

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 #3

July, August, September, 2014

The next SAPIC meeting will be held **October 11, 2014** at 10:30 AM 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. E-mail: ld2mstone@q.com Phone: 515-277-4917. Following the SAPIC meeting, members will present a panel discussion of the history, present activities of SAPIC and an overview of sections of the Code of Iowa that deal with laws pertaining to pioneer cemeteries. This presentation will take place at the Iowa Genealogical Conference that is being held at the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Johnston.

To register for this conference go to:

iowagenealogy.org/

"You can tell people of the need to struggle, but when the powerless start to see that they really can make a difference, nothing can quench the fire."

- **Leymah Gbowee**

Casting concrete gravestones for about \$30.00:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZjvFQQWmSI>

Hoisting gravestones:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KK3DMnZpY>

SAPIC Grant Committee,

Thank you for the \$200 Grant that was received for the Estlinger Cemetery in Monroe County, Iowa. It is very much appreciated and will be used towards our restoration projects.

Rosalie Hughes, sec/treas for the Estlinger Cemetery Association

From *Parade* magazine, May 25, 2014, p. 8-14: "Forever United -- a Memorial Day Tribute," by Barry Yeoman. Pictured are Travis Manion

and Brendan Looney who formed a strong bond of friendship when they attended the United States Naval Academy, graduating together in 2004. Travis was deployed to Fallujah in 2005 and in his second tour in Iraq, he helped train Iraqi fighters. In April 2007, while patrolling Fallujah's Andaloo district, his team was surrounded by the enemy. Travis moved into harm's way to draw fire away from the injured and a sniper's bullet pierced his side. His fellow Marines couldn't save his life and he died at age 26. He was buried near the home of his parents in Pennsylvania. Brendan was beginning Navy SEAL training in San Diego when he learned of Travis's death. In 2008, he was deployed to Iraq, then Afghanistan. He wore a bracelet bearing Travis's name and went on 58 combat missions. In September 2010 while en route to Ayatalah, his helicopter crashed, killing him and eight others. His wife and sister felt that he and Travis needed to be reunited at Arlington National Cemetery. On Sept. 27, three days before Brendan was laid to rest, Travis's body was disinterred and moved 150 miles to Arlington where the two rest side by side. During a Memorial Day address at Arlington, President Obama visited their graves and made the following remarks, "The friendship between 1st Lt. Travis Manion and Lt. Brendan Looney reflects the meaning of Memorial Day -- brotherhood, sacrifice and love of country."

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 19, 2014: "Help us restore World War I grave markers," by Gerrald LaBlanc, Director of Restoration, 34 Red Bull Division, Master Sgt., retired, Des Moines. In this letter to the editor, a plea is made for funding for the cleaning and restoration of the grave markers of World War I veterans. On this the 100th anniversary of World War I, the 3,300 WWI grave markers in the All Iowa World War cemetery are not only historic but fading away. The project is being backed by the Iowa Adj. of the American Legion, John Derner and the Adj. of the Iowa Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jerry Black. The All Iowa World War Cemetery is the largest veterans cemetery in Iowa and contains veterans from all 99 counties. The 37 acre burial site is in the Des Moines Glendale Cemetery and is open to the public daily. The low bid to restore the fading markers is \$17,000, but only \$9,000 has been donated to date. Donations may be sent to 4909 University Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

The regular quarterly (July) meeting of SAPIC was held Saturday July 12, 2014 in the meeting room at the Uptown Café, 108 W State, Jefferson, Iowa. It was called to order at 10:30 am by Steve Story, President. Self introduction of the 21 persons present was conducted.

Welcome by Valerie Ogren, President of Greene Co. Historical Society which also provided cinnamon rolls and coffee.

Agenda: was approved with one additional item accepted. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Motion to accept by Maggie(?), seconded by Bill Reedy, **Passed.**

Treasure's report by Valerie Ogren. Motion to accept by John Heider, seconded by Lee Sloan, **Passed** to be filed for audit.

