

Grave News

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF IOWA CEMETERIES

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

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SAPIC will meet July 11, 2015 at 10:30 AM the Tama County Genealogical Library at 200 North Broadway in Toledo, Iowa.

There is a sign on Highway 63.

Contact Joyce Wiese for more information: 641-484-2599.

The American Battle Monuments Commission

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), the agency established by Congress in 1923 that oversees overseas U.S. commemorative cemeteries and federal memorials, has released a pair of official U.S. government mobile apps designed to help navigate Normandy American Cemetery in

France and Cambridge American Cemetery in England.

The apps include maps and visit information, stories about the Americans buried there, context on the war and the U.S. role in it, virtual tours and more.

They can be used to explore the cemeteries firsthand, or from the comfort of home. They

are available free to download at [iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#).

All U.S. flags placed at ABMC cemetery graves are provided free of charge by The American Legion through its Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund.



From the *Daily Kos* web site, April 16, 2015

Police are looking into whether vandals knocked over the headstone on the grave of Hillary Clinton's father, the *Scranton Times-Tribune* reported Wednesday. Scranton

Police Chief Carl Graziano told the newspaper that the department received a report that Hugh Rodham's headstone had been toppled

Tuesday morning in Washburn Street Cemetery. He suggested that vandals may have tipped it over. No other headstones in the cemetery were reported to have been knocked over, police told local TV station WNEP. The stone was put back in place Tuesday afternoon, according to the *Scranton Times-Tribune*.



April 11, 2015 Minutes of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries met Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the Central Community Historical Society Museum in DeWitt, Iowa. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Story at 10:30 a.m. with 35 in attendance. Moved by John Heider the proposed agenda be approved. Seconded by Mike Magee. Motion carried. The minutes of the January 8-11 e-mail meeting were approved as mailed. Larry Davis presented the Treasurer's report as submitted by Treasurer Valerie Ogren which illustrated a balance of \$5,342.91 in the Working Account; \$2,928.39 in the Reserve Account, and \$6,031.41 additional funds in a Certificate of Deposit.

Cemetery Preservation Training: Wayne County will sponsor a Cemetery Preservation Training session conducted by John Heider on June 6, 2015 and Winneshick county will sponsor one on May 29-30, 2015 conducted by Jonathon Appell.

Preserve Iowa Summit: Larry Davis handed out brochures announcing the Preserve Iowa Summit scheduled for June 25 - 27, 2015 in Winterset, Iowa. Davis noted several topics of interest to SAPIC members and pointed out the special reduced registration fee.

Pioneer Cemetery Commissions: President Steve Story briefly reviewed the results of a recent survey from counties having a Pioneer Cemetery Commission:

Survey sheets were sent to twenty eight Iowa counties. Only Appanoose County did not respond, but they became a member in 2010 and may still be an active chapter. Hamilton county responded, and is active in the Hamilton County Preservation Society formed in 2012.

The other responding twenty six counties include Benton, Buchanan, Cedar, Chickasaw, Clayton, Clinton, Davis, Delaware, Des Moines, Fayette, Greene, Hardin, Henry, Iowa Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Louisa, Lucas, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Ringgold, Tama, Wayne and Winneshiek. It is possible that there may be other active pioneer cemetery commissions, and if so we would certainly wish to include them.

There are counties with organized cemetery restoration groups earlier than the beginning of the first pioneer cemetery law in 1996 and/or the formation of SAPIC. Other than one responding county not sure of their establishing year, four counties claim their start from 1984 through 1995. Fourteen counties established Pioneer Cemetery Commissions from 1996 - 1999. Five more counties formed commissions between 2000 and 2010, and four more between 2011 and 2015.

From their own totals, our respondent counties estimate at least 836 pioneer cemeteries within their borders, including at least 348 completed restorations and burial sites. Only one respondent stated they were no longer active, but they have already restored each cemetery. There are very few other cemeteries which also have completed all restorations.

