



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 20 Issue #1

January, February, March, 2015

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April 11, 2015 Meeting

SAPIC will meet Saturday, April 11, 10:30 a.m. at the Central Community Historical Society Museum, 628 Sixth Ave., DeWitt, located in the main business district across from Scott Drug. DeWitt is at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and Hwy. 30, the Lincoln Highway, in Clinton County. SAPIC guests can arrive anytime after 8:30 for refreshments at the

museum.

Lunch options:

There are several pizza places and restaurants in town on 11th St. (old Hwy. 30) and in the main business district, also a Chinese restaurant on the main street and Mexican one near the hospital.



Grave news by e-mail

Grave News will be sent by e-mail to as many SAPIC members as possible in the future. Please send your e-mail address to Pat Shaw at:

patshaw@netins.net

However, you may still receive the printed version of the newsletter in the U.S. Mail, if your prefer or if you don't have e-mail. If you wish to donate money to help with mailing expense, please send to Valerie Ogren, Treasurer. 108 N. Oak Jefferson, IA 50129-1841



e-mail issues

Be sure to let Pat Shaw know of your desire for e-mail or printed version of the newsletter.

From the Iowa Genealogical Society Weekly Update, February 17, 2015

Cause of Death? Odd causes of death on death certificates:

Deceased had been "fatally sick"

Deceased died suddenly, nothing serious

Deceased died suddenly at 103

Went to bed feeling well, woke up dead

Pulmonary hemorrhage, died suddenly. Duration-4 years.

Died from blood poisoning caused by a broken ankle, remarkable, since he was struck by an automobile between a lamp and the radiator.

Sudden acute indigestion from an overripe melon. Died vomiting

And in 1982, a man was killed near Lake Pleasant, Arizona, U.S., while shooting at cacti with his shotgun. After

he fired several shots at a 26 foot tall Saguaro Cactus from extremely close range, a 4 foot limb of the cactus detached and fell on him, crushing him.



Minutes of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries e-mail Meeting

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries met January 8 - 11, 2015 by e-mail. President Steve Story submitted the agenda by e-mail in advance and requested responses be returned by e-mail during the period of January 8 through 12:00 noon January 11, 2015.

The minutes of the October 15, 2014 meeting at Johnston Iowa were previously mailed and approved. The Treasurer's report was prepared by Treasurer Valerie Ogren and submitted to members by e-mail.

Gravestone Repair Workshops: A question had been received as to whether a SAPIC Board member could charge for conducting a SAPIC sponsored gravestone repair workshop in order to cover costs of supplies, materials, etc. The responses were all positive and the answer is yes.

Iowa Governors, Lieutenant Governors, and U.S. Cabinet Members Gravestones: A question was asked if there has been any official action as to further decisions on restoring the gravestones of deceased Iowa Governors, Lieutenant Governors and U.S. cabinet members . President Steve Story reported no recent action or decisions on the overall project. However, Jonas Cutler, Project Director of Patriot Outreach reported that fund raising activities are underway for restoring the mausoleum for Governor Samuel Merrill located in Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa. He also noted that he has met with the Mayor of Des Moines to ensure that proper permits could be obtained. Jonas also asked if it was possible to place the Patriot brochure, photographs and links to their donation page on the SAPIC web site. Placement of the material on the SAPIC web page was accomplished.

Mary Virdon Grave Marker: Mike Magee reported with a positive statement of recent progress for placement of a marker for Mary Virdon and looking forward to an appropriate cemetery.

Pioneer Cemetery Survey: President Steve Story reported that a survey will be mailed to all counties with Pioneer Cemetery Commissions, or similar structure. The survey will provide information on the current status and activity of cemetery restoration in Iowa.

Pioneer Cemetery Laws: Discussions from several members pointed out the lack of understanding of the current Iowa laws as they relate to cemetery restoration. President Story stated that this will be a topic at the SAPIC April 11 meeting.

Military Gravestones: The new federal policy concerning ordering Civil War (and other military) gravestones has created a firestorm among those groups and individuals that have been willing to volunteer their time and efforts too see that our honored veterans without a proper stone receive a stone. President Story asked members to study this issue and be prepared to discuss it at the April meeting

Nominations Committee: The Nominations Committee, consisting of Pat Shaw, Larry Davis and Mike Magee, presented the following nominations for 2015:

- President.....Steve Story
- Vice President..... Bill Reedy
- Treasurer..... Valerie Ogren
- Secretary..... Larry Davis
- Board Member..... John Heider
- Board Member..... Mary Richards

The Nominations were approved and terms of office were effective immediately.

