

# 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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**The July 8 SAPIC meeting will be at 10:00 AM in Randall, Hamilton County IA at the Randall City Hall: Main & Second St.**

**Doors will open one hour prior to the meeting.**

**Donuts, fruit, rolls, coffee, tea and lemonade will be available before and during the meeting at no charge. Lunch is on your own.**

**Program by SAPIC member Paul French from Des Moines County.**

<http://www.randalliowa.com/>

**Contact person: Linda M. Wild**

**e-mail: [lmwild@iastate.edu](mailto:lmwild@iastate.edu)**

**Phone: (515) 328-3435**

## How to Generate Awareness of Your Local Commission

By Donald B. Wentworth  
Jackson County  
Preserving Iowa's Pioneer Cemeteries is not work for the faint of heart. If you're lucky, and live in a county where your commission is supported by the Board of Supervisors – financially and otherwise – congratulations. In many counties, the commissioners are called upon to fund the work themselves either in part or in whole. Funding will always be an issue even in the best situations. The most effective way to secure the funding you need, is to gain the support of the public. Elected officials always listen to voters. However, in many counties, much of the general public is not aware their local commission, or, they misunderstand its purpose.

To that end, we all need to raise and maintain awareness of, and about, our local commissions. There are a number of easy ways to do this, and some that are not so easy. As a rule, you must put yourselves out in front of the public as much as possible.

Frequently show the public that your work benefits them directly as well as indirectly. Yet not so often that you become either a nuisance, boring, or worse, an irritant. Bear in mind that some people will never think of your commission as anything but an extravagant waste of tax dollars.

One of the first things to do is to form a good working relationship with your local and semi-local news outlets. *Our Iowa*, and the *Iowan* magazine accept outside submissions. A single article or talk or t.v. show appearance will spread your message further and faster than any other method. Find unique, unusual and significant burials in your pioneer cemeteries and use them to generate interest. I know this sounds frightening or daunting to some, but it's well worth the effort.

Another thing you should do is to, "brand" your commission. Create an eye-catching logo and post it everywhere you are working, or, have worked. My commission utilizes Iowa Prison Industries to manufacture signs that we require. *Continued pg 2*

## Restrictions Repealed

Effective May 17, 2017, the Iowa Department of Public Health repealed its restrictions on access to vital records held in county courthouses. The open records law now governs local vital records, without improper restrictions. From May 17, 2017:

1. Searches for records need not be made in person. (Courthouse staff may impose search fees if they do the work, and they need not take on "fishing expedition" requests.)
2. Requests for uncertified copies of local vital records need not be made in person.
3. Requests for uncertified copies may be delivered by telephone, by mail, or by email. Copy charges may apply. Some counties -- \$1; the maximum allowed is \$5.
4. People who search in person may use their own cameras to snap photos of local vital records, free of charge.
5. Publication of local vital records is no longer prohibited and punishable.
6. Indexing, web-posting, and distribution of information taken from local vital records is no longer prohibited and punishable.

*continued from pg 1*

We post signs during a restoration telling people that we are currently working in that cemetery. Afterwards, we post a sign relating the name/s of the cemetery, when it was established and restored, and that the commission accomplished the restoration. These signs are constant advertisements for our commission.

Form a relationship with any and all local groups that deal in history. One effective tool in raising awareness is to produce a book on either a certain cemetery, or, a number of pioneer cemeteries in your county. This will be a lot of hard work, but worth it. It, like the signs, will be a constant reminder of what you do. It can also be to generate publicity in the media, and, presenting programs to the public, generating funds for operation in the process. Each time you publish a new book, it will draw attention back to your commission and its work. T-shirts, hats and other items emblazoned with the commission logo are also effective and enable people who are not commission members to take ownership of the cause. When they wear such a shirt or hat, it boosts the public awareness of the commission and its work. Exhibits at your local historical society can also be utilized.

May is not only Cemetery Month, but also, Historic Preservation Month in Iowa. Capitalized on that by placing stories with the media, present-

ing a program on local pioneer cemeteries, or, touring them.

Ghost Walks, especially near Halloween, are particularly popular at present.



You need to personalize the burials to the public. Once a person knows the story of people interred in a cemetery, it is much harder to turn a blind eye to their neglected graves.

Be creative, be fearless. Do not be afraid to put yourself out there. Remember, this is a marathon, not a sprint. In my county this process took years, but in the end, the effort is well justified.

### **Community Foundation Information for SAPIC**

Fellow SAPIC board members and officers, I would enjoy hearing any changes you might suggest to the SAPIC Organizational Profile

This information has been placed with the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. This profile is one small step taken to try and obtain additional funding for SAPIC. I will continue to pursue how the foundation works and how it can possibly assist SAPIC. The form headings are those required by the foundation. I have completed the profile using information obtained from SAPIC corporate documents and current operations.

*Brad Hughes*, Treasurer

### **SAPIC ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE**

(For Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines)

#### **Mission Statement**

- Guide individuals in, and help fund projects for, the protection, preservation and maintenance of Iowa cemeteries.
- Advise and inform legislative bodies to ensure legislation governing the preservation of Iowa cemeteries.
- Encourage the formation of, and cooperate with, state and county cemetery commissions.

#### **Summary of Organizational History**

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) was formed in 1996 and incorporated in 2000. SAPIC holds at least four quarterly meetings each calendar year.

#### **Executive Director**

President Steve Story.

#### **Target Population of Those Served**

All individuals and organizations wishing to preserve Iowa cemeteries.

#### **Brief Description of Key Programs/Activities**

- Annually disburse awards to individuals and organizations restoring neglected cemeteries in Iowa.

*pg 3*

*continued.*

(Priority is given applicants restoring pioneer cemeteries. A pioneer cemetery is one in which there have been 12 or fewer burials in the past 50 years.)

- Support the Iowa Governor in May of each year designating Cemetery Appreciation Month.
- Distribute a quarterly newsletter to each member.

**Targeted Outcomes**

Generate sufficient income each year to fund awards for qualify applicants.

