

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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October, November, December 2016

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SAPIC RECEIVES THANK YOU'S FOR GRANTS

The St Charles Lions Club, St. Charles, Iowa raised \$3100.00 in 2016 to do some major work at Union Chapel Cemetery. In the spring and summer, \$2200.00 was used to remove trees from a fence line and trees starting to damage stones within the cemetery. The SAPIC grant was used to help restore the Wilcox and Moore stones.

Thank you so much for the \$200 grant for the Liberty Cemetery here in Adair Co, Iowa! We will forward photos as things progress. We plan on having a story in the Creston and Adair Co papers and will certainly publicly thank SAPIC also. PS -- I actually shed a few tears when I opened the envelope. It was one of the easier grants to apply for and I've learned so much from your web site regarding preservation!

Thanks for the donation for the Dexter Cemetery Workshop in May. Your donation helped to make it possible. We had a good

turnout and repaired 25 markers in 2 days and the participants went home knowing the right way to repair and clean stones. Thanks again. Rod Stanley

We, the Lee County Pioneer Cemetery Association, and I would like to thank you and the SAPIC organization for your continued support. We have been grant award recipients for several years, and since we are not a commission, we depend upon outside donations and grants. You have always been generous with us and it is greatly appreciated. In the spring we will resume our work in the Pitman Chapel Cemetery. We now have it cleaned and on a regular mowing schedule and, as you know, that is half the battle. Thank you again for appreciating the work we are doing.

Sincerely, Susan Alarie

This letter is to acknowledge and thank you for the generous support you provided in the amount of \$200 for the

2016 Preserve Iowa Summit. Your sponsorship helped us raise \$ 24,150! When the Commission began planning the event, it insisted that the 2016 Preserve Iowa Summit would be "setting the bar high" for future annual statewide conferences. We are confident that goal was achieved. In the two short weeks since the Summit, we have received positive feed back from some of the 360 conference attendees. The Commission recognizes that the entire conference experience would not have been possible without the outstanding support you and others provided. Again, thank you for making the 2016 Preserve Iowa Summit a complete success.

Sincerely,
John L. Frueh,
Chairperson Davenport
Historic Preservation
Commission
Ryan Rusnak, AICP,
Planner III
Community Planning &
Economic Development
Department



Due to possible inclement weather, the January SAPIC will be a virtual (e-mail) meeting.

Please send your agenda items to President Steve Story at dstory@netins.net or

call 563-427-5354 or

563-380-8317 (cell)



Veterans Day and Memorial Day “Which day is which?”

From the *Ottumwa Courier*,
November 10, 2016:

“Which day is which?” by Sue Parrish, retired museum director and author of the book, *Days Gone By* (available at O’Hara Hardware, Ottumwa, Iowa).



The author makes a distinction between Veterans Day and Memorial Day and provides a refresher course on the history of both national holidays.

On November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson designated that date to remember those who had given the ultimate sacrifice during World War I. It was originally called and celebrated as Armistice Day.

In 1954, Congress enacted legislation to rename it Veterans Day in honor of the fallen dead during two world wars.

In 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic declared May 30 as Decoration Day with flowers to be placed on the graves of Civil War dead. In the north, it became a day to place flowers on the graves of deceased loved ones.

In 1967, Decoration Day became a federal national holiday renamed Memorial Day.

In 1968, Congress passed the Federal Holiday Bill to celebrate four national holidays, each over a three-day weekend.

Locating Unmarked Cemetery Burials

Office of the State Archaeologist,
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
52242

Burials Program: 319-384-0740

Note: This guide may be freely copied and distributed

◆Introduction

Burials are often poorly marked in cemeteries, and many cemeteries suffer from poor or nonexistent record keeping. Cemetery plots are typically treated as property, and conflicting claims on a plot can lead to legal headaches for everyone concerned. Likewise, the disturbance of an unmarked grave by a subsequent burial can be traumatic for all the families involved. For these reasons, it is important for the caretakers



of a cemetery to do their best to verify that a plot is empty before someone is buried in it or before the plot is sold or traded.

