



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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Inside this issue:

Minutes	
Chickasaw County feature	3
County Reports	
SAPIC Officers	

October Meeting

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries will meet on Saturday October 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the German American Heritage Center & Museum 712 W 2nd St, Davenport, IA 52802.

Presentations following the business meeting:

- (1) "Human Hair Wreaths", what they are, how they were made and how to maintain them.
- (2) Successfully applying for and obtaining military headstones for Veterans who served prior to WWI .



Next SAPIC meeting April 14, 2018 in DeWitt

Minutes

State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries Minutes July 8, 2017

The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries met Saturday, July 8, 2017 at the Randall City Hall at Randall, Iowa with 30 persons in attendance. In the absence of President Steve Story, Vice-president William Reedy presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.. Moved by Mike Magee to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded and passed. Moved by Mike Magee that the minutes of the April 8, 2017 meeting be approved as mailed. Seconded by Mary Richards. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Brad Hughes reported deposit balances are healthy and total \$11,514.19. Balances have declined \$1,537.98 from year-end 2016 because expenses have exceeded income by a like amount. This net cash outflow also exceeded budget amounts by \$1,066.27. The negative changes have resulted mostly from \$2,200.00 in eight grant and one sponsorship payments so far in 2017. Deposit balances are expected to stabilize the re-

mainder of this year since large expenses are not expected over the next six months. Also, dues the latter half of 2017 have yet to be received and recorded. The anticipated improvement in cash flow will also reduce the current budget imbalance since amounts in the "2017 Budget" column are for twelve months and will not change the remainder of the year.

Membership Dues: It was noted that quite some time has passed since serious consideration had been given to a dues increase. After considerable discussion, a general consensus was reached on the following dues increase and recommended it be adopted Individual ...\$25

Household\$35

Organization or business \$40

Lifetime.\$200

A motion was made and seconded to increase SAPIC dues as recommended. Motion passed.

SAPIC Grants: It was noted that after a recent review of the SAPIC Grant program, a formal *continued next page*



A local German-American organization is

willing to prepare an "Oktoberfest" meal of bratwurst patty sandwich, red cabbage or sauerkraut, homemade dessert and drink for \$8 per person. The meal would be served at the German American Heritage Center. The organization would need at least 20 people to sign-up in advance, but could serve as many people as needed. To make a reservation for the meal, contact: Kory Darnall before September 30: Phone: (309)278-0020 E-mail: DARNALLKORY@MCHSL.COM

continued

Committee had not been formed. After some discussion and volunteering the following Grant Committee was appointed: Brad Hughes, Chairman

Mary Richards, Jean Ann Ripley, Mike Magee, Larry Davis, Pat Shaw, Harold Hanson.

A brief discussion was held on a request to extend the deadline for submitting grants. The request was denied.

Nominating Committee: Vice-president Reedy noted that a nominating committee for preparing a slate of officers and board members for 2018 needed to be formed, and appointed the following members to serve. Jean Ann Ripley, Ben Mayer, Mike Magee

Future Meeting Sites: An invitation has been received from Burlington for the April 2018 SAPIC meeting and was approved. Future meeting sites are as follows>

- October 2017.....Davenport
- April 2018.....Burlington
- July 2018.....Clinton County
- October 2018.....Winneshiek County

Moved by John Heider the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mike Magee. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Paul French gave a presentation on his experience in working with small cemeteries in their need for a source of information and assistance in record keeping. Larry Davis, Sec.



From the *Ottumwa Courier*, July 14, 2017:

The Des Moines 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.

Note: Most counties in Iowa have a community foundation grant offering. Check with your county offices to discover how to apply for a grant and the criteria. Each county has its own set of guidelines.

Give Back, Pay It Forward

Each of us have ancestors, family, and friends. We also have places where we have spent time pursuing a career, developing lasting friendships, or maybe raising a family. The State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) is where you can give back to the people and places that have been important in your life. In addition, SAPIC is also where you can pay it forward so others can give to individuals and communities dear to them.

Yes, SAPIC is supported by membership dues which this year funded eight grant requests of \$250 each and one mission related event. Dues have also covered the cost of preparing and distributing

quarterly newsletters to members. However, an increasing number of grant requests plus ongoing costs for newsletters have resulted in a decline in our deposit balances.

A \$50 increase in each grant award this year did raise our expenses. However, we should recognize the \$250 awarded individual grants usually does not cover the full cost of cemetery improvement projects. Reducing the number of grants approved in the future would lower SAPIC expenses, but do we really want to refuse those wishing to improve Iowa Cemeteries?

If you are receiving the quarterly newsletter by postal mail, we ask that you donate funds each year in addition to dues for publication and postage costs. Other donations are also accepted from anyone, anytime. SAPIC is a 502(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are deductible on income tax returns if you itemize. Designating a gift through a will, estate plan, life insurance policy, or retirement plan is also something to consider.

Remember, funds provided SAPIC let you

Give Back, Pay it Forward.

SAPIC Treasurer, Brad Hughes.



