

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 19 ISSUE #1

January, 2014

We are very excited to host the SAPIC meeting on April 12 @ 10:30am. We will meet at Prairie Trails Museum of Wayne County, 515 East Jefferson, Corydon, IA located on Highway 2 East on the east edge of Corydon.

There will be coffee, juice, water and donuts & pasties at the museum when the meeting begins.

Lunch will be on your own at a local restaurant - there are three on the town square in Corydon - The Lodge Twisted - north side of the square (sandwiches & daily specials)

Breadaux Pizza - north side of square
Betty's Café - east side of the square (sandwiches & daily specials)

For more information, contact Brenda DeVore:
devogas@iowatelecom.net

The Buchanan County Historical Society, with the Statewide Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC), is sponsoring a "Cemetery Preservation Training BASIC Workshop" in Independence, Iowa on Saturday, May 17, 2014 from 10:00 am-4:00pm. The workshop will consist of a class session from 10:00 to noon at the Independence Library. From 1:00 to 4:00 there will be an onsite workshop at the Oakwood Cemetery.

If you are a CLG and you attend this session, it will count towards your annual training requirement.

There is limited seating so you must make a reservation in advance.

For more information and questions, please contact:

Leanne Harrison

Buchanan County Historic Preservation Commission

leannekay@indytel.com

(319) 334-4616

Gravestone and Monument Repair Workshop

Instructed by Jonathon Appell, Monuments Conservator.
May 10 and 11, 2014
Washington Prairie Methodist Cemetery
2059 CO RD W42, Decorah, Iowa, at 9 AM each day. A Decorah Genealogy Association sponsored event. Call 563-382-8559 for registration and details.

Decorah Genealogy Association is pleased to announce that Jonathan Appell, premier monument conservator in the United States, will present a workshop near Decorah, Iowa, on Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11. Mr. Appell has studied all skills involved in monument preservation and traveled abroad to learn from master masons and conservators.

Throughout the United States, he has conducted workshops to share his skills with those desiring to preserve our cemetery gravestones and other historical monuments. His professional associations and affiliations are extensive and a list is available upon request. For more information, see

<http://www.gravestoneconservation.com/about>
Workshop Content

Day 1 Basic geology relating to gravestones and monuments. Types of gravestones and monuments, marker styles and associated problems. Basic stone cleaning for slate, marble, sandstone, granite, and stone masonry. Raising, re-leveling, and resetting gravestones and monuments. Repairing fallen monuments, epoxies, pros and cons, and proper mixing and applications.

Day 2 Morning service at Historic Prairie Church. Mortars, a brief historic overview, lime and NHL mortars. Problems with Portland cement relating to gravestones and historic structures, in filling, creating cement repair mortars, color matching, and application. Granite composite repair material, creating pigmentation and application. Stone cleaning, philosophy, problems with cleaning, alternative techniques. Historic overview and problems associated with sealing historic stone and masonry.

(Continued on page 6)

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Story
18883 250th St.
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Vice-president: William Reedy
3046 Everly Ave
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Board Member (2016): Pat Shaw
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319-232-8762 Digger4045@yahoo.com

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Board Member (2016) Gene Davis
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319-472-5348 davisduo85@gmail.com

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

WHERE TO GET SUPPLIES

Probes: Farm Supply Store or a Forestry Supply -- Suggest length 48 inches

Basic Stone Cleaners: Ammonia (non-scented) -- purchase locally

Biological Cleaners: 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.

State Association for the Preservation Of Iowa Cemeteries

The regular quarterly (January) meeting of SAPIC was held per email with 'call to order' at 8:21 am CST Thursday January 9, 2014 by President Steve Story. Eleven SAPIC officers and board members, plus three invited attendees participated to the agenda.

Minutes: October 12, 2013 approved as printed in 'Grave News' with correction of spelling of 'Lehigh', 'Berglund' & 'Beem

Treasurer's: report by Valerie Ogren. Accepted and will be filed for audit.

Progress reports from counties: none received

Business: Cedar County now has a Pioneer Cemetery commission.

Motion by Pat Shaw, second by Valerie Ogren, that Five(5) grants in the amount of \$200 each shall be awarded for the purpose of cemetery/stone restoration in Iowa in 2014 with one to be awarded to youth (12-20 years of age) provided by Wayne and Jo Blessing of Zearing Iowa and given in their names. Total expenditure from the reserve account for grants in 2014 would total one thousand dollars (\$1000.). **Passed**

Agreed that Mike (and others) pursue signage to mark gravesite for Mary Virden in Waterloo.

Independence workshop; supported with possible dates of June 7 or 28.

Legislative support: Sate Senator Brian Schoenjahn agreed to let us know of any legislation that would concern Pioneer and other cemeteries. Have also asked State Representative Bobby Kaufmann and Dawn Pettengill. Pat Shaw recommended State Representative Curt Hansen

Request for recent, current, future plans from each county Pioneer Cemetery commission.

Recommendation to consider a brochure including basic laws for burials and cemeteries specifically aimed for county homes. Also need to consider ways to 'sell our 'product' to recommend to summer/fall convention program committee, as we did with the county auditors. Each of us needs to contact our county supervisors to ask their planning committee to get us on their agenda.