This information is relevant only for the identification of graves which can reasonably be considered less than 150 years old. Older graves, including Native American and pioneer graves, fall under the jurisdiction of the Office of the State Archaeologist. If you are dealing with a grave you suspect is more than 150 years old, cease work immediately, cover any exposed



remains, secure the area, and call the Burials Program of the Office of the State Archaeologist (319-384-0740). To read the entire article, see web site below or contact Pat Shaw for a copy.

<https://www.google.com/#q=locating+unmarked+cemetery+burials+>

patshaw@netins.net

319-293-3899

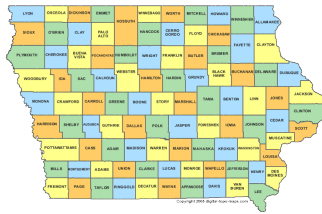
Douglas W. Jones.

It is with the deepest sorrow that we report the sudden passing of our dear friend and colleague Douglas W. Jones. Doug was a caring and kind-hearted friend with an enthusiastic passion for research and education. He was a skilled and driven archaeologist, anthropologist, and historian. Doug had a deep respect for preservation law and always promoted its fair and common-sense application. His gregarious nature drew to him many friends and his intellect, sense of humor, and infectious laugh kept them by his side for a lifetime.

Preservationist, advocate, scholar, friend...Iowa mourns a great loss.

Staff, Iowa State Historic Preservation Office

Des Moines (November 14, 2016)



County Reports

BLACK HAWK

From KWWL-TV, November 17, 2016: "Statue in Waterloo Cemetery in disrepair and under question," by Jessica Hartman, Multimedia Reporter.



A statue of an angel and woman praying over two other women that was put in place in 1936 in the Waterloo Cemetery is in need of repair and maintenance, but the cemetery board hasn't been able to track down any family and the costs of repair or replacement are more than \$25,000. It is part of a memorial to DeLeon and Rose Munn. Mr. Munn died in 1996. The board hopes to reach a family member or someone who is willing to help repair the statue. They are going to make a decision in the spring about the statue's future.

BENTON

From *The Gazette*, October 4, 2016: "Keeping their memory alive," by Michaela Ramm

VINTON -- The names of 11 former students of the Iowa Braille School in Vinton are now engraved on markers in Evergreen Cemetery. The Mary Ingalls Society hosted a memorial dedication on Oct. 16. Rich Farmer, a member of the Benton County Historical Society and a teacher at the school from 1969-1976, led a tour of the cemetery following the ceremony. Farmer spent hundreds of hours over the last two years identifying the final resting place of the 11 students who died between 1864 and 1918. Farmer said the students may have had wooden markers that rotted over time.

"At least now, they're in a marked grave," he said. "No one should be buried in an unmarked grave." Farmer said he is continuing his research and hopes to locate more unmarked graves in the future.



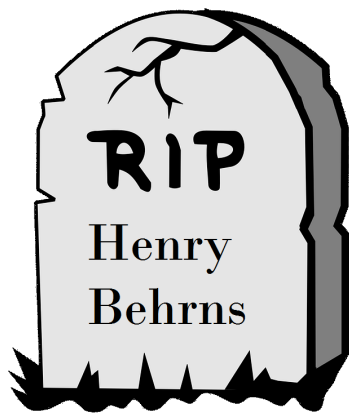
JACKSON

From the *Waterloo Daily Reporter*, December 31, 1904:

“No Service at Grave Side.”

Pauper interred without burial Rite on Christmas Day

Maquoketa, Dec. 31. -- There is considerable indignation expressed here on account of the burial on Christmas morning of Henry Behrns, a pauper without Christian rites. Behrns died Friday in an epileptic fit, and was turned over to R. F. Hayes for burial after Coroner Ristine had decided that he died from natural causes. His wife and her brother refused to have anything to do with the body, but the wife relented sufficiently to be present at the grave yard.

JASPER

From the *Des Moines Register*, September 29, 2016: “Is Sams Cemetery being saved or desecrated?” by Kyle Munson, kmunson@dmreg.com.

