

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 22 Issue #1

January, February, March, 2017

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Remember
SAPIC
Grant
Applications are
due April
1st.



SAPIC meeting April 8, 2017 in Maquoketa.

Host: Jackson County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, Maquoketa, IA 52060 Hurstville Interpretive Center

located Hwy 61/64 intersection one mile north of Maquoketa.

Address is 18670 63rd Street. It is just off Hwy 61. Turn right, you will see the building from the highway.

Time: 10:00 a.m.
Coffee, juice, rolls (will be available by 9:30 a.m.)

Lunch: On your own.
Restaurants in the area: McDonalds, City Limits Family Restaurant, Flap Jacks Family Restaurant, Decker Hotel, Main Street Café, Perxactly Bar & Grill, Subway and others close by.

For more information call: Jeannett Kruse at 563-652-3269 (leave a message if no answer) or email to:

jlkruse@iastate.edu
Jo Caven at 563-652-9073

Event in Wapello County

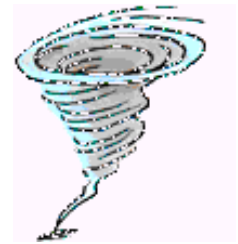
Event in Wapello County:

Check with the Indian Hills Continuing Education Department to learn more about an event scheduled for April 22, 2017 in Ottumwa Cemetery. This upcoming event is not specifically about a Pioneer Cemetery but would be of interest to anyone wanting to learn more about cemeteries, grave-stone symbolism, and cemetery mapping. Mike Zahs will be leading the tour. The cost is \$25 and you do need to register in advance through IHCC. Call 641-683-5111 and ask for Continuing Education.



Cemetery map example

Tornadoes Damage Cemeteries



Tornadoes hit several areas in Iowa on the evening of March 6, including Hamilton, Wayne and Appanoose counties, damaging several cemeteries. Large uprooted trees in the Graceland and Calvary cemeteries in Webster City and the Homer Cemetery in rural Hamilton County were evident. 108 stones in the Seymour Cemetery in Wayne County in southern Iowa were toppled. Photos of the damage submitted by SAPIC members generated thoughtful discussion about the negative aspect of planting and maintaining trees in cemeteries.

This shows EVERYONE why you must take trees down and NOT PLANT ANYMORE TREES. LaVerna Moser

Comments about Trees in Cemeteries

I think trees along the outer fence area would be more safe than not having any trees at all, after all, we are about preserving pioneer cemeteries AND preserving the world with our trees. Next time you pick up a piece of paper, box, napkin, think of what made that possible. A TREE!

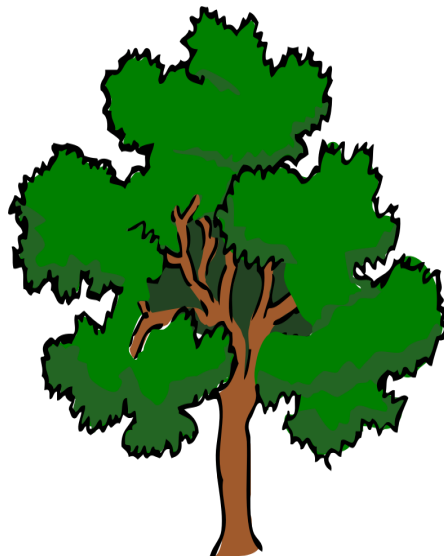
Thank You Craig Poole

It is very hard to make a restrictive stand on trees. I usually ran up against strong feelings. Our Society began a Pioneer Cemetery Grave-stone Repair in 2001, when I headed a volunteer Work Crew, no charge repairs, but working only our 74 Pioneer Cemeteries. Volunteers are hard to come by in Active Cemeteries, let alone Pioneer designated. Our small crew (avg age usually 65+) repaired hundreds of stones, using instructions of Massachusetts Gravestone Repairs Assn. We've witnessed damage done by roots, limbs, etc. and spent many hours doing repairs..

I agree, there should be restrictions on trees. I would hate to remove all, but favor control. Trees should have

Space. Thirty foot to nearest Grave Stone? The removal of trees reaching 25 foot? Limited to specific varieties? I have seen where spaces are allowed for trees. That beautiful tree planted with so much love and dedication next to the headstone, becomes, in but a few yeas, a threat to several near-by stones. We also fought hundreds of Yucca Plants at Valentine Cemetery, with their root system toppling several stones. Planting of trees, plants, etc. should be controlled by the cemetery. Agreed, most Pioneer Cemeteries receive little if any care, but now is the time give this kind of care to active cemeteries.