Business:

1. SAPIC newsletter; half will be sent to those members that have email, unless there is a request otherwise. Contact Pat Shaw. Discussion of reduction in postage of remaining those to be mailed (too small group for bulk mailing but the permit for bulk is coming due so we would save on that cost.) Most comments to survey were positive. Motion to table final decision until October meeting made by Bill Reedy, seconded by Tony Bengston, **Passed**

2. Grant Applications: Valerie, Larry, Pat and others. Five applications submitted, Committee recommends accepting all 5 with one condition to Sutton Cemetery in Jackson pending receipt of SAPIC dues. a) Pitman Cemetery in Lee County, b) Eshanger Cemetery in Monroe County, c) Carrollton Cemetery in Carroll County, d) Cottage Hill Cemetery in Dubuque County, e) Sutton Cemetery in Jackson County. Motion to accept grant application, **Passed**

3. (9) Workshop at City Cemetery in Independence, by Tony Bengston, Bill Reedy, John Heider: 21 signed up. Turned into a two day event with repair or restored approximately 50 stones (without use of glue). Pictures shown by Jean Ripley.

4. (10) Workshop in Winneshiek County reported by Mike Magee and Donna Story. Big group of attendees on Saturday presented by Jonathan Appell. Continued on Sunday. Donna shared what she had learned new.

5. (11) Decision to table Special Awards to October meeting

6. (12) County Home burial sites: Motion by Jean Ripley to encourage ladies who had requested information to proceed with their research and report back to us, Bill Reedy seconded **Passed**

7. (13) Survey of County Pioneer Cemetery Commissions – sample distributed for member to review and report back to Steve Story in 10 days or so with comments for or against and additions or deletions.

8. (20) Report on project from state. Completed. Did 77 individual graves, 88 offices, difficulty with only 4: three without stones, one unknown cremains. Larry and John Heider reviewed and evaluated need and cost by reviewing 1239 pictures. Thanks to everyone for assistance

9. (14) Iowa November elections: Jeff Kaufmann is now head of Republican party. Has been a support for SAPIC and affirms that he will continue. Also have support from Democrat Senator Brian Schoenjahn. Visit with your legislators.

10. (15) SAPIC Website: Tony is waiting for more information.

11. (21) October '14 meeting will not be in conjunction with Iowa Genealogical Society, reported by Valerie Ogren. Will meet in Des Moines and Larry Davis will arrange a meeting place. Motion made by Tony, seconded by Mary Richards, **passed**

12. (17) Many concerns/letters about access to remote cemeteries. Need to contact township trustees, supervisors, county Attorneys & if burial is over 100 years may get help from the Iowa Office of Archeologist. Steve read the Farm Bureau summary of their policy.

13. (18) Mary Virden gravesite: Mike Magee on hold; would like help in deciding what to do next. Open for volunteers or suggestions.

14. (22) Appointment of Mike Magee, Pat Shaw, Larry Davis to nomination committee to present their report at October meeting.

15. Jean Ripley reported on Thor Cemetery near Olson. Cemetery of three acres being encroached upon. She has taken pictures.

16. Steve thanked Frieda for sending article on May Cemetery Month to local newspapers.

17. (24) Motion to accept the invitation from Clinton County to host April 11, 2015 SAPIC meeting by Mike Magee, seconded by Tony Bengston, **Passed.**

18. (23) January 2015 SAPIC meeting will again be on internet meeting, covering dates January 7-10, 2015

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am by Steve Story. Submitted by Frieda Davis, Secretary

Shirley Clark shared information about work that Green County Commission has been doing, as the group ate lunch. Thank you Shirley

STATE ASSOCIATION for the PRESERVATION of IOWA CEMETERIES

Treasurer's Report for 2nd Quarter – April 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2014

Balance in "Working Account" 31 March 2014, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 4,740.92

Income

Dues	\$ 215.00
Interest 4/30/14	.36
Interest 5/31/14	.35
Interest 6/30/14	.36
Total Income	\$ 216.07

Expense

Ck #283 – Pat Shaw – newsletter expense	\$ 59.77
Total Expense	59.77

Balance in "Working Account" 30 June 2014 \$ 4,897.22

Balance in "Reserve Account" 31 March 2014, Home State Bank, Jefferson \$ 3,928.39

Expense

Ck #284 – Buchanan Co. Historical Society – Heider workshop	\$200.00
---	----------

Balance in "Reserve Account" 30 June 2014 \$ 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 30 June 2014 **\$ 8,625.61**

Plus additional funds:

A new CD in the amount of \$6,031.41

Rate of interest is 1.20% - **Matures 6/24/17**

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Ogren, Treasurer
108 N. Oak
Jefferson IA 50129-1841
Ph 1-515-386-4784
E-mail: vjogren@netins.net

Thursday, July 11, 2014

SAPIC member Mike Magee peruses newspaper archives for cemetery news. Here are some land transactions that Mike has discovered that mention cemeteries:

From the *Moulton Weekly Tribune*, October 30, 1947: In the District Court of Iowa in and for Appanoose County, E. W. Kirby, Plaintiff vs. several persons claiming any right, title or interest in property in the Town or Village of Orleans, except the cemetery thereon and also, except the Christian Church of Orleans.