MINGO, Ia. A power struggle is being waged over the 2-acre Sams Cemetery between Bob Gannon and Jasper County, as well as part of a family feud with some of his 14 siblings. In his eyes, Gannon claims ownership and is saving a neglected cemetery on behalf of not only his parents who are buried there, but also hardy pioneers and 10 Civil War veterans.

Gannon’s gravestone, a bench, is the newest addition to the cemetery and engraved with a colorful quote: “Seize upon the moment of exotic curiosity to acquire knowledge.”

A drunken popcorn seed salesman in 1974 in Spirt Lake gave him that advice, Gannon said, and he embraced it as his creed.

iagenweb.org/jasper/cemeteries/sams/

LEE

A celebration to commemorate the completion of the Charlotta Pyles tombstone restoration was held on October 1, 2016 at 1:00 PM in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk, Iowa.



Charlotta Pyles was instrumental in the anti-slavery movement in the 19th century. A notable Keokuk resident and anti-slavery proponent, Pyles was born a slave in Kentucky in 1804. In the 1850s, Charlotta and her husband Harry MacHenry Pyles were granted their freedom. Harry was the son of a slave owner and a maid who worked in the home. Harry was trained in harness and shoe-mending. Charlotte and her 12 children were owned by Hugh and Sarah Gordon of Bardstown, Ky. When Hugh died in 1834, he left Charlotta and some of her children to his only daughter, Frances, with the expectation that she would give them their freedom. Frances’s brothers did not want to honor their father’s wishes, but Frances fought for the family’s freedom, and in 1953

traveled north with Charlotta and Harry. They settled in Keokuk and later Charlotta went on a speaking tour to raise money to try and buy freedom for her two sons-in-law. She spoke out against slavery in many cities and raised \$3,000, enough to purchase the freedom of both sons-in-law. Charlotta died on Jan. 19, 1880 in Burlington and was interred in Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Since February, Terry Altheide and Gerri Lawson, local historians, have raised \$1,284 to reset Charlotta's stone that was tilting and in danger of collapsing. The gravesite was part of the Keokuk Association for Rights and Equality's Oct. 16 cemetery tour featuring notable minorities. For more information, contact Terry Altheide: (319) 795-9512 e-mail: sweetpeaandbigun@msn.com

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, December 24, 1913: "Two Ancient Burying Grounds are Discovered" Keokuk, Ia., Dec. 24 -- Within the last few days in this neighborhood there have been unearthed two old burying places. One of these is evidently an old Indian "happy hunting ground" at Montrose. Workmen there found a soft place where the wheels of their wagon sank into the ground. On investigation they opened an Indian mound grave, and found the

skeleton with Indian war implements. They are now seeking other graves.

POLK

From the *Pocahontas County Sun*, January 16, 1896: Gov. Drake should take effective steps to purge his college of grave robbers. There were few new developments in the grave robbery cases yesterday. The four bodies found by the police were turned over to the relatives by Coroner Ankeney and taken away for interment. The two from the Saylorville cemetery were reinterred Sunday, and the two from the poor farm cemetery yesterday. The cases against the students arrested will be considered, but it is thought the detectives will make important arrests in the near future which will result in the dismissal of the case against nearly if not



quite all the students. The people of Saylorville and in the vicinity of the poor farm are greatly excited, and the cemeteries will be inspected to see if other bodies have not been stolen.

From the *Des Moines Register*, October 11, 2016: "Group to pay for headstones for 300 unmarked babies' graves in Des Moines," by William Petroski. BPETROSK@DMREG.COM



The Abigail Adams Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Iowa History Fund, Prairie Meadows and local business leaders Kurt Rasmussen and Suku Radia have all contributed to a fund to provide a headstone marker for each deceased infant in Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines. In 2006, Gerald LaBlanc launched a campaign to provide headstones for the previously unmarked graves of 501 babies who died of diseases starting in 1848. City officials hope to install the markers next spring.

SCOTT

From the *Davenport Daily Gazette*, September 29, 1865
SOLDIERS' GRAVES -- Capt. Pearman has shown a great deal of energy in providing head and foot boards for the graves of the soldiers who died during the war at the camps in this city, and were

buried at Oakdale Cemetery. The headboards bear the soldier's name, company and regiment as far as particulars could be ascertained.

