

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 #2

July August September 2017

Inside this issue:

Minutes

Chickasaw County
feature

County Reports

SAPIC Officers

SPECIAL ADDITION—County Reports

DECATUR

From the *Leon Journal Reporter*, June 21, 2017:

Letter to the Editor. Jan Chambers of Leon identifies a young woman, Annalise Minnick, who places a flower on each grave that has not been decorated in the local cemetery prior to Memorial Day. When her grandfather passed away, Annalise noticed that a large number of graves were undecorated and decided to do something about this.

From the *Leon Journal-Reporter*, June 7, 2017:

“Garden Grove Memorial Day Service.”

Forty-two World War I veterans buried in the Garden Grove Cemetery were remembered as their names were read during a ceremony on May 29. Folks from Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska came to honor all veterans and to acknowledge the families

of WWI veterans. The service included placing of a wreath, singing, readings and military honors. A flag was dedicated to Richard Smith who served in the Coast Guard during WWII. SAPIC members Larry and Mary Richards participated in the ceremony.

DELAWARE

Posted on Facebook by Doug Slauson, August 9, 2017: Discovered a Civil War veteran buried at the Sand Springs Cemetery. I thought I had previously identified all of the Civil War veterans interred there, including some of my family's ancestors. However, I did some additional prying and discovered Peter Karst of Sand Springs (South Fork Twp., Delaware Co.), a shopkeeper, had tried to join Co. C - the "Schoolboy Company" - of the 44th Iowa Volunteer Regiment but was rejected by the mustering officer. He was later ac-

cepted into Co. I of the 44th Iowa. This regiment was formed in 1864 to answer President Lincoln's call for 100-day volunteers to guard railway supply lines and perform other valuable service required to hasten the end of the Civil War.

Peter Karst was duly honored with a flag holder and a flag next to his recently-repaired stone during Memorial Day. Four Civil War veterans rest in the small cemetery which is at the top of a windswept hill east of the small village. Sand Springs was a stop on the Dubuque and Western Railway that once connected Dubuque to Marion. Mrs. Karst and other women pitched in to help carry and lay the final 3 miles of railway ties to help bring the first steam locomotive to Sand Springs in 1859. This showed the determination of the early settlers of Iowa.



The editors have always known that a gremlin lives in computers. Today's edition proves they hide material that is waiting to be published.

DUBUQUE

From SAPIC member, Herb Price: There is a book "Dubuque's Forgotten Cemetery" you should read! "I could not put it down." I bought myself a copy and a second copy for the Burlington library on Amazon.

The cemetery is located west of Saint Raphael's Catholic church, up on a bluff overlooking the city. Herb sent a photo of the cemetery site that includes a view of one the steeples of Saint Raphael's over the edge of the Bluff

GUTHRIE

From *Central Iowa Publishing*, May, 2017:

"Cemetery Appreciation Month." SAPIC members, Larry and Mary Richards of rural Jamaica attended the signing in Des Moines by Governor Terry Branstad proclaiming the month of May as Cemetery Appreciation Month, along with several other SAPIC members. The Richards have been involved in the preservation of the old Franklin Cemetery near their farm and the Reynold Pioneer Cemetery in Decatur County which is Larry's family heritage.

HUMBOLDT

From the *Humboldt Independent*, May 23, 1907:

People who dump trash and cans into the street at Union Cemetery are given notice elsewhere of the consequences. There is a dumping ground in the northeast corner of the cemetery and all who do work there are asked to use it.

JACKSON

An official dedication ceremony including colors/speeches etc. of the Jackson County Freedom Rock Veterans Memorial was held on 29 July 2017 in Bellevue, Iowa.

LINN

From the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 15, 2017:

"Man accused of stealing 118 cemetery vases." Michael Carroll is accused of stealing brass vases from more than 100 gravesites at Cedar Memorial Cemetery in Cedar Rapids. Carroll was arrested for providing false information and other charges after being stopped for a traffic violation. Police said they discovered 33 vases commonly found on gravesites in his vehicle. The next day, Cedar Memorial reported that 118 vases valued at about \$25,000 had been stolen. Most had been sold to the Marion Iron business that saved the vases and cooperated in the investigation. Police ultimately recovered all but 13 of the vases. Carroll was arrested again Aug. 10 and charged with first-degree theft.

LUCAS

We'll have a diverse and very interesting lineup for this year's Chariton Cemetery Heritage Tour, "Neighbors in Section I," scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 24. The tour will begin at 4 p.m. and we'll gather at the Cemetery Shelter House, or chapel, where seating will be provided and --- after the program --- refreshments provided.