**Current Funding Needs**

There is strong interest in preserving neglected pioneer cemeteries in Iowa. SAPIC awards are currently limited to \$250 each due to limited funding available from membership dues. Costs to improve a pioneer cemetery greatly exceeds the amounts SAPIC can award. Additional funding is needed to help individuals and organizations properly improve these historically significant cemeteries.

**Total Operating Budget**

A total of \$2,053 was expended for calendar year 2016. This included \$1,600 awarded for restoring seven neglected pioneer cemeteries and funding related programs. Awards for cemetery improvements totaled \$2,000 to date in 2017 plus \$200 was awarded for related programs.

**Number of Paid Employees**



Chickasaw Commission

None.

**Summary of Volunteer Support**

There are 116 SAPIC members as of June 21, 2017. Membership requires the following donations:

- \$10 annually for an individual;
- \$15 annually for a family;
- \$20 annually for a business or organization;
- or \$100 for a lifetime individual membership.

**Fiscal Sponsor**

None.

(comments welcome)



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

**CEMETERY COMMISSION PREPARES FOR SUMMER**

By Brittany Stange  
*New Hampton, Tribune 5/8/17*

Appreciating cemeteries is a mission of the Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission who asked the Board of Supervisors to do the same when signing a proclamation for the month of May to be Cemetery Appreciation Month. The commission continues to do work on the 14 pioneer cemeteries, so named because they have twelve or fewer burials in the past 50 years. Cemetery Commission member Wally Boehmer said the group of volunteers just had a tour recently to review the cemeteries and what work needs to be done to them. “We wanted to see what condition they were in,” said Boehmer. “Some are still in need of attention. See more at: <http://www.nhtrib.com/news/cemetery-commission-prepares->

**Future Meetings**

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

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



## Minutes April 8, 2017

The State Association for the preservation of Iowa Cemeteries met Saturday, April 8, 2017 at the Hurstville Interpretive Center at Maquoketa, Iowa with 28 persons in attendance. The meeting was hosted by the Jackson County Pioneer Cemetery Commission.

President Steve Story called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Secretary Larry Davis reviewed the minutes from the January 2017 meeting which were approved.

President Story presented a status review of the inventory of gravestones in Iowa of former Governors, Lt. Governors, and U.S. Presidential cabinet members. SAPIC was asked to locate, Photograph, and provide a cost estimate for any repair and/or cleaning needed. This project has been completed and is now waiting for funding. Jonas Cutler submitted a letter in his absence indicating the gravestones will require various degrees of repair and suggested volunteers such as Boy Scout Troops be asked to assist on the ones that only require cleaning. Cutler also stated he was working on the legal memo concerning Iowa Cemetery Act.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Brad Hughes reviewed the treasurer's report which was sent to all members illustrating a balance of \$13,376.53 as of March 31, 2017. Hughes also reported that he filed the proper forms required to maintain the 501(c)(3) status of SAPIC as well as changing the Regis-

tered Agent name to his in order for him to file such papers. Hughes also reviewed the results of member responses to a request for assistance in developing a budget.

**Grants:** Brad Hughes reported that eight grant applications were received this year as follows:

St.Charles Cemetery : Madison Co.

Dailey Family Pioneer Cemetery: Buena Vista Co.

Mentor Cemetery: Bremer Co.

Rudd Evergreen Cemetery: Floyd Co.

Farris Cemetery: Madison Co.

Maple Grove Cemetery: Tama Co.

Westerville Cemetery: Floyd Co.

Union Cemetery: Chickasaw Co.

Hughes also stated that the applications were reviewed by the Grant committee and all eight applications met the requirements. Therefore, the Grant committee recommends all eight applicants be approved to receive grants of \$250 each. Discussion followed on the Grant program including monitoring the use of Grant funds at the completion of the projects to verify proper use of the funds. Also, it was noted that publicizing the use of Grant funds in the communities would help promote SAPIC. During discussion, some in attendance showed an interest in receiving copies of the Grant applications including Mary Richards and Harold Hansen who indicated interest in serving on the Grant committee. Moved by Mike Magee that all eight Grant applications be issued grants of \$250 each. Seconded by Mary Richards. Motion Carried. The Grant Committee also noted that SAPIC needs to consider additional sources of income to support the Grant pro-

gram in future years and offered the following Suggestions: Increase membership dues, obtain grants, including legacy contributions from estates, establish a specific or maximum amount and list it as a line item in the budget. After considerable discussion, no action was taken.

**Summit Iowa Conference:** Secretary Davis reminded the group that SAPIC is a sponsor for the Summit Iowa Conference to be held June 9 and 10, 2017, at Fort Dodge, Iowa. It was noted that the program includes presentations on cemeteries and a gravestone repair workshop. A considerable discount to SAPIC members on registration is available. The website for complete information is

[www.preserveiowasummit.org](http://www.preserveiowasummit.org)  
**Future SAPIC meeting sites:**  
 July 2017. Randall  
 October 14, 2017. Davenport  
 April 14, 2018. DeWitt

Moved by John Heider the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Larry Davis, Secretary

**Note:** Ann Sorensen of Clinton County states that the meeting in DeWitt will be in July, 2018.





**JULY 8, 2017 MEETING**

Randall City Hall: in Hamilton County

Main Street and Second Street.

Randall has an exit off I-35 and lies between HW 30 and HW 20. Road through town is 380 Street or Long Street. Coming into Randall turn south on either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> street and that will take you to City Hall.

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**Treasurer's Report:**



Funds on hand as of June 19, 2017 consist of \$11,530 in a share draft (checking) account and \$5 in a reserve savings account. These funds total \$11,535 and have decreased somewhat from balances on hand of \$13,052 at year-end 2016 and \$13,429 year-end 2015. An expanded treasurer's report as of quarter-end June 30 will be submitted for approval at the July meeting of SAPIC.