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 22, 2016: "Crosses mark more than 200 lost graves in Kirkville," by Winona Whitaker. wwhitaker@ottumwacourier.com



Student uses PVC pipe to make cross for Westview Cemetery

Westview Cemetery in Richland Township was recently remapped to include previously unmarked graves. Burials began in the cemetery before 1847 and include Nicholas Ramy who was a drummer in the Graybeard Regiment of the Civil War, among other historic figures. Terry's Cemetery Mapping and Restoration of Liscomb found the graves. Two local boys, Lane and Lex Judy, from the Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont school system made crosses from white PVC pipe and re-rod and erected them over the summer.

OUT OF IOWA

ILLINOIS

From the *Waterloo Evening Courier*, December 24, 1913:

"Two Ancient Burying Grounds are Discovered" Within the last few days in this neighborhood there have been unearthed two old burying places. At Warsaw, Ill., the burying ground of old Fort Edwards, one of the guard out-posts along the Mississippi situated on a high bluff overlooking the river, and commanding the approach to the states, was unearthed. Old letters and maps and historical data established beyond a doubt that this is the original burial spot of the soldiers. The place will probably be marked.



through funeral home records, working with family members, risking wrong guesses and facing the prospect that no definite identification could be made at all. In some places where the Gulf of Mexico is encroaching, grave sites have been covered in concrete to keep them from floating away. Other solutions include tying tombs down with industrial straps, coffins that are being fitted with a nook for a small glass tube in which a death certificate can be inserted, and putting bar codes on coffins that can be scanned with identifying information.

LOUISIANA

From the *New York Times*, September 19, 2016 : "Louisiana Learns to Trace Flood-Tossed Tombs," by Campbell Robertson. Coastal sinking, hurricanes, erosion and flooding have caused coffins in above-ground vaults to be strewn about leaving floodwater-filled graves and no way to identify which coffin went where. Arbie Goings, a veteran of disaster mortuary work, has been searching



NEBRASKA

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, September 29, 2016: "New national veterans cemetery opens in Omaha," (AP). A new national cemetery in eastern Nebraska opened with the burial of the ashes of four veterans who were chosen from each service branch. Cemetery director Cindy Van Bibber said the



headstones will represent the veterans' sacrifices.

"We celebrate the fact that



the Omaha National Cemetery is here and its operating," said Bibber. Future work will include a permanent headquarters, maintenance and honor-guard buildings, a visitor's center and the first 5,500 sites for casketed and cremated remains. Families have sent requests for more than 220 deceased veterans to be buried in the cemetery. Up to five funerals can be held each day.

PENNSYLVANIA

From *Newser*, August 12, 2016: "Keep Out! Loved ones Told Cemetery is Off Limits," by Linda Hervieux, *Newser* Staff. When Paul and Jean Dovin bought a small parcel of land at auction in 2010 that contained a tiny graveyard, they barred visitors from the site and said that no new burials would be allowed. However, relatives may come on the land to exhume a body and take it elsewhere. The Dovins contend they had no idea the "old cemetery" they bought for \$85,000 was still in use because the advertisement for the public auc-



tion never mentioned it, according to the lawsuit now pending. Their lawyers have refused comment.

TENNESSEE

From *The Tennessee* (part of the USA Today Network), September 3, 2016: "Hidden Cemetery at Aquinas College details early Nashville history," by Adam Tamburin.



When construction workers discovered a 146-year-old tombstone at Aquinas College, it triggered an archaeological investigation and spurred the interest of history buffs across the region. The Bosley family cemetery was found during construction toward the back of the Dominican Campus in West Nashville. A stone found under a



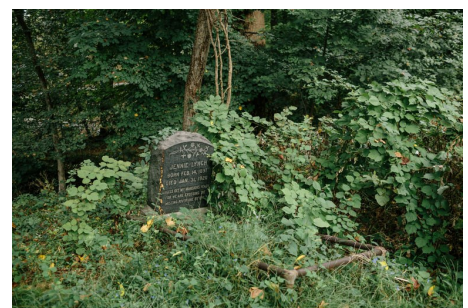
gravel parking lot is inscribed, "Charles Bosley, who died Oct. 19, 1870. Aged 93 yrs."