Respondent counties generally vary in size of work crews from as few as 3 - 4 to as many as 10 on any day, but nearly all agree that the single greatest need today is for a larger number of work crew members. The range of summer work days may be as few as once a month to two or more per month.

Annual yearly county pioneer budgets are enormously far apart, ranging from \$1,500 to \$50,000 annually. Seven budgets are \$10,000 or more annually, twelve from \$4,500 - \$8,000. Three are \$2,500 or less. The survey did not ask for budget details.

All counties report widespread satisfaction and pride from their work and the general public on completed restorations. Suggestions from the respondents vary widely from needing one leader for their crew, fence in the areas first and then restore, seek more publicity including TV, seek better legislation, print brochures support SAPIC, share ideas, gain support of county attorneys who will follow the laws, and hosted more workshops.

Considerable discussion was held relating to approved methods of cemetery maintenance including gravestone repair, cleaning, etc. It was also noted that several pioneer cemetery commissions felt it would be an advantage to share successes, problems, etc. with each other.

A committee was appointed by President Steve Story consisting of Tony Bengston, Bill Reedy, Pat Shaw and Larry Davis and was directed to address recent suggestions that SAPIC recognize those Iowa counties and/or organizations that are doing restoration without a Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Larry reported the committee has met and feel this is a worthy project and recommends it be

Minutes continued

pursed. Those counties or organizations could be listed as an addendum to the current list of counties with Pioneer Cemetery Commissions and listed periodically in the newsletter and/or SAPIC may have a small list of these counties that could be recognized now and as additional names are received they could be added. Current SAPIC members may also have knowledge of some of these counties. The committee feels this is a project that once initiated, should be kept up to date in order to maintain the recognition and communication benefits.

Larry Davis moved that SAPIC recognized those Iowa counties and/or organizations that are doing cemetery restoration without a Pioneer Cemetery Commission, seconded by John Heider. Motion passed.

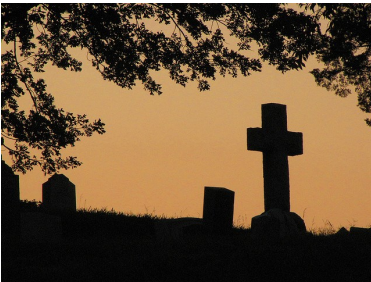
Iowa Governors, Lieutenant Governors and U.S. Cabinet Member Gravestones: President Story briefly reviewed the status of gravestone repair for Iowa Governors, Lieutenant Governors and U.S. Cabinet Members. The survey and cost estimate has been completed by SAPIC members and presented to Governor Branstad. The project is now waiting to be funded. Jonas Cutler reported that he has personally become involved in fund raising efforts for Governor Samuel Merrill's mausoleum in Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines Iowa.

Several thoughts were presented in regard to fund raising ideas and sources. After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Jonas Cutler that SAPIC appoint a committee to oversee the fundraising efforts for repairing the Iowa Governors, Lieutenant Governors, and U.S. Cabinet members gravestones. Seconded by Mary Richards. Motion passed.

Future Meeting Sites: It was noted that meeting sites are needed for July and October.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

In response to a question raised by a pioneer cemetery commission, SAPIC member Bill Reedy commented



A Pioneer Cemetery Commission does not assume ownership of pioneer cemeteries, so this decision ordinarily rests with the cemetery owner.

However, in many cases the owner is unknown, defunct, or otherwise unable to give assent or denial. In such instances,

the decision will fall to the Commission by default.

There are various views on this question, but personally I think burials in pioneer

cemeteries are wonderful. The fact that people want to be buried in them validates the work we are doing to preserve and restore them. It also gives the cemetery a better chance of being preserved into the future.

There are a number

of practical considerations involved in such a decision, and they will vary with each case. Quite often, no plot is available, and it is difficult to determine whether or where spaces are available. In general, I would prefer a policy that allows burials, but with determination to be made on a case-by-case basis due to widely varying circumstances.