Will await better weather to continue project to locate, photograph and assess gravestones/sites for past governors, lieutenant governors and U.S. Cabinet members from Iowa.

Brenda DeVore extended invitation to Corydon in Wayne County, Prairie Trails Museum for either April or July meeting. Any preference. Also need recommendations or invitation for April-July-October, 2014.

Thanks extended to everyone for participation, by Steve Story, President.

Next meeting scheduled for second Saturday in April.

-- Submitted by Frieda Davis, Secretary

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 4th Quarter – October 1, 2013 thru December 31, 2013

Balance in "Working Account" 30 September 2013, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 4,313.37

Income

Dues	\$ 140.00
Interest 10/31/13	.34
Interest 11/30/13	.
31 Interest 12/31/13	_____
<u>35</u> Total Income	\$
141.00	

Expense

Ck #280 – Birmingham P. O. – Non Profit permit	\$ 190.00
Ck #281 – Birmingham P. O. – add'l for increase	10.00
Bank Charge for Stop Payment on Ck# 275	<u>23.54</u>
Total Expense	\$ 223.54

Balance in "Working Account" 31 December 2013 \$ 4,230.83

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 September 2013, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 3,328.39

7/20 – Ck #275 – Hastings Cem. Assn.	- \$200.00
(Stopped pmt. – said they never received)	
10/21 – Ck #279 – Hastings Cem. Assn.	\$200.00
10/16 – Life Membership – Donna Story	\$100.00
10/18 – Life Membership – Beverly Blythe	\$100.00
11/22 – Donation for grant from Wayne Blessing	\$200.00

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 December 2013 \$ 3,728.39

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

Combined Balance on Hand 31 December 2013 \$ \$7,959.22

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

New Concrete Base Using a Foam Form

There are many ways to construct a new concrete base form, but one of the easiest and least expensive methods is to use high density, solid insulation foam pieces and duct tape.

These materials may be purchased at a lumber yard, home center or for the asking, scrap pieces may be acquired at construction sites.....for free!

Thickness of the insulation may vary from ½ inch to 2 inches; the thicker the better.

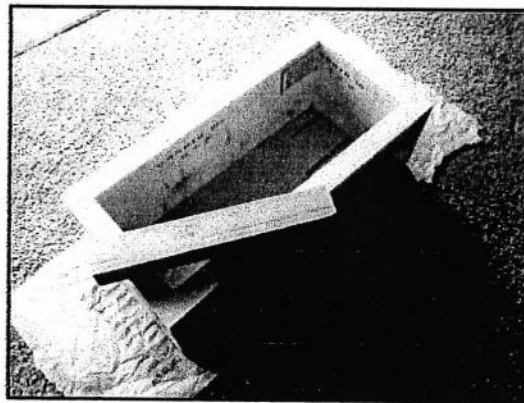
The material can be easily cut with a utility knife and assembled with strips of duct tape.

The example was constructed from four pieces of 1 ½ inch high density foam and duct tape.

Dimensions for the form are dependent upon the grave marker physical size; typically 6 inches wider than its width, 6 inches wider than the stone's thickness, and 6-8 inches deep. If the stone is exceptionally large, increase the size of the base accordingly.

For the bottom of the form, use a piece of plastic.

The slot form should be 1 inch wider, 1 inch longer than the dimensions of the gravestone and 2-3 inches deep. The slot form may be left in the base until the concrete is cured then removed (in pieces) with a screwdriver or putty knife.



Note: Do not oil the foam sides. Cut the tape to remove the form pieces; they can be used again.

(continued from page 1)

The workshop will be hands-on, an interactive event. All who attend are welcome to help perform the work, photograph, or simply observe. This workshop will fulfill a CLG requirement for the State Historical Society. Participants are also welcome to tape, photograph, or video the workshop for use with your personal non-profit group.

Gravestone and Monument Repair Workshop

May 10 and 11, 2014 RSVP by March 15th. To REGISTER please fill below and send with PAYMENT to: Decorah Genealogy Association, 202 Winnebago St. Decorah, Iowa 52101-1812 Contact: 563-382-8559 or 563-380-3375. e-mail: ddiggers@decorah.lib.ia.us

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Circle one: Saturday only: \$60.00 Friday only: \$60.00 Both days: \$100.00 Decorah Genealogy Association is a 501 (c) 3 tax exempt organization. Noon lunch included each day.

**NO ADMITTANCE
SUNSET TO SUNRISE
KEEP PETS OFF
CEMETERY PROPERTY
BEWARE OF SNAKES**

From a sign posted between the Calvary and St. Patrick's Cemeteries in Henry, Illinois.

Nominate an outstanding cemetery preservationist for the **Robert & Phyllis Carter Award** that is presented to a person or group that has contributed significantly to the preservation of pioneer cemeteries in your area. There is no nomination form. A letter with documentation should be sent to Steve Story (contact information on page 2 of this newsletter.)

From the Kirkwood Community College newsletter, the *Tempo*, February 20, 2014:

It is with great sorrow that Animal Health announces that Mr. Harry Potter Pig passed away on February 15 after a brief battle with kidney disease. He was a "prince of a pig" & will be greatly missed by all who knew him. In accordance with Harry's wishes we will be

getting another Guinea Pig... because "what is life without a perfect little pig to snuggle?"