Don Aldrich -- Charter Founder -- Van Buren County Genealogical Society -- Society Treasurer 32 years



Since we are having this forum here are my 2 problems with trees in cemeteries, both involving dense shade:

1. Trees planted after grave-stones were set long go. Dense shade doesn't allow sunlight on stones now under the tree canopy, allowing lichens, crud, and dust & dirt (which don't seem to wash off because they are too sheltered) to accumulate. Reading the old engravings is hard & photography is hard. I have seen grave-stones uprooted by tree roots & there is a stone at Pleasant Ridge where a tree trunk has grown around it, now permanently encased in the wood.

2. Dense shade, especially under maples & cedars, does not allow any grass or ground cover beneath, resulting in bare soil & erosion. Less than 2 years ago I uncovered several gravestones washed over & invisible at Laurel Hill. They are once again completely washed over. No one knows they are there under all the mud except me. Just a few weeks ago & shoveled (carefully) a lot of mud off 6 gravestones at Forest, Oskaloosa. Washed them (I always carry a bucket of rainwater with me) so they were clean enough to photograph. I wouldn't doubt in a couple years time they will be under the mud again. Forest also has a great problem with branch litter. Sycamores are

especially bad.

Forest & Laurel Hill are not pioneer, but I would think that most of us SAPIC members are interested in the welfare of all cemeteries & their grave-stones.

If a tree goes down, it should not be replaced. Carl Nollen

My name is Dale Clark and I the President of the Wayne County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, I would like to add our commissions opinion. Please, this is just our way of thinking, As we restore our 34 pioneer cemeteries in our county we are very selective with both removal and saving the trees. We believe there is a happy middle point. If the tree has been planted by someone on purpose and they are is easy to identify, and is healthy we leave it because this is part of the cemetery's history. If we believe it has started growing from seed from mother nature or is unhealthy it is removed. We have a naturist that helps us identify special trees if needed. With that being said 95 to 99 percent of the trees are removed. That 5 percent can be managed and saves the history of the

cemetery. Our Commission is all about preserving (History) and not picking it apart.

Dale Clark

COUNTY REPORTS

BREMER

KWWL-TV, Jan 26, 2017: Sheriff: Car slides into cemetery

A car loses control and slides right into a cemetery in Bremer County Thursday morning, according to the Bremer County Sheriff.

Reports says Kayln Boge-Kleiss, 30, of Fredericksburg was driving south on Highway 63 when she lost control of her car and drove right through Alcock Cemetery. This all happened at 8:13 a.m. Several headstones were damaged, but no one was hurt. Weather and road conditions played a role in this accident.



CONDENSED TREASURER'S REPORT

Funds on hand as of March 19 consist of \$12,623 in a share draft (checking) account and \$633 in a reserve savings account. These funds total \$13,256 and approximate balances on hand of \$13,052 at year-end 2016 and \$13,429 year-end 2015. Grant applications totaling \$500 are currently pending with the Grant Committee.

An expanded treasurer's report as of quarter-end March 31 will be submitted for approval at the April meeting of SAPIC.

Future Meetings

The April 8, 2017 meeting will be held in Jackson County, Iowa (see details on page 1)

The July 8, 2017 meeting will be held in Hamilton County, Iowa

The October 14, 2017 meeting will be held in Scott County, Iowa

The October, **2018** meeting will be held in Winneshiek County, Iowa



County Reports

DUBUQUE

From the *American Legion Magazine*, February, 2017: "Home at Last," by Donald Kahle, Dubuque, Iowa. I read with interest Ken Olsen's article about the return of the remains of John England from the USS Oklahoma (December). Another set of remains identified was those of Father Aloysius Schmitt. They were returned to his alma mater, Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and interred with full military honors.

