

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/>

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Software Demonstration

At the SAPIC October Meeting, Barbara Hug will demonstrate a cemetery software called *The Crypt Keeper*.

Cost is \$50 a year to keep it on line (not public though) or \$250 for the software.

It is very easy to use and will hold a total of 20,000 records and multiple cemeteries. Barbara is already using it for her own cemetery.

Here is a link to FAQ:

<http://ck.tbgtom.com/?p=FAQ>

The Bioarchaeology Program at the Office of the State Archaeologist and The Protection of Ancient Human Remains in Iowa by Lora K. Nolder Ph.D

Chapters of the Iowa Code Pertaining to the Protection of Ancient Human Remains 263B.7

- The state archaeologist is responsible for investigating, preserving, and reintering ancient human remains (>150 years old) when discovered.

- Osteological analyses and reports are required.

263B.8-9 - Cemeteries for reburial were established on state-owned land.

- The State Archaeologist has the authority to deny permission to disinter human remains.

Administrative Code 685-11.1

- The OSA is the appropriate agency to contact regarding discoveries of ancient human remains.

- The OSA should be notified of areas believed to be ancient burial grounds.

Administrative Code 685-11.1(4)

- The OSA is to maintain records of all burial sites in Iowa.

- The OSA has the authority to coordinate activities pertaining to ancient burial sites to foster protection and preservation.

- The OSA is not fiscally responsible for such activities.

716.5

- It is an aggravated misdemeanor (criminal mischief in the third degree) to intentionally disinter human remains without lawful authority.

- Maximum penalty: imprisonment not to

exceed 2 years plus a fine of \$500 - \$5,000.

- The Department of Public Health (Office of Vital Statistics) is responsible for the protection of burials that are less than 150 years old, and has the authority to grant

permission for disinterment (**Chapter 144.34**)

5231.316(6)

- It is a serious misdemeanor to fail to report the discovery of human remains.

SAPIC Will Meet Oct. 10th

The Newton Public Library has been reserved for the **SAPIC meeting on October 10**. Doors will open at 10:00 AM. Refreshments will be available prior to the meeting.

The address for the library is: 100 N 3rd Ave W, Newton, IA 50208 (641) 792-4108

It is located one block north of the courthouse.

Directions:

Exit I64 off of I-80

North on U.S. 14 to 4-way

stop.

East on U.S. 6 (1st Ave) to W 2nd ST N (west side of courthouse)

North on W 2nd ST N 2 blocks to N 3rd Ave E.

Turn East and into driveway.

Pizza will be ordered for lunch. Cost will be shared by those who wish to stay for lunch.

Contact Barbara Lane Hug for more information:

barbhug3@gmail.com

Dubuque Cemetery Builds Second Urn Space as Cremations Climb

In a news report published July 10, 2015 Dubuque describes the need for an additional columbarium. A **columbarium** is a place for the respectful and usually public storage of cinerary urns (i.e., urns holding a deceased's cremated remains). The term comes from the Latin *Columba* (dove) and originally referred to compartmentalized housing for doves and pigeons called a dovecote. You may read this copyrighted article at <http://www.kwwl.com/story/29520922/2015/07/10/dubuque-cemetery-builds-second-urn-space-as-cremations-climb>

Web Site About Grave Dowsing

by

Brenda Marble

Cass County Historical & Genealogy Society Volunteer

<http://www.tommyarkham.com/gravedowsing.htm>

Dowsing is a type of divination employed in attempts to locate ground water, buried metals or ores, gemstones, oil, gravesites, and many other objects and materials without the use of scientific apparatus.

Gov. Branstad signs Proclamation



Governor Branstad signed a proclamation declaring the week of August 16-23, 2015 as *Spirit of '45 Commemoration Week in Iowa*. A ceremony was held at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery on August 16 at 1 PM.

This ceremony was one of many held to recognize and honor our WW II veterans. It was an international event held at the cemeteries that are the final resting place for so many of our WW II heroes. Governor Branstad was the guest speaker with Capt. Jerry Yellin, a WW II fighter pilot from Fairfield providing remarks.