--Terry Anderson, Animal Health

New IRS Requirement - IMPORTANT!!

The IRS has a new form required for EVERY enterprise with an Employer Identification Number (EIN). That means all corporations, incorporated and non incorporated posts and tax exempt organizations. Whenever there is a change of address or change in the person in charge, the new person in charge must now file the **IRS Form 8822-B**. This is a basic form that looks like a "Change of Address" form. What they really want to know is the NAME of the "RESPONSIBLE PARTY." This is whoever has a level of control over the funds. This form must be filed by MARCH 1, 2014, if you have not told the IRS the identity of the Responsible Party and then again within 60-days of whenever your Responsible Party changes.

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf>

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 7, 2014: "Lawmaker: Iowa legislation would pay for child burials." The state would help low-income families pay for child burials under a bill proposed by a Cedar Falls lawmaker who says the funds lift an unnecessary burden. Democratic Rep. Bob Kressig's bill would give qualifying individuals up to \$2,000 for funeral expenses after the death of a child. The bill has been assigned to an appropriations subcommittee and has more than 20 sponsors. The legislation was inspired by a nonprofit group in northeast Iowa called Sing Me to Heaven that raises money to help pay for such funerals. The bill would provide \$100,000 to be administered through the state Department of Public Health.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, February 22, 2014: "Travelers spending more money in Iowa." Travelers spent 8.5% more money in the state in 2013 according to the 2013 Iowa Welcome Center Survey Report. The Iowa Economic Development Authority's Iowa Tourism Office

conducted the study. The most popular destinations were **historical attractions***, museums, scenic byways, outdoor recreation and shopping.

*cemeteries and genealogical libraries?

From the *Adams County Free Press*, April 30, 1930: Miss Samuelson, state superintendent, has received a proclamation from President Hoover announcing the Covered Wagon Centennial to be observed beginning April 10th and closing December 29, 1930. April 10th is the hundredth anniversary of the starting of the first wagon train and December 29th is the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Ezra Meeker, who found the Oregon Trail Memorial Association. Miss Samuelson observes that "a precious few pioneers yet live to tell us their stories. Hundreds lie in unmarked graves along the trails, others are at rest in cemeteries in every part of the land. One tribute is to make a roster of these honored dead; another is to search out those who yet live and pay them deserving honors."

COUNTY REPORTS

Benton

From the *Des Moines Register*, September 9, 1975: "Going 'grave witching' at Van Horne," by William Simbro. Pictured is Velma Fry as she goes "grave witching" in Salem Cemetery southeast of Van Horne. The reporter relates how Mrs. Fry learned the method of finding unmarked graves while spearheading a monumental project to catalog all the cemeteries in Iowa. She states that she, along with curator of the State Historical Society Jack Musgrove, does not understand how it works. They suspect that the logical explanation may have something to do with disturbing the earth in digging a grave. The reporter who was a skeptic found that, in fact, it did work in locating unmarked graves.

BLACK HAWK

The Ancient Order of Hibernians/The Five Sullivan Brothers Division I conducted a ceremony on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at Sullivan Park in Waterloo, Iowa. A message from S. F. De Castro, C.O. USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) was read by Kelly Sullivan Loughren.

CASS

From the *Carroll Times*, January 27, 2003: "Cemetery faces regulatory action following mix-ups." More than two dozen complaints have been investigated against the Atlantic Cemetery including people had been buried in space they

purchased. Dennis Britson of the Iowa Securities Bureau said that there were three instances where interment space was sold twice. The mistakes were likely caused by poor record keeping rather than intentional misrepresentation or fraud. The state has ordered the cemetery to make a list of changes including: Purchasing software designed for cemeteries and implementing a system to backup the loss of computer records, investigating and cataloging all burial plots in the cemetery, adopting procedures to provide reasonable assurance that future errors will not occur, and allowing the bureau to have full access to cemetery records for audit compliance.

CHICKASAW

From the *Nashua Reporter*, October 25, 1956: "The Cagley Cemetery." The writer tells of hiking through the Cagley Cemetery and finding it overgrown with weeds, trees and bushes. He has been told that pheasant hunters set a fire at one end of the cemetery to drive out pheasants, rabbits and foxes. He implores those who have loved ones and venerated ancestors in the cemetery to have a work bee and clean out the brush and brambles, as folks have done in the Riverton cemetery two years ago.

CLAY

From the *Spencer Reporter*, January 26, 1910: "Ordinance No. 107 -- An Ordinance for the Regulation and Government of Cemetery Grounds." An ordinance containing 4 sections with 40 regulations in Section II was adopted by the Spencer City Council and attested by A. E. Wells, Mayor. Section I deals with the hiring of a sexton. Section III gives the sexton the duty to enforce the provisions of the ordinance and section IV lists the penalties for a person found guilty of doing any of the things designated as unlawful in the ordinance.

DELAWARE

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, May 31, 1968: "Town of Oneida Deeds Roadside Park to County." A two-acre roadside park on Highway 38 was deeded to the County Conservation Board to be used as a rest and picnic area. It was the site of the Hickory Grove school years ago and there is a pioneer cemetery back of the plot. Lyle Retz, executive director of the Conservation board, is interested in obtaining information about the cemetery and asks anyone with knowledge of the cemetery to contact him.