Counties with no Pioneer Cemetery Commissions: It was noted that several Counties in Iowa are conducting cemetery restoration and do not have a Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Interest has been shown to have SAPIC recognize those counties and maintain a working relationship with them. President Story appointed a committee consisting of Tony Bengston, Pat Shaw, Bill Reedy and Larry Davis to to develop recommendations to accomplish this.

Miscellaneous: Winneshiek county and the Decorah Genealogical Association are sponsoring a cemetery restoration workshop May 29-30, 2015.

Next Meeting: Clinton County has invited SAPIC to meet at DeWitt, Iowa on April 11, 2015.
Larry Davis, Secretary

Corrections for *Grave News*, Oct., Nov., Dec. 2014

From e-mail from Valerie Ogren, Jan. 8: Curious as to where this came from????? The date must be wrong - Will Lyon has been dead for years. People will read that and think Greene Co. is doing nothing. The info is incorrect in that the cemetery SW of Jefferson no longer exists. All the graves were moved many years ago when the present Jefferson Cemetery was established. And the one on the Taylor farm was the only one found to be on private property and has since been deeded over to the township. Considerable cleanup has been done by the co. comm. and all the existing gravestones were recorded by me in 1985. Some of the names also appear in the Jefferson Cemetery, but a family member said that was just a memorial - the children are actually buried at the Taylor-Winkleman Cemetery.

Newsletter editor: The date on the news article should have been 1944. It is gratifying to

learn that the situation has improved since that time.

Valerie Ogren: Didn't I send an email with pictures re: the \$22,000 the Washington Twp. trustees just spent on fencing 3 cemeteries - 2 of them pioneer?

e-mail from Valerie Ogren November, 2014: I am so proud of my home town. The Washington Twp. (Rippey) trustees just spent nearly \$20,000 putting new fence around all 3 cemeteries in the twp. - 2 are pioneer. For the past several years they have stubbornly refused a grant from SAPIC. ;o) The \$3,000 grant the clerk mentions was from the Greene County Foundation. Pictures are available from Valerie.

----- Original Message -----

From:

jeanb@iowatelecom.net

To: [Valerie Ogren](#)

Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 7:36 AM

Subject: Re: cemetery fence. This money was saved over many years. I

think the 14,000 was a quote from memory, and not quite accurate. Maybe Mary Ann included a bill for some seeding and weed spraying that would have been paid last year and in the total on her year-end report. That is done for all the cemeteries each year and not part of the fence project.

The total for all three cemeteries for the fence project to Josh Arganbright was: 12,200.29, for Old Rippey, 7,429.21 for New Rippey, and Angus, 8,115.60, and include all preparation work, such as tree and brush removal, taking out old fences and whatever it took to prepare the area for a new fence.

More recent activity: Angus and Old Rippey required lots of trees and brush to be moved. The money came partly from taxes, saved for many years for this purpose, a savings account from lots sold, (since 1949 and never been used; not taxes) and the \$3,000 grant for Old Rippey.

All the cemeteries really

look good and the trustees will reset the pioneer signs in a different place closer to the road, when they get time. They don't want them to take away from the look of the fences and felt that a place closer to the road would be more visible to passers by.

This was a four-year project, or more, if you include the preparation and "talking about it stage" for many years and different trustees in charge. The money has been in place for a long time. This set of trustees just followed through with the plan that was started and got it finished.

Note: Newsletter editor, Pat Shaw, regrets the errors and omissions and apologizes to Valerie Ogren and Greene County.



Also—Ada Lee's name in the Chickasaw County report should have been "Adis Lee."



New fence at Old Rippey Cemetery

The Washington Township trustees, composed of Mary Hick, Tod Contner and Roger Norgren, invested almost \$14,000 for installation of this fence. This is a part of their effort to clean and protect this pioneer cemetery.

The Old Rippey cemetery is the resting place for many of Greene County's earliest settlers and several war veterans, including those who died in the War of 1812, the Black Hawk Indian War, and the Civil War. This pro-

ject was received \$3,000 from the Greene County Community Foundation. Trustees' chairperson Mary Hick thanked the Community Foundation for funding and Josh Arganbright of Guthrie Center for the fence construction.

**BENTON**

In January, 2015, SAPIC member John Heider made angel wing tips for an angel monument in the Evergreen Cemetery in Vinton that was damaged by vandals last fall.

BLACK HAWK

SAPIC Board Member Michael Magee of Waterloo has spent countless hours over the past years searching newspaper archives and other sources. His contributions to every issue of *Grave News* from its inception have been much appreciated.

MOUNT ZION CEMETERY

This cemetery is located in East Waterloo Township, section 9, in the 2100 block of North Elk Run Road, Black Hawk County, Iowa. This cemetery has been destroyed and the only visible remains are several trees that were on the cemetery site.