Bosley was a member of one of Nashville's prominent early families. Bob Nance, a historical archaeologist with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, located two grave shafts. TRC Companies, Inc. used a backhoe, shovels and oth-

er tools to determine 10 grave sites and five markers. Many family cemeteries like the one at Aquinas have been uncovered during Middle Tennessee's latest development boom. Bodies were moved from the Bosley Cemetery in the 1920s, but archaeologists will prepare a final report after their work is done that might indicate if any bodies still remain there.

WASHINGTON DC

From the *New York Times*, October 21, 2016: "In Georgetown, Saving a History Etched in Stone," by Nicholas Fandos. Two historic cemeteries lie side by side in Georgetown -- Oak Hill containing the well-tended graves of congressmen, publishers and cabinet members who were, with few exceptions, white. The other side is the Mount Zion and Female Union Band Society Cemetery. There, broken gravestones lie in large piles and dogs and their owners have taken the place of mourners for the slaves, freedmen and mostly black citizens buried below. Vincent deForest, a civil rights activist turned preservationist who has fought since the



early 1970s to rescue Mount Zion,

quotes: “Death reflects life, it’s not separate and apart.” He has helped put the cemetery and dozens of other sites of importance to African-Americans on the National Register of Historic Places. His hope is that a restored Mount Zion could be a model for similar neglected sites across the country and become a small monument to what happened to black people in America. Mr. deForest estimates that there are 500 to 1,500 buried in Mount Zion, residents of an earlier Georgetown that was far blacker and more industrial than it is today. The cemetery contains a brick structure built into the side of a hill that was used for corpses in the winter awaiting burial, but thought to have hidden fleeing slaves as part of the Underground Railroad. The last burial was in 1950.



SAPIC received a membership from a sheriff’s office!

Scott County Sheriff’s Office, Daveport IA
52801-1104

Telephone 563-326-8217

GREAT IDEA!!

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SAPIC Balance Sheet Comparison - As of 12/31/2016

Account	12/31/2015 Balance	12/3/2016 Balance
Bank Accounts		
CD-Home State Bank	6,031.41	0.00
Checking-Home State Bank	7,397.20	0.00
Reserve Savings-Veridian Credit Union	0.00	633.39
Share Draft-Veridian Credit Union	0.00	12,418.78
TOTAL Bank Accounts	13,428.61	13,052.17
OVERALL TOTAL	13,428.61	13,052.17

	2015	2016
Donations		
Postage	20.00	135.00
Sponsorships	0.00	200.00
Unspecified	370.00	100.00
TOTAL Donations	390.00	435.00
Dues		
Family	60.00	75.00
Individual	510.00	300.00
Lifetime Individual	400.00	300.00
Organization	380.00	450.00
TOTAL Dues	1,350.00	1,125.00
Interest Income	4.12	116.44
TOTAL INFLOWS	1,744.12	1,676.44

Outflows

Agenda Envelopes	0.00	2.30
Postage	0.00	45.79
TOTAL Agendas	0.00	48.09
Fees & Charges		
Bank Fee	0.00	0.00
CD Early Withdrawal Penalty	0.00	108.57
Check order	0.00	18.05
TOTAL Fees & Charges	0.00	126.62
Grants	800.00	1,400.00
Grave Projects	1,107.00	0.00
Newsletters		
Envelopes and Labels	83.12	42.53
Photocopies	73.10	0.00
Postage	246.84	216.44
Sales Tax	1.00	0.00
TOTAL Newsletters	404.06	258.97
Other	0.00	19.20
Sponsorships	0.00	200.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	2,311.06	2,052.88

OVERALL TOTAL

-566.94

-376.44

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

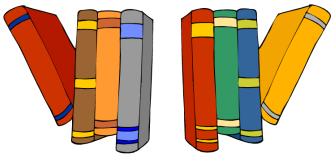
Grimes, IA 50111



SAPIC is on Facebook!



Contact SAPIC member John Heider for a list of suggested cemetery supplies and where to purchase them.



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

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

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