EMMET

From the *Emmetsburg Democrat*, November 23, 1904: "Burial Records Mixed at Sioux City," by W. I. Branagan, Publisher. The writer uses the example of poor record keeping at the Floyd

Cemetery in Sioux City to remind Emmetsburg citizens to look after their ancestors' grave markers in the local cemetery by checking titles to their cemetery lots, see that they're not neglected, and suggests that they pay the sexton one or two dollars per year to take care of them. He concludes that "It is hoped that the Sioux City unpleasantness will have a good effect in every community in the state and prompt people to give more attention to such an important matter."

From the *Estherville Daily News*, December 9, 1965: "Lilacs, Wild roses Now Hide Gravesites of Emmet Pioneers," by Dorothy Story. Pictured are Historical Society members as they record inscriptions on Pioneer Swan Lake Gravestones. The article lists the names found on the seven gravestones that are in a fenced area where the former town of Swan Lake was located. Other graves have been moved to a cemetery several miles away. There is no road to the cemetery. The article also mentions the remains of the town that included a stagecoach station, post office, school, church, and former Emmet County Courthouse. Some barns in the area have been built using beams hewn with a broad ax from former Fort Defiance. Members of the Emmet County Historical Society recently visited the site to take pictures and make a record of headstone inscriptions.

DES MOINES

From the *Burlington Daily Hawkeye*, April 20, 1875: "He Won't attend Any More Funerals if they Turn Out This Way." A young man attending a funeral at Aspen Grove Cemetery was accused by a woman and her mother of fathering a child who was also in attendance. The young man denied the paternity, but the old lady followed him to the gate of the residence where he was stopping and he locked it upon her. The writer says this was a disgraceful scene, happening in the time and place it did especially, and we hope the like will not be allowed to occur again in our community.

Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission now has a Facebook page. I have posted a link to it on the SAPIC Facebook page and have also posted a link to SAPIC's Facebook page on ours as well.

-- Stacy Bliesener

FAYETTE

From the *Oelwein Register*, June 11, 1975: "Check history of Oakdale cemetery." The history of the Oakdale Cemetery is being investigated by Neva Pond whose uncle,

Theodore Powers, was the first person buried there. Powers was killed in action during the Civil War and his body was sent back to Oelwein. There was no cemetery in the area, so he was buried in a grove of trees not far away. Later, a neighbor woman was buried there. Powers's brother from Chicago later visited and wanted to put up a monument to his brother. Being unsure which grave belonged to Theodore, they raised one of the caskets, opened it, and found brass buttons on the uniform of the deceased. Later, his parents and other persons were interred there and it became known as Oakdale Cemetery. Neva Pond and Dorothy Gosse are pictured beside a monument for the Powers family.

FRANKLIN

From the *LeMars Sentinel*, March 14, 1878: "Too Soon." A poor woman lay very ill, in her scantily-furnished home in Sheffield. The doctor was sent for and felt that she had very little chance of recovery. When asked when he should be called again, he remarked that she could not possibly get better so to save the family further trouble, wrote out a certificate for her burial. After the doctor departed, the woman grew rapidly better. The article states that she fully recovered and goes about carrying her burial certificate with her.

-- *Sheffield Telegraph*

IOWA

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, November 18, 1987: "A town pays its respects," by Ann Scholl Boyer. Pictured are Mel Uridil and Joan and Everett Iburg who headed up an effort to take care of the Victor Memorial Cemetery. The Order of Odd Fellows Lodge had been taking care of the cemetery since 1871. When that organization disbanded, the cemetery was offered to the city of Victor. The city said it would consider taking over the cemetery if it also received a permanent care fund to help pay for the upkeep. However, the fund -- a little more than \$40,000 -- was turned over to the Grand Lodge in Des Moines. After an out-of-court settlement, the fund was returned to the city with interest. In the meantime, the cemetery had become a eyesore. The city

named a 3-person board to manage the cemetery. Volunteers were organized to trim trees, mow and rake and were eventually paid for their work. Mel turned his paycheck into a donation for a stone entrance sign. Joan, whose grandfather was a trustee for the cemetery in 1932, feels that it doesn't show respect when the cemetery doesn't look nice. She has received many positive comments about the cemetery from townspeople.

HENRY

From *Senior Lifestyles*, supplement to several newspapers in southeast Iowa, including the *Van Buren County Register*: "New London couple identifies cemeteries, one monument at a time," article courtesy of *The Hawk Eye*. Pictured are Mona and David Gates in the Cholera Hill Cemetery who are on a mission to photograph and label every tombstone in Henry County. The photos taken by David will be uploaded to findagrave.com, a website cataloguing tombstones and on the laGenWeb. What started out as a hobby for David has become something more. He recently was appointed to the Henry County Pioneer Cemetery Commission that is focusing on Civil War headstones at the moment. They have observed that many Civil War soldiers were buried on the battlefields, but the families later put up a monument for the soldier in the family cemetery. They have come across unique moments while photographing tombstones, including a favorite monument in the Forest Home Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant of two children as if they are asleep on a couch.