Remember

to renew your membership and support the efforts of SAPIC. Dues are \$10 for an individual membership for one year or \$100 for a lifetime membership. Mail to Valerie Ogren, 108 N. Oak, Jefferson, IA 50129-1841. Also consider nominating a deserving individual or group for the Robert and Phyllis Carter Award. Check the SAPIC web page for criteria and details.

**BENTON**

VINTON: Gene L. Davis, age 87, died Sunday, May 24, 2015 at Virginia Gay Nursing and Rehab in Vinton.

Gene was born on November 18, 1927 near Clemons, IA, the first born son of Lloyd and Hazel (Kirk) Davis. He took his vows of dedication at the age of 13 at the Bangor Friends Church. Gene's elementary and secondary education occurred at Clemons Consolidated School, culminating in graduation from High School in 1945. Shortly after high school, Gene was called to serve his Country. He joined the U.S. Navy, serving in the Pacific Theater on the U.S. Gendreau, destroyer escort, being honorably discharged in 1947.

He served as a hospital chaplain at St. Luke's and Virginia Gay after completing Pastoral Care Orientation courses at St. Luke's. He was also President of Hospice of Benton County and Chaplain for Benton County Hospice, Mercy and St. Luke's Hospice. Gene was an elder in his Church, a choir member for many years and also taught Sunday school. He was a lifetime member of the AMVETS, VFW and the George G. Luckey American Legion Post #57. He was also a member of the SAPIC and did mission work, serving three months in Pakistan and one month in Mexico.

Note: Gene served on the SAPIC board for several years and was highly respected for his work in pioneer cemetery restoration in Benton County graves.

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From the *Vinton Eagle*, June 2, 2015: "Work begins to repair Evergreen Cemetery damage," by Jim Morrison. Pictured is the angel sculpture with a broken wing that was damaged by vandals on September 14. The wing was repaired by SAPIC member John Heider of R.I.P. Ltd of Monticello, Illinois in June. Cemetery sexton, Tim Fuchs, along with volunteers re-erected and glued many stones that were overturned. Due to the contrast in color of material, only minimal repairs will be done on a Civil War monument. Five persons from Cedar Rapids have been arrested and charged with criminal mischief and trespass in connection with the vandalism.



John Heider

BLACK HAWK

From the *Waterloo Courier*, May 11, 2015: "USS The Sullivans sailors visit Waterloo," by Pat Kinney. Five crew members who serve on the U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer USS The Sullivans, including the ship's first female commanding officer, spent a day touring various city attractions including John Deere facilities, the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum and the Sullivan Brothers Memorial Park. Accompanying them were Kelly Sullivan Loughran, granddaughter of Albert Sullivan and her father, Jim Sullivan, Albert's son. The sailors visited the Sullivan family gravesite at Calvary Cemetery in Waterloo, where a memorial marker for the brothers is located.

Sullivan brothers on board the *USS Juneau*; from left to right: Joseph, Francis, Albert, Madison and George.

BREMER

From the *Waterloo Cedar Falls Gazette*, May 29, 2015: "Unclear who should care for East Janesville cemetery after church folds," by Dennis Magee.

The East Janesville Methodist Church's final service was held on July 11, 2011 due to aging and

dwindling membership. The Methodist Annual Conference sold the church building in August and turned ownership of the cemetery over to the Mount Vernon Township trustees, who do not wish to accept responsibility for its maintenance.

From the *Waterloo Cedar Falls Gazette*, May 29, 2015: "Tombstones offer insights into American history and personal stories," by Dennis Magee.

The lives of three men whose names are found on markers in the East Janesville Cemetery are researched: Hiram Aurner, Merritt Stanley and Donald McDonald, proving that every gravestone can reveal an interesting story.