This cemetery has no known records. It was not listed in the WPA Black Hawk County, Iowa Cemetery Book. No listing exists of the known burials in this cemetery. The cemetery grave markers were bulldozed away and a house constructed near the cemetery property. A partial list of burials composed of names of persons known to have been buried there has been provided by members of the Northeast Iowa Genealogical Society, Michael Magee, and available obituaries. Surnames include Ackerman, Brown, Adams, Barron, Armstrong, Brooks, Bunn, Corpening, Falk, Friedley, Grove, Hess, Hoffman, Holdiman, Jackson, Lemley, Lindsay, Marks, Marx, Morgan, Myers, Perry, Powers, Rigdon, Steefer, Thornberry, Turner. **For a complete list, contact Mike Magee or Pat Shaw.**

A War of 1812 marker for William Virden has been received from the VA and will be installed soon in the Fairview Cemetery in Waterloo. A marker for his granddaughter, Mary Virden, will be placed between her grandparent's graves.

FREMONT**It's a Mystery**

From the *Tabor Society* newsletter, Jan., 2015: Near the west side of section 11 of Tabor Cemetery is the unmarked grave of a man supposed to be R. Shirts. On July 15, 1907, a body was pulled from the Missouri River. The man was apparently about 65 years old. He was wearing a Union jacket and carrying a railroad ticket with the name R. Shirts. The GA gave him a military burial in Tabor. But it was later discovered that a Robert T. Shirts died July 25, 1912, at the Veterans Home in Marshalltown and was buried in Veterans Home Cemetery. Are there two R. Shirts? Or is "our" R. Shirts someone else entirely? We will probably never know. (Information from *Fremont County Cemetery Records* published in 1983.)

MARION

Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Commission chairperson, Valerie Van Kooten, writes a regular monthly column in the *Living With Energy* magazine that is humorous and entertaining. Check it out at: www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com

MONONA

From Iowa Public Radio, January 27, 2015: "Loess Hills Cemetery Mystery," by Rick Fredericksen. Pictured are the few remaining grave markers at South Jordan Cemetery, which dates back to 1882. A tale of



John Heider



truth and hearsay come together at this isolated cemetery between the towns of Turin and Moorhead. Most accounts agree that this is an early African American cemetery that dates back to Iowa's beginnings as a state. It was established by Adam Meiers, a white farmer who brought black families to the area to work the land. The 1880 census for Monona County lists 88 African Americans and mixed blood residents. It's not been determined if they were free blacks who migrated north after the Civil War or if they were slaves who escaped via the Underground Railroad. Jacob Harding, who oversees a nearby cemetery, has witted at least 148 graves, most of them unmarked. The oldest marker identifies the grave of George W. Stuard who died in April, 1884. Judy Ehlers, whose family still owns land in the surrounding hills, is leading a campaign to bring fame to the forgotten cemetery and have it placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Loess Hills historian Harold Johnston believes many graves are those of children. He says, "I just feel that a cemetery is a quiet place, a reverent place and you need to be respectful of the people who are there, and honor them as best you can."



Jacob Harding and Judy Ehlers, have researched the cemetery for years

POLK

SAPIC member Kenneth Sanderson of Ft. Worth, Texas has made a donation to the Municipal Cemeteries of Des Moines because he "admires all the work effort put forth on these projects." Kenneth is from Chickasaw County.

TAMA

The recent *Tama County Genealogical Society* newsletter is dedicated to cemeteries -- received from Mike Magee, January 10, 2015.

200 N Broadway St, Toledo, IA 52342

(641) 484-6767

<http://www.tamacountyhistory.org/index.html>



OUT OF IOWA

CALIFORNIA

Resting Place of California Pioneers

Adorned with beautiful statues, dramatic markers and lush gardens, Sacramento Historic City Cemetery is an outdoor museum recording California history from the Gold Rush Era through today.

Since its establishment in 1849, the City Cemetery has become the resting place of many remarkable Californians, demonstrating the diversity of California history and culture. Visitors will discover the burial sites of Sacramento mayors and California governors as well as memorials to Civil War Veterans, Volunteer Firemen and the victims of the 1850 Cholera Epidemic.

The City Cemetery is the oldest existing cemetery in Sacramento. Keeping with the popular style of the times, it was designed to resemble a Victorian garden. Traversed by pathways and grand avenues, the cemetery provides a park-like setting for exploring history. Today, volunteers with the Adopt A Plot program take over the gardening of plots - a task once performed by long since departed relatives.