JEFFERSON

From *Profiles 2014*, the *Ottumwa Courier*, January 30, 2014: "Whitney carves out quality, outstanding customer service," by Josh Vardaman. Pictured is Kent Whitney, as he shows portraits of his ancestors who have all had a hand in the ownership of Whitney Monument Works in Fairfield. Kent has been the owner of the business since 1991 and is the fifth generation owner. The business started out in 1875 by Mark Whitney as the

Van Buren County Marble Works in Keosauqua and the name and location did not change until 1911, when Kent's great grandfather moved the company to Fairfield. Kent feels the business has been able to keep going for almost 140 years because of quality and customer service. "You grow up in it," Whitney said. "As a teenager, I was working in the cemetery; it was just always around me."

JOHNSON

From the *Iowa City Press Citizen*, May 17, 1946: "Some Much Appreciated Information," in a column written by Mr. Ludwig. In his column during Easter week, he referred to a cemetery that he interpreted as an abandoned cemetery just east of the old Scott Presbyterian Church. He received a letter from Dr. J. E. Kimball of West Liberty that said, "That little burial ground is on what was my father-in-law's farm and his parents were buried there. Father Witacre is now 93 years old and is of keen mind. His parents' bodies were removed to the Quaker cemetery north of West Liberty some years ago."

Some time later Mrs. Hubert Brugman also of West Liberty wrote, "Those few pines in the corner of Frank Krehlick's field are the remains of a grave yard. My parents came from that neighborhood and I've been told that some graves have been removed but there are still some that by law can't be removed due to death from a disease (I believe it was black diphtheria). Mr. Krehlick has always left the pines and never farmed the corner due to the graves."

JONES

From the *Monticello Express*, July 15, 1992: "Tombstone Garden -- Hidden cemetery found in back yard of home," by Dave Thompson. Pictured is Ron Ketelsen as he washes off some of the mud on one of the tombstones in his back yard. The Monticello resident found the grave markers while digging a flower garden. Eight gravestones were found -- the oldest dating back to 1867. Before the Ketelsen home was built in 1945, the property was a wooded area. Ketelson believes the cemetery may have been from the Ricklefs

family who owned a home next door.

LEE

From the *MVM News Network*, October 14, 2013: "Volunteers refurbish rural Lee county cemetery." Pictured are members of Boy Scout Troop 30 of Montrose as they reset a gravestone at Judy Cemetery near Franklin. A history of the cemetery is recounted, including the first burial in 1850 and early burials of the Cooney and Judy families. In about 2003, members of the Judy family began holding 2 or 3 work days a year at the neglected cemetery. The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association held a Pioneer Patriot's Day there in 2008 and in 2011, Boy Scout Troop 30 assisted with the repair of more than 35 stones. A rededication ceremony was held there on October 14, 2013 to celebrate a job well done. (See story submitted by LaVerna Moore, historian, in this newsletter.)

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 6, 1961: "Children, Not Ghosts, Haunting James H. Thiess." James H. Thiess who lives next door to an abandoned cemetery is bothered by children who play in the cemetery and toss trash onto his property, start fires, and in general create a nuisance. Thiess has asked the city to fence the cemetery that contains 5 graves, but no owner of the site can be determined. Parks Commissioner Don Gardner said some consideration has been given to making a playground of the site, but once a cemetery is created, it is virtually impossible to use it for other purposes. City council members agreed, however, to give the matter some study and try to come up with an answer.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 28, 1961, in the Carlson's Corner column:

COUNTRY CEMETERY

Abandoned many years ago,
The church that stood here long since burned.
Now only birds and small wild game
Still build and burrow, unconcerned.
On leaning stone and marble slab,
Old-fashioned to the modern eye,
We read the names, perhaps a verse,

Intriguing to the passer-by.
Blurred by the weather and the years
They cast a sweet and poignant spell;
Had we the time to listen close
They have a moving tale to tell.
"Our Darling" mutely testifies
Fond hopes and dreams were buried here;
While "Mother," "Father," "Husband," "Wife"
Were once, to someone, very dear.
This spring, it seems no one will come
To tend a single brambled plot,
Where sleep these sturdy pioneers
In what was once a hallowed spot.
We are not proud of how it looks,
This old memento of the past;
But super highways, schools and such
Consume tax dollars very fast.

-- G. A. C.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 16, 1964: "Eastern Iowa History Can Still Be Read in Area Pioneer Cemeteries." Pictured is a monument in a pioneer cemetery near Mt. Vernon that is apparently the last erected. It bears one date just prior to the Civil War. Also pictured is a pioneer burial ground northeast of Palisades Kepler state park near Mt. Vernon that has apparently not been used since the nineteenth century. The elements have worn away some of the inscriptions but those which are still legible show burial dates mostly in the 1840s and 1850s.

LUCAS

From the *Jefferson Bee*, July 16, 1935: "Strange Find." In the ruins of Dewey Jessup's home near Chariton, which burned recently, Jessup discovered a grave marker made of native stone. It bore the inscription: "Emma, daughter of J. B. and C. L. Rodgers, died Mar. 17, 186_." One likely theory is that the stone was never placed on a grave, since the date is not complete. It is thought the marker was discarded and later used as part of the house's foundation.

