

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 21 Issue #1

January, February, March, 2016

Inside this issue:

Legion helps with burials	2
Death as Industry	3
County reports	3
Out of Iowa	5
Supplies	6
Board members	7

Saturday April 9, 2016, Meeting

The next SAPIC meeting will be Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 208 West Main, Fredericksburg, IA 50630, at the "Here's to You" Cafe. From highway 63, watch for exit to Fredericksburg (highway 18 east).

The exit is at an overpass. Fredericksburg is about 5 miles east on highway 18. When you get to town, the "Here's to You" Café is on right (south side of street) on the west end of town. I'm going to try and have a sign out front welcoming SAPIC members!

I plan to be there by 8:30; we will be serving coffee, juice and fresh rolls before the meeting. Lunch will be available after the meeting at the same place; choice of Hot Beef Sandwich (sandwich with

potatoes and gravy), 1/2 Hot Beef Sandwich, or breaded chicken sandwich with coleslaw and French fries. Price is approximately \$7.50. Hope everyone will plan to eat lunch with us. For more information, contact Julie Echenrod:

jjeck@windstream.net

or Telephone:
641-394-3967

Where are the Largest ?

What are the largest pioneer cemeteries in each county? Surely the chapters in SAPIC would have some idea. Why couldn't each county submit information on their top 1 or 2. I would think it would be of interest. I am thinking Mahaska might have the largest, with Baldwin & Muchakinock each with over 400--but I don't know. Thanks, Carl Nollen, Runnells IA nollenca@hotmail.com

It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial costs and blamed it on the high cost of living

SAPIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Please send in your Pioneer Cemetery interests.

Our three regular SAPIC meetings have been set as follows:

Saturday, April 9, 2016— Chickasaw County

Saturday, July 9, 2016— Iowa County

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016 ---- Cedar County



Legion Helps With Burials

From the *American Legion* web site, January 15, 2016:

Serving in the U.S. Army, Terrence Sund drowned while searching a tunnel in Vietnam 1967. His body was sent home and was cremated. Then, his cremated remains were interred in a room at a cemetery in Wisconsin for decades.

Thanks to Department of Wisconsin American Legion efforts, Sund received a full military burial last summer. And the department has helped draft a bill that will ensure the remains of veterans not claimed by family members will be released so that the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) can arrange a military burial at one of the state's veteran cemeteries.

According to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Legionnaire Steve Conto was able to raise funds so that Sund could get the funeral he deserved. Since then, the

Department of Wisconsin has set up a fund to assist with burial costs for similar deceased veterans.

Department Adjutant Dave Kurtz said the effort has been a partnership between the Legion, Gov. Scott Walker and the WDVA. Waukesha County Veterans Service Officer Tom Ludka was instrumental in helping with the legislation, and Department Vice Commander Cooper "has really picked up the torch on this effort," Kurtz said.

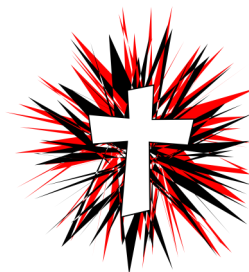
Cooper, a member of Post 80 in New Richmond, said he couldn't get the Sund story out of his head. He formed a committee tasked with seeing if there were any other veterans' remains in similar situations in Wisconsin's District 10.

Finding three, Cooper then expanded his search to the rest of the state, reaching out to more than 650 funeral homes. More than 40 such remains have

been found. "I know there are more," Cooper said. "There are a couple funeral home directors who have just started going through their records, or their records are in really bad shape."

Of the remains that have been located, their situation usually falls into three categories, Cooper said: 25 percent have no known next of kin, 25 percent's families have been unresponsive, and 50 percent have families who are happy to have the Legion help with the burial.

"To me, these guys are as important as POWs or MIAs," Cooper said of the veterans' remains. "They just happen to be on American soil. Everyone deserves a final resting place. These happen to be veterans who deserve full military honors. I'm going to make damn sure they get it."



Death as a Growth Industry

From the *Dallas Morning News*, February 23, 2016:

“Afterlife suits; Death as a growth industry.”

Years in the making, here comes the infinity Burial Suit, or more colloquially, the *Mushroom Death Suit*. Developed by a pair of Stanford University alum, the suit would enshroud newly deceased, embroidered with a thread infused with mushroom spores intended to grow from the body after burial.

The idea is the mushrooms would decompose the body in a way that is environmentally friendly, neutralizing many of the contaminants that we all carry, such as pesticides, preservatives and heavy metals. The suit’s makers hope to begin making it available in April or May. They claim to have a waiting list and have developed an animal version for beloved pets.



County Reports

BLACK HAWK

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, November 25, 1927:

“Mystery Shrouds Secret Burial of Babe in Hillcrest”
Discovery of the secret burial of an infant in a Hillcrest cemetery county burial plot, today started an inquiry by Coroner Sidney D. Smith, and the body removed to Hillerman & Gindt mortuary.