BUCHANAN

A healthy baby boy, Oakley Alexander, weighing 7 lbs 9.2 oz., was born to SAPIC board member Tony Bengston and his wife, Laura, on May 21, 2015. Congratulations to the Bengston family!



DAVIS

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 20, 2015: "Boy Scouts participate in dedication." Members of the Boy Scouts of Ottumwa, Cub Scout Pack 2 and American Heritage Girls who assisted with the flag ceremony to help the city of Floris dedicate its new Veterans Memorial on May 17, 2015.

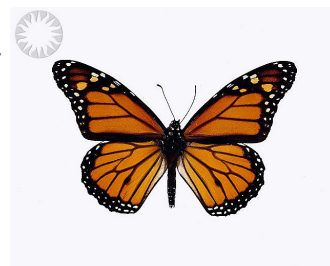
DECATUR

From the *Leon Journal-Reporter*, March 18, 2015, excerpt from column by Melinda Markey, correspondent for Grand River, Iowa. During the commercial breaks on her show on radio KSIB, Melinda and her guest discussed the four abandoned cemeteries in Grand River. One is the Westervelt Cemetery where the earliest burial was May 25, 1862. Only three stones are left in an unfenced area of pasture land. The land was owned by Theron and Angeline Westervelt who came from Ohio in 1853. When the Westerville Cemetery to the southeast was started, burials were made there and the old Westervelt Cemetery was abandoned. Four of the Westervelt children are buried there.

DES MOINES

A large tree limb fell on the Chandler Pioneer Cemetery in Des Moines County in June. Professional help may be needed to remove the debris. Fortunately, no stones appear to be damaged.

Native prairie plantings, including milkweed, are planned for the Old Danville Cemetery in Des Moines County that was rescued and preserved. Cemetery caretakers are being urged to allow milkweed to grow in cemeteries since the plant is necessary for the reproduction of Monarch Butterflies.



FAYETTE

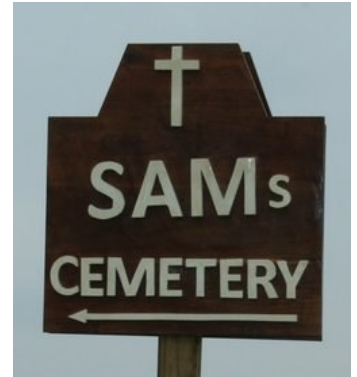
As a result of working in God's Acres Cemetery, Clermont, Steve Story has written a scripted concert entitled 'Nancy Hine Stedman Day'. It will be presented on August 30 at the 1863 Union Sunday School in Clermont. Nancy and her husband, C. Edwin Stedman were among the very first settlers into Clermont. A new Civil War gravestone was erected in Grandview Cemetery for Levi Rasley.

GREENE

At 1300 hrs, 30 May, 2015, Junction Township Cemetery, Old U. S. Highway 30, 1 mile west of Grand Junction, Greene County, Iowa, Sgt. Isaac Ford was rendered the full military honors that his service to the nation during the American Civil War earned him. Ford was born on October 27th, 1838, in St. Lawrence County, NY. He arrived in Iowa in 1860 and enlisted in Company "I", 2nd Iowa Volunteer Cavalry in 1861 at 23 years of age. The Regiment saw continuous service through much of Missouri and Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama. Isaac Ford rose to the rank of third sergeant of the company. Following the war, Ford moved from Jones County to Greene County where he lived until his death in 1906 at the age of sixty-eight. <http://www.iowavalor.com/news.php>

JASPER

Robert F. Gannon, whose ancestors' graves are located in the Sams Cemetery in Section 9 of Poweshiek Township is attempting to get the gate to the cemetery access road and the cemetery grounds improved. He has called attention to the needs of the cemetery to the township trustees and the Jasper County Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