MADISON

From the *Chariton Leader*, November 17, 1931: "Madison County Find Old Abandoned Cemetery." *The Winterset Madisonian* tells of a pioneer cemetery in that county which was

once the principal burying ground of the early settlers, but is now in the midst of heavy timber and entirely hidden from sight except to someone who happens to stumble upon the sight of tombstones of an antiquated style here and there, but with big trees growing on the graves and all about. The cemetery was once in the center of the most thickly settled part of Madison county. There is scarcely a county in the state which does not have one or more such neglected pioneer burial places.

MAHASKA

From the *Ames Daily Tribune*, July 15, 1967: "Old cemetery holds its tales of the past." A portion of an abandoned cemetery north of Oskaloosa is needed by the Iowa State Highway Commission for a project to widen U. S. 63, but attempts to determine ownership have been unsuccessful. There are only a few graves in the cemetery which may have been called Society of Friends Cemetery or may have been a family plot. Names of three families are legible -- Kirkpatrick, DeWeese and Stanton. The Commission has begun condemnation proceedings to obtain the land. Only the front part of the cemetery that contains no graves will be used. The solitary tombstone of Samuel Kirkpatrick, husband of Elizabeth, will stand near the modern highway as a reminder of other highways long ago and those who built and traveled them.

MITCHELL

From the *Mason City Globe Gazette*, May 8, 1943: "Abandoned Cemetery." The article deals with a pioneer cemetery located on a small mound on highway 9 west of the Shell Rock River between Manly and Osage. Only one stone remains, bearing this inscription "Our son, Freddie, C. and M. Hersel, August 3, 1880, 3 mo. and 1 da." The stone was found floating when the highway was to be built. Highway engineers believed all bodies had been removed, but a Manly man contacted them saying that he had a brother and sister buried there as children many years ago. They abandoned the idea of removing the mound entirely, but tried to improve its appearance.

The engineers pointed out that the cemetery had been neglected and was covered with brush and weeds and full of pits and holes.

MUSCATINE

From the *Muscatine Journal and News Tribune*, July 14, 1954: "Oakdale Cemetery lots Where Care Fees Are Delinquent To Be Classed as Abandoned and Placed on Sale." Wilton -- Lots in the 13 acre Oakdale Cemetery on which the annual fee of \$8 for their care has not been paid for the past 10 years will be considered abandoned Aug. 1 and the unused portions offered for sale, according to notice which has been given by the cemetery association. A published notice lists 178 owners of such lots or parts of lots. It is hoped that the sale of unused lots will eliminate the need for a town levy for upkeep. Owners of the lots listed may redeem them within a year after Aug. 1 by payment of the back fees for care or by paying a \$100 fee which is charged for perpetual care.

POLK

From the *Algona (Ia.) Upper Des Moines*, November 29, 1966: NOTICE All graves presently located on land the Federal Government is buying for the Saylorville Reservoir will be relocated to sites outside the reservoir area. Next of kin and groups controlling cemeteries and graves involved will be contacted by Government representatives. Any information would be appreciated concerning public or private cemeteries or individual graves, other than those listed below and believed to be located on land to be bought for this project. Known graves located in Boone and Polk Counties are Hopkins Grove, Unknown Cemetery in Polk County, Elk Rapids Cemetery, and Coles family graves.

From the *KCCI 8 News*, February 26, 2014: "Raccoons found inside Gov.'s crumbling mausoleum." The 115-year-old mausoleum of former Iowa Gov. Samuel Merrill is in danger of collapsing, prompting Senator Dennis Black to seek \$100,000 for its restoration. The mausoleum is located in Des Moines' Woodland Cemetery. Merrill moved to Iowa in the 1850s and served in the Civil War. He was president of a bank in McGregor in eastern

Iowa before serving two terms as governor. He died August 31, 1899.

POTTAWATTAMIE

From the *Carroll Times and Carroll Sentinel*, April 24, 1913: "Old Cemetery Abandoned." Thirty bodies have been removed from the Frost cemetery located on the Frost farm near Council Bluffs. The farm has been sold and the bodies are being taken up and reburied mostly in the Garner cemetery, whose site is perpetually dedicated for cemetery purposes. Some of the bodies were placed in the cemetery nearly fifty years ago. Of these, little remains. Rough boxes, in some instances, were entirely gone; in others there were but crumbling streaks through the soil. In all such cases, nothing but the bones of the skeleton and the hair remain. All of the costly trappings had entirely disappeared, and every scrap of metal had eroded or rusted away.

SCOTT

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, July 12, 1954: "Three Get 30 Days for Opening Graves." DAVENPORT -- Three young men were sentenced to 30 days in the Scott County jail on charges of willfully destroying and injuring shrubbery and lawns within an abandoned cemetery near Maysville. The three pled guilty and said they were looking for buried valuables.