From the *Carroll Daily Times Herald*, October 25, 1962: Public Land Auction at the west edge of Dedham, Iowa on paved highways 141 & 161. Included in the description is "the south one-half of the northeast quarter, except public highways and except the cemetery in the southeast corner."

From the *Adams County Free Press*, July 22, 1943: In the District Court of Iowa in and for Adams County, Clinton H. Glougle, Plaintiff vs. several persons, including unknown heirs, grantees, devisees, legatees, administrators, executors and unknown claimants of real estate in O. M. Green's Subdivision except the cemetery.

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, December 11, 1917: To unknown claimants of Section 35, Township 21 North, except the cemetery tract.

From the *Waterloo Courier*, November 5, 1926: Notice is given that a public auction (sheriff's sale) in section 13 of Township 89 will be held except for the cemetery located thereon.

From the *Iowa City Press Citizen*, October 24, 1923: In the District Court of Johnson County, Iowa, James McCollister plaintiff vs. J. W. Justice and Edwin Hummer. A sheriff's sale in Section 32 Township 79, except the cemetery.

From the *Jewell Record*, September 10, 1911: In the District Court of Hamilton County, Iowa, K.K. Lear, plaintiff vs. Francis Child, his wife, and several other persons that he is the absolute and unqualified owner of real estate in section 3, township 86 (except the cemetery lots).

No newspaper specified: Sheriff's sale in Humboldt County, State of Iowa. A judgment rendered in said court in favor of Helen T. Heller & V.G. Heller and against Severt Orvick dated May 23rd, 1927 in Section 3 in township 92, a plot of ground reserved for cemetery purposes.

From the *Moravia Union*, March 24, 1977: Resolution Directing Condemnation. Be it resolved pursuant to the code of Iowa that the cemetery located on the former County Farm property previously reserved from sale in section 32 Township 69N with the right to ingress and egress to said cemetery and fencing.

COUNTY REPORTS

APPANOOSE

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 19, 2014: "WWII soldier is coming home." Korin Hurley of Macon, Mo., said her uncle received a call in 2010 from an independent research team based in Germany concerning U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert "Bobby" E. Howard, who was in a plane that was shot down over German during World War II. The researchers investigate German sites where American soldiers were known to go missing in action or killed in action. The research team talked to a man who remembered the crash and took them to the site where they evacuated and sifted through tons of soil turning up body remains and articles. Fortunate for the Howard family, her uncle was taken from the crash and buried in a nearby grave. Robert Howard was born Dec. 19, 1923 in Moulton and graduated from Moravia High School in 1941. A memorial service was conducted at Sunset View Cemetery in Moulton with full military honors, including a flyover by the U.S. Air Force. Pictured is the remains of Robert Howard en route to Centerville with an escort by the Iowa State Patrol and the Patriot Guard.

BLACK HAWK

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, April 15, 1941: "Vandals Do Damage in Famed Cemetery." Pictured are evidences of vandalism to tombstones, flower urns and patriotic markers in the Hillside Cemetery, two miles north of Cedar Falls. The cemetery is mentioned in the book, "Song of Years," by Bess Streeter Aldrich, as the burial ground of many Cedar Falls pioneers.

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, January 30, 1963: "Says Old tombstones Adorn Entrance to Old City Hall." In a letter to the editor, D.Z. Huntley describes how he discovered a pair of tombstones that had lain for many moons against the ramp of the old city hall. Pictured are the stones that read "Anna J. -- wife of H. Roll: Born Dec. 5, 1877; Died Mar. 7. 1904" and the word "Roll" on the other stone.

BOONE

From the *Boone News Republican*, August 9, 2014: "The Case of the Missing Tombstone," by Whitney Sager. Pictured is the Civil War tombstone of Private First Class George Steffy that has been sitting near a shed in the backyard of the home of Debra Linderblood and her late husband for at least three years. The stone appears to have been broken off at the base. It is now under the care of Boone County veteran Dick Thul and will be placed near George's burial plot in Linwood Park Cemetery. Several veterans' groups worked together to rescue and return it.