There is a charge, \$5 per ticket, for this, the only fund-raising event of the Chariton Historic Preservation Commission. We're raising funds to commission an appropriate marker for Potters Field. Five occupants of Section I will tell us something of their lives during the tour. Here's the lineup:

William Benjamin Martin

(buried under his slave name, Benjamin Alexander). Martin was born in slavery about 1845 in the "Little Dixie" region of northeast Missouri

Capt. Helen Malony Talboy. A 1927 graduate of Chariton High School, Helen devoted her life to caring for others in one capacity or another. Trained as a nurse, she was working in Des Moines when she answered her call to serve in WWII.

Sgt. Forrest D. Youtsey. Exactly a century ago, during September of 1917, he was among the first young men from Lucas County to answer the World War I call to duty and report for service to Camp Dodge. Early

the next spring, however, still serving at Camp Dodge, he became critically ill as influenza swept the installation and died.

Freda Simon Oppenheimer. A native of Germany, she came to Albia at age 18 to live with the Max Loeb family and there met, then married. They came to Chariton during 1884. She was a community leader, involved in many of the city's women's organizations.

Templeton R. Percifield. It's hard to say if Temp Percifield was better known in Chariton as one of the mainstays of the Chariton Volunteer Fire Department or because of his reputation as the city's most talented "barker."

MADISON

Larry Downs of the St. Charles Lions Club reports that the club had \$930.00 to work on stones this summer. 13 stones were completed. Before and after photos of 4 stones were attached to his report.

MARSHALL

From the *Renwick Times*, July 26, 1895:

A most dastardly piece of vandalism was committed here last night. At the dead hour of night some sacrilegious miscreant entered the cemetery of the Iowa Soldiers' Home and with a heavy hammer or hatchet deliberately defaced, demolished and broke off forty-six of the marble headstones that mark the last

resting places of dead veterans. This comprises more than half the tombs erected by the government in the home cemetery, and the damage will ab about \$1,000, as the gravestones are ruined.

MILLS

From the *Mills County Tribune*, October 11, 1915:

"Killed a Man to Start it." The North Grove cemetery, located two miles east of Hastings, may have originally been an Indian burial ground, but that is not the reason the cemetery was located there in 1853. In the spring of 1853, two men named Huntsman, an uncle and a nephew, fell into a dispute while working in a field. As a result, the uncle was murdered by the nephew and was the first burial there. The nephew disappeared and has never been heard of since. The cemetery is cared for by a ladies cemetery association.

MUSCATINE

From the *Waterloo Courier*, August 15, 1877:

The Potter's field in the Muscatine city cemetery is so full of graves that new ones cannot be made without digging up the bones of persons long ago buried.

O'BRIEN

From the *Omaha World Herald*, July 2, 2017:

World War II airman missing since 1944 was buried in his Iowa hometown Saturday afternoon, decades after the Army buried him in Italy as an unknown.

Staff Sgt. Byron Nelson's remains were interred at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Primghar, in northwest Iowa, with full military honors provided by soldiers from the Iowa National Guard, according to a press release from the Guard.

Nelson, 28, was a nose gunner aboard a B-24G Liberator that was shot down by German fighter planes April 25, 1944, over Italy. Eight crew members parachuted from the bomber and survived. Nelson and another airman, Sgt. John E. White, were reported to have died.

Local residents found the remains and buried them in a cemetery in Fognano, just north of Florence. After the war, the Army twice disinterred the remains and tried to identify them, but failed.

The ones later linked to Nelson were labeled "Mirandola Unknown X-190," from the name of a cemetery where they had been buried. They were moved to the Florence American Cemetery in central Italy on May 26, 1949.

In the decades since, his parents, Charles and Mabel Nelson, died, as did all five of his siblings. So did his widow, Thelma Bostrom Nelson, and his daughter, Judith Ann, who was 2 years old when her father died.

In 2015 the Defense Department changed a long-standing policy that strongly discouraged attempts to identify service members buried as unknowns. Historians at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency reviewed the records of Mirandola Unknown X-190 and wartime Italian military police records, linking them to Nelson.

His remains were disinterred in August 2015 and shipped to an ac-

Continued from page 3

counting agency lab at Offutt Air

Force Base. Dental and anthropological analysis, and a DNA match with one of Nelson's grandnephews, allowed scientists to identify Nelson late last year.

PALO ALTO

We haven't forgotten about you, and thank you again for the grant from SAPIC. The person in charge travels a lot so we had to wait for him to be home, even though there are a few on the committee. Recently we were at the cemetery again and they were plotting where to put the memorial. Hopefully this week cement there will be poured. The cemetery is far out in a pasture and the truck has to go down a long lane to get to the pasture and last week it was muddy and full of ruts. The lane will have to be drier to get the cement truck into the pasture. They were going to meet again tomorrow or Wednesday.

We have the \$250 from your organization and \$250 from a Dailey descendant, and our historical association has voted to spend up to \$500 additional for the project so we think we can get it all done with that money.