Schmitt was remarkable in that after the ship capsized he helped a number of crewmen escape through a porthole until it was too late to save himself. **He was the first U.S. Chaplain to perish in World War II.**

From the KWWL-TV web site, February 22, 2017: "Virgin Mary statue smashed in Dubuque," by Brad Hanson. The Statue of the Virgin Mary, part of a grotto at the Rescue Mission Gardens, was found in pieces by staff. They think someone tried to take the statue, as they found it about a block away from the gardens. But, they say it weighed about 150

pounds, and think it was too heavy for whoever tried to steal it. Willenborg Lawn Ornaments in Dubuque County heard about the broken statue and pledged to replace it.

JONES

From *The Witness*, September 4, 2016, page 9: "Deacon marks headstone of his ancestors," by Dan Russo. Deacon Paul Peckosh of Dubuque noticed that his great grandparents' names, Josef and Zofie Pekar, were never added to the headstone that marks the plot they share in Mayflower Cemetery in Oxford Junction with their oldest son, Jozef, who died in South Dakota. Jozef came to the United States from Bohemia with his parents and younger brother when he was 6 years old. Paul Peckosh, grandson of John, Jozef's brother, decided to have the names of his great grandparents added to the stone during the Year of Mercy to fulfill the corporal work of mercy of "burying the dead." Deacon Peckosh, a genealogist, is adamant about the importance of proper burial for the dead, and about remembering people after they pass.

MARION

First meeting of the year

will be Monday, March 27, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at the Knoxville Rural Fire Station, on W. Main, Knoxville, IA. Cemeteries that were worked on in 2016 were: Watkins, Monster, Stotts/Whitlatch, and Wheeling. The Jelma Cemetery located west of Pella will get a sign in 2017.

MONROE

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, January 19, 2017: "Explore the lost town of Buton". Rachele Chase, who authored the book, *Buxton, Iowa: A Coal Mining Town Ahead of Its Time*, explored the history of the lost town of Buxton at a Reminisce Society meeting at the Ottumwa Public Library in January. In 1900, at a time when Jim Crow laws, segregation, and the Ku Klux Klan kept black and whites separated, residents in Buxton -- a thriving coal mining town established by Consolidation Coal Company -- lived, worked, and went to school side by side. African-Americans -- miners, teachers, business owners, doctors, lawyers and more -- made up more than half of the population for the first ten years and remained the largest ethnic group until

1914. By 1922, Buxton was a ghost town.

Note: The Monroe County Pioneer Cemetery Commission restored the Buxton Cemetery a few years ago.

POLK

In the city of Des Moines, consideration is being given to relocating the Iowa WWI monument (currently located on East University Avenue, near Iowa Lutheran Hospital) to the entrance to Glendale Cemetery. Also of interest to SAPIC might be that the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department has established bluebird nesting boxes in Des Moines' Woodland, Glendale, and Laurel Hill Cemeteries and these three sites have added several dozen new bluebirds and chickadees to the wild bird population. It seems that cemeteries are favorite nesting sites for migratory songbirds even in the middle of larger metropolitan areas.

Archie Cook is offering a free tour of Woodland Cemetery on **Saturday, April 22** from 1 p.m to 3:30 p.m. For more information, please contact archiecook@email.com.

Gov. Terry Branstad signed the following bill into law on March 23:

House File 303: an Act relating to notifications made by the commissioner of insurance of the potential need for a receivership for certain pre-need sellers and cemeteries.

SCOTT

From the *Waterloo Courier*, July 18, 1878: Considerable excitement has been created in East Davenport lately by the discovery of sixteen of the graves in the vicinity of Camp McClellan, inhabited by the remains of Indians, have been despoiled of their contents. The object of exhuming the bones was to put them together as skeletons for use in medical colleges, they being worth \$25 each. The Indians were buried there about sixteen years ago, and were prisoners contained at Camp McClellan, who were executed for being concerned in the Minnesota massacre of 1862.

In remembering Camp McClellan, one should not ignore the memory of its grim alter ego. In 2005, a Dakota Memorial Ceremony was held on the former site of Camp Kearney by members of the Dakota tribe and relatives of the imprisoned Sioux. The Dakota tribe hopes to someday build a monument to honor the memory of those who suffered in what some call the nation's first concentration Camp. Editor note

STORY

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, January, 2017: "Ames students clean local gravestones in Cemetery Club," by Ronna Lawless, *Ames Tribune*. Last school year, Ames middle-schoolers requested a genealogy class that grew into the Cemetery Club and that led to learning how to clean gravestones in the Ontario Cemetery. Dennis Allen, a family genealogist, taught the students about proper cleaning of the stones after teacher Dianna Sheldon hosted a tutorial on symbolism on grave-stones. About 14 students in the Cemetery Club clean gravestones and fix them if they are leaning. Matthew Hehr, a seventh-grader, said, "Some of the people buried there don't have relatives here anymore who can keep the grave clean." Another student, Hannah Sheldon, said her favorite stones are the ones on the infant graves. "It's sad because it's for someone young, but the gravestones have cute things like lambs on them."