CASS

From the *Anita Tribune*, November 1, 1962: "Tom Miller Cemetery Sexton for 30 Years," by Marvin Fries. Pictured is Tom Miller, sexton of the Evergreen Cemetery in Anita who began caring for the cemetery with a push mower, shovel and wheel barrow in 1932. He was born east of Hamlin in Audubon County, attended the Koob rural school, and hired out as a farm hand for \$25 a month (\$15 in the winter). After serving in the Marine Corps, getting married and starting a family, he settled in Anita. He dug his first grave in 1932 for Sarah Sheakley and estimates that he has dug over 1,000 graves averaging about 39 a year. Machinery such as a tractor with a hydraulic scoop and mower that cuts a 6-foot swath have made his job easier. In over 90 years, the cemetery has only had 3 sextons that have made it a quiet and enchanting place. The living, who can appreciate and enjoy it owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Miller and his predecessors for a job well done.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, April 29, 2009: "Little girl's tombstone headed back to family," by Dave Rasdal. A tombstone belonging to Jenete Bissell, who died at less than 2 years on March 2, 1952 of cholera, was found in a long-lost cemetery in Joliet, Illinois by archaeologist Gina Wysocki. The stone was found in Joliet when workmen dug up a pair of old tombstones while installing a playground. Gina posted information about the stone on Roots Web and a descendant of Jenete's brother, Julie Bissell Tupker found it. The stone will be relocated to its rightful place beside Jenete's older brother in the Massena Cemetery in western Iowa's Cass County.

CEDAR

From the *Davenport Democrat and Leader*, September 5, 1949: "What to do with Early Quaker Cemetery, Now in Heart of Town, Again Worries Citizens of West Branch," by Bernie Corbin. Pictured is the Quaker Cemetery that was established in 1850 and abandoned 70 years ago. The town has grown up around the burial ground and is threatening to overrun the once sacred grounds. What disposition to make of the old burial site is a major headache of West Branch officials and citizens today. The first to be buried there was Jesse Hoover, the village blacksmith and father of former president Herbert Hoover. There had been discussion about moving the graves in order to have space for a playground near the school that was built in 1921, but public sentiment ran high and red tape delayed it.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, April 3, 1983: "Onion Grove cemetery outlives town, but search fails to find Cedar County graves," by Jonathan

Reed. Pictured are livestock roaming the high ground near Clarence where Cedar County historical officials recently attempted to find an old cemetery. The search began after nearby quarry work uncovered discarded tombstones. Cedar County Sheriff Keith Whitlatch found nothing to indicate that the graves were still on the site. Quarry owner Frank Duetmeyer of Anamosa thinks the graves were moved as the stones were found in one spot near the corner of the property and at least one stone has been duplicated in the newer, larger Clarence cemetery. Onion Grove was the original settlement in the area, and is described by Whitlatch as the "old Clarence." Local historian Don Stout of Tipton researched Cedar County's 72 known cemeteries before writing the book, "Cedar Land -- 1836-1980." He said he was shocked to find that many cemeteries are considerably smaller than they were supposed to be, unless they had a strong fence around them. He guessed that farmers over the generations have simply made an extra pass or two while plowing next to the cemeteries and that some unmarked cemeteries have been covered by roads.

CLINTON

From the *The Gazette*, July 20, 2014: "Pioneer Cemetery," by Diane Langton. The author of the article singles out one unusual old burial ground, the Pioneer Cemetery (formerly the Parker Cemetery), one of the oldest burial sites in Eastern Iowa, located southwest of Wheatland in Liberty Township. A trust fund pays for its care. Pictured is the catalpa wood gate that was placed at the entrance when a brownstone fence was built around the cemetery in the 1930s, when a large granite bench was installed bearing the inscription, "MURRAY A man courageous, generous, gentle and loyal -- and his wife and their faithful companions." The story begins with a front-page article in the Nov. 6, 1894, edition of *The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*. It relates the story of Miss Bessie M. Dutton and John F. Murray who ran away to get married. John studied law and became a purser on a Lake Michigan steamship where he met chewing gum magnate William Wrigley, Jr. and went to work for him. Later in New York, he published sheet music, set up an advertising agency, a newspaper, and formed an enterprise called the American Home Products Co. When John died in 1936, he and Bessie had already added 24 feet to her family burial plot in Iowa in order to be buried there. The weeds and overgrown raspberry bushes were eliminated, a fence was built on a 5-foot underground base, and a stone tool building was erected. The

couple's 3 dogs were buried there by the bench and a parrot under the nearby sundial. Bessie established a trust fund at Chase Manhattan Bank in New York for the upkeep of the cemetery after her death in 1945. An \$8,000 monument was dedicated in 1976 to commemorate the early settlers in the area.