Legion Praises Mt. Soledad Memorial Association for Saving Cross

The American Legion - July 21, 2015

Calling for an end to a lengthy court battle, The American Legion is praising the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association for its recent purchase of land from the Department of Defense in order to preserve a 43-foot cross that was erected in 1954. "I hope this ends it," National Commander Michael D. Helm said of the legal case that started in the late 1980s. "Frankly, it shouldn't have been necessary for the government to sell the land to a private group in order to preserve a memorial that is deeply significant to so many people. The American Legion believes in 'God and Country.' Unfortunately, some courts don't always see it that way." Helm commended Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., for writing and passing legislation that made the \$1.4 million purchase possible. "The Liberty Institute has also been a fierce advocate for the memorial, which the Legion has supported through numerous national resolutions," Helm said. The ACLU and Jewish War Veterans have sued to have the cross removed because they believe it infringes on their constitutional rights. A 2012 court ruling permitted a cross owned by the National Park Service in the Mojave Desert to be transferred in a private sale to the VFW. The Mount Soledad cross in La Jolla, Calif., is part of a larger memorial, which includes more than 3,700 plaques honoring veterans of various wars. The land purchase is for the one-half acre plot of land surrounding the memorial.

Source URL: <http://www.legion.org/news/229284/legion-praises-mt-soledad-memorial-association-saving-cross>

WAR HISTORY ONLINE

From the *WAR HISTORY ONLINE* web site, July 21, 2015: the place for military history news and views. The remains of 36 World War Two US Marines have been uncovered on the Pacific island of Kiribati.

The bodies of the soldiers have been discovered by a US charity called History Flight that is operating in the Pacific to recover and return as many World War Two soldiers' remains as possible.

One of the bodies they have found is that of Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman on Tarawa Atoll island who received the Congressional Medal of Honour. Tarawa Atoll was the scene of a Japanese-US battle at the end of 1943 when over 1000 US Marines and the entire Japanese defending force of almost 5000 men were killed.

The charity uses archival documents and records from the US military plus original burial documents, radar and local investigations to find war graves. History Flight has been operating in the Pacific since 2007.

The find of 36 US Marines on Kiribati is the biggest find they have come across so far, all of which will be identified and returned home to the US for full military funerals.

History Flight director Mark Noah said a combination of archival research of original burial records, radar searches and interviews with locals had turned up a number of graves since 2007.

Kiribati Island does have a US war cemetery for those who died during the conflict, but many were buried in mass graves near the battle ground and were never identified or formally documented.

The charity says that it wishes to uphold the expectation for all soldiers that no matter where they were killed, they would be repatriated and buried on home soil. The war grave of 36 marines was discovered after four months of excavation work in the area. So far 18 have been identified and the remainder are still being analyzed. Lieutenant Bonnyman's teeth and dental records were used to identify the Medal of Honour recipient.



Alexander Bonnyman Jr (4th from right) and his assault party storming a Japanese stronghold on Tarawa, November 1943.



Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman, Jr. was a United States Marine Corps officer who was killed in action at Betio, Tarawa during World War II. Purple Heart—Medal of honor II

COUNTY REPORTS

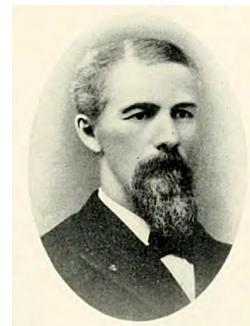


ADAMS/RINGGOLD

Chris Fredricksen Memorials and crew have 3 projects in the works2 in Ringgold County and one in Adams County. Oak Ridge is by far the biggest project with over 98 stones to repair/reset/clean etc. Mt. Zion in Adams County has more than 45 stones waiting for our TLC.

BENTON

From the *Cedar Valley Times*, July 10, 2015: "Braille school students buried without tombstones," by Jim Morrison. Local historian Rich Farmer met with a group from the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School located in Vinton to discuss the unmarked graves of at least eleven students from the school. Only one student, Harry Hollingsworth, who died in 1903 and whose grave is in Maplewood Cemetery, has a marker. Other known burials are believed to have been made in two lots purchased by the school at Evergreen Cemetery as early as 1864. The earliest burial was that of Sarah A. Cook, who died on a train returning to the school from a visit to relatives in northeast Iowa. Since most of the students are buried in one lot, Farmer hopes to find funding to erect a marker engraved with the names of the students.



Buren Sherman

Cemetery sexton Tim Fuchs did not realize there were graves on Lot 31 where several burials were made. Along with the front page article, are photos of the group at the Evergreen Cemetery, including Carolyn Hibbs as she reads braille lettering on a headstone for Buren Sherman, who was Iowa's 12th governor.