Investigation disclosed that neither a death certificate nor a burial permit had been issued. The body is that of a boy, who probably died shortly after birth, in the opinion of the coroner. It was incased in a neatly made box. If the parents of the child are not identified the infant will be given a regular burial and the grave marked “unknown.” Hillcrest cemetery, acquired by the county board several years ago for the interment of people who die without means, is situated on a hill top one mile east of the city limits.

From the *Waterloo Daily Courier*, July 10, 1949: “Box of Bones Found, Decide Cremation.” A minor mystery surrounded the discovery by two men mowing grass in Waterloo Cemetery of a tin box containing what appeared to be pulverized human bones. The box was

taken to the police station where county coroner Sidney Smith took charge of the substance and called in a dentist and a chemist to look at the findings. Along with a Waterloo undertaker, it was concluded that it did contain the remains of a cremated body and that the teeth were probably human. Coroner Smith and others theorized that the box worked its way up through the ground.

CLINTON

From Bill Wundram's column, *Quad City Times*: “Wundram: Grave markers tell eerie tales”

Epitaphs tell macabre tales, especially on Halloween week. Actually, some are pretty darned amusing. Mike Kearney, a former Clinton alderman, traipses around cemeteries photographing tombstones. To date, he has taken photos of 75,000 markers in Clinton County. “I’m just about done for the season,” he said on a chilly Monday morning, “but I’ll be back at it next spring.”

Mike has come up with some “oddities,” like this carved on a grave marker:

*“I can’t be overdrawn
I still have checks.”*



COUNTY REPORTS continued

POLK

Hamilton Funeral Home in Des Moines will be opening the Gary Davis Heritage and Legacy Library in September.

This library will be an additional resource for people researching their family history. They will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month. They do ask that you call ahead at 515-243-5221 to confirm that the library will be open.

Governor (Col.) Samuel Merrill Mausoleum Restoration



From the WHO-TV, Des Moines, web site, February 25, 2016:

A fundraising effort for the restoration of the monument at the grave of former governor of Iowa Samuel Merrill has reached its goal and work will begin this summer. The project was headed by local history buff Jonas Cutler. In 1856, Merrill left a successful business and political career in New England and opened shop in Iowa. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, he recruited troops and funded the uniforms for the first, second and third volunteer regiments. He joined the Iowa Volunteer Infantry and led the charge at the battle of Black River Bridge where he was shot through both legs. He was elected governor in 1868. "There is nothing that is going to cast a person (better) than that particular experience. I think that's exactly the reason why Iowans chose Civil War soldiers and people with Civil War experience to lead the state after that," said Jeff Kaufmann, history teacher, chairman of the Republican Party of Iowa and SAPIC member. Merrill also laid the cornerstone at the new state Capitol in 1871. He died in 1899. When an oak tree fell and damaged the foundation of his marble monument, there were no known relatives to authorize or fund repairs to his grave. Present

Governor Branstad, also a student of history, shared \$1,000 of his own money with the cause. The Iowa History Fund Committee will cover the remaining \$6,500 needed. The Iowa History Fund Committee gets it money in part from the sale of Brandstad's autobiography.

SCOTT

A tombstone in Maysville Cemetery northwest of Davenport tells the sad story of a farmer who was killed when a steam thresher fell apart as he attempted to take it across a wood bridge. The epitaph:

*"Dearest brother who has left us,
And thy loss we deeply feel
But it was Scott Co's rotten
bridge,
That you had to suffer for
Oh, we shall never forget you"*

TAMA

From Anne Michael in Tama County, e-mail dated January 5, 2016:

Oak Hill Cemetery Association's projects. Continuing projects are putting in new concrete drives as the old drives were too narrow and crumbling. The city of Tama has allocated \$25,000 per year for this project. I believe it is possible that we will have all the drives done in two more years. Also, for the last 4 years we have hired a company to straighten stones. We have done 100 per year, but this year

we seem to have caught up as we only did around 80. Also, our group was instrumental in replacing the old veterans' memorial with a very attractive new one. We headed the drive for \$4,000 to pay for the replacement. Also, we plant red, white, and blue flowers in the two large urns, so that they are there for Memorial Day. (I designed the monument and have to say I'm a little proud of it). We wrote for a grant to paint the iron fence and Iron pillars that go across the front of the cemetery. The fence and pillars qualified as having historical interest as they are over 160 years old. Last year we did a cemetery walk for the public where we researched interesting people and stood at their graves relating their life stories. This year we will do a few more stones, and we are pushing for some maintenance like painting the shelter, pulling weeds, etc. Our city has been very cooperative with our wishes. As a result, Oak Hill Cemetery is beautiful. Our association is committed to make sure our cemetery is an attractive, well-maintained resting place because we feel those resting there deserve that.



Veterans Memorial -Oak Hill Cemetery, Tama, Iowa.

