUREN

From *The Quill*, published by the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, Volume 25, Number 3, October, 2013: "Pioneer Cemetery Conservation Progress Report," by Don Aldrich. The Watkins, White Des Moines, and Dodson cemeteries were all mowed for Memorial Day visits and the access to the Watkins has been improved thanks to owner Royce Huff. Contact

was made with the Iowa DOT mowing crew to ascertain its mowing schedule along Highway One so the Watkins can be viewed from the highway. Stan Knipfer and Marvin Dannel worked for 3 days repairing stones at the Wolfe Cemetery. Epoxy was donated to the Keosauqua Lions Leo Club, whose teen age members repaired and/or reset twelve stones at the Lebanon Cemetery. Work was also done at Hoskins Cemetery in August and September where eighteen stones were repaired.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, October 24, 2013: Pictured are Marvin Danneil and Randy Hoskin as they filled depressions with dirt donated by Ted Daugherty at the Hoskins Cemetery in Des Moines Township. Along with Don Aldrich, tilting stones were also straightened. The Van Buren County Genealogical Society members charge nothing for their work and appreciate contributions towards expenses of materials and supplies.

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 29, 2013: "Tribute Tree," by Josh Vardaman. Pictured is Chainsaw sculptor Gary Keenan as he started his tree carving sculpture at the Ottumwa Cemetery. Keenan says the tree won't look like much over the next few days, but it will take shape and look like a Civil War soldier sometime next week. The oak tree that stood for centuries in the Ottumwa Cemetery could not escape the harshness of Mother Nature and was infected with oak wilt, a fungus that quickly kills oak trees. There was no choice but to cut it down, so city officials decided to leave the stump and have it carved into something meaningful from some point in its life. Between 110-120 rings were counted from what was cut from the tree and it's estimated to be around 220 years old. It was decided to have the trunk carved into a soldier from the Civil War at a cost of \$5000.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, November 19, 2013: "Standing Tall," by Josh Vardaman. Pictured is the 10-foot-tall Civil War soldier standing in his new home in the Ottumwa Cemetery, carved by Gary Keenan of Des Moines. "This gives us the opportunity to place another permanent public art display in our community," said Kim Hellige, president of the Ottumwa Area Arts Council. The tree was such an iconic part of the cemetery that they had to find some way to memorialize it. Most of Kennan's work is of wildlife, but sometimes he gets to do something different, including the leprechaun mascot for the University of Notre Dame.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, November 28, 2013: "More from Elias C. Kitterman," by Sue Parrish. In a continuation of a series of columns about Elias, an early settler to Wapello County, the author tells of a young boy riding in a wagon to Iowa while sitting on his mother's cooking crock in 1842. He recalls the Indian burial ground that was on Sugar Creek. The deceased were placed in a hole about a foot deep, sitting up with arms crossed in front with a bowl full of "beads and trinkets." There was once a large Sycamore tree on the west bank of the creek which held the remains of an infant high in its top. The last buried Indian he had seen was on the public road on Sugar Creek after the Indians were all gone. He was buried in the usual way with a bowl striped in yellow with "a silver dollar, a twenty-five cent piece, one dime and a half dime in it. They had scrapped leaves, bark and rotten chunks around him." The next time Elias saw him, all the money had been taken.

OUT OF IOWA ILLINOIS

This past summer, we reclaimed two (2) overgrown cemeteries; one cemetery, of about an acre, was in the center of a farm field and, because of crops, could only be accessed before the crops were planted or after their harvest. In this cemetery, fifty-one (51) grave stones were repaired and/or reset. The second one was under the care, custody, and control of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and within their cemetery's two(2) acres, fifty-five (55) markers were restored. Because it is a developing prairie, we were only allowed to cut very narrow paths to the grave markers. And since the cemetery was designated as "natural", we were expected to respect all living things--including ticks! To prevent visits by these unwanted guests, we wore treated medical scrubs and coated our exposed arms with a special tick powder repellent that made each worker smell good too.

In another much smaller cemetery, thirty-seven (37) gravestones were restored and documented. This cemetery's benefactors were relatives from Arizona and Bavaria, Germany. Most of the information on those stones were in German and beautifully carved in old-world script. Fascinating! Because of an act of vandalism, eighteen (18) grave markers were severely damaged in a Rockford, Illinois cemetery. Several of these were extra large (about 750 pounds each) civil war markers privately furnished by local families. In three long days, we repaired the damaged stones.