BLACK HAWK

STROLLING WITH THE SPIRITS, sponsored by the Grout Museum in Waterloo, will be held October 17, 2015 at 3:30 & 7:00 PM at the Fairview Cemetery. The cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. Register on-line: GMDISTRICT.ORG/STROLLINGSPIRITS

Stroll through Fairview Cemetery as actors bring some of Waterloo's earliest residents back to life through live interpretation. Meet at the Grout Museum South St. parking lot entrance 15 minutes prior to show time for bus transportation to the cemetery. Cast of characters: Fred Becker, Forest Kirkhart, Guy Feely, James Groat, Isabel Mclsaac and William Virden. Warm up after your stroll at the chili supper provided by Friends of the Grout Historic Houses.

Note: SAPIC member Mike Magee was instrumental in obtaining markers for William Virden and his granddaughter, Mary.

The following are summations of two news articles that demonstrate the effectiveness of being persistent. Mike Magee spent years rescuing the burial sites and preserving the memories of the pioneer children mentioned in the news articles.

From the *Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier* web site, August, 2013,, "Possible pioneer grave studied in Waterloo," by Pat Kinney. Archaeologists are exploring a portion of a University Avenue construction project to see if it contains the 165-year-old gravesite of a pioneer family child. The investigation is focused on the grounds of the former Platt's Nursery where Hy-Vee is building a gas station. Mike Magee, who searches newspaper archives, remembered reading a 1960 news article about the demolition of "Texowa," a landmark home built by the family of Waterloo's founders. Dean Platt, owner of the home, is quoted as saying that he believed there was a grave of a child on the property. Mike contacted the Office of the State Archaeologist and a representative

of that office halted construction and has been monitoring the site for possible evidence of burial remains.

From the *Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier* web site, "Experts confirm pioneer graves near Platt's," by Pat Kinney. Evidence of graves of an infant brother and sister, including bone fragments, wood from a box and metal coffin screws, has been discovered. The family has been notified and reburial has been planned according to archaeologist, Leah D. Rogers. Gravestones associated with the two burials also were found. The graves were tied to a family not listed among the early pioneers of Waterloo.

Note: Mike suspects that the grave of Mary Virden, mentioned in the 1960 news article, may have been destroyed by a water main crew. However, Mike has obtained a grave marker for Mary Virden that will be placed beside the graves of her grandparents in a Waterloo cemetery.

DECATUR



Plaque at the Garden Grove burial site:
THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS AT GARDEN GROVE.

Early in 1846 thousands of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) left their homes in Nauvoo, Illinois, bound for the Great Basin in the Rocky Mountains. Moving westward across Iowa, their advance company made camp here April 25, 1846, calling the site Garden Grove.

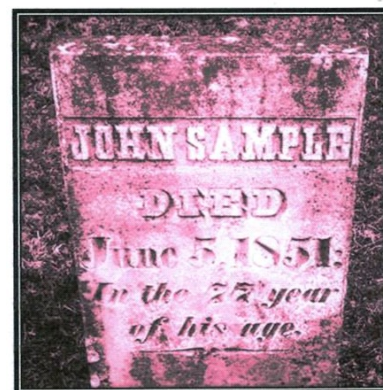
Within two weeks, 359 men under the leadership of President Brigham Young cleared 300 acres of land, planted crops, built log houses, and cut 10,000 surplus rails for fencing and enough logs to build 40 additional houses.

Garden Grove thus became a stopover for the many emigrant wagon trains and handcart groups that followed later. Death overtook some, however. These were buried here.

Refreshed by their stop at this place, the Mormon pioneers went on to the Rockies where they founded cities and towns and made the desert to "blossom as the rose."

HENRY

The Third Annual Pioneer Cemetery Day was held at the Cholera Hill Pioneer Cemetery on September 12, 2015. The first burial may have been as early as 1839, but nearly thirty deaths occurred in June of 1851 due to cholera. Pat White and Debbie VanDerSnick read a news article written in 1905 relating the tragic loss of life during this period. At least one Civil War veteran, Robert C. Crawford, who died as a result of wounds at Shiloh, is also interred at the cemetery. A welcome to the program was given by Commission member, Linn Hunsaker, and Stan Hill, former chairman, presented a history of the Commission's activities. Genealogical information was attached to gravestones. Three generations of a family who owned a dairy nearby mowed the cemetery for many years.