**LEE**

From an e-mail from Kim Irvin, May 9, 2015: Hope to get things going with the Pioneer Cemetery soon. I have had a couple work days with my board at Sandusky Cemetery. We had a number of large trees removed along edge by a tree company in Jan. with the board doing the clean up. Also the electric company removed and trimmed trees on another edge. In Dec. we had a body moved from one grave in the Cemetery to another grave in the Cemetery. We had to be there and sign; that was quite interesting, We had a work day a week ago Wednesday finish tidying up around the edges and to seed new graves.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 26, 2015: "Friends of Old Fort Madison set to purchase battlefield." The War of 1812 battlefield located at the site of the old Sheaffer Pen Co. parking lot in Fort Madison was purchased by the Friends of Old Fort Madison, the Archaeological Conservancy and with a donation from Christy Sue Rickers of Colorado. The original Fort Madison was completed in 1811 and abandoned in 1813. It is believed to contain the buried remains of soldiers stationed at the fort.

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, March 31, 2015: "War of 1812 Veteran Came to Linn County in 1846," by Dave Rasdal. The lone grave of John Kirkpatrick, a veteran of the War of 1812, is located east of Cedar Rapids and north of Ely. In recent years a housing development has surrounded the grave which sits on a raised area in the center of a cul-de-sac. The Ely American Legion cares for the grave, has erected a new marker and installed a flag pole several years ago. Kirkpatrick fought with the Ohio Militia under Capt. Taylor, along with three brothers. His father, Andrew, was a Revolutionary War veteran and his son, Andrew Jackson Kirkpatrick, was a chaplain in the Civil War. John Kirkpatrick came to Iowa in 1846 and received 40 acres from the government as a War of 1812 veteran. He died in 1860.

MAHASKA

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 8, 2015: "Area residents to be honored as Transportation Heroes." Seventy individuals have been honored since 2009 as "Transportation Heroes" at the Heroes Center Awards Ceremony at the Spaulding Center, Grinnell. Among the seven recognized at this year's ceremony on May 15 was the late William "Porky" Den Hartog of Eddyville who was a driver for the Eddyville Volunteer Fire Department and a dedicated bus driver for Eddyville Community School. District for nearly 25 years. Porky drove Vocational Agriculture students to the landlocked Muchakinock Cemetery to restore the site and all a fence. When a new landowner refused to allow the students access, Porky found a different way through his own property to reach the cemetery. The Muchakinock Cemetery was the burial site of many residents of a largely black population that worked in the coal mines in the area. When those mines were exhausted, the mining company moved to Buxton in Monroe County.

**MARION**

Parsons/DeHamer – Work in progress.

Bellamy – Val has put new photos on the web site. The cemetery still needs a gate, sign and stone repair. Repair still needs to be completed around the fence posts. Janet will call James Petersen to see if we can help him complete the fence.

Monster – Central College owns the ground around the cemetery. The cemetery is blacked out on the plat map. Val has visited with Russ Benedict (Central College) and Eunice Folkerts (property owner). Central College and Eunice will give access to the cemetery. Eunice Folkerts family mow the cemetery and they have the posts and equipment to put in a new fence.

Price - Val has not heard any more on the vandalism. Josh Schneider filled in the cemetery and has not sent a bill.

Caulkins-Davies – Kent will visit with Randy Spaulding (property owner) regarding chipping the piles of limbs and getting access. Val will send a message on work day at the cemetery. Hopefully before the crops are planted.

Watkins and Klein – Steve Klein has donated gates for both of them.

Price – Larry Davis submitted a bid in March 2014 to repair the stones in three priorities. 1st priority – 40 gravestones \$3,065 which was completed in 2014. 2nd priority 27 gravestones \$2,385 and 3rd priority 22 gravestones \$2,860. Carla made a motion for Larry Davis to complete 2nd priority 27 gravestones \$2,385 in 2015. Seconded by Kent. All ayes. (Bid filed in March 2014 minutes).

Bridges, Walters, Carlisle – These cemeteries need some stone repair. Val and Larry will contact gentleman in Southern Iowa that does stone repair. Carl will visit with property owner (John Smith) of Walters to get access.