From the *Times*, December 27, 2013: "Scott County man takes it upon himself to mark pioneer cemetery," by Alma Gaul. Pictured is a new monument installed by SAPIC member Kenny Huesmann in the Feldhahn Cemetery in western Scott County, near Stockton. The cemetery is believed to contain the remains of eleven early settlers. Huesmann had heard about the burial ground since he was a boy growing up about a half-mile down the road. During the past couple of years, he began to feel the plot should be noted in a more obvious way before people of his generation died and "nobody would know it was there." He located a woman whose grandmother had written down the names of four people buried in the plot. With those names, he did further research in the Special Collections Department of the

Davenport Public Library and the office of the American Schleswig-Holstein Historic Society in Walcott. He confirmed the burials of Martin Feldhahn Jr., who died at 18 years of causes unknown; infant George, who also died of causes unknown, Martin Feldhahn Sr.'s daughter, Henrietta Schuman, who died in childbirth at the age of 23. Both she and her infant daughter are buried in the plot. It is Huesmann's opinion, determined by dowsing, that seven others are buried in the plot. He paid \$650 for engraving on the monument that was donated by Kathy Donahue, along with eleven individual granite markers. Also helping with the project was D&D Fencing of Stockton. Huesmann paid \$800 for the fencing material, but owner Leon Makoben donated his company's time and labor to install it. "That's the best I can do," Heusmann said, looking at the plot, "At least there's something now."

SIoux

From the *Sioux Center News*, May 11, 1939: "An Abandoned Cemetery." One mile north of Perkins is an abandoned cemetery that was used from 1872 until 1892. Names are mostly of English and Irish origin. Brush and weeds hold sway and it seems regrettable that it is not given proper care and is evidently a rendezvous for target practice. The resting places of our pioneers deserve better treatment. Apparently nameless the cemetery is not listed on the Atlas of Sioux county. Why?

STORY

From the *Ames Daily Tribune*, April 17, 1970: "Little-known cemetery at ISU near capacity." by Denny Woods. Iowa State claims the distinction of being the only University in the nation with its own "college cemetery," according to Rupert E. Kenyon, supt. of maintenance for the physical plant. The oldest grave is said to be that of Tom Lee Thompson a member of the first graduating class of 1872 who died in 1875. In 1958 space limitations prompted a faculty board to place more stringent requirements on burial qualification. Specific requirements include fifteen years of worthy service and a rank of assistant

professor or the equivalent non-academic rank. Kenyon warned that at the present rate of about 11 interments per year there will be no more lots available in five years. He said he knew of no plans for immediate expansion of the cemetery.

VAN BUREN

From *The Quill*, published by the Van Buren County Genealogical Society, January 2014: "Cemetery News," by Don Aldrich. Don and volunteers distributed a cubic yard of dirt in the Hoskins Cemetery in October. The county engineer provided Don with nearly 1/4 ton of lime fines to place around straightened stones at the Hoskins Cemetery. In November, the Syfert family assisted with straightening, leveling, and placing a plinth under the John Muntz stone in the Steinmeyer Cemetery. Mike Rider lifted two tall multi-stone Woltje monuments (also in the Steinmeyer Cemetery) with his tractor so the bases under the 2000 pound stones could be rebuilt. Don will visit the Wallingford Cemetery and the South Prairie Chapel Cemetery in the spring to offer suggestions and advice. Pictured at the monument of John Muntz are Artie Syfert, Mike Rider, Louise Rider, Jake Syfert, and Dennis Syfert.

WASHINGTON

From the *Traer Star Clipper*, July 10, 1973: "Journal Men Enjoy Visit to Section Where Adam Richey Staked His Claim." The article relates how the photographer and news editor of the Washington County, Iowa "*Centennial 1836-1936 Celebration*" edition were taken on a tour south of Crawfordsville where Adam Richey, Washington County's first white citizen, received a government grant for the first land in the county. Pictured is the original grant dated 1841 now in possession of Clarence Moorehead, whose ancestor obtained the grant from Adam Richey. In a visit to the Richey Cemetery they found Adam's stone wired to a tree with barbed wire and the cemetery in neglected condition. According to reports, a farmer in the area removed the other stones and used them to make a foundation for a barn. The tour guide, Dr. H. H. Smith,

called the condition of this cemetery a disgrace.

OUT OF IOWA

ILLINOIS

From the *Ames Daily Tribune Times*, November 26, 1936: "School in Cemetery Likely." ELGIN, ILL -- Possibility that the Elgin board of education might take over an abandoned cemetery as the site for a new school building has been under discussion here recently. The burial ground covers approximately 17 acres and has been unkept for a number of years.

MINNESOTA

From a transcript from the PBS News Hour, January, 2014: "Returning dignity in death to those who were forgotten during their lives," by Fred De Sam Lazaro, reporter in partnership with the Under-Told Stories Project at Saint Mary's University in Minnesota. A civil rights group, "Remembering With Dignity", began working to recognize and remember the several hundred people who spent most of their lives invisible to the outside world because they lived at the School for the Feeble Minded in Faribault, Minnesota. By 1950, it was simply called the Faribault State Hospital. Today, it's a minimum security prison. One family's search for their relative, Albertine Poitras, who died there in 1958 in the institutional hospital led them to ask the state legislature to apologize for past treatment of patients and to install almost 7,000 personalized gravestones in the institution's cemetery. The 13,000 graves had been marked with numbers, no names.

A version of Fred's story aired on the PBS program "Religion & Ethics Newsweekly."

MARYLAND

From the American Legion e-mail newsletter, March 6, 2014: "Bladensburg Peace Cross the latest target of Humanists," by MOTHAX. The American Legion erected a peace cross in Colmar Manor in 1925 to honor veterans. The American Humanist Association has filed a lawsuit to tear down the cross, a World War I memorial. The American Legion suspects that the court will rely heavily on the *Van Orden v. Perry* decision from the Supreme Court that factored in a sort of "historicity" of the cross.