**Cemetery Appreciation Month.**



SAPIC members Larry Downs, Mary and Larry Richards, Ben Mayer, Brad Hughes, Mike Rowley, Kelly Zuidema, Jane Cruchelow and Larry Davis, along with Christina Hazelbaker from the Regulated Industries Bureau attended the proclamation signing by Governor Branstad on March 30, proclaiming the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month."

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**State Representative Curt Hansen Died**

Curt Hansen who served District 82 for the past nine years, passed away on June 16, 2017. Curt was very helpful in directing SAPIC to the contact person in the Governor's Office who arranges proclamation signing ceremonies.



**American Legion to Establish a Database of Monuments**

From the American Legion web site: <https://www.legion.org/memorials>

Across the country and around the world, U.S. war, military and veterans memorials stand to honor those who served in uniform and the battles they fought to protect our nation's freedoms. The American Legion is now establishing a database to identify the locations, document histories and share photographs of our nation's monuments and memorials to those who have served. Key points for each submission include:

- Location of the memorial, mapped if possible
- Purpose of the memorial, such as who it honors and why, in just a sentence or two
- Date of the memorial's installation and who originally installed it
- A brief assessment of its condition today

A photo or photos, easily taken with a smart phone.

To upload text or photos, simply click on "[Add a Memorial](#)" and follow the instructions. Submissions will be displayed after review. For support, concerns, questions, please [contact us](#).

**[Add a memorial](#)**

Select Location:



\* If your location is not listed, it is because no memorials have been submitted in that location.

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**SAPIC -will you Help with this project?**

### Signed in to law on May 10, 2017:

Senate File 260: an Act relating to the liability of possessors and occupants of land for injury to trespassers and including applicability provisions. This bill passed the Iowa Senate of March 6, 48-1 and the Iowa House on April 10, 96-0.

For details:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/SF260.pdf>

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From the *Iowa Legionnaire & Auxiliary Communique* newsletter, Summer 2017:

### Wood Magazine Charity Build donates 100 urns to Iowa Veterans Cemetery.



The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs accepted delivery of 100 urns from WOOD magazine’s Fifth Annual Weekend with Wood event on May 23, at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. After hearing of a veteran’s cremains being buried in a cardboard box, woodworkers created a year’s worth of urns for veterans whose remains would not otherwise receive any deferential treatment. These urns will be used for the unclaimed cremains of Iowa veterans. The urns were built to specifications, adhering the service emblems with intricate detail.

Many participants requested urn plans to take back to their wood-working club or guild to execute a similar project for the national or veterans cemeteries in their states. We thought that was a great idea, so you can [download a copy of that plan](#).

The urns we made bear the laser-engraved emblem of the branch of armed forces in which the veteran served. If you would like to do something similar, you must first secure the permission of the individual branches of the armed forces in order to use their emblems, which are protected by copyright laws. The [guidelines for permission can be found here](#), and it may require some persistence and patience, but most if not all of it can be done with a simple email to each branch using the address provided in that document.

Note: right click on ‘download’ or ‘guidelines’ to open the link.

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### MORE On FUNDING (see pg.2)

Possible source of funding for cemetery projects:

[DesMoinesFoundation.org](http://DesMoinesFoundation.org)

By Anna Nalean, Apr 24, 2017:

Community Foundations are set-up to support their local communities, so as you can imagine there are numerous Community Foundations in the state of Iowa. You can learn more about Iowa Community Foundations at:

: <http://www.iowacomunityfoundations.org/>

Each Community Foundation’s funding priorities are different just as each community is. There is unfortunately no one stop shop for reaching all of them – it requires building relationships with each of

those Community Foundations. Information from: Anna Nalean, MPA | [Director of Nonprofit Relations](#)

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines | 1915 Grand Avenue | Des Moines, Iowa 50309 | Ph (515) 883-2629 | Fx (515) 309-0704

[www.desmoinesfoundation.org](http://www.desmoinesfoundation.org)

The Iowa Council of Foundations provides information in general. View the free foundation database directory at the DSM library which lists nationwide foundations that might have interest in SAPIC. See if the Iowa Arts Council has interest in SAPIC work.

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From the *American Legion Magazine*, May, 2017: “**The Lost Graves of Tarawa**,” by Ken Olsen.



U. S. Marines stormed a Japanese stronghold on Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Island in November 1943. The U.S. Invasion, known as Operation Galvanic, was crucial to securing a foothold in the central Pacific from which to launch assaults on the Marshall and Caroline Islands. U.S. Losses at Tarawa were staggering. More than 1,100 Americans were killed and were buried in shallow graves. Roughly half were identified and reburied in U.S. cemeter-



ies. 104 were buried as unknowns in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. As many as 500 remained on the rolls of Tarawa's missing. A group called History Flight is using modern technology to locate American MIAs all over the world, including the lost Marines of Tarawa. In 2015, the remains of 35 Marines who died at Tarawa were identified through DNA and turned over to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the branch of the Pentagon charged with recovering more than 80,000 U. S. service members who have gone missing in action since World War II. Local American Legion Posts have arranged memorial services when the remains are returned to the families.

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From the *American Legion Magazine*, May, 2017: "Solemn Dignity," by



Henry Howard.

The National Park Service and the U.S. Navy have jointly organized and coordinated interment ceremonies to place the remains of survivors of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 with their shipmates on the USS Arizona.

## Laws and Regulations

There are few federal laws that pertain to human burials. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) provides direction and procedures for the treatment of Native American burials; this is the only federal law regarding human burials.

The American University Washington College of Law has developed a website that links burial laws of various states – you can find a link to their website here <https://www.wcl.american.edu/burial/>

The information on this website was compiled by students in 2008 to address state burial laws specifically regarding Native American burials. It may contain errors or omissions and does not contain all state burial acts. If your state is not shown as having a burial law, you should check to see if a burial law exists.

The SHA will use this page to provide updates to burial laws that our members have identified that are not included in the Washington College of Law website. These include:

Society for Historical archaeology, Inc (US) <https://sha.org/resources/abandoned-burial-grounds/>

## County Reports

### ADAMS

A rededication ceremony for the Civil War Monument at Oakland Cemetery in Corning was held June 3 to recognize the completion of the repair that brought the monument back to its former glory. The event was sponsored by the Adams County Board of Supervisors.