diane.langtom@sourcemedi.net

DES MOINES

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, December 3, 1892: Proceedings of the City Council, Monday, Dec. 2, 1872: Petition by Mr. Kuechen, of P. Ryan, for remuneration for removing dead bodies from the old cemetery on Boundary Street.

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, June, 12, 1880: "Mortuary." In the excavations now being made for the main Hawkeye sewer, the workmen found a fragment of a tomb-base. Enough remains on the stone to show that it once did mournful and silent sentinel duty over the grave of some of our old settlers. The inscription shows that a "good man, aged forty-three years, " once rested "in that dreamless sleep," beneath its shadows. It is supposed that when the old burial ground was abandoned, the bodies and tombstones were removed to Aspen Grove cemetery. In crossing the creek, the wagon may have mired, and the stone thrown into the creek to lighten the load and there became buried in the sands.

From the *Davenport Gazette*, November 4, 1872: Forty-six skeletons were recently found near Burlington. They were exhumed from an old cemetery for re-interment.

EMMETT

From the *Estherville Enterprise*, November 15, 1933: "Enterprise Gives Some Early History for Your Records." The article relates that in 1872, a Mr. Proctor deeded a tract of land for a cemetery to the community. In 1873, Mr. Proctor was caught in a blizzard, was frozen to death and was buried in the cemetery that he had donated. Other pioneers were also buried there and still remain there while some have been removed to the cemetery in Emmetsburg. The writer states that the markers have been knocked down by stock and they should be reset and some kind of fence laid around the place. He states that these pioneers who braved all the wild elements of the early days are responsible for the building up of this county and we of the present generation are indebted to them for their heroic first efforts in making this the great country it is. He asks for more information about the early history of the cemetery to be recorded for future generations.

IOWA

From the *MPC Newspapers of Iowa County*, May

29, 2014: "Gravesite of 19th century youth near Homestead restored," by SAPIC member LaVerna Moser. Pictured is the headstone at the gravesite of Mary Emma Wright, who died at age 6, that was recently restored by volunteers, Beverly Blythe and LaVerna Moser and members of the Iowa County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. The grave is located in a small area surrounded by white fencing west of Homestead on U.S. Highway 6. Mary Emma was the daughter of Newell and Mary Ann Barnes Wright who, along with family members, were early settlers in Iowa County. The gravesite was part of a larger cemetery that the Mississippi and Missouri River Railroad -- later the Rock Island lines and today the Iowa interstate Railroad -- right-of-way went through in 1890.

Note: Mary Emma's parents, Newell and Mary, were Pat Shaw's 3rd great grandparents. For a copy of the entire article or any other in this newsletter, contact Pat Shaw.

JOHNSON

From the *Iowa City Citizen*, April 27, 1908: "Cemetery Vandalism -- Consecrated Plat of Ground is Desecrated." A shocking piece of vandalism took place last night in the newly consecrated cemetery just south of Coralville when unknown offenders laid waste half a hundred evergreens and with wire pliers completely destroyed forty rods of woven wire fencing. The deed is one which baffles explanation because, aside from the mere destruction of property involved, it is an offense to the instinct toward the preservation of sacred things and is a desecration of ground which had been consecrated to the most solemn use within human contemplation. Although the writer claims that the majority supported moving the cemetery, there has been opposition. Sheriff Rowland and the county attorney are putting forth the most vigilant efforts to a just punishment of the guilty parties.

From the *Iowa City Press Citizen*, July 19, 1946: "Cemeteries Point Up the Facts." The writer uses the Castex and Newport cemeteries to illustrate the fact that the original settlers of the county have died and their families have moved on to other areas. He says that there are only 22 century farmers in the county today and that they should be deserving of highest honors as they represent the vanguard of real homesteaders who showed considerable courage and adventure as their forefathers moved into a land of restless and daring squatters. They gave Iowa stability and real value and it will take many more like them to keep Iowa the Granary of America.