From the Quad Cities, Dec. 25, 2013

NUMBER OF PIONEER CEMETERIES IS UNKNOWN

In Iowa, a pioneer cemetery is defined as a place where 12 or fewer burials have taken place in the past 50 years.

It was not uncommon for families to have their own cemetery of one or two graves on their property in the early days of settlement, said Shirley Schermer, the director of the burials program for the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City.

Once churches or cities established more formal cemeteries, some families likely would have used them rather than continuing or establishing their own, she said. How many pioneer cemeteries exist around the state is unknown. Some likely have been lost to memory.

But the State Historic Preservation Office in Des Moines does maintain a list of cemeteries that have been recorded, and many of these are pioneer plots.

In Scott County, for example, there are 43 cemeteries listed. In addition to the large, widely known ones — Oakdale, Memorial Park, Fairmount etc. — there are smaller ones with names such as Salem, Fessler and Nowlin and two that are listed simply as "cemetery."

Members of an organization called the State Association for the Protection of Iowa Cemeteries, or SAPIC, have helped identify and record family cemeteries/pioneer cemeteries throughout the state.

And a number of counties have established pioneer cemetery commissions to care for these burial plots.

The group's website is: rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iasapc.

Many people are interested in old cemeteries because they are a source of family information as well as history in general.

Another group that does research and special projects regarding cemeteries is IAGenWeb, part of the **USGenWeb Project**, which is a group of volunteers working together to provide Internet websites for genealogical research in every county and every state of the United States. The sites are free and open to everyone.

The Iowa site is: iagenweb.org.

February 28, 2014, LEXINGTON, Miss. -- Workers at a Mississippi funeral home say they found a man alive and kicking when they opened a body bag. Holmes County Coroner Dexter Howard calls it a miracle that 78-year-old Walter Williams is alive. The coroner was called to Williams' home in Lexington, a community north of Jackson, where family members believed he had died. Howard says Williams had no pulse and was pronounced dead. Early the next day, workers at Porter and Sons Funeral Home were preparing to embalm Williams when he started to kick in the body bag. Family members were called and Williams was taken to a hospital. Howard says he believes Williams' pacemaker stopped working and began again. Family members say Williams, a farmer, told them he's glad to be alive.

The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association has ended the 2013 cemetery work season with the restoration completion of Judy Cemetery, located due east of Franklin, Iowa. And with its completion, the Association would like to thank those who donated time, labor, and sweat to the project. Lee County has over one-hundred cemeteries which are considered pioneer, no more than six burials since 1950. We would like to thank all the volunteers, members of our Association and others, Boy Scout Troup 30 and their leaders of Montrose, Iowa, and Harrison Monument of Warsaw, Illinois. These volunteers met many Monday evenings to clear brush, repair broken and overturned stones, and reset all stones to their rightful position. The work is difficult and resetting stones which weigh over three-hundred pounds can be dangerous. A special thank you goes to the Troup leaders, Louise Rooney and John Geyer, who helped glue and reset over 35 stones in the cemetery. They were excellent help, learned the technique of resetting stones quickly, and were then able to guide the scouts in their work. Nancy Kempker, a Judy family descendent, worked tirelessly with Association members and the scouts. We hope she is pleased with the results.

When completion was down to two extremely large stones, toppled and half-buried by weather and years, the Association's Vice President, Kim Irvin, turned to Perry Harrison of Harrison Monuments. This was a job for professionals and after meeting with Association members and assessing the damage, Mr. Harrison with heavy equipment and crew, had the stones righted before that week's end. Thank you.

All who worked on restoring Judy Cemetery, a huge project, can be proud. Good can come from people working together for a common goal, and in this case a goal that should not be abandoned. The Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association works to restore the resting places of those who made so many sacrifices to reach this part of the country, leaving their homeland, families, crossing an ocean, those who walked in long skirts and high-buttoned shoes, behind covered wagons to spare their horses,

those who fought the struggle of survival to carve an existence in the wilderness once they were here, the soldiers who fought to preserve the way of life these people struggled to maintain: these people have earned our respect; they should not be forgotten and their graves should reflect our undying gratitude and reverence.

Again this spring the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association will be scheduling work sessions on Monday evenings to restore Pittman Family Cemetery south of West Point, just off of J40 . The time and dates will be announced in the *Democrat* and *Gate City*, papers that have been very supportive of our efforts; we welcome all volunteers! Please join us.

Susan Alarie, President

Kim Irvin, Vice-President

LaVerna and Bob Moore, Historians

From the *West Bend Journal*, February 11, 1937: "He uses Tombstones in Building Home." Boliver, Mo. -- Ghosts don't worry Frank Karpek, Osark stonemason, who is using tombstones in the construction of his new farm home.

Karpek and his three sons mounded concrete bricks for the house and fashioned gravestones from an abandoned cemetery into ornamental arches above the windows and doors.

The few remaining markers at the neglected graves will be laid as flagstones around the house. Karpek plans to clear the cemetery of weeping willow trees and sow the land in clover.