Re-dedication of the Civil War Monument at Oakland Cemetery

### BLACK HAWK

From WATERLOO (KWVL-TV) - May 22, 2017:

Less business for a cemetery could be very good news for everyone and everything... but the cemetery.

The Waterloo Finance Committee considered a request for \$50,000 to support operations at Fairview Cemetery.

The city says the cemetery is not able to pay their bills. Less money is coming in because the number of burials has dropped.

The city helps support operations as an alternative to running the cemetery directly.

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**Prairie Walk at Bennington Township Cemetery.**

A Prairie Walk on June 17th at Bennington Township Cemetery was hosted by the Cedar Prairie Group of the Sierra Club, Iowa Prairie Network Region 3, and Friends of the Tallgrass Prairie Center at UNI.

The "old settler" cemetery is a mesic prairie remnant with a wide variety of native plants. There have been no burials in the cemetery for more than 100 years. The walk was led by Bruce Stiles assisted by Daryl Smith. It was an outing to enjoy the mid-June wild flowers, discuss their early uses, and learn about the pioneers of Bennington Township who are buried there.

The group met at 9:30 a.m. at the Thunder Ridge Mall parking lot in Cedar Falls and car pool/ caravan to the cemetery. The cemetery is located north of Dunkerton Road at the corner of N. Elk Run Road and E. Mt. Vernon Road next to St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church.

An outing is planned for July 22nd at Cedar Hills Sand Prairie. Full details will come out later.



BREMER

SAPIC member Mike Magee provided a close-up photo of damage done to the Alcock Cemetery along highway 63. Last winter a driver lost control of the car on icy highway and crashed into this cemetery.

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CALHOUN

The Cottonwood Cemetery Preservation Assn. sponsored a "Family Treasure Roadshow" on May 27 in Lake City. Licensed appraisers were on hand to give their expert opinions. Quilt appraisals were also available. Proceeds were used to help pay for the final 2 sections of the 574' East fence for the Cottonwood Cemetery founded in 1864.

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DAVIS

Willis Hoffman, who was instrumental in calling attention to the need for cemetery preservation in Davis county, died April 19, 2017. Willis and his family received the Robert & Phyllis Carter Award in 2006 for forming the Davis County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, organizing numerous fundraisers for cemetery restoration, and worked with their state legislators to get language inserted in the Iowa Code that allows preservationists access to landlocked cemeteries.



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DELAWARE

*Upper Bay Settlement Cemetery*, by Timothy Juhl.

The Upper Bay Settlement Cemetery, located in a rural area near

Delhi, contains the graves of local farm boys and sons of merchants who died in the Civil War. Their names are etched on a white, weathered obelisk commemorating their service, including the battle of Pea Ridge and Shiloh. Under the name of 19 year-old John W. Akers, the words "died in Andersonville Prison, April 24, 1865" are carved. There is no record of his body being returned to his family, so it is presumed that he was buried in the Georgia clay. The writer mourns for Akers, who was tossed into that hell, something no boy from these quiet and peaceful farmlands could ever imagine.

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FAYETTE

A rededication ceremony for Francis Marion Shepherd, Company A, 1st U.S. Reserve Corps Cavalry; Crandall's Company, Missouri Home Guard and a Constable in Fayette County was held May 29 in the Lima Church Memorial Day service. He enlisted at age 17 and fought at the battles of Boonville, Carthage, Fulton, Martinsburg and Wilson's Creek. He was deputized and was fatally shot while attempting to arrest the Barber Brothers for horse theft in 1882 in Wadena. The Barbers, Ike and Bill, were later captured near Tripoli, Iowa. After being transferred to a lock-up in Waverly, they were hung by a lynch mob.



Old Stone



New Stone



**FREMONT**

From the Tabor Historical Society June, 2017 Newsletter:

**Tombstone Moved from Ross Cemetery to Tabor Cemetery** By Kathy Douglass  
Years ago, a man farming the Ross Farm south of town took it upon himself to move tombstones, which were in the middle of the field, to the side along the fence line so he could farm the land they stood on. Giving him the benefit of the doubt, we are assuming that he didn't realize this was a family cemetery. Norman Ross, now owner of the family farm decided since he didn't know exactly where the people named on the stone were buried that he would at least preserve their stone by moving it into Tabor with other relatives buried there. Out of respect for his ancestors, Norman did just that. Photos of the Ross stone show it in the field at the fence line and as it sits now in its new home. Norman Ross provided the obituary of Marshal Ross who died in 1885 and who apparently was the original owner of the farm on which the stone was located. For a copy of the story, contact the Tabor Historical Society, PO Box 584, Tabor, IA 51653. Email: [TaborIowaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:TaborIowaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com) Phone: 712-313-0102

**JACKSON**

From the *Maquoketa Sentinel-Press*, June 3, 2017: ***Brought to Life***,”by Douglas Melvold.

The Jackson County Pioneer Cemetery Commission recently completed restoration of the Tilton Cemetery north of Maquoketa. The graves of a veteran of the War of 1812, two Civil War veterans and a veteran of the Mexican War are there. The burial ground is located in a pasture accessed by a public right-of-way on private property on which the county purchased a permanent easement for \$15,000 last year. The Tilton is the most recent of 21 cemeteries that the commission has restored containing remains of Jackson county pioneers.

From the *Maquoketa Sentinel-Press*, June 7, 2017: “Brought to Life -- Missouri couple helps resurrect Tilton Cemetery, where ancestors are buried,” by Douglas Melvold. A couple from Independence, Missouri have assisted with the restoration efforts and have expressed great appreciation to the commission members and the county board of supervisors for making it possible to visit and honor their ancestors' graves. The commission has a goal of restoring six more pioneer cemeteries in the future with a budget of \$55,000 for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

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**LEE**

The Lee County Veterans Project conducted its 10th annual salute to the 367 Civil War veterans buried in Keokuk's Oak-

land Cemetery on May 6 at the grave of Enoch Hunter who was a bugler in the 3rd Iowa Cavalry. Hunter's great-great grandson, David Hunter is the author of *Cavalrymen of the Third Iowa*. A copy of his book was presented to the Keokuk Library. Bill Hall from Bugles Across America played Taps, along with Riley Perry representing American Legion Post #41.