Nearly 30 deaths due to Cholera in 1851

LEE

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 41 will be conducting its 6th annual POW/MIA ceremony this coming Saturday, the 19th at 1 p.m. at the Keokuk National Cemetery.

We are honoring all POW's/MIA's and will conduct the ceremony at the grave of [Colonel] Frank Nelson, a Bataan Death March survivor who also survived 42 months in a Japanese prison camp.

Turn West on 18th & Main by Eckland Motors and follow 18th street to its ending. The cemetery is at the end of the street.

MAHASKA

From the *Oskaloosa Herald*, September 20, 197-
 “History of Negro cemeteries,” by Pearl Morgan, Special to the *Herald*.

The author tells of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Jones, who came to Beacon near Oskaloosa in 1864 and opened a coal mine. Later a family named McNeil purchased the business and leased about 1,600 acres of underground farm land on which to mine coal near the present town of Evans. In addition to the English, Irish, Scottish and Welch miners, many Negro families were brought from Virginia to Evans to work in the mines. Many of their graves are located in the nearby cemetery west of Oskaloosa. Near the present town of Given is the largely black cemetery of Muchakinock, also a coal mining community. The Eddyville FFA fenced and preserved some of the gravestones in the Muchakinock Cemetery. These communities preceded the more famous coal mining town of Buxton located in Monroe County.



Springtime view to the southeast showing a few of the three dozen gravestones to be found here out of almost 300 burials on this site on a knoll above Muchakinock creek.

RINGGOLD

From the *Mount Ayr Record News*, July 30, 2015: “Oak Ridge Cemetery rehab -- part of pioneer cemetery project.” The Ringgold County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, chaired by Angie Hynek, has made a three-year commitment to restore the Oak Ridge Cemetery north of Mount Ayr. Currently 29 cemeteries in Ringgold County qualify as pioneer cemeteries, so Commission members have been working on them, one at a time, since 1997. David Weeda fabricated gates for the Oak Ridge Cemetery, Darrel Adams installed a rail fence, Tony Mercer and Brad Smith are clearing the fence line by hand, and Fredricksen Monuments from Creston is resetting and repairing the stones. Oak Ridge was the first cemetery located in the vicinity of Mount Ayr. Joshua Chance donated land as a burial plot before his death on August 27, 1858. Many of his descendants are interred at Oak Ridge. The last interment was in 1998. The cemetery is also known as the “North Cemetery” or “Fife Cemetery.”



VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, July 2, 2015: Windy Jamison is pictured in his favorite pastime (except golf): working in an old cemetery, either working on stones or replacing missing veterans markers on stones. When asked how many stones he had worked on he just said, “Lots.” One summer he kept track of the old tall stones that were leaning from a little to a lot and Windy straightened up 153 plus throw in a few old smaller flat stones. That was in the Maple Hill Cemetery in Birmingham. Windy reports, “since I’m 87 I always give them a lifetime guarantee when I finish one!”

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 22, 2015: Our Opinion -- “Cemeteries need attention, too.” This summer has been a strange one, and we think that’s helping to feed into a situation that is becoming an embarrassment for the city. More rainfall than normal has caused grass to

grow fast and that is difficult to maintain. It's hard to cut. And, once you manage to cut it, it doesn't blow away. It sticks to the mower, to your legs, to the sidewalk. It sticks to gravestones, too. Maintenance at Ottumwa Cemetery has been allowed to become lax. Graves are almost hidden by tall grass. When it was cut, it was often left where it fell forming a mat of dead shoots that covered the names engraved below. It takes extra time to cut between stones and make sure they are clear, but this is about honor -- ours as the living and our loved ones who came before us. This situation is unacceptable and we expect the city to fix it.



From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 25, 2015: "Many pioneer cemeteries are neglected, too," in a letter to the editor by Patricia Shaw, Birmingham. The editorial staff was thanked for publicizing their opinion of cemetery neglect and reminded that there are also many neglected pioneer cemeteries that need attention. Our pioneer ancestors who sacrificed and endured hardships for us deserve to have respectably maintained burial places.

WEBSTER

From the *IGS Newsletter*, July 8, 2015:

Webster County Genealogical Society has updated their cemetery publication on Haviland, Old Prairie and St Paul's (German Lutheran) cemeteries that are located next to each other. This April 2015 consolidated index for all three cemeteries lists if the information is available: Last, First, Middle and Maiden Names, date of birth, date of death, lot number and a notation if there is no stone. This is one of the 157 publications they have for purchase through the Iowa Genealogical Society at http://www.shop.iowapioneers.com/Webster-County_c85.htm.