LEE

From Dave Moehn, Chairman, Fort Madison Old Fort Commission: "Potential Sale and Rezoning of Old Fort Madison War of 1812 Battlefield Site." Several SAPIC members responded to a request from Mr. Moehn to contact the Planning and Zoning Commission in Fort Madison in support of saving the site of the only 1812 battlefield in Iowa. The Holy Trinity School owns the site and is in the process of selling it to Dollar General Stores. The public hearing regarding the rezoning of the area was held on July 22. The Commission made the decision to rezone half of the area so commercial businesses could be located there. Presumably, the half that remains a historical landmark contains the possible remains of several soldiers and civilians from the Old Fort Madison and several outbuildings from the Fort. It is hoped that state archaeologists will be present at the construction site to monitor the excavations.

<https://ia-fortmadison.civicplus.com/index.aspx>

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, April 24, 1900: "SADLY NEGLECTED -- The Graves in the Farm and Pasture Need Care." The writer is concerned about the condition of the McDaniel Cemetery -- a little plat with four graves in the midst of a farmstead located six miles north of town. The present owner of the surrounding land, despite rumors that he plowed up the area, has not disturbed it and would welcome relatives of the McDaniel family to come and replace the rotted fence. He has also cleared away dense underbrush and locust trees to protect the graves of those whom he had never seen.

About twelve miles northeast of the city, near Springville, are three graves in a pasture where the present owner may not be aware that his cattle are browsing above three people who have "laid down to pleasant dreams." When the people were buried there, the spot was surrounded by a beautiful grove of trees, but the land has been cleared and the graves are unprotected and unknown. It is stated that wealthy relatives of the deceased are now residents of this county.

From the *Marion Pilot*, April 16, 1903: "REMINISTIC AND POETICAL." The writer tells of strolling through the cemetery down to Indian Creek hard by. He suggests that people who want antiques ought to get a few of the tombstones out there. Some of the real owners would not care for they were buried away back in 1841, twenty years before the Civil War and long before there was any thought of moving the county seat to Cedar Rapids. Terrible that mayhaps Cedar Rapids will claim the old

tombstones and deny to those long dead people the right of rising on the last great day in sight of their own green hills.

MAHASKA

From the *Greene Iowa Recorder*, March 23, 1927: "News and Comment About Iowa," by J. W. Jarna. Away back in 1853 Theodore Spain laid out a town in Mahaska County and named it Peoria. Quite a settlement sprang up. In 1856 a Methodist Church was erected and adjacent thereto a plot was reserved for a cemetery. The lumber for the church was hauled by team from Keokuk, 125 miles distant. For more than fifty years services were held in the church edifice. Finally Hollanders from the colony of Pella began to purchase land in the vicinity and a church of the Dutch Reformed faith was established and now the old deserted Methodist is to be sold at auction. In the graveyard are the marble slabs that mark the last resting place of the pioneers of that section of the state.

"Beneath those rugged elms, that yew trees shade, Where heaves the turf in many a moldering heap, Each in his narrow cell forever laid, The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

MILLS

From the *Mills County Tribune*, May 10, 1900: "The Grave Gives Up Its Dead." The article tells in graphic detail the appearance of four bodies that were exhumed and were on display before being reburied in the Emerson Cemetery. They were originally buried in the Traver graveyard located on a farm three miles northeast of Emerson. The farm was recently acquired by a new owner who intended to plow over the graves. A descendant of the Traver family arranged for the graves of his family to be moved. The writer and others were allowed to view the remains which were described as "too grisly and gruesome to dwell on." The bones were all fairly well preserved as well as the clothing. Mr. Traver was only interested in seven bodies and he left the rest to the mercy of the elements.

From the *Mills County Tribune*, October 11, 1915: "Killed a Man to Start it." The writer relates the beginnings of the North Grove cemetery east of Hastings that is beautifully located upon a knoll overlooking Indian Creek's wooded valley. The first settlements were in 1852. In 1853, a man named Huntsman fell into a dispute with his nephew, the result of which the uncle was killed. The nephew disappeared and was never heard from again. The dead man was the first burial in the North Grove Cemetery that now contains the costliest monument of Mills County, that of Alex Bowen.