Terry Atheide presents a flag to David Hunter of Berkley Mich, great-great-grandson of Civil War veteran Enich Hunter who is buried in Keokuk's Oakland cemetery.

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**LINN**

From CEDAR RAPIDS KWWL-TV, May 22, 2017:

An eagle statue was stolen from the grave of David Grady at Linwood Cemetery in Cedar Rapids last May. Grady, who loved nature and eagles in particular, was buried near a pond where there are no security cameras. His daughter has asked that whoever stole the statue to bring it back to the cemetery.

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 30, 2017: “Marion's Cherry Sisters will no longer lie in unmarked

graves,” by Liz Martin. SAPIC member Jay Kacena along with members of the Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery have organized an effort to install headstones for Ella and Lizzie Cherry who were part of the Cherry Sisters’ vaudeville-style act, formed in 1893 with their sisters Addie, Effie and Jessie who are buried in Linwood Cemetery in Cedar Rapids. Ella and Lizzie, who died penniless, were in unmarked graves in Oak Shade Cemetery. The new headstones were donated by Novak & Brannon Monuments. The markers, each sporting two red cherries, were dedicated with a fitting touch of theatrical flair on June 3.



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LOUISA

From Radio Iowa, June 10, 2017: “New monument to honor six Iowa brothers who died in the Civil War,” by Rick Fredericksen. A 25,000 pound monolith was lowered into place in April, along the Great River Road in the town of Toolesboro, southeast of Wapello that memorializes six brothers who died in the Civil War. The Littleton brothers:

George, John, Thomas, William, Kendall and Noah all enlisted and died from battlefield injuries, disease, in prison and in a ferry boat accident.



The monument is sheared off at the top symbolizing lives cut short. It is believed to be the largest loss of life from any one immediate family in the history of all U.S. wars. The monument was dedicated on Flag Day.

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MONROE

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 21, 2017: *Visiting the Owls*, by Matt Milner.



Albia’s Oakview Cemetery has its fair share of wildlife, including foxes and owls. A photographer was able to obtain photos of a great horned owl and owlet by using telephoto lens and will return later in the spring to photograph the foxes. Because they are quiet and well tended, cemeteries provide ideal places for wildlife. Other cemeteries have encouraged blue birds and butterflies to find safe haven within their perimeters.

PAGE

Nodaway Valley Historical Museum in Clarinda: First Sunday Program in May.

**“Adopt a Grave” Project:**



Chase Andrews & Matthew Barnes, at Nodaway Valley Historical Museum.

This month’s program will tell about the “Adopt a Grave” project and will be done by youth and adults who are helping with the project which is a part of the museum’s preservation mission. They will review activities such as locating and cleaning headstones, and mapping plots at rural page County cemeteries. There will be discussion of ongoing work related to graves at the Clarinda Cemetery, including research conducted on individuals buried at selected sites.

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SCOTT

From the *Burlington Hawkeye*, May 12, 2017: **“Radar scan suggests forgotten graveyard may be in city park.”** ELDRIDGE -- An archaeologist may have found a long lost cemetery at a city park in eastern Iowa’s Scott County.

Local lore has long said a graveyard was established near a church



that was built at what's become Franklin Park in Eldridge. A tornado destroyed the church in 1918.

City leaders planning park improvement decided to check the ground before digging.

The archaeologist's radar scan discovered what looked like a pair of graves and some metal objects that might be casket fitting, hinges and handles. City leaders are awaiting a final report before making any decisions.

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From .entry-meta posted in bad history, Scott county, uncategorized by Brassard John, May 24, 2017: **"Hell at Sea: A Davenport Connection to Maritime Tragedy."** A forty-foot tall granite obelisk bearing the names of John Dillon's beloved wife and daughter who perished in a disaster in the waters off Nova Scotia, Canada in 1898, stands in the Oakdale Cemetery in Davenport. John Dillon was an attorney who became a federal judge and authored several books on the law.



On May 27, the dedication of the headstones of 22 Quad Cities Civil War and Spanish-

American War veterans who were buried in previously unmarked graves was held in the Davenport City Cemetery.

The VA provided granite grave markers. The event was sponsored by the Northwest Davenport Turner Society, the Scott County Historical Society, Schutzenpark Gilde, American Schleswig/Holstein Heritage Society, American Legion Auxiliary post 26, DAR Hannah Coldwell Chapter, Art Monuments in Stone, Runge Mortuary, Davenport Parks and Recreation Dept., Rock Island Arsenal, SAU Veterans Services, and Hy-Vee.

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SHELBY

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, March 28, 2017: **"Remains**

**of Iowa soldier come home."**

AP: The remains of Army Sgt. Donald Noehren of Harlan were re-



turned from North Korea and were buried at Arlington National Cemetery on April 3rd DNA match identified the remains.

\*\*\*\*\*

STORY

Story County to provide workshop for township clerks on cemetery preservation, posted Apr 7, 2017 by Austin

Harrington. At the request of Kristy Armentrout, Collins Township clerk, and others, the county is organizing a workshop that will help township clerks and township trustees to have a better understanding on the correct way to keep up with maintenance and legal requirements that come with the operation of a cemetery. Leanne Harter, Story County outreach and special projects manager, contacted SAPIC member John Heider who will conduct the workshop in early summer.

\*\*\*\*\*

VAN BUREN

From the *Van Buren County Register*, May 4, 2017:

**May is Cemetery Appreciation Month."**

In a ceremony on March 30, Governor Branstad signed a proclamation that named the month of May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month" in Iowa. Many pioneer cemeteries have been lovingly restored by Don Aldrich and other members and friends of the Van Buren County Genealogical Society.