WORTH

A news article from the past without a source or date contributed by Mike Magee reminds travelers on highway 9 near Manly of a lone grave at the side of the road. Inscribed on the stone is: "Our Freddie, son of C & M Hensel, died Aug. 3, 1850, aged 3 m's, 2 d'y." It is believed to have once been in a cemetery and that other graves were moved to a Plymouth cemetery.

OUT OF IOWA

ILLINOIS



From the *Quad Cities Online*, posted August 7, 2015, "Scattering cremated remains becomes an issue for cemeteries," by Dawn Neuses.

E-mail: dneuses@qconline.com

Local cemetery administrators are concerned that people are scattering cremated remains in cemeteries or burying them without notifying the cemetery. It's illegal, even if the deceased person has bought a space for burial there.

In 2010, the state of Illinois began requiring cemeteries to record and report every burial, including the location, depth and other information. If the cemetery doesn't know about a scattering or burial, that information can't be reported.

Illinois law allows a person to scatter cremated remains on private property with the permission of the property owner, but the property owner must register the land as a cemetery and record all burials. It's illegal to scatter remains in a waterway.

Todd Slater, Moline's cemetery sexton, said workers have found cremated remains on grave sites. People have asked to install a stone in a family plot for someone Mr. Slater has no record of being buried there. Monument companies have asked where a stone is located so they can inscribe a death date for a person Mr. Slater has no records for.

Cremated remains are not ashes, but bone fragments. All bodies are tagged prior to cremation, which can help identify the person.

The cremation rate in Illinois is about 42 percent. Eleven percent of those remains make it to a cemetery and get recorded. When cremated remains are found, the family is contacted. Some say they didn't know they couldn't do that and, more often, families say they have no idea who it is.

Cemeteries record a person's life and death, records often sought by family members and others interested in genealogy. "I think everyone deserves to have their life recorded somewhere," Mr. Voegel said.

Cemeteries are required to exist forever. There always will be a neutral place family members can go to visit the people they care about, he said.

TEXAS



The Lone Star State

From the *Dallas Morning News*, July 4, 2015: "Descendant takes firm to court to restore graves," by James Ragland. The St. Mary Cemetery that was formed after emancipation and contains the grave of the grandmother of Waxahachie's first black mayor has become the site of a conflict between Elmerine Bell, a historic preservationist, and the Creek Land & Cattle Co. The owner of the cattle company, Blair Dance, purchased a massive tract of land in 2011 that included the cemetery. Ms. Bell, a former teacher, has at least eight ancestors buried in the cemetery. Mr. Dance originally indicated that he was trying to clean the area and make improvements, but in March of 2012, Bell's brother, who maintains the cemetery, noticed that the fence was torn down and several tombstones were damaged or removed. The Ellis County Sheriff's office was notified who suggested that they work out an agreement to settle the dispute. Bell says that Dance has refused to acknowledge the extent of the damage, so she is seeking justice through the court system.



DESTRUCTION OF THE ST. MARY CEMETERY IN ELLIS COUNTY, TEXAS before and After March 12, 2012

NEW TOOL FOR CEMETERY STONE MOVING

Ron Schumaker made a tombstone jack for the Hamilton County Cemetery Preservation Society (HCCPS) and we tried it out on 3 headstones at Homer Cemetery in early August 2015. A shovel and additional pry bar is still needed, but the jack does lift the stones once we get the stone broke loose from the ground. We also noticed that all three stones we worked on ended up providing more stuff-foot stones and even older headstone bases resting below the ground. More work (-:-). Thanks to Kim and Ron Schumaker for making this happen. The tool is a total of 8 feet in length and some muscle power is still needed to engage the jack and pry up the stone. We originally saw a tombstone jack at SAPIC in July; Mike Magee brought a version for everyone to view.



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

Christina.hazebaker@iid.iowa.gov

paula.fastenau@iid.iowa.gov (compliance officer)

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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



Were on the web:

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

SAPIC is on Facebook!

Donations welcome and
tax deductible.

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

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/1812soldiers_county_6-04-2012_web.htm)

The last living Civil War
Veteran in each county at ...

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