Chickasaw County

FREDERICKSBURG, Iowa — Wally Boehmer said respect motivates Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission volunteers to restore Pioneer Cemeteries.

"Our organization feels that out of respect to the pioneers who came before us, they deserve for us to keep their final resting place in good condition,"

Boehmer said.

Chickasaw County has 14 Pioneer Cemeteries, so-named because they have had 12 or fewer burials in the past 50 years.

The commission, organized in 2000, completed renovations for the Stapleton Township Cemetery, Pearl Rock, Jacksonville Township, Cagley, Union, Garden of Memories and Crane Valley. The commission also has worked on Little Turkey, Dresden Township West and Deerfield Township cemeteries.

The group received \$4,500 this year from the Chickasaw County Supervisors. Other monetary donations also come in. In 2015, \$1,229 was given for supplies and use of equipment for renovations.

"We work in cooperation with township trustees and the county supervisors," Boehmer said. Restoration is underway at Maple Grove Cemetery in Fredericksburg Township, just east of Fredericksburg. Township trustees, commission members and other local residents have removed many bushes and trees. Boehmer pointed to an open expanse of grass that used to be a tangle of trees and underbrush. Some stones, including one for Civil War veteran Joseph Ellison, were found in the midst of lilac bushes. Nolte Excavating removed trees and brush. In 2015, 32 stones were upright-



Jeanette Kottke, Don Dowd, Marilyn Knight, Wally Boehmer and Priscilla Reisner

ed and cleaned. Boehmer said they plan to finish this year.

Crane Valley Cemetery in Jacksonville Township, a 2014 project, was completed in 2015 with the installation a new fence.

Pearl Rock Cemetery near Nashua had extensive damage from high winds a year ago and several commission members worked with others from the area to clean it up.

Other executive committee members are Merrilyn Knight, chairman; Don Dowd, commissioner; Jeanette Kottke, secretary and historian; and Julie Eckenrod, treasurer. Commission volunteers are Phil Boehmer, Adis Lee, Diane Murphy, Thelma Allen, Sue How and, Fred and Priscilla Reisner. Mike Magee and Bill Youngblut, both of Waterloo, often help.

Knight, of New Hampton, and Dowd, of Fredericksburg, have helped with several renovation projects.

Boehmer, of Alta Vista, has chaired several cemetery renovations. Eckenrod, of New Hampton, helps with renovations and has served on the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries board.

Priscilla Reisner, of Fredericksburg, has been part of the group since 2000 helping with all the renovation projects. She has gained a lot of knowledge about gravestone repairs. Her husband, Fred, has been a big helper as well.

Reisner demonstrated how to make a cemetery stone rubbing. She uses blue Carboff paper placed over the stone and rubs with a tennis ball. Her work reveals that a broken old stone is for Sarah Rose, a child who died in the 1870s.

Kottke, of Fredericksburg, explained that before 2000, the Chickasaw County Genealogical Society, of which she is a member, was very interested in doing something about neglected Pioneer Cemeteries.

"The first thing to do was to identify which county cemeteries were considered, 'Pioneer,'" Kottke said. She canvassed those cemeteries and wrote the book containing all the names of those interred. The book can be obtained from the Genealogical Society for \$22.

Kottke's research found that Maple Grove Cemetery also was known as East Cemetery and Kidder Cemetery. Among the burials are many Civil War veterans and children who died of diphtheria.

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Continued from page 3

"There are approximately 150 burials," Kottke said. "All were originally from New York and Vermont. The first burial was in 1860. There have been just eight burials in the last 50 years."

Ellison, Swanger, Benedict, Kidder, Bishop, Mourer and Parks were prominent family names. Brad Ellison, a current Fredericksburg Township resident, is a descendent of the Ellisons buried in Maple Grove.

"Our main function is to clean tombstones and get them back in decent shape," Boehmer said.

"We often have to dig out buried stones," Knight said. "We dig them out, fill below the stone with rock and dirt and make new foundations." She pointed to a dark line on one stone showing how far it had settled in the ground. Dowd showed partially buried stones that still need to be dug out.

By attending workshops, they learned about modern products available for restoring cemetery stones, Boehmer said. They buy a special mortar with a lower pH for \$40 per bag from Pennsylvania. D/2 Biological Solution is used for cleaning stones. "It's environmentally friendly," Boehmer said. "It's used at Arlington National Cemetery." He showed how he cleaned lichen and debris off a lady statue atop a Parks family stone.

"She turned out nice," he said.

For broken stones that they can't identify, they likely will

put them together with a plaque that says: "Some pioneer burials lost their identity. These tombstone pieces are placed at this location so they are not forgotten." The Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission has its own trailer and tools, which it leaves at the work site.

Boehmer's granddaughter created a design of a cemetery and a covered wagon for T-shirts that members wear when they work on restoration on Tuesdays during summer.

"We all paid for our own shirts," Boehmer said. "The shirts show unity and give us exposure."