Mikesell/Yowell - Val will take pictures of the cemetery.

Schlotterback – Open House is scheduled for Sunday, May 24, 2015 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Val has information to contact the VA regarding the open house. Val will check size of gate we need.

Dewitt - The cemetery needs a lot of work. Local 4-H Club is working on the cemetery and has applied for a grant. Janet will check and see if the 4-H Club needs any help.

Old Ridlen/Orey and New Ridlen – Approximately 24 stones and bodies have been moved from Old Ridlen and new Ridlen back in the 1970's. Some people have witnessed the bulldozer moving stones to a ditch several years ago. Carl stated that there is one stone standing at the old Ridlen cemetery.

POLK

From the Des Moines Register, April 4, 2015: "Donations pour in for mausoleum work," by Lee Rood, in her Reader's Watchdog column. Jonas Cutler, a Republican, and Dennis Black, a Democrat, came together to spearhead a project to restore the historic grave site of Iowa's seventh governor, Samuel Merrill, at Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines. Merrill was a Civil War hero who died 116 years ago. Roughly \$50,000 was needed to restore the mausoleum. Over \$14,000 had been raised in April. To find out more about the renovation or to donate, go to [www.Patriot Outreach.org](http://www.PatriotOutreach.org) or [GovMerrill@Patriot Outreach.org](mailto:GovMerrill@PatriotOutreach.org)

TAMA

On Saturday, June 20th at 2 PM in Clutier, Ardene Cross is presenting a program on the one room school. She has relocated the school to the Clutier Main Street. She has interesting information on the one room schools in general and on this one room school particularly since she attended it. She has some wonderfully fascinating memorabilia and some great stories. Anyway, people will meet in the school and after the event there will be refreshments. She hopes to have the lady who taught in this school also attend, but that's not certain as she is not in the best of health. It is important that people register by calling 800-284-4823 or online www.IowaValley.com. There is only room for around 30 people, so attendance has to be limited to those who have registered.

Also, our Oak Hill Cemetery Association has really been active. We have added benches to be placed around the cemetery, and we were the organization that gathered money and designed the new Veterans' Monument at the cemetery. We have been pushing the city into putting in new drives as the cement has crumbled due to age and use. Also, we are holding a cemetery walk in June and inviting the public to come and learn about some of the fascinating people who are now resting at Oak Hill. Submitted by Ann Michael

VAN BUREN

From the Van Buren County Register, March 26, 2015, the column, "Yesterday Remembered," by Ralph Arnold. In the spring of 1864, the 14th Iowa Infantry captured a beautiful white horse in the Louisiana Campaign that had belonged to General Richard Taylor, the son of President Zachary Taylor. The men presented the horse to their commander, Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Newbold who was killed a few days later. The horse was shipped to Newbold's widow and eventually the horse became the property of Warren C. Jones of Mt. Pleasant who had served in the same regiment as Newbold. When the horse died, Jones buried him with military honors and erected a grave marker for the old celebrity. The grave is just north of Mt. Pleasant.

A horse with an evil disposition, Noble F., became a record setting sulky horse who set a record at the Illinois State Fair by running a mile in two minutes, the first Iowa horse to do so. Years later, after the horse and his owner, Hollis Regur, passed away, Hollis's widow purchased a grave marker that contains a horse's head engraved between the names of Hollis and his wife. It represents Noble F. and is located in the Center Chapel Cemetery.