When at the cemetery last week we were looking at the headstones again, and realized three pieces fit together like a puzzle so that gave us more information. And two other pieces ended up fitting together. We poured water on the headstones and could

see the letters better. Is that what you suggest to do with old headstones to read them more clearly?

I just read in the Spencer paper that a man there repairs pioneer gravestones, and I think we should talk to him. His name is Bob Terry. I've looked on your website and there's no one near here that does repairs.

We need to find an inexpensive gravestone to put the 5 names we have on that, and we want to leave room for 5 or so more names. A person from the nearby town remembers riding her horse in the cemetery in the 50s or 60s and thought there were 15 or so headstones back then. We are going to probe the ground to see if some are buried. We have 4 headstones and know of 5 names of people buried there. Some of the information we got from the surveyor's office and the Storm Lake Genealogical Association, plus the gravestones. It's been quite an investigative project.

If you have any advice re where to get an inexpensive headstone or marker in our area of NW Iowa, please let me know.

I don't know if I sent a picture of the family to you earlier. It's Lemual Dailey with his second wife. His first wife and child and others are buried at the Dailey Family Pioneer Cemetery. A wife of a descendant found it and shared with us.

Thanks very much. We will send pictures when this is done, and we hope it is done this fall.

Sincerely,

Paula Klindt and all at Sioux Rapids Area Historical Association

POLK

From the *Des Moines Register*, July 14, 2017:

"Des Moines plans to repair gravesites." The City Council has decided to repair thousands of gravesites in Des Moines' city-owned cemeteries. Des Moines television station KCCI reports that Des Moines Parks and Recreation will spend \$50,000 to start repairs. Half the money will come from the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Officials plan to clean old markers, repair broken monuments and straighten sunken stones. The city's long-term goal is to restore the gravesites and make them last up to 200 years more.

From the *Des Moines Register*, April 24, 2017, p. 3A:

"Marking 'important part of our history,'" by Joey Aguirre. "Baby Hill" in the Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines was created in 1848 on land donated by five farmers in the area. Of the cemetery's first 540 children's graves, only 35 had been adorned with wooden markers. The remains of the other 505 had rested in unmarked graves for over 100 years. Kristine Bartley of the DAR spearheaded a drive in 2016 that raised \$8,000. Bartley persuaded Governor Branstad, Kurt Rasmussen, Prairie Meadows and McCall Monuments to contribute the remainder needed to mark all the graves. In a ceremony attended by Governor Bran-

stad, a tulip was placed on each grave by volunteers.

SCOTT

From the *Des Moines Register*, May 29, 2017: "Gravestones will duly recognize Iowa Civil War veterans," by Alma Gaul. Twenty previously unmarked graves of veterans of the Civil War and one who served in the Spanish-American War received headstones from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The markers were recently dedicated during public ceremonies at the cemetery.

From the *Des Moines Register*, June 3, 2017: "Park likely contains 40 to 50 unmarked graves." Archaeologist, Glenn Storey from the University of Iowa discovered 40 to 50 unmarked graves using ground penetrating radar at the city park in Eldridge, Iowa. It was the site of a Presbyterian Church until a tornado destroyed the building in 1918. "Remembering human individuals is rewarding because it brings a community's history to light," said Storey. Eldridge leaders have learned the names of several people believed to be buried in the park.

WAPELLO

From the *Ottumwa Courier*.

Professor of social science at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Beverly Bethune presented a program, "Wild Ride: From the

WARREN

From the *Tri-Corner-Express*, New Virginia, Iowa, May 18, 2017: On March 30, Governor Branstad signed a proclamation declaring May as "Cemetery Appreciation Month." In attendance were SAPIC members, including the St. Charles Lions Club represented by Larry Downs.

WEBSTER

From the *Iowa State Reporter*, August 5, 1874: An Indian burying place was found recently twelve miles north of Fort Dodge, in this state, while digging a hole for a liberty pole. All the usual evidences and accompaniments of Indian burial were found at the place.

OUT OF IOWA

CALIFORNIA

From the American Legion e-newsletter, June, 2017:

"World War I memorial in LA restored, rededicated," by Michael Hjelmstsd (Facebook). The monument honoring the service of WWI veterans at Victory Memorial in Elysian Park near Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles had nearly been forgotten when American Legion members of Hollywood Post 43, along with DAR, Disney and The Mission Continues, helped restore it. They were inspired by the 100 Cities 100 Memorials project of the Pritzker Military Museum and Library and the United States World War one Centennial Commission. The Daughters of the American Revolution held the original dedication ceremony in 1921. A rededication ceremony was held on Flag Day, June 14, 2017.

MISSOURI

From: jo porter <udell47@yahoo.com>, Northeast Iowa Genealogical Society, "Another Cemetery that 'disappeared.'"

August 16, 2017:

1863 had to be the worst year of "Nannie" Harris's young life.