UNION

The Union County Genealogical Society is in the process of developing a web site and sending many of its newsletters, *The Union Roots*, by e-mail to its members. Contact person for this project is Roger C. Nurnberg, 200 W. Howard St., Creston, IA 50801. Phone: 641-202-0016.

County Reports

VAN BUREN

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, January 12, 2017: "Angels, lambs and Washington," by Sue Parrish, Remember When column. The writer mentions Victorian era symbolism on cemetery stones that are rarely used today, such as clasped hands, angels and lambs, along with weeping figures draped over the stone. At the bottom of many of these monuments in our cemeteries in Wapello County is the name "Root."

Moses B. Root, born in Massachusetts in 1816, came to Iowa from Ohio and settled in Van Buren County, where he farmed for three years and then founded a monument works. It was at his Chequest Quarries that Josiah Bonney, after searching all over Iowa, found the stone appropriate to be used as a block in the making of the proposed Washington Monument in our nation's capital. It was on Nov. 30, 1850 that Bonney reported to Iowa's Third General Assembly that he had found the proper stone. This Iowa stone became a block of 194 which lined the 555-foot Washington Monument, the tall-

est all-stone obelisk in the world. Our inscription, chosen from the many submitted, was written by Lt. Gov. Enoch W. Eastman: "Iowa Her affections like the rivers of her borders, flow to an inseparable Union."

WASHINGTON

From the KCII radio, February 23, 2017: Headstones were knocked over and broken in Woodlawn Cemetery in Washington. The Washington County Communications Office tells KCII News that a person walking noticed the damage and reported 10-15 broken stones laying in the grass Wednesday morning in the south section of the cemetery. Some of the stones damaged date back to the 19th century. At this time, there are no leads as to who vandalized the cemetery. Police Chief Greg Goodman said they are assessing the damage and it is believed some of it happened later Tuesday or early Wednesday. If you have any information regarding the incident contact the communications office at 653-2107.

OUT OF IOWA

CALIFORNIA

From the American Legion Web Site, February 15, 2017: "Hollywood Post 43 to help restore World War I memorial." Hollywood Post 43 has partnered with the Los Angeles Eschscholtzia Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on securing a grant through the 100 Cities/100 Memorials, an initiative of the World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library that encourages groups across the country to take on the projects of restoring and preserving World War I memorials. The target for this group is the Victory Memorial Grove in Elysian Park, just across from Dodger Stadium. The DAR erected a plaque there in 1921 that has become weathered over the years. Post 43 is also part of a state task force that is scheduling events at the Los Angeles National Cemetery and the Memorial Coliseum for April 6, the date in 1917 that the U. S. officially entered the war.



Nominate a deserving volunteer for the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award. Send a letter with details and documentation (photos, news article, letter, etc.) from a cemetery caretaker, trustees or descendants to Steve Story. More information is available on the SAPIC web page or from Pat Shaw

ILLINOIS

From the American Legion web site, February 15, 2017: "The right thing to do." Jay Doherty, commander of American Legion Post 121 in Aledo, Ill., grew up next to World War II veteran, Saveria 'Sam' Guccione who was stationed on the USS Arizona, but was home on leave when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Years later, Guccione's visit to the USS Arizona Memorial and his emotional reaction was noted by Doherty. Later, Doherty learned that Guccione's grave in the Aledo Cemetery had no marker designating him as a veteran. After doing researched, Doherty was appalled to discover that around 300 of the 700 veterans whose graves were there also had no markers. Post 121, along with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, raised funds to purchase markers to ensure that every veteran's grave will be properly honored -- the first time since 1841, the date of the first recorded burial.

Plans are being made to map out the New Boston Cemetery in the county next summer with the

goal of marking its veterans' graves. A similar program is being proposed for Legion Post 246 in Moline. Doherty hopes that other states will follow his lead.