From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 8, 2017: **The Keosauqua Lions have overseen mowing of Landess-Watkins Cemetery** located two miles south of Keosauqua on Highway 1. They try to mow and have flags placed by Memorial Day. The Vernon Township cemetery is on land owned by Royce Huff who has spent many hours clearing trees, fallen limbs and debris growth, hauling in several loads of dirt to level the ground



and replaced the walk-in gate which was stolen nearly 20 years ago.

\*\*\*\*

From the *Van Buren County Register*, June 8 & 15, 2017:

**Bentonsport News**, by Sandi Dimmitt. The weekly column has been devoted to relating the history of cemetery practices over the years and the symbolism of carvings and sculpture on grave stones that the writer has observed in local cemeteries that she has visited.

\*\*\*\*\*

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, April 14, 2017, **Ottumwa Cemetery tour offered by Indian Hills Community College**, by Winona Whitaker.

The history, architecture, art, custom and tradition of cemeteries in general by Mike Zahs of Washington was the content of the walking tour.

\*\*\* From the *Ottumwa Courier*, May 8, 2017: **Grave witching on tap.**

The Wapello County Genealogy Society explored grave witching at its May meeting in the McIntyre Cemetery and invited the public to join them.

\*\*\*

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 7, 2017: **Have cemetery complaints?** Call the right officials,” by Mark Newman. Wapello County Supervisors receive more than double the normal number of com-

plaints about cemeteries leading up to Memorial Day each year. They claim that their staff is responsible for the upkeep of two pioneer cemeteries, but the numerous rural cemeteries are not connected to the county and complaints should be directed to the township trustees.

\*\*\*\*\*

WAYNE

20 Apr 2017; Daily Iowegian,

**Cook Insurance, Mutual Aid eXchange make donation to Seymour Cemetery.**

Families and friends of the Seymour Cemetery in Wayne County can rest easier knowing that their loved ones’ headstones and monuments are being restored after last month’s tornado. Dan Sales of Cook Insurance in Centerville requested funding from Mutual Aid eXchange Insurance to repair and reset the 65 headstones damaged by the March 6 storm.

“Community service is important to us at Cook Insurance, as well as at MAX,” said Sales. “A representative from the company’s Mutual Aid Ministries program contacted me a few days after the storm to see if they could be helpful to our community. I told them about the cemetery damage and explained that the cemetery had very limited resources. Within a couple of weeks, MAX contributed \$5,000 for the restoration of the cemetery.”

Sales is an independent insurance agent representing MAX Insurance in his community and surrounding areas. MAX Insurance of Overland Park, Kansas, is a unique fair,

faithful and socially responsible insurance enterprise. Founded on religious principles, the company’s mission is to restore wholeness to communities and individuals in need. It lives out its mission through a variety of quality, fairly-balances insurance products, outstanding personalized customer ser-



Left to right—Ryan Sales, Ashley Whistler, Caleb, Mark Files

vice and its non-profit Mutual Aid Ministries program.

“MAX is more than an insurance company” said David Wine, president and chief executive officer. “That’s why we are excited to partner with Cook Insurance on this important project. When Dan told us about the damage to the cemetery we were more than happy to make a grant from our Community Commitment Program.” Contributed by Brenda DeVore and Dale Clark \*\*\*\*\*

Article submitted to a newspaper in Wayne County for **Cemetery Appreciation Month**

In 1996 the State of Iowa, under Governor Branstad, adopted legislature that allocated use of money collected by taxation to restore pride to

the old cemeteries in the state of Iowa. Not only did they make the funds available, they allowed all 99 counties to develop Pioneer Cemetery Commissions to oversee the process of the restoration. Iowa law defines any cemetery with less than twelve burials in 50 years to be considered a pioneer cemetery.

The Wayne County Pioneer Cemetery Commission was established by resolution of Wayne County Board of Supervisors in January 2011. Since that time the commission members, with the help of over 200 volunteers, have completed restoration of six pioneer cemeteries with two more nearing completion.

Each year, since 2012, Wayne Community High School juniors & seniors have spent a day working with commission volunteers helping to restore a pioneer cemetery, clearing brush, raking, and cleaning gravestones. This partnership with Wayne Community Schools has been very beneficial to both the pioneer cemetery commission and the students. It would have been nearly impossible to restore so many cemeteries in the past 5 years without the help of the students. Wayne Community students helped again this year working in Higley cemetery, west of Allerton, in Jefferson Township, on April 26, clearing brush and cleaning gravestones.



There are 58 cemeteries in Wayne County and 36 of them are considered a pioneer cemetery.

In the bottom 3 tiers of counties within the state of Iowa are the largest number of pioneer cemeteries because this is where much of the earliest settlement took place.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Warren Township**

The Wayne County Pioneer Cemetery Commission would like to recognize the efforts of the Trustees of Warren Township in Wayne County; David Wampler, Barry Andrews, Chris Moore, and Jean Wampler. The Kilbourn-Rankin-Brown Cemetery in Warren Township is a Pioneer Cemetery and a few years ago this cemetery needed help. Today with only a few stones needing a little TLC the cemetery shows great respect for our pioneers of Wayne County. The trustees of this cemetery have put forth stone repair, brush and tree removal and surrounded this beautiful resting place with a very good quality fence and gate. We thank you and I'm sure all the relatives of the pioneers who rest there would thank you also. You are making *Wayne County Shine*.

Some of the pioneer cemeteries in our county had been neglected for one reason or another and did not show respect to the people that gave us what we have today. Pioneer gravestones are the

responsibility of all of us to rescue and maintain.

Rural Cemeteries do not belong to farmers. When rural cemeteries were being established, close to 85% of people were on farms. Only about 15% lived in towns and villages. Today there are only about 100,000 very busy farmers left in Iowa, only about 3% of our population. When people look back two generations in their family, they find most of them in rural cemeteries. Rural cemeteries do not hold just the farmers' ancestors but ancestors of all of us.