Free guided walking tours of the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery are led by Old City Cemetery Committee docents. Self-guided tours are encouraged at all times. <http://oldcitycemetery.com/> continued page 6

NORTH DAKOTA



From the American Legion web site, February 5, 2015: Pictured is the King City “Kneeling Soldier” memorial donated by the King City Council to the American Legion in an attempt to avoid an expensive law suit brought by Steven Hewett, a decorated Army veteran. He alleged that the King officials violated his constitutional rights by promoting Christianity at the Veteran’s Memorial in violation of the First Amendment’s establishment clause, which prohibits government from passing legislation to establish an official religion or preferring one religion over another. A silhouette shows a soldier kneeling by a cross. It used

to sit on city-owned property. On Jan. 6, the city removed it from the Veteran’s Memorial site in Central Park and gave it to American Legion Post 290. It will be set up on American Legion property on Main Street. A new statue was put up at the city park showing the silhouette of a soldier kneeling by a rifle with a helmet on top. <http://burnpit.us/2015/02/king-city-kneeling-soldier-memorial-donated-american-legion>

SPAIN

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, February 6, 2015: “Spain: Cervantes searchers find casket with his initials,” Associated Press. Pictured are a team of archaeologists and anthropologists as they take notes after starting excavation work after identifying three unrecorded and unidentified graves in the chapel’s crypt of the closed order Convent of the Barefoot



Trinitarians in Madrid’s historic Barrio de las Letras, or Literary Quarter, Spain, on Jan. 24. Experts searching for remains of Miguel de Cervantes hope they may be entering the final phase of their nine-month quest to solve the mystery of where the great Spanish writer was laid to rest. The “Don Quixote” author was buried in 1616 at the convent but the exact whereabouts of his grave in the tiny convent chapel are unknown. The bones found will be exhumed and analyzed; after that, the experts will try to identify the bones using DNA profiling. The initials “M.C.” are on



the wooden fragments of a coffin found in the chapel. Battle wounds that Cervantes sustained in 1571, plus the fact that he stated that he had only six teeth shortly before he died are solid clues to assist in identifying the remains.



WHERE TO GET SUPPLIES

Probes: Farm Supply Store or Forestry Supply---Suggested length: 48 inches

Biological Chemical Cleaners: D2, Miles Supply, Rockville, MN, 1-800-789-0815

KEYSTONE (generic equivalent to D2), R.I.P., Ltd., 988 Iron Horse Place, Monticello, IL, 1-217-898-2422

Scrub Brushes (white, soft-bristle): purchase locally

Injection Grout (IG 10): U. S. Heritage Group, Inc., 3516 N. Kostner Ave., Chicago, IL 60641, 1-773-286-2100; www.usheritage.com

Grout Tints: Lowes Building Supplies (Spectra [Part B], Qt. size container)

Epoxy: (Tenax, clear, knife-grade): Miles Supply, Rockville, MN, 1-800-789-0815

Setting Compound: (light grey): Miles Supply, Rockville, MN, 1-800-789-0815

Setting Cushions: (1/16 inch): Miles Supply, Rockville, MN, 1-800-789-0815

White Portland Cement: Local Building Materials Supplier (may require special order)

Hydrated Lime (Type S): Local Building Materials Supplier

Hydraulic Lime: Virginia Lime Works, P.O. Box 516, Monroe, VA 24574, 1-434-929-8113

--Suggestions by John Heider jheider@mchsi.com, 217-898-2422

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

SAPIC Lending Library has books and other materials related to cemetery preservation; list 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

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700 Clinton Street Building
Iowa City, IA 52242-1030
319-384-0740 lara-noldner@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 individuals: \$100.00

Donations welcome and tax deductible.

Send dues to Valerie Ogren, 108 N. Oak Jefferson, IA 50129-1841



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Were on the web:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancesstry.com/~iasapc/>

Save the Date

Cemetery Preservation Training

Presented by Wayne County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

Saturday June 6, 2015

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Instructor—John Heider

Registration required:

Class room 10am-12:00 - \$30.00

With Hands on workshop - \$50.00

Registration deadline - April 17, 2015

Contact Brenda DeVore at 641-872-2211 or 641-895-5396. or

email ptmuseum@grm.net

Payment can be made at the time of the workshop or mailed before.

Survey of SAPIC Counties

At the end of February a survey was sent to 28 County Pioneer Cemetery Commissions.

The survey asked questions such as How many Pioneer Cemeteries have your county located? How many have been restored?

Is your Commission still active in restoration?

How many active workers can you 'muster' for a typical cemetery workday?

How many days a month do you continue to work in

cemeteries?

What is the approximate amount of your current yearly budget?

How many times a year do you have a business meeting?

What are some of your Commission problems in the past few years?

The results of the survey will be presented at the April meeting.

To date 11 surveys have been returned. The deadline is the 1st of April.

Ask if your County

Commission has responded to this survey. Be included in the results.