**WAPELLO**

Check out the Wapello County Pioneer Cemeteries page on Facebook maintained by Beverly Bethune. The Anderson Hill Cemetery in Wapello County was featured in a news segment on KTVO-TV on May 21 to publicize Cemetery Appreciation Month in Iowa and the plight of pioneer cemeteries. Beverly Bethune was interviewed in the cemetery.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 2, 2015: "One love, two tombs and Wapello Count cemeteries," by Sue Parrish. Parrish describes her fascination with a well-written, fanciful book, "A Fine and Private Place," written by Peter S. Beagle in 1960. The story is placed in a cemetery where the protagonist, Jonathan Rebeck, has lived for two years after dropping out of society. He is befriended by the Raven who feeds him, as the ravens feed Elijah in the desert. It is also the love story of two ghosts, which Rebeck has the power to see and communicate with. She compares it with the love story of Jesus's resurrection that is celebrated by Christians during the Easter season.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 30, 2015: "Intersection closed for archaeological survey." An Archaeological and Historic Review is required to determine if prehistoric activity is present before work can begin on the Flood Protection Mitigation Project that is funded by FEMA AND CDBG grants.

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 21, 2015: "Memories of Decoration Day," by Sue Parrish. Memorial Day, officially held on the last Monday in May, was previously known as Decoration Day and unofficially began the year after the Civil War, when many turned out in the North and the South to honor the fallen. Three years after the war ended, Decoration Day was declared by the Grand Army of the Republic to decorate graves of the fallen Union soldiers, and that year held the first large ceremony on the grounds of Arlington Cemetery on May 30. Many of us remember Decoration Day growing up because that was a family day when the young ones became acquainted with the cemeteries and plots where their ancestors, known to them only by name, were buried. Bouquets of Iris, Peonies, Bridal Wreath, Forsythia and other flowers were gathered early on Decoration Day and lovingly arranged at gravesites with memories held close at heart during the process. Sue Parrish is a retired museum director and author of the book, "Days Gone By."

www.pbllimited.com

OUT OF IOWA**MINNESOTA**

From MPR news, December 28, 2012: "Pioneer Cemeteries Fall Under Plow's Threat," by Dan Gunderson. Pictured are "before" and "after" pictures of a farm in Grant County where the Boerner family cemetery was destroyed in order to plow the area for cropland. A descendant of the Boerner family reported the incident to authorities who called Minnesota's state archeologist. Fragments and buried debris were found and the owner of the surrounding land admitted clearing the cemetery. Damaging a cemetery, including American Indian burials, can be a felony under Minnesota law even if

it's abandoned. State archaeologist Scott Anfinson has suggested starting an adopt-a-cemetery program and proposing a law to not only protect burial sites, but ensuring that they are cared for in the futures. dgunderson@mpr.org Follow Dan Gunderson on Twitter

NEW HAMPSHIRE

From FOX NEWS, May 6, 2015: "Woman sentenced for digging up dad's grave for 'real will'". Melanie Nash was sentenced to 1 1/2 - 3 years in prison for digging up her father's grave in an attempt to find his will. She felt that she didn't receive her share of his inheritance after her father died in 2004. She told police that she dug up the grave "with respect" and that father "would be OK with it." Two others pleaded guilty and one was acquitted.

OKLAHOMA



From FOXNEWS, May 6, 2015: "Grave Problem: Feds blamed as prairie dogs invade Okla. cemetery, digging up bones," by Seth Paxton. The Bertland Cemetery borders the Rita Blanca Grassland, maintained by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, where prairie dogs are leaving the grassland and creating sink holes and digging up bones. A Public Affairs Officer with the Forest Service says that a buffer zone of at least a mile and a half around the cemetery is needed. The prairie dogs cannot be poisoned due to the introduction of the black footed ferret which is a protected species.

VIRGINIA

From the American Legion web site, May 6, 2015: "Riders laying wreath at Civil War monument." Pictured is the often forgotten Civil War Unknowns Monument located near Arlington House in Arlington National Cemetery that honors the remains of 2,111 unknown soldiers from various battlefields of the Civil War. The Legion Riders motorcycle convoy conducted a formal wreath laying on May 23 that included a bugler from the U.S. Army Band, Gold Star families, American Legion dignitaries, and Dr. E. Bruce Heilman, chancellor of the University of Richmond and a U.S. Marine veteran.