**Cleaning gravestones**

As Memorial Day approaches later this month many of us will visit the graves of loved ones, leaving floral tributes. If a gravestone is found in need of cleaning please keep in mind all cleaning should use gentle methods. To clean mold, mildew, and grime use a soft white bristle brush for scrubbing. A good cleaning solution used by the pioneer cemetery commission is clear ammonia and water with a few drops of mild detergent; one cup of ammonia to a gallon of water. Wet the stone with clean water before using the cleaning solution. Keep in mind that not all residue will come off of older stones and vigorous scrubbing could permanently damage the stone. After cleaning with solution rinse the stone with plenty of clean water. Many times the stone will still look a bit dark but over

the next few days the color lightens with the help of the sun.

If you find a stone is difficult to read do not use chalk or other types of rubbings as this has been shown to damage the surface. Instead try wetting the stone then take a digital photo. Many times the water will help to bring wording into focus on a digital photo that can't be seen with the naked eye.

\*\*\*\*\*

WOODBURY

From the *Ottumwa Courier*, June 21, 2017:

**“Civil War graves get tombstones,”** SIOUX CITY (AP)

Twenty men buried at Floyd Cemetery in Sioux City were recently identified and have received new tombstones, thanks to the efforts of Tim Tushla, the city’s cemetery supervisor.



Other improvements include removal of old trees, replacing old concrete and repairing older grave-stones. A rededication ceremony



was held June 24 with members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in period military attire.

\*\*\*\*\*

OUT OF STATE

CALIFORNIA



From Fox News, May 10, 2017:

**Body of 19th-century girl who died in 1876 found under a San Francisco home.** The two-year-old child was identified as Edith Howard Cook whose remains apparently were left behind in a small metal casket when about 30,000 others were moved to Greenlawn Memorial Park in Colma. DNA from strands of her hair were a match with a grandnephew. Edith died of marasmus, which is severe undernourishment, probably caused by a disease that led to Edith going into a coma. A funeral was held for her on June 10th and a headstone engraved with the words, “I was once lost but now I’ve been found” installed at the reburial site.

ILLINOIS

From the *Daily Union*, March 23, 2016:



**“4 charged in cemetery vandalism,”** by Valorie Eversole, Editor. Three men and one juvenile were arrested and charged with vandalism in Ridge Cemetery on Williamsburg Hill in Shelby County. Charges state that each of the men kicked two gravestones off their

foundations. The juvenile charged was responsible for damage to nearly 150 grave-stones. They could face one to three years in prison and three to six years extended time, mandatory supervised release, and 30 month probation. Volunteers have been working to repair and reset the stones, clear brush and reset fences that were knocked over.

\*\*\*

In the *Daily News*, December 5, 2016,

**Gravestone vandals receive probation,** by Stan Polanski. Three men who damaged more than 100 gravestones in Ridge Cemetery were sentenced to 30 months of probation. A juvenile involved in the vandalism was given a lighter sentence because of his age, in spite of the fact that he admitted that he was a leader in the destruction.

\*\*\*

From the *Effington Daily News*, January 3, 2017.

**Historic Oak Ridge Cemetery,** by Phil Lewis.



Effingham City (Oak Ridge) Cemetery



A full-page story of the history of and monuments in the Oak Ridge Cemetery is printed. The first recorded burial was Mary Moore in 1853 followed by hundreds of former Effingham residents. Included in the story are photos of significant monuments and copies of old post cards of the cemetery.

**MISSISSIPPI**

From USA TODAY



**7,000 Bodies Could be Buried on Mississippi Campus**

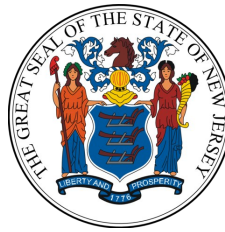
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/05/07/7-000-bodies-could-buried-mississippi-campus/312352001/>

JACKSON, Miss. & mdash; Experts estimate up to 7,000 bodies are buried on the University of Mississippi Medical Center campus. They are former patients of the state’s first mental institution, called the Insane Asylum, built in 1855, and underground radar shows their coffins stretch across 20 acres of the campus, where officials have wanted to build. But those officials have faced a steep cost & mdash; \$3,000 to exhume and rebury each body, as much as \$21 million total. Now UMMC is studying the cheaper alternative of handling those exhumations in-house, at a cost of \$400,000 a year for at least eight years. It also would create a memorial that would preserve the remains with

**NEW JERSEY**

**A Historic New Jersey Cemetery Sits Neglected and Blighted,**

by Noah Remmick, March 19, 2017:



Woodland, a once illustrious cemetery where over 80,000 people have been buried has fallen into a bleak state of disrepair. Its 37 sloping acres are choked with chest-high weeds, the gatehouse is crumbling, much of its fence is broken and many headstones have been toppled or vandalized.



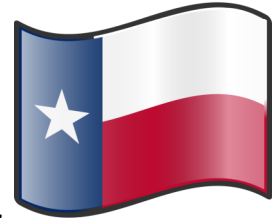
The city of Newark, county and state all deny responsibility for its maintenance. The nonprofit New Jersey Cemetery Association esti-



mates that there are as many as 100 financially or physically distressed cemeteries in the state but none as big or as legendary as

Woodland, opened in 1855. A group called Organize Change has held weekly cleanups of the cemetery.

**TEXAS**



A segment of *Texas Country Reporter* was aired on RFD-TV on May 12, 2017 featuring Dale Elison of Ferris, Texas who cleans up pioneer cemeteries. He works by himself and receives no monetary compensation. He records the information that he finds on gravestones for the benefit of descendants.

\*\*\*

From the *Longhorn News Journal*, March 27, 2017: A group of volunteers representing the Gregg County Historical Commission, the Prayerful Temple in Longview and the Historical Cemetery Society of Texas organized a cleanup of the Camden Cemetery near Easton that dates back to the 1850s. Archie Rison of the Historical Cemetery Society of Texas said, “My calling is to do whatever I can do to help restore these old cemeteries. It’s a must, because this part of history must be told.”