The commission developed a brochure and cemetery location map, which they place at local tourist areas. New volunteers and donations always are welcome.

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PENTGRAM - A pentagram is a five-point star. When found on Christian graves it symbolizes the five wounds of Christ. The pentagram can also represent other things depending on the culture and time period. From the Kirkwood Community College class "Grave Topics: Cemetery History and Tombstone Symbolism," taught by Laurie Williams Taylor



County Reports

BLACK HAWK

The New Barclay Cemetery located between Jesup and Waterloo is on Facebook.

From the *Jesup Citizens Herald*: Just northwest of Jesup on a quiet gravel road, lies the historic New **Barclay Cemetery** on Newell Street. Although it has been in existence since 1838, it remains a beautiful, serene setting for a final resting place.

Recently, the **cemetery** received a new entrance gate and pillars by an anonymous donor. The design is similar to what graces Old **Barclay Cemetery** on Cunningham Road, just a short 1 -1/2 miles north of New **Barclay Cemetery**.

New **Barclay** is not affiliated with any church, city or county organization. It is strictly a labor of love by those living in the area that want to preserve their ancestors' graves and have a future place for themselves.

The **cemetery** is home to 12 Civil War soldier's graves. Pictures of many of the gravestones can be found on the New **Barclay Cemetery** Facebook page.

Upkeep is through donations and completed by volunteers. A newsletter is published in the spring and fall and can be picked up from the mailbox near the entrance gate. Please sign the registration book inside the mailbox.

BOONE

From the *Perry Daily Chief*, May 24, 1904: Mr. and Mrs. W. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Ogden, drove to the old cemetery one mile east of Woodward Sunday for the purpose of decorating the graves and giving them any attention needed. This cemetery is known as the old Xenia cemetery and many of the grave-stones bear the date 1853. These people and their relatives meet there each year sometime in May and for twelve years their number have not been the less by death.

BREMER



The New and Improved Bremer County Cemetery book is now available!

Thank you for waiting for this expanded record of the 47 cemeteries in Bremer County. It is a 2-volume set, with a total of about 980 pages. Much information has been added since the last edition. The cost will be \$50 for the two volumes plus shipping. The first printing is already sold out and a second printing is planned.

Please contact [Karlyn Armstrong](#) for more information if interested in this new offering.

CHICKASAW

Things are moving right along with the Chickasaw County Cemetery Commission. Mike Magee reports that most of the work is done at Maple Grove Cemetery. The blue bird house there has had three nestings. CCCC is very active and should be acknowledged for their efforts.

DALLAS

From the *Des Moines Register*, June 14, 2017,

“Iowa’s unique ‘cemetery in the middle of the road’ damaged by hit-and-run driver.” by Kim Norvell.

The Huston Cemetery – also known as “the cemetery in the middle of the road” — was hit by a rogue driver damaging at least two headstones. The little cemetery, with graves dating back to 1847, has been featured in news articles for its unique location inside a roundabout at the intersection of Mills Civic and 88th Street. The once rural site has become increasingly urban as West Des Moines grows west. Police found the car abandoned at the cemetery. A report lists damage to the fence, landscaping and headstones. Police had to cut the fence down to remove the car.



Use of D2

I have seen great photo’s of individuals using D2—and scrubbing the stone (with soft bristles, of course). This is Recommended Method One.

In 2013 I asked for permission to spray the Civil War Vets stones that were located in the West Union Fayette County cemetery.

I found the stones with the GAR marker and sprayed them using an old ‘Windex’ bottle. I did not use an entire gallon for all of the stones. The idea was to spray and walk-away. This is Recommended Method Two.

This year I retook some photos—nothing has been done to the stones except that initial spray. And time.



2013

2017

Maple Grove Cemetery , Tama county Columbia Township.

We at Maple Grove Cemetery in Tama are sending pictures of three headstones that we worked at restoring on July 15, 2017. There were only three of us present, so we worked on three headstones, two of which I have attached with before and after pictures. We have another day planned for September 30th and are in hopes that we have more help on that day! I will send you pictures of our progress after that date.

We purchased 8 gallons of D/2 Biological Cleaning Solution, but by the time we finish our Fall work in a couple of weeks we will have used at least 4 of them. We also purchased 4 one gallon sprayers after three of the four sprayers we bought from home to use fell apart or broke from former use. A handful of brushes that we believe were soft enough to use on the stones and we were off. Our total cost was \$466 (shipping is awful...I looked and didn't find any distributors in Iowa, but if anyone knows of one, I would appreciate that information.) Our appreciation for the boards generosity in sending us the \$250 grant to help support our work. It boosted our motivation to continue work that we had begun a couple of years ago.

As the treasurer of Maple Grove Cemetery, I thank you again for the grant to help us to keep up our cemetery!

We used close to 2 gallons of D/2 Biological Cleaning Solution on the three stones, which were all heavy with lichen and other growth. Some was removable and some was not, as you can see from the pictures.



Before and After/ Dan Anderson and Cory Timm
Photos by Sue Anderson

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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

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