TEXAS

From the Dallas Morning News, April 9, 2015: "Living among the dead," by Karel Holloway. Greg Grant, a horticulturist at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, discovered a wild variety of salvia next to the headstone of Henry and Augusta Duelberg at a cemetery in Fayette County in central Texas. Grant searches for ornamental plants that have disappeared from modern commercial sources as they are more heat tolerant and vigorous. The salvia, named Duelberg, had blue flowers on Henry's side and white flowers on Augusta's. It was named a Texas Superstar by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service after years of testing.



"I've always said if the dead can grow it, you can grow it," Grant says.

ENGLAND

High-tech weaponry has been employed on the front line of a battle to save a monument to the Duke of Wellington which towers over Somerset on the highest point of the Blackdown Hills. The obelisk, built as a tribute to the Duke following the battle of Waterloo, is owned by the National Trust but had to be closed to the public and fenced off because of falling stone debris. Specialist teams brought in to monitor the structure and say the monument stands almost as ramrod stiff as the backbone of the great general it commemorates. The latest team used ground penetrating radar on all three faces of the monument to give a detailed picture of the structure under the stone cladding.

Read more: <http://www.westerndailynews.co.uk/Wellington-monument-standing-tall/story-26509425-detail/story.html#ixzz3aP36K9Cg>

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Members Notes

From SAPIC member, Mike Rowley:

War of 1812 Veterans can be found at ...http://www.iowa1812.org/veterans/1812soldiers_county_6-04-2012_web.htm

The last living CW veteran in each county at ... <http://www.iowavalor.com/page.php?8>

Whiterock Conservancy

Whiterock Conservancy is situated on 5,000 acres in the land base called Whiterock. The land conservancy is dotted with sandstone bluffs carved out by the Middle Raccoon river. They have oak savannas bursting with prairie wildflowers and an abundance of wildlife thriving in its natural habitat.

Whiterock Conservancy supports a diverse array of plants and animals native to Iowa in the Middle Raccoon River area and serves as the "last outpost" of significant forested habitat until you reach the Missouri River. It is unique because it is part of a working landscape with crop agriculture, grazing, and active management of the natural system. The BioBlitz is designed to bring natural science experts and the public together to explore this landscape and identify the diversity of species found in it. Register to attend BioBlitz July 25, 2015. Topics include:

Night-light for moths

Identify bird species

Participate in an forest Ecological Site Description (ESD)

Use microscopes to look at the millions of soil fungi and microbes that process carbon and nitrogen and build soils (original fungi and microbes can be found in pioneer cemeteries)

Search for and identify butterflies, bees and other pollinators of the prairie (pioneer cemeteries often contain prairie plants that provide cover and nutrition for butterflies and bees)

Identify reptiles and amphibians. Use electrofishing equipment and seines to sample the minnows, darters, suckers, catfish, sunfish, and small mouth bass community in the river

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

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for the July meeting (probably emailed) will be for the 2nd quarter ending June 30.



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

Setting Compound: (light grey): Miles Supply

Setting Cushions: (1/16 inch): Miles Supply

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

601 Locust Street, 4th Floor

Des Moines, IA 50309-3738

E-Mail: Dennis.Britson@iid.iowa.gov

(515) 281-5705 or toll-free (877)-955-1212

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.ances
try.com/~iasapc/](http://www.rootsweb.ancesstry.com/~iasapc/)

SAPIC is on Facebook!

Find War of 1812 and the last Civil War vet in each county

From SAPIC member, Mike
Rowley:

War of 1812 Veterans
can be found at ...

[http://
www.iowa1812.org/
veterans/1812soldiers
county 6-04-
2012 web.htm](http://www.iowa1812.org/veterans/1812soldierscounty6-04-2012web.htm)

The last living CW
veteran in each
county at ...

[http://
www.iowavalor.co
m/page.php?8](http://www.iowavalor.com/page.php?8)