Preserving these historical monuments of our past

is a personal pleasure and that hopefully others will continue to save them for future generations.

-- John Heider

IRELAND

From the www.international.ie web site:
'Black cloud' damages buildings and uproots trees in east Galway. October 3, 2013:

A freak weather event in east Galway caused structural damage to a number of buildings this evening and knocked down several trees.

There are no reports of any injuries but power supplies were affected around the Clonfert area.

Locals described how a "black cloud" was spotted above Clonfert shortly after 6.30pm.

One eyewitness, who was in the local church at the time, heard what she described as a "terrible sound" and went outside to see the cloud spinning as it moved along.

Parish priest Fr John Naughton said the way in which trees had been damaged was "almost indescribable". He said branches had been whipped away and that a number of old trees in the area had been uprooted.

A number of old gravestones in the cemetery adjoining St Brendan's Cathedral in Clonfert have been knocked over by the winds.

A number of roofs have also been dislodged from farm buildings.

It is understood the roof of the tea rooms at the back of the Emmanuel House of Prayer in Clonfert has been badly damaged.

A number of trees have fallen on the approach road to the house.

Fr Naughton said the cloud seemed to have moved along a narrow strip around Clonfert.

Met Eireann says funnel clouds can form in isolated cases following heavy showers and when this happens they generate locally strong winds, similar to those reported in east Galway tonight.

NORWAY

From: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2508361/Outrage-Norway-graves-covered-BLACK-BAGS-notes-demanding-overdue-rental-payment.html>

"Outrage in Norway as hundreds of gravestones are covered at a cemetery along with a demand for overdue payment." Mourners visiting a cemetery in Norway were shocked after finding hundreds of gravestones covered in black plastic bags. Attached to each bag is a late-payment notice, warning relatives of the deceased that the headstone will shortly be removed unless they cover the cost of the grave's upkeep. The government covers initial maintenance cost and rental for 25 years for a coffin and 20 years for an urn. After that relatives must pay the annual cost.

Wayne County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

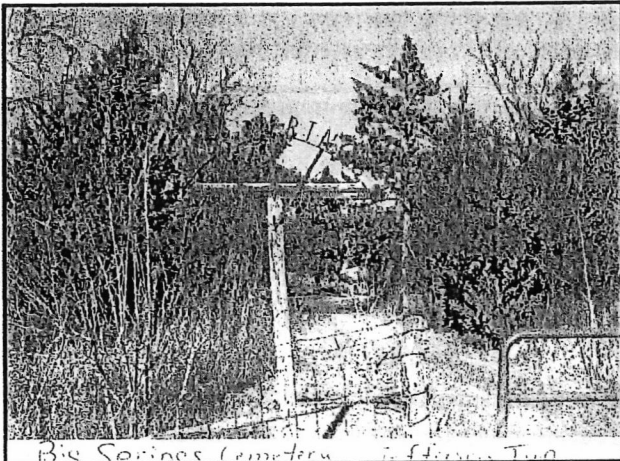
Wayne County is on the southern border of Iowa halfway between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. The original Mormon Pioneer Trail cut across Wayne County from southeast to northwest. White Settlers first came to this county in the early 1840's and the first recorded burial was near Lineville in the Duncan cemetery in 1846.

The Wayne County Pioneer Cemetery Commission was formed by resolution of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors in late 2010. In early 2011 the group began restoration work on the Duncan cemetery clearing brush and trees.