VIRGINIA

From Sojourners web site, April 20, 2017



**Stepping on the Graves of Slaves: The apathy toward Black Americans,**” by Ifath Sayed.

Misidentified or abandoned slave cemeteries aren’t unusual in the US. In Virginia alone, at least 60 percent of the state’s slave cemeteries are unidentified, damaged, or built over estimates Lynn Rainville, an anthropological archaeologist who specializes in the study of African-American burial grounds. Even when preserved, very few people know about them. This February, Virginia passed bill 1547 which directs funds to organizations that preserve African-American gravesites. Previously, the state only subsidized the preservation of cemeteries that contain graves of confederate soldiers.

BRAZIL

From *Business Insider*, May 7, 2017: “The



**American Confederacy is still alive in a small Brazilian city called Americana,”**

by Melia Robinson.

When the American Confederacy lost the Civil War in 1865, 10,000 Southerners from Tex-

as, Alabama and Georgia fled the US for a small city in Brazil, where they could rebuild their lives and carry on their traditions. Descendants of these expats gather annually to



celebrate their history and maintain their traditions and culture. Festivities include



Confederate Memorial in Americana

dancing, barbeques and visits to the cemetery that contains the graves of their ancestors.

OUT OF COUNTRY

GERMANY

From the *Jewish Press*, November 9, 2016



*Stolpersteine*, by Annette van de Kamp-Wright.

In an interview with Hanna Rosenberg Gradwohl, the personal history of Hanna’s family’s escape from the Nazis in 1935 is related. Since 1955, the German artist Gunter Demnig has been crafting and setting Stolpersteine in memory of civilians murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. The term “stolpersteine” literal-



ly means “stumbling blocks.”

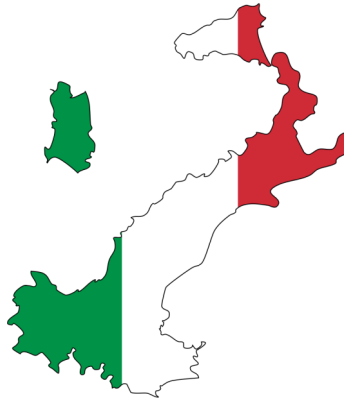
In pre-World War 1 Germany, it was a custom for non-Jews, if they stumbled along a cobblestone-paved street, to say, “There must be a Jew buried here.” These memorials consist of 4” concrete blocks covered with brass stamped with the words Hier wohnte” (here lived), the name of the victim, birth date, date of deportation, and place and date the victim was murdered.



The very first stolperstein, set on 16 December 1992 in front of Cologne City Hall, with Heinrich Himmler's order for the initiation of deportations

If possible, the Stolpersteine are placed flush with the sidewalk in front of the last place the individual voluntarily resided. Stolpersteine were placed in memory of Hanna’s grandparents and uncle in 2015.

ITALY



From the Sojourners web site, March 30, 2017:

**Italian archaeologists have discovered the remains** of 38 skeletons buried in a Jewish cemetery in Rome more than 500 years ago, offering further evidence of their ubiquity and persecution under papal rule. The well-preserved skeletons were found during excavations beneath a building in a area known as “Field of Jews.”



The burial area where the bodies were found during building construction in the Trastevere district of Rome. (Photo: Courtesy of Rome's Archeological Superintendency)

unmarked graves and ordered headstones to be removed from existing graves.

Rome’s Jewish community dates back more than 2,000 years.

Absence of headstones was a result of decrees issued by Pope Urban VIII, who ruled 1625 that Jews be buried in



October, 2016

Hi Friends and Neighbors of the Dresden Cemetery Project,

We can't say thank you enough to all of the people who contributed to the preservation of Dresden Cemetery, alias "Eye Ball" cemetery after the tornado hit it Nov. 11, 2015. After sending the appeal letter, the response has been tremendous and it is so exciting to see that people do still care! We would like you to know what has been done with the gifts of money and labor.

The old trees and brush were cleared from the cemetery along with the old fencing. John Van Dee and Dave Armstrong, Armstrong Excavating, cleared and leveled the ground for the purpose of new fencing. The new fencing was installed by township trustees, Dave Zimmerman, Richard Ranfeld, Dave Armstrong and Clerk Don Cranston, along with Chad Hanchett and John Van Dee. The fencing consists of new wooden posts with three tiered fence railing that surrounds the cemetery, leaving room to drive completely around the outside perimeter and open gateways on the east and west side of center drive. The fence has been painted black to prevent rusting.

A metal sign has been fabricated and placed on two posts at the entrance to Dresden. The metal sign is white. Watts Monument Company from Montezuma then came and did the big stones/base repairs that required machines because of the stone sizes. The smaller stones that are broken and laying in the dirt are being repaired by Richard Lemke, Montezuma, trained volunteer from the Poweshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Some will require frames and will take a while to fix. He will be working with the Deep River Helping Hands 4-H Club, trustees and volunteers, in the spring to actually place these stones into new or existing bases. Grass seed is purchased and anxiously waiting to be sown around the outside of the cemetery in the drive-around.

The stones that need to be treated for algae and lichen are being taken care of by Ellen Zimmerman and Carol Dale, volunteers from the Pioneer Cemetery Commission. If you happen to visit the cemetery and notice that some of the stones look a brownish, greenish or even pinkish color, please do not panic. They are being treated with D/2, which is a bio-degradable treatment that is used on stones in Arlington Cemetery. It works with the elements and will start whitening the stones, for easier reading. However, it will take several years to see the complete effect. This is a very expensive treatment, but requires minimal upkeep and usually lasts at least 4-5 years. They are only treating the surface where there is information engraved.

Working together we have accomplished, what many said could not be done. All the funds have been used presently, but all bills have been paid to date.

Thank you everyone!

Deep River Trustees and Poweshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission

Note 48 individual names of donors - 10 businesses and SAPIC



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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:  
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Grimes, IA 50111



Were on the web:  
[http://  
www.rootsweb.ancestry.  
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

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