From the *Malvern Leader*, May 1, 1952: "Old St. Marys Twp. Cemetery Also Victim of Recent Missouri River Flood." A recent flood washed away an old family burying ground in St. Mary's township and east of St. Mary's steamboat landing, reputedly the first settled place in Mills County. Graves and cedar trees were washed away and a deep pond now covers most of the cemetery site. The water also scoured out a 25-ft. deep hole in the roadway near the old cemetery. County Sheriff Don Rhodes plans to ask Red Cross officials to see about reburial of remains found in the vicinity.

PAGE

From the *Des Moines Register*, June 18, 1862: "Remarkable Presentiment." At the funeral of Willy Higley, who died in this town about ten weeks ago, little Johnny Harrett, aged about six years, and a playmate of the deceased boy, took his father in the southeast corner of the cemetery, and told him he was going to die in a few days, and that he wanted to be buried in that corner of the cemetery. His parents tried to divert his mind from thoughts of death, but he continued to talk of its near approach until last Saturday night, when he was suddenly taken sick and died in about 20 hours. From the *Page County Herald*.

POLK

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, February 19, 1910: "Strange Will of Woman is Filed." Expressing her belief that the family burying ground has been neglected in years gone by and through lack of attention has become a distasteful place in which to be buried, Susan McIntire especially provided in her will that her property should not be divided until the ground is improved and an iron fence put around it. She was owner of farm land in the Altoona area. She specified that the cemetery be cleaned up and a nice iron fence put around it. She objected to having a neighbor join his fence to the little burying ground.

POTTAWATTAMIE

From the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, June 25, 1953: The writer is discussing the history of a certain house that was originally in the Downs ville crossing area several miles southwest of Underwood on Highway 64. It was part of a settlement that no longer exists except for the cemetery.

UNION

From the *Creston News Advertiser*, August 4, 2014: "Bringing Hattie home," by Carlea Schuler. Pictured is Sean Dougherty next to the tombstone of Hattie Cowger in Jerusalem Cemetery on July 24. In 1999, Sean Dougherty

found a tombstone in the yard of his new Fort Collins, Colorado home. The stone -- dated 1889 -- belonged to Hattie Cowger. Intrigued, he did some preliminary research and discovered there were no records of anyone being buried on his property.

"I then did some research over the next five years trying to find out where she belonged," Dougherty said. Somehow I found using Ancestry.com that she belonged in the old Jerusalem Cemetery (in Creston)."

In about 2005, he tried contacting people from Creston about Cowger, but hit multiple dead ends. During the next five years, he moved to a new home, but brought Hattie's stone with him. "I took her with me, because I didn't want to leave her there like the previous owners did to me," he said.

Earlier this year, he decided to travel to New York and take the stone with him and return it to the burial ground. He contacted SAPIC member Chris Fredricksen, owner of Fredricksen Monuments last March who contacted township trustee Jack Bakerink. Bakerink has been cleaning the previously neglected cemetery for the past 15 years and had a hand-drawn map showing Hattie's burial site. On the morning of July 24, Sean brought the stone to the cemetery and a small group of people watched as Chris's husband and others installed Hattie's stone on a new base donated by Chris. A few facts were discovered about Hattie, including her death date in 1889 which occurred about a month after that of her baby boy whose grave is nearby. Her family moved on to Colorado.

Sean plans to continue to research Hattie and hopes to find any of her family around today.

"I would hope that if something similar happened to me or someone I care about, someone would do the same thing," Dougherty said. "It felt like the right thing to do."

Note: SAPIC was able to help connect Sean and Chris after Sean accessed the SAPIC web site.

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 3, 2014: "Much needed cemetery drainage plans abandoned," by Helen Hannan. The Blakesburg city council abandoned plans for a much-needed drainage project due to the added expense of a Department of Natural Resources required onsite archeologist. Some funds from an erosion control grant would probably have covered the project if the town had removed trees. However, the cost of having an archaeologist on site during the project was prohibitive.

WASHINGTON

From the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, August 25, 1903: "Soldier's Remains will be Re-interred." A former Revolutionary War soldier, Timothy Brown, lies buried in a remote cemetery in Washington County. He served in the Revolutionary army at age 16 as a substitute for his father. About 1834 he came to Washington county where he resided with his daughter until he died in 1838 at the age of 91. He was buried in the Todd Cemetery in the southwest part of the county. His remains have been raised and will be properly interred in a cemetery at Washington with a monument to his memory.