"Nannie" Harris was born on April 4, 1844 to Reuben Harris and Lavina "Laura" Matilda (Fristoe) Harris in Cass County, Mo. Her family considered themselves "southerners" so when the war broke out, they sided with the confederacy. Her only brother, Thomas, rode with Quantrill. But even though a war was taking place all around her, she fell in love and married Jabez McCorkle who also rode with Quantrill, on March 26, 1863. While dismounting from his horse, Jabez's rifle discharged and he shot himself in the knee. Jabez suffered for 13 days before he succumbed to his wound on June 2, 1863, surrounded by his wife, mother-in-law and brother John. The couple had been married for less than three months.

Nannie was living with her parents when Union troopers burned the family grist mill. In July of 1863, while on her way to Kansas City to buy flour, she was arrested and put into a make-shift jail. That jail collapsed on August 13, 1863, and left Nannie with a broken ankle. Among others killed in the jail collapse was her sister-in-law, Cherity (McCorkle) Kerr, and two of her cousins.

After Federal troops burned her family farm in early September of 1863, she walked over 100 miles on her ailing ankle to Howard County, in central Missouri. She stayed there until the end of the war and in 1867, Nannie married John Lilley, (who had also rode with Quantrill during the war), with who she had three

children, but their marriage was short-lived also. Nannie died on November 10, 1872 at the age of 28. Her husband John died in 1875.

Nannie was buried between her two husbands in the Davis-Smith cemetery, south of Kansas City. Unfortunately, the cemetery no longer exists. Gravestones have been removed, but the bodies were never disinterred. The bodies of "Nannie," her two husbands, and others are still there, awaiting the sprawl of metropolitan Kansas City to forever remove any trace of their burial ground.

WISCONSIN

From the *Telegraph Herald*,
Dubuque, Iowa, June 25, 2017:

"Authorities seek tips after vandalism at Hazel Green Cemetery." Several grave markers in the south end of the Hazel Green cemetery were damaged recently. Anyone with information about the vandalism is asked to call police.

THE EDITORS THANK YOU FOR
THE COUNTY REPORTS.

WITH LUCK, THIS WILL BE THE
ONLY SPECIAL EDITION TO
INCLUDE THOSE REPORTS.

WE ARE SEARCHING FOR THE
GREMLIN WHO CAUSED THE
PROBLEM



Ann Soenksen, Chair
Clinton County Pioneer
Cemetery Commission

Corrects a date.

DeWitt is NOT HOSTING
the April 2018 meeting.

We are hosting the July,
2018 Meeting.



SAPIC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Story
Grave News E-mail Editor: Donna Story
18883 250th St.
Hawkeye, IA 52147
563-427-5354
dstory@netins.net

Vice-president: William Reedy
3046 Everly Ave
Brandon, IA 52210
319-474-2443
reedypart@jtt.net

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

Treasurer: Brad Hughes
308 Sunset Lane
Grimes, IA 50111
319-269- 8937
Llynman2@gmail.com

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

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

Board Member(2018): Mike Magee
638 Englewood
Waterloo, IA 50701
319-232-8762
Digger4045@yahoo.com

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

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

Board Member (2018): Benjamin Mayer
317 E. Green St.
Winterset, IA 50273
515-462-5841
mayer_ben@yahoo.com

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

Board Member (2018) and Web Page: Tony Bengston
1503 River Road Blvd.
Independence, IA 50644
319-415-1175 tonybengston@yahoo.com

FLASH SALE!

It's not exactly a sale!

A motion was made and seconded to increase SAPIC dues as recommended at the July 8 meeting. Motion passed. This will take effect on **January 1, 2018**. If you are contemplating paying for a life membership, you may wish to consider doing that ***before*** December 31, 2017.

- Individual..... \$25
- Household.....\$35
- Organization or business.....\$40
- Lifetime.....\$200

SAPIC dues:

Individual for one year: \$10.00 (2017)

Household for one year: \$15.00 (2017)

Business or organization for one year: \$20.00 (2017)

Lifetime individuals:
\$100.00 (2017)

Donations welcome and tax deductible.

Send dues to:

Brad Hughes, 308 NW Sunset Lane

Grimes, IA 50111

Were on the web:

<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

Dennis N. Britson, Director

Regulated Industries Unit, Iowa Securities Bureau

601 Locust Street, 4th Floor

Des Moines, IA 50309-3738

E-Mail: Dennis.Britson@iid.iowa.gov

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

Christina.hazelbaker@iid.iowa.gov

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

**OFFICE OF THE STATE
ARCHAEOLOGIST**

Lara Noldner, Bioarchaeology Director

700 Clinton Street Building

Iowa City, IA 52242-1030

319-384-0740 [lara-](mailto:lara-noldner@uiowa.edu)

noldner@uiowa.edu