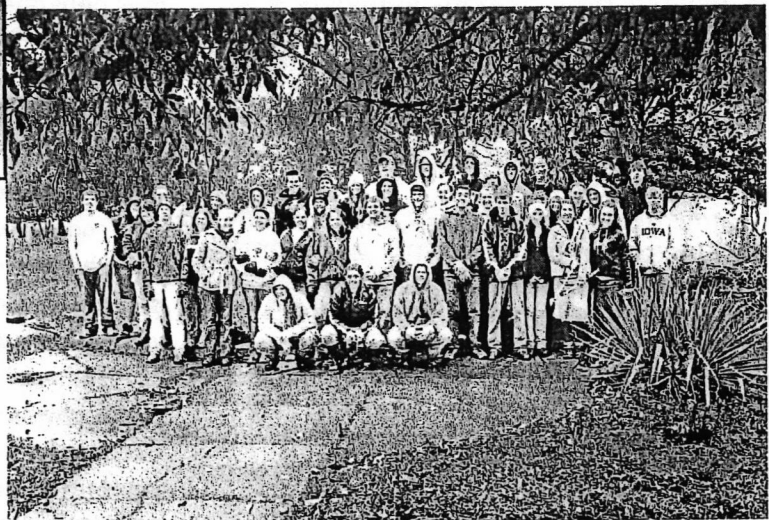


The Duncan cemetery restoration was completed and a rededication ceremony held for the public in August 2012. The restoration involved not only clearing brush and cleaning the fence row but preservation of many gravestones. Several years ago a tornado had dislodged and broken many of the stones and a few were lost. There was no way to know with certainty where the gravestones had originally stood so a concrete slab monument was created to hold the gravestones. Once the

concrete was dry the gravestones were laid in position and adhered to the slab with silicone. This allowed the fragile stones to be preserved and protected.



We have now completed work on three cemeteries and a fourth will be completed early next spring. Two of these cemeteries have involved clearing numerous trees, brush, and multiflora rose. When we began working on Big Springs Cemetery in spring 2012 there were so many trees and brush (seen at left) the gravestones could not be seen from the cemetery entrance. Wayne Community High School Senior Class 2012, 2013, and



2014 have all spent a day helping commission members' burn brush in this cemetery as part of their community service requirements. What a great experience this has been for our group and the students alike! Over 150 tree stumps have been ground out in the fall of 2013 after the trees were cut and cleared - fortunately this entrance area had no graves. The senior class is pictured this fall at the cemetery on a work day. They are standing on the remaining foundation of Big Springs Church near the cemetery entrance. This area is to the right of the entrance seen above and was not visible when the project began!

In 2011 when the Wayne County Pioneer Cemetery Commission was in the early stages our members spread out over the county to assess all pioneer cemeteries. We created a point system with 1 the *Grave News*, October, November, December, 2013, page fourteen

best condition and a 10 needing the most work. Each cemetery was rated on priority depending on condition and most in need of protection. Wayne County has 58 cemeteries and 38 are pioneer cemeteries. Our group concluded that we must work very closely with township trustees, as they are charged with care of all cemeteries in their respective township. Our goal is to complete restoration in a way that once completed the township trustees can care for the cemetery going forward.

A recent article in Des Moines Register about ethanol and the increase in land used to grow corn contains a quote from a member of Wayne County Board of Supervisors about the loss of access to a cemetery. The struggle over this cemetery has actually been an ongoing issue and there have been numerous discussions with the land owner, the Board of Supervisors and township trustees. The gravestones are still there and the cemetery is mowed a few times yearly but there is only a narrow strip of grass for access and then only by foot, four-wheel drive, or tractor. As a pioneer cemetery commission we do keep a close eye on pioneer cemeteries in our county and hope to find a suitable solution for all on this particular cemetery.

Through several news articles about our restoration work many Wayne county citizens know that the cemetery commission is working to protect pioneer cemeteries. In fact, we are currently working with a new land owner to fence a pioneer cemetery in our county. Unfortunately most of the gravestones in this cemetery, Ryan, are long gone - in fact according to a newspaper article in 1978 there were only 2 stones remaining at that time. In spring 2014, working with the land owner, we will be fencing the perimeter and place a sign to identify it as a pioneer cemetery. With a land owner eager to work with us it is important to have the cemetery fenced and signed to protect in the future. There is a sizable brush pile and we are hopeful the gravestones might be under it. This cemetery was a family cemetery and our county cemetery book lists six or seven small children as the recorded burials. We hope to locate the graves and mark the cemetery.

We owe much to those early settlers who came before us to live in an untamed land with few creature comforts. One can walk through an old cemetery and read names on the stones, some familiar, and know there is a story behind each one. Some came to Iowa by covered wagon, on foot, or later, by train. There is a wealth of information to be gained from the stones and the actual graveyards themselves. Those early settlers deserve for their final resting place and our group hopes to preserve and restore the respect for our early pioneers in Wayne County and Iowa.

SAPIC tee-shirts can be ordered from Jean Ripley.
jbripley2@gmail.com

Prices are as follows:

Single color print:
1-9 pcs \$20 + tax
15-19 pcs \$16 includes tax
20-25 pcs \$14 includes tax

2-color print:
1-19 pcs \$20 +tax
20-25 pcs \$18 includes tax

All 2XL-3XL +\$2 4XL-5XL +\$3

Chestnut color available Small-5XL