WAPELLO

Wapello County Pioneer Cemeteries has a Facebook page now. I haven't posted much on it but I'm planning to use it as a recruiting tool for next spring's projects. We need to get some cemeteries read if nothing else. --Beverly Bethune

www.facebook.com/wapcopioncemeteries

OUT OF IOWA

ILLINOIS

My outdoor cemetery work is quickly drawing to a close with shorter daylight hours and cooler temperatures.



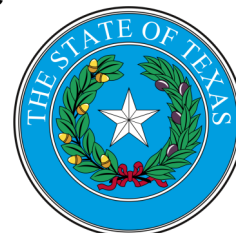
Next week end, I will be presenting a one hour cemetery program at the Illinois State Genealogical Society Conference in Chicago.

Looking forward to speaking for our "silent cities."

--SAPIC Board Member, John Heider

TEXAS

From the *Dallas Morning News*, February 22, 2016:



“Resting places unknown for 100 at cemetery,” by Andrea Ball, Austin-American statesman. State disability services officials have refused to give historian Dale Flatt details on the Austin State Supported Living Center’s cemetery, citing the privacy of former residents who died 75 or more years ago. State officials don’t know where 100 bodies are buried at Austin’s institution for people with intellectual disabilities, raising questions about whether they are interred under nearby roads, buildings or neighbors’ yards. The Department of Aging and Disability Services can’t find a detailed map with names and locations of those buried at the institution’s cemetery. A memorial at the site says 135 people lie there, but only 35 markers are visible on the quarter-acre site. The agency doesn’t know if some bodies have been moved to other cemeteries.

Aerial photos of the lot suggest at least a dozen other people are buried in unmarked plots. Some headstones are just feet

Continued on page 6

from neighbors' yards, facility roads and utility lines. The state is fighting Austin cemetery historian Dale Flatt's request for details on the cemetery. Flatt wants to have it named a historical site to prevent it being sold in the future.

In May, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton backed Flatt, saying much of the information was already in the public domain and that the privacy claim didn't hold water. The agency still refused to release information and sued the attorney general. The next court hearing is scheduled for March 31.

Susan Payne, president of an advocacy group that supports all of the living centers, says, "You just can't do that to

these people. You can't pretend they were never there."

-- From SAPIC member Sidney S. Louis

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

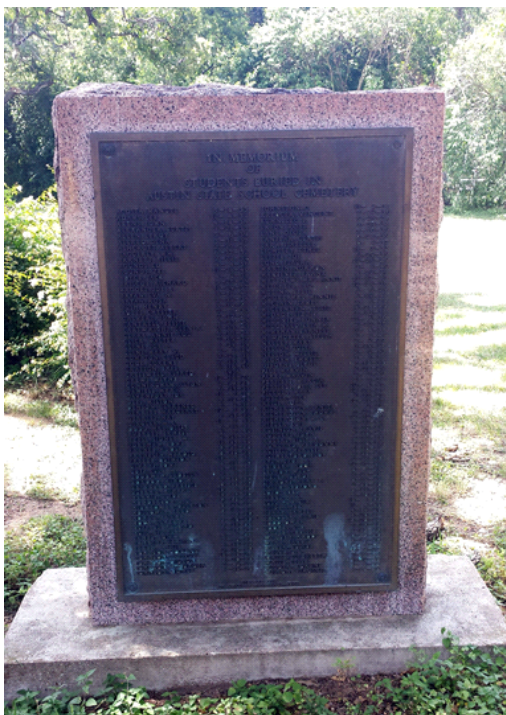
STATE CEMETERY REGULATOR

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)

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Lara Noldner, Bioarchaeology Director
700 Clinton Street Building
Iowa City, IA 52242-1030
319-384-0740 lara-noldner@uiowa.edu

Treasurers Report and Minutes—have been sent by e-mail—if you want an additional copy contact Pat Shaw <patshaw@netins.net>



Memorial at cemetery

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

Treasurer: Brad Hughes
308 Sunset Lane
Grimes, IA 50111
319-269-8934 Llynman2@gmail.com

Board Member (2016): Jean Ann Ripley
2650 Inkpaduta Ave.
Webster City, IA 50595-7313
jbripley2@gmail.com

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

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

Board Member (2018): LaVerna Moser
Amana, IA
319-361-0556 maidyourweekend@southslope.net

Board Member (2017): John Heider
977 Iron Horse Place
Monticello, IL 61856
217-762-2422 jheider@mchsi.com

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

Board Member (2017) Mary Richards
2201 R. Ave.
Jamaica, IA 50128
515-386-4750 mrichards@metins.net

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



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.ancestr
y.com/~iasapc/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iasapc/)

*Donations welcome and
tax deductible.*

Send dues to:
Brad Hughes, 308 NW
Sunset Lane, Grimes,
IA 50111

SAPIC is on Facebook!

World War I memorials commemorate the events and the casualties of World War I. These war memorials include civic memorials, larger national monuments, war cemeteries, private memorials and a range of utilitarian designs such as halls and parks, dedicated to remembering those involved in the conflict.



President Calvin Coolidge at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier 1923