OUT OF IOWA

ILLINOIS

From the *Chicago Tribune*, August 23, 2014: "Remains of Oak Brook settlers being moved," by Annemarie Manion. Thirteen years ago, a human skull tumbled out of a load of dirt during a road-widening project in Oak Brook. That gruesome discovery signaled the start of an odyssey that is finally culminating with the excavation and relocation of the graves of more than two dozen 19th-century pioneers. A team of archaeologists and anthropologists will relocate the remains of 27 people found buried beneath a spacious yard behind a house in the Brook Forest subdivision. The remains will be moved to Butler Cemetery and Bronswood Cemetery, both in Oak Brook. The work, led by Kevin McGowan of the University of Illinois, is slated to be completed next month. The work is not an archaeological dig or a research project, but an attempt to fulfill promises and fix errant attempts to move the cemetery almost 60 years ago. Originally named the Thurston Cemetery, it was specified in the will of David Thurston as a cemetery in 1875. In 1962, the site was purchased for a redevelopment project by Paul Butler, who had the city of Oak Brook declare the cemetery a public nuisance. Butler's company was to remove all headstones, coffins and human remains at its own expense, but the removal work was not done thoroughly. In 2003, DuPage County paid more than \$300,000 to have remains of 22 people discovered on public property removed and reburied. In 2007, new owners Nancy and Mario Salazaar learned that an old graveyard was on the lot they bought in 1977. They sued the company involved in their home purchase, a settlement was reached in their favor and the proceeds went toward removing the bodies from their property. Interim Oak Brook Village manager Art Olsen said they are happy to

have resolved the issue and have provided a backhoe and a worker to assist in the removal project. "We're writing the final chapter," he said. "We're finishing the process that began in 1962, and moving them to their final resting spot."

OREGON

From the *Portland Tribune*, July 8, 2014: "State hospital dedicates memorial," by Peter Wong. Pictured are visitors looking at the new cremains display dedicated as part of the new Oregon State Hospital project. The remains of hundreds of hospital patients are part of the state memorial. The memorial recognizes more than 3,400 people, formerly at the Oregon State Hospital and other institutions who were cremated by the state but whose remains were never claimed. Peter Courtney, president of the Oregon Senate, was among a group that toured the "Room of Lost Souls" containing the canisters of remains a decade ago. That led to the construction of the memorial along with a new 620-bed hospital to replace the original building dating back to 1883. Courtney said those almost forgotten in death accomplished something for the living.

"Through their sad, tragic lives, they have led us out of the wilderness of mental health," said Courtney. "They all have a story... Today, they tell a collective story. Without them, we would not be here today. All here - all in Oregon -- owe these saints for their suffering."

In a 2013 special session, lawmakers at Courtney's behest earmarked the proceeds from a 10 cent-per-pack increase in cigarette tax for mental health programs.

The cremains were removed from decaying copper canisters and placed into handmade ceramic urns. Most of the urns are displayed in the new memorial, which was once the hospital mortuary built in 1896. The cremations took place between 1913 and 1971. A separate canister represents 1,566 people who were exhumed from the "Asylum Cemetery," north of the current hospital where they were buried between 1883 and 1913, and cremated. There are no records for these unclaimed cremains.

The renovated mortuary building is combined with a low wall that surrounds a courtyard and prayer garden. As relatives claim cremains, holes will appear in the wall. Since the initial reports of cremains back in 2003, less than 200 urns have been claimed.

SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Story
Grave News E-mail Editor: Donna Story
18883 250th St.
Hawkeye, IA 52147
563-427-5354 dstory@netins.net

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

Secretary: Frieda Davis
216 Riverview Dr.
Vinton, IA 52349-2360
319-472-5348 davisduo85@gmail.com

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

Board Member (2016): Jean Ann Ripley
2650 Inkpaduta Ave.
Webster City, IA 50595-7313
jbriley2@gmail.com

Board Member (2016): Pat Shaw
21813 170th St.
Birmingham, IA 52535
319-293-3899 patshaw@netins.net

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

Board Member (2015): Mike Magee
638 Englewood
Waterloo, IA 50701
319-232-8762 Digger4045@yahoo.com

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

Board Member (2015): Carol Hoffman
505 W. Chestnut St.
Bloomfield, IA 52537-1921
641-226-3093 wilcar@netins.net

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

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

Board Member (2016) Gene Davis
216 Riverview Dr.
Vinton, IA 52349-2360
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

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

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 2014/2015 can be paid now.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING SAPIC!

SAPIC is now on Facebook!