MISSOURI

From the *Huffington Post* web site, February 21, 2017: Vandals toppled over 100 headstones at a prominent Jewish cemetery in University City, near St. Louis.

NEBRASKA

From the *Omaha World Herald*, February 7, 2017: "Gone, sometimes forgotten," by Hailey Konath. Pioneer burial sites in Sarpy County are cited as examples of the difficulty of enforcing state laws that were designed to protect them. One example, the Forest city Cemetery, is named for a town that has long since disappeared and is located off a gravel road in the middle of farmland. Many such cemeteries are on private property, inaccessible by car or forgotten altogether. They're vital windows into the lives of the state's first white settlers and American Indians, but as the county's farmland is gobbled up by housing developments and data centers, it's up to property

owners to ensure that the least-visible of them will survive. Some landowners protect cemeteries on their land, but agree that "you never know what's going to happen (in the future)."

Much of the county's and state's history can be found on smaller, family burial sites, and those are harder to protect. Nebraska state law says that if a pioneer cemetery has been untouched for at least five years, 35 residents can petition the county to take over maintenance. State law defines pioneer cemeteries generally as having been established before 1900.

PENNSYLVANIA

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, February 28, 2017: "Jewish cemetery vandalized," from the *Washington Post*. Police in Philadelphia are investigating what they call a targeted act of vandalism that toppled more than 100 headstones at Mount Carmel, a Jewish cemetery in the city, just a week after a similar incident occurred in Missouri.

"We must allow the investigation to take its course before we can determine a specific motive or label as a particular type of crime," said the Philadelphia police. "However, this is an abominable crime, that appears to target these particular headstones."





Dexter Cemetery, Dallas County, Iowa

photo by Jim Grace *A Peaceful Scene*

Notes for Secretary Report for January 2017 winter e-mail meeting .

1. Jeff Kaufmann wishes to have Governor Branstad help appoint the Committee for the Governor's Graves Project before he may leave the office for a high position in China.

2. Kory Darnall invited SAPIC to meet at The German American Heritage Center, Davenport, Iowa, on October 14, 2017. They would offer a lunch for a donation, a tour of the Davenport City

3. Report from Treasurer Brad Hughes

Questions asked by Brad.

Is establishing and reporting of

an expense budget desired?
If so:

- I can easily provide a budget report for review each quarter.
- I could ask the Board members to establish budget amounts and have them ready for approval at the next meeting and annually thereafter.

Report: The request to increase grants to \$250 has been covered by the newly adopted Grant Policy which increases grant amounts to the \$250 level. Brad has no objection to establishing a legal fund, provided the SAPIC Board approves the fund and the amounts to be contributed. Separate accounting and reporting for such a fund would be easy.

As treasurer, Brad would be interested in reviewing a copy

of the 'donation strategy' that John Heider has forwarded for consideration. (see Appendix A).

With understanding, Mr. Appell will be making a presentation "I move we contribute to the Preserve Iowa Summit". This motion passed.

4. No comments on photo of each board member for the SAPIC website – be prepared to have your photo taken at the next meeting. If you wish you may provide a photo. Contact Tony. Tony Bengston is the webmaster.

(tonybengston@yahoo.com)

Appendix A.

TAX BENEFIT FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION - from John Heider.

Proposal of using historical gravesite preservation expenses as a tax deduction. This is how it basically works:

---Find a qualified non-profit organization that is willing to assume financial responsibilities.

---An individual/business makes a donation to that organization for historical preservation. The donation may be an "in-kind" contribution.

---The preservation expenses are paid through the non-profit organization. ---The individual/business is allowed to make a tax deduction for the donation. ---The non-profit organization retains the account final balance and...

---They are recognized for preserving history.

These expenses may be tax deductible if paid through a qualified 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Contributions are deductible under sections 170, 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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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



Donations welcome and tax deductible.

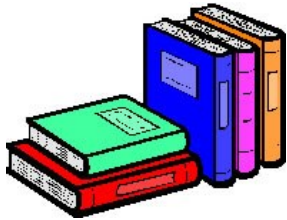
Send dues to:
Brad Hughes, 308 NW Sunset Lane

Were on the web:
[http://
www.rootsweb.ancestr
y.com/~iasapc/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~iasapc/)

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

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Regulated Industries Unit, Iowa Securities Bureau
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